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## PRESS RELEASE

### **GambleAware appoints new Chief Financial Officer**

**London, 7 October 2019:** Peter Holt has been appointed as GambleAware's new Chief Financial Officer. Peter was recently London and South East finance director at Health Education England, responsible for a £1.2bn budget.

Peter has extensive experience of working in the health sector having held this London and South East board level position at HEE for nearly ten years. Before this he was Director of the Supply Chain Transformation Programme at the Department of Health, responsible for delivering significant procurement benefits to the NHS.

In his role at NHS Health Education England, Peter was responsible for developing a financial strategy to ensure long term financial health, enabling HEE to continue to invest in workforce planning and the education and training of doctors, nurses and allied health professionals. Peter also led on the development of a new national education tariff, both regionally and nationally, sitting on the DH national tariff board.

Such knowledge and proficiency will complement the existing expertise and breadth of experience held by trustees and management, with regard to public health, the NHS and the commissioning of prevention and treatment services.

Peter's health background also supports GambleAware's ongoing collaborative relationship with the NHS and other statutory health bodies to ensure gambling is regarded as an important health and wellbeing issue. This relationship is underscored in the recently published NHS Mental Health Implementation Plan, 2019-24 by the recognition of GambleAware as a key partner for NHS England and NHS Improvement in establishing a total of 15 new NHS specialist problem gambling clinics by 2023/24.

Peter will initially work to prioritise the development of a long-term business plan to underpin the ongoing commissioning of the National Gambling Treatment Service, triaged by the National Gambling Helpline.

Talking about the new hire, **GambleAware Chief Executive, Marc Etches, said:**

*"We are delighted to have Peter join GambleAware. His extensive health-related experience will further enhance the outstanding expertise we have across our growing*

*organisation as we focus on a public health model to commission national prevention and treatment services to keep people safe from gambling harms.”*

**Peter Holt, Chief Financial Officer at GambleAware, said about his new position:**

*“Having worked in the health sector for many years, I am looking forward working with a talented and committed team to support GambleAware in finalising a multi-year business plan, with a clear financial strategy that is focused on commissioning high quality, effective prevention and treatment service. This will ensure that gambling is better understood as a health and wellbeing issue, addressed through the lens of a public health model.”*

**-ENDS-**

**Contact:**

Sarah Evans

+447523 609413

[gambleaware@atlas-partners.co.uk](mailto:gambleaware@atlas-partners.co.uk)

## **NOTES**

- GambleAware is an independent charity (Charity No. England & Wales 1093910, Scotland SC049433) that champions a public health approach to preventing gambling harms – see <http://about.gambleaware.org/>
- GambleAware is a commissioner of integrated prevention, education and treatment services on a national scale, with over £40 million of grant funding under active management. In partnership with gambling treatment providers, GambleAware has spent several years methodically building structures for commissioning a coherent system of brief intervention and treatment services, with clearly defined care pathways and established referral routes to and from the NHS – a National Gambling Treatment Service.
- There are nine Trustees on the GambleAware Board:
  - GambleAware’s Chair, **Kate Lampard CBE**, who is the lead non-executive director on the Department of Health and Social Care Board
  - **Saffron Cordery** who is the Director of Policy and Strategy and Deputy Chief Executive for NHS Providers
  - **Professor Sian Griffiths OBE**, who is Chair of the Global Health Committee and Associate Non-Executive member of the Board of Public Health England (PHE)
  - **Michelle Highman**, is the Chief Executive of the Money Charity
  - **Professor Anthony Kessel**, who was the former Director of Global Public Health and Responsible Officer for Public Health England, as well as the Co-ordinator of the International Programme of Ethics, Public Health and Human Rights at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

- **Rachel Pearce**, who is the Regional Director of Commissioning at NHS England South West
  - **Chris Pond**, is the Chair of the Money Charity, Equity Release Council Standards Board and Lending Standards Board as well as Vice-Chair of Financial Inclusion Commission
  - **Paul Simpson**, is the Chief Finance Officer / Deputy Chief Executive at Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
  - **Professor Marcantonio Spada** is the Professor of Addictive Behaviours and Mental Health at London South Bank University.
- The National Gambling Treatment Service brings together a National Gambling Helpline and a network of locally based providers across Great Britain that works with partner agencies and people with lived experience to design and deliver a system, which meets the needs of individuals. This system delivers a range of treatment services, including brief intervention, counselling (delivered either face-to-face or online), residential programmes and psychiatrist-led care.
  - In the 12 months to 31 March 2019, provisional figures show that the National Gambling Treatment Service treated 10,000 people and this is projected to rise to 24,000 people a year by 2021. Helpline activity is currently running at about 30,000 calls and on-line chats per annum. GambleAware also runs the website BeGambleAware.org which helps 2.7 million visitors a year, and signposts to a wide range of support services.
  - GambleAware produces public health campaigns including **Bet Regret**. A Safer Gambling Board, including representatives from Public Health England, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, and GambleAware, is responsible for the design and delivery of a campaign based on best practice in public health education. The Bet Regret campaign is being funded through specific, additional donations to the charity, in line with a commitment given to the government by the broadcasting, advertising and gambling industries.  
See <https://about.gambleaware.org/prevention/safer-gambling-campaign/>.