

Involvement of the Community with Lived Experience of Gambling Harms



Information Pack

February 2023

In addition to launching the Lived Experience Council, GambleAware are also reaching out to individuals who have experienced gambling harm and may be interested in being involved with us on an ad-hoc basis and contributing to our wider work in a variety of ways.

About GambleAware

GambleAware is the leading charity driving the transformation of treatment and prevention services, leading public health campaigns and keeping people safe from gambling harms.

There may be up to 2.9 million people¹ in Great Britain at risk of gambling harm. Gambling can harm people and their families financially, psychologically and physically.

We work in close collaboration with leading organisations and experts including the NHS, government, local authorities and gambling treatment providers, to ensure that people get the information, support and treatment they need. Every year we fund access to free treatment for nearly 12,000 people and over 40,000 calls to the National Gambling Helpline.

Organisational strategy

In April 2021 GambleAware published a new [Five-year Strategy](#). This outlined the four commissioning objectives the charity will deliver against over the coming years to help prevent gambling harms:

- Increase awareness and understanding of gambling harms;
- Increase access to services and reduce gambling harm inequalities;
- Build capacity amongst healthcare professionals, social prescribers, debt advisers, faith leaders, community services and others so they are better equipped to respond to gambling harms;
- Improve accessibility and effectiveness of the National Gambling Treatment Service.

About the opportunities for Lived Experience involvement in GambleAware's work

Individuals with lived Experience of Gambling Harms who are interested in one-off opportunities to contribute to GambleAware's wider work will hear about a variety of ways to be involved in GA's commissioning activities and day-to-day work.

Opportunities will arise throughout the year and may include, for example:

- Contributing to focus groups and workshops to help us develop aspects of our programmes and project, for example by providing comments when identifying priorities for our work and by offering feedback on ideas for new projects.
- Offering feedback on documents such as project briefs and evaluation reports or other project-related documentation, so to help us reviewing them before they are shared with the wider public.
- Completing online surveys to share your lived experience perspective on areas relevant to the GambleAware portfolio of projects.

How does it work? 3 simple steps!

1. **You can submit your expression of interest at any time** - just complete this [Lived Experience Community Involvement Registration Form](#) and you will be added to our database.

For more information on how we will process and store your data see the GambleAware privacy policy available here: <https://www.begambleaware.org/privacy-policy>.

2. Throughout the year, when an opportunity arises, you may receive an email with an outline of the opportunity and a role description.
3. If you're interested in one of the opportunities, get back in touch with us! For certain opportunities we may ask you to complete a short survey to apply for the role, but support will be provided to ensure it's a smooth process. You may also be asked to fill in a Declaration of Interest form.

If you're not interested in an opportunity that is being advertised, no need to answer - just keep an eye out for the next one!

Eligibility criteria

In order to qualify you must:

- Be 18 years old or over;
- Reside in England, Scotland or Wales;
- Have lived experience of gambling harms;
- Not work – either paid or unpaid - for the gambling industry;
- Not receive (yourself or the business you may be a director of or have a financial interest in) LCCP RET funding (gambling operators' contributions);
- Be more than 6 months in recovery (this applies only to those who have experienced gambling harms due to their own gambling, e.g. this does not apply to applicants identifying as 'affected others').

Conflict of interest

Conflicts of interest will be addressed on a case-by-case basis, depending on the nature of each opportunity you express an interest in.

Additional information

A. Remuneration and reimbursement policy

You can find GambleAware's policy on remuneration and reimbursement of expenses for the involvement of people with Lived Experience [here](#).

Please note that you will be able to choose between 2 remuneration options: to be self-employed or to act as volunteers. More details on these options and on our approach to the reimbursement of expenses can be found in the policy.

B. What support will be available?

The wellbeing of LE representatives is of paramount importance for GambleAware. GambleAware will work with individuals being involved in various opportunities to ensure that best safeguarding practises are in place and that everyone contributing to this work can do so safely.

C. What development opportunities will GambleAware offer you?

We want to encourage the involvement of a wide range of people from different backgrounds and different levels of knowledge and expertise, and within that we recognise that there may be need for development opportunities. GambleAware will provide relevant training for all LE representatives, tailored to the involvement opportunities being offered.

D. How is this expression of interest in one-off involvement opportunities different from the Lived Experience Council?

LE representatives who sign up to hear about involvement opportunities in LE wider work will make no initial time commitment: emails will be sent to share the various one-off opportunities to contribute to day-to-day work, as they arise throughout the year.

The LE Council provides the Board with expert independent advice. The scope of the LE Council is to ensure that communities of people with lived experience of harms associated with gambling can provide direction and expert advice to GambleAware's activities, programmes and strategic development. Membership to the LE Council lasts for 2 years, and it may be renewed once.

E. Can I apply to both the LE Council and the community of Lived Experience representatives for one-off involvement opportunities?

Yes, you can apply for both roles! However, please note that if you are successful in your application to the LE Council (application form available [here](#), deadline: 29th March 2023, at 12noon), you might not be able to contribute to other short-term involvement opportunities at GambleAware. This is due the need of LE Council members to maintain an independent strategic oversight of all GambleAware's activities.

Get in touch

For any questions, please get in touch with us by emailing Involvement@gambleaware.org or phone us at 07342870711 during office hours.