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## PRESS STATEMENT

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### **Responsible Gambling Trust issues invitation to tender for young people, gambling and gambling-related harm research**

The Responsible Gambling Trust, the UK's leading charity committed to minimising gambling-related harm, has today (12 February) invited researchers to bid for up to £200,000 of grant-funding for a research programme designed to deepen understanding of young people and gambling and gambling-related harm.

The research is expected to concentrate on priority issues identified by the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board for further investigation:

- The impact on young people's gambling perceptions, attitudes and behaviour of:
  - Marketing and advertising, including social media marketing
  - Social gaming (i.e. gambling-style social games) and other new forms of gambling
- Vulnerability to and impact of gambling-related harm, including extent and longevity of harm, which may include:
  - Parental attitudes towards gambling and parental gambling behaviour
  - Sociodemographic factors
  - Neurological and biological factors
- Identifying, with a view to further developing good practice for professionals in prevention and/or treatment of gambling related harm in young people
- Gambling regulation in Great Britain, including:
  - Impact of the availability of gambling products to under 18s, including but not limited to category D gaming machines, lotteries and scratchcards.

Bidders are invited to propose their own research questions and methodologies, and should take into account the current work to review and update the literature on young people and gambling being undertaken by Professor Gill Valentine – which has been funded by the RGT and which is due to be published next month.

Bids may be for comprehensive research projects or for smaller projects that cover individual or multiple aspects of the programme.

Dr Jane Rigbye, Director of Commissioning at the RGT, said: "This invitation to tender, published on our website today, is another sign of the serious commitment we have to protecting children and young people from gambling-related harm.

“The RGT’s work is funded by the gambling industry and the growth in our funding is a sign of the growing willingness of our industry partners to support our work in identifying the causes of gambling-related harm and mitigating their consequences.”

The research is expected to result in one or more reports being published by the RGT, and will inform the approaches taken by policy makers, regulators and others to tackling gambling-related harm in young people. Dr Rigby added: “We have a fundamental commitment to transparency and to helping create a public debate on gambling-related harm that is underpinned by robust facts and which is focused on practical steps that can be taken by policy makers and professionals to prevent and mitigate harm.”

Proposals must be submitted by 29th March. Full details are available on the RGT’s website.

**-ENDS-**

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**NOTES TO EDITORS**

- The tender is published online at [www.responsiblegamblingtrust.org.uk/research-projects](http://www.responsiblegamblingtrust.org.uk/research-projects).
- The Responsible Gambling Trust is the leading charity in the UK committed to minimising gambling-related harm. As an independent national charity funded by donations from the gambling industry, the Responsible Gambling Trust funds education, prevention and treatment services and commissions research to broaden public understanding of gambling-related harm. The aim is to stop people getting into problems with their gambling, and ensure that those that do develop problems receive fast and effective treatment and support.
- The Responsible Gambling Trust raises a minimum of £5million each year from the gambling industry operating in Britain within a voluntary (donation based) system and funds research, education, prevention and treatment services. Funding priorities are guided by the national strategy advised by the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB) and endorsed by the Gambling Commission. The latest strategy was published in December 2012.
- All RGT research activity is wholly the responsibility of its Research Committee, which consists of its five independent trustees together with observers from government, the Gambling Commission and its independent advisers, the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board. This arrangement ensures that those trustees who may have a direct interest in any research outcomes are entirely excluded from directing or otherwise influencing any research activity that RGT undertakes to commission. RGT’s five independent trustees are:
  - Jonathan Wolff, Professor of Philosophy and Dean of Arts and Humanities at University College London
  - Chris Brady, Professor of Management Studies and co-director of the Centre for Sports Business at the University of Salford

- Annette Dale-Perera, a Home Officer advisor on the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs and former Strategic Director of Addiction and Offender Care at CNWL NHS Foundation Trust;
- Alan Jamieson, former Deputy CEO of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy and former Director of the National AIDS Helpline
- Patrick Sturgis, Professor of Research Methodology and Director of the ESRC National Centre for Research Methods.