Statistical Bulletin

September 2013

Focus On Gypsy and Travellers

Date: 2 September 2013, Theme: Ethnicity, Nationality and Race

Key Findings

- The population of people who identified as Gypsy or Irish Travellers in the 2011 Census was seventy-two (72) people. The age structure is similar to many other ethnic communities in Milton Keynes. The Children and Young people are various ages up to the age of 16. There is evidence that the structure is quite stable.

- The percentage of Traveller & Gypsy households that have more than 1.5 persons per room is higher than both the national proportion of Gypsy & Travellers and that of the local Bangladeshi community

- Not everyone who rents a pitch from the Council identifies themselves as either Irish Traveller or Gypsy. The term used to describe people who chose a style of accommodation is not necessarily synonymous with the term used to describe the ethnicity. Therefore the ethnicity, those who live in mobile accommodation and those who camp illegally may or may not be Gypsy and Irish Travellers.

- Outside of a group that has never worked, Gypsies and Travellers in Milton Keynes are doing better overall than similar groups in England. The occupation status gap is not as big as Gypsy and Travellers nationally and compares better locally than the Bangladeshi group. The economic activity data is to some extent skewed by a number of Gypsy and Travellers that must be understood as having unknown economic status.

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Introduction

Most of the information contained in this bulletin is from the Office of National Statistics, all sources are noted. Some amount of caution is advised in an analysis of the Gypsy and Traveller community. The following is a list of the issues associated with this information:

- The number of people is so small that individual circumstance can easily affect any trend with the group adversely or positively.

- There is evidence of unusual or extreme outliers. An example is that two members of the Gypsy and Traveller group report their religion as Sikh. It is possible that this is a wrong reading of the question.

- The ethnic group Gypsy and Traveller is not equivalent to the group who live on pitches in Milton Keynes. Many of this group don't live in mobile accommodation, and some people who live in mobile accommodation don't' identify themselves as Gypsy and/or Irish Traveller.

One further concern has been the response. The response though was very high and was 7th highest out of all 24 ethnic groups. This was due to some extent with the special methods adopted to ensure that people were able to complete the Census. This to some extent addresses the issues above.

Population

Table 1: Milton Keynes Borough compared to other Local Authority areas (with reference to the local Bangladeshi Community) (Source: ONS)

Area name	Number	Per 10,000 people	Rank (%) (out of 348)
South Northamptonshire	11	1	333
Milton Keynes UA	72	3	307
Bedford UA	115	7	207
Northampton Borough	149	7	216
Aylesbury Vale	134	8	196
Wellingborough	89	12	113
Central Bedfordshire UA	478	19	48
South East	14,542	17	-
Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi	1,304	80	45

The population of people who identified as Gypsy or Irish Travellers in the 2011 Census was seventy-two (72) people. This figure is considered a true reflection, as the Census uses self-identity.

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The size of the Gypsy and Traveller community in Milton Keynes is very small. Considering the region, areas to the east and the south east have considerable larger communities and the proportion of the regional population is six times the size. The Bangladeshi community is used to provide some cross Milton Keynes comparison with another small ethnic community.

The age structure is similar to many other ethnic communities in Milton Keynes. The Children and Young people are various ages up to the age of 16. There is evidence that the structure is quite stable, which might allow the use of the word community to describe the local group with members connected to one another.

Table 2: Traveller & Gypsy Age Structure, with reference to the local Bangladeshi Community (Source: ONS)

Age	Traveller & Gypsy		Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Age 0 to 18	26	36.1%	810	40.7%
Age 19 to 24	9	12.5%	230	11.6%
Age 25 to 49	26	36.1%	769	38.7%
Age 50 to 64	7	9.7%	111	5.6%
Age 65 and over	4	5.6%	69	3.5%
All categories: Age	72		1,939	

Further Demographic Facts

- Nearly a half (48.3%) of all Travellers & Gypsies in Milton Keynes are under 24, this is similar to the figure in England for all Gypsy and Travellers (47.0%) and also similar to the local Bangladeshi Community.

- Only one eighth (12.5%) of the community (9 People) were born outside of the UK, all of which are under 35 and of these 6 were born in Ireland and the rest in Europe. Sixty-three (63) were born in the UK. This figure is similar to that in the UK as a whole, which is also 12.5% of the community.

- There are thirty-five (35) children who are dependents of a Gypsy and/or Traveller, of these only twenty-six (26) are themselves included in the Gypsy and Traveller Group.

- The majority of Travellers and Gypsies in Milton Keynes are Christian (68%). However many of the rest are non-religious, have a non specified faith (possible related to Gypsy or Traveller culture), there are also Sikhs (2 people) and a Buddhist (1 person).

- The majority of Travellers and Gypsies in Milton Keynes see themselves as English only (61%), whilst 13.9% see themselves as Irish only, and the rest identify with

Scottish, English/British, Northern Irish, British only and two people see themselves as other than British or Irish.

Households

There were twenty-six (26) households in Census where the Household Reference Person was Gypsy and/or Irish Traveller.

The number of persons per room per household is a measure the amount of crowdedness. The percentage of Traveller & Gypsy households that have more than 1.5 persons per room is higher than both the national proportion of Gypsy & Travellers and that of the local Bangladeshi community (representing 20 households), albeit this represents only 2 households.

Table 3: Number of persons per room in household, with reference to the percentage in England as a whole and the local Bangladeshi Community (Source: ONS)

Number of persons per room in household	Traveller & Gypsy		% England Traveller & Gypsy	% MK Bangladeshi
	Number	Percentage		
Up to 0.5 persons per room	9	34.6%	49.70%	23.34%
Over 0.5 and up to 1.0 persons per room	12	46.2%	38.59%	55.03%
Over 1.0 and up to 1.5 persons per room	3	11.5%	6.80%	17.34%
Over 1.5 persons per room	2	7.7%	4.91%	4.28%

However, of the 653 households in Milton Keynes where the number of persons per room is over 1.5:

- Over one quarter are African (180 households & 7th worst district in England),
- Nearly an eighth are White: Other (denoting mostly EU/ East European(77)), and
- Less than one in three-hundred are Traveller & Gypsy households (2).

These figures serve as a reminder that statistics can, due to the small numbers in the Traveller & Gypsy Community, show a skewed picture of the level of need.

In Milton Keynes the proportion of Travellers & Gypsies who own or have shared ownership of tenure is significantly less than in England as a whole. As a consequence the proportion who rent is much higher, meaning that 50% of all households are in some manner socially rented.

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Table 4 reveals that not everyone who rents a pitch from the Council identifies themselves as either Irish Traveller or Gypsy. The term used to describe people who chose a style of accommodation is not necessarily synonymous with the term used to describe the ethnicity. Therefore the ethnicity, those who live in mobile accommodation and those who camp illegally may or may not be Gypsy and Irish Travellers.

Table 4: Tenure in Traveller & Gypsy households in MK and England (Source: ONS)

Tenure	Traveller & Gypsy in Milton Keynes		Traveller & Gypsy in England	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Owned: Owned outright	2	7.7%	4,156	21.36%
Owned: Owned with a mortgage or loan or shared ownership	2	7.7%	2,362	12.14%
Owned or shared ownership: Total	4	15.4%	6,518	33.50%
Social rented: Rented from council (Local Authority)	10	38.5%	4,675	24.03%
Social rented: Other social rented	3	11.5%	3,487	17.92%
Social rented: Total	13	50.0%	8,162	41.95%
Private rented: Private landlord or letting agency	7	26.9%	3,955	20.33%
Private rented: Other private rented or living rent free	2	7.7%	823	4.23%
Private rented or living rent free: Total	9	34.6%	4,778	24.56%

Household composition mirrors proportions nationally for Gypsy and Travellers. The proportions of Lone Parent households are higher and those cohabiting smaller, when compared to Gypsy and Travellers nationally.

Table 4: Household composition in Traveller & Gypsy households in MK and England (Source: ONS)

Household composition	Number	Percentage	England %
One person household	8	30.8%	29.5%
Married or same-sex civil partnership couple	6	23.1%	23.1%
Cohabiting couple	1	3.8%	10.1%
Lone parent	10	38.5%	24.4%
Other household types	1	3.8%	4.6%

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Health

Nearly a quarter (23.6%) of all Gypsies and Travellers report "bad" or "very bad" health, this is significantly higher than the figure nationally for Gypsy and travellers (13.9%) and ranks Milton Keynes' Travellers and Gypsies in the bottom decile in terms of health.

Table 5: Number of persons per room in household, with reference to the percentage in England as a whole and the local Bangladeshi Community (Source: ONS)

General health	Gypsy & Traveller		% England Gypsy & Traveller	% MK Bangladeshi
	Number	Percentage		
Very good health	27	37.50%	49.70%	50.18%
Good health	16	22.22%	38.59%	33.84%
Fair health	12	16.67%	6.80%	10.66%
Bad health	14	19.44%	4.91%	4.07%
Very bad health	3	4.17%	4.56%	1.26%

Six of the group do some sort of caring role, of which only one person provides 50 or more hours unpaid care a week; the rest of the six providing less than 19 hours. To compliment this information, six people reported that they are economically inactive because they are long term sick or disabled.

Economic

There are forty-six (46) people over 18 in the Gypsy and traveller community. This number is too small to conduct any deep analysis upon. However even with this low number of people some understanding can be made about the economic status of Gypsy and Travellers in Milton Keynes.

The percentage of economical inactivity seems to be very high at 60.9%, this includes 23.9% who are "Economic Activity: Other". This, proportion of is exceeding high, 23.9% against the MK average of 2%. Taken on its own this table 6 suggests a lack of economic activity in the Gypsy and Traveller community which is severe.

It maybe impossible to compare Gypsy and Travellers with groups locally and nationally as this classification provides little real information and considerable influences analysis. Therefore the proportions do not reflect the true economic situation.

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Table 6: Economic Activity (Source: ONS)

Economic Activity	Number	%	MK %	Males	Females
Employed	13	23.9%	55.8%	20.8%	27.3%
Self-Employed	2	4.3%	8.2%	16.8%	0%
Unemployed	5	10.9%	5.1%	8.3%	13.6%
Economically active	**18**	**39.1%**	**71.4%**	**37.5%**	**40.91%**
Retired	3	6.5%	15.4%	8.3%	4.5%
Student (including full-time students)	1	2.2%	3.7%	0%	0%
Looking after home or family	7	15.2%	4.3%	4.2%	27.3%
Long-term sick or disabled	6	13.0%	3.0%	16.7%	9.0%
Other	11	23.9%	2.0%	33.3%	13.0%
Economically inactive	**28**	**60.9%**	**28.6%**	**62.5%**	**59.9%**

Elsewhere "Economic Activity: Other" is at much lower levels and various theories can be suggest to why this number is higher in Milton Keynes than elsewhere. Some of these are:

- This figure represents some people who are not economically inactive but have chosen not to reveal their economic activity. This possibility is strengthened when the proportion of Gypsy and Travellers in Milton Keynes who have never worked is considered. Together they suggest a degree of mistrust in indentifying a true economic activity.

- This figure represents some people who are not working or seeking work, who would be severely financially disadvantaged in seeking work. However, they are not long term sick or disabled, retired or looking after the home or family.

Economic activity is just one measure of social-economic status. Occupations are differentiated in terms of reward mechanisms, promotion prospects, notice periods and job security. Those occupations exhibiting a high level of such characteristics are said to be operating on a 'service contract'. Those with the least of these attributes are said to be operating under a 'labour contract'. While not designed as a hierarchy, there are differences in social advantage across the classes.

The National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) contains a classification of occupations. The most advantaged NS-SEC classes (managerial and professional occupations), typically exhibit personalised reward structures, have good opportunities for advancement, relatively high levels of autonomy within the job, and have relatively secure employment contracts. These attributes are reversed for the most disadvantaged class

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(Routine occupations). This can there for provide a more reasonable approach to the true economic status of the Gypsy and traveller group.

Table 7: The National Statistics Socio-economic Classification: comparison with Milton Keynes **(Source: ONS)**

Classification	Number	Percentage	MK %
1. Higher managerial, administrative and professional occupations	3	6.52%	11.88%
1.1 Large employers and higher managerial and administrative occupations	1	2.17%	2.41%
1.2 Higher professional occupations	2	4.35%	9.47%
2. Lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations	5	10.87%	21.72%
3. Intermediate occupations	1	2.17%	15.09%
4. Small employers and own account workers	5	10.87%	7.82%
5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	2	4.35%	7.06%
6. Semi-routine occupations	7	15.22%	13.65%
7. Routine occupations	4	8.70%	11.28%
8. Never worked and long-term unemployed	19	41.30%	5.08%
L14.1 Never worked	19	41.30%	3.34%
L14.2 Long-term unemployed	0	0.00%	1.74%
Not classified	0	0.00%	6.43%
L15 Full-time students	0	0.00%	6.43%
L17 Not classifiable for other reasons	0	0.00%	0.00%

Bringing these tables together it reveals a picture of part of the group: one part, where there is economic information (about 65% of the people), and another part where information is more unknown. Nineteen people (19%) in Table 7 classified as "Never worked", twelve (12) females and seven (7) males. Therefore we can not assume that this is exclusively "women in the home".

Proceeding from what is known and taking into account what we know of unemployment, a comparison can be made with the Social-economic status of people in Milton Keynes.

This reveals that Gypsy and Travellers have:

- a larger proportion of people who have never worked,
- one and half times the proportion of people in routine occupations,

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- similar proportions of technical and self employed occupations,

- two-thirds of the proportion of lower professional occupations, but

- similar proportions in higher professional occupations.

This is differs from the Gypsy and Travellers in England, who when compared to the whole of England had:

- similar to England in proportions of routine occupations,

- much high proportions in self employed occupations,

- considerably lower proportions of lower professional occupations, and

- just a quarter of the proportion in higher professional occupations

This suggests that outside this never worked group, the Gypsies and Travellers in Milton Keynes are doing better overall than similar groups in England. The occupation status gap is not as big as Gypsy and Travellers face elsewhere, indeed it is less than other groups such as the Bangladeshi Group in Milton Keynes. However the economic activity data is to some extent skewed by a part of the group that must be understood as having unknown economic status.

Further evidence for a higher rate of economic activity is car or van availability. When compared to Gypsy and Travellers nationally there is a far larger car or van availability, whilst the proportion of people that have never worked in this group Milton Keynes is much higher.

Table 7: Gypsy and Traveller Households with Car or Van Availability (Source: ONS)

Car or Van Availability	Number	Percentage	England %
No cars or vans in household	6	23.1%	33.2%
1 car or van in household	16	61.5%	40.2%
2 or more cars or vans in household	4	15.4%	26.7%

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