

PRESS RELEASE

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Available for interview:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Neil Goulden, Chairman• Marc Etches, Chief Executive• Jonathan Parke, Director of Commissioning
Images available:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responsible Gambling Trust logo• Neil Goulden, Chairman• Marc Etches, Chief Executive• Jonathan Parke, Director of Commissioning

The Responsible Gambling Trust appoints a Director of Commissioning

The Responsible Gambling Trust today announced that Jonathan Parke has been appointed as the charity's Director of Commissioning.

Prior to this appointment, Jonathan Parke was a Senior Lecturer in Consumer Behaviour at Salford Business School, University of Salford. He has published over 30 peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, government reports and other publications and has given over 40 conference papers and talks regarding internet gambling, gambling-related risk, self-regulation and sustainable practices in gambling provision. In addition, Jonathan Parke has provided consultancy services to regulators, industry and other stakeholders and held a number of advisory roles including as Chair of both the National and International Expert Panel of Gambling Machines (Gambling Commission) and as Expert Advisor on internet gambling and gaming machines (Responsible Gambling Strategy Board).

Marc Etches, Chief Executive, explained:

"The Trust's focus will increasingly be on commissioning evidence-based evaluation of service provision and attending to a broader research agenda. Critical to future commissioning decision-making, particularly in relation to treatment services, is to know that the money the Trust grants is achieving the best possible outcomes both in terms of minimising problem gambling and in offering good value for the money spent. In developing our future commissioning plans, we must ensure that decision-making is always fair, consistent, objective and evidence-based."

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In accepting the appointment, Jonathan Parke, said:

"I am delighted to take up the role of Director of Commissioning at the Responsible Gambling Trust and am thrilled to be able to assist the charity to establish effective and robust evaluation processes for its funded activities, as well to develop and implement its emerging research strategy."

Neil Goulden, Chairman, added:

"Jonathan will help the Trust to meet the growing demands to deliver an independently commissioned research programme that can begin to fill the evidence-gaps in relation to both 'problem' and 'responsible' gambling behaviour as well as the effectiveness of various treatment, prevention and education techniques in preventing and/or reducing gambling-related harm.

I very much look forward to working with Jonathan to ensure that the Trust becomes an independent, authoritative and respected voice for responsible gambling in Britain."

-ENDS-

NOTES TO EDITORS

To request a copy of the images, or to arrange an interview with either Neil Goulden, Marc Etches or Jonathan Parke, please contact Karen Churches Peacock (Director of Fundraising) either by phone on 020-7287-1994 or by email at Karen@responsiblegamblingtrust.org.uk.

- The Responsible Gambling Trust is a national charity committed to minimising problem gambling and gambling-related harm in Britain (www.responsiblegamblingtrust.org.uk).
- The Responsible Gambling Trust will commission research, education and treatment services as prioritised in a national responsible gambling strategy advised by the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB) and endorsed by the Gambling Commission. The evidence-based strategy will be a three-year rolling strategy that will be developed in a collaborative, open manner between the RGSB and Responsible Gambling Trust.
- In August 2012, a Statement of intent was published describing the new arrangements for prioritising, commissioning, funding and evaluating research, education and treatment (www.responsiblegamblingtrust.org.uk/PDFs/statementofintent.pdf).
- Since April 2009, the British gambling industry has raised over £17million to fund research, education and treatment in relation to problem gambling.