Gambling Harms and Criminal Justice
Michelle Hunt, Andy Todd and Brian Faint.
Gambling Related Harm in Criminal Justice

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Health Improvement Senior
Building a picture through conversations and listening

- Is gambling an issue you’ve come across in your role?
- What do you think the main causes and consequences of gambling harm are?
- Where are the touch points on someone’s journey through the Criminal Justice Service where a gambling problem could be picked up?
- What could be done to help and support people experiencing harm through gambling?
- What do you think should be done to prevent gambling harms?
Gambling as an issue, causes and consequences?

- Gambling as an issue not seen as often as expected
- Secrecy and stigma surrounding client disclosure
- No routine screening – potential masking of the scale of the problem
- Correlation with other addictive behaviours
- Role of advertising – enticement with free bets
- Lotteries and competitions
- Impact of the pandemic
- Consequences – gender, young people, financial, relationships, mental health, crime, community

❖ Understanding the scale & impact of harm is difficult because we don't routinely ask the question and record the information in an accessible way
Opportunities for support?

• Missed opportunities within criminal justice services
  • Ability to build up a better picture and scale
• Need for staff training and development
• Lack of awareness of what support is available other than GA – some services unresponsive to the needs and complexities of the client group
• A formal pathway to help guide clients to localised person centred, tailored treatment and support
• Education of young people and general awareness raising
• Legislative action
Gambling Harms
Andy Todd
RCA Trust
Presentation Overview

- RCA Trust
- Gambling Harms – The Background
- The Treatment Pathway
- Public Health Approach
- The National Gambling Treatment Service
- Addressing Harmful Gambling
RCA TRUST

• Established in 1978
• Located in Renfrewshire
• The main aim of the Trust is to seek limit the effects of alcohol, drugs and gambling harms on the individual, their families and the community by providing a range of services and activities
• Work in partnership with a range of different local and national providers across Scotland and the UK

Core Programmes Include:
• Alcohol
• Drugs
• Gambling
• Children and Young People
• Housing Support Services
• Supported Accommodation Project
Individuals identified as problematic gamblers

The latest data from the NHS Digital Health Survey for England in 2018 shows that the prevalence of problem gambling (according to the PGSI or DSM-IV screen) was 0.5%, around 340,000 people.

Data from the Gambling Commission (2019) PGSI mini-screen 3 telephone survey observed a problem gambling figure within the UK of 350,000 people (0.6%).
GAMBLING RELATED HARM

Almost 20% of the UK population (approx. 13 million) experiences gambling-related harm, either as the person that is gambling themselves, or through the gambling of another individual. YouGov (2020).

YOUNG PEOPLE 2019

The Gambling Commission's schools survey identified that as many as 55,000 11-16 years old are considered problem gamblers.

HIDDEN HARM

In the UK it is estimated that between six to ten people are impacted upon due to an individual's gambling. Research findings in 2018 from Citizens Advice suggests that as many 4.3 million people maybe adversely affected.
**SUICIDE**

Problem gamblers are 15 times more at risk of suicide than the general population. Karlsson and Hakansson (2018). This is significantly higher in individuals under the age of 30. NatCe (2018).

**PRODUCTS & RISK / ONLINE GAMBLING**


**THE NATIONAL GAMBLING HELPLINE**

Each year The National Gambling Helpline receives approximately 40,000 calls from any individuals or affected others who may experiencing gambling related harm.
Findings:

• 1.9 million people spent between £153 and £1838 each month on gambling activities.

• The top 1% of gamblers spent at least £22,060 in 2018, which equates to 218,000.

• There were 508,000 people who spent over £933 per month.

• The average monthly income for adults is £1950.
A Problem Gambler is:

- 2.65 times more likely to be claiming JSA
- 8.7 times more likely to access homelessness services
- 4.4 times more likely to be in prison
- 8.54 times more likely to be accessing mental health services
- 5.53 times more likely to have been a hospital inpatient within the last 3 months
- 2.69 times more likely to have visited their GP in the last 12 months with a mental health issue

(IPPR Report, Dec 2016)
Gambling Harms Public Health Approach

Range of Interventions

- Treatment
  - Tertiary
- Early Intervention
  - Secondary
- Universal Prevention
  - Primary

Range of Gambling Behaviours

- Gambling Disorder
  - PGSI 8+
- Gambler
  - PGSI 1+
- Gambler
  - PGSI 0
- Non Gambler

- Tertiary or Indicated – aimed at individuals suffering gambling disorder
- Secondary or Selective – aimed at groups with a prevalence of suffering gambling harms
- Primary or Universal – aimed at the whole population to promote a safe environment
Prevention and Education – making significant progress towards a clear public health prevention plan which includes the right mix of interventions.

Treatment and Support – delivering truly national treatment and support options that meet the needs of users.
The National Gambling Treatment Service

GamCare

The National Gambling Helpline

Treatment Services

Education & Outreach Programmes

The National Problem Gambling Clinic

National Gambling Clinic
RCA Trust

Training Options:


‘Bet You Can Help Now’ – Tackling Gambling-Related Harms 1 hour training workshop. Workshop is designed to focus on awareness of GRH, screening and signposting individuals to appropriate support services.

‘Bet You Can Help’ – Train the Trainer programme. A 3-day course that includes the Level 2 Award in Tackling Gambling-Related Harms and approval to deliver programme under the BYCH structure.
Contact us:

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Supporting Recovery across Renfrewshire and beyond
Glasgow Gambling Summit
Gambling Related Harm
13th and 14th September 2021
Brian Faint
Presentation Overview

• Criminal Justice Program
• Setting the Scene - CJ Opportunities
• GRH - Relationship with Criminality
• Screening, Diversion and Treatment Pathway
• 10 Police Forces
• Lessons Learnt
• Training and Development.
Arresting Problem Gambling

“We can estimate that problem gamblers are 4.4 times more likely to be in prison than the average member of the population. Costing between £40 and £190 million per year.”

Arresting Problem Gambling in the UK Criminal Justice System

Raising awareness and screening for problem gambling at the point of arrest
Why Does Gambling Addiction have a Stronger Link to Criminality than other Addictions?

- Average drug dependent individual spends £ per day?
- Average alcohol dependent individual spends £ per day?
- Average problematic gambler spends £ per day?

Last 7 Years Over 1000 Court Cases Approximately £300 million in Theft over 2000 Years Sentencing (Epic 2018)

42% of the UK agree that gambling is linked to criminal activity - Gambling Commission (2020)
The links between crime and gambling are complex. A gambler may commit a crime based on multiple factors:

- a developing necessity for money
- desperation to fund their gambling
- gambling is an aspect of their criminal activities
- cross-addictions that require funds

Offences:
- Fraud and Financial Crime
- Money Laundering
- Domestic Abuse
- Theft from Family / Employer
- Offences Against a Person
- Criminal Damage
- Serious and Organised Crime

Serious & Organised Crime

Community Violence & Homicide

Pre-Planned Criminality (Theft and Major Fraud)

Theft from Employers / Organisations due to Accessibility / Opportunity

Engagement with Illegal Money Lending (link with S&O) Domestic Violence, Larger Domestic Thefts. Credit Card and Mortgage Fraud

"Gambling addict cheated family out of £25,000 after taking loan out in mother’s name"

"Glasgow man who stole nearly £70,000 while working for the British Airports Authority has been jailed for 18 month had a gambling habit."

"Charity worker facing jail after admitting she stole £350,000 from British Red Cross to fund online gambling addiction"

"Postal worker stole parcels worth £40,000 to fund gambling addiction"

"Gambling addict smashed up bookies in revenge after losing thousands of pounds causing £36,000 worth of damage"

"A recent survey with Cheshire Police show 13% report having a gambling problem when screened at the point of arrest"
Why Early Criminal Justice Intervention is Key?

• Voluntary Attendees to Police Stations.
• Custody suites – via L&D Support.
• Diversion Programs for G.R.H
• National Probation Service
• Court/ Fiscal Process.
• Prison Support Services.
• Community Rehabilitation Services.
Criminal Justice Program?
This program is delivering screening and diversion in 10 police forces.

The forces below are seeing the benefits from free treatment provision for gambling related harms via their L&D teams.

- West Midlands
- Merseyside
- Lancashire
- G.M.P
- Cheshire (IOM Team)
- Cumbria
- Humberside
- West Yorkshire
- Cleveland
- North Wales

Cheshire Probation Service and Courts Staff.
Cheshire PPU and Domestic Violence Charities
Screening for GRH involving co-mobidity Name, DoB and contact details

Conditional Caution or Alternative Community Diversion Program.

Contact within 48 hours - initial telephone Assessment.

Treatment Plan within 1 week

Minimum 6 appointments Free at point of entry and throughout Service.
What Do Lived Experience Say?

Andrew – 50-60 years – Accountant -, £600,000, offered no support or treatment throughout 8 prison sentences over 25 years.

Kelly -30-40 years- Children’s Home Manager- £70,000, spent £1,600 a day on slots, offered no help from works management. No support

David – 40-50 years -Police Officer, 100’s bets a day, no support or self exclusion, no welfare support from workplace and VIP incentives. No support

Sian – 20-30 years-Finance Manager, 2yrs 8 months, £360,000, VIP status, £15,000 in 10 minutes on slots and self harm offered police support but nothing in prison system.
Lessons Learnt?

- Engagement with L&D Senior Management for support.
- Provide Police Criminal Justice Senior Management briefings.
- Deliver the bespoke requirements to each force.
- Ensure training and development is provided to raise awareness.
- Understand the needs of each L&D team for delivery of awareness training.
- Deliver what you promise to the respective Senior Management.
- Provide a clear message that the screening, diversion and treatment is FREE.
- Ensure all stakeholders are happy with the delivery and outcomes.
- Seek feedback on what could have been done differently.
- West Yorkshire have taken the delivery of the program for best practice.
The Level 2 Award in Tackling Gambling Related Harms delivered through the ‘Bet You Can Help’ Programme, as the first universal accredited education platform, is to increase individuals into treatment from 3% to 15% (51,000) over the next three years, as well as providing early support to ‘at risk’ groups using a first aid foundation.
Talk to Us

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