

Scrutiny Review of Gambling

Summary

The Committee will be provided with information in relation to information, advice and support for problem gamblers.

Detail

1. Members will be provided with information in relation to the provision of treatment and support for problem gamblers.
2. GamCare is an independent charity providing of information, advice, support and free treatment for anyone affected by gambling-related harm across Great Britain. Representatives of GamCare are scheduled to provide input to the meeting via video link.
3. NECA is an organisation commissioned by GamCare to provide local face-to-face psychosocial interventions in the North East, and will be represented at the meeting.
4. Across Great Britain, research, education and treatment is commissioned by GambleAware, and this is funded via money secured from the gambling industry.
5. Along with the Gambling Commission and Responsible Gambling Strategy Board, 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. Information was gathered from GambleAware to inform the review and has been reproduced again here for Members' reference:

'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.'

New Guidance

6. The Local Government Association (LGA) in partnership with Public Health England has recently published new guidance on 'Tackling gambling related harm – a whole council approach'. This is attached at **Appendix 1**.

7. The LGA hosted a conference in relation to tackling problem gambling and presentations from the event can be found here:

<https://www.local.gov.uk/whole-council-approach-tackling-problem-gambling-10-july-london>

Stockton Youth Assembly (SYA)

8. The SYA was briefed on the Committee's work at its meeting on 17 July and feedback will be provided at the meeting.

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