



National association for gambling care,
educational resources and training

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BRIEFING PAPER 3

FUNDING RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND TREATMENT

In October 2007 Gambling Minister Gerry Sutcliffe asked the Gambling Commission to review the funding of, and priorities for, gambling research, education and treatment. This review reported in October 2008 and recommended the establishment of a new structure for determining strategy and raising and distributing funding. It estimated that funding needed to increase to over £7 million a year by 2012. Further work was needed to explore whether a statutory levy needed to be introduced to guarantee sufficient funding from the industry. In June 2009 the Minister announced that he was content that the industry had committed to an acceptable voluntary arrangement for fundraising, and that a levy was not necessary.

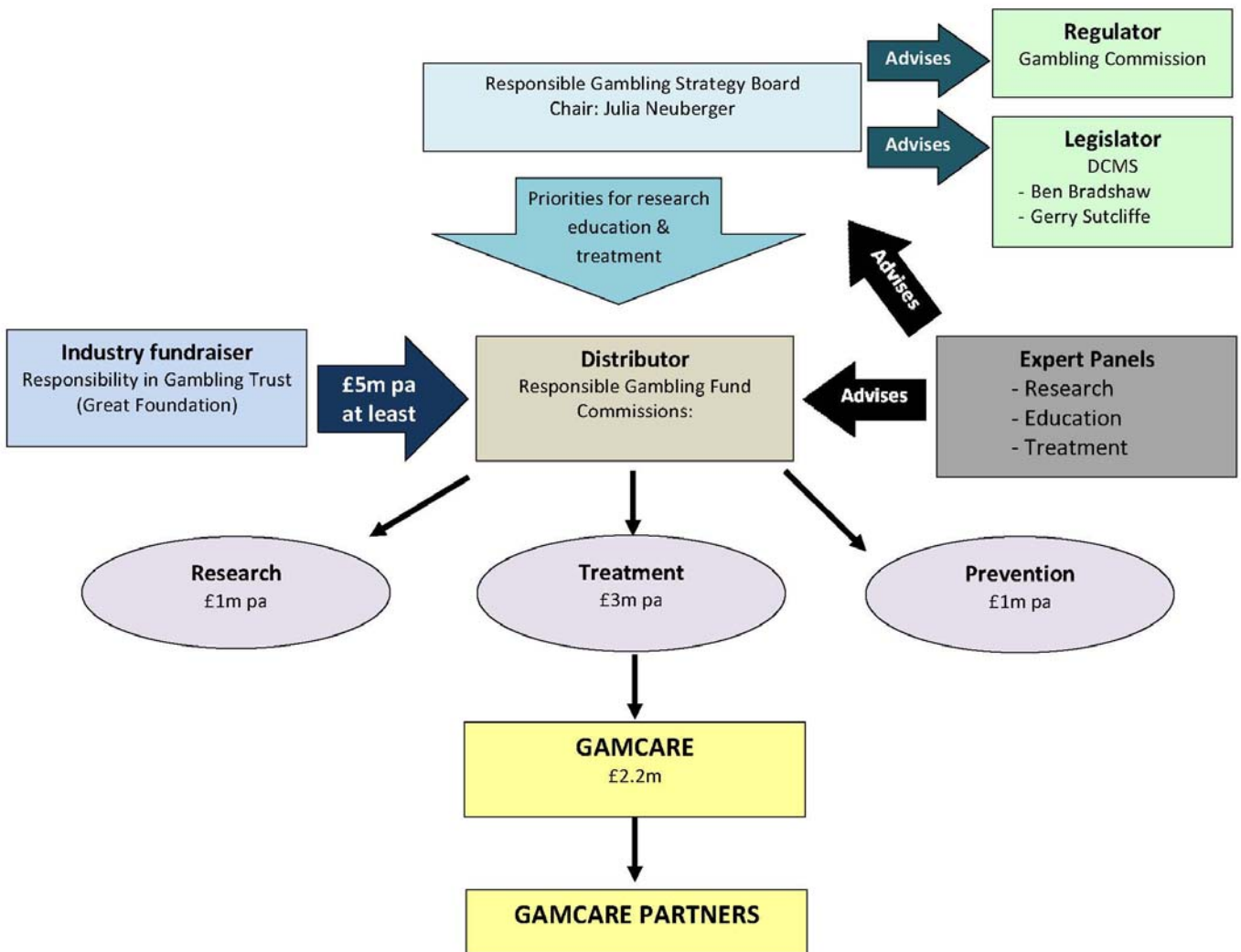
Six new bodies have been created:

- A reformed Responsibility in Gambling Trust (chaired by Andrew Tottenham of Harrahs and with Geoffrey Godbold as its Director) is focusing solely on fundraising from the industry, and has guaranteed to raise at least £5 million this year and in each of the next two years
- The Responsible Gambling Strategy Board, chaired by Baroness Julia Neuberger, is responsible for advising Ministers and the Gambling Commission on priorities and funding levels needed for research, education and treatment. We think it will set out its initial views on priorities in the Autumn. The board is funded by the Commission (c£250k pa)
- A new body, the Responsible Gambling Fund, is being set up to distribute the money raised in line with the Strategy Board's priorities. It is also chaired by Baroness Julia Neuberger.
- Three Expert Panels to advise the RGSB and the RGF.

The diagram overleaf shows the relationships between these bodies and with GamCare. GamCare is keen to cooperate with the new bodies. To do our work we need:

- Certainty of funding, with three year funding agreements so that we can plan effectively and efficiently
- To cooperate on the development of appropriate and proportionate evaluation strategies to demonstrate that what we and other service providers do, actually works
- To collaborate, not compete, with the very limited number of knowledgeable service providers in the field of problem gambling
- To give very clear and simple messages to people about the help available, and make it easier for them to access it.

Sadly, though, rather than expanding our services this year, as we should be, our funding has effectively been reduced in 2009/10, making it difficult even to maintain existing services let alone develop new ones. Yet there is more money in the system than there has ever been before.



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