

Services for Young People with Harmful Sexual Behaviour

Circles South West provides a suite of tried and tested, trauma-informed services for children and young people (aged 10-21) with problematic and harmful sexual behaviour (HSB), including AIM3 assessments. We also offer educational workshops for young people. In addition, we provide training and workforce development for professionals.

Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA)

A 12-month community intervention for children and young people (10-20 years) delivered by a 'Circle' of 3 or 4 carefully selected and trained volunteers. Young People's Circles are for those who have come to the attention of agencies such as police, youth offending teams and/or social care for their harmful sexual behaviour and who have already received an intervention in relation to this. The Circle meets weekly for an hour and runs for around 12 months - each Circle is overseen by a professionally qualified Circle Coordinator.

Young People's Circles aim to build confidence and self-esteem through positive relationships with the Circle volunteers. Circles support young people to develop new skills and interests, provide opportunities for social interaction and support safe integration into the local community. Formal meetings and reviews involving the 'outer Circle' (Circle Coordinator, parents/carers and professionals) take place at the start and at regular intervals throughout the intervention. Information about strengths and concerns is shared between the inner and outer Circles by the Circle Coordinator.

'It has been a very positive experience for the young person, I think they have learned a lot from this support and hope that they can take the tools and advice they have learned forward' (Social Worker)

Inform Young People (IYP):

A short programme delivered on a one to-one basis with young people aged 13-21. This is a psycho-educational programme for young people in trouble with school or the police due to their technology-assisted harmful sexual behaviour (TA-HSB).

IYP is owned and Licensed by the Lucy Faithfull Foundation and Circles South West is an accredited provider of this service in South West England.

The programme comprises an assessment session plus 10 hours of intervention (up to 8 sessions) delivered by a professional facilitator or co-facilitators.

The most helpful thing about the programme according to young people:

'Having somewhere to talk about these things' 'Gaining further understanding of my offences'
'Pornography is bad for young people'

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Circles Light Intervention Programme (CLIP):

A short programme delivered on a one-to-one basis with children and young people aged 10-21. This psycho-educational programme was designed by Circles South West in response to an identified gap in services for children and young people with problematic sexual behaviour, but who are unsuitable for Inform Young People (TA-HSB). The programme comprises of an assessment session plus 10 hours of intervention (up to 8 sessions) delivered by a professional facilitator or co-facilitators.

'I'd like to also thank Circles directly as a charity - the work you are doing with people is so compassionate, gentle, kind and most importantly non intrusive (making people feel understood and not in trouble). This is so important; for people to feel acknowledged, valid, and cared about. I am certain Circles will continue to change many more lives in the future' (Parent)

Circles High Intensity Programme (CHIP):

A longer, more intensive, therapeutic intervention delivered on a one-to-one basis with children and young people aged 10-21. This psycho-educational programme was designed by Circles South West in response to an identified gap in services for children and young people with harmful sexual behaviour. The programme comprises of an assessment session plus 15-30 hours of intervention (between 10 and 25 sessions) for individuals with more complex needs and delivered by a professional facilitator or co-facilitators.

Bail Support Service for Young People (BSS):

A bespoke support package delivered on a one-to-one basis with children and young people aged 10-21 on bail for a sexual offence/s. Some young people may meet the criteria for CLIP or IYP however, a strengths focused Bail Support package that does not directly address the HSB is better placed to meet their needs. The Bail Support Service is a 'holding place' supporting positive change, with a focus on wellbeing, attitudes and values, positive relationships etc, and signposting to other agencies for specific support e.g. substance use. Bail Support begins with an assessment of need, based on the Good Lives Model, which informs a bespoke package for the individual. The programme generally comprises of 10 hours of intervention (up to 8 sessions) delivered by a professional facilitator or co-facilitators.

'The sessions have helped me to stay positive and improve my mental state' (young person)

AIM3 Assessments:

AIM3 is the most widely recognised and accepted tool for assessing the needs of young people with harmful sexual behaviour. Our specialist Young People's Service staff are qualified and experienced AIM3 assessors and work in pairs to complete their assessments of young people with HSB. Assessments involve the young person's support network (family, Social Care, Education etc) and include 3-4 face to face appointments with the young person. We can also co-assess with local AIM3 qualified professionals if preferred. After completing our assessment, a comprehensive report is prepared detailing the young person's areas of strength and concern with recommendations for intervention and support. Aligned with best practice, we provide a further 6-month review and addendum report.