

ADPH NE GAMBLING HARMS PROGRAMME

Welcome to the North East Gambling-Related Harms Programme June 2025 newsletter. We are working to develop a regional approach to tackle the harm caused by gambling across the North East.

In this edition, we share new professional resources, upcoming opportunities for research, and new insights into gambling related harms and health equity in the North East.

We celebrate the launch of the Making Every Contact Count (MECC) training module, and the launch of the Chapter One 'Trauma and Gambling Related Harms Toolkit for Professionals'.

You'll find details for a call for evidence from the Department of Health and Social Care regarding a new 'Men's Health Strategy for England', and for a research project from the University of Salford for individuals with lived experience of gambling harms.

This edition also features a summary of the new report published by Health Equity North 'Ghost Towns: The Decline of the High Street and Health Inequalities'.

Thank you for your continued efforts in working to tackle gambling harms.

MECC Gambling Harms Training Module Launch

The new Making Every Contact Count (MECC) Gambling Harms module had a successful launch event in May at the Durham Centre.

Attendees heard powerful lived experiences from Steve Ramsey, clinical expertise from Dr Rob Dawson of NECA, and further details about the creation of the MECC Gambling Harms module. The afternoon featured a workshop on how to deliver the training.

A huge thank you to all of the speakers and all those who attended the day.

If you are MECC trained and would like to deliver this module to your local authority, please find all resources needed to deliver this on the MECC NENC section of NHS Futures.

If you would like to attend MECC Gambling Harms training, please look out for future training events on the BOOST Platform [here](#).

You can find out more MECC information on the Gambling Harms page [here](#).



Upcoming Training: MECC and Gambling Harms

23 June 2025 | 1:00pm- 3:00pm
Northumbria Health and Care Academy

26 June 2025 | 10:00am- 12:00pm
Northumbria Health and Care Academy

Register [here](#).



For everyone affected by gambling

‘Trauma and Gambling Related Harms Toolkit for Professionals’

Chapter One have developed a new resource to equip professionals with the knowledge, skills, and tools to support individuals experiencing gambling-related harms in a trauma-informed manner.

This toolkit aims to improve understanding of trauma and its impacts, the causes and effects of gambling-related harms, the connection between trauma and gambling harms, and how to support someone affected. The toolkit showcases lived experience and provides learning recaps and reflective exercises to enhance learning.

Access the free toolkit, summary and flipbook resource on the Chapter One Professionals Hub [here](#).

Health Equity North Report ‘Ghost Towns: The Decline of the High Street and Health Inequalities’

A new publication from **Health Equity North** reports that England’s High Streets are declining – with “health promoting” amenities such as pharmacies, public toilets and supermarkets being replaced by “health reducing” amenities such as vape shops, bookmakers and takeaway outlets. The analysis shows this trend is particularly evident in deprived areas and areas in the North.

The report calls on the government to increase local authority regulation of “health reducing” amenities, increase and incentivise “health promoting” amenities, invest in infrastructure such as seating areas, public toilets and safe pedestrian routes, focus resources where they’re most needed, and involve local communities in decision-making.

You can read the full report [here](#).

Men’s Health Strategy for England: call for evidence

The Department of Health and Social Care has issued a call for evidence to help shape a new ‘Men’s Health Strategy for England’, supporting the government’s aim to shift focus from treatment to prevention. It invites input from the public, health and social care professionals, academics, employers, and stakeholder organisations.

For more information and to access the survey, please click [here](#).

This call for evidence closes at **11:59pm on 17 July 2025**.



Lived Experience Research Opportunity: Exploring the relationship between trauma and gambling in the North East of England

This research aims to better understand the connection between difficult life experiences and the development of harmful gambling behaviours later in life.

The study is seeking participants who have experienced gambling harms in their lifetime to take part in an interview. All participants will be remunerated via a high street shopping voucher for their time.

Please contact the project lead, Dr Adele Irving, via email at a.irving2@salford.ac.uk for further information or to express interest in participating.

In the News

[The Guardian | Slot machine firms target UK’s poorest areas and channel funds to billionaires](#)

[The Guardian | Spin doctors: gambling firms adopt hard tactics to flood towns with 24-hour slot machines](#)

[Esports Insider | Brazil Senate approves sweeping betting ad restrictions](#)

Research Corner

*These articles have been checked for any conflicts of interest or industry funding. None were identified.

‘Socio-demographic factors, gambling behaviour, and the level of gambling expenditure: A population based study.’

[View here](#)

‘Problem gambling and substance use in patients attending community mental health services.’

[View here](#)

‘Impacts of gambling problems on partners: partners’ interpretations.’

[View here](#)

‘Gambling harm is everybody's business: A public health approach and call to action’

[View here](#)

Inside the Commission Podcast: New Episodes

New episodes of the Gambling Commission podcast ‘Inside the Commission’ have been released. The podcast is designed for professionals and stakeholders in the industry, offering a deep dive into the principles, challenges, and operations behind the regulation of betting, gaming, and lotteries.

Listen to the podcast [here](#)

Local Publications

- Gambling Harms in the North East: Regional Needs Assessment
[View here](#)
- Gambling-Related Harms in Sunderland: Health Needs Assessment
[View here](#)
- North Tyneside Joint Strategic Needs Assessment: Gambling
[View here](#)
- Newcastle City Council Gambling and Gambling-Related Harms: Needs Assessment
[View here](#)

Gambling Harms Lived Experience Online Forum is seeking members!

The ADPH NE Gambling Harms Programme Lived Experience Forum supports regional and local work with representatives from across the region. Members offer insight and expertise on a variety of pieces of work and we continue to be incredibly grateful for their contributions.

The forum is open to anyone aged 18+ who lives in the North East and has experienced gambling-related harms, either personally or through someone close to them (eg. partner, parent, child, or friend). Members receive remuneration for their participation.

If you, or someone you know, are interested in joining the forum or have further questions about the work involved, please email GHR@middlesbrough.gov.uk

GET IN TOUCH

Thank you for supporting and working towards reducing Gambling-Related Harms in our region. If you would like us to include anything else in our next newsletter, please email the Gambling Harms Reduction office: GHR@middlesbrough.gov.uk

For more information about the North East Gambling Harms Programme [click here.](#)