



Grŵp Trawsbleidiol ar
Gamblo Problemus
Cross-party Group on
Problem Gambling

**Minutes of the meeting of the Cross-Party Groups on Problem Gambling
held on 2nd October 2018 at the
Video Conference Room, 1st Floor, Tŷ Hywel, between 12.30 and 13.20**

Present	The following AMs were present: Mick Antoniw (Chair X Party Group on Problem Gambling), Dr Dai Lloyd and John Griffiths. Also present were Sarah Grant, Dee Lally-Osborne (LRC), Professor Bev John, Dr Gareth Roderique-Davies (USW), Oliver John, Dr Ranjini R Rao (Royal College of Psychiatry, Wales), Clive Wolfendale (CAIS Ltd), and Wynford Ellis Owen.
Apologies	None

Item	Activity
1	<p>Mick Antoniw AM Chair of the X-part Group welcomed everyone – and wished representatives from USW well as their gambling research is under consideration for an UCW Impact Award which celebrates research that is seen to be making an impact. He also thanked Clive Wolfendale, CEO CAIS Ltd, for travelling the long distance to make his presentation to the group..</p> <p>Mick Antoniw AM then introduced Sarah Grant, to talk about her lived experience of problem gambling and the challenges of accessing treatment for female gambling addicts.</p> <p>Testimony by Sarah Grant – Gambling addict in recovery</p> <p>Sarah gave the conference an insight into her gambling addiction and its roots in the distracting and welcoming flashing lights of pub fruit machines. Her story is one of a series of unfolding traumatic circumstances and a growing reliance on gambling to ‘fix’ and ‘escape’. Sarah identified inequality between men and women in tackling gambling problems in general and in treatment in particular. She talked about a cycle of hopelessness and the failure of agencies to collaborate and provide the help she needed.</p> <p>Mick Antomiw AM thanked Sarah for her presentation and for her courage in talking so openly about her issues with problem gambling. He then introduced Clive Wolfendale, CEO CAIS Ltd, to talk about the challenges of providing treatment and after-care to problem gamblers and their families in Wales.</p> <p>Testimony by Clive Wolfendale – CEO CAIS Ltd, a registered charity and leading voluntary sector provider of personal support services in Wales.</p>



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Clive produced some data about the extent of problem gambling in Wales & its consequences:

- 1. 1.1% of Wales' population are problem gamblers – and for every 1 problem gambler research estimates that a further 7 are adversely affected.**
- 2. As many as 96% of individuals with a gambling problem also meet the criteria for at least one other lifetime psychiatric disorder.**
- 3. 38% of problem gamblers admitted having an issue of intimate partner violence in their relationship.**
- 4. 56% of people with gambling problems reported perpetrating physical violence against their children.**
- 5. The total Gross Gambling Yield (GGY) of the gambling industry in Great Britain is £13.8 Billion.**

Clive also talked about Living Room Cardiff's Beat the Odds initiative to help and support problem gamblers and their families, which CAIS Ltd, as LRC's parent company, financed with a £40K investment 5 years ago. He traced its development, the research undertaken, its partnership with the Responsible Gambling Foundation in Melbourne, Australia, its 4 successful Excessive Gambling Wales conferences. He reflected positively on another important and successful conference, but called for others to make meaningful contributions (beyond attendance) to any future conference. He also reflected on the limited provision of services in Wales and voiced extreme disappointment with the delay in the FOBT legislation

There were 6 main conclusions to his presentation:

- 1. Acknowledgement of what research is already telling us – and the need to act and not delay addressing problem gambling in Wales**
 - 2. Recognition that Problem Gambling is now a Public Health issue in Wales**
 - 3. The need for more restrictions on advertising and access**
 - 4. Greater levies on the industry commensurate with harm**
 - 5. Administration of treatment services independent of the industry**
 - 6. The need for effective provision within wales.**
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Mick Antoniw AM thanked Clive for his presentation and a brief Q&A session ensued

Some of the issues raised were the lack of help and support in prisons; the need for a more integrated approach to mental health and problem gambling; the link between sport and gambling.

Mick Antoniw AM then welcomed Oliver John and Dr Ranjini R Rao from the Royal College of Psychiatry in Wales. Dr Ranjini Rao is a consultant addiction psychiatrist, training program director at Wales Deanery and Chair of the faculty of addictions for the college in Wales. DR Ranjini will serve as a valuable member to the group and will provide more information in due course on how meaningful cooperation can be achieved.

Mick Antoniw AM then discussed the Cross party Group's priorities going forward:

He listed them in this order of priority:

1. There is talk of a "task and finish" group within Welsh Government to take forward actions arising from last year's excellent CMO report. That is properly a matter for the Welsh Government of course, but Mick Antoniw AM has invited Vaughan Gething AM, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services, to speak to the CPG about the group's work so that we can adopt a unified approach. We await his response.
2. We've been made aware that GambleAware's deputy CEO, is in discussions with Welsh Government officials to set up a new Welsh Advisory Board on Gambling. This panel is designed to advise GambleAware trustees on the charity's activities in Wales. Iain Corby, deputy CEO, has agreed to address the Cross Part Group on Problem Gambling so that we can learn more about this Advisory Board and GambleAware's intended plans for Wales.
3. Tim Miller, the Gambling Commission's Executive Director has agreed to give a presentation at our next CPG meeting on 20th November. This will be postponed if 1 or 2 are able to attend instead.

There was no other business.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting: 20th NOVEMBER 2018 in Conference Room B 12.30 to 13.30



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Chairman.....

Date.....