The nature of gambling-related harm for adults with care and support needs

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Outline

1. Gambling in the UK

2. Overview of our research

3. Findings
   1. Scoping review
   2. Interviews with key informants
   3. Interviews with social workers

4. Limitations and conclusions
1. Gambling in the UK
Legislation

Gambling policy has changed dramatically since the 20th Century

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1906 – 1959:</td>
<td>Gambling in Britain was partially prohibited</td>
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<tr>
<td>1960:</td>
<td>Betting and Gaming Act legalised almost all forms of gambling</td>
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<td>1978:</td>
<td>Royal Commission on Gambling concluded that some relaxation of the regulations was warranted</td>
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<td>1984:</td>
<td>Betting Gaming and Lotteries (Amendment) Act allowed a number of relaxations on gambling</td>
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<td>1990s:</td>
<td>Era of gambling liberalisation</td>
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<td>1993:</td>
<td>National Lottery Act Made provision for the setting-up of a National Lottery</td>
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<td>Late 1990s:</td>
<td>Regulations further eased in almost all sectors</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001:</td>
<td>Gambling Review Body Report: 176 recommendations designed to simplify the regulation of gambling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early 21st Century:</td>
<td>Gambling became more liberalised, more varied, more accessible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002:</td>
<td>Department of Culture, Media &amp; Sport report – govt vision</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005:</td>
<td>Gambling Act came fully into force</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007:</td>
<td>New regulator of gambling was established and Gambling Act 2005 came fully into force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016:</td>
<td>Call for evidence published by the DCMS in relation to a review of gaming machines and social responsibility measures</td>
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Industry statistics

- Industry grown from £8.3bn in 2008 to £13.6bn in 2016
  (Public Gaming Research Institute, 2017)

- Tax revenue = £2.7bn in 2016
  (HMRC, 2017)

- Industry expenditure on advertising has reached £1.4 bn
  (Ellson, 2017)
Participation statistics

• 48.4% of adults participated in gambling in 2016
• 17.3% of adults participated in online gambling in 2016

Popular gambling activities include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The National Lottery</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online gambling</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional lottery</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Health Lottery</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The continuum of gambling participation

No gambling

Recreational gambling

At risk gambling

Gambling addiction

Figure 1. The gambling continuum
Types of gambling-related harm (Langham et al., 2016)

DIMENSIONS OF HARM (classification)

TEMPORAL CATEGORY
- GENERAL HARMS
- CRISIS
- LEGACY

FINANCIAL HARM
RELATIONSHIP DISRUPTION, CONFLICT OR BREAKDOWN
EMOTIONAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS
DECREMENTS TO HEALTH
CULTURAL HARM
REDUCED PERFORMANCE AT WORK OR STUDY
CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

LIFECOURSE AND INTERGENERATIONAL HARM
At-risk gambling

• More than **2 million people** in the UK are either problem gamblers or at risk of addiction.

• Problem Gambling Severity Index (Ferris & Wynne, 2001) employed to categorise individuals as problem, moderate-risk, low-risk or non-problem gamblers.

Thinking about the last 12 months...

1. Have you bet more than you could really afford to lose?
   Never=0  Sometimes=1  Most of the time=2  Almost always=3

2. Still thinking about the last 12 month, have you needed to gamble with larger amounts of money to get the same feeling of excitement?
   Never=0  Sometimes=1  Most of the time=2  Almost always=3

3. When you gambled, did you go back another day to try to win back the money you lost?
   Never=0  Sometimes=1  Most of the time=2  Almost always=3

4. Have you borrowed money or sold anything to get money to gamble?
   Never=0  Sometimes=1  Most of the time=2  Almost always=3

5. Have you felt that you might have a problem with gambling?
   Never=0  Sometimes=1  Most of the time=2  Almost always=3

6. Has gambling caused you any health problems, including stress or anxiety?
   Never=0  Sometimes=1  Most of the time=2  Almost always=3

7. Have people criticized your betting or told you that you had a gambling problem, regardless of whether or not you thought it was true?
   Never=0  Sometimes=1  Most of the time=2  Almost always=3

8. Has your gambling caused any financial problems for you or your household?
   Never=0  Sometimes=1  Most of the time=2  Almost always=3

9. Have you felt guilty about the way you gamble or what happens when you gamble?
   Never=0  Sometimes=1  Most of the time=2  Almost always=3

**5.5% of respondents to the Gambling Commission survey were classified as at-risk gamblers**
Problem gambling

• Defined as “gambling to a degree that compromises, disrupts or damages family, personal or recreational pursuits” (Sproston et al., 2000).

• Approximately 360,000 adults are problem gamblers in the U.K. (Gambling Commission, 2016)

• Calls for problem gambling to be considered as a public health issue
Cost of problem gambling

Problem gambling estimated at costing the U.K. between £260m and £1.16bn per year:

- Primary care (mental health) services
- Secondary mental health services
- Hospital inpatient services
- JSA claimant costs and lost labour tax receipts
- Statutory homelessness applications
- Incarcerations

(Thorley et al., 2016)
Gambling & vulnerable people

- “vulnerable people” not defined within the 2005 Gambling Act
- Regulator does “assume that this group includes people who gamble more than they want to, people who gamble beyond their means and people who may not be able to make informed or balanced decisions about gambling due to, for example, mental health, a learning disability or substance misuse relating to alcohol or drugs”
- Licenses for gambling issued by local authorities
Gambling from a safeguarding perspective

Gambling may be brought to the attention of adult social care and/or their safeguarding services:

1. **People with care and support needs** experiencing gambling-related harm
2. **Alleged cases of abuse or neglect** towards such adults as a result of the gambling habits of carers, paid or professional care providers, neighbours, acquaintances and friends, online contacts, or those in positions of trust.

• Under the Care Act 2014 local authorities are responsible for promoting well-being

• Local authorities are also responsible for safeguarding with other agencies

• Mental Capacity Act 2005
  – do adults at risk have the mental capacity to participate in gambling?
  - best interest decisions required?

• Gambling scams
  - Prize draw and sweepstake scams; foreign lottery scams and bogus tipsters
2. Overview of our research

Aims:

1. Improve the **understanding** of gambling-related harm for adults with health and social care needs

2. Examine what key informants **know** about harmful gambling among adults with health and social care needs and their **understanding** of the risks to vulnerable adults arising from their own or others’ gambling participation.

3. Examine what social workers **know** about harmful gambling among adults with health and social care needs, their **understanding** of the risks to vulnerable adults arising from their own or others’ gambling participation and their **management** of cases of gambling-related harm.
Methodology

Three phases:

1. Scoping review
2. Interviews with key informants
3. Interviews with social workers

- 65 pieces of literature
- Telephone/faceto-face interviews conducted with 23 key informants
- Telephone/faceto-face interviews conducted with 15 social workers
Phase 1: Scoping review findings

The nature of gambling-related harms for adults at risk: a review
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Social Care Workforce Research Unit

Safeguarding

- **Some evidence** that adults with care and support needs experience or are at-risk of gambling-related harm

- **Current lack of data** about how this affects adults at risk and safeguarding practice and systems

- **Public health approach** advocated together with effective regulation and support for people who experience gambling-related harm

Phase 1: Scoping review findings

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Social work profession

- Near invisibility of the social worker in gambling research
- Near invisibility of gambling in most professional qualifying social work programmes
- Near invisibility of the impact of gambling on social work clients

Phase 2: Interviews with key informants

23 key informants interviewed

Data organised into 4 themes:

1. Gambling-related harm as a public health problem
2. Uncertainties about the nature and prevalence of gambling-related harm
3. The hidden nature of gambling-related harm
4. Professional activities around harm minimisation
Phase 2: Key findings

Theme 1: Gambling-related harm as a public health problem
- Loneliness
- Gambling with benefit payments
- Harms include depression and financial difficulties
- **But** gambling can be a positive activity
- Shared responsibility
- Duty of care

Theme 2: Uncertainties about the nature and prevalence of gambling-related harm
- Who is vulnerable?
- Lack of data
Phase 2: Key findings

Theme 3: The hidden nature of gambling-related harm
- Lack of discussions with clients about gambling
- Few overt signs of gambling problems

Theme 4: Professional activities around harm minimisation
- Spotting cases of GRH
- Raise public awareness of GRH
- More knowledge of gambling-management tools
- More signposting
Phase 3: Interviews with social workers

15 social workers/individuals involved with safeguarding interviewed

Data organised into 4 themes:
1. Concerns about the pervasiveness of gambling in everyday life and its appeal to adults with care and support needs

2. Lack of knowledge of the complexities surrounding gambling and gambling-related harm

3. Uncertainties of how to support adults with care and support needs experiencing gambling-related harm

4. Desire for professional development activities
Phase 3: Key findings (preliminary)

Theme 1: Concerns about the pervasiveness of gambling in everyday life and its appeal to adults with care and support needs
   - Advertising
   - Accessibility
   - Online gambling
   - Risk of harm, neglect, abuse and exploitation in gambling venues

Theme 2: Lack of knowledge of the complexities surrounding gambling and gambling-related harm
   - Possible impact of GRH for VP
   - No ‘official’ information about gambling or GRH
   - Lack of screening for GRH
Phase 3: Key findings (preliminary)

Theme 3: Uncertainties of how to support adults with care and support needs experiencing gambling-related harm
- Some felt ill-equipped to tackle GRH
- Mental Capacity Act
- Lack of knowledge

Theme 4: Desire for professional development activities
- “I’m a social worker not a mathematician”
- Contact details/links to support services
- Links need to be created between social work and the gambling industry (especially venue staff)
- Gambling operators members of Safeguard Adults Boards?
Limitations

• Experiences and views of adults with care and support needs affected by gambling-related harms not collected (although a service user & carer advisory group consulted).

• Risk of sample bias – volunteers particularly interested.

• Risk of partial or inaccurate recall.

• NB This was an exploratory study – the first on the subject in the UK.
Conclusions

• Limited evidence about whether adults at risk are more affected by gambling related harm than anyone else.

• Surprising lack of engagement with the issue by key charities representing adults at risk – only one organisation recently started screening.

• Lack of attention to gambling by social workers professionals but some have experience of managing incidences of gambling-related harm.

• Agreement and worry about too much gambling advertising and the availability of gambling.
Self-exclusion schemes

https://self-exclusion.co.uk/

http://www.playingsafe.org.uk/sense-information


Gamstop - new remote gambling self-exclusion scheme to be launched in 2018
 Responsible gambling week

Let's talk about Responsible Gambling

12th - 18th October 2017

- Set your limits
- Only spend what you can afford
- Never chase your losses
- Don't gamble if you're angry or frustrated
- Never put gambling before your friends and family
Forthcoming publications


Orford, J. (2011). An Unsafe bet? The dangerous rise of gambling and the debate we should be having. West Sussex, John Wiley & Sons Ltd.


Thanks for listening!
(& thanks to study participants and funders)

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