

## Gypsy Roma Traveller Capital grant – 2025-26 Progress Report

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|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                     | <b>Welsh Government</b>                               |
| <b>Site Name:</b>                                   | <b>Riverside</b>                                      |
| <b>Unique Ref ID:</b>                               | <b>068</b>                                            |
| <b>Claim Period:</b>                                | <b>1st February 2026 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026</b> |
| <b>Date Grant Offer Letter signed:</b>              | <b>26<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b>                  |
| <b>Date Grant Variation Letter Signed:</b>          | <b>N/A</b>                                            |
| <b>Date report for claiming purposes submitted.</b> | <b>17/04/26</b>                                       |

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| <b>1. Introduction: <i>Background Information</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <p>This project will provide high-quality, inclusive play opportunities for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) children and young people living on Riverside Local Authority Site in Flintshire. The project involves the purchase of a wide range of play equipment, stored securely in a purpose-built shipping container located on site, to ensure consistent, sustainable and safe access to play resources.</p> |
| <b>2. Application details</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <p>Flintshire County Council applied for and were awarded £18,100 for completion by the end of March 2026.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>3. Expenditure Cost:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <i>List details and costings proposed v actual</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <p>This report is for the final claim of £14,728.38.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

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| <p><b>4. Procurement (if applicable)</b><br/> <i>Please provide an update on procurement activity undertaken</i></p> |
| N/A                                                                                                                  |

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| <p><b>5. Issues and/or Delays</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| No issues identified during process.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <p><b>6. Progress Photos: <i>Before and after (if applicable) attach here with comments</i></b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <a href="#">Flintshire - Breaking Barriers event Riverside Community - 09/04/2026   Flickr</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <p><b>7. Conclusion &amp; outcomes achieved: <i>Feedback from Contractors (if applicable)</i></b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| All works completed within timescales and any concerns from residents addressed                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <p><b>8. Conclusion &amp; outcomes achieved: <i>Feedback from Residents</i></b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| The project met a clearly assessed need by addressing documented health and wellbeing inequalities, responding to gaps identified in local play sufficiency assessments, and providing culturally sensitive, locally accessible, and child-led play opportunities that are both preventative and sustainable. |
| <p><b>9. Any other important information:</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| <p><b>10. Conclusion &amp; outcomes achieved:</b><br/> <i>Final conclusion &amp; outcomes (state outcomes and benefits also best practice including lessons learnt)</i></p>                                                                                                                                   |
| <i>This project has been developed in direct response to a clearly evidenced and longstanding need for accessible, high-quality play opportunities for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) children and young people residing on local authority sites.</i>                                                       |

*A substantial body of evidence demonstrates that GRT communities experience disproportionately poor health and wellbeing outcomes in comparison to the general population. Data from the 2021 Census indicates that GRT populations report some of the highest levels of ‘not good’ general health in Wales. Earlier research, including Parry et al. (2004), further identifies elevated incidences of respiratory conditions, musculoskeletal disorders and emotional distress. Barriers to accessing inclusive, health-promoting activities—particularly appropriate play provision—remain a significant contributing factor to these inequalities.*

*The Council’s Play Sufficiency Assessment corroborates this position, identifying clear gaps in provision for seldom-heard and marginalised groups, including children living on GRT sites. The assessment highlights a lack of safe, culturally appropriate and locally accessible spaces for play, alongside a need for flexible, age-appropriate resources that support children’s self-directed play, in accordance with Playwork Principles and Welsh Government guidance.*

*In response, the project delivers a sustainable and practical intervention through the provision of a comprehensive range of portable, durable and culturally appropriate play equipment, securely stored on-site. This approach ensures consistent and equitable access to play resources within the community itself. The equipment has been purposefully selected to support a broad spectrum of play types. Opportunities for physical play contribute to improved health outcomes and gross motor development; creative and imaginative play supports emotional wellbeing, communication and problem-solving; and social and cooperative play fosters positive relationships and social development. This integrated approach ensures that the diverse developmental, social and emotional needs of children across varying ages and abilities are effectively met.*

*The project aligns with Welsh Government policy, including Travelling to Better Health (2015), which highlights the need for culturally sensitive, accessible and inclusive interventions for GRT communities. By situating resources directly on-site, the project effectively mitigates barriers related to transport, cost and social exclusion, thereby enabling sustained and meaningful participation in play.*

*Furthermore, the design and delivery of the project have been informed by ongoing engagement with site residents and key stakeholders. This has ensured that the provision reflects the preferences and lived experiences of children and young people, while remaining respectful of*

*cultural norms and community contexts. Consequently, the project addresses an identified and evidenced need, rather than a generic or assumed requirement, and is positioned to achieve strong levels of engagement and impact.*

*In conclusion, the project delivers significant and measurable outcomes. It addresses documented health and wellbeing inequalities, responds directly to gaps identified through local assessment, and provides inclusive, culturally appropriate and accessible play opportunities. In doing so, it supports improved physical, emotional and social wellbeing, enhances social inclusion, and contributes to more equitable access to play for GRT children and young people, both in the immediate and longer term.*

***Sharing best practice and lessons learnt:***

This project has generated valuable learning to inform future provision for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) children and young people, which will be shared with relevant stakeholders and partners. A key lesson is the importance of early and ongoing engagement with site residents. Involving children, young people and families in decision-making has ensured that provision reflects genuine needs, resulting in higher levels of participation, trust and community ownership.

The project has demonstrated the effectiveness of flexible, portable and multi-use play equipment in supporting inclusive, child-led play across a range of ages and abilities. This approach aligns with Playwork Principles and highlights the value of adaptable, non-prescriptive resources. Locating equipment directly on-site has been critical in reducing barriers such as transport, cost and social exclusion, enabling consistent access and engagement. This reinforces the importance of delivering services within communities.

Cultural sensitivity has also been essential, ensuring that provision is respectful and appropriate to the community context, thereby supporting sustained participation. Strong partnership working between the local authority, site management and residents has further strengthened delivery and provides a model for effective collaborative practice.

Learning from the project will be shared through internal reporting, local networks and relevant professional forums to support the development of more inclusive and accessible play provision.

In summary, the project highlights the importance of community engagement, accessible delivery, cultural awareness and flexible resources in achieving effective and sustainable outcomes.

**11. Equalities** - *How have you considered and met the needs of different equalities groups in use of this funding? Include Black, Asian and Ethnic minority people and disabled people*

The project has been designed and delivered with a clear commitment to promoting equality, inclusion and fair access for all children and young people, with particular consideration given to the needs of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) communities.

Recognising that GRT children and young people often face barriers to accessing services and experience poorer health and wellbeing outcomes, the project prioritises equitable access by situating play provision directly on-site. This approach removes barriers associated with transport, cost and social exclusion, ensuring that all children can participate safely and consistently.

The selection of play equipment has been informed by principles of inclusivity and accessibility. Resources are suitable for a wide range of ages, abilities and developmental needs, supporting physical, creative and social play. The use of flexible, open-ended equipment enables children to engage in play that reflects their individual interests and abilities, including those with additional needs.

Cultural considerations have been central to the project's design. Engagement with site residents has ensured that the provision is respectful of cultural norms and responsive to the preferences of the community. This has supported increased participation and ensured that the project is both appropriate and effective.

The project also contributes to reducing inequalities by targeting a marginalised and seldom-heard group identified within the Council's Play Sufficiency Assessment. By addressing identified gaps in provision, it promotes greater equality of opportunity and access to play.

In summary, the project has met the needs of different equalities groups by removing access barriers, providing inclusive and adaptable resources, and ensuring that delivery is culturally sensitive, community-informed and equitable.

