

National Responsible Gambling Strategy

Quantum of funding

January 2017

Quantum of funding – Assessment of required funds

1. The remit of the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board includes determining and recommending to GambleAware (after consultation with stakeholders and experts) what research, education and treatment is required to reduce harm from gambling as part of an overall National Responsible Gambling Strategy, and the levels of funding necessary to deliver the recommended priorities.
2. This paper sets out the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board's current assessment of the funding required by GambleAware to deliver its part in the National Responsible Gambling Strategy¹, in the context of a Statement of Intent agreed between the Gambling Commission, the RGSB and GambleAware in August 2012².
3. The figures represent our best forecast based on current information. They will be amended, possibly significantly, as implementation of the Strategy is progressed.
4. The estimates are broken down into the three core elements of research, education and treatment (RET). They have been developed in consultation with GambleAware.
5. There will be additional costs in implementing the strategy which will be borne by the industry and other stakeholders and are not included in these figures.

Research

6. A Research Programme setting out 16 projects currently identified as being required to underpin the Strategy is available on the RGSB and GambleAware websites.³
7. Broadly speaking, funding of around £1.5 million a year is likely to be needed for these projects in each of 2017-18 and 2018-19.
8. This estimate could change as research requirements are fleshed out in greater depth or as new evidence requirements are identified. The programme is not set in stone and will be reviewed in the light of comments made on it. The research governance and commissioning procedure includes scope for new research opportunities to be identified by stakeholders or researchers.⁴

Education, including prevention

9. The bulk of expenditure on prevention is likely to fall directly on the gambling industry. However, Priority Action 8 of the strategy calls for research to improve understanding of the role education can play in minimising gambling-related harm. Some funding for research into education is included in the research estimate above.
10. It is likely there will be some additional funding requirements beyond this. A number of pilot projects on education and other forms of prevention are likely to need to be funded and evaluated. The exact nature of these pilots will depend among other things on research findings still to be delivered. So the costs are difficult to estimate now. But it seems prudent at this stage to allocate at least £1 million a year for this work.

¹ [National Responsible Gambling Strategy](#), RGSB website, April 2016

² [Statement of Intent](#), GambleAware website, August 2012

³ [Research Programme](#), RGSB website

⁴ [Research Commissioning and Governance Procedure](#) (May 2016)

Treatment

11. It is an ambition of the strategy to increase the funding allocated to prevention. But it would be wrong to divert funding away from treatment services that are well-used by those in need of support, provided they can be shown to be cost-effective.
12. GambleAware has made provision of £5.8 million for treatment in its 2017-18 budget and £6.0 million for 2018-19. It is, however, in the process of recommissioning its treatment services. In later years, the further development of the Data Reporting Framework, research into the effectiveness of existing provision and the creation of new treatment pathways could all affect the level of expenditure. So too could better understanding of the level of unmet demand and the reasons for it. At present GambleAware-funded services reach a relatively small proportion of the numbers of those thought to be problem gamblers.
13. For these reasons, it seems sensible at this stage to make provision for expenditure on treatment in later years at levels no lower than in 2016-17, after allowing for inflation, as in GambleAware's strategic plan. The actual amounts required could be significantly different. We would expect expenditure to be higher if GambleAware makes progress towards its stated objective of increasing the proportion of estimated problem gamblers accessing their services from three to nine per cent. And we would expect it to be lower to the extent that retendering services and adopting new treatment pathways results in greater cost-effectiveness.
14. Work under Priority Action 2 on engagement with a wider range of stakeholders could result in other bodies such as the NHS and Public Health England taking greater responsibility for providing treatment to people suffering harm from problem gambling. But it would be unrealistic to count on that happening.

Other funding requirements for harm minimisation

15. Priority Actions 2, 3, 10, 11 and 12 of the strategy will also have some costs that may not be captured above. This might include, for example, additional work to support the industry with evaluation⁵, hosting conferences and meetings to support engagement work with public health organisations, or activities to support horizon scanning or ways to engage gamblers. It would be prudent to allocate some budget for these activities on a contingency basis.

⁵ Although the industry would still take on the direct costs of the evaluations themselves.

Overall assessment of funding requirements

16. The table below summarises the very provisional estimates of the funding to deliver the strategy. This excludes any estimates of the administrative costs associated with running GambleAware, and therefore, GambleAware will need to raise additional funds to cover these costs.

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Area	Provisionally estimated funding requirement (£million)		Dependencies
	2017/18	2018/19	
Research	1.5	1.5	Requirements could go up or down as scope of research is set out in more detail.
Education	1.0	1.0	The nature and scale of pilot education or other prevention projects will depend on the findings of current and planned research.
Treatment	5.8	6.0	As more is understood about the effectiveness of treatment and its accessibility it is likely that funding requirements will be adjusted.
Other investment in harm minimisation	1.0	1.0	Other costs are likely to be incurred in relation to delivery of other parts of the strategy.
Total	9.3	9.5	In addition to this total, GambleAware will need to raise additional funds to cover running costs and other activities in support of their charitable objects.