

<b>BRIEFING</b>	<b>TO:</b>	Health and Wellbeing Board
	<b>DATE:</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
	<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	Malcolm Chidley, Public Health Specialist, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
	<b>TITLE:</b>	Harmful Gambling

## Background

1. In July 2018 the Local Government Association and Public Health England produced a guidance paper for councils 'Tackling gambling related harm – A whole council approach' (Background paper a).

The paper outlines the role of Public Health, a council wide approach to identifying people impacted by harmful gambling and how council regulatory tools can help tackle gambling related harm. The paper suggests Public Health works with local partners through the Health and Wellbeing Boards and CCG to develop a coherent approach to harmful gambling, including focused preventative work.

Harmful gambling is defined as any type of repetitive gambling that disrupts or damages personal, family or recreational pursuits. It can have many and varied impacts, including an individual's physical and mental health, relationships, housing and finances and affects a wide range of people, such as families, colleagues and wider local communities.

Evidence suggests that certain groups are more vulnerable to problem gambling. These include:

- children and young people,
- people with mental health issues,
- people with substance misuse issues,
- certain minority ethnic groups,
- the unemployed,
- homeless people,
- those with low intellectual functioning,
- people with financially constrained circumstances and
- those living in deprived areas.

Research, education and treatment of harmful gambling is overseen by the Gambling Commission, Responsible Gambling Strategy Board and GambleAware, funded by voluntary donations from the gambling industry.

The funding provides a National Helpline, local counselling services and residential rehabilitation. This is currently based in London, however a new clinic is set to open in April 2019 in Leeds.

The Rotherham perspective of problem gamblers based on two different estimates is outlined in the table below:

	<b>Leeds Beckett University (Kenyon et al. 2016)</b>	<b>Gambling Commission (2015) estimates applied</b>
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	<b>estimates applied to Rotherham (Background paper b)</b>	<b>to Rotherham</b>	
<b>Problem Gambling</b>	1.8%  ~ <b>3,716</b> (18+ )	0.8% 16+  ~ <b>1,700</b> (16+)	
<b>At risk gambling</b>	5-6%  <b>10,321 - 12,386</b> (18+)		
<b>Problem and at risk gambling</b>	7-8%  <b>14,450 – 16,514</b> (18+)		

Citizens Advice Bureaux research shows that 6 to 10 people are directly affected by a single problem gambler, which based on the figures above, identifies a significant problem for Rotherham.

Evidence also suggests that harmful gambling is a significant issue for young people. The Gambling Commission published a report (November 18) based on a survey of 11 to 16 year olds in Great Britain conducted by Ipsos MORI (Background papers c).

Some of the headline findings include:

- 14% Percentage of 11-16 year olds that have gambled in the last week
- 66% Percentage of 11-16 year olds that have seen gambling advertising on TV
- 1.7% Percentage of 11-16 year olds that are defined as problem gamblers
- 26% Percentage of 11-16 year olds that have seen their parents gamble
- 13% Percentage of 11-16 year olds that have played online-gambling style games

The LGA guidance paper outlines a number of recommendations around 'What councils can do', including:

- Consider designating an organisational lead for harmful gambling issues.
- Awareness raising and training for relevant frontline staff within RMBC and partner organisations.
- Develop relationships with local treatment organisations.
- Implement screening processes and strengthen data collection.

## Key Actions and Relevant Timescales

2. The following actions are recommended to ensure that Rotherham is compliant with the guidance published by the LGA:

- That Harmful / Problem Gambling be governed through the Health and Wellbeing Board
- That RMBC Public Health is allocated the organisational lead for Harmful / Problem Gambling, with Malcolm Chidley as the lead officer, who attends the Yorkshire and Humber Public Health 'Problem Gambling' working group.
- That Harmful / Problem Gambling be addressed and included within relevant strategies, including the Suicide Prevention Strategy, the Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeper Strategy, the Financial Inclusion Strategy and the Domestic Violence Strategy.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That RMBC Licensing review policies on gaming licence applications.</li> <li>• That a Task and Finish Group be established to oversee compliance with the recommendations within the guidance document and oversee the delivery of awareness training to frontline staff.</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations</b>	
3.	<p>The Health and Wellbeing Board to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the key actions being taken to address harmful gambling.</li> <li>Agree to assume governance responsibilities for harmful gambling.</li> </ol>
<b>Background Papers</b>	
4.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.local.gov.uk/tackling-gambling-related-harm-whole-council-approach">https://www.local.gov.uk/tackling-gambling-related-harm-whole-council-approach</a></li> <li><a href="http://www.leeds.gov.uk/docs/Problem%20Gambling%20Report">www.leeds.gov.uk/docs/Problem%20Gambling%20Report</a></li> <li><a href="https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/PDF/survey-data/Young-People-and-Gambling-2018-Report.pdf">https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/PDF/survey-data/Young-People-and-Gambling-2018-Report.pdf</a></li> </ol>