

Scrutiny Review of Gambling

Summary

A major theme of the Committee's review is the issue of how gambling and related harms impact upon young people. This meeting will be used to explore these issues in more depth.

Detail

1. **Fast Forward** is an Edinburgh-based charity that supports young people to make informed choices about their health and wellbeing (<http://www.fastforward.org.uk/>).
2. One of its projects is the Youth Problem Gambling Initiative which is a preventative and educational programme. The programme takes a harm reduction approach, and a Toolkit has been produced to develop the skills and confidence of practitioners when supporting young people.
3. A representative of Fast Forward will be joining the meeting via video conference in order to describe their work and experiences to the Committee.
4. The **Public Health** team has been undertaking work to inform the local evidence base on the scope of gambling-related harm amongst young people in the Borough.
5. Based on the identified profile of problem gamblers and associated risky behaviours and vulnerabilities, mapping work has been undertaken with targeted partners to gather feedback on the extent of the issue amongst young people they work with (reference the paper shared in January entitled ' Young People and Gambling'). An update on this work will be provided at the meeting.
6. Representative of **Stockton Sixth Form College**, and **Stockton Riverside College**, will also be in attendance to provide information on whether gambling is an identified issue impacting upon students at the College.
7. Further background information is attached to this report. The think-tank Demos has recently completed a project 'to develop, pilot and refine educational resources for British secondary schools as part of wider efforts to prevent gambling-related harms.' The work was supported by Gamble Aware.

The Executive Summary of 'Reducing The Odds: An Education Pilot To Prevent Gambling Harms' (Ian Wybron) is attached at Appendix 2.

8. A link to the teaching resource can be found here:

<https://www.demos.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Gambling-Education-Teaching-Resource-Booklet-1.pdf>

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