



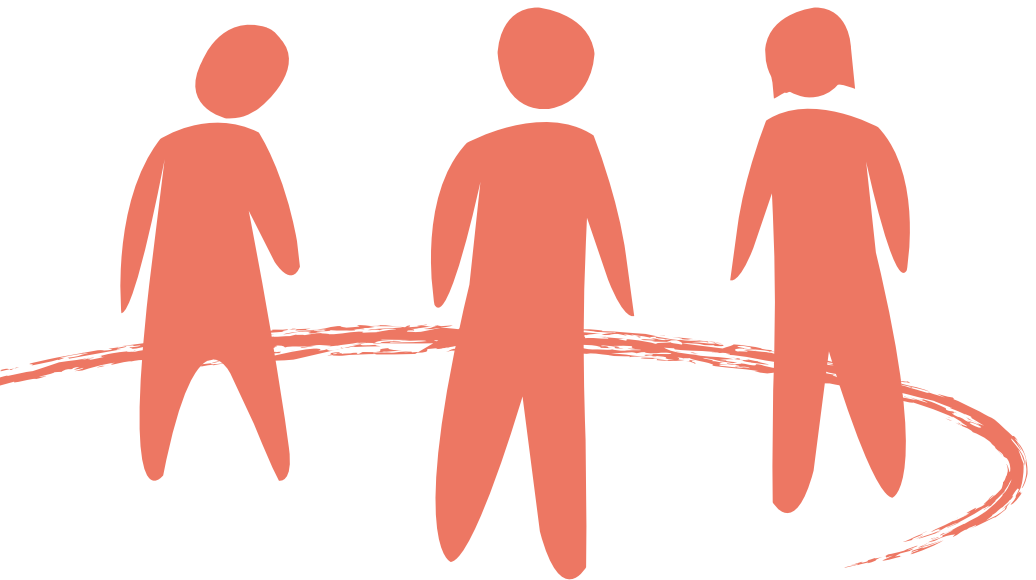
**“Circles help me keep
myself and others safe”**

Core Member



Young People's Service (under 18s)

Youth Circles are for young people aged 10-17 years who have engaged in harmful sexual behaviour and want to stop. You may be working with Be Safe, social care or the youth offending team or have just finished working with them. Youth Circles are organised by Circles South West, an independent charity established in 2010. We work with social care, health, police, probation and youth offending services to provide specialist support and accountability in the community.



How it works

A Circle consists of a Core Member (you) and up to four specially trained community volunteers. They have been told about your harmful sexual behaviour and will help you avoid behaving in harmful ways in the future. Your Circle is there to support you and help with practical things like exams, job interviews or college applications, social skills and bus travel. Your Circle will also “hold you to account”, which means that from time to time you will be encouraged to talk about your sexual thoughts and feelings.

The meetings

A Circle meets for around an hour once a week for up to 12 months. The first meeting will probably take place in a council building and, after that you will meet at a cafe or do activities such as bowling, playing pool and trampolining.

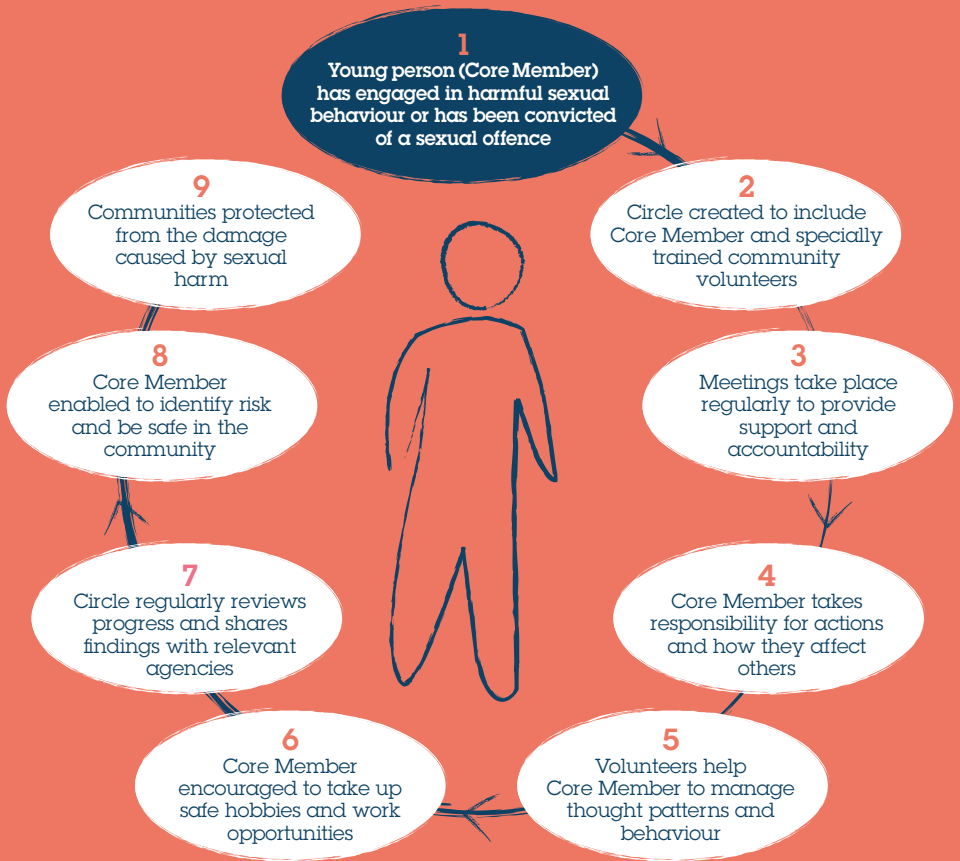
Your commitment

You don't have to join a Circle – they are voluntary, no one can make you do it and it isn't allowed to be a condition of a Community Order or Licence. However, if you do decide to join a Circle, we hope you will get a lot out of it – it's a place to talk about things that are worrying you, your hopes for the future and to get help with things that you find difficult. Our volunteers have chosen to give up their time to help young people like you build confidence and have fun.

Next steps

If you are interested in joining a circle, speak to your parent or carer and then to a professional – for example, a Be Safe worker, social worker or member of the youth offending team. They will complete a referral and send it to us, then someone from Circles South West will come and meet you and your parent/carer for a chat. If it's suitable, we will try to set up your Circle as soon as possible.

How Circles work



Email: info@circlessw.org.uk

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 @CirclesSW

Avon, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset,
Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire
www.circles-southwest.org.uk

Registered charity no: 1138726. Company no: 07369778

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VICTIMS