**Meeting of the Gambling Health Alliance**

**9.30 – 13.00**

**13th February 2020**

**41 Portland Place Marylebone, London W1B 1QH**

**Attendees**

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| **Name**  | **Organisation**  | **In attendance**  | **Conference line**  |
| Aaron Mansfield | RSPH | X |  |
| Aisling NiConchuir  | Behavioural Insights Team  | X |  |
| Alison Mather | Quaker Action Against Alcohol and Drugs | X |  |
| Andrew Taylor | Committee on Advertising  | X |  |
| Anna Adams | Citizens Advice Hampshire  | X |  |
| Anna Niemczewska | BetKnowMore | X |  |
| Chiara Marin | FastForward  |  | X |
| Chris Stein | Men’s Health Forum  | X |  |
| Chris Webster | Citizens Advice North Oxfordshire & South Northants  | X |  |
| Danny Hames | NHS | X |  |
| Dr Evgenia Stefanopoulou | Turning Point  | X |  |
| Emma Ryan | NHS | X |  |
| Helen Garratt | GamCare | X |  |
| Katie Fry  | Citizens Advice Bureau | X |  |
| Kenny Imafidon  | ClearView Research | X |  |
| Maeve Walsh | Carnegie UK Trust | X |  |
| Matthew Birkinshaw | DHSC |  | X |
| Matthew Phillpot  | Healthy Stadia  |  | X |
| May VanSchalkwyk | LSHTM | X |  |
| Meagan Levin | Royal British Legion | X |  |
| Niamh McDade | RSPH | X |  |
| Pete Wallace  | Epic  |  |  |
| Peter Baker | HPV Action Coalition | X |  |
| Robin Pollard | Addaction | X |  |
| Sharon Fernandez  | NHS |  |  |
| Shirley Cramer (Chair) | RSPH | X |  |
| Sophie Linington | ParentZone | X |  |
| Victoria Sharman | Royal College of Nursing | X |  |

**Apologies**

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| Dean Johnstone  | Minds Ahead |
| Heather Wardle  | LSHTM |
| Iain Fraser | Office of Ronnie Cowan MP |
| Jono Baggaly | PSHE Association |
| Lee Willows | YGAM |
| Lee Willows  | YGAM |
| Myrte Elbers | Leeds City Council |
| Simon Watts | Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council |
| Victoria Taylor-Smith | White Ribbon Association |

1. **Introduction from meeting Chair, Shirley Cramer, CBE, Chief Executive of the Royal Society for Public Health**
2. **Round of introductions from attendees**
3. **Re-cap: Objectives of the Gambling Health Alliance**
* Work to ensure that the harms which arise from it are placed on an equal footing with other major public health challenges, focussing on prevention, early intervention, and increased community engagement
* Bring together a broad range of organisations and individuals with shared interest in reducing the damage caused to health and wellbeing from gambling
* Support policy-making and policy makers to address the social, economic and cultural factors that contribute to gambling harm and the inequalities in health caused by it
* Highlight gambling harms and their impact on wellbeing
* Engage and inform policy makers, Government, NGOs and public health community in order to encourage a coherent and co-ordinated response to reducing gambling harms
1. **Presentation from Aisling Ní Chonaire, Principal Advisor - Better Markets (Consumers and the Economy), the Behavioural Insights Team**

Presentation has been shared with group.

1. **Presentation from Aaron Mansfield, Royal Society for Public Health.**

Presentation has been shared with group.

1. **Update from Matthew Birkenshaw, Team Leader-Tobacco Control, Alcohol and Gambling Policy Lead, Department of Health and Social Care.**

Matthew advised the group:

* As part of the NHS Long Term Plan, they are working to implement 15 Gambling Treatment Clinics by 2023/24.
* Government departments meet every two months to update on their work in relation to tackling gambling related harm.
* The National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) has commissioned a research unit in Sheffield University to review the effectiveness of national and international polices and interventions to reduce gambling-related harms.
* PHE are conducting a broader evidence review on the prevalence of gambling and associated health harms and their social and economic burden. This is expected to be published in May/June 2020.

The objectives of the review are:

* + To describe the prevalence of gambling and gambling-related harms in England by socio-demographic characteristics, geographical distribution and year.
	+ To identify the determinants of gambling and harmful gambling.
	+ To identify and describe the harms to individuals, families, communities, and wider societal harms associated with problematic and harmful gambling.
	+ To examine the social and economic burden of gambling-related harms.
	+ To gather stakeholder views on gambling-related harms in England.

ACTION: GHA to continue engagement with DHSC via Matthew and share updates and evidence on gambling related harm with DHSC to support policy calls.

1. **Presentation from Andrew Taylor, Regulatory Policy Executive, Committee of Advertising Practice.**

Presentation has been shared with group.

1. **Discussion of GHA work plan, strategy and priorities led by Shirley Cramer**
* Organisation of the GHA
* Steering Group: The GHA steering group will be made up of experts who will oversee the work of the GHA to ensure that the interests of all GHA Members are represented.
* Work Streams: The GHA will include three work-streams, made up of specialist representatives from member organisations and will deliver tactical activity on behalf of the alliance, including:
	+ - Policy - supporting the development of jointly agreed policy positions, consultation responses, reports and briefings.
		- Public Affairs - monitoring the activities of Parliament, Whitehall and other relevant bodies and organisations; raising the profile of the GHA; lobbying for policy change; public relations work and stakeholder engagement; providing strategic communications advice and general public affairs support.
		- Communications - supporting internal and external communications of the GHA; speaking to media on behalf of the Alliance to media; reviewing press releases, supporting events and press conferences

ACTION:

All Members interested in forming part of the steering group and work streams should nominate themselves by following shared link. Members should complete this by COP 24 February 2020.

* **Update on results of Member Survey**

Based on responses to the Member, the topic of Online Gambling was voted as number one priority including:

* Online gambling and gaming; gaming and gamification of gambling; inconsistencies on legislation e.g. on loot boxes; in-app and in-game purchases; the role of the Online Harms White Paper in tackling gambling related harm.

Other issues flagged for the GHA to consider:

* The role of local authorities in tackling gambling related harm across England, Scotland and Wales
* Action to empower local communities to take charge of gambling
* All gambling businesses are subject to the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) and have a responsibility to keep crime, including money-laundering, out of gambling. The GHA have been asked by Carolyn Harris MP to issue a Freedom of Information request to the Gambling Commission into the number of gambling companies that are self-referring known money laundering activity of clients.

ACTION:

The group agreed that online gambling was to be taken forward as a priority issue for the group to consider.

GHA to engage more closely with the work of Local Government and ask representatives to join and present to the GHA.

GHA to issue FOI request to the Gambling Commission into the number of gambling companies that are self-referring known money laundering activity of clients. RSPH will coordinate this.

* **Brainstorm**

GHA Members were asked to break-out into small groups and discuss how the GHA can meet its objectives to:

* Highlight gambling harms?
* Engage and inform policy makers, Government, NGOs and public health community in order to encourage a coherent and co-ordinated response to reducing gambling harms?
* Promote evidence so it can be translated into practical steps?
* Undertake periodic surveys and polling to inform GHA campaigns to increase awareness of the health harms from gambling?

Feedback:

* Ensure that a range of events take place outside of Westminster. Suggestion to host events with English, Scottish and Welsh Mayors, as well as Metro and Regional Mayors, on tackling gambling related harm.
* Engage with local authorities and the Local Government Association to understand their experiences and work in tackling gambling related harm
* Ensure engagement with key stakeholders in devolved administrations, including the Chief Medical Officer for Wales and the Welsh Assembly Cross-Party Group on Problem Gambling.
* Develop briefing pack for local government
* Ensure we avoid a London focus and adequately represent Scotland and Wales. Hosting future meetings of the GHA across the country would support this.
* Language used may be problematic. GHA website to be updated to refer to betting and gaming, as well as gambling.
* Important to focus on 1-2 key issues and develop a clear strategy to inform policy. Agreement that the first issue the group will look at is online gambling, betting and gaming.
* Explore how stakeholders across primary care can be empowered to support patients experiencing issues associated with disordered gambling.

ACTION:

RSPH to update list of GHA members on website.

RSPH to share presentations and actions from the meeting.

Members to share any names of organisations and individuals who could be involved with the Alliance with Niamh nmcdade@rsph.org.uk

RSPH to follow-up with work plan based on the feedback to the brainstorming session of the group.