

GambleAware

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PRESS RELEASE

GambleAware announces funding of Gamban® for treatment services following evaluation of gambling blocking software

London, 10 October: GambleAware has today published an independent evaluation of software packages designed to block access to gambling websites and apps.

The review, by researchers from Winning Moves, considered both the technical and therapeutic benefits of such software. The evaluation compared three specialist gambling solutions and three more general products.

The published research anonymises the packages considered, but Gamban® emerged as the most technically effective at blocking licensed and illegal gambling sites. However, the report also discovered that many people found the cost of these tools a barrier to use.

GambleAware has agreed it will make Gamban® software available to clients of its national gambling treatment services. The decision was made with the understanding that by reducing cost limitations for individuals it would encourage more people who are at risk to use the app if they needed it. This means that people calling the National Gambling Helpline who are referred for treatment from GamCare, its network of regional partners, the National Problem Gambling Clinic, and the Gordon Moody Association will be given use of the software free of charge by Gamban®.

Karl King, Associate Director of Winning Moves said:

“Based on the results of systematic testing, blocking software appears to be generally effective in restricting access to online gambling. One gambling-specific package was found to block access to 99% of active gambling websites associated with UK Gambling Commission licences.

When gamblers experiencing gambling-related harm are not aware of blocking software it can come as a welcome surprise, particularly to those feeling that they had exhausted all other potential self-treatment methods available to them. Blocking software was felt

to work best as part of a treatment package tailored to the individual rather than being effective in isolation.”

Marc Etches, Chief Executive of GambleAware said:

“Blocking software can be an effective tool to help those at-risk of getting into difficulties resist the ubiquitous gambling adverts and special offers that surround us these days. This report reinforces the point that such tools work best as part of a treatment package tailored to the individual rather than being effective in isolation. This evaluation gives us the confidence we needed to fund the use of this software for anyone who is referred to our treatment services.”

Jack Symons, CEO of Gamban® said:

“Significant investment and dedication in the development of our software has got us to the point where we’re now world-leading in gambling blocking. We’re delighted that this has been recognised by GambleAware, who will provide Gamban® for free to those whose treatment they fund.”

-ENDS-

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NOTES

- The evaluation report is available [here](#).
- GambleAware is an independent charity tasked to fund research, education and treatment services to help to reduce gambling-related harms in Great Britain. GambleAware is a commissioning and grant-making body, not a provider of services.
- GambleAware published a [5-year strategy](#) in November 2016, and in July 2018 published a [Strategic Delivery Plan](#) that sets out how the charity proposes to broaden the range of services and activities it funds, supports and works with between 2018 and 2020.
- Guided by the [National Responsible Gambling Strategy](#), the charity’s strategic aims are to: broaden public understanding of gambling-related harms, in particular as a public health issue; advance the cause of harm-prevention so as to help build resilience, in particular in relation to the young and those most vulnerable to gambling-related harms; and help those who do develop gambling-related harms get the support that they need quickly and effectively. For more information, please go to: <http://about.gambleaware.org/>

- The current National Responsible Gambling Strategy was published in April 2016 by the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB) and endorsed by the Gambling Commission. GambleAware develops its commissioning plans in collaboration with the RGSB and the Gambling Commission. These arrangements are underpinned by an 'assurance and governance framework' 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 between the RGSB, the Gambling Commission and GambleAware: <https://about.gambleaware.org/media/1332/research-commissioning-and-governance-procedure-september-2016-final.pdf>. A revised [RGSB and Gambling Commission research programme](#) was published in September 2018 and sets out priorities for research to be commissioned from 2018 to 2022.
- GambleAware requires a minimum of £10 million annually to deliver its current responsibilities, and looks to all those that profit from commercial gambling to support the charity. This donation-based system was proposed after the Gambling Act 2005 and is prescribed by the Gambling Commission's Social Responsibility Code Provision 3.1.1.(2). The RGSB endorsed GambleAware's £10m funding goal in January 2017:
<http://www.rgsb.org.uk/press-releases/responsible-gambling-strategy-board-publishes-assessment-of-the-quantum-of-funding-required-to-deliver-the-national-responsible-gambling-strategy.html>
- GambleAware funds the *Gordon Moody Association*, the *NHS National Problem Gambling Clinic*, *GamCare* and a network of charities across Great Britain to provide a full range of free treatment for problem gamblers and support for those affected by them. GambleAware also runs the website **BeGambleAware.org** which helps 2.7 million visitors a year, and supports the **National Gambling Helpline – 0808 8020 133**.