

Meeting of the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board: 14 May 2014

Venue: Government Art Collection, Queens Yard, 179a Tottenham Court Road, London, W1T 7PA

Time: 10.15 – 14.00

Attendees: Kate Anthony (KA), Paul Bellringer (PB), Chris Bell (CB), Sanju George (SG), Russell Hoyle (RH), Chris Kelly (Chair) (CK), Richard Ives (RI), David Miers (DM), Simon Tanner (ST),

Guests: Dirk Vennix (DV)

In attendance: Ruth Callaghan (RC), Marc Etches (ME), Katherine Jackson (KJ), Jonathan Watkin (JW), Jonathan Parke (JP)

Ref	Action:	Status	Minute number / Page
267	RI to draft an executive summary for the position paper on young people and gambling-related harm.	Done	3.3/ p2
268	Board members to provide any final comments on the position paper on young people and gambling-related harm, to KJ and RI within the next seven days.	Done	3.3/ p2
269	RI to review the position paper on young people and gambling-related harm with regard to the health survey results for 16-24 year old males, and to consider whether any points need expanding or having more prominence within the paper.	Done	3.3/ p2
270	ST to consider the parallels that gambling has with areas such as alcohol, smoking and over-eating in terms of the social, psychological and political implications. This is with a view to ascertaining whether this is a future topic for consideration by the Board i.e. whether further work is required around the context of gambling and its positioning in relation to existing public protection measures for other fields.	In progress	5.2/ p3
271	Board Members to send any further comments on the self-exclusion advice note (i.e. as it stands, before it is re-written into a new structure) to PB and JW within the next seven days.	Done	6.1/ p4
272	JW to re-draft the self-exclusion advice note using a new structure suggested by the Board.	Done	6.1/ p4
273	JW to circulate the next iteration of the self-exclusion advice note to Board members for a final review out of committee.	Done	6.1/ p4
274	RC to write up her comments on the commissioning plan and send to ME.	Done	8.1/ p4

275	CK to speak to each Board member (either face to face or by telephone) within the next month, about the precise role of RGSB.	Done	9.1/ p5
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1: Apologies and declarations of interest

- 1.1 Apologies received from Henrietta Bowden-Jones, Gerda Reith and Rebekah Eden.
- 1.2 No interests declared.

2: Minutes and matters arising from meeting on 11 March 2014: RGSB 14 03 (01)

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting were approved. All actions are either in hand or completed.
 - **Actions 257 and 258** – information circulated and items to be discussed during the course of this meeting.
 - **Action 263** – RC to give this some further thought.

3: Developing the Strategy: RGSB 14 03 (02)

Ministerial announcement

- 3.1 The Board noted the ministerial announcement. RGSB had not been consulted on it.

Combined Health Survey outputs

- 3.2 The Board noted the contents of the compendium report.

Young Persons Position Paper

- 3.3 The following actions were agreed:

Action: RI to draft an executive summary for the position paper on young people and gambling-related harm.

Action: Board members to provide any final comments on the position paper on young people and gambling-related harm, within the next seven days.

Action: RI to review the position paper on young people and gambling-related harm with regard to the health survey results for 16-24 year old males, and to consider whether any points need expanding or having more prominence within the paper.

- 3.4 Subject to any further comments, the Board is content with the position paper which is due to be published shortly.

4: ABB Evaluation (presentation): RGSB 14 03 (03)

- 4.1 DV attended the meeting to deliver a presentation on the ABB Code for Responsible Gambling and Player Protection. Hard copy slides were available and detail the contents of the presentation.
- 4.2 The Board discussed whether the evaluation of the code can deliver – what sort of data can be obtained from one month and from one region? The experiment represents an opportunity for baseline data to be collected against which future data can be compared. CK asked ME whether the Trust's Research Committee thought that the evaluation would be worthwhile? ME said that the Committee was supportive of it going ahead.

There was no tender due to time limits. JP commented that it is world leading research, which is quasi-experimental. It is not perfect but still has its benefits.

- 4.3 Age verification and Think 21 – there is now a facility for staff to shut down machines from under the counter, staff can then request ID from the customer.
- 4.4 The ABB recognises that age verification challenges on entry are quite low, and that this had to be improved. One of the Code's KPI's includes improved age verification.
- 4.5 The compliance rate for under 21s has increased to 85%. The ABB is still working hard with the independent sector to improve its compliance rate (which stands at 30%). In terms of volume, independents are a small part of the sector and account for 1,000 operators.
- 4.6 If staff fail to challenge those underage, this can constitute gross misconduct for which their employment may be terminated.
- 4.7 RI queried if the ABB would consider Think 25 rather than Think 21? The ABB is reviewing the evidence to ascertain the effectiveness of such a scheme.
- 4.8 The ABB is looking at new technologies and how these can assist, such as player cards, mobile apps and debit card blocking (to complement self-exclusion).

5: Marketing and Advertising: RGSB 14 03 (04)

- 5.1 The Board agreed with the Secretariat's recommendation at paragraph 9 - it will await the outcome of the work to be undertaken by the Gambling Advertising Monitoring Unit (GAMU) and associated bodies as referred to in DCMS' announcement on 30 April on 'Gambling Protections and Controls'.
- 5.2 The Board also noted the information about 'Loi Evin' and the Youth Commissioners for Alcohol at Annex B.

Action: ST to consider the parallels that gambling has with areas such as alcohol, smoking and over-eating in terms of the social, psychological and political implications. This is with a view to ascertaining whether this is a future topic for consideration by the Board i.e. whether further work is required around the context of gambling and its positioning in relation to existing public protection measures for other fields.

- 5.3 The Trust is keeping an open mind about future research on marketing and advertising – it will gauge the response to Dr Per Binde's review of advertising.
- 5.4 RI noted that Binde's review only covers advertising and not marketing, what about social networking and below the line marketing? He would like to see some research on this.
- 5.5 RI also suggested that the GambleAware message on television advertisements do not appear for long enough and are indistinct. Will the Remote Gambling Association's review pick this issue up?

6: Self-exclusion advice note: RGSB 14 02 (05)

The key points raised by the Board were:

- Ensure that the advice is clear about the levels of evidence for different statements including stating what it does tell us as well as setting out the limitations

- There should be greater focus on the trade off between efficiency, cost and impact. Any improvements to self-exclusion need to be made in the context of a decision about whether changes can be efficiently and cost effectively implemented and have a positive impact on those needing to access it.
- Making changes to self-exclusion that is an evolving process, not one where a new system can be easily implemented overnight.

Action: Board Members to send any further comments on the self-exclusion advice note (i.e. as it stands, before it is re-written into a new structure) to PB and JW within the next seven days.

Action: JW to re-draft the self-exclusion advice note using a new structure suggested by the Board.

Action: JW to circulate the next iteration of the self-exclusion advice note to Board members for a final review out of committee.

7: Social gaming: RGSB 14 03 (06)

7.1 Pages 2 and 4 were missing from this paper. The Board will defer consideration of the paper until the next Board meeting.

8: Update from the Responsible Gambling Trust: RSGB 14 03 (07)

Commissioning Plan

8.1 The advice from the Board is that the Trust requires experienced commissioning skill. This should not be provided by the Treatment Panel but from staffing resources.

Action: RC to write up her comments on the commissioning plan and send to ME.

Research Committee

8.2 The Research Committee is changing its trustees. There are eleven trustees, five who are operational in the industry and five who work independently. One independent Trustee (Hilary Stewart-Jones) has taken up a role in the industry so she has stepped down. Professor Patrick Sturgis is to take her place. Liz Barclay is stepping down as Chair but is remaining as a Trustee. Jo Wolf is to be Chair. Professor Alex Blaszczynski is to chair Machines Research 2 - RGSB will have representation at this group as RC will attend.

9: AOB

Action: CK to speak to each Board member (either face to face or by telephone) within the next month, about the progress of RGSB.

9.1 JW confirmed that gambling questions will feature in the 'dress rehearsal' of the Millennium Cohort Study.

Next meeting: 22 July 2014, 10.15am – 2pm, Government Art Collection, London