

### Adur District Council's Gambling Policy Review

Representation on Behalf of: West Sussex County Council's Director of Public Health

Harmful gambling is defined as any type of repetitive gambling that disrupts or damages personal, family or recreational pursuits<sup>1</sup>. It is not just the gamblers themselves who experience these harms; individuals, families and communities are all affected. Research published by Citizens Advice suggests that, for every problem gambler there are on average between six to ten additional people who are also directly affected<sup>2</sup>.

Harmful gambling can cause a wide variety of health and social issues, such as alcohol and drug misuse, financial difficulties, mental health issues, loss of employment, domestic abuse and family breakdown<sup>3</sup>.

There is evidence to show that certain groups are more at risk of experiencing gambling-related harm than others; these include: people living in deprived areas, individuals from certain ethnic minority groups (such as Asian/Asian British, Black/Black British and Chinese/other ethnicity), children and young people, those with mental health issues, those with alcohol or drug issues, and people who are homeless<sup>4</sup>.

Children are also particularly affected by problem gambling by a family member.<sup>5</sup>

The NHS provides online information and support for people who may be gambling problematically or affected by someone else's gambling, including a short questionnaire to help identify whether someone is gambling problematically: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/gambling-addiction/>

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<sup>1</sup> Thorley, C., Stirling, A. & Huynh, E, (2016). *Cards on the Table: The Cost to Government Associated with People who are Problem Gamblers in Britain*. Available online at: [www.ippr.org/files/publications/pdf/Cards-on-the-table\\_Dec16.pdf](http://www.ippr.org/files/publications/pdf/Cards-on-the-table_Dec16.pdf) [Accessed 10/04/2019]

<sup>2</sup> Citizens Advice. (2018). *Out of Luck – An exploration of the causes and impacts of problem gambling*. Available online at: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/policy/policy-research-topics/consumer-policy-research/consumer-policy-research/out-of-luck-an-exploration-of-the-causes-and-impacts-of-problem-gambling/> [Accessed 10/04/2019]

<sup>3</sup> Thorley, C., Stirling, A. & Huynh, E, (2016). *Cards on the Table: The Cost to Government Associated with People who are Problem Gamblers in Britain*. Available online at: [www.ippr.org/files/publications/pdf/Cards-on-the-table\\_Dec16.pdf](http://www.ippr.org/files/publications/pdf/Cards-on-the-table_Dec16.pdf) [Accessed 10/04/2019]

<sup>4</sup> Local Government Association & Public Health England. (2018). *Tackling gambling related harm. A whole council approach*. Available online at: <https://www.local.gov.uk/tackling-gambling-related-harm-whole-council-approach> [Accessed 10/04/2019]

<sup>5</sup> Faculty of Public Health. (2018). *Faculty of Public Health Gambling Policy Statement*. Available online at: <https://www.fph.org.uk/media/1810/fph-gambling-position-statement-june-2018.pdf> [Accessed 10/04/2019]