

Report of the Strategic Director Place, to the meeting of Corporate Overview & Scrutiny to be held on 16 January 2020

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Subject:

GAMBLING IN THE BRADFORD DISTRICT

Summary statement:

**An update on the recommendations of Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee,
following the meeting of 12 September 2019.**

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Portfolio:
Neighbourhoods and Community Safety
Healthy People and Places

Overview & Scrutiny Area:
Corporate

1. SUMMARY

On 12 September 2019, the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered action taken regarding the prevalence of problem gambling and gambling related harm within the district.

This report provides a further update on action to date.

2. ACTION TO DATE

2.1 Recommendation 1 - Local Area Profile

This Committee requests that the final local area profile be presented to this committee at its meeting on 14 November 2019.

An interactive mapping tool has now been produced, which enables gambling operators to consider risk in relation to a specific premises location. The tool has various data layers, which can be added to and updated. A paper based profile is also available.

Following discussions at the committee around gaming machines, data on Alcohol Premises Gaming Machine Permits has now been added.

A copy of the paper based profile document is attached at Appendix 1.

2.2 Recommendation 2 – Organisational Plan

That this Committee requests that a cross departmental and cross organisational plan be presented to this Committee on 14 November 2019, which focuses specifically on the issues identified in the local area profile and also identifies other potential populations that could be deemed to be at risk.

Data continues to be added to the local area profile. The current data shows specific risks in relation to:

- High level of children and young adults in Keighley East, Keighley Central, City and Manningham wards, which are close to a high number of gambling premises.
- Gambling premises clustering in City and Keighley Central Wards

A formal organisational plan has yet to be produced. However, the following work is currently underway:

Licensing

- E-learning being undertaken by all licensing staff, to improve understanding of gaming machines and the regulation of machines.

- Enforcement programme around gaming machines in public houses and clubs, to ensure good levels of supervision, with a focus on the risk of underage gambling.
- Partnership working with regulatory leads within the gambling industry. Enforcement meetings undertaken with a major bookmakers and a local casino.

Education Safeguarding Team

- Inclusion of basic gambling awareness training for school safeguarding staff this academic year.

2.3 Recommendation 3 – Treatment Service & Gambling Commission Representatives

That this Committee requests that representations from treatment services and the Gambling Commission be requested to attend the meeting in November 2019.

Representatives from a local treatment service and the Gambling Commission have been invited to attend this meeting of the committee.

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 exercising 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.

7.8 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.

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

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. Local Area Profile

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)