

GambleAware

#6 – September 2017. In this issue:

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The autumn has arrived and we have a busy quarter ahead raising awareness of gambling related harm and supporting anyone who is a risk or experiencing harm. We welcome the opportunity to raise awareness at events and we offer free training to frontline staff to help identify and offer early intervention. We can be easily contacted and you will find our details at the end of this newsletter



The Gambling Act of 2005 defines gambling as betting, gaming or participating in a lottery but often consumers often do not recognise **lotteries and scratch cards** as gambling. Raffles, tombola's and sweepstakes are all types of lottery. Lotteries can **only be run for good causes** and cannot be run for commercial or private gain.

This newsletters draws attention to how the lottery and scratch cards have changed since their introduction and looks to shed some light on this area of risk often over looked. **Like with all other forms of gambling we can offer free support and advice for anyone worried about excessive scratch card or lottery purchasing.**

The Gambling Commission is currently consulting on new codes of practice for society and local authority lottery operators to improve transparency for society lottery players. If you would like to have your on the changes which aim to improve transparency and put the consumer first you can follow the link here: <https://goo.gl/F5paoi>

Lotteries and Scams

Unfortunately criminals pretending to be legitimate gambling businesses may try to steal your identity or take your money. Be aware of the potential for scams and frauds and check the business you are gambling with is licensed.



Do not send any money or personal details to anyone who says that you have won a prize or anything else in a lottery or sweepstake that you have not entered. Such claims may well be fraudulent. You may be asked to pay a fee before the prize money is released: never respond to requests for advance payment. If you have parted with money you may wish to contact your bank and the police immediately.

Some fraudsters set out to steal identities. Do not release personal information such as your passport number, home address, telephone number or banking details to unknown organisations. Such emails may seem professional at first glance, but look closely and you may find that text is inconsistent, there are spelling errors and the contacts page will contain mobile phone numbers.

If you encounter a lottery or sweepstake scam you can report the scam to Action Fraud. However, the majority of these types of fraud operate from outside the United Kingdom and therefore police powers are very limited. You can read more about lottery scams on the Action Fraud website.

View the Citizens Advice website for more information on scams: www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/scams/

Did you know?

Minimum age to bet in a bookmakers on sports and races: **18**

Minimum age to bet in a bookmakers on FOBT machines: **18**

Minimum age to play bingo at a licensed hall or online: **18**

Minimum age to play the lottery or purchase scratchcards: 16

The National Lottery expansion

The 19th November 1994 may not be a date that you remember well. That Saturday saw the first National Lottery draw on our televisions that have now become a regular feature 23 years on, with 46% of the population regularly buying what could be a life-changing ticket. The prevalence of problem gambling within lottery playing is low (1.3% of all problem gamblers) however the amount of new games and draws available in 2017 could mean that people are spending more than they can afford.



Year	1994	2017
Draws	1x National Lottery / Lotto Draw (£1)	2x Lotto Draw (£2.00) 3x Thunderball (£1.00) 2x EuroMillions (£2.50) 2x Lotto Hotpicks (£1.00)
Frequency	Total 1 Draw	Total 9 Draws
Weekly total to play all games		
Yearly cost	£52.00	£728.00

That's a 1,300% increase since the National Lottery began, not forgetting the Health and Postcode lotteries! Whilst one can hope that the population are only playing with what they can afford, fallacies such as "if I miss it this week my numbers will come up" may be a problem.

Top tip: If you help people with their finances and budgeting – how much are people spending on the lottery and other forms of gambling? Gambling expenditure can often be overlooked on budget sheets and may be the reason why things aren't adding up.

Scratchcard dangers: Only scratching the surface?

As well as tickets for the Draw Games, the National Lottery also sells scratchcards that were introduced in 1995. Scratchcards are available from 37,000 retailers in the UK and can cost from £1 to £10. So, what's the problem?



Case study:

Angharad's first scratchcard was a winner, a gift inside a 16th birthday card. Her next purchase was also a winner and it was not long before she began buying top priced scratchcards daily. (£5-10)

Angharad didn't think purchasing scratchcards was a problem until she was made redundant from her job. Whilst looking for work and receiving benefits she continued to purchase cards every time she visited the shops. With little disposable income she hoped that the big win was around the corner. The big win didn't come instead Angharad faced eviction from her home after failing to pay her rent to the local housing association.

A housing charity referred Angharad to the Gambling Support Service and we were able to book an assessment with a project worker. She set some short and longer term goals using a management diary to identify her trigger times. Now instead of visiting the local shops daily she organises her shopping on a weekly basis and gets off the bus a stop later to avoid passing the local newsagent.

After a relapse using a supermarket kiosk to purchase scratchcards she identified ways around this such as going to supermarkets without lottery counters or shopping online and having items delivered.

With support from her family and professionals Angharad set up an affordable repayment plan to catch up with her rent arrears. She also started volunteering in a local charity shop to make better use of her time and to gain work experience while she continues to look for paid work.

A first 'big win' can be a trigger to longer term problems – with many gamblers remembering their first experience as a happy memorable moment. Young people are considered greater risk of gambling related harm - scratchcards are readily available and can be purchased from age 16. Consumers should be made aware of the harm that they could cause – use some of Angharad's solutions if you are worried about someone purchasing too many scratchcards and avoid giving scratchcards as gifts to vulnerable groups.

Did you know? Scratchcards are more popular in Wales than anywhere else in the United Kingdom.



Contact Us - you can call us on 01633 222622 or email gamblingsupport@newportcab.org.uk.
Follow us on Twitter @SupportGambling