

GAMBLING HARMS

Reducing Gambling Harms in the North East newsletter

Welcome to the first newsletter from the North East Gambling-Related Harms project. We are working to develop a regional approach to tackle the harm caused by gambling across our region. Work has begun across many of the 12 local authorities in the North East.

As a region, we've submitted over 20 responses to multiple consultations relating to the gambling harms agenda. Baseline work has been undertaken with the 12 local authorities and training resources are in development as a result of this. Priority areas are being identified through health needs assessments, a huge thank you to the local authorities that have completed these or are working on them for Gambling-Related Harm! Data collection pilots are also beginning with surveys in multiple local authorities, that can also be rolled out across the region. Additionally, collaboration is beginning with academic institutions in the region.

The North East project has also been working alongside similar projects in Greater Manchester and Yorkshire and the Humber to collaborate on resources, with a language guide launching soon. Thank you for all of the support and great work already being undertaken by all of the gambling harms leads. Please take a look at the resources and information below.

News & journal snapshot

Gambling industry profits up to £15 billion.

The Guardian ban gambling adds.

Only one in 200 gamblers get specialist treatment.

The Lancet published an article on 'Gambling - the harmful commodity'.

May Cl van Schalkwyk and Rebecca Cassidy published an opinion piece in the BMJ regarding how we can solve the crisis in UK gambling policy.

Article on gender differences in the propensity to start gambling.

Paper on the associations between heavy episodic drinking, drinking while gambling, and risky gambling.

TO WATCH

SME4Labour and Gambling with Lives discussion hosted by Clive Tyldesley, featuring experts from the NHS, public health, lived experience and politics.

Comedian Lloyd Griffith discovers whether you can in fact 'beat the bookies' - an interesting documentary that highlights some of the marketing tactics used by industry and potential harms caused.

RESEARCH HAPPENING IN THE NORTH EAST

Durham University study on gambling harms and domestic abuse - can your local authority get involved?

10,000 additional people sought help for gambling harm in 2023 compared to 2022.

Online Commercial Determinants of Health Conference

If you weren't able to attend the Commercial Determinants of Health conference held on the 3rd November 2023, this conference is an online repeat. Taking place on Monday 18th March 9-12pm. Focusing on tobacco, alcohol, unhealthy food, and gambling. Highlighting good practice in challenging and advocating in this important space. Focusing on the tools and skills needed to understand and identify the influence of industry, reduce its impact, and proactively challenge. Register [here](#).

Apply for a gambling research grant

The Academic Forum for the Study of Gambling (AFSG) is a group of academic researchers in the UK dedicated to advancing research that can help prevent, reduce, and address gambling harms. AFSG is now accepting applications for [open-access publications](#).

Statement of policy

Each licensing authority is required to renew their statement of policy under the Gambling Act 2005. The renewal date for this current cycle is January 2025. This could be an opportunity to ensure an overview on gambling harms are included and to make sure suitable language choices are used surrounding gambling harms.

LANGUAGE GUIDE LAUNCH

Keep an eye out in the next newsletter for the Words can Hurt Language Guide for Gambling Harms that is launching very soon!

NORTHERN STAGE 'GAMBLE' PRODUCTION

Gamble is a bittersweet multimedia show about gambling addiction and its effect on families, friends and communities. This show is on the 1st and 2nd March at 8pm at the [Northern Stage](#). Both performances will be followed by a post-show discussion with Dr Matthew Gaskell, Clinical Lead and Consultant Psychologist for The NHS North West Gambling Service and The North East and Yorkshire Gambling service.

HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENTS FROM THE REGION

Please see these great examples of gambling harms health needs assessments in the North East:

[Gambling-related harms in Sunderland](#)

[North Tyneside Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Gambling](#)

What's happening elsewhere...

Australia has been working on the gambling harms agenda for some time and here are some examples of the public health work they are doing. Perhaps some of these could influence how you tackle gambling harms in your local authority.

- Sessions held in public libraries with public health colleagues and a lived experience representative facilitated by an organisation called [ReSpin](#). Honest conversations about gambling harm and recover hope to tackle some of the stigma.
- Studies have involved young people to see what they believe would help to stop the normalisation of gambling harm for young people. Click to see their framework and [findings](#).
- South Australia have been running a 'Here for the Game' campaign seeking to disrupt the normalisation of betting in sport and provide an alternative narrative to that of the betting companies. Find out more [here](#).

International online events

The University of Gibraltar and Yale University are hosting a series of international webinars on Gambling Policies and Regulations. The next webinar is on the 6th March at 8am GMT. With speakers from Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand, click [here to reserve a free spot](#).

PUBLICATIONS TO SHARE

OHID Gambling treatment need and support in England: [main findings and methodology](#)

NICE draft guidelines on [Harmful Gambling](#)

LGA Tackling gambling related harm: [A whole council approach](#)

Gambling Commission [Young People and Gambling](#) report.

CHAPTER ONE

Chapter One is an organisation for everyone affected by gambling. Find out about the causes of gambling harm and where to access help [here](#).

GET IN TOUCH

Thank you for supporting and working towards reducing Gambling-Related Harms in our region!

If you would like us to include anything else in our next newsletter, please email the Gambling Harm Reduction office: GHR@middlesbrough.gov.uk