

# **Residential Churn and Deprivation: a Typology of Deprived Neighbourhoods**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Residential mobility is widely seen both as a cure and a symptom of area deprivation. We argue that the ‘success’ of government interventions to reverse patterns of decline in deprived neighbourhoods ought to be assessed against the fortunes of the households who live or lived in them, as well as against conditions in the area as a whole. If the focus of policy is on area change, but the more affluent and successful leave and are replaced by more deprived households, deprived areas will stay deprived in spite of policy initiatives. Local policy priorities therefore need to take account of the roles that different areas play in the wider system of residential mobility. The different roles of areas may best be understood by exploring the mobility patterns of movers: where they come from/go to and their socio-economic characteristics. By distinguishing moves from/to areas that are similarly deprived, less deprived and more deprived we can derive four ‘ideal’ area types: Escalators, Gentrifiers, Isolates and Transits. The classification suggests that neighbourhoods perform different functions within the context of the wider housing and labour markets and that their differing characteristics may have implications for the nature of policy interventions.

**Key Words:** deprivation, migration, turnover