

## Case Study: Ashley Dixon

Ashley Dixon is of African Caribbean origin. His estate was home to some local criminals who were known to 'control the ends' (i.e the local area). The atmosphere in the area was also described as volatile by many residents. There was racial tension amongst different groups.

Ashley's parents are hard working folk. His father, Marcus, is the deputy store manager of a designer clothing outlet and his mother, Bethel, is an intensive care nurse. As Ashley grew up into his teens he continued his early attentiveness to academia and was achieving 'Bs' 'As' in most subjects.

Aged 15, during an inter-school football match Ashley took a shot at the opponent's goal. It was two minutes before full time and the teams had three goals each. When he missed his chance to score, Ashley heard a trusted white friend shout '*Ashley, you dumb ass n\*\*\*er, that's we've lost now*'.

It was at this age also that Ashley was held at knife point by a group of white lads, who pressed a knife to his face repeatedly and called him '*a p\*ssy*'. He ran away without being physically harmed but was deeply affected by the incident.

Ashley appeared to change. He stole a chain which had a gun pendant (a *glock* gun) and shortly thereafter chose to go by the name of 'A-Glock'. He started to act differently, reciting violent lyrics and refusing to have a hair cut, saying that he was growing locks. He began arguing with his parents about house rules and these arguments often ended with their pet phrase '*we brought a son into this world and raised a thug*'.

Unbeknown to his parents, A-Glock had become friendly with older lads who would get into fights and would taunt other lads. As a result, he became gripped by anxiety when out alone and had regular dreams that he was turning the key in his front door and was shot in the back. He felt that until he had a gun he was not safe. He had intrusive fantasies of shooting and cutting people but initially he told no one. His behaviour became erratic and his sleep was disturbed. At the end of fourth year with achieving only average grades, A-Glock's parents were very concerned. A worried teacher also referred him to the pastoral care worker. At a meeting between parents and the school they discussed the options.

### Question

What theories and paradigms inform your thoughts about this situation?