



Department of
Education

www.education-ni.gov.uk

Rathgael House
43 Balloo Road
Rathgill
Bangor
BT19 7PR

Tel: (028) 9127 9865

E-mail: Angela.Kane@education-ni.gov.uk

2 September 2021

Dear Principal

GAMBLING WITH LIVES PILOT EDUCATION PROGRAMME: INVITATION TO POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS TO PARTICIPATE

I am writing to draw your attention to a pilot being run by an organisation called [Gambling with Lives](#) beginning this academic year. Volunteer schools are being sought by Gambling with Lives to participate in this pilot which will operate in post primary schools and will touch on learning areas linked to gambling and young people.

The Gambling Commission estimate that 45,000 11–16-year-olds gamble in the UK, with 55,000 children already addicted. The mode and frequency of gambling have changed with online gambling having transformed the industry. In addition the pervasiveness of gambling marketing has increased participation.

Tragically there are estimated that the [number of gambling related suicides](#) is between 250-650 related suicides every year with, along with other specific groups, [young people](#) most at risk.

Pilot Programme

The programme touches on different areas of learning including: online protections, mental health, economic wellbeing and debt, crime and legislation, the nature of risk and critical marketing. Previous learning in these areas is not essential but can be built on throughout the programme.

The key objectives of this pilot programme are to highlight:

- What a gambling disorder is and why it is highly correlated with suicide and disproportionately affects those under 30 years old.
- That gambling products can cause mental health issues and how their regulation has a significant impact on risk across the population.
- The normalisation of gambling for young people and its serious impact through new gambling environments, technologies, and marketing strategies.

- That a multi-agency public health approach is required to reduce risk.

The sessions will be facilitated by a Gambling with Lives representative. The evaluation of this pilot will measure the impact for those young people who participate. The programme, and its evaluation, is best suited to run as four separate sessions of 45 – 60 minutes. However, they are adaptable.

The programme has been created by academics, educational specialists, clinicians, a film-production company and by people harmed by gambling. The pilot is provided at no cost to schools. It has been peer reviewed and developed without any industry influence and is intended to equip young people with the knowledge that they will need to understand the inherent risk of gambling products and to critically respond to gambling marketing.

Contact

If you are interested in participating in the pilot programme please directly contact:

Barry Fennell, Programme Manager for Northern Ireland

Email: barry@gamblingwithlives.org

Phone: 07368 831 289

I hope you find this information useful.

Yours sincerely



ANGELA KANE
Pupil Support Team