
Gambling-Related Harm Strategy

Health and Wellbeing Board

Date of meeting: 1st October 2026

Lead director/officer: Rob Howard

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Kathryn McVicar/ Jo Atkinson
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- Report version number: 1

1. Summary

This is the first gambling-related harm strategy in Leicester City and outlines our plans to prevent and reduce the harms associated with gambling in Leicester. Gambling-related harm is an under-recognised and stigmatised public health problem. The harms that gambling causes are wide ranging and can affect anyone, including broken relationships, loss of employment and mental health problems. Over 1.8 million people in Great Britain are being harmed by gambling, a figure which does not capture the many millions of significant others, families and friends that are also adversely impacted by gambling.

This strategy follows a recent health needs assessment which drew on literature and data sources to better understand the populations affected by gambling harms in Leicester. There is a lack of complete, precise and reliable local information on the extent to which Leicester residents are being harmed by gambling, but we know that there are individuals and communities in our city who are experiencing a multitude of gambling-related harms including homelessness, criminal convictions and increased risk of suicide. We have drawn on the findings and recommendations from that report, as well as wider guidance and learning from others, to inform this strategy.

Three strategic themes have been identified, which reflect key opportunities to prevent and reduce gambling-related harm:

1. **Awareness Raising, Training and Education:** This theme focuses on increasing the awareness of gambling harms and support available by ensuring there is appropriate local training and education, as well as strengthening the local evidence-base.
2. **Support Pathways:** This theme focuses on working as a system to establish and improve local support and recovery pathways for those affected by gambling.
3. **Licensing and Regulation:** This theme focuses on the regulation of access to gambling products through licensed premises and the promotion of gambling products.

2. Recommended actions/decision

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- Endorse and support the strategy
- Consider how they might contribute to implementation of the strategy

3. Stakeholder engagement

The strategy has been shaped by the Leicester Gambling Harms Strategy Development Group. The group has had representation from a range of stakeholders, both within Leicester City Council and across the wider system. The list of stakeholders can be found in Appendix 1 of the attached strategy.

4. Background and options with supporting evidence

Please see attached paper.

5. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Signed: Rohit Rughani

Dated: 09/10/2025

5.2 Legal implications

There are no direct legal implications arising out of the Strategy itself however objective 7.2 under Chapter 6 headed Licensing and Regulation will require legal advice and oversight before it is progressed. The Gambling Act 2005 enables Local Authorities to grant premises licences for different types of gambling and of the applicable licensing objectives, the most relevant to this strategy is *'protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling'*. However, Section 153 of the 2005 Act places a legal duty on Licensing Authorities to aim to permit use of premises for gambling subject to the authority being satisfied that the application is in accordance codes of practice and statutory guidance issued by the Gambling Commission and in accordance with the licensing objectives and the authority's statement of Licensing Policy

Signed: F.Hajat

Dated: 9th October 2025

5.3 Equalities implications

The Council must comply with the public sector equality duty (PSED) (Equality Act 2010) by paying due regard, when carrying out their functions, to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a 'protected characteristic' and those who do not.

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender re-assignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

This report outlines Leicester's first strategy aimed at tackling gambling related harm. The strategy focusses on preventing and reducing the negative impacts of gambling across the city and it is designed to deliver positive outcomes for people from across a range of protected characteristics, who are either affected by or vulnerable to gambling related harm.

The draft strategy identifies three key strategic themes intended to help minimise the impact of gambling on individuals, families and communities, whilst ensuring services are accessible and responsive to the needs of those affected.

These three strategic themes have been incorporated into a logic model, with clearly defined aims and objectives, which will be evaluated to measure their impact and effectiveness in Leicester. Equality considerations need to be embedded throughout the strategy, and it is recommended that Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) are conducted as appropriate to ensure we are paying due regard to the PSED as part of our decision-making processes. The report also identifies at risk groups and communities, highlighting how prevention measures and targeted interventions can support improved understanding and responses to gambling related harm.

Signed: Sukhi Biring, Equalities Officer

Dated: 9 October 2025

5.4 Climate Emergency implications

There are no significant climate emergency implications directly associated with this report.

Signed: Phil Ball, Sustainability Officer, Ext 372246

Dated: 13 October 2025

5.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

N/A

6. Background information and other papers:

[gambling-harms-needs-assessment-2024.pdf](#)

7. Summary of appendices:

Please see attached Leicester City Gambling-Related Harm Strategy.

8. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No

9. Is this a “key decision”? If so, why?

No