

YGAM Symposium

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YGAM Symposium & Independent Evaluation

A huge personal, heartfelt thanks to everybody who participated in the City Law School and YGAM symposium on Thursday 7 September at City, University of London.

A special thanks to all our guest speakers who gave their time voluntary, these include: Dr Margaret Carran and Professor Jason Chuah from City, University of London Law School; Dame Rosie Winterton DBE MP PC; Richard Ives, UK Responsible Gambling Strategy Board; Paul Hope, Programme Director, UK Gambling Commission; Peter Woodroffe, Deputy Chief Executive, Independent Schools Association, Cllr Anna King, colleagues and young people from the Northampton Borough Council Youth Forum; Professor Gerda Reith, Professor of Social Sciences (Sociology), University of Glasgow; Marc Etches, Chief Executive, GambleAware; Dr Alan Little, Gambling Lawyer, Kalff Katz & Franssen LLP; Dan Waugh, Regulus Partners & YGAM Chair; Adrian Sladdin, Director of Education, YGAM; Anne & Keith Evans, Trustees, YGAM and Lee Willows, Chief Executive, YGAM.



“Thank you so much for taking the time to join us for our YGAM’s inaugural symposium. Your support for this event means an awful lot to the trustees and officers of the charity – not least because it represents the tip of the iceberg in terms of the help that you have given to YGAM over the course of the last few years. A number of you have invested time and effort to enable the



charity to operate its workshops and peer mentoring programme; others – from the realms of teaching, community work, council services and the Police - have travelled from far and wide to take part in YGAM workshops; some of you have made generous financial and in-kind donations which are the life-blood of any charity; and some of you have offered moral support and advocacy – commodities that proved so valuable during our start-up days.”

- **Dan Waugh, YGAM Chairman**

“A very varied afternoon of presentations covering many aspects of gambling-related harm; there were: stats, pie-charts and policy; cakes, questions and discussion; young people, professionals and parents; and (at times) tears.”

- **Richard Ives, Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB)**

"Great afternoon spent at the YGAM conference - and especially interesting to hear from the brilliant Northampton Youth Forum, who are doing amazing work raising awareness of gambling-related harm."

- **Heather Wardle, Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB)**



Delegates enjoyed a wide variety of presentations which included Dr Carran, who presented her independent evaluation of the YGAM educational resources and the thoughts of education professionals whom YGAM had trained. Dr Margaret Carran, Senior Lecturer in Law and Deputy Associate Dean (Education), City Law School said ‘*It has been a pleasure to assist the YGAM team with a six-month, pro-bono independent evaluation of their educational resources and impressions of their training from teachers and practitioners. Feedback from teachers and practitioners was very favourable and I have made a number of recommendations as part of my evaluation which, I feel, will help the team strengthen their programme further.*

To view Dr Carran’s evaluation please click the download button as below:

[Download Independent Evaluation](#)

To view Dr Carran’s presentation to symposium delegates, please click the download button as below:

[Download Dr Carran's Presentation](#)

Lee Willows, Chief Executive, YGAM said ‘*It has been a pleasure to work with Dr Carran and colleagues from City, University of London. I consider ourselves fortunate to be in a position to have the benefit of their insight and recommendations. Preventative education to minimise gambling or gaming-related harm is an under researched area and only a handful of jurisdictions across the world are delivering high quality, accredited and quality-assured preventative programmes. The team at YGAM are acutely aware that we need to ensure we take as much advice to ensure our programme as effective as they can be. Our evaluation is in two-phases, this phase evaluated our educational resources and colleagues feedback. Similar to other education prevention programmes such as sexual health or alcohol-related harm, this topic needs to be handled in a sensitive manner and any resources aimed at teaching professionals, young people, students or vulnerable adults need as much insight as possible. The YGAM education resources are the UK’s only resources in this subject area that have gained the PSHE Association quality-kite mark and are quality-assured and accredited by the Ofqual approved Awarding Body ASDAN. In addition we are working with the Ofqual global Awarding Body, Pearson, to secure their Pearson Assured global quality-kite mark. The combination of all this external scrutiny, plus the independent evaluation by Dr Carran gives us confidence that we are moving in the right direction.*

To View Lee’s presentation to the symposium delegate on the improvements YGAM will make to its programme, following Dr Carran’s evaluation, please click the download button as below:

[Download YGAM Actions](#)

"It was a pleasure to attend and speak at the YGAM Symposium. I thought the event was fantastic - many thanks for organising such a successful event. It was wonderful to see so many young people at the symposium, engaging in the debates and issues, and contributing to the wider discussion- for me, that was a real strength of the event."

- **Professor Gerda Reith, Professor of Social Sciences (Sociology), University of Glasgow**

"A thoughtful, stimulating and engaging afternoon at the YGAM symposium. I left inspired ! I left impressed with YGAM, and contributions from across the lecture theatre those presenting. Addiction is complicated. The solution of helping those in need of help in itself a gamble. I have little doubt that prevention, providing life skills and tools and awareness is part of the solution. I'm convinced YGAM will thrive over the next year, stay true to its values and develop bespoke innovative programs. I'm intrigued and concerned with the emerging fast paced evolution of web based gadgets, enticing marketing techniques to promote Apps. Some blatant gambling sites, others smart and subtle. Whilst for the majority this may be harmless fun, for others, particularly the young, but not exclusive to, they may spiral into problematic long lasting gambling addiction. The impact of this may not yet be visible."

- **Mike Wojcik, Chief Executive & Managing Director, Queen Mary University of London Students Union.**

"It is always a pleasure to catch up with the YGAM team. The symposium collaborators delivered a thought-provoking experience, covering ongoing research, extensive (and impressive!) evaluation of the programme, and the continuing discussion around preventative education. YGAM's achievements are remarkable. Future plans provide a great opportunity to get involved and make a real difference. It was really great to meet YGAM's youngest members and experience their commitment and enthusiasm. Thank you for the afternoon and the homemade birthday cake!"

- **Sonia Wasowska & Andrew Macqueen, Sky Betting & Gaming**



"The YGAM symposium showed how the issues around inappropriate youth gambling can be addressed in a very adult way. The passion and commitment of all involved show that it is an issue that needs addressing and that they will make a big difference."

- **Simon Thomas, Chief Executive, Hippodrome Casino**

"It was impressive yesterday. The evaluation of our workshops has proved the works of YGAM and the suggestions are constructive for YGAM to push forward. In addition, the review of YGAM in the past three years was amazing. Those associates and young people are significant results of YGAM. There is no doubt that it is a milestone of the development of YGAM."

- **Chi-Ho Lee, YGAM Community Development Manager**

"Won't deny it; whilst at the YGAM Symposium I felt really proud for what Lee, Adrian and the rest of the team have achieved to date with YGAM. Some great discussion and really well attended. Thank you".

- **Owen Baily**



"I was very impressed with the turnout at the Symposium. I was able to meet some very intelligent people that gave me more knowledge on the risks of young people gambling and the importance of educating young people on the risks of gambling. As a Community Development Manager at Milton Keynes, I am working with Milton Keynes college and organisations that work with young people in Milton Keynes. I am wanting to attend tutorials within the college and schools in Milton Keynes to educate young people first hand."

- **Annie McDonagh, YGAM Community Development Manger**

"The YGAM symposium publicised the success of their addictive gambling prevention training. A number of academic speakers supported their philosophy in their presentations. The CEO, Lee Willows, then addressed the meeting with their agenda for the next 12 months."

- **Simon Clark**

"A really enjoyable and professional day, offering insight into the progress of this impressive young charity, and offering balanced discussion around some of the relative merits of education for young people. Well done all."

- **Paul Buck, Chief Executive, EPIC Risk Management**



"As a compulsive gambler who has been in recovery now for just over 4 and 1/2 years I was impressed to see all the hard work that YGAM is doing to highlight and guard against the dangers of gambling addiction for the youth of today and their families. If the programme prevents just one new person arriving at my local GA group with a war story then its done its job, but I am sure it will be helping many many more. Keep up the good work."

- **Anonymous**

"Felt very proud to be a part of the day at the Symposium. It was inspiring and heart warming to learn about the Journey you guys have embarked upon at YGAM and the difference you have made and will make in the future, is truly exciting and will benefit many in the future that get affected by Problem Gambling. There were a great variety of speakers that were both

interesting and factual. There were also some very brave and passionate speakers , yourself, Adrian and of course Anne that certainly touched mine and everyone else's Heartstrings!!."

- **Ian Semel, Chief Executive, Breakeven**

"I found the YGAM Symposium to be an incredibly informative and insightful event, with a slate of interesting speakers who had much to say that further broadened my understanding of preventative education and gambling harm minimisation. What I found most heartening, though, was how all the delegates and attendees I heard and spoke to, representing the full range of stakeholder interests including; educators; legislators; gambling operators; and those who have suffered the effects of gambling addiction, were equally invested in working together to reduce harm. This, alongside Dr Carran's positive evaluation of the YGAM programme, strongly suggests that the Charity is well-placed to continue its good work and make a difference."

- **Steve Cole, Managing Director, Kent Creative Design**



"I was delighted to attend an event with a particular focus on young people, and with young people actively involved. Speaking to some of them in the margins, I was impressed with their considered approach to the issues. My only complaint was that it made me feel old!"

- **Paul Hope, Programme Director, Gambling Commission**

"Felt very proud to be a part of the day at the Symposium. It was inspiring and heart warming to learn about the Journey you guys have embarked upon at YGAM and the difference you have made and will make in the future, is truly exciting and will benefit many in the future that get affected by Problem Gambling. There were a great variety of speakers that were both interesting and factual. Attending the YGAM Symposium was a pleasure. It was great to hear about the research, it was great to hear about the passion and it was great to meet people supporting the ongoing education and innovative workshops to safeguard young people around problem gambling. I look forward to working with YGAM to reach more people so we can make an even larger impact."

- **Will Ridley, Brand Executive, Sky Betting & Gaming**

"Overall impression for me, was extremely positive. It was an superb sum up of all the work you and YGAM have pulled together in the 2-3 years of being a registered charity. To see the industry, researchers, teachers and confessed problem gamblers working together so positively for education is an absolute credit to you. As a charity you have clearly listened to the needs of all, shown in the evaluation work and YGAM's next steps. I particularly enjoyed listening to the work and awareness gained from the Northampton Youth Forum. With the figures around funding by Gambleaware, it is absolutely clear that a much higher percentage needs be focused into education."

- **Sue Barber, Player Protection Manager**

"The quality of the research that YGAM is basing its preventative education on, provides me with the confidence that they will be leading on tackling gambling addiction."

- **Denis Shukur, Chief Executive, University of East London, Students Union**

"It was wonderful to be part of the YGAM Symposium. It was fascinating and encouraging to see the mix of experts from academia, education, politics, industry and regulation coming together and agreeing on the great benefit that YGAM is providing through its training sessions and innovative programs. The advance of manipulative media and potential for addiction is highly concerning, and so the need for effective, preventative education in this area has never been stronger. I hope that government legislators and industry motivators are both sufficiently inspired by the symposium and the ongoing efforts of YGAM to make a positive change for the better."

- **Peter Woodroffe, Deputy Chief Executive, Independent School Association**