

Gambling-related harm

An introduction

Wiltshire Council – Licensing Committee
7 September 2020



BeGambleAware.org[®]



National Strategy to Reduce Gambling Harms

- The Gambling Commission launched the new National Strategy to reduce Gambling Harms April 2019
- **3-year strategy** to drive and coordinate work to bring a lasting impact on reducing gambling harms.
- Bringing health organisations, charities, structured services, **local government**, businesses, and **communities** together in partnership to effectively tackle the issue of gambling related harm

Research, education and treatment



**GAMBLING
COMMISSION**



GambleAware

South West Gambling Support Service (GSS)

Gambling-related harm (GRH) minimisation project

Currently training front-line staff and advisers to identify and offer early advice and information

Gathering data through screening and assessments - measuring harm

Providing in-house introduction sessions and awareness training & for staff of statutory and voluntary services

Advocating a public-health approach to gambling-related harm

Strategic priority areas

- 1. Prevention and Education –**
making significant progress towards a clear public health prevention plan which includes the right mix of interventions
- 2. Treatment and Support –**
delivering truly national treatment and support options that meet the needs of users



South West Gambling Support Service

Raise
awareness

Deliver or
embed
training

Help you
help your
staff

What is gambling?

Gambling is betting, gaming or participating in a lottery, where gaming means playing a game of chance for a prize and a prize is defined as money or 'money's worth'. (The Gambling Act 2005)

A person is gambling whenever he or she takes the risk of losing money or belongings, and when winning or losing is decided mostly by chance. (Institute of Ontario: Problem Gambling, 2019)

<https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/for-the-public>

Gambling Commission licencing objectives:

Prevent gambling from being a source of crime and disorder, being associated with crime and disorder or being used to support crime

Ensure that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way

Prevent children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling

<http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk>

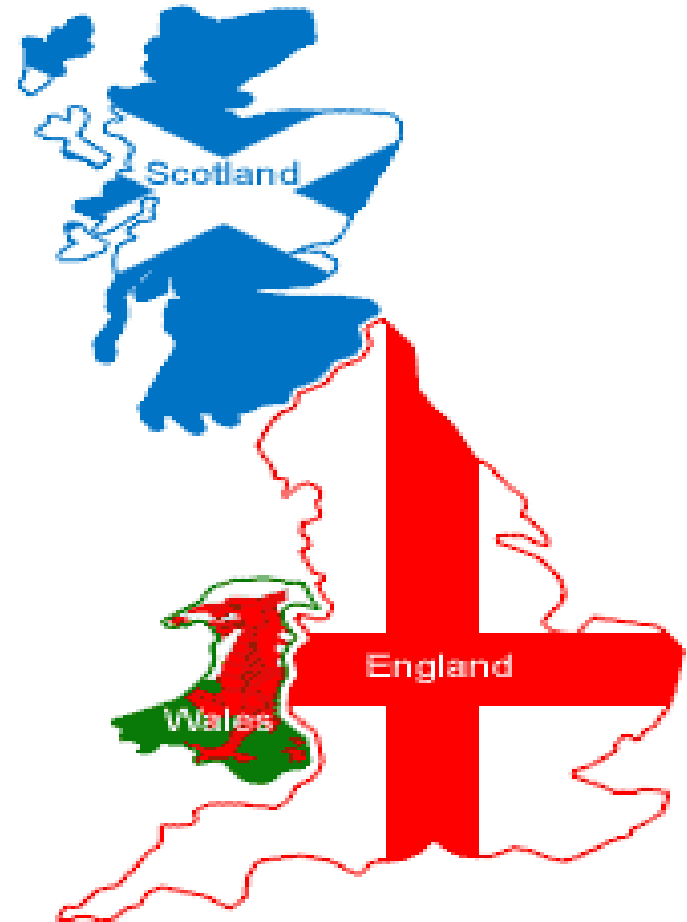
**What is gambling
related harm?**

“gambling-related harms
are the **adverse impacts** from
gambling on the **health and**
wellbeing of individuals,
families, communities and
society”.

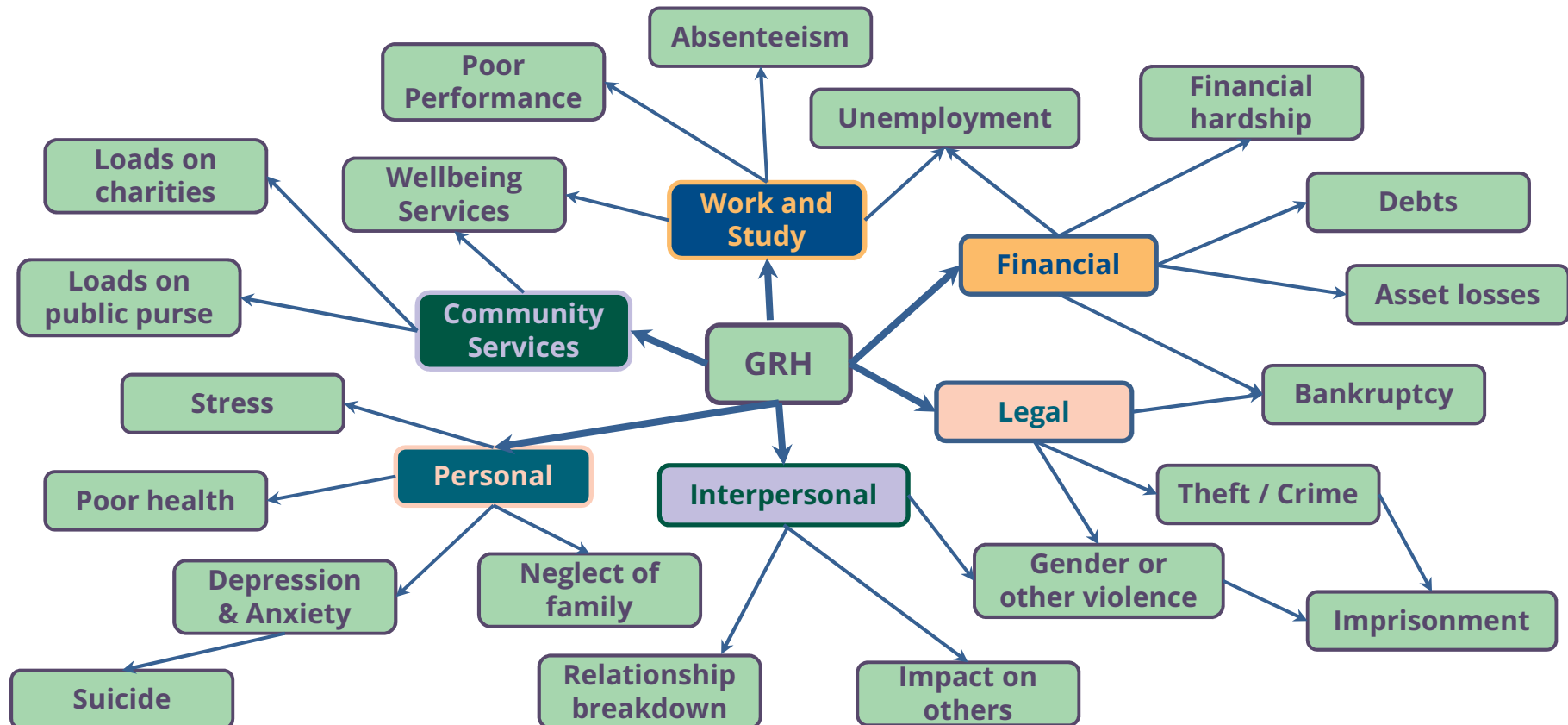
Gambling-related harm

600,000 people are officially recognised as **pathological gamblers** with a further 2 million needing intervention to keep them from tipping ... *National Problem Gambling Clinic 2018*

It is estimated that for every **problem gambler** - between 6 and 10 additional people are directly affected – that's roughly 2.5-4.3 million that could be affected by **gambling-related harm**



Gambling related harm



Identifying gambling-related harm

Gambling-related harm – groups at risk

- a. Children, adolescents and young adults (including students)
- b. People with mental health issues, including those experiencing substance abuse issues (problem gambling is often 'co-morbid' with these substance addictions)
- c. Individuals from certain minority ethnic groups, such as Asian/Asian British, Black/ Black British and Chinese/other ethnicity
- d. The unemployed, people with lower incomes and problem gamblers seeking treatment
- e. People who are financially constrained – those living in deprived areas.

Defining gambling-related harms

In terms of **resources**, harms that can impact on people's lives include:

- Employment – impacts
- Learning - opportunities lost
- Money – losses and debt
- Housing issues
- Engagement in criminal activities – legal implications
- Use of foodbanks & need for state support

Defining gambling-related harms

In terms of **relationships**, harms can include:

- Disruption and erosion of relationships
- Emotional and social isolation
- Impaired ability to understand actions
- Loss of trust
- Reduction of stability and security
- Diversion of money, time and attention
- Anti-social behaviour

Defining gambling-related harms

In terms of **health**, harms relate to:

- physical ill-health, psychological distress (feelings of shame, stigma and guilt),
- mental health problems (including anxiety and depression) and, in some cases, suicidal behaviour.
- Insomnia and confusion
- substance abuse

These harms may be felt by both individuals and families.

Gambling-related harm

The impact of problem gambling extends beyond individual gamblers themselves

SW GSS - Tackling gambling-related harm

Working with frontline, welfare and support staff in:

Local authorities - statutory services including Education, Housing, Community Safeguarding

Voluntary sector organisations - including health and social care providers

Public Health - organisations that work with or refer clients to specialist treatment services

Advisers working within local Citizens Advice offices across the region

Housing Associations and Debt and money advisers

HM Forces & Service Veterans and Emergency Service

Universities and Higher Education

Gambling-related harm

A council-wide approach to identifying people impacted by harmful gambling:

Awareness raising and training for relevant frontline staff and partner organisations. i.e. debt support agencies, licensing staff, community safety and mental health workers.

Consider designating an organisational lead for harmful gambling issues.

Implement screening processes to strengthen data collection.

Develop relationships with local treatment organisations, service providers and the responsible gambling community.

Gambling-related harm

Problem gambling can be associated with a number of adverse impacts on the lives of individual problem gamblers, subsequently this could mean they require higher rates of access to certain local public services and provisions.

Problem gambling affects the lives of millions of people in Great Britain and has been shown to have a significant impact on public finances.

'Cards on the table' report - The cost to government associated with people who are problem gamblers in Britain – Institute for Public Policy Research 2017

... so not that much of a problem ...

- 600,000 people are officially recognised as pathological gamblers with a further 2 million needing intervention to keep them from tipping... *National Problem Gambling Clinic 2019.*
- It is estimated that for every problem gambler - between 6 and 10 additional people are directly affected.
- 47% adults gambled in the last week – 20.6% gambled online - 4/10 online gamblers bet after seeing an advert *Gambling-related harms evidence review October 2019*
- Amount lost by gamblers in GB 2018/9 – 14.4 billion – *Gambling Commission industry statistics July 2019.*
- 30% rise in the number of calls to gambling helplines over the past five years.
- Close to half a million children (11 - 16) now bet regularly online. 55,000 classified as having a problem with a further 70, 000 at risk. *GC Young people and Gambling October 2019*
- Only one in fifty adult problem gamblers get support *Addaction Voices March 2020*

Thank you!
Questions if time permits

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