

## PRESS RELEASE

### GambleAware awards £250,000 grant for new research into women's lived experience of gambling harms

- A consortium of IFF Research, University of Bristol and GamCare Women's Programme, has successfully bid for this 18-month research grant.
- The award is part of GambleAware's strategic commitment to building knowledge of the diversity of lived experiences of gambling harms across different communities, geographies, and demographics.
- The consortium is taking a gendered approach to understanding gambling and gambling harms in the context of women's wider lives, with a strong focus on engaging with women with diverse lived experiences of gambling harms.

**London, 12 November 2021:** GambleAware has announced the outcome of its recent grant award process to build evidence of the lived experiences of women in relation to gambling and gambling harms, both as gamblers and/or as 'affected others'.

The grant was awarded through a competitive process to a team led by Kelsey Beninger, Director at IFF Research in collaboration with Maria Fannin, Professor of Human Geography and Sharon Collard, Professor of Personal Finance at the University of Bristol, and Dominique Webb, Head of Programmes and Marina Smith Women's Programme at GamCare. The 18-month programme is taking a mixed-methods, multidisciplinary and multi-sector approach and will include roundtables, depth interviews and community committees with women with lived experience of gambling harms. The specific objectives of the programme are to:

1. Explore the reality and lived experiences of women and their engagement with and experience of gambling, gambling harms, and gambling treatment and support services.
2. Establish and explore the drivers of gambling harms amongst women in Great Britain.
3. Explore the services, interventions, and policies needed to reduce and prevent gambling harms for women.

The research has been commissioned as part of GambleAware's wider five-year Organisational Strategy, guided by an overarching vision of a society free from gambling harms.

**Alison Clare, Research Director at GambleAware,** said: *"Women's experiences of gambling harms are under-researched, often presented as homogenous and in terms of how they differ to men's experiences. We are pleased to have awarded this grant to this strong multi-agency, multi-disciplinary team which will be drilling down into the experiences and needs of different communities of women. This is an important step towards ensuring GambleAware and others are commissioning the range of treatment and support services women want and will use."*

*“GambleAware is committed to delivering a whole-system public health approach to gambling harms and understanding the wider determinants that drive these – including gender, health, race, ethnicity, and inequalities – is fundamental to achieving this.”*

**-ENDS-**

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**About GambleAware**

- GambleAware is an independent charity (Charity No. England & Wales 1093910, Scotland SC049433) that champions a public health approach to preventing gambling harms – see <https://www.begambleaware.org/>
- GambleAware is a commissioner of integrated prevention, education and treatment services on a national scale, with over £56 million of 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.
- 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.
- 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/>.