



## *Fast Forward's response to the Review of the Gambling Act 2005*

# SUMMARY

We welcome the opportunity to respond to the Call for Evidence for the Gambling Act Review. Our response is focused on areas of particular relevance to children, young people, and families.

We advocate taking a **public health approach** to gambling harms. Protecting children and young people from products with harmful characteristics, and from exposure to gambling advertising, must be a priority.

Our response informed by a **survey we conducted with practitioners** in the Scottish Gambling Education Network, who provide gambling education to children, young people, and families in Scotland. We received responses from:

- 19 practitioners
- 13 local authorities across Scotland

Practitioners shared insights into the impact of gambling advertising on the people they work with, and the normalisation of gambling in young people.

### *Recommendations:*

#### **Online protections**

1. Classify loot boxes as a form of gambling

#### **Advertising**

1. Ban gambling advertising and sponsorship in sport, including sports venues and eSports
2. Limit gambling ads on websites and platforms that young people use frequently
3. Ultimately, end all gambling advertising, sponsorship, and promotion

#### **Age limits & verification**

1. Stricter enforcement of age verification checks
2. No gambling for under 18s

#### **Broader public health strategy**

1. Focus harm prevention messaging using a public health approach (e.g. risk of products)
2. Embed education and awareness-raising into regulatory strategy by including gambling on Health Education curricula
3. Introduce a smart industry levy to fund research, education, and treatment

# YOUNG PEOPLE & GAMBLING

*key evidence*



Problem gambling is more common in young people (1.7%) than in over 16s (0.8%).

Gambling Commission

*Our survey*

**87%**  
said existing laws don't do enough to protect children and young people (13/15)

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**47%**  
have observed online ads impacting the children, young people, or families they work with (7/15)

## Advertising



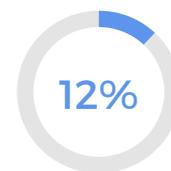
Gambling ad spend increased by 24% from 2015-2018, to £329m.

Ipsos MORI for GambleAware



Gambling brand awareness is associated with current gambling in young people.

Ipsos MORI for GambleAware



12% of young people follow gambling companies on social media.

Gambling Commission

## Who we are

Fast Forward is **Scotland's national youth work organisation** specialising in risk-taking behaviours, prevention, and early intervention. Our mission is to promote health and wellbeing through education by, with, and for children and young people.

The **Scottish Gambling Education Hub** (the Hub) is a project run by Fast Forward, supporting young people's

health and wellbeing by promoting gambling education and prevention across Scotland. This programme is in partnership with GambleAware.

The Hub facilitates the **Scottish Gambling Education Network**, a network of practitioners and organisations that provide gambling education to children, young people, and families across Scotland.