

News release: 6 September 2021

TEEN TIPS JOINS FORCES WITH EPIC TO TACKLE GAMBLE-RELATED HARM WITH PIONEERING PROGRAMME IN SCHOOLS

- **As young people head back to school, Teen Tips is joining forces with leading gambling harm minimisation consultancy EPIC Risk Management on a pioneering mental health awareness programme.**
- **In a first-of-its-kind development, EPIC Risk Management, WHYSUP and Teens Tips have created a Gambling Harm Education Programme which will be delivered to young people, 15-18yrs, at 200 secondary schools during this academic year.**
- **Around 500,000 children aged 11 to 16 are thought to gamble every week in the UK and 87% of young people in the UK play online games every day, highlighting the importance of bringing a sensitive and often secret topic into open discussion.**
- **Also catering to parents and teachers, this new programme involves a combination of online webinars and video content alongside face-to-face delivery. It fuses the delivery of lived experience stories, in partnership with WHYSUP, for students in school years 10 to 13, Teen Tips online webinars for parents and teachers, online resources and information packs for all secondary school aged children, and access to the EPIC information app.**

Alicia Drummond, Founder of Teen Tips and BACP Reg adolescent psychotherapist, commented:

“I’m so pleased we’re able to contribute to this important and timely project. We’ve seen first-hand the devastating impact gambling addiction can have on the lives of young people and their families. It’s a problem which often goes unseen until it’s causing significant damage. We believe young people need to be informed about how they might be unwittingly lured into gambling. Whilst educating pupils is vital, it is also important that those supporting them - parents and schools - know how to empower young people to manage the risks and avoid harm, how to identify those who are involved in problematic gambling and what we can do to help them. This is the first harm reduction programme which is truly independent and speaks to all stakeholders and we are extremely proud to be a part of it.”

EPIC’s Director of UK and Rest of the World, Patrick Foster, says:

“The workshops we deliver to this sector are crucial in educating young people on the damage that gambling and gaming can cause because despite being a vulnerable demographic, most are oblivious to the potential consequences of their actions.

“Our work with young people continues to be the most important work that we do, and always will be. Bringing in the expertise of WHYSUP, who have lived the desperation of gambling harm and other addictions first-hand, and Teen Tips, who are already working in a high number of UK schools and having a positive impact on the mental health and wellbeing of young people, is a powerful combination. We know that bringing them in to enhance the crucial message around gambling harm minimisation that we already deliver at EPIC is going to prevent an immeasurable number of people from falling into the same difficulties as so many before them.”

Mark Murray, Director, WHYSUP Ltd, says:

“We are extremely pleased to have been able to be part of the development of this ground-breaking education programme. Building on our existing relationship with EPIC and working in collaboration with Teen Tips allows us to utilise expertise and experience, which adds value to the programme.

“The outcome is a project that not only addresses gambling related harm, but also increases awareness around mental health and its impact. The sessions will also include information on warning signs and links to support. After the last 18 months, never could the timing of this project be more relevant. We feel the inclusion of all key stakeholders adds value and holding student, staff and parent sessions will make a huge impact.”

Teen Tips are experts at supporting parents and schools with their online Wellbeing Hub. The Wellbeing Hub is already impacting thousands of young people in schools across the UK. <https://www.teentips.co.uk/wellbeing-hub/> for more details.

- Ends -

**Further information: Emma Pelling, 07958 558172, emma@pellingpr.co.uk
<https://www.teentips.co.uk>**

Alicia Drummond, Teen Tips Founder

Alicia has first hand experience of the challenges faced by young people today. As founder of Teen Tips, Alicia delivers online and onsite support and training for staff, parents, carers, charities, clubs and organisations working with young people. Alicia is also a counsellor, parent coach, speaker and author.