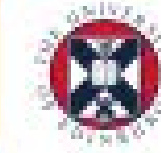


PROGRAM-A (Preventing Gambling Related Harm in Adolescents)

Dr Fiona Dobbie, Dr Martine Miller (University of Edinburgh), Professor Gerda Reith (University of Glasgow), Dr Richard Purves, Dr Cath Best, Dr Michael Ussher (University of Stirling), Lesley Brogan, Brian Pringle (West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Service), Professor Rona Campbell (University of Bristol)

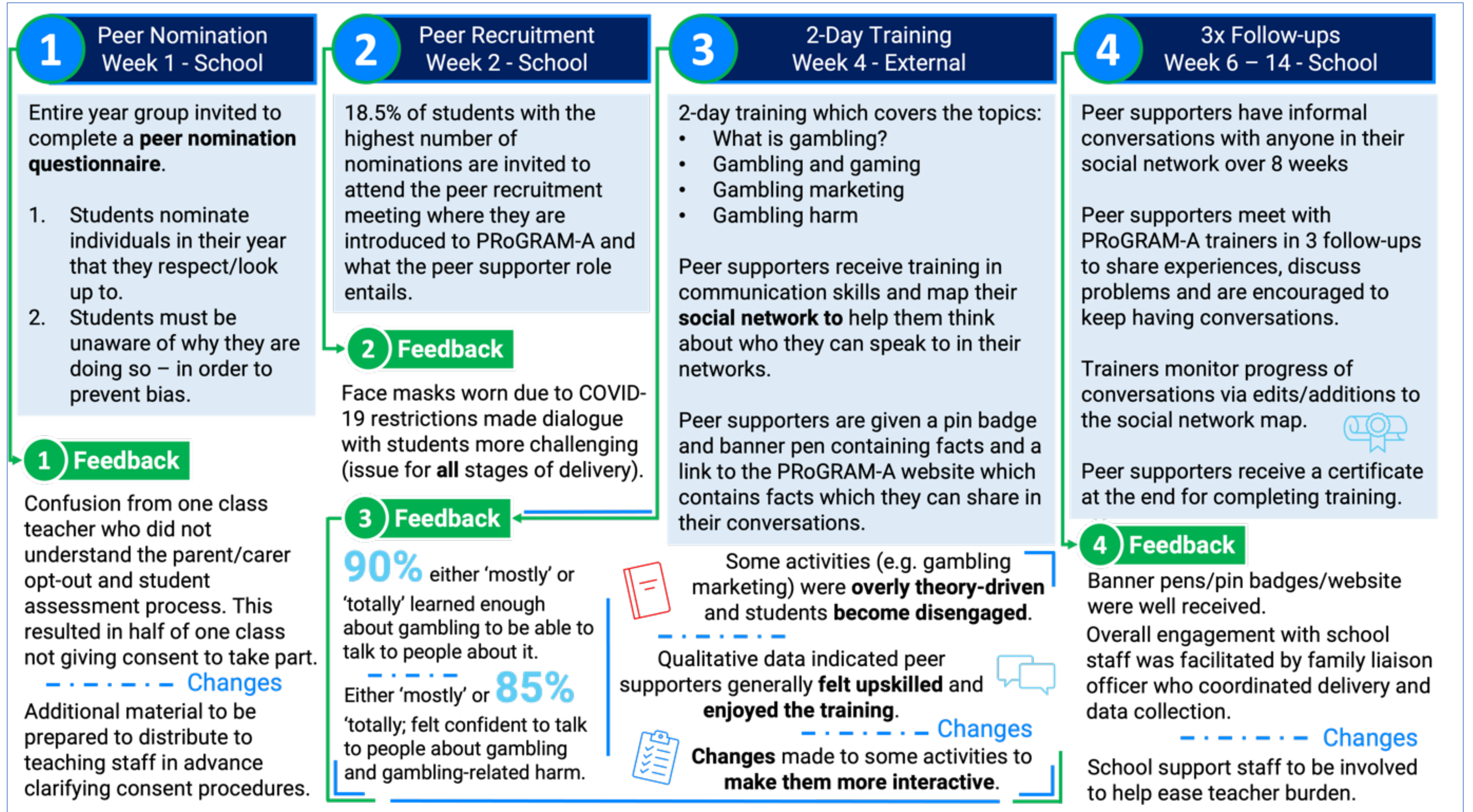


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BACKGROUND: A 2019 survey of UK youth gambling found that 11% of 11-16 year olds had gambled in the past seven days, compared with 6% who smoked tobacco and 5% who had used drugs (1). Problem gambling is also increasing among young people. In 2019 it was estimated around 1.7% (or 55,000) young people aged 11-15 experienced problem gambling, increasing from 0.4% in 2016 (1). Participation in gambling among young people is potentially harmful, with early onset related to greater severity of harms. Gambling-related harms (defined as “adverse impacts from gambling on the health and wellbeing of individuals, families, communities and society”) affect young people in the present and may also affect their future potential (2). While the gambling industry remain largely unregulated, young people (as well as adults’) engagement in gambling behaviour is increasingly being recognised as a public health concern. For the purposes of our study, we view participation in gambling as the betting or wagering of things of value (including but not limited to, flat currency, digital currency and objects of value). This includes all commercial forms of gambling (ranging from lotteries, scratch cards to online casinos and betting) and gambling-adjacent activities like loot boxes, skin betting, and social casino gambling. **PROGRAM-A** is a peer-led, school-based intervention that seeks to raise awareness of the multiple forms of gambling that are pervasive and ubiquitous within everyday life. The **AIM** of the intervention is to reduce the risk of future gambling related harms among young people.

DEVELOPMENT PHASE: We conducted a development and feasibility study, funded by Medical Research Centre, Public Health Intervention Development Fund (ref: MR/S019200/1) between 2018 and 2021. An overview of the PROGRAM-A delivery model and feedback from the feasibility study is presented below:



NEXT STEPS: PILOT RANDOMISED CONTROL TRIAL

To further test PROGRAM-A, we have secured NIHR funding (Ref: NIHR150838) to carry out a pilot cluster RCT (cRCT). The trial will commence March 2023 and run for 18 months. PROGRAM-A will be delivered in 4 state-funded secondary schools, with a control group of 2 schools continuing to deliver their existing curriculum.

Study team: Dr Fiona Dobbie (PI), Dr Martine Miller, Professor Christopher Weir, Andrew Stoddart (University of Edinburgh), Dr Heather Wardle (University of Glasgow), Dr James White (University of Cardiff), Dr David Griffiths (Uni of Stirling), Connor Maxwell (Universal Connections), Evidence to Impact, Fast Forward and West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Service.

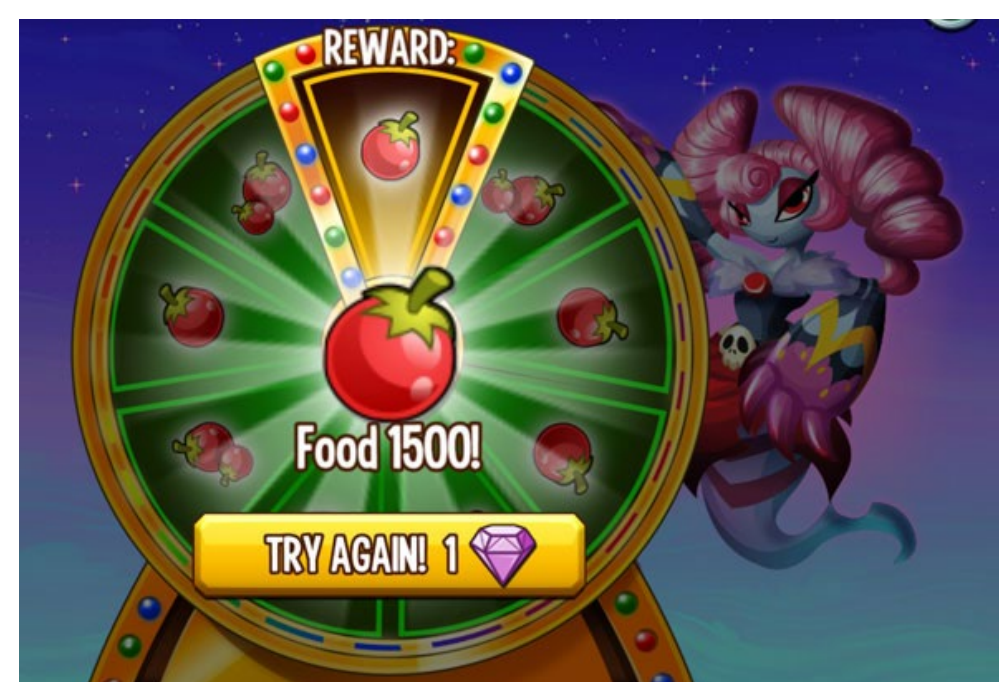


Image 1: Monster Ledges screen shot

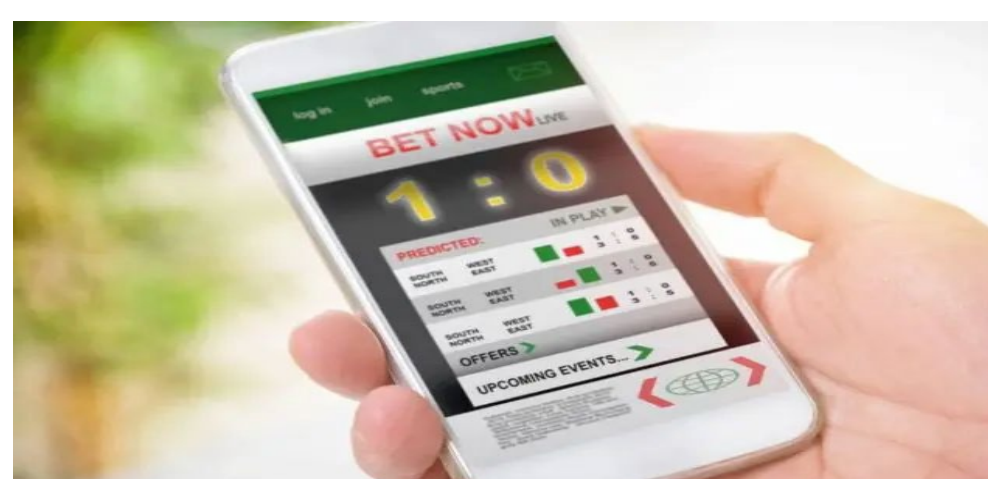


Image 2: Mobile sports betting app

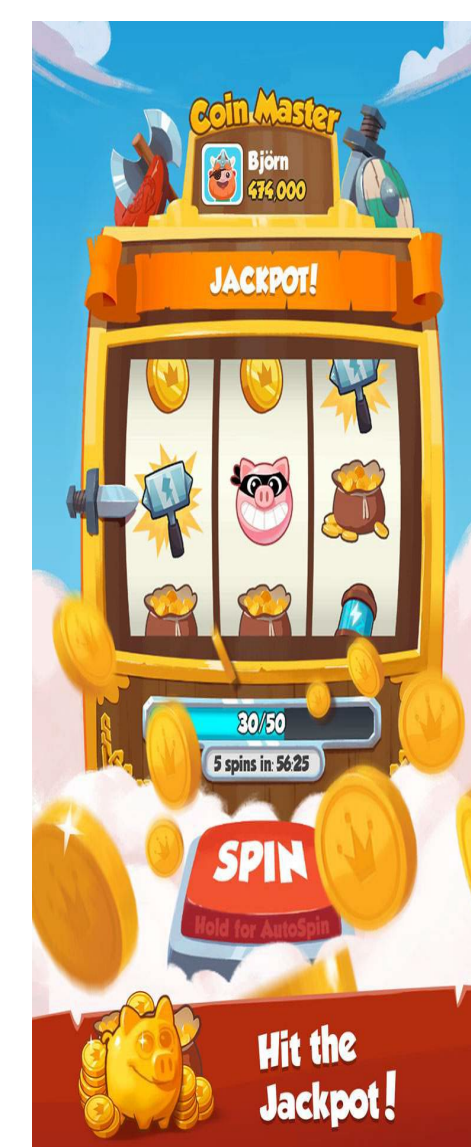


Image 3: Coin Master screen shot



Image 4: Peers



Image 5: Scratch cards

References:

- Gambling Commission (2019) Young People and Gambling Survey 2019: A research study among 11-16 year olds in Great Britain, <https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/publication/young-people-and-gambling-2019> accessed: 30/09/2022
- Wardle, H, Reith, G, Best, D, McDaid, D & Platt, S (2018) Measuring gambling-related harms: a framework for action, LSE Research Online, http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/89248/1/McDaid_Gambling-Related_harms_Published.pdf accessed:30/09/2022