

Minutes of the meeting of the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board held on 24 March 2011

Present:

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

In attendance:

Jim Fearnley
Yvonne MacDermid (item 15 only)
Natalie Simpson (minutes)
Carol Stone
Andy Todd (item 15 only)

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Chris Bell and Neil Goulden.

2 Declarations of interest

There were no new conflicts of interest declared.

3 Reappointment of members

The Board was informed that the Gambling Commission have re-appointed PB, HBJ and NG to the Board for a further two years, to 1st March 2013.

The Board was informed that the Chair intends to step down at the end of her term at the end of the year, due to an increase in other commitments, and will also step down as RGF Chair at a time to be confirmed, during 2011.

4 Minutes and matters arising

PB was thanked for speaking (at very short notice) at the British Beer and Pubs Association Machines Panel meeting.

DM was thanked for attending the British Gambling Prevalence Survey launch and undertaking some media work.

4.1 RGF/GamCare update

The Board was informed that GamCare has indicated that it will not be able to sign up to RGF's Standard Terms and Conditions of Grant (which have not been questioned by any other grant recipient and have been developed from those standard for grant makers and advised on by RGF's lawyers). RGF has been working hard to resolve these issues.

The Board also noted that The Helplines Association (which is contracted as RGF's specialist advisor) has made it clear that GamCare is neither a consultant nor an adviser to the organisation.

4.2 Gordon Moody Association (GMA) update

The Board noted that RGF had been very concerned about financial management and governance at GMA, and so has been releasing funds in small tranches, according to immediate cash needs, while an RGF-commissioned review by RGF's auditors took place, in order to ensure that the clients experienced continued care. GMA are now addressing the

issues raised and significant changes to Board membership, staff, governance and financial management are anticipated.

4.3 Gamble aware website

There was discussion about the re-launched gamble aware website and the need to robustly address issues identified with the updated content. AJ provided a brief update about the work of the website editorial panel and was thanked again for his work with the panel.

Action: Board members to provide the Secretariat with any comments on the re-launched gambleaware website.

It was agreed that once comments have been given to the Secretariat, the Prevention Panel would consider the website and then comments could be fed back to the editorial panel and via a meeting with the editorial panel chair.

5 Minutes of expert Panel meetings

The Board noted the minutes from recent Research, Prevention and Treatment Panel meetings.

Draft youth strategy

In discussion there was agreement that RGSB should be raising awareness with other providers of services to young people, rather than encouraging treatment providers that provide services to adults to extend that treatment to young people, when they may not have any experience of the multiple risk factors associated with this client group.

It was agreed that the draft youth strategy and action plan should be developed and then considered by the RGF Board.

6 Expert Panel membership

The Board discussed the emerging proposed and potential changes to expert Panel membership.

It was agreed that:

- The Prevention Panel will change its name to the “Education and Harm Prevention Panel” in order to clarify that ‘prevention’ alluded to does not relate to gambling per se, but rather to harm
- Current Research Panel membership will be renewed and incumbents either allocated to a ‘pool’ of experts on whom we call from time to time be invited to act as full Panel members
- Professor David Forrest will be invited to join the Research Panel with effect from August 2011

- One or two potential further new members will be 'scouted for' to join the Research Panel, with effect from December 2011
- John Mellor-Clark will be invited to join the Treatment Panel.

The Gambling Commission will be asked to formalise the arrangements as necessary.

7 Future collection of gambling prevalence data / RGSB priorities following BGPS 2010

The Board discussed the letter from the Gambling Commission Chair regarding future collection of gambling prevalence data and considered appropriate ways in which the data could be collected.

It was agreed that a brief reply to the Gambling Commission Chair would be written, stating that the RGSB have considered the options and raising points of concern.

8 Outcomes from RGF work to inform Strategy 2011 planning

The Board noted the update on current RGF work that would inform the shaping of the Strategy 2011.

9 RGF update on strategic funding framework 2010/11

The Board noted the RGF update on the strategic funding framework from RGSB for 2010/11.

Workforce development/NOS update

The Board noted the update on National Occupational Standards and the award of a grant to the Royal College of General Practitioners to train GPs to identify problem gamblers.

10 Communications strategy update

The implementation and ongoing evaluation of the RGF/RGSB communications strategy was noted. The Chair of GREaT is now working closely with RGF/RGSB on communications and there will be some jointly branded communications, commencing with the publication of National Gambling Helpline Q&As.

11 Gambling Commission research briefing

The quarterly research briefing from the Commission was noted and a request was made for the sources of the research to be included in the briefings.

12 Northern Ireland Gambling Prevalence Survey 2010

There was discussion about the nature and extent of gambling and problem gambling in Northern Ireland. The Board noted that JF will visit Belfast and the Republic of Ireland imminently.

13 Date of next meeting

The next meeting is 9th June at the Gambling Commission. However, DM and ER have both given apologies, and so the meeting may be rearranged.

14 RCS Trust/Money Advice Scotland presentation

Yvonne MacDermid, Chief Executive of Money Advice Scotland and Andy Todd, Counselling Manager of RCA Trust presented on "*Joint partnership working in the treatment of problem gambling*".

There was discussion about how to identify those who have financial problems as a result of their gambling.