

EVIDENCE REVIEW OF GAMBLING-RELATED HARMS:

PLAIN ENGLISH SUMMARY

This research has been commissioned by Public Health England to provide an independent review of existing research into gambling addiction. The aim is to establish what is known, and where there are clear gaps in the evidence base. The aim is to provide national and local policy makers with the best available evidence to underpin policies and interventions, which will prevent and reduce gambling-related harms.

We will be carrying out what is called a 'systematic review' of existing research on the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of interventions to reduce gambling-related harms. This involves looking for research that has already been carried out, and bringing it together in a summary to understand what it all means. The review will be done in a systematic way following precise steps, and includes looking at how well the research has been carried, and where researchers agree and disagree. We aim that the research summary we produce will be of practical value to stakeholders, including policy makers and research commissioners, and individuals and communities affected by gambling-related harm.

We are going to carry out the work in three stages. The first stage will involve the production of a conceptual diagram, which brings together what we have found out about different models and ways of thinking about harmful gambling. We will talk to experts, and other people with knowledge of gambling addiction to help us decide where the important questions are, and guide the next stage of the project.

The second stage will involve looking for and bringing together all the relevant research we can find in the areas identified as priorities, to understand what is helpful and what should be done.

The third stage of the work will be to further develop the conceptual diagram, incorporating what the research we found has told us, and the views and experiences of people providing

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services, topic experts, and people with direct experience of problem gambling. The aim is that the model will set out all the different influences and challenges in tackling problem gambling. It will show how and where interventions can impact on gambling-related harm at a national, local, community and individual level.

A public involvement group will provide input and advice as we carry out the work. This includes letting us know about their experiences of gambling, helping us understand and interpret what we have found out, and helping with getting the findings known about.

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