

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### GambleAware Publishes Competency Framework for Primary Care Practitioners

**London 11 June 2021:** GambleAware has released a new Competency Framework for Primary Care Practitioners. The new framework is designed to describe the breadth of skills required by medical and non-medical practitioners to ensure the provision of safe, effective and high-quality support to those experiencing gambling harm.

Endorsed by the Royal College of GPs (RCGP), the framework seeks to address gaps in raising patient awareness and clinician confidence in the support that those who experience gambling harms can receive via the primary care pathway.

The framework is underpinned by four key aims:

- Provide a set of professional competencies to assess, treat and manage those who experience gambling harm.
- Support primary care, including GPs, to build the appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes to successfully identify and manage those experiencing gambling disorder.
- Provide competencies that are tiered to ensure the role adequacy of the individual involved with gambling disorders.
- Develop a curriculum of educational requirements and training programmes to equip the primary care team with the appropriate skills and knowledge.

The framework has been produced in consultation with eight other organisations, including the Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych), the Gambling Health Alliance (GHA) and is being led by the Primary Care Gambling Service (PCGS).

Speaking about the new Competency Framework, **Professor Dame Clare Gerada, Chair of the NHS Assembly and Director of the Primary Care Gambling Service** said: *“It is vital that all primary care workers, including GPs and nurses, have the right tools and information needed to direct people who experience gambling harms to the help and support that is available. Gambling is often dubbed the hidden addiction, so we must raise awareness and responsiveness of gambling harms amongst healthcare practitioners going forward.”*

**Dr Victoria Tzortziou-Brown OBE, Joint Honorary Secretary for the Royal College of GPs**, said: *“Gambling can cause significant harm both to the gambler and to others, and often the problems are hidden from sight. This competency framework, which has been developed with the College’s input will help move gambling problems from the shadows and allow patients to get the help they need.”*

**Dr Jane Rigbye, Prevention Director at GambleAware** said: *“To successfully prevent and help those who experience gambling harm, there needs to be a joined-up approach across the wider primary care network. As commissioners, we have a role to play to ensure all health care professionals have a clear understanding of gambling harms and where they can direct their patients to help or support if they need it, which is via the National Gambling Treatment Service. This new Competency Framework has been designed to achieve just that and we welcome the support from the Royal College of General Practitioners to develop it.”*

**-ENDS-**

**Contact:**

GambleAware

+447523 609413

gambleaware@atlas-partners.co.uk

**About the Competency Framework**

- The Framework is available to view online [here](#).
- The Competency Framework has been commissioned by GambleAware and is led by the Primary Care Gambling Service (PCGS, through the Hurley Group Practice). The PCGS is a new, GP led, primary care based, integrated-intermediate service, which forms a bridge between existing community and specialist-based services and the National Problem Gambling Service.
- The Framework has been written in consultation with: Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP), Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych), Gambling Health Alliance (GHA), GamCare, GambleAware, CNWL National Gambling Clinic, Gordon Moody, Action on Addiction and SMMGP.

**About GambleAware**

- GambleAware is an independent charity (Charity No. England & Wales 1093910, Scotland SC049433) that champions a public health approach to preventing gambling harms – see <http://about.gambleaware.org/>.
- GambleAware is a commissioner of integrated prevention, education, and treatment services on a national scale, with over £40 million of grant funding under active management. In partnership with gambling treatment providers, GambleAware has spent several years methodically building structures for commissioning a coherent system of brief intervention and treatment services, with clearly defined care pathways and established referral routes to and from the NHS – a National Gambling Treatment Service.
- The National Gambling Treatment Service brings together a National Gambling Helpline and a network of locally-based providers across England, Scotland and Wales that works with partner agencies and people with lived experience to design and deliver a system, which meets the needs of individuals. This system delivers a range of treatment services, including brief intervention, counselling (delivered either face-to-face or online), residential programmes and psychiatrist-led care.

- GambleAware produces public health campaigns including Bet Regret. A Safer Gambling Board, is responsible for the design and delivery of a campaign based on best practice in public health education. The Bet Regret campaign is being funded through specific, additional donations to the charity, in line with a commitment given to the government by the broadcasting, advertising, and gambling industries. See <https://about.gambleaware.org/prevention/safer-gambling-campaign/>.