

GambleAware

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Publication of research into the relationship between gambling and homelessness

London, 6 April: GambleAware have today published research carried out by Dr Stephen Sharman (formerly of the University of Lincoln) and the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) which aimed to further our understanding of the relationship between gambling and homelessness, and to develop three instruments to be used by practitioners working with the homeless to assist them in identifying and responding to gambling-related harms in this population.

Homelessness is a growing social problem in Britain and has often been linked with poor mental health. Gambling is rarely asked about when exploring the contributory factors and causes of homelessness, and many existing tools to screen for problem gambling include questions which may not be relevant to those without stable relationships and living arrangements.

The tools developed include: an information sheet to assist practitioners in understanding and identifying gambling problems; The Lincoln Homelessness and Gambling Scale (L-HAGS), a screening tool to assist in screening for gambling problems; and a resource sheet to provide information to those who are identified as being at risk of experiencing gambling-related harms.

Dr Stephen Sharman said:

The cycle of homelessness can be a desperate one that an individual can become trapped in, with little hope for escape. Gambling can be a significant contributory factor in this cycle. This work has reiterated the acute need for homeless services to be better informed, and receive better training, when identifying and supporting those experiencing gambling problems, and helping them break the cycle of homelessness.

Responsible Gambling Trust operating as GambleAware © • Registered in England No 4384279 • Charity No 1093910

Chair: Kate Lampard CBE

Trustees • Henry Birch • Annette Dale-Perera • Professor Sian Griffiths • Alan Jamieson • Professor Anthony Kessel
• Chris Pond • Brigid Simmonds • Professor Patrick Sturgis

Chief Executive: Marc Etches

Dr Jane Rigbye, Director of Education at GambleAware said:

The causes of homelessness are often complex and varied. Gambling disorder is known as 'the hidden addiction' and can be difficult to spot. We all have a responsibility to do more to identify and help those experiencing gambling-related harms, and we are keen to work with homelessness organisations to assist their practitioners in developing the knowledge and skills needed to identify those clients who may be in need of further help and support related to gambling, and to signpost them to specialist services via the National Gambling Helpline (0808 8020 133) or BeGambleAware.org.

-ENDS-

Contact:

For media enquiries please contact gambleaware@atlas-partners.co.uk

About GambleAware:

The report can be viewed here: [Gambling and Homelessness: Developing an information sheet, screening tool and resource sheet](#)

- Guided by the [National Responsible Gambling Strategy](#), GambleAware is an independent charity tasked to fund research, education and treatment services to help minimise gambling-related harm in Great Britain.
- GambleAware is a commissioning and grant-making body, not a provider of services. The charity's strategic aim is to broaden public understanding of gambling-related harm as a public health issue and to help those that do develop problems get the support and help that they need quickly and effectively. For more information, please go to: <http://about.gambleaware.org/>
- GambleAware's programme of treatment, education, harm prevention and research is guided by the National Responsible Gambling Strategy, which is defined by the independent Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB) and endorsed by the Gambling Commission. The RGSB, the Gambling Commission and GambleAware work together under the terms of an agreement in place since 2012: <http://about.gambleaware.org/media/1216/statementofintent.pdf>. Research is conducted under the terms of a 'Research Commissioning and Governance Procedure' agreed in 2016 by the RGSB, the Gambling Commission and GambleAware: <http://about.gambleaware.org/media/1270/research-commissioning-and-governance-procedure-may-2016-final.pdf>.
- GambleAware requires a minimum of £10 million annually to deliver its current responsibilities, and looks to all those that profit from commercial gambling to

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support the charity. This donation-based system was proposed under the Gambling Act 2005 and is prescribed by the Gambling Commission in its Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice. The RGSB endorsed GambleAware's £10m funding goal in January 2017:

<http://www.rgsb.org.uk/press-releases/responsible-gambling-strategy-board-publishes-assessment-of-the-quantum-of-funding-required-to-deliver-the-national-responsible-gambling-strategy.html>

- GambleAware funds the *Gordon Moody Association*, the *NHS National Problem Gambling Clinic*, *GamCare* and a network of charities across Great Britain to provide a full range of free treatment for problem gamblers and support for those affected by them. GambleAware also runs the website **BeGambleAware.org** which helps 2.7 million visitors a year, and supports the **National Gambling Helpline – 0808 8020 133**.

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