



# Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Welcome Pack

What you need to know during your stay



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# Welcome to the City of Sunderland

Sunderland City Council aims to:

- meet the needs of all residents, including those staying for a short length of time
- make sure Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities have fair and equal treatment
- protect the interests of our settled communities

The council provides the residents of Sunderland, including you, with a range of services and support, including:

- public health
- housing
- adult social care
- education
- children's welfare
- sport and leisure
- community safety

You can find out more on our website: [www.sunderland.gov.uk](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk)



## Encampments/sites

Currently there are no Gypsy, Roma and Traveller sites in Sunderland.

We accept unauthorised encampments on our land if the location is safe and suitable.

We'd like you to be able to stay with us for as long as you need, however this is not always possible.

Your length of stay on an unauthorised encampment will be discussed with you and determined on a case-by-case basis by the Encampment Review Group (ERG).

Not all locations are suitable for an unauthorised encampment. Areas which are not safe or suitable must be vacated immediately.

Please respect our local communities and stick to our Code of Conduct to make your stay safe and happy for all.



## Day of arrival

We will always treat you fairly and with respect.

You can contact us on 0191 520 5551 and advise us of your arrival.

Support Officers will examine the suitability of the site you have chosen within 24 hours.

We will take photographs to record conditions of the camp.

If the site is suitable a Welfare Assessment will be carried out to help identify if you need any support around:

- housing
- children, young people and families
- hate crime
- your health
- domestic abuse
- access to NHS services, GPs, NHS walk-in and minor injuries centres, A&E, dentists, pharmacists and opticians
- rubbish bags
- advice about your stay



## Code of conduct

Our Code of Conduct must be adhered to whilst you remain on site. If you break any of these conditions you could be evicted from the site immediately. You must:

- work with council officers and police officers who visit the site
- provide the correct information to help us support your stay
- leave a space of at least 6 metres between each caravan, and park vehicles safely
- keep, and leave the site clean and tidy
- put all rubbish in rubbish bags or bins - we will organise regular collections
- keep noise to a minimum, especially after 10.30pm and before 7.30am
- keep all animals under control and clear up any of their faeces
- respect the community where you are staying
- do not allow any other caravans onto your site
- do not take part in anti-social behaviour or criminal activity
- do not damage any facilities provided, or the local environment including trees and shrubs
- do not leave children unsupervised on site
- do not use the site to undertake commercial or business works



## Moving on

You must leave the area of the site in the same condition as when you arrived.

You must place all litter or rubbish in bags/bins provided (evidence of fly tipping will be used for consideration of separate legal action).

Please notify Sunderland City Council on 0191 520 5551 of your departure.

### **Sunderland City Council - enforcement powers explained**

Depending on the circumstances of the unauthorised encampment, the council will use one of the following powers/procedures:

- Part 55 Civil Procedure Rules - the Council (as Landowner) will apply to the County Court for a possession order which will be enforced by eviction overseen by either County Court Bailiffs or High Court Bailiffs
- Section 77 Criminal Justice & Public Order Act 1994 - the Council will issue a direction to leave and any person who fails to comply commits a criminal offence
- Section 78 Criminal Justice & Public Order Act 1994 - the Council may issue a summons for breach of Section 77 (above) and obtain an Order from the Magistrates Court authorising the Council to effect eviction within 24 hours.

The council will apply the most appropriate legal route depending on the specific circumstances of the case.

# Moving on - useful contacts

## **Northumberland Council**

[www.northumberland.gov.uk/Housing/Travellers](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Housing/Travellers)

0345 600 6400

## **North Tyneside Council**

[www.my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/1452/traveller-communities](http://www.my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/1452/traveller-communities)

0191 643 6542

## **South Tyneside Council**

[customerhelp@southtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:customerhelp@southtyneside.gov.uk)

0191 427 7000

## **Newcastle Council**

[www.newcastle.gov.uk](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk)

0191 278 7878

## **Gateshead**

[www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/5933/Gypsies-and-Travellers](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/5933/Gypsies-and-Travellers)

0191 433 3000

## **Durham County Council**

[grtservice@durham.gov.uk](mailto:grtservice@durham.gov.uk)

03000 26 0000

## **Sunderland City Council**

[www.sunderland.gov.uk/housing](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/housing)

0191 520 5551



## Support available

- Friends, Families and Travellers – [www.gypsy-traveller.org](http://www.gypsy-traveller.org)
- The Traveller Movement – [www.travellermovement.org.uk](http://www.travellermovement.org.uk)
- Leeds Gypsy and Traveller Exchange, Leeds GATE – [www.leedsgate.co.uk](http://www.leedsgate.co.uk)
- Gate Herts – [www.gateherts.org.uk](http://www.gateherts.org.uk)
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Police Association – [www.grtpa.co.uk](http://www.grtpa.co.uk)





