Outreach programmes for Traveller communities
(Evidence Synthesis)

Research Question(s)

- What is the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of outreach programmes in improving the health of Traveller communities?
- Which components of outreach programme(s) are the most effective and cost effective?

  - **Population:** Traveller communities (to include both those travelling and not currently travelling).
  - **Intervention (non-NHS):** Outreach programmes. [For the UK, these may be provided by a variety of services including local authority and the third sector (voluntary and NGOs), but must be provided predominantly outside the NHS. For international studies researchers to consider how the intervention reflects UK practice].
  - **Comparator:** Comparable communities, preferably Traveller, without outreach programmes.
  - **Outcomes:** Health outcomes relevant to the intervention. Researchers to specify and justify. Examples might include: engagement with and/or uptake of relevant services.
  - **Impact on health inequalities:** Researchers to specify and justify.
  - **Design:** Evidence synthesis of UK and international literature. Proposals to include: evaluation of the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of outreach programmes, then should any be shown to be effective, identification of the elements of effective programmes; applicability to the UK context; recommendations for future primary research.

Background to commissioning brief:

Travellers form varied and diverse communities. These may be socially excluded groups, with specific health needs.

The health of the Traveller population is poorer than the health of even the most deprived groups of the non-Traveller population. Traveller communities face: lower life expectancy; higher infant mortality; and higher rates of chronic illnesses.

Outreach programmes have been used to support these communities. Research is required in the form of evidence synthesis (to include both UK and international literature), regarding effectiveness of these programmes, and which components of the programmes/interventions are effective.