

Keeping the communities and agencies of Sligo in touch with the work of the Sligo Traveller Support Group

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NEWSLETTER ISSUE 12, FEBRUARY 2011

STSG'S YOUTH WORKER, KELLEY, MARRIES

Happy New Year to each and everyone. Welcome to our first issue of STSG's Newsletter for 2011.

Within this issue, there is lots of information about health, education and related issues. Men's health is a key priority for this year (see page 2).

We also celebrated Kelley's wedding - a great day.

We will miss her. Thanks for all the hard work, Kelley. Bernadette Maughan, Manager



CONGRATULATIONS KELLEY AND PADDY

Wedding of the year! Kelley and Paddy were married in Colloney's beautiful Church and the décor for the reception room in the White House Hotel in Ballinlough was out of this world. Every bride's dream and Kelley's came true.

Attending their first Traveller wedding Valerie Somers and Marie Corcoran-Tindill were among many work colleagues present. They said "it was a day to be remembered forever. It was a happy, joyous and really welcoming occasion".



Kelley, in her gorgeous after clothes with her glamorous work colleague, Rosie.



The boss, Bernadette, gave Kelley the day off to get married but also gave her the Inter Agency file to go over on honeymoon!! "A Traveller woman's work is never done!", she said.

Pictured here with the bride and groom are STSG staff, Valerie, on the left, and on right Bernadette and Rosie.

HELLO EVERYONE!

**FAMILY VISITS STARTING ON
MONDAY 7TH FEBRUARY.**

We will have upgraded health packs for you. If you have any questions or any referrals to be done, don't hesitate to ask us. We are here to help you. See you soon.
Kathleen and Rosie, PHC Team, Tel 07191 45780

***** STOP SWINE FLU *****

All pregnant women and those up to 6 weeks after having your baby need to see their GP to get the seasonal flu vaccine and advice on swine flu.

REMEMBER !!



**SNEEZE
INTO A
TISSUE →**



**← BIN THE
TISSUE**

**And WASH YOUR
HANDS →**



**VITAMIN "D 3" FOR YOUR
BABIES**

Vitamin D3 prevents rickets and soft bones so is important for your baby to be given this.

Watch out for our new leaflet which will have more information. It is colourful and Traveller friendly.

TRAVELLER MEN'S HEALTH

Manager Bernadette Maughan said a key priority for STSG this year is Traveller Men's health, due to the startling findings of the 'All Ireland Traveller Health Study (Our Geels).

The study showed that Traveller men in 1987 were living 10 years less than their peers in the majority population.

The current statistics are more stark. They now show that Traveller men are living 15 years less than their peers in the majority population. For further information contact Martin Mongan at STSG.



**ATTENTION
ALL TRAVEL-
LER MEN!**

**IS IT TIME FOR
YOUR NCT? -
YOUR ANNUAL
HEALTH
CHECK?**

**Contact your
GP to
make an
appointment**

If you want to know more about Healthcare for men, we have copies of this Manual at the office.

Contact Martin Mongan or Kathleen Stokes on the PHC team at STSG for a copy.

**MEN, IF YOU WANT TO
KEEP SMILING,
READ THE MANUAL!**

SPRING SKINCARE ALERT



LOOK OUT GIRLS.... have we got a leaflet for you?!

The sun is on its way and we want our new 'skincare' leaflet to get to you first.

Just like you protect your skin with sun-block, you can protect your skin also by not using sunbeds.

There is lots of advice in this leaflet on how to look good without using sunbeds and photos of beautiful girls to prove it.

YOU DON'T NEED TO USE A SUNBED TO BE BEAUTIFUL!

For free and confidential help around domestic violence, contact:

DVAS (Domestic Violence Advocacy Service) - Sligo, Leitrim, West Cavan -
Tel: 071 9141515. Monday-Friday 10.00am—5.00pm

Or contact your Community Health Worker here at STSG Tel 071 9145780

BACK TO EDUCATION INITIATIVE (BTEI) PROGRAMME

12 women have continued their education through the BTEI. They completed Level 3 last year and are now studying towards a Major Award in Level 4.

Tutors Sue Hegarty and Aoife Oates said *"it is great to see that everyone is working really well to keep up the standards."*

Well done to the women!

The Primary Health Care Team members Kathleen Stokes and Rosie Maughan are also doing further training in "Health Care Support" Level 4. It is a course of study over 14 weeks and will strengthen their skills.

Kathleen says *"we can never have enough of learning. It keeps us motivated and helps us in our work"*.



USE YOUR VOICE ON POLLING DAY VISITING TEACHER AND RESOURCE TEACHER FOR TRAVELLERS POSTS MUST BE RETAINED

Urgent: Tell your local politicians that keeping this post is crucial for Traveller families.

It is a major support in keeping our children in education, and ensuring they do not fall behind in homework and in literacy levels—essential for future employment possibilities..

Gabrielle McSharry is our local Sligo Visiting Teacher. She supports children in primary and secondary school to stay on and complete their Junior and Leaving Certificates. Before these posts were put in place, Traveller children were missing a lot of school due to low uptake of support from Resource Teachers. Now a high percentage of children are attending secondary school to Junior Certificate level and some going on to Leaving Certificate.

STSG Worker, Rosie Maughan, says *"If we lose our Visiting Teacher now I fear that the education of Travellers will drop again and our children will miss out."*

