

Common Screening Questions

There are a range of screening tools available, including much longer versions, but a common one that you may see is the GAST-G:

In the last 12 months, have you:

- Bet more than you could really afford to lose?
- Been criticised for your betting or told that you have a gambling problem?
- Felt guilty about the way you gamble, or what happens when you gamble?
- Been affected by someone else's gambling?

If someone can answer 'yes' to ANY of these questions, then they are at least 'at risk' and are eligible for support.

We can offer you FREE resources specific to your organisation, including leaflets, posters, stickers, and credit card sized screening or information cards, tailoring according to location, audience, and need.



Scan here to visit the
GamCare website

GamCare is a registered charity which has been established for 21 years.

We are the leading national provider of information, advice and support for anyone affected by problem gambling in Great Britain. We help and support anyone affected by problem gambling, including people affected by someone else's gambling.

Our mission is to support those affected by problem gambling through advice and treatment, and to minimise gambling-related harm through education, prevention and communication.

Referral to free GamCare services

GamCare operates the National Gambling Helpline and NetLine (web chat), open from 8am to midnight, seven days a week. Peer to peer support is on offer via GamCare's online Forum and chatrooms, including dedicated chatrooms for those in the criminal justice system.

GamCare's treatment services also provide face-to-face or online support across Great Britain. We would like to set up referral pathways with you which will last beyond the duration of this programme.

Funded by:

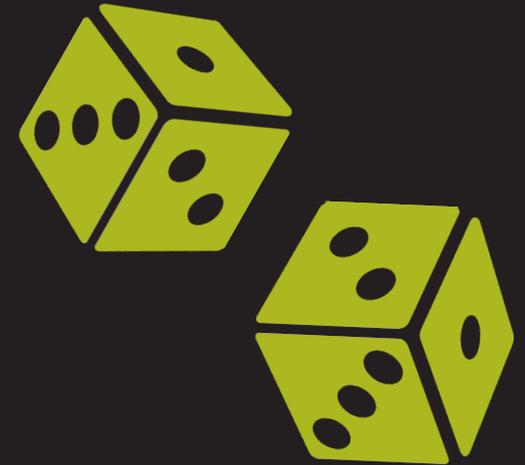


— David Lloyd —
**Police and Crime
Commissioner**
for Hertfordshire

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Charity No. 1060005

Hertfordshire Problem Gambling Programme

Information for
professionals within the
criminal justice system



Call now - quote
'Hertfordshire
CJS referral'

National Gambling Helpline
Call free: 0808 8020 133
www.gamcare.org.uk



People who are in the criminal justice system (CJS) are more likely to have had gambling harm their lives than for those in the wider population. However, there is little awareness within the CJS of what problem gambling is or what support options exist.

Due to the lack of attention the issue receives, those affected may be less likely to come forward, fearful of not being taken seriously, misunderstanding or apathy.

Unlike other addictive behaviours, problem gambling is often very hidden, even from family and friends, until it reaches a point of crisis. Behaviour change is not obvious, and unlike other addictions it cannot be smelt or seen. Importantly, it is not generally screened for within the system.

There is also very little discussion about how gambling behaviour is linked to criminal behaviour. We know from our years of offering advice and treatment to those affected that problem gambling does link to crime, particularly for offenses such as theft, fraud, criminal damage and domestic abuse. However, the evidence does not exist to guide understanding in these areas. It is possible that there are habitual offenders who revolve through the system without this underlying issue having been identified or treated; only to be released, continue gambling, and reoffend. Gambling behaviour exists as a continuum, ranging from social to severe. Problem gambling behaviour is likely to escalate in times of crisis, in a similar way that substance misuse does.

Someone may enter the CJS 'at risk' of becoming a problem gambler and may leave with an additional issue to manage. This increases the likelihood of reoffending.

There is evidence to suggest that gambling is part of daily prison life, and problematic despite it being prohibited. Betting on football, horses, and card games with tobacco, canteen goods, personal items, and money can lead to debt, bullying and violence, causing a number of problems for inmates and prison staff alike.

This pilot programme, funded by Hertfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner Innovation Fund, works to support all partner agencies in Hertfordshire's CJS to encourage screening, referral and access to GamCare's free support and treatment.

By working collaboratively, we have the potential to:

- Build evidence and understanding of gambling-related harm in the UK CJS.
- Reduce reoffending.
- Reduce the risk of harm to a vulnerable cohort. Problem gamblers are particularly vulnerable to violence, debt and suicidal ideation.
- Break the cycle of gambling, debt and crime.

The Hertfordshire Problem Gambling Programme aims to:

- Ensure that there are opportunities to identify problem gambling at multiple stages of the system.
- Ensure that all agencies across the system are aware of the issue and refer into the existing support structures.
- Provide access to treatment support that relates problem gambling to criminal behaviour.

- Improve the continuity of care for offenders within the system.
- Build a strong evidence base that allows us to identify where best we can embed ongoing interventions within the criminal justice system.

Free training for your staff

We will tailor training sessions according to what system improvement you want to deliver. There are three tiers of training available - from building a general knowledge base around problem gambling and its relationship to crime, through to acquiring the tools to confidently step in to a situation and offer a brief intervention to someone who is affected.

Bespoke treatment at your location

We can offer specific treatment for your clients, at your premises (or nearby partner premises if preferable). We can provide one-to-one or group support, or even a rolling group programme depending on the level of need within your cohort. Treatment will be run by a qualified practitioner who has experience of working within the CJS and with complex cases. Treatment can be counted as part of any licence or community order.

Free gambling blocker software

We can offer free software to block access to any gambling sites or apps, without blocking anything else.

All GamCare clients are eligible for a free license for 12 months, using software from gamban.