

GambleAware

7 Henrietta St • London • WC2E 8PS
T: +44 (0)20 7287 1994
info@gambleaware.org

about.gambleaware.org

ANNOUNCEMENT

New report takes significant step forward in measuring the impact of gambling-related harms

London, 10 July: A ground-breaking [approach to understanding the full range of harms gambling can have on society](#) has been published today.

It was led by Dr Heather Wardle, on behalf of the [Responsible Gambling Strategy Board](#) (RGSB) – which provides independent advice to the Gambling Commission. The report is the result of close collaboration between the Gambling Commission, GambleAware as funding body, and RGSB. The report calls for views on how the social cost of gambling-related harms can be measured and better understood.

Mapping out for the first time methodology that could be used to quantify the impact gambling can have on relationships, finances and health, the report seeks to:

- Agree a definition of gambling-related harms that can be used by policy makers and public health officials.
- Explore how the social and economic impact of gambling-related harms can be better understood, measured and monitored.
- Set a framework for action that considers how the impact of harms can be felt by individuals, families and communities.
- Identify the most effective way to estimate the social cost of gambling-related harms.

Gambling Commission Chief Executive, Neil McArthur said: “While the majority of consumers can enjoy gambling without experiencing harm, we cannot forget the devastating effects it can have on some individuals, families and communities. This report shows significant progress in understanding those effects and measuring the impacts on wider society and the economy as a whole. We do not see this as a definitive position - it’s very much a work in progress. We encourage public health

officials, academics, the industry and the public to feed back on the report and work with us to set a framework that can help prevent harm to consumers.”

Dr Heather Wardle, lead author of the report commented: "This report is a dramatic step forward in our understanding of gambling. It represents a sea change in thinking about gambling as it recognises that gambling isn't something that affects just a few individuals but extends far beyond them to affect their families, communities and society".

Marc Etches, Chief Executive at GambleAware commented: "Problem gambling is a public health issue that can have serious economic and social consequences not only for individual gamblers but also family, friends, communities and society. This is why this project, led by Dr Heather Wardle of RGSB and funded by GambleAware, is so important. We need urgently to improve our understanding of what gambling, and its wide-reaching knock-on effects, is costing us."

-ENDS-

Contact:

Journalists can contact the Gambling Commission press office on 0121 230 6700 or email: communications@gamblingcommission.gov.uk

NOTES

- Guided by the [National Responsible Gambling Strategy](#), GambleAware is an independent charity tasked to fund research, education and treatment services to help to reduce gambling-related harms in Great Britain.
- GambleAware is a commissioning and grant-making body, not a provider of services. The charity's strategic aims are to: broaden public understanding of gambling-related harms, in particular as a public health issue; advance the cause of harm-prevention so as to help build resilience, in particular in relation to the young and those most vulnerable to gambling-related harms; and help those who do develop gambling-related harms get the support that they need quickly and effectively. For more information, please go to: <http://about.gambleaware.org/>
- GambleAware's programme of treatment, education, harm prevention and research is guided by the National Responsible Gambling Strategy, which is defined by the independent Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB) and endorsed by the Gambling Commission. The RGSB, the Gambling Commission and GambleAware work together under the terms of an agreement in place since 2012: <http://about.gambleaware.org/media/1216/statementofintent.pdf>. Research is conducted under the terms of a 'Research Commissioning and

Governance Procedure' agreed in 2016 by the RGSB, the Gambling Commission and GambleAware: <http://about.gambleaware.org/media/1270/research-commissioning-and-governance-procedure-may-2016-final.pdf>.

- GambleAware requires a minimum of £10 million annually to deliver its current responsibilities, and looks to all those that profit from commercial gambling to support the charity. This donation-based system was proposed after the Gambling Act 2005 and is prescribed by the Gambling Commission's Social Responsibility Code Provision 3.1.1.(2). The RGSB endorsed GambleAware's £10m funding goal in January 2017: <http://www.rgsb.org.uk/press-releases/responsible-gambling-strategy-board-publishes-assessment-of-the-quantum-of-funding-required-to-deliver-the-national-responsible-gambling-strategy.html>
- GambleAware funds the *Gordon Moody Association*, the *NHS National Problem Gambling Clinic*, *GamCare* and a network of charities across Great Britain to provide a full range of free treatment for problem gamblers and support for those affected by them. GambleAware also runs the website **BeGambleAware.org** which helps 2.7 million visitors a year, and supports the **National Gambling Helpline – 0808 8020 133**.