

# Minutes of the awayday of the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board held on 12 February 2010

**Present:**

Paul Bellringer  
Henrietta Bowden-Jones  
Neil Goulden  
Richard Ives  
Alan Jamieson  
David Miers  
Julia Neuberger (Chair)  
Gerda Reith  
Eleanor Roaf

**In attendance:**

Rob Burkitt (item 4 only)  
Ruth Callaghan (item 3 only)  
Stephen Dunmore  
Amanda Fox (item 3 only)  
Jane Glastonbury  
Matthew Hill (items 3 and 4 only)  
Julia Mackisack (item 3 only)  
Natalie Simpson (Minutes)  
Carol Stone  
Kati Virtaal (item 3 only)  
Jenny Williams (item 3 only)  
Erica Young (item 4 only)

## **1 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Chris Bell.

## **2 Introduction to awayday**

The Board agreed that main purpose of the day was to focus on how to make a regular operating pattern for the Board and to agree how to reach a fuller strategy.

## **3 RGSB and the Commission: working together**

The 9 February 2010 letter - Parliamentary questions numbers 310115 and 310137 answered on 12 and 13 January 2010 - from the Commission to Don Foster was tabled.

The Commission were informed that the Board would produce a dynamic strategy (Strategy 2010) in the summer which would be more detailed than the current strategy and be informed by dialogue with stakeholders. There was discussion and agreement about the timing of the Strategy 2010.

### **Research**

It was noted that there is a good research knowledge transfer relationship between the Commission and RGSB. There was discussion about the research capacity for regulatory areas and secondary research. The Research Panel will consider commissioning a report focused on what is useful for regulatory and policy purposes.

### **Communication**

It was agreed that the Commission's communications team will work in partnership with RGSB to publish the Strategy 2010.

## **4 Co-regulation: The Commission and Local Authorities**

The following papers were tabled:

- Responsible Gambling Strategy Board – Co-Regulation. Erica Young, Rob Burkitt – Policy Team
- Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice, October 2008.

EY and RB introduced the co-regulation paper and made the following additional points:

## **Background**

- Under the Gambling Act, the Commission have to give guidance to Local Authorities (LAs).
- The Casino Network Group consists of the LAs of the 16 small/large new casinos.

## **Joint working**

- The removal of illegal machines has largely been successfully achieved.
- There are a series of Commission/LACORS events to promote the concordat, protocols and better working together.

## **Information exchange**

- LA's complete an annual form and the Commission produce a report on this data each year.

## **Hot topics**

- Betting shop clustering is a London-based issue in some boroughs. The Commission are not aware that this is a major concern for LAs.
- In 1978, the Home Office reported that there were 12,812 betting shops in the UK. This week, there are 6,753.
- A member of the Board stated that an unintended consequence of the Gambling Act was the clustering of betting shops, driven by the demand for FOBT machines.

A member of the Board has been approached to input into a Conservative think tank, and it was noted that this was an area for the Commission rather than RGSB.

## **5 RGSB strategy**

### **Treatment**

Clinicians and providers forums: These were a successful two-way exchange of information and knowledge about best practice and implementation. There could be multi-strand partnerships in the future. It was noted that there would need to be clarity about the cost effectiveness of getting problem gamblers into services through their GPs, and there was a need to compare this with other referral routes.

Data set: It was noted that there is a need for national coordinated data to inform the strategy. The service providers are broadly in agreement about this need and made initial commitments to providing the information pending the further discussions about the data and the mechanisms for reporting.

Telephone helpline: It was noted that meetings have been held with current and national telephone helpline providers.

NHS/Treatment Pilots: Progress on the pilot development was noted. Clinicians from different sectors will be asked to test out the care pathway, which will mean the commissioning is clinician-led.

GP pilot: The plan for a pilot was noted.

## **Research**

The Board noted that the Research Panel has had two meetings so far. The following areas of research that the Panel could consider were discussed: Secondary analysis of research, different regulatory frameworks in different jurisdictions.

**It was agreed** that David Miers would become a member of the Research Panel, and that Chris Bell would also be invited to join to the Panel.

Longitudinal study: The scoping brief is near completion and will be signed off by the RGF Board. The study should be conclusive and provide answers to the Panel.

Evaluation: An evaluation model should be holistic and an evaluation study will need to be commissioned.

Research forum: The recent research stakeholder forum was noted.

Machines: The specifics of a machines program of work are expected to be signed off at the next Research Panel meeting.

**The Board agreed** that comparison research should be commissioned for the small/large casino areas, and that the Commission may want to work with the Research Panel on this.

## **Prevention**

Gamble Aware: The Board discussed the ownership of the IP of the website and the credibility of the website.

Prevention forum: This is being planned for 12 April and a draft programme has been written.

Gambling harm prevention paper: The Board discussed how advance prevention work could be conducted in the new small/large casino areas. These areas could be used for a pilot with baseline work conducted before the casinos are in place, and the comparative studies would then inform the strategy.

Internet gambling: The Panel would like to focus on the trend of internet gambling as more information is needed to ascertain how much of a

problem it might be and to understand the different types of gamblers who play.

International prevention group: Panel members have begun setting up this group, consisting of a twice-yearly meeting between prominent international prevention and education experts, to share information on how other countries deal with issues. The first meeting will take place on 13 September in Vienna.

### **Conclusion**

It was agreed that the Strategy 2010 will be dynamic and evolving. It was agreed that once the Strategy is complete an amplified remit could then be given to RGF.