


Responsible Gambling Strategy Board - quarterly update

For Board approval	
For Board briefing	
For Board steer	
For Board information	

Prepared by:

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Executive summary

1. This quarterly update on the progress of the Research, Education and Treatment (RET) arrangements provides an update under these headings:
 - governance arrangements
 - development of RGSB advice
 - progress against the Strategy.
2. The letter from the RGSB to the Chair setting out progress against the 2013-16 RGSB Strategy was submitted to the Commission on 18 February 2014 and later published on the RGSB website. The Commission has not yet formally responded.
3. Board is invited to note the update.

Issues

Governance arrangements

4. The RGSB Board met on 11 March and 14 May 2014. The Trust also met on 6 March and 8 May 2014. The Trust's Research Committee met on 13 March 2014.
5. The RET Chairs' meetings are continuing quarterly and met on 25 February and on 29 April 2014. An additional meeting had been suggested between the RET Chairs and with the Trust's independent Trustees, however it had not been possible to get this in the diary ahead of the RET Chair's meeting on 29 April 2014.
6. The RET Chairs meeting on 29 April was therefore used as an opportunity to review the relationships between the Commission, RGSB and the Trust. The meeting focussed on how ongoing partnership can be improved, how to foster a common 'engine room' between the bodies and how the existing 'expert groups' might be reorganised to best ensure the delivery of the Strategy.
7. It was agreed at the meeting on 29 April that a protocol would be written that better defines how openness between the three bodies can be improved at both an executive (informal) level and through the Boards and existing governance arrangements (formal). This includes ensuring that an open dialogue is achieved at all stages of designing and developing research to ensure that it addresses policy questions about how best to minimise harm from gambling.
8. The longer term role and membership of the RGSB was discussed briefly at the Commission Board meeting on 20 March and discussed again with Chris Kelly and Commissioners on 9 May 2014.
9. The three new Board members (Dr Kate Anthony, Dr Simon Tanner, and Dr Sanju George) visited the Commission on 27 March to meet with key members of staff as part of their induction.
10. The Trust has agreed to establish a new Treatment Panel. The terms of reference are including in the Trust update included at the Annex. This panel will include two RGSB Board members (Simon Tanner and Sanju George). The panel will be focused on the evaluation of treatment outcomes, commissioning treatment provision and leveraging funding for treatment.
11. Ruth Callaghan and Rebekah Eden met Rachel Lampard and Walter Merricks on 5 March 2014 to ensure they are kept up to date with RET progress and issues.

Development of RGSB advice

Machines

12. RGSB published its Gaming Machines Research Framework in March. This document sets out the areas where RGSB believes further research would help us better understand the harm experienced from machine gambling and how best to minimise this harm.
13. The Trust is nearing the end of part 1 of its core research programme into detecting probable patterns of harm in B2 player data. A first stage report is expected soon in which NatCen and Featurespace will draw conclusions about whether patterns can be detected and make recommendations for the next stage of research. It is envisaged that stage 2 will involve matching data to individuals to better understand whether harm has occurred.

Advertising and marketing

14. The review by Dr Per Binde of evidence around gambling advertising and marketing was published on 4 April 2014. At present no further research into gambling advertising is planned by the Trust. We will continue to work with the Commission to understand that research, advise what further research might be beneficial and to feed into advice to DCMS.

Young people

15. A position paper on harm prevention among young people is nearly complete and being finalised by the RGSB at its meeting on 14 May. This paper will then be published and will be used by RGSB as the basis for discussions with the Trust about how money might be spent on preventing harm among young people. Next steps are likely to include bringing together key external stakeholders with a role in implementing the paper's recommendations.

Self-exclusion

16. The Trust has shared its draft document *Operator-based approaches to harm minimisation*, with RGSB and the Commission. The report is due to be published in May. The report includes a chapter on the evidence around self-exclusion.
17. RGSB has developed an advice note on self-exclusion to submit to the Commission as part of its review of LCCP. This is also being discussed by RGSB on 14 May.

Progress against the Strategy

18. We are engaging with the Trust on a regular basis to ensure that the Board understands how the Strategy is being implemented through the Trust's commissioning of services and projects. The Trust will be publishing its new Commissioning Plan for 2014-15 in May following on from its next Trustees meeting.
19. The latest update from the Trust on progress is attached at the Annex.

Recommendation

20. Board is asked to note the content of this update paper.