

# GambleAware

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

### **GambleAware publishes Educari evaluation of education initiatives**

**London, 13 September:** GambleAware has published Educari's evaluation of two youth education initiatives which were carried out between 2015 and 2018:

- Fast Forward developed a gambling education toolkit and delivered training to practitioners including teachers and youth workers across Scotland; and,
- Demos developed and piloted resources, lesson plans and guidance for teachers to support the delivery of gambling education in schools in England and Wales.

The evaluation found that the two projects were well-conducted, and that they were useful tests of different ways of promoting and supporting gambling education for young people. While it is unrealistic to expect that short-term school curriculum-based interventions aimed at all pupils will significantly influence behaviour, it was shown that the Demos lessons significantly improved pupils' knowledge of where to seek help should gambling become a problem for them or their friends.

GambleAware intends to continue to support and promote the use of these materials, in line with its strategic ambition to develop a Knowledge Hub of resources and best practice for use in a range of settings, from youth education to health promotion. GambleAware recently announced further funding which will allow Fast Forward to scale up its activity to deliver prevention at scale across Scotland, in line with the recommendations from Educari's evaluation. Importantly, these resources allow those responsible for educating young people about a range of health and wellbeing related topics to integrate gambling into programmes of work alongside other risky behaviours, such as alcohol education.

Both the Gambling Toolkit and the lesson plans together with teacher guidance are available to download for free at [infohub.gambleaware.org/resources](http://infohub.gambleaware.org/resources). The resources took account of feedback from previous education initiatives which found that teachers and youth workers would be more inclined to use resources if they had clear links to the curriculums in England, Scotland and Wales. The Gambling Toolkit

developed by Fast Forward ensures every activity links directly to the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence, which is used by all youth practitioners, including teachers.

GambleAware has contributed to the recent consultation on PSHE education in England by the Department for Education, calling for gambling to be included as part of the curriculum. GambleAware is also in conversation with Welsh government about how education about the risks related to gambling can be best represented on the new Curriculum for Wales, which is currently in development.

**Dr Jane Rigbye, Director of Education at GambleAware**, said: “GambleAware is delighted that the results of this evaluation confirm the quality and potential of these resources, and networks developed while producing them, to make a real impact to the way in which young people think and behave in relation to gambling. Teaching children about gambling must be done carefully, because there is a known risk of inadvertently promoting the very thing you are trying to warn children about, so GambleAware has approached this with great caution, and this evaluation provides critical reassurance that this risk is being minimised with the materials being recommended. GambleAware looks forward to continuing to work with Demos, Fast Forward and other organisations with the aim of reducing the experience of gambling-related harms amongst young people.”

#### **-ENDS-**

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#### **NOTES**

- The resources produced by Demos and Fast Forward are available at [infohub.gambleaware.org/resources](http://infohub.gambleaware.org/resources)
- The full report, *Evaluation of GambleAware's Harm Minimisation Programme: Demos and Fast Forward, Educari, 2018*, can be downloaded here: <https://about.gambleaware.org/media/1796/final-report-educari-demos-and-fast-forward-evaluation-september-2018.pdf>
- Guided by the [National Responsible Gambling Strategy](#), GambleAware is an independent charity tasked to fund research, education and treatment services to help to reduce gambling-related harms in Great Britain.
- GambleAware is a commissioning and grant-making body, not a provider of services. The charity's strategic aims are to: broaden public understanding of gambling-related harms, in particular as a public health issue; advance the cause of harm-prevention so as to help build resilience, in particular in relation to the young and those most vulnerable to gambling-related harms; and help those who

do develop gambling-related harms get the support that they need quickly and effectively. For more information, please go to: <http://about.gambleaware.org/>

- 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 after the Gambling Act 2005 and is prescribed by the Gambling Commission's Social Responsibility Code Provision 3.1.1.(2). 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 supports the **National Gambling Helpline – 0808 8020 133**.