

# ADPH NE Gambling Harms Programme Newsletter April 2026

Welcome to the Association of Directors of Public Health North East (ADPH NE) Gambling Harms Programme newsletter. The Gambling Harms Programme is developing a regional, public health approach to tackling gambling harms. This bi-monthly newsletter shares local, regional, and national updates, latest research, training and networking opportunities, and news on gambling-related harms.

## In this edition...

We feature an update on the Statutory Gambling Levy Prevention allocations, highlights from the Northern Gambling Harms Prevention Symposium, and new research exploring the links between gambling, domestic abuse, and social housing.

We also share two upcoming events, *Pathways from Sports Engagement to Gambling Harms: A Research Summit* and the *Making Every Contact Count (MECC) Conference: Where Are Your Opportunities?* alongside our Research Corner, latest news, and local publications.

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

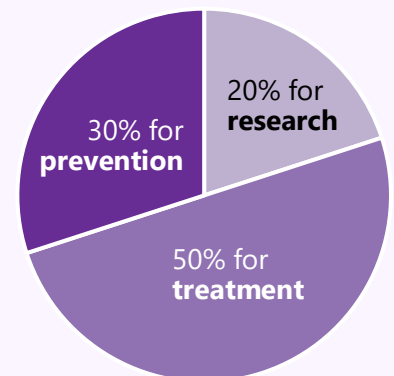
---

## Statutory Gambling Levy: Prevention Allocations

In April 2025, the UK Government introduced a statutory levy on licensed gambling operators. The levy aims to establish a sustainable and equitable funding system, independent of the gambling industry, with funding allocated for research, prevention and treatment of gambling-related harm.

You can find more information on the levy [here](#).

- 50% of funding will go to NHS England, and Scottish and Welsh Governments, to commission treatment and support services.
- 20% of levy funding will go to UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) to establish a research programme on gambling.
- 30% of funding will go to the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), and Scottish and Welsh Governments, to develop a comprehensive approach to prevention and early intervention.



OHID launched the VCSE Sector Gambling Harms Prevention and Resilience Fund on 14th January 2026. The fund aims to sustain and strengthen the VCSE sector to deliver gambling related prevention strategies, build capacity for delivery, and develop an independent, evidence-based approach to public health policy decision making.

Provisional allocations from the gambling harms prevention and resilience fund have been granted to 33 successful VCSE organisations. The funding is subject to grant agreements being finalised.

Read more about the VCSE Sector Gambling Harms Prevention and Resilience Fund and the provisional allocations [here](#).

OHID has also released indicative funding allocations for upper tier local councils for the gambling harms prevention grant to support them to prevent and reduce gambling-related harms.

Read more about these funding allocations [here](#).

## Westminster Hall Debate: Gambling Advertising

On Thursday 23rd April, MPs debated gambling advertising and gambling harms, particularly the impact on children and young people (CYP). Calls were made for stronger regulation, including a potential ban. Views differed on evidence of harm and economic risks. Next steps may include strengthening the evidence base and exploring targeted regulation, particularly in spaces accessible to CYP.

Read the full debate transcript [here](#).

## Northern Gambling Harms Prevention Symposium

The Northern Gambling Harms Prevention Symposium took place in Leeds on Wednesday 18 March 2026, focusing on the Gambling Statutory Levy and its implications for prevention activity. The event brought together public health colleagues from across the North to share learning and explore prevention-led, inequalities-focused approaches.

The programme included keynote speakers, a panel of lived experience speakers, and two afternoon workshop sessions showcasing best practice in gambling harm prevention. The day concluded with a facilitated tabletop discussion on priority areas for action and the foundations needed to support effective use of funding in 2026–2027, highlighting the need for strong local action supported by regional coordination.



The ADPH NE Gambling Harms Programme Team facilitated a workshop at the symposium. This session provided an overview of the North East's regional approach to gambling harm prevention, sharing learning and best practice from the development of the regional gambling health needs assessment.

## Pathways from Sports Engagement to Gambling Harms: A Research Summit

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026 | 9:30 am to 4:00 pm**  
**Riverside Stadium, Middlesbrough**

This research summit will bring together stakeholders and researchers to discuss recent findings on pathways from sports engagement to gambling harms. The event will share learning from AFSG- and UKRI/AHRC-funded research, alongside roundtable discussions, lived experience speakers and contributions from regional services.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided. The event is free, but places are limited.

Register [here](#).

## Supporting Victim-Survivors of Gambling-Related Domestic Abuse: A focus on women and their housing

The aim of this research is to understand the relationship between gambling harms and domestic abuse, and the impact this has on women's housing security, including their ability to get support.

Key recommendations that emerged from this research include the need to:

- Ensure access to safe, affordable, and secure housing
- Embed a coordinated, multi-agency public health approach
- Reduce stigma and improve identification through training and systems

Read more about the research on the Durham University website [here](#).

## Gambling Harms & Domestic Abuse: A Resource for Housing Professionals

In addition to producing this final research report, the research also set out to co-produce a resource for housing providers and a series of podcasts that support this resource.

These resources can also be viewed at

[DAgamblingharms.co.uk](http://DAgamblingharms.co.uk)

or on the Addressing Domestic Abuse website [here](#).

Podcast episodes can be view on YouTube [here](#) or found on Spotify.

## Making Every Contact Count (MECC) Conference: Where Are Your Opportunities?

**Wednesday 3 June 2026 | 9am–4pm**  
**Business and Law Building, City Campus East,**  
**Northumbria University, NE1 8ST**

This free conference, delivered in collaboration with Northumbria University, will explore Making Every Contact Count (MECC) through keynote presentations and interactive workshops.

Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from keynote speakers from a diverse range of sectors and take part in four workshops based on their interests.

The event is open to anyone with an interest in health promotion, MECC, and population health. Places are limited and allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Register [here](#).

## Latest News



Australia to crack down on gambling ads after years of criticism.



Games with loot boxes to get minimum 16 age rating across Europe.



Casino's 24/7 opening rejection a 'small victory'.



New campaign to combat gambling addiction.



US gambling addiction is 'out of control' as betting markets boom, policy expert warns.

## RESEARCH CORNER

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

**Understanding barriers and motivators for problem gambling screening by professionals in healthcare and social-assistance settings.**

Read [here](#).

**Primary care patients reporting concerns about their gambling frequently have other co-occurring lifestyle and mental health issues.**

Read [here](#).

**Screening and Treatment for Co-occurring Gambling and Substance Use: A Scoping Review.**

Read [here](#).

**Barriers in Access to the Treatment for People with Gambling Disorders. Are They Different from Those Experienced by People with Alcohol and/or Drug Dependence?**

Read [here](#).

*\*Please note: Some articles use the term "problem gambling". This is not a preferred term in public health, as it can be stigmatising and does not acknowledge the addictive design and marketing tactics of gambling products.*

## Local Publications

*A gambling health needs assessment is a systematic approach to identifying unmet need and health inequalities within a community, clarifying what must change to improve outcomes using local strengths and resources. It helps inform policy, strengthen service collaboration, guide effective interventions, and shape research priorities.*

→ **Gambling Harms in the North East: Regional Health Needs Assessment**

Read [here](#).

→ **Gambling-Related Harms in Sunderland: Health Needs Assessment**

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](#).

## The ADPH NE Gambling Harms Lived Experience Forum

The forum is open to anyone living in the North East, aged 18+ and who have lived experiences of gambling harms, either from their own gambling or someone else's.

Forum members offer insight and expertise to local and regional work to address gambling harms. Members are offered a £25 voucher per hour for their participation.

To register your interest in joining the forum, please fill in the form [here](#).

For further information, please email:

[GHR@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:GHR@middlesbrough.gov.uk)

# GET IN TOUCH

If you would like us to include anything in our newsletter, please email [GHR@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:GHR@middlesbrough.gov.uk)

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

