



# **Report of the Strategic Director Place, to the meeting of Corporate Overview & Scrutiny to be held on 12 September 2019**

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## **Subject:**

**Gambling in the Bradford District**

## **Summary statement:**

**An update on action taken regarding problem gambling and gambling related harm within the district, following the meeting of the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 21 March 2019.**

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Steve Hartley  
Strategic Director  
Department of Place

Report Contact: Tracy McLuckie  
Phone: (01274) 432240  
E-mail: [tracy.mcluckie@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:tracy.mcluckie@bradford.gov.uk)

**Portfolio:**  
**Neighbourhoods and Community Safety**  
**Healthy People and Places**

**Overview & Scrutiny Area:**  
**Corporate**

## **1. SUMMARY**

On 21 March 2019, the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered a report on the prevalence of problem gambling and gambling related harm within the district and development of the Council's approach to problem gambling.

This report provides an update on action to date.

## **2. ACTION TO DATE**

### **2.1 Recommendation 1 - Local Area Profile**

*A local area profile be developed to identify areas of greater or specific risks of gambling related harm in the district.*

A draft local area profile is attached at Appendix 1, on which members are invited to comment. The draft profile currently includes information relating to deprivation in the district and three of the 'at risk' groups highlighted in various studies. Further data is to be added on the remaining at risk groups and information at ward level where this is available.

The final draft local area profile will be referred to the committee for consideration.

### **2.2 Recommendation 2 – Responsible Gambling Week**

*For the Council and partner organisations to take part in activities to raise awareness of problem gambling as part of responsible gambling week in November, including the possibility of a conference on problem gambling, and planned activities be brought back to this Committee prior to the gambling week in November.*

Responsible Gambling Week (RG Week) is a cross-industry initiative to promote responsible gambling in the UK and Ireland. RG Week takes place between 7<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

The following activities are currently being planned:

- Promotion of RG Week via the communications team using the Council website, press releases and social media channels, linking to information on responsible gambling.
- Officer attendance at relevant workshops and training sessions throughout RG Week. This year leading charities will focus on parents and those working with young people, including teachers, youth workers and health professionals. Details of events have yet to be announced.
- The Council's Licensing Service will work with the Gambling Commission to support small independent business around responsible gambling, with a particular focus on the prevention of underage gambling.

## **2.3 Recommendation 3 - Letter to DCMS**

*The Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and to the Chair of All-Party Parliamentary Group on problem gambling to request the following:*

- (i) Additional powers that mean local authorities can prevent excessive clustering of betting shops and amusement arcades.*
- (ii) The introduction of a 1% levy on industry gross profits to pay for much needed research, education and treatment.*

A letter was written to the DCMS on 16 April 2019 and a copy of the response received from the Minister for Sport & Civil Society is attached at Appendix 2.

## **2.4 Recommendation 4 – Representatives from the gambling industry**

*That this Committee requests that representatives from the gambling industry be invited to a future meeting of this Committee.*

Representatives from three betting companies were contacted and invited to this meeting of the committee. At the time of writing to the report, one representative has accepted the invitation.

## **2.5 Recommendation 5 – Spot checks on betting shops**

*Bradford Council officers to undertake “spot checks” in betting shops across the district in relation to under age gambling.*

Licensing Enforcement Officers have undertaken 75 compliance inspections within the last 12 months.

In accordance with Gambling Commission guidance, the following age related checks are undertaken during a betting shop compliance inspection:

- Is the premises appropriately supervised to ensure that children are prevented from entering/ participating in gambling?
- Is there a notice stating that no person under the age of 18 is permitted to enter the premises?
- Are staff members trained on the prevention of underage gambling on induction to the company?
- Is training regularly updated – can this be evidenced within staff training logs?
- Are checks of age carried out on apparently underage customers? Can this be evidenced?
- Is service refused to adults accompanied by a child or young person?
- Are only suitable forms of I.D. accepted by the operator?
- Does staff training cover all relevant prohibitions against inviting children or young persons to gamble or to enter gambling premises?

Enforcement Officers also undertake advisory visits to public houses where there has been a change of management. These visits include a check on any gaming machines. Advisory visits to approximately 90 public houses have taken place in the last 12 months.

Officers also provide advice relating to permitted gaming in licensed premises, such as poker, during these visits.

## **2.6 Recommendation 6 – Education Awareness**

*Committee requests that education awareness be undertaken in schools, explaining the dangers of gambling to young people.*

An update will be provided at the November meeting.

## **2.7 Recommendation 7 – Treatment Services Report**

*That a report be presented to this Committee which focuses on the treatment services that are available across the district.*

There is no Council funded specialist treatment services for problem gambling in Bradford. The only locally provided specialist service is Krysallis in partnership with GamCare, details of which were included in the report to committee in March 2019.

An NHS hosted Northern Problem Gambling Clinic is due to open in Leeds this year. The clinic will provide services for people with severe gambling problems,. Further information can be found on the Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust website ([Leeds and York PFT](#))

The first NHS gambling clinic for children will open this as part of the NHS Long Term Plan. Up to 14 new NHS clinics are being opened, starting with the NHS Northern Gambling Service in Leeds. Further information is available via NHS England website ([NHS England](#)).

A representative from a treatment service is to be invited to attend committee in November 2019.

## **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

None

## **4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

Under the Gambling Act 2005, licence fees must be set upon the basis of full cost recovery for the administration and enforcement of the licence scheme. There is no provision to set fees to cover other matters, such as treatment services.

In relation to public health, local authorities are not funded to provide treatment services. There is a recognised role to identify harm and that people experiencing harm are enabled into support and treatment.

## **5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

There are no apparent risk management or governance issues.

## **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

Under the Gambling Act 2005, Council's (known as Licensing Authorities) are responsible for the licensing of gambling premises and certain gambling activities. Licensing authorities are bound by the statutory aim to permit where applications are in accordance with the Gambling Commission's codes of practice, guidance to authorities, the Authority's Statement of Principles and the three licensing objectives.

In relation to public health, the Care Act 2014 imposes a requirement on a local authority to "make enquiries if it has reasonable cause to suspect that an adult in its area, whether or not ordinarily resident there, has needs for care and support, is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it"

## **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### **7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY**

The Council has to comply with the public sector general equality duty in section 149 Equality Act 2010, when exercise its functions.

The broad purpose of the equality duty is to integrate consideration of equality and good relations into the day-to-day business of public authorities. It requires equality considerations to be reflected into the design of policies and the delivery of services

### **7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

No apparent sustainability implications.

### **7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

None

### **7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

The licensing objectives of addressing crime and disorder, ensuring gambling is conducted fairly and protecting children and vulnerable people must be addressed by the licensing authority when exercising statutory functions.

### **7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

The Council must consider Human Rights implications when establishing licensing policy.

## **7.6 TRADE UNION**

None

## **7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

Problem gambling and gambling related harm can affect anyone at any time. However, studies have shown gambling behaviour and problem gambling are not equally distributed across England, with higher rates for those living in wards classed as 'industrial, traditional manufacturing and multi-cultural'.

Information on problem gambling at a ward level is to be included in the Local Area Profile, where the information is available.

## **7.9 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING**

The protection of children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling is one of the licensing objectives which authorities must have regard to when exercising statutory functions.

## **7.10 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

None

## **8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

None

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The committee is invited to comment on the current draft Local Area Profile and other action points detailed at Section 2.

## **10 APPENDICES**

1. Draft Local Area Profile
2. Letter from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport.

## **11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

- Gambling Commission Guidance to Licensing Authorities (Sept 2015)
- Statement of Licensing Principles for the Bradford District 2019-2021
- Local Government Association Tackling Gambling Related Harm (July 2018)
- Gambling Commission Gambling related harm as a public health issue (Feb 2018)