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RSPH and GambleAware join forces to establish a Gambling Health Alliance

The Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) is to establish a Gambling Health Alliance (GHA) with the support of GambleAware. The new Alliance will seek to ensure that gambling and the harms which arise from it are placed on an equal footing with other major public health challenges, focussing on prevention, early intervention, and increased community engagement.

The Alliance which will initially be established for three years, has the primary objective of bringing together organisations and individuals, specifically policy makers, who have a shared interest in reducing the damage caused to health and wellbeing from gambling. The Alliance will seek to:

- Highlight the rising concerns about gambling related harms;
- Engage and influence policy makers, Government, NGOs and the public health community in order to encourage positive action;
- Promote evidence so it can be translated into practical steps;
- Undertake periodic surveys and polling to inform GHA campaigns to increase awareness of the health harms from gambling.

The Alliance will act as a signposting organisation to other resources relevant to preventing gambling related harm. By creating this network, the Alliance will support the development of a more coherent approach than currently exists, and both better understand gambling as a public health issue and the support which is required to address these issues.

Shirley Cramer CBE, Chief Executive of RSPH, said:

“While it is encouraging that gambling is rightly identified as a public health issue, more needs to be done to better understand the harms that arise from gambling, who is affected and what support can be provided to prevent harms from developing or escalating in the first place.

We have long campaigned of the impact of gambling and issues such as debt on individual health and wellbeing, including the impact of Fixed Odds Betting Terminals in our [Health on the High Street campaign](#), and the impact of High Cost Credit, in [Life on Debt Row](#). However, we also know that, as highlighted in our [Health on the High Street report](#) levels of gambling and gaming are increasing; for example, young people face an unprecedented level of exposure to gambling, with over 400,000 11-16 year olds spending their own money gambling each week.

We are delighted to announce the establishment of this Alliance, which we hope will have the same impact that other alliances concerned with issues impacting on the public's health, such as obesity and alcohol, are having on raising consciousness and agreeing common goals for the public health and policy-making community to rally behind. The GHA will provide a forum where we can foster collaboration and share good practice amongst all relevant stakeholders to increase our understanding of the social, economic and cultural factors that contribute to gambling harms and the inequalities in health caused by this."

Carolyn Harris MP, Chair of the APPG on Gambling Related Harm, said:

"As Chair of the APPG on Gambling Related Harm I am delighted to welcome the establishment of a Gambling Health Alliance. This Alliance will provide a vital platform for a wide coalition of organisations to join forces in ensuring that action is taken to tackle problem gambling and the many related harms.

We look forward to working closely with the Alliance and in particular, the public health community, in order to ensure that problem gambling and the harms which arise from it are placed on an equal footing with other major public health challenges."

Marc Etches, Chief Executive of GambleAware, said:

"Gambling is increasingly being considered as a significant public health issue, and this new Alliance provides an opportunity for a wide range of organisations to act together to address it in a coordinated and more effective manner. As research reveals more about the breadth and complexity of the harms associated with gambling, GambleAware sees clear value in forging new partnerships with those who share our objectives to reduce those harms through a multi-level public health response."

Notes to editors

About the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH):

- The Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) is an independent health education charity, dedicated to protecting and promoting the public's health and wellbeing;

- We are the world's longest-established public health body with more than 6,000 members drawn from the public health community both in the UK and internationally;
- Our operations include an Ofqual recognised awarding organisation, a training and development arm, and health and wellbeing accreditation.
- We also produce a wide-variety of public health conferences; our publishing division includes the internationally renowned journal Public Health; and we are developing policy and campaigns to promote better health and wellbeing.
- For more information visit www.rsph.org.uk or follow us on Twitter: [@R_S_P_H](#)

About GambleAware

- GambleAware is an independent charity tasked to fund research, education and treatment services to help to reduce gambling-related harms in Great Britain. GambleAware is a commissioning and grant-making body, not a provider of services.
- GambleAware published a [5-year strategy](#) in November 2016, and in July 2018 published a [Strategic Delivery Plan](#) that sets out how the charity proposes to broaden the range of services and activities it funds, supports and works with between 2018 and 2020.
- Guided by the [National Responsible Gambling Strategy](#), the charity's strategic aims are to: broaden public understanding of gambling-related harms, in particular as a public health issue; advance the cause of harm-prevention so as to help build resilience, in particular in relation to the young and those most vulnerable to gambling-related harms; and help those who do develop gambling-related harms get the support that they need quickly and effectively. For more information, please go to: <http://about.gambleaware.org/>
- The current National Responsible Gambling Strategy was published in April 2016 by the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB) and endorsed by the Gambling Commission. GambleAware develops its commissioning plans in collaboration with the RGSB and the Gambling Commission. These arrangements are underpinned by an 'assurance and governance framework' 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 between the RGSB, the Gambling Commission and GambleAware: <https://about.gambleaware.org/media/1332/research-commissioning-and-governance-procedure-september-2016-final.pdf>. A revised [RGSB and Gambling Commission research programme](#) was published in September 2018 and sets out priorities for research to be commissioned from 2018 to 2022.
- GambleAware requires a minimum of £10 million annually to deliver its current responsibilities, and looks to all those that profit from commercial gambling to support the charity. This donation-based system was proposed after the Gambling Act 2005 and is prescribed by the Gambling Commission's Social Responsibility Code Provision 3.1.1.(2). 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**.