



Public Health objection to Future Leisure Limited, 519 Green Lanes. London, N4 1AN

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Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder, or being used to support crime

There are three schools, one nursery and a children's centre located within 500-meter radius of the premises including:

Woodlands Park Nursery and Children's Centre, Browns Bears Nursery, South Haringay Junior School, South Haringay Infant School, Saint John Vianney Roman Catholic School

There are already clusters of **4** betting shops on Green Lanes within 500 meters.

Harriet Harman (2011) references Haringey Residents and Traders Associations who highlight a vast divide in the borough of Haringey, where the 66 betting shops are split 85%/ 5% in an East / West divide, with the claim that betting shops are located in key geographic areas so as to deliberately target the poor.

In Haringay Ward, there are 263.2 claimants (inc. universal credit and JSA) per 10,000 residents who claim benefit principally for the reason of being unemployed. This is substantially higher than the London rate (201.7 per 10,000 residents), and while it is slightly higher than the Haringey level (251.8 per 10,000 residents). The rate of claimants in Haringey is almost 25% higher than the London rate. Gambling addiction is fuelling unemployment in this ward and we are striving to improve the resident's quality of life and not exacerbate their circumstances.

The location of the proposed premises targets the poorer communities and it becomes harder for the health inequalities gap to close. If the application is to be granted it will not align with the Borough Plan (https://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/borough_plan_2019-23.pdf) to reduce health inequalities, create healthy spaces and neighbourhoods for children and give children the best start in life and will not demonstrate our preventative efforts to support families and enhance mental wellbeing.

According to the Gambling Commission's (2018) briefing paper related to gambling-related harms on the community, it was pointed out the disastrous impacts of gambling on family relationships, and psychological and social development of children. Given the range of co-morbidities, it is highly likely that a percentage of those presenting with other conditions (e.g. mental ill health and addictions) are also either experiencing or are vulnerable to gambling-related harm. 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 location of

the proposed gambling premise is situated within one of the most deprived area, this premise will not be in line with the council's commitment to improve resident's lives and reduce health inequalities.

Anti-social behaviour is particularly high in this ward. On Green Lanes, near to the premises there were 176 anti-social behaviour crimes in the past year.

Research has proved that people living in areas with a higher number of bookies are more likely to be problem gamblers. London is seeing a 68% rise in violent crime associated with betting shops since 2010, according to the Metropolitan Police. Another research reinforces the assertion that problem gambling is a significant issue within the homeless population and is more commonly a cause than a consequence of homelessness (Sharman, Dreyer & Clark 2012).

Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling

There is a concern on the proposed gambling premises near schools and the negative impacts on young children and other vulnerable individuals. Increased number of gambling shops clustered in the concerned area not only severely undermines the objectives of the licensing, but it also normalises the harmful culture of gambling amongst children.

Almost half a million children in England and Wales are gambling regularly, with about 55,000 estimated to have a serious problem. Suicide rates for gambling addicts are high, and gambling-related problems cause stress for individuals and families.

Between late 2019 to February 2020 children and parents focus groups were conducted as part of the Schools Superzone Project, <https://www.haringey.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/health/public-health/schools-superzones>). The parents commented on the large volume of gambling shops in close proximity to each other and one parent expressed concern about the influence this would have on children and their development, with concerns raised about the possibility of enabling gambling addictions in the future.

In summary, this undermines our key objective in the current borough plan "*A Haringey where strong families, strong networks and strong communities nurture all residents to live well and achieve their potential*". The effects of proposed gambling premises should be seen in the wider context of the well-being and overall health of the society, and as such, it is essential to take into account the legitimate objectives of licensing, concerns of the parents and the community's wellbeing. It is, therefore, strongly recommended that the Planning Committee refuse this application.