

YOU, FRIENDS AND STRANGERS

ACTIVITY ONE

Cause and effect

Here are some common effects of drinking too much alcohol, especially for young people. In the grid, tick the boxes to say to who each one may affect.

	Does this affect the drinker?	Does this affect the drinker's friends?	Does this affect other people as well?
vomiting			
blurred vision			
can't stand or walk straight			
being louder than normal			
saying things you wouldn't normally say			
causing an accident			
arguing and fighting			
making a fool of yourself			
ending up in hospital			
having a hangover			
unable to go to school the next day, or poor school performance			

In small groups, compare your answers. Do you agree with each other? If not, discuss your reasons for the choices you've made.

In general, does getting drunk affect just the drinker or other people?

ACTIVITY TWO

Who is the victim?

Stephen is 15 and was out with three mates in the town. They met up in the shopping centre and had a few drinks and a laugh. Stephen had quite a bit of cash and he drank a few cans of extra-strength cider. He soon became drunk.

It got pretty late and the group was hanging about waiting for the last bus home. Ben started fooling around and teasing Stephen for not being able to handle his alcohol. The drink had begun to hit Stephen's judgement and he started to get dizzy. He playfully lunged forward and hit Ben in the face... then lost his balance, fell over, hit his head, and lost consciousness.

Ben and the two other friends panicked and tried to wake Stephen up. The two others then ran off, not wanting to get involved. Fortunately an ambulance was driving past and Ben flagged it down. Stephen and Ben were taken to hospital where Stephen recovered, but the hospital staff rang Stephen's parents, as he needed to be picked up from hospital and to be carefully monitored at home in case as he had been concussed.

Stephen's parent's also talked to Ben's parents about the incident when they dropped Ben home as they were sorry that Ben had also been injured and were concerned that the evening could have turned out a lot worse.

Read the case study above. It was not only Stephen who was affected by what happened that night - several people were involved in his 'story'. Do the following activity in groups or as a whole class.

'Hot-seat' some of the other characters in the story to find out what they thought. Choose someone to take on the role of the following:

Stephen

Ben

Stephen's other two mates

Ambulance crew

Stephen's mum or dad

Ben's mum or dad

Ask questions to find out what each person felt about the evening's events. What did they do wrong? What did they do right? How might the events of the evening affect their attitude to alcohol?