

## Our team



- ❖ **Suzanne Munday**  
Suzanne is the Gypsy/Traveller Programme Lead  
07957 652 413  
suzanne@mecopp.org.uk
- ❖ **George Perry**  
George is the Accommodation and Housing Rights Worker  
07931 555 390  
george@mecopp.org.uk
- ❖ **Charise Barclay-Daly**  
Charise is the Community Health Team Manager  
07852 303 941  
charise@mecopp.org.uk
- ❖ **Tommy Bennett**  
Tommy is the Men Aloud Participation and Engagement Worker  
07852 303 925  
tommy@mecopp.org.uk
- ❖ **Mhairi Craig**  
Mhairi is the Edinburgh/Lothians and Perth & Kinross Development Worker  
07906 365 883  
mhairi@mecopp.org.uk
- ❖ **Shirell Johnson**  
Shirell is the Women's Voices Development Worker  
07931 555 417  
shirell@mecopp.org.uk
- ❖ **Sally Griffin**  
Sally is the National Information & Development Officer  
07930 086 780  
sally@mecopp.org.uk
- ❖ **Gil Gillies**  
Gil is the Community Rights Worker  
07931 555 422  
gil@mecopp.org.uk
- ❖ **Ali Martin**  
Ali is the Argyll & Bute (Remote & Rural) Development Worker  
07398 830 408  
ali@mecopp.org.uk

More information on MECOPP and the Gypsy/Traveller Carer Support Service can be found at [www.mecopp.org.uk](http://www.mecopp.org.uk)

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Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
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# MECOPP Gypsy/Traveller Carer Support Service

## Working *with and for* Gypsy/Traveller carers and their families



## Who are we?

MECOPP is an Edinburgh based charity providing a range of supports and services to informal carers and those in receipt of care across Scotland. We work primarily with communities who experience disadvantage due to ethnicity, age, disability or other protected characteristics.



## What is the MECOPP Gypsy/ Traveller Carer Support Service?

The Gypsy/Traveller Carer Support Service works with carers in the Gypsy/Traveller community in Scotland. Working closely with community members, we aim to improve the health and wellbeing of Gypsy/Traveller carers and their families, raise awareness of the barriers faced by the community and support service providers to respond better to their needs. We work with Gypsy/Travellers of any age who live in housing, on sites or on roadside camps. Our Carer Support Team works closely with our Gypsy/Traveller Community Health Team to provide a comprehensive support service.



## What we do

- ❖ We provide **direct support** to carers and their families in Edinburgh and the Lothians, Perth & Kinross and Mid and North Argyll. Our young carer service is available in Edinburgh and the Lothians, Fife and Lanarkshire. We can help with access to health, social care and other services in the community, income maximisation and applying for welfare benefits, specialist advice and support on accommodation and housing related matters, providing advice and information on rights and entitlements, sign-posting to services and practical and emotional support.
- ❖ We deliver **awareness-raising** sessions led by community members to a wide range of service providers. Our sessions are highly interactive and aim to raise awareness of issues facing Gypsy/Travellers, dispelling myths about the community and encouraging culturally competent practice.
- ❖ We produce a range of **publications** including our own newspaper – **The Barrie News** – to raise awareness within the wider community and support community relations.
- ❖ We **advise on, and develop policy**, at both local and national Government level. We hold the Secretariat for the Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Gypsy/Travellers.
- ❖ We use the **Creative Arts** to raise awareness of issues, to challenge negative stereotyping and to improve the health and wellbeing of the community. Our work is wide-ranging from film and photography, to dramas, creative writing and arts and crafts. Our work is regularly exhibited in venues across Scotland, including our renowned *Moving Minds* exhibition.
- ❖ We bring Gypsy/Traveller women from across Scotland together through our **Women's Voices** participation work to have their voices heard both locally and nationally. Our focus is to support personal and community development in civil and civic life.
- ❖ We support Gypsy/Traveller men to engage with policy makers on issues that are important to them through our **'Men Aloud'** participation work.

**Everything we do is led by community members**