**Gambling Health Alliance Member Meeting
27th April 2021, 14:00-15:30**

**Attendees**

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| **Name** | **Organisation** |
| Agnes Nairn | University of Bristol |
| Alison Mather | Quaker Action on Alcohol and Drugs |
| Ali Lutte-Elliott | YGAM (observer) |
| Anna Niemczewski | BetKnowMore |
| Charlie Plucker | GamCare |
| Christina Marriott | RSPH (Acting GHA Chair) |
| Claire Gerada | NHS Riverside Medical Practice |
| Emma Davies | Parent Zone |
| Emma Ryan | Primary Care Gambling Service |
| Gavin McColl | Primary Care Gambling Service |
| Graham England | Addiction Recovery Agency |
| James Close | University of Plymouth |
| Jo Evans | Greater Manchester Combined Authority |
| Julie Daniels | Medway Council |
| Justyn Larcombe | RecoveryTwo |
| Katie Fry | Citizens Advice |
| Keith Lewis | Unite the Union |
| Kishan Patel | TalkGen |
| Louisa Mason | RSPH (GHA Lead) |
| Michael Viggars | Healthy Stadia |
| Matthew Philpott | Healthy Stadia |
| Matt Zarb-Cousin | Clean Up Gambling |
| Meagan Levin | Royal British Legion |
| Myrte Elbers | Leeds City Council |
| Owen Bailey | Citizens Advice North Oxfordshire & South Northants |
| Tom Addey | ADPH London |
| Victoria Taylor-Smith | White Ribbon Association |
| Warren Hughes | Fast Forward |
| William Griffiths | The ALLIANCE Scotland |

**Apologies**

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| **Name** | **Organisation** |
| Danny Hames | NHS Substance Misuse Provider |
| Jan Stewart | Citizens Advice Hampshire |
| Maeve Walsh | Carnegie UK |
| Matthew Hickey | The Gordon Moody Association |
| Rachel Lampard | The Methodist Church in Britain |
| Robin Pollard | We are With You  |

1. **Welcome and overview**

Christina Marriott opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees. It was noted that Christina was stepping in as Acting Chair, that the meeting was being recorded for the purpose of taking notes, and that YGAM were in attendance as an observer.

Christina reflected that the GHA now stands at 48 full members, and that the focus for the first quarter of 2021 has been on responding to the Gambling Act Review.

The Steering Group were asked to make themselves known to the members. The current Steering Group members are:

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| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Organisation** |
| Emma Ryan | Primary Care Gambling Service |
| Jo Evans | Greater Manchester Combined Authority |
| Katie Fry | Citizens Advice |
| Kishan Patel | TalkGen |
| Matt Zarb-Cousin | Clean Up Gambling  |
| Warren Hughes | Fast Forward |

1. **Gambling Act Review**

Louisa Mason recapped the GHA’s Gambling Act Review recommendations.

Safer products:

* £2 limit to online slots
* Stake limits to online non-slot gambling content determined according to the speed of play
* Limits to online casino content
* Soft cap of £100 per month on net deposits reviewed frequently to account for inflation
* All new gambling products classified and licensed according to a series of harm indicators
* Reduce reliance on the ‘responsible gambling’ narrative and provide messaging about the risk of products
* Loot boxes in video games classed as a form of gambling

Restricted access:

* Affordability checks for all gamblers, standardised across operators, with data shared between providers
* End promotional offers, including VIP schemes
* Operators to strictly adhere to self-exclusion schemes
* Enforcement of age verification checks
* No gambling for under 18s
* Duty of care for operators to protect consumers from harm
* Public health embedded in licensing objectives

A limit on promotions:

* Ban gambling advertising and sponsorship in sport, including sports venues and eSports
* Tighter rules around advertising in-game purchases
* Prohibit advertising and marketing which persuades people to start gambling, to gamble more, or to gamble with additional operators
* Limit children’s exposure to gambling advertising by determining where children are exposed to it, then introducing restrictions, which may include limits to broadcast, online, streaming and social media advertising
* Ultimately, an end to all gambling advertising, sponsorship and promotion

Adopting public health principles:

* Education and awareness raising, including through the new Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education curricula
* Longitudinal data collection through the reinstatement of triennial reviews
* Protection at the population level with a definition of those who are at risk or ‘vulnerable’ in order to aid fulfilment of the third licensing objective of the 2005 Gambling Act
* Integrated and comprehensive treatment provision
* Health commissioning to include gambling harms
* Smart industry levy to fund research, education and treatment
* Cross departmental collaboration between DCMS, DHSC, DfE, the Treasury, the Home Office and the MoJ
* Implement these recommendations as part of a gambling harm prevention strategy that protects the public, those at risk, those experiencing harm, and affected others

Louisa noted that many GHA members were well aligned in calling for the Review to take a public health approach.

1. **Breakout discussion and feedback
How can we influence government to implement our Gambling Act Review recommendations?
What should we push hardest for?
What is most impactful and achievable?**

Feedback from the groups:

* Re-introduce a prevalence study.
* Limit access and availability e.g. stake limits and online access.
* Mandatory levy – impactful and achievable.
* Need to get parliamentarians on side with taking the public health approach and prioritising prevention.
* Lived experience voice of different groups is useful in this narrative.
* Advertising restrictions.
1. **GHA priorities**

Louisa went through the survey that GHA members completed about the priorities for the GHA for the rest of 2021.

The top three priorities for the GHA as voted for by members were:

1. Making gambling safe from a public health perspective.
2. Gambling advertising in general (as opposed to in sport).
3. Health inequalities in drivers of gambling and the harms experienced.

When asked about the priorities for member organisations this year, ‘communities’ was mentioned most often.

When asked what else the GHA should focus on, the most common responses were:

1. Gambling environments and the clustering of betting outlets.
2. Gambling in workplaces and communities.
3. The responsible gambling narrative.
4. **Breakout discussion and feedback
What should the GHA focus on for the rest of 2021?**

Feedback from the groups:

* PHE Evidence Review – updated and comprehensive evidence is required to inform policy development and to push back against the industry response to evidence of gambling harms.
* Child protection and safeguarding from gambling harms should be part of professional education.
* What the public health approach looks like – the policies that are needed e.g. ‘protect public health’ as a licensing objective of the Gambling Act.
* Mandatory levy to come through mainstream funding bodies.
* Prohibit advertising.
* Wider knowledge among the population about gambling as a public health issue alongside other addiction issues, and evidence of the effectiveness of education.
* Keep lobbying for Gambling Act Review recommendations.
* Health inequality in lived experience.

1. **Member updates**

Kishan Patel gave a presentation on [Gambling Explained](https://www.talkgen.org/post/gambling-explained-gambling-act-review-evidence-submission).

Katie Fry from Citizens Advice informed that group that the Citizens Advice Gambling Act Review submission will be published. It was based on research conducted with 2,000 people, Katie will check about sharing the findings with the GHA. The training support service for frontline staff on gambling harms will come to an end in May, but there will be a new piece of policy work starting, funded by GambleAware. Katie will send a summary of this work to the GHA.

Charlie Plucker from GamCare introduced himself to the group as a new member, and announced that GamCare’s partnership with YGAM is now up and running and provides a support service for young people.

Justyn Larcombe brought up a Swansea University project that focuses on veterans and gambling. This is due for publication soon.

The Observer (YGAM) was invited to unmute but did not wish to add anything.

1. **AOB and meeting close**

Christina thanked the members for attending the meeting and stated that Louisa will circulate notes and Kishan’s slides. Christina reminded members to get in contact with questions or comments, blog submissions or items for the newsletter.

The meeting closed.