

<b>Paper title</b>	<b>Destination of regulatory settlement funds: future of SRFG and proposal from GambleAware</b>
<b>Board, Committee or Group considering</b>	<i>Executive Team</i>
<b>Date of meeting</b>	<i>27 April 2023</i>
<b>Paper author</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Paper status</b>	For decision
<b>Strategic objective</b>	Protecting children and vulnerable people from being harmed by gambling
<b>Corporate Risk</b>	<i>L3: Commission does not follow own policies or processes</i>

## Recommendations

1. Executive Team are asked to take two separate decisions:
  - a. [REDACTED]
  - b. Approve the GambleAware proposal (Annex A) to receive £28m of regulatory settlement funds to advance their commissioning plans, in line with the [Statement of Principles for determining financial penalties](#).

## Headlines

2. [REDACTED]
3. Executive Team can then decide on the suitability of GambleAware’s proposal, and any subsequent proposals for future regulatory settlement funds.
4. [REDACTED]

## Issues

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

### *GambleAware proposal*

8. The proposal is attached at Annex A.
9. The criteria the proposal should meet are:
  - a. To be for socially responsible purposes which address gambling related harm or other licensing objectives
    - i. These purposes should be specific, agreed, and should accelerate GambleAware's commissioning plans
  - b. To include meaningful evaluation of the effectiveness of projects or research funded
  - c. A commitment to make research findings public to raise standards
  - d. Provision of a clear timeframe for delivery of the work proposed.
10. The Advisory Board for Safer Gambling (ABSG) have not seen or discussed the GambleAware proposal, but they have given advice on the destination of regulatory settlement funds overall. The Executive Team are not bound to accept ABSG's advice, but it is provided here to inform thinking. ABSG's preference is that *"in the event of the establishment of a statutory levy and independent levy board, subsequent regulatory settlement funds, along with levy income, should to be distributed via statutory commissioning bodies (NHSE, NIHR, UKRI and governments in Scotland and Wales)"*. In the interim, and in order to mitigate the risks they see in the current distribution model, ABSG have suggested some stipulations they advise the Commission should include in any use of regulatory settlement funds by GambleAware. These are:
  - a. Funds are not used to expand core treatment services without contractual agreement with statutory services

- b. Funds are not used to bolster current prevention work in schools and communities as evidence reviews on youth prevention studies show little or no significant improvement
- c. All projects funded in this way must be registered prospectively with a research register, be subject to an independent evaluation and the outcome of all evaluations published via open access.
- d. Established projects in receipt of substantial regulatory funds (such as BIT) should continue to be funded, subject to ongoing evaluation of their impact.

## **Risks**

- 11. The risks of this approach remain as outlined in the previous Executive papers on this issue.

## **Timescales**

- 12. We intend to finalise this work in May. The communication of the outcome of decisions is likely to be shaped by the white paper.

## **Next Steps**

- 13. If Exec accept the proposals, [REDACTED] will work with GambleAware and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to make the necessary arrangements.

## **Annexes**

- 14. Annex A: GambleAware proposal (for decision)  
[REDACTED]