

GambleAware

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

about.gambleaware.org

PRESS RELEASE

GambleAware invests £¾ million in ground-breaking Scottish youth problem gambling initiative

London, 14 August: The Scottish charity, Fast Forward, has secured a £750,000 grant from GambleAware to run a major national youth problem gambling initiative across the country for three years.

The funding will be put towards the development of a new Scottish Gambling Education Hub. The Hub, which is based on the Gambling Education Toolkit, developed by Fast Forward last year, will extend the scope and scale of gambling education, awareness, training and support offered to organisations. The aim of the project is to help organisations address gambling issues with young people across Scotland.

The programme will provide the relevant training and resources needed by youth-workers, teachers and other professionals to address gambling-related issues. The initiative will encompass young people in formal and informal education settings, and offer services for vulnerable young people who are not in education, employment or training, as well as parents and carers.

A particular focus of the programme, which has already gained support from local MSP, Kevin Stewart and university and college representatives in Aberdeen, is on further and higher education. Fast Forward will provide training and support to student guidance, support and welfare staff, such as student welfare officers, student association officers and student support officers, at key times over the academic year. The pilot stage for this part of the project is already underway and will be rolled out as a model across other education institutions in Scotland.

Dr Jane Rigbye, Director of Education at GambleAware said:

“We were impressed with the results Fast Forward have already achieved while working with us over the past three years, so we are delighted to be able to scale-up their work to make a real impact across the whole of Scotland. If the work continues to secure the

positive, independent evaluations we've already seen, then we would hope to replicate this model in England and Wales as soon as practicable.”

Alastair MacKinnon, Chief Executive of Fast Forward said:

“Fast Forward’s goal as a charity is to enable young people to make informed choices about their well-being and to live healthier lifestyles. We are only just beginning to understand the full extent of gambling-related harms and the impact on gamblers and those around them. Ensuring all those who work with Scottish young people are empowered to offer advice about safer gambling and help those who need it find treatment could make a real difference to a generation with more opportunities to gamble than ever before.”

Kevin Stewart MSP for Aberdeen Central said:

“It’s excellent news that Aberdeen will pilot this bold strategy and I hope it brings some comfort to the young people and their parents in this city who have experienced utter misery and massive debt as a result of gambling addiction whilst studying.

“I am determined to do all I can to help bring more awareness to the problem of gambling and how it affects young folk, which is why earlier this year I brought together representatives from both the universities, NESCOL, FastForward and GambleAware to discuss an ambitious, multi-group strategy, to tackle problem gambling amongst students.

“The funding secured from GambleAware will bring significant investment across Scotland and will mean Aberdeen can pioneer FastForward’s cutting edge strategy. This announcement is absolutely crucial in our work to get real support for those who need it.”

-ENDS-

Contact:

Sarah Evans

+44 7717 058 682

gambleaware@atlas-partners.co.uk

NOTES

- The further and higher education pilot project will be will be rolled out as a model across other education institutions in Scotland, including in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Stirling, Dundee, St Andrews, Inverness, Dumfries and Galloway, and the Highlands.
- 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.

IT’S NEVER TOO SOON TO BeGambleAware[®]

- 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**.