



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 20th NOVEMBER 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, Darren Millar, and Jenny Rathbone. Also present were Revd. Steven Bunting (Church in Wales), Professor Bev John, Dr Gareth Roderique-Davies (USW), Oliver John (Royal College of Psychiatry, Wales), Ieuan Richard (representing John Griffiths AM's office) Karen Ozzati (CEO WCADA) Iain Corby (Deputy CEO GambleAware), Tim Miller (Gambling Commission's Executive Director), Daniel Bliss (Stakeholder Engagement Manager Gambling Commission) 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 Iain Corby (Deputy CEO GambleAware) and Tim Miller (Gambling Commission's Executive Director) for travelling the long distance to make their presentations to the group.</p> <p>Testimony by Iain Corby (Deputy CEO GambleAware)</p> <p>GambleAware's vision is that fewer people in Britain suffer from gambling-related harms. GambleAware works to achieve that vision by making it their vision to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Broaden public understanding of gambling related harms, in particular as a public health issue• Advance the cause of harm-prevention so as to help build resilience, in particular in relation to the young and those most vulnerable to gambling-related harms; and• Help those who do develop gambling-related harms get the support that they need quickly and effectively. <p>Iain stressed that GambleAware is “now fully independent of the gambling industry”. It receives 0.1% of gross gambling yield which was almost £10m last year. Its main treatment partner is GamCare. GambleAware is currently in conversation with Welsh Government about setting up a clinic for complex case treatment in Wales. “The next two we will open will be in Scotland and</p>



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Wales. Each of the Nations should have their clinics.” GambleAware are also in discussions with Welsh Government officials to set up a new Welsh Advisory Panel on Gambling. This panel is designed to advise GambleAware trustees on the charity's activities in Wales. Iain invited the X Party to select a representative to sit on this panel. Iain also described the CMO for Wales’ report last January was “a game changer”

Iain went on to describe how GambleAware impacts on the following fields:

- Research that makes a positive and practical difference to reducing gambling-related harms in Britain;
- Invest in education, prevention and the most effective interventions to reduce gambling-related harms in Britain within the resources available;
- Provide information and advice about the nature of gambling, the risks associated and where to go for help if needed;
- Reach out to vulnerable groups and communities to reduce the risk of gambling related harms;
- Work in partnership with other organisations, agencies and experts to help reduce the risk of gambling-related harms;
- Contribute to the development of public policy and raise awareness of the challenges of reducing gambling-related harms.

How GambleAware impacts on Wales’ problems around excessive gambling, what strategies they have in place, support materials etc, and their hopes for the future, are included in the attached PowerPoint presentation.

Testimony by Tim Miller (Gambling Commission’s Executive Director)

Tim had some stark statistics for us about the extent of gambling problems in Wales:

20,000 problem gamblers

84,000 at-risk gamblers

54.7% gambled in the past 12 months

6.4% of 16-24 year olds identify as at-risk gamblers

5.1% of 25-34 year olds identify as at-risk gamblers

501 licensed premises (top three = 79 Cardiff, 30 Newport, 25 Swansea)



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He also set out the areas of focus for the Gambling Commission (GC): ADVERTISING

- **80%** of 11-16 year-olds have seen gambling adverts on TV
- **70%** on have seen gambling adverts on social media and **66%** on websites
- From 31 October GC are able to fine operators who break ASA rules
- GC share concerns that advertising and marketing could lead to gambling-related harm for young and vulnerable people
- GC works with Responsible Gambling Strategy Board and GambleAware to explore these issues

And PROTECTING CHILDREN

- GC set out further commitments to protect children and young people
- Tested the compliance of pubs regarding under 18s playing on Cat C machines
- Failure rate is almost **90%**
- Operators must have protections in place to prevent access and actively review how protections can be strengthened
- Safeguarding children in a digital age takes a multi-faceted approach
- Latest '*Young people and gambling report*' published 21st November

Tim also focused on the commission's WORK IN WALES

- GC have 2 Compliance Managers in Wales - their compliance activity is in partnership with local authorities, including joint visits and training. Some examples:
 - *Illegal siting of machine in Neath & Port Talbot (Feb 18)*
 - *Bridgend County Borough Council prosecutes over illegal machine (March 18)*
 - *Training Powys' licensing committee (Oct 18)*
 - Worked with Citizens Advice Newport to increase awareness of gambling related harm
 - GC held a joint stakeholder event with Directors of Public Protection Wales
 - They published a briefing paper for Local Authorities and local Public Health providers on gambling-related harm
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- GC supported the Chief Medical Officer for Wales on his annual report, which included a specific focus on gambling-related harm for the first time

Tim has kindly provided us with a PowerPoint of his full presentation which is attached.

MICK ANTONIW AM thanked Iain and Tim for their presentation and a Q&A session ensued.

1. **Darren Millar AM** asked if there had been engagement with Welsh Government with regard to curriculum resources for schools. The response from Iain Corby was negative “No, not really enough engagement.”
2. **Dai Lloyd AM** asked what could be done about the high volume of gambling advertisements. Tim’s response was that the powers are reserved to the UK parliament – pressure must continue to be put on the gambling industry, “they know it’s affecting their reputation and standing.” Iain added that half the advertising/marketing is online. “We worry about TV but don’t overlook the internet – look at how much gambling adverts children and young people see online.”
3. **Mick Antoniw AM** asked about the similarities between gambling and tobacco advertising campaigns. Tim said a better comparison would be with the alcohol industry. The fact that excessive gambling is now a Public Health issue will concentrate minds.
4. **Darren Millar AM** asked whether GambleAwrae monitor the amount of money they spend in Wales. Iain said “Yes, Prof Robert Rogers has carried out studies for us. The Welsh Advisory Board will monitor this.” Iain reminded everyone that Wales does not participate in the Health Survey.
5. **Mick Antoniw AM** agreed and that this is something “we’re trying to pursue with Welsh Government.”
6. **Jenny Rathbone AM** asked whether there was any need to carry out more research in view of the volume of research already carried out in other countries, Australia notably. Isn’t gambling the same everywhere? Iain’s response was that “the range of gambling outlets is far broader in the UK than in Australia.”
7. **Revd Steven Bunting** shared examples of the negative effects of excessive gambling on members of his family and how his child plays Fortnite, learning quickly that if he pays something he’ll get something pleasurable out of it.

At this point the X Party Chair and the other AMs left the meeting to attend a plenary session in the Senedd. WEO chaired the rest of the meeting.



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8. **Gareth Roderique-Davies asked if there was a way of moving towards independence from the gambling industry and away from the Responsible Gambling campaign. Iain's response was "GambleAware now has no representatives from the gambling industry on its Board. Changing our name was the biggest sign that we've changed."**
9. **Prof Bev John asked what informs the research questions GambleAware sets. "There no point in duplicating research that's already been done." Iain encouraged people to address any concerns to the Responsible Gambling Board, as that is the body that sets the research criteria.**
10. **Karen Ozzati asked if research had been conducted in any Welsh HMP. "No, and research has only been carried out in one HMP in England."**
11. **Iain and Tim were asked about the link between gambling and depression. Iain warned that there was a need to be careful, that depression is not the only risk and that it risks letting the gambling industry off the hook. Gambling harm doesn't discriminate."**

When the hour was up, WEO thanks the main speakers for their helpful presentations and for engaging with X Party members and addressing their questions and concerns.

There was no other business.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting: 12th FEBRUARY in Conference Room A 12.30 to 13.30

Chairman.....

Date.....