

BABERGH & MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL Licensing Section Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road IPSWICH IP1 2BX

Tel: 0300 123 4000 (Option 6)

=e-mail: licensingteam@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

CHILDREN AND SMALL SOCIETY LOTTERIES: Reminder/Advice leaflet for registered societies

- Organisers of small society lotteries should ensure that they comply with the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 and that in particular children should not be involved in the sale or purchase of small society lottery tickets. A child is defined by the 2005 Act as "an individual who is less than 16 years old".
- Small society lotteries, often run by schools and other community organisations, are caught by the provisions in the Gambling Act 2005 relating to children. Small society lottery organisers and promoters will commit offences if they sell tickets to under 16s.
- Under section 56 of the Gambling Act 2005 it is an offence to invite, cause or permit a child to participate in a lottery. Small society lotteries are <u>not</u> exempt from this provision.
- o The penalties for these offences are listed under section 62 of the 2005 Act:
 - imprisonment for a term not exceeding 51 weeks
 - a fine not exceeding Level 5 (£5,000) on the standard scale
 - or both

What should registered societies be doing in order to comply?

The Gambling Commission's Guidance to Local Authorities states that "participation in a lottery is a form of gambling and as such Licensing Authorities must be aware that the societies they register are required to conduct their lotteries in a socially responsible manner and in accordance with the Act".

Small society lotteries should therefore:

- o avoid selling tickets to children, or giving tickets to children to sell.
- implement effective procedures to minimise the risk of lottery tickets being sold to children, including procedures for:
- checking the age of potentially underage purchasers of lottery tickets; and
- taking action where there are unlawful attempts to purchase tickets.

Reports of sales of lottery tickets to/by under 16s would give a Licensing Authority a reason to investigate the specific circumstances of a small society lottery and consider feeding them into their local risk-based inspection regime.

Further information:

"Lotteries and the law" - available on the Gambling Commission website www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk