

# LIMERICK TRAVELLER NETWORK

Strategic Plan 2026 - 2030

## → Why This Matters

The Limerick Traveller Network (LTN) is a community-led network of Traveller representatives across Limerick. Founded in 2019, it was built by Travellers, for Travellers, to ensure our voices are heard. Our community faces daily discrimination and barriers in health, housing, education and youth opportunities. Mental health remains a crisis issue. This plan sets out our vision for dignity, equality and opportunity over the next five years.

## → Our Vision

A future where Traveller voices are heard in every decision that affects us; where Travellers enjoy equal opportunities in education, health, employment and accommodation; and where Traveller culture is respected and celebrated in Limerick.

### Our 5 Priorities (2026–2030)

#### 1 Mental Health

- Bring supports into Traveller communities
- Suicide prevention and crisis response
- Reduce stigma and build resilience

#### 2 Education

- Afterschool hubs, mentoring and attendance support
- Schools that understand and respect Traveller culture and families
- Alternative pathways, adult and early years education

#### 3 Youth

- Establish Traveller Youth Clubs and safe youth spaces
- Support youth to stay in education, training and work
- Give Traveller youth a voice and leadership opportunities

#### 4 Accomodation

- Hold the Council accountable to deliver Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP)
- Support families with housing rights and emergencies
- Improve conditions on halting sites and group schemes

#### 5 Discrimination

- Public awareness and anti-bullying campaigns
- Anti-discrimination training for schools, Gardaí, health and council services
- Support Traveller participation in politics and community leadership

## → Timeline for Change

**Early Wins (2026):** Homework Club, Youth Club pilot, first Mental Health drop-ins, first Accommodation Scorecard, "Know Us" anti-discrimination campaign.

**Scale Up (2027–2028):** Expanded youth and afterschool programmes, funded Mental Health Peer Support Worker(s), stronger accommodation lobbying, cultural inclusion in schools and events

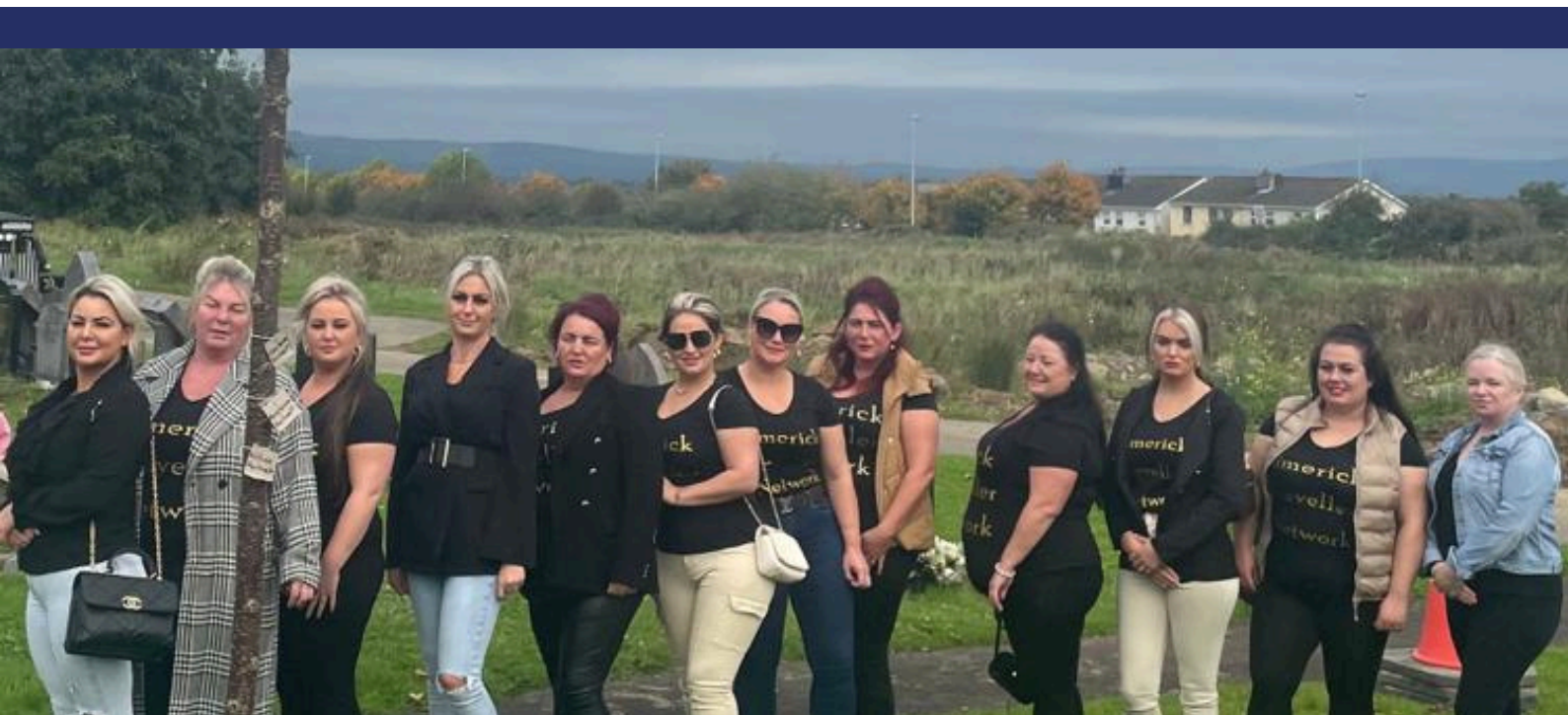
**Sustain (2030+):** More Traveller children completing education, better site conditions, thriving youth council, reduced stigma, stronger Traveller representation in Limerick.

## → How we will deliver?

- Hold the Council accountable to deliver Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP)
- Support families with housing rights and emergencies
- Improve conditions on halting sites and group schemes

## → Our Commitment

This plan is more than a document. It is a roadmap for change. Together, with Travellers leading and allies supporting, we will build a stronger, more equal future for our community in Limerick.





# Strand 1: Mental Health

## → Why This Matters

Traveller families in Limerick face a mental health crisis, with suicide rates far higher than the general population. Daily discrimination, poor housing, poverty and trauma all contribute to poor mental health. Many feel shame about seeking help and find services unwelcoming. The community has been clear: mental health is our number one priority.

## → Our Goal (2026 – 2030)

Improve mental health outcomes for Travellers in Limerick by increasing access to culturally appropriate supports, reducing stigma, and strengthening community resilience to prevent suicide and distress.

## → Key Actions

### Priority 1: Bring mental health supports into the community

- Appoint a Traveller Mental Health Peer Support Worker.
- Run monthly “Mental Health Monday” drop-in sessions in local areas.
- Partner with counselling services to ensure culturally appropriate support.

### Priority 2: Suicide prevention and crisis response

- Create community “Safe Spaces” and bereavement support groups.
- Train at least 20 Traveller men and women in suicide prevention.
- Develop a simple Community Crisis Response Protocol with services.

### Priority 3: Reduce stigma and build resilience

- Take part in Traveller Mental Health Awareness Week with community events.
- Establish Traveller Men’s and Women’s Wellbeing Groups.
- Deliver resilience programmes for Traveller youth with local youth services.

## → Timeline

- **Early Wins (2026):** Launch monthly drop-ins; run first awareness events; train peer support volunteers.
- **Scale Up (2027–2028):** Secure funding for Peer Support Worker; deliver suicide prevention training on all Traveller sites; set up bereavement support group.
- **Sustain (2030+):** More Travellers accessing counselling; stigma reduced; mental health supports embedded in youth and community programmes.



### → Why This Matters

Traveller children often face discrimination and low expectations in schools. Many leave school early, which limits their opportunities later in life. Parents want better support so their children can succeed. Education is key to equality and future opportunities.

### → Our Goal (2026 – 2030)

More Traveller children will complete secondary education. Schools in Limerick will respect Traveller culture and support Traveller families.

### → Key Actions

#### Priority 1: Keep Traveller children in school

- Homework and Afterschool Hub for Traveller children.
- Mentoring programme – older Traveller students support younger ones.
- Early action with schools if attendance drops.

#### Priority 2: Make schools inclusive and fair

- Traveller culture included in the school curriculum.
- Anti-bias training for teachers and principals.
- Traveller Parent Liaisons to help families engage with schools.

#### Priority 3: Create other pathways to learning

- Promote Youthreach, apprenticeships and training opportunities.
- Adult education and family learning in Traveller communities.
- Support Traveller children in early years education.

### → Timeline

- **Early Wins (2026):** Start Homework Club and mentoring programme; recruit Traveller Parent Liaisons.
- **Scale Up (2027–2028):** Deliver teacher training in more schools; expand afterschool support; hold annual Traveller education showcase.
- **Sustain (2030+):** More Traveller children finishing Junior/Leaving Cert; at least 20 Traveller adults complete QQI courses.



## → Why This Matters

Traveller youth often have no clubs, safe spaces or mentors. Many leave school early, with nothing to do, and risk poor mental health or negative influences. Youth supports are vital for building confidence, cultural pride and leadership.

## → Our Goal (2026 – 2030)

Traveller children and teens will have youth clubs, safe spaces, mentors and real opportunities to learn skills, find jobs and become leaders.

## → Key Actions

### Priority 1: Create Traveller-friendly youth programmes

- Weekly Traveller Youth Club with sports, arts and trips.
- Secure safe youth spaces and transport for participation.
- Celebrate Traveller culture through youth arts projects.

### Priority 2: Keep youth in education, training or work

- Mentorship “Buddy System” for school transitions.
- Traveller Youth Internship/apprenticeship scheme.
- Outreach worker to engage young Travellers out of school.

### Priority 3: Give Traveller youth a voice

- Anti-bias training for youth services.
- Establish Traveller Youth Council and link to Comhairle na nÓg.
- Engage young Traveller men through sports programmes.

## → Timeline

- **Early Wins (2026):** Pilot Traveller Youth Club; start buddy mentoring; youth outreach begins.
- **Scale Up (2027–2028):** Establish Youth Hub; grow youth club to 30+ regular participants; launch internship scheme.
- **Sustain (2030+):** Active Traveller Youth Council; Traveller youth engaged in leadership and community roles.



## → Why This Matters

Many Traveller families in Limerick live in poor, overcrowded or unsafe housing. This affects health, education and dignity. Promises to improve halting sites and housing have often not been delivered. Safe homes are a human right.

## → Our Goal (2026 – 2030)

Traveller families in Limerick will have safe, secure and culturally appropriate homes.

## → Key Actions

### Priority 1: Hold the Council to account

- Monitor Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) delivery.
- Publish annual “Traveller Accommodation Scorecard”.
- Strong Traveller representation on local accommodation committees.

### Priority 2: Support families in the housing system

- Monthly Housing Advocacy Clinics to help with forms and rights.
- Emergency response so Traveller families aren't split up when homeless.
- Support for families in private rental facing discrimination.

### Priority 3: Improve conditions on existing sites

- Carry out site audits and push for repairs and safety.
- Organise community clean-ups and minor works.
- Campaign against overcrowding and lobby for more units.

## → Timeline

- **Early Wins (2026):** Publish first Accommodation Scorecard; run monthly housing clinic; carry out site audit.
- **Scale Up (2027–2028):** Push for delivery of promised TAP projects; run public campaign “A Place to Call Home”; secure site upgrades.
- **Sustain (2030+):** All Traveller sites meet basic safety standards; overcrowding reduced.



# 5

## Strand 5: Discrimination

### → Why This Matters

Travellers in Limerick experience daily discrimination in shops, schools, jobs and housing. This harms self-esteem, limits opportunities and fuels poor mental health. Tackling discrimination is essential for equality.

### → Our Goal (2026 – 2030)

Travellers in Limerick will feel safe, proud of their identity and treated fairly in all areas of life.

### → Key Actions

#### Priority 1: Awareness and advocacy

- “Travellers in Limerick – Know Us” visibility campaign.
- Anti-bullying workshops in schools.
- Plain-language “Know Your Rights” sessions for Travellers.

#### Priority 2: Tackle institutional discrimination

- Anti-discrimination training for Gardaí, schools, health and council staff.
- Monitor local policies to ensure they don’t exclude Travellers.
- Advocate for Traveller needs in local plans and strategies.

#### Priority 3: Increase Traveller voice in public life

- Support Traveller voter registration and candidacy in elections.
- Promote Traveller culture at festivals and city events.
- Dialogue series between Travellers and the settled community.

### → Timeline

- **Early Wins (2026):** Launch “Know Us” campaign; run first Know Your Rights workshops; deliver anti-bullying workshops in schools.
- **Scale Up (2027–2028):** Deliver anti-discrimination training to key services; ensure Traveller culture included in major Limerick events.
- **Sustain (2030):** More Travellers visible in leadership roles; reduced reports of discrimination; stronger Traveller pride.



