

Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles

~~2022-2025~~

2025-2028

This policy will remain in effect until January 2028

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Part A – The Gambling Act 2005

1. The Licensing Objectives

In exercising most of their functions under the Gambling Act 2005, licensing authorities must have regard to the licensing objectives as set out in section 1 of the Act. The licensing objectives are:

- Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime
- Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way
- Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling

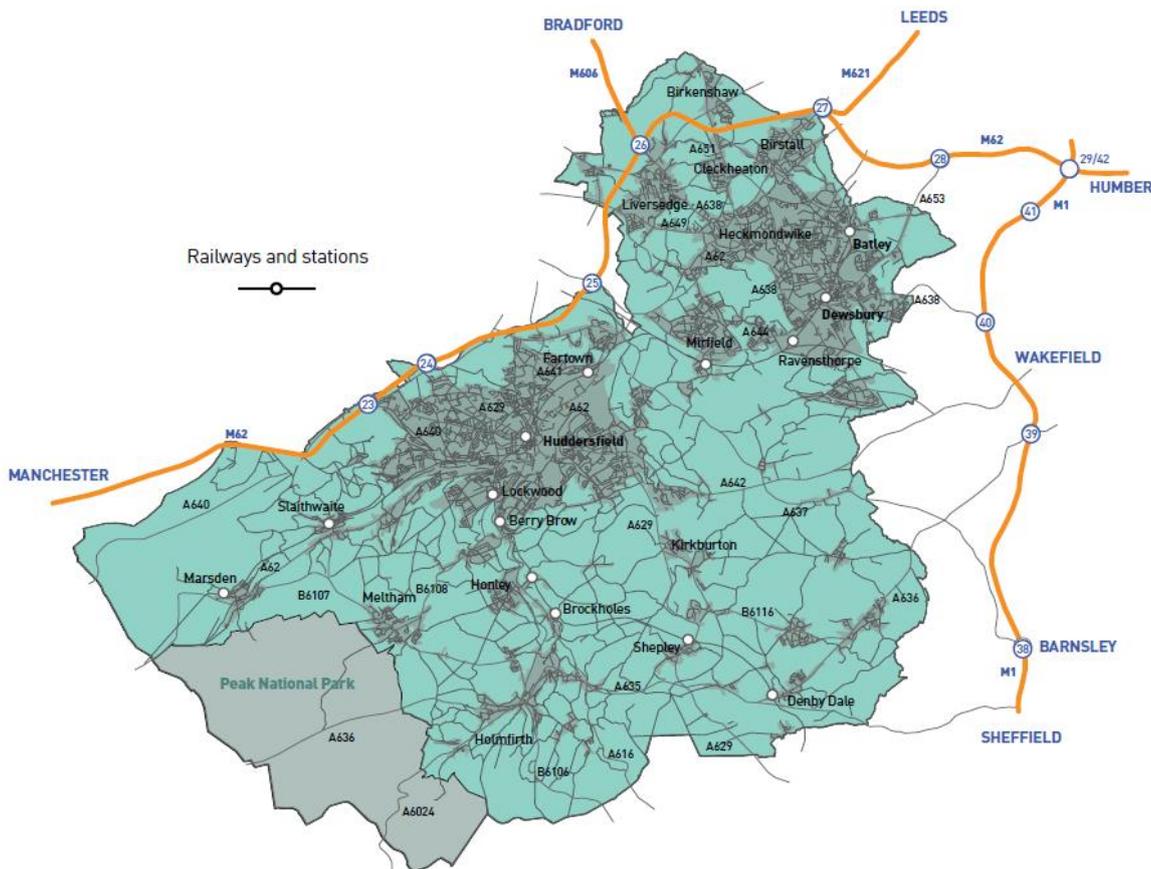
It should be noted that the Gambling Commission has stated: "The requirement in relation to children is explicitly to protect them from being harmed or exploited by gambling".

The council is aware that, as per Section 153, in making decisions about premises licences and temporary use notices it should aim to permit the use of premises for gambling in so far as it thinks it is:

- in accordance with any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission
- in accordance with any relevant guidance issued by the Gambling Commission
- reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives and
- in accordance with the authority's statement of licensing policy

2. Introduction

Kirklees Council is situated in West Yorkshire, which contains 5 metropolitan councils in total. The council area has a population of approximately 440,000¹ making it the largest metropolitan district not based on a city in terms of population. In terms of area, it is the third largest in West Yorkshire, covering 157 square miles. The council area is mainly rural in the south with a central urban area around large towns. The area also comprises of several smaller towns of varying sizes. These areas are shown on the map below.



Kirklees has a varied population – many ethnicities are represented, speaking a range of languages and bringing a cultural diversity to the region. A thriving student community based around the University of Huddersfield attracts students from around the world. Life expectancy and healthy life expectancy (the number of years lived in good health) are increasing across Kirklees.

Kirklees Council has issued a Corporate Plan which outlines the Council’s vision for

~~‘We’re Kirklees’~~. The priorities, throughout the transformation programme to ‘We’re Kirklees’, will remain focused on achieving the best for Kirklees, its communities, businesses and residents. “Our Council”. The plan has four key areas of focus:

- Getting the basics right and balancing the budget
- Protecting the vulnerable and achieving inclusion
- Thriving people and communities – now and over the longer-term
- Local economic growth, working with regional and national partners

Integration with other guidance, policies, objectives, and strategies

The Gambling Policy aims to promote the licensing objectives within the overall context of the Kirklees Corporate Plan.

The vision for Kirklees is to be a district which combines a strong, sustainable economy with a great quality of life – leading to thriving communities, growing businesses, high prosperity, and low inequality where people enjoy better health throughout their lives

The Corporate Plan sets out the council's outcomes, what it is trying to achieve, key actions underway and planned, and the measures it will use to check whether it has been successful.

Supporting vulnerable people and promoting inclusion and diversity is woven throughout the plan and shared outcomes.

The key outcomes that underpin this policy are set out below:

- **Shaped by People – We make our places what they are**
- Best Start - Children have the best start in life
- Well – People in Kirklees area as well as possible for as long as possible
- Independent – People in Kirklees live independently and have control over their lives
- Aspire and Achieve – People in Kirklees have aspiration to achieve their ambitions through education, training, employment and lifelong learning
- Sustainable Economy – Kirklees has sustainable economic growth and provides good employment for and with communities and businesses
- Safe and Cohesive – People in Kirklees live in cohesive communities, feel safe and are safe/protected from harm
- Clean and Green – People in Kirklees experience a high quality, clean, sustainable and green environment
- ~~Efficient and Effective – Kirklees Council works smart and delivers efficiently and effectively~~

Purpose of Statement of Licensing Policy

Licensing authorities are required by the Gambling Act 2005 to publish a statement of the principles which they propose to apply when exercising their functions. This statement must be published at least every three years. The statement must also be reviewed from "time to time" and any amended parts re-consulted upon. The statement must then be re-published.

Consultation

The Gambling Act requires that the following parties are consulted by Licensing Authorities:

- The Chief Officer of Police.

- One or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the interests of persons carrying on gambling businesses in the authority's area.
- One or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the interests of persons who are likely to be affected by the exercise of the authority's functions under the Gambling Act 2005.

List of persons this authority consulted:

- West Yorkshire Police
- The Local Safeguarding Children Board
- Representatives of local businesses
- Local Chambers of Commerce
- Town Centre Associations
- Residents of Kirklees and their representatives
- Kirklees Federation of Tenants & Residents Association
- Town Councils in the district
- Parish Councils in the district
- Local Members of Parliament
- Ward Councillors
- National bodies representing the gambling trade
- National charities concerned with the social impact of gambling
- Representatives of existing license holders
- West Fire and Rescue
- Community Safety Partnership
- Huddersfield University
- Local financial/debt management agencies
- Holders of Club Premise Certificates
- Holders of Lottery Permits
- Holders of Permits for Amusement Arcades

Consultation for this proposed policy ~~commenced on 1st April 2022~~ ended on Sunday 18th May 2025.

The Council will publish the consultation responses within 12 weeks of the consultation closing in accordance with best practice as set out by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

3. Declaration

It should be noted that this policy statement will not override the right of any person to make an application, make representations about an application, or apply for a review of a license, as each will be considered on its own merits and according to the statutory requirements of the Gambling Act 2005.

In producing the final statement, the council declares that it has had regard to the licensing objectives of the Gambling Act 2005, the guidance issued by the Gambling Commission, and any responses from those consulted on the statement.

4. Responsible Authorities

The Act empowers certain agencies to act as responsible authorities so that they can employ their particular area of expertise to help promote the licensing objectives. Responsible authorities will also offer advice and guidance to applicants.

Responsible Authorities are generally public bodies that must be notified of all applications, they are entitled to make representations about licence applications, or apply for a review of an existing licence, providing representations and / or a review are relevant to the licensing objectives. They have no obligation to respond to applications for premises licences if they wish not to do so.

Section 157(h) of the Act defines Responsible Authorities as:

- The Gambling Commission
- The Police
- The Fire Service
- The Local Safeguarding Children Board
- The Local Planning Authority
- Environmental Health
- HM Revenue and Customs
- The licensing authority (the council)

Each representation will be assessed with regard to the licensing objectives and be taken on its own individual merits.

The Licensing Authority will also consult with the Director of Public Health on all premises licence applications.

The council is required by regulations to state the principles it will apply to designate, in writing, to a body which is competent to advise the authority about the protection of children from harm.

The principles are:

- the need for the body to be responsible for an area covering the whole of the licensing authority's area.
- and the need for the body to be answerable to democratically elected persons, rather than any particular vested interest group.

In accordance with the suggestion in the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities, this authority designates the Local Safeguarding Children Board for this purpose.

The contact details of all the Responsible Authorities under the Gambling Act 2005 are available via the Council's website at: www.kirklees.gov.uk

The Secretary of State may prescribe other responsible authorities by means of regulations.

5. Interested parties

Interested parties are certain types of people or organisations who have the right to make representations about licence applications or apply for a review of an existing licence. These parties are defined in the Gambling Act 2005 as follows:

- "For the purposes of this Part a person is an interested party in relation to an application for or in respect of a premises licence if, in the opinion of the licensing authority which issues the licence or to which the applications is made, the person
- lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorised activities,
- has business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities, or
- represents persons who satisfy paragraph (a) or (b)"

The council is required by regulations to state the principles it will apply in exercising its powers under the Gambling Act 2005 to determine whether a person is an interested party. The principles are:

Each case will be decided upon its merits. The council will not apply a rigid rule to its decision making. It will consider the examples of considerations provided in the Gambling Commission's Guidance to local authorities. It will also consider the Gambling Commission's Guidance that "has business interests" should be given the widest possible interpretation and include partnerships, charities, faith groups and medical practices.

The Gambling Commission has recommended that the licensing authority states that interested parties include trade associations and trade unions, and residents' and tenants' associations.

However, the council emphasises that it will not generally view these bodies as interested parties unless they have a member who can be classed as an interested person under the terms of the Gambling Act 2005 i.e. lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the activities being applied for.

Interested parties can be persons who are democratically elected such as Councillors and MPs. No specific evidence of being asked to represent an interested person will be required if the Councillor / MP represent the ward likely to be affected. Likewise, parish councils likely to be affected will be considered to be interested parties. Other than these however, this authority will generally require written evidence that a person/body (e.g. an advocate / relative) 'represents' someone who either lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorised activities and/or has business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities. A letter from one of these persons, requesting the representation is sufficient.

If individuals wish to approach councillors to ask them to represent their views, then care should be taken that the councillors are not part of the Licensing Committee dealing with the licence application. If there are any doubts, then please contact

Licensing Service, Flint Street, Fartown, Huddersfield, HD1 6LG

Email: licensing@kirklees.gov.uk

Tel [01484 221000](tel:01484221000)

6. Exchange of Information

Licensing authorities are required to include in their statements the principles to be applied by the authority in exercising the functions with respect to the exchange of information between it and the Gambling Commission, and the functions with respect to the exchange of information between it and the other persons listed in Schedule 6 to the Act.

The principle that the council applies is that it will act in accordance with the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 in its exchange of information which includes the provision that the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Acts will not be contravened. The licensing authority will also have regard to any Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission to local authorities on this matter when it is published, as well as any relevant regulations issued by the Secretary of State under the powers provided in the Gambling Act 2005.

Should any protocols be established as regards information exchange with other bodies then they will be made available.

7. Enforcement

The council will work closely with responsible authorities in undertaking its enforcement duties under the Gambling Act 2005, be guided by the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities and will endeavour to be:

- Proportionate: regulators should only intervene when necessary: remedies
- should be appropriate to the risk posed, and costs identified and minimised;

- **Accountable:** regulators must be able to justify decisions, and be subject to public scrutiny;
- **Consistent:** rules and standards must be joined up and implemented fairly;
- **Transparent:** regulators should be open, and keep regulations simple and user friendly; and
- **Targeted:** regulation should be focused on the problem and minimise side effects.

The council will endeavour to avoid duplication with other regulatory regimes so far as possible.

The main enforcement and compliance role for the council in terms of the Gambling Act 2005 will be to ensure compliance with the premises licences and other permissions which it authorises. The Gambling Commission will be the enforcement body for the operating and personal licences.

Dealing with illegal poker or illegal/illegally sited machines in a specific premises will be dealt with by way of a multi-agency coordinated approach with the council licensing authority officers leading the operation with the police and on occasion HMRC providing support, advice and expertise. The Gambling Commission will be contacted to agree if such a multi-agency approach is appropriate.

The Council will also consult with the Gambling Commission before planning enforcement exercises such as test purchasing and age verification.

This council will also keep itself informed of developments as regards the work of the Better Regulation Executive in its consideration of the regulatory functions of local authorities.

8. Licensing Authority functions

Licensing Authorities are responsible under the Act for:

- Licensing premises where gambling activities are to take place by issuing Premises Licences
- Issuing Provisional Statements
- Regulating members' clubs and miners' welfare institutes who wish to undertake certain gaming activities via issuing Club Gaming Permits and/or Club Machine Permits
- Issuing Club Machine Permits to Commercial Clubs
- Granting permits for the use of certain lower stake gaming machines at unlicensed Family Entertainment Centres
- Receiving notifications from alcohol licensed premises (under the Licensing Act 2003) for the use of two or fewer gaming machines
- Issuing Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits for premises licensed to sell/supply alcohol for consumption on the licensed premises, under the Licensing Act 2003, where there are more than two machines

- Registering small society lotteries below prescribed thresholds
- Issuing Prize Gaming Permits
- Receiving and Endorsing Temporary Use Notices
- Receiving Occasional Use Notices
- Providing information to the Gambling Commission regarding details of licences issued (see section above on 'information exchange')
- Maintaining registers of the permits and licences that are issued under these functions

The council will not be involved in licensing remote gambling at all. This will fall to the Gambling Commission via operating licences.

The council has the responsibility for licensing gambling premises within Kirklees, as well as undertaking functions in relation to lower stake gaming machines in clubs and miners' welfare institutes. The Act also provides a system of temporary and occasional use notices. These enable licensing authorities to authorize premises that are not licensed generally for gambling purposes, to be used for certain types of gambling for limited periods.

Part B – Premises Licences

1. General Principles

The council will issue premises licences to allow premises to be used for certain types of gambling. The types of premises to which licences will be issued include amusement arcades, bingo halls, bookmakers and casinos.

Premises licences will be subject to the requirements set out in the Gambling Act 2005 and regulations, as well as specific mandatory and default conditions which will be detailed in regulations issued by the Secretary of State. Licensing authorities can exclude default conditions and also attach others, where it is believed to be appropriate.

The council is aware that in making decisions about premises licences it should aim to permit the use of premises for gambling in so far as it thinks it is:

- in accordance with any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission.
- in accordance with any relevant guidance issued by the Gambling Commission
- reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives; and
- in accordance with the authority's statement of licensing policy.

It is appreciated that as per the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities "moral objections to gambling are not a valid reason to reject applications for premises licences"

(except as regards any 'no casino resolution') and also that unmet demand is not a criterion for a licensing authority.

Applications

An application for a premises licence may only be made by persons (including companies or partnerships):

- Who are aged 18 or over and
- Who have the right to occupy the premises and
- Who have an operating licence which allows them to carry out the proposed activity or
- Who have applied for an operating licence to allow them to carry out the proposed activity. The application can only be determined once an operating licence has been issued.

Definition of "premises"

Premises is defined in the Act as "any place". Different premises licences cannot apply in respect of a single premise at different times. However, it is possible for a single building to be subject to more than one premises licence, provided they are for different parts of the building and the different parts of the building can be reasonably regarded as being different premises. Whether different parts of a building can properly be regarded as being separate premises will always be a question of fact in the circumstances.

The council will take particular care in considering applications for multiple licences for a building and those relating to a discrete part of a building used for other (non-gambling) purposes. In particular they should be aware that entrances and exits from parts of a building covered by one or more licences should be separate and identifiable so that the separation of different premises is not compromised, and that people do not 'drift' into a gambling area.

The council will pay particular attention to applications where access to the licensed premises is through other premises (which themselves may be licensed or unlicensed). Clearly, there will be specific issues that authorities should consider before granting such applications, for example, whether children can gain access; compatibility of the two establishments; and ability to comply with the requirements of the Act. But, in addition an important consideration should be whether, taken as a whole, the co-location of the licensed premises with other facilities has the effect of creating an arrangement that otherwise may compromise the licensing objectives.

An applicant cannot obtain a full premises licence until the premises in which it is proposed to offer the gambling are constructed. The Gambling Commission has advised that references to "the premises" are to the premises in which gambling may now take place. Thus, a licence to use premises for gambling will only be issued in relation to premises that are ready to be used for gambling. It is a question of fact and degree whether premises are finished to a degree that they can be considered for a premises licence. The Gambling Commission emphasises that requiring the building to be complete ensure that the authority can, if necessary, inspect it fully, as can other responsible authorities with inspection rights.

Where premises are not yet built or are about to be altered for the purpose of gambling and ultimately a premises licence will be required, the applicant should first consider making an application for a provisional statement (see section 9).

Local Risk Assessment

The council is aware that demand issues cannot be considered regarding the location of premises but that considerations in terms of the licensing objectives can. The council will pay particular attention to the protection of children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling, as well as health information and data related to gambling related harm as well as issues of crime and disorder. The term "vulnerable persons" includes people who gamble more than they want to; people who gamble beyond their means; and people who may not be able to make informed or balanced decisions about gambling due to a mental impairment, alcohol or drugs.

Should any specific policy be decided upon as regards areas where gambling premises should not be located, this statement will be updated. It should be noted that any such policy does not preclude any application being made and each application will be decided on its merits, with the onus upon the applicant showing how potential concerns can be overcome.

Licensees are required to assess the local risks to the licensing objectives posed by the provision of gambling facilities at each of their premises, and have policies, procedures and control measures to mitigate those risks and must consider relevant matters identified in this policy statement.

Licensees are required to undertake a local risk assessment when applying for a new premises licence and share their risk assessment with the licensing authority. Risk assessments must also be updated:

- when applying for a variation of a premises licence.
- to take account of significant changes in local circumstances, including those identified in this policy.
- when there are significant changes at a licensee's premises that may affect their mitigation of local risks.

In undertaking a local risk assessment, the Council will expect the operator, as a minimum to consider:

- whether the premises is in an area of deprivation
- whether the premises is in an area subject to high levels of crime and/or disorder
- the ethnic profile of residents in the area
- the demographics of the area in relation to vulnerable groups
- the location of services for children such as schools, playgrounds, toy shops, leisure centres and other areas where children will gather

- health information and data relating to gambling related harm

The Council's local area profile should be the starting point for operators when developing their local risk assessments as many of the concerns listed above form part of the local area profile.

The local risk assessment should also show how vulnerable people, including people with gambling dependencies, are protected.

The Council also consider the following matters are of importance for operators to consider in developing their local risk assessments:

- The training of staff in brief intervention when customers show signs of excessive gambling, the ability of staff to offer brief intervention and how the manning of premises affects this.
- Details as to the location and coverage of working CCTV cameras, and how the system will be monitored.
- The layout of the premises so that staff have an unobstructed view of persons using the premises
- The number of staff that will be available on the premises at any one time. If at any time that number is one, confirm the supervisory and monitoring arrangements when that person is absent from the licensed area or distracted from supervising the premises and observing those persons using the premises.
- Arrangements for monitoring and dealing with underage persons and vulnerable persons, which may include dedicated and trained personnel, leaflets, posters, self-exclusion schemes, window displays and advertisements not to entice passers-by etc.
- The provision of signage and documents relating to games rules, gambling care providers and other relevant information be provided in both English and the other prominent first language for that locality.
- Where the application is for a betting premises licence, other than in respect of a track, the location and extent of any part of the premises which will be used to provide facilities for gambling in reliance on the licence.

Such information may be used to inform the decision the council makes about whether to grant the licence, to grant the licence with special conditions or to refuse the application.

This policy does not preclude any application being made and each application will be decided on its merits, with the onus being upon the applicant to show how the concerns can be overcome.

Local Area Profile

Each locality within Kirklees has its own character and challenges. In order to assist applicants in completing their local risk assessments, the Council may, where relevant information exists, publish a local area profile. Any local area profile will be published on the Council's website, and applicants should refer to the Council's website for this information.

If published the local area profile should be given careful consideration when making an application. Applicants may be asked to attend a meeting with licensing officers to discuss the profiles, appropriate measures to mitigate risk in the area and how they might be relevant to their application. The local area profile will be presented to any subsequent licensing sub-committee when they determine an application that has received representations.

The Council recognises that it cannot insist on applicants using the local area profile when completing their risk assessments. However, an applicant who decides to disregard the profile may face additional representations and the expense of a hearing as a result.

Duplication with other regulatory regimes

The council will seek to avoid any duplication with other statutory / regulatory systems where possible, including planning. The council will not consider whether a licence application is likely to be awarded planning permission or building regulations approval, in its consideration of it. It will though, listen to, and consider carefully, any concerns about conditions which are not able to be met by licensees due to planning restrictions, should such a situation arise.

Licensing objectives

Premises licences granted must be consistent with the licensing objectives. With regard to these objectives, the council has considered the Gambling Commission's Guidance to local authorities and some comments are made below.

Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime

The Gambling Commission will be taking a leading role in preventing gambling from being a source of crime. The Gambling Commission's Guidance does however envisage that licensing authorities should pay attention to the proposed location of gambling premises in terms of this licensing objective. Thus, where an area has known high levels of organised crime the council will consider carefully whether gambling premises are suitable to be located there and whether conditions may be suitable such as the provision of door supervisors. The council is aware of the distinction between disorder and nuisance and will consider factors such as whether police assistance was required and how threatening the behaviour was, to those who could see it, so as to make that distinction.

Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way

The council has noted that the Gambling Commission has stated that it would generally not expect licensing authorities to become concerned with ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way as this will be addressed via operating and personal licences. There is however, more of a role with regard to tracks which is explained in more detail in the 'tracks' section.

Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling

Protection of children

The Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board has a webpage dedicated to providing local information about child safety, child sexual exploitation, policies and procedures including risk factors and signs and symptoms: [Kirklees Safeguarding Children's Partnership](#).

The council is aware that this objective means preventing children from taking part in gambling (as well as restriction of advertising so that gambling products are not aimed at or are, particularly attractive to children). The council will therefore consider whether specific measures are required at particular premises, with regard to this licensing objective. Appropriate measures may include supervision of entrances / machines, segregation of areas etc.

The Act provides the following definition for child and young adult in Section 45:

Meaning of "child" and "young person"

1. In this Act "child" means an individual who is less than 16 years old.
2. In this Act "young person" means an individual who is not a child but who is less than 18 years old.

For the purpose of this section protection of children will encompass both child and young person as defined by the Act.

The council will also make itself aware of the Codes of Practice which the Gambling Commission issues as regards this licensing objective, in relation to specific premises such as casinos.

Protection of vulnerable people

As regards the term "vulnerable persons" it is noted that the Gambling Commission is not seeking to offer a definition but states that "it will for regulatory purposes assume that this group includes people who gamble more than they want to; people who gamble beyond their means; and people who may not be able to make informed or balanced decisions about gambling due to a mental impairment, alcohol or drugs." The council will consider this licensing objective on a case-by-case basis. Should a practical definition prove possible in future then this policy statement will be updated by way of a revision.

Problem gambling can affect anyone at any time and there are some groups who are more likely to experience problems. Operators, using the information available in the Council's Local Area Profile, should consider these groups in their Local Risk Assessments, especially in relation to identifying people in these groups and mitigating harm experienced by them. Examples of vulnerable groups include, the unemployed and those living within deprived areas, children / young adults, those with drug / alcohol issues and those with mental illness.

Conditions

Any conditions attached to licences will be proportionate and will be:

- relevant to the need to make the proposed building suitable as a gambling facility;

- directly related to the premises and the type of licence applied for;
- fairly and reasonably related to the scale and type of premises; and
- reasonable in all other respects.

Decisions upon individual conditions will be made on a case-by-case basis, although there will be a number of measures the council will consider utilising should there be a perceived need, such as the use of supervisors, appropriate signage for adult only areas etc. There are specific comments made in this regard under some of the licence types below. The council will also expect the licence applicant to offer his/her own suggestions as to way in which the licensing objectives can be met effectively.

The council will also consider specific measures which may be required for buildings which are subject to multiple premises licences. Such measures may include the supervision of entrances; segregation of gambling from non-gambling areas frequented by children; and the supervision of gaming machines in non-adult gambling specific premises in order to pursue the licensing objectives.

This authority will also ensure that where category C or above machines are on offer in premises to which children are admitted that:

- all such machines are located in an area of the premises which is separated from the remainder of the premises by a physical barrier which is effective to prevent access other than through a designated entrance;
- only adults are admitted to the area where these machines are located;
- access to the area where the machines are located is supervised;
- the area where these machines are located is arranged so that it can be observed by the staff or the licence holder; and
- at the entrance to and inside any such areas there are prominently displayed notices indicating that access to the area is prohibited to persons under 18.

These considerations will apply to premises including buildings where multiple premises licences are applicable.

There are conditions which the council cannot attach to premises licences which are:

- any condition on the premises licence which makes it impossible to comply with an operating licence condition;
- conditions relating to gaming machine categories, numbers, or method of operation;
- conditions which provide that membership of a club or body be required (the Gambling Act 2005 specifically removes the membership requirement for casino and bingo clubs and this provision prevents it being reinstated; and
- conditions in relation to stakes, fees, winning or prizes.

Door Supervisors

The Gambling Commission advises in its Guidance for local authorities that licensing authorities may consider whether there is a need for door supervisors in terms of the licensing objective of protection of children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling, and also in terms of preventing premises becoming a source of crime.

Where operators and the council decide that supervision of entrances / machines is appropriate for particular cases, it will need to be decided whether these need to be Security Industry Authority (SIA) licensed or not. It will not be automatically assumed that they need to be.

2. Adult Gaming Centres

The council will specifically have regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling and will expect the applicant to satisfy the authority that there will be sufficient measures to, for example, ensure that under 18-year-olds do not have access to the premises.

The council may consider measures to meet the licensing objectives such as:

- Proof of age schemes
- CCTV
- Supervision of entrances / machine areas
- Physical separation of areas
- Location of entry
- Notices / signage
- Specific opening hours
- Self-exclusion schemes – all holders of general operating licences for adult gaming centres must offer self-exclusion schemes to customers requesting such a facility
- Provision of information leaflets / helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare.
- Documented procedures on how employees will monitor the licensed area to ensure they are not being used by persons under the age of 18
- Occasional spot checks for children / young persons in adult only areas

This list is not mandatory, nor exhaustive, and is merely indicative of example measures.

Gaming Machines

The holder of an ACG premises licence may make available for use a number of category B gaming machines not exceeding 20% of the total number of gaming machines which are available for use on the premises and any number of category C or D machines.

3. (Licensed) Family Entertainment Centres:

The council will specifically have regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling and will expect the applicant to satisfy the authority that there will be sufficient measures to ensure that under 18-year-olds do not have access to the adult only gaming machine areas.

The council may consider measures to meet the licensing objectives such as:

- CCTV
- Supervision of entrances / machine areas
- Physical separation of areas
- Location of entry
- Notices / signage
- Specific opening hours
- Self-exclusion schemes
- Provision of information leaflets / helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare.
- Measures / training for staff on how to deal with suspected truant school children on the premises
- Documented procedures on how employees will monitor the licensed area to ensure they are not being used by persons under the age of 18
- Occasional spot checks for children / young persons in adult only areas

This list is not mandatory, nor exhaustive, and is merely indicative of example measures.

A betting premises licence in respect of a track may not authorise pool betting to take place, other than in respect of dog or horse racing and only where the acceptance of bets is by the holder of the betting premises licence, or in accordance with arrangements made by them. In the case of dog racing, this preserves the existing arrangements at dog tracks where the totalizer is operated by or on behalf of the occupier of the track.

The council will refer to the Commission's website to see any conditions that apply to operating licences covering the way in which the area containing the category C machines should be delineated. The council will also make itself aware of any mandatory or default conditions on these premises' licences, when they have been published.

Changes on the numbers of machines permitted came into force in 2011. Please see appendix one for limits on numbers of machines at the above type of premises.

4. Gaming Machines

For a premises to site gaming machines some form of authorisation is normally required. Typically, this is:

- An operating licence from the commission and a gambling premises licence from a Licensing Authority
- An alcohol premises licence from a licensing authority
- A gaming machine permit from a licensing authority.

The meaning of 'available for use'

S.242 of the Act makes it an offence for any person to make a gaming machine available for use where they do not hold an operating licence or other permission covering gaming machines and where no other exemption applies.

The Act does not define what 'available for use' means, but the Commission considers that a gaming machine is 'available use' if a person can take steps to play it without the assistance of the operator.

More than the permitted number of machines may be physically located on the premises, but the onus is on the licensees to demonstrate that no more than the permitted number are 'available for use' at any one time.

5. Casinos

The council has not passed a 'no casino' resolution under Section 166 of the Gambling Act 2005 but is aware that it has the power to do so. Should the council decide in the future to pass such a resolution, it will update this policy statement with details of that resolution. Any such decision will be made by the full council.

Casinos and competitive bidding

The council is aware that where a licensing authority is empowered to grant a premises licence for a new style casino (i.e. the Secretary of State has made such regulations under Section 175 of the Gambling Act 2005) there are likely to be a number of operators which will want to run the casino. In such situations the local authority will run a 'competition' under Schedule 9 of the Gambling Act 2005. The council will run such a competition in line with any regulations / codes of practice issued under the Gambling Act 2005.

Licence considerations/conditions

The Gambling Commission has stated that "further guidance will be issued in due course about the particular issues that licensing authorities should take into account in relation to the suitability and layout of casino premises". This guidance will be considered by the council when it is made available.

Betting machines

The council will take into account the size of the premises, the number of counter positions available for person-to-person transactions, and the ability of staff to monitor the use of betting machines by children and young persons (it is an offence for those under 18 to bet) or by vulnerable people, when considering the number/nature/circumstances of betting machines an operator wants to offer.

Category B gaming machines may only be made available in licensed gambling premises and not in locations which may prompt more ambient gambling such as pubs. The Council will satisfy ourselves that a premises applying for or licensed as a casino is operating or will operate in a manner which a customer would reasonably be expected to recognize as a premises licensed for the purposes of providing facilities for casino games and/or games of equal chance.

6. Bingo premises

The council is aware that if children are allowed to enter premises licensed for bingo that they do not participate in gambling, other than on category D machines. Where category C or above machines are available in premises to which children are admitted the council will ensure that:

- all such machines are located in an area of the premises separate from the remainder of the premises by a physical barrier which is effective to prevent access other than through a designated entrance;
- only adults are admitted to the area where the machines are located;
- access to the area where the machines are located is supervised;
- the area where the machines are located is arranged so that it can be observed by staff of the operator or the licence holder; and
- at the entrance to, and inside any such area there are prominently displayed notices indicating that access to the area is prohibited to persons under 18.

This council is also aware that the Gambling Commission has stated that it is going to issue further guidance about the particular issues that licensing authorities should take into account in relation to the suitability and layout of bingo premises. This guidance will be considered by the council once it is made available.

Gaming machines

The Council will ensure that gambling machines are made available for use in a manner consistent with the Gambling commission guidance within part 16. Gaming machines will only

be counted if they can be played simultaneously by different players without physical hindrance, including tablets.

7. Betting premises

Betting premises are premises such as bookmakers and betting offices where various types of gambling are authorised to take place. Children and young persons will not be able to enter such premises.

The holder of a betting premises licence may make available for use up to four gaming machines of category B (B2, B3 and B4), C or D.

8. Tracks

Tracks are sites (including racecourses and dog tracks) where races or other sporting events take place. The Act does not define what constitutes a sporting event or race and the Council will decide this on a case-by-case basis. There are currently no tracks within this council area.

The Act wholly prohibits the employment of children and young people on tracks.

Should the need arise the council is aware that such tracks may be subject to one or more than one premises licence, provided each licence relates to a specified area of the track. The council will especially consider the impact upon the third licensing objective (i.e. the protection of children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling) and the need to ensure that entrances to each type of premises are distinct and that children are excluded from gambling areas where they are not permitted to enter.

The council will therefore expect the premises licence applicant to demonstrate suitable measures to ensure that children do not have access to adult only gaming facilities. It is noted that children and young persons will be permitted to enter track areas where facilities for betting are provided on days when dog-racing and/or horse racing takes place, but that they are still prevented from entering areas where gaming machines (other than category D machines) are provided.

The council may consider measures to meet the licensing objectives such as:

- Proof of age schemes
- CCTV
- Supervision of entrances / machine areas
- Physical separation of areas
- Location of entry
- Notices / signage
- Specific opening hours

- Self-exclusion schemes

Provision of information leaflets / helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare. This list is not mandatory, nor exhaustive, and is merely indicative of example measures.

Betting on Tracks

There are various types of betting which take place in relation to tracks:

- On-course betting
- Off-course betting

Further information can be found in the Guidance for Licensing Authorities – April 2021 update at [Gambling Commission](#).

Pool Betting

A track premises licence may only authorise the acceptance of bets by way of pool betting on horseracing or dog racing, and if the bets are accepted by the holder of the track premises licence or in accordance with arrangements made by hm. Additionally pool betting on a licensed greyhound track will only be permitted while the public are admitted to the track for the purpose of attending greyhound races, and no other sporting events are taking place.

Gaming machines

The council will consider the location of gaming machines at tracks, and applications for track premises licences will need to demonstrate that, where the applicant holds a pool betting operating licence and is going to use his entitlement to four gaming machines, these machines are located in areas from which children are excluded. Children and young persons are not prohibited from playing category D gaming machines at a track.

The council is aware that the Gambling Commission is preparing guidance as regards where gaming machines may be located at tracks and any special considerations that should apply in relation, for example, to the supervision of the machines and preventing children from playing them.

Betting machines

The council will take into account the size of the premises and the expectation of how staff will monitor the use of the betting machines by children and young persons (it is an offence for those under 18 to bet) or by vulnerable people, when considering the number/nature/circumstances of betting machines an operator wants to offer. It will also take note of the Gambling Commission's suggestion that licensing authorities will want to consider restricting the number and location of such machines in respect of applications for track betting premises.

Conditions on rules being displayed

In line with guidance from the Gambling Commission the council will consider attaching a condition to track premises licences requiring the track operator to ensure that the rules are prominently displayed in or near the betting areas, or that other measures are taken to ensure that they are made available to the public. For example, the rules could be printed in the racecard or made available in leaflet form from the track office."

9. Travelling fairs

Travelling fairs have traditionally been able to provide various low stakes gambling without the need for a licence or permit provided that certain conditions are met. This provision continues in a similar fashion in the new Act.

The council will decide whether, where category D machines and / or equal chance prize gaming without a permit is to be made available for use at travelling fairs, the statutory requirement that the facilities for gambling amount to no more than an ancillary amusement at the fair is met.

The council will also consider whether the applicant falls within the statutory definition of a travelling fair.

It has been noted that the 27-day statutory maximum for the land being used as a fair, is per calendar year, and that it applies to the piece of land on which the fairs are held, regardless of whether it is the same or different travelling fairs occupying the land. The council will work with its neighbouring authorities to ensure that land which crosses our boundaries is monitored so that the statutory limits are not exceeded.

10. Provisional statements

A provisional statement application is a process which allows a developer to examine the likelihood of whether a building which has yet to be constructed or altered for the purpose of gambling, would be granted a premises licence when the building work is complete. It is not a licence and merely gives the holder some form of assurance that a premises licence would be granted. Once works are complete a full premises licence would still be required.

In terms of representations about premises licence applications, following the grant of a provisional statement, no further representations from relevant authorities or interested parties can be taken into account unless they concern matters which could not have been addressed at the provisional statement stage, or they reflect a change in the applicant's circumstances. In addition, the authority may refuse the premises licence (or grant it on terms different to those attached to the provisional statement) only by reference to matters:

- a) which could not have been raised by objectors at the provisional licence stage; or
- b) which in the authority's opinion reflect a change in the operator's circumstances.

The council will not take into account irrelevant matters e.g. the likelihood of the applicant obtaining planning permission or building regulations approval for the proposal."

11. Reviews

Requests for a review of a premises licence can be made by interested parties or responsible authorities; however, it is for the council to decide whether the review is to be carried out. This will be on the basis of whether the request for the review is:

- in accordance with any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission.
- in accordance with any relevant guidance issued by the Gambling Commission.
- reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives; and
- in accordance with the authority's statement of licensing policy.

Consideration will also be given as to whether the request is frivolous, vexatious, will certainly not cause this authority to alter/revoke/suspend the licence, or whether it is substantially the same as previous representations or requests for review.

The council can also initiate a review of a licence on the basis of any reason which it thinks is appropriate.

PART C – Permits / Temporary & Occasional Use Notice

1. Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre gaming machine permits (Statement of Principles on Permits)

The term 'unlicensed family entertainment centre' is one defined in the Act and refers to a premises which provides category D gaming machines along with various other amusements such as computer games and penny pushers. The premises is 'unlicensed' in that it does not require a premises licence but does require a permit to be able to provide its category D machines. It should not be confused with a 'licensed family entertainment centre' which does require a premises licence because it contains both category C and D gaming machines. They are premises which are 'wholly or mainly' used for making gaming machines available.

The Gambling Act 2005 contains a provision for local authorities to prepare a statement of principles that they propose to consider in determining the suitability of an applicant for a permit. Schedule 10, Para 7 of the Act states, "in preparing this statement, and/or considering applications, it need not (but may) have regard to the licensing objectives and shall have regard to any relevant guidance issued by the Commission under Section 25."

In accordance with Gambling Commission guidance the council will give weight to child protection issues when considering applications for permits.

The council will expect the applicant to show that there are policies and procedures in place to protect children from harm. Harm in this context is not limited to harm from gambling but

includes wider child protection considerations. The council will assess these policies and procedures on their merits; however, they may include appropriate measures / training for staff as regards suspected truant school children on the premises, measures / training covering how staff would deal with unsupervised children being on the premises, or children causing problems on or around the premises. The council will also expect applicants to demonstrate a full understanding of the maximum stakes and prizes of the gambling that is permissible in unlicensed FECs, that the applicant has no relevant convictions (those that are set out in Schedule 7 of the Act); and that staff are trained to have a full understanding of the maximum stakes and prizes.

The council is aware that an application for a permit may only be granted if the chief officer of police has been consulted on the application.

In line with the Act the council cannot attach conditions to this type of permit and the "Statement of principles" only applies to initial applications and not to renewals.

2. Gaming machine permits in premises licensed for the sale of alcohol

There is provision in the Act for premises licensed to sell alcohol for consumption on the premises, to automatically have 2 gaming machines of categories C and/or D. The premises merely need to notify the licensing authority. The council can remove the automatic authorisation in respect of any particular premises if:

- provision of the machines is not reasonably consistent with the pursuit of the licensing objectives.
- gaming has taken place on the premises that breaches a condition of section 282 of the Gambling Act (i.e. that written notice has been provided to the licensing authority, that a fee has been provided and that any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission about the location and operation of the machine has been complied with).
- the premises are mainly used for gaming; or
- an offence under the Gambling Act has been committed on the premises.

If a premises wishes to have more than 2 machines, then it needs to apply for a permit and the council must consider that application based upon the licensing objectives, any guidance issued by the Gambling Commission issued under Section 25 of the Gambling Act 2005, and "such matters as they think relevant." The council considers that "such matters" will be decided on a case by case basis but generally there will be regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling and will expect the applicant to satisfy the council that there will be sufficient measures to ensure that under 18 year olds do not have access to the adult only gaming machines.

Measures which will satisfy the council that there will be no access may include the adult machines being in sight of the bar, or in the sight of staff who will monitor that the machines are not being used by those under 18. Notices and signage may also be help. As regards the

protection of vulnerable persons applicants may wish to consider the provision of information leaflets / helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare.

It is recognised that some alcohol licensed premises may apply for a premises licence for their non-alcohol licensed areas. Any such application would most likely need to be applied for and dealt with as an Adult Gaming Centre premises licence.

The council can decide to grant the application with a smaller number of machines and/or a different category of machines than that applied for. Conditions (other than these) cannot be attached.

The holder of a permit must comply with any Code of Practice issued by the Gambling Commission about the location and operation of the machine.

3. Prize Gaming Permits - (Statement of Principles on Permits)

The council will expect the applicant to set out the types of gaming that he or she is intending to offer and be able to demonstrate:

- that they understand the limits to stakes and prizes that are set out in Regulations;
- and that the gaming offered is within the law.

In making its decision on an application for this permit the council does not need to have regard to the licensing objectives but must have regard to any Gambling Commission guidance.

There are conditions in the Gambling Act 2005 by which the permit holder must comply, but that the licensing authority cannot attach conditions. The conditions in the Act are:

- the limits on participation fees, as set out in regulations, must be complied with;
- all chances to participate in the gaming must be allocated on the premises on which the gaming is taking place and on one day; the game must be played and completed on the day the chances are allocated; and the result of the game must be made public in the premises on the day that it is played;
- the prize for which the game is played must not exceed the amount set out in regulations (if a money prize), or the prescribed value (if non-monetary prize); and
- participation in the gaming must not entitle the player to take part in any other gambling.

4. Club gaming and club machines permits

Members clubs and miners' welfare institutes (but not commercial clubs) may apply for a Club Gaming Permit or a Clubs Gaming machines permit. The Club Gaming Permit will enable the premises to provide gaming machines (3 machines of categories B, C or D), equal chance gaming and games of chance as set-out in forthcoming regulations. A Club Gaming machine

permit will enable the premises to provide gaming machines (3 machines of categories B, C or D).

To qualify for club permits members clubs must have at least 25 members and be established and conducted "wholly or mainly" for purposes other than gaming, unless the gaming is permitted by separate regulations. It is anticipated that this will cover bridge and whist clubs, which will replicate the position under the Gaming Act 1968. A members' club must be permanent in nature, not established to make commercial profit, and controlled by its members equally. Examples include working men's clubs, branches of Royal British Legion and clubs with political affiliations."

The council may only refuse an application on the grounds that:

- a) the applicant does not fulfill the requirements for a members' or commercial club or miners' welfare institute and therefore is not entitled to receive the type of permit for which it has applied;
- b) the applicant's premises are used wholly or mainly by children and/or young persons;
- c) persons;
- d) an offence under the Act or a breach of a permit has been committed by the applicant while providing gaming facilities;
- e) a permit held by the applicant has been cancelled in the previous ten years; or
- f) an objection has been lodged by the Commission or the police.

There is also a 'fast-track' procedure available under the Act for premises which hold a Club Premises Certificate under the Licensing Act 2003. Under the fast-track procedure there is no opportunity for objections to be made by the Commission or the police, and the grounds upon which an authority can refuse a permit are reduced. The grounds on which an application under the process may be refused are:

- a) that the club is established primarily for gaming, other than gaming prescribed under schedule 12.
- b) that in addition to the prescribed gaming, the applicant provides facilities for other gaming; or
- c) that a club gaming permit or club machine permit issued to the applicant in the last ten years has been cancelled."

There are statutory conditions on club gaming permits that no child uses a category B or C machine on the premises and that the holder complies with any relevant provision of a code of practice about the location and operation of gaming machines.

5. Temporary use notices

Temporary use notices allow the use of premises for gambling where there is no premises licence but where a gambling operator wishes to use the premises temporarily for providing

facilities for gambling. Premises that might be useful for a temporary use notice would include hotels, conference centres and sporting venues.

The Act makes a special reference, in the context of temporary use notices, to a "set of premises" to try and ensure that large premises which cannot reasonably be viewed as separate are not used for more temporary use notices than permitted under the act. The council considers that the determination of what constitutes "a set of premises" will be a question of fact in the particular circumstances of each notice that is given. In considering whether a place falls within the definition of a "set of premises", the council will look at, amongst other things, the ownership/occupation and control of the premises. The council will be ready to object to notices where it appears that their effect would be to permit regular gambling in a place that could be described as one set of premises.

6. Occasional use notices for tracks

There is a special provision in the Act which provides that where there is betting on a track on eight days or less in a calendar year, betting may be permitted by an occasional use notice without the need for a full premises licence. Track operators and occupiers need to be aware that the procedure for applying for an occasional use notice is different to that for a temporary use notice.

The council has very little discretion as regards these notices aside from ensuring that the statutory limit of 8 days in a calendar year is not exceeded. The council will though consider the definition of a 'track' and whether the applicant is permitted to avail him/herself of the notice.

More information relating to this can be found in the Guidance to licensing authorities April 2021 update at [Gambling Commission](#).

PART D – Public Health

1. Gambling related harm

The Local Government Association defines gambling related harm as:

“Any type of repetitive gambling that disrupts or damages personal, family or recreational pursuits. It can have many and varied impact, including on an individual’s physical and mental health, relationships, housing and finances, and affect a wide range of people, such as families, colleagues and wider local communities.” [Tackling gambling related harm a whole council approach \(local.gov.uk\)](#).

People can engage in gambling activities activity without experiencing any harm. However, over the years, the prevalence of harmful gambling has increased and is now widely accepted to be a serious and worsening Public Health concern. The harm from gambling can exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and inequalities and is seen at an individual, societal and community level. [Faculty of Public Health Gambling Policy Statement June 2018](#).

It is with this in mind that Kirklees Council seeks to ensure that gambling premises and license holders are aware of and committed to ensuring that gambling activity is carefully monitored and that those at risk of gambling related harm are identified and offered appropriate support.

2. Who is most at risk?

The harm caused by gambling is unequal in distribution. Research and evidence show that there are a number of population groups who are more at risk of gambling related harm.

- [Tackling gambling related harm a whole council approach \(local.gov.uk\)](#).
- [Gambling-related harms: evidence review GOV.UK](#)

These are:

- Children, adolescents and young adults (including students)
- People with mental health issues, including those at risk of suicide and self-harm, those experiencing substance abuse problems
- Individuals from certain minority ethnic groups, such as Asian/Asian British, Black/Black British and Chinese/other ethnicity
- The unemployed
- The homeless
- Those with low intellectual functioning
- Problem gamblers seeking treatment
- People with financially constrained circumstances
- Those living in deprived areas
- Those engaged in criminal activity
- Males

Gambling harm affects not only the individual, but also the family and wider society. Children in particular are heavily impacted both financially and emotionally by a family member gambling. [Faculty of Public Health Gambling Policy Statement June 2018](#).

The risk factors for harmful gambling among children and young people include:

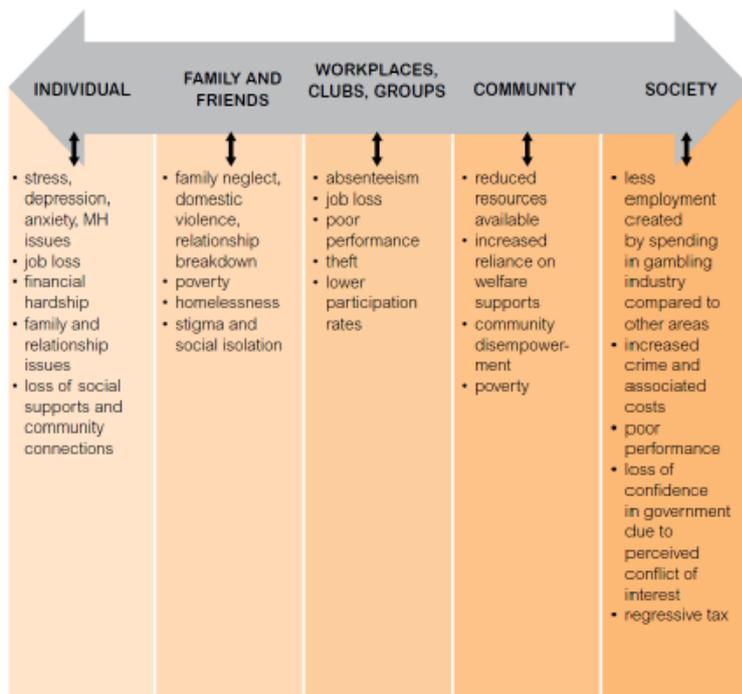
- Impulsivity
- Substance use (alcohol, tobacco, cannabis and other illegal drugs)
- Being male

- Depression
- Source: [Gambling-related harms: evidence review GOV.UK](#)

3. What is the impact?

The impact of gambling can have a significant effect on an individual’s physical, mental and social health. Gambling is associated with stress, depression, and alcohol and substance misuse [Faculty of Public Health Gambling Policy Statement June 2018](#). However, the impact can also extend beyond an individual – affecting relationships, families, friends, education, workplaces, culture and communities. There are wider impacts of harm from gambling including fraud, theft, loss of productivity in the workforce and the cost of treating this addiction [Faculty of Public Health Gambling Policy Statement June 2018](#).

This is demonstrated below:



Source: Health promotion resource guide for problem gambling prevention in Melbourne North¹²

- [Tackling gambling related harm a whole council approach \(local.gov.uk\)](#).

4. Reducing gambling harms through a public health approach

- Monitor the number of gambling premises in areas where deprivation and/or rates of problematic gambling are highest.
- Improve awareness of gambling harms and promote support and treatment options in gambling settings.

- Ensure access to advocacy and information in relation to gambling related harms is readily available in areas where the impact of gambling related harms are highest.