

GambleAware

Minutes of the Research & Evaluation Committee (no quorum)

DATE	Thursday 22 February 2018
TIME	10.30am – 12.30pm
VENUE	Mishcon de Reya, 70 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6AH

PRESENT	INITIALS	NOTES
Anthony Kessel	AK	Trustee/Research Committee Chair
IN ATTENDANCE		
Marc Etches	MWE	Chief Executive
Scott Houghton	SH	Northumbria University (items 1-2 only)
Tim Livesley	TL	RGSB secretariat observer
Rachel Redwood	RR	DCMS observer
Helen Rhodes	HR	Gambling Commission observer
Natalie Simpson	NS	Operations Manager - minutes
Heather Wardle	HW	RGSB observer
Sarah Webster	SW	RGSB secretariat observer
Clare Wyllie	CW	Director of Research and Evaluation
APOLOGIES		
Kate Lampard	KL	Chair
Patrick Sturgis	PS	Trustee

1. Welcome and apologies

AK welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from KL and PS.

The Chair declared the absence of quorum, noting that any decisions made at the meeting are to be approved subsequently by the Committee by email.

2. PhD presentation

Scott Houghton, Northumbria University, presented on his GambleAware-funded PhD to assess the impact of social media upon gambling behaviour and the potential for social media to be used to promote positive gambling behavioural changes.

Actions:

- NS to connect SH with the consortium awarded the advertising and marketing tender.
- MWE to connect SH with affiliate Trade Associations.
- SH to contact LB regarding a list of top operators by revenue.

3. Declarations of interest

The following declarations of interest, beyond those previously declared, were made:

HW declared an interest in potentially bidding for a longitudinal study and is preparing a submission to NIHR gambling call for research with the Glasgow University Institute of Health and Wellbeing.

4. Minutes of the Research Committee meeting held on 30 November 2017

The minutes of the Research Committee meeting held on 30 November 2017 were approved as a true and accurate record.

5. Matters arising

The matters arising are all completed.

6. Commissioning Plan 2017-19 update

The Committee received the commissioning plan 2017-19 update as presented. It was noted that there are revised research delivery times agreed with RGSB due to: all parties underestimating both the time taken to properly commission research and the scope of the projects; a lack of capacity across GambleAware, the RGSB Secretariat and Gambling Commission; and, development and improvement of governance and infrastructure to enable a high-quality programme to be rolled out. GambleAware reported that there will be recruitment of two Research Managers to increase capacity, following an unsuccessful recruitment round in 2017.

It was agreed that all parties should manage expectations around the delivery of research and set out what is expected to be achieved. GambleAware plans to publish a revised commissioning plan in April.

There was discussion about GambleAware's role in public communications. It was proposed that this should not be at the expense of achieving delivery. It was suggested that taking a considered, appropriate advocacy role, as agreed by trustees, provides GambleAware with credibility and profile and this improves the ability to attract high quality suppliers and develop relationships with other research institutions. It also helps achieve the ultimate purpose of the research to increase understanding of gambling-related harm and support more effective policy and practice.

7. Proposals for research and evaluation function and budget 2017-20

There was discussion about the gradual movement over the next three years towards the strategic direction for research and evaluation agreed by the GambleAware Board. The priority is to deliver the RGSB research programme to support the National Responsible Gambling Strategy. The changes are in approaches to delivery. These are:

- Commission programmes of work with larger grants rather than multiple small projects, to attract higher quality suppliers and reduce commissioning administration
- Diversify approaches to commissioning, including partnerships and collaborations with other research funders and institutions
- Inclusion of lived experience in defining the research agenda, questions and in the implementation of research projects
- Facilitating impact from research, including through better dissemination.

The Committee considered the proposed allocation of budget for research and evaluation for 2018/19 and 19/20 based on an increase of the budget allocated in 2017/18 and 18/19 of £1.5 million to £3 million. It was agreed that an additional £1 million was required for the RGSB research programme, giving a total spend of £4 million.

Action: LB, HW and CW to review allocation of the budget increased to £4 million and organisation of RGSB research programme projects into themes for commissioning against larger grants.

8. Feedback from RGSB awayday

Feedback was provided from the RGSB awayday. It was noted that the Gambling Commission, rather than RGSB, will take ownership of the National Responsible Gambling Strategy, and the estimate required for RET funding will increase.

9. Research and evaluation plans and function issues, questions, decisions

This item was covered under previous discussions.

10. Committee membership

AK is the Chair of the Committee, following the resignation of Jo Wolff as a trustee. Sian Griffiths is no longer a member of the Committee, due to becoming Chair of the Education and Treatment Committee and Deputy Chair of trustees.

It was agreed that Professor Gerda Reith, University of Glasgow, will be invited to become a full voting member of the Committee.

It was noted that the GambleAware Board will be asked to appoint two new trustees in March and then Committee membership will be revisited again.

11. Restricted industry funding for research projects (Ladbrokes Coral)

The request from Ladbrokes Coral to provide funding for a data repository was considered. **It was agreed** that GambleAware will not accept funding with conditions attached from the industry; Ladbrokes Coral is welcome to make unrestricted donations to GambleAware and there is already an intention to proceed with a central data repository.

Action: HR to report back on the Gambling Commission's process regarding Ladbrokes Coral's voluntary settlement.

12. Update on gambling-related harm

It was noted that the gambling-related harm expert group's focused conceptual framework aims to be completed by the end of March.

13. Minuting of decisions via email

The following decisions have been agreed by the Committee by email between Committee meetings:

Non-publication of University of Lincoln young people report - the final report was of poor quality and failed to deliver on the contracted objectives, to the extent the research longer achieved the purpose for which it was commissioned. As per the decision of the Research Committee in May, a letter setting out the concerns was sent to the lead researcher, who conceded that the research was insufficient and that the concerns could not be addressed due to flaws in data and methodology. The University will not pursue the final payment.

Action: Management to review language used to describe the conditions under which something may not be published.

Awarding of grant to Behavioural Insights for evaluation of operator interventions into risky play - the full proposal of £350,480 is funded.

Awarding of grants to Institute of Social Marketing Consortium and Ipsos MORI consortium for research into the effect of marketing and advertising on children, young people and vulnerable people - the full proposal is funded (£149,963) from The Institute for Social Marketing. Ipsos MORI is requested to refocus their proposal on social media and behavioural marketing, expand elements of this and exclude the survey with children and young people, with a budget up to the amount of £150,000.

The budget for the tender was £150,000. The additional £150,000 is available in the research budget this financial year due to reprioritisation and changes in scope and timing of projects, decided in collaboration with the RGSB.

Delay of commissioning of evaluation of GambleAware-funded services - a draft brief was developed by RGSB. Following feedback from the Education and Treatment Committee, and in agreement with RGSB, the Research and Evaluation Committee agreed to await further development of the treatment commissioning strategy and plan to understand more clearly what is needed in terms of evaluation of our commissioned services and the timing of this. In the meantime, GambleAware will commission a researcher to analyse DRF data currently available.

Action: A quarterly report with a paragraph on each decision that the Committee made by email will be presented at each Committee meeting.

Summary of action points

Item	Agenda Description	Action	Status	Owner
2	PhD presentation	Connect SH with the consortium awarded the advertising and marketing tender.	Completed	NS
2	PhD presentation	Connect SH with affiliate Trade Associations.	Completed	MWE
2	PhD presentation	Contact LB regarding a list of top operators by revenue.	Completed	SH
7	Proposals for research and evaluation function and budget 2017-20	Review allocation of budget increased to £4 million and organisation of RGSB research programme projects into themes for commissioning against larger grants.	In hand	LB, CW, HW
11	Restricted industry funding for research projects	Report back on the Gambling Commission's process behind Ladbrokes Coral's voluntary settlement.	In hand	HR
13	Minutes of decisions via email – non-publication of University of Lincoln young people report	Management to review language used to describe the conditions under which something may not be published.	To be done	CW
13	Minutes of decisions via email	A quarterly report with a paragraph on each decision that the Committee made by email will be presented at each Committee meeting.	Ongoing	CW

GambleAware

Minutes of the Research & Evaluation Committee

DATE	Thursday 7 June 2018
TIME	10.30am – 12.30pm
VENUE	Mishcon de Reya LLP, Africa House, 70 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6AH

PRESENT	INITIALS	NOTES
Patrick Sturgis	PS	Trustee (Chair for this meeting)
Kate Lampard	KL	Trustee
Gerda Reith	GR	Trustee
IN ATTENDANCE		
Laura Balla	LB	Gambling Commission observer
Iain Corby	IC	Deputy Chief Executive
Marc Etches	ME	Chief Executive
Beth Hines	BH	DCMS observer
Tim Livesley	TL	Gambling Commission observer
Jane Rigby	NS	Director of Education
Heather Wardle	HW	RGSB observer
Bianca Bailey Wilson	BBW	Research & Impact Manager
Clare Wyllie	CW	Director of Research & Evaluation
APOLOGIES		
Anthony Kessel	AK	Trustee (Research & Evaluation Committee Chair)
Polly Newall	PN	Research & Impact Manager

1. Welcome and apologies

PS welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that CW is joining the meeting through conference call.

Apologies were received from AK and PN.

2. Declarations of interest

The following declarations of interest were made:

HW declared an interest in the 'Longitudinal study: Why do people move in and out of harmful play?' and stated she would be interested in submitting a proposal when a project is commissioned. HW also declared an interest in the treatment needs analysis project as she is involved with one of the organisations that have submitted a proposal.

GR declared an interest in 'Longitudinal study: Why do people move in and out of harmful play?' and stated she would be interested in submitting a proposal when a project is commissioned.

3. Minutes of the Research Committee meeting held on 22 February 2018

The minutes of the Research Committee meeting held on 22 February 2018 were approved as a true and accurate record, but the following discrepancies were highlighted:

Item 7 (page 3, line 7) should be amended to administration not administrative.

Item 7 (page 3, second paragraph) should state that the budget was increased.

4. Matters arising

Actions from the previous meeting were complete or incorporated into ongoing work.

5. Revised RGSB research plan

HW presented the revised RGSB research programme. It was explained that this revision is in the context of the Gambling Commission taking responsibility for the National Strategy. The aim was to streamline and consolidate the range of smaller projects in the earlier versions into themes, that could be commissioned as larger programmes of work. This was to make grants more attractive, and take account of capacity, allowing programme management to be built into grants and reducing time spent on commissioning multiple small projects. The document reflects what is already underway, goals for each theme for next two years, but also acknowledges that work in most themes will extend into subsequent years.

KL expressed that overall, she understood what the research themes are from the document and she applauded the work done to get to this stage.

PS also praised the programme and agreed that moving towards higher level themes was helpful.

5.1 Theme 1 – Gambling-related harms

HW talked through this theme and the framework she has been working on with the expert group on measuring gambling-related harms in adults. CW indicated prior drafts of the framework had been shared with the research committee.

BH asked whether it would be useful for DDCMS to see the draft of this framework and HW and TL agreed.

Action: BH at DDCMS to be sent draft of the measuring gambling-related harms framework and meet with HW to discuss if needed.

TL highlighted the importance of suicide as a gambling-related harm, and the need for urgent work in this area. RGSB would provide a brief to GA for a small scoping study on suicide and gambling-related harm, which could inform a more substantive piece of research in the future.

5.2 Theme 2 – Patterns of Play

HW introduced theme two. TL informed the committee of the patterns of play launch held on Monday 4 June, jointly by RGSB, GC and GA and that 55 people from a range of research institutions and other organisations attended to find out more about how to bid for this tender. CW indicated that this was to stimulate interest across a wider field of researchers, share information and provide an indication of who was interested in bidding. The overall aim is to improve quality of bids. This was a new approach, that would be refined.

CW indicated the approach to a repository of data would be scoped, in terms of where it should be housed and how it would work. Data generated from patterns of play would be housed in the repository. Patterns of play would also help define what variables/data industry should be asked to supply on a more ongoing basis.

ME, IC and JR joined the meeting at 11:15 am.

PS commented that thought was needed in relation to the implication of the £2 stake for FOBTs, and how this would be considered within patterns of play.

5.3 Theme 3 – Treatment

KL asked for more clarity on short term goals in the treatment area. LB clarified that work has already started in this area, with commissioning of the systematic review and needs assessment in progress. CW indicated additional scoping would take place this year as to what the evaluation of treatment should consist of

BH asked how this work interacted with Public Health England's (PHE) review of treatment, development of NICE guidelines and National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) funding call. TL responded that the Gambling Commission will work closely with partners on this.

5.4 Longitudinal study

KL asked for the name of the theme to be more accessible, rather than named for a type of research study which non-researchers may not understand. It was agreed that the name for theme four would be changed to a more accessible name, such as 'changes over time'.

PS indicated it was important to take into account significant developments in methodology in the area of 'longitudinal studies', away from population cohort studies, which are prohibitively expensive.

HW said the programme should be explicit on the linkages between the themes, and how looking at changes over time would address many research questions.

5.5 Theme 5 – Industry-based interventions

TL introduced this theme and said that in the initial research programme, the Gambling Commission expected the industry to be able to do more than they have done and possibly they have the ability to do.

PS asked for further clarity on theme five in relation to where GambleAware fits into this and why it is funding this work. CW said that the projects currently in place in this theme have a long history and that going forward, more thought needs to be put into RGSB, GC, GA and industry roles and approach in this area. ME highlighted the GambleAware's role was in evaluating innovative or significant interventions.

TL responded that it is important to see this document not purely as research that GambleAware will commission and that the Gambling Commission had indicated it intended to take more of a lead role in this area.

BH commented that the DDCMS would see this as a Gambling Commission area.

Action: Gambling Commission to provide more clarity on theme five (industry-based interventions) and their role and the most suitable way of delivering this theme.

5.6 Theme 6 – Education and Prevention

A discussion began on next steps for education and prevention, with research in this area intended to support the development of strategy. HW asked about the next steps for developing a national prevention strategy and who will be leading this. TL said that the Gambling Commission will lead this and will be looking to work with a range of partners in this area. ME echoed TL's points and commented that this will be done in collaboration with a range of partners and stakeholders, with GA also providing input.

PS reaffirmed that the new research programme is good; KL agreed.

6. Progress on Delivery

The Committee was told that, overall, projects were on track except for the Remote phase 3 project (Behavioural Insights Team - BIT). The process of getting PWC to transfer the dataset they had developed (in the previous phase of remote work on markers of harm) to BIT was protracted, despite operators having provided permission to PWC to transfer the data. BIT was progressing other aspects of the project. ME was intervening to enable transfer of data.

7. Governance

CW explained that the research governance document has helped with engagement with stakeholders, but that in some areas it no longer reflected actual operational practice, or the changed role and intentions of the Gambling Commission. As a result, RGSB, GC and

GA staff at operational level were reviewing the procedures to ensure they accurately and transparently reflected actual practice.

ME said that the first step was to operationally ensure that the procedures reflect reality, while more significant change may require clarification of the Gambling Commission's role and intentions will be moving forward, which may take a few months.

HW commented that moving forward in this area should be done with caution as she felt that the research governance document had been influential in changing the hearts and minds of researchers. KL commented that we could make some tweaks, but that caution should be exercised not to undermine the principles.

8. Systematic review of treatment

BBW presented the paper on the systematic review of treatment and informed the Committee that two proposals were received for this, one from NatCen and another from a group of researchers led by University of Huddersfield with Flinders University. BBW stated that following the feedback of the independent research review group and RGSB, it is recommended that the University of Huddersfield/Flinders University bid is awarded the grant.

The Research and Evaluation Committee approved the awarding of Project 9.1a: Systematic review of treatment bid to the University of Huddersfield/Flinders University team.

HW asked if feedback would be provided to NatCen and CW and BBW agreed that they would receive feedback. CW indicated providing feedback to unsuccessful bidders is part of standard practice.

9. Any other business

There was no any other business.

Minutes of the Research & Evaluation Committee

DATE	Thursday 6 September 2018
TIME	10.30am – 12.30pm
VENUE	Mishcon de Reya LLP, Africa House, 70 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6AH

PRESENT	INITIALS	NOTES
Anthony Kessel	AK	Trustee (Chair of the Research and Evaluation Committee)
Laura Balla	LB	Gambling Commission observer
Beth Hiles	BH	DCMS observer
Tim Livesley	TL	Gambling Commission observer
Polly Newall	PN	Research & Evaluation Manager
Clare Wyllie	CW	Director of Research & Evaluation
Patrick Sturgis	PS	Trustee (for first ½ hour of meeting)
APOLOGIES		
Kate Lampard	KL	Trustee
Marc Etches	ME	Chief Executive
Heather Wardle	HW	RGSB observer
Bianca Bailey Wilson	BBW	Research & Impact Manager
Gerda Reith	GR	University of Glasgow

1. Welcome and apologies

AK welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that PS is joining the meeting through conference call for the first half hour. Agenda items requiring decisions were moved to the half hour when the meeting was quorate.

Apologies were received from KL, ME, HW, BBW, GR.

2. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were made.

3. Policy on commissioning thresholds

The paper on the proposed policy on commissioning thresholds were taken as read. PS and AK sought confirmation on the reasons for needing this policy. It was confirmed that it is for efficiency purposes and to avoid burdensome processes that aren't necessary for small value projects.

It was agreed a sentence should be added saying that GambleAware may go out to open tender if we felt it necessary even for projects under 100K.

No objections were made, and the policy was approved.

4. Conflict of interest related to the gambling-related suicide research

AK and PS were asked to approve the appointment of Heather Wardle and Sally McManus to conduct the data analysis and scoping study for the gambling-related suicide research being commissioned as part of the gambling-related harms work.

This is a small-scale study with a value of under £20k so as per policy, only one proposal was required, and the Gambling Commission had identified Sally McManus.

This approval was sought because of Heather's involvement in the development of the harm's framework and the identification of focus areas for the scoping studies including suicide.

To manage the conflict of interest, it was agreed that – despite being under the £20K threshold that allows us to approach one supplier – the brief should be published for 10 days to give other researchers the opportunity to express their interest. The brief should contain a note explaining the conflict of interest and reasons for publishing the brief for others.

The policy on commissioning thresholds should also specify that all tenders were RGSB members bid should be competitive, regardless of value.

TL indicated stakeholders may view delays as reluctance on the part of GambleAware to commission research on suicide as this would be negative for industry.

PS left the meeting.

5. Minutes of the Research Committee meeting held on 7 June 2018

The minutes of the Research Committee meeting held on 7 June 2018 were approved as a true and accurate record.

6. Matters arising

None

7. Record of Committee decisions made by email

The following decisions made via email were noted for the purpose of the minutes:

1. On 11 July, the Committee agreed to extend the existing Ipsos Mori contract on Young People, Gambling and Gambling-Related Harm, by £52,000 and until June 2019. This will be combined with the amount of £43,000 unspent on the current contract, to:
 - provide resource to develop a 'framework for action' for measuring gambling-related harms in children and young people (equivalent to the one for adults);
 - develop survey questions to measure the prevalence of harm in 11– 15-year olds; and
 - undertake a large-scale pilot of these questions.
2. On 17 August, the Committee confirmed the appointment of Chrysalis to evaluate the EPIC (military and prisons) and Newport Citizens Advice harm minimisation projects, for £30,550 plus VAT (VAT is due as this is a contract for services rather than a grant). The use of this supplier originated within the Education and Treatment Committee, with approval from the CEO to approach Chrysalis, rather than all ten participants in the framework agreement.

8. Update on the Gambling Commission Research Programme

TL gave a brief overview of the main updates to the research programme, which was published on 6 September (date of this meeting). The major change being that it is now a Gambling Commission-owned as opposed to an RGSB document. He also explained that there were some revisions made to organise projects into themes and reiterated that although published, it was still a dynamic document and comments are still welcomed.

AK suggested that the themes be laid out different. LB/TL agreed to see how they might present it to different audiences.

TL gave a more detailed update on the gambling-related harms work. Concerns were raised relating to focusing on individual harms since they can and do often interlink. TL emphasised that these small scoping projects are to be the start of us getting a better understanding of what evidence exists.

LB gave a brief overview on the status of the research into how gambling behaviour can change over time (longitudinal study). She had circulated the brief for comment. She indicated at this stage the need was to understand the different methodologies and approaches and which one might work best for gambling – where changes can happen in a very short space of time.

9. Updated Research Governance and Commissioning Procedure

TL highlighted the substantive change was that GC was responsible for the research programme and research briefs, not RGSB as previously, with RGSB providing advise to GC. GA role to commission and quality assure research against briefs was not changed from the 2016 procedures. There were no comments and the revised governance and commissioning procedure was approved to be sent to the GambleAware Board of trustees for final approval.

10. Implementation and spending plan

CW gave an overview of the spending plan and shared challenges relating to allocating and spending money within the timeframe.

The Research Committee agreed to pursue the establishment of an independent gambling research centre. GC observers supported this.

CW explained that both GambleAware and Gambling Commission are in the process of developing their relevant briefs for the evaluation of GambleAware treatment services. It was explained that between now and end of March 2019, the evaluation framework and methodology will be developed in consultation with a range of different stakeholders to include GC, DCMS, Public Health England, GA staff, GA partners, and service users (former and current).

11. Any other business

None

12. Next meeting

Thursday 29 November 2018; Mishcon de Reya, Africa House, 70 Kingsway, London WC2B 6AH.