

GambleAware

7 Henrietta St • London • WC2E 8PS
T: +44 (0)20 7287 1994
info@gambleaware.org

about.gambleaware.org

PRESS RELEASE

GambleAware welcomes official endorsement of its ambition to raise £10m a year to tackle gambling-related harm

London, 31 January: The Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB) has published its formal advice to the Gambling Commission on the level of funding required for research, education and treatment. Endorsing figures set out in GambleAware's recently published five-year strategy, the Board, chaired by Sir Christopher Kelly, determined that a minimum of £9.3m will be required next year, excluding the costs of commissioning.

The paper sets out an independent assessment of the amount of funding required, focusing on the costs that are likely to fall on GambleAware. This needs to be raised from the gambling industry and other relevant stakeholders who are committed to minimising gambling-related harm.

Under the terms of an agreement reached between the industry, the regulator and ministers in 2012, GambleAware was granted the responsibility of raising the funds required to deliver the National Responsible Gambling Strategy. As such, GambleAware acts as the commissioner of research, education and treatment services from a wide range of organisations across Great Britain, ensuring funds are allocated and spent effectively. To date, ministers have relied upon this voluntary system, but if this approach fails to generate sufficient funds, the Gambling Act 2005 allows for a levy to be imposed instead.

Marc Etches, Chief Executive of GambleAware said: "We encourage all those who profit from gambling to make a donation to support the vital work we fund. We ask for just 10p for every £100 of profit they make. This responsibility falls mainly on those who hold gambling licences, but we also look to professional sport, broadcasters and advertising industry to recognise their obligations to those who suffer harm related to gambling."

Sir Christopher Kelly, RGSB Chairman said: "When we published the strategy, we said its success was dependent on sufficient funds being made available to support its delivery. We encourage everyone with a responsibility for the delivery of the strategy, particularly the gambling industry, to ensure they are playing their part in meeting this commitment".

He added "channelling funding through GambleAware helps provide a coordinated approach leading to better value for money and more impact".

-ENDS-

Contact:

Sarah Evans

+447523 609 413

gambleaware@atlas-partners.co.uk

NOTES

- The Responsible Gambling Trust operating as GambleAware is the leading charity in the UK committed to minimising gambling-related harm. As an independent national charity funded by donations from the gambling industry, GambleAware funds education, prevention and treatment services and commissions research to broaden public understanding of gambling-related harm. The aim is to stop people getting into problems with their gambling, and ensure that those that do develop problems receive fast and effective treatment and support. Click here to find out more: <http://about.gambleaware.org/>
- GambleAware aims to raise a minimum of £10 million each year in voluntary contributions from the gambling industry operating in Great Britain. This donation-based system was proposed under the Gambling Act 2005 and is prescribed by the Gambling Commission in its Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice.
- GambleAware's programme of treatment, education, harm prevention and research are guided by the National Responsible Gambling Strategy, which is defined by the independent Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB) and endorsed by the Gambling Commission. The RGSB, the Gambling Commission and GambleAware work together under the terms of an agreement in place since 2012: <http://about.gambleaware.org/media/1216/statementofintent.pdf>. Research is conducted under the terms of a 'Research Commissioning and Governance Procedure' agreed in 2016 by the RGSB, the Gambling Commission and GambleAware: <http://about.gambleaware.org/media/1270/research-commissioning-and-governance-procedure-may-2016-final.pdf>.
- GambleAware is a commissioning body and trustees are committed to keeping commissioning costs and general overheads to no more than 10% of income.
- The Responsible Gambling Strategy Board was set up in late 2008 to advise the Gambling Commission and, in turn, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, on research, education and treatment programmes needed to support a national responsible gambling strategy and associated funding requirements.

- The Gambling Commission regulates gambling in the public interest alongside licensing authorities. It does so by keeping crime out of gambling, by ensuring that gambling is conducted fairly and openly, and by protecting children and vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling. The Commission also provides independent advice to government on gambling in Britain. It's advice on RET funding is here:
<http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/for-gambling-businesses/Compliance/General-compliance/Social-responsibility/Research-education-and-treatment-contributions.aspx>