

Evaluation and Learning Partners: Aftercare Funding Programme 2023–2026



Call for Expression of Interest

1. About GambleAware

GambleAware is an independent charity that commissions evidence-informed prevention and treatment services in partnership with the NHS, public health agencies, local authorities, third sector, and other expert organisations and agencies, across Great Britain.

GambleAware recognises the importance of evaluating the impact of our commissioned projects, alongside the mechanisms influencing the outcomes resulting from these. We are committed to building evidence of ‘what works for whom’ to support and inform our commissioning, as well as generating knowledge to contribute to the wider body of evidence, and national policy.

The central aim of GambleAware’s purpose and vision is to achieve effective prevention of gambling harms, and access to treatment and support. GambleAware’s [Organisational Strategy](#)¹, published in April 2021, outlines our priorities and objectives to guide our work towards our vision of a society where everyone is safe from gambling harms.

2. Contract Details

2.1. Title

Evaluation of Aftercare Funding Programme 2023–2026

2.2 Requirement

GambleAware is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) for an evaluation of the Aftercare Funding Programme. This programme of work seeks to fund post-care (aftercare) initiatives to enable people to maintain their recovery from gambling harms. This is an emerging area, which has not previously received significant investment within Great Britain. Therefore, there is limited evidence base of what works and why. This Aftercare Funding Programme aims to provide both resourcing for services and opportunity for innovation, as well as to build this evidence base. The overall aim of the Aftercare Funding Programme is for people who have experienced gambling harm (directly or as affected others) to have sustained recovery. The long-term goal of the programme is to improve recovery capital for these individuals.

GambleAware expects to fund approximately 12 projects across the third sector, investing a total of £2 million. The projects will broadly fall into one of two categories: projects receiving funding in the range of £100,000–£150,000 and larger projects of up to £350,000 funding. Projects will vary both in size and funding length (between 18–36 months), and will be located across England, Wales, and Scotland.

We expect some funded projects to have existing expertise in gambling harms, while others will be new to this area. The funding panel will meet in October, and we plan to include within the Invitation to Tender (ITT) brief the full list of projects that will be funded.

¹ GambleAware (2021) [GambleAware Organisational Strategy 2021-26](#).

We expect to have a mixed portfolio of projects which focus on different communities, regions, use different approaches and address specific types of harm e.g. financial harms. The priority areas for the funding programme were as follows:

- Focus on the aftercare experience of those with the greatest inequalities or from disadvantaged communities.
- Be delivered in partnership between a gambling specialist organisation and another organisation.
- Be led by people with lived experience of gambling harms.

The programme will also seek to connect funded projects through a community of shared learning. Further information about the Aftercare Fund can be found at <https://www.begambleaware.org/aftercare-funding-programme>.

We are looking for:

- An **evaluation partner** for the programme, to carry out an overall impact and process evaluation of the programme and fund as a whole, and ensure learning and emerging insights are fed back to key stakeholders at GambleAware.
- A **learning partner** to work closely with the funded projects, to help them develop a clear narrative of the change they are looking to achieve and how, provide advice and guidance on data collection and project level evaluation, and help to share learning and emerging insights. The learning partner will ensure that project level learning and emerging insights are fed back to key stakeholders, including grant holders and GambleAware.

It is envisaged that the **evaluation partner** will:

- Conduct an overall impact and process evaluation of the Aftercare Funding programme to understand the successes and achievement of the programme overall, and learn more about ‘what works, for whom and in what circumstances’.
- Explore the motivations and key moments of engagement for beneficiaries to provide future learning about the nature of gambling harm recovery.
- Identify themes across the programme, such as particular approaches or ways of working with particular communities, which are of interest to the programme team.
- Involve comprehensive process evaluation of the Funding Programme, with specific learning for GambleAware about what works in this approach to funding and identifying areas for improvement.
- Utilise a mixed-method approach triangulating findings from across multiple sources, including:
 - Primary research with all key stakeholder groups, including: project delivery teams; GambleAware programme commissioner; GambleAware senior leadership; a range of beneficiaries, including those directly experiencing harms and those experiencing harms as affected others.
 - Secondary analysis of monitoring/project data.
- Ensure data collection covers all key stages of programme design and delivery.

- Incorporate a theory-based approach, to the extent that it tests the soundness of the Aftercare Funding Programme logic, and seeks to understand the context within which the programme is operating in.
- Involve a research design with a degree of flexibility, in order to accommodate the wide range of potential projects funded under the Aftercare Funding Programme and the emerging nature of the Programme.

It is envisaged that the **learning partner** will:

- Work closely with the funded projects from the beginning of the programme, helping them to map out their own theory of change in order to establish a clear narrative on the change they expect to see and how they expect to achieve it.
- Build capacity and capability for monitoring and evaluation by delivering training, support, and tools to organisations with a range of understanding regarding monitoring, evaluation, and learning. (The fund is expected to support a range of providers who are likely to be at differing stages of their own impact and evaluation journey. Some funded projects may have established evaluation processes and projects, but it is likely that most will not have significant experience with evaluation.)
- Facilitate learning across commissioned projects via learning exchange and knowledge transfer opportunities, bringing the projects together either virtually or in person to discuss challenges and opportunities, and emerging learning and insights.

Both aspects of the evaluation will:

- Support **equitable approaches to evaluation**: help to understand the extent to which funding programmes address barriers to equity and how evaluators can work to support a movement towards more equitable approaches.
- Be **collaborative and flexible**: providing timely actionable insights and work as a partner to adapt the approach where necessary over the course of the evaluation.

We are open to different options for delivering this evaluation. You may decide that you can deliver all requirements within your organisation, or that you need to find a partner and apply as a consortium. Regardless of approach taken, we expect there to be a designated lead partner to manage the contract. If you would like to apply for either the evaluation partner or the learning partner, please contact us to discuss.

Please contact us (evaluation@gambleaware.org) if you require further clarification about this.

2.3 Timescale and Budget

The evaluation project is expected to commence in early February 2023 and be completed by 2026. A maximum budget of £300,000 (incl VAT) is available for this work.

2.4 Evaluation of Expressions of Interest

Submissions will be evaluated on how they meet the criteria outlined on the Expression of Interest form.

2.5 Submission of completed forms

Completed forms should be submitted to evaluation@gambleaware.org by 17:00 on Friday 28 October 2022. Shortlisted applications will be invited to submit a full ITT at the next stage.

Gamble**Aware**