

Scrutiny Review of Gambling

Summary

The Committee is requested to consider information from the Gambling Commission in order to inform the review.

Detail

1. The aim of the review is to conduct an investigation into the scale and effect of gambling in Stockton-on-Tees.
2. The scope of the review is attached at **Appendix 1** for Members' reference, and this focusses on understanding the impact of gambling on the local area and its residents.
3. The Gambling Commission is a key organisation to engage with as part of the review. It makes up one part of the national regulatory framework for gambling in the United Kingdom, and works in partnership with the local licensing authorities.
4. A copy of its latest Strategy is attached, together with a Briefing Paper for Local Authorities on Gambling-related harm as a public health issue. Members were provided with these as part of a wider set of background documents at the meeting in December and Members may wish to also refer to that in advance of the meeting.
5. In addition, bulletins for local authorities can be found here:

<http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/for-licensing-authorities/Licensing-authority-bulletin.aspx>
6. At the meeting, representatives of the Commission will cover a range of issues in discussion with the Committee including national policy on gambling and taking a public health approach, including focussing on harm reduction/prevention.

7. Information has also been gathered from GambleAware to inform the review. Along with the Commission, GambleAware forms a part of the national framework within which gambling operates. GambleAware is an independent charity and is responsible for funding research, education and treatment services to help minimise gambling-related harm in Great Britain.
8. The following information has been provided as initial background on their work:

'About GambleAware

- a) Guided by the National Responsible Gambling Strategy, the charity's strategic aim is to broaden public understanding of gambling-related harm as a public health issue and to help those that do develop problems get the support and help that they need quickly and effectively.
- b) The current National Responsible Gambling Strategy was published in April 2016 by the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB) and endorsed by the Gambling Commission. GambleAware is a commissioning and grant-making body, not a provider of services. GambleAware develops its commissioning plans in collaboration with the RGSB and the Gambling Commission. These arrangements are underpinned by an 'assurance and governance framework' published in August 2012.
- c) In May 2017, GambleAware published its latest Commissioning Plan setting out how the charity proposes to broaden the range of services and activities it funds, supports and works with in the future. These will include general public awareness raising, education and early-prevention work, particularly among young people and vulnerable communities, relapse prevention as well as exploring how to support online self-help and mutual aid initiatives.
- d) More detail about all our work is on our website here: <https://about.gambleaware.org/>

Treatment

- e) We fund national and local support for problem gamblers and affected others.
 - National Gambling Helpline (provided by GamCare)
 - Local face-to-face psychosocial interventions (provided in Middlesbrough by NECA (<http://neca.co.uk/area-offices/>) as part of a national network managed by GamCare. Online counselling support is also available.
 - The National Gambling Clinic in London, for more complex cases
 - The Gordon Moody Association in Dudley and Beckenham when residential support is appropriate.
- f) We do not run an accreditation scheme for organisations that provide gambling related support, but those above which we fund are subject to our governance regime that applies to our grant-funding.

Prevention

- g) Our consumer-facing website, BeGambleAware.org provides advice designed to prevent or minimise gambling-related harm, and this is promoted online through digital marketing across social media, targeting those who show an interest in gambling or are looking for help.
 - h) In the autumn, there will be a new national Safer Gambling Campaign, as a result of a commitment by broadcasters and the gambling industry to DCMS ministers to fund this £5-7m per annum campaign for the next two years.'
9. Further details on details of nationally commissioned treatment and prevention services accessed by people in the Stockton and Tees areas has been requested and will be provided in due course. In addition, the results of a more detailed national needs assessment is planned for later this year, and this may inform assessments of local need.
10. GambleAware's latest Commissioning Plan is attached at Appendix 4.

Contact Officer: Peter Mennear
Post: Scrutiny Officer
Tel.: 01642 528957
Email: peter.mennear@stockton.gov.uk