
PRESS STATEMENT

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Responsible Gambling Trust issues invitation to tender for gambling-related harm minimisation project in the criminal justice system

Those who have been through the criminal justice system in Britain are more likely to be at risk from gambling-related harm and today (19 February) the Responsible Gambling Trust (RGT), the UK's leading charity committed to researching, minimising and mitigating gambling-related harm has invited tenders for a programme to develop the most effective ways of reducing the impact of gambling-related harm amongst offenders and their families.

The RGT will make up to £75,000 available to support the research over two years and the RGT's hope is that the bidders who come forward will also have secured support from public bodies such as the National Offender Management Service in England and Wales, the Scottish Prison Service, the NHS and local and devolved authorities.

The challenges for those hoping to win a share of the money include:

- How they will measure the need for help and assistance.
- How they can demonstrate they will use the money to reach those people most at risk.
- How they can get and incorporate feedback from those who actually use their services.
- How the work can be sustained once the initial funding from the RGT has been spent (in particular this will include winning long-term support from public funding agencies).
- How they can spread their work nationally or roll it out nationally after a successful pilot.

Expected outputs from the programme include a report and a programme of wider information sharing.

Dr Jane Rigbye, the RGT's Director of Commissioning said: "Helping those offenders who are at risk from gambling-related harm could be an important part of rehabilitation.

"This programme will help to give us insight about the scale of the challenges we face in assisting offenders and their families. Its aim is to both deliver high-quality, peer-reviewed research findings and also to rigorously test, in the field, what works and what does not work.

"As we are seeking to encourage innovation we are not being prescriptive and we expect the successful bidders to give us a candid assessment of any strengths and weaknesses of their proposals.

“The RGT is fully committed to an open and transparent programme of research and evidence gathering as well as to supporting the highest quality of services to those who are at risk or who have suffered harm.”

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- 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.