

GambleAware Lived Experience Council



Information Pack

We are delighted to announce the launch of our Lived Experience Council as part of our proud commitment to engage with communities of people who have experienced gambling harms.

The Council will be comprised entirely of people with direct lived experience of gambling harms, as well as those who are indirectly impacted by others' gambling harms, to share their expertise and experience and to inform GambleAware and its board of trustees.

About GambleAware

GambleAware is the leading charity driving the transformation of treatment and prevention services, leading public health campaigns and keeping people safe from gambling harms.

There may be up to 2.9 million people¹ in Great Britain at risk of gambling harm. Gambling can harm people and their families financially, psychologically and physically.

We work in close collaboration with leading organisations and experts including the NHS, government, local authorities and gambling treatment providers, to ensure that people get the information, support and treatment they need.

Every year we fund access to free treatment for nearly 12,000 people and over 40,000 calls to the National Gambling Helpline. Since 2018, we have supported an estimated 137,000² people in accessing the help they need.

Organisational strategy

In April 2021 GambleAware published a new [Five-year Strategy](#). This outlined the four commissioning objectives the charity will deliver against over the coming years to help prevent gambling harms:

- Increase awareness and understanding of gambling harms
- Increase access to services and reduce gambling harm inequalities
- Build capacity amongst healthcare professionals, social prescribers, debt advisers, faith leaders, community services and others so they are better equipped to respond to gambling harms
- Improve accessibility and effectiveness of the National Gambling Treatment Service.

About GambleAware Lived Experience Council

GambleAware is establishing a Lived Experience Council (LEC).

The Lived Experience Council will provide the Board with expert independent advice. The scope of the Council is to ensure that communities of people with lived experience of harms associated with gambling can provide direction and expert advice to GambleAware's activities, programmes and strategic development.

The LE Council will have a rotating observatory and advising seat at GA Board of Trustees meetings.

Membership

The LE Council will be composed of up to 12 members, including a Chair.

The term of office is 2 years and it can be renewed once (maximum of 4 years in total).

We particularly encourage applications from individuals from groups that are disproportionately affected by gambling harms, currently underrepresented, from minority communities and from a variety of geographical locations across Great Britain. For example, we encourage applications from:

- those who identify as affected others;
- young adults (e.g. in the 18-25 age group);
- individuals who identify as women;
- members of minority groups (e.g. religious, ethnic or language minority);
- individuals with a disability or from other socially excluded groups;
- representatives from England, Scotland and Wales.

Eligibility criteria

In order to qualify for the LE Council you must:

- Be 18 years old or over
- Reside in England, Scotland or Wales
- Have lived experience of gambling harms
- Not work – either paid or unpaid - for the gambling industry
- Be more than 6 months in recovery (this applies only to those who have experienced gambling harms due to their own gambling, e.g. this does not apply to applicants identifying as ‘affected others’).

Please note: LE Council members may also be members of other LE groups. However, in line with the information outlined in the ‘Conflict of interest’ section, please note that LEC members who are also part of other groups may at times be asked to step out of the room for certain agenda items where a conflict of interest may be present. Following this participation would continue as normal.

Overview of the planned work

It is expected that the LE Council will have approx. four meetings a year. Frequency and format (in-person or online or a hybrid approach) will vary to fit in with LEC work plans and actions. Prior to the first LE Council meeting, LEC members will be asked to attend two face-to-face induction sessions.

Members may be required to do additional days/work outside meetings and to take part in subgroups. Further details will be discussed as part of the first Council meeting.

Co-production approach

A collaborative approach to shared ownership will be key to the LE Council. For example, the Terms of Reference, Safeguarding Approach and Meeting Etiquette will be discussed and refined as part of the agenda for the induction sessions and first meeting of the LE Council, together with GA staff involved in / responsible for governance across the organisation.

Please refer to the FAQ session for more information on the application and relevant policies.

The role of LE Council members

Values and Behaviours

- Diversity of experiences, views and opinions is welcome and seen as a strength.
- Everyone has an equal opportunity to participate and to be heard.
- A collaborative approach to working together is key to achieve positive outcomes.
- Everyone is accountable for their behaviours, is respectful of others and courteously talks through disagreements.
- It is always OK to ask for support and help.

What you will do with the LE Council

- Work collaboratively with other LE Council members to represent the views of groups affected by gambling harms
- Agree and contribute to a workplan for the LE Council to inform GambleAware's strategic planning and development, together with other LE Council members, a GA Involvement Officer and a representative of our delivery partner
- Support shaping a wide range of GambleAware activities through recommendations and advice

What you will bring to the LE Council

- Insights and advice based on your own lived experience of gambling harms
- Constructive comments and feedback to contribute to the LE Council meetings, objectives and workplan.
- Expertise in other areas relevant to the work of GambleAware is also welcome.
- An understanding of corporate governance or a willingness to learn through training offered by GambleAware.

The skills you need

- Time management skills: being reliable and organized when completing agreed tasks, and being open to reaching out for further support from the Chair or GA staff, if needed.
- Computer skills: being able to access emails on a regular basis, to share and review documents online, and to participate in online meetings when needed.
- Communication skills: being able to share and clearly articulate your views, and to apply effective listening skills when working with others; being able to talk about your lived experience of gambling harms within the confidentiality of the LE Council and in a way that you feel comfortable with.
- Teamwork skills: being able to work together in a group setting even when there may be disagreements with views expressed by other team members, maintaining a willingness to positively contribute to group discussions.

Selection timeline

- Information and Q&A sessions:

GambleAware will be hosting two online information sessions on:

- June 7th between 5pm and 6pm
- June 8th between 1pm and 2pm

If you wish to attend one of the sessions, please sign up using this form: [Lived Experience Council - Q&A Session](#)

- To submit an application, please complete this online form [Lived Experience Council Application Form](#)
- The deadline for submission of applications is **12noon on Friday June 24th**.
- Applicants will be notified by Friday July 8th if they have been invited to the interview stage.
- Interviews will take place online in mid-July.
- Interview outcomes will be communicated at the end of July.

Conflict of interest

LE Council members will be asked to fill in a declaration of interest form.

If a LE Council member has a conflict of interest on an agenda item in a council meeting, the person will be asked to leave the meeting for the duration of that discussion.

Additional information

A. Remuneration and reimbursement policy

Members of the LE Council will be subject to the current GA policy on the [Remuneration for People with Lived Experience of Gambling Harms](#). Under such policy, all GambleAware LEC members will receive a daily subsistence allowance at £200 per day or £100 for half-day. Additionally, any reasonable expenses incurred, such as accommodation or longer distance travel, can be claimed back, as per GambleAware's policy.

Please note that this Remuneration Policy is currently being reviewed, to ensure that GambleAware as a charity fulfils all compliance requirements. As such, it may be possible that the new Remuneration Policy could require all LE Council members to either be paid as casual workers through our payroll system, or to be individually registered as self-employed with HMRC. If the tax implications of a new Remuneration Policy were to represent a barrier for the involvement of LE representative in the LE Council, there will be an option of opting out of the payment and to be involved in a volunteer capacity. Volunteers will be reimbursed of all reasonable, travel, subsistence and accommodation expenses in line with our policy. GambleAware remains committed to uphold diversity, equality and inclusion in all its work.

B. What development opportunities will GambleAware offer you?

We want to encourage the involvement of a wide range of people from different backgrounds and different levels of knowledge and expertise, and within that we recognise that there may be need for development opportunities. GambleAware will provide relevant training and mentorship opportunities for all LEC members:

for example, some training and upskilling sessions will be offered as part of the LEC Induction process for LEC members, and additional opportunities will be identified throughout the year.

C. What support will be available?

The wellbeing of LE representatives is of paramount importance for GambleAware. The LE Council will co-produce with GambleAware a bespoke safeguarding paper. As part of this process we will work with the group to agree the best working practises to do this and to ensure that everyone contributing to this work can do so safely.

D. How is this different from the expression of interest for LE Involvement opportunities across GambleAware's wider work?

The LE Council will provide the Board with expert independent advice and it will provide direction to GambleAware's activities, programmes and strategic development. Membership to the LE Council will last for 2 years.

LE representatives who sign up to hear about involvement opportunities in GA's wider work will make no initial time commitment. A range of one-off opportunities will be emailed throughout the year, with a variety of ways to contribute to day-to-day work, for example:

- Contributing to focus groups and workshops to help us develop aspects of our programmes and project, for example by providing comments when identifying priorities for our work and by offering feedback on ideas for new projects.
- Offering feedback on documents such as project briefs and evaluation reports or other project-related documentation, so to help us reviewing them before they are shared with the wider public.
- Completing online surveys to share your lived experience perspective on areas relevant to the GambleAware portfolio of projects.

E. Can I apply to both the LE Council and the LE Community for one-off involvement opportunities?

Yes, you can apply for both roles!

Get in touch

For any questions, please get in touch with us by emailing Involvement@gambleaware.org or phone us at 07342870711 during office hours.

Gamble**Aware**