



Annual Report 2017



Safer Living Foundation

The Safer Living Foundation (SLF) is a charity established in 2014 by representatives from HMP Whatton, Nottingham Trent University, Nottinghamshire Police and the National Probation Service. The fundamental aim of the charity is to prevent further victims of sexual abuse by setting up and running prevention and rehabilitation projects for individuals convicted of, or at risk of, sexually offending. The charity adopts a multi-agency approach with strong research and evaluation components.

Our Aims and Objectives

- *To promote for the benefit of the public, the protection of people from, and the prevention of, sexual crime*
- *To promote for the benefit of the public, the rehabilitation of persons who have committed or are likely to commit offences, particularly sexual offences against others*

Message from the Chair (Lynn Saunders)



This has been another good year for the Safer Living Foundation. The prison, and community Circles of Support and Accountability projects continue and grow.

We were pleased to welcome Angie to the team as the prison Circles project co-ordinator.

A new and innovative young people's Circles project began, and funds were raised to begin a prevention project for people needing help before they commit an offence, the first of its kind in the UK. We look forward to beginning this important work in the new year.

There have been some notable achievements, and special thanks go to all our volunteers and staff who have worked hard to ensure we improve the lives of those we support, and help keep communities safe.

What We Do

The SLF work every day to prevent sexual abuse. We care deeply about community safety and keeping children and other vulnerable people safe, and the way we work is through preventing the perpetration of sexual crime.

Research shows that there are certain factors that put someone at risk of committing sexual crime, and, likewise, other factors that can prevent this from happening. This frames everything that we do, as we work to increase factors that stop somebody offending and reduce those that put someone at risk.

Factors known to increase risk of offending:

- Isolation
- Poor education or learning difficulties
- Lack of career or interests
- Difficulties with emotions
- Poor coping strategies
- Difficulties forming effective relationships

Protective factors:

- Strong social support
- Strong family support
- Stable situation
- Ability to flex with life's challenges

We work with many individuals who are at risk of sexual offending or who have been convicted of a sexual offence. These individuals include those that have intellectual disability, are elderly, have very little or no social support and/or who are sexually attracted to children and/or adolescents. These groups are often particularly vulnerable and may be a higher risk and we aim to reduce this risk and reduce (re)offending, promoting our ultimate goal of preventing victims of sexual crime.



Why do we do what we do?

People often ask us why we work with people who have committed sexual offences, or those who are at a risk of this, questioning why we wish to work with such individuals. Sexual crime does indeed cause destruction and devastation in the lives of others, and the perpetrators are often ostracised by our society. Yet being part of an initiative like this, we have the opportunity to improve the lives of men, women and children, through preventing further victims of sexual harm as well as the lives of these individuals who have offended sexually, through promoting their integration into society and reducing risk of offending. It is for precisely these reasons that we find the work so rewarding.

What makes the Safer Living Foundation Unique?

We are keen to take on projects that help the community in reducing sexual crime, but we are also enthusiastic about wanting to help individuals who have committed sexual offences reintegrate back into society, as well as those who are concerned that they may be about to offend. Although we are a young charity, our trustees have considerable experience of charitable work generally, and a substantive amount of expertise in working with individuals convicted of sexual crime and for these reasons we are prepared to work with some of the most challenging and high risk individuals to protect communities.

Circles of Support and Accountability

Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) is the main **rehabilitative** initiative run by SLF.

CoSA are a successful community initiative proven to reduce sexual offending. A Circle is a group of 4-6 specially recruited and trained volunteers from a local community who meet weekly with an individual who has committed a sexual offence after their release (known as the Core Member). The volunteers create the Circle of Support around the Core Member and offer social and practical support to the individual as well as requiring the Core Member to take responsibility (be accountable) for their ongoing risk management. The Circle aims to enable individuals who have committed sexual offences the opportunity to integrate back into society whilst still holding them accountable for their behaviour. The concept seeks to balance both community protection from victimisation and the reintegration of individuals who are often socially isolated and marginalised. All Circles and their volunteers are very closely supervised and supported by a suitably qualified Project Coordinator who is in close liaison with all statutory agencies involved with the Core Member including Police, MAPPA, and the National Probation Service.

The SLF run three distinct Circles Projects:

- Prison-based Circles of Support and Accountability;
- Community Circles of Support and Accountability; and
- Young People's Circles of Support and Accountability.



Prison Circles of Support and Accountability

Since August 2014, the SLF have been running the first ever UK prison-based Circles of Support and Accountability project from HMP Whatton for high risk adult males convicted of a sexual offence. Our main focus has been to provide this service for elderly (55+) and intellectually disabled male prisoners.

This particular project is a developed version of the original Circles which until now only ran in the community. We are proud to have initiated the only scheme to provide support to some of the most vulnerable individuals while they are still in prison in order to help see the individual through a particularly vulnerable stage of their rehabilitative journey – release into the community. The Circle begins around three months before the individual is released and then continues through the transition period from prison to community, and up to 18 months in the community.



Community Circles of Support and Accountability

In November 2015, the Safer Living Foundation were awarded a 4 year grant from the Big Lottery to run Community based Circles of Support and Accountability in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. This project runs with high risk adults who have recently been released from any UK custodial establishment but are now living in Nottinghamshire or Derbyshire.

Funding was received to run 24 Community Circles between January 2016 and January 2020. Between 1st February 2016 and 31st January 2017, eight new Circles of Support and Accountability began, joining the nine Circles of Support and Accountability already running. Thus 17 Circles of Support and Accountability projects have been running between 1st February 2016 and 31st January 2017.



Young People's Circles of Support and Accountability

In 2015, the SLF became increasingly aware of the need for Circles of Support and Accountability for young people who have demonstrated sexually harmful behaviour. In October 2015, the SLF received funding from the Worshipful Company of Weavers to scope out and run Young People's Circles. A Young Person's Project Manager was appointed in April 2016 and between April and December the scoping for the project took place. The Young People's project went 'live' in January 2017.

The SLF Young People's Circles project works with young people living in Nottinghamshire or Derbyshire, aged 10-21 who have been cautioned or convicted of a sexual offence and who require additional support to help improve their emotional wellbeing and decrease their social isolation. Young people are referred to the project by agencies who are already working with the young person. In order to engage young people and build on their strengths and interests, the Circle utilises activities such as sports, the arts and music to build rapport, gain trust and help rehabilitate the young person. The Circle focuses on reducing the young person's social isolation, loneliness and impulsivity which in turn should lead to feelings of belonging to communities and increased determination to avoid anti-social and criminal behaviour. This pro-social intervention is designed to enhance the young person's social skills and confidence and will help young people to desist from problematic behaviours before they become entrenched in adulthood.



Safer Living Foundation's Prevention Project

This is aimed at individuals who have not been convicted of a sexual offence but have concerns about the risk that they might commit an offence or are concerned about their sexual thoughts and feelings.

This exciting project aims to help people who want to avoid becoming offenders to help them self-manage so they do not create victims.

We believe prevention works and we have found a number of people who want help to avoid offending and are committed to not wanting to victimise anybody but are struggling with difficult thoughts and feelings.

The Charity has been awarded three years of funding from the Henry Smith Charity and a year's funding from the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commission fund. Substantive matched funding (in the form of in-kind support) has already been obtained from Nottingham Trent University.

Safer Living Foundation's Future Plans

SLF Release Project

Some initial research is underway to consider the needs (hopes and expectations) of individuals on release from prison.

SLF Drop-In Centre

Some initial development work is currently being undertaken with Nottingham Trent University to set up and run a drop-in centre for ex-prisoners with sexual offences. The aim of the drop-in centre would be to offer advice and support to ex-prisoners and help them lead – not simply offence free – but productive, healthy and happy lives.

The Charity is currently in the process of scoping the housing needs of individuals previously convicted of a sexual offence. From this, it is anticipated that the Charity will set up a suitable living facility for individuals previously convicted of a sexual offence released from prison. The facility hopes to be conducive of rehabilitation efforts thus minimising the risk of future re-offending, ensuring that an appropriate balance between rehabilitation and risk management is present.

PhD research is currently being undertaken at Nottingham Trent University that hopes to inform the development of this project. The main objectives of the research are:

- to understand the perceived accommodation needs and accommodation barriers faced from the perspectives of previously offending participants;
- to consider the views of relevant professionals on what they deem important when housing individuals with previous convictions of a sexual offence;
- to compare both of these samples views and establish any discrepancies between them.

It is hoped that by undertaking such research, the SLF can practically implement the findings in order to develop an efficient housing facility.

Safer Living Foundations Awards and Achievements

Awards

2015

- Robin Corbett Award for Prisoner Rehabilitation
- Butler Trust Certificate awarded to members of the Charity for their SLF work in prisoner rehabilitation

2016

- Guardian University Award for Social and Community Impact

Achievements

- First prevention project in the UK
- First prison-based Circles project

Beneficiaries

Reducing sexual crime is the public benefit at the heart of our charity's objectives, serving to protect the public and prevent further victims of sexual abuse by reducing the risk of sexual crime.

We believe that the benefits of the organisation will be felt by the whole society, including the Criminal Justice System as the charity's initiatives will aim to reduce reoffending and therefore the costs associated with this.

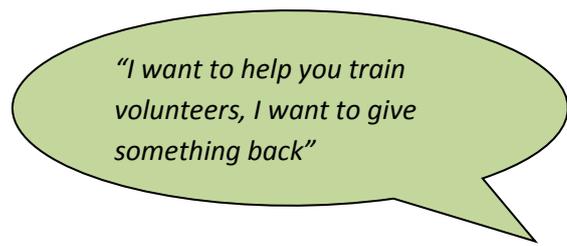
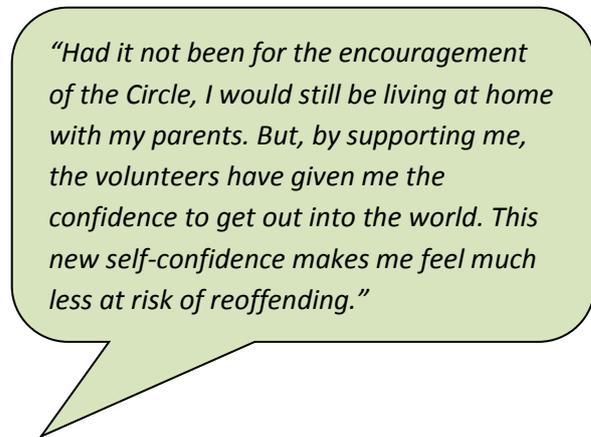
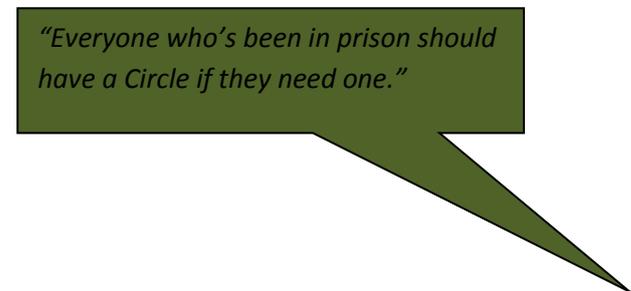
Individuals who have been convicted of a sexual offence will also benefit directly from the work of the charity in that our projects are aimed at such individuals.

The families of offenders who have committed a sexual offence (who may or may not also have been victims) will also benefit.

Members of the general public will benefit indirectly from the initiatives carried out by the charity.

Does it Work?

Sexual and/or violent reoffending rates are reported to be approximately 15%, but through taking part in a Circle, this can be reduced by more than half, as Circles are reported to reduce sexual and violent reoffending by approximately 80% as well as making significant monetary savings for the Criminal Justice System (Barnett, Wakeling and Howard, 2010).



Treasurers Report

Safer Living Foundation
Statement of Financial Activities
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
For the Year Ended 31 January 2017

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	Notes	2017	2017	2017	2016	2016	2016
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds</i>							
Voluntary income	2	1,500	150,966	152,466	18,000	55,129	73,129
Fundraising activities		791	-	791	692	-	692
Donations		285	-	285	119	-	119
Fees		-	-	-	34	-	34
Investment income		46	-	46	69	-	69
Total Income		2,622	150,966	153,588	18,914	55,129	74,043
Expenditure							
<i>Costs of generating funds</i>							
Fundraising costs		-	-	-	12	-	12
<i>Costs of charitable activities</i>							
Prison Circles		7,578	33,957	41,535	1,074	54,708	55,782
Young Persons Project		-	20,632	20,632	-	-	-
Community Circles		7,579	48,027	55,606	459	4,861	5,320
Total Expenditure	3	15,157	102,616	117,773	1,545	59,569	61,114
Net income/movement in funds		(12,535)	48,350	35,815	17,369	(4,440)	12,929
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		30,483	53,059	83,542	13,114	57,499	70,613
Total funds carried forward		17,948	101,409	119,357	30,483	53,059	83,542

All the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.

**Safer Living Foundation
Balance Sheet
31 January 2017**

	2017 £	2016 £
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	121,804	85,062
Liabilities		
Creditors: amounts due within one year	<u>(2,447)</u>	<u>(1,520)</u>
Net current assets	119,357	83,542
Net assets	<u>119,357</u>	<u>83,542</u>
 The funds of the charity		
Unrestricted funds	17,948	30,483
Restricted funds	101,409	53,059
Total charity funds	<u>119,357</u>	<u>83,542</u>

Voluntary income

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
NHS England	-	-	-	31,000
Lloyds Bank Foundation	-	25,000	25,000	-
National Offenders Management Service	-	40,000	40,000	-
Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust	-	3,000	3,000	-
Noel Buxton Trust	-	4,000	4,000	-
The People's Postcode Lottery	-	20,000	20,000	-
CLINKS	1,500	-	1,500	-
Hive UnLtd Scale & Grow Grant	-	-	-	15,000
PCC Community Safety Fund	-	-	-	-
The Worshipful Company of Weavers	-	15,000	15,000	15,000
Big Lottery	-	43,966	43,966	9,129
The Robin Corbett Award	-	-	-	3,000
Total voluntary income	<u>1,500</u>	<u>150,966</u>	<u>152,466</u>	<u>73,129</u>

Safer Living Foundation Funders

With many thanks to the following organisations for their generous contributions to the work of the Safer Living Foundation...

Department of Health (NHS England)

National Offender Management Service

The Allen Lane Foundation, www.allenlane.org.uk

Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust, www.eleanorrathbonetrust.org.uk

The Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner, www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk

The Robin Corbett Award for Prisoner Rehabilitation, www.robincorbettaward.co.uk

Nottingham Trent University, www.ntu.ac.uk

The Co-operative Bank

The Big Lottery Fund, www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

The Worshipful Company of Weavers, www.weavers.org.uk

The Noel Buxton Trust, www.noelbuxtontrust.org.uk

People's Postcode Lottery, www.postcodelottery.co.uk

Lloyds Bank Foundation, www.lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk

The Rayne Foundation, www.raynefoundation.org.uk

The Henry Smith Charity, www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk

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Safer Living Foundation Staff Team

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David Potter *Community Circles Coordinator*

Angela Braithwaite *Prison Circles Coordinator*

Claire Good *Young People's Circles Coordinator*

Anne McMeekin *Office Manager*

Jessica Lomas *PhD student*

For more information about The Safer Living Foundation and all its projects please visit our website:

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Personal Donations

If you wish to donate to the work of Safer Living Foundation you can sign up to: giveasyoulive.com and nominate Safer Living Foundation as your chosen charity. Any online purchases you make through this website links to well-known reputable online retailers. Purchases will result in the retailer from whom you make a purchase paying commission to *give as you live* who will in turn make a donation to the SLF charity at no extra cost to yourself.

If you wish to make direct donations then please contact Anne McMeekin (contact details as above).