

I am a local authority Youth Worker and have been since 1978.

I am disappointed that nowhere in the Strategy document is there any question/debating point about the supply of alcohol to under-age drinkers, or the part the police can play (or the law should play) in preventing it.

Public drinking involving teenagers is usually the result of them pooling their funds and obtaining the drink from shops, rather than supermarkets. Of course sometimes alcohol is removed from home and a surprising number of relatives/older friends donate it to under-age drinkers. The majority of young teenagers, in my view, ask strangers or familiar Over-18s to buy it and this can be seen by detached youth workers, CCTV and anyone in the vicinity of off-licences on a week-end evening.

The police have an important role to play in confiscating or pouring away these caches of alcohol in public spaces: usually, their money is spent and the young people then face a "dry" evening. Binge drinking is often established at 13/14/15 years and it invariably takes place away from prying adult eyes, although the consequences, vandalism, Out Patients treatment, unsafe sex, etc. impinge on the rest of us all the time.

Would a section on Underage Drinking not be useful?

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