

NO MORE VICTIMS

Sexual abuse and problematic sexual behaviour provokes a powerful response within our communities. The successful rehabilitation and reintegration of an individual who has committed a sexual offence or has problematic sexual behaviour requires consideration of their needs, as well as those of the community. Social isolation and emotional loneliness are key factors increasing the risk of (re)offending.

JUST LEAVE THEM ALONE?

Whilst a desire to avoid or lock up forever individuals who have committed a sexual offence or have problematic sexual behaviour is an understandable reaction, it is counterproductive as a long term strategy. Social isolation is a proven major trigger for (re)offending. Our neighbourhoods are not safer places when we choose to reject offenders. A Circle of Support and Accountability serves as a 'supportive community' for an offender in the midst of fear, hostility and isolation. At the same time, it is a 'responsible community' concerned that safety is not compromised.

"It's not an easy ride for the released ex-sex offender, but at least Circles gives them some hope, and volunteers doing this in their spare time is remarkable. I salute them"

Lord Ian Blair

WHO WE ARE?

The Safer Living Foundation is a joint venture between HMP Whatton, Nottingham Trent University, The National Probation Service, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Police and Circles UK. The charity adopts a multi-agency approach, with a strong research and evaluation component. It is focused on reducing sexual (re)offending through preventative and rehabilitative initiatives. Our charitable objectives are:

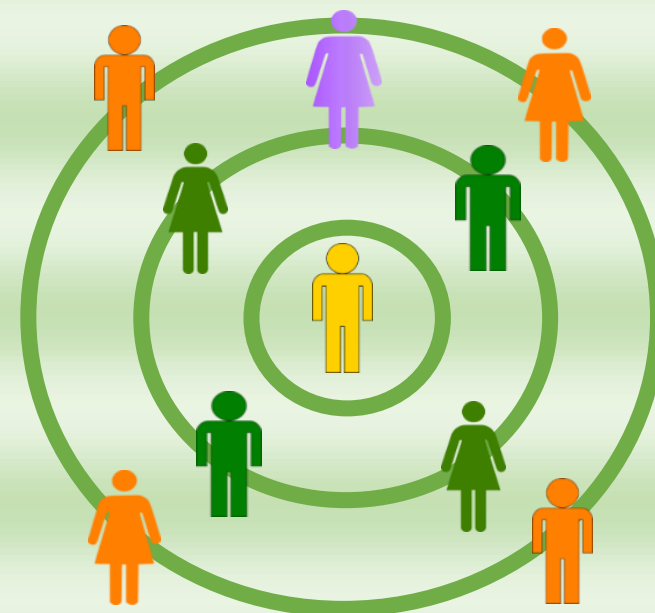
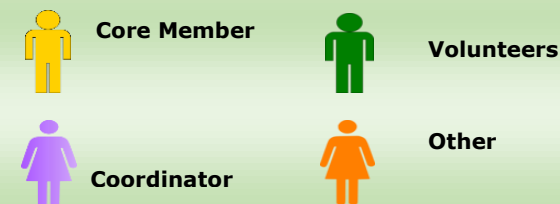
- To promote the protection of people from, and the prevention of, sexual crime.
- To promote the rehabilitation of persons who have committed or are likely to commit sexual offences against others.

CIRCLES OF SUPPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The Safer Living Foundation is committed to developing and delivering projects that we believe will achieve our objectives and ultimately reduce sexual (re)offending. One of these projects is called Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA). Circles provide support for ex-offenders who are reintegrating back into society. The aim is to counteract risk factors that have been proven to lead to further sexual offences, such as the loneliness and isolation ex-offenders may feel.

HOW DO CIRCLES WORK?

Managed by a professional Project Co-ordinator, a Circle is a group of 3-5 trained volunteers from the community who meet regularly with an individual who has committed a sexual offence or has problematic sexual behaviour (known as the Core Member). The volunteers create the Circle of Support around the Core Member and offer, with supervision, social and practical support to the individual. Circles also affirm the need for the Core Member to be 'accountable' for their ongoing risk management and help to monitor the individual's behaviour, reporting an escalation of risk (liaising with police, probation and youth offending services as required).



YOUR COMMITMENT

The Safer Living Foundation provides three types of Circle as follows:

Prison Circles

Prison Circles typically starts 3 months prior to the offenders release from HMP Whatton and continues for approximately 18 months in the community after their release.

Volunteers meet each week during the day in the prison for approximately 2 hours (30mins planning, 1hr Circle meeting, 30mins debrief). Once the Core Member moves into the community, they meet at a mutually convenient time, either during the day or in the evening.

Community Circles

Community Circles typically start once an individual is in the community (but the initial meeting may take place in the prison prior to release). Each Circle lasts approx. 12 months. As with Prison Circles the commitment is about 2 hours per week.

Young People's Circles

A circle is undertaken with a young person who has problematic sexual behaviour. Volunteers will be expected to work creatively with these young people to build on their strengths, interests and hobbies. Each Circle will last between 12 to 18 months and the commitment is again about 2 hours per week.

**Our project depends on
volunteers**

**Do something AMAZING and
volunteer today!**




For more information


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 www.saferlivingfoundation.org

For an application pack please see website or contact Anne McMeekin on:

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*"I have met a group of caring people
who are prepared to accept me for who
I am"*

A Core Member



**CIRCLES OF SUPPORT
AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

**INFORMATION FOR
VOLUNTEERS**