

# GambleAware

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **GambleAware launches campaign to promote services across Aberdeen**

**Aberdeen, 16 November:** GambleAware has today launched an initiative in Aberdeen to treat more people for problem gambling.

Adverts on the side of buses and on local radio stations will raise awareness of the National Gambling Helpline to encourage people to access treatment for problem gambling.

Across Scotland there are over 230,000 people who are classed as either problem gamblers, or at risk of becoming so. This campaign in Aberdeen will help GambleAware to understand how to encourage people to make use of the help and support that is available. The campaign has received support from local MSP Kevin Stewart as well as from the RCA Trust, which provides treatment in the city, and national charity Fast Forward.

In conjunction with the campaign, GambleAware is also working with local colleges to engage with students in the area.

Commenting on the campaign, **Iain Corby, Deputy Chief Executive at GambleAware**, said:

“A gambling addiction doesn’t just affect the person who is gambling, there can be up to six others who also experience harm. Gambling is a public health issue, so we are working very hard to do what we can to make sure as many people as possible know about the free support that is available.

We’re incredibly pleased to receive the support from Kevin Stewart MSP, who we know is personally committed to this cause. But also, we are happy to be able to work in collaboration with local charities, colleges and treatment providers to deliver this work.

Gambling addiction is a growing issue, and for young people who have just left home for the first time, there’s a risk their gambling could become a problem. Students need to know where they can go to talk to someone about their gambling or to get advice if they need it. It’s really important that everyone knows that the National Gambling

Helpline is there to support them and that there is advice online at [BeGambleAware.org](http://BeGambleAware.org) as well.”

**Kevin Stewart, MSP for Aberdeen Central**, said:

“Once again, our city is at the forefront of a major campaign to tackle the dangers of problem gambling, having already piloted a programme for young people and students, and now highlighting help available to all. One of the great challenges of tackling gambling addiction is uncovering just how widespread the problem is, and ensuring those suffering know where to turn for help. Vulnerable people can be lured into taking big risks online, in casinos, at betting shops, and it can be disastrous for them and their families. I want folk in Aberdeen and across Scotland to know that the National Gambling Helpline is one of the sources they can turn to for help if they get into difficulties with problem gambling or addiction, and that recovery is possible.”

**Alastair Mackinnon, Chief Executive of Fast Forward**, said:

“Issues from gambling can affect anyone, but young people are particularly at risk. We work closely with young people to make sure they understand the risks of gambling and the help that is available. We’re pleased to see the launch of this campaign and will continue to work with young people across Scotland to raise awareness of the risks of gambling.”

**Andy Todd, Chief Executive from the RCA Trust**, said:

“We work hard to provide the necessary treatment services for people in Aberdeen and surrounding areas who may need support for a gambling addiction. Just like any other addiction, gambling is a public health issue and we are pleased this campaign is promoting the support services available.”

## **CASE STUDY**

Sarah, a 26-year old female from Aberdeen, had started gambling online after being introduced to it by a former partner. She started playing regularly after a big win of £3,500. As her problem spiralled, she began chasing her losses to try and win back the money she had lost. Her relationship with her parents became strained as she would borrow money from them to gamble while lying that she was using it for household bills. She became involved with the Police due to taking money from work and, despite the problems, Sarah continued to gamble, seeing this as a way out of her problems. After becoming suicidal Sarah contacted the National Gambling Helpline and was referred for counselling. After successfully completing the programme she remains gambling free and is rebuilding her relationships with those around her.

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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**.
- Supportive photo of Kevin Stewart MSP for Aberdeen Central with new bus advert:



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