

4th GambleAware Harm Minimisation Conference Report

London, 7-8 December 2016

GambleAware hosted its fourth annual Harm Minimisation Conference at the King's Fund.

Over 300 delegates and 60 speakers attended the two day event.

Kate Lampard, attending the conference for the first time in her capacity as GambleAware's chair, welcomed delegates before the Minister for Sport, Tourism & Heritage, Tracey Crouch MP, spoke to commend all those attending for their shared commitment to addressing gambling-related harm.



Two keynote speakers then asked the question "What do we mean by gambling-related harm?"

Professor Alex Blaszczynski, University of Sydney, spoke first, following by Erika Langham, of Central Queensland University who moved on to examine how we might separate the behaviour from the outcomes.

Next, two ongoing research projects funded by GambleAware looked more closely at understanding and measuring gambling-related harm. Dr Valerie Bunting of PwC looked at the broader definitions, before economists from the IPPR, Craig Thorley & Alfie Sterling, presented early findings from their report on the costs to Government of gambling-related harm.

The first panel discussion of the Conference saw Professor Alex Blaszczynski, Dr. Simon Tanner, Dr Sarah McNulty, Dr Sean Cowlshaw, Erika Langham and Annette Dale-Perera comment and field questions from the audience on this topic.

During the lunch break, students sponsored through their PhD's hosted a poster session sharing their work informally with delegates.

In the afternoon, focus turned to whom is particularly vulnerable to gambling-related harm?

Marc Etches, GambleAware's Chief Executive, introduced updates on six active harm minimisation projects from around Great Britain

- Youth problem gambling initiative - Chiara Marin, Fast Forward
- Gambling intervention in secondary schools - Ian Wybron, Demos
- Word on the Street – Homelessness and Gambling - Dr Steve Sharman, University of Lincoln
- Harm minimisation in criminal justice and the armed forces - Justyn Larcombe, EPIC Risk Management
- Education for professional sportspeople - Simon Taylor, Professional Players Federation
- Working with frontline advice agencies – Citizens Advice - Katie Fry, Newport Citizens Advice

These speakers were joined by Richard Ives from the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board for a panel discussion.



Next attention turned to activities in partnership with the industry.

Iain Corby, Director of Operations & Development, revealed the new BeGambleAware.org website, explaining the

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charity would be consulting stakeholders on this.

John Hagan, Industry Group for Responsible Gambling (IGRG), then informed delegates about a number of responsible gambling industry initiatives, before representatives from across all sectors of the industry gave individual updates:

- ABB responsible gambling initiatives - Malcolm George, Association of British Bookmakers (ABB)
- Self-exclusion in the remote sector - Clive Hawkswood, Remote Gambling Association (RGA)
- Bacta responsible gambling initiatives - John White, British amusement machine industry (bacta)
- Bingo research and self-exclusion - Miles Baron, Bingo Association (BA)
- Playing Safe - Tracy Damestani, National Casino Forum (NCF)
- Camelot behavioural analytics - Alison Gardner, Camelot.

A new event this year was the Conference Dinner which took place at the Cumberland Hotel) with Welsh international football player, John Hartson, speaking to describe his own personal battle with a gambling addiction.



Day 2

The opening speaker on the agenda for the second day was Carolyn Harris MP, chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals.

The theme for the day was treatment and two keynote speakers began by asking what works to help problem gamblers and affected others?

Professor Peter Collins, former professor at the University of Salford began with a presentation on preventing problem gambling and abating its harms, following by Professor Jon Grant from the University of Chicago, who reported on the effectiveness of Treatment of problem gamblers.

Dirk Hansen, Owen Baily and Frankie Graham of GamCare, YGAM and BetKnowMore joined the professors for a wide-ranging panel discussion.

Treatment in Great Britain

Results from GambleAware's Data Reporting Framework were then published for the first time, with data described by Jennifer Denchie, GambleAware's Research and Commissioning Assistant.

A selection of treatment providers then reported back before themselves forming a panel for a further discussion:

- Women's pilot residential service - Ruth Champion, Gordon Moody Association
- National Gambling Helpline & counselling services - Dirk Hansen, GamCare
- Gambling dependency - Wynford Ellis Owen, Living Room Cardiff
- Treatment for gambling addiction - Dr Neil Smith, CNWL National Problem Gambling Clinic.

More harm minimisation research conclusions were then delivered.

Professor Robert Rogers, Bangor University described his eye-tracking in electronic gaming machine play in bookmakers findings.

Research commissioned by bacta into The effects of reducing the stake on a B2 machine in UK betting shops was presented

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by Professor Peter Collins, former professor at the University of Salford.

David Trunkfield, PwC partner leading a project into remote gambling – explained how they have been using industry held data to minimise harm.

Heather Wardle and Natalie Maplethorpe, NatCen, updated delegates with findings from a follow up study to a survey of loyalty card holders, followed by Professor David Forrest of the University of Liverpool with the conclusions of his work on tracked play on B1 gaming machines in British casinos.

Young people, gambling and gambling-related harm was the subject of a progress report by Julia Pye, Ipsos MORI.

A major new report into The Stake Reduction Dilemma and Product-Based Harm Minimisation was then launched at the Conference by Professor Jonathan Parke, Sophro Ltd.

Finally Veterans, gambling and mental health was the topic of Dr Simon Dymond, of Swansea University while John Kennedy, Ipsos MORI, explained their findings around Problem gambling in licensed bingo premises -

The final session looked forward to future research and what can be achieved.

Professor Jo Wolff, University of Oxford and chair of the GambleAware Research Committee, joined Professor David Miers, from the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB) to look forward to the Research Programme, to which another trustee Henry Birch of Rank Group responded by advocating strongly industry participation in research.

The Conference closed with a lively panel discussion facilitated by Liz Barclay which allowed for debate about the governance and ethics of industry-funded research, drawing on contributions from Professor Alex Blaszczynski, Erika Langham, Professor Jon Grant, and Dr Sean Cowlshaw.



Kate Lampard closed the conference, thanking all the speakers and delegates for their contributions and looking forward to the 5th such conference, planned for December 2017.

It's never too soon to be
GambleAware
