

GamCare Youth Outreach Programme - Summary of Outcomes 2017/18



Background

At least 1 in 9 young people in the UK engage in some form of gambling each week (IPSOS Mori 2017). The financial, social and mental health impacts of gambling are an area of significant safeguarding concern for young people.

GamCare is the leading source of information, advice and support for anyone affected by problem gambling. The foundation of our work with young people is our Youth Outreach Programme. The programme aims to raise awareness of youth problem gambling and educate young people and the professionals working with them about the risks associated with gambling. This has three key components:

1. Professionals training workshops with youth-facing professionals including: teachers, youth workers, social workers and healthcare professionals.
2. Interactive awareness workshops delivered to young people aged 11-19, to educate them about the risks of problem gambling and how to gamble safely and responsibly.
3. The BigDeal website, specifically designed for young people to inform, advise and support young people, parents and professionals about problem gambling.

Our 'youth hubs' are currently located in Bristol, Birmingham, London and the North West (covering Manchester and Liverpool).

Key Outcomes - 2017/18

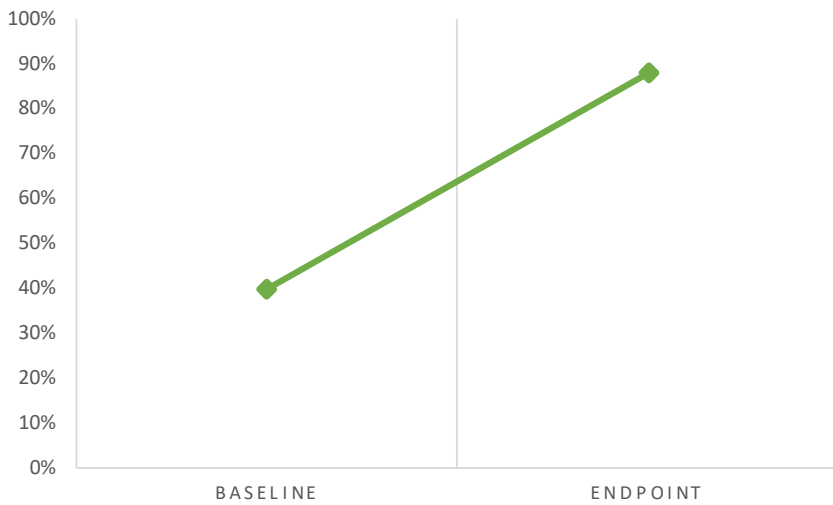
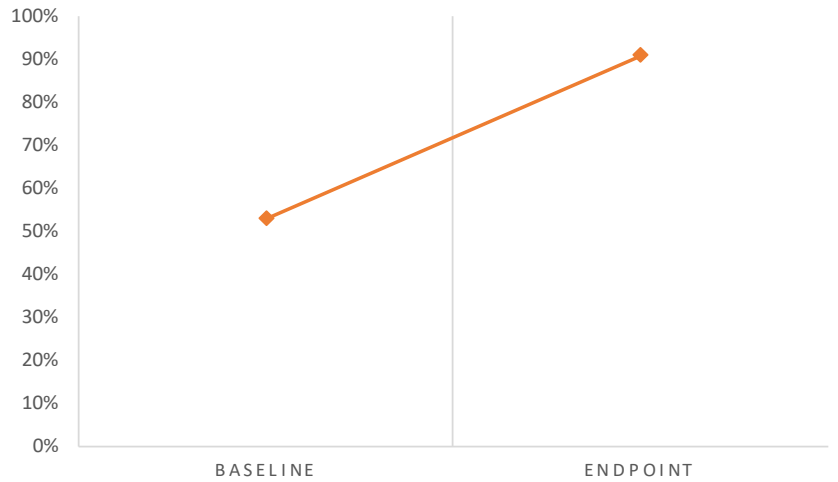
- We reached over 2,500 young people and more than 750 professionals in the first year of the programme.
- Despite low levels of general awareness in the youth-facing workforce at the start, professionals completing our training were more aware of what constitutes problem gambling, the prevalence of the issue, associated causes and risk factors, and the impact of problem gambling on young people.
- Professionals reported that improved knowledge of warning signs had impacted positively on their practice three months later - most felt they were more likely to be able to identify a problem early after attending the workshop, and would know where to signpost to.
- More than 11,500 unique users accessed the BigDeal website since it's relaunch in September 2017.

"It's never explained to you in school what (gambling) is, it's not really something that you talk about with your parents. But if you know about it you can...not steer clear of it, **but be mindful...**"

"I don't think the session could be improved... it was very informative and well presented. If anything, I would like to see the training repeated to ensure that future knowledge and information is shared."

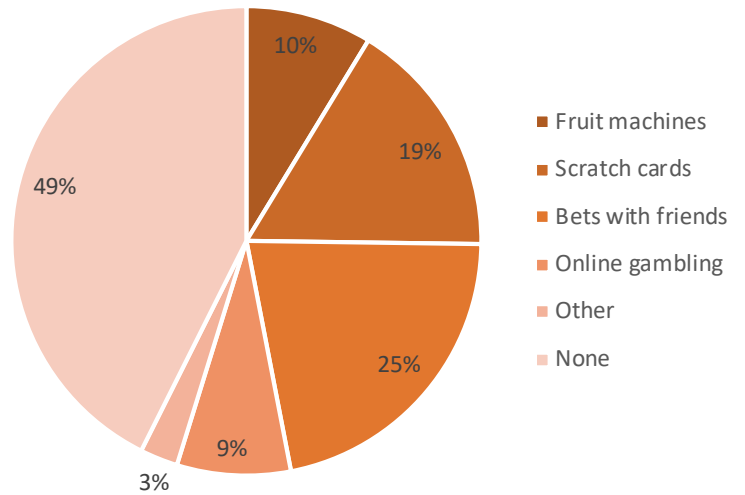
Key Findings for Young People

- » **91% participants knew the warning signs and symptoms** of compulsive gambling after their workshop

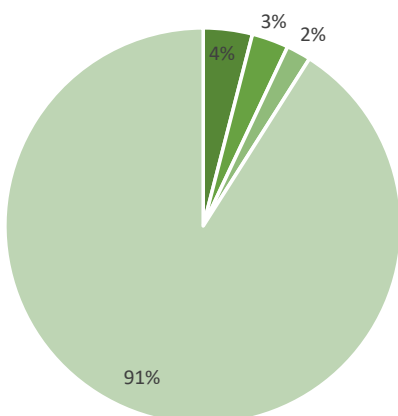


- » **Participants reported increased awareness** of where to get help if they were worried about their gambling.

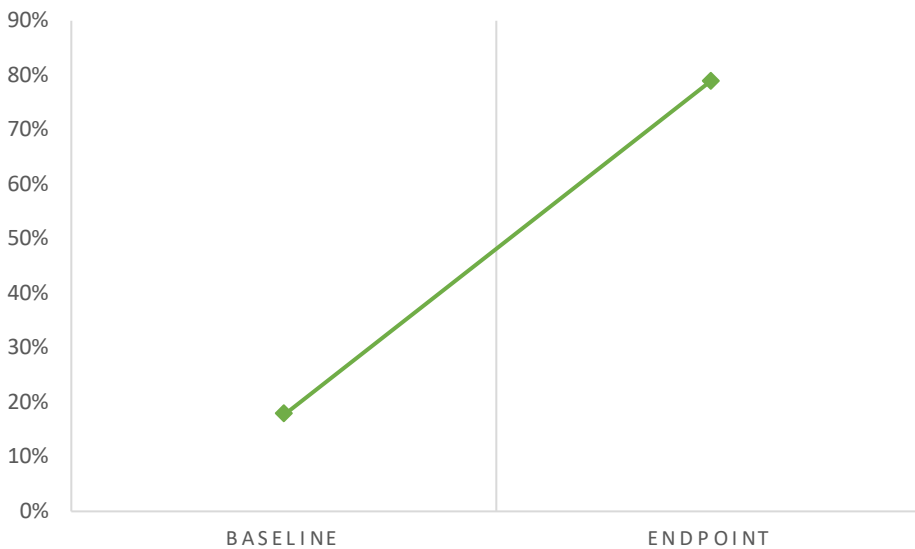
- » **51% of participants** had taken part in some form of gambling before



Key Findings for Professionals

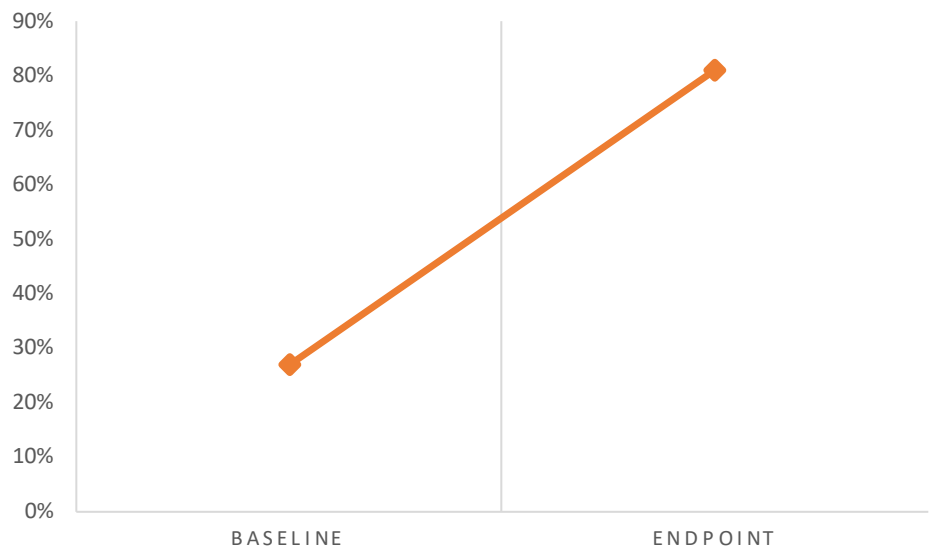


- » **91% of professionals** we have seen had never received any training related to problem gambling



‘I know what services are available to help young problem gamblers.’

‘I understand the causes and risk factors for problem gambling.’



Next steps

Responding to feedback we are now introducing a one-hour training session for professionals to increase accessibility. We will also be including even more interactive resources to our workshops with young people, building on the strengths of the programme this year.

We are now expanding the programme to a fifth area, creating another ‘youth hub’ in Hull to cover East Yorkshire, and we are actively seeking funding to expand our programme into new areas across the UK.

If you are interested in receiving training, getting involved or supporting the programme, please contact megan.pengelly@gamcare.org.uk.

For more information visit www.gamcare.org.uk or www.bigdeal.org.uk



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