

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### **GambleAware hosts its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Treatment of Gambling Harms: Collaborating on a Long-Term Plan**

**London, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021:** Today GambleAware hosted its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on the topic of treatment of gambling harms. The event focused on three key areas for discussion: developing care pathways, innovations in treatment and assuring delivery.

During the three-hour, virtual conference, attendees heard from the Shadow Minister for Public Health, Alex Norris MP, as well as several treatment providers and experts from GamCare, the Primary Care Gambling Service and the National Problem Gambling Clinic. Other speakers during the session included David Hollingsworth from the Gordon Moody Association and Steven Nyandu from Betknowmore, both of which brought an important perspective to the discussion having experienced gambling harms first-hand.

A key theme that arose from speakers across the various sessions was the need and importance for collaboration and partnership between treatment providers, including at a grassroots level. Speakers emphasised how this approach helps to ensure people are able to access the treatment they need and is made accessible to those harder to reach individuals and communities.

Reflecting on the effect and impact of Covid-19 and gambling treatment, speakers also shared their insights on how treatment has developed over the past year, including the increase in online web chats and also computerised CBT therapy.

GambleAware Chair, Kate Lampard CBE, gave a welcome speech to attendees in which she reiterated the need for a coherent and co-ordinated 'whole systems approach' for the effective prevention of gambling harms. She emphasised that by continuing to adopt this system, it helps ensure appropriate prevention messages, referral routes and care pathways to enable individuals to receive the right intervention and treatment or support at the right time.

During her opening remarks, Kate Lampard CBE also emphasised the need to work and engage with those with lived experience of gambling harms, making the point that it is important to engage with community institutions, including faith groups, to ensure no one with lived experience of gambling harms feels excluded or unable to access the services that are on offer.

At the conference it was announced that GambleAware will be publishing its new Commissioning Strategy in April. The strategy will set out how the charity intends to use the £100 million pledged by the gambling industry to develop treatment services, while supporting NHS England's plans for new specialist clinics across the country.

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The full conference programme can be viewed on the GambleAware website [here](#).

Kate Lampard OBE's opening speech can also be read in full online [here](#).

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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 <https://www.begambleaware.org/for-professionals>.
- 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 2020, the National Gambling Treatment Service treated 9,000 people. The Helpline received 39,000 calls and on-line chats per annum. GambleAware also runs the website BeGambleAware.org which had 7.7million page views and signposts people to a range of support services.
- GambleAware produces public health campaigns including Bet Regret which is aimed at people whose experience of gambling harm does not meet the diagnostic criteria for gambling disorder. 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/>.

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