

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Health & Well Being Board
Date: Friday 13th July 2018
Report for: Information / Decision / Discussion / Approval
Report of: The Interim Director of Public Health

Report Title

Trafford MBC Gambling Review

Summary

Trafford MBC is currently reviewing its Gambling Policy
<http://www.trafford.gov.uk/business/licenses-and-permits/Gambling-Policy-review.aspx>

Members of the Board are asked to use the link view and submit their comments to the review.

Members are also invited to consider the comments below, written by the Interim Director of Public Health, for inclusion within the policy to explain why the review is being drawn to the attention of the committee.

Comments for Inclusion

“Almost three quarters of British adults gamble on occasion, and many gamble regularly. Most experience no problems and the prevalence of gambling-related harm in Britain is less than 1%¹. Therefore, for most people, gambling is a pleasurable and harmless activity. However, although only a small proportion of people who gamble suffer adverse consequences, the sheer number of people who gamble in the UK means that this small proportion creates, in numerical terms, a significant number of people where gambling is causing harm either directly to them or indirectly to their family or community. For every problem gambler, a further 5-10 people are directly affected, and there are more problem gamblers in the UK than there are Class A drug users².

Gambling-related harm includes a range of health and social problems, such as mental ill-health, (e.g., anxiety, depression, compulsive behaviour patterns); impact on family cohesion, including domestic violence; employment instability; debt problems; homelessness, and criminality (eg theft or fraud to fund gambling activity)⁴

The likelihood of experiencing harm is not evenly distributed across the population, with men being much more likely than women to suffer problems with gambling. Deprivation is also a significant risk factor, with 13% of men in the most deprived populations experiencing harm, compared to 6% in the least deprived³.

The Gambling Act (2005) requires that children and other vulnerable people be protected from being harmed or exploited by gambling. Different forms of gambling carry different levels of risk, with fixed odds betting terminals carrying particularly high levels of risk.

In relation to Trafford's policy, I welcome the strengthening of the processes to safeguard children from harms cause by gambling, and would ask the Council to look carefully at section 20.3-4 regarding the number of fixed odds betting machines per premises, given the associated risks."

Eleanor Roaf, Interim Director of Public Health

References:

1. Wardle H, Moody A, Spence S, Orford J, Volberg R, Jotangia D et al (2010) British Gambling Prevalence Survey National Centre for Social Research. London: The Stationery Office
2. Hay G, Gannon M, Casey J, Millar T (2010) National and Regional Estimates of the prevalence of opiate and/or crack cocaine use 2008/9: a summary of the key findings. National Treatment Agency www.nta.nhs.uk/facts-prevalence.aspx
3. The Scottish Health Survey 2014. The Scottish Government, Edinburgh. September 2015. Accessed online at <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/09/6648> on 30/06/16
4. Lesieur HR, Rosenthal MD (1991) Pathological gambling: A review of the literature (prepared for the American Psychiatric Association Task Force on DSM-IV Committee on disorders of impulse control not elsewhere classified). J Gambli Stud 7: 5-40

Recommendations

1. That the Board note the review.
2. That Board Members view and comment upon the review
3. That the Board approve the comments of the Interim Director of Public Health for inclusion within the policy.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: (for matters relating to Public Health):Eleanor Roaf;, Interim Director of Public Health

To respond to the review or more details on licensing policy:
Licensing@Trafford.gov.uk