Educational Work on Problem Gambling

A new programme, to encourage education about problem gambling in Britain's schools and youth clubs, will develop and promote new resources and training for teachers and youth workers.

The Responsibility in Gambling Trust, or RGT, is an independent charitable body, funded by the UK gambling industry, which commissions treatment, education and research into problem gambling. The aim of RGT is to ensure that it is least likely that people will become problem gamblers and more likely that those who do will be able to seek and receive effective help.

Background

One of the three primary aims of RGT (www.rgt.org.uk) is to commission education about the possible risk of problem gambling delivered to young people. After an extensive review of what works in education for risky-behaviours, and extensive consultation with leading experts and the Department for Education and Skills, RGT put a three part contract out to tender. The aikido programme, a social enterprise, won this contract and was made at the end of January 2006 to award all three parts of the contract to a single provider. This contract will run for three years in the first instance.

TACADE & IGRU

RGT is pleased to announce that it has appointed TACADE, working in partnership with the Nottingham Trent University (NTU) and the Institute for Gambling Research, and Education Unit (IGRU), to be the provider of new work to encourage education about problem gambling, in both youth clubs and schools and young people's clubs under contract to RGT.

Speaking of the new contract, the RGT Chairman, Sir David Dade, said: "The Trust sees the education of young people about problem gambling as one of the key parts of its work. Up till now this has been delivered on a very small scale, as it developed increasingly treatment availability for problem gamblers. We are very pleased that with this contract, RGT is now working with the leading body in education of this type, and is confident that this will lead to much more education about this serious social problem. In turn we hope this will reduce numbers of problem gamblers in the future."

Outcomes

Teachers and youth workers will be trained, motivated and supplied with brand new, exciting and highly effective materials that will lead to positive behavioural change amongst young people.

In turn teachers and youth workers will carry out education about problem gambling as part of their work in Personal, Social and Health Education, Citizenship, and other areas of the school curriculum and in informal youth work settings.

Martin Buczkiiewicz

Martin Buczkiiewicz, Chief Executive of TACADE, said: "TACADE is delighted to be given the opportunity to work with RGT to develop these much needed educational materials and disseminate them through seminars, training sessions and professional networks throughout the United Kingdom. Although we hope our proposals will take young people from the risk of problem gambling, we do not pretend that it is any major problems. TACADE and the IGRU recognise that materials are needed to prevent problem gambling and that secondary schools and the youth service are ideally placed to ensure this process takes place."