

## **Appendix 8**

### **Public Health Objection to Application for Gambling Premises Licence: City Slots, Unit 1, 450-454 High Rd**

Public Health are in support of LBH Regeneration team objection. We further this objection with reference to the Gambling Act 2005 licensing objective 'protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling'.

Public Health has concerns under this licensing objective on two accounts.

First, regarding protection of children from gambling related harm. Public Health have signed an agreement (July 2018) with the GLA/Public Health England to pilot the school Superzones project. This involves creating a 400m health and wellbeing radius around schools tackling unhealthy food and drink sales, advertisements, alcohol, smoking, air quality, physical inactivity and gambling. The premises fall within one of the three pilot schools' Superzones areas, that of Holy Trinity CofE primary school. There are already a high number of gambling premises within their area and granting of a further gambling license is in direct conflict with and undermines this project from its inception. A high density of gambling premises may normalise gambling for children and young people and granting a further premises license may further exacerbate the normalisation in this area.

Secondly, Public Health has concerns for the protection of vulnerable people from harm or exploitation by gambling. Not everyone who gambles experience harm, but a significant minority experiences significant harm. This includes financial harm (including the potential to lose one's home), social and emotional harm (for example family breakdown), and health harm (including poor mental health, including suicide). Harms can affect family and friends as well as the individual with gambling problems. Evidence shows that certain people are more vulnerable to gambling-related harm, including those with substance misuse problems, poor mental health, and those living in deprived areas (Wardle et al., 2016).

The proposed gambling premise is situated in a deprived area. Granting more gambling licenses undermines the improvements we want to make in this area as well as the commitment from the council to improve the lives of and reduce health inequalities for the people of Haringey.

The proposed gambling premise is approximately 0.2 miles (4 min walk) from Haringey's Substance Misuse service located at 9 Bruce Grove. Our commissioned providers, Barnet, Enfield and Haringey (BEH) Mental Health NHS Trust in partnership with Blenheim, provide drug treatment services to vulnerable individuals with substance misuse needs. In 2016/17 there were 1,242 people in drug treatment service, a population that has a high prevalence of concurrent health and social co-morbidities. These individuals are at increased risk of problem gambling and gambling related harm.

Therefore, Public Health advocate for the refusal of this application.

#### **Reference**

Wardle, H. et al. (2016). Exploring area-based vulnerability to gambling-related harm: Developing the gambling-related harm risk index. Bath, UK: Geofutures