



BEACON COUNSELLING TRUST

Reg. Charity No. 1140011



IMPACT REPORT

2023 - 2024



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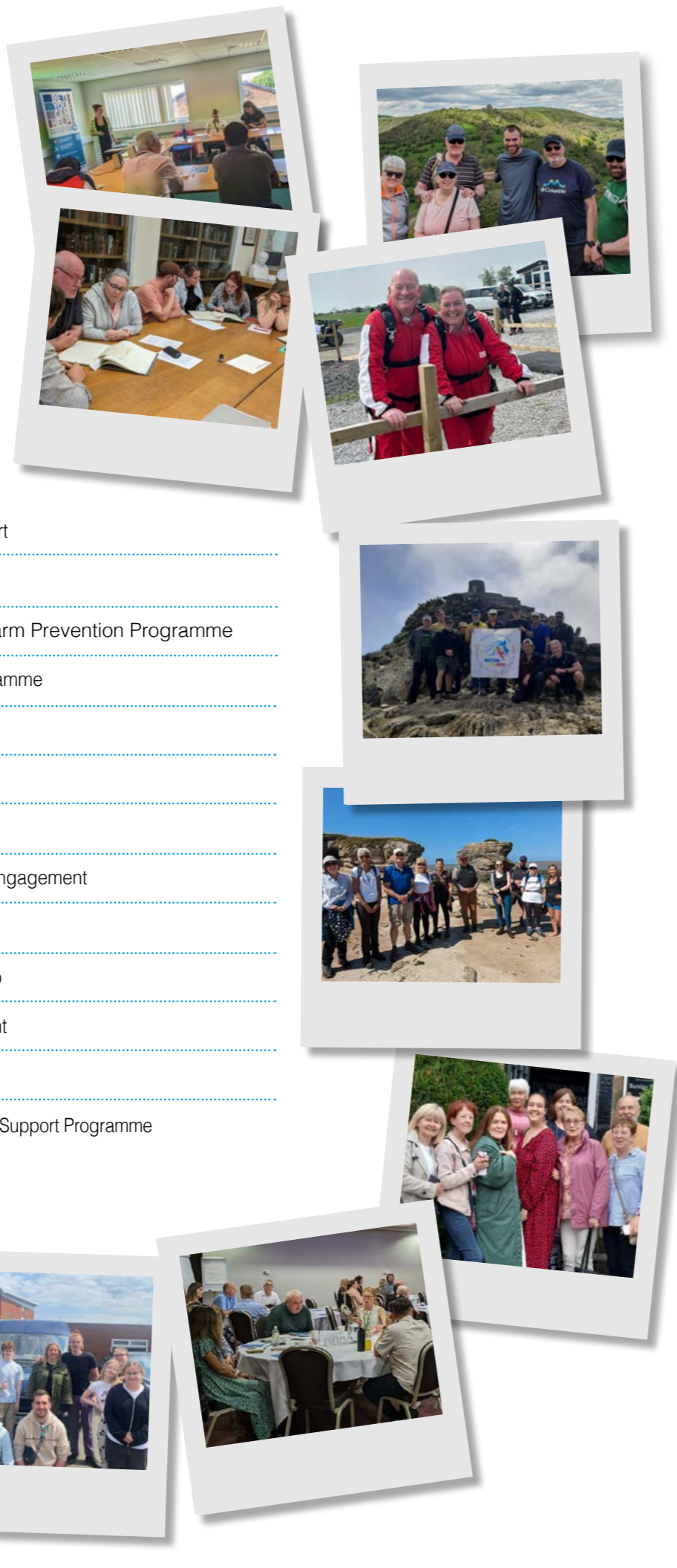
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FORWARD

It has been an incredibly busy and productive year for the ever-growing team here at BCT, who have all worked hard to cultivate a responsive and engaging relationship with our new primary commissioner GambleAware.

The team has worked diligently to develop a BCT offer across the North West footprint, that contains clear messaging and bespoke support interventions for our valued service users, that is both timely and appropriate to their respective level of need, and in this regard across all programmes we have reached and engaged with **20,000** contacts.

This report has been delivered by our outstanding senior team here at BCT, their hard work and dedication has resulted in the development of a number of innovative projects, that strive to make a real difference across our community. Our communities are reflective and supportive of those with lived experience, and encompasses a support offer for those affected by gambling harms across the North West, whether this be via the Criminal Justice System, Armed Forces Communities, Minority Groups, or the wider population. Notwithstanding our Paul's Place Suicide Bereavement Support Programme, which undertakes some amazing work to support individuals and families in the Merseyside area who have been profoundly affected by the suicide of a loved one.

Therefore, I would like to again thank the whole team at BCT for their kindness, commitment and resilience that is consistently shown daily to our service users and applaud them on their dedication to consistently going the extra mile, which ensures that compassion and understanding is at the heart of the culture here at BCT.

I hope you find the following report both informative and uplifting.

Darren Melia

Darren Melia
Chair of Trustees
Beacon Counselling Trust

OUR PURPOSE

We aim to make life better for individuals and families who access our services because we believe passionately that people can change their behaviour and their lives, through professionally delivered structured support. This allows our service-users to embrace a different way of living even after the most catastrophic of life changing events.

OUR STRATEGIC VISION

**BUILD ON THE PAST,
 WORK IN THE PRESENT
 AND PLAN FOR THE FUTURE.**

SINCE OUR LAST REPORT

BCT has seen yet another period of growth over the past 12 months.

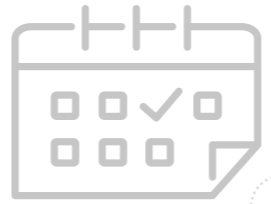
This has resulted in several areas within the organisation needing to be strengthened and adopting new methods of working. As the organisation has grown, so has the need for managing information, contract monitoring and quality assurance, alongside robust governance. This has resulted in the development and application of new systems to track and support contract delivery and subsequently report on. This is an iterative journey, as we learn more moving forwards and develop new areas of work, we will adapt and test our monitoring and evaluation system to ensure that they continue to be fit for purpose.

We have launched a number of new projects working with partners, including an Aftercare offer with our partners at Betknowmore, a significant Armed Forces Support programme with our partners from the AFGSN (Armed Forces Gambling Support Network), partnership work with a debt organization RAISE, and supporting CADAS (Cumbrian Addictions, Advice and Solutions), in their promotion of reducing gambling harms across their footprint. We are also working with the Wordsworth Trust in Grasmere on a new venture to support our holistic offer.



We are committed to learning more about the correlation between harmful gambling and neurodiversity, to gain a better understanding of how we can support and tailor our pathways for this community. We recognised the need to access expert knowledge in this field and are hopeful that with the guidance and support of Alistair we will be able to develop resources which are both appropriate and accessible.

A number of projects that were due to cease in the year, due to the original funding streams ending, have been given a new lease of life and prolonged via support from GambleAware. This includes our Criminal Justice and Workplace Charter projects, both of which will now run until 2025.

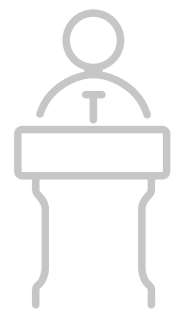


Partnership development has been a key aim and focus for the year, and BCT has cultivated a number of strong relationships with local third sector and public sector partner agencies. BCT are always playing to the strengths of the services we work with, with the aim of being as supportive as possible to those working with us, whilst endeavouring to promote and facilitate robust due diligence.



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Last year BCT held a staff communications conference, the all-day event consisted of the wider teams sharing all about the programmes and projects they have been working on, allowing for greater discussions and insights into the amazing work delivered.



BCT's Treatment Team and therapists attended training on ADHD and gambling addiction, which was in response to the huge rise in diagnoses of ADHD amongst our service-user group. These teams also attend regular training events to ensure they are up to date with the latest therapy modules and can therefore provide the best support and treatment to our service users. BCT have recently formed a 'staff appreciation and wellbeing' group, which is led by representatives of each team at BCT. One of the first key outcomes of the group was to implement monthly virtual meetings to allow for a space of connectivity and to keep all the staff at BCT informed of the latest programmes, projects, any success or challenges encountered and general business updates.

Recently BCT hosted a very successful conference, which was held to support the mobilisation of local systems across the North West footprint. During the event, the neurodiverse community was identified as a significant area for development, and as a result, BCT are now working alongside Alistair Barfield from Deflect + Protect. Alistair will be working with BCT and our team on a consultancy basis to support us in improving our education and treatment offer, to ensure we are providing appropriate and suitable support and education for those with neurodiversity. We are optimistic that working on a neurodiversity programme of support will mobilise this work, and we plan to engage with a number of specialist partners to ensure this project is well thought through and evidence based.



BCT will be attending one-to-one meetings with Alistair; during these meetings we will focus on areas such as our digital platforms, focus groups, our education and treatment offer, training for staff, language and even our office premises, and how they can be tailored to be neurodiverse-friendly. We are really looking forward to working with Alistair over the next few months to improve the work we do and ensure we are offering an inclusive and supportive service to all.

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PROGRAMMES & PARTNERS

GAMBLING-RELATED HARMS PROGRAMME

BCT continues to be one of the leading gambling harms support services across the North West for over 10 years and we continue to support those experiencing gambling harms, as part of the National Gambling Support Network (NGSN). We are going into the second year of a change in commissioning to this programme which has seen GambleAware become lead commissioners, with a structural change to services which looked at a region-first model. We are proud to say that in these past 12 months we have had over 20,000 contacts across all of our gambling harms education, early intervention, treatment and recovery programmes.



GambleAware

Over the past 12 months BCT have worked with many regional stakeholders to increase awareness of the issue of gambling harms as a public health issue and the specialist support available through BCT and other organisations we work in partnership with. Through work done with our Early Intervention and Education Team and Treatment Team, we have developed and strengthened relationships with many key stakeholders over the past year. This is represented in BCT's North West Gambling Harms Stakeholder Board, which now has over 30 members from services such as public health, NHS, third sector, criminal justice, housing, citizens advice, and mental health services. By increasing our work with stakeholders, we have seen a significant increase in referrals from local services over this past 12 months, with the majority of referrals coming from external organisations who have either attended gambling harms training with us, or have worked collaboratively with BCT to establish robust referral pathways into support.

BCT have engaged with 4,443 individuals in the past 12 months offering practical advice sessions, one-to-one and couples therapy, peer-based recovery support, group sessions, and walking outdoor recovery sessions. This year the majority of our interventions have been delivered via brief interventions and extended brief interventions for individuals at-risk of gambling harms, or experiencing lower levels of harm. We are very proud of these statistics as it means that, as a result of our education and early intervention work, and collaboration with stakeholders across the North West, we are now seeing more individuals accessing support at an earlier stage of their journey with gambling, which optimistically will prevent them from ever needing clinical or structured support through treatment. BCT

continue to work hard to reach people at the earliest possible stage to engage with their gambling quickly to prevent further harms, and the increase in our early interventions is a result of the development of our 'recovery before treatment' approach.

During the past year we are proud to have engaged with **20,000** contacts across all our BCT services

BCT have provided specialist support to **4,443** individuals in the past 12 months



Recovery Before Treatment

Over the past 12 months BCT has built its Lived Experience Alliance, giving ex-service-users who are in recovery opportunities to feed into various focus groups, gambling harms research, voluntary roles, and the opportunity to use their expertise to feed into the development of our gambling harms education, early intervention and support programmes. BCT have also given several ex-service-users and other individuals with lived experience of gambling harms employment opportunities to work within the team at BCT over the past year, which has enriched our learning and understanding of what is needed to provide the most appropriate and effective education and support to those who need it.



Aftercare service users with Trek Therapy along the Monsal Trail



Aftercare service users with Trek Therapy in the Peak District.

PROGRAMMES & PARTNERS

BCT's Gambling Harms Lived Experience Alliance






A priority for BCT over the previous 12 months has been to develop our gambling harms support model into one that holds the 'recovery before treatment' ethos at the centre of the work we do.

This approach to gambling harms recovery emphasises the relationship between the individual, social networks, community assets, and support from local systems. We believe treatment should be used as a safety net for those experiencing the most severe harms as a result of gambling, and this model moves away from the idea that treatment and clinical interventions are the first option of support. This model challenges the belief that recovery is a concept that takes place after 'treatment' and instead focuses on community-based early intervention and prevention, and the importance of lived experience support. The model places community engagement and early intervention at the heart of our support and utilises lived experience and support networks to facilitate recovery. It moves away from using treatment as the first point of referral and emphasises the power of peers and communities.

Within the past year BCT have built a robust recovery model, with lived experience at the heart of the delivery. Our recovery support is delivered in collaboration with Betknowmore. Betknowmore are a national service, offering peer support to those experiencing

gambling harms, including affected others, and all support offered is led by individuals with direct and indirect lived experience of gambling harms. BCT and Betknowmore have developed a peer-based approach to support individuals who have been through structured treatment and are moving onto the next chapter of focusing on the maintenance of their recovery.

The core recovery model consists of:

-  **One-to-one peer support for those in recovery from gambling harms and affected others**
-  **Practical advice and guidance sessions for affected family members**
-  **Recovery support groups for individuals that have gambled**
-  **Support groups for affected others**
-  **Trek Therapy**

As part of our long-term recovery support, BCT are also working with a number of other local and national support services to address all aspects of gambling legacy harms that our service-users may be facing which we have detailed below.



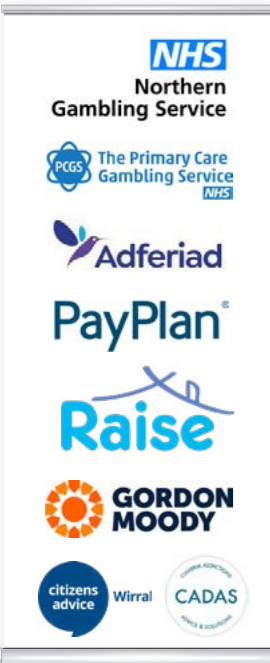
A Collaborative Approach to Supporting those with Gambling-Related Harms

BCT work with a number of different organisations both within and outside the National Gambling Support Network, to ensure we are offering the most appropriate level of support and care to anyone that gets in touch for support.

BCT continue to work with organisations that specialise in gambling harms support, such as Betknowmore, Adferiad, NHS Northern Gambling Service, Gordon Moody and Primary Care Gambling Service.

Over the past 12 months, we have developed robust referral pathways with local services such as Raise, a debt advice charity based in Liverpool who are now carrying out gambling harms screening and

brief interventions, who work closely with BCT to refer people into appropriate gambling harms support. We have also been working closely with CADAS, a drug and alcohol support service covering Cumbria. They now have a gambling harms coordinator who works closely with the Treatment Team at BCT to screen for gambling harms, carry out interventions, conduct gambling harms education sessions, and facilitate referrals into treatment. This year we have continued our work with Citizens Advice Wirral who offer our service-users specialist practical advice around issues such as finances, benefits, legal issues, housing, and also offer social prescribing support as part of our recovery offer. BCT also have a referral pathway set up with PayPlan, allowing service-users to be referred directly over to PayPlan's vulnerable customers team, who have been trained in gambling harms to offer appropriate support to services-users experiencing gambling-related financial issues.



A Whole Family Approach to Gambling Harms

BCT's work supporting families affected by gambling harms has grown significantly in the past 12 months. We continue to offer therapeutic support to affected others on a one-to-one basis and through couples therapy. In the past year our families support worker has focused on supporting affected others and families with the wide range of legacy harms that can impact them.

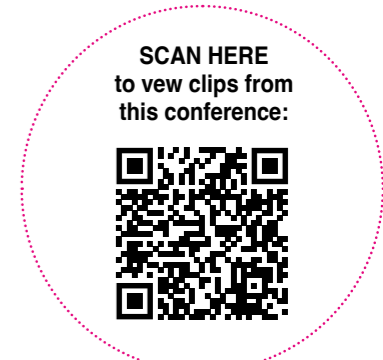
In addition to the start of our peer and group support to build on the emotional and long-term recovery and wellbeing of affected others, our families work has also grown through partnerships with multiple community-based programmes. As well as working one-to-one with clients looking for practical advice, that includes legal, financial and housing issues, our education and prevention work has involved reaching into our towns and cities to educate and raise awareness around whole family interventions for the Merseyside based MPACT programme. More than 50 professionals from family frontline services, local authorities, housing associations and third sector including YMCA and We Are With You were trained in Bet You Can Help, with a focus in identifying and supporting families faced with gambling harms. All service users transitioning to aftercare have access to family interventions supported by The Brink at Forward Trust. This ensures our service users, including those affected others of gambling harms, have access and choice to all appropriate support pathways so they can rebuild their lives.

Collaboration with our North West public services and third sector organisations has been fundamental in the success of supporting the wider families work. From assisting families to new accommodation, accessing one-to-one support through Citizens Advice or looking for new career and life opportunities,

BCT acknowledge the engagement and willingness of our stakeholders to help tackle gambling harms. This year we have attended multiple stakeholder and network events from Manchester based SmartWorks (supporting women back to employment), to the launch of the Lancashire family hubs, and multiple social prescribing community days. We supported the first gambling-related harms week-long event in Barrow, Cumbria and have given talks for national CAB partner events and the Money Advice Service. We also built on our social campaign work, advocating our therapeutic one-to-one support with affected others working with GambleAware and national platform, LadBible.

New working relationships have been developed with partners such as The Brick in Wigan, utilising their Brick-by-Brick initiative to support our service users with essential item needs. BCT is also developing relationships with community-based programmes, such as the Spider Project in Wirral to extend the offer of leisure and recreational opportunities for aftercare. Our other interventions for families affected by gambling harms also consist of legal support, utilising specialist advice through Rights of Women and Support Through Court, and includes support from women's programmes including Thrivin' Together, New Beginnings and lived experience organisation GamLearn.

This year we also worked towards the launch of our Whole Family Approach to Gambling Harms Conference, hosted in Liverpool. The focus of this conference was around the impacts experienced by affected others, and the importance of screening, education, and support, focussed specifically on the affected families.



PROGRAMMES & PARTNERS

Wordsworth Grasmere

BCT has arranged various days out to Wordsworth Grasmere as part of our Aftercare and Armed Forces Community programmes for service-users that have accessed our gambling harms support programme. The Wordsworth Trust is a charity that operates the Wordsworth Grasmere experience. Based in the beautiful village of Grasmere, visitors are invited to explore Dove Cottage, the Wordsworth Museum, and the Garden-Orchard Woodland. The experience gives visitors the chance to learn about William and Dorothy Wordsworth's lives, their writing and creativity, their connection to nature, and other people, and how relevant and applicable these principles continue to be in modern life. Wordsworth Grasmere have supported BCT's gambling harms service users within our recovery programmes, using therapeutic workshops involving writing, nature and history to encourage mindfulness and connection, and offer holistic forms of support to maintain our service-user's recovery journey. Service-users from our Paul's Place Suicide Bereavement Support Programme have also attended Wordsworth days. These days consist of a tour through William Wordsworth's cottage, in which he wrote some of

his most famous work, a look through the Wordsworth Museum, and workshops that looked at the meaning of letters, and the relevance Wordsworth's writing still holds in the present day, particularly around the topics of emotional wellbeing, connection with others, and the therapeutic elements of being in nature. BCT look forward to further trips to Wordsworth in the future and hope to provide more days out like this to our service users as part of their ongoing support with the service.



Aftercare service users attend a workshop with Wordsworth Grasmere

wordsworth GRASMERE

The Wordsworth events have received great feedback:

'The experience is eye opening. Seeing where the poems were written really opens up your mind to the importance of connecting more with nature and switching off from technology. I really took a lot away from how I connect with people and how moving forward I am going to keep more cards and treasure them more because there'll be a point when they are all I have to look back on.'

– Attendee



Wordsworth Captain Budworth

BET YOU CAN HELP PROGRAMME

Bet You Can Help (BYCH) is gambling harms training programme which uses a community-based, first-aid approach with the aim of strengthening gambling harms prevention and early intervention within our communities, and increase the number of individuals accessing specialist support for those who are struggling with gambling-related harms.

BCT developed training workshops to adopt this community first aid model and apply it to address population health issues related to gambling across Great Britain. Over time, Bet You Can Help training workshops have been developed for several different targeted populations, including South Asian communities, the Armed

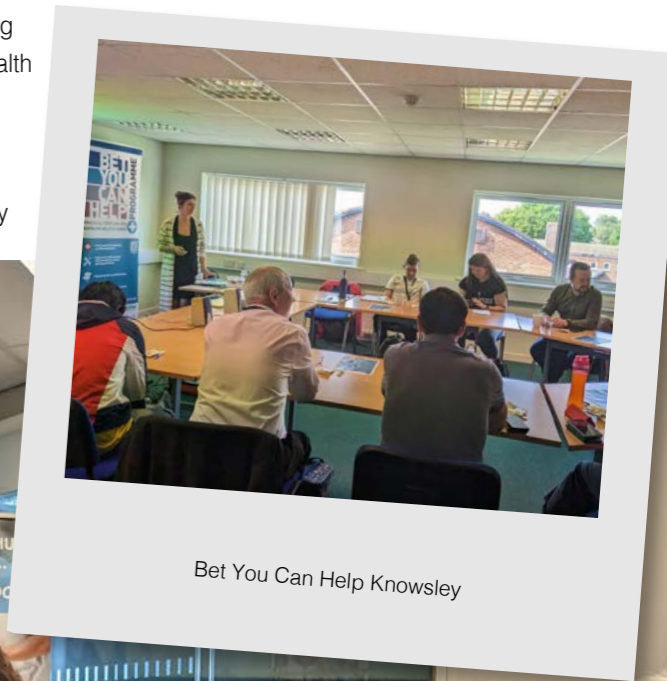
Forces Community, the Criminal Justice System, employers and employees, and people affected by another person's gambling. Bet You Can Help is actively promoted in communities through an outreach approach and through a diverse range of community engagement, including workplace settings through a Workplace Charter initiative.

Throughout the previous twelve months BCT has engaged with many organisations including Local Authorities, Public Health Teams, Drug and Alcohol Services, Criminal Justice, Lived Experience groups, the voluntary and community

sector, individuals from a host of public sector initiatives, and a range of other gambling harms sector organisations.



Bet You Can Help with Merseyside Youth Association



Bet You Can Help Knowsley

PROGRAMMES & PARTNERS

Programme Reach and Feedback

The BYCH training programme reached more than **2951** individuals during 2023-24 with over **325** participating in the Level 2 Award with a successful accreditation rate of **93%** for those who completed the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) Award assessment.

Early outcomes demonstrate the positive impact the Bet You Can Help workshops are having on increasing population awareness and knowledge of gambling-related harms and safer gambling strategies. Across all Bet You Can Help Now and Bet You Can Help Level 2 workshops delivered, **96%** of survey respondents indicated that they achieved the desired learning outcomes by participating in the workshop which included developing awareness, knowledge, skills, and confidence to support those at risk of, or experiencing gambling-related harms.

When asked to assess the workshops' impact on their ability to provide appropriate intervention concerning gambling-related harms, **78%** of all participants indicated that participation in the workshop greatly improved their ability to do so.

Specifically, **98%** of participants felt that the communication of course expectations went very to extremely well, and **92%** of participants felt the learning activities were very effective to extremely effective.

Participants rated the overall teaching performance of the course facilitators very highly, with **98%** of participants rating it as either 4/5 (19%) or 5/5 (79%).

In respect to the delivery of the workshops, most participants liked face-to-face training, and some virtual learners mentioned that they would prefer face-to-face settings, but they also appreciated the virtual option if they were not able to attend in-person.

Overall, participants had positive experiences with the Bet You Can Help Now and Bet You Can Help Level 2 workshops, feedback showed learners had identified opportunities on how practitioners and services can use screening tools provided to participants, simplifying or updating language used to avoid stigmatising people, and encouraging early access to treatment provision.

Beacon Counselling Trust welcome opportunities to engage more organisations and services across the North West to address gambling harms across our communities.

“It was well-paced, and I wasn’t ever bored during the whole day which can be hard for anyone over a whole day’s worth of education”
- Bet You Can Help Level 2 participant

Participants provided further positive feedback about the facilitators, mentioning that the facilitators were very engaging and answered questions very clearly and without judgement. Some participants highlighted that having a person with lived experience in the workshop was very insightful.

“We all appreciated your honesty, personal stories, the fact you told us your truths was so powerful. We all will look at gambling harms in a much more compassionate way from now on! Thank you.”
- Bet You Can Help Now participant

“The team did so well at teaching the information to us. It was delivered in a way that was easy to understand.”
- Bet You Can Help Level 2 participant

“Lived experience almost brought me to tears and taught me the most, reminding me why I do what I do and the need to allow people time to tell their stories.”
- participant attending ‘A Collaborative Approach to Tackling Gambling Harms across the Criminal Justice System’



BCT training programme reached

2,951
individuals during 2023-24

325 participated in Level 2 with

93%
successful accreditation rate

Out of all survey respondents

96%
achieved desired learning outcomes

For more information, contact
BYCH@beaconcounsellingtrust.co.uk

PROGRAMMES & PARTNERS

YOUNG PEOPLE'S GAMBLING HARM PREVENTION PROGRAMME

BCT has delivered the Young People's Gambling Harms Prevention Programme in partnership with GamCare, across the North West, for the fourth consecutive year.

Building on new and existing partnerships we continue to exceed all targets. The team are proud to have successfully delivered education and early prevention workshops to **4298** young people and **1043** professionals, parents and carers on the risks associated with gambling, and gaming harms across the region.

The programme has continued to develop and maintain strong relationships with key stakeholders and continues to be embedded as part of the curriculum provision across several locations of The Princes Trust, Halton Healthy Schools, Stockport Safeguarding Children's Partnership, Bolton Safeguarding Children's Partnership, and Bolton University Teacher Training programmes.

A key highlight for the programme this year was the partnership between Childline, GamCare and BCT, where we created and co delivered 'Online safety with a focus on gaming and gambling' for parents. We hope to develop this collaboration and work together on future projects.

The team continue to deliver workshops to primary and secondary schools, including Lancaster Girls' Grammar School, Stockport High School, and Kirkby Kendal High School. As well as attending fresher's events and working with Preston college students, children attending alternative provisions like Blackpool Skills Academy and those studying for a degree at Blackpool FC.

We have maintained our work with the Mentor and Outreach Programme across Chorley where we support safeguarding teams from schools and third-party organisations who work within the community. We have also sustained successful working relationships with the Chorley Social Prescribing Team and Family Hub Networks.

Our aim for this coming year is to focus on building new relationships that will enhance our reach to areas that we are less established in, whilst nurturing our ongoing partnerships. We will strive continuously to ensure that our work is relevant, relatable, and meaningful to those we are educating and supporting.



The Princes Trust Wirral Team

I found the sessions that gambling awareness provide very informative for our students. Most of the time Young People are unaware that they are gambling when playing their online games, they are also unaware of the impact this can have on themselves and their family.

-Youth Development Officer - The Prince's Trust Team Programme

The team successfully delivered education and workshops to

4,288

young people and

1,043

professionals, parents & carers



ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

In February 2024, Beacon Counselling Trust launched the development of the Armed Forces Gambling Support Network (AFGSN). This initiative seeks to prevent and address gambling-related harms targeting the armed forces community. This collaboration is brought together and consists of agencies from across the National Gambling Support Network (NGSN), and includes Beacon Counselling Trust, Ara Recovery for All, RCA Trust, Betknowmore and Breakeven, respectively.

Gambling-Related Harms has been identified by the Ministry of Defence as one of the most significant issues facing the UK Armed Forces. Veterans are eight times more likely to have gambling issues adversely impacting them and those around them than the UK population. Our vision is to reduce the risk and incidence of gambling-related harm amongst the military and veterans' community, by creating an enduring support service for armed forces personnel and veterans, and the colleagues, friends, and families of both. Evidence shows that veterans are eight times more likely to suffer from gambling harms and up to 5% of serving RAF personnel believe gambling is an issue for them. Experience highlights that members of the Armed Forces may relate to risk taking situations differently than the general public, and they are also at increased risk of struggling with trauma which puts them at an increased risk of developing a harmful relationship with gambling. The key objectives of the programme are to increase the awareness of the dangers and harm associated with gambling amongst members of the whole force community, and to facilitate support and access to treatment into the National Gambling Support Network (NGSN).

As part of the programme, the AFGSN will deliver the 'Battling the Odds' gambling-related harms element of 'Bet You Can Help' as part of its engagement across the armed forces community, targeting serving armed forces personnel and reservists, cadets and adult cadet instructors, veterans and agencies, projects and services who support the armed forces community. Stakeholders involved in this work include organisations such as Op Courage, the Royal British Legion, Tom Harrison House, Veterans Affairs, the North West Reserves and Cadet Association, Fulwood, Dale and Weeton Barracks, Healthier Heroes, Local Authorities Armed Forces Champions and third sector organisations who support veterans.

In the first two months of the project, the programme had reached more than **600** members of the armed forces community. The project has set a target of reaching 15,000 members of the armed forces community over a two-year period across the partnership.



The Parachute Regimental Association (Liverpool Branch)



Wirral Met Uniformed Services Armed Forces Cadets

To find out more about the project, or to express an interest in the 'Battling the Odds' gambling-related harms training programme, please email:

armedforces@beaconcounsellingtrust.co.uk

In the first two months, the programme reached more than

600 members of the armed forces community



PROGRAMMES & PARTNERS

SOUTH ASIAN PROGRAMME

Gambling harms within the South Asian Community has long been high on BCT's agenda. BCT raised the spotlight on addressing gambling-related harms with this disproportionately impacted community following research showing ethnic communities in the UK are less likely to gamble than the overall population, but those who do gamble are five times more likely to experience disproportionate levels of harm than those identified as white. (Natcen, 2014).

The 'Breaking the Sharam' Project has been engaging communities and professionals on these issues, recognising that 'sharam' or 'shame', is a key factor in why members of the South Asian Community often shy away from help seeking behaviours due to feelings of stigmatisation and assumptions based on their faith beliefs. There are approximately three million Muslims in the UK. South Asians make up the largest ethnic group within the British Islamic community, and therefore the need to provide programmes of education and support that are culturally sensitive is fundamentally important to address needs and encourage access to specialist support at the earliest opportunity. Throughout 2023-24, BCT continued to support communities vulnerable to gambling-related harms, with many South Asian community groups, professionals, and Islamic led organisations participating in the 'Bet You Can Help' programme with additional content as part of 'Breaking the Sharam' integrated into its delivery.

The range of organisations and practitioners who have participated in the 'Breaking the Sharam' project over the last 12 months include the Quwwat Education Centre, Inspire, Motivate, Overcome (IMO) Charity, HMP Prison Muslim Prisoners, Jamea Mosque (Preston), Bolton Solidarity Community Association, The Chai Centre (LCSFT), Preston Muslim Girls High School, Sahara In Preston, The Pakistani Sounding Board (Manchester), BBC Beyond Belief Radio Programme, The Chai Centre (LSCFT) and The Abdullah Quilliam Society.

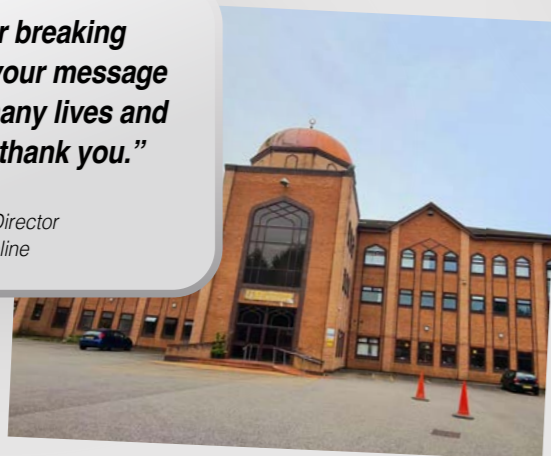
Over the course of the two-year period that 'Breaking the Sharam' has been in operation, the project has facilitated **313** early brief interventions with members of the South Asian community and delivered education/training to **2382** participants including children and young people, community leaders, practitioners, and faith seminars. A key achievement of the programme has seen **200** individuals attend the Royal Society of Public Health (RSPH) accredited Level 2 Award in Tackling Gambling-Related Harms with **94** of these learners being faith seminars and Imans.

"This is a brilliant project mashAllah, may Allah preserve you, Ameen. You truly are a beacon in our community!"

- Meanha Begum,
Head of Operations at Inspired Minds

"Thank you for breaking the barriers - your message can save so many lives and relationships, thank you."

- Maaria Mahmood, Director
at Muslim Youth Helpline



The Jamiatul Iim Wal Huda, the College of Islamic Knowledge and Guidance, Blackburn



'Breaking the Sharam' Gambling Harms Training Programme

The project has facilitated
313
early brief interventions

Delivered education/training to
2,382
south asian community participants

The programme has seen
200
individuals attend RSPH level 2 training

Another enormous success of the programme saw BCT receive the 2021 Vixio Global Regulatory Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Safer Gambling regarding the 'Breaking the Sharam' projects emphasis on early intervention and education and awareness raising within the Islamic community. You can see here some of the positive feedback we have received from the work done on our Breaking the Sharam programme.



"I have been very impressed with the 'Breaking the Sharam' initiative spearheaded by Beacon Counselling Trust. Gambling addiction is a hidden harm in many UK South Asian communities but for a complex variety of reasons, including stigma and lack of understanding, it is often ignored and untreated leading to a tragic cost in human terms. This initiative, delivered with cultural sensitivity and a keen awareness of grassroots community infrastructures, is to be commended for helping reach some of the most vulnerable in our society."

- Dr Riyaz Timol, Research Associate,
Centre for the Study of Islam in the UK, Cardiff University

As we move into 2024-25, BCT aim to embed the project as part of its wider education, training and support offer, which will be more inclusive of individuals from many different diverse communities that may be identified as at risk of gambling-related harms.

PROGRAMMES & PARTNERS

WORKPLACE CHARTER

In the last twelve months, BCT have continued to roll out the Workplace Charter across the region and have seen key stakeholders become signatories to begin the process of engaging with the issue of gambling-related harms in the workplace.

Signatories include Cumbrian based addictions service CADAS, alongside YMCA Together who provide varying levels of support for vulnerable people across the North West. BCT not only focus on large organisations such as YMCA Together, but also recognise the importance of smaller community-based services, such as The Block CIC who support Armed Forces veterans, who also became a signatory of the Workplace Charter. Each organisation signing the charter have created a gambling harms policy to support staff members in the workplace.

During 2023-24, BCT has consistently promoted the need to include gambling-related harms within a workplace context. The Workplace Charter to Reduce Gambling-Related Harms initiative has been able to engage with a wide range of businesses, organisations, and employers to implement policy, support, guidance, and access to training via the 'Bet You Can Help' programme and pathways into support across The National Gambling Support Network (NGSN).

This Workplace Charter provides a framework for action to help employers and staff build good practice in health and work in their organisation. The charter supports all types of employers, large and small, from public, private and voluntary sectors.

The charter offers practical, evidence-based ways in which employers and staff can commit to promoting the health and wellbeing of their workers experiencing gambling-related harms. It endeavours to help reduce sickness, absence,

and support those who want or need to change their relationship with gambling.

During the last 12 months, BCT has worked in partnership with a number of organisations who have successfully progressed their way through to becoming signatories of the Workplace Charter to Reduce Gambling Harms. This builds on a group of **33** pre-existing signatory organisations, taking the programmes membership up to **38**, with an additional **8** organisations declaring their commitment to sign up and a further **14** expressing a positive interest in joining the scheme over the course of the next year.

The organisations who have joined the list of Workplace Charter signatories include Cheshire Constabulary, YMCA Together, The Block Armed Forces Foundation, Cumbria Addictions, Advice and Solutions (CADAS) and Cleveland Fire and Rescue Service.

CADAS, who operate support concerning addictions across Cumbria, have recruited a practitioner dedicated to including gambling as part of their offer and facilitation of the 'Bet You Can Help' gambling-related harms training programme within their service.

As the Workplace Charter initiative continues to gain momentum, BCT are confident that 2024-25 will see this project go from strength to strength, after seeing a surge in expressions of interest during 2023. At BCT, we are committed to progressing our objective of encouraging as many businesses, employers, and organisations as possible to become charter signatories, and in doing so promote a safer environment for employees, communities and the wider public.

Workplace charter membership has reached

38 signatory organisations

with an additional

8 declaring a commitment to sign up

and a further **14** expressing positive interest



Cheshire Constabulary



YMCA Together complete the Workplace Charter



CADAS signing the Workplace Charter



The Block Armed Forces Foundation celebrating their Workplace Charter signatory status



Leigh Williams, CEO of CADAS, adds her signature to the Workplace Charter

PROGRAMMES & PARTNERS

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMME

Beacon Counselling Trust (BCT) have collaborated with colleagues from Ara Recovery for All (South-West and Wales) and RCA Trust (Scotland) in the development of the Criminal Justice Programme.

There have been **146** actions created throughout the programme, all of which have led to an engagement and collaboration with the respective stakeholder. We have collectively trained over **3,000** professionals on the Bet You Can Help programme over the last three years in both the Level 1 and Level 2 gambling-related harms training courses.

The programme team have engaged and collaborated with health care professionals, Police and Crime Commissioners, Ministry of Justice, NHS England, NHS Wales, Royal Society of Public Health, Magistrate and Court Services, National and Regional Probation, Prisons, Social Services, Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership, Gambling Research Exchange Ontario (GREO) and others within academia.

The Criminal Justice Programme successfully developed and delivered a conference in September 2023 involving key stakeholders. The conference received excellent feedback regarding the content from guest speakers, the work undertaken in the delivery of the programme and was well supported by attendees.

Our Criminal Justice lead is a member of the National Criminal Justice taskforce, which is led by PCC addiction leads and focuses upon the actions from the Howard League report and recommendations. The group have promoted Bet You Can Help and the Workplace Charter across Criminal Justice organisations, as well as potential pilots of the Criminal Justice pathway in Durham Constabulary. During the programme both Durham and Cheshire Constabulary joined the Workplace Charter to Reduction Gambling-Related Harms initiative.

This collaboration with key police stakeholders has delivered screening, diversion, and treatment pathways for persons presenting with gambling-related harms within **29** (60%) of Police Services across England, Scotland, and Wales. Beacon Counselling Trust, ARA and RCA Trust have collectively completed outstanding work on this innovative criminal justice programme.

As a partnership we are thrilled with the level of contributions and achievements we have made concerning gambling-related harms and its links to criminality throughout the three years of the programme.

An example of BCT's inter-agency partnership, working as part of this programme, involved Merseyside Police, who have been a key organisation for BCT's work across Merseyside within the North West. Merseyside Police and Project Adder in particular, have undertaken the Arresting Harmful Gambling version of the Bet You Can Help programme, that now provides an integrated training workshop for custody suite staff engaging desk sergeants, detention officers and those working within custody, as part of Merseyside Police's internal training offer.

A prime example of best practice in the region is the recent Information Sharing Agreement (ISA) that has been developed by Merseyside Police Authorities Vulnerable Persons Referral Unit (VPRU). BCT will see the inclusion of gambling-related harm questions within the vulnerable persons referral form (VPRF) aimed at identifying anyone at risk of gambling harms. Through this system individuals, at risk of, or experiencing gambling harms will be referred into BCT for further support. Alongside this there have been developments in gambling harms interventions being an option for Community Resolution and Out of Court Disposal processes. Individuals experiencing gambling-related harms will have a direct pathway into treatment and support. Merseyside Police have also expressed an interest in the Workplace Charter to Reduce Gambling-Related Harms.



There have been **146** actions created leading to engagement

During the last three years we have trained **3,000** professionals on the Bet You Can Help programme



Working in collaboration with Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership



Mark Roberts, Chief Constable, of Cheshire Constabulary signs the Workplace Charter



Durham Constabulary

PROGRAMMES & PARTNERS

PUBLIC HEALTH & LOCAL SYSTEMS ENGAGEMENT

Over the past year BCT has continued to work with public health teams, the third sector and local systems to raise awareness of and promote action on gambling-related harm. Key tools have been the 10 point plan to tackle gambling-related harm, which was approved by the North West Gambling Related Harm Steering Group in 2023, and the Workplace Charter on Gambling Harm, which confirms local organisation's commitment to tackling gambling harm. BCT shared the 10 point plan and GambleAware data on the prevalence of gambling harm in each local authority area, and the take up of treatment and support with each of the Directors of Public Health.

BCT has continued its work with Blackpool, Blackburn and Darwen, Knowsley, Wirral and Cumbria, supporting events in each of these and attended their gambling-related harm groups. In addition, BCT has worked with Liverpool City Council, which has adopted the 10 point plan as its organising tool and is looking at the Workplace Charter. The public health teams in Lancashire County Council and in Cheshire East, Warrington, Sefton, Halton and St Helens Councils are also looking at the Workplace Charter with BCT.

Partner locations

- 1 Blackburn
- 2 Cumberland & Westmorland and Furness Councils
- 3 Wirral
- 4 Knowsley
- 5 Blackpool
- 6 Sefton
- 7 Cheshire
- 8 St Helens
- 9 Liverpool
- 10 Warrington



We are both innovative and exemplary in our work to reduce gambling-related harms across the Northwest region.

10. Early Intervention

Implement screening processes and strengthen data collection and sharing to develop a local picture of risks and needs and enable a population health approach to gambling related harm.

1. Awareness

Promote awareness with leaders at place and ensure public health teams are aware of harmful gambling and are supporting services to screen, assess and signpost to appropriate support.

9. The Charter

Recommend that all partner organisations consider signing the Workplace Charter committing them to treat gambling harm in parity with other addictions and promote the charter to local businesses/employers.

2. NGSN

Work with the National Gambling Support Network and NHS to promote local organisations providing treatment and support to assist signposting and appropriate referral.

8. Map Services

Map existing community agencies and services and establish and promote a programme of awareness raising and training for relevant frontline staff in all partner organisations to Make Every Contact Count.

3. Pathways

Agree and promote appropriate referral pathways.

7. Place Platform

Consider establishing a gambling related harms group at place and designating an organisational lead for harmful gambling issues at Place to coordinate action, agree common messages, raise awareness and challenge stigma.

4. Assist

Support the local authority Health and Wellbeing Board to develop gambling harms including focussed prevention work with potential high-risk groups.



6. Screening

NHS services (especially Mental Health Service providers) should include gambling harms in their screening processes and referral to the National Gambling Support Network treatment services or access to specialist support (National Gambling Clinic) where appropriate.

5. Approach

Encourage Primary Care Networks to raise awareness of harmful gambling among primary care professionals, implement screening and work with community-based organisations and the local authority to signpost to local and national support services.

BCT is working with the new integrated care systems in Lancashire and South Cumbria, and in Cheshire and Merseyside, and the ICBs are looking at committing to the Workplace Charter and raising the profile of gambling harm. As the major commissioners of health and social care services this is an important system development promoting awareness of gambling-related harms.

develop support for the families impacted. GambleAware have commissioned the Tavistock institute to evaluate the Mobilising Local systems projects and develop good practice models. BCT have been fully involved and have asked two of its regional partners (Wirral CAB and Blackburn and Darwen Council) to be involved. Both organisations have worked closely with BCT in developing our work in their areas and sit on the regional stakeholder board. The aim of the evaluation is to identify what works and create impact, and to aid the process of spreading good practice across the national network.

The BCT conference on a whole family approach to gambling harm brought many of the local systems partners together and demonstrated how working together and making every contact count could improve awareness of gambling-related harm and

PROGRAMMES & PARTNERS

TREK THERAPY

Over the last three years, BCT has continually developed its provision with its Trek Therapy 'Wellbeing Walks' programme, which is integral to its aftercare offer.

In its first two years, Trek Therapy provided opportunities for service users from the Paul's Place Suicide Bereavement Support Service to have continued benefit from getting out into nature through structured walking activities, designed to improve physical and emotional wellbeing, and enable service users to facilitate their own informal peer support group during activities. The Trek Therapy initiative has now enhanced its reach to also support services users from its Gambling-Related Harms programme as a core aftercare and relapse prevention offer funded through the National Gambling Support Network (NGSN).

Opportunities to connect with nature, improve wellbeing and social connections are key outcomes within the programme objectives. Service users have been able to visit many fantastic outdoor locations, including National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, such as The Forest of Bowland, The Peak District, The Lake District, The Clwydian Range, The Mersey Forest and Arnsdale and Silverdale. Throughout the last twelve months, Trek Therapy has delivered a regular monthly scheduled walking activity to service users from both Paul's Place and the Gambling-Related Harms programme respectively, totalling 24 structured wellbeing walks during the period. Trek Therapy has engaged 85 BCT service users during 2023-2024 in professionally facilitated walking activities as part of its wellbeing walks offer.

Feedback from participants demonstrates the supportive nature and the positive impact Trek Therapy has on service users' lives.

"When we first started the walks, we were both barely functioning and struggling through each day due to gambling harms. During this stressful time for us the walks really gave us both something to look forward to and a bit of escapism. Now I am happy to say we are getting our lives back on track and the walks are such a big part of our recovery. Many thanks for all the support."

Gambling-Related Harms Support Service User



Paul's Place at Ladybower Reservoir



'Wellbeing Walk' to Hilbre Island, Merseyside

Throughout the last 12 months service users attended

24

structured wellbeing walks



Trek Therapy has professionally engaged

85

BCT service users during 2023-2024

The Trek Therapy programme team and its participants look forward to many more adventures and further opportunities to visit the natural environment during 2024-25.

ENGLISH GAMBLING EDUCATION HUB

The English Gambling Education Hub entered its second year and has continued to grow, with the volume of stakeholders the programme has reached increasing over the last twelve months.

The Hub aims to raise awareness of gambling harms and the impacts the issue can have on young people through engaging with professionals supporting anyone aged 11 to 25. Over the last 12 months, BCT have focused on engaging with local systems, particularly local authorities to promote the Hub and its programmes such as the film competition, online stakeholder events and online portal amongst others. Our work in the North West has seen a number of stakeholders become members of the Hub's network whilst also accessing the Young People's Gambling Harm Prevention Programme, a crucial aspect of BCT's work in reducing harms for our young population. BCT see support for young people as an essential component of a gambling-related harms early intervention and education offer.



GENERAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

BCT have continued to forge ahead with their stakeholder engagement right across the North West which has been an area of great success for the organisation this year.



This year also saw the creation of BCT's stakeholder magazine with the first edition being released in May, this content looks to showcase the breadth of stakeholders the organisation has engaged with over the past twelve months. BCT continue to focus on our work within local systems and have developed excellent working relationships with public health teams across the region including Blackpool, Blackburn, Knowsley, Liverpool, Warrington, Cumbria to name a few. These partnerships have allowed BCT to embed early intervention, education and treatment offer within local systems and engage with a number of people facing organisations such as CGL, Citizens Advice, Age UK, NHS, the Criminal Justice System, Armed Forces Community alongside organisations supporting our diverse communities.

BCT have continued to work with universities across the region including a longstanding relationship with Liverpool John Moores University, which sees BCT provide support for students alongside training for those professionals supporting them.

A key area for focus in BCT's engagement work has been drug and alcohol support services, due to the link between gambling harms and substance misuse; this year relationships have been developed with services in Blackburn, Liverpool, Cheshire, Wirral, Cumbria and Preston amongst others. Also valuing the importance of lived experience, BCT have been working with Red Rose Recovery across Lancashire to raise awareness and offer support through a number of gambling harms lived experience talks.



PROGRAMMES & PARTNERS

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Over the past year, BCT has continued to work with Wirral NHS Weight Management Service. Working as part of the multi-disciplinary dietetic team, BCT provides psychotherapeutic support to patients accessing the tier 3 weight management programme.

Over the course of the 12-month programme, patients referred into BCT service receive a combination of counselling, CBT, and psychoeducation sessions, with a focus on increasing self-awareness, insight, and understanding of their relationship with food; helping them develop healthier eating behaviours and ways of coping.

During the past year, BCT provided support to **68** patients, completing a total of **193** therapeutic counselling and CBT sessions.

The sessions aim to help patients to:

- Better understand their relationship with food and their eating behaviour
- Gain a greater awareness of triggers for overeating or comfort eating
- Increase motivation, confidence and ability to change eating habits
- Develop healthier ways of coping, to replace emotional 'self-soothing' through food
- Address underlying emotional issues that keeps them 'stuck' in unhelpful behaviours

Patients have reported finding the sessions 'very helpful', feeling 'understood' and 'having learned a lot about themselves and their eating behaviour'.

Feedback received has been very positive:

"Thank you for the help and support. I have lost 8kg since starting the programme, my mental health is better and self-esteem has improved greatly"

NHS
Wirral Community Health and Care
NHS Foundation Trust

"The sessions were very good. I felt my therapist 'got me' straight away and understood what I was going through. I got so much more than I have in previous CBT sessions outside the service"

During the past year, BCT provided support to

68 patients completing a total of **193** therapeutic counselling and CBT sessions

"Our sessions have enabled me to talk about issues I haven't been able to discuss, and made many things start to make sense. I'm losing weight and feeling more confident about my future"

PAUL'S PLACE SUICIDE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Referrals and Support

Our Paul's Place suicide bereavement support service continues to go from strength to strength, with the last year seeing **138** people access our free and vital service, resulting in **1058** hours of therapy being provided to those in need across the Merseyside area.

Those accessing Paul's Place are eligible for free one-to-one, person-centred counselling sessions, followed by a robust menu of aftercare support options. Paul's Place aftercare support includes weekly peer support group meetings, trek therapy walks, craft and wellbeing groups, and Paul's Place 'Journeys of Discovery' fortnightly day trips. Offering clients an integral aftercare support package is imperative to ensure service users are able to appropriately and safely reintegrate into society following one-to-one support. Our face-to-face peer support group meets on a weekly basis to allow service-users the opportunity to connect with others who have been bereaved in the same way, promoting a culture of safety and support through lived experience.

We have continued to widen and develop our therapeutic offer to ensure we are supporting this vulnerable group as holistically as possible; this last year seeing the addition of the 'Journeys of Discovery' Paul's Place trips, made possible by the purchase of our minibus. Our Paul's Place aftercare offer also now includes our wellbeing groups, a space where service users can come together to focus on reintegration, explore how to live with loss, and share ways to manage their trauma and grief moving forward. Our Wellbeing Groups are facilitated by our clinical supervisor and clinical programmes and training manager,

Jacki Wild, and have particular focus on the concept of post-traumatic growth, concentrating on connection, wellbeing, and reintegration following trauma and subsequent therapeutic support.

Paul's Place also continues to celebrate a no-waiting list approach to counselling, ensuring all service users are able to access the right support at the right time.

Paul's Place has celebrated a number of achievements since its founding in 2017, including being awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2021, and continues to strive for quality and effective support for those bereaved by suicide.

During the last year, we have had a number of requests for support from people outside of Merseyside. We continue to respond to such requests by signposting to "Suicide&Co", who offer a similar service to ours. Their catchment area is anywhere in the UK except Merseyside. They too will provide our details to anyone from Merseyside who seeks out support with them. Staff members from Paul's Place and BCT attended the inaugural "Suicide&Co Sector Summit" in late February 2024 to discuss and explore best practice in supporting those bereaved by suicide.



Paul's Place service users attend a 'Journeys of Discovery' outing



Throughout the last year

138 people accessed our free service

resulting in **1,058** hours of therapy to those in need

Fundraising Events and Donations

Over the last 12 months, Paul's Place has received over £100,000. This amount includes a wide variety of fundraising events, one off donations and donations from charitable sources, as well as the regular donations we receive from individuals and organisations.

We are optimistic that over the course of the next 12 months, we can match or increase this amount. In May 2024 a team of 25 people, including Paul's Place Service Users and their friends and family members helped to raise an incredible £19,597 by taking part in a Tandem Skydive event. This is the most raised from one single event since Paul's Place was founded.

We will continue to work with individuals and organisations to support them in raising vital funds for our Paul's Place Programme through fundraising events, whilst also looking to generate new sustainable funding streams through partnerships with supportive local companies.



Tandem Skydive for Paul's Place

Lottery

Paul's Place is in its second year of funding from The National Lottery Community Fund for our aftercare programme which includes a number of holistic support groups such as Journeys of Discovery, Trek Therapy, Peer Support and Craft and Wellbeing Groups.



This funding helped secure the purchase of a minibus, which has been vital in ensuring that service users are given opportunities to connect with others through shared experiences, whilst also making connections with nature and environment. The groups offer great variety in experiences and a recent visit to Portmeirion in Wales resulted in the following service user feedback

"This was an opportunity to visit somewhere so beautiful, that we would never have managed to see otherwise."

"Walking around the village helped to put worries behind us"

We will continue to use such feedback to help inform future activities.

Our Wellbeing Group have also provided feedback highlighting the importance of these groups in providing ongoing support to service users.

"It is essential that I come to the Wellbeing Groups whenever possible as they give me an opportunity to talk and listen to others with a shared experience. This helps me to understand why I may feel a certain way and offers possible solutions to manage feelings moving forward. I would be lost without the support group."

"I just wanted to contact to say just how much the group sessions are benefitting my wellbeing. The useful information about how trauma affects the body and shared experiences with other members is so helpful and has given me great insight into my own journey".

SERVICE-USER FEEDBACK AND ACHIEVEMENT



Paul's Place Journeys of Discovery Group

"I cannot thank this service enough. It is not an exaggeration to say it saved my life. I am almost 12 months free from gambling of any form. I feel stronger than ever and can confidently say I will never return to gambling. I've also recommended others to this service when I noticed similar behaviours to my previous self. Again, I cannot thank you enough and I owe my life to this service."

GAMBLING RECOVERY SERVICE-USERS

"This service saved my life. It will be one whole year that I have stopped gambling, for when at the heights of my addiction I couldn't even go 1/2 hours without feeling the need. The best thing we have done is put barriers in place to stop me gambling and this has worked massively. I used to look forward to my sessions every week and talking to someone really did help. I owe the start of my recovery to the Beacon."

Feedback from Service Users

"Being part of Paul's Place at Beacon has got me through some rough times but being with people who understand what am going through has meant the world to me. I don't know where I would be without this support from the group and also the well-being sessions are very helpful in understanding how our bodies function."

PAUL'S PLACE SERVICE USERS

"I found this service extremely helpful in coping with my partners addiction. I carry my own stress but coping with things as his addiction has been under control since the counselling. I do find it helped him and hopefully we can continue gambling free. Thanks for your help"

AFFECTED OTHER SERVICE USERS

"The counselling I had about being affected by gambling helped me so much to come to terms with situations out of my control, and was so helpful in giving me practical things I could do for myself and my family. I know that if my partner was ever to relapse again, I would feel so much more equipped to deal with it. I would contact Beacon in a heartbeat for support it was so incredible for me and I felt it was right to get in touch and say thank you."

"I had a lovely day with The Paul's Place Journeys of Discovery Group, it makes me feel as if I am getting there with the help of all the girls. I had a good laugh which I haven't had in a long time. I can't wait for the next one I really look forward to meeting everyone."

BCT AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Stakeholder Event

BCT held its first North West Gambling-Related Harms stakeholder Alliance event last June. The event was attended by a range of organisations, partners and commissioners working across a wide range of sectors with the focus of the event to develop a collaborative approach to addressing gambling-related harms. BCT are extremely pleased with the pace of developments we are making across our regional footprint, alongside our stakeholders and partners as we continue to set our joint priorities in shaping services for those at risk of, or experiencing gambling-related harms.



BCT Stakeholder Event

Aftercare Programme Commences

Our gambling recovery aftercare programme is now being offered and delivered to service users in partnership with Betknowmore and their Peer Aid Project. BCT also offer a Trek Therapy element of our gambling support aftercare programme, by providing regular scheduled complementary wellbeing walks that service users can access as part of their on-going recovery and relapse prevention support. We hope to support more service users through our aftercare programme.



Our Aftercare Programme Commences

Launch of the Armed Forces Community Programme

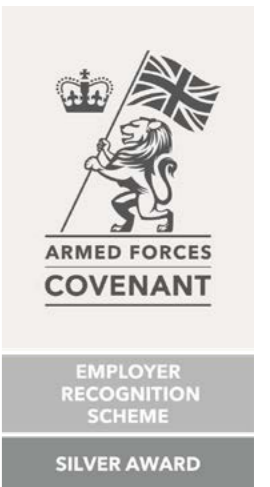
BCT developed a collaborative partnership programme aimed at supporting the Armed Forces Community (AFC) concerning gambling-related harms, who are identified as a key vulnerable group. A core function of the programme will be to promote early access to intervention to those at risk of, or experiencing gambling harms through the National Gambling Support Network (NGSN). We hope to reach and support more members of the armed forces community over the next year.

Whole Family Approach to Gambling-Related Harms Conference

In May 2024, BCT hosted their first Whole Family Approach Conference on Gambling-Related Harms, it was a fantastic and successful day. More than 150 health, social care and education professionals joined the conference. The day was an opportunity to learn more about BCT's engagement with stakeholders in the region. The whole family conference also served as a call to action for a community place-based approach to addressing gambling harms. The programme outlined a collective mission for a collaborative approach and plans to support the whole family unit in recovery from gambling harms. BCT would like to take this opportunity to thank our guest speakers and everyone who attended.

Armed Forces Covenant Silver Award

BCT are extremely proud to announce that we are one of forty-seven organisations from across the North West of England to have been awarded Silver, under the Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Scheme for recognition in showing our support to Defence and the wider Armed Forces community. Following on from our previous bronze recognition, Beacon Counselling Trust is honoured to become a successful Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Silver Award recipient and we look forward to attending a formal ceremony on the 1st October 2024.



BCT Whole Family Approach Conference





BEACON COUNSELLING TRUST

Reg. Charity No. 1140011

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