

Glentoran Social Partnership



140 YEARS
OF SERVICE TO COMMUNITY



IMPACT REPORT



Glentoran Social Partnership



Glentoran Football Club has always had a focus on supporting the local community however in recent years we have increased this activity by establishing an official charity, the Glentoran Social Partnership. Through this we have built relationships with many stakeholders and in particular alongside the Rio Ferdinand Foundation. This report seeks to highlight this work and demonstrate that this is more than a football club but a hub of community activity.

In terms of social impact, the work carried out represents £2.9m of social value to the community, showing the power that football and sport in general can generate. We hope that the NI Football Fund will provide the opportunity for further engagement and build on the work we have carried out to date and provide the facilities which will enable the club to be open and operate every day for the local community of East Belfast. We would like to put on record our thanks to the local politicians and councillors for all their support.

I hope you enjoy reading this report and please get in touch if you would like to volunteer to help us in any of our activities.

Colin Jess
Chairman
Glentoran Social Partnership

Glentoran Social Partnership



Rio Ferdinand said: *"The collaboration between the Glentoran Social Partnership and the Rio Ferdinand Foundation is a key partnership for us in Northern Ireland and we're building a platform that will continue to grow, break barriers and transform lives."*

"Seeing an estimated £2.9 million in social value created by Glentoran Social Partnership through football shows the incredible impact that sport can have when it's rooted in community, opportunity and ambition."

"Our goal is to create opportunities, inspire the next generation, and use football as a catalyst for lasting positive change. I'm proud that my Foundation is working with the Glentoran Social Partnership in delivering real pathways for young people."



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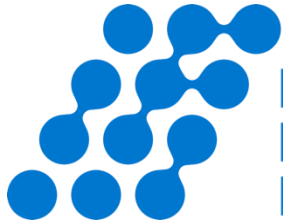
Young people become socially mobile, empowered to be independent, take control of their lives and achieve their full potential.



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Key Funders and Partners

Northern Ireland & Ireland



International
Fund for
Ireland



UEFA



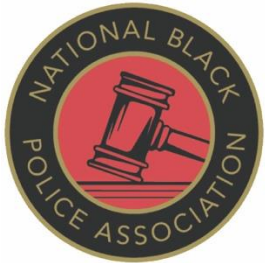
for children

BLAVATNIK



WARNER
MUSIC
GROUP

INTO
THE MUSIC
INDUSTRY



CONNECTING
COMMUNITIES



Partners



connswater
Homes with heart

choice
Together we enrich lives



Ulster Wildlife



Nextdoor Nature



FOUR STAR PIZZA

**connswater
community
& leisure**



Ledley
Boys and Girls Club



RNIB
Northern
Ireland
See differently



**The elee
Community
Foundation**
Northern Ireland





Project's Partnerships:

- **Partnerships** are key with the development of all project as we recognise **peacebuilding** and **youth development** requires a **joined up** and **long-term** approach.
- Policing & Housing Associations rooted in the community on cross border basis
- Football Clubs – Glentoran, Sligo Rovers, Drogheda United, Ballymena United & many grass roots clubs
- **Translates at a local level** – PSNI and Garda officers engage with young people, housing officer support, club outreach workers & community volunteers.
- We also work with many Youth Groups, Charities , Football Clubs & Education Authorities.

CONNECTING
COMMUNITIES

Our Approach:



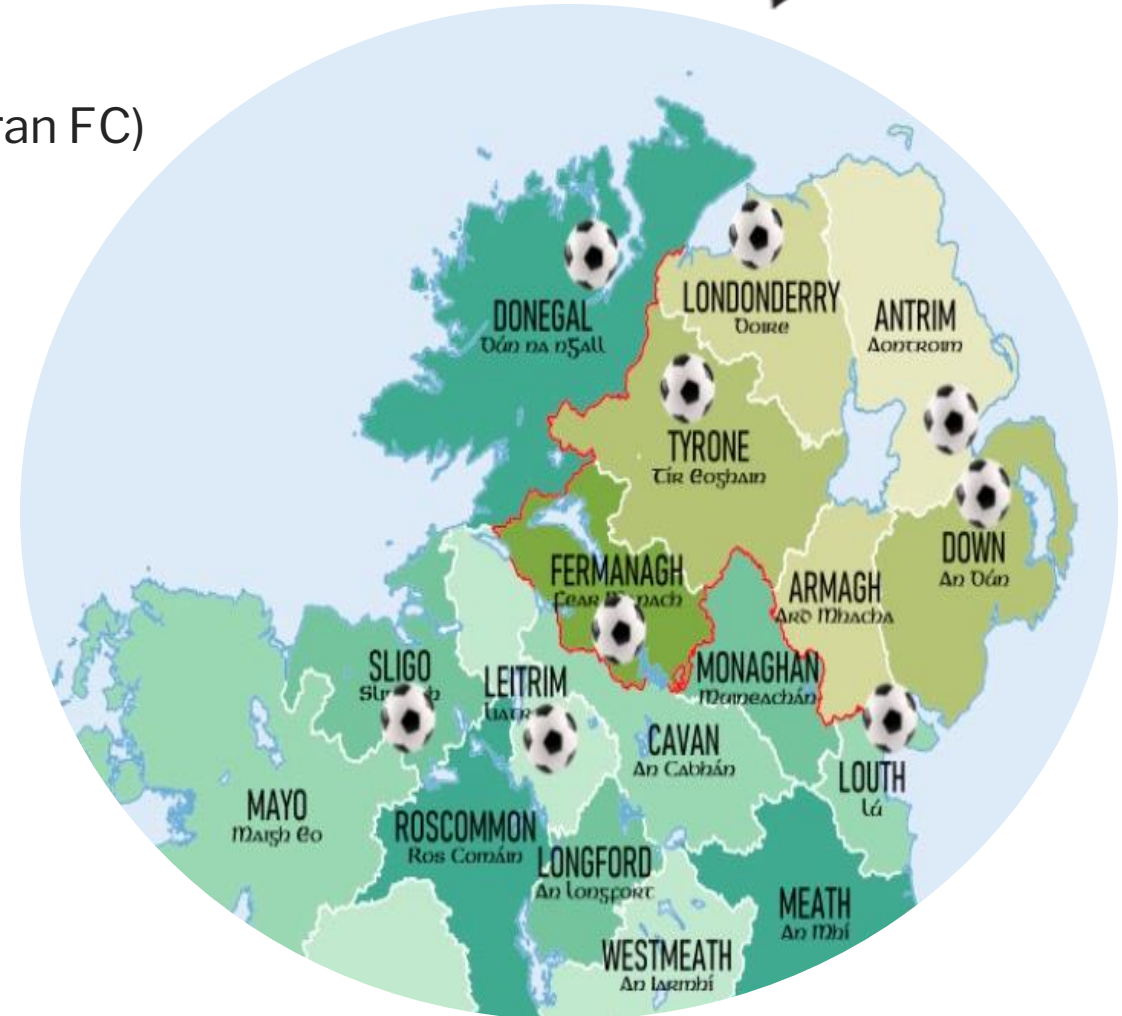
- Recognizing that football, sport, music, art, fashion, digital tech, gardening acts as a **pathway** for personal development and relationship building.
- **'neutral'** brand across **communities** and **borders**
- We provide personal development and accredited training to improve **confidence** and **leadership** in a peacebuilding context.
- **Cross border and cross community** opportunities to build relationships and understanding
- Interactive consultations to address youth issues on division, social action, hate crime.
- **Youth Advisory Group & Youth led projects** engaging with stakeholders & partners to define strategy and influence future policy.
- Recognition of women's role and women's projects.

EMPOWERING
EQUALITY



Our Reach:

- Belfast –East, West, North & South Belfast (Glentoran FC)
- Omagh
- Enniskillen
- Derry/Londonderry
- Donegal
- Leitrim
- Sligo City (Sligo Rovers)
- Louth (Drogheda United)
- Ballymena (Ballymena United)
- Dungannon





140 YEARS
OF SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

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Glentoran's full-time Football Scholarship and Education Programme

Partnership

Ashfield Boys' High School

Ashfield Girls' High School

The Programme, now in its fourth year

Expanded from 12 Scholars to almost 70 Scholars in the current cohort, which includes 18 girl Scholars.

Students study BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport (equivalent to 3 A Levels).

The principal of Ashfield, Mr. Duffield, is delighted to report that the three-year average for Scholars achieving 3 A*-C grades currently stands at 93.3%, which is significantly above the Northern Ireland average



GLENTORAN & ASHFIELD ACADEMY

Glentoran's full-time Football Scholarship and Education Programme

Partnership

Ashfield Boys' High School

Ashfield Girls' High School



Scholars have gone on to study a range of subjects at university, including Engineering, Business, Sport Science, and Creative Media. Some have received scholarships to study and play football in the USA. Several of the current NIFL Championship teams and some Premiership teams have many of our Scholars in their squads.



- Aaron Wightman - current Glentoran Men's 1st Team
- Callan Farley - current Glentoran Men's 1st Team (on loan at Warrenpoint Town FC)
- Lorcan Donnelly - current Glentoran Men's 1st Team (on loan at Newry AFC)
- Jude Johnson - current Glentoran Men's 1st Team
- Casey Smyth - current Glentoran Men's 1st Team (on loan at Newry AFC)
- Leon Tierney - current full-time Senior Analyst for Glentoran Men's 1st Team
- Michael Leahey - current part-time videographer and analyst with Glentoran Men's 1st Team

Partnerships
International Fund for Ireland
Rio Ferdinand Foundation
Glentoran Social Partnership
PSNI (Strandtown)
Choice housing



Beyond the Ball



Peacebuilding, Youth Leadership and Personal Progressions Project 23-25



Day Trips



46 football sessions at Avoniel 8-10pm



Cross Border Football Tournaments



Workshops



Accreditations



East - West Exchange



Woman's Empowerment workshops

Glentoran's Meals Drive & Christmas and Homeless Appeal

Total **2003** Meals delivered to the local community.

January - 264 Meals & 62 Hampers

February - 282 Meals

March - 358 Meals

April - 114 Meals

June - 234 Meals

August - 116 Meals

September - 264 Meals

October - 187 Meals

December - 184 Meals

18k Toys – 274 Children + 5 Community Groups

Feeding Station provided 85 Hot Meals & 60 Survival Packs

Christmas Dinners to 64 Pensioners -

Christmas Party Food & Gifts for 46 Children

514 Food Hampers

30 Gifts – Stella Maris



Glentoran Inclusion Team Christmas Party

A Christmas Party for Children with Additional Needs through Glentoran Inclusion & Academy with Hot Meals & Gifts

- Partnerships
- Glentoran Christmas and Homeless appeal
 - Glentoran Inclusion Team's
 - Rio Ferdinand Foundation
 - Glentoran Social Partnership

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Partnerships
Connswater Homes
Youth Initiatives East Belfast
St Christophers Church
Rio Ferdinand Foundation
Glentoran Social Partnership

Glentoran Merry Across the Mersey

Community Christmas Party for 100+ Local Children & Families



PLEASE JOIN US AT
THE ANNUAL

MERRY ACROSS THE MERSEY

MERSEY STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL
FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER
5PM-7PM

There will be music, games, face painting, arts
and crafts, refreshments and a very special
visit from SANTA!

All activities and food are completely free.

EVENT ORGANISED BY CONNSWATER, SUPPORTED BY ST CHRISTOPHERS YOUTH
INITIATIVES, PARKGATE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION AND GLENTORAN IN THE COMMUNITY



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Glentoran Social Partnership Christmas event with Connswater Community Centre

A Christmas Party with Hot Meal & Gifts for 46 local Children & Families



Partnerships
Connswater Community Centre
Rio Ferdinand Foundation
Glentoran Social Partnership
Glentoran Christmas & Homeless appeal





Glentoran Christmas & Homeless appeal food shelter 60 Homeless Survival Packs & A Homeless Feeding Station providing 85 Hot Meals in partnership with Haven



- Partnerships
- Haven
- Glentoran Social Partnership
- Glentoran Inclusion team members
- Glentoran Christmas and homeless appeal
- Rio Ferdinand Foundation



Partnerships

Stella Maris

Glentoran Social Partnership

Glentoran Christmas and homeless appeal

Rio Ferdinand Foundation

Glentoran First Team

Glentoran First Team Visit Stella Maris Shelter

30 Gifts provided for tenants and Staff
plus donation of plasma TV



140 YEARS
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Partnerships
Glentoran Social Partnership
Glentoran Christmas and homeless appeal
Rio Ferdinand Foundation
Glentoran First Team
Glentoran Inclusion Team's
Volunteers
Cash For Kids
Walkway Community Centre
Team Dot
Robyn's Sweets Boutique
Westbourne Glentoran supporters club
Connswater Community Centre

Glentoran Christmas & Homeless appeal



514 Food Hampers to local Low-income Children & Families

£18,000 worth of new Toys to 274 Children + 5 Community Groups with support from Cash For Kids

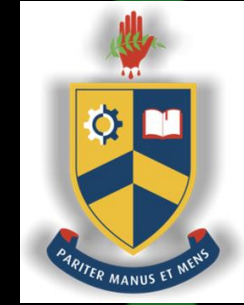
A Christmas Dinner for **64** pensioners



GLENTORAN ACADEMY FOOTBALL CAMP



Open to players both inside and outside Glentoran, the two-day Academy skills camp kicked off at Ashfield. Coaches guided the next generation in skills-based activities and live match scenarios under the watchful eye of the First Team Manager and striker David Fisher



Partnerships
Choice Housing
Glentoran Social Partnership
Rio Ferdinand Foundation



Somalian Soccer Sessions

28 weekly football sessions & training
Ethnic Minority Cup Final Somalian vs Nigeria



Partnerships
Connswater Community Centre
Choice Housing
Glentoran Social Partnership
Rio Ferdinand Foundation

Glentoran Pop In & Play community session

Sponsored by Four Star Pizza

57 weekly football sessions since Jan 24





Glentoran Social Partnership win the East Side Award for Community Impact



Partnerships
 Connswater Homes
 Ulster Wildlife
 RNIB
 Glentoran Social Partnership
 Rio Ferdinand Foundation



Hello Neighbour & Nature

Funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund



14 weekly gardening and nature education sessions






140 YEARS OF SERVICE Hello Neighbour & Nature

The 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each Month
 10.30 - 12pm
 Mersey Street Primary School, 76 Mersey Street

Connect with your neighbour and nature. Join us for a free morning of coffee & cake with social crafts, workshops, gardening & nature education.

Register by contacting
 02896225763
 Or drop in










Partnerships

International Fund for Ireland
Glentoran Academy
Glentoran Social Partnership
Rio Ferdinand Foundation



Cross Border Match In Ballinamallard



International
Fund for
Ireland

Glentoran Academy players took part the Beyond the Ball Cross Border Match with focus on good relations and peace building



Partnerships
Youth Initiatives East Belfast
5th Element NI Charity
CODO Art
Track One Art
Glentoran Social Partnership
Rio Ferdinand Foundation
Sponsored by Four Star Pizza

Youth Initiatives Art & Mental Health Workshops

Funded by National Lottery



8 Workshops in Art & Mental Health and final exhibition



Partnerships
International Fund for Ireland
Sligo Rovers FC
Glentoran Inclusion Team's
Glentoran Social Partnership
Rio Ferdinand Foundation
Many More Partners from NI & Ire



Glentoran Inclusion team's trip to Sligo Rovers

Funded by International Fund for Ireland

Beyond the Ball Celebration Tournament with focus on cross border relations and peace building
Over 50 young people & families from Glentoran inclusion team in attendance





Glentoran Inclusion Team's trip to Dublin Lourdes Celtic FC

Funded by Choice Housing

Inclusion Tournament with focus on cross border relations and peace building



Partnerships
Choice Housing
Glentoran Inclusion Team's
Glentoran Social Partnership
Rio Ferdinand Foundation
Lourdes Celtic FC Dublin



Partnerships
Connswater Homes
Glentoran Social Partnership
Rio Ferdinand Foundation
Belfast Swing Dance Group.



Connswater Teatime Soiree

An afternoon of music, dancing and refreshments for local pensioners



Partnerships
Choice Housing
Ashfield Boys High School
Aware NI
Glentoran Social Partnership
Rio Ferdinand Foundation

Aware NI Charity Football Match & Fundraiser

Funded by Choice Housing

Day Match at Ashfield Boys High School



Partnerships
 Connswater Homes
 Youth Initiatives East Belfast
 St Christopher's Church
 Glentoran Social Partnership
 Rio Ferdinand Foundation
 NIS&R
 Ulster Wildlife

Family Fun Day

Hosted at King George pitches outside the Oval



FAMILY FUN DAY

SUNDAY 23 JUNE
1PM - 3PM

ACTIVITIES:

- BBQ
- Slush Puppies
- Face Painting
- Archery
- Football skills

FREE

King George V Playing Fields

Parkgate



Partnerships
Youth Initiatives East Belfast
Glentoran Social Partnership
Rio Ferdinand Foundation
Ulster Wildlife

Youth Initiatives Gardening & Environmental Project

Hosted at Oval Community Garden



Partnerships
Youth Initiatives East Belfast
Glentoran Social Partnership
Rio Ferdinand Foundation
Rushden Academy England (UK)
CODO Art
5th Element Charity

Youth Initiatives Art & Environmental Project

Hosted at Oval Community Garden



Partnerships
Choice Housing
Glentoran Inclusion Team's
Glentoran Social Partnership
Rio Ferdinand Foundation

Glentoran Inclusion Teams football Tournament Dublin

Funded by Choice Housing

Inclusion tournament with focus on cross border relations and peace building



choice
Together we enrich lives

rio **ferdinand**
foundation

Partnerships

Tamhi

International Fund For Ireland

5th Element Charity

Glentoran Social Partnership

Rio Ferdinand Foundation



Music & Mental Health Workshops with T.A.M.H.I

Funded by International Fund For Ireland
World Suicide Prevention Day



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Partnerships
Connswater Homes
Ulster Wildlife
RNIB
Glentoran Social Partnership
Rio Ferdinand Foundation

Ulster Wildlife Project celebration event

Funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund



Community Halloween Party for 100+ Local Children & Families

Partnerships
Connswater Homes
Youth Initiatives East Belfast
St Christophers Church
Rio Ferdinand Foundation
Glentoran Social Partnership



TRICK OR TREAT

HALLOWEEN BASH!

Come join us for a WICKED Halloween party! We have a special visit from Elphaba so be prepared for an evening of tricks, treats and enchanting surprises!

FRI 25 OCT

Old Mersey Street Primary School
78 Mersey Street
6.30pm - 8.00pm

Please note there will be a quiet session 6pm-6.30pm for children with autism and sensory needs.

rio ferdinand foundation Streamlines YOUTH INITIATIVES St Christophers Church connswater
Homes with heart





Rio Ferdinand Foundation – Halloween residential - Beyond the Ball



Five young people who take part in the weekly Wednesday Night football session with the Rio Ferdinand Foundation and Glentoran were selected to take part in a 3-day residential trip in Ballina, Co. Mayo,. They joined young people from Derry/ Londonderry, Omagh, Enniskillen, Leitrim, Sligo & Ballina. These young people completed qualifications in ED&I and consultations with the National Black Policing Association and the Garda. They are now apart of a Cross Boarder Youth Advisory Group



Partners
International Fund For Ireland
Glentoran Social Partnership Rio
Ferdinand Foundation.
Hosted at 5th Element Charity

National Black Policing Association Youth Consultation



15 Young people from Ledley Hall Youth Club and St Malachy's Youth Centre took part in a police survey and studied and discussed, policing, segregation, racism, immigration and hate crime.



Partners
Glentoran Social Partnership
& Football Club
Doyle Youth Centre

International Men's Day.

Dániel Gyollai and Frankie Hvid attended Doyle Youth Club's inspiring 'Is it A Beautiful Game?' and meeting young men.



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Merry Across the Mersey Christmas event



Partnerships
Connswater Homes
Youth Initiatives East Belfast
St Christophers Church
Rio Ferdinand Foundation
Glentoran Social Partnership



Partnerships
Choice Housing
Glentoran Inclusion Team's
Glentoran Social Partnership
Rio Ferdinand Foundation
Celtic Foundation

Glentoran Inclusion team attend Cross Border Football Tournament

Hosted at Sean Dolan's GAA Club Derry/ Londonderry



Funded by Choice

Day Tournament with focus on cross border relations and peace building





Men's Monday Club

The growth of the Men's Shed movement is evidence of the need to consider the wellbeing of men who may be on their own and in need of companionship. Combine this health and wellbeing issue with a volunteer role at the football club and you have Glentoran's Monday Club. This group of men come together every Monday and enjoy each others company, put the world to rights over their tea break. Additionally, when required their services are available for maintenance tasks and they give of their time freely.



Partnership with East Belfast Mission

Providing vital support to those in need.

Collections took place during the club's Sports Direct Premiership fixture against Ballymena United

All proceeds went directly to East Belfast Mission's meal programme. This vital initiative provides hot, nutritious meals to individuals and families who are struggling within East Belfast.

Supporters also donated winter clothing items such as coats, hats and scarves.

These essential items were distributed by the East Belfast Mission to those in need.



David Irvine Foundation donated new kit to Glentoran Inclusion team

The 
Community
Foundation
Northern Ireland

The David Irvine Foundation, established to honour the memory of David Irvine MLA, donated a new kit to the Glentoran Inclusion teams. The Inclusion team provide opportunity to people with disabilities to participate in inclusive recreational sports and social events



Partnerships
Youth Initiatives
Glentoran Social Partnership
5th Element Charity
Rio Ferdinand Foundation
Choice Housing



Community Art & Social Justice project

Hosted at Skianos Centre East Belfast



Soccer Science Event & Tournament

Attended by Glentoran First team Players & Head of Analysis leading a panel discussion about how science and technology is used within sports and highlighting careers pathways within the football industry.



This event was included in the annual NI Science Festival 2025.

SOCCER SCIENCE 14TH FEB 12-4PM
AVONIEL LEISURE CENTRE, BELFAST
PANEL DISCUSSION WITH FOOTBALL PROFESSIONALS FROM
GLENTORAN FOOTBALL CLUB
& 5 ASIDE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

PSYCHOLOGY BIO MECHANICS NUTRITION
PHYSIOLOGY TECHNOLOGY

GLENTORAN FC 140 YEARS

UEFA FOUNDATION for children RFD FERDINAND FOUNDATION NERVE CENTRE CHOICE Together we enrich lives NI SCIENCE FESTIVAL



Thank You



140 YEARS
OF SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

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