

Supporting Tenants and Residents (STAR) Gambling Survey **snapshot 1-5 February 2016**

There were 46 surveys completed in total across the 5 STAR teams. The STAR teams are based in Braunstone, New Parks, Beaumont Leys, St Matthews, Saffron and work with predominantly Leicester City Council tenants living in the city of Leicester.

STAR works with vulnerable people have a history of homelessness or who are likely to become homeless without support. The definition of vulnerability in this context includes vulnerability due to mental health, physical disability, learning disability, ill health, leaving care, drug/ alcohol dependency, illiteracy, and poverty. The severity of the welfare reforms has disproportionately affected these groups leading to dramatically increased levels of food and fuel poverty. This means that much of STAR support, centres around the tasks of supporting vulnerable people to navigate the benefit system, to enable them to pay their rent and maintain a basic standard of living.

STAR does not collect data on gambling. So it was agreed STAR would aim to survey 50 service users with a basic anonymous questionnaire. The questionnaire had 5 questions. The data collected is presented below, along with some additional data collected since the survey was completed including tenure and case type.

In total we completed 46 people surveys which represents 10 % of the number of people we work with on a case work basis.

Out of the 46 people surveyed 38 were council tenants, 1 person was a Housing Association tenant and 7 people did not provide this information. 38 of the people surveyed were receiving open cases to STAR with an allocated support worker, 3 were receiving support through a one off booked appointment. 5 people did not provide data about the support they were giving.

Question 1

Do you think you or a family member may have a gambling problem?

Out of the 46 people interviewed 20 said that they or a family member might have a gambling problem.

Question 2

Why do you think this is: (in general terms how much is spent on gambling, and the impact of the spend on the client or family members...indicators might be going without meals/food etc)

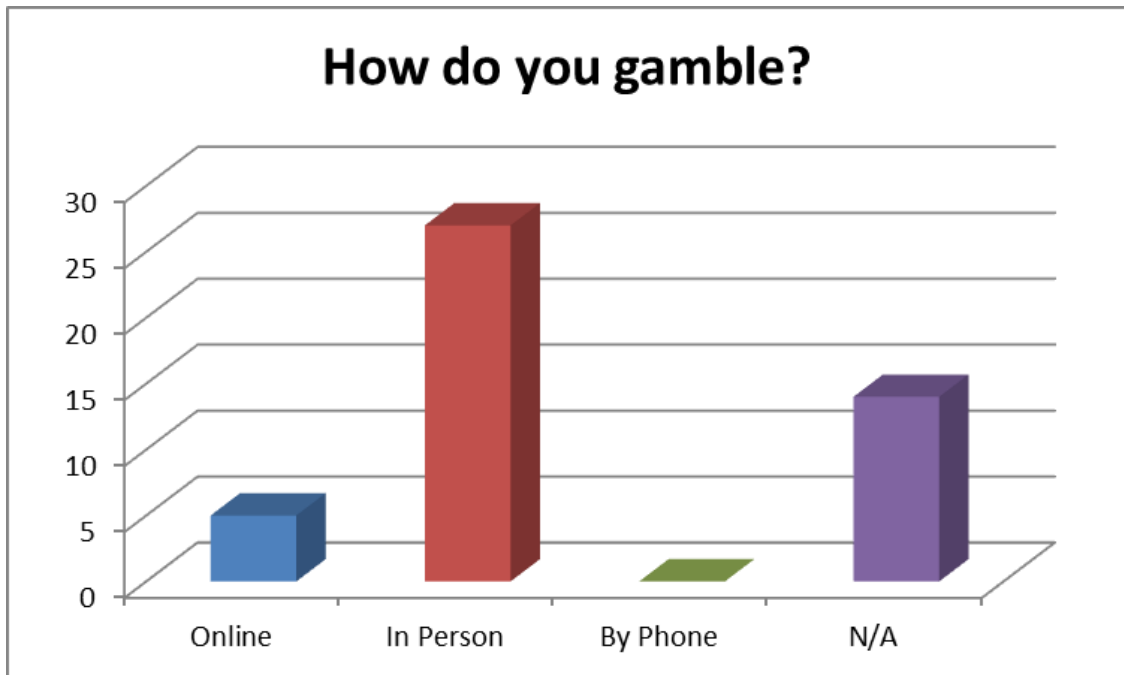
When asked why they thought this was and how this impacted their lives, these were some of the findings:

- ✚ People are spending between a few pounds and a few hundred pounds a week on gambling.
- ✚ In the majority of cases this has affected their ability to pay bills and often afford food.
- ✚ In even worse cases some admitted to borrowing and stealing to fund their addiction.
- ✚ Many stated that they did not have a problem and that the few pounds they spent a week, often on scratch cards or the lottery had no impact on themselves or others.

Question 3

How do you gamble – betting shop/scratch cards/online?

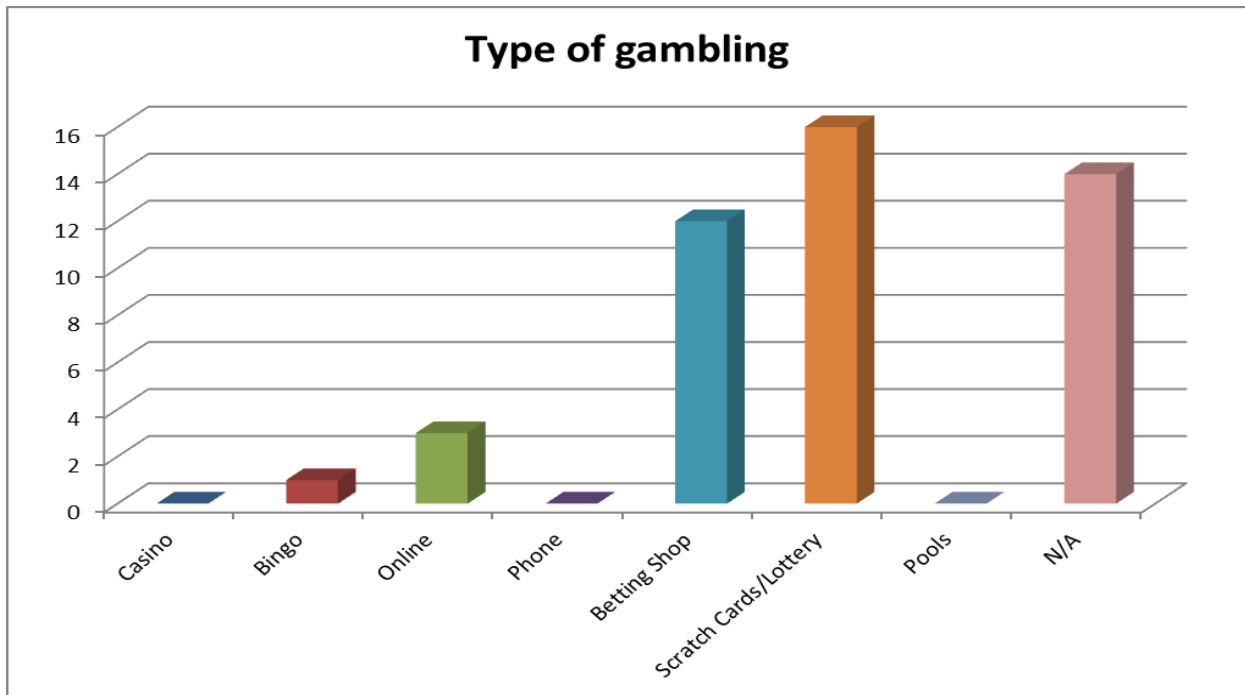
The chart below shows how those surveyed gamble. As we can see the majority does take place in person however there are some that use the internet.



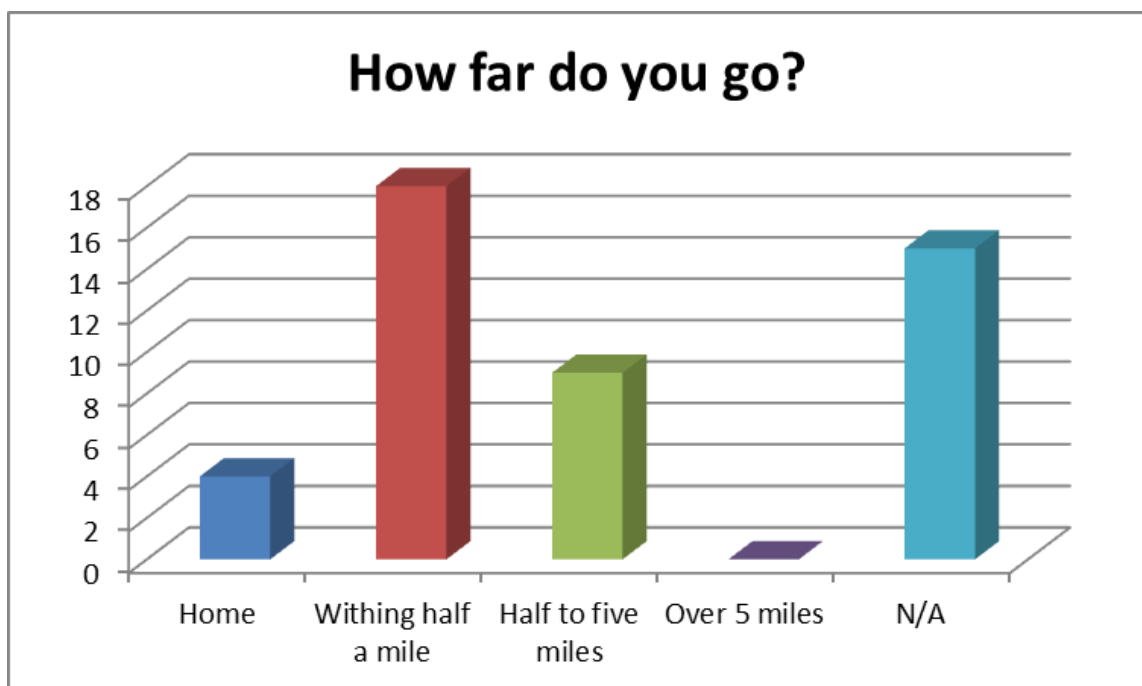
Question 4

Where you gamble (and how far is this from home?)

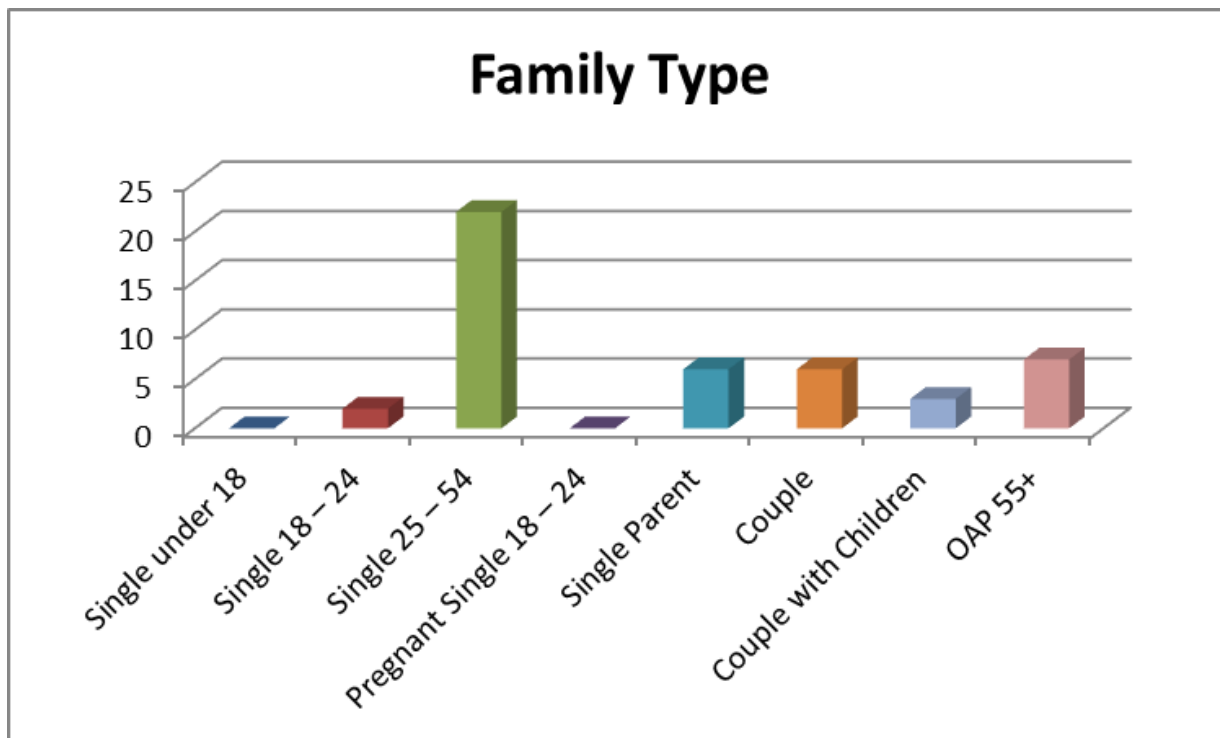
We next looked at types of gambling and found the majority surveyed gamble using scratch cards or by playing the lottery and also by using the local betting shops.



We also recorded how far people go from their home to gamble. The feedback suggests that when gambling online people tend to stay home. If it was scratch cards or the lottery they go to the local shop or the local betting shop. The trend being that the majority of people don't travel far from their homes.



Of all those surveyed 27 were male and 19 were female and the majority were single people as indicated in the chart below.



Conclusion

The data showed that just under 50% of people saw gambling as a problem and could describe how it was negatively impacting on their life. This suggests that gambling is a larger problem than previously assumed. In order to quantify this data STAR would need to collect further data and add appropriate questions about gambling on our assessments etc (provided by Heather Wardle) and support workers need harm minimisation training around gambling just as they have around drugs and alcohol.