



A Responsible Gambling Strategy

Christopher Kelly
Chair

What I will cover



- Who we are
- Why a strategy is needed
- Vision and objectives
- Themes
- Risks

The Responsible Gambling Strategy Board



- Established in late 2008
- Expert advisory group to Gambling Commission
- No powers of our own
- Part of tripartite arrangement with Commission and Responsible Gambling Trust

Why a strategy is needed



- Difficult area, characterised by inadequacies in data and evidence
- Lot now going on. Risk of dissipation of effort and waste of resources
- Facilitation of shared learning and continuous improvement
- Reassurance for lawmakers and some protection against moral panics

Vision



- In an ideal world, people would be able to gamble enjoyably, without harming themselves or others.

This implies that:



- The risk of harm would be minimised
- It would be possible reliably to identify people who may be gambling harmfully
- There would be good data about gambling of all kinds, and a culture which facilitated the sharing of that data
- There would be a much better understanding of the social determinants and effects of problem gambling
- The regulatory, educational, physical and social environment would all encourage responsible play
- Well-developed and tested intervention strategies would be in place to reduce or mitigate harm
- All those in need of help could access information, advice and effective treatment. So could their families
- Where there is good reason to think a new development might cause harm, it would be for its promoters to show that it would not cause harm disproportionate to any benefits, not the reverse.

Proposed objectives for next three years



1. A significant and demonstrable increase in our collective understanding of the social determinants of gambling, the characteristics of gambling behaviour and the nature and extent of gambling related harm
2. A more substantial evidence base about effective ways of reducing or mitigating harm
3. Robust, independent evaluation of all significant new interventions in harm mitigation and treatment
4. The creation of greater capacity in research, evaluation, prevention and treatment

Key themes



- Importance of piloting interventions to create evidence
- Evaluation
- Step by step change
- Co-ordination to avoid wasted effort
- The ultimate objective

Risks



- Over-ambition
- Cost
- Lot of activity, not much progress
- Over-promising
- Technological change