



LGBTQ+ Gambling Screening Framework

A culturally competent, trauma-informed, two-question screening and referral model for early identification and support.

This updated framework now integrates the Mini PGSI, the Full PGSI, and a full suite of LGBTQ+ affirming, stigma-free scripts to support consistent, safe, and inclusive practice.

1. Purpose of the Framework

- Identify gambling involvement and gambling-related harms among LGBTQ+ people early, safely, and without stigma.
- Provide a consistent, inclusive, and psychologically safe screening process across all service touchpoints.
- Create a clear, warm referral pathway into Brighton & Hove LGBTQ+ Switchboard's Recover with Pride service for PGSI screening and support.
- Ensure that people harmed by their own gambling or someone else's are recognised and supported.

2. Core Principles

2.1 LGBTQ+ Affirming Practice

- Use correct name, pronouns, and identity terms.
- Avoid assumptions about partners, family structures, or finances.
- Recognise minority stress, discrimination, and isolation as contextual factors.

2.2 Trauma-Informed Approach

- Prioritise safety, choice, transparency, and empowerment.
- Normalise gambling harms as common and understandable.
- Avoid shame-based language or framing.

2.3 Intersectional Awareness

- Consider how racism, transphobia, biphobia, ableism, poverty, immigration status, and housing insecurity intersect with gambling harms.

2.4 Routine, Not Targeted

- Screening is offered to everyone, reducing stigma and preventing assumptions.



3. When to Use the Screening

- First contact or assessment
- Ongoing support check-ins
- Helpline/webchat interactions
- Outreach, community events, and group settings (short-form version)
- Any time gambling harms are disclosed or suspected

4. Pre-Screening Introduction (Standardised Script)

“I’m going to ask two short questions we ask everyone about gambling. Lots of LGBTQ+ people are affected by gambling—either their own or someone else’s and we want to make sure support is there if it’s ever needed. You can skip any question you don’t want to answer.”

5. The Two Screening Questions

5.1 Question 1 – Gambling Involvement

Q1:

“In the last 12 months, have you spent money on any form of gambling? This could include online slots or casinos, sports betting, bingo, lottery or scratchcards, betting shops, in-person casinos, or gaming with loot boxes.”

Response options:

- Yes – my own gambling
- No
- I’m not sure / maybe
- Prefer not to say

5.2 Question 2 – Gambling Harms (Own or Others’)

Q2:

“In the last 12 months, have you been negatively affected by gambling—your own or someone else’s? This could include money worries, debt, relationship stress, arguments, hiding things, mental health impacts, or feeling out of control.”

Response options:

- Yes – my own gambling
- Yes – someone else’s gambling
- Yes – both
- No
- I’m not sure
- Prefer not to say



6. Decision Pathways

Pathway A — No Gambling & No Harm

- Acknowledge and close.
- Offer future support if needed.

Suggested script:

"Thanks for letting me know. If gambling ever becomes something you're worried about yours or someone else's, you're always welcome to bring it here."

Pathway B — Gambles but No Harm Reported

- Provide brief psychoeducation.
- Offer optional Mini PGSI screening.
- Provide information or warm referral if desired.

Suggested script:

"Some LGBTQ+ people find gambling stays a bit of fun, and for others it can become stressful over time. If you'd like, we can do a short check-in using a tool called the Mini PGSI."

Pathway C — Harm from Own Gambling

- Validate and normalise.
- Offer immediate warm referral to Recover with Pride.
- Explain Mini PGSI or Full PGSI options.

Suggested script:

"Thank you for sharing that—it takes courage. Recover With Pride is an LGBTQ+ affirming service that can support you with this. Would you like me to help you connect with them?"

Pathway D — Harm from Someone Else's Gambling

- Validate affected-others harm.
- Offer referral to Recover with Pride.
- Provide options for ongoing support.

Suggested script:

"Being affected by someone else's gambling can be heavy. Recover With Pride also supports people impacted by someone else's gambling. Would you like me to link you in with them?"

Pathway E — "Not Sure" Responses

- Normalise uncertainty.
- Offer Recover with Pride as a space to explore.
- Provide optional Mini PGSI screening.





7.1 When to Use the Mini PGSI

Use the Mini PGSI when:

- Someone gambles (Q1 = yes)
- Harm is unclear or not disclosed
- A quick, non-intrusive check-in is appropriate

Mini PGSI scoring:

- 0: No action needed
- 1–2: At-risk → offer self-help + optional referral
- 3+: Harmful gambling → offer Full PGSI + warm referral

7.2 When to Use the Full PGSI

- Use the Full PGSI when:
- Mini PGSI score is 3 or higher
- Clear harm is disclosed
- A fuller assessment is needed to guide support

Full PGSI scoring:

- 0: No harms
- 1–2: Low risk
- 3–7: Moderate risk
- 8+: High harms → urgent referral

8. Referral Pathway to Recover with Pride

8.1 Standardised Service Description

“Recover With Pride is an LGBTQ+ focused gambling harms service run by Brighton & Hove LGBTQ+ Switchboard. They offer confidential support, a short screening tool called the PGSI to understand risk, and ongoing help for people who gamble, and people affected by someone else’s gambling.”

8.2 Referral Options (Choice and Control)

Warm referral: With consent, you share their details and Recover with Pride contacts them.

Supported self-referral: Complete the form together or support them to email/call.

Information only: They take details and decide in their own time.

8.3 Consent & Safety Checks

- Confirm what information can be shared.
- Check safe contact times and channels.
- Ask whether it’s safe to mention “gambling” or “Switchboard” in messages.





8.4 Documentation

Record:

- Q1 and Q2 responses
- Whether referral was offered/accepted/declined
- Consent details
- Any safety considerations

9. Short-Form Screening (Outreach / Events)

Q1-short:

"In the last 12 months, have you spent money on any kind of gambling?"

Q2-short:

"In the last 12 months, have you been negatively affected by gambling, your own or someone else's?"

If yes to either:

"We're linked with Recover with Pride, an LGBTQ+ gambling harms service. They offer a short check-in and support. Would you like their details or help connecting with them?" and "Are you happy to complete a quick mini PGSI form?"

10. Staff Competency Requirements

- LGBTQ+ cultural competence
- Trauma-informed communication
- Understanding of gambling harms and affected-others dynamics
- Ability to deliver warm referrals
- Awareness of safeguarding and confidentiality boundaries

11. Quality Assurance & Monitoring

- Track screening completion rates
- Monitor referral uptake and outcomes
- Review staff confidence and training needs
- Ensure language and processes remain inclusive and up-to-date
- Build lived experience feedback loops into service improvement

