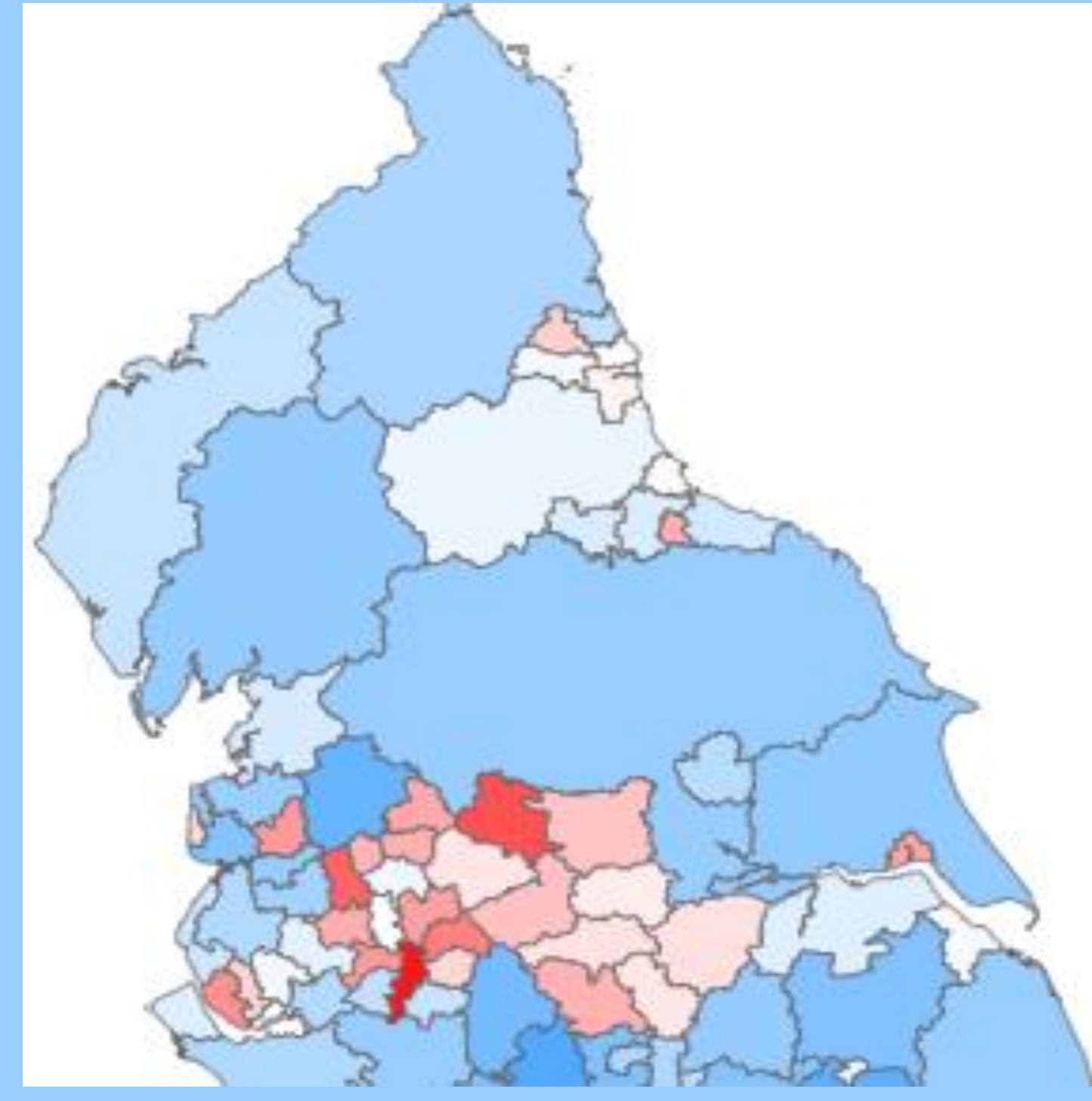


Northern Gambling Harms Symposium

Coordinated public health action is needed to counter the pervasive influence of the gambling industry and the normalisation of gambling as a leisure activity.

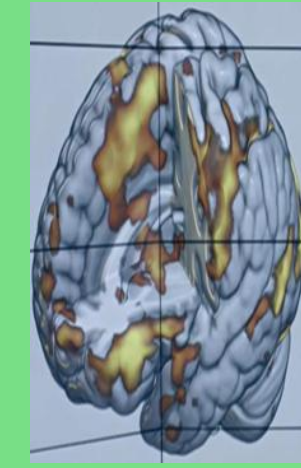
Colleagues from the Yorkshire & Humber Gambling COI coordinated a Northern Gambling Harms Symposium, bringing together expertise from across the North of England for a full-day event in Leeds. The Symposium was funded by OHID as part of a one-off national pilot and consisted of best practice showcasing workshops covering needs assessments, licensing, training, framing and campaigns. Keynote speakers also presented the impacts of the industry and the way gambling products are designed to cause harm. Lived experience was at the heart of the event with panellists from a range of backgrounds projecting their key messages for reducing harm.

Gambling Harm Data – PGSI 8+ Prevalence



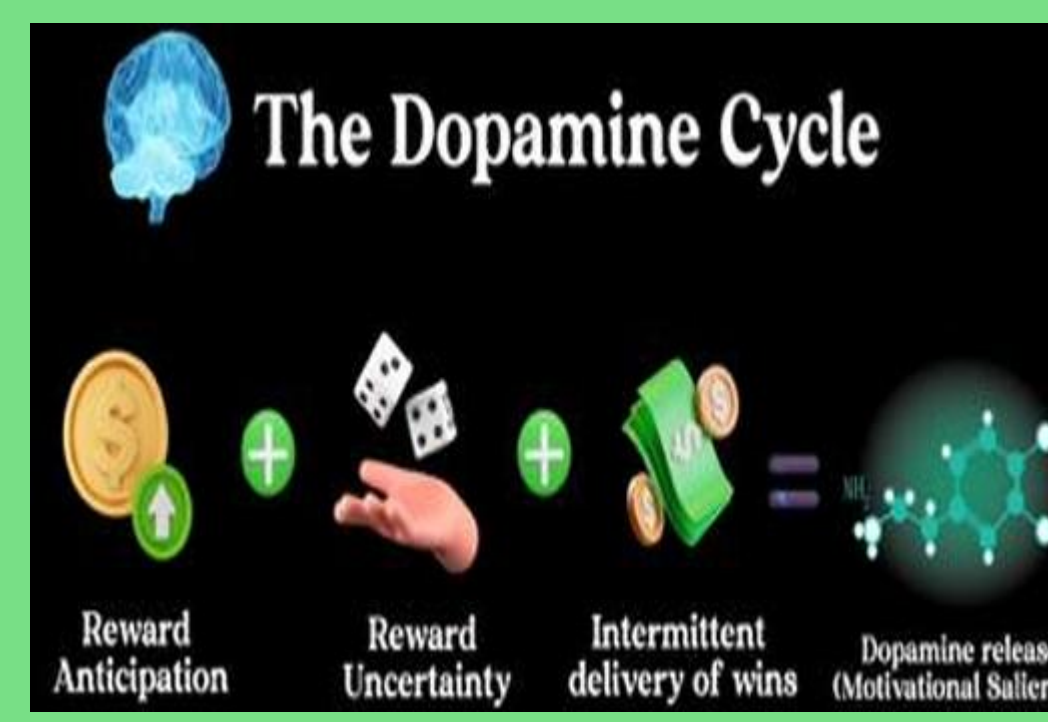
Levels of Gambling Harm vary across local authorities in the North of England

Map shows prevalence of PGSI score of 8+ indicating severe gambling harms. Blue = <math>< 3\%</math>, Red = >math>> 3\%</math>



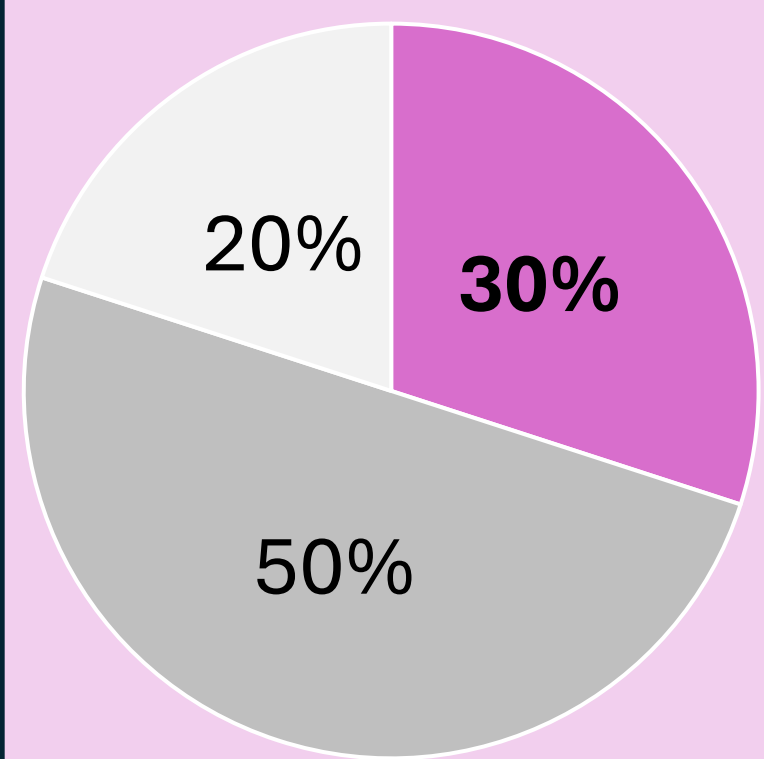
Harmful Gambling Products

At the symposium, Dr Matt Gaskell explained how the gambling industry designs products to exploit the brain.



This includes engineering 'near misses' and 'losses disguised as wins' where the win amount is lower than the stake.

Gambling Harms Prevention Levy



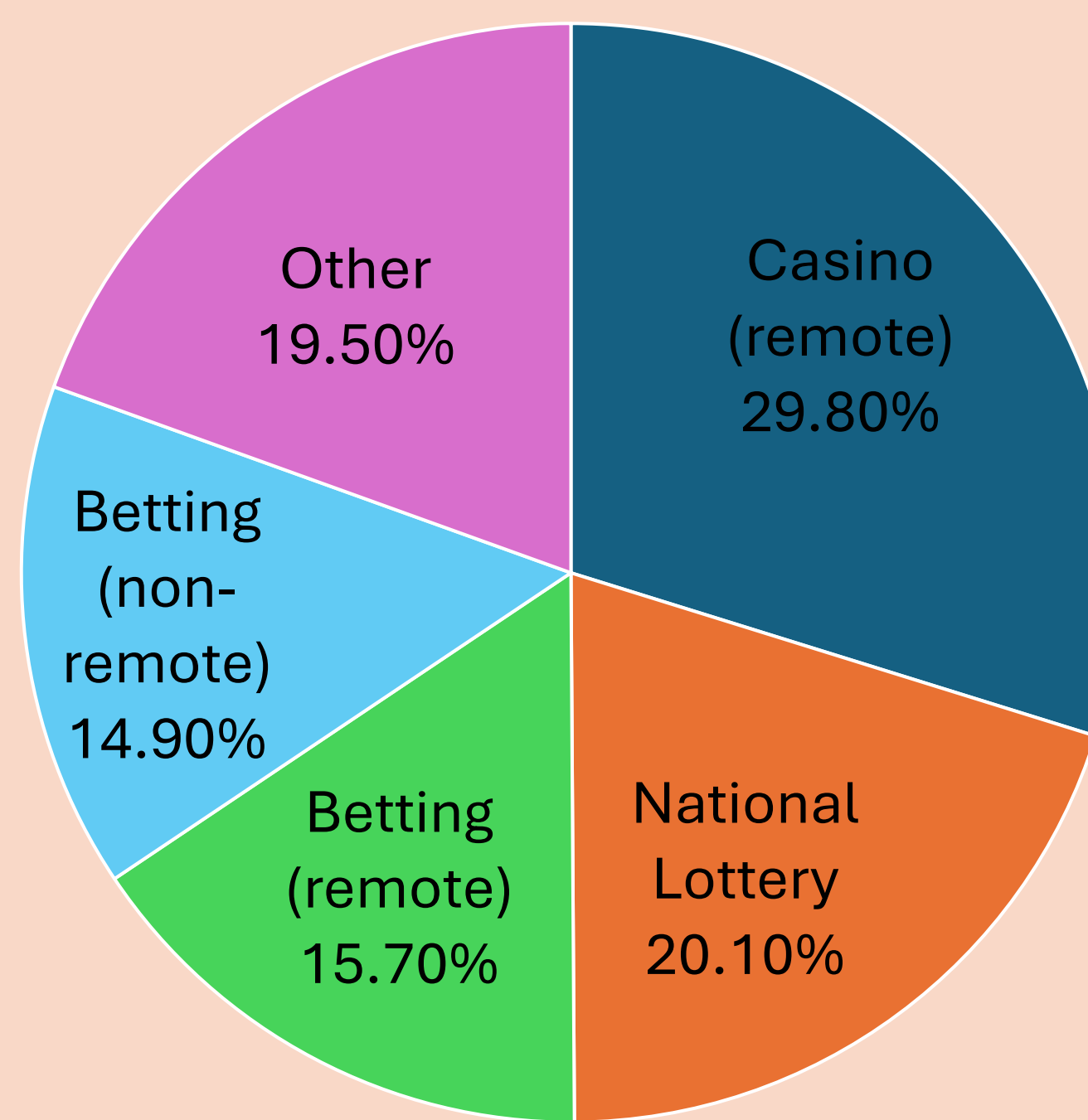
A statutory levy on gambling operators is allocated to treatment (50%), **prevention (30%)** and research (20%), with OHID commissioning **£30 million** for prevention in 2026/27.

Local Authorities have all been provided with funding from this levy, designated for understanding local need and for the prevention of gambling harms. Yorkshire and the Humber LAs have been awarded a combined **£1.27 million** for 2026/27. Spending of the levy was discussed at the symposium with lots of ideas suggested including lived experience workshops, training and working with schools.

Commercial Determinants – Gambling Industry

Aggressive marketing, addictive product design and corporate strategies by the gambling industry prioritise profit over consumer wellbeing resulting in wide reaching harms.

Industry Profit Split



Data from Gambling Commission

8,234 total premises in Great Britain ↓ Decreasing over time

188,559 gambling machines in Great Britain ↑ Increasing over time

£16.8 billion Gross Gambling Yield (GGY) ↑ Increasing over time

Best Practice Workshops

Five Workshops showcasing best practice were shared at the event, here is the range of presentations that were included:

Poster by Rachel Copley, Rotherham Council

Symposium Organisational Credits: Shannon Kennedy, Grace Imrie, Jenny Thompson, Phillippa Hickey, DHSC and the Y&H Gambling COI

Special thanks to all workshop presenters, lived experience panellists and keynote speakers