



NEWS FROM THE CHARITY

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Welcome to the first Safer Living Foundation Newsletter. As the Safer Living Foundation grows we wanted to produce a newsletter that enabled us to share some of the fantastic projects we are developing as well as sharing some of the fantastic things that both our volunteers and service users are doing. We want to use this newsletter as a platform to share good practice and learn from others experiences so please do get in touch if you have anything you would like to see included.

About the Safer Living Foundation

The Safer Living Foundation is a Registered Charity and a collaboration between HMP Whatton, Nottingham Trent University, the National Probation Service and Nottinghamshire Police. The charity's main aim is to reduce sexual (re)offending through a range of rehabilitative and preventative initiatives.

The Charitable objectives are:

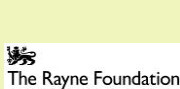
- To promote the protection of people from, and the prevention of, sexual crime.
- To promote the rehabilitation of persons who have committed or who are likely to commit sexual offences.

A word from the Chair...

I hope that you will find this newsletter useful and interesting. We hope that it will help keep everyone informed about the work of the SLF. Since we began in 2014 the SLF has developed in size and impact and with the help of all our volunteers, staff and partners we want to continue our important work well into the future. If you have any ideas about how we can be better please let any of the team know. We have received a substantial amount of financial and practical support for our projects and we are held in high regard for the work we do. I am proud to be a part of a great team, I hope that you are too.



SLF proudly supported by:



Meet the team and their projects

The Safer Living Foundation work everyday to prevent sexual abuse. We care deeply about community safety and keeping children and other vulnerable people safe. The way we do this is through the development of a variety of preventative and rehabilitative projects as follows:

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. The Circle will typically start 3 months prior to the offenders release and continues for up to 18 months after release. Our main focus has been to provide this service for elderly (55+) and intellectually disabled male prisoners who are being released to live in Nottinghamshire or Derbyshire.

Community Circles of Support and Accountability

In November 2015, the SLF were awarded a grant from the Big Lottery to run Community based Circles of Support and Accountability. Community Circles supports adults who have been released from any custodial establishment but are now residing in Nottinghamshire or Derbyshire. There are no restrictions on the demographics of the offenders.

Young People's Circles

Referral criteria for this project include young people aged 10-21 who have been cautioned or convicted of a sexual offence and are residing in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. The aim is for the Circle to engage with the young person and build on their strengths and interests. 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.

Prevention

The Charity has just received funding to scope out and provide a Prevention Project. This project will provide signposting, support and treatment services for individuals in the UK with an illegal sexual interest who are concerned they will sexually offend but are not within the controls of the Criminal Justice System.

Accommodation

The SLF have joined with Nottingham Trent University to fund a PHD student to undertake research around the role of adequate accommodation in sex offenders desistance from offending.

Dave Potter Community Circles Coordinator



I joined the prison service in 1989 (pre internet, mobile phones, sky TV!) and worked at HMP Ranby as an instructor in the woodmill. I was a qualified wood machinist (basically a joiner who uses machines instead of hand tools), making furniture for prisons as well as outside industry. The workshop employed prisoners and this work experience helped them to learn the value of doing a

good job and being responsible. This was the beginning of my understanding that people could change their lives if they had the right motivation and guidance. After 15 years at Ranby I fancied a change, so in a moment of impulsivity I thought I'd become a prison officer. I came to Whatton for a tour, where they talked about SOTP and the light bulb went off! I thought 'that's the job I've always wanted to do' and so became a prison officer with the express intent of doing SOTP.

I eventually delivered every programme we have at Whatton, and on programmes I became acutely aware that whilst we help the men on group to address their offending behaviour, after release that support and help is very much reduced, if indeed there is any at all.

And then came circles and the SLF. This seemed to me to be the perfect progression for me as it addressed my concerns about support for men after release; so I jumped ship and left HMPS. One year on, and I can say in all honesty this is the best job I'll ever have. I get to work with incredible, like-minded people and core members who want to live offence free and productive lives in society. This job restores your faith in humanity and you get to work with the nicest people too!

I look forward to seeing what the future brings for the SLF with our new projects coming on stream and hope to be coordinating for many years to come.

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Angie Braithwaite Prison Circles Coordinator



After twenty years' experience working within the Criminal Justice System, I took up the post of Prison Circles Coordinator at HMP Whatton in November 2016. I have dedicated my working life to protecting the public and I am incredibly passionate about the work that I do. I have an incredibly broad range of experience, specifically working with victims and perpetrators of both Domestic and Sexual Abuse Offences. I now have responsibility for Circles starting in prison, with priority to given to high and very high risk offenders, over the age of 55, or with a learning difficulty. Prison Circles start 3/6mths prior to release and the volunteers remain with the Core Member during their transition back in to the community and beyond.

Claire Good Young Persons Project Manager



Claire Good took up the post of Young Persons Project Manager in April 2016. After gaining a MSc in Criminology, Claire spent 5 years undertaking research and consultancy work within the fields of crime, community safety and regeneration. Following this Claire spent 8 years as a Manager within a Youth Offending Team with particular responsibility for work around victims, restorative justice, volunteers, referrals orders and prevention work. Claire's role within the Safer Living Foundation was to initially scope out the

possibility of a Young People's Circles project – which has now been completed. Claire is now responsible for the coordination of the Young People's Circles project including the assessment of suitable young people, the management of circle volunteers and the liaison with partner agencies.

Anne McMeekin Office Manager



I worked for the Prison Service for almost 28 years in a number of roles but finished as an Operational Manager in January 2013 on voluntary severance. After a couple of years working as an administrator for the NHS at HMP Lowdham Grange I was pleased to be offered the role of Office Manager for the SLF. I now work part time – usually 3 mornings a week. My varied prison experience is very helpful in my day to day work for the SLF. I have just got a puppy called Angus who also keeps me busy!

Helen Elliot Funding and Evaluation Coordinator



Helen Elliott is a research fellow working in the field of forensic psychology. Her research has largely focused on the evaluation of crime rehabilitation initiatives and in particular, exploring the treatment and rehabilitation of individuals who have committed sexual offences. Helen now also works as part of

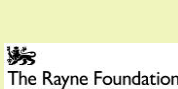
the Safer Living Foundation, having been a part of the charity since it's commencement and her particular role involves coordinating the funding and evaluation for the SLF projects. This involves identifying suitable funding streams and putting together applications to support the set up of new projects and the continuation of existing ones. In addition, as evaluation coordinator, Helen is responsible for ensuring that each project is evaluated from the outset, and this includes designing evaluations, collecting data and reporting on findings.

Jess Lomas PHD Student



I completed my undergraduate degree in Psychology at Manchester University, during which time I was a volunteer at Circles in Manchester. This developed my interest in rehabilitating individuals who were previously convicted of a sexual offence. I stayed in Manchester to complete an MSc in Forensic Psychology and Mental Health. Throughout this period, I gained voluntary experience in a medium secure unit, and worked with the charity Rethink Mental Illness to help those with mental health issues in the community. I am now working with the SLF to assist in developing a housing project for released individuals who have a conviction for a sexual offence. Through conducting research at Nottingham Trent University, I will provide practical support and advice to the SLF that will aid the development of the accommodation project. In addition to conducting research I will work to develop relationships with other relevant housing organisations, and assist with sourcing funding for the project.

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VOLUNTEER NEWS

Volunteer Statistics

The Safer Living Foundation currently has 41 trained and active Circle volunteers. Of these 41 volunteers:

- 23 are currently active on a Circle
- 10 are newly trained and awaiting security clearance; and
- 8 are awaiting allocation to a Circle.

Of these 41 volunteers, only 6 are male.

Circle Statistics

The Safer Living Foundation currently has 7 active Circles running:

- 5 Prison Circles; and
- 2 Community Circles.

In addition, there are at least 5 Circles due to start imminently (including the first young people's circle) – **we therefore desperately need more volunteers! Please do therefore get in touch if you are interested in starting a new circle or a second circle or know anyone interested in volunteering.**



Welcome to our new volunteers...

A warm welcome to the 10 new volunteers who successfully completed their training with us in November. They will soon be joining you on Circles so please make them all feel welcome:

DBS Checks

A Reminder to all volunteers about DBS checks... It is essential that all SLF volunteers have an up to date enhanced DBS check completed before you can begin volunteering. If you have been asked to complete an application and provide ID documents for this please ensure you do this ASAP otherwise we will not be able to put you on a Circle. Please also note that DBS checks will need to be redone every 3 years so do not be alarmed if you are asked to complete one again!

Thank You

A final thank you to all our volunteers. Your continued support means that so much is possible.



Dates for your diary

January	
Top Up Training (for all volunteers)	Tuesday 10 th 5-7pm
February	
2 Day Initial Volunteer Training	Saturday 25 th & Sunday 26 th
March	
1 Day Young People Training	Thursday 9 th 9.30-4.30
April	
Top Up Training (for all volunteers)	Tuesday 25 th 5-7pm
June	
2 Day Initial Volunteer Training	Saturday 24 th & Sunday 25 th
July	
1 Day Young People Training	Thursday 6 th 9.30-4.30
Top Up Training (for all volunteers)	Tuesday 11 th 5-7pm
October	
Top Up Training (for all volunteers)	Tuesday 3 rd 5-7pm
November	
2 Day Initial Volunteer Training	Saturday 11 th & Sunday 12 th
1 Day Young People Training	Thursday 30 th 9.30-4.30

Help us find more volunteers to prevent sexual abuse...

We are actively recruiting new Volunteers across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire to work with adults or young people convicted of a sexual offence.

We would particularly welcome applications from men or older volunteers who are currently underrepresented within our volunteer pool.

Please help us to spread the word and increase our volunteer pool.

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AND FINALLY...



There are a large number of ways people can help us...

- Are you able to promote our work and help us advertise for volunteers?
- Are you able to suggest a community venue that may be suitable for us to hold Circle meetings?
- Are you able to help us with volunteer training – either by sharing your experience as a volunteer or by talking about your professional role and its relation to our projects?
- Do you have anybody you think would benefit from our work you could refer onto us?
- Are you able to make a financial or in-kind contribution to the Charity?

If the answer to any of these questions is 'yes' please get in contact and talk to us...

Donations



Safer Living Foundation is an award winning, innovative charity, working to prevent any further victims of sexual abuse. We greatly value your support as without it we would not be able to operate – however in order to continue to provide successful projects we need further support. We would therefore welcome any donations to ensure our work continues. If you feel able to donate please visit the Virgin Money Giving website and search for the Safer Living Foundation.

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/giving>



SLF have linked up with called Give as You Live - a website which allows individuals to sign up to and select a chosen charity. Then when you shop through retailers supported by give as you live, an automatic donation is made to that chosen charity by give as you live. You dont pay any extra, all you need to do is sign up to the website here (<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/signup/choose-charity>), select the SLF as your chosen charity, and shop through the give as you live website (e.g. search for amazon on give as you live and then click through to amazon and it will track your purchase).

The SLF News moving forward

We intend to produce this newsletter on a quarterly basis with issues being distributed in January, April, July and October. Moving forward the newsletter will be structured as follows:

- Prison Circles News and Case Studies
- Community Circles News and Case Studies
- Young People's Circles News and Case Studies
- Other Project News
- Volunteers News and Case Studies
- Any other business

If anyone is interested in contributing to the next or any subsequent newsletter or would like to share their experience as a volunteer or professional involved with the Safer Living Foundation – we would love to hear from you. Please contact us.

Get in touch

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