



SAFER LIVING FOUNDATION CIRCLES VOLUNTEER ROLE DESCRIPTION

The Safer Living Foundation are looking for volunteers from all walks of life and various backgrounds. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, must be able to maintain firm boundaries and be emotionally mature.

CIRCLES OF SUPPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

The primary aim of Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) is to prevent further sexual abuse, working with the objective of 'no more victims'. CoSA is a simple, successful community concept by which a group of 3-5¹ specially recruited and trained volunteers form a Circle around an individual who has committed a sexual offence (known as the Core Member) living in or due to be released into the community. A Circle offers social, emotional and practical support to the Core Member as well as requiring them to take responsibility (be accountable) for their ongoing risk management. The concept seeks to balance both community protection from victimisation and the reintegration of individuals who are often socially isolated and marginalised. The Circle works in close partnership with the statutory agencies and is managed by a trained professional known as the Circle Coordinator.

The Safer Living Foundation are currently running a number of different models of CoSA and there are Circle Volunteer opportunities available for all models:

Prison-based CoSA – working with an adult offender at HMP Whatton for up to 3 months prior to their release and then continuing to support them once released into the community for up to 12 months.

Community-based CoSA – working with an adult offender who has already been released from custody and is currently residing in either Nottinghamshire or Derbyshire. The Circle will run for approximately 12 months.

Young People's CoSA – working 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. The Circle will run for around 12 months.

CIRCLES VOLUNTEER PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

Having completed the training and interview process and been accepted as a Circles Volunteer, individuals will be asked to undertake the following tasks:

- To contribute to the overall aim of preventing further victims of sexual abuse by running rehabilitation projects for convicted and potential sexual offenders at risk of sexual offending.
- To sit as one of the 3-5 community volunteers on a Circle of Support and Accountability.
- To allow all members of the Circle to have their say and actively listen.
- To treat all Circle members at the meetings with respect, regardless of ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion or disability.

¹ All adult Circles will operate with a minimum of 4 volunteers, young people Circles will operate with a minimum of 3.

- To find ways to help the Core Member reintegrate back into the community – this may include help finding employment, help with independent living skills, help accessing community activities, help finding appropriate housing, help with benefits etc.
- To assist Core Members in recognising patterns of thought and behaviour that could lead them into (re)offending.
- To attend all initial training and ongoing sessions as required.
- To attend regular group supervision and individual supervision as and when agreed with the Safer Living Foundation.
- To contribute to the development of Circles of Support and Accountability.
- To work at all times according to the Safer Living Foundation’s Confidentiality Statement.
- To work at all times according to the Safer Living Foundation’s Health and Safety Policies.

CIRCLES VOLUNTEER KEY QUALITIES

- Open minded and an ability and strong commitment to work without prejudice with people of different ages, ethnic, cultural and social backgrounds
- Good common sense and realistic expectations
- Good boundaries
- Self-awareness
- Comfortable with own sexuality
- Empathetic
- Motivated – a commitment to working with offenders to prevent further crime.
- Emotionally resilient
- Ability to take feedback well and be willing to listen to advice and the views of others
- Ability to be reflective
- Confident and positive social skills
- An ability to relate to, and work with, others as a member of a Circle
- Good communication skills and an ability to engage well with people
- Maturity, patience and the ability to remain calm
- Trustworthy and a firm commitment to confidentiality
- Able to balance support with accountability

OTHER INFORMATION:

This is a volunteer role and is not deemed to have employment status with the Safer Living Foundation. Volunteers will be able to claim for all reasonable expenses incurred in line with the Volunteer Expenses Policy. Volunteers will undertake duties as and when agreed with representatives of the Safer Living Foundation.

Due to the nature of this volunteering role, it will be necessary for an enhanced DBS check and prison security vetting to be undertaken. Therefore it will be essential when making your application you disclose whether you have any pending charges, convictions, bind-overs, cautions reprimands or final warnings. You will be expected to give details of all convictions, whether spent or unspent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act. A criminal conviction will not automatically disqualify you; it will depend on the seriousness and the circumstances. This will be discussed at the interview.