

Questions and Answers:

What is an Unauthorised Encampment?

- The arrival of a group of people, normally a family or group of families, on land where they do not necessarily have direct permission from the landowner to stop.
- The word 'unauthorised' does not necessarily mean that the presence of the group is illegal.
- An unauthorised encampment is not to be confused with a 'Transit Site'. Transit sites are permanent sites specifically designed and provided for families that are 'on the road'. A local authority will need to apply for Planning Permission to build a transit site. This is a separate issue.

Is this relevant to me?

- Yes – South Cambs communities are rural communities and regularly see the arrival of unauthorised encampments, particularly during the Spring / Summer months. If you would like to be prepared and have a better understanding of the processes involved in managing unauthorised encampments, then this TOOLKIT is for you.
- A successful pilot workshop took place in the South of the District in November 2018 and feedback suggested it was well received and more sessions would be welcome.

Cultural awareness training - what is this?

- The training seeks to improve awareness and understanding of the rich cultural and social history of the GRT community. The workshops build on this and promote cohesion between GRT and settled communities.
- The training demo can be found here: <https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/training-demo/story.html>
- The full online training course takes between 1-3hrs to complete.

Is this TOOLKIT going to lead to the creation of a permanent / transit site in my village?

- No. This TOOLKIT has been created to educate and encourage discussion around unauthorised encampments within our South Cambs communities with a view to encouraging communities to consider how they would manage an unauthorised encampment if a group arrived within the community.
- Feedback from South Cambs communities that have experienced unauthorised encampments has been that there is a need for information to help communities make informed choices and plan their response in advance. This is particularly important in light of current COVID-19 guidance.
- The workshops do not facilitate or feature consultation regarding site provision from a planning perspective.

Microgrants - what are they?

- South Cambs Community Safety Partnership has been provided funding by the Police and Crime Commissioner to improve community resilience and support vulnerable people in our communities.
- Some of this funding is being distributed as microgrants (between £50-£500) direct to communities who want to improve safety locally. £4k is for GRT related training and activity. Another £4k is for other community safety-related expenditure. Visit [https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-development/crime-anti-social-behaviour-and-community-safety/](https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-development/crime-anti-social-behaviour-and-community-safety/community-safety/) for more information.