

GambleAware

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PRESS RELEASE

GambleAware announces new £14m 3-year funding arrangement with GamCare

London, 11 June: GambleAware has announced that it has reached a new agreement with GamCare, covering the period 2018-2021, to fund the National Gambling Helpline and a national network of treatment services for adults experiencing gambling-related harms.

GambleAware has awarded GamCare a 20% increase in annual funding in the form of a grant totalling £14m over three years. This money will fund the delivery of the National Gambling Helpline, provide a national network of talking therapies, and provide remote access help for those who prefer online support. This funding agreement will enable GamCare to continue to develop its delivery capabilities, efficiency and effectiveness of treatment across a broad range of interventions.

As a commissioner, GambleAware works to ensure safe, effective treatment which is tailored to the needs of individuals and which is cost effective. The substantial increase in funding for GamCare signals GambleAware's determination to increase capacity in the treatment sector and to provide the resources to drive up standards.

In addition, GambleAware intends to commission new aftercare services to prevent relapse, as well as services that offer help for the families of problem gamblers, including bereavement counselling.

With an estimated 430,000 people already gambling problematically, approximately 2 million at risk of developing gambling problems, and many family and friends also suffering the impact, gambling-related harms represent a significant public health issue.

There is a need for a broad range of organisations to work collaboratively to develop additional services to help support people with more complex needs and to integrate problem gambling treatment better with NHS mental health services.

GambleAware welcomes the Department of Health recently asking Public Health England to inform and support action on gambling-related harms.

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Chair: Kate Lampard CBE

Trustees • Henry Birch • Saffron Cordery • Annette Dale-Perera • Professor Siân Griffiths • Michelle Highman • Alan Jamieson • Professor Anthony Kessel • Chris Pond • Brigid Simmonds • Professor Patrick Sturgis

Chief Executive: Marc Etches

Kate Lampard, Chair of GambleAware, said:

“GambleAware is pleased to make this renewed three-year commitment to GamCare. The fact that less than 2% of problem gamblers were receiving treatment represents a significant gap in the provision of specialist services. Our goal is to close the gap between the number of those getting treatment and those who need it by increasing the range, quality and quantity of early interventions and treatment while helping people to avoid gambling problems in the first place.”

Sir Ian Prosser, Chair of GamCare, said:

“GamCare is delighted to have signed a new Grant Agreement with GambleAware. The extra money will enable us to help more people to recover from problem gambling, and to help those who are affected by the gambling of a family member or friend. We will use the Grant to develop further our range of services and to deliver a new model of care, so that individuals get help which is tailored to their needs. The assurance of a three-year agreement gives us the certainty about funding which means that we can push forward with our plans to develop and deliver an integrated treatment system, which people rightly expect.”

-ENDS-

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NOTES

- Guided by the [National Responsible Gambling Strategy](#), GambleAware is an independent charity tasked to fund research, education and treatment services to help minimise gambling-related harm in Great Britain.
- GambleAware is a commissioning and grant-making body, not a provider of services. The charity’s strategic aim is to broaden public understanding of gambling-related harm as a public health issue and to help those that do develop problems get the support and help that they need quickly and effectively. For more information, please go to: <http://about.gambleaware.org/>
- For more information about GamCare’s work visit www.gamcare.org.uk
- Please see that the annual letter from the Department of Health setting out the expected role for Public Health England (PHE) across the health and care system, and the Government’s priorities of PHE from April 2018 to March 2019, includes gambling-related harm for the first time:

IT’S NEVER TOO SOON TO BeGambleAware[®]

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693855/PHE Remit Letter - March 2018.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693855/PHE_Remmit_Letter_-_March_2018.pdf).

Specifically, PHE is asked to *“inform and support action on gambling related harm as part of the follow up to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport-led review of gaming machines and social responsibility”*.

- In May 2018, gambling and other non-chemical addictions were officially referred by NHS England to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) for development of treatment guidance. Having treatment guidelines would promote the earlier identification of problem gamblers and improve access to help.
- GambleAware’s programme of treatment, education, harm prevention and research is guided by the National Responsible Gambling Strategy, which is defined by the independent Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB) and endorsed by the Gambling Commission. The RGSB, the Gambling Commission and GambleAware work together under the terms of an agreement in place since 2012: <http://about.gambleaware.org/media/1216/statementofintent.pdf>. Research is conducted under the terms of a ‘Research Commissioning and Governance Procedure’ agreed in 2016 by the RGSB, the Gambling Commission and GambleAware: <http://about.gambleaware.org/media/1270/research-commissioning-and-governance-procedure-may-2016-final.pdf>.
- GambleAware requires a minimum of £10 million annually to deliver its current responsibilities, and looks to all those that profit from commercial gambling to support the charity. This donation-based system was proposed under the Gambling Act 2005 and is prescribed by the Gambling Commission in its Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice. The RGSB endorsed GambleAware’s £10m funding goal in January 2017: <http://www.rgsb.org.uk/press-releases/responsible-gambling-strategy-board-publishes-assessment-of-the-quantum-of-funding-required-to-deliver-the-national-responsible-gambling-strategy.html>
- GambleAware funds the *Gordon Moody Association*, the *NHS National Problem Gambling Clinic*, *GamCare* and a network of charities across Great Britain to provide a full range of free treatment for problem gamblers and support for those affected by them. GambleAware also runs the website **BeGambleAware.org** which helps 2.7 million visitors a year, and funds the **National Gambling Helpline – 0808 8020 133**, operated by GamCare.
- Alongside GamCare, GambleAware funds the National Problem Gambling Clinic located within Central North-West London NHS Foundation Trust, and residential treatment provided by the Gordon Moody Association.
- Problem gambling is recognised by the World Health Organisation as a mental health condition, but treatment is not currently funded by the NHS other than in exceptional instances. As a licence condition, gambling companies are required to help address the issue of gambling-related harm and GambleAware asks

them to contribute a minimum of 10p of every £100 made. The charity uses this money to commission the core research, education and treatment services in accordance with the National Responsible Gambling Strategy, which is drawn up by the Gambling Commission.