

GambleAware

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PRESS RELEASE

GambleAware invests £1.5 million in partnership with Citizens Advice

London, 24 September: GambleAware has announced today a new two-year, £1.5 million partnership with Citizens Advice to help debt advisors better understand, prevent or reduce gambling related harms.

Being delivered across nine regions in England and Wales, the project will provide training to frontline debt advisors. The training will give staff the necessary tools to identify and support people who may be suffering from gambling related harm, as well as directing those at risk to the specialist help that is available.

The project will establish regional hubs with dedicated support staff across the country and will enable staff to deliver training to other frontline workers in other professions who come across people suffering from gambling related harm, such as frontline local authority staff, youth practitioners and healthcare workers.

The funding commitment comes after a successful six-year pilot project GambleAware ran with Newport Citizens Advice to deliver the Gambling Support Service.

Dr Jane Rigbye, Director of Education at GambleAware said:

“The debt advice workforce has an enormous role to play in supporting and reducing the likelihood of people experiencing gambling-related harms, as do many professions who come into contact with the general public on a daily basis. Encouraging and enabling staff in all public-facing settings to be aware of the possibility that the presenting problems could be related to gambling is key in helping to tackle this issue. I am particularly delighted that we will continue to work with Katie Fry to lead this programme, and with her team at Newport Citizens Advice’s Gambling Support Service as we roll out the programme at far greater scale.”

Gillian Guy, Chief Executive of Citizens Advice said:

“Gambling can have life-changing effects, not just on the individual but also their families and friends. People seek our help to deal with the practical problems that come out of this - including increased debt and relationship breakdown.

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Chair: Kate Lampard CBE

Trustees • Saffron Cordery • Professor Sian Griffiths • Michelle Highman • Alan Jamieson
Professor Anthony Kessel • Chris Pond • Brigid Simmonds • Professor Patrick Sturgis

Chief Executive: Marc Etches

“We are pleased to be partnering with GambleAware to develop services across England and Wales. These will help our staff make a real difference to people struggling with gambling.”

Katie Fry, Manager of the Newport Citizens Advice Gambling Support Service said:

“We know those we help with gambling often experience significant mental health problems. In two years, we’ve trained more than 2,000 advisors and volunteers to recognise gambling issues and help people to overcome them.

I’m delighted the success of our project can now grow beyond South Wales.”

-ENDS-

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NOTES

- Guided by the [National Responsible Gambling Strategy](#), GambleAware is an independent charity tasked to fund research, education and treatment services to help to reduce gambling-related harms in Great Britain.
- GambleAware is a commissioning and grant-making body, not a provider of services. The charity’s strategic aims are to: broaden public understanding of gambling-related harms, in particular as a public health issue; advance the cause of harm-prevention so as to help build resilience, in particular in relation to the young and those most vulnerable to gambling-related harms; and help those who do develop gambling-related harms get the support that they need quickly and effectively. For more information, please go to: <http://about.gambleaware.org/>
- GambleAware’s programme of treatment, education, harm prevention and research is guided by the National Responsible Gambling Strategy, which is defined by the independent Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB) and endorsed by the Gambling Commission. The RGSB, the Gambling Commission and GambleAware work together under the terms of an agreement in place since 2012: <http://about.gambleaware.org/media/1216/statementofintent.pdf>. Research is conducted under the terms of a ‘Research Commissioning and Governance Procedure’ agreed in 2016 by the RGSB, the Gambling Commission and GambleAware: <http://about.gambleaware.org/media/1270/research-commissioning-and-governance-procedure-may-2016-final.pdf>.
- GambleAware requires a minimum of £10 million annually to deliver its current responsibilities, and looks to all those that profit from commercial gambling to support the charity. This donation-based system was proposed after the Gambling Act 2005 and is prescribed by the Gambling Commission’s Social Responsibility Code Provision 3.1.1.(2). The RGSB endorsed GambleAware’s £10m funding goal in January 2017:

<http://www.rgsb.org.uk/press-releases/responsible-gambling-strategy-board-publishes-assessment-of-the-quantum-of-funding-required-to-deliver-the-national-responsible-gambling-strategy.html>

- GambleAware funds the *Gordon Moody Association*, the *NHS National Problem Gambling Clinic*, *GamCare* and a network of charities across Great Britain to provide a full range of free treatment for problem gamblers and support for those affected by them. GambleAware also runs the website **BeGambleAware.org** which helps 2.7 million visitors a year, and supports the **National Gambling Helpline – 0808 8020 133**.