



Open
Network
Meeting

27th March
12:00pm

Agenda

12pm	Introductions
12.10pm	GLEN – Who we are, where we want to go
12.15pm	Our plans for 2024
12.30pm	Development Panel
12.40pm	Questions and Answers – Open Floor
12.55pm	Summary, Vouchers, and Thanks

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GLEN – Who we are, where we want to go

Founded in 2021 by a group of individuals, each of whom had their own experience of harms caused by gambling.

The Gambling Lived Experience Network became a registered charity in September 2022.

GLEN is an independent voice raising awareness of, and offering support to, people affected by gambling related harms.

We are a LIVED EXPERIENCE led body with an ambition to be able to make a real difference to peoples' lives, with a voice that can meaningfully participate and influence national debate and policy-making across the gambling sector.

“GLEN is our opportunity to drive the agenda, to make lived experience at the forefront of development and implementation of the reduction of gambling harms on society”

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GLEN – Who we are, where we want to go

Our Purpose was created through listening to the wishes of our members

Respondents from our peer-led survey indicated they wanted a network to:

- Support people with lived experience of gambling harms
- Prevent people from experiencing gambling harms and
- Influence change in the gambling sector.

This led to the development of our purpose:

“An independent voice raising awareness and delivering support for people with gambling related harms.”

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GLEN – Who we are, where we want to go

Our past actions

We have been active in collecting the thoughts and opinions of individuals with Lived Experience of harms caused by gambling and using that collective wisdom to feed into consultations and public strategy meetings aimed at making society safer from harmful gambling impacts.

We have spoken at many events and conferences, have input into research projects, and have tried to develop strategies and information which helps explain to others what it means to be impacted by harmful gambling.

Above all we have sought to elevate the role that Lived Experience has to play in bringing uniquely informed understanding to the societal issue which is Gambling Related Harm.

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What we want to do next

But we have come to recognise that simply talking about gambling harms to those who have a duty to listen, or who are already engaged in the subject area is not enough.

We need to take discussions and understanding of Gambling Harms to wider audiences.

We need to make our collective understanding transferable and of direct and tangible value to those who need it most.

Even if they do not always realise that they do need it, or even recognise that they are impacted by harmful gambling.

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GLEN – Who we are, where we want to go

Where we want to go

We want to go out into existing communities.

Places where gambling harms exist but are not recognised or openly talked about.

We want to start conversations within communities, because existing communities are where most people find support which is personal and relevant to them.

People gravitate to communities which represent distinct aspects of their own personal identity.

We all trust our own chosen communities to be as supportive of us as we are of them.

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GLEN – Who we are, where we want to go

Gambling Lived Experience Networks' Plans for 2024

Community Outreach

Enabling existing community networks by providing them with tools, information and support resources to allow them to lead internal conversations around harmful gambling and legacy harms.

Directory of Resources

Creation of an independent and authentic directory of treatment and support resources focused around addressing gambling harms.

Events Calendar

Developing a calendar of activities of relevance to those with Lived Experience of Harmful Gambling.

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GLEN – Who we are, where we want to go

Community Outreach 2024 – Why?

The UK has between 300,000 and 1.4 million individuals actively engaging in harmful gambling

Another 2 – 6 million are impacted by those who are actively engaging in harmful gambling

Which means there are probably close to 8 million people impacted by current or legacy harms

Yet only there are only 250-300 active members of the online Gambling Harms Community

Approximately 3000 GA and Gam-Anon active attendees.

Meaning that between 99% and 99.95% of those experiencing harm are not being actively engaged

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GLEN – Who we are, where we want to go

Community Outreach 2024 – How?

There is little point trying to take gambling harm awareness to communities as outsiders.

Communities have to be encouraged to take the lead – meaning that we must:

- Identify and approach existing networks which represent communities
- Engage with those networks in encouraging their own members to explain their own experiences of harm
- Provide assistance in relaying their experiences of harm from their POV of being community members
- Work with networks to develop relevant internal support resources and provide signposting to external resources

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Directory of Gambling Harm Resources – why us?

There is no comprehensive directory of all treatment and support resources around harmful gambling

There is a danger that any directory developed by future commissioning bodies will not be unbiased

Individuals with Lived Experience are uniquely positioned to both know about resources which they have accessed, and to be able to give unbiased advice about what services deliver what benefits

GLEN are not a treatment or support provider, meaning that we can be independent

We need such a directory to be able to support our own Community Engagement programme

Because who else is willing to do it?

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Events Calendar – why?

For Lived Experience to be able to shine through as a beacon in the darkness of gambling harms ignorance those with such expertise need to know where they can both make their wisdom heard and can also learn from others like them.

We need a counterpoint to the endless Industry led junket of expos and contained “safer gambling” zones.

We need to network with our peers, both within the Gambling Harms community and in parallel settings where we can make harmful gambling visible to other networks of comorbid addictions and adversities.

In order to be a community network championing Lived Experience we need to create an environment which generates and publicises community activities and which encourages effective networking.

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GLEN – Who we are, where we want to go

Development Panel – why we need it

GLEN was initially created through the vision and drive of a Development Panel of individuals with Lived Experience of gambling harms.

In order to be able to support our plans for 2024 and beyond we need to reform a core team of individuals willing to take over that mantle and to help drive GLEN to become the Network which we all need.

We need people who are passionate about the value of Lived Experience to help empower Lived Experience.

To help develop frameworks for ensuring Lived Experience is properly valued and protected.

Working in specific project teams and joining together to define the future path of our Network.

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GLEN – Who we are, where we want to go

Development Panel - what we can offer

While GLEN does not have funding to appoint a minimal number of paid staff we have learnt that the most effective recruitment comes from looking to those who have already proven their abilities and commitment to our shared values and aspirations.

We see our Development Panel and project teams as being core members of our future growth and primary candidates for future staff roles once our funding and ability to sustain new posts develops.

We want Development Panel members to feel rightly appreciated and will provide remuneration for time committed to our aims – with members themselves helping develop what this looks like.

We are committed to upskilling Development Panel members and to providing opportunities for personal growth and development.

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GLEN – Who we are, where we want to go

Development Panel - what we ask

Commitment to the cause of empowering Lived Experience of Gambling Harms

One virtual meeting (1 hour) per month as a full Development Panel

Additional meetings as needed as part of project support teams

Alignment with our values – Honesty, Integrity, and Hope without Judgement

Patience and belief.

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GLEN – Who we are, where we want to go

Questions and Answers – Open Floor

Please ask us anything you want to hear about, or tell us anything you wish to have heard.

It can be questions about our plans,

suggestions as to what GLEN should be doing,

advice on how we can best achieve our aims,

or perhaps what you feel a successful Gambling Lived Experience Network should look like.

All we ask is that everyone is respectful and genuine.

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GLEN – Who we are, where we want to go

Thank you

On behalf of the Gambling Lived Experience Network thank you come coming today.

If you are interested in hearing more about the Development Panel or in expressing your interest in joining as a panel member please let us know now or by contacting us by email at info@glenetwork.org

As appreciation for your time today we will be sending vouchers worth £25, using the email addresses you signed up for tickets using. Please allow up to two weeks for this to happen.

If you have not already done so you can join our mailing list by going to our website: www.glenetwork.org

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