

IT'S ON THE HOUSE!

INVESTIGATING HOW NEIGHBOURHOOD SOCIAL CONTEXTS IMPACT ALCOHOL USE

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

Evidence suggests positive neighbourhood social contexts (e.g. high social cohesion, high social capital) reduce the risk of mental health problems

Reviews report inconsistent findings on how neighbourhood contexts impact drinking behaviour [1], with some studies finding a protective effect and others indicating a "dark side" of social capital that promotes risky drinking

There is a lack of theory-informed research into neighbourhood effects on risk behaviours

AIMS

- To identify and synthesise theories and empirical studies that help to explain how neighbourhood social factors affect mental health and alcohol use
- To identify pathways from neighbourhood social factors to individual-level alcohol use, and construct a novel theoretical framework

KEY TERMS

SOCIAL CAPITAL

"features of social organization such as networks, norms, and social trust that facilitate coordination and cooperation for mutual benefit" [2, p.67]

SOCIAL COHESION

The "glue" that holds a society together



METHODS

- First database search for papers that describe theorised causal links between neighbourhood social factors and mental health andor multiple health risk behaviours.
- Second database search for empirical studies specifically relating to neighbourhood (social) effects on alcohol use only.
- Thematic analysis [3] of text from theory papers: deconstruct relevant theories and generate themes to inform the new framework
 - Findings from empirical studies used to refine the framework

FINDINGS

18 central theory papers informed the development of the framework 54 secondary theory papers supported the framework 12 empirical studies were used to refine the framework

The 5 pathways identified via this theory synthesis are outlined below:



VALUES AND NORMS

Residents learn drinking behaviours via observation, role models, and imitation

"Socialisation" is contingent on reward and punishment



NETWORK CONNECTIONS

Drinking to gain or maintain social capital

Diffusion of information, resources and social support Collective action to reduce stigma or improve services



STRESS, FEAR & **MISTRUST**

Neighbourhoods may be a source of chronic stress

Social withdrawal and isolation

Drinking to cope with stress, distress or tension



PSYCHOSOCIAL RESOURCES

Interaction in cohesive neighbourhoods boosts selfefficacy & self-esteem

Sense of security fosters selfcontrol, which extends to ability to resist drinking



TIME PERSPECTIVES

Social capital improves life expectancy and prospects

Present-oriented vs. futureoriented thinking is linked to motivation to engage in health (risk) behaviours



NEXT STEPS

STUDY 2

STUDY 3

Mapping these associations in the UK to test the framework

Qualitative study on resident perceptions of how their neighbourhood influences their drinking behaviour

