Leicester City Gambling Harms Strategy

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Introduction/Background

- Gambling describes an activity where a person risks a loss for a possible gain in an activity of uncertain outcome
- Can inflict significant & long-lasting harm – individuals/ families
- Drivers of gambling harms
- Recognised as a public health issue requiring a broad population level response to reduce exposure, prevent harms & support those affected
- UK has one of biggest gambling markets in the world – rise of on-line gambling

Commercial gambling is associated with a wide range of negative consequences such as:

- Financial loss and the risk of financial ruin
- Physical and mental health problems
- Domestic violence
- Increased crime against property and people
- Relationship and family breakdown
- Heightened risk of suicide
- Loss of employment

Case for a local gambling harms strategy

- Nationally estimated 2.7% of adults are experiencing severe harms from gambling & further 12% are at elevated risk of harm
- Based on this approx. 10,000 people in city experiencing severe gambling harms
- Leicester higher risk than average – young population, deprivation & unemployment
- Asian population less likely to gamble but more likely to experience problem gambling than other ethnic groups
- Taking action on gambling complements other work on mental health, unemployment, homelessness, substance misuse etc

Our vision

Leicester City will be a place where people are protected from gambling harm and can access and receive support according to their diverse needs

Our aim

To prevent and reduce gambling-related harm experienced by people, families and communities across Leicester City

Proposed principles

- We are passionate **advocates** for people affected by gambling related harm
- We will use **language** which is inclusive and destigmatising
- We recognise that gambling can be a **harmful activity for anyone**
- We will take a **whole system population health approach** to preventing and reducing gambling-related harm
- We believe preventing gambling-related harm should be **everyone's responsibility**
- We believe that action must be **independent from the influence of the gambling industry**

Awareness Raising, Training and Education

- **Raise awareness about the risks and impacts of gambling, to support prevention of gambling harms.**
  - Staff training, public awareness campaigns
- **Provide information on the risks and impacts of gambling to children and young people** – working with schools, colleges & universities
- **Strengthen the local evidence-base regarding gambling-related harm in Leicester city** – collect data & evaluate interventions

Support Pathways

- **Ensure support is visible, accessible and acceptable to people in Leicester City**
  - Develop and promote a standardised set of trusted resources, support services and other organisations
  - Advocate for commitment to include the voices of those with lived experience
- **Collaborate and connect with local partners to ensure local referral and treatment pathways are coordinated and effective.**

Licensing & Regulation

- **Advocate for change in gambling policy at a national level** - Join national efforts to lobby for best practice gambling regulation and policy reform at other levels of government
- **Integrate considerations related to gambling harms into local policies and decision-making to strengthen the regulations of land-based gambling and prevent gambling promotion** - working with Planning, Licensing & Comms
- **Gain assurances that local gambling businesses are responsibly preventing and responding to gambling-related harm.**

Next steps

- Publish (designed up) strategy on website
- Finalise detailed action plan
- Strategy group to oversee implementation of plan
- Appointment of programme officer
- Ensure training programme available for staff in range of settings (LCC/ NHS/ Vol sector etc)
- Review of future planning & licensing applications (changes re: licensing “aim to permit” expected)