



New NHS Primary Care Gambling Service launches to support GP patients who experience gambling harms

London 8th July: A new NHS Primary Care Gambling Service (PCGS) has launched in London, which offers help via GP surgeries for adults who have problems related to gambling.

The new pilot service has been developed by the Hurley Group (an NHS GP partnership) and is being led by Dr Clare Gerada. The service is also supported by a multidisciplinary team of mental health nurses, GPs, treatment practitioners and therapists.

The PCGS will be working with and alongside the National Gambling Treatment Service to support those who need treatment for their gambling and as part of this, the PCGS has worked with the charity GamCare to develop an integrated care pathway. The new service will also work with GPs to help improve their recognition of which of their patients may be experiencing harm through gambling.

Starting in South East London (Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham, Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich,) there is a plan to expand the service in the next few months.

A Competency Framework for gambling treatment in primary care is also being developed by the PCGS. This new framework is being funded by GambleAware and will set out the skills and experience needed for practitioners in this field and is a project being taken forward in association with the Royal College of General Practitioners.

Announcing the new service, **Dr Clare Gerada said:**

“There is evidence that many people who have problems related to gambling are in contact with their GP, but don’t necessarily talk about their gambling. We will be exploring how to identify them, and how to help them get access to the treatment that is right for them. We know from other areas of work that people value the option of getting treatment in primary care settings.”

Michael Mulholland, Professional Development Officer Lead of the Royal College of General Practitioners said:

“The RCGP welcomes the development of a Competency Framework for gambling treatment in primary care. This will help GPs and other primary care workers to develop their skills in treating people who are harmed through gambling.”]

Anna van der Gaag, Chair of the Advisory Board for Safer Gambling said:

“This new initiative is very significant in expanding the treatment options for people who have experienced harm from gambling and for their families. We want treatment to be as accessible as possible and to remove the barriers that might exist for people seeking help. This is one of a number of initiatives that move us to a more joined up approach and I look forward to the lessons we can learn from this work about how we can scale up provision.”



hurley group



People can contact the PCGS by speaking to their own GP, by calling 0300 0300 111 or going to <https://www.primarycaregamblingservice.co.uk/> .

-ENDS-

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About the Hurley Group:

[The Hurley Group](#) is an NHS Partnership exclusively led by practicing GPs, providing patient-centred care in London since 1969. The Hurley Group received a regulatory settlement brokered by the Gambling Commission to fund the pilot of the PCGS. The development of the Competency Framework is being funded by GambleAware.