

GambleAware

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PRESS RELEASE

GambleAware announces the establishment of a new clinic in Leeds to treat people with gambling problems

London, 06 November: Thousands of people suffering with severe gambling addiction problems across the north of England are to have access to an NHS service for the first time.

National charity GambleAware has today confirmed that it will commission a new service based in Leeds, worth over £1 million a year. The partnership between Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and the GamCare network will provide treatment for people from across the north of England where thousands are recognised as being at risk from gambling addiction. This will be the second NHS-hosted clinic funded by GambleAware.

The new service will provide prompt treatment for local residents with gambling problems including those whose case is severe or complex. Close integration of teams from the NHS and third sector organisations will provide a joined-up service, and City Council staff will be helping to signpost people to the help that they need. The Leeds base is expected to go live in April 2019 and once it is fully established the NHS Northern Gambling Clinic will extend its reach across the north of England via a hub-and-spoke model.

GamCare is developing a Problem Gambling Support team in Leeds which will work across the area to identify, screen, and support anyone affected by problem gambling. Training, support and integrated treatment pathways will be delivered, with the intention that people with gambling problems will get help earlier and in greater numbers. This includes groups currently under-represented in treatment, such as BME communities, women and those in the criminal justice system.

GambleAware has approved annual expenditure of up to £1.2 million. This reflects GambleAware's strategy to improve access to treatment, which includes a variety of initiatives covering Great Britain. The new development will be closely monitored and evaluated so that the lessons learned can be applied to service planning and delivery in other areas.

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Chair: Kate Lampard CBE

Trustees • Saffron Cordery • Professor Sian Griffiths • Michelle Highman • Professor Anthony Kessel
• Chris Pond • Paul Simpson • Professor Marcantonio Spada • Professor Patrick Sturgis

Chief Executive: Marc Etches

Marc Etches, Chief Executive of GambleAware, said:

“GambleAware is committed to reducing gambling-related harms in Great Britain. Our aim is to stop people getting into problems with their gambling, and to ensure those that do develop problems receive fast and effective treatment and support.

The London clinic for problem gambling which is provided by Central & North West London NHS Foundation Trust, and which we have funded since its inception, has demonstrated the value of treatment by psychiatrists and clinical psychologists for people whose pathological gambling needs intensive treatment by a multi-disciplinary team. We are pleased that we will soon be able to offer this help from a base in Leeds which will serve the city and beyond.

GamCare and the Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust are adopting an integrated approach, from training and support of Primary Care and City Council services, through to identification and access to treatment, promoting a seamless care pathway and shared responsibility for case management. We look forward to developing the new partnership and are grateful for the enthusiasm within Leeds City Council for helping to make this innovative proposal successful.

If our limited charitable resources allow, we would be interested in exploring the establishment of additional clinics elsewhere in Great Britain.”

Councillor Debra Coupar, Leeds City Council’s Executive Member for Communities, said:

“I am delighted to see that hard work done by partners across the city has led to the decision to base a treatment service for problem gamblers in Leeds, where we have a national reputation for positive work in this area. Problem gambling can damage people’s lives and impact negatively on their relationships and the communities around them. We need a sustainable and responsive approach to the growing needs of problem gamblers and we very much welcome the decision of GambleAware to fund this service. We will now work closely with them and NHS colleagues to ensure the new service is operational as soon as possible.”

Matt Gaskell is a Consultant Psychologist for Addiction Services at Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. He will be the Clinical Lead for the new NHS Northern Gambling Clinic. He said:

“I’m thrilled that we’ve got the go ahead to set up an NHS gambling addiction service across the north of England. Gambling addiction has a devastating effect on the lives of individuals and the people around them, including their loved ones. Those diagnosed with gambling disorder often need help with a range of difficulties, including mental health problems, and it can lead to serious debt and family breakdown, people losing their jobs, people turning to crime in desperation for funds, and even suicide.

“I have been campaigning for many years to set up a clinical service to help those affected by serious gambling disorder. I’m looking forward to getting this service up and running so we can start turning lives around.”

Claire Murdoch, National Clinical Director for Mental Health, said:

“There are growing concerns over the links associated with problem gambling, stress, depression, anxiety and other mental health issues and without the right help and support, it can spiral out of control. The National Problem Gambling Clinic in London has been leading the way and the opening of a new clinic in the north of England is an important next step but the burden for tackling mental ill health caused by gambling addiction should be everyone’s responsibility – especially those firms that have directly contributed to the problem.”

Anna Hemmings, CEO at GamCare, said:

“GamCare are delighted to be able to extend our services in the Leeds area, and to be able to work closely with Leeds and York Partnership Foundation NHS Trust to deliver an integrated service for those affected by problem gambling across the North of England. We believe that together we can meet the wide range of needs that arise around problem gambling. The investment will significantly increase treatment capacity, and will enable us to raise awareness for those at risk as well as developing local education and prevention initiatives.”

-ENDS-

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NOTES

- 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.
- GambleAware published a [5-year strategy](#) in November 2016, and in July 2018 published a [Strategic Delivery Plan](#) that sets out how the charity proposes to broaden the range of services and activities it funds, supports and works with between 2018 and 2020.
- Guided by the [National Responsible Gambling Strategy](#), 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/>

- The current National Responsible Gambling Strategy was published in April 2016 by the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB) and endorsed by the Gambling Commission. GambleAware develops its commissioning plans in collaboration with the RGSB and the Gambling Commission. These arrangements are underpinned by an 'assurance and governance framework' 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 between the RGSB, the Gambling Commission and GambleAware: <https://about.gambleaware.org/media/1332/research-commissioning-and-governance-procedure-september-2016-final.pdf>. A revised [RGSB and Gambling Commission research programme](#) was published in September 2018 and sets out priorities for research to be commissioned from 2018 to 2022.
- 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**.
- Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust is the main provider of specialist mental health and learning disability services in Leeds. It also provides specialist services across York, the Yorkshire and Humber region, and some highly specialised national services. The Trust hosts the Leeds Addiction Unit, operating under the banner of Forward Leeds, which provides assessment, treatment and aftercare for people who misuse alcohol and other drugs and who have complex health needs. Find out more at www.leedsandyorkpft.nhs.uk