

Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee
Review of Gambling
Outline Scope

Scrutiny Chair (Project Director): Cllr Lisa Grainge	Contact details: Lisa.grainge@stockton.gov.uk
Scrutiny Officer (Project Manager): Peter Mennear	Contact details: Peter.mennear@stockton.gov.uk / 01642 528957
Departmental Link Officer: Mandy Mackinnon, Early Intervention Manager (Adults) / Simon Mills, Licensing Team Leader	Contact details: Mandy.mackinnon@stockton.gov.uk simon.mills@stockton.gov.uk
Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?	
<p>The review would cover all four Policy Principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protecting the vulnerable through targeted intervention, (including protection of the vulnerable; prevention/alleviation of financial insecurity) - Promoting equality of opportunity through targeted intervention (including identification and prevention of health inequalities) - Developing strong and healthy communities (including promotion of health and wellbeing) - Creating economic prosperity across the Borough (understanding the financial and economic impact of local gambling premises) <p>The review would impact on all aspects of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.</p>	
What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?	
<p>The aim of the review is to conduct an investigation into the scale and effect of gambling in Stockton-on-Tees.</p> <p>National data shows that 47% of adults participated in at least one form of gambling in past 4 weeks - 31% when National Lottery is excluded – and 16% participated in ‘at least one form of online gambling in past 4 weeks’ (2016 data).</p> <p>In 2016, around 1 in 6 children under 16 participated in a gambling activity in the last week –</p>	

this has been consistent since 2012.

Not all gambling leads to harm, but problem gambling is potentially of great harm to individuals and families, and survey data from 2012 suggests that the prevalence of problem gambling is 0.6%.

Premises with a gambling license are highly visible in some high street/shopping locations. There is particular concern at the national level surrounding the use of Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs).

The Council has limited data on the scope of local gambling activity, aside from the location of licensed premises. Significant gambling activity now takes place online, outside of the environment and control of licensable premises.

The review will consider the availability of information on local gambling activity, the types of activity, the licensing regime, and the relationships with local economic activity, health and wellbeing, and community safety.

This could include problem gambling, risk factors, and the services/initiatives in place to provide support.

(All data from Gambling Commission)

The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:

A high level summary of potential lines of enquiry includes:

- a) what are the types of gambling activity?
- b) what is the licensing regime including SBC's responsibilities?
- c) how many licensed premises are in Stockton Borough? Can online activity be measured in a meaningful way?
- d) what is Government policy in this area?
- e) what information exists surrounding levels of gambling related harm and impacts on health and wellbeing (including mental and physical health, financial wellbeing, crime and disorder)?
- f) what preventative and treatment initiatives are in place in relation to gambling related harm?
- g) what are the views and perceptions of local residents (including young people) in relation to gambling, and associated risks?
- h) what are the views of local licensed operators?

Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work?

Cabinet

Expected duration of review and key milestones:

6-8 months tbc (interim reports to Cabinet /Executive Members if required)

What information do we need?

Existing information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.):

National Responsible Gambling Strategy 2016-19

Gambling Commission Strategy 2018-21 (November 2017)

Statement of gambling licensing policy - A councillor's guide (Gambling Commission, September 2017)

Gambling Related Harm as Public Health Issue - Briefing Paper for Local Authorities (Gambling Commission, October 2017)

Problem Gambling in Leeds - Research Report for Leeds City Council (Leeds Beckett University) / Information on subsequent work in Leeds

Young Gamblers Education Trust – Supporting material

Fast Forward Youth Project – Peer support and harm reduction initiative (Edinburgh)

Scrutiny Review Report – Impact of Gambling on Vulnerable Communities (Leicester City Council, April 2016)

Playing Safe Initiative – Three Years on (National Casino Forum, 2017)

New information:

Results of Government review into Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs)

Mapping of licensed premises

Relevant information to assess scope and impact of online gambling nationally / regionally

Actions taken by other Local Authorities (eg. Leeds, Westminster. Leicester)

Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet Member, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc.)

What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence?

SBC Licensing Service

Scope of gambling / roles and responsibilities in relation to licensing regime / mapping of premises

SBC Public Health / commissioned services

Impact of gambling –related harm / evidence from existing substance misuse services

Gambling Commission

Roles and responsibilities / new strategy

Gamble Aware	Strategy / commissioned research, education and treatment programmes
Schools and Colleges	Issues relating to gambling + gambling related harm / provision of education eg. on risky behaviour
Police / Community Safety	Levels of gambling-related crime and disorder / use of screening tools
Financial Inclusion Partners, including: - Thirteen Group - Stockton District Advice and Information Service - Other Stockton Welfare Advice Network (SWAN) Members - Trading Standards	Gambling-related impacts on financial inclusion including links to Illegal Money Lending
Local Licensed Gambling Operators	Views of the industry / economic impact /policies in relation to at risk and problem gambling
Economic Development	Economic activity associated with gambling
Local residents / children and young people	Views and perceptions
<p>How will this information be gathered? (eg. financial baselining and analysis, benchmarking, site visits, face-to-face questioning, telephone survey, survey)</p> <p>Committee meetings, desktop research, site visits, focus groups, surveys.</p>	
<p>How will key partners and the public be involved in the review?</p> <p>An appropriate method of identifying views of local residents including young people is to be identified.</p>	
<p>How will the review help the Council meet the Public Sector Equality Duty?</p> <p>The review should give due consideration to the following:</p> <p>The Equality Act 2010 protects everyone from discrimination on grounds of nine Protected Characteristics. The Council is under a Duty to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act. • Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. • Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. 	

The review will consider if and how Gambling affects different sections of the community.

Problem gambling prevalence was highest among those aged 16-24 (2.4%) and lowest among those aged 75 and over (0.4%). Men were more likely than women to be classified as a problem gambler (1% compared with 0.2%). Those from Black/Black British backgrounds emerged as a key group at risk of gambling-related harm.

(All data from Gambling Commission)

How will the review contribute towards the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, or the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy?

There is currently no direct reference to gambling in any of the Tees JSNAs. The review will therefore have a direct impact by improving the evidence base for the planning of Health and Wellbeing services.

Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and/or transformation:

Possible outcomes from the review include:

- inform the refresh of the Council's Gambling Act Policy (due for agreement by Council in December and publication by January 2019)
- contribution to the development of a Local Area Profile
- identification of role played by gambling in Borough's economy
- identification of impact of gambling in local financial inclusion issues, and potential mitigating measures
- greater understanding of impact on health and wellbeing, and potential mitigating and preventative measures.