

Report for: Cabinet – 6 December 2022

Title: Cabinet Response to the Gambling Inquiry Day

Report authorised by: Will Maimaris, Director of Public Health

Lead Officer: Susan Oti, Assistant Director of Public Health

Ward(s) affected: All

**Report for Key/
Non-Key Decision:** Non-Key Decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1. This report responds to the report and recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Inquiry Day into Gambling held in March 2022. The purpose of the Inquiry Day was to gather evidence on gambling-related harms in Haringey and explore what action could be taken to address this. In July 2022 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee produced a report with recommendations.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

- 2.1. As the Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care and Wellbeing, I welcome the work completed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in highlighting the issues relating to gambling harm and the real concern across our community. Addressing gambling harms is a significant public health issue, affecting significant parts of our communities, families and individuals. Online and in person gambling have significant impacts, with potentially six people feeling a ripple of impact from one person's 'problem gambling'. This is an issue I felt particularly passionate that we address given the challenges and limitations of the law we have with licensing gambling establishments. I am particularly proud of the project the public health team initiated last year, and the campaign they have devised to address the needs of our community. As the cost of living crisis hits Haringey, we may well see more gambling harm, so it is crucial that we can work with partners, and recognise the impact.

3. Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended:

- 3.1. To note the Overview and Scrutiny Inquiry Day recommendations.
- 3.2. To agree to:
- (i) Seek an external funding source for additional local research on gambling harms.
 - (ii) Greater use of education/prevention on gambling in council activities.
 - (iii) The establishment of a councillor as a 'Gambling Harms Prevention Champion' to lead any lobbying activity aimed at the government on this issue, and that no special responsibility allowance shall apply to that role.

- (iv) Note that the functions of the Licensing Authority shall continue to operate in accordance with provisions of the applicable legislation, Codes of Practice and Guidance as well as the Council's policies pertaining to Licensing and Gambling.

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1. The recommendations in the Overview and Scrutiny Report are aligned with the public health team led campaign that is underway.

5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1. The Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care & Wellbeing could decide not to take account of the findings from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee report, however the findings confirm the campaign approach taken by the Public Health team.

6. Background information

- 6.1. The following is progress taken so far relating to the Overview and Scrutiny report suggestions.
- 6.2. The first recommendation from Overview and Scrutiny requested identifying a funding source for additional local research on gambling harms to strengthen the evidence in Haringey's Local Area Profile. Currently there is no funding available within the council's budget. The Public Health team has identified two potential external funding sources.
- i.) The National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR). They enable and deliver health and social care research that improves people's health and wellbeing and promote economic growth.
 - ii.) The Gambling Commission. They provide funding (from the fines on gambling companies) to local organisations to support raising awareness of gambling harms. The London Association of Directors of Public Health along with Haringey Public Health team and the Greater London Authority are developing a significant funding application to undertake a research programme. An 'expression of interest' has been submitted to the Gambling Commission we are awaiting the response. If we are successful, we would aim to start the research in April 2023.
- 6.3. One of the aims of the local research would be to provide additional intelligence, data and information for the area profiles. However, we must remember that the information and data within the Area Profiles cannot be used as an automatic right to refuse a license application.
- 6.4. The second recommendation from Overview and Scrutiny is greater use of education/prevention on gambling.
- 6.5. The Public Health team led local campaign has education/prevention a key theme. The team has secured input from various charitable organisations, such as RedCard and Gamcare to provide dedicated resources to Haringey to deliver training and education programmes in schools, primary care and other settings and to councillors.

In addition the council will hold a Gambling Harms Summit in January 2023 inviting national speakers and partner organisations across Haringey.

- 6.6. The third recommendation from Overview and Scrutiny was to establish a 'gambling harms prevention champion' to lead any lobbying activity aimed at the government on this issue.
- 6.7. The Public Health team would welcome Councillors identifying a 'gambling harms prevention champion'. The Champion would receive support from Officers to maximise their role and influence.

7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

The service fulfils three crosscutting commitments of the Haringey Labour Manifesto:

- i). Tackling inequalities and poverty
- ii). Living Well Approach
- iii). Protecting our residents

8. Statutory Officer Comments (Director of Finance (including procurement), Head of Legal and Governance, Equalities)

8.1 Finance

The Public Health team will hold a Gambling Harms Prevention Summit in January 2023. £13,000 from the Public Health Grant 2022-23 have been allocated to fund this.

8.2. Procurement

Strategic Procurement has been consulted in the preparation of this report there are no procurement implications at this stage.

8.3. Head of Legal and Governance

- 8.3.1 It should be noted that the Licensing Authority shall continue to operate within the parameters of the applicable legislative framework (taking into account applicable Codes of Practice and Guidance as well as its own policies pertaining to gambling and licensing).
- 8.3.2 Section 18 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 as amended by section 99 of the Local Government Act 2000, makes provision in relation to basic, special responsibility and childcare and dependants' carers' allowances for members of local authorities. In the event that a councillor assumes the role of 'Gambling Harms Prevention Champion', it is noted that a special responsibility allowance shall not be applicable in relation to that role.
- 8.3.3 Where the Council secures funding from an external funding body, the provisions of Contract Standing Orders 4.02, 9.07, 17.1 and 17.2 in the Council's Constitution apply. Where funding in excess of £500,000 is offered to the Council, it is for Cabinet to approve the award and entry into the funding agreement. In

other cases, the Director may approve receipt of the grant funding and entry into an appropriate agreement.

8.4. Equality

The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

The three parts of the duty apply to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/fait, sex, and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status apply to the first part of the duty.

Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.

This decision acknowledges the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Gambling Inquiry Day report and its recommendations. Recommendations include identifying a source of funding to research gambling in Haringey, increasing education and prevention for gambling, and finally identifying a 'gambling harms prevention champion' to lead any lobbying activity aimed at the government on this issue.

As this report only concerns accepting the findings of the Gambling Day Report, the decision in question will have neither positive nor negative equalities implications. It will have a neutral impact on those with protected characteristics.

It is noted that gambling premises in Haringey are predominantly located in the more deprived east of the borough, where there is a high proportion of residents who share multiple protected characteristics. Gambling also disproportionately harms those with protected characteristics, including those with low socioeconomic status. Therefore, if the recommendations in this report, which seek to prevent and reduce gambling-related harms, are accepted and implemented later, this is expected to impact equalities positively.

9. Use of Appendices

9.1.1 Appendix 1 – A summary from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Gambling Inquiry Day.

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Not applicable.