Learning Partner for GambleAware's Community Resilience Fund

Call for Expression of Interest

## 1. About GambleAware

GambleAware is an independent charity that commissions evidence-informed prevention and treatment services in partnership with the NHS, public health agencies, local authorities, the voluntary sector, and other expert organisations and agencies, across Great Britain.

GambleAware recognises the importance of evaluating and learning from our commissioned projects. We are committed to building evidence of 'what works for whom' to support and inform our commissioning, as well as generating knowledge to contribute to the wider body of evidence, and national policy.

The central aim of GambleAware's purpose and vision is to achieve effective prevention of gambling harms, and access to treatment and support. GambleAware's <u>Organisational Strategy</u><sup>1</sup>, published in April 2021, outlines our priorities and objectives to guide our work towards our vision of a society where everyone is safe from gambling harms.

# 2. Contract Details

#### 2.1. Title

Learning Partner for GambleAware's Community Resilience Fund

## 2.2 Requirement

The GambleAware Evaluation team is seeking Expressions of Interest for a learning partner of the Community Resilience Fund (CRF). The fund is targeted at community-based organisations who are not currently funded by GambleAware. The main aim of the CRF is to provide short-term funding to address gambling harms inequalities experienced by disadvantaged communities across Great Britain, which have been exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis.

The fund is unique relative to other GambleAware programmes, and will provide an opportunity for GambleAware to:

- To identify partnerships, approaches, services and / or ways of working that are either new or new to GambleAware.
- To support organisations that have not previously been funded by GambleAware to be more ready to be commissioned by GambleAware in the future.
- To understand barriers and opportunities in community led projects that address gambling harms.

The goals for the work of the learning partner have been designed with the overall goals of the programme in mind, so that we are able to support these goals whilst also providing independent and useful evidence to GambleAware and commissioned providers. Given this, the goals for the learning partner will include:

• **Goal One:** Identify and learn from projects and local partnerships with potential for effectiveness with a focus on what works for whom and in what circumstance.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> GambleAware (2021) GambleAware Organisational Strategy 2021-26.

• **Goal Two:** Provide learning to the programme team about how to work with new and emerging organisations and contribute to the sharing of learning between grantees.

• **Goal Three:** Build capability of organisations to undertake monitoring and evaluation of their work to reduce gambling harms

We are seeking to gain a breadth of insight, conducting qualitative work with a larger number of projects across a large number of areas, before selecting a number of case study sites to be considered in more depth. The approach would be supplemented by analysis of monitoring data from all projects. In addition, the appointed learning partner will be expected to support the development of grantees ability to monitor and evaluate their activity. This is likely to include workshops and tools provided at the outset of the learning partner's engagement to support grantees in their collection of meaningful monitoring data. The work of the learning partner will also be structured so that the chosen provider can contribute to learning events with grantees that will be delivered by the project team.

We are seeking an organisation to act as our learning partner that has the following expertise and experience within their team:

- Mixed methods evaluation: bringing together the available quantitative data with qualitative data to consider themes and triangulate findings.
- Process evaluation: specifically focused on learning about national funders and commissioners developing new relationships with community-based organisations
- Equitable approaches to evaluation: understanding the extent to which funding programmes address barriers to equity and how evaluators can work to support a movement towards more equitable approaches
- Capability and capacity building in evaluation: delivering training, support and tools to organisations with a range of understanding regarding monitoring, evaluation and learning.
- Working as a learning partner: gathering and sharing learning across commissioned projects and facilitating learning exchange and knowledge transfer
- Collaborative and flexible approach: providing timely actionable learning and insights and working as a partner to adapt the approach where necessary over the course of the evaluation.

## 2.3 Timescale and budget

The evaluation project is expected to commence in January 2023 and last for up to 18 months. There is a maximum budget of £250,000 (incl VAT) available for this work.

### 2.4 Evaluation of Expressions of Interest

Submissions will be evaluated on how they meet the criteria outlined on the Expression of Interest form.

#### 2.5 Submission of completed forms

Completed forms should be submitted to <a href="mailto:evaluation@gambleaware.org">evaluation@gambleaware.org</a> by 17:00 on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

# Gamble Aware