

PRESS RELEASE

GAMBLEAWARE PARTNERS WITH PSHE ASSOCIATION TO PUBLISH GUIDANCE FOR TEACHERS ON GAMBLING HARMS

- The PSHE Association handbook includes guidelines for what level of understanding children should have about gambling at both primary and secondary school level.
- The work is being published alongside the GambleAware annual conference, which is themed towards protections for children and young people.
- The guidance will support schools to meet new statutory requirements to teach about the risks related to online gambling.

London, 5 December 2019: The PSHE Association has today published a handbook on how to teach children about gambling harms. GambleAware commissioned the work, which has been published to coincide with its annual conference. The work is timely given secondary schools will be required to 'teach about the risks related to online gambling including the accumulation of debt' from September 2020, as part of statutory Health Education.

As part of the work, the PSHE Association – the national body for PSHE education – held focus groups and conducted a survey with teachers to determine their current perceptions and experience of gambling prevention education.

The survey revealed that the vast majority (78%) of primary teachers had not addressed gambling as part of PSHE lessons that year, and the same was true for over half of secondary teachers. This is despite 11% of 11 to 16-year olds having gambled during the previous week according to an annual survey published by the Gambling Commission (compared to 5% who had smoked a cigarette and 3% who had used drugs).

Teachers in the focus group and survey were concerned about young people's engagement in online gaming and apps, especially those that had gambling style features. There was concern that online gambling required less thought and commitment, because there was no need to use physical cash, which made transactions easier.

The handbook identifies relevant knowledge, skills and attributes students should develop during primary and secondary education. For primary school children, they should be able to:

- Understand the nature of risk
- Be aware of the things that can influence gambling decisions
- Know where to seek help, including online sources of support.

Secondary school pupils should also be able to:

- Identify examples of gambling harms
- Assess probabilities, understand odds and identify thinking errors.

The new handbook complements the theme of GambleAware's conference this year, which is 'keeping children and young people safe from gambling harms'. During the event there will be a discussion about education and prevention in schools, which corresponds with this work. The partnership with the PSHE Association is a further example of GambleAware's role as convener, bringing key organisations together to raise awareness of, and help prevent, gambling harms.

Dr Jane Rigbye, Director of Education at GambleAware has said:

"We know that more children have gambled, than smoked cigarettes or taken drugs in the last week, but very few have actually been taught about the risks associated with gambling and what the signs of problem gambling are. By working closely with the PSHE Association we have been able to better understand what works when it comes to teaching children about gambling harms.

"Gambling is a health and wellbeing issue which needs to be addressed from a public health perspective. The commissioning of this work has provided us with the relevant evidence and guidance needed to help teachers and pupils better understand the nature of gambling and the harms which can arise from it."

Jonathan Baggaley, Chief Executive of the PSHE Association has said:

“Teaching about the risks of gambling is a natural fit for the PSHE curriculum, and indeed teaching about the risks of online gambling will be a compulsory aspect from next year. This handbook marks the first product of our partnership with GambleAware and we look forward to launching lesson plans and other materials in the New Year to further support schools.”

The handbook sits alongside a range of additional resources, which can be used to support schools which are introducing or improving gambling education.

-ENDS-

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About GambleAware:

- GambleAware is an independent charity (Charity No. England & Wales 1093910, Scotland SC049433) that champions a public health approach to preventing gambling harms – see <http://about.gambleaware.org/>
- GambleAware is a commissioner of integrated prevention, education and treatment services on a national scale, with over £40 million of grant funding under active management. In partnership with gambling treatment providers, GambleAware has spent several years methodically building structures for commissioning a coherent system of brief intervention and treatment services, with clearly defined care pathways and established referral routes to and from the NHS – a National Gambling Treatment Service.
- The National Gambling Treatment Service brings together a National Gambling Helpline and a network of locally based providers across Great Britain that works with partner agencies and people with lived experience to design and deliver a system, which meets the needs of individuals. This system delivers a range of treatment services, including brief intervention, counselling (delivered either face-to-face or online), residential programmes and psychiatrist-led care.

- In the 12 months to 31 March 2019, provisional figures show that the National Gambling Treatment Service treated 10,000 people and this is projected to rise to 24,000 people a year by 2021. Helpline activity is currently running at about 30,000 calls and on-line chats per annum. GambleAware also runs the website BeGambleAware.org which helps 2.7 million visitors a year, and signposts to a wide range of support services.
- GambleAware produces public health campaigns including **Bet Regret**. A Safer Gambling Board, including representatives from Public Health England, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, and GambleAware, is responsible for the design and delivery of a campaign based on best practice in public health education. The Bet Regret campaign is being funded through specific, additional donations to the charity, in line with a commitment given to the government by the broadcasting, advertising and gambling industries.
See <https://about.gambleaware.org/prevention/safer-gambling-campaign/>.

About the PSHE Association:

- The PSHE Association is the national body for personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education – the school curriculum subject that supports pupils to be healthy, safe and prepared for modern life. A charity and membership organisation, the Association works to improve PSHE education standards by supporting a national network of teachers and schools with advice, training and resources. Find out more at www.pshe-association.org.uk.
- Statutory 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education' guidance comes into effect from September 2020 and schools are beginning to prepare for these changes. Internet safety and harms are covered under Health Education at secondary level, and within this [p36] there is a requirement for schools to 'teach about the risks related to online gambling including the accumulation of debt'. Access the full guidance here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5y76wu8>