

Circles of Support and Accountability
information for referrers - young people

Three stylized human figures in a circle, rendered in a light green color against a darker green background. The figures are simple, rounded shapes representing people. They are arranged in a circle, with their arms slightly out, suggesting a group or community. The background is a solid dark green.

“We see Circles of Support and Accountability as an excellent child protection and prevention initiative”

Lead on Tackling Sexual Abuse, NSPCC



circles-southwest.org.uk

delivering circles of support
and accountability

Circles of Support and Accountability information for referrers - young people

Young People's Service

Our Young People's Service accepts referrals for young people aged between 10 and 20 who have sexually offended or have displayed harmful sexual behaviour (HSB). The young person needs to accept some responsibility for their behaviour, but some level of minimisation and denial can be accommodated.

A Circle is made up of a young person and a group of three to four friendly, trained community volunteers. The purpose of the Circle is to provide a supportive social network that enables purposeful integration into the community while managing the risk of further harmful sexual behaviour.

The Circle will hold the young person to account, support positive progress and challenge the individual about inappropriate attitudes, beliefs, thoughts and feelings.

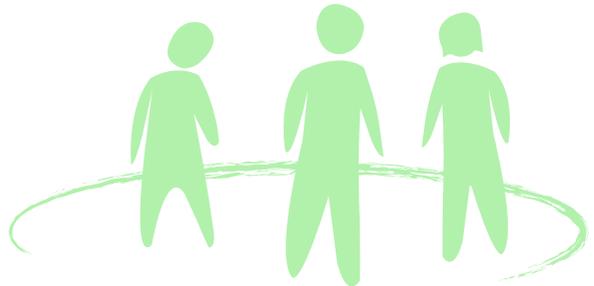
Who is it for?

The young person doesn't need to have been involved with the Criminal Justice System but should have had (or be engaging with) an intervention to address their harmful sexual behaviour. Though helpful, it is not essential for a young person to have taken full responsibility for their harmful sexual behaviour.

The Young People's Service is divided into two parts:

Youth Service: young people aged 10 to 17

The Circle will provide a supportive social network to reduce isolation, build self-esteem, and help the young person to develop social and independence skills. We welcome referrals from Social Services, Youth Justice Services, Health Services and specialist HSB services.



Circles of Support and Accountability

information for referrers - young people

Young Adults Service: young people aged 18 to 20

Circle volunteers will encourage young people to talk about their goals and concerns, and provide practical support with issues like jobs and housing. The Circle will also help the individual build confidence, develop social skills and improve emotional regulation. We welcome referrals from Probation, Social Care, residential treatment providers and Police.

How does it work?

The Circle meets for around an hour every week for up to 12 months. Each Circle will be tailored to the individual's needs and risks. Initial meetings will take place in a confidential venue. Future meetings are at local cafes or doing activities. Formal reviews, including professionals, will take place on a quarterly basis.

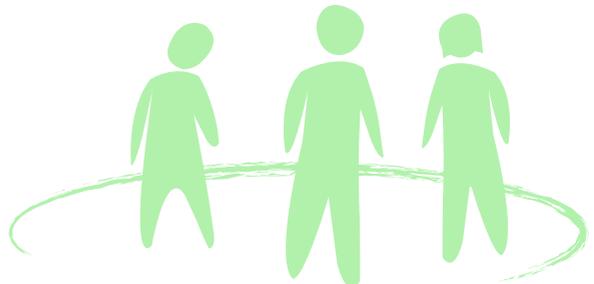
Is it mandatory?

The Circle is entirely voluntary and cannot be a condition of a Community Sentence or Licence. The young person must want to stop behaving in ways that are harmful sexually and must be prepared for details of their HSB to be shared with their Circle.

How do I refer?

If you are working with a young person you think would benefit from a Circle, please get in touch to discuss suitability, capacity and funding before completing a referral form.

Contact us at [**info@circlessw.org.uk**](mailto:info@circlessw.org.uk)



Circles of Support and Accountability

information for referrers - young people

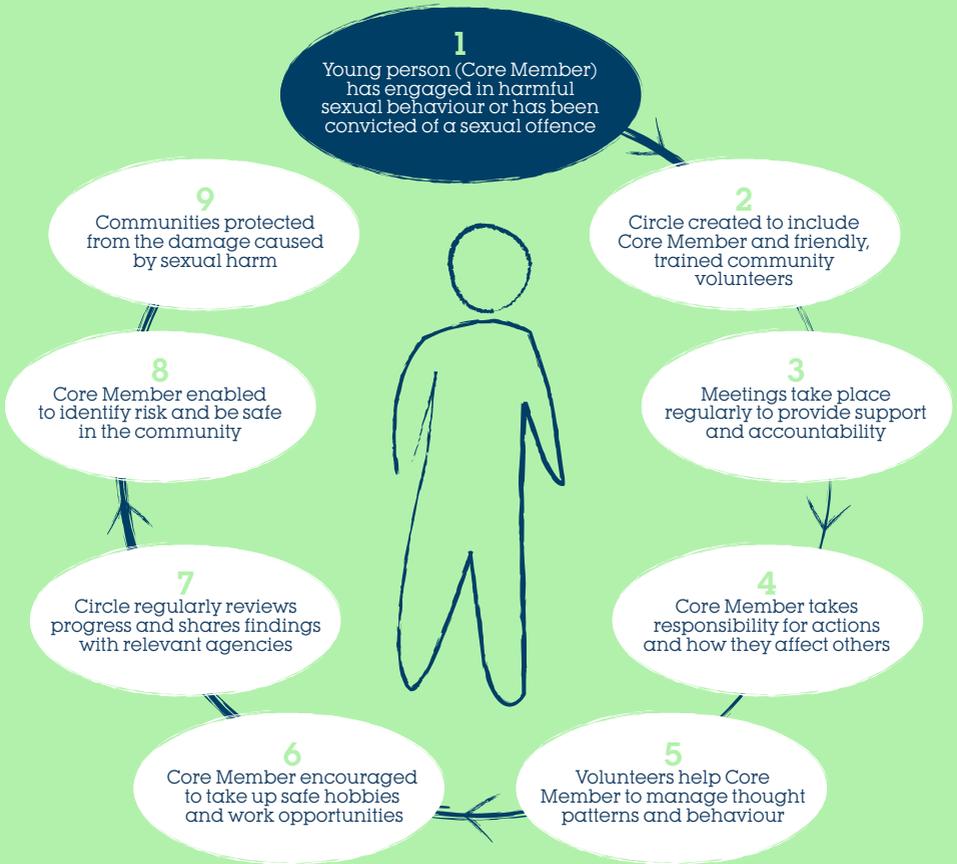
Eligibility

Offence type: sexual	Current conviction for a sexual offence or admission of causing sexual harm (can include non-contact offences).
Risk Assessment: ASSET, AIM3/Therapeutic Assessment/Psychological Assessment/OASys	<p>Must have had a recent risk assessment in relation to harmful sexual behaviour. Assessment must conclude that there is an ongoing risk of sexual harm.</p> <p>Assessments will pinpoint strengths and concerns that a Circle can positively influence.</p>
Gender	Any
Age	10 to 20 years
Attitudes & beliefs	Acknowledges that they have committed harmful sexual behaviour to some extent. Minimisation and victim blame do not preclude referral.
Status	<p>Is engaging with (or has recently completed) an intervention to address harmful sexual behaviour.</p> <p>OR is supervised by YJS / Probation / Police</p> <p>Referrals may be subject to statutory supervision by YJS / Probation and / or Police but this is not a requirement.</p>

Note: please discuss suitability with Circles South West before completing the referral form if there are presenting issues relating to mental health, learning difficulties, personality disorder, substance misuse, etc.

Circles of Support and Accountability information for referrers - young people

How Circles work



Circles of Support and Accountability information for referrers - young people

Suitability

Motivation	Committed to creating no more victims and stopping their harmful sexual behaviour.
Level of engagement	Prepared to engage with a Circle on a voluntary basis over an extended period (up to 12 months).
Situation	Living in the community. Expected placement stability for a minimum of 12 months.
Areas of need include	Sexual preoccupation Low self-esteem Lack of appropriate intimate relationships Lack of pro social network Emotional loneliness Social isolation Impulsivity Poor problem-solving Lack of education/training/employment or hobbies Complex family relationships

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