Better Together

Age UK Lambeth's
Gambling Service

Lambeth
age UK

OUR SERVICE

Gamble Aware commissioned our service with the aim of supporting the wider social needs of minority communities and women experiencing gambling-related harms in Lambeth

The Better Together team is made up of four members: Francesca, Chanelle, Carmelo and Chantal, who provide a social prescribing intervention

We work in partnership with the Primary Care Gambling Service which provides specialist support

OUR SERVICE

We raise awareness of gambling harms and provide one-on-one guidance to individuals struggling with gambling issues, as well as those affected by someone else's gambling. Our approach is confidential, compassionate, and non-judgmental.

We direct clients to the most appropriate services, such as mental health support, financial and housing advice, community organisations or specialist gambling services.

We provide culturally aware support that respects and understands the unique needs and experiences of women and minority communities.

MINORITY COMMUNITIES AND WOMEN AFFECTED BY GAMBLING

The above cohort tends to gamble less frequently than their White counterpart, but are more likely to face gambling harms.

Minority groups members who have had experience of racism and discrimination have been found more likely to gamble compared to people of the same group who hadn't (pointing to a correlation between the two).

Language barriers and unawareness of support available are other contributing factors.

There seems to be a stronger sense of shame associated to gambling in minority groups and a higher demand of services.

Women who experience GRHs can often have a heightened sense of guilt and shame, with stigma presenting a barrier in accessing treatment and support.

What To Expect From Our Service

Step 1: Referral Process

- Following an initial consultation, we work collaboratively with individuals to develop personalised plans with clear, achievable goals.

Step 2: Ongoing Support

- We maintain regular contact with clients to monitor progress and adjust the plan as needed, with flexibility to assist over the phone or in person.

Step 3: Case Closure & Follow-Up

- A case is closed once agreed-upon goals are met or if the client feels ready to move forward independently. We ensure they are empowered with tools and resources to maintain progress.

TERMINOLOGY

‘Gambling-related harms’ are the adverse consequences suffered by the individual

GRHs can have a negative impact on ‘affected others’, communities and the society at large

Gambling harms can be ‘low’, ‘moderate’, and ‘severe’. The PGSI measures the level of harms in a gambler

The DSM-5 recognises gambling as a potential behavioural ‘disorder’, if some criteria are met

REASONS FOR GAMBLING

- Winning big money
- Fun/excitement
- Socialisation
- Copying mechanism/escapism
- ATM model (Access, Time, Money)

MAIN TYPES OF GAMBLING

- National Lottery (31%)
- Other charity lotteries (16%)
- Scratchcards (13%)
- Betting shops (9%)

SOME FIGURES

48% of the UK adult population is involved in gambling

3% suffer from gambling related harms

Of the 340,000 people with GRHs, only 9,000 people (3%) accessed specialist support

The 45–54-year-olds are the group that gambles the most

In 2019 the gambling industry made £14 billion in profits

The gambling industry spends £1.5 billion per year on advertising

Cost of gambling to public purse is around £1 billion

Harmful gambling increases the risk of suicide by up to 15 times

Mini PGSI
(Problem Gambling Severity Index)

https://apps.nhslothian.scot/files/sites/2/PGSI-Mini-Screening-Tool-gambling.pdf

Questions

- In the last 12 months, have you gambled more than you can afford to lose
- In the last 12 months, have people criticised your gambling or told you that you had a gambling problem (regardless of whether you thought it was true)?

RISK FACTORS/VULNERABLE GROUPS

- Cultural
- Gender, genetics
- Socio-economic status
- Mental health (depression, substance misuse, ADHD, Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Parkinson's Disease)
- Adverse childhood experiences
- Members of the armed forces
- Homeless people
- BAME communities

CONTACTS and REFERRALS

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Francesca Ceserani, Women's Gambling Link Worker: francesca@ageuklambeth.org

Chantal Quadrucci, Minority Communities Gambling Link Worker: chantal@ageuklambeth.org

Referral form: https://podio.com/webforms/29561028/2434871