

## **Video transcript Gypsy Roma and Travellers event short**

Lynne Bowers: As you know, social justice is the underlying philosophy of all disciplines in social care.

Equality, diversity and inclusion are key to that philosophy and the West Midlands ADASS programmes and priorities.

People from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities have a protected characteristic yet it has been suggested that discrimination towards those communities is the last acceptable face of racism.

Jackie Bolton is a qualified social worker, a traveller with Showmen and Romany background and one of the founder members of the Gypsy Roma Traveller Social Work Association.

She started working with families almost 20 years ago. She has worked in various charities including the Children's Society and until recently she was director of safeguarding for a charity working with families affected by violence and exploitation.

Dr Peter Unwin has enjoyed a long career in social work and university lecturing as well as having been a foster carer. His interest in Gypsy Roma and Traveller issues has arisen in very recent years through research and he is an ally member of the Gypsy Roma Traveller Social Work Association.

Dr Unwin: It's great that so many people are interested in this topic. It's to the shame of social work that we have so ignored the plight of Gypsy Roma Travellers, and it's only since the very recent formation of the Gypsy Roma Traveller Social Work Association, greatly supported by BASW, that we've begun to bring change.

It's quite wrong when you look at the disproportionate number of children in care, the lack of embracing by adult social care of communities, the lack of knowledge amongst students and experienced people about these communities in our midst, and indeed, these communities are often, such as where I work [in] Worcestershire and Herefordshire, the biggest ethnic minority. Yet we know virtually nothing about them

Jackie Bolton: I'm so pleased to have met other travel social workers and [to be] sharing our knowledge.

*The full recording of this event is available via [wm-adass.org.uk](http://wm-adass.org.uk)*