



**Item No: 15**

**Meeting Date: Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

## **Glasgow City Integration Joint Board**

**Report By:** Caroline Sinclair, Assistant Chief Officer, Older People and Primary Care

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### **Gambling Levy Funding – The Glasgow Project**

**Purpose of Report:**

This report provides an update on the successful award from UK Gambling Levy funding to implement a whole-system public health approach to reducing gambling harms in Glasgow. The report seeks to note the funding award to Glasgow City Council on behalf of community planning partners and approve the proposed delivery arrangements managed through the Integration Authority for this collaborative partnership.

**Background/Engagement:**

The Gambling Levy is a statutory levy introduced by the UK Government in April 2025, requiring licensed gambling operators to contribute a proportion of their profits to fund independent action to prevent and address gambling-related harm. This is ring-fenced for research, prevention and treatment.

The Scottish Government invited bids in autumn 2025. Glasgow City Council, supported by Health Improvement, submitted a collaborative bid on behalf of the Glasgow Community Planning Partnership to build on the previous Gambling Commission programme, responding to the significant and growing impact of gambling harm in the city.

**Governance Route:**

The matters contained within this paper have been previously considered by the following group(s) as part of its development.

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	HSCP Senior Management Team <input type="checkbox"/> Council Corporate Management Team <input type="checkbox"/> Health Board Corporate Management Team <input type="checkbox"/> Council Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Update requested by IJB <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Glasgow Community Planning Partnership Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>Recommendations:</b>	The Integration Joint Board is asked to:  a) Note the new award of £3.44m Gambling Levy funding to Glasgow for delivery of ‘The Glasgow Project’ from 2026/27 to 2028/29; and b) Approve the proposed whole-system approach to preventing and reducing gambling-related harms on behalf of Glasgow Community Planning Partnership and through the governance arrangements for delivery.
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**Relevance to Integration Joint Board Strategic Plan:**

The proposals align with the IJB Strategic Plan’s Vision and the Partnership Priorities; 1 Prevention Early Intervention and Wellbeing, 3 – Supporting People in their Communities and 4 – Strengthening Communities to Reduce Harm.
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**Implications for Health and Social Care Partnership:**

<b>Reference to National Health &amp; Wellbeing Outcome(s):</b>	Outcome 1 – People are able to look after and improve their own health and wellbeing and live in good health for longer.
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<b>Personnel:</b>	Fixed term posts will be created within health improvement and other council services, as detailed in section 4.
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<b>Carers:</b>	The needs of those directly impacted by gambling will form part of the work of the Glasgow Project, and involve those with lived experience, who may also be carers
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<b>Provider Organisations:</b>	Services will be contracted or extended as detailed in section 4.
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<b>Equalities:</b>	EQIA is available at the following link: <a href="https://glasgowcity.hscp.scot/publication/eqia-glasgow-gambling-harms-project">https://glasgowcity.hscp.scot/publication/eqia-glasgow-gambling-harms-project</a>
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<b>Fairer Scotland Compliance:</b>	Completed within the EQIA process.
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<b>Financial:</b>	All expenditure will follow the procurement and financial regulations/standing financial instructions of both partner bodies.
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<b>Legal:</b>	Contracts will be commissioned and extended in line with requirements and employer duties enacted in accordance with the relevant employing body.
<b>Economic Impact:</b>	This will contribute to curtailing gambling related harms.
<b>Sustainability:</b>	This three-year award comes from a new statutory levy income in the UK. It is too early for the longer-term sustainability of the income to be fully known.
<b>Sustainable Procurement and Article 19:</b>	The procurement process will meet all legislative requirements
<b>Risk Implications:</b>	Without this award there will be minimal multi-agency preventative action on gambling harms committed by HSCP and wider community planning partners.  The income is confirmed for year 1 and indicative for years 2 and 3 subject to parliamentary approval.
<b>Implications for Glasgow City Council:</b>	Glasgow City Council have awarded this income to GCHSCP to commit on their behalf, including staff and contracts implications.
<b>Implications for NHS Greater Glasgow &amp; Clyde:</b>	Funding is in part provided for NHS staff and contracts
<b>Direction Required to Council, Health Board or Both</b>	
<b>Direction to:</b>	
1. No Direction Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Glasgow City Council	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Glasgow City Council and NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	<input type="checkbox"/>

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the allocation of UK Gambling Levy funding to Glasgow and its use through a whole-system public health approach, in line with the approved bid.
- 1.2 The report seeks the IJB's agreement to note the funding award and approve the proposed delivery arrangements.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 The Gambling Levy is a statutory levy introduced by the UK Government in April 2025, requiring licensed gambling operators to contribute a proportion of their profits to fund independent action to address gambling-related harm. The levy replaces the previous voluntary industry funding system and is collected and administered by the Gambling Commission under government direction.

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2.2 Levy income is ring-fenced specifically for research, prevention and treatment of gambling harms, with funding allocated to devolved nations for local management in accordance with UK terms. The Scottish Government invited bids in the autumn of 2025 from across the public, third and independent sector, particularly to address the gaps highlighted in the recent [Gambling Health Needs Assessment](#) undertaken by Public Health Scotland (PHS). PHS highlighted the need for:

- awareness and stigma-free access to support
- clear pathways into help
- routine evaluation of what works
- involvement of people with lived experience

2.3 Glasgow City Council applied on behalf of the Community Planning Partnership (GCPP) to build on the previous local Gambling Commission programme, which was led by health improvement with short term income from Public Health Scotland.

2.4 Gambling harm is a growing public health issue in Glasgow, with disproportionate impacts on individuals, families and communities experiencing poverty. Evidence shows:

- Glasgow has the highest estimated fiscal cost of gambling harm in Scotland (over £15m annually)
- 42% of betting shops are in the most deprived fifth of the city
- Online gambling has doubled in recent years, with lower levels of regulation
- Harms extend beyond the individual gambler to families, finances, mental health, employment and suicide risk

### 3. The Glasgow Project

3.1 The Glasgow bid was developed collaboratively with community planning partners. The IJB is being asked to manage this successful award on behalf of community planning partners. The IJB, through GCC, has been awarded £3.44m over three years commencing 2026/27 (Year 1: £0.93m, Year 2: £1.23m Year 3: £1.29m).

3.2 The funding will enable Glasgow to re-establish and significantly scale up earlier partnership work. The programme will:

- take a citywide, multi-agency approach to preventing gambling harms
- embed gambling harm prevention within existing trusted services
- prioritise early intervention, financial inclusion, and place-based action
- ensure people with lived experience are central to design and delivery

3.3 The award will be utilised in accordance with the successful application for:

- Strong leadership and coordination
  - ✓ A dedicated multi-agency prevention team aligned to Glasgow's Community Planning Partnership, led and hosted through the HSCP

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- ✓ Re-established a multi-agency Gambling Harms Partnership, reporting through the Public Health Oversight Group of GCPP
- ✓ Clear governance, performance reporting and annual public reporting
- Prevention, education and early intervention
  - ✓ Gambling harm education embedded within schools and youth services
  - ✓ An enhanced multiple-risk youth service addressing gambling alongside other risk behaviours, embedded through the Youth Health Service
  - ✓ Citywide and local awareness-raising campaigns to challenge stigma and shame
- Financial inclusion and debt support
  - ✓ A specialist financial inclusion service for people experiencing gambling-related debt
  - ✓ Training for frontline staff across financial inclusion, community and public services
  - ✓ Integration of gambling harm awareness into “no wrong door” approaches
- Targeted place-based and community action
  - ✓ Intensive, place-based prevention programmes in 3–4 high-risk neighbourhoods
  - ✓ A small grants programme to support grassroots and community-led responses
  - ✓ Targeted work with groups at higher risk, including young men, people with disabilities, neurodivergent people and minority communities
- Data, learning and evaluation
  - ✓ Investment in data analytics capacity, including use of Smart Data Foundry insights
  - ✓ Development of a robust evaluation framework
  - ✓ Learning summits and shared learning at local and national level

3.4 Table 1 provides a breakdown of the spending profile for the award, inclusive of cost of living in years 2 and 3. The required commissioning and workforce procedures will be applied for the duration of the award.

Table 1: Programme expenditure

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Staffing & Resources	2026/27 (Year 1)	2027/28 (Year 2)	2028/29 (Year 3)
Health Improvement 1.6 WTE	78,861	105,149	105,149
Charitable Development Worker 0.8 WTE	29,460	39,279	39,279
Communities' capacity to enable recovery approaches – Glasgow Life	27,375	36,500	36,500
Education Officer post 0.6 WTE	37,855	50,473	50,473

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<b>Staffing &amp; Resources</b>	<b>2026/27 (Year 1)</b>	<b>2027/28 (Year 2)</b>	<b>2028/29 (Year 3)</b>
Data Analyst 1.0 WTE	55,125	73,500	73,500
Administrative Support 0.5 WTE	14,925	19,900	19,900
Prevention Team Overheads	37,797	52,026	52,092
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>281,398</b>	<b>376,827</b>	<b>376,893</b>
<b>Services</b>			
Extended Multiple Risk Service for Young People	60,000	83,200	86,528
Training, Resource Development & Programme Delivery across Schools and Youth (to be commissioned)	46,500	63,150	65,300
Specialist financial inclusion service + Subscription Smart Foundry	204,000	270,000	267,964
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>325,500</b>	<b>431,350</b>	<b>451,780</b>
<b>Place based and grass roots</b>			
Small grant scheme fund + learning	41,000	60,000	61,500
Community engagement Concentrated Harmful Commodities (CHC) approach within the 3-4 identified neighbourhoods	120,000	160,000	160,000
Lived Experience and Youth Networks engagement	40,000	40,000	55,000
Gambling Harms and Sport collaboration	40,000	41,600	43,264
Gambling Harms and Suicide Prevention	4,000	6,000	8,000
Training Commissioning + Learning	30,000	40,000	50,000
Communications, Research and Evaluation	60,000	85,000	105,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>320,000</b>	<b>417,600</b>	<b>462,764</b>
<b>TOTAL EACH YEAR (inc/exc VAT)</b>	<b>926,898</b>	<b>1,225,777</b>	<b>1,291,437</b>
<b>TOTAL SG award (£)</b>	<b>927,000</b>	<b>1,226,000</b>	<b>1,291,000</b>

**4. Governance**

- 4.1 The Scottish Government are developing a performance tracking mechanism for monitoring the use and achievements of the funding which award recipients will be required to comply with. Locally, outcomes will form part of the Glasgow Community Planning Performance Framework. Furthermore, this work will contribute to delivering person-centred, place based and public service reform as prioritised through the GCPP's Community Plan. The impact of action through

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this funding will contribute to delivery of our shared endeavour as articulated through the GCPP's emerging performance/impact framework.

- 4.2 The Glasgow Project Partnership will be re-established and report through the Public Health Oversight Group into Glasgow Community Planning Partnership. Periodic progress reports will also be presented to Council Committee and the Integration Authority. NHSGG&C are currently assessing the number of awards within the health board area and collaboration with other partnerships is likely. It is expected that further reporting may be required to the Population Health Committee as part of these arrangements.

## **5. Recommendations**

- 5.1 The Integration Joint Board is asked to:

- a) Note the new award of £3.44m Gambling Levy funding to Glasgow for delivery of the Glasgow Project from 2026/27 to 2028/29; and
- b) Approve the proposed whole-system approach to preventing and reducing gambling-related harms on behalf of Glasgow Community Planning Partnership and through the governance arrangements for delivery.