

# High-Impact High-Dependency Drinking Pilot Project

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## Introduction

The term 'high-impact high-dependency drinking' refers to disadvantaged high impact dependent drinkers who drink on streets. Street drinking cuts across issues including physical and mental health, community safety, criminal justice, housing and homelessness. This type of drinking can be linked with anti-social behaviour (ASB) and is an issue in many cities across the UK.

In Leeds two areas were identified to require an intervention, Harehills and Leeds city centre. Safer, Stronger Communities and Public Health teams teamed up to create a safe place, in this instance a café for those requiring support.

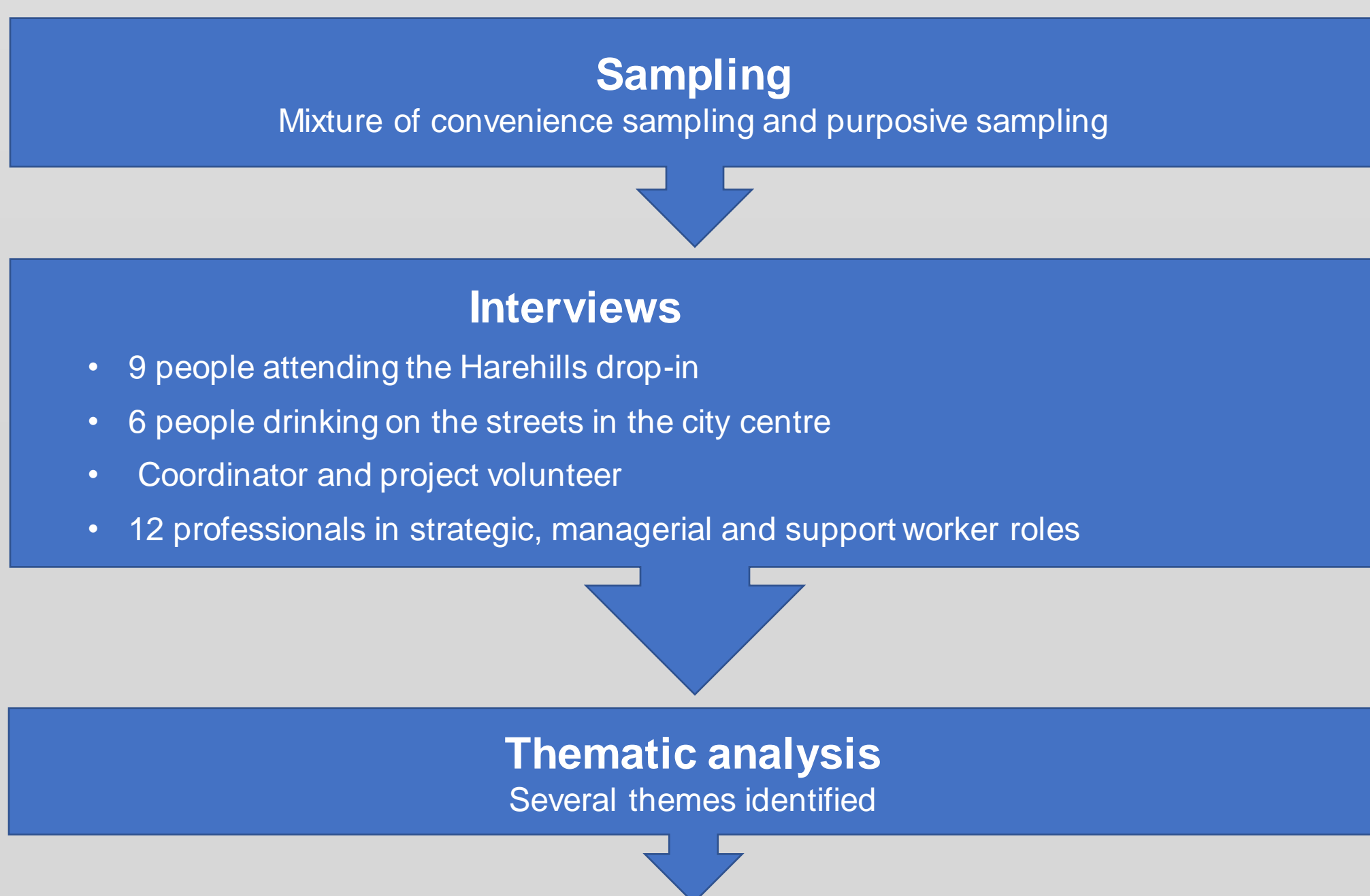
## Aims and Objectives

- Reduce anti-social behaviour linked to street drinking in Harehills and Leeds city centre.
- Build trusting relationships with service users.
- Improve health and wellbeing of service users (mental and physical).
- Get more service users into treatment.

## Methods

A series of in-depth interviews were conducted with both staff and service users. From these key themes of why people drink, as well as an emerging outline theory of change for the Harehills drop in was generated (figures 3 & 4).

Figure 1 Research Design



## Results/Findings

**Harehills:** Service users reported increased confidence, self-worth, and positive behaviour change including engagement in alcohol detoxification and rehabilitation (n=2).

**City centre:** Operational challenges impacted on reliability of the café opening, ability to conduct street outreach with drinkers safely, and consequently confidence in the service.

Figure 2 Quantitative Data

Site (dates of operation)	Total number of service users	Weekly average attendance	Average number per session
Harehills (10/2021-12/2023)	129	1-17	9
City Centre (7/2022- 4/2023)	27	0-6	-

Figure 3: Thematic Analysis: Reasons why people street drink (Hough, 2023)

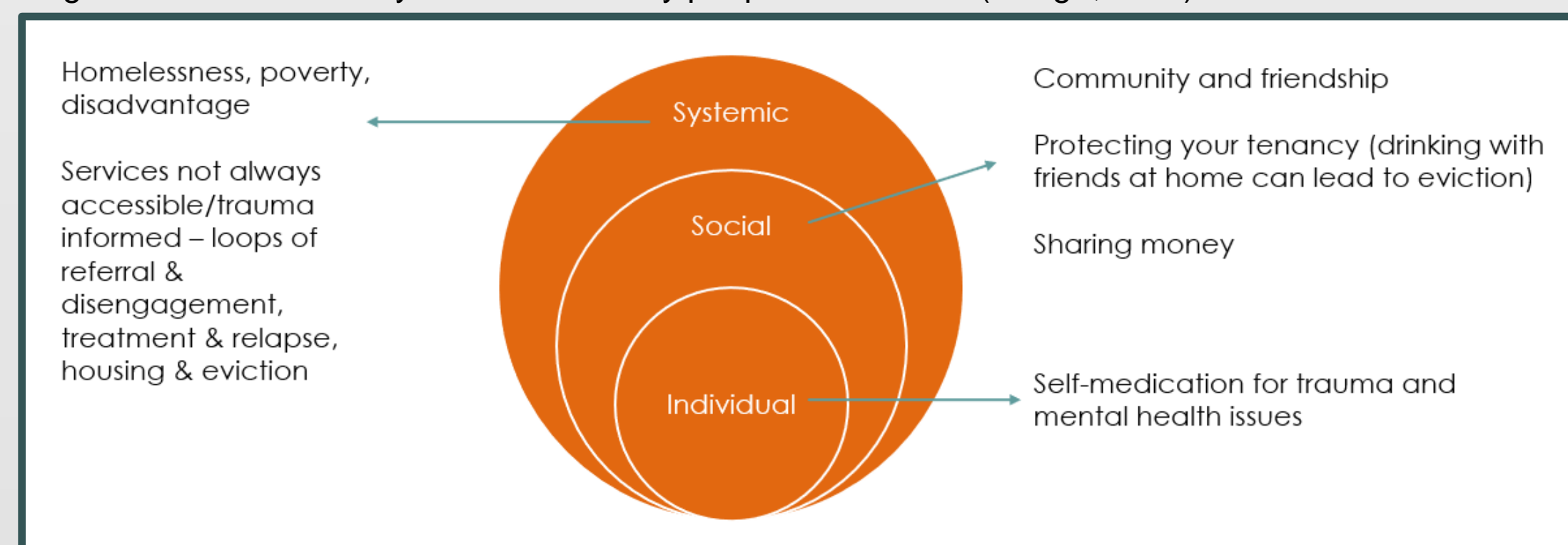
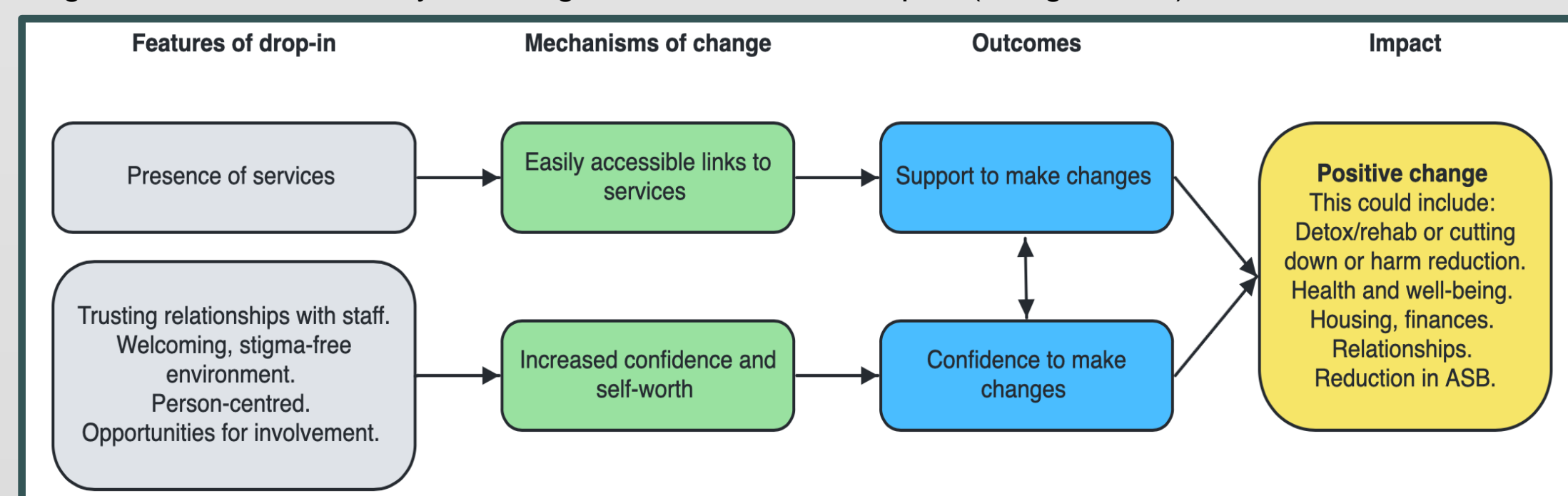


Figure 4: An outline theory of change for the Harehills drop-in (Hough, 2023)



## Discussion

This research explored the many reasons why people drink on the streets in Leeds. An intervention was designed for Harehills and Leeds city centre; this could not address all the issues and focussed on safety and trust.

The project in Harehills helped build confidence and rebuild trust in services, including treatment. The city centre project faced operational challenges. Harehills had fewer alternative services, and fewer attractions to maintaining street behaviours.

**Limitations of project:** these include lack of staffing in city centre and low attendance.

## Conclusion

The café intervention helped rebuild trust in services and increased social and recovery capital for some of the cohort. This worked well in an inner-city community (Harehills) but not the city centre. Continuation funding will be sought to build on the success of this intervention.

### Acknowledgements:

Juliette Hough and Jon Hughes  
From JH Research.



### Bibliography:

J.Hough., J.Hughes (2023) *Evaluation of High-Impact High-Dependency Drinking pilot project* [PowerPoint presentation]. Available at: <file:///C:/Users/20195037/Documents/Acohol%20Projects/High%20impact%20high%20dependency%20drinking%20project/High%20impact%20high%20dependency%20drinking%20project%20evaluation%20report%2023.6.23.pdf>. (Accessed: 28/09/2023)