

Children's Services Planning



Outcomes for Children

Southern Area Action with Travellers

Outcome Monitoring Report 2011/12

Information to Support Integrated Planning for Traveller Children and Young People
Aug 2013



The Southern Area Action with Travellers Partnership is a multi agency and multi sectoral partnership. The partnership is currently chaired by the Southern Education and Library Board. The approach taken by the partnership promotes a community development focus which goes beyond the need for specialist services and looks at all the work of the mainstream agencies as the only way to address the extreme exclusion of the Traveller population.

The Partnership along with senior representatives from Statutory, Voluntary and Community Organisations, are charged with improving outcomes for vulnerable children. These outcomes are those set out in 'Our Children and Young People – Our Pledge:- a ten year strategy for children and young people in Northern Ireland 2006-16' The Office of the First and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM). These are that all children and young people should be:

Healthy;
Enjoying, learning and achieving;
Living in safety and with stability;
Experiencing economic and environmental well-being;
Contributing positively to community and society; and
Living in a society which respects their rights.

This report brings together information from statistical returns provided by each Traveller Support Group/Partnership working across the Southern Trust area. Other professional groups and Organisations have also contributed to the report.

The report sets out a set of recommended Actions that are required urgently to address the very real needs of this Community that are clearly evidenced throughout this report.



Recommended Actions Required

Actions		Lead Responsibility
		See page
1.	Presentations to be made to SAAT by PHA HSWIT, Trusts and other identified organisations to raise awareness of services and programmes available.	SAAT
2.	Address the gap and inequality in relation to the Traveller child population. Recurrent investment in Traveller support is required to meet the targets set out in Government Strategies .	SAAT/CYPSP
3.	To address the gap and inequality in relation to health and life expectancy, recurrent investment in Traveller support is required to meet the targets set out in Government Strategies.	SAAT/CYPSP
4.	Continued support for new families to register with GPs on arrival in the area by Traveller Support workers and Health Visitors in each locality. Consistent Traveller Support infrastructure required throughout the Southern Region in order to maintain continued support. Promote alternative ways to engage Traveller Males in health awareness.	TSWS & HV
5.	Consultation to take place with PHA Nurse leads and Trust Health Visitor leads on best way forward in relation to addressing identified gaps. Continued support for new families to register on arrival in the area or birth of new baby. Maintain support to Health Visitor to make initial contact with Families via local Traveller Support Workers.	SAAT/PHA & TSWS
6.	Better monitoring of nomadic Traveller children to ensure and encourage all immunisations are up to date through close working of Health Visitors and local Traveller Support Workers.	HVs/CHS
7.	Recommend as part of good practice, GPs check immunisation records of Adult Travellers.	SAAT & TSWS
8.	Need to agree protocol of flow of information exchange between HSCB /PHA and HSE on cross border basis in relation to Traveller children.	CAWT
9.	Continued support for families for ongoing registration. Traveller support kept updated about NHS open registers for Dentist's in each area.	TSWS
10.	Craigavon to develop a strategy to encourage dental registration for children.	CTSC
11.	All early years practitioners working with Traveller families should continue to promote good dental hygiene and practice.	SAAT
12.	Continued advice and support from Traveller Support Workers for expectant mums to register and access ante-natal services and support community mid-wives making contact with expectant mums. Promote plain and concise information on range of health issues and support available. Promote awareness of the male role in supporting ante-natal care.	TSWS



Recommended Actions Required

Actions		Lead Responsibility	See page
13.	Child Health System in Northern Ireland should have robust ethnic monitoring in place to identify needs around Traveller Child Health Issues.	<i>HSCB, CYPSP, Trusts</i>	19
14.	Midwives and GPs to raise awareness of availability of Parent Craft Classes and promote value of service. Explore different ways of delivering the message. Disseminate information and advice on family planning, cancer screening, STI's , Healthy relationships and LGBT.	<i>SAAT & PROJECTS</i>	20
15.	Raise awareness about the benefits of breastfeeding. Look at what qualitative information is currently available with possibility of a small research study in relation to reasons for not breastfeeding.	<i>PHA & TSWs</i>	21
16.	Continued support to families following a bereavement by Traveller Support Workers. Explore ways to assist Travellers with the grieving process (in consultation with Travellers).	<i>SAAT & TSWs</i>	22
17.	All professionals who are in contact with Traveller Families and their Children should be culturally sensitive in relation to their needs after the passing of a loved one.	<i>SAAT</i>	22
18.	Raise awareness with families of children with disability about support groups available in local area.	<i>TSWs</i>	23
19.	Using a multi-disciplinary approach, local Traveller Support Workers to provide continued assistance and advice in relation to benefits, adaptations, specialist equipment and medical appointments.	<i>TSWs</i>	23
20.	A lot of physical disabilities are possibly related to unhealthy lifestyle and poor accommodation, lack of health awareness and congenital disorders. Raise awareness about physical and mental health issues and work to reduce stigma about mental health.	<i>TSWs & Projects</i>	24
21.	Programmes need to be tailored, with Traveller culture in mind, based on identified need to educate Traveller Children and Young People, and their parents about healthy cooking, healthy eating and healthy weights as well as exercise.	<i>PHA/TRUSTS & TSWs</i>	25
22.	Mainstreamed funding of a support service to the Traveller Community across Northern Ireland with dedicated community development workers to co-ordinate programmes, and to work with individuals to ensure uptake and attendance.	<i>SAAT & CYPSP</i>	28
23.	A sustained programme of tutoring for essential skills delivered on an annual basis.	<i>SAAT /CYPSP</i>	28
24.	More emphasis within education on the value of vocational studies for Traveller young people.	<i>ELBs</i>	28
25.	Continued support by Traveller Support Workers for families to access Toybox project.	<i>TSWs</i>	29
26.	Continued support and encouragement to access Parent and Toddler opportunities.	<i>TSWs</i>	30



Recommended Actions Required

Actions		Lead Responsibility	See page
28.	Provision of Creche facilities - Funders should be aware it is imperative to incorporate childcare facilities as part of programme costs either provided on site or on outreach where appropriate	SAAT	30
29.	Sure Start Managers and local Travellers Support Workers to engage to look at encouraging the uptake of provision across the Southern Trust Area.	SAAT,CYPSP & CCP	31
30.	Continued support and advice by Local Traveller Support Workers to encourage registration for pre-school placements.	TSWs	32
31.	In relation to Nomadic Families, encourage the Department and ELBs (PEAGS Committee) to take a more flexible approach in terms of funding arrangements and registration.	SAAT/DE/CYPSP	32
32.	A better co-ordinated approach to provide affordable afterschool/homework clubs to meet Traveller children and young people's needs.	SAAT/PROJECTS & ELBs	33
33.	Travellers Support to continue to encourage children and young people to uptake extra curricular activities in partnership with all relevant agencies.	TSWs	33
34.	Explore Neighbourhood renewal funding in relation to afterschool provision	SAAT	33
35.	Continue to support families to ensure children are enrolled at primary school and attending regularly. Work closely with EWOs and SENCO to maintain and increase enrolment and attendance.	TSWs/ELBs	34
36.	More emphasis within education on the value of vocational studies for Traveller young people. Joint piece of work needed between those with statutory responsibility for education, Traveller Support Workers and Travellers to promote the value of education.	SAAT & ELBs	35/36
37.	A consultation/research should be carried out within the Southern Area seeking the views of young Travellers, their parents, support workers and schools to identify their aspirations in terms of academic/vocational opportunities.	SAAT & ELBs/CYPSP	37
38.	Domestic Violence is a sensitive subject and SAAT to develop and implement an awareness raising strategy and access preventative programmes for men, women and children within the Traveller Community.	SAAT	40
39.	Traveller Support Workers continue to equip Traveller Women with the necessary support and information to recognise domestic violence and to make informed decisions.	TSWs	40
40.	Encourage key agencies via SAAT to look at taking forward awareness, help and support to the Traveller Community.	SAAT	40
41.	Continue to support families to access safe accommodation and work closely with Women's Aid.	TSWs	40



Recommended Actions Required

Actions		Lead Responsibility
		See page
42.	Home and Site Safety - There should be an annual update delivered to all families co-ordinated by Traveller Support Workers to support home and safety regulations are met. TSWs to work with relevant agencies in relation to delivering specific programmes.	PHA/TRUSTS TSWs
43.	Ongoing contact with Council Home Safety Officers to continue in relation to individual referrals.	TSWs
44.	A Co-ordinated approach led by the Housing Executive and Council and supported by Traveller Support Workers and projects to raise awareness among the Traveller community of their own responsibilities in relation to waste management and recycling.	SAAT / NIHE/ COUNCILS & TSWs
45.	SAAT to encourage statutory Agencies to take a more proactive role to fulfil their statutory duties in relation to the Co-operation Policy and provide adequate facilities.	SAAT/CYPSP
46.	Families need to be more aware of the impact on their own health and the negative impact and perceptions of the wider community in relation to environment.	SAAT/TSWs/ Councils
47.	Planning for new Traveller Sites should take account of Traveller culture . (For example, provision for horses, visiting families).	SAAT & NIHE
48.	Continued support by Traveller Support Workers to assist Families in relation to accessing social housing.	TSWs
49.	Traveller Support Workers and other relevant agencies to continue to support families in accessing all types of accommodation and to provide advice.	TSWs & NIHE
50.	Joined up Government Action led by OFMDFM to develop a co-ordinated approach to provide culturally appropriate accommodation for Travellers and their Families.	SAAT & OFMDFM
51.	There is URGENT need for transit sites made available across Northern Ireland in areas of identified need.	SAAT & NIHE
52.	Awareness raising about the needs of Traveller families living on the side of the road and the provision of adequate services and accommodation - Traveller Support Workers should contact both regional and local NIHE offices in relation to Travellers unauthorised encampments	SAAT/TSWs & NIHE
53.	Continued access and partnership work with relevant agencies to increase empowerment and capacity building within the Traveller Community. This should be rolled out on a NI wide basis	SAAT
54.	SAAT to look at a contact in relation to professional legal advice about racism and refusal of services. TSGs to continue to support individuals in accessing legal advice from local solicitors.	SAAT & TSWs
55.	SAAT to organise CAJ Human Rights Training specific to Travellers for full SAAT Partnership and TSWs.	SAAT



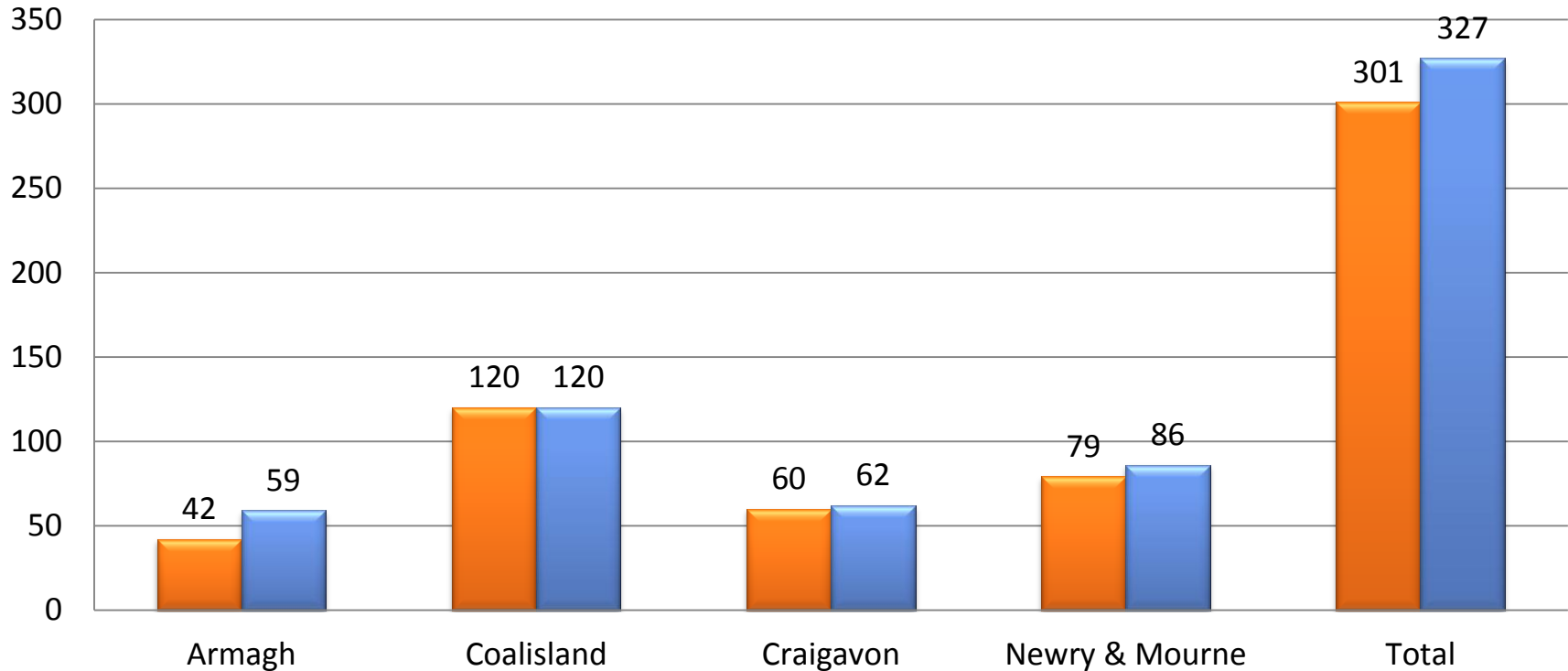
- There are currently Traveller Support Workers based in Armagh (1), Coalisland (1), Craigavon (4) and Newry and Mourne (1).
- The role of the Traveller Support Worker is very important as it is often the first point of contact for a variety of issues, signposting or just to have someone to talk to. This is a timely process as the relationship with the client on building up trust, confidence and confidentiality takes many years.
- The Traveller Support Workers introduce others to Travellers throughout the area. This is vital for the success of programmes and activities to take place. For example, Safe and Well and Toybox staff are more readily accepted into homes after a personal introduction.
- Professionals from a range of agencies work in partnership with the Traveller Support Workers. This includes SELB, NIHE, SHSCT (Health Visitors, Social Workers, School Nurses, GP's)
- Without the Traveller Support Workers, many Travellers would have difficulty in accessing services, and service providers would have difficulty in accessing Travellers.
- Traveller Support Workers are ideally placed to share appropriate information with agencies.



How many Traveller Families live in the Southern Area

Source: Traveller Support Workers (Locally)

Families Living in Southern Area as at March 2011 - March 2012



Overall there were a total of 327 Families living in the Southern area at March 2012. Groups are also aware of approximately 55 families living in the Dungannon area who are being supported by the Coalisland Support Worker but not currently included on monitoring systems. Craigavon Travellers Support Committee are also providing a support service to a further 104 families who are presently travelling. Based on the NI Traveller Family population of 1,562 identified in the All Ireland Health Study, overall approximately 31% of Traveller Families are being supported by Traveller Support Workers in the Southern Area.



How many Traveller children and young people live in the Southern Area

9

Source: Traveller Support Workers (Locally)

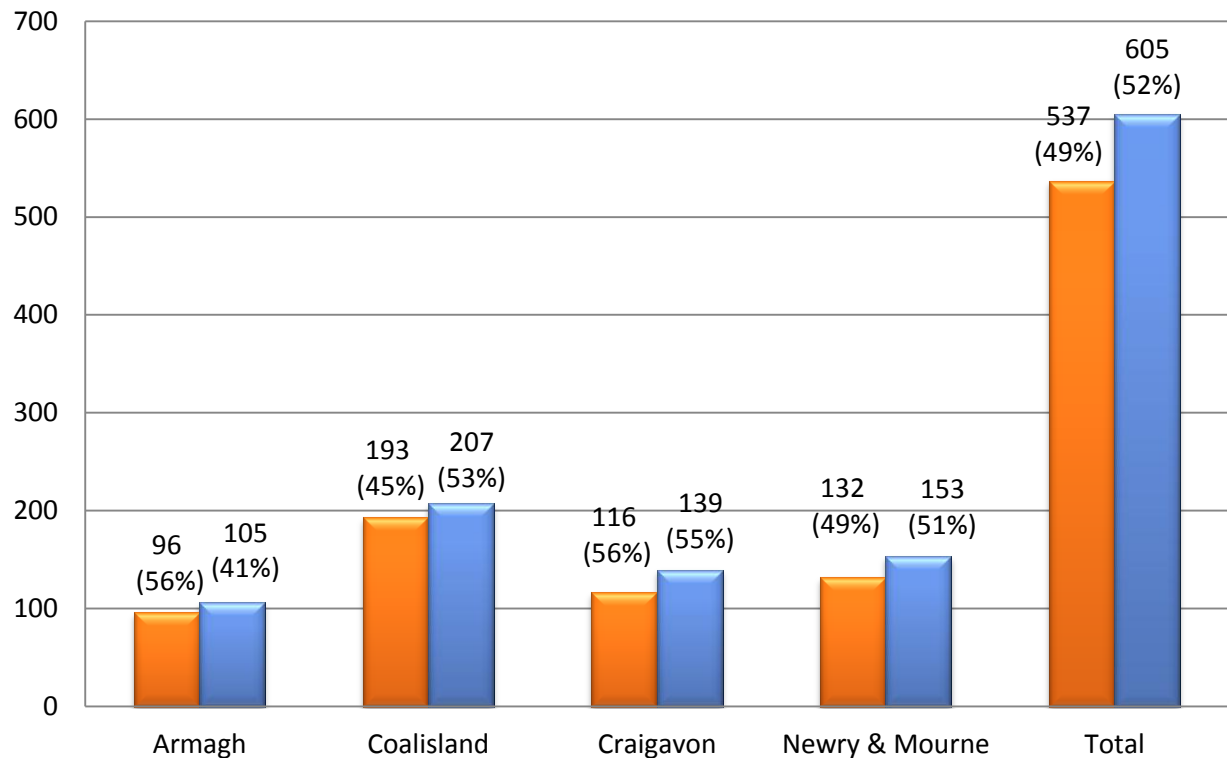
Related Strategies:-

OFMDFM Children's Strategy
Lifetime Opportunities
0-6 Early Year's Strategy
Children's Services Plan
Taskforce Recommendations
(pending)
Regional Traveller Education Plan
CSI Strategy
Children's Poverty Strategy
Investing for Health
Community Development Strategy
(HSCB & PHA)

Actions required:

To address gaps and inequalities recurrent investment in Traveller support is required to meet the targets set out in the above strategies .

Children Aged 0 – 17 years as at March 2011 – March 2012



Overall across the Southern area 52% (605) of Travellers are children aged 0 – 17 years – this compares to a child population of 25% across Northern Ireland. Newry & Mourne, Coalisland and Craigavon has the highest % population of children within their community .

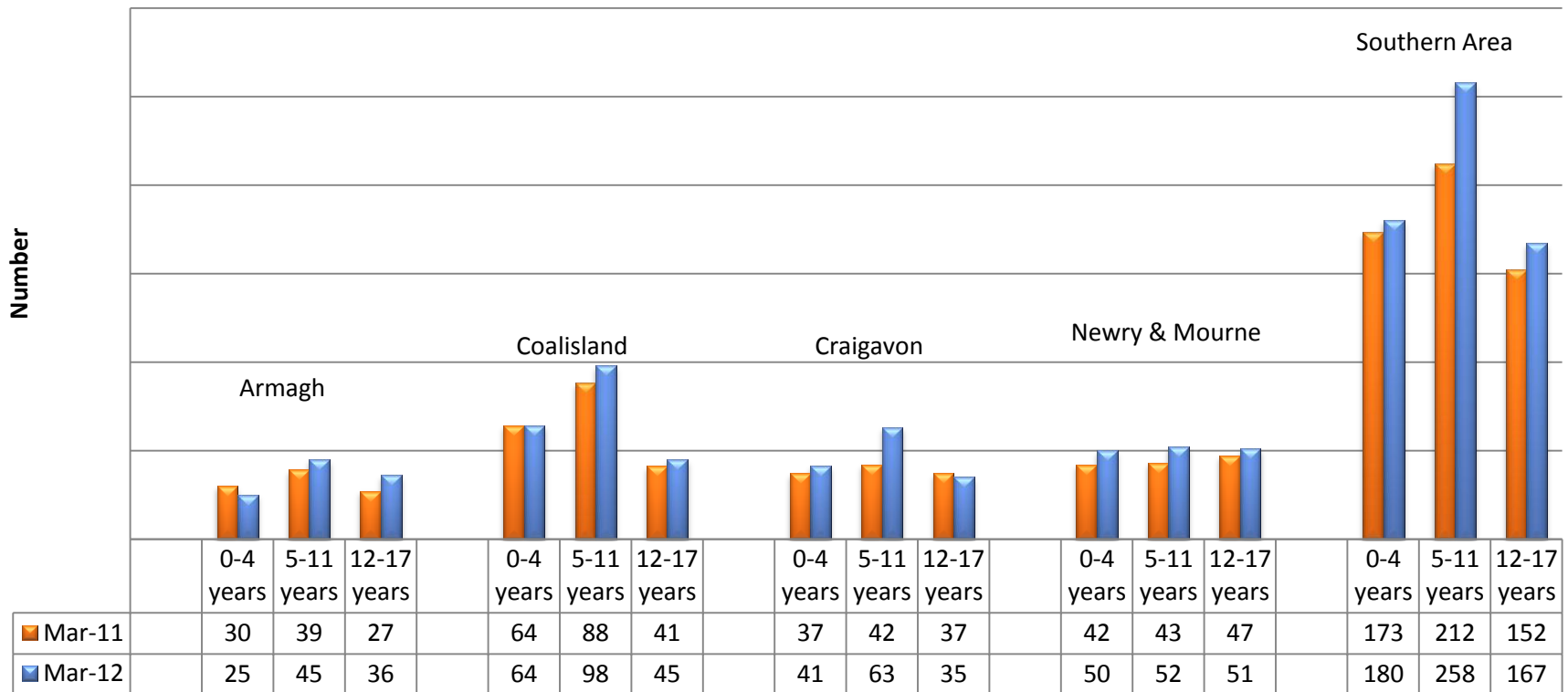


Children & Young People Population by age band

10

Source: Traveller Support Workers (Locally)

Traveller Children and Young People as at March 2011 – March 2012



The Story Behind the Trends – The highest number of children are aged 5 –11 years across all areas with a total of 258 followed by 0 – 4 year olds (180) and then 12-17 year olds (167).

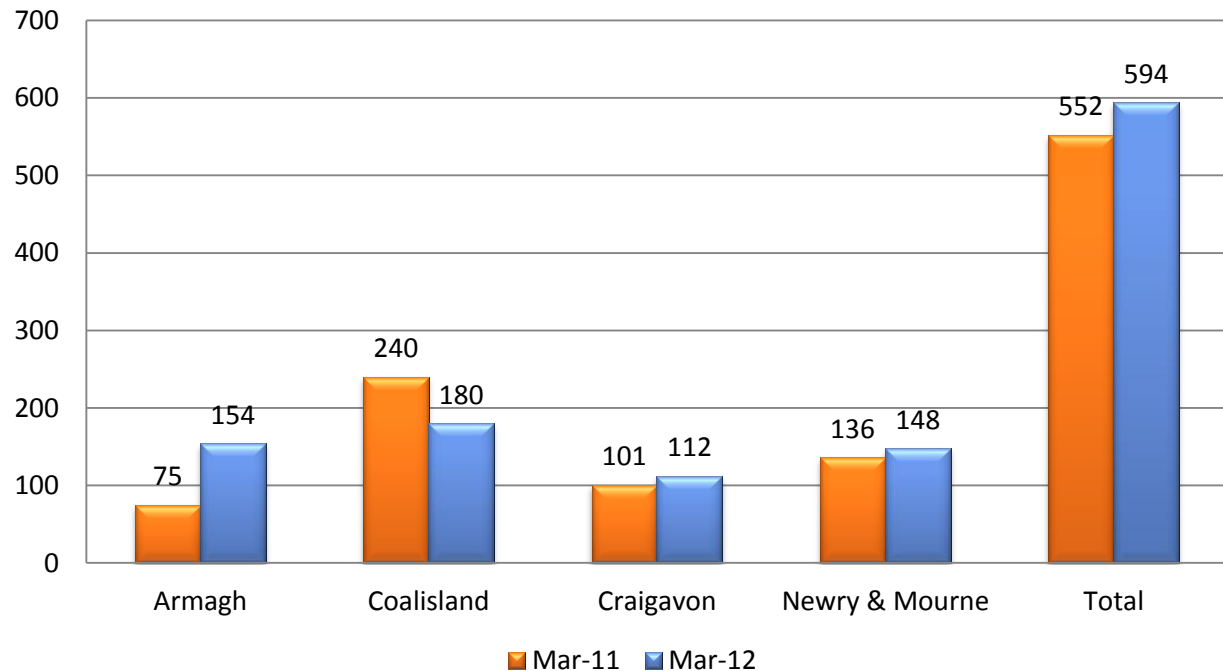


How many Traveller Adults live in the Southern Area

11

Source: Traveller Support Workers (Locally)

Adult Population as at March 2011 – March 2012



Related Strategies:-

All Ireland Health Study
PPI Plan
Investing for Health
Targeting Social Need
Lifetime Opportunities
Priorities for Action
Community Development Strategy

Actions required:

To address the huge gap and inequality in relation to health and life expectancy, recurrent investment in Traveller support is required to meet the targets set out in the above strategies.

Across the Southern area there were a total of 594 Traveller Adults living in the area at March 2012. The majority 94% fall within the age band 18 to 55 years with a total of only 22 (4%) over 55 years of age and only 12 (2%) over the age of 65, this compares to 13% of the general population. The All Ireland Traveller Health Study (AITHS) found that there are only 8 Traveller adults aged over 80 years in the whole of the Island of Ireland.

The overall Traveller population living in the Southern Area at March 2012 is 1199 with approximately a further 521 individuals being supported by Traveller Support Workers across the Southern Trust area which equates to 1720 individuals 48% of the total estimated Traveller population in Northern Ireland (AITHS).



What we want to achieve for all children and young people:-

- Reduced inequalities in health and access to health services;
- Improved mental and emotional well-being by strengthening services and promoting positive attitudes;
- Improved physical and sexual health;
- Young people supported to make healthy lifestyle choices;
- Parents provided with assistance from an early stage to ensure children have a good start in life and are supported into adulthood.

The following indicators are included in this chapter to measure the health of Travellers

- ☐ Families Registered with a GP
- ☐ Children Registered with Health Visitor
- ☐ Early Years Health Needs
- ☐ Adults Registered with a Dentist
- ☐ Children Registered with a Dentist
- ☐ Pregnant Women accessing ante-natal services
- ☐ Pregnant Women accessing ante-natal Parent Craft
- ☐ Mother's Breastfeeding at Discharge
- ☐ Mortality Rates
- ☐ Immunisation Rates for MMR at 24 months
- ☐ Children with a Disability
- ☐ Adults with a Disability
- ☐ Children and Adults Weight Issues



Traveller Families Registered with a GP

13

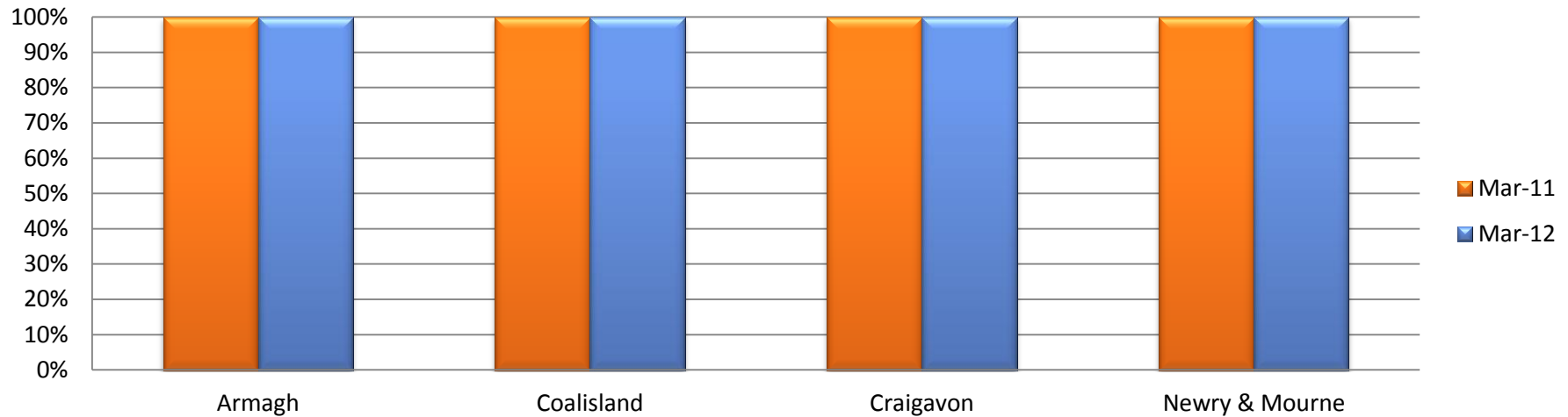
Source: Traveller Support Workers (Locally)

Healthy

Why is it Important –

GPs are usually the first medical point of contact within the NHS. They are responsible for the comprehensive and continuing care of patients registered with them. GPs provide advice and treatment. Further treatment might be provided by your GP, or by a member of their team such as a practice nurse, midwife or health visitor, or if required, by referral to a specialist doctor called a consultant or to other specialist services. GPs are also keen to promote good health amongst their patients. They and their staff give advice on diet, exercise, healthy living and disease prevention.

Registration with a GP as at March 2011 – March 2012



The Story Behind the Trends – Due to ongoing support, each area has 100% registration for family units however it should be noted that in some areas individual male members do not attend the GP. In relation to nomadic families all have access to GPs and Health Visitors and have temporary GP registration.

Actions Required: Continued support for new families to register with GPs on arrival in the area by Traveller Support workers and Health Visitors in each locality. Consistent Traveller Support infrastructure required throughout the Southern Region in order to maintain continued support. Promote alternative ways to engage Traveller Males in health awareness.



Traveller Children 0-4 Registered with a Health Visitor

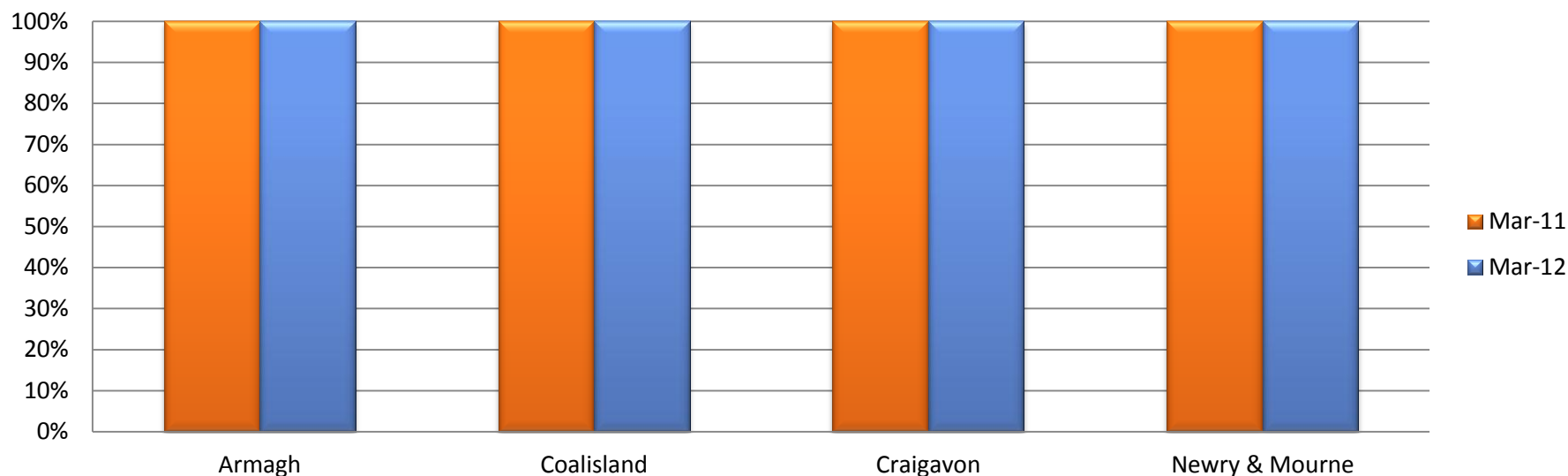
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Source: Traveller Support Workers (Locally)

Healthy

Why is it Important – Every family with children under five should have a named health visitor. Their role is to offer support and encouragement to families through the early years from pregnancy and birth to primary school and beyond. They work closely with GP's and cover the geographical area of the GP practice.

Registration with a Health Visitor as at March 2011 – March 2012



The Story Behind the Trends -. Overall all children aged 0 – 4 are registered with a Health Visitor.

Actions Required: Continued support and co-operation between Traveller Support Workers and Health Visitors.



Source: Traveller Support Workers (Locally)

Traveller support workers have identified gaps in relation to children aged 2 to 4 in respect of identifying particular needs, such as speech and language, behavioural disorders, immunisation uptake and developmental delay. This impacts in relation to support for children being ready for school. Support Workers acknowledge the good work undertaken by Health Visitors and would welcome additional support for Health Visitors.

Traveller Support Workers are aware that families with children 0 -4 could benefit from a range of additional supports such as parenting, nutrition, weaning, bonding with baby, health issues and family planning.

Actions Required: Consultation to take place with PHA Nurse leads and Trust Health Visitor leads on best way forward in relation to addressing identified gaps – **This Consultation process is to be implemented during 2012/13 year.**

Continued support for new families to register on arrival in the area or birth of new baby. Maintain support to Health Visitors to make initial contact with Families via local Traveller Support Workers.

Better monitoring of nomadic Traveller children to ensure and encourage all immunisations are up to date through close working of Health Visitors and local support workers. - **Need to agree protocol of flow of information exchange between HSCB/ PHA and HSE on cross border basis in relation to Traveller children.**



Immunisation Rates for MMR at 24 months

16

Source: Traveller Support Workers (Locally)

Healthy

Why is it Important – Immunisation not only provides protection against infections for individual children, but, if enough people are immunised, the disease is controlled or even wiped out (Institute of Child Health, 2005). MMR vaccine protects children against measles mumps and rubella (German measles). Since MMR was introduced in Northern Ireland in 1998 the number of children catching these diseases has fallen to an all time low. MMR uptake rates in Northern Ireland are the highest in British Isles (DHSSPS, 2009).

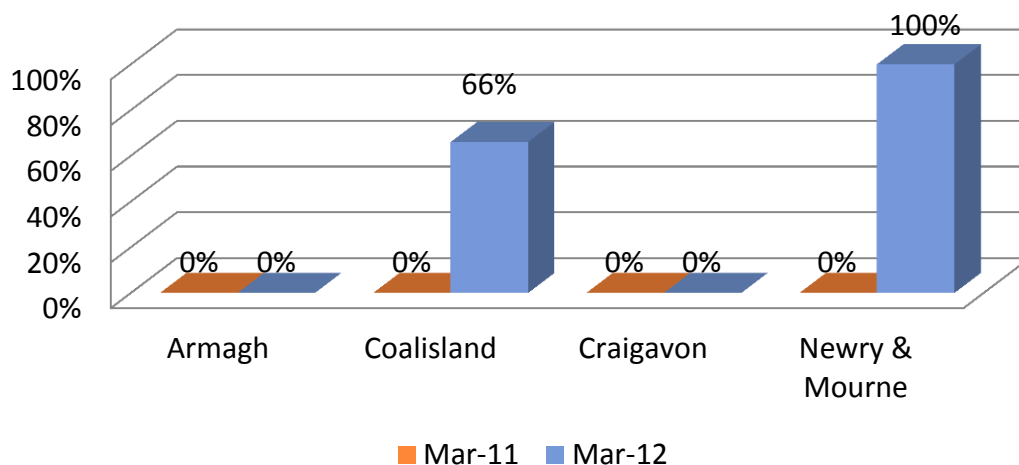
In January 2010, there was a measles outbreak within the Nomadic Traveller Community in Craigavon. This resulted in hospitalisation of 2 adults and 2 infants. On top of this another 12 children were infected with measles.

This highlighted the gap in relation to immunisation uptake and accuracy of records.

As it was Nomadic Families that were affected there was concern about the spread of measles across the entire Traveller population.

New Information collection is in early stages and statistics below are based on what is currently available – better information will be available next year

MMR Uptake March 11 – March 12



The Story Behind the Trends - Traveller Support Workers are aware that children are receiving some of their immunisations but may not follow through on a full course.

Actions Required: A system set up to identify Traveller Children on CHS and a mechanism to report gaps to health visitors and Traveller Support Workers. Recommend as part of good practice, GPs check immunisation records of Adult Travellers. **Need to agree protocol of flow of information exchange between HSCB/ PHA and HSE on cross border basis in relation to Traveller children.**

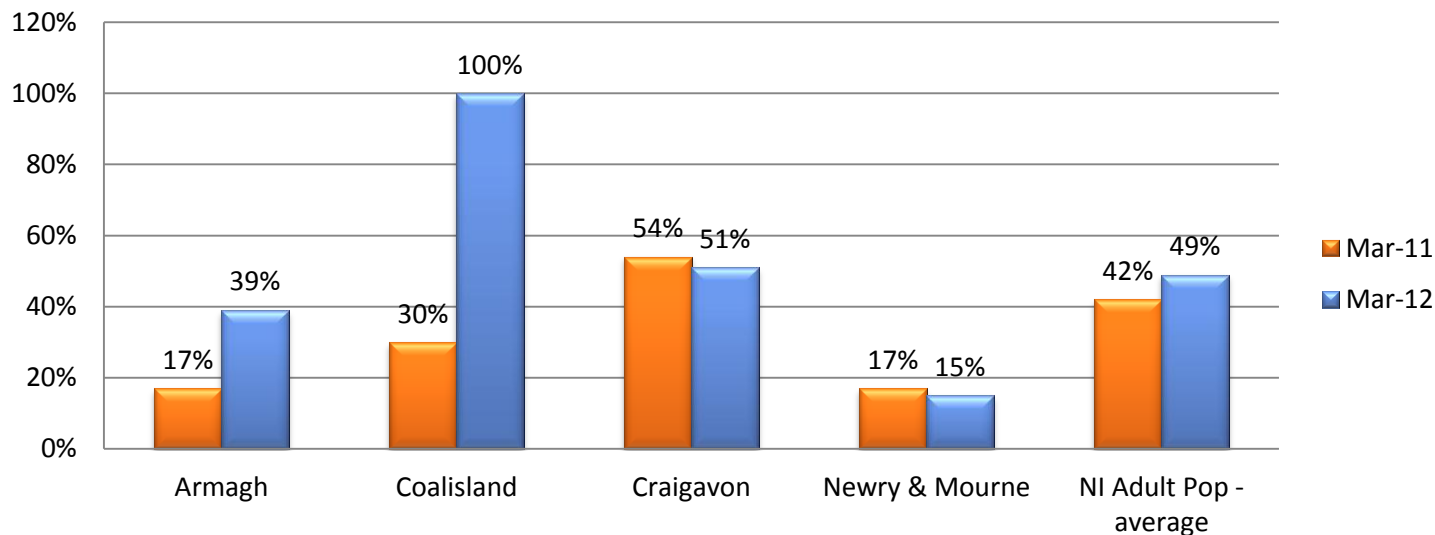


Source: Traveller Support Workers (Locally)

Healthy

Why is it Important – Good oral hygiene is important for maintaining one's overall health., Poor oral health has been linked to heart and lung disease, diabetes, stroke, low-birth weight, and premature births. Often, diseases including cancers give their first warning signs in the form of oral problems. There are four basic steps to maintain good oral health:
Brush twice daily with fluoride toothpaste; Floss every day; Limit the number of times you Snack; Visit the Dentist Regularly.

Adult Registration with a Dentist – March 2011 – March 2012



Families not registered with a Dentist access the Emergency Dentist at A&E in Craigavon Area Hospital

The Story Behind the Trends – Both Coalisland and Craigavon are above the Northern Ireland average for Dental Registration . NHS Dental registrations have seen an increase over the last 2years . Registrations can be difficult to keep due to nomadic lifestyle (If family travelling). Traveller Support Workers in Craigavon are aware of an emerging culture of Adults attending the Dentist for cosmetic purposes.

Actions Required: Continued support for families for ongoing registration. Traveller support kept updated about NHS open registers for Dentist's in each area.

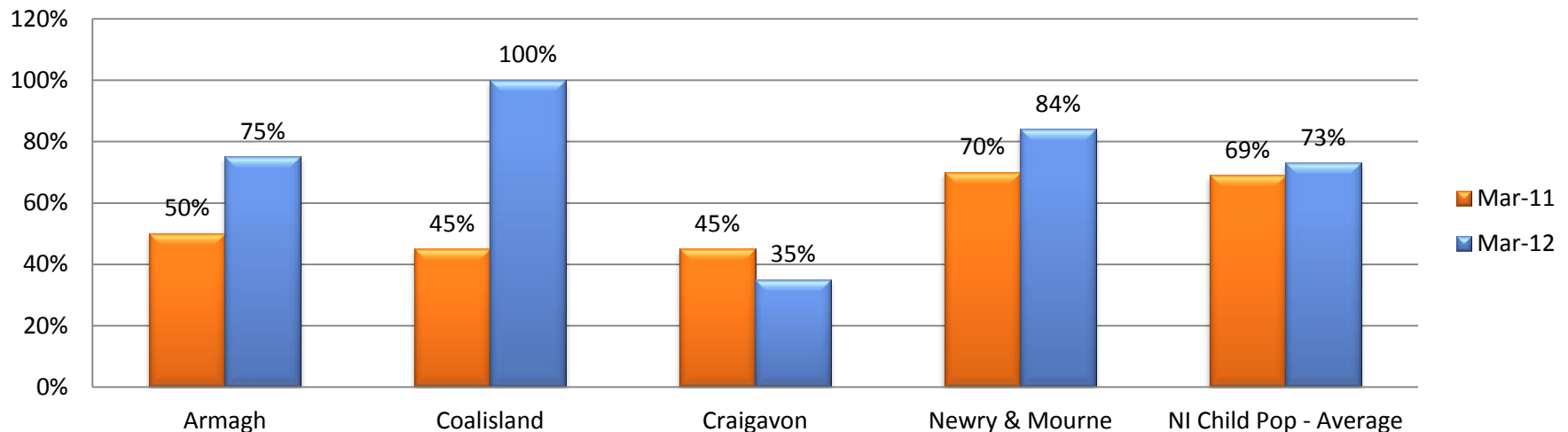


Source: Traveller Support Workers (Locally)

Healthy

Why is it Important – Regular dental appointments should begin being scheduled at age two.

Children registered with a Dentist as at March 2011 – March 2012



The Story Behind the Trends - As at March 2012 all areas have seen increases in children registered with a dentist with all higher than the NI average. However Craigavon have seen a decrease yet they have more adults registered with dentists and are aware that the majority of the children are attending in respect of extractions due to poor weaning. **Actions Required:** Continued support for new families to register on arrival in the area. Craigavon to develop a strategy to encourage dental registration for children. All early years practitioners working with Traveller families should continue to promote good dental hygiene and practice.

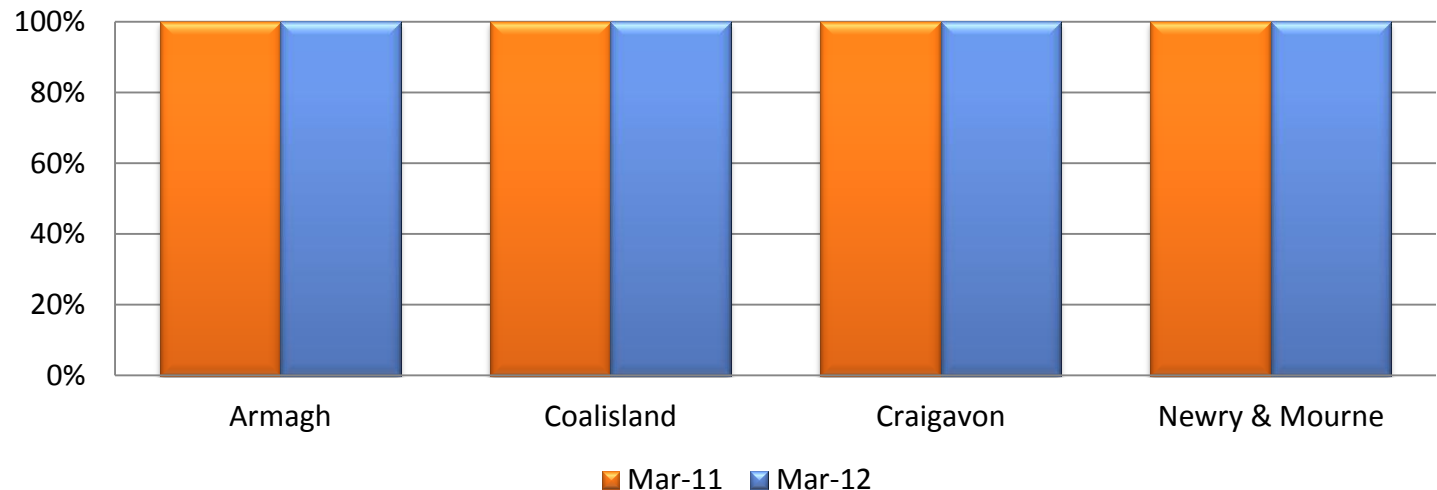


Source: Traveller Support Workers (Locally)

Healthy

Why is it Important – Women who start their antenatal care late or regularly miss appointments are much more likely to be vulnerable or socially excluded. These women and their babies are also much more likely to experience serious health problems and higher death rates, including the mothers being at higher risk of death by suicide. It makes such a difference if vulnerable women can make a relationship with one or two midwives, and see them throughout their pregnancy, during birth and afterwards, so that they feel understood, safe and valued as a person.

Accessing Ante-Natal Services as at March 2011 – March 2012



It should be noted that Traveller support workers are aware of high incidents of miscarriage and stillbirths among the Traveller Community. There is poor data available to monitor this.

The Story Behind the Trends - Overall each area has 100% of pregnant women accessing Ante-Natal services. However, not all appointments are kept .

Actions Required: Continued advice and support from Traveller Support Workers for expectant mums to register and access ante-natal services and support community mid-wives making contact with expectant mums.

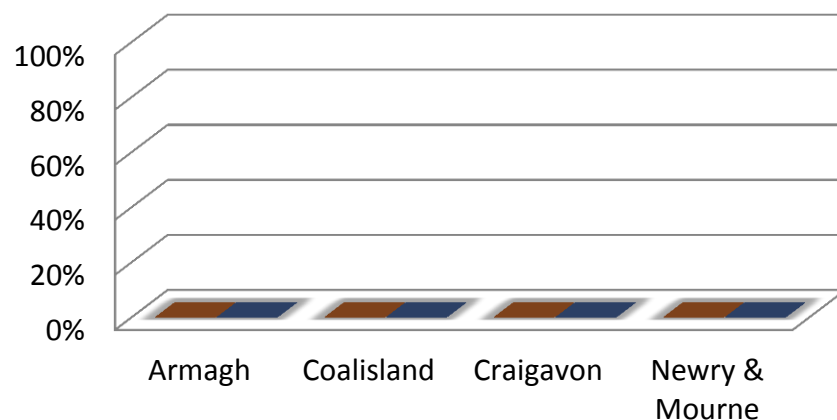
Child Health System in Northern Ireland should have robust ethnic monitoring in place to identify needs around Traveller Child Health Issues.



Why is it Important – During these classes women will cover the basics of pregnancy and birth. They will learn how to prepare for the experience of labour, the importance of relaxation, how their choice of pain relief can affect their labour and what to expect during the first few days.

Why it is important - Sexual health is an important part of physical and mental health as well as emotional and social wellbeing.

Accessing Ante-Natal Parent Craft March 2012



Actions Required: Disseminate information and advice on family planning, cancer screening, STIs, Healthy relationships and LGBT. Advice is received better on a one to one basis.

The Story Behind the Trends – Across each area no pregnant women are accessing antenatal parent craft classes.

Actions Required: Midwives, GPs and Traveller Support Workers to raise awareness of the availability of Parent Craft Classes and promote the value of the service. Explore different ways of delivering the service/message.

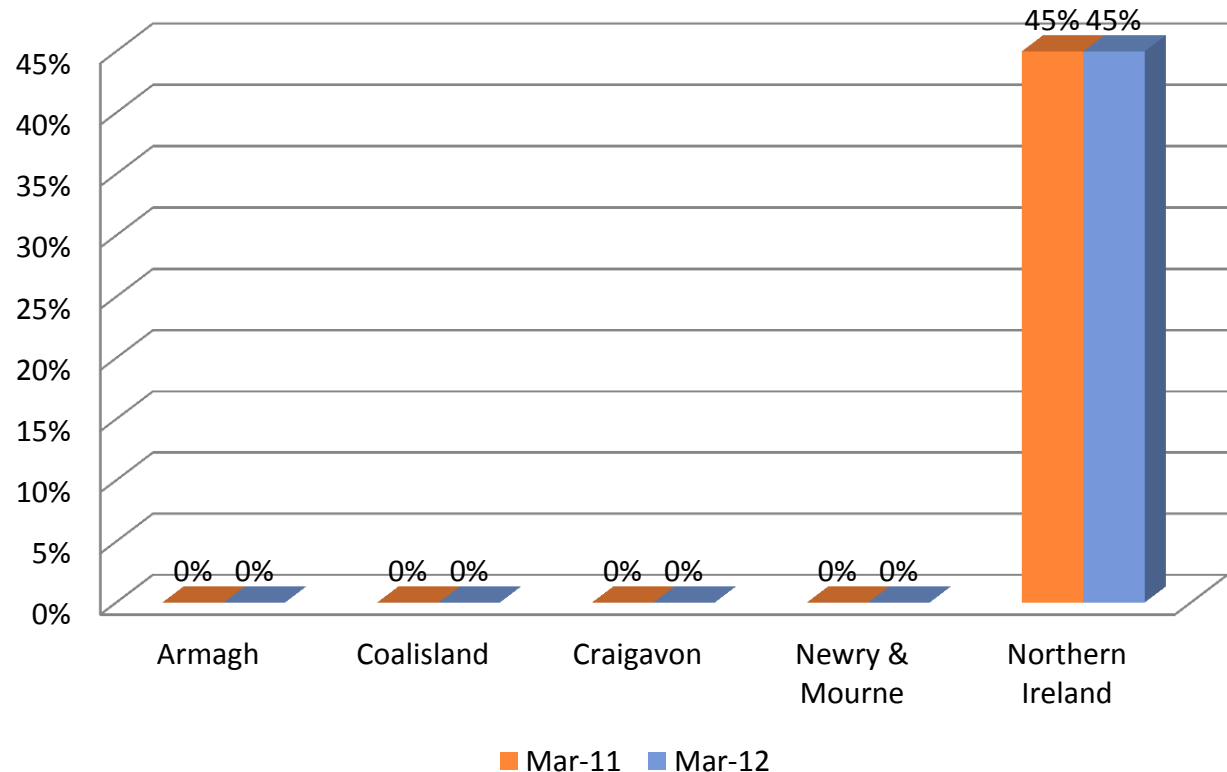


Source: Traveller Support Workers (Locally)

Healthy

Why is it Important – There is clear evidence that breastfeeding has positive health benefits for both mother and baby in the short and long term. Breastfeeding has an important contribution towards reducing infant mortality and health inequalities. All current guidelines recommend exclusive breastfeeding for new borns and for the first six months of infancy. Research shows that breast milk is important in the early development of appetite regulatory systems in infants and ultimately on the tendency to obesity in later life. (British Medical Association, 2009) Young mothers and mothers from lower socio-economic groups and low educational attainment appear to be the least likely to breastfeed (Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition, 2008).

Mother's Breastfeeding at Discharge from Hospital March 11 – March 12



The Story Behind the Trends - There has been a steady increase in mothers breastfeeding at discharge from hospital between 2001 and 2011/12 within the settled community across Northern Ireland. However, no traveller mother's are breastfeeding.

Actions Required: Raise awareness about the benefits of breastfeeding. Look at what qualitative information is currently available with the possibility of a small research study in relation to reasons for not breastfeeding.



Why is it Important – Numbers and rates of deaths have been used for centuries to measure burden and to compare the impact of diseases.

Traveller deaths between Mar 11 and Mar 12

Related Strategies:-

Investing for Health
Targeting Social Need
Lifetime Opportunities
Priorities for Action

Actions required:

Address the gaps and inequality in relation to life expectancy and infant mortality - recurrent investment in Traveller Support is required to meet the targets set out in the above strategies.

The Story Behind the Trends – Overall there have been 3 deaths across the Southern Area over the last year. All three deaths in Craigavon were infants aged 0 -1 year.

Actions Required: Continued support by Traveller Support Workers. All professionals who are in contact with Traveller Families and their Children should be culturally sensitive in relation to their needs after the passing of a loved one.

Explore ways to assist Travellers with the grieving process (in consultation with travellers).



Source: Traveller Support Workers (Locally)

Healthy

Why is it Important – Finding out a child has a physical, sensory or learning disability or prolonged medical condition can be difficult and bewildering. Such children need to be provided with appropriate supports as well as their parents and siblings. Parents of children with disability may not know where to turn to or may be trying to cope with a whole range of feelings, as well as being constantly exhausted from the physical demands of parenting.

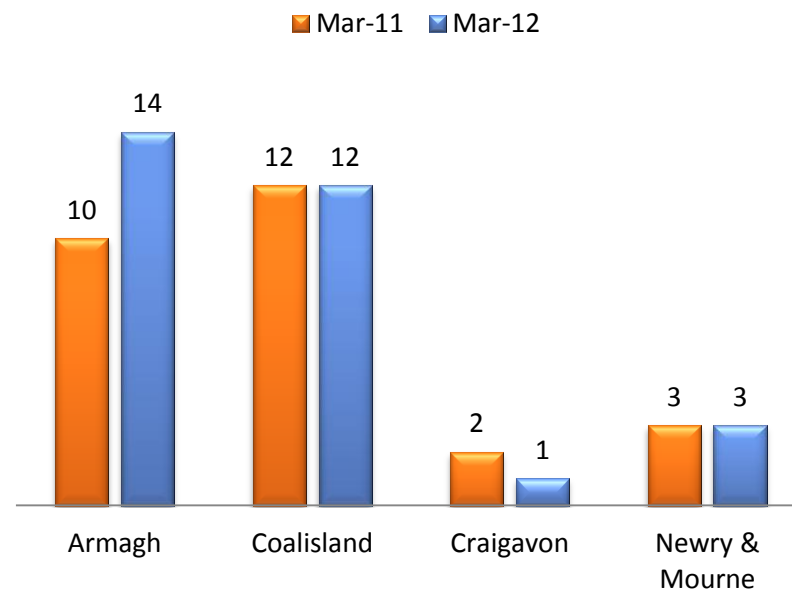
The Story Behind the Trends - Overall there are 29 (5%) Children with a disability known to Traveller Support Workers. Families who have children with disabilities often tend to be very isolated even within their own community. Children with disabilities and syndromes would tend to be more prevalent within the Traveller community.

Traveller Support Workers are aware of incidents where they have been asked to provide financial assistance when this is a responsibility of statutory agencies, eg transport requirements, equipment, educational and social needs.

Education Statement figures* show that in 11/12, 14% of Traveller pupils had a Statement of Special Educational Need compared to 4.4% of the Settled Community.

Actions Required: Raise awareness with families of children with disability about support groups available in local area. Using a multi-agency approach, local Traveller Support Workers to provide continued assistance and advice in relation to benefits, adaptations, specialist equipment and medical appointments. (4) Consultation to take place with PHA Nurse leads and Trust Health Visitor leads on best way forward in relation to addressing identified gaps.

Children with a Disability at March 2011 – March 2012



**A Statement of Special Educational Need is a legal term. It describes the needs of a child who has a difficulty or disability which makes learning harder for them than for other children their age.*



Why is it Important – The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 defines a person with disability as anyone who has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse affect on his or her ability to carry out day-to-day activities. These impairments include:- loss of limbs; multiple sclerosis; heart disease; down's syndrome; learning difficulties; mental health problems, such as depression and anxiety;

The Story Behind the Trends – Traveller Support Workers are aware of a number of conditions with high prevalence such as arthritis, heart disease, severe respiratory conditions and diabetes.

In particular mental health is a very serious issue for Travellers with a lot of them depending on prescribed medication. Traveller Support Workers are aware of approximately 70% of the adult population having mental health problems.

There is also drug and alcohol abuse and in particular binge drinking.

Some of the physical disabilities are possibly related to unhealthy lifestyle and poor accommodation, lack of health awareness and congenital disorders.

Actions Required: Raise awareness about physical and mental health issues and work to reduce stigma about mental health. Ensure related strategies deliver outcomes for Travellers

Related Strategies:-

Mental Health Strategy
Suicide Strategy
Hidden Harm Strategy



Why is it Important? The prevalence of overweight and obesity is commonly assessed by using Body Mass Index (BMI). The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, (2009) defines obesity as a BMI greater than the 95th percentile. Obesity and being overweight pose a major risk for serious diet related chronic diseases, including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, hypertension and stroke and certain forms of cancer. Childhood obesity is already epidemic in some areas of the world and on the rise in others. (World Health Organisation, 2008). Research has also made connections between childhood obesity and depression, but it is unclear exactly which is cause and which is effect (Lawson W, 2003).

OBESITY

- Local Traveller Support Workers are aware that obesity is a significant problem within the Traveller community for both adults and children. Possible reasons for this are that Travellers are four times more likely to consume fried food than the general population (All Ireland Health Study 2010). Travellers have lack of awareness around healthy eating, preparing and cooking food. Also Traveller culture does not recognise the health issues around obesity such as diabetes, heart disease and cancers. Local Traveller Support Workers are currently aware of a number of children and adults who would be morbidly obese that is already impacting on their physical health.
- Attitudes to obesity differs from area to area and is particularly prevalent in Armagh and Craigavon with local GPs raising the issue with local Traveller Support Workers. Traveller culture would appear to promote the belief that an overweight baby or child is “a fine healthy child”. Traveller Support Workers are aware that some children of pre-school age are eating chips and left over Chinese Take Away meals for breakfast, given red bull in baby bottles, custard and yoghurt in baby bottles (with teat cut) to children from 3 months onwards. This has an impact directly on dental health and speech and language as well as weight issues. Traveller Support Workers have also seen some pre-school children aged 3 not being able to chew food or drink out of a beaker.

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT

- Local Traveller Support Workers are aware of inappropriate approaches used by teenagers and adults around weight management. In particular, a significant number of young Traveller girls in advance of betrothal use severe methods to assist weight loss including starving themselves, making themselves sick, laxatives and slimming pills.

The Story Behind the Trends:- There is a lack of understanding in relation to healthy lifestyle choices and pressure from families to look good at special events.

Actions Required: More awareness raised around weaning babies.

Programmes need to be tailored, with Traveller culture in mind, based on identified need to educate Traveller Children and Young People, and their parents about healthy cooking, healthy eating and healthy weights as well as exercise.



Craigavon

- **Building Community Pharmacy Project - 11 Traveller women** continue to participate in health focused information sessions facilitated by the local pharmacist (Northern Pharmacies), CTSC and specialist staff from Southern Health & Social Care Trust.
- **Traveller Male Health Group - 7 Traveller males** attend the Men's Health Group and have re-enrolled in a gym programme facilitated by Waves Leisure Complex, Lurgan.
- **Traveller Male Health Fair** - A Traveller male health fair was held on 28th February 2012. The event was coordinated by CTSC staff and co facilitated by the Ulster Cancer Foundation Man Alive Team and Northern Pharmacies based in Brownlow Health Centre.
- **DELTA Babysitting Programme – 8 Traveller girls** participated in this 6 week programme. The girls were aged 14 to 16 years, each week the girls got to use the reality dolls to complete a variety of tasks, and to watch a DVD on the effects of excess drugs and alcohol during pregnancy, babies who were violently shaken and normal pregnancy.
- **Recreational IT Programme – 7 Traveller women** participated in this initial programme and further programmes were planned to look at education and parents and children learning together.
- **What A Bout Your Health? - 30 Traveller boys aged 7-16 years** participated in this 12 week programme in partnership with Clonoe Boxing Club and included 30 boys from the Neighbourhood Renewal area. The first 11 weeks focused on health, nutrition and physical fitness. The 12th week was a celebration boxing tournament.



What we want to achieve for all children and young people:-

- Increased access to quality early years services particularly in rural areas;
- Improved outcomes for children who are not at school or are not reaching target attendance rates;
- Strengthened services at transition stages from home/preschool/primary/ post primary/employment;
- Access to quality play and leisure facilities;
- Parents and carers supported to encourage children to enjoy, learn and achieve.

The following indicators are included in this chapter to measure enjoying, learning and achieving of Traveller children and young people:-

- ☐ Number of Adults with basic Reading and Writing Skills
- ☐ Number of Children accessing Toybox Project
- ☐ Number of Children who take part in Parent & Toddler
- ☐ Number of Children attending Programme for 2 year olds
- ☐ Number of Children aged 3 – 5 who attends pre-school setting
- ☐ Number uptake of Afterschool
- ☐ Percentage of children who attend primary school
- ☐ Percentage of children who attend Secondary School
- ☐ Percentage of children attend 3rd level education
- ☐ Percentage of Young People gaining 5 GCSEs



Number of Adults with Basic Reading and Writing Skills

28

Source: Traveller Support Workers (Locally)

Enjoying, Learning and Achieving

Why is it Important –illiteracy is a vicious web that affects the entire family. Parents and other adults who cannot read miss out on opportunities to socialise with others. Isolation and loneliness may ultimately lead to depression and the destruction of self esteem that is already low and that they inadvertently pass on to their children. Without good reading or comprehension skills, verbal and written skills are lacking as well and parents cannot advocate effectively for their children outside the home.

The Story Behind the Trends - In comparison to the settled community, Traveller Support Workers are aware that a very small percentage of the traveller community (approximately 30% or less) have basic reading and writing skills. This causes huge challenges to this community to function within the wider settled community. Other impacts are the inability to perform routine tasks such as post, reading medication instructions, appointments, applying for benefits. The other big impact is the inability to support children at school and with homework.

Actions Required: Mainstreamed funding of a support service to the Traveller Community across Northern Ireland with dedicated community development workers to co-ordinate programmes. A sustained programme of tutoring for essential skills delivered on an annual basis. More emphasis within education on the value of vocational studies for Traveller young people.

Although some of these programmes have been requested by the Traveller Community – Traveller Support Workers have reported resistance/lack of responsibility from Traveller adults in attending programmes.

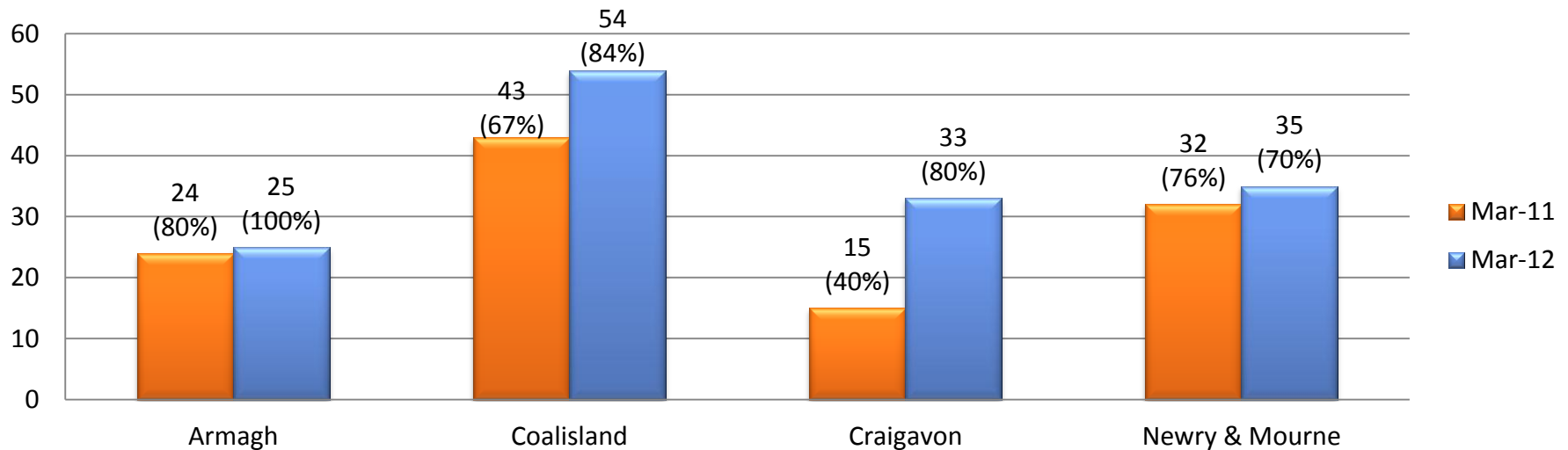


Source: Toybox

Enjoying, Learning and Achieving

Why is it Important – The Toybox Project is a rights-based service development model which aims to significantly reduce social and education inequalities experienced by young Traveller children through an outreach play-based early intervention service provided in partnership with children and parents.

Children Accessing Toybox Project



The Story Behind the Trends – All areas have seen an increase in the number of children accessing the Toybox Project.

Actions Required: Continued support by Traveller Support Workers for families to access Toybox project.

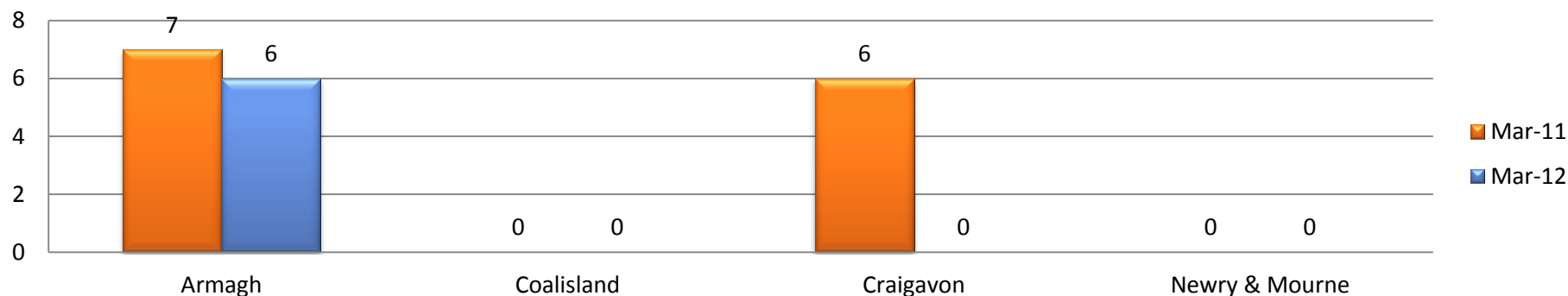


Source: Traveller Support Workers (Locally)

Enjoying, Learning and Achieving

Why is it Important – Parent and Toddler groups provide a safe and stimulating environment for children to explore, play and learn through toys, games, music, craft and mixing with other children of similar ages. Parent and Toddler groups are for pre-school age children where parents/carers are responsible for their own children.

Children taking part in Parent & Toddler aged 0 - 4



The Story Behind the Trends – As families tend to be larger within the Traveller community parent and toddler may not always be suitable with parents maybe coping with 3 to 4 children aged under 5.

Actions Required: Continued support and encouragement to access Parent and Toddler opportunities.

Creche facilities:- Traveller parents have identified the need for creche services for small portions of a day to access educational and personal development programmes and appointments.

Actions Required: Provision of Creche facilities - Funders should be aware it is imperative to incorporate childcare facilities as part of programme costs either provided on site or on outreach where appropriate.



Number of Children attending Sure Start Programme for 2 year olds

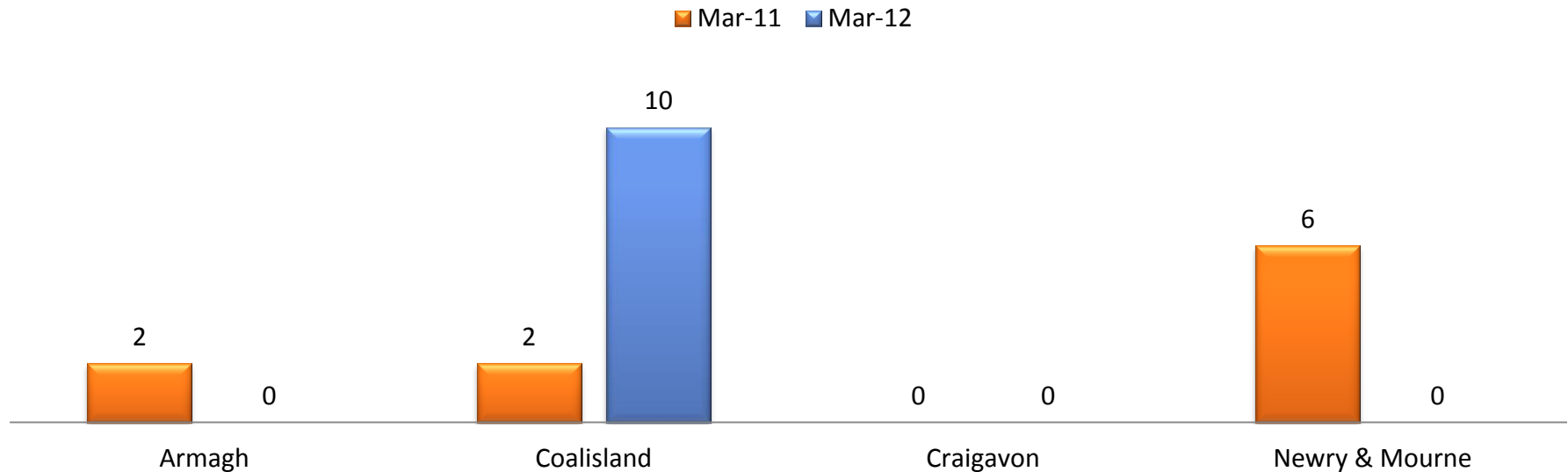
31

Source: Traveller Support Workers (Locally)

Enjoying, Learning and Achieving

Why is it Important – The programme for 2 year olds is a Government initiative which focuses on the social and emotional development; physical skills and enhancing language and communication for two year old children. Parental involvement is a key component with a variety of activities on offer including play and stay sessions – Parental workshops and outings to encourage outdoor play. The majority of two year old programmes take place within Sure Start Projects.

Children attending Sure Start Programme for 2 yr olds



The Story Behind the Trends - Not all Traveller families engage with Sure Start Projects due to size of families, not living in catchment area and in some cases perceptions of Sure Start.

Actions Required: Sure Start Managers and local Travellers Support Workers to engage to look at encouraging the uptake of provision across the Southern Trust Area.



Number of Children aged 3 – 5 who attend pre-school setting

32

Source: Traveller Support Workers (Locally)

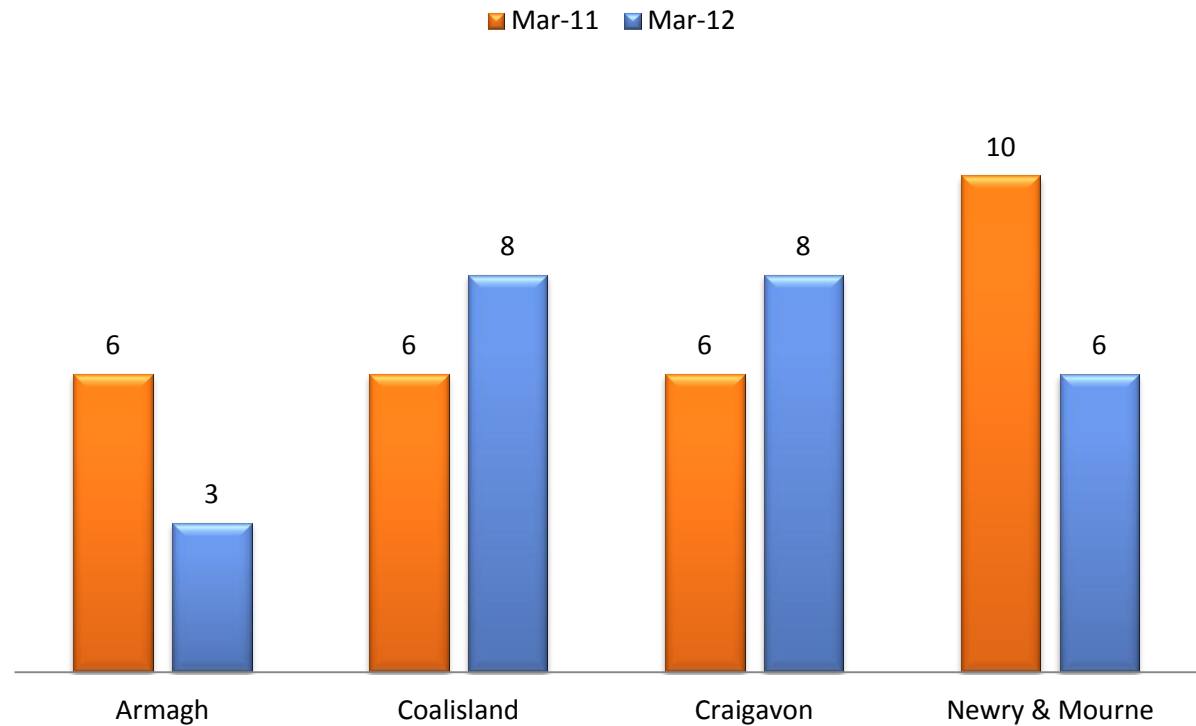
Enjoying, Learning and Achieving

Why is it Important –

Children who have a high-quality pre-school experience are better prepared for primary school and learn more quickly. However, the advantages are not confined to learning alone. Children who have attended pre-school are more sociable, confident and independent than those who have not. Pre-school helps support children on the first step of the road as learners and citizens, better able to join in the learning community that school represents.

Includes all nurseries and playgroups.

Children aged 3-5 attending pre-school setting



The Story Behind the Trends – Not all 3-5 year olds are accessing pre-school settings either due to other family pressures and a lack of pre-school places.

Actions Required: Continued support and advice by Local Traveller Support Workers to encourage registration for integrated pre-school placements. In relation to Nomadic Families, encourage the Department and ELBs (PEAGS Committee) to take a more flexible approach in terms of funding arrangements and registration.



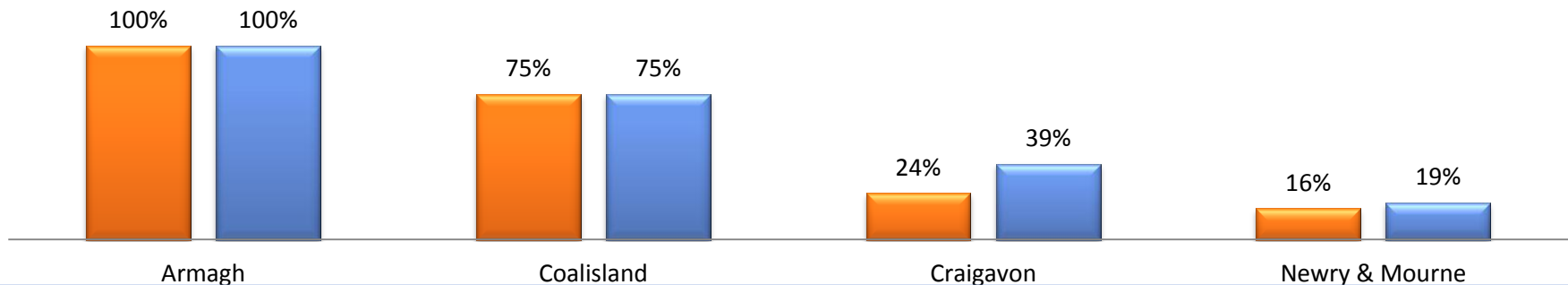
Source: Traveller Support Workers (Locally) &
Education & Library Board

Enjoying, Learning and Achieving

Why is it Important – The most important advantage of a good after school program is that it widens a child's area of interests. He or she is introduced to new things, sometimes interesting, sometimes challenging. Mastering a new art form or a new skill increases the child's self-esteem.

Uptake of Primary Afterschool Provision

■ Mar-11 ■ Mar-12



The Story Behind the Trends – There is a limited range of affordable afterschool provision for Traveller children in the Southern Area. Armagh have funded places until December 2012, and Coalisland have funded places until June 2012. As the Traveller population in Craigavon is mostly nomadic, figures tend to fluctuate with children attending the local Traveller Support Group Afterschool. In Newry, children are accessing services including School and Belong. Afterschool provision can have a positive affect on families, it helps to improve attendance at school, enhances learning and social interaction, assists with homework and communication between school and parents is maintained. It provides children with opportunities and facilities to enjoy learning that they may not have within the home.

Actions Required: A better co-ordinated approach to provide affordable afterschool/homework clubs to meet Traveller children and young people's needs. Travellers Support to continue to encourage children and young people to uptake extra curricular activities in partnership with all relevant agencies.

Explore Neighbourhood Renewal funding in relation to afterschool provision.



Percentage of children who are enrolled at primary school

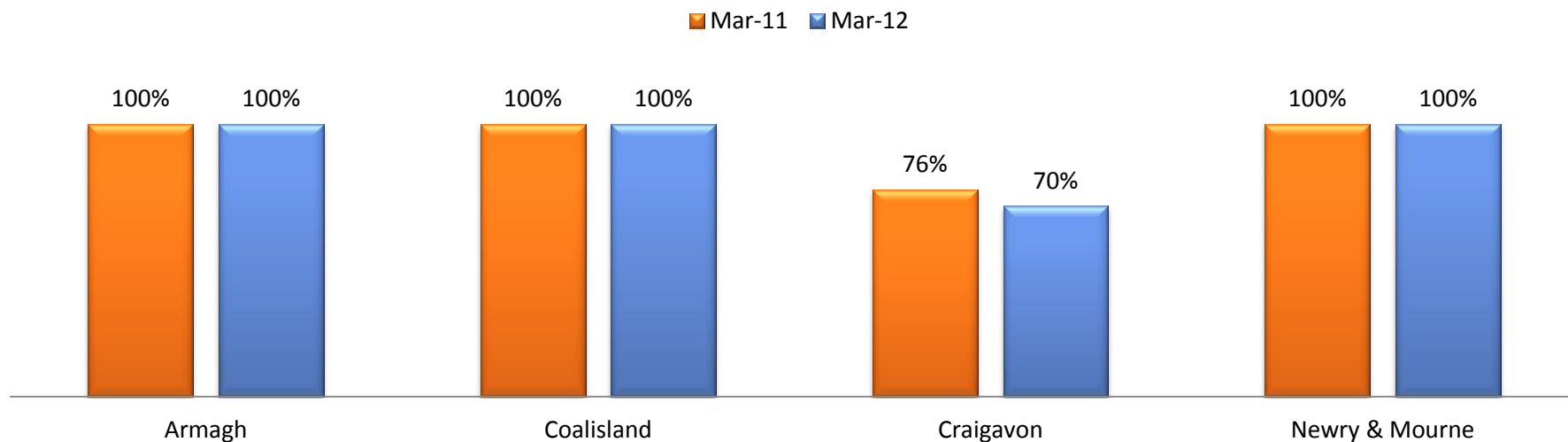
34

Source: Traveller Support Workers (Locally) & DE

Enjoying, Learning and Achieving

Why is it Important – By law, all children of compulsory school age (five to 16) must receive a suitable full-time education. For most parents, this means registering their child at a school - though some choose to make other arrangements to provide a suitable, full-time education. Regular school attendance is an important part of giving a child the best possible start in life.

Children Enrolled Primary School



The Story Behind the Trends - School enrolment is not at 100% due to the nomadic lifestyle of some Traveller families in the Craigavon Area. While in the other 3 areas children are enrolled, attendance tends to be below average. Average attendance at primary school is 95% for the settled community however for Traveller children this is significantly lower.

Actions Required: Continue to support families to ensure children are enrolled at primary school and attending regularly. Work closely with EWOs and SENCO to maintain and increase enrolment and attendance.



Percentage of children Enrolled at Secondary School

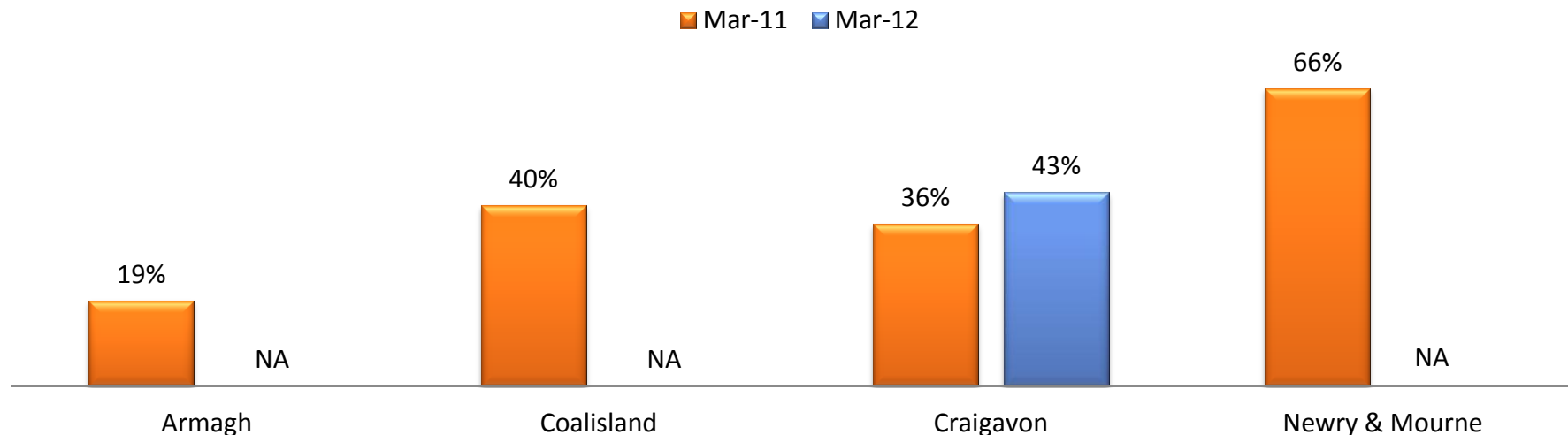
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Source: Traveller Support Workers (Locally) & DE

Enjoying, Learning and Achieving

Why is it Important – By law, all children of compulsory school age (5 to 16) must receive a suitable full-time education. For most parents, this means registering their child at a school - though some choose to make other arrangements to provide a suitable, full-time education. Regular school attendance is an important part of giving a child the best possible start in life.

Enrolled at Secondary School



The Story Behind the Trends – Due to a range of factors including cultural beliefs, inappropriate curriculum, peer pressure it is difficult to maintain attendance of boys aged 13+ and girls aged 14+ at secondary school, and in particular with the oldest child in each family who are expected to contribute more at home. The attendance rate for Secondary School for Traveller children is 45% in the Southern Area compared to 93% for the settled community. NA (not available)

Actions Required: More emphasis within education on the value of vocational studies for Traveller young people. Joint piece of work needed between those with statutory responsibility for education, Traveller Support Workers and Travellers to promote the value of education.



Percentage of young people attend 3rd level education

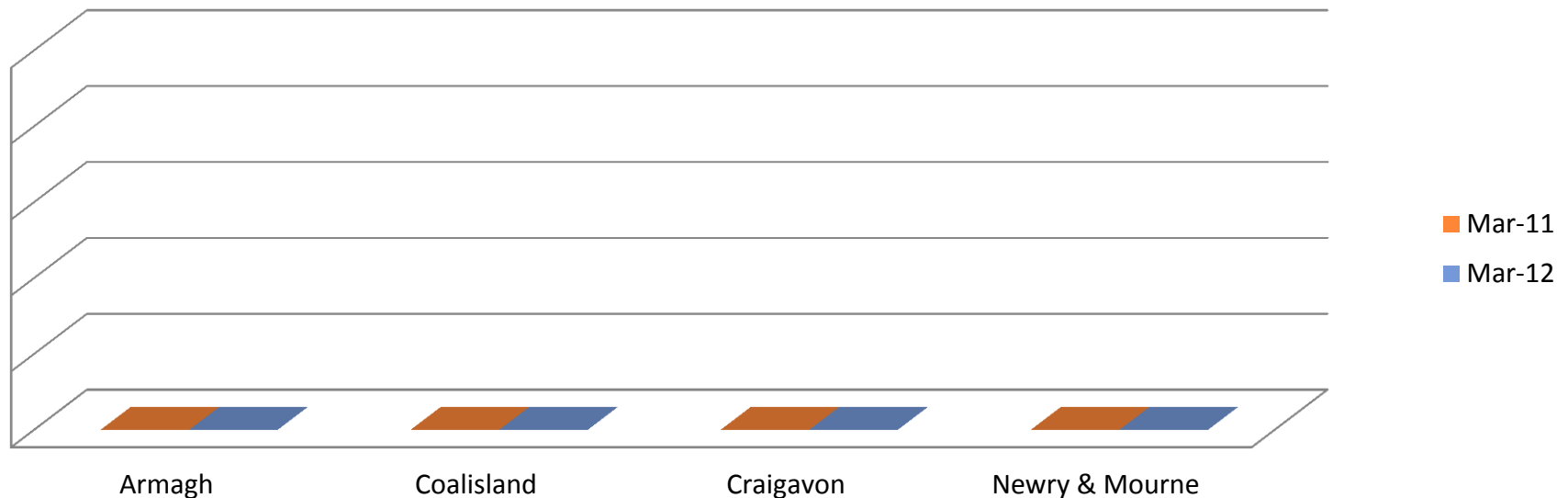
36

Source: Traveller Support Workers (Locally) & DE

Enjoying, Learning and Achieving

Why is it Important – Higher education or post-secondary education refers to a level of education that is provided at academies, universities, colleges, seminaries, institutes of technology, and certain other collegiate-level institutions, such as vocational schools, trade schools, and career colleges, that award academic degrees or professional certifications.

Young People attending 3rd level education



The Story Behind the Trends – No Traveller young people from the Southern Area are attending 3rd level education with only 19% attending higher or further education across Northern Ireland compared to 75% of the settled community – Due to negative experiences and perceptions of education in the adult generation of Travellers, academic attainment is not valued the same as it is within the settled community. Of those Traveller young people who have attained academic qualifications the benefit is only just being seen as a benefit within their own community.

Actions Required: More emphasis within education on the value of vocational studies for Traveller young people.



Percentage of Young People gaining 5 GCSEs

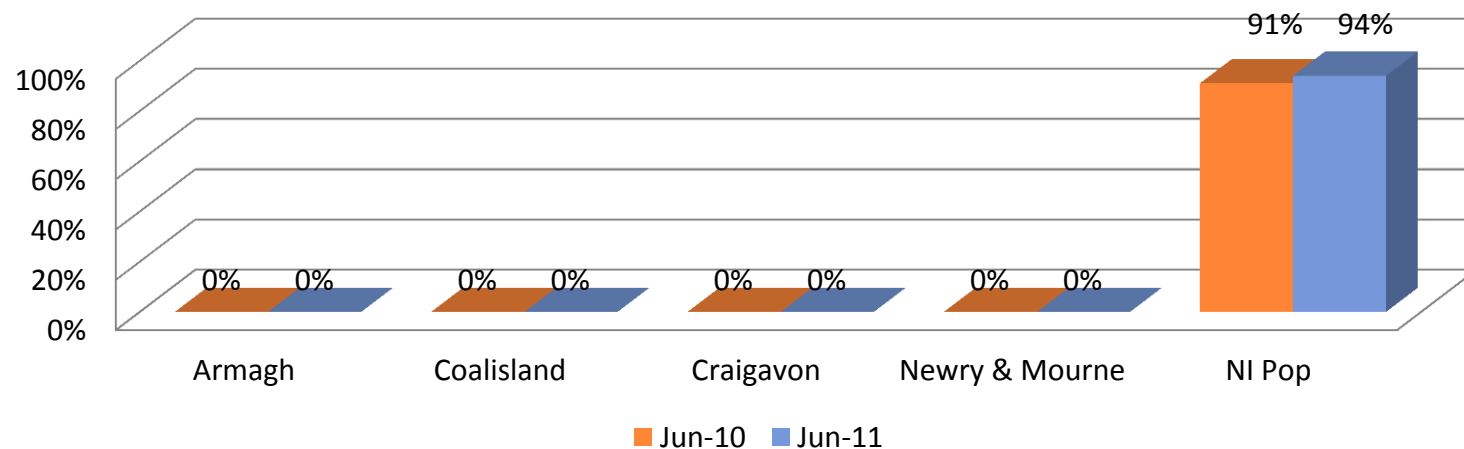
37

Source: Traveller Support Workers (Locally) & DE

Enjoying, Learning and Achieving

Why is it Important – GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education. GCSEs are the main qualification taken by 14-16 year olds. You can take GCSEs in a wide variety of academic and ‘applied’ (work related) subjects. GCSEs are highly valued by schools, colleges and employers. Obtaining GCSEs lead to a number of routes, mainly work, further study or an Apprenticeship. Most Universities will ask for 5 GCSEs grades A-C, including English and Maths (as well as A Levels or equivalent qualifications) (www.deni.gov.uk, 2009).

Young People gaining 5 GCSEs Grades A-G 2010 - 2011



The Story Behind the Trends – No Traveller young people from the Southern area have achieved 5 GCSEs. Overall across Northern Ireland 23% achieved 5 GCSEs grades A-G compared to 91% of the settled community. 62% achieved no GCSEs compared to 3% of settled community. Due to negative experiences and perceptions of education in the adult generation of Travellers, academic attainment is not valued the same as it is within the settled community. The importance of GCSEs as highlighted above is not seen as relevant within most of the Traveller Community. This relates back to poor attendance at Secondary School.

Actions Required: A consultation/research should be carried out within the Southern Area seeking the views of young Travellers, their parents, support workers and schools to identify their aspirations in terms of academic/vocational opportunities.



- **After Schools and Homework Programmes**
- **Summer schemes which ran over a four week period between July and August.**
- **Programmes facilitated by SRC Changing Communities Project**
- **Doorman Security Course 2 attendees**
- **Essential skills 3 attendee**
- **Food Hygiene Course (Level 2) 4 attendees**
- **Nail Art and Beauty (Young Women's After Schools Group) 5 attendees**
- **Young Men's Group 6 attendees**
- **Young Women's Group 8 attendees**
- **First Aid 6 attendees**
- **CAWT Employability Course**
- **CAWT Training For Trainers Course**
- **Drugs & Alcohol Training**
- **Safe & Well Trailer towing lessons**
- **Driving Theory Practice Sessions**
- **Cook it Programme**



Living in Safety and with Stability

39

What we want to achieve for all children and young people:-

- Children and young people to feel and be safe and secure in their homes and in their communities;
- Improved outcomes for children at risk of abuse;
- Access to family support services appropriate to age and location;
- Support for families at risk of being homeless;
- To be free from bullying.

The following indicators are included in this chapter to measure the Traveller Community living in safety and with stability:-

- ☐ Domestic Violence Incidents
- ☐ Number of Home and Site Safety Events
- ☐ Environment Health Awareness Issues



Why is it Important – The term 'domestic violence' is used to describe the physical, sexual or emotional (including verbal and financial) abuse inflicted on a man or woman by their partner or ex-partner. In relationships where there is domestic violence, children witness about three-quarters of the abusive incidents. About half the children in such families have themselves been badly hit or beaten. Sexual and emotional abuse are also more likely to happen in these families. Obviously it is very upsetting for children to see one of their parents (or partners) abusing or attacking the other. They often show signs of great distress. Younger children may become anxious, complain of tummy-aches or start to wet their bed. They may find it difficult to sleep, have temper tantrums and start to behave as if they are much younger than they are. Older children react differently. Boys seem to express their distress much more outwardly. They may become aggressive and disobedient. Sometimes, they start to use violence to try and solve problems, as if they have learnt to do this from the way that adults behave in their family. Older boys may play truant and may start to use alcohol or drugs.

Traveller Support Workers were reported 14 incidents that happened during 2011/12, however domestic violence is such a hidden topic they are aware numbers are much higher.

The Story Behind - Domestic Violence happens in all societies however, it would appear that it is more acceptable and prevalent within the Traveller community. Traveller Support Workers are aware of incidents of domestic violence not only through the victims of the abuse but also from other health agencies – including staff at A&E who follow up on some incidents. Levels of support from PSNI Domestic Violence Officer in Newry is a model of good practice. Domestic violence is linked to Drug and Alcohol abuse and impacts on Mental Health.

Actions Required: This is a sensitive subject and SAAT to develop and implement an awareness raising strategy and access preventative programmes for men, women and children within the Traveller Community. Support Workers continue to equip Traveller Women with the necessary support and information to recognise domestic violence and to make informed decisions. Continue to support families in need to access safe accommodation and work closely with Women's Aid. Pull together key agencies via SAAT to look at taking forward awareness, help and support to the Traveller Community.



Number of Home and Site Safety Events/Accident Prevention

41

Source: Traveller Support Workers (Locally)

Living in Safety and with Stability

Why is it Important – Accidents can take place in a wide variety of environments, however, the home is the most likely location. Home accidents are a major cause of death and injury and contribute substantially to potential years of life lost. In relation to home accidents, a “home” is categorised as any type of house (including a farm, block of flats or caravan) together with its garden, yard, driveway, path, steps and boundaries. (NI Home Accident Prevention Strategy and Action Plan 2004-2009).

The Story Behind the Trends -

One event was held in Craigavon and one in Armagh for Children during 2011/12.

Actions Required: There should be an annual update delivered to all families co-ordinated by Traveller Support Workers to support home and safety regulations are met. Ongoing contact with Council Home Safety Officers to continue in relation to individual referrals. TSWs to work with relevant agencies in relation to delivering specific programmes.

Related Strategy : Accident Prevention Action Plan



The Story Behind the Trends –

Traveller families on the emergency site in Craigavon need to be aware of environmental issues in respect of refuge and to work with statutory agencies to maintain correct health and safety standards.

Actions Required: A Co-ordinated approach led by the Housing Executive and Council and supported by Traveller Support Workers and projects to raise awareness among the Traveller community of their own responsibilities in relation to waste management and recycling.

SAAT to encourage statutory Agencies to take a more proactive role to fulfil their statutory duties in relation to the Co-operation Policy and provide adequate facilities.

Families need to be more aware of the impact on their own health and the negative impact and perceptions of the wider community in relation to environment.

Planning for new Traveller Sites should take account of Traveller culture . (For example, provision for horses, visiting families).



- Provide support and assistance to Traveller women and children to access sheltered accommodation.
- Provide support to families during home visits by social services.
- 8 families in Craigavon were supplied with first aid boxes and carbon monoxide monitors.
- Carbon monoxide and smoke alarms were given to all families in Armagh.



Economic and Environmental Well-being

What we want to achieve for all children and young people:-

- Improved outcomes for children who live in poverty;
- Access to safe, quality play areas;
- To live in homes that do not fail decent standards;
- To achieve economic stability and independence.

The following indicators are included in this chapter to measure the economic and environmental well:being of the Traveller Community:-

- ☐ Families living in Social Housing
- ☐ Families Living in Private Rented/Owned home
- ☐ Families living on Authorised Site
- ☐ Families Living on Unauthorised Site
- ☐ Families Living on Side of Road



Types of Accommodation and Definition

45

Source: NIHE

Economic and Environmental Wellbeing

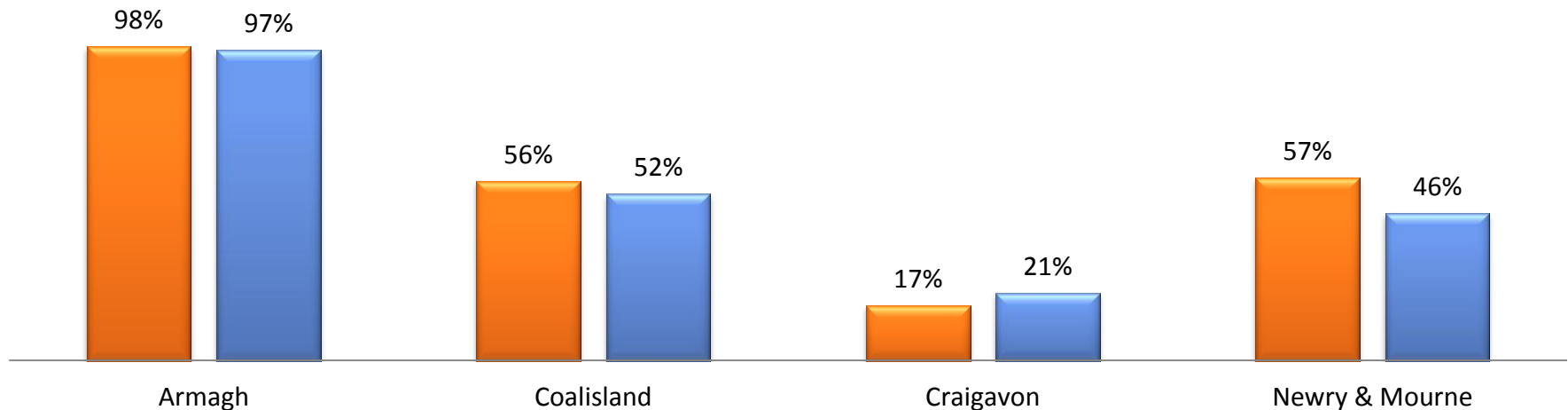
- * Group housing - Permanent residential/social housing development with additional facilities and amenities specifically designed to accommodate extended families of Irish Travellers examples of which can be found at Tattykeel, Omagh / Hillhead, Toome / Briar View, Belfast / Monagh Road, Belfast, Ballyarnett, L'Derry.
- * Service Sites - A range of managed accommodation where Irish Travellers have a permanent base to park their caravan or erect timber framed sectional buildings: where electricity, water and sewerage are provided and where facilities such as communal or individual amenity units may be provided examples of which can be found at Acorn Grove, Craigavon / The Glen, Coalisland/Glen Road Heights Belfast.
- * Transit sites - A basic facility where Irish Travellers may park their caravans on a temporary basis and where electricity, water and sewerage are provided examples of which can be found at Greenbrae Strabane, Daisyfield and Ballyarnett in Derry, The Glen, Coalisland and Glen Road Heights Belfast.
- * Co-operated site - where an unauthorised encampment is accepted for an agreed period on land which is or may be owned by a Public landlord .The NIHE will arrange for the provision of refuse and toilet facilities and ,where possible, access to a water supply .The family(ies) will be required to sign a pro forma as acknowledgement and agreement of the conditions as laid down i.e. Glen Road, (SLA with Clanmil) Belfast and Burnside Craigavon
- * Emergency Halting Site - Currently operating as a Serviced Site pending land identification for provision of a permanent site i.e. Legahory Close, Craigavon
- * Privately Owned sites examples can be found in Belfast, Bleary, Antrim and Newry.
- Private rental - Throughout NI
- * Social Housing-allocated as per Common Selection Scheme



Why is it Important – Social Housing is any public sector housing (eg NIHE/Housing Association).

Families living in Social Housing

Mar-11 Mar-12



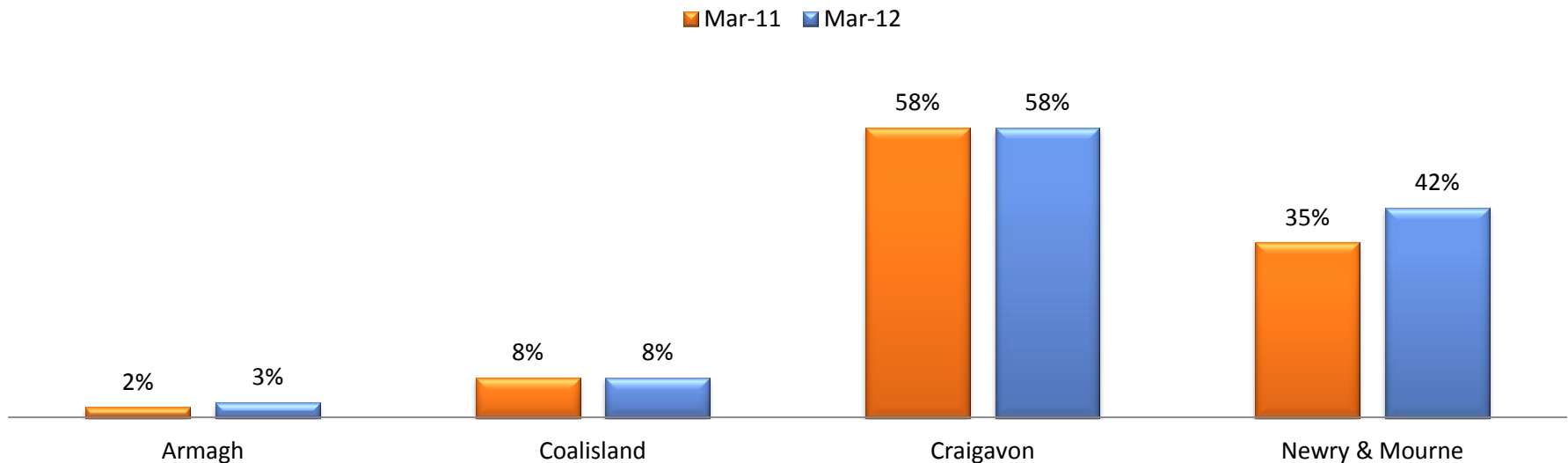
The Story Behind the Trends - Almost all Traveller families in Armagh live in social housing, compared to the other areas. In Craigavon there is currently a shortage of social housing available to the whole population due to demolition of old stock and no rebuilding programme.

Actions Required: Continued support by Traveller Support Workers to assist Families in relation to accessing social housing.



Why is it Important – Families who are living in properties that are privately rented or living in homes owned by them.

Families Living in Private Rented/Owned Home



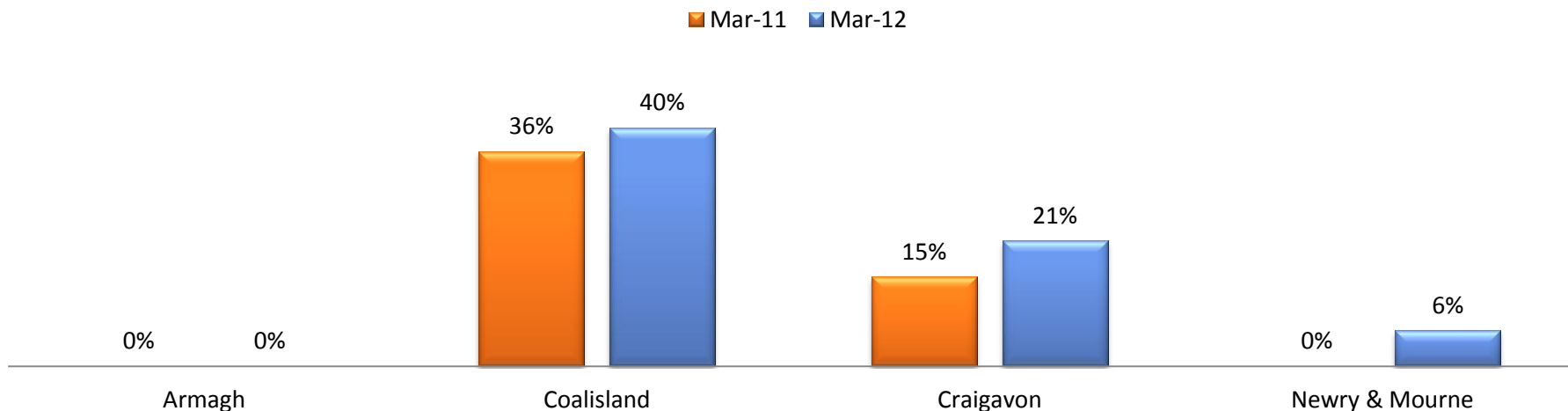
The Story Behind the Trends – Overall Craigavon have the highest number of families living in private rented accommodation with a small number owning their own homes, followed by Newry and then Coalisland. Private renting is not always easily accessed by members of the Traveller community due to alleged racism and discrimination, with families usually accessing poorer quality accommodation in the most deprived areas and having to pay a large security deposit and advancement of rent. Also there are a number of Travellers who own their own land but have faced difficulties in securing planning permission for culturally appropriate accommodation. TSWs are aware of constant stress in relation to the insecurity of private renting.

Actions Required: Traveller Support Workers and other relevant agencies to continue to support families in accessing all types of accommodation and to provide advice.



Why is it Important – Authorised sites are official sites for nomadic Travellers offering basic amenities; surface pitch tarmac, wire fencing, Electricity ,drainage, water, portaloo and sewage, waste disposal/collection

Families living on Authorised Site



The Story Behind the Trends - 36% of Travellers from Coalisland, 21% in Craigavon and 6% in Newry & Mourne are living on an Authorised Site however 1 of these sites is temporary with planning permission due to run out ???? (NIHE have applied for an extension of the licence with a decision pending). Emergency authorised sites are not ideal as they are not permanent and have a lot of conditions attached. The Housing Executive is currently responsible for Traveller accommodation and the provision and development of sites and group housing, but due to the lack of co-ordination and co-operation by other Government Departments and public perception, much of their current efforts have failed to materialise.

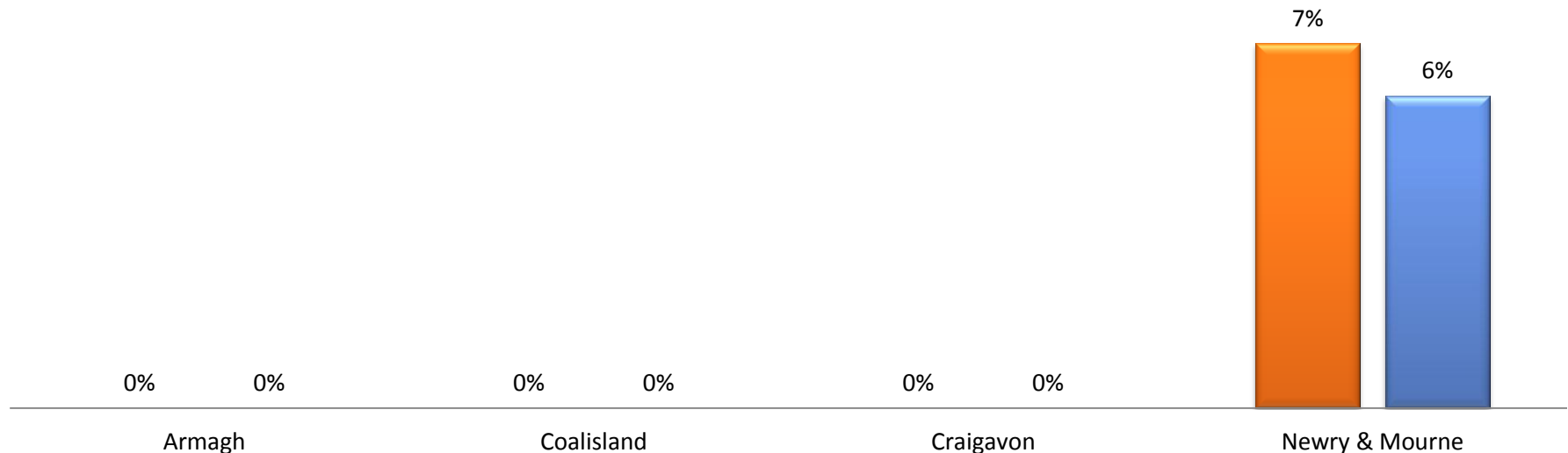
Actions Required: Joined up Government Action led by OFMDFM to develop a co-ordinated approach to provide culturally appropriate accommodation for Travellers and their Families. There is URGENT need for transit sites made available across Northern Ireland in areas of identified need and adequate provision for families across Northern Ireland.



Why is it Important – Unauthorised site is a site on which Travellers do not have permission to live and is unlikely to have amenities such as running water, electricity, sanitation and rubbish collection.

Families living on Unauthorised Site

■ Mar-11 ■ Mar-12



The Story Behind the Trends – At March 12 Newry and Mourne have the highest number of families living on unauthorised sites . Some families have experienced no running water, electricity or sanitation which often impacts on health and in particular children. This also has a negative impact on the perceptions held by the settled community about the Traveller Community.

Actions Required: There is URGENT need for transit sites made available across Northern Ireland. TSWs should contact both Regional and Local NIHE offices in relation to Travellers living/stopping on unauthorised encampments.



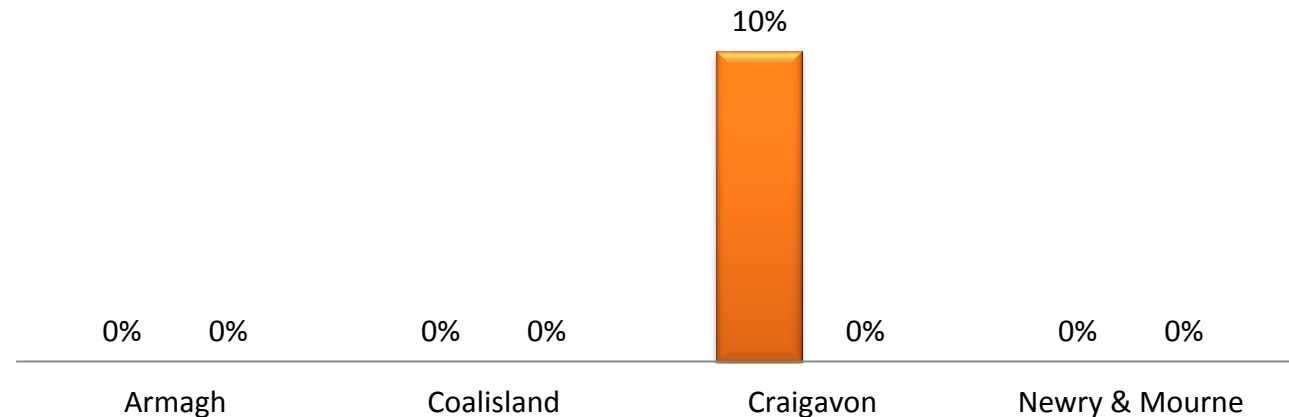
Why is it Important – Side of the Road is mobile units parked at the side of the road with no amenities.

Throughout the period April 11 to March 12 there were a number of unauthorised sites at the following locations

Car park Church Walk Lurgan
Gilpinstown Lurgan
Pinebank Craigavon
Burnside Craigavon
Tullygally Road Craigavon

Families Living on Side of Road

■ Mar-11 ■ Mar-12



The Story Behind the Trends - These families live with no running water, electricity or sanitation which often impacts of health and in particular children. This also has a negative impact on the perceptions held by the settled community about the Traveller Community. However these families are even more isolated with greater needs and are also vulnerable to current legislation. Figures tend to fluctuate due to seasonal and cultural events.

Actions Required: Awareness raising about the needs of Traveller families living on the side of the road and the provision of adequate services and accommodation. TSWs should contact both Regional and Local NIHE offices in relation to Travellers living/stopping on the side of the road.



- Support for families to access a range of accommodation
- Support to access legal advice in respect of housing issues including eviction
- Assistance in relation to conducting job searches in line with Job Seekers Allowance on a weekly basis
- Assist new families to register with Jobs and Benefits Office
- Provide a drop in Family Support Service in Craigavon – 4132 contacts made during 2011/12



Making a Positive Contribution

What we want to achieve for all children and young people:-

- That children and young people are valued by society and their communities;
- Increased opportunities for volunteering in community and voluntary work;
- Access to leisure activities involving young people in their design and delivery;
- A preventative and early intervention approach to youth offending.

The following indicators are included in this chapter to measure the Traveller Community making a positive Contribution:-

- ☐ Participation in Regional, Southern Area and Local Projects



Individual monitoring reports should be read for full details of participation, successes and challenges. The table below shows figures for the total number of Travellers who have participated in activities across the Southern Area.

Statistics overall show:-	Mar 11	Mar 12
Regionally	26	6
Southern Area	17	13
Locally	83	33
Total	126	52

Actions Required: - continued access and partnership work with all relevant Projects to increase empowerment and capacity building within the Traveller Community. This should be rolled out on a NI wide basis.



- **One** Traveller male has voiced an interest and became a member of CTSC's management committee. This individual has a wealth of experience as he played an active role in the management committee of An Munia Tober Traveller Support Group in Belfast.
- **1 Traveller male** in partnership with the Community Development Worker from CTSC and the Traveller Liaison Officer with City Council took part in Senior Leadership training sessions with 36 newly appointed PSNI Superintendents. Sessions were facilitated by QUB.
- Two meetings with local MLA Dolores Kelly (SDLP) and Councillor Thomas O'Connor were very well attended by the Traveller Community. The meetings were arranged by CTSC at the request of local Travellers and provided an opportunity to discuss major issues such as the lack of Traveller sites and basic amenities in the Craigavon area.
- **Two** Traveller young women attended a reception given by the Lord Mayor of Belfast in Belfast City hall. (20.12.11)
- **One** Traveller attended a seminar reception organised by Belfast City Council. The event took place in City Hall (23.03.12) and focused on the promotion of relations between National Association of Gypsy and Traveller Organisations (NAGTO) and the Local Government Partnership on Traveller Issues.



Living in A Society that Respects Their Rights

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What we want to achieve for all children and young people:-

- That children and young people and families' rights are respected by society and their communities;

The following indicators are included in this chapter to measure the Respect of Rights for the Traveller Community:-

- ☐ Rights Events held with Traveller Participation
- ☐ Refusal of Services
- ☐ Incidents of perceived Racism



	Mar 11	Mar 12
Rights events held with Traveller Participation	2	2
Refusal of Services	12	8
Incidents of perceived Racism	12	8

- Rights event was held with Newry & Mourne District Council Challenge of Change/Good Relations
- There has been a total of 8 incidents of refusal of services across the area that would also constitute racism:-
- Examples are – Refusal of hairdressing appointments, Family offered NIHE accommodation, within hours of viewing the house, NIHE received threatening phone call advising that family were not to move into the area.
- There were 8 incidents of racism across the area with the Support groups having to book venues for special events and also appointments to view rental properties. The Traveller community in Lurgan and Craigavon continue to experience negativity when engaging directly with local commercial services and negative media and press.
- Challenge in Craigavon in achieving a balance between PSNI providing a service to the local community and over Policing.

Actions Required – SAAT to look at a contact in relation to professional legal advice about racism and refusal of services. TSWs to continue to support individuals in accessing legal advice from local solicitors.



Contact Details

For further information on SAAT or Traveller Information contact:-

Valerie Maxwell
CSP Information Manager
Health & Social Care Board
Tower Hill
Armagh
Tel: 028 37 414602
Email: valerie.maxwell@hscni.net

Or

Jim Maye (Chairperson)
Southern Area Action with Travellers (SAAT)
Southern Education and Library Board
Beresford Row
The Mall
Armagh
Tel: 028 37 415426
Email: [jim.maye @selb.org](mailto:jim.maye@selb.org)