Regulation, risk, responsibility

Rob Burkitt
Gambling Commission – Leeds 2018
Tripartite system

Consumer

Regulators

Operator

Gambling Commission

Local Authority

Gambling Act 2005
Research, Education, Treatment → Operator (non-remote)

Gambling Commission
- Operator licence fees, Conditions & Codes

380 Licensing Authorities
- Premises – fees & conditions
Gambling Commission 3 year strategy

• Use precautionary principle when necessary
• Focus on prevention as well as effective treatment and support
• Lead in partnership to tackle gambling harm
• Operators must do more and faster to ensure fair and safe play – and likewise risk mitigation
• Recent social responsibility cases – Gala Interactive £2.3m, Stan James £80K, 888 £7.8m, BGO £300K
• Responsible Gambling Strategy Board – advisor to GC and DCMS on research, education and treatment
• PH issue is an issue which potentially harms some or all population
• Prevention is better than cure
• External as well as internal factors affect behaviour
• Public health measures may affect a much larger population to minimise risk to the vulnerable
• Focus not just on individuals but products, environments, marketing and the context of gambling
Key LA issues

• s153 and Statement of Policy
• Responsible authorities and licensing authorities – incl safeguarding and ‘minimising the risk of…harm to human health’
• Each gambling premises - local risk assessment required
• No complaints? – regulation starts with premises licence issue doesn’t end then – risk is not based on past events – exercise the precautionary principle (insurance policy)
• Fee for compliance and enforcement – what’s happening in the shop matters.
## Geofutures: Vulnerable Groups (July 2015)

### Key:
- Supported by evidence
- Emerging evidence
- No/conflicting evidence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic</th>
<th>Socio-economic</th>
<th>Poor judgement/impairment</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>Low educational attainment</td>
<td>Poor mental health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older people</td>
<td>Low income</td>
<td>Low IQ</td>
<td>SMS/alcohol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Deprived</td>
<td>Under influence of drugs/alcohol</td>
<td>Problem gamblers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic groups</td>
<td>Financial difficulties/debt</td>
<td>Learning disability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Homeless</td>
<td>Personal traits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Migrants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prisoners/probation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Problem gambling at the point of arrest

A summary of the Cheshire criminal justice pilot results...

Outcomes...

- **250** individuals across the wider Criminal Justice system were trained to use the lie/bet screening tool
- **760** individual screenings took place...
- **99** positive results were recorded
- **29** of these elected to receive an intervention from NPGTS

Findings...

- **13%** of all arrestees surveyed were at some risk of a gambling problem according to the Lie Bet screening tool

(Lack of awareness across the criminal justice system of problem gambling as an issue)

(Health Survey England 2015)
At-risk and problem gamblers

0.4m problem gamblers

2.0m at-risk
Problem gambling (2016)

0.7% of past 12 month gamblers identified as problem gamblers
According to the PGSI mini screen

5.5% of past 12 month gamblers identified as at-risk gamblers
According to the PGSI mini screen

Men and younger people are more likely to be categorised as problem gamblers

5.6% of gamblers have felt guilty about their gambling

4.2% of gamblers have bet more than they can afford to lose

2.4% of gamblers have been criticised about their gambling or told that they have a gambling problem
Research agency YouthSight conducted an online survey of 1,000 students (Sep 17)

3 Issues with gambling

12% Missed lectures/seminars

18% Higher income gamblers most likely to miss lectures

1 in 4 Spent more than they can afford

31% Of Men

17% Of Women

1 in 4 Debt is over £10,000

9% Debt due to gambling
Gambling and health (2012)

- 72% of current smokers have gambled in the past 12 months compared with 63% of non-smokers.
- 69% of current alcohol drinkers have gambled in the past 12 months compared with 43% of non-drinkers.
- 1.4% of those with a GHQ-12 score of 4 or higher (probable mental ill health) identified as problem gamblers.
- 2.2% of those with a low WEMWBS score identified as problem gamblers.

Source: 2012 Combined Health Survey
11 – 16 year olds (Dec 2017)

12% of 11-16 year olds have spent their own money on gambling in the last week

0.9% of 11-16 year olds are defined as problem gamblers
Considerations

- DCMS review – do stakes matter?
- Individualisation of problem gambling
- Wider personal, social and economic costs
- Risk based and prevention/protections
- Ultimately operator’s responsibility
- Assistance with wider public health agenda – co-morbidities, mental health, financial inclusion
- Who pays?
Useful links

• [https://about.gambleaware.org/](https://about.gambleaware.org/)
• [http://www.gamcare.org.uk/](http://www.gamcare.org.uk/)
• https://www.geofutures.com/research/gambling/
• https://www.moneyandmentalhealth.org/gambling/
• https://about.gambleaware.org/media/1605/gambleaware-intervention-guide.pdf
making gambling fairer and safer

www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk

@GamRegGB