**Meeting of the Gambling Health Alliance
10am-12pm
8th July 2020**

1. **Introduction from Duncan Stephenson, Chair of the Gambling Health Alliance and Deputy CEO of RSPH**
2. **Opening speech from Ronnie Cowan MP, Vice-chair of the Gambling Related Harm APPG**

Ronnie updated the group on the work of the APPG:

* Final report released in June, accessible [here](http://www.grh-appg.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Online-report-Final-June16-2020.pdf).
* APPG may look more closely into loot boxes in the future – requires a political will for action.
* The Isle of Man has successfully banned loot boxes. The House of Lords Commons Library later advised:

*The Isle of Man's* [*Gambling Supervision Commission*](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.gov.im%2fabout-the-government%2fstatutory-boards%2fgambling-supervision-commission%2f&c=E,1,aTZ35JFDDPceAOxBxqGRpQ5Z4QP9vM-qfHk3QxoEATPqnvzq14t0NXwJW2iSaZFGemyxSQpD7XI6dtTQjVPvpVn0o5Y-QRnBM2dy8fjwRVugcO01tKw,&typo=1) *has updated online gambling regulations to define virtual items as being "money's worth", even when not convertible into cash. For further detail, see p6 of the Commission’s* [*Guidance for Online Gambling (Amendments) Regulations 2016*](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.gov.im%2fmedia%2f1355106%2fguidance-for-online-gambling-amendments-regulations-2016.pdf&c=E,1,8wflg_80YoncpSVVnlbokhVyQlNDbaV4uH-W2UP6lwo34OFdc8Xe3M4x4mofQKi9WNOJAWO-Kf6V-Iu6qKMXkBXjRxddFX4KMZzCk0OROVbBwb8ZQ1UrziGABA,,&typo=1)*.*

*The Government was asked for its view on the change to the Isle of Man’s regulations in an* [*October 2017 PQ (106042).*](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.parliament.uk%2fbusiness%2fpublications%2fwritten-questions-answers-statements%2fwritten-question%2fCommons%2f2017-10-06%2f106042%2f&c=E,1,5SAbDDpuR9492ZKMTUwt_zIEunWwpjfqxwvAh51Ioe0KTPL1sNWiO-laFTT2crrGkgy3AjoGvSxMvQzpqiwfxoY32_xAZc0E8DTo2HVN5Q,,&typo=1)

*A House of Lords Committee* [*report*](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fpublications.parliament.uk%2fpa%2fld5801%2fldselect%2fldgamb%2f79%2f79.pdf&c=E,1,pv82FBJdqYm8UgoY9EBD0Mok5B1SkiqxqR6VDObKfgnPHAG8f2jkkKzcDH4yaHGfmFH-9dMCowec6M3-cZ1H31uS-kqfwZfqLVmoC5a4X7AY&typo=1) *(HL Paper 79, July 2020) has recommended, among other things, that the Gambling Act 2005 be amended so that it covers loot boxes.*

1. **Reflections from Duncan Stephenson on the GHA webinar: How can we protect young people from new forms of gambling?**
* The survey put to webinar attendees showed over 95% support for statutory regulation and classifying loot boxes and skin betting as forms of gambling.
* We need to look beyond the symptoms and more at the causes, linking to the financial dynamics of the industry.
* There may be a consumer rights issue at play – children are being scammed because the odds are so low.
* There is an issue of how the gaming industry is regulated across the board, and the need to look beyond the Gambling Commission to other regulators such as Ofcom.
* We need to recognise that gaming can be a positive experience for young people – we mustn’t be entirely negative about the medium.
1. **First breakout discussion: Regulation of loot boxes**Breakout groups discussed the following points:
* How does current regulation need to change?
* What should loot box regulation look like?
* Who should regulate loot boxes?
* What are the unintended consequences of regulating loot boxes? How can we avoid loopholes?
* Where has regulation worked well, and where has it worked less well?
1. **Second breakout discussion: Education on loot boxes**Breakout groups discussed the following points:
* What age should we educated children about loot boxes?
* What should the curriculum cover?
* How can we engage with parents?
* What are the most effective channels to engage with young people?
1. **Third Breakout discussion: Campaign**

Breakout groups discussed the following points:

* Who do we need to influence? How should we influence key players?
* Who else do we need on board?
* What else is going on in this space? How can we compliment and add something different?
* What might a campaign look like? How can we best engage with the public?
1. **Meeting close**
* Contact the GHA with any queries on gha@rsph.org.uk
* The first GHA newsletter will be released at the end of July so send any content you would like included Louisa.
* This discussion will inform a GHA campaign plan and the Steering Group will be meeting later in July to discuss next steps. All GHA members will be updated following this.