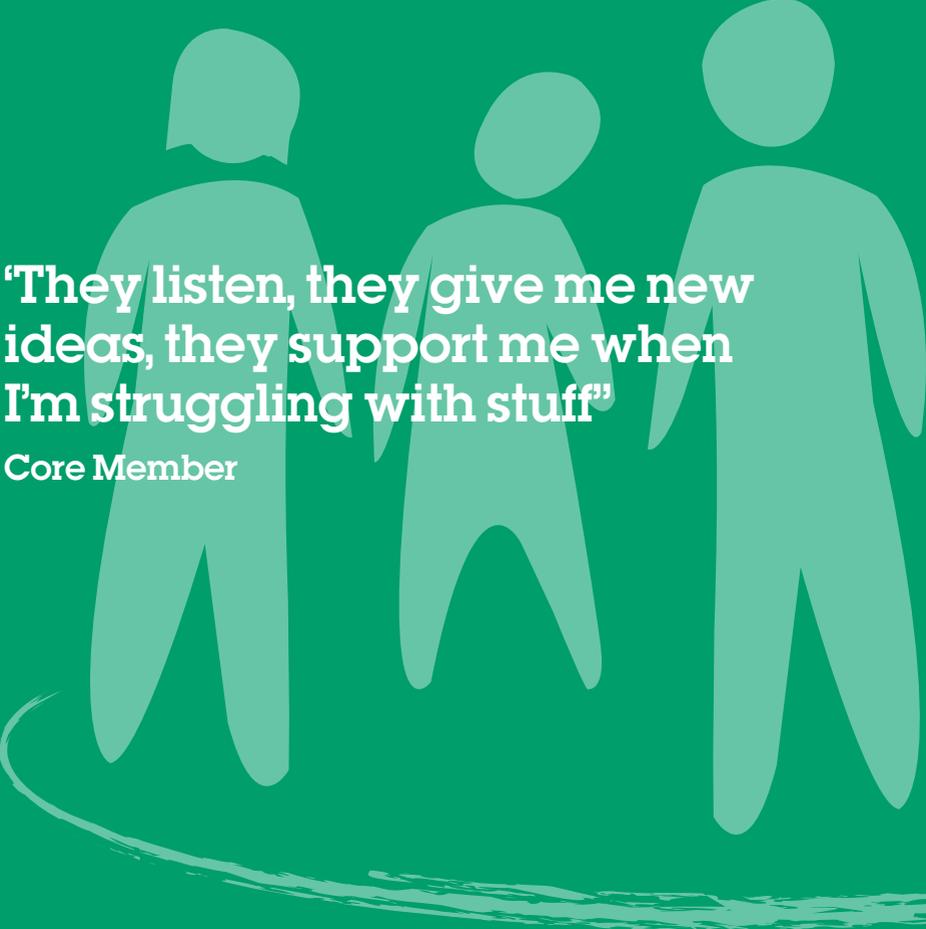


Circles of Support and Accountability
information for parents/carers



'They listen, they give me new ideas, they support me when I'm struggling with stuff'

Core Member



circles-southwest.org.uk

delivering circles of support
and accountability

Circles of Support and Accountability **information for parents/carers**

Circles South West is an independent charity established in 2010. We work in close partnership with Social Care, Health, Police, Probation and Youth Justice Services to deliver Circles of Support and Accountability across South West England.

We offer a youth service for those aged between 10 and 17 and a young adult service for those aged between 18 and 20.

How it works

A Circle consists of a young person (called a Core Member) and up to four friendly, trained community volunteers who have been told about their harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) and will help them avoid behaving in harmful ways in the future.

The Circle is there to support the Core Member and help with practical things like job interviews, completing schoolwork or filling out application forms as well engaging the young person in community activities and helping with life skills.

The Circle is also there to “hold them to account” for their behaviour and they will be encouraged to talk about their thoughts and feelings.

The meetings

The Circle meets for around an hour once a week for up to 12 months. The first meeting will be in a confidential venue and then the Circle will usually meet in a cafe or do activities such as bowling, playing pool and trampolining.

The meetings will give the young person a safe place to talk about worries, get practical support, build confidence and develop social skills. Volunteers will also monitor for risky thoughts and behaviours and report any concerns back to the Coordinator, who in turn will liaise with the partner agencies – e.g. Social Care, Youth Justice Services or Probation.

circles-southwest.org.uk

Circles of Support and Accountability information for parents/carers

Research suggests that young people who participate in a Circle are less likely to engage in future harmful sexual behaviour.

The commitment

A young person doesn't have to join a Circle. A Circle is voluntary and cannot be a condition of a Youth Community Order or Licence. The young person must want to stop behaving in ways that are harmful sexually and must be prepared for details of their harmful sexual behaviour to be shared with their Circle.

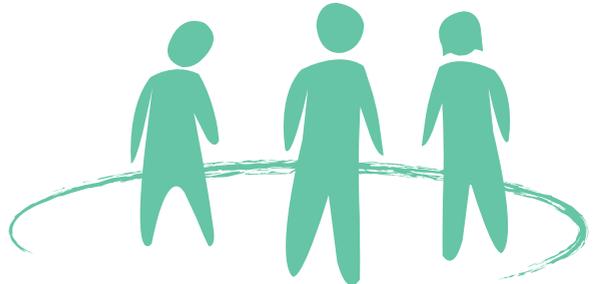
Your involvement

As a parent/carer you are expected to attend the first meeting with your young person and review meetings held every three months. We are happy to answer any questions you may have and encourage you to keep in contact with our Coordinator, who will provide support and advice.

How to join

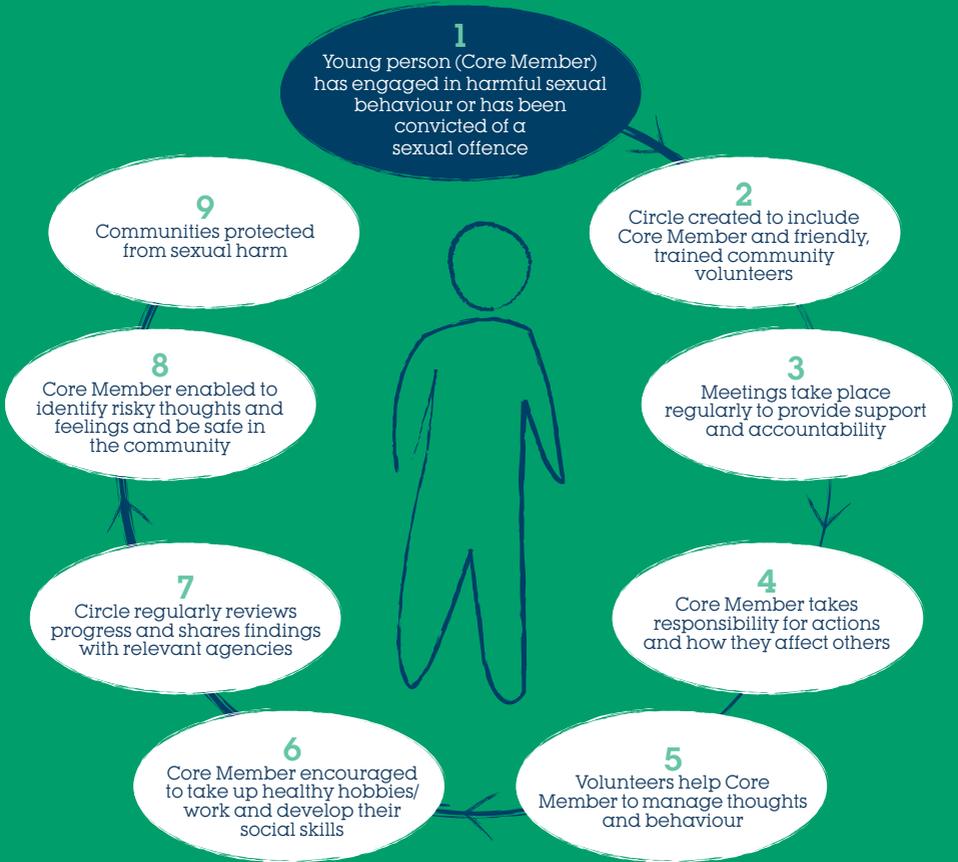
If you would like your young person to be considered for a Circle, please speak with their Social Worker, Probation Officer, or Youth Justice Worker. They will fill out a referral form and send it to us.

The Coordinator will then arrange a meeting with you, your young person and the referrer to complete an assessment. If your young person is suitable, we will begin the process of setting up a Circle as soon as possible.



Circles of Support and Accountability information for parents/carers

How Circles work



Email: info@circlessw.org.uk

Tel: 07717 442413

Avon, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset,
Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire

circles-southwest.org.uk

Registered charity no: 1138726. Company no: 07369778

**NO
MORE
VICTIMS**