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A sober attack on drinking

UNDERAGE drinking is a problem which requires some official action to help bring it under control.

A recent survey found almost three quarters of secondary students interviewed drank alcohol. And excessive drinking by youngsters was judged to be a factor in the Lan Kwai Fong tragedy on New Year's Eve. After almost 12 months of sober reflection efforts are being made to tackle the problem.

The Commission on Youth has

set up a working group to co-ordinate government and community efforts to control on underage drinking.

This is positive. But a word of advice to the commission: do not get bogged down in studies. Action is required. Underage drinking cannot be stopped but it can be curtailed. A ban on the sale of beer to youngsters in supermarkets (similar to the cigarettes ban) would be a sensible first step.