

Minutes of the meeting of the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board held on 13 March 2012

Venue: Gala Coral, 71 Queensway, London, W2 4QH

Time: 10.30am

Present:

Russell Hoyle	RH
Richard Ives	RI
Alan Jamieson	AJ
David Miers	DM
Brian Pomeroy (Chair)	BP
Eleanor Roaf	ER

In attendance:

Ruth Callaghan	RC
Marc Etches	ME
Marc Hannis (minutes)	MH

Apologies:

Chris Bell	CB
Paul Bellringer	PB
Henrietta Bowden-Jones	HBJ
Gerda Reith	GR

Actions:	Status	Minute number / Page
RC to invite Board members to provide their views on i) the Statement of Intent, and ii) the Responsible Gambling Trust's Strategic Objectives and then feed this back to the Responsible Gambling Trust.	In hand	3 / p4
RI to forward abstracts of the papers from the New Zealand conference and produce a short report for distribution to the Board.	In hand	5 / p5
RC to follow up with ME on RGSB commenting on the constitution and staffing structure at the Responsible Gambling Trust as it emerges.	In hand	6 / p5
RC to coordinate efforts for the panels to report on their key achievements.	In hand	6 / p6
RC to ask the Commission whether advice will be fed into the Department for Education.	In hand	6 / p6
RC to discuss the issue of perceptions of industry funding to treatment providers by clients with the Responsible Gambling Trust and PHAST with a view to bringing it back to the group as a future agenda item.	In hand	6 / p6
RC to liaise with ME on the Information hub and report back to the Board as appropriate.	In hand	6 / p6
RC to follow up with ME on the availability of the ALSPAC study and circulate copies to members of the group.	In hand	6 / p6
RC to make the necessary arrangements re the away day and ensuring this is a substantive agenda item at the next Strategy Board meeting.	In hand	7 / p7
RC to circulate future meeting dates to members.	In hand	10 / p7
A joint communications strategy to be considered at the next meeting. RC to send contact details to Board members should they be contacted by the media.	In hand	10 / p8
DM to liaise with RC on the support he might require for the chapter on problem gambling he has been asked to author.	Completed	10 / p8

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Chris Bell, Paul Bellringer, Henrietta Bowden-Jones and Professor Gerda Reith.

2 Declarations of interest

No new conflicts of interest were declared.

3 Tripartite structure: updates and discussion

The Chair updated the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (the Board) on activity that had taken place since the last meeting, highlighting the meeting with the Minister, the Select Committee hearing and the ongoing discussions on finalising the Statement of Intent between the Gambling Commission (the Commission), RGSB and Responsible Gambling Trust (the Trust).

In respect to the intent, the Chair summarised RGSB's priorities for the new arrangements as follows:

- The RGSB must be the determinative voice on developing the strategy and would expect the Trust to implement the strategy, subject to funding and feasibility.
- Evaluation is critical and must be independent and built into work from the start.
- The Trust will use common expert resource to maximise transparency and share this resource with RGSB.
- Independence in the commissioning process is important in ensuring credibility with the public.

The Chair advised that the panel chairs meeting that follows the Board would look at the shared resource issue in more detail. The Statement of Intent is still to be agreed but further progress is expected by 17 April when the respective chairs (Neil Goulden, Philip Graf and Brian Pomeroy) will meet.

A number of Board members shared concerns over some of the document content but also acknowledged that the latest draft was much improved and a good step forward. The Board was advised that they would be given the opportunity to comment on this directly with ME shortly.

It was agreed that the new arrangements must be given the Board's full backing in order for it to succeed.

The Chair welcomed ME to the meeting and invited him to provide an update on the current state of play regarding the merger of GREaT and Responsible

Gambling Fund (RGF) to form the Responsible Gambling Trust. The following points were made during the discussion:

- The transfer of all assets, liabilities and people into the new organisation will be completed shortly. GREaT and RGF will formally merge by 1 April with full launch of the Responsible Gambling Trust to follow in mid-April.
- ME identified the need to rebuild trust and credibility with the industry.
- ME invited members to resist the urge to refer to the Responsible Gambling Trust as RGT and instead use its full name, as ME is keen to reinforce clear messages about what the Responsible Gambling Trust's remit is and using the full name over the acronym is a better indication of this.
- ME advised the group that the funding target of £5m had been exceeded and that a target for £6m had been set for 2012/13.
- ME has met with beneficiaries and the current projects to assure them that it is business as usual and funding will continue as promised in the immediate future.
- A full review of activity will take place in due course and members of the Strategy Board will be invited to be a part of this.
- ME commented that he was looking at the balance across the Trustees and stated that by 1 April there will be three to five Independent Trustees alongside five industry Trustees. ME is mindful of ensuring an adequate diversity balance in making these appointments.
- ME agreed to talk to DM about funding a second round of the ALSPAC study
- A number of references were made to the draft Strategic Objectives of the Responsible Gambling Trust as set out in the Statement of Intent. The Board asked if they would get the opportunity to provide comments on this as they felt there were improvements and clarifications to be made. ME welcomed this.
- The Chair expressed the need for independence in the commissioning process.
- ER asked how RGSB would be assured that current and future spend would represent the best value for money. Some board members previously also sat on RGF and therefore had experience of some of the contracts. It was noted that the auditors Sayer Vincent are now engaged in governance audits of its beneficiaries. It was agreed that ME would keep RC up to date on progress with contracts.
- Strategy Board members welcomed the stance on ensuring ongoing and open dialogue between the Board and the Responsible Gambling Trust.

Action: RC to invite Board members to provide their views on i) the Statement of Intent, and ii) the Responsible Gambling Trust's Strategic Objectives and then feed this back to the Responsible Gambling Trust.

4 Appointment of members

BP reported that the appointment period for some members of the Board had expired on 29 February. He had asked these members, and they had

agreed, to accept extensions of six months to their contracts while consideration is given to the future composition of the Board.

5 Feedback from New Zealand Conference

RI highlighted the papers he spoke to at the conference, reporting favourable responses. RI spoke to PB's abstract on 'a strategic approach to problem gambling' and to his own, entitled: 'Reaching and engaging parents: lessons from drug prevention inform a gambling prevention.'

RI provided a brief summary of some of the other topics that were attracting interest at the conference.

Action: RI to forward abstracts of the papers from the New Zealand conference and produce a short report for distribution to the Board.

6 Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting on 19 December 2011 were agreed to be a true record.

Matters arising

Consultation with RGSB on the new structure for Responsible Gambling Trust

ER commented that RGSB had not yet been consulted on the Responsible Gambling Trust's constitution and staffing structure. It was agreed that this would be addressed via feedback on draft Responsible Gambling Trust Strategic Objectives.

Action: RC to follow up with ME on RGSB commenting on the constitution and staffing structure at the Responsible Gambling Trust as it emerges.

Website articles on panel achievements

Originally this item invited ER, with the Executive, on behalf of the Education Harm Prevention Panel (EHP) to write an article for the website to demonstrate what RGF has achieved so far in respect of education and harm prevention. It was agreed that this would be a useful exercise for all three panels to follow. Members felt that it was an appropriate time to reflect on this. Panel chairs agreed to take this forward.

Action: RC to coordinate efforts for the panels to report on their key achievements.

6.1 PSHE consultation response

RC outlined the Gambling Commission's (the Commission's) intention to share the advice provided by the RGSB on this matter with GamCare and the

Trust. The Board agreed that there are potential handling issues to consider on this and the suggestion was made that a meeting with GamCare to talk this through would be the prudent way forward.

It was also noted that it was not the RGSB's role to ensure the advice provided is incorporated into the PSHE consultation. This would fall to the Gambling Commission.

Action: RC to ask the Commission whether advice will be fed into the Department for Education.

6.2 Perceptions of industry funding to treatment providers by clients

This item will be given more thought by the Secretariat ahead of a decision to include this as an agenda item at the next meeting. RC will discuss with the Responsible Gambling Trust and PHAST to get a better understanding of the issues.

Action: RC to discuss the issue of perceptions of industry funding to treatment providers by clients with the Responsible Gambling Trust and PHAST with a view to bringing it back to the group as a future agenda item.

6.3 Information hub update

ME is taking this matter forward. It was agreed that RC would keep in touch with ME on this and report back as appropriate.

Action: RC to liaise with ME on the Information hub and report back to the Board as appropriate.

6.4 ALSPAC study

Strategy Board members asked whether the ALSPAC study had been formally published yet and, if so, whether copies could be circulated?

Action: RC to follow up with ME on the availability of the ALSPAC study and circulate copies to members of the group.

7 DCMS Triennial Review of Stakes and Prizes

The Chair invited RC to introduce this item. RC commented that DCMS and the Gambling Commission will be working on the review of stake and prize limits for gaming machines over the coming months. It is very likely that advice will be requested from the Strategy Board. The Strategy Board Panel chairs have also agreed to attend the Gambling Commission Board Awayday on 26 April and machines research and evidence of risk and effective prevention and treatment will be the topic for the session.

The following comments were made by the Board:

- Advice will be required by the end of the year and this provides a very short window of opportunity to feed into the debate.
- There is some evidence we can turn to from the Australian Productivity Commission report but it does not go as far as providing causal links. In the absence of anything else it might be of some limited use although it must be acknowledged that Australia is different to Britain and the evidence wouldn't carry much weight here.
- the Board must begin to plan future work in this area and open discussions on this now so that it is able to feed into future reviews and be better sighted on the issues of stakes and prizes.
- Regulation through technology and collaborative projects with the industry were deemed as sensible potential ways forward.

Board Members agreed that the forthcoming Gambling Commission Board Awayday on 26 April was the ideal opportunity to begin gathering thoughts on this. It was also agreed that this would be a substantive item at the next Board meeting.

Action: RC to make the necessary arrangements re the awayday and ensuring this is a substantive agenda item at the next Board meeting.

8 Minutes of expert panel meetings

The Board noted the minutes from recent Research, Education and Harm Prevention, and Treatment Panel meetings.

9 Gambling Commission research briefing

The Board noted the Gambling Commission research briefing.

10 AOB

10.1 Date of next meeting

Dates for the remaining meetings in 2012 will be circulated in due course.

Action: RC to circulate future meeting dates to members.

10.2 Future arrangements for T&S

Claiming for Travel and Subsistence from 1 April will mirror the current arrangements. The Commission will need to set up RGSB members as suppliers on their financial system to facilitate this and will be in contact shortly to ensure they have the most up to date information.

Communications plan

The Chair suggested that the Strategy Board might want to consider reviewing the communications plan given the recent media coverage of the

ALSPAC study. RC agreed to work with the Commission's Corporate Affairs team. ME to consider the best approach and send out the Commission's press office details to members should they be contacted by journalists.

Action: A joint communications strategy to be considered at the next meeting. RC to send contact details to Board members should they be contacted by the media.

10.3 RGSB website

Management of the RGSB website will be managed by the secretariat from 1 April. It is anticipated that this will require minimum maintenance in the long term although some initial work is needed to bring the current site up to date with the new arrangements.

10.4 Reciprocal observing arrangements

It was agreed that it would be useful to have a Responsible Gambling Trust observer presence at future Strategy Board meetings. It was agreed that future agendas would be structured to allow for items requiring a closed RGSB session to feature at the beginning or end of the agenda.

10.5 Chapter on problem gambling authored by DM

DM outlined the invitation he had received to provide a chapter on problem gambling for a book that is in development. He asked if he could proceed with this and enquired about whether any support might be available to him on this, given that Carol and Natalie had offered support but this was no longer available. Members agreed that DM should proceed and that he should liaise with RC on what support might be available.

Action: DM to liaise with RC on the support he might require for the chapter on problem gambling he has been asked to author.

10.6 Gambling with the future conference

AJ informed the group that he and DM would be speaking shortly at a conference in Scotland entitled 'Gambling with the future'.