

West Berkshire Responses to the Statement of Gambling Principles Consultation

Respondent	Comment	Response
Greenham Parish Council	No objections to the SOGP	None Needed
West Berkshire Council Environment Health	No comments to make.	None Needed
Public Health and Wellbeing West Berkshire	<p>I have read the consultation on behalf of public health and find that this is a very thorough policy which appears to cover most of the relevant issues relating to public health. I did wonder if there is any possibility of considering cumulative impact as public health research shows that gambling problems and harms impact the poorest in our society the most with lower income families spending a higher proportion of their income on gambling. I understand that Gambling is something that we have limited ability to influence due to the range of gambling activities however when processing licencing applications for new venues public health principals should be considered. Public health approach to Gambling also focuses on advocacy, information regulation of access and promotion of gambling. Gambling has an association with poor mental health and deprivation, with those in deprived areas suffering the most harm. This may be outside of the policy but I wondered if some joint work around the promotion of advocacy and support for those who are affected by gambling and some awareness around the impact of gambling would be something that would be worth looking at with the Public Protection Partnership in conjunction with Public Health because I envisage that this is an area of work where the impact of gambling could be effective. .</p>	<p>The comments from Public Health and Wellbeing West Berkshire are noted. However, under section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 a licensing authority is required to prepare a Statement of Licensing Policy containing the principles that they propose to apply in exercising their functions under the Act. As the protection of public health is not one of those functions, the comments, whilst helpful, are not directly relevant to the subject matter of the Policy.</p> <p>Changes could be made to operational practices.</p>