

Gambling Inquiry

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Gambling Prevalence

National Strategic Approach

In the 2005 Gambling Act, Gambling is defined as gaming, betting, and participating in a lottery. Approximately 40% of people in England gambled in 2018.

‘Problem gamblers’ are defined as gamblers who gamble to a degree that compromises, disrupts or damages family, personal or recreational pursuits. 0.7% of people in England are problem gamblers

The 2005 Gambling Act set up the Gambling Commission, an independent non - departmental public body to regulate commercial gambling in Great Britain

In April 2019, the Gambling Commission launched a 3 year National Strategy to Reduce Gambling Harms, aiming to coordinate work between health bodies, charities, regulators and businesses to deliver of two strategic areas

1. Prevention and Education
2. Treatment and Support

A progress report on the strategy by the national Advisory Board for Safer Gambling (ABSG) 2 years on made a number of recommendations in relation to this strategy, including continuing to promote co-production with people with lived experience. As a result, Haringey is working on the local Gambling Addiction Campaign.

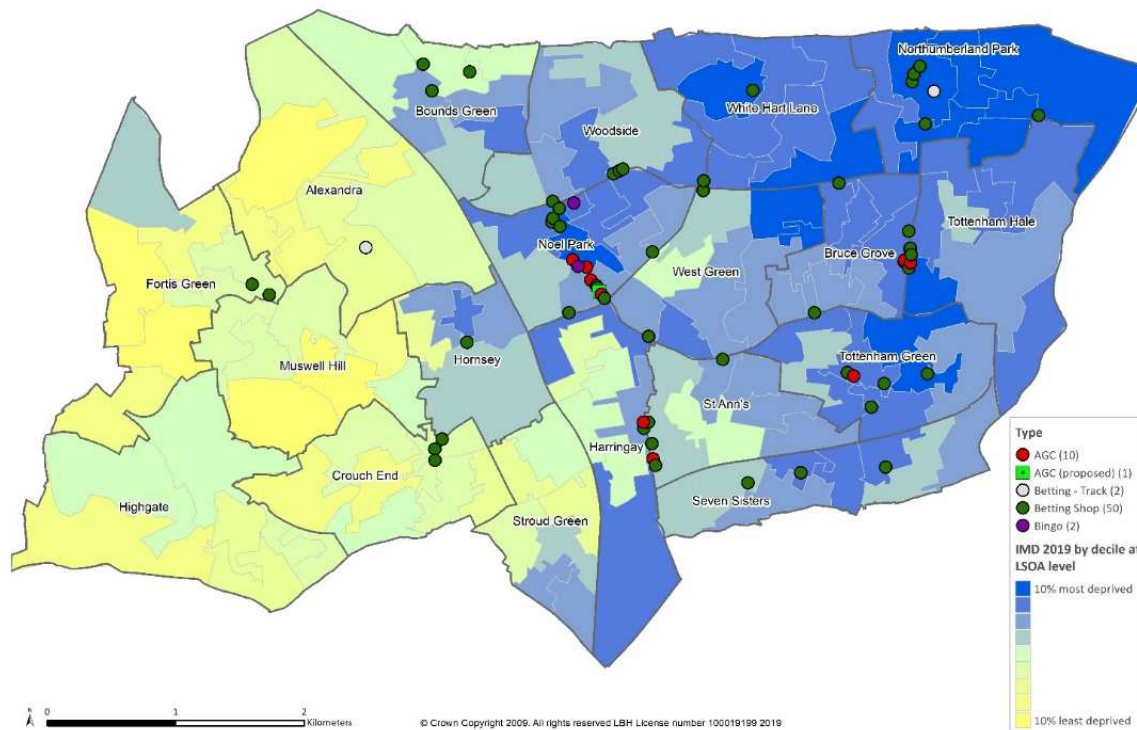
[haringey.gov.uk](https://www.haringey.gov.uk)

Gambling in Haringey



Estimated fiscal cost of gambling harm to Haringey

The Public Health team have estimated the annual gambling harm to be £1,345,055 - £1,649,311. This includes costs to primary health care, homelessness, unemployment, and the criminal justice system.*



Gambling Activity	Estimated number of Haringey residents based on national reported percentages (2018)
Any gambling activity	115, 452
Any gambling activity (excluding National Lottery)	85, 948
National Lottery	76, 968
Any online gambling (excluding National Lottery)	20, 097
Slot (electronic gaming machines)	12, 187
Machines in bookmakers	4, 704
Sports (not online)	8, 552

We currently have 50 betting shops, 10 Adult Gaming Centres, 2 Bingo premises and 2 track betting premises (2020). Gambling is a pressing health inequalities issue. More deprived wards have higher number of betting shops, adult gaming centres and bingo and this is linked to deprivation levels.

In 2021, **57% men** and **51% women** in Haringey participated in Gambling.

Haringey Total Population 213,800

Haringey Total Population for 16-24 years is 26,200



Gambling Activity	Estimated number of Children and Young People (16-24 years) participated in gambling activity based on national reported percentages (2018)
Any gambling activity	10,218
Any gambling activity (excluding National Lottery)	9,720
Scratch cards	5,161
National Lottery	3,249
Any online gambling (excluding National Lottery)	2,934
Online betting with a bookmaker	2,410
Slot (electronic gaming machines)	2,175
Machines in bookmakers	1,153
Sports (not online)	1,782

Gambling Policy

Aim to permit gambling is a requirement.

Legislation



- The Licensing Authority has responsibility for the granting and regulating of premises licences for the conduct of gambling under the Gambling Act 2005
- It must prepare and publish a Gambling Policy Statement every 3 years in accordance with guidance issued by the Gambling Commission
- Current policy was published in Jan 2022

The Licensing Objectives

- Preventing gambling from being a source of crime and disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime
- Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way
- Protecting children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling

We don't want another bookies!

“Licensing Authorities must not have regard to the expected demand for the facilities which it is proposed to provide”

- section 153(2) Gambling Act 2005

A new approach – Local Area Profiles

- All gambling operators must now assess the local risks to the licensing objectives posed by the provision of gambling facilities at each of their premises and have policies, procedures and control measures to mitigate those risks

Local risk assessments

- A local area risk assessment must be carried out in relation to all new and existing premises
- The risk assessment must be reviewed where there is a significant change in the local circumstances or in the premises

Identifying local risk

The Licensing Authority expects operators to identify local risk surrounding their premises, e.g

- Who is likely to be in the area?
- Proximity of schools, community centres, hospitals, health centres, gambling care providers
- high crime area?
- high unemployment area?
- pay day loan/pawnbrokers?

Considering the gambling operation



The Licensing Authority expects operators to consider how their gambling operation will affect those risks e.g

- What gambling facilities are available in the premises
- What are the staffing levels in the premises
- Security and crime prevention arrangements
- Provision of information and signposting support for customers

Putting in place control measures

Once the licence holder has identified the risks, the Licensing Authority expects them to identify appropriate control measures. These should cover:-

- **Systems:** staff training, age verification policies
- **Design:** exterior design, supervision, and security
- **Physical:** e.g magnetic door locks, ID scans

Operators must comply with

- Licence conditions and codes of practice
- Health and safety assessments
- Industry Standards Codes
- The LAPs are a useful tool, but not a panacea to reject applications.

In practice....

- The aim to permit remains a primary consideration .
- 3rd objective of protecting young and vulnerable from being exploited by gambling is the most practical to engage the local area profiles.

Looking ahead

- National Gambling Harm Strategy launched in 2018.
- Changes to FOBTs permitted in betting shops.
- Additional Social Responsibility Levy imposed on betting operators.
- Legislative changes to planning control re betting shops?
- Government call for evidence review on gambling.

Call for evidence



- Government undertook a review of the Gambling Act - Dec 2020- March 2021 - Haringey responded to ask for:
- That Licensing Authorities should be permitted to determine saturation policies based on impact and have the ability to create cumulative impact policies written into the legislation.
- Inserting a 'need test' into the Gambling Act 2005, similar to the previous Gaming Act 1968 that is based on community need would support and provide councils dealing with applications in deprived areas the powers to tackle problems and respond to their residents concerns and fears.
- That Licensing Authorities should have discretion to refuse where there is a proliferation of gambling premises and the "aim to permit" requirement should be repealed.

Potential for change...



- The APPCC and LGA have proposed that councils should be able to refuse applications for new outlets if they judge that area have too many.
- We understand that the government is considering bringing in powers for LAs to set quotas on the number of gambling outlets.

Gambling Addiction Campaign

Haringey Council Strategic Approach



At Haringey Cabinet meeting 9th November 2021, the Gambling Policy was approved. This included a local Gambling Addiction Campaign plan.

This campaign design has the following five elements

1. Adult co-produced work: a literature review and focus groups with Haringey locals directly/indirectly affected by gambling aiming to identify specific needs and solutions.
2. Youth engagement: educational workshops on the potentials harms of gambling.
3. Raising awareness: pan-borough raising awareness campaign with materials from national organisations like Gamcare and new localised resources.
4. Councillor training: Haringey council members will receive training about gambling related harms.
5. Deliver gambling summit: a borough professional conference covering all issues of gambling related harms.
6. A report will be written at the end of the campaign.

For sources, see notes

Timeline

