

# GambleAware

## Minutes of the Research and Evaluation Committee meeting

<b>DATE</b>	Thursday 11 February 2021
<b>TIME</b>	10am – 12pm
<b>VENUE</b>	Virtual zoom

<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>INITIALS</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
Anthony Kessel	AK	Trustee / Committee Chair
Kate Lampard	KL	Trustee / GA Chair
<b>IN ATTENDANCE</b>		
Alison Clare	AC	Research & Evaluation Director (Interim)
Conn Doherty	CD	Research Officer (Interim)
Marc Etches	MWE	Chief Executive
Jameela Khan	JK	Chief Finance and Corporate Services Officer (Interim)
Yee-Mai Koo-Pandya	YKP	Project Support Officer (Interim)
Jay Levy	JL	Research Manager
Mary Miller	MM	DCMS observer
Catherine O'Driscoll	CO	Research Manager
Zoe Osmond	ZO	Director of Communications & Engagement (Interim)
Helen Owen	HO	Evaluation Lead
Chris Purnell	CP	Research Officer (Interim)
Jane Rigbye	JR	Director of Education
Natalie Simpson	NS	Company Secretary (minutes)
Amy Sweet	AS	Research Manager

<b>APOLOGIES</b>		
Laura Balla	LB	Gambling Commission observer
Marcantonio Spada	MS	Trustee

## **1. Welcome and apologies**

AK welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from MS and LB.

## **2. Declarations of interest**

There were no further declarations of interest, beyond those already recorded.

## **3. Minutes of meetings 3 September & 10 December 2020 & matters arising**

The minutes of the Research & Evaluation Committee meetings held on 3 September 2020 and 10 December 2020 were approved as a true and accurate record.

All matters arising are either completed or discussed elsewhere on the agenda.

## **4. Research & Evaluation portfolios 2020/21**

The update on current issues and highlights across the Research, Evaluation and Capacity Building portfolios was noted.

**Research** – publication of the Remote Interventions (Behavioural Insights Team (BIT)) Part 2 - Commitment Devices Trials - has been delayed until Q1 2021/22. BIT's Bank Transactional Data Analysis publication will also be delayed.

Trustees welcomed the ability to focus now on commissioning research and evaluation to support delivery of GambleAware's 2021-26 Commissioning Strategy, as several longer-term projects involving operators initiated through the old tripartite arrangement with the Gambling Commission are coming to an end.

**Evaluation** – the move towards a default position of independently evaluating all GambleAware commissioned services and pilot projects, to help build the ‘what works for whom’ evidence and to inform monitoring and future commissioning decisions, was welcomed.

**Capacity building** – trustees noted the consultancy to scope out a proposal to establish a Community of Practice for frontline practitioners working with some of the marginalised communities who are not currently engaging in GambleAware’s commissioned treatment services. It will run as a pilot in the first instance and could potentially inform the full range of the organisation’s commissioning activity and was welcomed as a significant piece of work.

**Publications** – there was discussion about the two broad types of publications: academic journal publications which build up the knowledge base and non-academic publications which inform policy, practice and commissioning within GambleAware and across the wider system.

**Action:** Distinct information on academic journal papers resulting from GambleAware-funded research to be brought to future meetings

**Consultation** – it was noted that the R&E team responded to the Gambling Commission’s consultation on Gambling Participation and Problem Gambling Prevalence Research Methodology. The Commission plans to create a new gold standard on collecting prevalence data and is keen to receive the data from GambleAware-commissioned research assessing

different research methodologies for collecting data on gambling prevalence currently being analysed by Professor Patrick Sturgis.

## **5. Research & Evaluation budget status report**

The budget status for the 2020/21 financial year was received as presented.

The current process for operational/financial updates to the Committees and full Board was noted. Plans are underway to move to a monthly reporting system of performance against budget. Trustees agreed they are reassured with the current financial processes and welcomed the direction of travel.

## **6. Research & Evaluation Strategy 2021-26**

The update on work to develop the new 2021-26 Research & Evaluation Strategy was received as presented.

Trustees welcomed the following overall strategic direction, while expressing caution about the ability for other sectors to take responsibility within the timeframe presented:

- Short term - GA ceases commissioning R&E to inform regulation and policy and grows commissioning to underpin delivery of our charitable objectives. GA starts the whole system capacity building projects and continues generating data and evidence for the whole system
- Medium term - Evidence-building to inform regulation and policy is taken forward by other organisations. GA continues with commissioning to underpin delivery of the charitable objectives and with whole system capacity building projects. GA transfers data and evidence generation for the whole system to another provider.
- Long term - GA continues to commission R&E to underpin delivery of the charitable objectives. Whole system capacity building projects are transferred to and led by other agencies. It was agreed that caveats will be added for areas that depend on developments in the whole system, and timings will be less prescribed.

**Action:** The R&E strategy to be prepared for presentation and approval by the full Board for approval in March 2021.

## **7. Strategic framework for evaluation**

The emerging 'strategic framework for evaluation 2021-26' was received as presented.

Trustees discussed and in principle endorsed the three evaluation delivery mechanisms: Commissioned Evaluation portfolio, Evaluation Hub and 'What Works' Centre. It was agreed that the Hub and Centre would extend GA's evaluation capacity and offer alternative tools, while contributing to knowledge generation.

It was noted that evaluation should be proportionate, and some current projects are monitored in order to be able to evaluate at the end of the project, rather than having a more formal

evaluation by an external evaluation partner. There is however a need to build capacity in order to better evaluate GA-funded projects.

The overall direction of travel **was approved** and the discovery and definition work, including resource needs, will continue.

**Action:** An update on the discovery and definition work of the strategic framework for evaluation to be provided to the R&EC in June 2021.

## **8. Gambling Commission research update**

The Gambling Commission and Gambling Research Exchange Ontario updates were noted and it was recognised that the report provides enhanced transparency, which is valuable to GA.

## **9. Any other business**

The whole research and evaluation team was thanked for the high quality of the papers.