

# Pavee Pathways

Good Practice Guidelines  
for drug & alcohol services  
working with Travellers



## NATIONAL DRUGS CONFERENCE OF IRELAND

3<sup>RD</sup> NOV 2011

# Why?

‘Drug abuse was identified as a growing health threat among male Travellers’ –

All Ireland Traveller Health Study, 2010



Perceptions of service providers & non-drug using members of the Traveller community



'Drug use among Travellers highlighted'

**'Man killed in drug row with Travellers'.**

**Travellers' feud sparks horse 'riot'**

**Travellers a risk group says study**

'Lifestyle change led to Travellers' drug abuse crisis'

Traveller community

**1.2%**

Non-Traveller community

**0.4%**

Figures taken from: CSO & NDTRS 2010

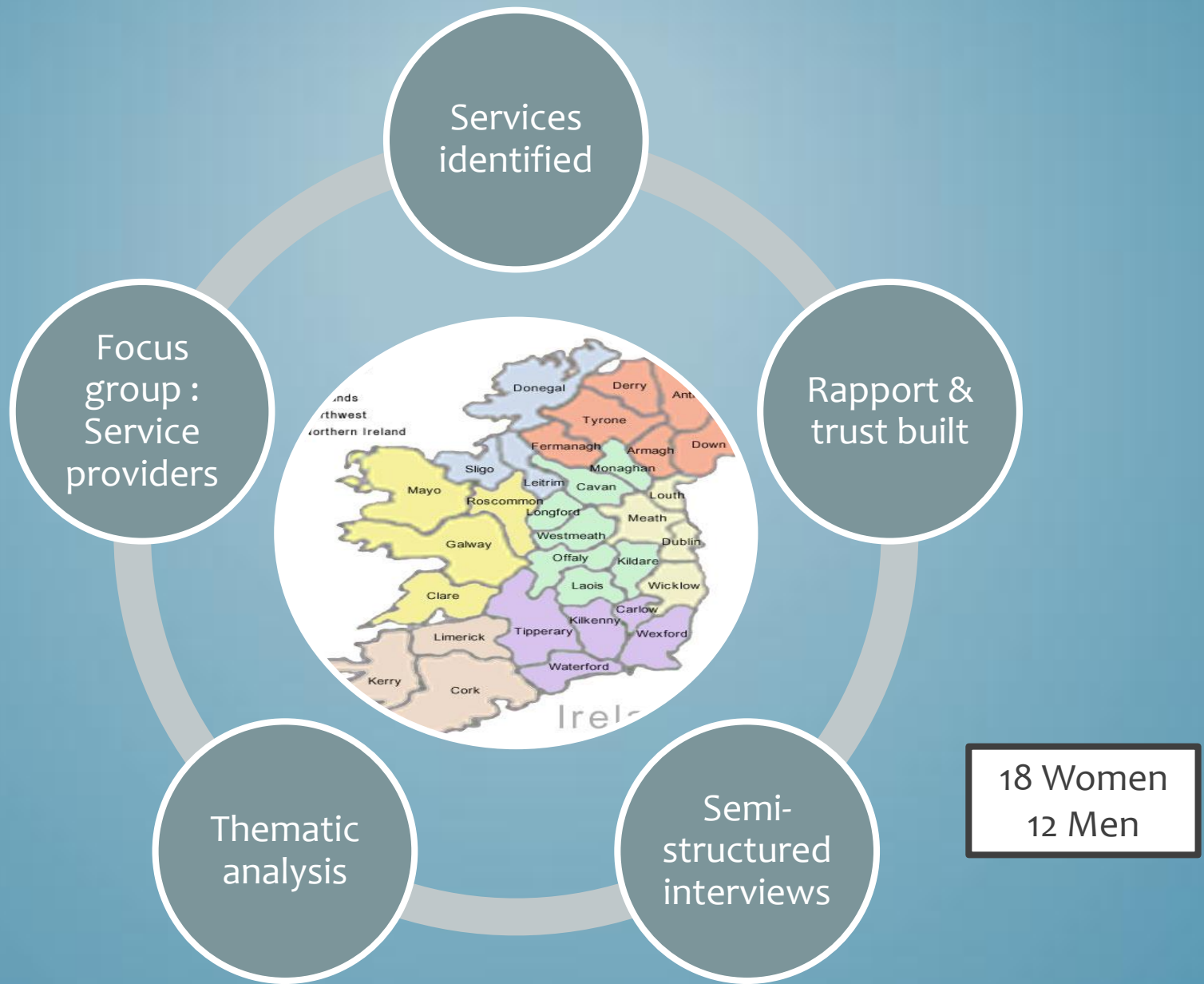


# Research aim

*To explore Travellers' experiences of engaging in drug & alcohol support services across Ireland*

Highlight what Travellers feel works for them – **in their own words**





# What was confirmed?



- ✓ *Lack of awareness of services available & how to use them*
- ✓ *Literacy difficulties are a barrier to engagement*
- ✓ *Word of mouth is main source of information*
- ✓ *Stigma and shame still impact on willingness to engage in support services*

# Traveller Women



- One third reported heroin as their first substance used
- Majority of cases, initiation to heroin was by husbands or partners
- Would not attend a service alone for the first time
- Have difficulties trusting new people



# Key-working & care planning

- *Almost all had a key worker*
- *22 of the 30 felt key-working was the best approach for them*
- *Nearly two thirds did not know of the existence or function of their care plan*
- *Nearly half were uncomfortable asking for help*
- *24 felt that development of pathways out of addiction were of benefit to them*



# Cultural influence on addiction

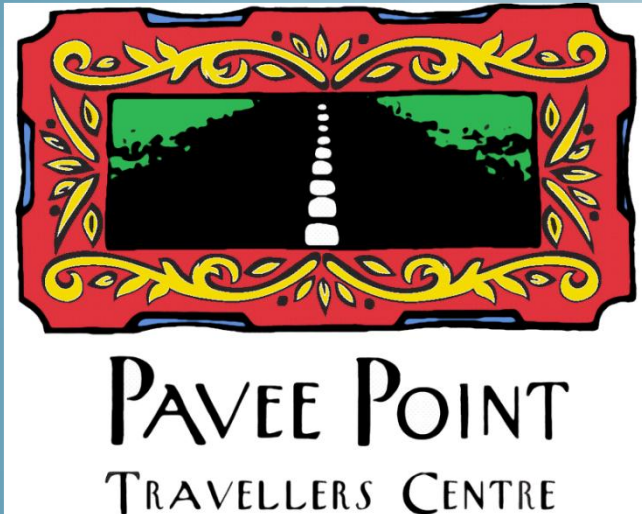


- Family can be a vital source of support
- Nearly half said they felt shame for being a drug using member of the Traveller community
- Just less than half were not currently in contact with their family
- 16 of 30 believed family support was essential to achieve a drug free lifestyle
- Almost half had attempted a home detox off heroin

# **Pavee Point implementation plan**

- 1) *Support establishment of Regional Peer Support Network (pilot underway)*
- 2) *Develop a drug worker support pack that organisations can use in induction and training (Feb 2012) includes tools to assist in engaging Travellers and their families*
- 3) *Provide Cultural Competency Training (2012)*
- 4) *Dissemination of already existing diversity posters*

# Next steps



- To see full guidelines and DVD go to [www.paveepoint.ie](http://www.paveepoint.ie)
- To register for training or to contact a Traveller Peer Support Worker contact a member of the drug team on  
01 878 0255