

Gambling Harm Reduction

“Our aim is to prevent harm from arising, and to ensure that the individuals, families and communities experiencing harm as a result of gambling have access to the right treatment and support.”

Jo Evans, Programme Manager

Gambling in Greater Manchester (GM)

Estimated **39,000** problematic and **118,000** at risk gamblers across GM¹ (not accounting for wider impact on ‘affected others’)

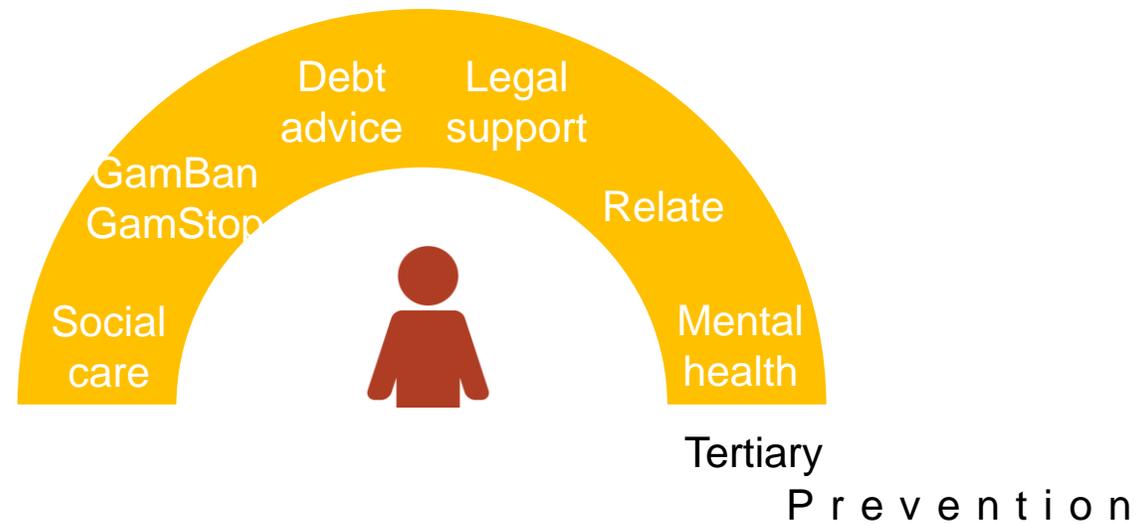
Elevated risk among vulnerable communities experiencing multiple deprivation – exacerbating inequalities

We need to develop our understanding of **who** is experiencing gambling harm, **how** it is experienced and **what** our communities and public services can do to prevent and reduce harm.



¹ Research from Leeds Beckett University using population surveys and local demographics to produce estimated prevalence, although this is likely to underestimate true prevalence due to reliance on self-reported data and low sample size

Public health approach to gambling harm



What does gambling harm *mean*?⁴

Lack of good quality evidence exploring harms and inequality of how harms are distributed



⁴ Langham 2016 Understanding gambling related harm: a proposed definition, conceptual framework and taxonomy of harms

Local powers

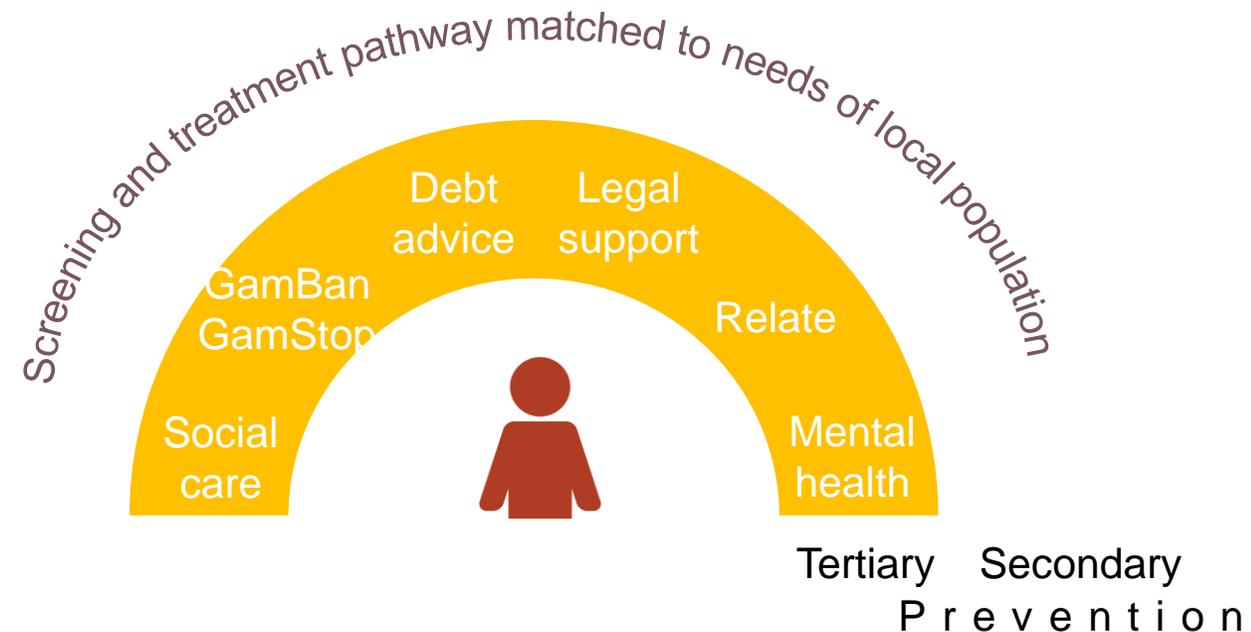
The Greater Manchester Model: “doing things differently”

That means **integrating services around people, places and their needs**, focusing on prevention, developing new models of support, and sharing information to design and deliver better services.

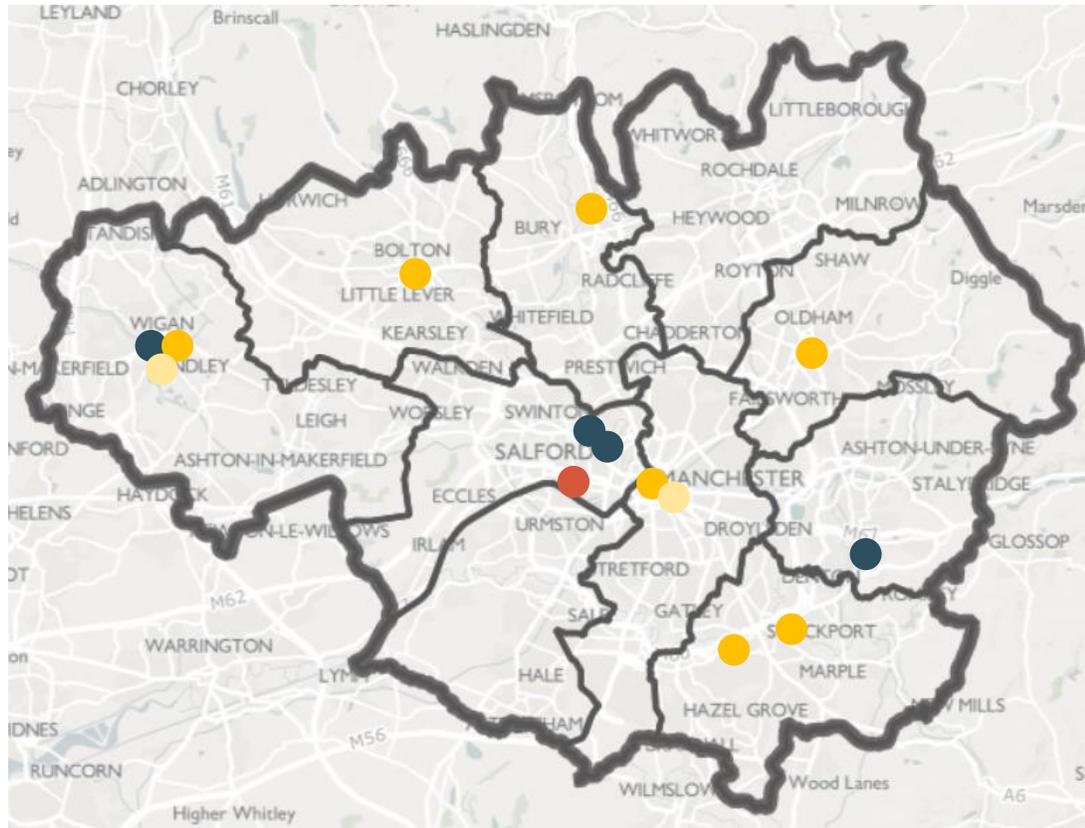
Working across disciplines to provide the skills to understand gambling harm, recognise it and signpost to specialists where required.



Public health approach to gambling harm



Re-designing care and treatment pathways



Key: ● = NHS Northern Gambling Service, ● = Beacon Counselling Trust ● = Gamblers Anonymous meetings, ● = Gam-Anon meetings

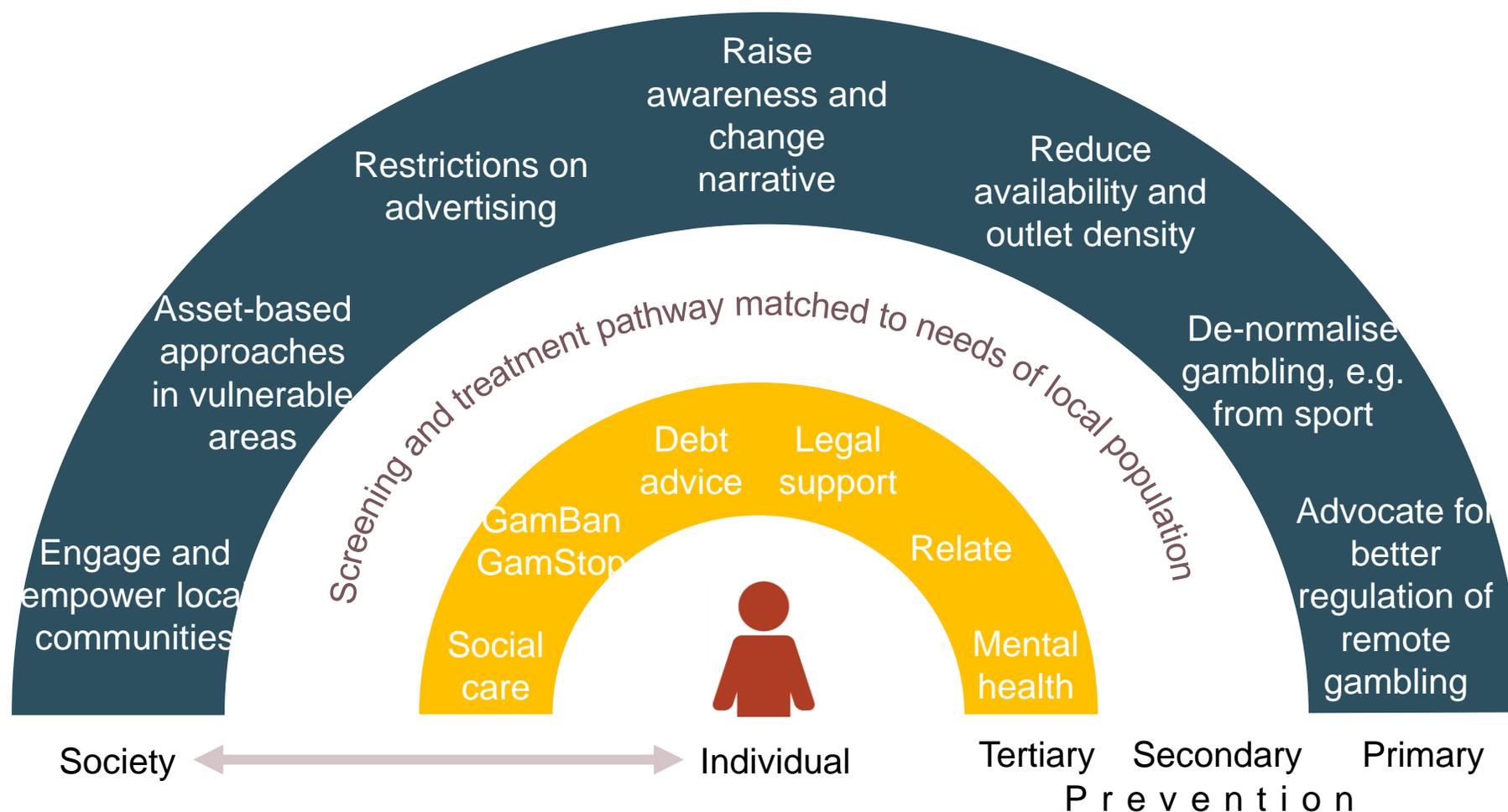
Working in partnership with Gambling With Lives, led by experts by lived experience

Developing a set of **shared principles** for what a care and treatment pathway should look like

Ensure that the pathway is **embedded in the local health and care system** – linked to our mental health offer and public health approach

Coming to the end of our design process, with a view to **testing** this out in one locality to capture and share learning

Public health approach to gambling harm



Role of licensing

- Restrictions to **opening and closing times**.
- Licence holders should be required to work with local authority and treatment partners in **training their staff** so that gambling harm prevention can be emphasised.
- Apply **single manning operation restrictions** (no lone working) due to concerns over timely age verification, safety of staff, supervision, ability to comply with company policies on problem gambling, and the ability to provide brief interventions.
- Use of **security** to minimise risk of disturbances including CCTV, physical security presence at the venue and whether security staff are SIA registered.
- Outline the amount and content of gambling harms support advertising that should be in the premises, including **advertising of local treatment support**.
- Specify the level of **detail that should be collected in the incident log**, including interventions made by staff to support customers who are gambling problematically. Define how often this information should be shared with the local authority.



COVID-19

Campaigns and Activities

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How to challenge a licence application

Blog 13 January 2021

Gambling Health Alliance members, Simon Watts, Myrte Elbes, Marlene D'Aguiar and Jo Evans have put together a short guide, to explain how to effectively challenge new licencing applications of adult gaming centres, based on their learnings from licencing applications in London, Leeds and Tameside. They also offer some suggestions to inform the review of the Gambling Act.



Homepage > About RSPH > Latest Public Health News > How to challenge a licence application



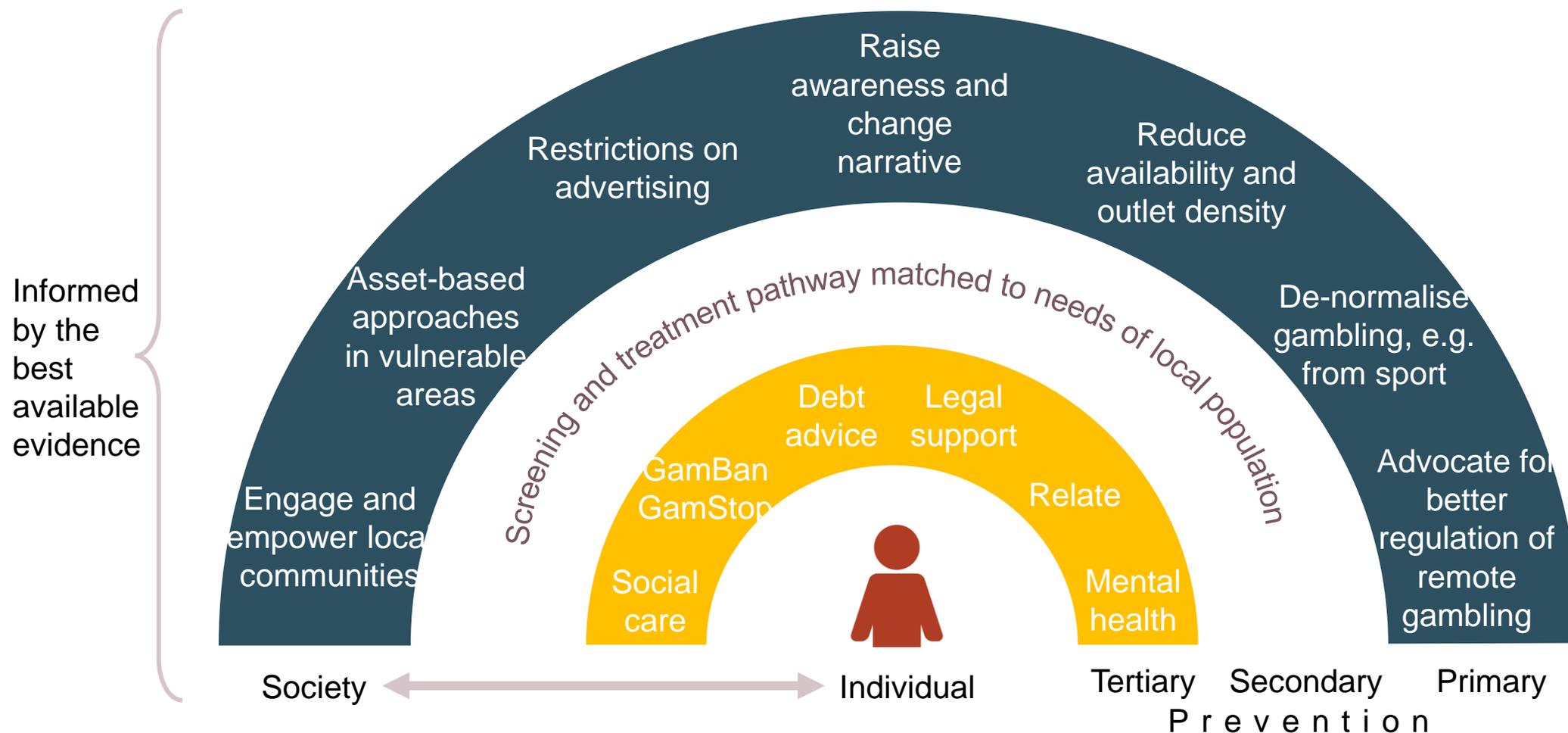
Under the current Gambling Act, there are few levers a local authority can use to challenge a licencing application they are concerned about, as local authorities are required to "aim to permit" new applications. However, based on experience from recent licencing applications, there are a number of ways to influence the outcome.

Licencing conditions



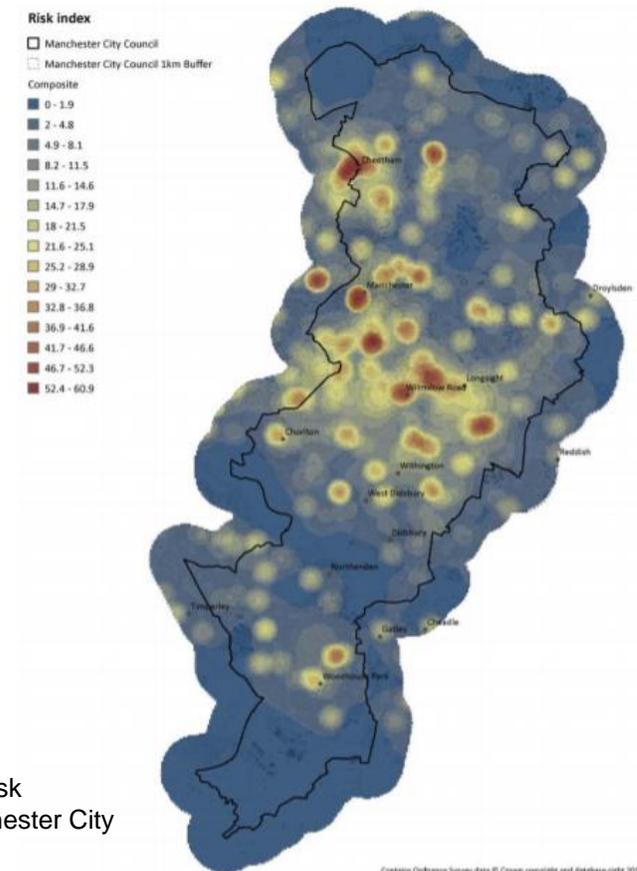
Available at: [RSPH | How to challenge a licence application](#)

Public health approach to gambling harm



Developing the evidence

- Mapping vulnerability to gambling harm
- Understanding prevalence
- A compelling case for change?
- Learning what works...



Gambling harm reduction in Greater Manchester

Aim

A system working together to reduce gambling related harm* in Greater Manchester by 2023 and beyond
(*measures to be determined)

Priorities

Understanding prevalence and scale of harm (current and trends)

Equitable access to high quality local treatment and support services

Targeted public health interventions to prevent and build resilience to gambling harm

Engaging with communities and individuals to co-design local, regional and national action

Activities

- Data collection and analysis
- Identifying communities at risk
- Understanding drivers of harm

- Developing care pathways
- Increasing training and signposting to services
- Piloting new offers (e.g. at HMP Forrest Bank)

- Children and young people
- Workplaces and employment
- Sport clubs
- Assets-based social prescribing options

- Developing volunteer networks
- Communication campaign to change narrative
- Leveraging leadership and changing local environment

Core principles

Evaluation approach to identify what works, where, how and why

Working in partnership to embed gambling within existing activities

Involvement of Experts by Experience to bring insight and credibility

Reforming the Gambling Act – what can local evidence add?

Prevalence of ‘problem’ and ‘at risk’ gambling – noting that this doesn’t describe distribution and impact of gambling related harm

Impact of coronavirus pandemic on perceptions of gambling and gambling behaviour

Implication of national regulatory framework on local activity to deliver effective interventions to prevent and reduce harm

Informed by research, professionals working in criminal justice, mental health provision, licensing, public health and public services – and can be co-written with experts by lived experience

Role of gambling within local and national government’s broader policy objectives, e.g. levelling up, public health

Testimony and accounts of experts by lived experience

Evidenced learning from delivery of other public health initiatives, such as Make Smoking History and alcohol harm reduction programmes

Thank you

Any questions?