

Evaluation of Safer Living Foundation Research Projects

Report to the Safer Living Foundation Trustee Board

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Aims of Evaluation

- To understand the impact of CoSA in relation to a number of psychological factors associated with risk of reoffending and/or successful reintegration (by assessing psychometric change over time);
- To assess the success of CoSA in protecting the public by preventing further abuse (through reconviction data including recalls);
- To report on the types of referrals received to the service in order to understand the demographics of the sample and inform appropriate referrals in the future;
- To understand reasons for volunteers exiting the service in order to inform volunteer selection, recruitment and engagement;
- To provide an in-depth understanding of the experiences of Core Members and volunteers as they engage within prison-based CoSA at HMP Whatton;
- To examine the particular needs of intellectually disabled and elderly Core Members and their supporting volunteers as they engage in a CoSA;
- To understand and explore the psychologically meaningful risk-related changes in people who have sexually offended, relating to reoffending over time, as they engage in CoSA;
- To explore reasons for Circles ending;
- To report on the number of Core Members who have safely reintegrated into their community;
- To highlight changes over time for risk-related items on the Dynamic Risk Review (DRR);
- To report on the reintegration of Core Members as assessed by participation in appropriate hobbies and activities, having stable accommodation and having any paid or voluntary employment;
- To evaluate Young People's CoSA - data in its early stages due to project becoming operational in May 2017;
- To evaluate the Prevention Project – data not currently available due to PhD researcher starting in January 2018;
- To ensure robust evaluation data are collated and disseminated that can form the platform for future funding bids.

Part A: Evaluation of Prison CoSA

Demographics and Journeys of Core Members on a Prison CoSA

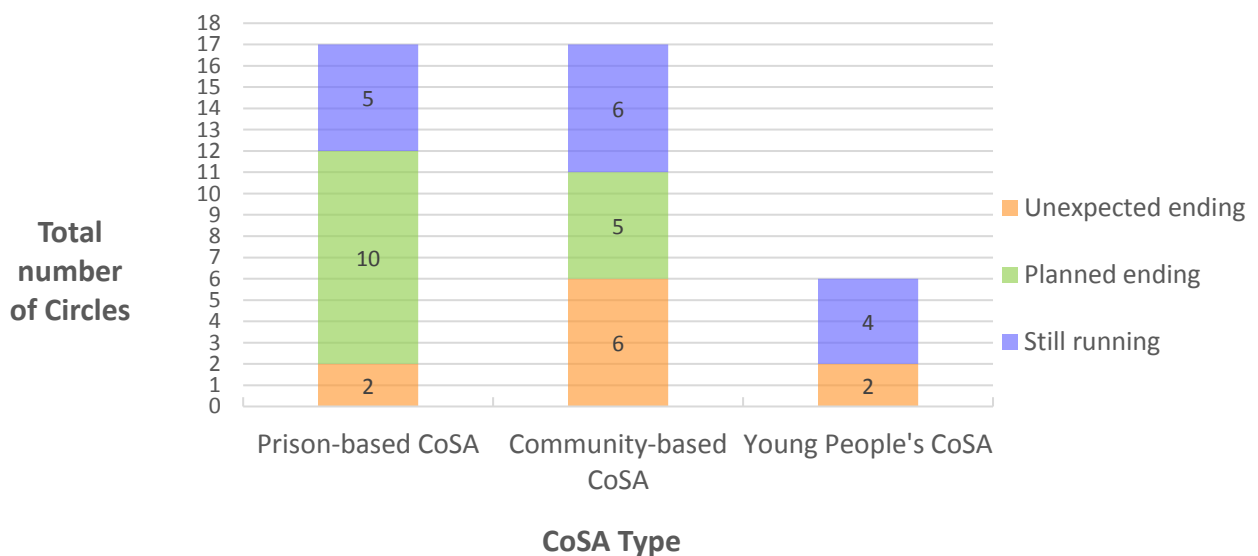
This study addresses the following aims:

- To report on the types of referrals received to the service in order to understand the demographics of the sample and inform appropriate referrals in the future;
- To explore reasons for Circles ending;
- To report on the number of Core Members who have safely reintegrated into their community.

Referrals and overview of journeys

Forty Circles have started to date and figure 1 below provides a summary of the operation of these Circles. Seventeen of these are prison-based, seventeen are community-based and six are CoSA for a young person. The figure below shows the number of CoSA that are still running as well as those which have ceased and whether this was planned or not. The two prison-CoSA that had unexpected endings were due to a recall to prison, however both were considered successful as they ran past three months. Six community CoSA ended unexpectedly due to recall (2), re-arrest (1) and drop out (3). Two young people's CoSA have ended unexpectedly due to drop-out and disengagement. Finally, ten prison and five community CoSA have had a planned ending, with no young people's CoSA having a planned ending so far.

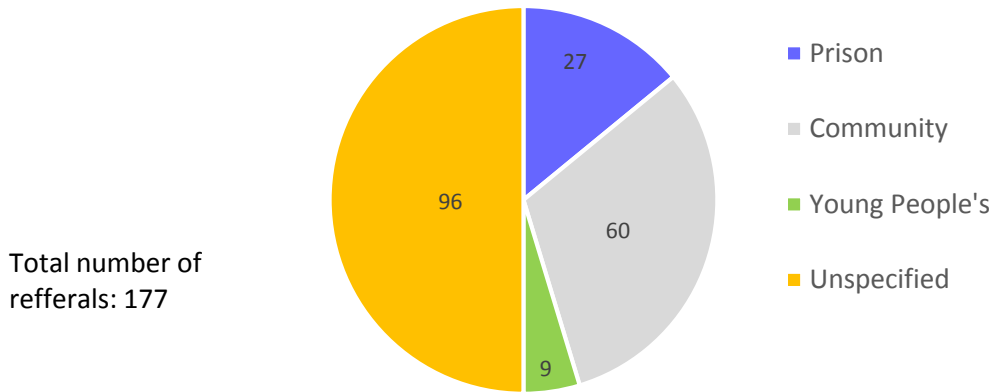
Figure 1. Summary of operational and ended prison and community CoSA



Referral Information

There have been 177 referrals for Circles since project commencement with 27 for prison CoSA, 60 for community CoSA, 9 for young people’s CoSA and 96 unspecified. Figure 2 summarises the breakdown of referrals between different SLF CoSA projects.

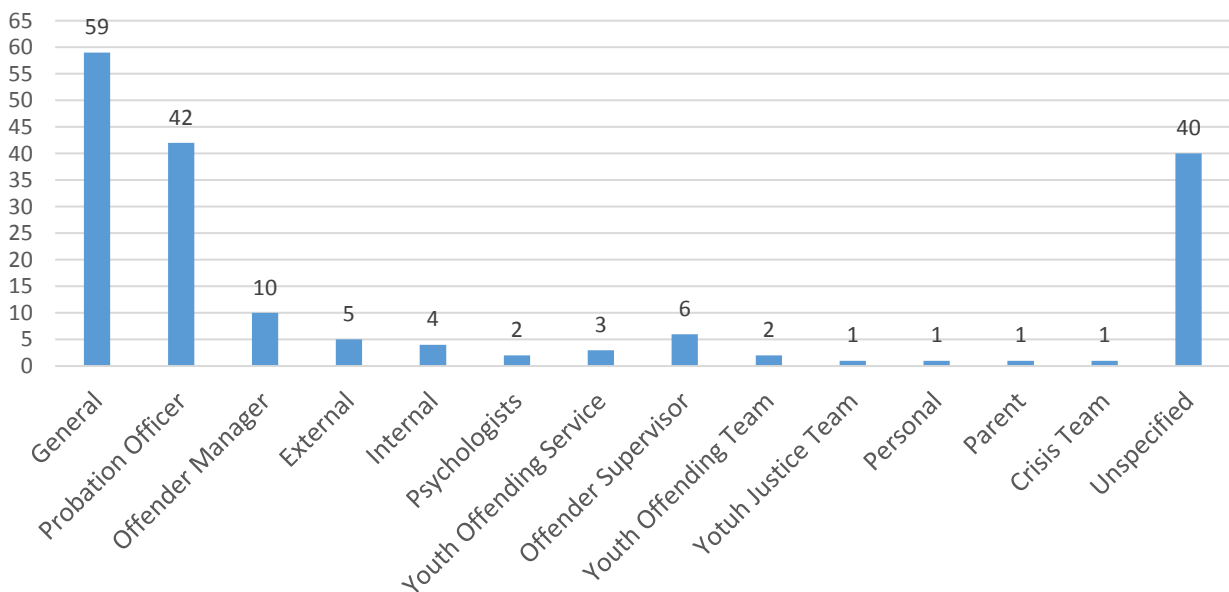
Figure 2. Breakdown of referrals between CoSA projects



There is a variety of reasons for every non-starter who was referred, but did not go on to, a Circle. These include the person being assessed as too low risk, them being relocated outside of the Nottinghamshire or Derbyshire area, or them declining the Circle. However, it is important to note that those who did want a Circle but were ineligible for the SLF CoSA were referred to other CoSA projects in the country by the SLF coordinators.

Referrals for Circles come from a variety of sources. Figure 3 summarises the breakdown of the places from which the SLF receives their referrals.

Figure 3. Breakdown of places from which referrals are received.



End of Circle Information

Of the two prison CoSA that ended unexpectedly were due to recall, however both ran for at least three months. Ten prison CoSA have had a planned ending.

Demographics

The following information will be available in the next update report:

- CM's age
- CM's ethnicity
- CM's religion
- CM's physical and mental health
- CM's marital status
- CM's qualifications
- CM's treatment programmes

Offending and risk

The following information will be available in the next update report:

- Count of CM's index offences
- CM's age at first conviction
- Risk Matrix 2000-Sexual data (risk of sexual reoffending)

Reconvictions and recalls

This study addresses the following aim:

- To assess the success of CoSA in protecting the public by preventing further abuse (through reconviction data including recalls).

This study will address the following research questions:

1. What are the reconviction rates of the sample five years post-CoSA?
2. Are there any differences in reconviction rates between those participating in CoSA and baseline reoffending statistics?

Results

Data will not be available for this until at least five years post-Circle.

Psychological change over time

This study addresses the following aim:

- To understand the impact of CoSA in relation to a number of psychological factors associated with risk of reoffending and/or successful reintegration (by assessing psychometric change over time).

This study will address the following research questions:

1. Are there any changes in levels of (i) hope, (ii) personal growth, (iii) social/emotional loneliness, (iv) social support and (v) mental wellbeing over time for individuals on a prison-based CoSA?

Method

Procedure

Psychometric scales were administered to prison CoSA Core Members at the time points outlined in table 1 below. There are additional time points surrounding the time of release for prison-based CoSA. This is due to the significance of this period of time and the literature that indicates the period of release is particularly sensitive when thinking about desistance from sexual crime (see Aresti, Eatough & Brooks-Gordon, 2010; Maguire & Raynor, 2006; Pratt, Piper, Appleby, Webb & Shaw, 2006).

The data is collected at the time points to allow for analysis of change over time. In particular, the pre and post-Circle time points are of interest as it is hypothesised that they should indicate significantly improved scores on the psychological constructs measured over time on a Circle.

Table 1.

	Time 1 (T1)	Time 2 (T2)	Time 3 (T3)	Mid Time (MID)	Time 4 (T4)
Prison-CoSA	Pre-Circle	2-4 weeks pre-release	2-4 weeks post-release	Mid point of CoSA	Post-Circle

Psychometric scales

Data collection for this study involves the administration of the following psychometric scales:

- i) Hope scale (Snyder et al., 1991) - This scale measure Snyder's cognitive model of hope which defines hope as "a positive motivational state that is based on an interactively derived sense of successful (a) agency (goal directed energy), and (b) pathways (planning to meet goals)" (Snyder, Irving, & Anderson, 1991, p. 287). The scale has been used to apply hope theory and assess motivations in previous studies and has been used with people who have committed a sexual offence (e.g. Marshall et al., 2008). The scales consist of 12 items with two subscales; Four items measure 'pathways thinking' (planning ways to meet goals), four items measure 'agency thinking' (goal-directed determination) and the remaining four items are 'fillers'. The scale is rated on a 1-4 Likert scale from Definitely False to 4 Definitely True.
- ii) Personal Growth Initiative Scale II (PGIS II; Robitschek et al., 2012) - The PGIS II is a self-report instrument that yields a single scale score for personal growth initiative. Personal

growth initiative is a person's active and intentional involvement in changing and developing as a person. The PGIS II consists of 16 items that are rated on a Likert scale from 1 = Strongly Disagree to 6 = Strongly Agree. Item scores are summed to obtain a total PGI score. There is evidence that the PGIS II is strongly positively related to psychological wellbeing.

- iii) Social and Emotional Loneliness Scale - short version (SELSA-S; Ditommaso, Brannen & Best, 2004) - This scale measures two different domains of emotional loneliness and social isolation. Within the emotional loneliness there are two sub-scales of family loneliness and romantic loneliness. The scale is validated with people who have committed an offence and has good internal reliability. It is crucial to this research that a measure of loneliness/isolation is captured as this is identified as a key risk factor for reoffending in the literature and one of Circle's fundamental principles is to counteract this loneliness and isolation in order to reduce reoffending. The scale has 15 items and is rated on a scale from 1 = Strongly Disagree to 7 = Strongly Agree.
- iv) MOS Social Support Survey (Sherbourne & Stewart, 1991) - This scale was originally designed for outpatients and has been used in health and wellbeing research. The scale is multidimensional in that it focuses on the perceived availability, if needed, of various components of functional social support: emotional/informational; tangible; affectionate; and positive social interaction. Research suggests that the perceived availability of functional support is the most essential aspect of social support (House & Kahn; Cohen & Syme, 1985). The MOS survey has been found to be easy to administer to chronically ill patients as items were designed specifically to be short, simple and easy to understand, being restricted to one idea in each stem. The scale has 19 items and is rated on a scale from 1 = None of the Time to 5 = All of the Time.
- v) Adapted Emotional Loneliness Questionnaire - This scale is one of the standard scales used by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and the prison service. It has been used in prison and populations of people that have committed a sexual offence and has been adapted by NOMS in order to be accessible to intellectually disabled populations. As a high proportion of our participant pool may have some form of intellectual disability, the scale is a useful addition to the SELSA details above. The scale has 18 items and is rated on a three point Likert scale (Yes, No or Don't Know).
- vi) Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS; Tennant et al., 2006; Tennant et al., 2007) - The WEMWBS is an ordinal, self-report measure consisting of 14 positively phrased Likert items. The WEMWBS is designed to measure two distinct perspectives of mental wellbeing: "the subjective experience of happiness and life satisfaction, and the psychological functioning and self-realization" (Tennant et al., 2007 p. 2). The scale was selected for its validity, reliability, appropriateness and brevity with this population.

The following information will be available in the next update report:

- Cronbach's alpha scores of the psychometrics

Results

The following information will be available in the next update report:

- Significant results of the statistical analysis conducted on the data collected from the psychometric scales;
- Appropriate figures summarising this data.

Dynamic Risk

This study will address the following aims:

- Highlight changes over time for risk-related items on the Dynamic Risk Review (DRR);
- Report on the re-integration of Core Members as assessed by participation in appropriate hobbies and activities, having stable accommodation and having any paid or voluntary employment.

Methodology

Dynamic Risk Review data are collected routinely by the CoSA Coordinator every three months. SPSS (or AMOS) will be used to analyse DRR data, including an analysis of changes over time; a content or summary analysis of qualitative comments from DRR data; and a descriptive summary of Core Members accessing stable accommodation and having involvement in work and appropriate hobbies/interests.

Results

The following information will be available in the next update report:

- Analysis of changes over time
- Content/summary analysis of qualitative comments
- Descriptive summary regarding accessing stable accommodation, involvement in work and hobbies

PhD

A PhD studentship was funded for three years (2013-16) to evaluate this prison-based CoSA project using a mixed-method design. This strand of research involves both semi-structured interviews (qualitative) and repertory grids (mixed methods).

The purpose of this research has been to provide an understanding of the first prison-model of CoSA in the UK. In doing this, the research has made several original contributions to the existing knowledge.

Research Aims

- To provide an in-depth understanding of the experiences of the Core Members (individuals convicted of a sexual crime) as they engage with the prison-based model of CoSA.

- To understand the views and perspectives of the volunteers involved in the prison-based model of CoSA, thus contributing to the knowledge base on this new initiative.
- To gain an insight into the construing and sense-making of the Core Members on their prison-based CoSA journey, particularly with reference to self and others.

Encompassed within these research aims were the following research questions:

2. What are the personal experiences of the Core Members involved in a prison-based model of CoSA?
3. In what way do the Core Members view their release from prison and subsequent reintegration?
4. How do these views develop throughout their journey on the prison-based model of CoSA?
5. What impact does the prison-based model of CoSA have on the Core Member's desistance processes?
6. What are the perspectives of the volunteers who are involved in a prison-based CoSA?

Results

Study one:

The first study was exploratory in nature and investigated the Core Member's expectations for release including how they construed themselves compared to those around them. Core Members found the shadow of release to cause anxiety and fear that they would always be labelled a 'sex offender'. This warranted further research (studies 2 and 3) to explore that prison CoSA model's ability to support participants through the gate and in the desistance process.

Study two:

This study expanded on the first, and focused on the Core Member's experiences of the prison CoSA sessions. It was found that the CoSA were identified as nurturing of pro-social narratives, hope and motivation to change - all of which are deemed necessary in the desistance process (Fox, 2015a; King, 2013a; Maguire & Raynor, 2006; McNeill, 2009). Still, the fear of the 'sex offender' label, the worry of being stigmatised and the anxiety that increased as release loomed remained and so Core Members were approached a third time post-release.

Study three:

Göbbels, Ward and Willis (2012) agree, stating that the maintenance of commitment to change is essential for individuals who have committed sexual offences to successfully complete the re-entry phase. The findings indicated that this appeared to be taking place and was being encouraged by the volunteers. The cognitive transformation identified in the Core Members therefore suggests that they were progressing towards desistance. In addition, the relationships, which had already been built between those involved in the prison-model CoSA prior to release, meant the volunteers could encourage the Core Member's pro-social behaviour once in the community as well as hold them accountable.

Despite these positive findings, the Core Members still experienced barriers to successful reintegration, with issues regarding their health, establishing suitable housing and the perceived stigmatisation from members of the general public identified as the most problematic. These issues threatened to strip away the sense of agency the Core Members appeared to have developed by this point. It is possible, however, that without the support of the volunteers in the prison-model CoSA, these issues would have presented much larger hurdles to the participants.

Study four:

The final study of this research focused on the volunteers' perspectives of the prison-model CoSA. The findings interestingly reflected what had previously been illuminated in the studies focusing on the Core Members. For example, the volunteers recognised how the prison-model CoSA enabled relationships to be built between the Core Members. This additional time, provided through the prison sessions of the CoSA, enabled a sense of social belonging to be created between the Core Members and volunteers. Through inclusion, rather than alienation, therefore, the volunteers were able to encourage a shift in identity in the Core Members, towards desistance, which, in turn, Weaver and McNeill (2015) believe assists an individual to realise their aspirations without becoming dependent.

Indeed, findings such as these add weight to the results derived from the Core Member data, thus strengthening the perceived benefits of the prison-model CoSA. However, the exploration of the volunteer's perspective also identified several concerns and challenges experienced. To take learning from these findings, the issues discussed by the volunteers have been developed into a set of recommendations for future practice, which are outlined in the following section.

Recommendations for future practice

1. For volunteers to encourage the Core Members to participate in pro-social activities outside of the CoSA, attending initial sessions and meetings with them if required.
2. The importance of the emotional support offered by the volunteers should be reinforced to both volunteers and Core Members, with realistic expectations set at the beginning of the CoSA.
3. Where practical support is believed to be required, coordinators should not be viewed as the first port of call.
4. To reiterate and reinforce the importance of the volunteers' requirement to commit to two years, due to the role it has in the success of the CoSA.
5. Planning and debrief sessions should be implemented from the start of the CoSA and reinforced throughout.

Implications: the prison-model CoSA and desistance

The true benefits of CoSA in general may not be realised until a positive development is seen with regard to the public perceptions of individuals who have committed sexual offences. However, this move by another prison to establish CoSA with individuals prior to their release demonstrates the growth of the prison-based model. Furthermore, the benefit of positive social relationships are

being recognised as rehabilitative and play a positive role in the desistance process (Farmer, 2017) and the prison-model of CoSA could be the framework needed to provide supportive relationships for those who have no existing or potential social support during the transitional phase of release.

The findings within this research also demonstrate how the prison-model of CoSA allows pro-social relationships to be developed and established prior to the Core Member's release from prison, enabling support and accountability to take place during the period of transition.

Having a law abiding social network on release from prison, such as that provided by the prison-model CoSA, is documented within the literature as a protective factor against individuals committing further sexual offences in the future (de Vries Robbé et al., 2015). The findings from this research therefore suggest, that being involved in a prison-model CoSA may assist individuals previously convicted of sexual offences in reaching successful desistance from crime.

Further research is now required to expand upon these findings and explore further the extent to which Core Members on a prison-model of CoSA are able to achieve successful desistance once the support of the CoSA ceases to be there.

Part B: Evaluation of Community CoSA

Demographics and Journeys of Core Members on a Community CoSA

Referrals and overview of journeys

Please refer to Evaluation of Prison CoSA, Referrals and overview of journeys and figure 1 for this information (pg. 3).

Referral information

Please refer to Evaluation of Prison CoSA, Referral Information, figures 2 and 3 for this information (pg. 4).

End of circle information

A PhD researcher funded by the Big Lottery collected the following information from End of Circle Reports. The reasons for Circles ending are as follows: dropout, recall, re-arrest and reintegration. For the eleven ended SLF community-based CoSA: five have reintegrated, three dropped out, two were recalled and one was re-arrested.

Demographics

The following information will be available in the next update report:

- CM's age
- CM's ethnicity
- CM's religion
- CM's physical and mental health

- CM's marital status
- CM's qualifications
- CM's treatment programmes

Offending and risk

The following information will be available in the next update report:

- Count of CM's index offences
- CM's age at first conviction
- Risk Matrix 2000-Sexual data (risk of sexual reoffending)

Reconvictions and recalls

This study addresses the following aim:

- To assess the success of CoSA in protecting the public by preventing further abuse (through reconviction data including recalls).

This study will address the following research questions:

3. What are the reconviction rates of the sample five years post-CoSA?
4. Are there any differences in reconviction rates between those participating in CoSA and baseline reoffending statistics?

Results

Data will not be available for this until at least five years post-Circle.

Psychological changes over time

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- To understand the impact of CoSA in relation to a number of psychological factors associated with risk of reoffending and/or successful reintegration (by assessing psychometric change over time).

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Method

Procedure

Psychometric scales were administered to community-based CoSA Core Members at the time points outlined in table 1 below.

The data is collected at the time points to allow for analysis of change over time. In particular, the pre- and post-Circle time points are of interest as it is hypothesised that they should indicate significantly improved scores on the psychological constructs measured over time on a Circle. The WEMWBS is however administered every three months (including a pre- and post-CoSA time point). This is due to specific requirements for the community-CoSA (funded by the Big Lottery).

Table 1.

	Time 1 (T1)	Time 2 (T2)	Time 3 (T3)	Mid Time (MID)	Time 4 (T4)
Community-CoSA	Pre-Circle	N/A	N/A	Mid point of CoSA	Post-Circle

Psychometric scales

Data collection for this study involves the administration of the following psychometric scales:

- i) Hope scale (Snyder et al., 1991) - This scale measure Snyder's cognitive model of hope which defines hope as "a positive motivational state that is based on an interactively derived sense of successful (a) agency (goal directed energy), and (b) pathways (planning to meet goals)" (Snyder, Irving, & Anderson, 1991, p. 287). The scale has been used to apply hope theory and assess motivations in previous studies and has been used with people who have committed a sexual offence (e.g. Marshall et al., 2008). The scales consist of 12 items with two subscales; four items measure 'pathways thinking' (planning ways to meet goals), four items measure 'agency thinking' (goal-directed determination) and the remaining four items are 'fillers'. The scale is rated on a 1-4 Likert scale from Definitely False to 4 Definitely True.
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- iii) Social and Emotional Loneliness Scale-short version (SELSA-S; Ditommaso, Brannen & Best, 2004) - This scale measures two different domains of emotional loneliness and social isolation. Within the emotional loneliness there are two sub-scales of family loneliness and romantic loneliness. The scale is validated with people who have committed an offence and has good internal reliability. It is crucial to this research that a measure of loneliness/isolation is captured as this is identified as a key risk factor for reoffending in the literature and one of Circle's fundamental principles is to counteract

- this loneliness and isolation in order to reduce reoffending. The scale has 15 items and is rated on a scale from 1 = Strongly Disagree to 7 = Strongly Agree.
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The following information will be available in the next update report:

- Cronbach's alpha scores of the psychometrics

Results

The following information will be available in the next update report:

- Significant results of the statistical analysis conducted on the data collected from the psychometric scales;
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Dynamic Risk

This study will address the following aims:

- Highlight changes over time for risk-related items on the Dynamic Risk Review (DRR);

- Report on the reintegration of Core Members as assessed by participation in appropriate hobbies and activities, having stable accommodation and having any paid or voluntary employment.

Methodology

Dynamic Risk Review data are collected routinely by the CoSA Coordinator every three months. SPSS (or AMOS) will be used to analyse DRR data, including an analysis of changes over time; a content or summary analysis of qualitative comments from DRR data; and a descriptive summary of Core Members accessing stable accommodation and having involvement in work and appropriate hobbies/interests.

Results

The following information will be available in the next update report:

- Analysis of changes over time;
- Content/summary analysis of qualitative comments;
- Descriptive summary regarding accessing stable accommodation, involvement in work and hobbies.

PhD Research

A large proportion of information found in studies 1-6 is a result of Big Lottery funded PhD research.

Research Questions

1. How is success and failure defined in CoSA?
2. What contributes to success in CoSA?
3. Why do some Circles fail, and others succeed?
4. Does CoSA promote desistance?
5. How effective is CoSA at reducing recidivism?
6. How effective is CoSA in promoting Core Member reintegration?

Research Objectives

Dynamic Risk:

The research will focus on the dynamic risk of Core Members. It will highlight changes over time for risk-related items, outline 'normal' trajectories of DRR scores (baseline and end points) and incorporate more advanced analysis of data (logistic regression, factor analysis, multi-level modelling of data) to maximise usefulness of the DRR in predicting the failure of a CoSA/a red flag incident. The study will also report on the reintegration of the CMs as assessed by participation in appropriate hobbies and activities, having stable accommodation and having any paid or voluntary employment.

WEMWBS:

This study will research changes in the emotional wellbeing of Core Members and compare pre- and post-CoSA levels.

Examining Success and Failure (Case Studies):

The research will analyse the reasons for Circles ending, and will explore in detail the experiences of all components of a failed circle through interviews with CMs and coordinators. All instances of failed CoSA will be explored in coordinator interviews. Coordinators will be asked about each specific CM failure. Each of the failure interview data sets will be considered in conjunction with the CMs End of Circle Report. Also where possible the CM will be approached for interview. The combined data will be used to form a number of case studies. These interviews will include an exploration of all aspects of the CoSA service including: volunteer input; experience of Circles from both CM and Coordinators' perspectives; and perceived attitudes of external organisations for example Offender Managers and Supervisors working with service users whilst on CoSA. This will help us to understand the reasons why a Circle fails, what happens on failed Circles and what can be learned from failures (e.g. are the volunteer training needs not being met?). It will also identify areas for improvement for the service delivery, through the eyes of the beneficiaries. Where CoSA fail due to recalls, the reasons for recalls will be examined.

Research Summary

The research utilises a mixed-method approach to explore the factors that contribute to success and failure in CoSA. Success in CoSA is measured through both Core Member dynamic risk in the community and improvements in Core Member wellbeing.

Core Member dynamic risk is measured using the Dynamic Risk Review (DRR) which is repeated at three-monthly intervals throughout the course of the CoSA. Core Member wellbeing is measured using the Warwick and Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS) which is completed at three-monthly intervals throughout the term of the CoSA. Changes to Core Member dynamic risk and mental wellbeing are measured using t-tests and repeated measures ANOVA.

End of Circle Reports (EOCR) are completed at the end of each Circle and will be gathered for qualitative analysis. The qualitative element will capture Core Member progress across time and be used to explore Core Member experiences of CoSA. All DRR and WEMWBS data is added to a database along with detailed demographic information on Core Member static risk and offence history. Key information is also taken from the EOCR data and fed into the database.

Cluster analysis will then be run on the database data with the aim of developing Core Member typologies. The typologies will then be compared across Core Member outcomes of reintegration, dropout, recall and re-arrest to establish if there are any key indicators of adverse outcomes.

Case studies further aim to explore Circle processes through gathering qualitative data from all involved in a selection of Circles. Case studies will be selected based on Circle endings with the aim of providing illustrations of different Circle endings. The case studies (where possible) will include a Core Member, Coordinator, some volunteers and a stakeholder from the outer Circle.

End of Circle Reports

The PhD researcher funded by the Big Lottery collected the following information from End of Circle Reports. The reasons for Circles ending are as follows: dropout, recall, re-arrest and reintegration. For the 26 completed End of Circle Reports (EOCRs) received, the breakdown for each ending type was as follows, with counts in brackets: dropout (9), recall (2), re-arrest (3), and reintegration (12) (this is also the number deemed to have successfully reintegrated according to EOCRs).

Results and implications

Findings and applications will be published in an SLF Evaluation Update report, in papers and disseminated at conferences on completion.

Part C: Evaluating Young People's CoSA

Results of this evaluation are not currently available. Young People's CoSA (YP CoSA) became operational in May 2017. The evaluation design is outlined below and findings will be produced once data becomes available.

Demographics and Journeys of Core Members on a Young People's CoSA

Referrals and overview of journeys

Referral information

There have been nine referrals since the start of the SLF YPCoSA project, and all nine of the young people engaged in the referral process. Five of these referrals came from the Derbyshire area, two from Nottinghamshire and two from Nottingham City.

Two YP CoSA ended due to non-engagement by the YP, one after three meetings (lasted a month) and one after six months.

One referral was deemed unsuitable as the YP's family situation was very chaotic; there was uncertainty as to where the YP was living (with Grandparents). Furthermore the family struggled to understand why the YP needed support and not the victim.

Another referral was deemed unsuitable as was considered low risk for the following reasons: the YP was at college, having driving lessons, had a job, had a steady girlfriend, had a stable home life, had no charges, no unhealthy sexual interests and no unhealthy sexual thoughts.

Therefore, six YPCoSA have started from the nine referrals. Of the three that did not become active, two were deemed unsuitable and one was suitable but the YP moved out of the area.

Please refer figures 2 and 3 from Evaluation of Prison CoSA, Referrals and overview of journeys for an overview of this information (pg. 4).

Demographics

The following information will be available in the next update report:

- Demographic data on the young people

Convictions, offending and risk

The following is information regarding the index offences of the sample: all of the young people have offended against other children. Two have contact index offences against children, and two have internet offences (accessing indecent images of children).

Reconvictions and recalls

This study addresses the following aim:

- To assess the success of CoSA in protecting the public by preventing further abuse (through reconviction data including recalls).

This study will address the following research questions:

5. What are the reconviction rates of the sample five years post-CoSA?
6. Are there any differences in reconviction rates between those participating in CoSA and baseline reoffending statistics?

Results

Data will not be available for this until at least five years post-Circle.

Psychological changes over time for Young People

This study addresses the following aim:

- To understand the impact of CoSA in relation to a number of psychological factors associated with risk of reoffending and/or successful social integration (by assessing psychometric change over time).

This study will address the following research questions:

2. Are there any changes in (i) rates of sexual and non-sexual reoffending, (ii) attitudes towards crime, (iii) mental health and loneliness, (iv) social support and integration into the community, (v) self-esteem and confidence or (vi) active engagement with community groups or organisations for individuals on a Young People's CoSA?

Method

Procedure

The following psychological constructs are administered and assessed pre- and post-Circle, as well as every three months in order to assess change over time on a YPCoSA:

Psychometric scales

- Bespoke assessment & review tool (having fun; achieving; being my own person; having people in my life; having a purpose and making a difference; emotional health; sexual health; and physical health)
- Attitude towards crime (Crime Pics II; Frude et al., 1994)
- Mental Wellbeing (Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale; Tennant et al., 2007)
- Social and Emotional Loneliness Scale-Short (Ditommaso et al., 2004)
- Self-esteem (Self-esteem scale; Rosenberg, 1965)

More information will be available regarding these scales in the next evaluation update report, including their Cronbach's alpha score.

Results

The following information will be available in the next update report:

- Significant results of the statistical analysis conducted on the data collected from the psychometric scales
- Appropriate figures summarising this data

Dynamic Risk

This study will address the following aims:

- Highlight changes over time for risk-related items on the Youth Dynamic Risk Review (YDRR);
- Report on the integration of Core Members as assessed by participation in appropriate hobbies and activities, having stable accommodation and having any paid or voluntary employment.

Method

An adapted Dynamic Risk Review will be administered every three months and changes in risk over time on a CoSA will be reported for all YP CoSA Core Members.

- More information on The Youth Dynamic Risk Review (adapted from the J-SOAP II; Prentky & Righthand, 2003) will be available in the next Evaluation Update report.

SPSS (or AMOS) will be used to analyse YDRR data, including: an analysis of changes over time; a content or summary analysis of qualitative comments from YDRR data; and a descriptive summary of Core Members accessing stable accommodation, and having involvement in work or education and appropriate hobbies/interests.

Results

The following information will be available in the next update report:

- Analysis of changes over time
- Content/summary analysis of qualitative comments

- Descriptive summary regarding accessing stable accommodation, involvement in work or education and hobbies

Interviews

This study will involve qualitative interviews with service users (young people), their parents/guardians (where appropriate) and volunteers involved with the Project. Wherever possible these interviews will be conducted face to face. The latter is seen as important to strive for, given that the participants are predominantly young people and the possibility that some may have learning difficulties or be intellectually disabled. However, we do acknowledge that face to face interviews may not always be possible for reasons of risk, participant request or practical difficulties

Part D: Volunteers

This study addresses the following aim:

- To understand reasons for volunteers exiting the service in order to inform volunteer selection, recruitment and engagement.

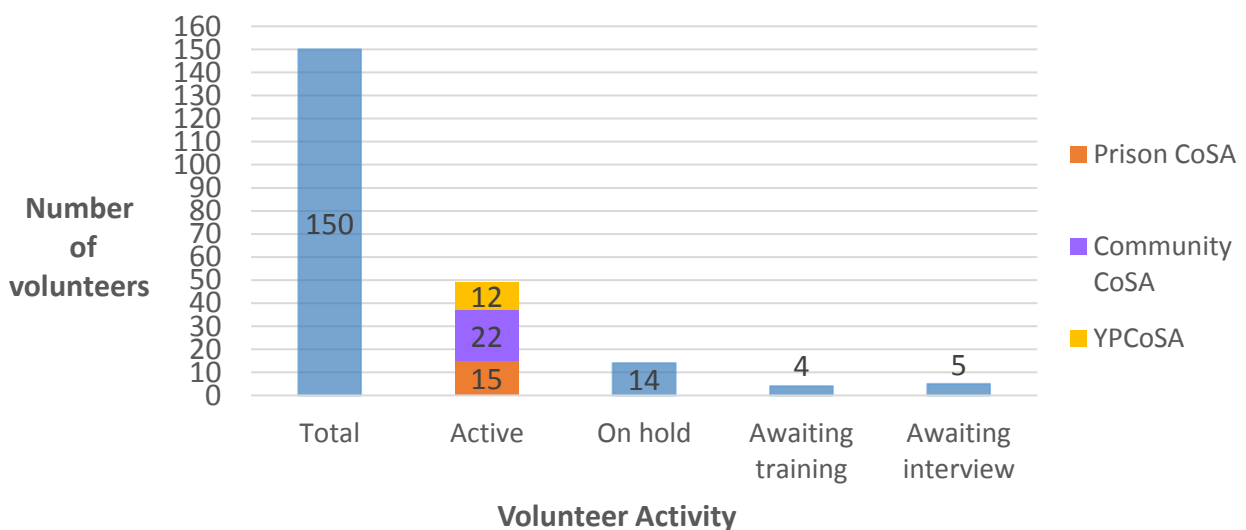
Volunteer Data

Activity

Since SLF CoSA became operational, a total of 150 volunteers have engaged in the service at some level. There are currently 63 active volunteers on a Circle, with 15 on a prison CoSA, 22 on Community CoSA and 12 on YPCoSA. There are also 14 active volunteers that are lined up to start on CoSA soon.

Four volunteers have been interviewed but are awaiting training, and five volunteers are waiting to be interviewed. Figure 4 below demonstrates in graphical form the volunteer numbers described.

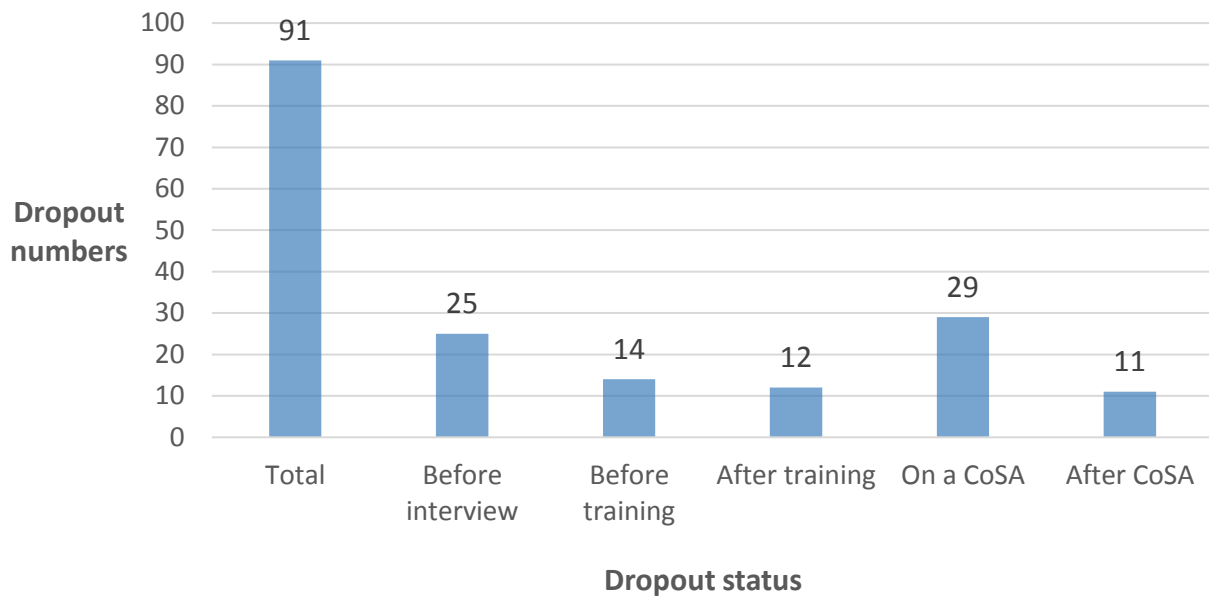
Figure 4. *Volunteer numbers*



Dropouts

There have been 91 volunteers drop out in total (25 before interview, 14 before training, 12 after training and before Circle allocation, 29 whilst on a Circle and 11 did not return after completing a Circle). Figure 5 below demonstrates in graphical form the volunteer numbers described.

Figure 5. Volunteer dropout numbers

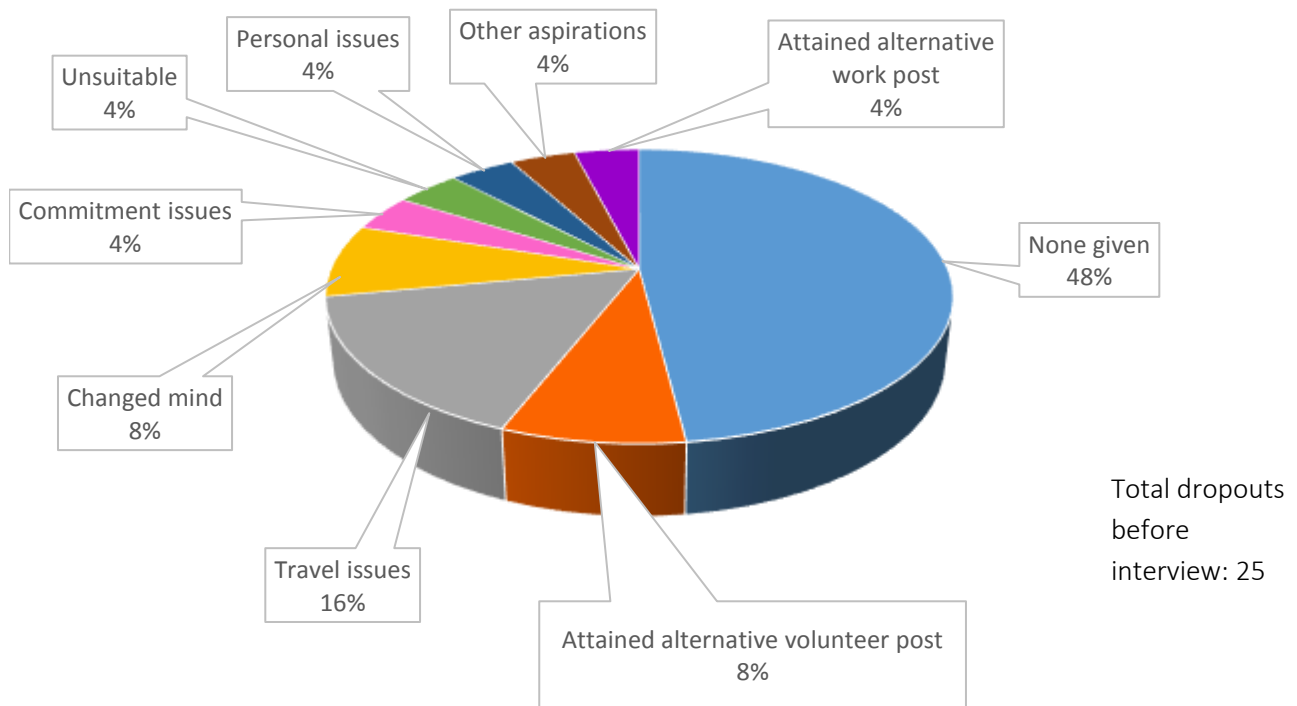


For the purpose of this study the volunteer dropouts are of interest. These results demonstrate that just over 60% of volunteer's drop out. This is a high dropout rate and is important to explore due to the difficulties faced when recruiting volunteers and the high demand for more CoSA for Core Members.

Reasons for volunteer dropout are varied. Figures 6, 7, 8 and 9 below provide a summary of the reasons for volunteer dropout at the different stages of CoSA involvement.

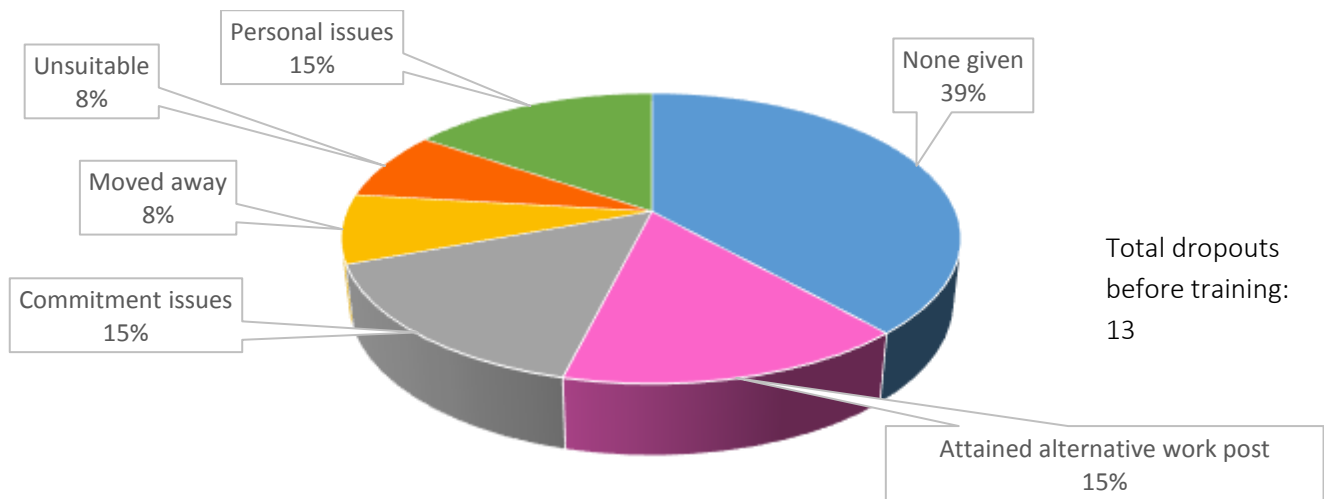
The total number of volunteer dropouts prior to interview was 25. The commonest reason for volunteer dropout prior to interview was not provided (48%). However, this was closely followed by volunteers who had travel issues (16%). It would be useful for future research to engage with those volunteers who do not initially provide a reason to establish why they dropped out. It may be that once specific reasons are identified, these fit with the other reasons already identified within figure 6. This would be interesting to investigate. Moreover, it would be interesting to explore in more detail the sample who have changed their mind.

Figure 6. Reasons for drop out before interview



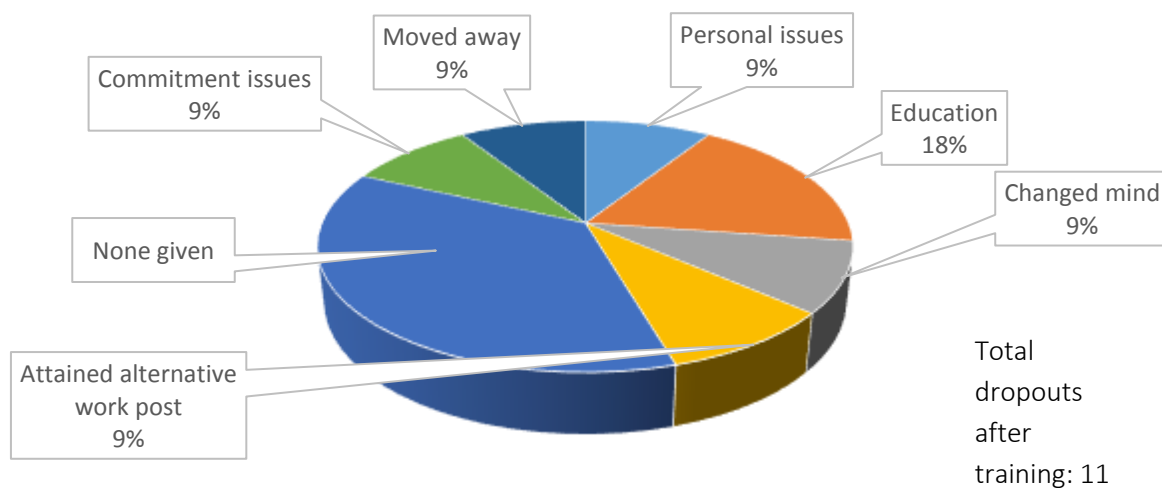
The total number of volunteer dropouts prior to training was 13. The commonest reason for volunteer dropout prior to training was not given (39%). This was followed by volunteers attaining paid employment (15%) (see figure 7 below). It is hypothesised that those volunteers who dropout due to being unable to commit had considered the time commitments that were explained to them in detail in the interview process and have since decided they cannot commit. This indicates that the interview process is a useful tool for sifting out those who will not be able to engage in a CoSA. However, arguably it would be more useful and less resource-intensive for this to occur prior to interview. This is something that may want to be considered by the SLF when thinking about advertising and recruitment.

Figure 7. Reasons for drop out before training



The total number of volunteer after training was 11. 37% of the volunteers gave no reason for dropout, the remaining reasons for dropouts at this stage can be seen in figure 8 below. Dropout rates are lowest at this stage, indicating good volunteer commitment post-training.

Figure 8. Reasons for dropout before CoSA commencement (post-training)



The total number of volunteer dropouts during CoSA was 29 (see figure 9 below). This number is the highest dropout rate of all the stages referred to. The most prevalent reason for volunteer dropout whilst engaging with CoSA was volunteer commitment issues (38%). The next was volunteers attaining alternative employment (21%). Although possibly having a negative impact on the CoSA, this reason should not be seen in a negative light as volunteers gaining employment is something that indicates positive contribution to society. It does however raise questions over the

type of volunteers recruited. For example, if lots of students were recruited, this may account for this high dropout.

Figure 9. Reason for dropout during CoSA

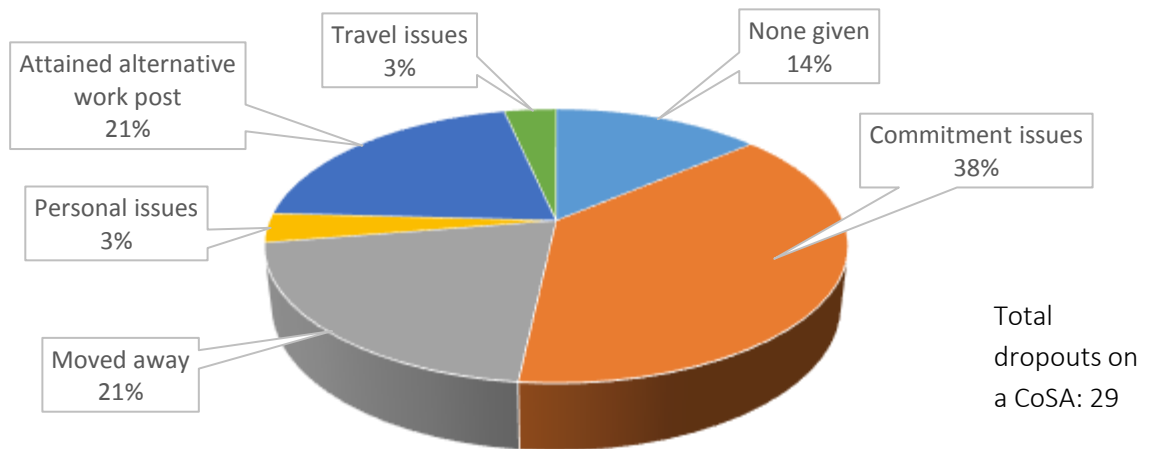
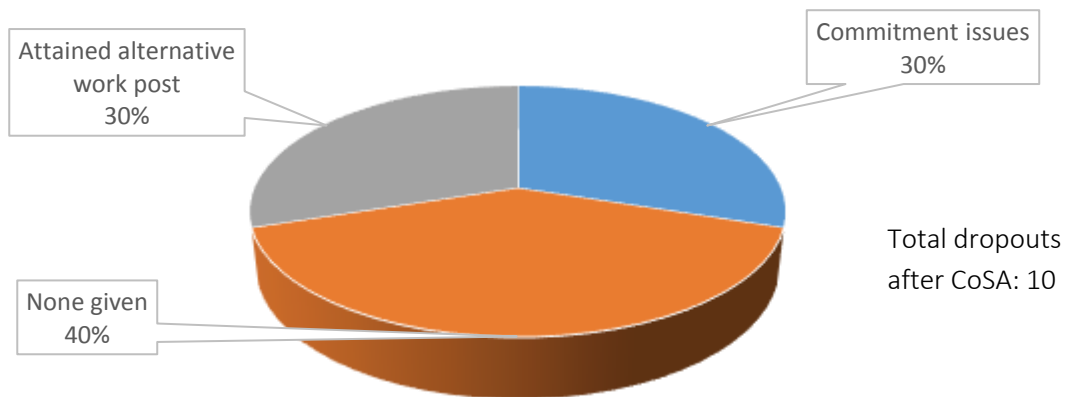


Figure 10 (below) demonstrates the breakdown of dropout reasons and numbers after completing a CoSA. The biggest reason for volunteers not returning after their CoSA ended was not provided. It would be interesting to investigate why volunteers choose not to start a new CoSA, and if any learning can be taken from this by the SLF.

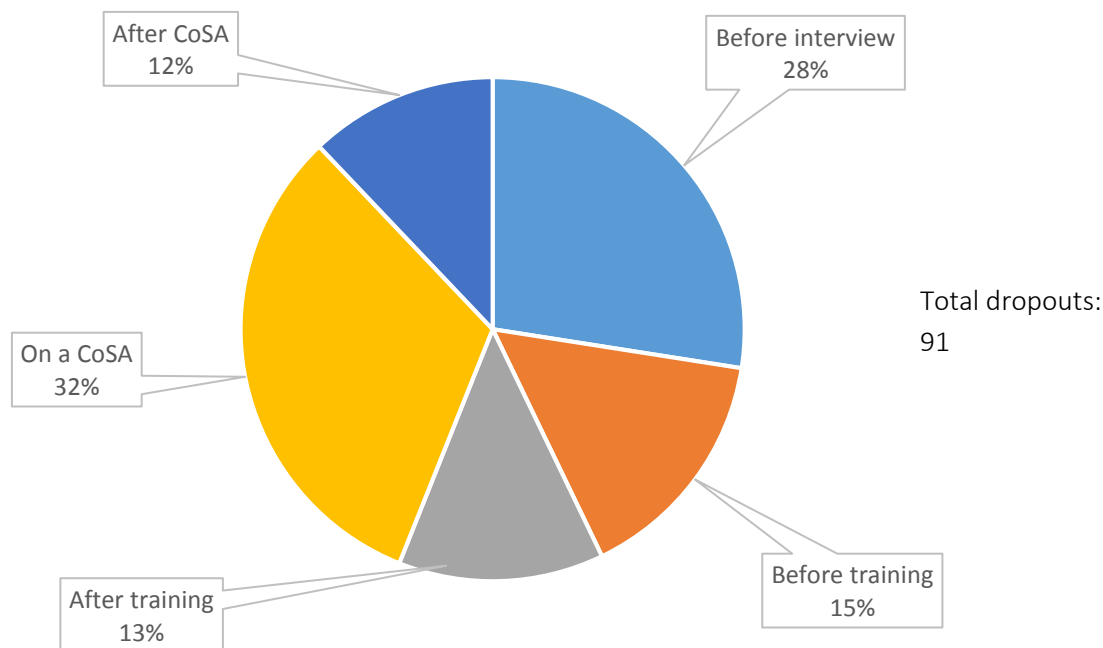
Figure 10. Reason for dropout after CoSA



The final figure below (figure 11) demonstrates the total dropouts at the different times engaging in a CoSA. The chart demonstrates that the highest dropout rates are actually when volunteers are already engaging in a Circle (32%), closely followed by dropouts prior to interview (28%). It is important to note this as this demonstrates that dropouts are occurring at a time when high investment has been made by the SLF, volunteers and Core Members (i.e. volunteers have already been interviewed, trained and have formed a relationship with the volunteers and Core Member on a CoSA). There are two immediate negative consequences of this: to the SLF resources and to the CoSA itself. The impact of volunteers dropping out once engaging in a CoSA could mean delays in

Circle continuation, decrease in morale of volunteers and Core Member and at worst, folding of the Circle and possible recall or reconviction of the Core Member. As already stated, further exploration of the reasons for dropout at this stage would be useful as it may inform possible ways to prevent this in the future.

Figure 11. *Volunteer dropout rates at different points of time engaging in CoSA*



Part E: PhD into Accommodation

Objectives

To explore the accommodation issues, needs and experiences of people with sexual offence convictions, from multiple relevant perspectives.

Interviewing professionals

Method

Qualitative, semi-structured interviews were undertaken with professionals who had experience related to accommodation for people with sexual offence convictions ($n = 19$). Participants included employees within the National Probation Service, resettlement organisation employees and offender-specific housing providers. A pilot interview was undertaken to test the interview schedule for length and suitability. The schedule included general and broad topic prompts to gauge views pertaining to: social housing, the private rented sector, supported facilities, approved premises and

more. The interview schedule was deliberately broad to allow participants to discuss issues most pertinent to them.

Analysis

Inductive thematic analysis was undertaken to identify commonalities within the data.

Findings

Numerous superordinate themes were identified. Participants noted the already challenging nature of the UK housing sector, yet people with sexual offence convictions were perceived to face additional and unique barriers within this already difficult landscape. Extra challenges surrounding risk management and stigma were noted, as well as some practical implications discussed. Practical considerations which may prove particularly important when considering the development of the SLF accommodation project related to considerations surrounding; referral processes, housing multiple people with similar offences, multi-agency working, protocol development, support services and individualised tenant considerations.

Conclusions

Due to the additional and unique challenges people with sexual offence convictions face in relation to attaining housing, the need for the development of an accommodation facility which recognises such challenges is outlined. Where themes were identified that can develop the academic literature available in the field, practical considerations were also noted, useful to consider in the development of the SLF accommodation project.

Interviewing people with sexual offence convictions living in a variety of community facilities

Method

Qualitative, semi-structured interviews were undertaken with people who were previously imprisoned for sexual offences, now living in any type of community facility ($n = 15$). Participants were recruited from approved premises, offender-specific housing organisations, private tenancies and shorter-term facilities. A pilot interview was undertaken to test the interview schedule for length and suitability. The schedule included general and broad topic prompts to understand further: community re-entry experiences, feelings towards finding accommodation and participant experiences within the facilities they had lived at. The interview schedule was deliberately broad to allow participants to discuss issues most pertinent to them.

Analysis

Inductive thematic analysis will be undertaken upon completion of writing up the findings obtained from study one.

Findings

The write-up of findings from both studies are scheduled to be completed by September 2018.

Part F: PhD Evaluation of the Prevention Project

Results of this evaluation are not currently available. The Prevention Project became operational on October 31st 2017. The evaluation plan and design is outlined below and findings will be produced once data becomes available.

Objectives

To conduct a mixed-method evaluation of the UK's first community prevention centre, and to extend the current evidence base on applying a public health model and third-wave cognitive behavioural therapies to the prevention of sexual offending and child sexual abuse (CSA).

Design

Randomised waiting-list controlled trial (RCT).

Methods

Sample

The RCT will utilise rolling recruitment, with participants self-referring over a period of approximately one year. The quantitative element of the evaluation will aim to include as many of these participants as possible, forming an experimental (treatment) group and a control (waiting-list) group. The qualitative research will employ a purposive sample, also involving an experimental group of up to 20 adults, and a control group of the same size. None of the participants involved will have a previous conviction for a sexual offence.

Procedure

Research materials will be administered on a voluntary, confidential basis and will be handed out as hardcopies to consenting participants. Participants will receive an information sheet and consent form and will be debriefed. All data will be stored in accordance with the BPS guidelines. Ethical permission will be sought from the relevant authorities.

Measures

The following quantitative outcome measures (among others) may be utilised to gather information regarding the efficacy of the treatment interventions:

- CORE Outcome Measure (CORE-OM): This is a self-report assessment that is administered both before and after therapy. Items comprise four factors, including problems/symptoms, subjective wellbeing, risk/harm and life functioning.
- Structured Assessment of Protective Factors (SAPROF): SAPROF is a solution-focused tool that considers pro-social future goals and supports the risk assessment instruments by taking into consideration the individual's protective factors whilst aiming to control the

effects of risk factors as well as moderate the likelihood of offending. Pre- and post-treatment comparisons can be made.

For the qualitative study, an amended version of McAdams' (1995) 'Life Story Interview' schedule may be used for data collection. This schedule allows individuals to structure their life narrative in chapters and important events. This can be tailored to the prevention frameworks and can also be done more than once in 6-month+ follow-ups.

Data Analysis

Qualitative

A theme-based analysis such as thematic or phenomenological analysis will be used.

Phenomenological analysis may be most appropriate as it is a reflective analysis based on the use of open-ended questions to gain detailed responses of participants' experiences.

Quantitative

Appropriate data screening and statistical tests will be used to analyse the data, such as analysis of variance procedures that provide an insight into mean group differences.

Conclusions/Implications

- Address existing gaps in research.
- Posit child sexual abuse as a preventable public health problem that society has a moral obligation to tackle.
- Provide evidence to support the notion that sexual offending and CSA should not be solely attributed to minor-attracted persons (MAPs) for multiple prevention-inhibiting reasons:
 1. Empirically untrue – neglects other perpetrator characteristics and types.
 2. Perpetuates public stigma and avoidance towards non-offending, help-seeking MAPs.
- Highlight the lacking availability of preventative services, evidencing the requirement for the introduction and continued evaluation of prevention interventions.
- Emphasise and tackle identified barriers to help-seeking for the subject population, targeting service users' internal apprehensions (e.g., fear of judgement) and improved service provision (e.g., improved competency and knowledge of minor-attraction).
- Provide evidence for the utility of empathic and compassionate therapeutic interventions, such as Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) and Compassion-Focused Therapy (CFT).
- Outline implications for future research, such as improved service evaluation (e.g., longitudinal studies) and public stigma research (e.g., educational campaigns such as first-person perspective educational interventions).

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*these will be updated in the next Evaluation Update report

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