



# HARMFUL GAMBLING AND YOUNG PEOPLE



## RISK FACTORS

Some young people are statistically more at risk than others. It is particularly important to be vigilant with these groups, and have conversations about safer gambling. Groups to be aware of include:

- ▶ Young people with a history of gambling in the family
- ▶ Young men (as opposed to women)
- ▶ Other, co-morbid mental health issues (e.g. low self-esteem, anxiety)
- ▶ Those with a history of risk-taking behaviours (e.g. substance misuse, truants)

**HARMFUL GAMBLING: YOU CAN'T SMELL IT, YOU CAN'T SEE IT AND IN MANY CASES, YOU CAN'T OBSERVE IT.**

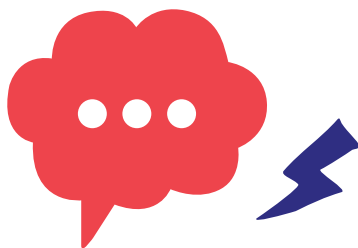
## WARNING SIGNS!

- ✔ Large debts (which may be explained away)
- ✔ Low or inconsistent moods, anxiety, depression
- ✔ Trouble at school, college or work about non-attendance
- ✔ Unexplained borrowing from friends family, or people less likely to ask questions
- ✔ Unwillingness to repay borrowed money
- ✔ Alienation from family and friends

## SIGNS THAT ARE SPECIFIC TO GAMBLING INCLUDE:

- ✔ Preoccupation with gambling and spending money on gambling
- ✔ Lying about the extent of their gambling to family and friends
- ✔ Raising the subject of gambling or gambling debt in conversation

# BIG DEAL?



**3.3%**

3.3% of young people (11-16) in the UK are estimated to be either at-risk or problem gamblers. Recognition from adults of the risk factors and warning signs of harmful gambling are important.



If you recognise any of the symptoms above, regardless of whether you think that may be related to gambling, we would recommend having a constructive conversation about gambling with that young person.

Please see our other resources for advice on beginning these conversations.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[www.BigDeal.org.uk](http://www.BigDeal.org.uk)

GamCare counselling - more information at

[www.gamcare.org.uk](http://www.gamcare.org.uk)

[www.knowtheodds.org](http://www.knowtheodds.org)

[www.preventionlane.org](http://www.preventionlane.org)



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