


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. Recruitment for new Board members is underway. RGSB has provided the Commission with its Strategy update letter, machines advice and views on the review of marketing and advertising in February 2015. Plans are in place to discuss next steps on research, particularly the evaluation of new industry harm minimisation approaches.
3. Board is invited to note the update.

Issues

Governance arrangements

4. The RGSB Board met on 27 January 2015 and the Trust met on 14 January 2015. The RET Chairs (Philip Graf, Chris Kelly and Neil Goulden) met on 4 February.
5. The Trust's Research Committee met on 25 January at which it considered two further pieces of machines research (see below). A research planning workshop between the Commission, RGSB and the Trust is being planned for March. This will offer opportunity to ensure that the research programme addresses next steps for machines research as well as a wider programme which allows the new harm minimisation approaches set out within LCCP to be evaluated.
6. The shared Project Forum, consisting of officials between the Commission, RGSB and the Trust continues to meet (17 December and 2 February) and discuss areas of common interest.
7. The external Advisory Group planned for 2 February was postponed and is being rescheduled for March when we can have a fuller discussion about the machines advice, the revised LCCP and the next iteration of the RGSB Strategy.
8. A number of RGSB Board member contracts come to an end during 2015. Chris Kelly has recommended to the Commission that some of these are extended for continuity purposes and that two (Gerda Reith and Chris Bell) are allowed to end in April and July respectively. A process to recruit new members with the following expertise is currently in place:
 - Understanding of addictive behaviour
 - Harm prevention approaches within fields such as alcohol, obesity or drugs
 - Working with vulnerable children and young people
 - Social and digital media, particularly in their use to prevent harm
 - Techniques of evaluation and outcome measurement.
9. The Trust's Treatment Panel continues to meet and is overseeing the re-contract for GamCare and the implementation of the Data Reporting Framework.

Development of RGSB advice

Strategy update

10. RGSB has produced its annual progress update to the Commission (Annex A). A response has been prepared by the Commission which is set out at Annex B.

Machines

11. The Trust published seven research reports on gaming machines on 1 December and the researchers presented the results at its annual harm minimisation conference on 10 December. RGSB convened a closed session with the researchers and Board members on 11 December to begin to consider its advice. The Commission is holding its own session with the researchers on 25 February.
12. RGSB submitted its advice note to the Commission on 6 February. It is attached to this paper at Annex C. RGSB's advice will inform the Commission's formal advice to DCMS, which we plan to submit in March. We intend to share a draft with Commissioners by correspondence between the February and March Board meetings. In order to inform that draft, it would be helpful if Commissioners could discuss at the February Board meeting their views on RGSB's advice.

Other topics

13. RGSB Board has also been considering the following issues:
 - Young people – the Trust has agreed to spend £500k on a programme of harm prevention work aimed primarily at young people. RGSB and the Trust are discussing the approach to spending this money. RGSB will base its views on the approach recommended in the position paper on young people published in July 2014.
 - Gambling-related debt – an information paper on gambling-related debt is to be published shortly.
 - RGSB established its position on social gaming in line with the statement which the Commission published in January 2015.
 - Measuring gambling-related harm – the Board has agreed to develop and publish a position paper on the issues around measuring harm and the implications for public health.
 - Marketing and advertising – RGSB shared the detail of its discussion on the marketing and advertising review with the Commission. RGSB is prepared to offer advice in this area if required.

Progress against the Strategy

14. The latest update from the Trust on progress is attached at Annex D.

Recommendation

15. Board is asked to note the content of this update paper, and to offer views on RGSB's advice note attached at Annex C.