

Our Children and Young Peoples' Service has been working throughout the Greater Dublin area with Traveller children and young people to build potential and promote leadership for almost 20 years. Below, William McDonagh, our Children and Young Peoples' Service Manager, talks about the work and highlights the reasons why it is essential that we promote leadership amongst young Travellers.

## Building Potential Promoting Leadership

**What would you say are the main reasons young people engage with the Children and Young Peoples' Service?**

Over years, the young people and their families have built up amazingly trusting relationships with the staff. They know that we are there for them; they know that when we say we will do something, we do it. It's like continuity for them.

**What would you say are the main benefits for the young people from the various programmes and initiatives organised through the service?**

I'd say it's the opportunities and the part they play in creating those opportunities. The model we work from is one where the young people are supported to play an active part in shaping the service; we encourage them to make decisions and choices. Often, as they grow through our service, we see them starting to make other choices – about school, work and family – and that's the main benefit I would think.

**How do parents feel about placing their lovelies in your team's care?**

In all the years we have been working with young people and their families, we have never had an issue with a parent not being comfortable, or not trusting us. We have brought young people all over the world and they have always done themselves proud.

**What advice would you give to young people who wish to pursue a career in the youth service sector?**

Working with young people is not for everyone, but if it is what you really want to do, then you need to stay in school, learn by volunteering and get your qualifications. Then, at least you can choose and that's the most important thing.



“  
**Our young people are our future, they need role models and they need our time and they need the space to grow and become the adult they want to be.**”



**#talkwithus**  
**#learnwithus**  
**#growwithus**

**Celebrating Traveller Pride**  
**8 – 19 June 2015**

**JOIN THE CONVERSATION ANYTIME**  
**www.exchangehouse.ie**  
**@ExchangeHouseIr**  
**#alwaysproud**  
**#travellerpride15**

## Celebrating Traveller Pride 2015



At Exchange House Ireland, we take PRIDE seriously – pride in our work, pride in the achievements of our clients, pride in the community of which we are members, allies and friends. This year, we have produced a poster which we will be distributing to Traveller organisations and our partners in government departments, statutory agencies and the community and voluntary sector in Ireland and throughout Europe. Through our twitter account, we will be asking them to join us in an international conversation to highlight the achievements of members of the Traveller community and to commit to working in solidarity with us to continue to ensure that Ireland acknowledges respects and celebrates the many contributions that Travellers make to their own and the broader community.

So, check out our website [www.exchangehouse.ie](http://www.exchangehouse.ie) or follow us on twitter @ExchangeHouseIr for updates and don't forget to **Join the Conversation**. Watch out for our tweets and tell us your **#alwaysproud** stories.

### P1 #welldone

As we enter the season of exams and results, we highlight our annual National Traveller Education Achievement Awards. Get your nominations ready!

### P2 #talkwithus

**Sunia Geel 2** – an amazing end to a fantastic EU Project.  
[talkwithus@exchangehouse.ie](mailto:talkwithus@exchangehouse.ie)

**#YES** – Welcoming a more inclusive Ireland

### P3 #growwithus

Our Children and Young Peoples' Service give us an insight into the everyday work of their service and talks to us about building potential and promoting leadership.  
[growwithus@exchangehouse.ie](mailto:growwithus@exchangehouse.ie)

### P4 #learnwithus

Our Education and Training Service will soon be recruiting.

### CEO's Blog

In this edition, we launch our CEO's Blog – follow it monthly on [www.exchangehouse.ie](http://www.exchangehouse.ie)



# EXCHANGE HOUSE IRELAND

## National Travellers Service

QUARTERLY UPDATE | TRAVELLER PRIDE EDITION

JUNE, 2015



It's nearly that time of year again when Exchange House Ireland hosts the **National Traveller Education Achievement Awards** – our annual celebration. The event will take place in the Wood Quay Venue at the Civic Offices in Dublin on October 9<sup>th</sup> at 5.30pm. This will be our 8<sup>th</sup> year hosting the awards and we're hoping to make them bigger and better than ever before. Last year, we unveiled our "Dublin Says Well Done" viral – this year, well, who knows!!!

One thing is for certain though, it promises to be an evening of celebration, smiles and, in some cases, tears, as we come together to champion the achievements of our community.

So, watch out for the information on how you can nominate a friend, student or family member. Our Education and Training team will be in touch. If you don't hear from us, then don't hesitate to contact [learnwithus@exchangehouse.ie](mailto:learnwithus@exchangehouse.ie)

**“ We have only one purpose here tonight and that is to celebrate your achievement - to take this opportunity to say #welldone to you, to your families and to everyone who has supported you to achieve. ”**