

Donegal Travellers Project CLG

Directors' Annual Report and Financial Statements 2024

Charity Registration Number: CHY 12244

Company Number: 258334



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánphairíochta agus Oige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth



TÚSLA
An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

RETHINK
IRELAND

ciste na
gcuntas diomhaoin
the dormant
accounts fund

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Organisation Name:	Donegal Travellers Project CLG			
Reporting Period:	January to December 2024			
Organisation Address (registered office) and contact details:	Donegal Travellers Project Port House, Port Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal			
Company number:	258334			
Charity number (CHY):	CHY 12244			
Directors:	NAME	ROLE	NAME	ROLE
	Orla Callaghan	Chairperson	Olubunmi Odusola	Director (December 2024)
	Karin White	Secretary	John Mongan	Director (December 2024)
	Majella Mulkeen	Treasurer	Melissa Mongan	Director (December 2024)
	Anne McLean	Director	Grainne Ketelaar	Resigned (April 2024)
	Shane Lundberg	Director	Pat McCarthy	Resigned (April 2024)
	Nolunga Shologu	Director	Garry Glennon	Resigned (January 2025)
	Ion Berbec	Director		
	Governance Standards			
	The Board of Directors are responsible for the governance of the organisation and have ensured that the following governance principles have been applied in line with the Charity Regulator;			
1. Advancing its charitable purpose				
2. Behaving with integrity				
3. Leading people				
4. Exercising control				
5. Working effectively				
6. Being accountable and transparent				
Auditor:	SMC Chartered Accountants Unit 3, 1st Floor, Glenview Business Park, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.			
DTP Funded Projects:	PROJECT	FUNDER		
	National Traveller Partnership	DCEDIY		
	Primary Healthcare Traveller Project	HSE		
	North West Roma Health Initiative	HSE		
	Roma Community Development and Advocacy Project	DCEDIY		
	Family Links Project	Tusla		
	TravED	Rethink Ireland/ Tusla		
	Education Project	Tusla/DCEDIY/Dormant Accounts		
	Domestic Sexual Gender Based Violence Project	Tusla/Pavee Point		
	St. Gabriel’s Pre-school ECCE	DCEDIY/Pobal		
	Drugs and Alcohol Project	HSE/North West Drugs and Alcohol Task Force		
	Afterschools/Homework Programme	Atlantic Technological University (ATU)		

SECTION 1: FOREWORD CHAIRPERSON'S STATEMENT



In 2024 I as Chairperson wish to acknowledge the commitment, professionalism and the principled based approach to community work and human rights which has underpinned all of the work of the

staff and the Board of Management. It's with continued pride and recognition of the participation of so many stakeholders and in particular the Traveller and Roma communities that I share this Chairperson's statement with you. The past year has seen Donegal Travellers Project initiate and develop a number of new innovative projects towards advancing the rights and well-being of Traveller and Roma communities across Donegal and North Leitrim.

Throughout 2024 DTP has continued to remain dedicated to its community development approach, aiming to create the conditions for social inclusion, equality, interculturalism, and human rights. This work has continued despite an increased rise of hate, prejudice and racism. As a community development organisation committed to the principles of peace-building we stand committed to promoting and building relationships across all ethnic minorities, and majority populations. We stand in solidarity with all of those locally, nationally and globally striving for an end to violence, oppression, genocide and conflict where it impacts and brings about the devastation of communities, families and children. Donegal Travellers Project is as always committed to combating racism, discrimination, and prejudice in all its forms as experienced by Black and Ethnic Minority Communities including Travellers and Roma.

In the 28 year history of Donegal Travellers Project we have continued in 2024 advocating, challenging and promoting the advancement of equality and human rights for Traveller and Roma communities. As Chairperson I wish to acknowledge the work of the staff who have advocated for equality, human rights and interculturalism and their efforts are valued and respected by the Board of Management. We have continued, through various initiatives, partnerships, and collaboration, to work towards breaking down barriers and challenging discrimination and racism, ensuring that the voices and rights of the communities we work for and with are respected and protected.

As we celebrate the achievements of 2024 it is important to be mindful of the challenges that lie ahead. In 2024 we applied for the 'Diversity and Decision Making' and the 'Pride Not Prejudice' PEACEPLUS Projects, and it is the success of these applications that I believe the work of Donegal Travellers Project will be strengthened in addressing racism and discrimination. In 2025 we anticipate that we will be seeking to work with communities across County Donegal and with their collaboration I am confident that we will all be working together to create a more inclusive county where interculturalism, not division, is fostered.

I want to extend on behalf of myself and the Board our thanks to our staff for their unwavering commitment and hard work. The Board is often in awe of the extent of the delivery of projects across the county and the region and the outcomes for the Traveller and Roma communities. It is through your collective efforts that we are able to effect change and create the conditions for a brighter future, one of inclusion, human rights and social justice for and with Traveller and Roma communities in Donegal. We also wish to extend our thanks to all of the funders that make it possible for Donegal Travellers Project to deliver the broad range of initiatives throughout 2024.

In 2024 the Intercultural Training Team within Donegal Travellers Project delivered Interculturalism, Anti-Racism and Traveller Cultural Competency Training to a broad range of stakeholders across Donegal and cross-border. It is important to thank each and every participant for engaging on this training which seeks to bring about attitudinal change and promote non-biased inclusion of Traveller and Roma communities across services.

As Chairperson I wish to affirm the commitment of the Board in overseeing the work of the company and ensuring that our methodologies and practices are underpinned by the principles of community development. Collectively and in solidarity with others we continue to create the conditions in society where every individual is valued, free from violence, has voice and participation in civil society and decision-making spaces so that the experiences of minority ethnic communities is included and acknowledged by those in power.

Orla Callaghan
Chairperson



PROJECT MANAGER'S STATEMENT



As the Project Manager and Assistant Project Manager of Donegal Travellers Project, we want to acknowledge the huge successes and milestones that the organisation and all of its staff teams have accomplished in 2024. Through a continued

commitment to community development principles, the staff and Board of Donegal Travellers Project have ensured that our work remains transformative and impactful for Traveller and Roma Communities across Donegal. Throughout 2024, we continued to successfully implement a range of new initiatives and programmes that have strengthened the skills of our staff teams across health, education, housing and DSGBV. With the support of funders, we have been able to continue to invest in the continuous professional development of our teams throughout 2024. For example:

- Community Development (Helen Lowry)
- Interculturalism and Anti-Racism (Anastasia Crickley)
- Intercultural Training in Donegal (Ann Friel and Kate Hagan)
- Community Work and Anti-Racism (Rachel Doyle)

With a key focus on building and strengthening our understanding of social justice, equality and community development we have been able to continue to deliver on our work and expand educational, health, and employment opportunities for Traveller and Roma communities.

2024 seen the establishment of the new Traveller Mental Health Initiative based in South Donegal but covering all of the county. This initiative has been long-awaited and is a critical resource which aims to build connections between the work of Donegal Travellers Project and mainstream mental health and wellbeing services locally and regionally, improving access and participation for Travellers across the county. Throughout 2024 we seen strengthened Traveller and Roma participation in our community-led initiatives across all projects. We were also delighted to welcome so many people through the doors in 2024 to take part in celebrations and activities marking key calendar dates such as International Women's Day, Darkness into Light, healing masses, Older Person's events, Christmas family days, Palestinian solidarity event, women's parenting plus programmes and much more. We would like to acknowledge the further strengthening of the Roma project led by Hugh Friel and Eimear Heaney and the increasing of the Roma staff team. This project has developed and now recognised not just locally but

regionally and nationally. Donegal Travellers Project continues to represent the Traveller community on the following committees throughout 2024:

- Traveller Health Unit
- National Traveller Womens Forum
- Pavee Point
- The National Traveller Mental Health Network
- The National Traveller Health Network
- The National Traveller Health Advisory Forum
- The National Traveller Health Implementation Group
- National Traveller MABS
- Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee
- Local Community Development Committee
- Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC)
- Connecting for Life
- North West Regional Drug and Alcohol Taskforce, Prevention & Education sub-committee
- BME Implementation and Secretariat
- Child and Family Support Networks

Advocacy and representation have created the opportunity that the particular experiences, interests and rights of Traveller and Roma communities are represented in policy development and in decision making spaces. We look forward to 2025 and the establishment of the PEACEPLUS 'Diversity and Decision Making' and 'Pride Not Prejudice' Projects which provide an opportunity for Donegal Travellers Project to strengthen our intercultural training team and delivery across the county.

We would also like to acknowledge the work of the administration team, Derval Broderick and Ellie Graham, who continue to administer, oversee and prepare financial reports to the highest standard in line with good governance and to meet the needs of our funder and BOM. Without them the work of Donegal Travellers Project would not be possible. All our accomplishments in 2024 would not be able but for the Traveller and Roma communities living across Donegal. The resilience, strength, and active participation continue to be the driving force of our success. The communities we work for and with continue to shape our initiatives ensuring they are relevant and impactful.

Siobhan McLaughlin, Project Manager

Ann Friel, Assistant Project Manager

SECTION 2: SUMMARY OF DONEGAL TRAVELLERS PROJECT'S PURPOSE AND ACTIVITIES

Established in 1996, Donegal Travellers Project is an independent, locally based community development organisation working for and with the Traveller and Roma communities in Donegal. From the early days, Donegal Travellers Project has recognized the complexity of the challenges impacting on the Traveller and Roma communities and the need for action at a variety of levels to address the challenges. For almost twenty eight years, the project has implemented a human rights and equality focused approach with Traveller and Roma communities to create the conditions for social inclusion and equality. Today, Donegal Travellers Project has a staff team of

28 (both full and part time staff) working in a range of areas across the organisation.

Donegal Travellers Project works across the county including North Leitrim and has offices both in the Letterkenny and Ballyshannon areas. Here you can see the map of Donegal and North Leitrim where Traveller and Roma families are situated.

Donegal Travellers Project works in solidarity with relevant local, regional and national organisations and NGOs on delivering on the purpose of the company.

The map shows the locations where Traveller and Roma families live across Donegal.



MAIN PURPOSE



To work collectively to address the issues which impact on Traveller and Roma communities in County Donegal and North Leitrim, by working for social justice, human rights and equality through community participation and empowerment. To promote the economic, social, cultural and human rights of Traveller and Roma communities. To work to bring about the significant social changes needed throughout Ireland to eradicate the racism, discrimination and inequality that is experienced by Traveller and Roma communities across Ireland.

■ KEY OBJECTIVES



To plan and deliver accessible and appropriate services that respond to the self-identified community needs of Traveller and Roma communities in Donegal and North Leitrim i.e.; health, anti-poverty; education; adult and community education; youth work; pre-school services; information and advice; housing and accommodation; cultural activities; employment supports; services for older members of the community.

To promote and celebrate the distinct '*Ethnic Identities*' of Traveller and Roma communities in Donegal and North Leitrim; the unique culture, history and heritage of Traveller and Roma families and communities.

To achieve equality for Traveller and Roma communities across Donegal and North Leitrim by using a '*Community Development Approach*'.

To promote human rights and the effective implementation of Public sector duty across all sectors in Donegal and North Leitrim, and to work to eradicate institutional racism and discrimination in all its forms.

■ VISION



We have a vision where the Traveller and Roma Communities experience equality and the social, political, economic, cultural and human rights are realised across the country of Ireland.

■ MISSION STATEMENT



The overall mission of Donegal Travellers Project is to bring about significant social change which contributes to the eradication of racism, discrimination and inequalities as experienced by the Traveller and Roma communities in Ireland.

DONEGAL TRAVELLERS PROJECT MISSION IS INFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR CORE PRINCIPLES AND VALUES:

Collective Action
Solidarity
Empowerment
Social Justice

Equality
Anti-Racism and Interculturalism
Participation

Partnership
Cultural diversity
Conflict resolution and peace building

■ MAIN ACTIVITIES

In 2024 Donegal Travellers Project continued to align its main activities to its strategic plan. The organisation has 9 high end goals to address the high levels of exclusion including the voice of Traveller and Roma children and young people, poverty, discrimination and racism, educational disadvantage, unemployment, Domestic, Sexual, Gender Based Violence, housing and accommodation, health inequality, well-being inequality and lack of recognition of cultural identity that the Traveller and Roma communities continues to experience in Ireland.

The 9 main goals are as follows;

Goal 1: To promote and celebrate the distinct culture, identity, history and heritage of the Traveller and Roma communities in County Donegal.

Goal 2: To achieve an inclusive education system and gain equality of access, participation and outcomes for and with the Traveller and Roma communities across Donegal.

Goal 3: To work to address the under representation of the Traveller Community in employment settings both public and private.

Goal 4: To promote and protect Human Rights and address inequality as experienced by the Traveller and Roma Communities.

Goal 5: To work to influence Donegal County Council and Government Departments to provide accessible, culturally appropriate high standard Traveller accommodation/housing based on the needs of the Traveller community.

Goal 6: To create the conditions for the inclusion and the interests, rights, views and participation of Traveller and Roma children and young people to be represented in policy, planning and services across the county of Donegal.

Goal 7: To promote the effective implementation of the Public sector duty across all sectors in Donegal.

Goal 8: To achieve health equality for the Traveller community across the county and the region using a Primary Health Care Approach which takes into consider the broader social determinants of health.

Goal 9: To work to ensure the Roma Community are recognised, included and respected as a minority ethnic group in Donegal.



SECTION 3: ACTIVITIES REPORT



Goal 1: To promote and celebrate the distinct culture, identity, history and heritage of the Traveller and Roma communities in County Donegal.

DTP worked to ensure that the distinct culture, identity, history and heritage of the Traveller and Roma communities was supported and celebrated across all aspects of their work and strived to make a positive impact towards the upholding of the rights of Traveller and Roma communities. DTP promoted and supported community work as a means to influence social change, promote cultural identity and uphold human rights.

ACTIONS

The following actions are a sample of the work carried out by DTP to promote and celebrate the distinct culture, identity, history and heritage of the Traveller and Roma communities in county Donegal:

- Developed Traveller and Roma local initiatives such as the 'Our Journey' Exhibition which was displayed in ATU Donegal Letterkenny campus in February depicting the lives and journeys' of Traveller and Roma men and women in Donegal. This initiative promoted and celebrated the distinct culture, identity and history of the Traveller and Roma Communities across Donegal and showcased the lived experience. Other initiatives included celebrating Traveller pride week with the 'Living History' exhibition in Ballyshannon, and Traveller cultural displays in local primary schools.
- DTP Roma Project produced and screened 'SAM ROM' film at the DTP North West Roma Health Initiative health seminar, raising awareness of the Roma community in Sligo and hosting an exhibition of local photographs of Roma communities across County Donegal. Keynote speakers on the day gave presentations on the history and the experience of Roma communities living in Ireland.
- DTP continued to work in collaboration with national organisations / structures to promote Traveller culture, identity and heritage and ensure the voice of the Traveller and Roma communities are represented in national organisations and local decision-making forums including LTACC, LCDC, Connecting for Life Donegal, SICAP, CWI, National Traveller Health Action Plan Implementation Group and the National Roma Network.
- DTP continued to support and build critical analysis within the organisation to further develop best practices as a community work and human rights organisation including continuing to participate in continuous professional development for example, advocating for Level 6 Introduction to Community Work at ATU



Letterkenny; Level 6 Training and Development; MA in Community and Youth Work; Diploma in Human Rights and Equality; Mental Health SafeTalk Training; Community Development training with Helen Lowry; Equality and Human Rights with Anastasia Crickley; Community Work and Anti-Racism with Rachel Doyle; Interculturalism and Anti-Racism with Ann Friel and Kate Hagan; Drug and Alcohol Awareness Training with Alcohol Forum Ireland; Disability Awareness training with Bluestack Foundation; BA in Community Development.

- DTP implemented a communications strategy that promoted and raised awareness of the Traveller and Roma Communities in Donegal and Ireland which included the DTP website, online social media platforms, press releases, and monitoring local and regional media of Traveller and Roma issues. This included running a series of focused campaigns throughout the year for example the 16 Days of Action; Voter Registration and Anti-Racism Election protocol.
- Promoted Traveller and Roma culture and heritage through the Donegal Travellers Intercultural Training Initiative. The team delivered Anti-Racism, Intercultural and Cultural Competency training locally, regionally and nationally including cross-border to wider civil society, statutory bodies and third level institutions.
- Practiced a democratic, accountable and an effective local Traveller organisation with good governance which included the updating and maintenance of company policies including the staffing handbook and child protection.
- DTP was represented at the National Traveller Pride Awards where DTP staff member Pamela Culotty received a national award.





Goal 2: To achieve an inclusive education system and gain equality of access, participation and outcomes for and with the Traveller and Roma communities across Donegal.

DTP continued to work with education providers and relevant others to promote improved outcomes from education settings. DTP was represented at roundtable discussions and consultations regarding the National Traveller and Roma Education Strategy (TRES) and has sought to promote awareness of the strategy locally. The organisation received continued funding to work in the area of education under the dormant accounts and Rethink Ireland which delivers bespoke community development projects promoting retention, participation and attendance in education settings at all levels. The Education Development team continued to support the participation of Traveller and Roma children and young people to access and participate in education settings.



ACTIONS

The following actions give you an overview of the work carried out by DTP to achieve an inclusive education system and gain equality of access, participation and outcomes for and with the Traveller and Roma communities across Donegal.

- Delivered initiatives/supports to promote improved outcomes from education preschool to third level including retention, participation and attendance e.g. continuation of the Dormant accounts funded project; TUSLA funded project; Rethink funded equity in education project and the ATU funded Afterschools programme.
- Designed and Delivered intercultural and anti-racism training to education providers and hosted workshops to education providers.

- Promoted and represented the interests and rights of Traveller children and young people to a broad range of education stakeholders using an equality of outcomes focus. For example, Donegal ETB, primary and post-primary settings, Donegal CYPSC education committee and relevant others.
- Developed strategic alliances with the ATU Traveller Education Officer to promote and increase the participation of Traveller and Roma young people in third level providers in the region including access and support for Traveller young people in education settings.
- Continued to support students in accessing third level and further and higher education by providing information and support to access course information, complete CAO applications, and access financial entitlements such as the SUSI grant and the 1916 Bursary.
- Continued to deliver on the 3-year Education in Equity funding with Rethink Ireland to develop responses to educational disadvantages as experienced by Traveller and Roma children and young people. This included attending the National Rethink event in December 2024.





- St. Gabriel's Pre-school staff team promoted and provided an ECCE service for 44 children to access and participate in early years services in the county with an indoor/outdoor education setting.
- Education team took initial steps in developing approaches to promoting equality of outcome from education at all levels including the distribution of Inclusion Posters for display at education providers and public services in Donegal.
- The staff team provided support to parents and families in relation to educational services (e.g. back to school allowance, school transport, NCS)
- The staff team worked with parents and children in collaboration with education providers regarding school enrolment, retention, addressing absenteeism and advocating for children on reduced timetables.
- Promoted the inclusion, respect, and protection of the cultural identity of young Travellers and Roma within informal and formal education settings and including collaborating with the Yellow Flag Initiative to be delivered in Scoil Cholmcille, Letterkenny.
- Donegal Travellers Project were delighted to support a member of the community in receiving a National Traveller Education Award in 2024.





Goal 3: To work to address the under representation of the Traveller Community in employment settings both public and private.

The Traveller community experiences high levels of unemployment in County Donegal. It is important to acknowledge that in 2024 there has been a small increase in the number of members of the Traveller community taking up employment within DTP and across other sectors. Traveller unemployment continues to be a significant challenge in relation to the health and wellbeing of the Traveller community across Donegal and DTP continued to work in collaboration with the DLDC Traveller Job Coaches in 2024.

ACTIONS

The following actions are a sample of the work carried out by DTP to address the under representation of the Traveller Community in employment settings both public and private:

- Explored and created opportunities for members of the Traveller community to be employed in DTP with a view to delivering competencies-based training programmes in 2024.
- Provided information and support for members of the Traveller community on existing employment and training services locally including collaborating with the DLDC Traveller Job Coach workers.
- Collaborated with the SIT initiative in the implementation of the work programme across Donegal to develop responses to unemployment.
- DTP provided information on access to employment support services and supported Traveller and Roma individuals in the application and preparation for employment opportunities.
- Continued to provide and support members of the Traveller community employed within the organisation to participate in CPD and access accredited training and education programmes.
- Signposted the Traveller and Roma communities to services to INTREO services and other related public services.
- Supported and managed the Primary Healthcare and other programmes within the organisation.





Goal 4: To promote and protect Human Rights and address inequality as experienced by the Traveller and Roma Communities.

Donegal Travellers Project continued to work in solidarity to address racism, discrimination and inequality as experienced by the Traveller and Roma communities. The staff team in 2024 continued to promote equality across all grounds as set out in the Public Sector Duty and promote the implementation and awareness at national level of the National Action Plan Against Racism. Donegal Travellers Project works and acts in solidarity with local and national organisations seeking to promote human rights and addressing inequality. The organisation also continued its partnership with Pavee Point in the Domestic, Sexual, Gender Based Violence Project (DSGBV) which continued to work with and for Traveller women across Donegal.

ACTIONS

The following actions are a sample of the work carried out by DTP to promote and protect Human Rights and address inequality as experienced by the Traveller and Roma Communities.

- Supported members of the Traveller and Roma communities who experienced racism and discrimination who sought support from the organisation. This work included providing advice and referral to appropriate services including IHREC, FLAC and Free Legal Aid Board.
- Promoted interculturalism, human rights, equality and inclusion through the provision of training to the following agencies and community and voluntary sector; Tusla, Western Trust, Northern Trust, Donegal ATU, Sligo ATU, Magee University, North West Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force.
- DTP continued to build critical social consciousness to promote interculturalism, human rights, equality and inclusion and provide culturally appropriate support to the Traveller and Roma communities.
- DTP concluded the work on the consortium 'Think Equality' between DTP, DIP and DLDC. The organisation was represented on the steering group and management committee in the collective response to the promotion of PSD, Interculturalism and Diverse Aware training. This project closed with the Public Sector Duty event which was attended by a broad range of organisations and facilitated by Niall Crowley.
- Donegal Travellers Project hosted the European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) in November 2024 and hosted a roundtable discussion with relevant other agencies.
- Developed and delivered creative initiatives to promote the cultural rights of the Traveller Community for example the Traveller Womens' Leadership initiative in South Donegal (Ballyshannon).
- Managed and delivered the Domestic, Sexual, Gender Based Violence (DSGBV) Project in collaboration with Pavee Point. This included attending a national event at Pavee Point and meeting Stephanie O'Keefe (CUAN).





- Exhibited the 'Pavee Beoirs Whiden' community arts project at a number of settings including Public Service Centres across the county, ATU Donegal and Misleoir Festival in Galway. The display depicts 6 mannequins designed and developed by Traveller women and girls across a 12-week initiative which consisted of Traveller women working as a collective to explore the challenges as experienced by Traveller women and girls and to raise awareness of the rich Traveller history and culture, the impact of racism and discrimination and ways to advance Traveller women's and girl's rights across the county.
- Designed and delivered a number of actions, programmes and initiatives which promoted the participation of the Traveller and Roma communities within the organisation and increasing leadership roles within the organisation. For example, women's groups, men's groups, Introduction to Community Development and Health initiative and continual professional development of staff.
- Raised awareness of human rights, racism and discrimination and how to address and report racism in Irish society.
- Worked to represent the Traveller and Roma communities at a number of seminars and workshops highlighting the experience of inequality and discrimination including participating in NTRIS local consultations.

- The Roma team, through individual casework across Donegal, Sligo and Leitrim, provide advocacy and information to individuals and families to have their needs met using a human rights and equality approach. This work is intensive and contributes to a significant part of every working week.
- Representatives of DTP attended the AGM of the National Traveller Womens Forum, national TAWW meetings and national events in relation to gender equality and addressing DSGBV.
- Designed and prepared tender documents to the PEACEPLUS programme for two initiatives: 'Diversity and Decision Making' and 'Pride Not Prejudice' for the implementation of an intercultural and anti-racism focused training initiative including promoting Black Minority Ethnic Communities including Travellers and Roma in decision-making spaces. These tenders were successful and will be initiated in 2025.





Goal 5: To work to influence Donegal County Council and Government Departments to provide accessible, culturally appropriate high standard Traveller accommodation/housing based on the needs of the Traveller community.

Donegal Travellers Project continued to work in partnership with Local Authorities and Government Departments to provide accessible, culturally appropriate Traveller accommodation. The staff team continued to advocate and participate on a number of forums including the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and advocated at national level for the development of the second National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy.

ACTIONS

The following actions are a sample of the work carried out by DTP to influence Donegal County Council and Government Departments to provide accessible, culturally appropriate high standard Traveller accommodation/housing based on the needs of the Traveller community:

- Supported Traveller and Roma families and individuals with the following housing and accommodation supports; HAP applications, homelessness supports, housing applications, grants for community welfare supports, families in crisis, support families to move from crisis accommodation to long term accommodation, court accompaniment, liaised with services including Threshold and FLAC supports, secured accommodation for individuals at risk of homelessness, supported families living on the side of the road with no basic facilities, liaised with Donegal County Council.
- Delivered a human rights approach to meet the collective and individual needs of the Traveller and Roma communities in Donegal.
- Advocated, and supported self-advocacy where appropriate, for Traveller and Roma families in crisis and where required use a 1:1 casework model to provide support and representation for Traveller and Roma families.
- Documented emerging issues that impact on the Traveller community.
- Sought and put in place representation on the newly established LTACC after the Local Elections. This included the re-election of DTP staff member Hugh Friel as Chairperson of the Committee.
- Worked with and participated on the LTACC to address Traveller accommodation challenges and to highlight the recommendations within DTP's submission to the TAP which were not included in the 2025-2030 TAP.
- Continued to practice neighbourhood work for the purposes of supporting Traveller and Roma families living in conditions which impact negatively on their health and wellbeing.
- Provided one to one support for individual members of the Traveller and Roma communities experiencing homelessness including older Travellers and women experiencing DSGBV.
- Supported families to have improved standards, including heating and health and safety, in their homes in line with national policy.





Goal 6: To create the conditions for the inclusion and the interests, rights, views and participation of Traveller and Roma children and young people to be represented in policy, planning and services across the county of Donegal.

Donegal Travellers Project continued to work for the rights, interests and views of Traveller and Roma children and young people. The staff team continued to represent the rights of Traveller and Roma children and young people across different local, regional and national forums including CYPSC Donegal, Parents Plus, ETB Donegal and Child and Family Support Networks.

ACTIONS

The following actions are a sample of the work carried out by DTP to create the conditions for the inclusion and the interests, rights, views and participation of Traveller and Roma children and young people to be represented in policy, planning and services across the county of Donegal.

- DTP developed and delivered a range of activities to promote the rights and voice of Traveller and Roma children and young people throughout 2024.
- DTP worked and delivered Traveller specific parenting plus programmes including family support programmes in groups and on a one-to-one basis.
- DTP acted as a family and community links service with families/children on the edge of care with Tusla and relevant others.
- DTP staff team in their work with children continue to promote the 10 common basic principles of Roma inclusion to services across Donegal.
- DTP reviewed and updated the population profiles for both the Traveller community in Donegal and the Roma communities across Donegal, Leitrim and Sligo in 2024.
- Reviewed Garda vetting during 2024 and ensured that all staff completed the Children's First Training in line with company policy.
- Donegal Travellers Project staff team worked to achieve appropriate, culturally sensitive and early intervention to support Traveller and Roma families.
- Worked with Traveller and Roma children and young people and their families to have the opportunity to participate in culturally appropriate youth work programmes, summer programmes, including sports, arts, education and culture.
- Developed and delivered Interculturalism Awareness Training representing the interests, rights and views of Traveller and Roma communities in a broad range of education and connected settings.
- Continued to provide homework support, after-schools, early years, tuition and youth service providers.





Goal 7: To promote the effective implementation of the Public sector duty across all sectors in Donegal.

Donegal Travellers Project continued to promote the implementation of the Public Sector Duty across all Public services across Donegal. The staff team continued to promote the duty through the Interculturalism and anti-racism Training as well as through furthering the collaboration between DTP and the Donegal Intercultural Platform, creating the conditions to promote equality, inclusion and social justice.

ACTIONS

The following actions are a sample of the work carried out by DTP;

- Continued to collaborate with the Donegal Intercultural Platform and Donegal Local Development Company to deliver the Think Equality project funded by Rethink Ireland to promote human rights, equality and public sector duty across Donegal.
- Designed and delivered anti-racism, Traveller and Roma culture awareness and cultural competency training to public services in line with section 42 (Positive Duty) of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014.
- Raised awareness to public services of the online Diversity Aware online training programme on the Donegal Travellers Project Website.
- Promoted the use of an ethnic identifier across services and structures including forums and committees to monitor and evaluate the access and participation of the Traveller and Roma communities to statutory agencies and services locally.
- Delivered two workshops in school settings to celebrate World Human Rights Day in December 2024.

- Donegal Travellers Project continued to represent Traveller and Roma and voices at a range of conferences, seminars and workshops across the region relating to education, employment, health and human rights. For example: Ann Friel represented DTP and Traveller women in Donegal at the Women of the World 'Right to Work' Seminar in September, Hugh Friel and Kyle Quill represented DTP and Traveller Men in Donegal at the ATU International Men's Day event, DTP continue to represent Traveller and Roma communities in Donegal on the BME Secretariat and Implementation Groups.





Goal 8: To achieve health equality for the Traveller community across the county and the region using a Primary Health Care Traveller Project (PHCTP) Approach which takes into consideration the broader social determinants of health.



2024 demonstrated the positive working relationships from the launch of the National Traveller Health Action Plan 2022-2027 both at local, regional and national level between the DTP Primary Healthcare Traveller Project (PHCTP) and the HSE. The launch of this plan saw an increase into the working relationships built on to influence further partnership initiatives including Mental Health initiatives, Drugs and Alcohol work and health and wellbeing initiatives. The PHCTP continued to work towards equitable outcomes in Traveller health.

ACTIONS

The following actions are a sample of the work carried out by DTP to achieve health equality for the Traveller community across the county

- Continued to deliver a Primary Health Care project to the Traveller community in County Donegal and North Leitrim which included delivering on the operational plan in line with the Key Performance Indicators as set down by the HSE.
- The PHC project continue to review staffing and carry out recruitment and provide training to meet the skills required to deliver on the new Traveller Health Action Plan.
- The staff team worked to improve access, opportunities, participation rates, outputs and outcomes from mainstream and targeted health services for Travellers.
- PHCTP worked with the HSE to launch the Regional Traveller Health Action Plan 2022-2027. The PHC team also delivered actions in line with the Genio funding.
- PHCTP developed and strengthened mechanisms to ensure meaningful consultations, inclusion and participation of Travellers in local, regional and national health-related structures underpinned by community development principles and values.
- PHCTP continued to focus on a range of health and wellbeing programmes including health promotion work, promoting positive mental health and wellbeing, cardiovascular health and diabetes health promotion.
- Increased participation and representation on health-related structures promoting and calling for actions to address health inequality including on the following; Traveller Health Unit, National Traveller Health Advisory Forum, Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, National Traveller Health Network, National Traveller Health Implementation Group, National Roma Network, National Traveller Mental Health Network, National Traveller Women's Forum, Connecting for Life, Child and Family Support Networks (CFSNs), National Traveller MABs and Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC).
- PHCTP team and other staff continued to design and deliver bespoke training on the history and struggle of the Traveller and Roma communities including an understanding of discrimination and racism to a diverse range of stakeholders and agencies. The team also raised awareness of the social determinants of health as impacted negatively on the health and wellbeing of the Traveller and Roma communities.



- The Roma Health Project has delivered a community health support programme across Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal promoting health equality and inclusion and access for Roma to health services.
- PHCTP team worked directly with individual members of the Traveller community providing health promotion, health support and one to one crisis interventions.
- DTP continue to campaign for improved better mental health and local resources to address mental health challenges throughout 2024, including attending the National Traveller Mental Health protest outside the Dáil in December 2024.
- DTP, as part of our campaigning for improved mental health, carried out focus groups and consultations facilitated by Derek McDonnell under Traveller Mental Health with a focus on challenges and recommendations for change.
- The PHC action plan and Roma Health Project was implemented to isolated individuals / families, communities living in rural areas through outreach/neighbourhood work which included family visits to the Traveller and Roma Communities across Donegal, Sligo and Leitrim.
- DTP's dedicated Men's Health Worker continued in 2024 to run a number of men's health initiatives which include a Traveller men's mental health and wellbeing trip to Knock shrine, men's football group and a men's fishing trip.
- The health teams provided support and advocated for the needs and interests of adults, children and young people with additional needs including autism.
- Collaborated with the North West Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force to promote the inclusion of Traveller community accessing services across Donegal. This project works to ensure provision of services is delivered in a non-discriminatory and culturally appropriate way. The project staff presented at the Alcohol Forum Conference in September 2024, and promoted the inclusion of ethnic minorities in the work.





Goal 9: To work to ensure the Roma Community are recognised, included and respected as a minority ethnic group.



The DTP North West Roma Health Initiative and Roma Community Development and Advocacy Project continued to promote the rights, needs and interests of Roma Communities living across the North West covering all of Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal. This work continued to include health and wellbeing work, advocacy work, education, health access, employment and anti-poverty work.

ACTIONS

The following actions are a sample of the work carried out by DTP to ensure the Roma communities are recognised, included and respected as a minority ethnic group across the North West.

Donegal Travellers Project worked on the following actions in 2023:

- Continued to deliver a dedicated North West Roma Health Initiative Project to work to promote health and address the health inequalities experienced by Roma communities and support the overall development and implementation of Roma health supports across the North West region.

- The delivery of the DCDEY funded Community Development and Advocacy Programme to the Roma community in County Donegal
- The Roma teams provided information and support for Roma individuals and families with application support to access public services including social welfare, child benefit, housing supports, employment supports and relevant others.
- The Roma teams continued to develop a community development approach to promote equality and human rights for the Roma Community in Donegal.
- Both Roma projects provided an outreach/ neighbourhood work approach to maintain professional working relationships and address challenges within the Roma Community across Donegal and the North West.
- The Roma health team in collaboration with LYFS and DTP Men's Health team organised and participated on the All Men Equal Men's Health event in Letterkenny, June 2024.



- North West Roma Health Team worked to ensure the Roma community had increased access, opportunities, participation rates and outcomes from the Health service and health related initiatives across the North West. This included the organising of a Roma health seminar in Sligo in September 2024.
- Continued to work in collaboration at a local, regional and national level through networking and representing the needs and interests of the Roma communities living in Donegal including the National Roma Network.
- Developed and delivered on a range of recreational and health focused days which included health and wellbeing days, family days, International Women's Day, summer programmes and end of year annual event with Roma children and young people.
- The Roma Teams contracted a film making team to produce a short documentary film 'SAM ROM' and a photographic exhibition which was launched as part of the Errigal Arts Festival 2024.



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2024

Donegal Travellers Project continued to deliver its work programmes as set out and in line with the overall Strategic Plan. The work continued to deliver a human rights and community work approach to the challenges affecting the Traveller and Roma communities at local, regional and national level. The organisation ensured that the voice and participation of the Traveller and Roma communities was central to the work and management of DTP.

The following achievements for 2024 are as follows:

The continued management of the company by the Board of Directors who met and ensured the company is keeping in line with DTP's constitution, Charity Regulator, Good governance and Service Level Agreements.

Carried out efficient, transparent and professional accounting systems in line with good governance and best practice as recommended by organisations such as the Charity Regulator and funders. All reporting was produced and submitted in line with funding requirements and relevant legislation.

Adapted and advanced the DTP Primary Healthcare Traveller Project in keeping with the National Traveller Health Action Plan, the Regional Traveller Health Action Plan and additional funding secured through Genio.

Worked with Pavee Point to support the EU Fundamental Rights Agency Research in Donegal. Three staff completed the training and carried out the research.

Continued to work and act in solidarity with local, regional and national organisations to address and challenge racism and discrimination and the rise of the far-right and its impact on Travellers and Roma.

Prepared funding applications and bids to secure increased funding opportunities across a range of themes within DTP to deliver on the strategic plan.

Supported a student in continuing to third level education, who received the Northwest Ireland Healthcare Scholarship.



Continued to develop innovative community arts projects to promote the distinct culture and heritage in the Traveller and Roma communities.

The financial administration and reports have been submitted to the Board for their information and consideration throughout 2024 to ensure the directors are fully informed of the income and expenditure of the company.

As a community development organisation, the participation of the Traveller and Roma communities is core to the success of our work and a key achievement for 2024 has been the continued high levels of participation at all levels of the organisation.



Donegal Travellers Project has maintained the position as a community development organisation to advance the interests, rights and equality for Traveller and Roma communities as collectives and it is our opinion that this was central to the practice of 2024.

Donegal Travellers Project PHC team attended, gave inputs, facilitated discussions and represented the PHCTP and the Traveller community in Donegal at the National PHC Conference in Croke Park in December 2024.

The continued professional representation of DTP in participative, democratic structures both locally, regionally and nationally.



Representatives from DTP continued in 2024 to actively participate in the development of national policy which focused on improved equality of outcomes for Traveller and Roma communities across a number of thematic areas.

Supported individuals of the Traveller community to participate in continuous professional development including Masters in Community and Youth Work, Diploma in Professional Human Rights and Equality, Bachelor of Arts in Community Development and relevant other QQI qualifications.



The continued accessing of resources to further develop the Education Development Project with the continued delivery of afterschools' programmes.

In 2024 DTP provided a bespoke culturally appropriate counselling service that was available online for members of the Traveller community as a pilot funded under the NWRDATEF. All of the sessions available under this funding were taken up by members of the community.

The organisation has increased our understanding of community development and its understanding of an intersectional approach, informed by ethnicity and gender.

Increased professional working relationships with members of the Roma communities across the North West including Ukrainian Roma and has also developed strategic relationships with health service providers and others to meet the needs and interests of Roma communities.

The successful funding of PEACEPLUS funding for two projects 'Diversity and Decision Making' and 'Pride Not Prejudice' to be delivered across 2025-2027.

Organised and designed a residential team building and training event for all staff in October 2024 to increase the capacity, approach and the community work practices of the overall organisation in promoting equality of outcome for Traveller and Roma communities.

DTP Older Peoples' team with PHC developed and delivered an increased number of events which were delivered throughout Donegal with a focus on bringing older people together, reducing isolation and improving health of older Travellers.



SECTION 4: FINANCIAL REVIEW

The company was audited by SMC Chartered Accountants. The audit was approved by the Board of Management and signed by the company chairperson and will be presented at the AGM on the 16th July.

These accounts will also be provided to all our funders in line with service level agreements. We include here the combined income and expenditure for 2024 for the company.

Donegal Travellers Project CLG Income and expenditure account Financial year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 €	2023 €
Income		1,176,898	1,008,242
Gross Income		1,176,898	1,008,242
Administrative expenses		(1,171,963)	(1,019,320)
Other operating income		3,662	3,662
Operating surplus/(deficit)	5	8,597	(7,416)
Surplus/(deficit) before taxation		8,597	(7,416)
Tax on surplus/(deficit)	7	-	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year		8,597	(7,416)

The company has no other recognised items of income and expenses other than the results for the financial year as set out above.

SECTION 5: STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Donegal Travellers Project Board and management team understand their role and responsibilities in respect of the overall governance and management of the organisation. DTP is in line with all legal obligations

as well as the good governance standards as set in the Charities Governance Code. The Board of Donegal Travellers Project is committed to the principles of the Charities Governance Code and are as follows;

1

Advancing
the Charitable
Purpose
of Donegal
Travellers
Project

2

Behaving
with
integrity

3

Leading people
within Donegal
Travellers
Project

4

Exercising
control over
Donegal
Travellers
Project

5

Working
effectively

6

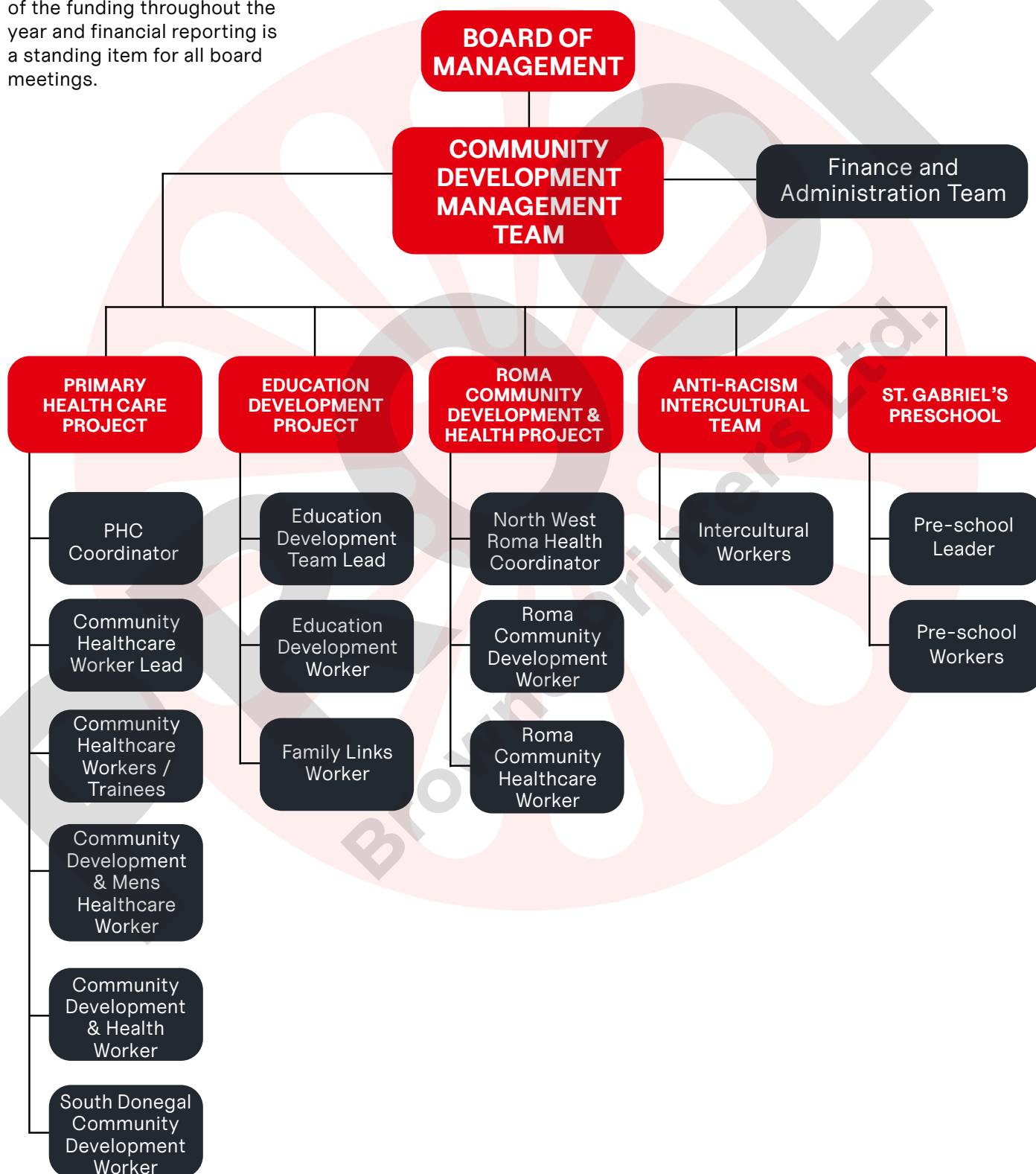
Being
accountable
and
transparent

DTP Staff management documented and reported on the work of all funded projects across the organisation as set out in the service level agreements which included operational planning, financial planning, progress reports and audited accounts.

The DTP Board applied the highest standard of monitoring and oversight for the administration of the funding throughout the year and financial reporting is a standing item for all board meetings.

DONEGAL TRAVELLERS PROJECT ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The structure of the organisation and how it is governed and managed is as follows;





THE JOURNEY CONTINUES...



Donegal Travellers Project CLG
Port House, Port Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
Contact Details: (074) 912 9281

Charity Registration Number: CHV 12244
Company Number: 258334

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