

ADPH NE GAMBLING HARMS PROGRAMME NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2026

Welcome to the Association of Directors of Public Health North East Gambling Harms Programme newsletter. We are developing a regional approach to tackle gambling harms across the North East.

In this edition....

2026 is set to be a pivotal year for gambling harms prevention. The Statutory Gambling Levy funding will be distributed from 1 April 2026. This creates an opportunity to strengthen partnerships, build a strong evidence base, and coordinate efforts to establish best practice public health strategies for addressing gambling harms nationally.

In the North East, we highlight the publication of the 'Health Related Behaviour Survey 2025' from Sunderland City Council and the 'Darlington Borough Council Gambling Health Needs Assessment'.

This edition also covers the Westminster Hall debate on *The Impact of Gambling Harms on Children and Young People*, a new research briefing from the House of Commons Library, and recent reports from the Gambling Commission. We also share an upcoming CPD opportunity, research articles, and latest news.

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

Supporting the Health of Young People in Sunderland: Health Related Behaviour Survey 2025

Sunderland has taken an important step forward in addressing gambling-related harm by including gambling questions for the first time in the 2025 Health Related Behaviour (HRB) Survey. The survey captured the views of 4,410 pupils across 30 primary and 10 secondary schools, providing robust insight into children and young people's experiences.

All data are self-reported, but the findings clearly demonstrate that gambling-related activities are already a part of many young people's lives. This new intelligence will be instrumental in shaping targeted prevention, early intervention and broader public health initiatives as Sunderland continues to prioritise reducing gambling-related harm.

Read the summary report [here](#).

Among Year 6 pupils:

- 30% had used a slot machine in the past year.
- 7% had gambled online.
- A third reported making monthly in-game purchases such as loot boxes.

Among secondary pupils:

- 78% had played arcade machines.
- 25% made frequent in-game purchases.
- A small but significant proportion reported behaviours associated with harm, including taking money without permission (3%), chasing losses (4%), and experiencing negative emotions linked to gambling (2%).

Darlington Borough Council: Gambling-Related Harms Health Needs Assessment 2025

The Gambling-Related Harms Health Needs Assessment 2025, published by Darlington Borough Council, compiles available national, regional, and local data to understand how gambling and gambling-related harms impact people in Darlington.

Practical actions to address these harms in Darlington include:

- Strengthening local data collection.
- Raising awareness of referral pathways.
- Mapping new gambling license/premises applications against higher-risk and more deprived areas.
- Embedding gambling-related harms screening questions within local health and social services.

Read the full report [here](#).

Office of Health Improvement and Disparities Newsletter: Preventing Gambling-related Harms in England

As the prevention commissioner under the Statutory Gambling Levy, the Office of Health Improvements and Disparities (OHID) has commenced publication of a bi-monthly newsletter to provide updates on developments on the prevention programme for gambling-related harms in England.

If you would like to receive future editions of the OHID newsletter, email:

ohidgamblinglevy@dhsc.gov.uk

New Research on World Cup Gambling Advertising

University of Sheffield research findings show that television gambling adverts significantly influenced betting activity during the 2022 FIFA World Cup, raising concerns that current advertising protections may be insufficient ahead of the 2026 World Cup.

Read more details about the research [here](#).

Read BBC article on the research [here](#).

RESEARCH CORNER

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

Gambling and crime: An exploration of gambling availability and culture in an English prison.

Link [here](#).

Research on the Connection Between Gambling and Crime in Hungary – The Third SOGS Prison Research in a 10-Year Perspective.

Link [here](#).

An examination of the interrelationship between disordered gambling and intimate partner violence.

Link [here](#).

Psychological Interventions to Reduce Gambling Behavior Among People Involved in the Criminal Justice System: A Systematic Review and Recommendations.

Link [here](#)

Westminster Hall Debate: The Impact of Gambling Harms on Children and Young People

On Thursday 15th January, MPs gathered to discuss the impact gambling has on children and young people (CYP), and to call for gambling harms to be recognised and treated as a public health concern.

MPs called for improved protections for CYP from gambling harm, including:

- Increased restrictions on gambling advertising.
- Establishing an independent gambling ombudsman.
- Robust age verification processes online.
- Early education for CYP and their families.
- Prevention programmes.
- CYP specific treatment services.

Support was given for the introduction of the Statutory Gambling Levy and for the commitment to increased research, with calls for more immediate actions to address the impact of gambling on health outcomes.

Read full debate transcript [here](#).

House of Commons Library: Research Briefing on Gambling Regulation in Great Britain

This research briefing from the House of Commons Library, published in February 2026, provides an overview of how gambling is regulated in Great Britain.

It outlines the Gambling Act 2005, the responsibilities of the Gambling Commission and local authorities, and recent policy and regulatory changes aimed at reducing consumer harm from gambling.

Read the full report [here](#).

Gambling Commission: Understanding the Consumer Landscape in Free Draws and Prize Competitions

This short report takes a closer look at consumer behaviour in relation to free draws and prize competitions.

Read the full report [here](#).

Market impact data on gambling behaviour

The Gambling Commission has published further data on the gambling industry in Great Britain covering online and in-person gambling betting premises found on Britain's high streets.

Read the full report [here](#).

Behavioural Addictions CPD Event

Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS Foundation Trust will be hosting a Behavioural Addictions CPD Event.

Thursday 18th June 2026 | 9:00am - 4:30pm
The Grand Hotel,
Gosforth Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 5HN

Topics on the day will include:

- Gambling in Younger People
- Gambling harm & link to suicide/self-harm
- Social Media Addiction
- Exploring dependence markers in Image & Performance Enhancing Drug Use
- Sex Addiction
- Gaming Addiction
- Lived Experience Speakers

The event has a charge attached.

Early bird rate is available until Friday 24th April 2026. To enquire about the booking process and cost please email:

MedDevelopment@cntw.nhs.uk

In the News

BBC News: Gambling centres 'clustered' in deprived areas.

Read [here](#).

BBC News: I stopped paying for food and heating to spend it gambling - my period made it worse.

Read [here](#).

BBC News: New campaign to tackle city's youth gambling issue.

Read [here](#).

BBC News: Unlicensed betting firms face sponsorship ban.

Read [here](#).

The Guardian: UK ministers face increased pressure to restrict gambling ads.

Read [here](#).

Please be aware articles may discuss suicide and other distressing subjects.

LOCAL PUBLICATIONS

Gambling Harms in the North East: Regional Health Needs Assessment

⇒ Read [here](#).

Gambling-Related Harms in Sunderland: Health Needs Assessment

⇒ Read [here](#).

North Tyneside Joint Strategic Needs Assessment: Gambling

⇒ Read [here](#).

Newcastle City Council Gambling and Gambling-Related Harms: Needs Assessment

⇒ Read [here](#).

County Durham Gambling Health Needs and Assets Assessment

⇒ Read [here](#).

Hartlepool Borough Council: Gambling Health Needs Assessment

⇒ Read [here](#).

Darlington Borough Council: Gambling-Related Harms Health Needs Assessment

⇒ Read [here](#).

GAMBLING HARMS LIVED EXPERIENCE FORUM

The ADPH NE Gambling Harms Lived Experience Forum is seeking members!

Members offer insight and expertise to local and regional work to address gambling harms.

The forum is open to anyone living in the North East, aged 18+ and has lived experiences of gambling harms, either personally or as an affected other.

Members are offered a £25 voucher per hour for their participation.

To register your interest in joining the forum, please scan the QR code. For further information, please email GHR@middlesbrough.gov.uk



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Find more information about the ADPH NE Gambling Harms Programme [here](#).