

Subject: Gambling Act 2005 – Section 157 Responsible Authority with regard to the protection of children from harm

Status: For Publication

Report to: Licensing Committee **Date:** 17th October 2006

Section Head: Head of Legal & Democratic Services **Report Author:** Susan Chadwick, Licensing Manager

Portfolio Holder: Leader of the Council

Key Decision: NO

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise members of the requirement under Section 157(h) of the Gambling Act 2005 to designate in writing, a body that is competent to advise the authority about the protection of children from harm.
- 1.2 To request that members consider the nomination and contents of the report.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee resolve to nominate and designate the Directorate for Children & Young People, Children's Integrated Services of Lancashire County Council as the body competent to advise the authority about issues relating to the protection of children from harm.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Section 157 of the Gambling Act 2005 provides a list of all responsible authorities in relation to premises.
- 3.2 Section 157(h) requires that the licensing authority designate a body, in writing, as competent to advise the authority about the protection of children from harm.
- 3.3 The draft Statement of Gambling Policy/Statement of Gambling Principles states that we will apply the following principles when deciding on the competent body:
 - The need for the body to be responsible for an area covering the whole of the licensing authority's area; and

- The need for the body to be answerable to democratically elected persons, rather than any particular vested interest group, etc.

3.4 Based on these principles and following suit with the majority of other local authorities, it is appropriate that the Directorate for Children and Young People are designated as the competent body.

4. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

4.1 The matters discussed in this report are linked to and support the following corporate priorities:

Customer Services and Community Safety. Quality services for local people and confident communities.

5. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Licensing Authority must promote and have regard to the objectives set out in the Gambling Act 2005.

5.2 The Authority must act in a transparent and open manner.

6. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

6.1 None.

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Draft Statement of Gambling Policy	www.rossendale.gov.uk