

Minutes of the Board of Trustees' meeting

DATE	Thursday 8 December 2022
TIME	10.00am – 12.30pm
VENUE	Hybrid: Virtual Teams & GA offices

PRESENT	INITIALS	NOTES
Hilary Armstrong	HA	Trustee
Marina Gibbs	MG	Trustee
Professor Sian Griffiths	SG	Trustee
Michelle Highman	MHi	Trustee
Kate Lampard	KL	Trustee / Chair
Rachel Pearce	RP	Trustee
Koravangattu Valsraj	KV	Trustee
Saffron Cordery	SC	Trustee
Mubin Haq	MHa	Trustee
Paul Simpson	PS	Trustee
IN ATTENDANCE		
Alexia Clifford	AC	Chief Communications Officer
Si Flanagan	SF	Chief Operations Officer
Anna Hargrave	AH	Chief Commissioning Officer
Zoë Osmond	ZO	Chief Executive
Chiara Marin	CM	Company Secretary
Teresa O'Connor	TOC	Company Secretary
Muneeb Hafiz	MHa	DCMS
Ben Howard	BH	Chair of the LE Council
Sarah Fox	SF	DCMS
Also attending for specific items; Paul Johnstone (PJ) Consultant, Berhe Gebru (BG) Head of Finance.		
APOLOGIES		
Tim Miller	TM	Gambling Commission

1. Welcome and apologies

- 1.1. KL welcomed everyone to the meeting including Muneeb Hafiz and Sarah Fox, from DCMS observing this meeting.

2. Declarations of interest

- 2.1. There were no further declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of meetings – 27th September 2022

- 3.1. The minutes of the Board of trustees' meeting held on 27th September 2022 were approved as a true and accurate record.

4. Action log

- 4.1. Actions from previous meetings had been completed.

5. Chief Executive's report

- 5.1. The report from the Chief Executive was received as presented.
- 5.1. ZO offered a brief update since the paper was written:
- 5.2. ZO raised with the Minister the concern around the transition period between publication of the White Paper and its enactment, and GA's priority in making sure that any transition period did not have an impact upon our planning, particularly around NGTS.
- 5.3. KL highlighted that the Conference went really well and the presence of two chief medical officers was a real endorsement. She asked that thanks be passed on to those involved in the event.
- 5.4. KL acknowledged the progress working with the NHS. And thanked AH for her work, resulting in a closer and more positive relationship.

6. Defining the scope for GambleAware / Developing a Regional Approach

- 6.1. ZO expressed the value and importance of being a strategic Commissioner.
- 6.2. PJ was introduced and he presented his overview thoughts on developing a regional approach.
- 6.3. Trustees will discuss the thoughts of PJ at more length at the Strategy Day in January, but initial thoughts revolved around taking a careful approach not to overextend resources across the regions and the challenges of consistency, against the backdrop of NHS Commissioning changing. The Trustees had a good discussion around the Public Health learnings from other harms, the practicalities and success factors of regional arrangements and the role of the Local authorities.
- 6.4. ZO stated that a public health approach requires more investment in prevention and early intervention, but GA also need to scale up treatment provision significantly given the fact

that gambling treatment meets less than 5% of the population versus alcohol which meets 18% in its treatment services.

- 6.5. ZO offered an overview of the categorization of priorities for activities that will inform the budget for the next financial year, with the understanding that this will be discussed further with trustees at the Strategy day.

7. Annual Plan Progress Report

- 7.1. The papers for this agenda item were taken as read and no questions were raised on their content.

8. Stigma Programme Update

- 8.1. AC presented the latest plans. The trustees noted that the programme has been progressing well since the last Board meeting. **ACTION: AC to have some time either at the January session or individually with trustees to talk through how GA position this new campaign and to ask for trustees' help in terms of using their networks and contacts.**

9. National Gambling Treatment Service Recommissioning

- 9.1. AH introduced this report, which outlined where GA are at in terms of the NGTS recommissioning process. The Board noted the update.
- 9.2. ACTION: Recommendation 5 in the NGTS report to be reviewed at the next Audit and Risk Committee. BH to seek feedback and comments from LEC members on their experience of residential treatment and for these to be included in the NGTS recommissioning process.

10. Financials

- 10.1. BG joined the meeting.
- 10.2. BG presented the paper setting out the Q3 forecast which was noted by the Board.
- 10.3. It was shared that at the last ARC the Auditors (SV) had stated that beyond the amounts held in the GA bank accounts, the volatility of income timings and other risks should also be viewed as part of the 'going concern' considerations. If future income was reduced (with consequently lower reserves) PS asked for a note on the additional protections that GA have in place. It was highlighted that the proposed reserve levels reflecting 6 months operating costs plus 1 year of committed commissioning costs are to be agreed at the next Resources Committee.
- 10.4. The Board noted the paper.
- 10.5. The Board approved the October management accounts.
- 10.6. The board approved the Budget envelope for 2023/24.

11. Risk Management Update

- 11.1. Trustees noted that a paper will be presented at the next ARC meeting by SF and AH on the NGTS Recommissioning.

12. Safeguarding Report

12.1. AH presented the safeguarding report.

12.2. Trustees noted that GambleAware were following up with Gordon Moody following some accident reports and were taking appropriate steps to understand the risks involved.

13. New Policy Matrix

13.1. Trustees noted the new policy matrix.

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14. Any Other Business

14.1. The trustees agreed to signing a paper version of a special resolution to action the approved change to the articles of association which had been agreed at the AGM.

ACTION: TOC to prepare a special resolution to be circulated and signed by trustees.

The meeting ended at 12.30pm.