

## Steven Cobb

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**From:** Town Clerk  
**Sent:** 16 October 2018 09:08  
**To:** Licensing  
**Subject:** Statement of Licensing Principles Consultation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Orange Category, Yellow Category

Dear Sirs,

Members of Royston Town Council discussed the Statement of Licensing Principles consultation at their meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

Members resolved that they welcomed the new Statement of Licensing Principles as it strengthened the case against gambling, although they have strong views that no further licences should be granted in the town of Royston.

With Kind Regards,

Caroline Mills PSLCC  
Town Clerk



Royston Town Council  
Town Hall, Melbourn St, Royston SG8 7DA

[www.roystontowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.roystontowncouncil.gov.uk)

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**NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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The Licensing Manager  
North Hertfordshire District Council  
PO Box 10613  
Nottingham  
NG6 6DW

Our Ref: EH/PC  
Contact Officer: Peter Carey  
Direct Line:  
Email:  
Date: 18 October 2018

**BY EMAIL**

Dear Steve Cobb

**STATEMENT OF GAMBLING PRINCIPLES CONSULTATION**

Further to your letter of 31 August 2018, I am writing to respond to your consultation in my capacity as a Responsible Authority under the Gambling Act 2015. I have had regard to Gambling Commission's guidance in reviewing your draft policy.

In my view, there is little overlap between issues that the policy addresses and the regulatory areas that the environmental health service is responsible for. I am not aware of any issues that have arisen in the last three years from an environmental health perspective relating to gambling matters that we have felt necessary to raise with you as the licensing authority.

The policy seems to be very comprehensive and sets a clear position for the regulation of gambling activities in North Hertfordshire. I have no further comments or suggestions as to how it could be improved.

Yours sincerely

Peter Carey  
Environmental Health Manager



## Steven Cobb

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**From:** Catherine Sweet  
**Sent:** 31 August 2018 11:31  
**To:** Licensing  
**Cc:** Steven Cobb  
**Subject:** RE: Gambling Policy Consultation  
**Attachments:** GamCare Local Authorities Brochure 2018 (web-version).pdf; GamCare Training Brochure 2017.pdf

Hello,

Thank you for your email, we appreciate your interest in our work.

While we do not have the resources available to allow us to personally respond to each Local Authority which contacts us regarding their refreshed Statement of Principles, we have compiled a list of the issues or factors which we think it would be helpful to consider below, more information is available via the [Gambling Commission](#).

The function of the Statement is to reflect locally specific gambling concerns and to reflect the Council's wider strategic objectives. The active use of the Statement is one means by which you can make clear your expectations of gambling operators who have premises in your area. This allows operators to respond to locally specific requirements and adjust their own policies and procedures as required.

- A helpful first step is to develop a risk map of your local area so that you are aware of both potential and actual risks around gambling venues. A useful explanation of area-based risk-mapping has been developed with Westminster and Manchester City Councils, which gives some guidance on those who may be most vulnerable or at-risk of gambling-related harm. For more information please see [www.geofutures.com/research-2/gambling-related-harm-how-local-space-shapes-our-understanding-of-risk/](http://www.geofutures.com/research-2/gambling-related-harm-how-local-space-shapes-our-understanding-of-risk/)
- Consider that proposals for new gambling premises which are near hostels or other accommodation or centres catering for vulnerable people, including those with learning difficulties, and those with gambling / alcohol / drug abuse problems, as likely to adversely affect the licensing objectives set out by the Gambling Commission. This is also relevant regarding the proximity to schools, colleges and universities.
- A detailed local risk assessment at each gambling venue – pertinent to the environment immediately surrounding the premises as well as the wider local area – is a good way to gauge whether the operator and staff teams are fully aware of the challenges present in the local area and can help reassure the Local Licensing Authority that appropriate mitigations are in place.
- Does the operator have a specific training programme for staff to ensure that they are able to identify children and other vulnerable people, and take appropriate action to ensure they are not able to access the premises or are supported appropriately?
- Does the operator ensure that there is an adequate number of staff and managers are on the premises at key points throughout the day? This may be particularly relevant for premises situated nearby schools / colleges / universities, and/or pubs, bars and clubs.
- Consider whether the layout, lighting and fitting out of the premises have been designed so as not to attract children and other vulnerable persons who might be harmed or exploited by gambling.
- Consider whether any promotional material associated with the premises could encourage the use of the premises by children or young people if they are not legally allowed to do so.

We would suggest that the Local Licensing Authority primarily consider applications from [GamCare Certified operators](#). GamCare Certification is a voluntary process comprising an independent audit assessment of an operator's player protection measures and social responsibility standards, policy and practice. Standards are measured in accordance with the GamCare Player Protection Code of Practice. If you would like more information on how our audit can support Local Licensing Authorities, please contact [mike.kenward@gamcare.org.uk](mailto:mike.kenward@gamcare.org.uk)

For more information on GamCare training and other services available to local authorities, as well as recommended training for gambling operators, please see the attached brochures.

If there is anything else we can assist with please do let us know.

Kind regards,  
Catherine

**Catherine Sweet**  
**Head of Marketing and Communications**

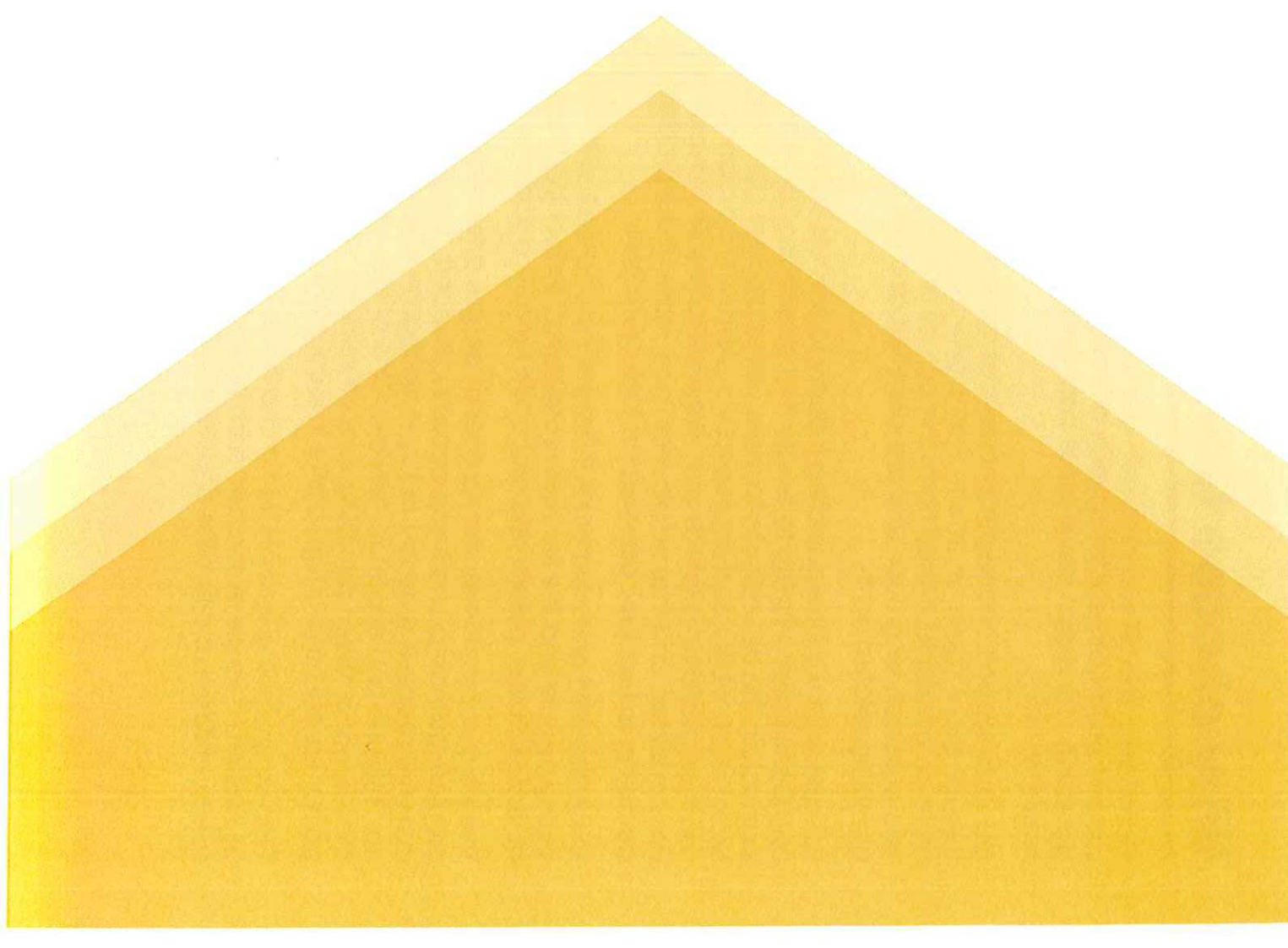
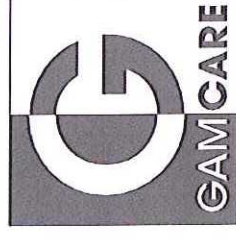
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# **GamCare Local Authority Services**





# Why choose GamCare?

GamCare is the UK's leading provider of information, advice, support and treatment for anyone affected by problem gambling. Our expert services are confidential and non-judgemental.

Our core support and treatment services are currently funded through grant agreements with GambleAware. We also work to minimise gambling related harm through awareness, education and outreach for groups who are identified as at-risk of gambling-related harm.

We also work with the gambling industry to provide training and Certification, aiming to ensure that operators who provide products in the UK understand more about problem gambling, social responsibility and appropriate customer interaction to minimise gambling related harm. We work to ensure players are protected and that employees know more about problem gambling so that they can support their customers.

Our education and awareness initiatives include work with young people and the frontline professionals supporting them, as well as police, prisons and probation services across the UK.

There is a gap between the number of people affected by problem gambling and those accessing support. GamCare currently supports around 1 in 10 problem gamblers through our HelpLine and treatment services. One of the challenges we face is that problem gambling support services, whilst funded, do not usually have a high profile in local areas.

Problem gambling can present a challenge to local authorities as it links to a range of services, such as licencing, community safety, children and families and housing/homelessness.

GamCare are uniquely positioned to support local authorities to develop an integrated strategy to address problem gambling, from promoting safer play through to targeting those with increasing risk and ensuring problem gamblers, and those affected by problem gambling, have access to effective support and treatment.

GamCare is able to work across local authorities to provide an holistic response to problem gambling in each local area. We have developed knowledge and expertise relevant to a range of stakeholders working in frontline roles across your area and have developed training for teachers, GP's, police and probation workers, youth workers and many more.

GamCare offers a pick and mix package of paid-for training, consultancy, auditing and engagement services, all underpinned by an expert advice and treatment service which is available completely free of charge across the country.

We are expert in problem gambling and understand its manifestation in context. We have developed a wide range of training programmes which provide:

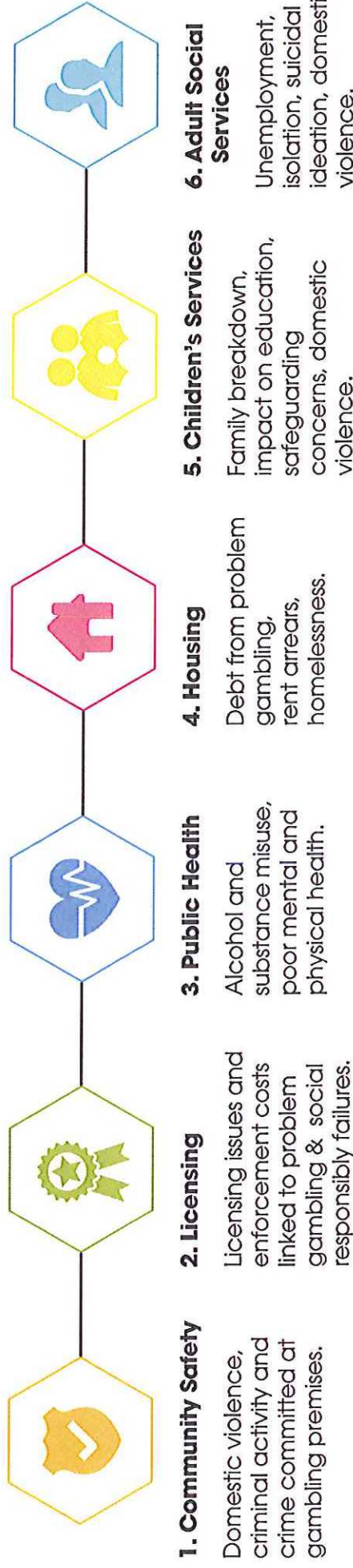
- Awareness raising to highlight the issue of problem gambling, its nature and incidence, as well as impacts, and where to get support;
- Identification and Brief Advice for frontline staff who may come across problem gamblers (or 'affected others') in their everyday work;
- In-depth, pro-active behaviour change training aimed at those working with those affected in supportive capacities.



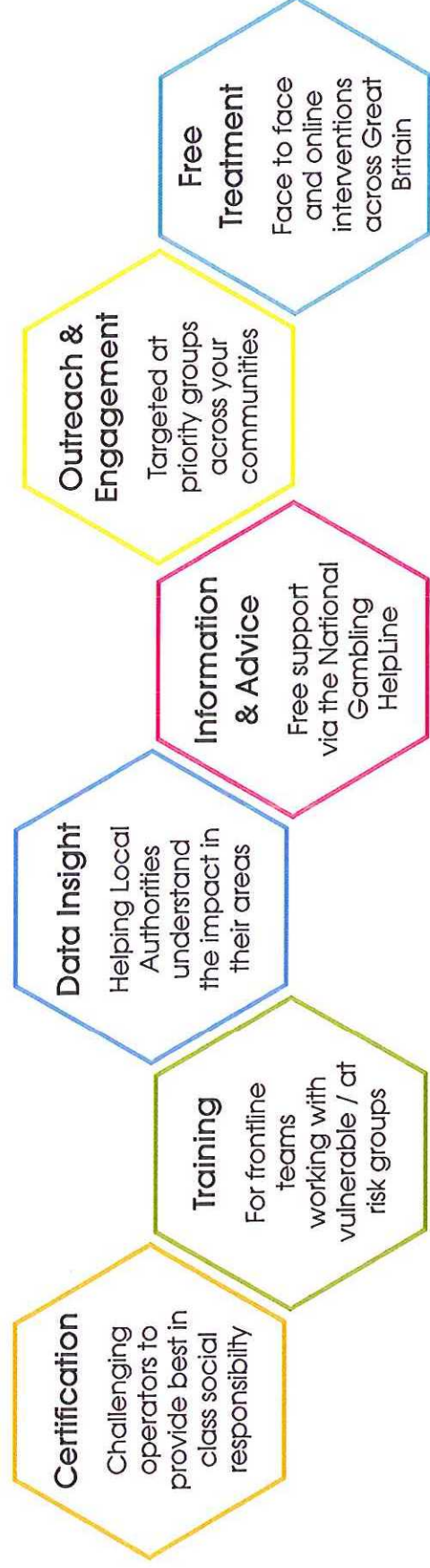
# Impacts of Problem Gambling in Local Areas

It is estimated that problem gambling affects around 400,000 people in the UK, with around 2 million at risk of harm, it's also estimated that for every problem gambler, up to seven others are impacted. Problem gambling is a cross-cutting social issue with a wide range of impacts for individuals, families and communities.

Problem gambling disproportionately affects certain groups. Young people, those in the criminal justice system and homeless people are at increased risk. In 2016, the Institute for Public Policy Research estimated that the social cost of gambling to the UK economy could be up to £1.2bn<sup>1</sup>. The range of gambling impacts cuts right across your borough; GamCare has services to address every one.



## GamCare's Local Authority Offer



<sup>1</sup>. See Cards on the table: The cost to government associated with people who are problem gamblers in Britain



# GamCare Certification - Audit and Consultancy

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We work with gambling operators to review their policies and procedures, audit their training and support them to embed a culture of social responsibility from the board room to the customer service team.

Our Certification reviews a range of social responsibility measures to help to promote safer gambling and to minimise gambling-related harm.

We can support your Licensing and Safer Communities teams, alongside their own programme of audit and inspections, to ensure that:

- Gambling industry staff are trained in the identification and signposting of individuals towards problem gambling support services;
- Staff understand the value of high quality personalised interactions, made in the right ways at the right times;
- Operators have embedded a culture of responsible gambling and prioritise the minimisation of risks and gambling-related harm.

Local authorities are encouraged to ensure the principles of GamCare Certification, promoting best practice around social responsibility for UK operators, are embedded in licensing Statement(s) of Principles.



“The Certification process certainly assisted us in understanding our role, as operators and product suppliers, regarding (the prevention of) problem gambling. Knowing our role is key to understanding our responsibilities.”



# GamCare Awareness Training

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## Problem Gambling Awareness

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**3 hours**



**15 max.**



**At a location to suit you**



**Contact us for a quote**

Provides an understanding of problem gambling and gambling-related harm, including signs, symptoms and the impacts of problem gambling on an individual's life and those around them.

- Start to understand the psychology of gambling, why people gamble and what happens to the brain when we gamble.
- Understand the difference between gambling and problem gambling, indicators and how to signpost to appropriate services.

This course is for those working in frontline roles where they may encounter those affected by gambling-related harm, and who wish to gain a better understanding of the issue.



The CPD Standards Office

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## Identification and Brief Advice

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**3 hours (CPD)**



**15 max.**



**At a location to suit you**



**Contact us for a quote**

Provides an understanding of gambling-related harm, with a focus on key risk factors and how to identify the problem, how to use a brief gambling screen and a range of current referral sources.

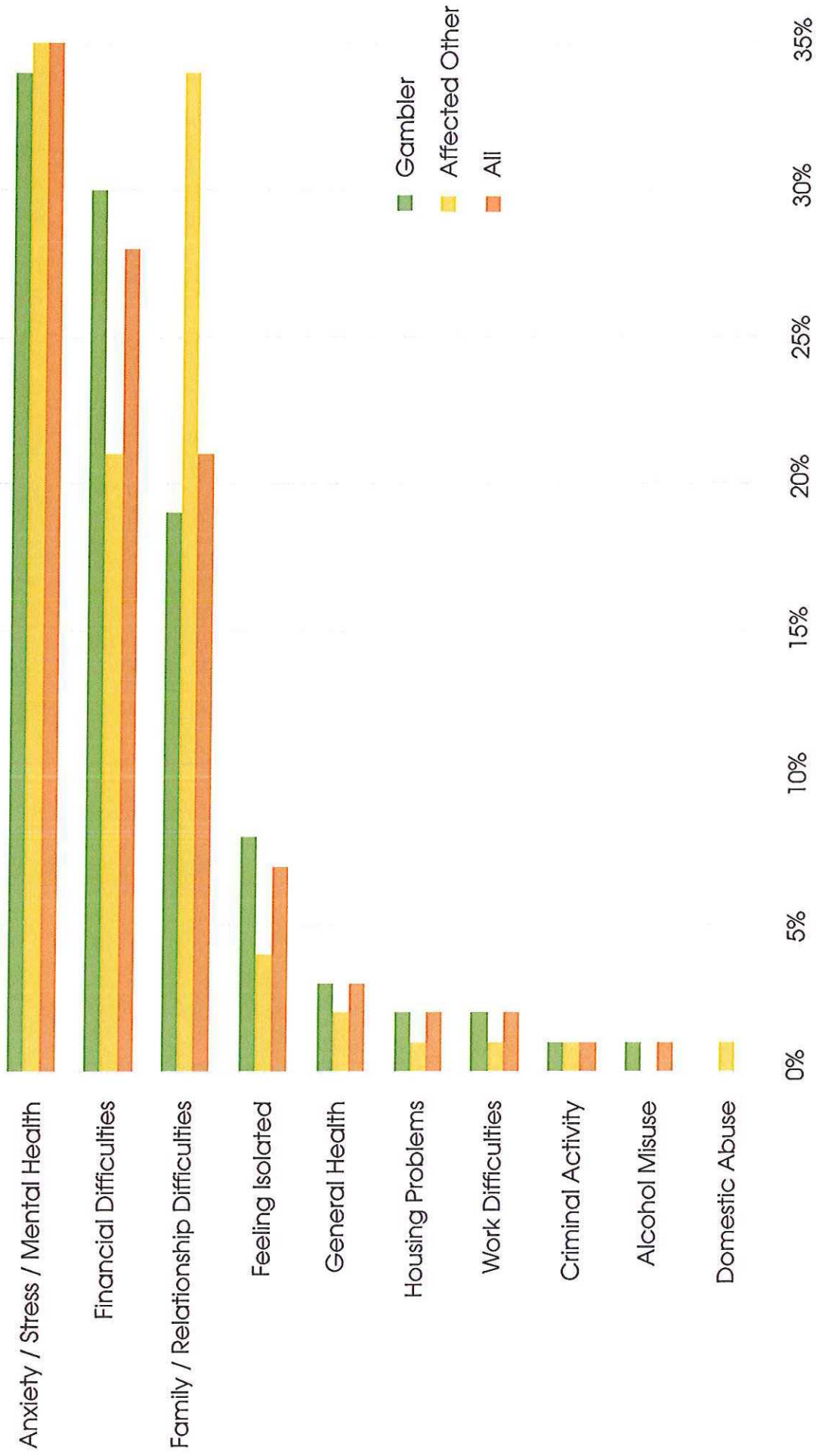
- Understand problem gambling, how to screen for it and structure a brief conversation to elicit further detail.
- Attain knowledge of the support and advice available, including player protection tools as well as emotional and practical support.

This course is for those working in frontline roles where they may encounter those affected by gambling-related harm, such as gambling industry staff, primary care workers, clinicians, advisers support workers or other healthcare professionals.

It provides the skills and knowledge to manage concerns and direct individuals to specialist help and support.

# Data Insight

GamCare can provide local authorities with data about the number of calls we get from their area (by first part of postcode) and the impacts raised by these callers (where known). Nationally, the most common impacts disclosed in 2016/17 included:





# Information, Advice and Treatment

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GamCare operates the National Gambling HelpLine; open every day from 8am to midnight, providing information, advice and support over the phone and via web chat to more than 30,000 callers each year.

This service is supported by a range of funded treatment, operating through GamCare and our network of partner agencies across England, Scotland and Wales, delivering expert one to one and group interventions.

These fully funded services are free to access right now:

- Telephone information and advice for problem gamblers and those affected by gambling-related harm;
- Brief and Extended Brief Interventions to reduce gambling-related harm;
- A range of face-to-face, online and telephone treatment;
- Onward signposting into appropriate local services;
- Aftercare and peer support, including GamCare's online Forum and Chatrooms;

GamCare is a source of local expertise on problem gambling and its impacts.

We can partner with local authorities to promote our services at no or low cost to improve the uptake of treatment and support and reduce the impacts of problem gambling in your area.

# Engagement and Outreach

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We understand how problem gambling develops in people's lives, and we understand how to intervene before things get out of control.

Our engagement teams work to proactively connect with the gambling industry, schools, police and probation services to provide a local signpost for all services in the community seeking expert help for gambling related harm.

Our engagement services will:

- Provide a specific gambling outreach service embedded within your local community;
- Engage with stakeholders across Local Authorities, operating a no-wrong door policy to ensure anyone, at any stage of the development of a problem can be supported;
- Operate from local authority or other desired premises;
- Link service users directly into the GamCare treatment network where further support is needed.

## Contact GamCare

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020 7801 7000



[info@gamcare.org.uk](mailto:info@gamcare.org.uk)



[www.gamcare.org.uk](http://www.gamcare.org.uk)



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www.gamcare.org.uk

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# **GamCare Training Services: Awareness and Prevention**



## Why choose GamCare?

GamCare is the UK's leading provider of information, advice, support and treatment for anyone affected by problem gambling. We also work to minimise gambling related harm through education and training.

Since 1997 GamCare has provided training for clinicians, researchers, educators, policy makers, the gambling industry and other professionals to increase understanding of problem gambling, its causes and consequences.

With 20 years of expertise, speaking daily to those affected by gambling problems, GamCare can work with many different organisations to raise awareness of problem gambling, and to educate those who might choose to gamble to do so responsibly.

This brochure is for anyone in a frontline role working with the public who believes they may come into contact with those affected by gambling related harm.

We deliver a comprehensive range of training products to suit your needs. Contact us today to discuss your requirements.

### Contact GamCare:



020 7801 7000



[info@gamcare.org.uk](mailto:info@gamcare.org.uk)



[www.gamcare.org.uk/training-and-certification](http://www.gamcare.org.uk/training-and-certification)

## Awareness and Prevention

### Problem Gambling Awareness



3 hours



15 max.



On-site or at our London office

Provides an understanding of problem gambling and gambling-related harm, including signs, symptoms and the impacts of problem gambling on an individual's life and those around them.

- Start to understand the psychology of gambling, why people gamble and what happens to the brain when we gamble.
- Understand the difference between gambling and problem gambling, indicators and how to signpost to appropriate services.

This course is for those working in frontline roles where they may encounter those affected by gambling-related harm, and who wish to gain a better understanding of the issue.

### Problem Gambling - Identification and Brief Advice



3 hours (CPD)



15 max.



On-site or at our London office

Provides in-depth understanding of gambling-related harm, with a focus on key risk factors and how to identify the problem, how to use a brief gambling screen and a range of current referral sources.

- Understand problem gambling, how to screen for it and structure a brief conversation to elicit further detail.
- Attain knowledge of the support and advice available, including player protection tools as well as emotional and practical support.

This course is for those working in frontline roles where they may encounter those affected by gambling-related harm, such as gambling industry staff, primary care workers, clinicians, advisers support workers or other healthcare professionals.

It provides the skills and knowledge to manage concerns and direct individuals to specialist help and support.

"The sessions GamCare hosted have improved our knowledge and understanding of responsible gambling and the issues that can affect our customers."

This was an empowering session for all - our teams are now better equipped and more confident in dealing with more complex and sensitive matters."





# Gambling Industry Training

## Social Responsibility and Interaction



6 hours (3 CPD Hours)



15 max.



On-site or at our London office

Enables gambling industry managers and employees to identify customers who may have an issue with gambling, to understand their behaviour and conduct sensitive, meaningful interactions with those customers at the right time and place to signpost to appropriate support services.

As well as helping teams to identify the behavioural characteristics of customers who may be at risk of gambling-related harm, this course gives an understanding of the psychology of gamblers in relation to interaction. It will encourage the development of skills to provide effective, motivational interactions and conversations with at-risk customers.

This course is aimed at those working across the gambling industry, who have responsible gambling interactions with customers in a frontline capacity, such as customer service teams or those working in land-based premises.

## Social Responsibility, Communication and Motivating Behaviour Change



12 hours



15 max.



On-site or at our London office

Provides staff with the knowledge and skills to have proactive interactions on the subject of responsible gambling with all customers, whether or not they are experiencing harm from their gambling.

This two-day course gives an in-depth understanding of how motivational communication works and includes opportunities for practice time, to improve confidence in handling interactions with social, at-risk or problem gamblers.

The course equips learners with the theoretical and practical skills for handling calls and conversations, with special focus on staying safe and self-care when dealing with more challenging situations.

This course is aimed at those working across the gambling industry dealing with escalated responsible gambling issues, who need to carry out proactive responsible gambling interactions.

# Gambling Industry Training & Certification

## GamCare Extra eLearning: Player Protection and Social Responsibility



1 hour



eLearning

Increase understanding of problem gambling and player protection.

Find out how to identify and respond to player activity that may indicate problem gambling, inform customers about responsible gambling and signpost to appropriate help and support.

Extra eLearning is a series of scenario-based multiple choice modules, aimed at those interacting with customers in the remote sector of the gambling industry.



"The Certification process certainly assisted us in understanding our role, as operators and product suppliers, regarding (the prevention of) problem gambling. Knowing our role is key to understanding our responsibilities."

We recognise the importance of acknowledging those organisations that achieve high standards of social responsibility and player protection. We also believe that it's important that players can identify companies that operate to these high standards.

GamCare Certification is a voluntary audit process, assessed against our Code of Practice, and we certify both remote and land based gambling companies that have successfully implemented player protection policy and practice relevant to their platform and gambling service.

For more information contact Daniel Reilly at [daniel.reilly@gamcare.org.uk](mailto:daniel.reilly@gamcare.org.uk)



## Awareness and Prevention

### Young People and Problem Gambling Awareness



3 hours (CPD)



15 max.



On-site or at our London office

Around 370,000 young people aged 11-15 gamble each week, and it's estimated that as many as 25,000 may already be problem gamblers (Gambling Commission, 2017).

Many more may also be affected by the gambling of a loved one.

Youth facing professionals such as teachers and youth workers are well placed to be able to minimise harm as part of a robust safeguarding, mental health and prevention agenda.

This training provides knowledge of the nature of young people's gambling, confidence when dealing with the issue and awareness about where to signpost young people to if they need further support.

This CPD Accredited course is suitable for anyone working with young people aged 11-19.



3 hours



15 max.



On-site or at our London office

Student gambling issues are an increasing concern for universities. Provide your staff with the awareness, knowledge and skills to identify problems with gambling and advise students who are affected.

Attendees will gain practical communication skills to invite students to discuss their gambling and provide a brief screening of their gambling behaviour, and will leave equipped with the knowledge of which services they can signpost to for further support.

This training is relevant to all staff members at universities who interact with students - you may be working in the student finance department, or you may be a clinician or welfare worker.



## Awareness and Prevention

### Identification and Brief Advice - For the Criminal Justice System



3 hours



15 max.



On-site or at our London office

Problem gambling is disproportionately prevalent amongst those in the criminal justice system. From arrestees to those on probation, there is compelling evidence that problem gambling is an issue which too often remains unidentified.

Provide your staff with the knowledge and skills to be aware of, understand and screen for problem gambling.

This training will enable staff to understand the complexities of the issue and will equip your team with the knowledge of which services they can signpost to for further support.

This training is for anyone working within the criminal justice system, at any stage.

Please note we offer reduced fees for charities and statutory sector organisations.

### Identification and Brief Advice - For Sports Clubs and Organisations



3 hours



15 max.



On-site or at our London office

This course raises awareness of problem gambling for professional sports players, academies and the sports industry, and promotes a responsible attitude to gambling among this at-risk group.

This training provides coaches and sports leaders with the knowledge and skills to screen for problem gambling. It will enable attendees to understand the complexities of the issue and will equip them with the knowledge of which services they can signpost to for further support.

This course is aimed at leaders in the sports industry who have a duty of care to their players.

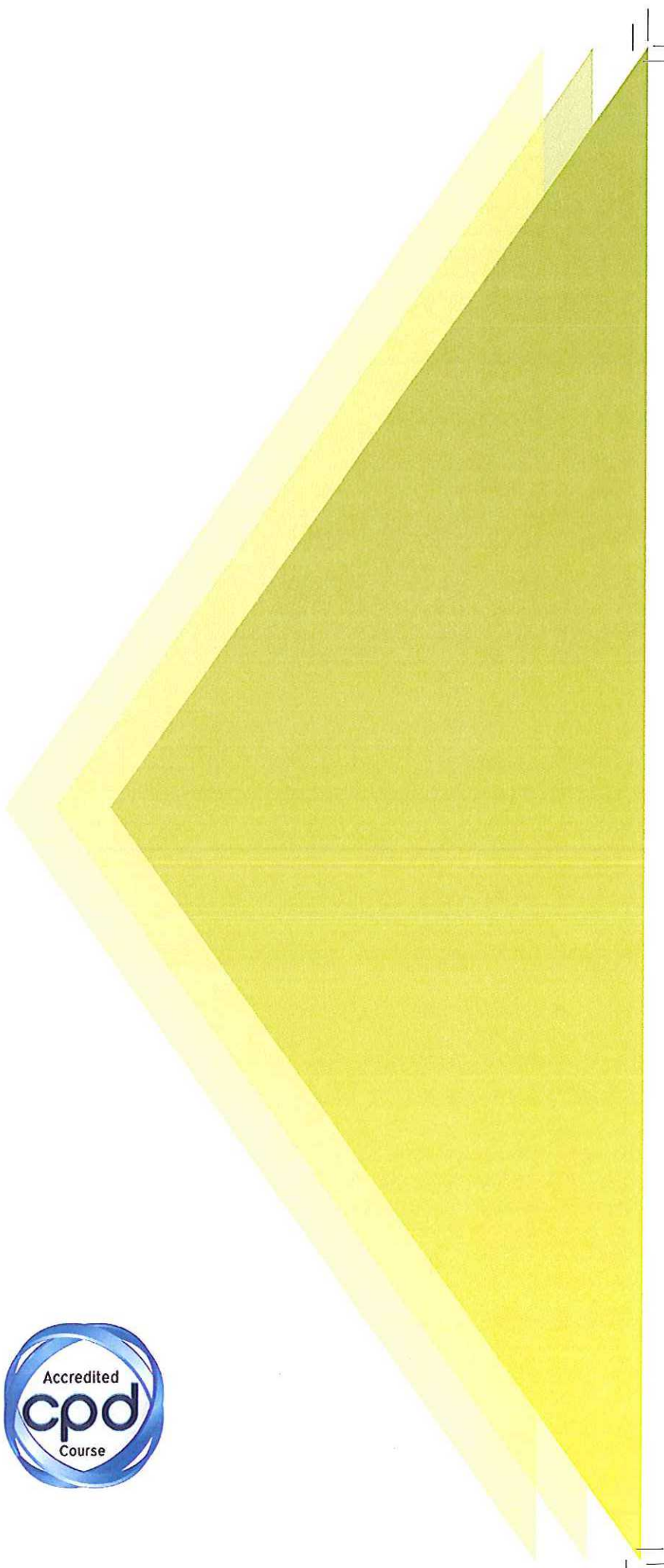


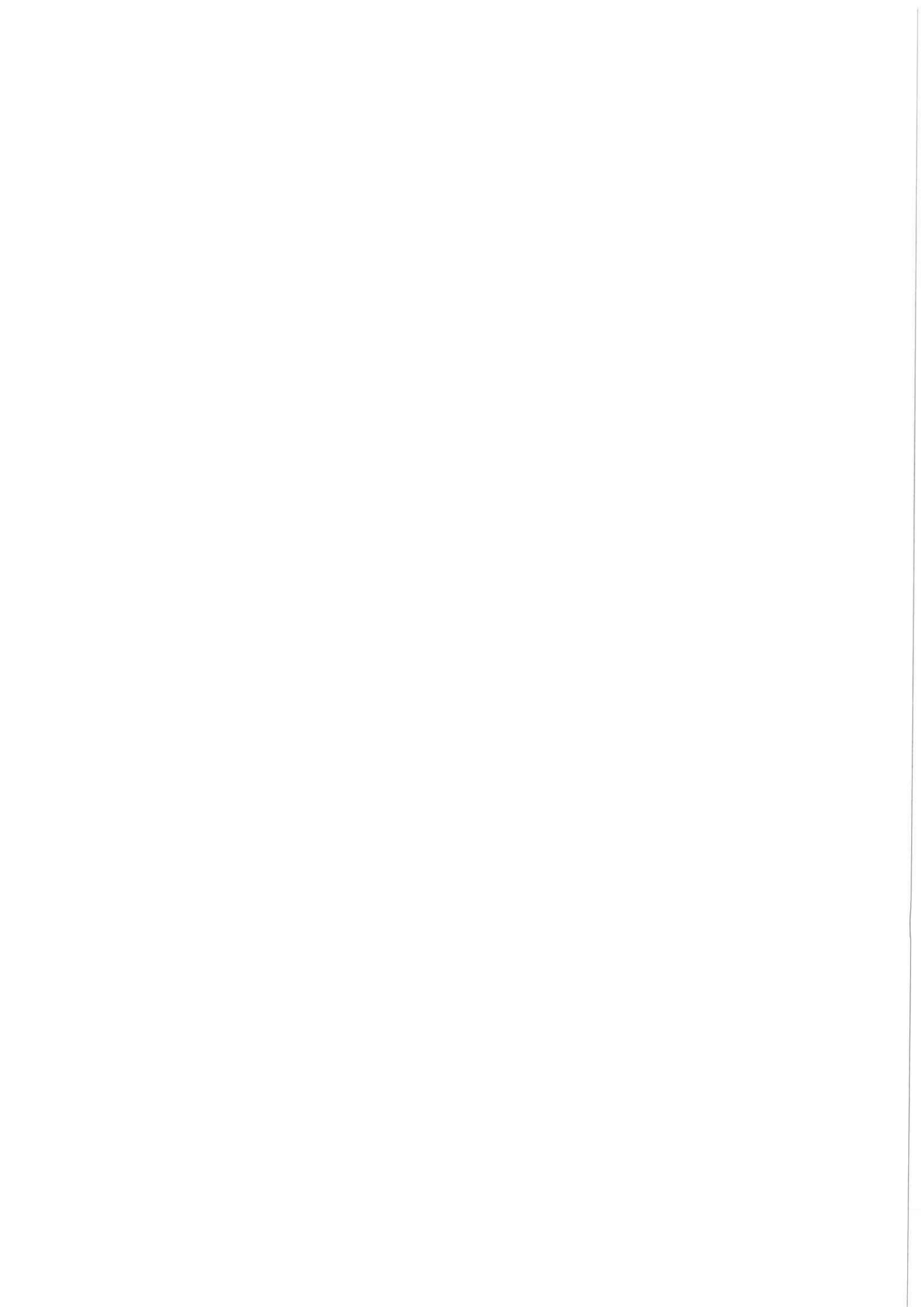


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North Hertfordshire DC

Please ask for:  
Direct Tel:  
Email:  
Our ref: RJT / MJM / 097505.00005  
#GS2221966  
Your ref:  
Date: 23 October 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Gambling Act 2005 Policy Statement Consultation**

We act for the Association of British Bookmakers (ABB) and have received instructions to respond on behalf of our client to the current consultation on the Council's review of its gambling policy statement.

The Association of British Bookmakers (ABB) represents over 80% of the high street betting market. Its members include large national operators such as William Hill, Ladbrokes Coral and Paddy Power, as well as almost 100 smaller independent bookmakers.

Please see below for the ABB's response to the Council's current consultation on the draft gambling policy statement.

This response starts by setting out the ABB's approach in areas relevant to the local authority's regulation of betting shop premises, and its commitment to working with local authorities in partnership. The response finishes by highlighting matters within the policy statement which the ABB feels may need to be addressed.

Betting shops have been part of the British high street for over 50 years and ensuring a dialogue with the communities they serve is vital.

The ABB recognises the importance of the gambling policy statement in focusing on the local environment and welcomes the informed approach this will enable operators to take with regard, to the requirements for local area risk assessments.

Whilst it is important that the gambling policy statement fully reflects the local area, the ABB is also keen to ensure that the statutory requirements placed on operators and local authorities under the Gambling Act 2005 remain clear; this includes mandatory conditions (for instance, relating to Think 21 policies) and the aim to permit structure. Any duplication or obscuring of these would be detrimental to the gambling licensing regime. The ABB also believes it is important that the key protections already offered for communities, and clear process (including putting the public on notice) for objections to premises licence applications, continue to be recognised.

Any consideration of gambling licensing at the local level should also be considered within the wider context.

- the overall number of betting shops is in decline. The latest Gambling Commission industry statistics show that numbers as of March 2017 were 8,788 - a decline of 349 since March 2014, when there were 9,137 recorded.
- planning law changes introduced in April 2015 have increased the ability of licensing authorities to review applications for new premises, as all new betting shops must now apply for planning permission.
- successive prevalence surveys and health surveys tells us that problem gambling rates in the UK are stable (0.6%) and possibly falling.

### Working in partnership with local authorities

The ABB is fully committed to ensuring constructive working relationships exist between betting operators and licensing authorities, and that where problems may arise that they can be dealt with in partnership. The exchange of clear information between councils and betting operators is a key part of this and the opportunity to respond to this consultation is welcomed.

### LGA – ABB Betting Partnership Framework

In January 2015 the ABB signed a partnership agreement with the Local Government Association (LGA), developed over a period of months by a specially formed Betting Commission consisting of councillors and betting shop firms, which established a framework designed to encourage more joint working between councils and the industry.

Launching the document Cllr Tony Page, LGA Licensing spokesman, said it demonstrated the *"desire on both sides to increase joint-working in order to try and use existing powers to tackle local concerns, whatever they might be."*

The framework builds on earlier examples of joint working between councils and the industry, for example the Medway Responsible Gambling Partnership which was launched by Medway Council and the ABB in December 2014. The first of its kind in Britain, the voluntary agreement led the way in trialing multi-operator self-exclusion. Lessons learned from this trial paved the way for the national multi-operator self-exclusion scheme now in place across the country. By phoning a free phone number (0800 294 2060) a customer who is concerned they are developing a problem with their gambling can exclude themselves from betting shops close to where they live, work and socialise. The ABB is working with local authorities to help raise awareness of the scheme, which is widely promoted within betting shops.

The national scheme was first trialed in Glasgow in partnership with Glasgow City Council. Cllr Paul Rooney, Glasgow's City Treasurer and Chairman of a cross-party Sounding Board on gambling,



described the project as "*breaking new ground in terms of the industry sharing information, both between operators and, crucially, with their regulator.*"

### **Primary Authority Partnerships in place between the ABB and local authorities**

All major operators, and the ABB on behalf of independent members, have also established Primary Authority Partnerships with local authorities. These partnerships help provide a consistent approach to regulation by local authorities, within the areas covered by the partnership; such as age-verification or health and safety. We believe this level of consistency is beneficial both for local authorities and for operators.

### **Local area risk assessments**

Since April 2016, under new Gambling Commission LCCP provisions, operators have been required to complete local area risk assessments identifying any risks posed to the licensing objectives and how these would be mitigated. Licensees must take into account relevant matters identified in the licensing authority's statement of licensing policy, and any local area profile, in their risk assessment. These must be reviewed where there are significant local changes or changes to the premises, or when applying for a variation to or for a new premises licence.

The ABB fully supports the implementation of risk assessments which will take into account risks presented in the local area, such as exposure to vulnerable groups and crime. The requirements build on measures the industry had already introduced through the ABB Responsible Gambling Code to better identify problem gamblers and to encourage all customers to gamble responsibly.

This includes training for shop staff on how to intervene and direct problem gamblers to support services, as well as new rules on advertising including banning gaming machine advertising in shop windows, and the introduction of Player Awareness Systems which use technology to track account based gaming machine customers' player history data to allow earlier intervention with any customers whose data displays known 'markers of harm'.

### **Best practice**

The ABB is committed to working pro-actively with local authorities to help drive the development of best practice with regard to local area risk assessments, both through responses to consultations such as this and directly with local authorities. Both the ABB and its members are open and willing to engage with any local authority with questions or concerns relating to the risk assessment process, and would encourage them to make contact.

Westminster Council is one local authority which entered into early dialogue with the industry, leading to the development of and consultation on draft guidance on the risk assessment process, which the ABB and our members contributed to. Most recently one operator, Coral, has been



working closely with the Council ahead of it issuing its final version of the guidance, which we welcome.

The final guidance includes a recommended template for the local area risk assessment which we would point to as a good example of what should be expected to be covered in an operator's risk assessment. It is not feasible for national operators to submit bespoke risk assessments to each of the c.350 local authorities they each deal with, and all operators have been working to ensure that their templates can meet the requirements set out by all individual local authorities.

The ABB would be concerned should any local authority seek to prescribe the form of an operator's risk assessment. This would not be in line with better regulation principles. Operators must remain free to shape their risk assessment in whichever way best meets their operational processes.

The ABB has also shared recommendations of best practice with its smaller independent members, who although they deal with fewer different local authorities, have less resource to devote to developing their approach to the new assessments. In this way we hope to encourage a consistent application of the new rules by operators which will benefit both them and local authorities.

### **Concerns around increases in the regulatory burden on operators**

The ABB is concerned to ensure that any changes in the licensing regime at a local level are implemented in a proportionate manner. This would include if any local authority were to set out overly onerous requirements on operators to review their local risk assessments with unnecessary frequency, as this could be damaging. As set out in the LCCP a review should only be required in response to significant local or premises change. In the ABB's view this should be where evidence can be provided to demonstrate that the change could impact the premises' ability to operate consistently with the three licensing objectives.

Any increase in the regulatory burden would severely impact ABB members at a time when overall shop numbers are in decline, and operators are continuing to absorb the impacts of significant recent regulatory change. This includes the increase to 25% of Machine Games Duty, limits to staking over £50 on gaming machines, and planning use class changes which require all new betting shops in England to apply for planning permission.

### **Employing additional licence conditions**

It should continue to be the case that additional conditions are only imposed in exceptional circumstances where there are clear reasons for doing so. There are already mandatory and default conditions attached to any premises licence which will ensure operation that is consistent with the licensing objectives. In the vast majority of cases, these will not need to be supplemented by additional conditions.



The LCCP require that premises operate an age verification policy. The industry operates a policy called "Think 21". This policy is successful in preventing under-age gambling. Independent test purchasing carried out by operators and the ABB, and submitted to the Gambling Commission, shows that ID challenge rates are consistently around 85%. The ABB has seen statements of principles requiring the operation of Challenge 25. Unless there is clear evidence of a need to deviate from the industry standard then conditions requiring an alternative age verification policy should not be imposed.

The ABB is concerned that the imposition of additional licensing conditions could become commonplace if there are no clear requirements in the revised licensing policy statement as to the need for evidence. If additional licence conditions are more commonly applied this would increase variation across licensing authorities and create uncertainty amongst operators as to licensing requirements, over complicating the licensing process both for operators and local authorities

### **Considerations specific to the Proposed Statement of Licensing Principles 2019 to 2021**

Paragraph A 2.2 contains a list of bullet points detailing matters that the Licensing Authority will expect local risk assessments to include. This list needs to be re-drafted as it contains matters that are not relevant to any assessment of risk to the licensing objectives. For example, the proximity of proposed premises to churches, mosques, temples and other places of worship cannot be relevant especially as moral/ethical alcohol objections to gambling are not valid reasons to reject applications for premises licences (Gambling Commission Guidance- Fifth edition – Paragraph 5.34). Similarly, the list of bullet points contains the proximity of proposed premises to other gambling outlets, banks, post offices, cash points, refreshment providers, premises selling alcohol and other entertainment venues. Once again, the proximity of a proposed gambling premise to any of these premises can have no bearing on the risk to the licensing objectives. Finally, the bullet point that refers to anti-social behaviour, street drinking, under age drinking etc should be deleted as these are issues of nuisance which are not relevant considerations under Gambling Act 2005.

Paragraph B 1.2 refers to the council promoting the licensing objectives. The Council must "have regard" to the licensing objectives when exercising most of its functions under the Gambling Act 2005 and to make a clear distinction between Gambling Act 2005 and Licensing Act 2003 applications, this reference should be amended.

Paragraph B 8 explains the Licensing Authority's approach to the imposition of conditions on premises licences. This section would be assisted by a clear explanation that the mandatory and default conditions are usually sufficient to ensure operation that is reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives. This section should also state that additional conditions will only be imposed where there is clear evidence of a risk to the licensing objectives that requires that the licensing objectives be supplemented.

Paragraph B 11.6 requires "*applicants to demonstrate the measures they will take to safeguard against CSE in the operating schedule.*" Unlike the Licensing Act 2003, there is no operating

schedule within a Gambling Act 2005 premises licence application and accordingly, this reference should be amended.

Paragraph C 5.1 outlines the Licensing Authority's power to restrict the number of betting machines that are made available in licensed betting premises. This section would be assisted if it was made clear that whilst the power to restrict the number of betting machines exists, there is no power to restrict the number of gaming machines. The holder of a betting premises licence may make available for use up to four gaming machines of categories B, C or D.

## Conclusion

The ABB and its members are committed to working closely with both the Gambling Commission and local authorities to continually drive up standards in regulatory compliance in support of the three licensing objectives: to keep crime out of gambling, ensure that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way, and to protect the vulnerable.

Indeed, as set out, the ABB and its members already do this successfully in partnership with local authorities now. This includes through the ABB Responsible Gambling Code, which is mandatory for all members, and the Safe Bet Alliance (SBA), which sets voluntary standards across the industry to make shops safer for customers and staff.

We would encourage local authorities to engage with us as we continue to develop both these codes of practice, which are in direct support of the licensing objectives, as well as our processes around local area risk assessments.

Yours faithfully,



**GOSSCHALKS**