


# GAMBLING COMMISSION

Item 11  
GCP(14)80

## Responsible Gambling Strategy Board - quarterly update

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

**Prepared by:** Secretary to RGSB

**Date:** 27 November 2014

## 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. Progress is being made to rationalise the number of expert groups which govern the work of both RGSB and the Trust. A joint Project Forum is in place to allow officials from RGSB, the Trust and Commission to meet regularly and to share information and find opportunities to work more closely. In 2015 we will be recruiting several new RGSB Board members. We have been working to understand the outputs of the machines research programme and will be providing fuller advice to the Commission in January 2015. Meanwhile RGSB continues to take forward other areas of the strategy including young people, debt, affected others, social gaming and measuring harm.
3. Board is invited to note the update.

## Issues

### Governance arrangements

4. The RGSB Board met on 23 September and 19 November 2014. The Trust met on 11 September and 13 November 2014.
5. The Trust's Research Committee met on 23 October and 2 December. The Trust has agreed to David Miers (RGSB deputy chair) observing at the meetings along with Ruth Callaghan and Matthew Hill. RGSB has decided to suspend its own Research Panel, but will retain the experts on that group to draw upon their expertise when needed. RGSB has agreed that it can perform its necessary duties in relation to research through the main Board meetings and through wider meetings with international academics to test whether our strategic approach to research is right.
6. The new joint protocol between the Commission, RGSB and the Trust is being followed. The Trust has given us much earlier sight of reports. We have also established a joint 'Project Forum' consisting of the executives from the three organisations (terms of reference set out at Annex A). We have met twice to-date and meet again on 17 December. The group has discussed:
  - Handling of the machines research publication
  - Stakeholder engagement and monitoring
  - Developing the Trust's Infohub as a common tool for assessing the external evidence base
  - Setting up a series of seminars on common topics such as harm prevention for young people, tackling gambling-related debt, and raising the profile of gambling amongst public health commissioners.
7. Chris Kelly has discussed with the Commission the need to recruit new RGSB Board members in 2015, when several terms come to an end. A recruitment process will take place next year and discussions are taking place about the types of expertise that

should be added to the Board. Dr Sanju George has resigned from the Board due to family commitments.

8. The Trust's Treatment Panel continues to meet and panel members have undertaken a series of visits to the network of Trust-funded treatment providers. The Panel has focussed on treatment contract renewals including agreeing an approach for leveraging public money in the longer term. They have also signed off the common data reporting framework which is now being implemented across GamCare, Gordon Moody Association and the National Problem Gambling Clinic. Targets are in place to ensure that data quality within the data returns improves over time.

## **Development of RGSB advice**

### ***LCCP***

9. On 6 November RGSB wrote to the Commission setting out its views in relation to the LCCP consultation (attached at Annex B). The Board discussed the consultation at both its Board meetings on 23 September and 19 November and will continue to engage with the Commission where further advice and input might be required.

### ***Machines***

10. The Trust has shared all eight pieces of research with us in draft form and we provided feedback and questions to the authors at the same time that the reports were being peer reviewed. A summary and update on next steps was provided to Commissioners at the Policy Board discussion on 12 November 2014.
11. Matthew Hill attended the Trust's briefing with the Minister on 17 November. The Commission, with RGSB input, has contributed to the DCMS questions and answers and press lines.
12. RGSB is ready to develop fuller advice to the Commission following the presentation of the research on 10 December at the Trust's conference and the closed session with the report authors on 11 December. RGSB's Machines Group is meeting on 17 December to assess:
  - how far the RGSB's machines research framework has been addressed through the research programme to date
  - implications for RGSB advice
  - the most appropriate next steps.

### ***Young people***

13. Following the publication of our position paper on young people and gambling-related harm in July 2014 the RGSB secretariat continues to monitor developments and opportunities to engage with other organisations. We attended the Parentzone conference about digital families at the end of October and are working closely with the Trust to determine the high level research questions which need addressing in relation to young people and gambling. The Trust has identified young people as one of its priority research topics going forward.

### ***Gambling-related debt***

14. RGSB has written to the Commission to recommend we collectively approach the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to discuss what steps it might take to encourage lenders to consider gambling and debt when making funds available to customers.
15. The Secretariat is also preparing an information paper on gambling-related debt which we will publish in early 2015.

### ***Other topics***

16. RGSB Board has also been considering the following issues:
  - 'Affected others' – what evidence there is about the impact on people beyond the problem gambler, and what current support is in place through Trust-funded providers and other organisations. Paper RGSB 14 06 (06) can be made available on request.
  - Social gaming – RGSB has developed its own internal position on social gaming to complement the position reached by the Commission. Paper RGSB(14)06 (05) can also be made available on request.
  - Measuring gambling-related harm –recent discussions have taken place with Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Professor Alex Blaszczynski, University of Sydney. The Trust plan to undertake a scoping exercise in 2015, however, RGSB aims to set out its views on what is required in advance of this work being commissioned.

### **Progress against the Strategy**

17. The latest update from the Trust on progress is attached at Annex C.

### **Recommendation**

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