

Meeting of the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board: 22 July 2014

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

Time: 10.15 – 14.00

Attendees: Kate Anthony (KA), Chris Kelly (CK) (Chair), Richard Ives (RI), David Miers (DM), Simon Tanner (ST), Henrietta Bowden-Jones (HBJ)

In attendance: Ruth Callaghan (RC), Rebekah Eden (RE), Marc Etches (ME), Neil Goulden (NG), Katherine Jackson (KJ) (minutes), Jonathan Parke (JP), Fiona Phillip (FP), Jonathan Watkin (JW)

Ref	Action:	Status	Minute number / Page
284	Secretariat to update the register of interests to reflect KA's declaration.	Done	1.2/ p2
285	RC to circulate LCCP consultation (together with the relevant provisions of the LCCP) to Board members so that the Board can develop advice to the Commission. RC to draw out any particular points of relevance to the Board.	Done	3.3/ p2
286	Board members to submit comments on the LCCP consultation to RC by Monday 1 September 2014.	Done	3.3/ p2
287	RC to collate Board member responses to the LCCP consultation and include in the Board papers for its meeting in September.	Done	3.3/ p2
288	RC to invite Matthew Hill to the next Board meeting in September to speak about the LCCP consultation.	Done	3.3/ p2
289	RC to look at organising a final meeting of the Machines Group later in the year. To be held once the Trust's machines research has been published.	In progress	3.4/ p2
290	RC to review incorporating treatment updates at future meetings.	In progress	3.6/ p2
291	JW/KA/RC to produce an internal position paper to formulate the Board's lines on social gaming. This should consist of two sides of A4, setting out the Board's concerns and what we will do next.	In progress	4.7/ p4
292	Secretariat to publish information on debt and gambling (HBJ and KJ to review the possibility of jointly writing a paper on gambling and debt for wider publication).	To be done	6.9/ p5
293	Board to recommend to the Commission that it talks to the FCA about banks' corporate responsibility and the giving of credit.	In progress	6.9/ p5

294	Secretariat to work together with the Trust to set up a seminar to explore the need amongst debt advice agencies/charities and treatment providers for resources on debt and gambling.	To be done	6.9/p5
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1: Apologies and declarations of interest

- 1.1 Apologies received from Chris Bell (CB), Russell Hoyle (RH), Sanju George (SG) and Gerda Reith (GR).
- 1.2 Following the meeting, KA declared an interest. She has a new PhD student starting with her on 1 August 2014, who is being funded by GamCare.

Action: Secretariat to update the register of member interests to reflect KA's declaration.

- 1.3 CK welcomed NG and FP to the meeting. This is to be RE's last meeting as she is due to leave the Commission shortly.

2: Minutes and matters arising from meeting on 14 May 2014: RGSB 14 04 (01)

- 2.1 SG noted outside of the meeting that he attended the last Board meeting on 14 May - the minutes will be updated to reflect this.
- 2.2 The minutes of the meeting were approved.
- 2.3 All actions have been dealt with.

3: Developing the Strategy: RGSB 14 04 (02)

- 3.1 The position paper on young people and gambling-related harm had been published. We have not received any feedback to date, but plan to share with other organisations over the coming months. CK suggested that we use the paper as a model going forward. The endnotes add authority to the paper but are not intrusive as they are contained separately at the end.
- 3.2 The self-exclusion advice note to the Commission has been published.
- 3.3 The Commission's LCCP consultation closes in October.

Action: RC to circulate LCCP consultation (together with the relevant provisions of the LCCP) to Board members so that the Board can develop advice to the Commission. RC to draw out any particular points of relevance to the Board.

Action: Board members to submit comments on the LCCP consultation to RC by 1 September 2014.

Action: RC to collate Board member responses to the LCCP consultation and include in the Board papers for its meeting in September.

Action: RC to invite Matthew Hill to the next Board meeting in September to speak about the LCCP consultation.

- 3.4 Given PB's departure a new lead will be assigned to KP 6. DM also queried the winding up of the Machines Group.

Action: RC to look at organising a final meeting of the Machines Group later in the year. To be held once the Trust's machines research has been published.

- 3.5 CK set out his conclusions and recommendations following discussions with individual Board members about the effectiveness and future direction of the Board. The Board agreed with his conclusions. It felt that it should be proactive when providing advice, in that it has a role to be alert to issues which it should bring to the attention of the Commission as its advisory body. In terms of the level of commitment from Board members, the expectation is that they provide additional input beyond reviewing the papers and attending meetings. CK welcomes more email discussion amongst Board members between meetings.
- 3.6 It was noted that the Board discussions should include more regular updates on the delivery of treatment services.

Action: RC to review incorporating treatment updates at future meetings.

- 3.7 NG gave an overview of RGT and the challenges and progress of the structure under the current tripartite agreement. RGT would like to invest more in prevention, such as young people, schools, education and assessment of risk. RGT's Trustees will meet again in September to continue to discuss its strategy. RGT is aiming to raise the industry's contribution to £10m (which will be the equivalent of 0.1% of the industry's earnings).

4: Social Gaming: RGSB 14 04 (03)

- 4.1 JW, JP, KA and RC jointly presented the paper.
- 4.2 JP set out details of Parke et al (2013) Social Gambling: Conceptual Difficulties. This explained the different types of social gambling and gaming available. Gainsbury has suggested that the term 'social gambling' should not be used unless it refers to activities which are legally defined as gambling. Social persuasion is a new element not previously found in gambling. Are young people vulnerable? Having someone you trust endorse a product is key for marketing (for example, by 'liking' a game on Facebook). Social gaming might trigger a relapse for problem gamblers.
- 4.3 KA suggested that there may be a need for a longitudinal study. JW confirmed that social gaming questions are likely to be included in the Millennium Cohort Study. KA thinks the issue for RGSB in social gaming is one of treatment and recovery.
- 4.4 JW explained that the Commission has obtained some data from the industry, which it is reviewing. However the data has been supplied on a confidential basis. The Commission's current view is that there is no such thing as the average social gamer. There is no evidence to show that young people are paying or playing in large proportions or quantities.
- 4.5 The Young People Omnibus 2014 includes a social gaming question and will be published in the autumn. Previous waves of this survey has shown that those who participate in social gaming are also more likely to gamble for real money.
- 4.6 RC set out next steps for social gaming. There are implications for the strategy. Given the relevance to young people the Young Persons Group is well placed to handle. A position paper is not necessary at present, however RGSB may wish to provide advice to the Commission in the future.

Action: JW/KA/RC to produce an internal position paper to formulate the Board's lines on social gaming. This should consist of two sides of A4, setting out the Board's concerns and what we will do next.

5: Measuring Harm: RGSB 14 04 (04)

- 5.1 JW presented the paper. The secretariat will work with RGT on measuring harm.
- 5.2 ST suggested that the suggested approach of measuring harm will fit in well with a health economist approach. RI queried whether the paper should refer to 'harms' in the plural. The Board agreed that it should.
- 5.3 HBJ mentioned that the National Problem Gambling Clinic's data on debt, domestic violence and offences can feed into measuring harm. ST suggested that a broader approach to measuring harm would identify how far the effects of problem gambling are felt, such as by children of problem gamblers.
- 5.4 ME noted RGT's support for the approach outlined in the paper.
- 5.5 The Board agreed that the Secretariat should work with the Trust to develop better ways of measuring harm than simply counting cases

6: Understanding Debt: RGSB 14 04 (05)

- 6.1 KJ outlined the reason for the paper, together with who she had engaged with in completing the desk research for the paper.
- 6.2 KJ also noted some errors and provided clarification about paragraph 11 of the paper. The second bullet point contains some incorrect percentages about the level of debt disclosed by gamblers. The Board should refer to GamCare's statistics at Annex B (i) for the correct statistics. Also, these statistics relate to those clients who reported a specific level of debt.
- 6.3 The National Problem Gambling Clinic is planning to produce a paper on gambling and debt. HBJ suggested that she and KJ jointly write a paper, potentially with GamCare also (as it has undertaken relevant work in this area).
- 6.4 DM queried whether a spread betting model could be applied. Manageable and unmanageable debt should be differentiated.
- 6.5 DM also suggested that when reviewing the statistics from treatment providers, what was not clear was the longevity of the debt, and how the debtor manages that debt? DM suggested asking some conceptual and individual questions to establish a fuller picture. When a customer asks to open an account, could the non-remote sector use this as a trigger for customer interaction?
- 6.6 ME noted that the paper and that follow up work is relevant to the Trust's work on measuring harm, as debt is an indicator of harm. RGSB/RGT should encourage further local interaction such as that which is happening in Wales with debt advice (for example, as a result of the GRaHM pilots). ME also suggested contacting organisations such as Money Advice Scotland and whether this issue could be highlighted at relevant conferences.
- 6.7 KJ noted that the FCA appear to be doing work to prevent people becoming in debt, which could align with RGSB's preventative approach to gambling-related harm. The Wales Centre for Health has previously recognised that debt should be considered as a public health issue, and this also aligns with RGSB's public health approach to gambling harm.

6.8 The Board considered possible next steps and decided:

- a) The information contained in the paper should be published.
- b) RGSB should encourage the Commission to talk to the FCA about banks' corporate responsibility and the giving of credit.
- c) The secretariat and the Trust should set up a seminar to explore the need amongst debt advice agencies/charities and treatment providers for resources on debt and gambling, and to forge partnerships with other bodies with a view to gambling-related debt to be seen as a higher profile issue.

Action: Secretariat to publish information on debt and gambling (HBJ and KJ to review the possibility of jointly writing a paper on gambling and debt for wider publication).

Action: Board to recommend to the Commission that it talks to the FCA about banks' corporate responsibility and the giving of credit.

Action: Secretariat to work together with the Trust to set up a seminar to explore the need amongst debt advice agencies/charities and treatment providers for resources on debt and gambling

7: Update from the Responsible Gambling Trust: RGSB 14 04 (06)

7.1 ME spoke to the paper. RGT's next fund raising activity is a Great Wall of China sponsored trek. He is encouraging those from all fields to become involved. MR ran through the Trust's research publications, including 'Self-exclusion as harm minimisation in Great Britain: an overview of the academic evidence and perspectives from industry and treatment professionals' (which was a joint effort with RGSB). The redeveloped InfoHub site will not be ready by 31 July 2014 but will be soon afterwards.

7.2 The Trust's Treatment Panel has now met for the first time. The Panel's terms of reference should refer to the RGSB strategy. The Panel discussed the data reporting framework. It will be a condition of treatment providers' funding to adhere to this framework (contracts are due to be renewed in September 2014).

7.3 JP ran through his handout, 'RGT Research at a Glance'. ST suggested that the table include a column which lists the research questions which the research is seeking to answer. ME explained that these are on the website and invited ST to review it and let him know if he required anything further.

8: AOB: RGSB 14 05 (07)

8.1 None.

Next meeting: 23 September 2014, 10.15am – 2pm, Government Art Collection, London