

Minutes of the meeting of the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board held on 1 December 2010

Present:

Chris Bell

Henrietta Bowden-Jones

Neil Goulden

Richard Ives

Alan Jamieson (arrived during item 3)

David Miers

Julia Neuberger (Chair)

Eleanor Roaf

In attendance:

Matt Barnard (items 1 to 3 only)

Jim Fearnley

Priscilla Padroni

Vera Schneider (items 1 to 3 only)

Natalie Simpson (minutes)

Carol Stone

Jenny Williams

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Paul Bellringer and Professor Gerda Reith.

2 Declarations of interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

3 NatCen longitudinal scoping study presentation

NatCen presented “Scoping study: a longitudinal study of problem gambling” and the following additional comments were made:

- Power calculations show that a large sample size of at-risk and problem gamblers would be required in order to ascertain which factors are associated with changes in status between the two groups.
- NatCen focused on how to locate problem gamblers rather than also at-risk gamblers, as problem gamblers are a smaller group that are more difficult to find.
- The presentation focused on the feasibility of finding 600 problem gamblers, because this number had been identified in the last Prevalence Survey and this number would be expected to be identified in the Understanding Society survey, but NatCen concluded that this number was much too small to research influences of change.
- NatCen recommend five years as the minimum length of time for a survey to gain some insight into influences for changing categories between problem and at-risk gamblers.

The Board made specific requests to NatCen regarding areas of interest to be included in their final report recommendations.

4 Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting on 19 October 2010 were approved as a true record.

Matters arising

The Board was informed that the organisation that had been awarded the tender for the development of the gamble aware website would give their first presentation to the gamble aware editorial panel in mid-December.

5 Governance arrangements 2011 – 2014

The Board was informed that NG, HBJ and PB's appointments to the Board would expire in March 2011 and the Gambling Commission would be asked to renew their appointments for two further years.

It was noted that the Panel Chairs would be asked to look at the number and contribution of Panel members within the next couple of months.

The Board was reminded that the Board and each of the expert Panels will now meet four times per year, rather than up to six times, which does not exclude the opportunity for additional meetings if essential.

The Board was informed that GR would be stepping down as Research Panel Chair due to personal commitments, and DM would take the role of Chair with immediate effect. RI has stood down as Prevention Panel Chair and ER is now the Panel Chair. GR and RI will remain as members of their respective Panels.

6 Minutes of expert Panel meetings

Treatment Panel

At its recent meeting the Panel focused on outcome models and measures, progress of the GRaHM Pilots and attempted to define "brief treatment".

Prevention Panel

The Panel expressed concern about the lack of clarity so far about who would be responsible for development of the gamble aware website content.

It was noted that three prevention forums are being planned for 2011.

Research Panel

It was noted that the Panel planned to focus on priority setting at its next meeting.

7 Update from Gambling Commission

There was discussion about the consultation on the regulatory future of remote gambling in Great Britain. DCMS have not yet made an announcement regarding any decision following the consultation.

JN and JW will meet John Penrose, the Minister responsible for gambling, in December.

There was discussion about pressure on the Commission to resolve 'betting integrity' issues.

JW requested that RGSB informs the Commission where to focus regulatory efforts regarding responsible gambling in precise ways, if possible. It was also requested that RGSB inform the Commission about any relevant research (or lack of) in its B3 regulation review consultation response (discussed under item 12).

The Commission are asking the industry for pre-commitment and loyalty card suggestions.

8 Prevalence survey (BGPS) scenario planning

It was noted that the Research Panel recommended to the Board that RGSB makes a high level immediate response to BGPS 2010 findings in February 2011.

The Board agreed with this recommendation and welcomed the new BGPS chapter examining the characteristics of at-risk gamblers.

It was agreed that there would be a single spokesperson on behalf of the Board at the BGPS publication launch event, to be media trained if required.

9 Strategic funding framework to RGF – 2011/12

The Board noted that the draft strategic funding framework to RGF for 2011/12 would be given to RGF at its next Board meeting in February 2011, in order for the charity to plan and set its budget.

The strategic funding framework to RGF for 2011/12 **was agreed**.

10 National Occupational Standards

The Board noted the update on progress in the development of National Occupational Standards and workforce development. The Standards would be drafted for potential use by staff in employment sectors working with people experiencing gambling-related harm, as no common Standards currently exist. Initial discussions with the industry have been positive.

11 Communications strategy update

The Board noted progress on the implementation of the communications strategy. Meetings have also been held with industry trade publication journalists to provide briefings on the detail of the Strategy 2010.

There was discussion about the need for a communications consultant and it was noted that communications were being directed by the executive, with the consultant acting as a technical adviser. The Board was informed that a targeted media grid has been devised for announcements, which focuses on *why* the news is being announced.

The Board discussed evaluation of the strategy. It was noted that overall evaluation would address qualitative as well as quantitative measures, and each workstream has a separate communications plan and evaluation measuring the success of the project. These evaluations will be linked.

It was agreed that the media grid and first evaluation findings would be provided at the next meeting.

12 Consultation: Gambling Act 2005: Category B3 Gaming Machines: proposals for changes to maximum stake limits and premises' entitlements

The Board noted that RGSB will provide a formal response to the DCMS Category B3 Consultation.

Action: JF to write a consultation response timetable and organise a teleconference with DM, CB and NG.

13 Gambling Commission research briefings

The Board noted the Gambling Commission research briefings.

14 Date of next meeting

The next Board meeting will be held on 24 March at 11am at the University of Glasgow.