**Gypsy and Traveller Rights**

National and European Courts have required Local Authorities to give proper regard to the health and welfare of Travellers and their children.

The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 requires Public Authorities to have regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote equality of opportunity and good relations between different racial groups. This includes Gypsies and Irish Travellers.

The Human Rights Act 1998 reinforces the need for Local Authorities to take account of the circumstances of each and every Gypsy and Traveller group and consider ‘needs of common humanity’

Bedford Borough Council, in conjunction with other agencies supports a **Tell Us** initiative on Racial Harassment and also employs an Equalities & Diversity Officer who is concerned with all issues of discrimination.

Bedford Borough Council has had a long-standing commitment to equality and diversity. This is evidenced in its Race Equality Schemes 2002-05 and 2005-08, its Equality and Diversity Policy Statement, its Disability Equality Scheme and its Gender Equality Scheme.

For more information on Equality & Diversity, see ‘A to Z of Services’ and click on ‘E’

**Bedfordshire Hate Crimes Partnership:**

Bedford Borough Council is a member of the Bedfordshire Hate Crimes Partnership, which is a multi-agency partnership set up to address hate crime in the county. For more information, contact Sally Flint, Community Safety Manager, Bedford Borough Council on 01234 221881 ext 2881.

G&T rights Jan 2008.doc