



# Tackling Gambling Related Harm in Custody Suites

A public health issue



# Session Overview

- ① Overview of work with custody suites (the journey)
- ② What benefits will it achieve?
- ③ Why will it achieve those benefits?
- ④ Next steps...

# The Journey

Over the last 4 years:

- Howard League Community Winner with Cheshire Police
- Howard League Commission
- Research and Evidence Compilation
- Refinement of model
- Extending our work to 6 police forces in England
- Further extension to Scotland and Wales

**£5m investment**



# Howard League

**"We can estimate that problem gamblers are 4.4 times more likely to be in prison than the average member of the population. Costing between £40 and £190 million per year."**

IPPR Cards on the Table - Nov 2016



## Arresting Problem Gambling in the UK Criminal Justice System

RAISING AWARENESS AND SCREENING FOR PROBLEM GAMBLING AT THE POINT OF ARREST

# Summary of Key Recommendations

*'Introduce systematic problem gambling screening, assessment and service referral processes across the criminal justice system'*



# The Future?

**1.5 – 2 million  
CJS entrants**

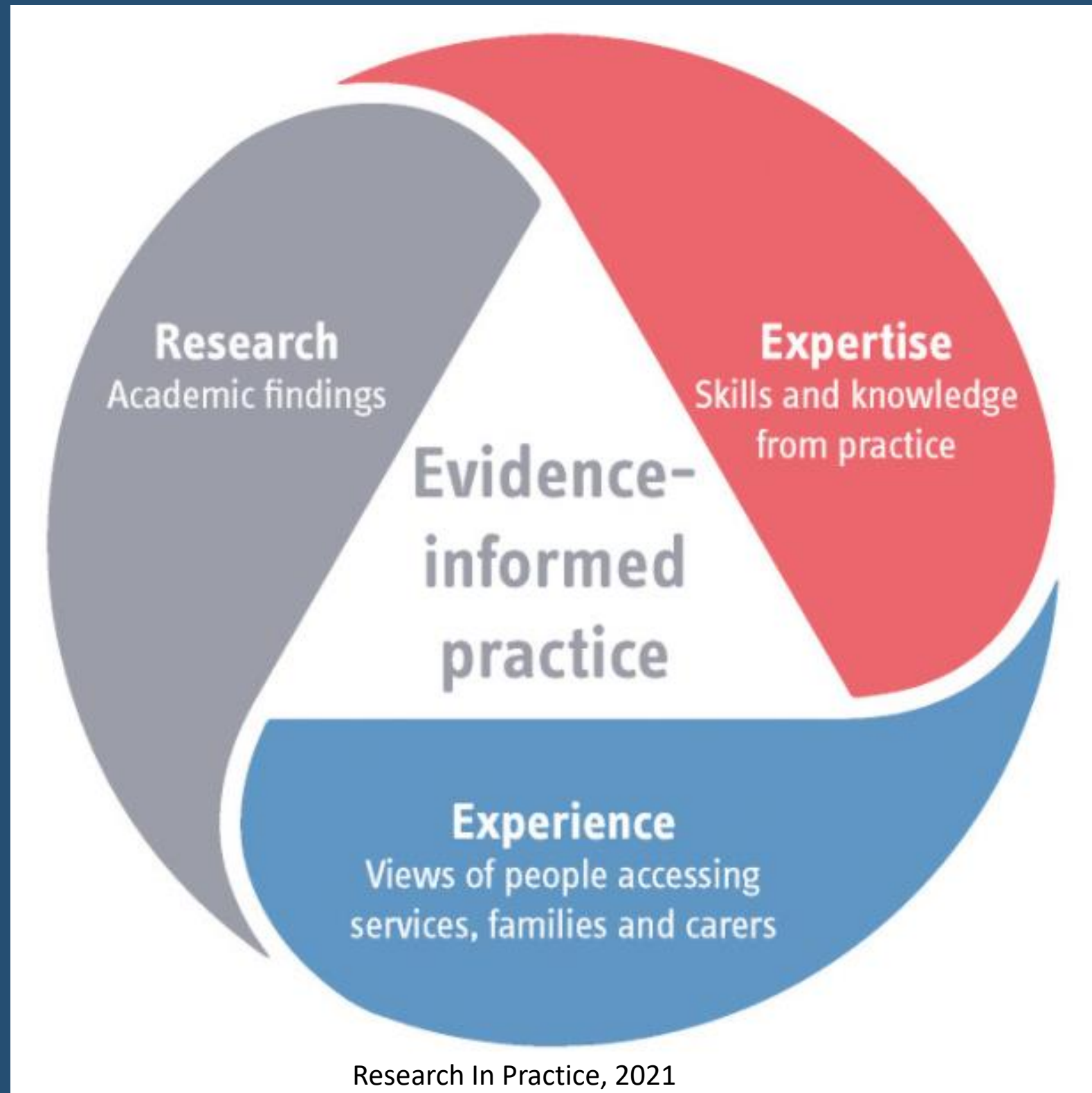
**Screening in every  
police force?**

**75,000 possible  
treatment  
interventions?**

**Up to 260,000+  
screenings and  
EBI?**



# Background Modelling



To ensure the programme theory of change is '**evidence-informed**' and accurately responsive

# Situation Overview

- Gambling-related harms are now recognised as a significant public health issue in Great Britain
- There is a need for standardised public health messaging and education to prevent or reduce gambling-related harms
- The link between criminality and gambling is evidence
- A primary touch point for this is the custody suite



# Link Between Criminality & Problem

## Gambling

Problem Gambling - Pathological Gambling



Serious & Organised Crime

Community Violence & Homicide

Pre-Planned Criminality (Theft and Major Fraud)

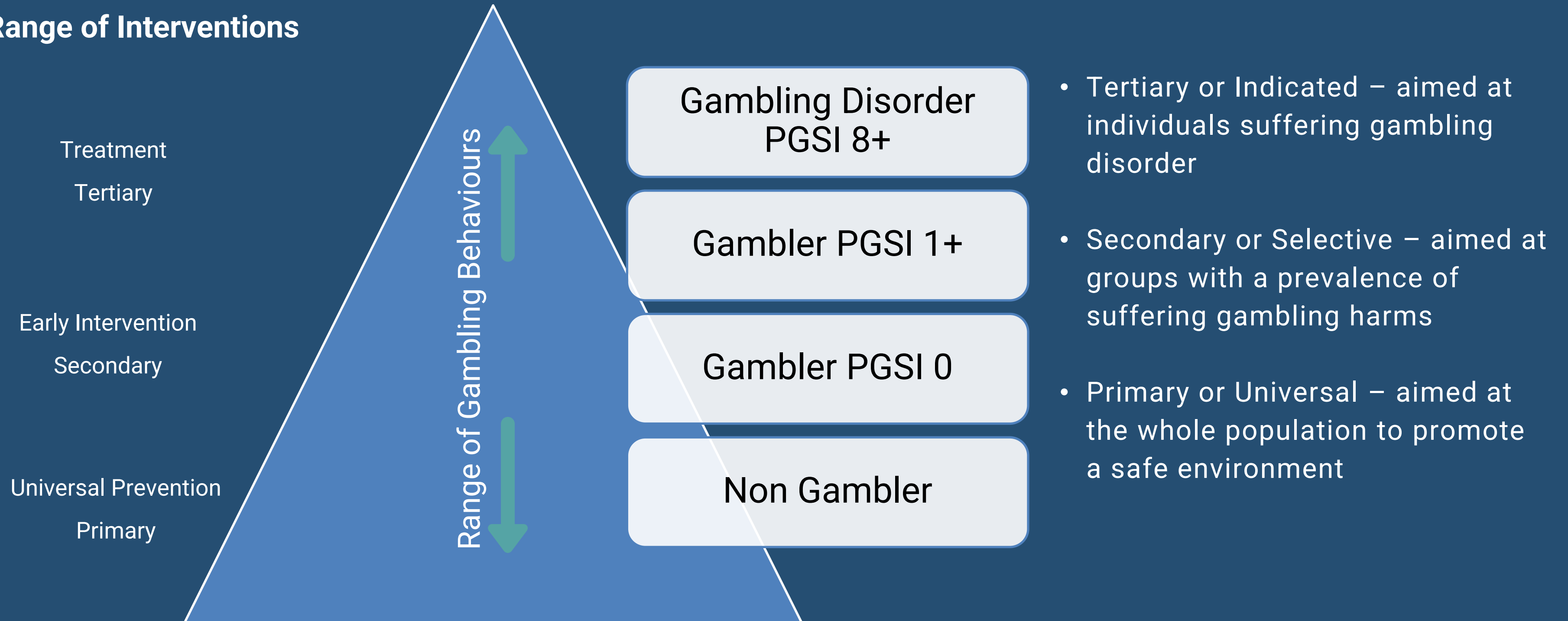
Theft from Employers / Organisations due to  
Accessibility / Opportunity

Engagement with Illegal Money Lending (link  
with S&O) Domestic Violence, Larger Domestic  
Thefts. Credit Card and Mortgage Fraud

Minor Thefts from Friends and Family. Domestic Abuse  
Intimidation and Threatening Behaviour. Child  
Abandonment (Normally Unreported).

# Gambling Harms Public Health Approach

## Range of Interventions



# The National Strategy to Reduce Gambling Harms 2019-2022



GAMBLING  
COMMISSION

**Prevention and Education** – making significant progress towards a clear public health prevention plan which includes the right mix of interventions.

**Treatment and Support** – delivering truly national treatment and support options that meet the needs of users.



# Bet You Can Help Programme

Supporting Individuals Affected by or At Risk of Gambling Related Harms

- Gambling Related Harm Accredited Training Programme – a practical 1<sup>st</sup> Aid approach to the issue
- Accredited Level 2 Award in Supporting Individuals Affected by or At Risk of Gambling-Related Harms administered via The Royal Society of Public Health (RSPH)
- Promotes community-based focused brief advice / interventions aimed at key vulnerable groups such as:
  - BAME Communities
  - Individuals within the Criminal Justice System
  - Armed Forces Community
  - Homeless



# Don't Bet Your Life On It - DBYLOI

## The Safer Gambling Movement

### Don't Bet Your Life On It

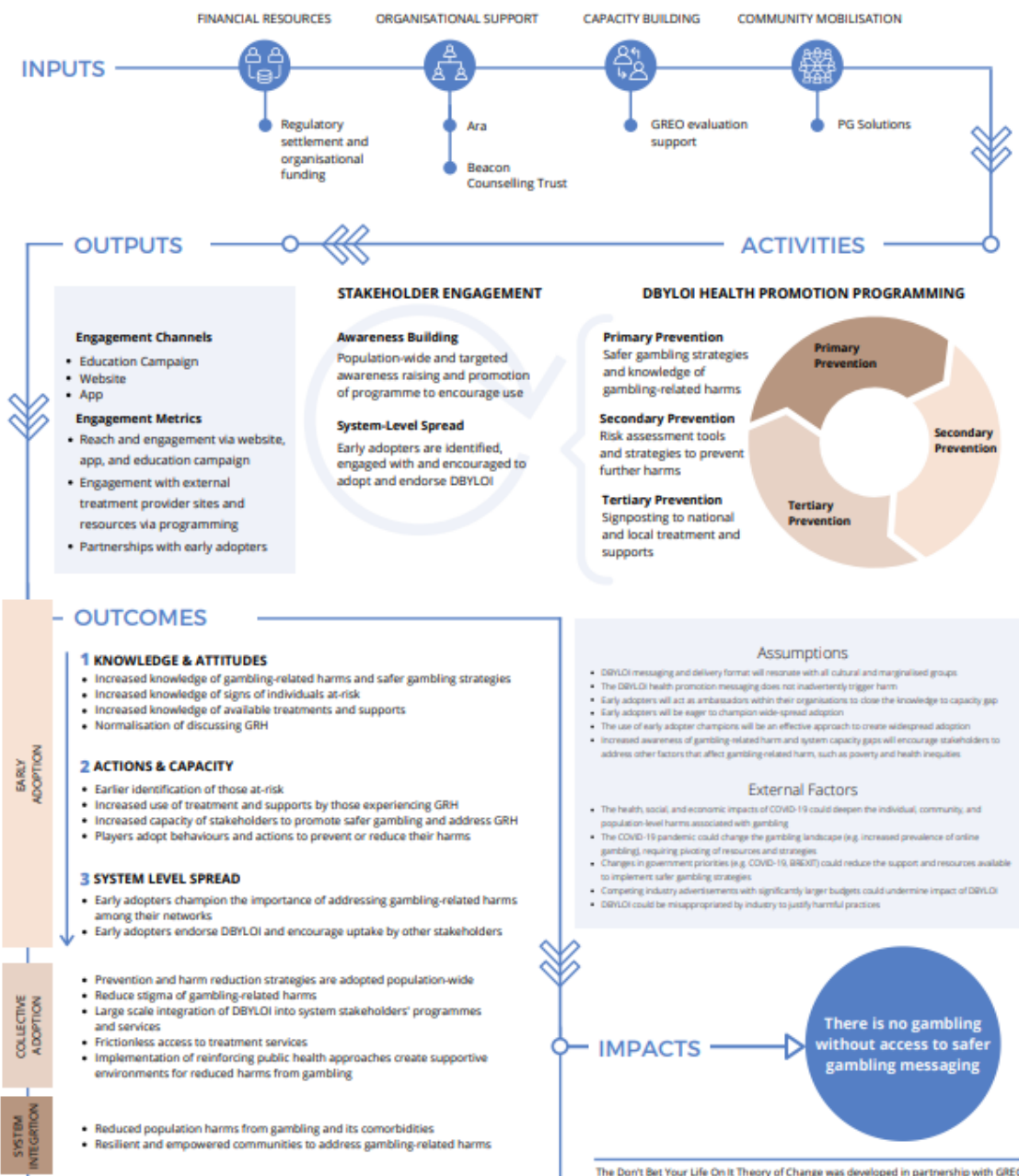


Gambling-related harms are increasingly recognised as a significant public health issue in Great Britain. There is a need for standardised health promotion messaging to prevent or reduce gambling harms. The National Strategy to Reduce Gambling Harms and Public Health England's 2020 - 2025 strategic priorities represent an important window of opportunity to create and scale up evidence-based safer gambling strategies and signposting to treatment and supports.

#### INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

Don't Bet Your Life On It (DBYLOI) blends lived experience and clinical expertise to deliver practical safer gambling strategies that can be accessed anytime and anywhere to prevent any life from being needlessly affected by gambling-related harm.

#### THEORY OF CHANGE



The Don't Bet Your Life On It Theory of Change was developed in partnership with GREO

## Don't bet **YOUR LIFE** on it...

### Raising Standards of Player Protection



"Hi I'm Ed  
Let's talk about  
your gambling..."



# 7 Minute Briefings

## 7 Minute Briefing - 'Harmful Gambling'

### 1 What is the difference between gambling and harmful gambling?

Gambling is simply defined as 'to stake or risk money, or anything of value, on the outcome of something involving chance'. Usually, gambling is a fun and safe leisure activity involving games of chance for money or material goods. However, when a person has the urge to continuously gamble despite negative and harmful consequences or the desire to stop this is identified as 'harmful gambling' and will often require specialist intervention and support to address the issue.

### 2 Why it matters?

Gambling related harm (GRH) research findings show that 47% of the population, aged 16 years and over, have taken part in some form of gambling in the past four weeks. Estimates from various reports published by the Gambling Commission and Gamble Aware respectively, indicate there are between 800,000 to 1.4 million problem gamblers in the UK. The Young People and Gambling Survey in 2019 revealed that 11% (350,000) of 11-16-year olds self-reported to have spent their own money gambling in the last week. These results were found to be higher than smoking tobacco (8%) and illegal drug use (5%). The report also found that as many as 55,000 young people nationally are classified as problem gamblers.

### 3 The impact of harmful gambling.

The level of impact of harmful gambling on both the individual and affected others include mental health and wellbeing issues, higher risk of suicidal ideation/intent, drug and alcohol misuse, financial crisis, problems with education/work, criminality, relationship difficulties and the associated social and psychological impact on affected others. Findings published by the Institute for Public Policy Research in 2016 discovered that harmful gamblers, in contrast to the general population, are:

- 3 times more likely to have visited their GP in the last year due to mental health issues.
- 9 times more likely to be accessing mental health services.
- 6 times more likely to have been a hospital inpatient within the last 3 months.
- 3 times more likely to be claiming Job Seekers Allowance.
- 9 times more likely to access homelessness services.
- 4 times more likely to be in prison.

The report also highlighted that the fiscal cost, by harmful gamblers on the public purse, could be as much as £1.2 billion per year throughout the UK.

### 4 What are the indicators / signs of harmful gambling?

The indicators that an individual's gambling behaviour is problematic and harmful include:

- Preoccupation - often thinking about or planning to gamble.
- Tolerance - needing to gamble with more money to get excitement.
- Withdrawal - negative emotions when trying to cut down on gambling.
- Loss of control - spending more than you plan to (time and money).
- Escape - the motivation for gambling being to escape negative elements of life.
- Chasing losses - gambling to try and win back money that has been lost.
- Lying - gambling leading to lying to friends/family.
- Illegal acts - taking money without permission, misusing money to fund gambling.
- Risked relationships - putting personal relationships at risk.



BEACON COUNSELLING TRUST  
Reg. Charity No. 1140011

### 7 Want to know more?

BCT provides FREE interactive harmful gambling workshops to both young people and professionals as part of their 'Big Deal' and 'Bet You Can Help' programmes. These sessions help participants recognise risk factors, signs, and symptoms and address how to access support.

Contact 0151 226 0696 or visit [www.beaconcounsellingtrust.co.uk](http://www.beaconcounsellingtrust.co.uk) for more details.

### 6 Referral to specialist service provision:

Beacon Counselling Trust (BCT) is a specialist service providing treatment, advice, and support to anyone aged 16+ throughout North West England. Contact the main office on 0151 226 0696 and for gambling related counselling call: 0151 321 1099 or visit [www.beaconcounsellingtrust.co.uk](http://www.beaconcounsellingtrust.co.uk)

### 5 How to respond:

If you are worried or concerned help is available through The National Gambling Helpline. This service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week through GamCare. The Big Deal Project is a separate service specifically for young people aged 11-19 years. You can call both services free on 0800 8020 133, or by visiting [www.gamcare.org.uk/](http://www.gamcare.org.uk/) or [www.bigdeal.org.uk](http://www.bigdeal.org.uk)



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### Criminality Committed To Fund Gambling Disorder

- Fraud and financial crime.
- Money Laundering.
- Domestic Abuse.
- Theft, Theft from family and employer.
- Offences of against persons.
- Criminal damage.
- Serious and organised Crime.

### Criminal Justice Figures

- Between June 2018 - December 2019 there have been 262 referrals from CJ sources (Probation, Prisons, Police) into Gamcare.
- The majority (77%, 201) of Criminal Justice based referrals are from prison establishments.
- Identified that 1,034 service users who accessed treatment in the last 18 months reported criminal activity as an impact of their gambling.
- Service users accessing treatment reporting criminal activity impact is increasing, with a 25% increase forecasted for 2018/19 to 2019/20.
- 98 Helpline callers disclosed domestic abuse as an impact of gambling, with 53 of these (over half) being affected others.

### Criminal Justice Police - Healthcare Screening Programmes

- Screening within financial questionnaire.
- Liaison and Diversion teams.
- NHS support provision.
- Approved Gamcare provision.
- Healthcare Professionals in custody.
- Referral to approved Gambling Treatment Centre.
- Referral into Private Treatment Centres.
- GAST-G screening Tool - Cheshire.

### Gambling Related Harm Programme

- The 5 police forces are Cheshire, Merseyside, Lancashire, Greater Manchester and West Midlands.
- To build a gambling screening working group from across the five police forces ensure consistency of best practice.
- To develop a working group to identify what has been done around gambling screening and pathways within each force and to identify champions and areas of innovation and best practice.
- To look beyond the five police forces to identify innovative practice in other police forces in England, Wales and Scotland within Criminal Justice.
- To pilot awareness training of gambling screening with each participating force.
- To develop partnerships within each force area to develop pathways and partnerships with gambling treatment providers.
- To create a network of international contacts and organisations to identify best practice.
- To develop gambling screening in criminal justice and effective pathways to appropriate support care and treatment including recovery support.

### Why It Matters

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### Impact From Gambling Related Harm

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Cheshire Constabulary

GAMBLING COMMISSION

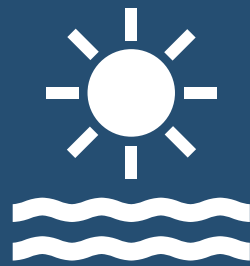


National Gambling Helpline  
Call Free: 0800 8020 133  
Live chat via [www.gamcare.org.uk](http://www.gamcare.org.uk)



# What benefits will it achieve?

→ We've categorised the expected benefits of the programme into three stages:



EARLY  
ADOPTION



COLLECTIVE  
ADOPTION



SYSTEM  
INTEGRATION



# What benefits will it achieve in the CJS?



## KNOWLEDGE & ATTITUDES

- Increased knowledge of:
  - Gambling-related harms and safer gambling strategies
  - Signs of people at-risk
  - Available treatment and supports
- Discussions of gambling-related harms are normalised



## ABILITIES & BEHAVIOURS

- Those at-risk of harm are identified earlier
- Players practice safer gambling strategies learned to prevent or reduce harms
- More people experiencing harms use treatments and supports



## SYSTEM SPREAD

- Early adopters of the programme:
  - Champion the importance of addressing gambling-related harms in their circles
  - Endorse DBYLOI and encourage others to adopt it



# Why will it achieve those benefits?

- Credible, highly accessible education and knowledge is a critical precursor to behaviour and system change
- Powerfully informed by clinical and lived experience
- Flexible education format supports preventing harm from occurring, identifying those at risk, and signposting to treatment
- Endorsed by RSPH and NHS England



# Strategic Plan and Vision For This Phase

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Training and awareness for all CJ released staff in custody suites

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Specialist trained key workers in custody suites

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Collaboration – NHS England, NPS, MOJ, charitable sector and Government bodies

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P.C.C strategic priority