

Behavioural Addiction- Recognising Sex and Gambling Addiction (SAGA) in Ireland

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Introduction

- The Gambling Control Bill.
- The National Drug Strategy in Ireland.
- The role of Communities Ireland and Sex and Ireland and Gambling
- Service Providers Staff and National Leaders

Recommendations for Sex Addiction

- A more sex positive and healthy attitude towards sex and sexuality in general needs to be developed in Ireland.
- Looking at SA in its components will be more manageable and less problematic for the government if they wish to tackle SA. Porn addiction for example may be addressed as it is a national and public issue which affects our young people.
- The use of prostitute and escort services could also be dealt with in a more adult manner at a national level as in some circumstances it is fueling human trafficking and gender inequality.
- The nation needs to be made aware of the risks that come with technological advances in relation to both SA and GA, and limits need to be put in place to protect young and vulnerable people.
- The shame and stigma associated with SA needs to be addressed and resolved at a national and policy level.

Discussion

- Research
- ChemSex
- Comfort levels
- Training
- Uncharted Territory
- Dual Diagnosis

Results

- Impact-Technology
- Impact- Losing everything
- Workers-Relationships
- Workers-Willingness
- Shame-Stigma
- Shame-Lack of Awareness
- Shame-Religion
- Policy-Funding
- Policy-Training
- Policy Structure
- Recovery-Sex Addiction
- Recovery-Gambling Addiction

Recommendations for Gambling Addiction

- The government and society need to recognise that we have GA in Ireland. The Working Group for the Gambling Control Bill need to re-invite the experts in GA into discussions and take on board and welcome the advice given to them to avoid an epidemic of GA in Ireland.
- Along with the growth of technology, a clear stance needs to be shown to the gambling industry here in Ireland that we will no longer support them if there are not strictly regulated.
- For example, self-exclusion options for people who are experiencing GA should be pain-free and easily put in place.
- Similarly, to people with a drug or alcohol addiction if people wish to start recovery from SAGA there needs support for them at a societal level..

Conclusion

- SAGA is a real and growing problem in Ireland.
- Staff and National Leaders are supporting and recognising both SA and GA and acknowledged the historical context.
- Huge Gap in research.
- Impact of technology was noted as perpetuating vulnerable people into SAGA and other behavioural addictions.
- The devastating losses people can experience due to SAGA was discussed.
- Developing trust and acceptance in a professional-client relationship is highlighted.
- Suitable and healthy recovery can be found in this modern technological world.