

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	REDUCING GAMBLING-RELATED HARMS IN SOUTHAMPTON - SCRUTINY INQUIRY PANEL
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	INTRODUCTION, CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	14 NOVEMBER 2024
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	SCRUTINY MANAGER

<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
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**STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

None

**BRIEF SUMMARY**

At the opening meeting of the inquiry focussing on reducing gambling-related harms in Southampton, the Panel will be provided with an introduction to the issues, some of which will be considered in greater detail at subsequent meetings.

Specifically, in accordance with the Inquiry Plan, the meeting will focus on the following:

- A definition of gambling-related harms
- The impact of gambling-related harms on individuals, families and communities in Southampton
- The regulatory and legislative landscape.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

	(i)	The Panel is recommended to consider the comments made by the invited guests and use the information provided as evidence in the review.
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**REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1.	To enable the Panel to compile a file of evidence in order to formulate findings and recommendations at the end of the review process.
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**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

2.	None
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**DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)**

3.	According to the Gambling Commission’s 2024 Gambling Survey for Great Britain, nearly half of adults in Great Britain had gambled at least once in the previous four weeks. The most popular activities were lottery participation,
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	followed by scratch cards, betting and online instant games, with 'fun/enjoyment factor' and 'monetary reasons' cited as key motivators. <sup>1</sup>
4.	Although it is recognised that gambling generates considerable tax revenue for government, provides employment, creates innovation within business communities, provides benefits to other leisure sectors and gives pleasure and enjoyment to some participants, there are also considerable societal costs arising from the harms associated with it. <sup>2</sup>
5.	The 2021 Public Health England (PHE) Gambling-related Harms Evidence Review identified a range of harms associated with gambling, broadly categorised as financial, relationship, health, employment and education, and criminal behaviour, with an estimated overall annual cost, comprised of direct costs to the UK government and intangible societal costs, of £1.05 to £1.77 billion. <sup>3</sup>
	<b>Invited guests</b>
6.	<p>To provide context, and develop upon the information outlined above, and to ensure that the Inquiry Panel have an overview of national and local issues relating to gambling-related harms, a number of guests have been invited to present at the inaugural meeting of the inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>Professor Sam Chamberlain</b> - Head of Department, Department of Psychiatry, University of Southampton &amp; Service Director and Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist, NHS Southern Gambling Service, Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust.</p> <p>To launch the inquiry Professor Chamberlain will deliver the keynote address. Professor Chamberlain is an academic psychiatrist with a particular interest in impulsive and compulsive symptoms. He founded and directs the NHS (UK) Southern Gambling Treatment Service, a specialist service based in Southampton providing evidence-based treatment to people with gambling-related harms / gambling disorder.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>Jenny Clynes</b> – Public Health Specialty Registrar, Southampton City Council</p> <p>A Health Needs Assessment is a systematic approach to understanding the needs of a population. Alongside public health data it considers social, economic, cultural and behavioural factors that influence health.</p> <p>For Southampton City Council, Jenny has been drafting a Gambling Harms Needs Assessment to provide a more detailed understanding of the issue and to inform decision making.</p> </li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Gambling Commission. *Statistics on gambling participation – Year 2 (2024), wave 1: Official statistics*. <https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/publication/statistics-on-gambling-participation-year-2-2024-wave-1-official-statistics>

<sup>2</sup> Wardle H, Reith G, Best D, McDaid D, Platt S. *Measuring gambling-related harms: a framework for action*. Birmingham, UK: Gambling Commission; 2018. [https://eprints.lse.ac.uk/89248/1/McDaid\\_Gambling-Related\\_harms\\_Published.pdf](https://eprints.lse.ac.uk/89248/1/McDaid_Gambling-Related_harms_Published.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [Gambling-related harms evidence review: quantitative analysis of gambling involvement and gambling-related harms among the general population in England](#)

	<p>At the meeting Jenny will provide the Panel with the key findings from the Gambling Harms Needs Assessment, including Southampton specific information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rob Burkitt</b> - Policy Manager and Lead for Shared Regulation, Gambling Commission</li> </ul> <p>The Gambling Commission was set up under the Gambling Act 2005. It is responsible for the regulation of individuals and businesses that provide gambling in Great Britain, including the National Lottery.</p> <p>The Gambling Commission works in partnership with licensing authorities to ensure gambling businesses are compliant in order to make gambling safer and fairer.</p> <p>Rob will outline for the Panel the role of the Gambling Commission, the regulatory framework, and how the Commission seeks to protect consumers and promote responsible gambling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bryan Dimmick</b> – Southampton resident with lived experience of gambling-related harms.</li> </ul> <p>Throughout the inquiry it is proposed that the Panel hear from individuals with lived experience of gambling-related harms. Bryan will outline his experiences, the impact gambling had on him, his family and community as well as his journey to recovery.</p>
7.	<p>The invited guests will take questions from the Panel relating to the evidence provided. Copies of any presentations will be made available to the Panel and will be published on the Inquiry Panel's pages on the Council website: <a href="#">Browse meetings - Scrutiny Inquiry Panel - Reducing Gambling-Related Harms in Southampton   Southampton City Council</a></p>
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Capital/Revenue/Property/Other</u></b>	
8.	Resources to support the scrutiny review will come from existing budgets.
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>	
9.	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.
<b><u>Other Legal Implications:</u></b>	
10.	None
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>	
11.	None
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
12.	None

<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	No	
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	None	
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>		
<b>Appendices</b>		
1.	None	
<b>Documents In Members' Rooms</b>		
1.	None	
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>		
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out?		No
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>		
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?		No
<b>Other Background Documents</b>		
<b>Other Background documents available for inspection at:</b>		
<b>Title of Background Paper(s)</b>	<b>Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential</b>	
1.	None	