

Sopwell Residents Association's (SRA) Gambling Policy

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Contents

1. The purpose of the SRA's Gambling Policy.....	1
2. The scope of SRA's Gambling Policy.....	1
3. An Outline of the Community Lottery.....	2
4. Managing the risks.....	2
The Policy as a Living Document.....	3

3

If you or someone you know is struggling with gambling-related problems, contact the National Gambling Helpline 0808 8020 1333 (Free of charge, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week), <https://www.gamcare.org.uk/>.

1. The purpose of the SRA's Gambling Policy

The SRA is taking part in St Albans and District Council (SADC) Community Lottery and occasional raffles. Whilst this has been deemed a low risk gambling activity by SADC and the organisers (Gatherwell Ltd), the SRA committee recognises its duty to the residents of Sopwell and this policy aims to set out how the SRA committee can keep the gambling experience enjoyable and minimise harm, in particular to children and other vulnerable people.

2. The scope of SRA's Gambling Policy¹

This policy has impacts for the SRA committee, residents of the Sopwell Ward, and wider St Albans Residents, but in particular we focus on vulnerable adults and children.

2.1 Vulnerable adults

Adults may be vulnerable if, for example, they are taking certain types of prescribed medication which may impair their judgement or prevent them making informed, balanced decisions about gambling; or if they are intoxicated from misusing drugs or alcohol.

If an adult has mental health issues, a mental impairment or problems with addiction, they may also be vulnerable as they may have difficulty controlling their activities or behaviour, or understanding the players' guides to games.

What are the risks to vulnerable adults?

1 <https://www.manchestersafeguardingpartnership.co.uk/resource/gambling-establishments-safeguarding-advice-premises/>

If vulnerable adults are not supported within the gambling environment they may be at risk of:

- gambling beyond their financial means
- problems with addiction
- financial exploitation
- causing, or being a victim of dangerous, abusive or threatening behaviour
- physical, emotional or accidental harm.

These difficulties may have a serious impact upon the person's relationships, home life or employment.

2.2 Children

If children are permitted access to adult gambling activities, they may be at risk of being:

- exposed to information or advertisements encouraging them to gamble
- allowed, or invited to, gamble or bet in a commercial setting
- financially exploited.

3. An Outline of the Community Lottery

The Community Lottery is conducted online. A supporter signs up via the dedicated lottery webpage of the community group they want to support, at a minimum of £5 in one go (a month's set of draws), with the additional option of signing up for either a quarter or a whole year. Payment can be via Direct Debit or Debit/Credit Card. When it's time for the supporter to purchase more tickets they'll receive an email prompting them to buy again (this will not happen if they have signed up by phone).

If the supporter wins they'll be given the option to either claim their prize themselves or to donate it to the community group they're supporting. If they decide to donate it, then they have to donate the whole amount, they can't just donate some and keep the rest.

Supporters do not have to live in the district but they must live in the UK and be over 16 to play.

From each £1 ticket sold:

50p goes to the Community Group

10p goes into the SADC Community Grants Fund from which groups can still apply for funding

20p goes into the prize pot

20p goes to the facilitator Gatherwell Ltd.

4. Managing the risks

- The SRA will include the following information when promoting the lottery in print: "If you or someone you know is struggling with gambling-related problems, contact the National Gambling Helpline 0808 8020 1333 (Free of charge, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week), <https://www.gamcare.org.uk/>."
- The SRA will not promote the Community Lottery at events aimed primarily at children and / or vulnerable adults, and at events where children may be present, any promotion must be away from stalls and activities that cater to children.

- Where the SRA committee becomes aware of a gambling problem relating to the Community Lottery, they will inform the Council and Community Lottery organisers of the issue and, where possible and appropriate, direct the person involved to Gambling Support Services such as the National Gambling Helpline (0808 8020 1333).
- Participation in the Community Lottery will be reviewed annually at the AGM to ensure that it is still fit for purpose.

The Policy as a Living Document

It is the responsibility of the SRA Committee to adopt and implement this Policy.

Once adopted, the Policy should be reviewed at least every three years, and amended where necessary.