



CASE STUDY: Glendale and Glenshamrock

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Glendale is a large housing estate on the periphery of a major city and has a population of some 20,000 people. It has Social Inclusion Partnership status due to the significant levels of deprivation and poverty and has had major resources pumped in over a number of years to improve the serious housing and economic problems it has experienced.

The estate is made up of a number of distinct geographical areas set around a central shopping mall where most of the local services are located. Serious territorial issues exist between young people in some of these areas, which can limit their movements and cause sporadic outbreaks of gang violence.

The area has a number of youth clubs provided by Community Education although young people in the Glenshamrock area have to travel to the club in the adjoining area, which can result in territorial rivalry. Glenshamrock primary school houses several community projects, including the safety project, which is chaired by the local councillor, and is the meeting place for the community council which is active locally.

Recently the community council has been concerned about young people hanging about causing trouble, fighting, and burning out cars (allegedly). The police have been active in moving young people on and stopping and searching them for drugs or weapons. The young people themselves complain of police harassment. Social work has a group work project in Glendale, which buses young people to their central location.

Social workers are concerned about a group of young women in the 12+ age range who seem to be hanging around drinking with an older group of boys.

There are a range of other projects and organisations in the area including a Youth Strategy Group, which is made up of key service managers. Following a youth survey they are keen to involve young people in the work of the YSG.