

Equalities and Communities Impact Assessment

Name of Officer/s completing assessment: Sarah Harris

Date of Assessment: 17/07/2024

1. What is the proposed Policy (please provide sufficient detail)?

For the purposes of the assessment the term ‘Policy’ relates to any new or revised policies, practices or procedures under consideration.

We are undertaking a review of the South Norfolk Council Statement of Principles (Policy Statement). The Council is required to have this Policy in place under the Gambling Act 2005 and must review the policy document every three years. The current policy expires on 31 January 2025.

2. Which protected characteristics under the Equalities Act 2010 does this Policy impact: (indicate whether the impact could be **positive**, **neutral**, or **negative**)

Protected Characteristic	Potential Impact		
	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Age	√		
Disability		√	
Race		√	
Sex		√	
Religion or Belief		√	
Sexual Orientation		√	
Marriage/Civil Partnership		√	
Pregnancy/Maternity		√	
Gender Reassignment		√	
3. Which additional Communities characteristics does this policy impact?			
Health	√		
Place inc. Rurality		√	
Low Income and Poverty	√		

3. What do you believe are the potential equalities impacts of this policy?

Please include:

- Partnership organisations worked with in the development of this policy
- Evidence gathered to inform your decision
- Where you have consulted, Who and How this has informed the decision/policy
- Any other groups impacted not detailed above

Note: Impacts could be **positive**, **neutral**, or **negative** and impact groups differently

This is a review of the current Gambling Policy document which has been in place since January 2022 (the first policy took effect from January 2007). Earlier versions of the policy document were formulated following collaborative work with other Norfolk Licensing Authorities, the Police, Fire Service, Trading Standards and other bodies with an interest in the licensing process. The draft revised policy document will

undergo a 6 week consultation. During this period, various authorities, agencies, organisations and charities will be consulted, along with licence holders specifically affected by the policy review.

In terms of the protected characteristic of age, only persons over the age of 18 may apply for a licence and may participate in gambling activities (with the exception of very low stake and low pay out gaming machines). However, this is specified in legislation and cannot further be controlled by way of this policy document. Application of the gambling policy will have a positive impact on young people by ensuring that they only partake in very low level gambling activities and that this takes place responsibly and in line with the legislation.

4. What do you believe are the potential communities impacts of this policy?

Please include:

- How the policy can meet agreed priorities
- Evidence gathered to inform your decision
- Partnership organisations worked with in the development of this policy
- Where you have consulted, Who and How this has informed the decision/policy
- Any other groups impacted not detailed above

Note: Impacts could be **positive**, **neutral**, or **negative** and impact groups differently

Access to high stakes gambling is restricted by the terms of the legislation. However, gambling can be addictive and can consequently be detrimental to the health, including mental health, of consumers in cases of excessive use. Previous government studies have indicated that persons from a low-income background may be more likely to gamble and due to their low-income may be more likely to be adversely affected by gambling beyond their means. The Gambling industry works hard to guard against addictive gambling and has measures in place, including self-exclusion schemes for individuals who have been, or believe they may be susceptible to, gambling addiction.

The Policy supports and re-enforces the legislation and guidance in respect of gambling activities to ensure they are conducted safely and responsibly. Where premises are not upholding their responsibilities the licence can be reviewed and may subsequently be subject to additional conditions or revocation of the licence. The Gambling Commission is also responsible for issuing operating licences to large companies and carries out various monitoring and compliance checks to ensure the licensing objectives are being upheld on a company-wide basis.

The draft revised policy document will undergo a 6 week consultation. During this period, various authorities, agencies, organisations and charities will be consulted, along with licence holders specifically affected by the policy review.

5. How is it proposed that any identified negative impacts are mitigated?

Please include:

- Steps taken to mitigate, for example, other services that may be available
- If a neutral impact has been identified can a positive impact be achieved?
- If you are unable to resolve the issues highlighted during this assessment, please explain why
- How impacts will be monitored and addressed?
- Could the decision/policy be implemented in a different way?
- What is the impact if the decision/policy is not implemented?

The aim of this Policy document is that it does not impact against any protected characteristic in a negative way. It allows individuals, businesses and charities to obtain a licence for various types of gambling activity, from casinos, to betting shops, to small lotteries run on a charitable basis. Providing this is done in accordance with the legislation and guidance, it does not seek to further prevent persons from doing so. Mandatory conditions on each licence place certain requirements on licensed premises, including how the premises may be accessed, who they may be accessed by and the location of cash points, etc in relation to

gaming machines. These mandatory conditions help guard against children or vulnerable persons accessing high level gambling.

Signed by evaluator:



Signed by responsible head of department:

Please send your completed forms to the equalities lead (Victoria Parsons) to be reviewed and stored in accordance with our legal duty.

REVIEW DATE - _____

(See Page 2 for details of reviews. Please send a copy of the reviewed document to Victoria Parsons)