

TOWER HAMLETS

Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP)

Briefing

Dec 2015



Source

CAP 2 Mile End

Do you have a public drinking problem around your residential area?

Do you have a public drinking problem around your residential area?	%	
Yes	55%	32
No	36%	21
Don't know	9%	5
	100%	58

Many people acknowledge a public drinking problem however, there were a strong number across the borough believe that the main issue is drugs. Some pockets of Tower hamlets have hardly any drinking issues that they are aware of. These places are Island Gardens and Canary Wharf.

What gender are the people who are seen drinking?

The people you have seen drinking alcohol around your residential area (if any), are they often.....	%	
Female	0%	0
Male	47%	27
Mixed Male and female	48%	28
N/A	5%	3
	100%	58

Many people expressed that the drinkers were a mix of male and female 48%. 47% of people believed that the drinkers are just male. What is clear from the data is that it is not a large female drinking issue.

What kind of crowd?

The people you have seen drinking alcohol around your residential area (if any), are they often.....	%	
Alone	13%	7
Pairs	11%	6
In groups	70%	39
N/A	7%	4
	100%	56

Age

The people you have seen drinking alcohol around your residential area (if any), are they often.....	%	0
Underage (Under 18)	2%	1
Adults	43%	23
Mixed Ages	48%	26
N/A	7%	4
	100%	54

From that statistic above, the drinking involves Adults at 43% and 48% of people indicated that it is a mixture of youth and adults. It is a very slim percentage 2% reporting that the drinkers are solely under aged drinkers.

Ethnicity

Of what ethnicity do you believe the people you have seen drinking alcohol are from?	%	0
White British	28%	17
White Irish	0%	0
White Other White Background	0%	0
Mixed White & Black Caribbean	7%	4
Mixed White & Black African	0%	0
Mixed White & Asian	0%	0
Mixed - Other mixed groups	0%	0
Asian Indian	0%	0
Asian Pakistani	0%	0
Asian Bangladeshi	28%	17
Asian - Other Asian Background	3%	2
Caribbean	0%	0
African	0%	0
Other Black background	0%	0
Other ethnic groups	3%	2
Chinese	0%	0
Other ethnic Group	0%	0
Other - Not stated	25%	15
n/a	5%	3
	100%	60

The 3 highest percentages indicate the predominant ethnicities contributing to the public drinking are White British, Asian Bangladeshi and others not stated. It is important to note that many people who selected 'Other-Not stated' did so mainly because the group were a mixture

of ethnicities and not because they could not determine the ethnicity of the drinkers. So the category was chosen as it best described the group.

Where are they often seen drinking?

The people who are seen drinking alcohol (if any), where are they often gathered?	%	
Outside their home	5%	4
Communal stair wells/hall ways	10%	9
Communal local parks	40%	35
Outside off licenses	9%	8
On the streets	34%	30
Other	0%	0
N/A	2%	2
	100%	88

The survey results indicate the public drinking is found mainly in a park area or on the local streets of Mile End.

This supports the initial premise that the park was a favoured spot to drink alcohol.

Frequency

How frequent do you see alcohol being drank around your residential area (if any)?	%	0
Very often	25%	13
Often	43%	23
Not very often	32%	17
	100%	53

When do you see alcohol being drank around your residential area (if any)?	%	0
Weekday	13%	6
Weekends	17%	8
Both weekends and weekday	70%	32
	100%	46

The two highest statistics indicate that the public drinking is not seen 'very often' however the public drinking is seen both on the week days and weekends which means the public drinking is a continuous occurrence and not just an end of week/ payday pattern.

Anti-Social Behaviour

How often do the people drinking alcohol cause anti- social behaviours?	%	0
Very Often	13%	7
Often	27%	15
Not very often	43%	24
Never	18%	10
	100%	56

From the stat above, the highest percentage indicates that anti-social behaviour caused by the public drinking witnessed occurred 'Not very often'. This can indicate that although there is continuous public drinking in the autumn and winter months, the anti-social behaviour does not occur prolifically.

This is supported in my discussions with the people I surveyed however, they revealed to me that they avoid the drinkers and that there is nothing that can be done when they are being anti-social. They do not believe that things can be changed for the better or that it is wrong. What is regularly revealed to me was that it was 'the way it is'. It is this general reason that supports the premise that there is a large case of under reporting in the Mile End Area.

Urban Adventure Base, a youth centre based in the Mile End Park Area accepts that there are many issues with anti-social behaviour. However, it was revealed that they do not report every incident and therefore a reliable record of proof does not exist.

Types of Anti-Social Behaviour

Please describe the anti-social behaviours caused by people drinking around your residential area?	%	0
Noise (screaming/yelling)	28%	40
Violence	5%	7
Crime	6%	9
Smoking	19%	27
Drug use	15%	22
Littering of alcoholic containers	21%	31
Other	0%	0
None	6%	9
	100%	145

The information regarding the types of Anti-Social Behaviour the main issues are not violence or crime. The main causes are noise consisting of screaming and yelling. This is followed by smoking and drug use.

How safe do you feel?

If you have experienced some form of anti-social behaviour around your residential area, please indicate on the scale of 1 to 10 how safe do you feel around your residential area?	%	0
1	0%	0
2	2%	1
3	7%	4
4	9%	5
5	13%	7
6	14%	8
7	7%	4
8	30%	17
9	9%	5
10	9%	5
Total	100%	56

The information indicates that, on the scale of 1-10, 55% of the people surveyed felt safe between 7-10. This leaves 45% of people feeling safe between 1-6 from a scale of 1-10. A percentage of 45% is large indicating that much work can be done to help improve the feeling of safety in the area.

Summary

- Many people acknowledge a public drinking problem however, there were a strong number across the borough believe that the main issue is drugs.
- Many people expressed that the drinkers were a mix of male and female 48%. 47% of people believed that the drinkers are just male. What is clear from the data is that it is not a large female drinking issue.
- Public drinking involves Adults at 43% and 48% of people indicated that it is a mixture of youth and adults. It is a very slim percentage 2% reporting that the drinkers are solely under aged drinkers.
- The 3 highest percentages indicate the predominant ethnicities contributing to the public drinking are White British, Asian Bangladeshi and others not stated. 'Other-Not stated' was chosen because the group were a mixture of ethnicities and not because they could not determine the ethnicity of the drinkers.
- The survey results indicate the public drinking is found mainly in a park area or on the local streets of Mile End.
- Public drinking is not seen 'very often' however the public drinking is seen both on the week days and weekends which means the public drinking is a continuous occurrence and not just an end of week/ payday pattern.
- The information indicates that anti-social behaviour caused by the public drinking witnessed occurred 'Not very often'.
- A feeling of no possible change is shared by the people surveyed and under reporting occurs.

- The main causes are noise consisting of screaming and yelling. This is followed by smoking and drug use.
- On a scale of 1- 10, 45% of people feeling safe between 1-6.

Initial Conclusions

- There is a public drinking issue.
- The park is a favoured spot because residents will leave them alone.
- Therefore a group of adults and young people can be left alone to drink and do drugs openly without fear of reprisals.
- Adults are the main cause of public drinking as opposed to young people.
- Young people benefit from drinking with Adults.
- The residents stay clear of the anti-social behaviour because they do not believe that anything can change.
- There is a case of under reporting.
- Cases get worse in summer.
- They want some more presence of authority.

CAP 1 and CAP 2 similarities and differences

Both CAP areas have:

- A public drinking problem.
- Drinkers are predominantly mixed ages and in groups.
- The issue is very frequent throughout the week and causes ASB .
- Police: In the survey's a request for a greater Police presence is very high. That or a Community officer to be visible in the community. This led me to ask the question 'why is the demand so high'? Over the last few months I've learned the following:
 - ASB of any kind is open in the community.
 - Drugs are a more prolific problem than drinking.
 - Adults are more responsible for the ASB.
 - Drug deals are visible to everyone.
 - There are no visible reprisals.
 - Low expectations of a better quality of life.
 - Lack of reporting because of the lack of confidence.

CAP 1

- Residents feel less safe than residents in Mile End.
- ASB is very public.

CAP 2

- Mile End Park contains the asb.

- Attracts under aged drinking and illegal drug taking
- Residents are less hopeful of change than residents in CIZ.
- ASB involves more Bangladeshi groups of males.

What went well

- Building relationships to help survey residents :
 - Ideas Store
 - Mile End Centre
 - Tower Hamlets Housing Forum
 - Urban Adventure Base
 - St Paul's Way Centre
 - The common denominator in starting the relationship was going to the person highest up in the organisation as possible. Unfortunately, asking for help for small areas of the borough would not be attractive. However, inviting to present the knowledge gained in surveys for all areas was attractive. This allowed me access and use to the centres and ideas stores.
 - This allows future work to be very productive provided I share information and prove participation has resulted in a positive effect beneficial to their users.
- Youth Employment Project
 - Sainsbury's and Tesco's are very welcoming of rolling Work Experience for young people.
 - Tower Hamlets Career Service has been very welcoming of the Step Programme with work experience in Tesco's and Sainsbury's.
 - Spear are a potential partner that was very reticent on working together, however, I believe being patient with them have helped them feel more confident in approaching the prospect working with each other.
- Comms Plan
 - Introducing a plan of using social media for Licensing has helped with License applications being made public and for broadcasting the survey and the CAP.
 - A review is due to determine successes and potential ways to improve responsiveness amongst Twitter followers.
- Speaking with residents of Tower Hamlets
 - The information not included in the survey but verbally exchanged has revealed the lack of faith in the SNT, THEOs and Housing Associations.
- Surveying young people in Youth Centre.
 - Many surveys were completed amongst young people in Youth Centre's across the borough.

- Local knowledge throughout Tower Hamlets
 - Gained many leads to follow up on throughout Tower Hamlets.

What could have been better

- Time
 - Time as a resource could have allowed more time to enhance relations to be more affected.
- Schools
 - Schools have become more tightly run around alcohol, drug and cigarettes. When proposing surveys to discover knowledge and helping the community outside the school walls are not attractive for schools to entertain, especially St Paul's Way Academy, which is the only secondary school in the Mile End CAP area.
- Comms Plan
 - Not responsive enough. Although 10k followers on Twitter account, not enough response to online survey.
- Tower Hamlets Housing Forum
 - Not responsive enough. Although most Tenant Associations take part in the THHF, I believe the invitation to survey had not made it from the chair to the residents.
- Surveying young people in Youth Centre.
 - Slight change required in questionnaire to allow us to identify target venues selling alcohol to young people.
 - Predominantly completed by Muslim young people who state they do not drink. Therefore really small data gained on trend of young people drinking and gaining access to alcohol.
 - Not had enough time to fully process data.
- St Paul's Way Centre
 - Not many Mile End residents used the centre or filled in the centre.
- Mile End Centre
 - Not many people from Mile End use the centre.
- Sainsbury's and Tesco's
 - Not responsive enough. Forwarded a question raised by Tower Hamlets Carrer service on providing a sandwich for young people and allowing young people with previous record to have work experience.

Possible solutions

- Schools
 - Present to all schools with knowledge gained and explain their value in context to the issues in the borough.
- Communications Plan
 - Not Review with Stefan Swift.
- Tower Hamlets Housing Forum
 - Present results at meeting with THHF and explain the benefits for their tenants in informing residents.
- Surveying young people in Youth Centre.
 - Improve survey
 - Get rid of backlog
 - Survey in schools
- St Paul's Way Centre
 - Find another centre used by Mile End residents.
- Mile End Centre
 - Survey staff of Centre as residents of Mile End Centre
- Sainsbury's and Tesco's
 - Follow up.
- Time
 - Having developed relationships will help re-surveying
 - Develop more relationships in CAP areas in similar fashion