

CIRCLES SOUTH WEST
(A company limited by guarantee)



Trustees' Report & Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 March 2024

Company number 07369778

Registered Charity number 1138726

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FLETCHER & PARTNERS

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

SALISBURY

CIRCLES SOUTH WEST TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, submit their annual report and the financial statements of Circles South West (CSW) (the company) for the year ended 31 March 2024. The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the Charity comply with current statutory requirements¹, the requirements of the Charity's governing document, and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) - Charities SORP (FRS 102).

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	1138726 in England & Wales
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	07369778
CHARITY ADDRESS / REGISTERED OFFICE	7 Madeira Road, Bournemouth, BH1 1QL

TRUSTEE DIRECTORS *(correct at the date of signing)*

	<u>Appointed as Trustee</u>
Stephen Ashton	April 2012 (former Chair and Treasurer)
Tim Price (Secretary)	March 2015 (former Chair)
Dr Kieran McCartan (Chair)	September 2016
Chris Maynard (Treasurer)	July 2017
Stephen Barry	November 2017
Peter Estall	November 2017
Ian Keys	June 2021
Sophie Rigali (Deputy Chair)	November 2021
Marcella Mathis	May 2023
Leonie Cole	June 2021 (former Secretary) Resigned September 2023

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Jo Burden	Appointed June 2013
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ADVISERS

Independent Examiner

James Fletcher FCA, Messrs Fletcher & Partners
Crown Chambers, Bridge Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 2LZ

¹ Including the Charities Act 2011 (replaced most of Charities Act 2006 and Charities Act 1992); the Charities (Protection & Social Investment) Act 2016 which strengthens the powers of the Charities Commission; the Trustees Acts 1925 and 2000, the most recent Act concerning the powers of Trustees regarding investments and delegation; Charity Commission regulation

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank, PO Box 7193, Planetary Road, Willenhall WV1 9DG

Solicitors

Wilson, Alexandra House, St Johns Street, Salisbury SP1 2SB

CHARITY CONTACT DETAILS

Correspondence address: PO Box 163, Launceston, Cornwall, PL15 0BA

General email enquiries: info@circlessw.org.uk

Website: www.circles-southwest.org.uk

Twitter: @CirclesSW

Facebook: Circles South West

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**Governing Document and Constitution**

CSW is a charitable company limited by guarantee. It was incorporated on 8 September 2010. The company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 31 August 2010 as amended by the AGM of 8 March 2012. The Directors of the company are also the Trustees.

Governance and Management

The company (hereinafter referred to as the Trust or Charity or CSW) is governed by its Trustees who meet periodically and who act as Directors for company law purposes. The day-to-day activities are managed by the Chief Executive Officer.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

New Trustees are recruited from among people who have an interest in furthering the aims of the Charity with a view to ensuring that all the necessary competencies are represented within the Trustee body. CSW aims to have a Board of between 8 and 12 Trustees drawn from the local community with the broadest possible range of backgrounds. Expressions of interest in becoming a CSW Trustee are welcomed.

Objects of the Charity

The objects of the Charity are to relieve the needs and promote the rehabilitation, treatment, education and care of persons who have committed or are likely to commit offences, particularly sexual offences, against others and the families of such persons and others affected by such offences.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. Specifically, a reduction in sexual offending is of immeasurable benefit to those who might otherwise have become victims, to their families and communities, and to those who have been diverted from offending. As volunteers, members of the general community gain from the opportunity to play a part in preventing such offending.

SUMMARY OF MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE CHARITY IN RELATION TO ITS OBJECTS

Our Mission:

- To prevent sexual abuse by enabling local communities to support the safe integration of people who have sexually harmed
- To promote greater public understanding of community approaches to prevention, risk management and public protection.

CSW is the award winning² regional Charity that uniquely provides Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA/Circles) across South West England, an innovative community approach to reducing the risk of sexual reoffending and harmful sexual behaviour. With the vision of 'No More Victims' of sexual abuse, our primary aim is to prevent further sexual harm by adults convicted of sexual offences and young people with harmful sexual behaviour, thereby preventing the profoundly damaging consequences for victims, their families and communities.

Each Circle provides a small group of carefully selected, trained and professionally supported volunteers to work with an individual who has sexually offended. For adults this often follows a prison sentence. We also provide Circles for young people with harmful sexual behaviour. This individual becomes the 'core member' of a Circle that meets regularly to help the core member to integrate safely in the community and to lead a responsible and offence-free life.

The Circle holds the core member accountable for their continuing behaviour and is alert to any indications of risk that reoffending might occur. In this way, public safety is enhanced, the Circle acting as a safety mechanism for both the core member and the community. Circles work towards there being 'No More Victims' of sexual harm by:

- reducing social isolation and emotional loneliness as well as modelling appropriate adult relationships and demonstrating humanity and care;
- monitoring, to protect the public and increase the safety of communities;
- holding the core member accountable while developing a relationship of trust, honesty and openness
- supporting the core member's safe integration into the local community.

Complementing our core work and on a much smaller scale, we provide support services for the non-offending partners and family members impacted by an individual's sexual offending, enabling them to become 'protectors'. For example, 'Breaking the Cycle' (Licenced by Circles South East) and 'Inform' (Licenced by the Lucy Faithfull Foundation).

² 2019 Robin Corbett Award for Prisoner Re-integration and 2020 Howard League Community Award Commendation (Children in Care and Care Leavers' category)

In more recent years we have grown our provision for young people that now spans preventative work in schools to a suite of direct services for young people with problematic and harmful sexual behaviour (including Inform Young People, licenced by the Lucy Faithfull Foundation).

We also provide some training for professionals working with people who have sexually harmed and consultancy support for organisations. This transfer of knowledge and expertise has contributed to our reputation as a trusted provider of training and consultancy in our specialist field, with a business model that reinvests income generated into our core services.

Relationships with Other Bodies

CSW works within the structures of the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and closely with the Responsible Authority – police, probation and prison services. The Charity also works alongside other agencies who have a ‘duty to cooperate’, including health, youth offending services, social care and local education authorities working together to prevent further sexual harm.

CSW is an accredited member of Circles UK, the body responsible to the government (Ministry of Justice) for embedding national standards for the provision of CoSA, undertaking regular Provider ‘Code of Practice Compliance Reviews’ that assess compliance with national standards. Our most recent Compliance Review was in June 2023³ when CSW achieved the very high score of 95.4% compliance against national standards i.e. the ‘Code of Practice for Circles of Support & Accountability v5 Nov 2022’ and the ‘Code of Practice for Young People’s Circles of Support & Accountability v2 April 2023’ (pass rate 80%).

³ Code of Practice Review Report dated 7 August 2023, Circles UK

ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE

We are proud to look back on 2023-24 as another successful year in which we have continued to deliver our core service alongside complementary provision. Importantly we have remained true to our mission to the benefit of service users, local communities, and to our partner agencies, never losing sight of our vision of 'No More Victims' of sexual abuse. As a small-to-medium sized charity working in the criminal justice arena, we must continually respond to a changing environment which includes significant external pressures. This means adapting to policy changes; to various compliance requirements; to the challenges of income generation; to the increasingly complex needs of service users; and to attracting and retaining quality staff and volunteers who make the work possible. This year we have focused on:

- Services: to enhance impact we have broadened our services; developed new working alliances; accessed alternative income sources; grown complementary services to our core work. We have continued to refine and develop our fee-earning training and consultancy offer for professionals, thereby generating unrestricted funds to re-invest into our core services.
- Human Resources: to ensure the most agile and effective use of our staff resource we have embedded the staff structure and have usefully deployed managerial skills. In line with our values we have become a Real Living Wage Employer. To meet the increased demand for volunteers we have refreshed our volunteer recruitment strategy, investing additional resources into volunteer recruitment and retention. We have maintained our commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), continuing with the roll-out of EDI awareness training for all staff and volunteers and introducing this as a core training module for all new volunteers.
- Infrastructure development: to ensure contract readiness and standards compliance we have continued to invest in more sophisticated cyber security measures; we have become Cyber Essentials Plus certified which goes beyond the basic requirements of current customers and the Code of Practice for Circles of Support and Accountability. Thanks to the generous support of Lloyds Bank Foundation Enhance programme, Hope and May has undertaken a full data protection audit and we have undertaken the identified remedial work, updating related policies and our Privacy Notice in the process.
- Evaluation: to demonstrate that what we do works, we have continued to robustly monitor our work, published independent evaluation and raised profile by promoting outcomes.
- Strategic Planning: to inform the next iteration of the charity's strategic plan we have held a series of workshops with staff and trustees.

We are entirely invested in ensuring that we attract and retain the right staff, volunteers and trustees and that they have the necessary knowledge and skills to contribute effectively to CSW's development and provision. Recruiting suitably skilled and experienced staff is increasingly challenging and we are dedicating significant and increasing resources to attract, recruit and retain sufficient suitable volunteers.

We remain focused on delivering creative solutions and responding to changing needs in a challenging environment, at all times working towards our vision of 'No More Victims' of sexual abuse.

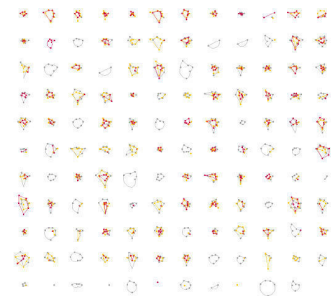
2023-24 HIGHLIGHTS

INDEPENDENT EVALUATION Presentation at Nota Annual Conference of 5 year independent evaluation of 131 Circles by Research in Practice



An evaluation of Circles of Support and Accountability delivered by Circles South West between 2017 and 2022

February 2023



research
in practice

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Between 2017 and 2022 [Research in Practice](#) evaluated 131 Circles provided by Circles South West. The findings were presented at the Nota Annual Conference in May 2023 by Research in Practice, the independent evaluator.

The final report (2023) is very positive, demonstrating the statistically significant impact of Circles in reducing dynamic risk over the life of Circles.

The full report is on our website at the link below and the findings are summarised later in this report:

[CSW CoSA 5 year Evaluation by Reseach in Practice Feb23](#)



MOJ COSA CONTRACT: Circles of Support and Accountability for South West Probation

Procured via the Probation Services Dynamic Framework, contract award was notified in November 2022, mobilisation from March 2023 and contract commencement June 2023. This contract of 2 + 2 years is welcomed as the first Probation funding CSW has received for more than 5 years. It specifically procures CoSA for People on Probation convicted of sexual offences who are assessed by His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) as very high or high risk of serious harm (ROSH), medium-very high risk of re-offending and who have at least 15 months remaining on their Licence or Order.

PODCAST Breaking the Cycle: Emily's Story

Emily was a participant of the Breaking the Cycle⁴ group programme we facilitated in Bristol in 2023. In this podcast she talks about her experience of 'The Knock' and the benefits of the group programme

[Circles SW Podcast 3 - YouTube](#)



⁴ CSW is Licenced to deliver Breaking the Cycle by Circles South East

COSA COMPLIANCE REVIEW

Circles UK conducted a Compliance Review in June 2023 when CSW achieved the very high score of 95.4% compliance against national standards⁵ (pass rate 80%).



VOLUNTEER PORTAL



Launched to coincide with Sexual Violence and Sexual Abuse Awareness Week in February 2024, our new Volunteer Portal houses policies, procedures, template forms and useful information for CoSA Volunteers.

INFORM PLUS INDEPENDENT EVALUATION

CSW is licenced by the Lucy Faithful Foundation to deliver the Inform Plus groupwork programme. We provided Inform Plus in Devon and Cornwall for men convicted of downloading indecent images of children and who were living in the community with very little support apart from being managed by a police officer. Funded by NOTA and conducted by independent evaluator Research in Practice, the evaluation was published in 2023. It demonstrated that participants of Inform Plus showed reduced risk of reoffending, as measured in improvements to protective factors and the mitigation of risk factors for criminal internet behaviours. CSW was invited to present the findings of the evaluation at NOTA Annual Conference in May 2024.

“Inform Plus has a consistent positive impact on participants [men convicted of IIOC] by enhancing protective factors, which reduce the risk of future offending via improved social networks and personal resources, as well as by mitigating risk factors for criminal behaviour” Research in Practice

Download the full report here [Inform-Plus-Report-Final-Sept23.pdf \(circles-southwest.org.uk\)](https://circles-southwest.org.uk/Inform-Plus-Report-Final-Sept23.pdf)

⁵ i.e. ‘Code of Practice for Circles of Support & Accountability v5 Nov 2022’ and the ‘Code of Practice for Young People’s Circles of Support & Accountability v2 April 2023

CIRCLES LITE INTERVENTION PROGRAMME (CLIP)

In response to need and demand, our Young People's Team have developed a new 121 intervention for young people with problematic or harmful sexual behaviour, initially piloting this in Dorset. This has been well received and we are now rolling out to other areas.

OPERATIONS

Our core offer and primary service is Circles of Support and Accountability. Complementary provision has this year included:

- Educational workshops: in schools for Years 10 and 11 – interactive preventative workshops e.g. ‘consent and the law’
- Inform Young People: 121 intervention for young people in trouble with school or police for problematic online behaviour (Licenced as Approved Provider by the Lucy Faithfull Foundation)
- CLIP (Circles Lite Intervention Programme): 121 intervention for young people with problematic or lower level harmful sexual behaviour - CSW designed and piloted in response to demand
- Breaking the Cycle: groupwork (and individual) programme for non-offending partners (Licenced as Approved Provider by Circles South East)
- Training and consultancy for professionals who work with people who have sexually harmed.

The first part of this section focuses on Circles, followed by short summaries on the above-stated provision.

Circles of Support and Accountability

In 2023-24, we coordinated 49 Circles. 25 (51%) of those Circles were newly established in year (since April 2023) with the other 24 (49%) starting before end-March 2023 and straddling the current and previous year.

We coordinated Circles in all five police areas in the South West region, comprising ‘standard’ community Circles for adults, prison/through the gate Circles, Circles for young people (10 years plus), Circles for adults with intellectual disabilities and Reboot Circles⁶

Core Member Diversity⁷

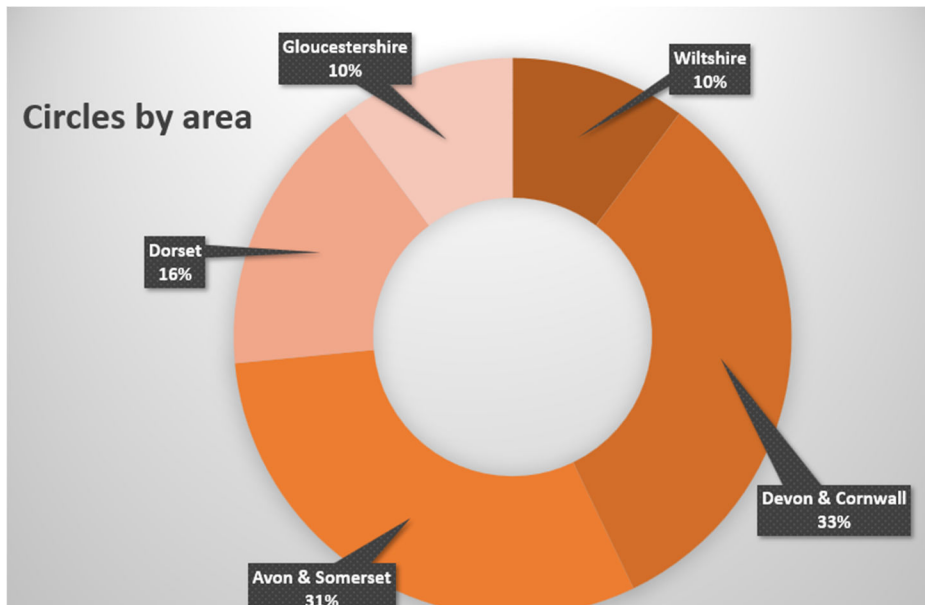
Core members complete a diversity monitoring form at the beginning of their Circle. In terms of gender, 1 core member was recorded as female and 4 (8%) core members as other (i.e. non-binary or intersex). 96% of core members were recorded as white British and 4% ‘mixed (any background)’. 53% said they had a disability as defined by the Equality Act 2010 (up from 40% the preceding year). 65% were recorded as heterosexual and 24% gay, lesbian or bisexual. At the point they were allocated to a Circle, core members were between 13 years old and 78 years old, including 10% young people under 18 years old.

⁶ Reboot Circles is a shorter Circle (3-6 months), specifically designed for adults (low to medium risk with high need) convicted of online offences involving indecent images of children.

⁷ Using diversity monitoring categories defined by Circles UK

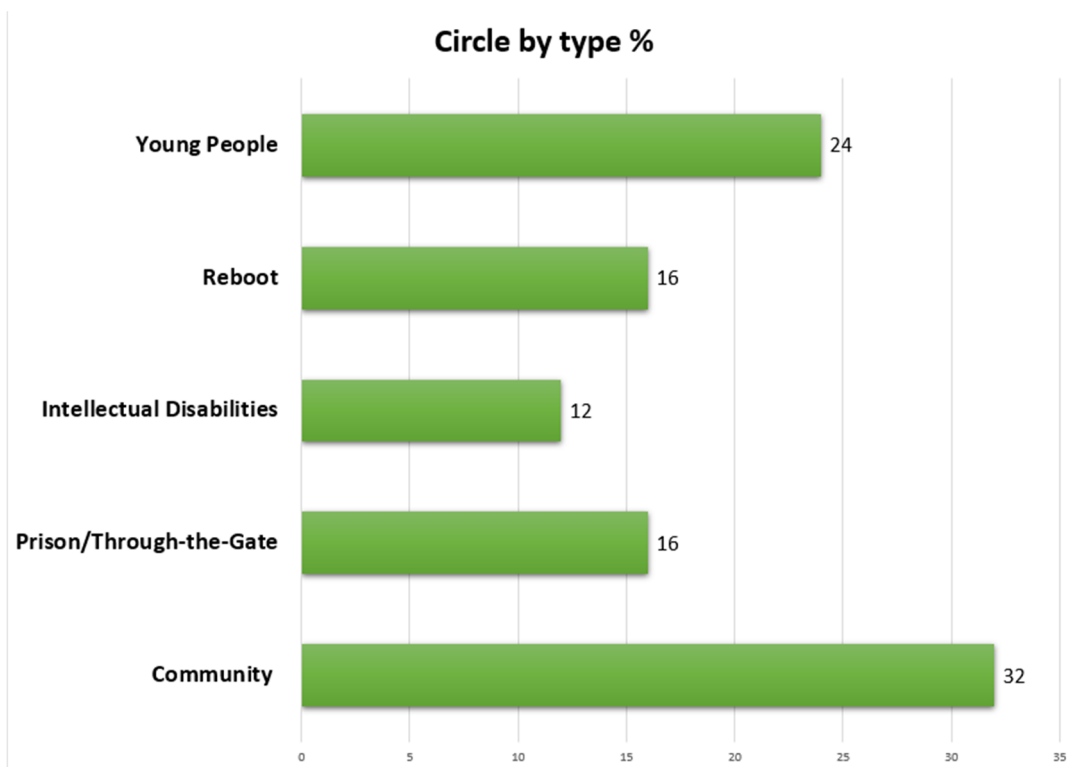
Number of Circles by area

Similarly to previous years, 33% of all Circles were located in Avon and Somerset and 31% in Devon and Cornwall.



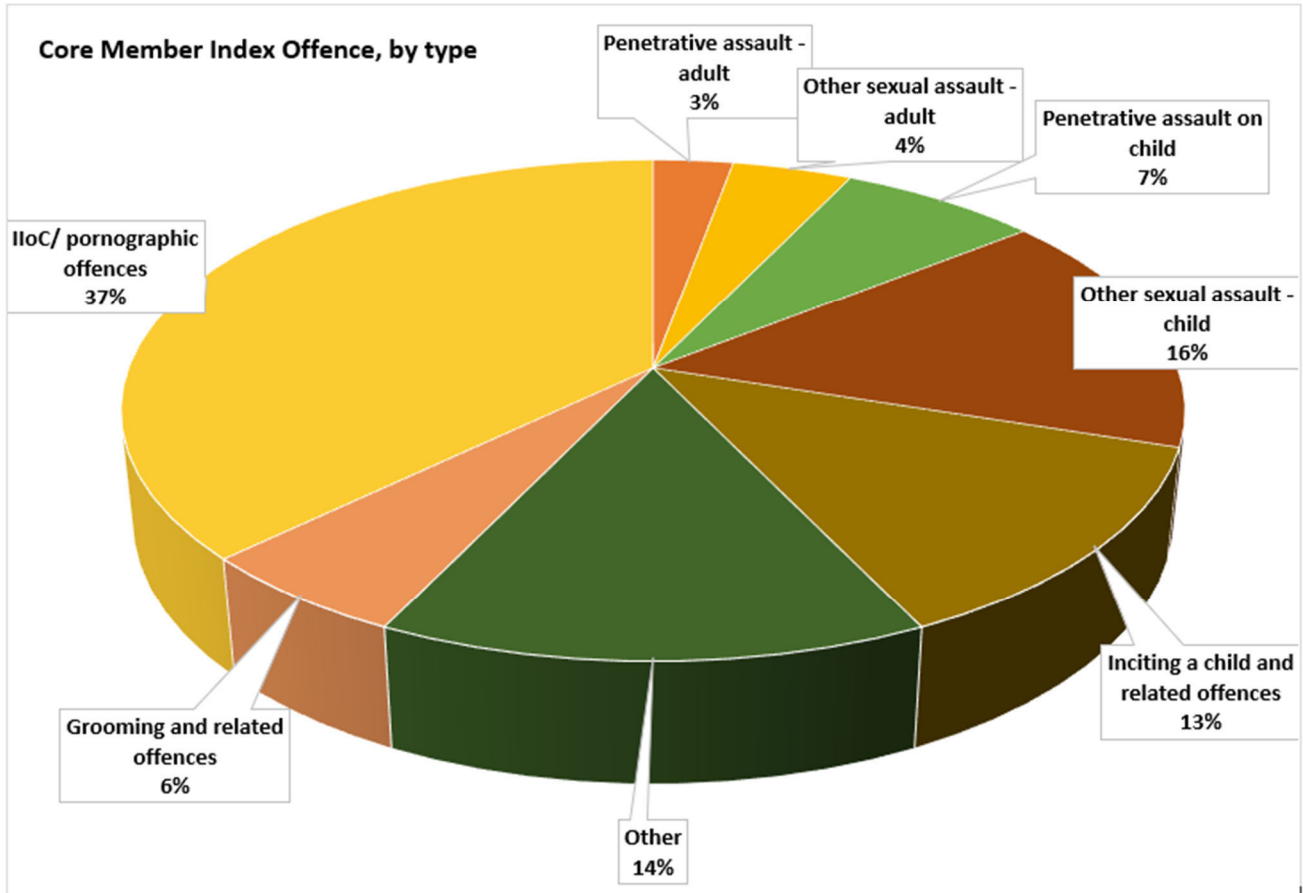
Number of Circles by type

A third were 'standard' community Circles for adults and a quarter Circles for young people.



Index Offences

For the purposes of the summary presented below, the 'index offence' is defined as the last sexual offence for which the core member was convicted, in most cases the offence(s) for which the most recent sentence was imposed. Some core members were convicted of more than 1 category.



Most of our younger core members (U18) had not been convicted in relation to their harmful sexual behaviour. The majority of this cohort had been involved in intra-familial abuse, and specifically sibling sexual abuse.

Note on the incidence of Sibling Sexual Abuse: as at April 23, we had coordinated 41 Young Person's Circles, for 40 young people:

- 23/40 (57.5%) include at least some element of sibling sexual abuse
- 12/40 (30%) are known victims of sexual abuse
- 5/40 (12.5%) are suspected victims of sexual abuse though no evidence or disclosure

Prevention Orders

22% of core members were on licence at the point of referral whilst 53% of core members were subject to a Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO).

Outcomes: Circles of Support & Accountability

28 Circles closed in 2023-24. Of these, 22 (79%) ran their natural course with an average active period of 13.5 months (Circles Reboot 4.25 months).

6 Circles closed earlier than planned:

- 3 closed at between months 1 and 5 as the CM withdrew consent
- 1 CM moved out of the area 7 months into her Circle
- 1 CM arrested after first Circle meeting and remanded in custody for new sexual offences
- 1 Circle was discontinued due to CM problematic drug use

"I view Circles as a kind of 'bridge': not too sympathetic, as family can sometimes be. Not completely risk averse, as probation can sometimes appear to be. Simply a bunch of normal people who are genuinely supportive, providing me a safe place to seek advice & guidance, to give me a gentle nudge here and there.....It's really hard to express how valuable this has been for me. Without the support of my Circle, life would be a whole lot more difficult." Core Member

Independent Evaluation

research
in practice

"Circles of Support and Accountability are an important part of a community-led, strengths-based and restorative approach to reducing the risk of future sexual abuse." Research in Practice

For the 5 years between 2017-2022, [Research in Practice](#) independently evaluated CoSA, with ethics approval from His Majesty's Prison & Probation Service (HMPPS) National Research Committee (NRC). The full final report was published in 2023. It can be downloaded at this link [CSW CoSA 5 year Evaluation by Research in Practice Feb23](#) and the findings are summarised below (excerpt from Blog by Lead Researcher, 2023):

The evaluation highlights the statistically significant impact of CoSA in reducing dynamic risk factors associated with sexual recidivism over the life of a CoSA, including sexual interests, offence related attitudes, relationships and self-management. Dynamic risk is impacted by protective factors such as employment and accommodation status, community connectivity and involvement in positive activities as well as risk factors such as social isolation and emotional loneliness, all of which are addressed by CoSA. Data for each Circle is collected at multiple time points, using multiple tools and from multiple stakeholders, providing a comprehensive data set.

Methodology

Understanding the effectiveness of circles presents a challenge to research given (1) the complexity of sexual offending and the varying underlying causes, and (2) the difficulty of collecting the required quantity of reliable evidence. To address these challenges, the evaluation looked at previous research into circles and other restorative approaches, the existing data available, and Research in Practice worked with Circles South West stakeholders to develop a clear evaluation plan.

Both new and existing data sources were used, including: routine data collection; risk reviews of the core

members; bespoke questionnaires designed by Research in Practice; and a range of validated psychometric tools relating to wellbeing and loneliness. Over 5 years, the evaluation looked at 131 circles, of which 65 circles were 'complete' in an evaluation sense (contributing data at the start, middle and end of the circle). The dataset included 1750 completed questionnaires from a variety of stakeholders including coordinators, core members, volunteers and parents/carers (for the young person circles).

To analyse the data collected, a custom computer programme was written. This allocated thousands of individual questions and answers against a framework related to dynamic risk developed by the evaluation in partnership with Circles South West coordinators, volunteers and stakeholders.

Findings

The research highlighted several key findings, the foremost of which was that in over three quarters of circles, the core member made progress in areas of their dynamic risk. These included improvements in wellbeing, loneliness, social support, careful decision making and managing thoughts and behaviours. For example, in standard circles, 85% reported improved wellbeing: this rose to 92% in circles for those leaving prison. In standard circles, 80% reported improved careful decision making, while 93% of circles for people with intellectual disabilities reported improved management of thoughts and behaviour. The young person circles reported 76% improved management of thoughts and behaviour, with 93% of parents and carers reporting reduction in perceived risk. Qualitative feedback from core members highlighted the differences that circles made to their lives, including giving them a space to talk openly and improving their confidence to engage in pro-social behaviours. The full report and research summaries are available on the Circles South West website (as per the above link).

As well as the impact that CSW volunteers have had on core members' lives and risk of reoffending / further harmful sexual behaviour, the evaluation also highlighted the contribution to the local economy through the many hours of direct and indirect volunteering time through circle meetings, planning, and training. As well as the financial value (estimated at between £45,000 and £81,000 per year to the local economy), the evaluation identified that volunteers supported their own professional and personal development, such as attaining skills relevant for their work in probation and psychology. This group of volunteers represents a community asset in terms of their experience and skills in restorative work with offenders and their strengths-based approach to prevent further offending.

The data were also analysed to investigate a challenging area of reliability in criminological research: *how can we trust that the responses of people at risk of offending are a reliable marker of ongoing risk?* Evaluation data showed that the responses to questionnaires from different stakeholders were broadly in agreement with each other across a range of different categories of risk, meaning that the responses of core members in their questionnaires were generally corroborated by the volunteers who worked with them and the professional coordinators. Research in Practice also found a strong positive correlation between an externally validated loneliness questionnaire (the UCLA Loneliness Scale; Hughes et al., 2004) and several other factors of risk, suggesting that self-reported loneliness is a useful indicator of wider dynamic risk. In summary, Research in Practice states that Circles are a really important part of the wider system, providing community led, strengths-based, restorative approaches to reducing sexual harm in communities.

Conclusion

This evaluation is one of the largest single evaluations of the CoSA approach, particularly in terms of the volume of data collected and analysed. It demonstrates not only the value of circles in the South West of

England, but also the dedication of CSW to evidence informed practice. This research did not carry out randomised trials or quasi-experimental methods, due to limitations in access to the wider offending data required. However, using a mixed methods approach, the evaluation of Circles South West has clearly shown the value of CoSA to core members and local communities, as well as contributing to the evidence base of CoSA more widely, including on suitable evaluation approaches in this space.

“Circles provide a source of positive support, particularly when other support might have fallen away... due to core members’ challenging behaviour, their past actions, or their own difficulties with self-esteem and well-being... The circle presents a reliable and consistent structure in their lives that has shown to be supportive in establishing longer term and more permanent changes” Research in Practice

“Partners in prison, probation and youth services have a positive view of this work, and CSW are complementing wider work in the criminal justice sector. CoSA are an important part of a community-led, strengths-based and restorative approach to reducing the risk of future sexual abuse” Research in Practice

Case Studies

CASE STUDY (1) YP – young person

YP, a 17 year old young man, was referred to Circles from a specialist therapeutic residential placement for young men with harmful sexual behaviour (HSB). He had completed a two year intervention and was returning to live with family. YP had previously engaged in a number of incidents of HSB with vulnerable same aged peers.

YP was adopted aged two following significant trauma and neglect. He had diagnoses of ADHD and Autistic Spectrum Disorder and a history of self-harm.

Circle action plan: help develop YP’s independence skills; help develop YP’s social / relationship skills; support YP to engage with College; help YP avoid further HSB.

The Circle comprised 4 volunteers, (three females and one male) and ran for 12 months. Overall the volunteers contributed 105 hours of direct contact time with YP and 124 hours of indirect time for travel, training and supervision. Most weeks the Circle met at cafes and at other times the Circle engaged in activities such as bowling and mini golf. They met on 32 occasions, plus reviews with the Coordinator and Outer Circle.

Initially YP struggled with relationships at college and at home. The Circle worked hard to develop positive relationships with YP. They caught the bus with him to Circle meetings, helping him develop independence skills, confidence and self-esteem. The Circle supported YP to join a gym and encouraged healthy eating. The Circle Coordinator collaborated with YP and professionals to develop a Safety Plan., supporting YP’s adherence to this.

By the end of the Circle, YP had successfully completed College and was planning to return next term. His parents noted a more positive outlook and improvements with improved emotional management and apologising when he got things wrong. YP had made a good friend at college and was confident using buses.

YP’s mother said: *‘We are very grateful to the Circle for all their input over the past year. We feel that YP has benefited greatly from the experience – particularly in regard to managing relationships’.*

CASE STUDY (2) CM (adult)

CM was a serving prisoner at an open prison when his prison offender manager spoke to him about CoSA having seen a presentation about our prison/through the gate Circles.

CM (63 years) was sentenced to 8 years imprisonment for (historic) offences of indecent assault and gross indecency committed against his 7 year old daughter (she disclosed the offences in her 20's). Prior to these matters coming to light, he and his then wife had divorced and he had moved to a new area. He had remarried and had another child. Following his arrest and subsequent sentence, his second wife divorced him and stopped contact with his young daughter. He suffered with periods of depression and severe anxiety whilst in prison and attempted suicide on one occasion. He was to be released to an Approved Premises and, due to geographical exclusions, to an area unknown to him and he had no support at all from any friends or family. He was assessed as posing a high risk of serious harm to children and there were concerns he might attempt to contact his second wife and child. He was to be managed at Level 2 MAPPA on release due to multi agency involvement.

CM was formally referred to CSW for a Circle by his Probation Officer who identified areas of need as low self-esteem, lack of a pro social network, emotional loneliness and social isolation, factors which all contribute to increasing risk of further offending. His mental state was a concern, as was the fact that he had lost everything on conviction and now needed to rebuild his life from scratch, once released. He would be subject to Licence Conditions and Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO) prohibitions, impacting on where he could live, where he could work, what hobbies he could pursue and requiring him to disclose to any potential partner his offending history. It was considered that a prison/through the gate Circle would both support him and hold him to account in the difficult transition from custody to the community and the challenges that lay ahead.

CM met with his Circle volunteers in the prison and was clearly very keen to engage. However, there were concerns that he did not really appreciate that life as a Registered Sex Offender was going to be much harder than he imagined - he had always been employed, had his own home, family and friends about him. The prison Circle meetings focused on his hopes and expectations for the future and looking at how realistically this could be achieved. As a determinate prisoner, he was not eligible for release on temporary licence to the Approved Premises prior to his release, so would not have the opportunity to engage incrementally into the community. He subsequently would say how important it was to have met the volunteers prior to release so he would know someone outside the prison establishment who he could talk to and trust. He knew the volunteers were aware of the details of his offences so he had nothing to hide.

On release, the volunteers met with him weekly for several months before reducing to fortnightly for the remaining term. CM found rebuilding his life much harder than anticipated and whilst trying to stay positive, at times presented in low mood, anxious, angry and frustrated. He was encouraged to talk about feelings, which he had not been able to do in the past and this had contributed to problems in relationships. As he began to do this, he would say how important being able to do so in a situation where he felt safe helped him to begin building relationships outside his Circle. He started to engage in appropriate hobbies and helped others living in the Approved Premises with literacy. Volunteers supported him in applying for work and dealing with the knock backs. His move from the Approved

Premises to independent accommodation raised concerns again about isolation and his health and meetings focussed on how he was spending his time, how he was coping with living alone and managing feelings about not being allowed contact with his younger child and the lifetime damage he knew he had done to his older child. He clearly valued the 'friendship' and care he felt from the volunteers and described them as his 'parachute'. He went on to obtain work, a huge step forward providing a structure, contact with others, an income and rebuilding self-esteem.

Most of the 38 Circle meetings were formal meetings with occasional meetings in a café and shared meals. He particularly valued this, giving him the confidence to engage more in his own local community.

CM's Circle ended after 18 months of contact during which the 4 volunteers gave 110 direct volunteering hours and 164 indirect volunteering hours. At the final review held with his Probation Officer, the regard he had for his volunteers and their freely given time to spend with him was very apparent. They had clearly contributed to supporting him in the identified area of need and he had complied fully with Licence and SHPO conditions and had stayed committed to maintaining an offence free life. He spoke highly of the Circle, particularly in supporting him from prison, to supported accommodation, to independent living. His Probation Officer echoed his thoughts and believed that the time and support the Circle volunteers had been able to give made an immense difference in his successful transition through these key stages.

"I know the CM found it very beneficial for the Circle to start prior to his release and the Circle helped ease his transition back into the community. Excellent support offered, thank you!" Probation Officer

"I wasn't sure what I was expecting to start off with, but I was surprised about how passionate I felt about being part of a support network for our core member as he didn't have one. So rewarding to see his progress since his release" Volunteer

"It's good to be able to be open and talk about my feelings on a regular basis. It would be nice for it to carry on for a bit longer. The Circle has been really helpful, has given me a lot of good feedback, motivating me to carry on" Core Member

Complementary Services

Breaking the Cycle

Licensed by Circles South East, CSW is the Approved Provider of this 10 session (10 week) programme for 'non-offending partners' in South West England, specifically for women with children whose current or ex-partner has sexually offended against children. Complementing the statutory child protection process, it is designed to enhance children's safety. As well as a groupwork programme it can also be delivered for individual women. Funded by Sir James Reckitt Charity, we delivered a Bristol group that completed in June 23 plus a couple of 121 programmes. This intervention has been extremely well received by the women who have engaged and we are keen to secure funding to be able to provide this service ongoing as a complementary core service – see 'Podcast' within the highlights section above.

Inform Young People

Inform Young People is a psycho-educational programme delivered on an individual basis for 13-21 year olds (up to 25 years for people with additional needs) involved in technology-assisted harmful sexual behaviour (TA-HSB). CSW is licensed by the Lucy Faithfull Foundation to provide Inform Young People in South West England.

Circles Lite Intervention Programme (CLIP)

New for 2023-24 is CLIP, a psycho-educational programme delivered on an individual basis for 10-20 year olds (up to 25 years for those with additional needs) involved in lower-level Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) or Problematic Sexual Behavior (PSB). Our CSW Young People's Team has designed, developed and piloted this new intervention in response to need and demand.

Educational Workshops

We continue to provide preventative interactive workshops with groups of young people (Years 10/11) in schools and youth groups e.g. 'consent and the law'.

Training and Consultancy (workforce development)

For professionals we provide training and consultancy support around working with people who have sexually harmed including:

- 1 day open access courses
- Bespoke training designed to meet organisational need
- Professional group supervision
- Individual non-line management supervision.

Since April 2023 commissioned training and consultancy has included:

- Catch22 (Year 2) contract via the Probation Service Dynamic Framework to provide workforce development programme for staff delivering on the Personal Wellbeing contract, including a series of training and workshops over the year. This is provided in partnership with Circles South East

- Dorset Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner commissioned multi-agency training for professionals around working with young people with harmful sexual behaviour
- Plymouth City Council with the University of the West of England commissioned a community prevention service Feasibility Study for adults with an enduring sexual attraction to children
- Circles UK commissioned professional mentoring support for new Circles Providers

We have also provided specialist RSVP (Risk for Sexual Violence Protocol) assessments for Social Services. RSVP is a validated risk assessment tool that follows the structured professional judgement approach to the assessment and management of sexual violence. It assists in the formulation of plans to reduce or manage the risk of sexual offending that an individual may present.

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

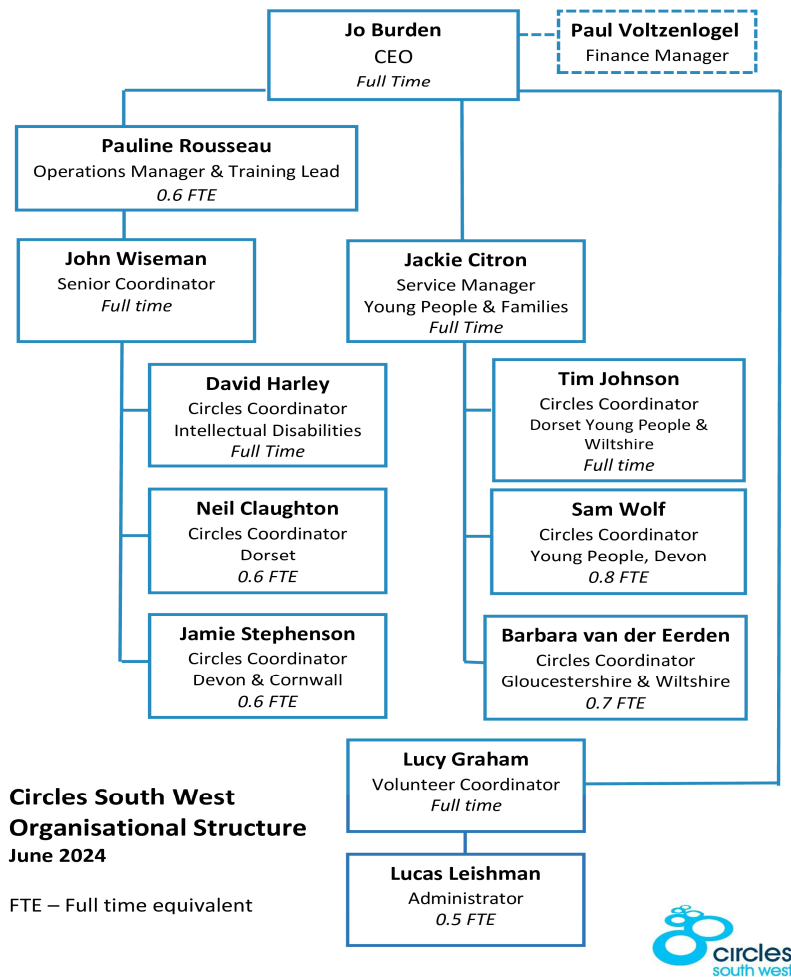
“Keep up the fantastic work, our community needs you. We are grateful”⁸

Alison Hernandez, Police & Crime Commissioner for Devon & Cornwall

STAFF

Our exceptionally skilled and dedicated staff bring extensive combined experience of probation, MAPPA, social work, police, prisons, treatment programmes, working with harmful sexual behaviour, youth justice, learning disabilities, crime prevention and volunteering across the statutory and voluntary sectors. The trustees are grateful to the staff for their wholehearted commitment to the work.

Reflecting our core values, CSW became a Real Living Wage Employer in late 2023, adjusting our salary bandings accordingly with effect from January 2024. The ‘staff well-being’ package introduced a few years back continues to be well received; this includes ‘emotional well-being’ support from an independent counsellor, away days and a rewards and benefit platform.



⁸ Via Twitter

VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are the life-blood of our Charity: they do not simply support Circles, they are Circles. Their ongoing dedication to protecting communities from sexual harm is exceptional. 191 volunteers were involved in the 49 Circles coordinated during the year, contributing between them a conservative estimate of around 5000 hours volunteering time⁹. A conservative estimate of the value in-kind that our volunteers have contributed this year is around £82,900¹⁰. At the end of 2023-24 we had 177 retained, trained volunteers across the region.

Volunteering Hours

Individual volunteering hours are recorded for each individual volunteer in every Circle:

- *Direct volunteering* involves contact between the volunteer and core member.
- *Indirect volunteering* involves Circle work when the core member is not present, such as training and supervision.

Independent evaluation over a significant period indicates that on average volunteers conduct 227 hours per Circle which equates to £3756 per Circle¹⁰

Volunteering Experience

Over many years, evaluation has demonstrated that our Circles volunteers are overwhelmingly positive about their experiences with CSW. Volunteers' feedback presents a positive picture of volunteering with CSW describing how organisational values align with those of the individual, providing vital support from the community, helping rehabilitate people who have committed sexual offences and furthering the goal of No More Victims. Many started volunteering as a result of wanting to prevent offending in their communities and to help marginalised core members to lead more positive lives. Many also see a benefit in volunteering as a way of strengthening their own skills and developing experience in working with offenders, such as those hoping to work in forensic psychology and probation. The training they receive from CSW is highly commended and the majority feel well prepared for their circle. Although relationships with core members sometimes take time to develop, volunteers mainly speak of positive and respectful relationships with core members, which enable meaningful work in the circle. Almost all our volunteers say that they will volunteer again in the future, and would recommend volunteering with CSW to a friend.

As an organisation CSW is described as "*supportive*", "*friendly*", "*professionally run*", "*remarkably able*", "*efficient*" and "*well organised*", with an important mission. It was felt to be making a difference. It is considered welcoming and inclusive with volunteers feeling appreciated and supportive. Findings from our most recent research of the experience of 203 Volunteers are detailed in the table below:

⁹Using the RiP identified average no. of 227 hours per circle

¹⁰ Using £16.58 per hour as the UK median hourly wage for "Business and public service associates" (ONS, 2020)

Table: Aggregate responses from 203 volunteers from 131 Circles

%age Volunteers (n=203)	Category
97%	Volunteers felt safe volunteering with Circles
96%	Volunteers felt supported by Circles South West throughout their time volunteering
93%	Volunteers recommend volunteering with Circles South West
93%	Volunteer felt able to cope with the emotional pressure of volunteering for Circles
92%	Volunteers thought the training adequately prepared them for their Circles
88%	Volunteers found their experiences volunteering with Circles rewarding
86%	Volunteers believed their Circle had a positive relationship with the core member
86%	Volunteers intend to volunteer in another Circle in the future
84%	Volunteers thought their Circle volunteers were well matched to the needs of the core member
84%	Volunteering expectations were met
78%	Volunteers reported learning valuable new skills through volunteering with Circles
73%	Volunteers said they had applied new skills gained outside of Circles
66%	Volunteers thought their core member was accountable to the Circle
63%	Volunteers thought the Circle had significantly reduced the core member's risk of reoffending/harmful sexual behaviour

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL POSITION AND PERFORMANCE

The Charity's recognised income in 2023-24 amounted to £408,780 (previous year £480,946). This method of recognising income is in accordance with the SORP, the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, and indicates a decrease of income in the year of 15%, largely explained by the significant funds brought-forward in the preceding year as a result of the Pandemic ('Covid-slide'), and the cessation of the Big Lottery grant.

Of the recognised income that related to grants, £157,770 (42%) consisted of public sector grants and £217,226 (58%) was derived from Trusts and Foundations. This represents a significant shift in the balance of income sources compared to previous years, mainly due to the end of Big Lottery income (Foundation), start of new Ministry of Justice (MoJ) contract (public sector), and the end of the Paul Hamlyn grant. Expenditure amounted to £529,842 (previous year £490,264). The relative increase in expenditure and decrease in income from the previous year is largely explained by complexities of the new MoJ (draw down) contract, and the introduction of the Real Living Wage. At the year-end £82,741 (previous year £203,803) was carried forward to fund activities in future years. The Charity held £34,813 in advance payments for work to be delivered in 2024-25 all of which was held in cash at the Charity's bank.

The Charity's current cash position is sufficient to meet commitments. In addition, the Charity has promises of some £323,761 covering work to be delivered in 2024-25 which, together with sums carried forward and deferred income, represents 59% of the approved budget. This is somewhat less than the situation that we found ourselves at this time last year (82% in hand), and the Trustees continue to monitor the situation on a monthly basis. However, the Trustees do consider that the charity will have sufficient cash resources to meet future liabilities as they fall due, and that it is therefore appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

The majority of our funding is short term (often 1 year) and we therefore continue to invest significant time and resources into income generation to ensure sustainability going forward. Our desire to achieve a diverse funding mix has seen a broadening of our offer to test out on a small scale the delivery of 'fee earning' training and consultancy for professionals, developing their skills and knowledge in working with people who have sexually harmed.

We acknowledge financial support from a number of grant-making bodies and other donors. We have received a number of individual and Quaker group donations. We are very grateful to them all.

Reserves Policy

Last year the Board again considered the need for a Reserves policy that determined a 'sufficient' level of reserves that is not excessive and ensures that the funding stream devoted to our core operations is maximised. Recognising our duty to balance the needs of current and future service users, the Board therefore considered the need to provide within reserves a) a level of working capital that protects the continuity of our core work, b) a level of funding for unexpected opportunities, and c) cover for risks such

as unforeseen expenditure or unanticipated loss of income. To that end the trustees consider that unrestricted general reserves of £39,750 would meet that 'sufficiency' objective.

At the 2023-24 year-end the total level of unrestricted reserves is £54,260 (previous year £67,300). The Board has considered this level of reserves and has, within that, designated £13,911 to extend the delivery of 'fee earning' training and consultancy for professionals by funding the part-time position of Training Lead. The balance of £40,349 meets the Reserves Policy 'sufficiency' objective.

It remains the Charity's policy not to start any Circle without committed funding for that Circle to continue running for at least a year, and in the opinion of the Trustees there has never been a time when existing commitments were at actual risk of default.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Board of Trustees maintain a comprehensive risk register, focusing on key areas of risk for the Charity. All risk areas have named leads whose role is to have oversight, monitor for any changes, ensure necessary control measures are in place with required actions implemented. Risk areas are graded on the severity of their impact against their likelihood of occurrence using a standard matrix, with a sliding scale of concern using a "traffic light" system going from green to red. All risks areas are reviewed quarterly by the Board but those highlighted as of most concern are subject to more regular review as required and with extra monitoring deemed appropriate by the Board.

Risk areas are grouped under five strategic headings:

Governance Risks - The Board is constantly looking to widen its skill set and representation. Trustees have been recruited in recent times with a broad set of skills including expertise in Criminal Justice, Social Services, Finance, HR, IT, Research and Evaluation. The Board aims to have between 8 and 12 Trustees to provide resilience, the widest possible skills base and maximise representation of the communities we serve. Trustees work in smaller groups as required to oversee specific tasks and there are named Trustees who oversee important business areas such as Finance, Safeguarding issues and key policy areas. The Board oversees general governance, sets the overall strategic goals and regularly monitors overall performance against our key objectives. CSW was audited by Circles UK in 2023 and we were recertified as an approved Circles provider with a 95.4% compliance rating against national standards, one of the highest scores among Circle Providers in England and Wales.

Operational Risks Summary - Referrals continue to outstrip capacity and the operationalisation of the Ministry of Justice contract increased demand for our services. While this is welcome, the bottle neck of referrals generated by His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) meant a risk of not being able to staff these new Circles with appropriately trained and vetted volunteers. Initiatives have been undertaken to attract more volunteers and additional training and assessment events scheduled to meet this rising demand. We have met and are projected to meet all our contractual requirements to funders but the Board recognises this will be a continuing risk that needs careful monitoring. The environment we

operate in as charity is constantly changing but CSW has proven it can adapt, often at short notice and take advantage of new opportunities as they arise. Overall, our funding and delivery levels have remained stable and are expanding. There have been no Safeguarding issues involving CSW operations and no critical incidents this year.

Financial Risks Summary - Sustainable funding is an ongoing risk for the charity and is constantly monitored by the CEO and Board of Trustees. Most income is fixed term only and most often for specific purposes (restricted funds). This requires a constant round of bidding for new funds, none of which is guaranteed to be successful. We secured sufficient funds for our 2023-24 budget but we also need to ensure we have sufficient unrestricted funding to maintain general operations. Bidding for new funds continued while innovative funding options were explored to bolster our operations, whilst ensuring we adhere to our guiding principles and mission. We constantly monitor our reserves and ensure they are appropriate, with any excess being directed back to our core operations. We have secured adequate funds for our 2024-25 budget, albeit that the Trustees have approved a significant aspirational income generation target. It is important to maintain the right level of reserves to ensure the financial health and security of the organisation but also that the maximum amount of funding goes into our frontline services.

External Risks – The Board regularly reviews the external risks to the organisation including monitoring the local and national areas we operate in. This includes ensuring our credibility with other organisations and our local community as well effectively dealing with any issue that may threaten our credibility and reputation. There is a critical incident policy in place so any risk identified by any person can be quickly passed on to a senior level for action as required. The Board understand the need for CSW to be seen by others as the competent, trustworthy and effective organisation it clearly is.

Compliance Risk Summary - For CSW to continue to work effectively and be a trusted partner we need to ensure we comply with all necessary laws, regulations and standards to operate as a charitable organisation. Our desire is to exceed standards where it is practical to do so. CSW recognises the need to review, and upgrade where necessary, our IT security; since 2022 we have invested significant time and resources into this and have this year (August 2023) become Cyber Essentials Plus certified (independently audited and GDPR compliant). This has improved our ability to share information securely with other organisations (e.g. Ministry of Justice, His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service, Local Authorities) and ensure secure data storage.

FUTURE PLANS

The Charity continues to develop and be sustained. We are passionate in our desire to impact positively on the lives of people who have sexually harmed as part of their desistance journey, thereby making an important contribution to the prevention of sexual abuse in south west communities. We are particularly keen to support young people with problematic or harmful sexual behaviour in order that they can be diverted from the criminal justice system, maturing into well-adjusted adults. We are committed to growing our provision for those secondary victims (non-offending partners, family and friends) who are impacted but who often go unheard and unsupported. Imparting our knowledge and expertise in this field to other professionals through training and consultancy serves to educate, promoting greater understanding and contributing to a more effective multi-agency workforce.

We have recently secured a 10 year contract with Serco (Ministry of Justice) to provide services for men serving custodial sentences at HMP Ashfield (South Gloucestershire). This privately run prison exclusively caters for adult men convicted of sexual offences. This exciting new initiative will mobilise in late 2024 with the intention of providing services in 2025, including a pre-release life skills programme, Through-The-Gate Circles for men being released to South West England, and acting as the conduit to facilitate Circles in other parts of England and Wales through the national Circles Provider network.

The outlook for the next 12 months is good. We are excited about plans for 2024-25, including:

- Providing many more Circles across the region
- Mobilising the new HMP Ashfield contract and Year 1 delivery of new services at the prison
- Completing Phase 1 Plymouth HARP Feasibility Study and moving to Phase 2 Implementation Scoping
- Testing out new initiatives including the application of RSVP (Risk for Sexual Violence Protocol V2), a risk assessment tool for adults convicted of or charged with sexual offences
- Year 2 delivery of our newest contract with the Ministry of Justice to provide Circles in South West England for People on Probation
- Continued delivery of our newer services such as CLIP (Circles Lite Intervention Programme), Inform Young People and Breaking the Cycle including measuring impact
- Launching our new strategic plan.

CSW Operations 2024-25

The diagram below shows CSW's planned operations for 2024-25, a combination of commissioned, contracted and grant-funded service. Some provision is fully funded, some requires match-funding to release secured funds, and some is 'spot purchased', becoming available as new funds are sourced.

CSW Operations 2024-25



Income Generation and Added Value

In 2023-24 we secured £157,770 from public sector sources and £217,227 from voluntary sources, including grants from independent funders, donations and earned income. This means that for every £1 of public funding, we levered in £1.38 from other sources.

We are proud of our achievements in relation to income generation but this remains a constant challenge: increasingly more time is dedicated to fundraising and, despite our best attempts, full cost recovery is rare. Many Trusts and Foundations want to fund innovation rather than core costs or ‘more of the same’ and we have diversified in some respects to maximise this potential. However, our experience suggests that overall there is less availability of funding for our ‘core work’ and increasing competition for scarce resources.

We have secured funding for 2024-25 from four of the five South West OPCCs but the potential for funding beyond March 2025 is as yet unknown.

Managing Growth and Sustainability

We do not underestimate the challenge of sustaining our work in the current climate. We are committed to ensuring that our staff and volunteers are provided with an infrastructure fit for purpose and the support they need to ensure they deliver the best service possible.

New for volunteers this year is the online Volunteer Portal, launched in early 2024, that houses policies, procedures, template forms and useful information for volunteers.

Also launched this year was 'Long Service Volunteer Award' marking the remarkable contribution of individuals who have either volunteered in 10+ Circles or for 10+ years; we proudly presented 6 volunteers with the first of these awards at our AGM in September 2023.

The new staff structure introduced in 2022 is now well embedded, providing progression opportunities for staff. It more effectively utilises the available staff resource with managers taking on responsibility for specific contracts and areas of work (e.g. Training; Young People's Services; Ministry of Justice Contract) and streamlining the line-management structure.

In line with our values we have become a Real Living Wage Employer, adjusting our salary bandings to introduce the Real Living Wage with effect from January 2024. The Board also undertook a salary band review with the top of all salary bands being increased with effect from 1st April 2024 as part of our strategy to retain excellent staff.

The 'staff well-being' package introduced a couple of years ago continues to be well received – this includes mandatory 'emotional well-being' support for all staff from an independent counsellor, occasional away days and a rewards and benefit platform. The latter is also available to our volunteers.

Attracting sufficient volunteers in the right locations at the right time has become increasingly challenging. There has been a steady decline in volunteering in the criminal justice sector over the last 10 years or so, compounded by the pandemic. In response we are constantly refreshing our volunteer recruitment strategy and have increased our investment in volunteering this year.

As we move into the new financial year, frequent review and adjustment of our sustainability strategy is absolutely key in order to ensure that services can be maintained and the Charity is in as stable position as possible in a constantly changing environment.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND THANKS

Our 2023-24 achievements have been reliant on our partnerships with, and support from, a growing number of trusts and foundations, statutory and voluntary organisations and understanding individuals. Alongside enormous thanks to our volunteers for their time and expertise, we wish to thank sincerely the following donors:

- Circles UK (from National Philanthropic Trust UK)
- Charles Heywood Foundation
- Devon & Cornwall Police & Crime Commissioner
- Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner
- Families in Focus
- Friends Therapeutic Community Trust (Glebe House)
- Gloucestershire Police & Crime Commissioner
- Henry Smith Charity
- Lloyds Bank Foundation
- Ministry of Justice
- Plymouth City Council
- Polaris
- Sir James Reckitt Charity
- South Gloucestershire Council
- The AB Charitable Trust
- The Bromley Trust
- The Triangle Trust
- Wiltshire & Swindon Police & Crime Commissioner

(This list does not include new donors for 2024-25)

Besides the above support, we have appreciated donations from individual volunteers, members of the public and Quaker groups who share our vision. We are also grateful for in-kind support received from many community groups who have promoted and supported our work in various ways.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also the Directors of Circles South West Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which are such as to disclose, with reasonable accuracy, the Charity's financial position at any time and to enable the Trustees to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the Charity's assets and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Professor Kieran McCartan (Chair)

**CIRCLES SOUTH WEST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Circles South West (the Company) for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 31 to 40 .

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

This report is made solely to the Company's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Company's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

J Fletcher FCA
Chartered Accountants
Crown Chambers
Bridge Street
Salisbury
SP1 2LZ

Date:

**CIRCLES SOUTH WEST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2024
COMPANY REGISTRATION NO. (ENGLAND AND WALES) 07369778**

	Notes	2024			2023
		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £	Total £
INCOME FROM					
Donations and Legacies					
Grants					
Private Sector	2a	123,905	93,321	217,226	313,661
Public Sector	2a	21,950	135,820	157,770	152,907
Donations	2b	556	-	556	1,603
Investments					
Bank and deposit interest	2c	-	-	-	3
Other incoming resources	2d	33,228	-	33,228	12,772
TOTAL		179,639	229,141	408,780	480,946
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	3	171,679	358,163	529,842	490,264
TOTAL		171,679	358,163	529,842	490,264
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		7,960	(129,022)	(121,062)	(9,318)
Transfer between funds	8	(21,000)	21,000	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(13,040)	(108,022)	(121,062)	(9,318)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		67,300	136,503	203,803	213,121
Total funds carried forward		54,260	28,481	82,741	203,803

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the period. All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

CIRCLES SOUTH WEST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024
COMPANY REGISTRATION NO. (ENGLAND AND WALES) 07369778

	Notes	2024	2023
FIXED ASSETS	10	<u>3,394</u>	<u>1,667</u>
		3,394	1,667
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	4	9,911	22,940
Cash at bank and in hand		123,832	237,334
		<u>133,743</u>	<u>260,274</u>
LIABILITIES			
Creditors falling due within one year	5	(54,396)	(58,138)
Net current assets		79,347	202,136
Total net assets		<u>82,741</u>	<u>203,803</u>
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Unrestricted Funds	7	54,260	67,300
Restricted Funds	8	28,481	136,503
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		<u>82,741</u>	<u>203,803</u>

The Trustees consider that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to have an audit under the provisions of section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ("the Act") and members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirement of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions available to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised by the Trustees below.

Approved by the board of trustees on _____ and signed on its behalf by:

Dr Kieran McCartan (Chair)

**CIRCLES SOUTH WEST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2024
COMPANY REGISTRATION NO. (ENGLAND AND WALES) 07369778**

	2024	2023
	£	£
<i>Cashflows from Operating Activities</i>		
Net Cash provided by Operating Activities	(110,400)	(63,307)
<i>Cashflows from Investing Activities</i>		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(3,102)	(1,999)
Net Cash provided by Investing Activities	(3,102)	(1,999)
Net Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period	(113,502)	(65,306)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	237,334	302,640
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	123,832	237,334
Net Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period	(113,502)	(65,306)

Notes to Cashflow Statement

Reconciliation of net income to net cash flows from operating activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net income for the reporting period	(121,062)	(9,318)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	1,375	332
(increase)/decrease in debtors	13,029	(20,060)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(3,742)	(34,261)
Net cash provided by operating activities	(110,400)	(63,307)

Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash in hand and at bank	123,832	237,334
Total cash and cash equivalents	123,832	237,334

**CIRCLES SOUTH WEST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2024**

Note

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a. Basis of preparing the financial statements

Circles South West meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

These accounts (financial statements) have been prepared using the historical cost convention except any items disclosed in the accounting policies as being shown at fair value and are presented in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity. Balances within the accounts have been rounded to the nearest £1. The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

b. Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

c. Company status

The charitable company is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales with the registered number 07369778. The members of the charity are the Trustees named on page 2. The registered office is 7 Madeira Road, Bournemouth BH1 1QL.

In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the company.

d. Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity fall into the following categories:

(i) Unrestricted general funds:

These are funds which can be used, at the discretion of the Trustees, in accordance with the charitable objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

(ii) Unrestricted designated funds:

These are funds which have been designated for particular future projects

(iii) Restricted funds:

These are funds that can only be used by the charity for particular purposes. Restrictions arise either when they are specified by the donor or when funds are raised for a specific purpose.

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e. Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to it, it is certain that the income will be received, and its monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations for specific purposes are accounted for as receivable and are treated as forming restricted funds

f. Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Contractual arrangements and performance related grants are recognised as services are supplied. Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income. Charitable activities comprise those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

g. Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure includes all expenditure directly related to the objects of the charity and governance and other support costs

h. Governance costs

These costs represent the costs incurred by the charity in respect of management and administrative expenditure and compliance with statutory and legal requirements

i. Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets costing over £250 are capitalised. Assets costing less than this are written off on purchase. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life.

j. Debtors

Debtors are measured at the amounts the charity anticipates it will receive from a debt or the amount it has paid in advance for goods or services.

k. Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and cash on deposit.

l. Liabilities

Liabilities are measured at the amounts the charity anticipates it will pay to settle a debt or the amount it has received as an advance payment for goods or services it must provide.

m. Financial Instruments

The charity only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as financial instruments. They are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

n. VAT

Income and expenditure is stated gross of VAT as it is not recoverable. CSW is not registered for VAT.

**CIRCLES SOUTH WEST
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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
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Note

2 INCOME - by fund

	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
a. Grants						
Private sector	123,905	93,321	217,226	117,039	196,622	313,661
Public sector	21,950	135,820	157,770	13,272	139,635	152,907
	145,855	229,141	374,996	130,311	336,257	466,568
b. Donations	556	-	556	1,603	-	1,603
c. Bank/Deposit Interest	-	-	-	3	-	3
d. Other income	33,228	-	33,228	12,772	-	12,772
Total income	179,639	229,141	408,780	144,689	336,257	480,946

3 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Rehabilitation of offenders						
Direct costs	-	344,557	344,557	-	348,856	348,856
Governance costs	-	13,606	13,606	-	11,307	11,307
External training and overheads						
Direct costs	167,079	-	167,079	122,013	-	122,013
Governance costs	4,600	-	4,600	8,088	-	8,088
	171,679	358,163	529,842	130,101	360,163	490,264

Governance costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Finance management and bookkeeping costs	15,668	15,653
Accountancy charges	500	500
Independent examination fee	1,330	1,080
Trustees Meeting expenses	708	2,162
	18,206	19,395

**CIRCLES SOUTH WEST
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Note		2024	2023
4	DEBTORS	£	£
	Trade Debtors	7,413	4,204
	Accrued Income	2,498	18,736
		9,911	22,940
5	CREDITORS	£	£
	Trade creditors	9,472	10,497
	Other creditors	8,371	8,128
	Accruals	1,740	1,580
	Deferred income	34,813	37,933
		54,396	58,138
	Deferred Income	£	£
	Balance at 1 April 2023	37,933	68,830
	Amounts released to income	(37,933)	(68,830)
	Amounts deferred in the year	34,813	37,933
	Balance at 31 March 2024	34,813	37,933
	Deferred income comprises funding received during the year to be recognised as incoming resources in 2023-24. £3,407 (2023 £37,933) related to unrestricted funds and £31,406 (2023 £nil) to restricted funds		
6	ANALYSIS OF STAFF COSTS	£	£
	Salaries and wages	362,739	318,633
	Social security costs	29,997	27,493
	Pension costs	13,850	12,507
	Total	406,586	358,633

One employee received emoluments over £60,000 (2023 nil)

The average monthly headcount was 12 (2023 12).

During the year, no Trustee received remuneration or benefits in kind (2023 £nil).

During the year 1 Trustee (2023 5) was reimbursed £83 (2023 £nil) for travel and office expenses (2023 £717).

The CEO, Ms Jo Burden, is considered to be the key management person of the charity. The total paid to the CEO during the year (excluding pension payments) was £60,977 (2023 £56,702).

All staff costs are divided among the operational funds according to staff time expended.

**CIRCLES SOUTH WEST
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Notes

**7 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS
2024**

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Movement in funds		Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 March 2024
		Income	Expenditure		
General Fund	39,300	179,639	(171,679)	(6,911)	40,349
Designated fund	28,000	-	-	(14,089)	13,911
	67,300	179,639	(171,679)	(21,000)	54,260

2023	<i>Balance at 1 April 2022</i>	<i>Movement in funds</i>		<i>Transfers between funds</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2023</i>
		<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>		
<i>General Fund</i>	<i>37,712</i>	<i>144,689</i>	<i>(130,101)</i>	<i>(13,000)</i>	<i>39,300</i>
<i>Designated fund</i>	<i>20,000</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>8,000</i>	<i>28,000</i>
	<i>57,712</i>	<i>144,689</i>	<i>(130,101)</i>	<i>(5,000)</i>	<i>67,300</i>

**8 RESTRICTED FUNDS
2024**

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Movement in funds		Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 March 2024
		Income	Expenditure		
Rehabilitation of Offenders:					
Young People's Services	16,500	87,746	(88,121)	3,000	19,125
Adapted Circles	23,375	9,000	(33,719)	6,500	5,156
Prison Project	47,990	6,825	(66,315)	11,500	-
Reboot Circles	8,438	16,970	(25,408)	-	-
Inform/Inform Plus	-	-	-	-	-
Devon & Cornwall Circles	18,600	41,675	(57,875)	-	2,400
Dorset Circles	6,600	18,000	(24,600)	-	-
Wiltshire Circles	15,000	17,650	(30,850)	-	1,800
Ministry of Justice Circles	-	31,275	(31,275)	-	-
	136,503	229,141	(358,163)	21,000	28,481

2023	<i>Balance at 1 April 2022</i>	<i>Movement in funds</i>		<i>Transfers between funds</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2023</i>
		<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>		
<i>Rehabilitation of Offenders:</i>					
<i>Young People's Services</i>	<i>20,917</i>	<i>123,867</i>	<i>(133,284)</i>	<i>5,000</i>	<i>16,500</i>
<i>Adapted Circles</i>	<i>7,380</i>	<i>54,435</i>	<i>(38,440)</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>23,375</i>
<i>Prison Project</i>	<i>44,620</i>	<i>56,026</i>	<i>(52,656)</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>47,990</i>
<i>Reboot Circles</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>21,408</i>	<i>(12,970)</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>8,438</i>
<i>Inform/Inform Plus</i>	<i>19,400</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>(19,400)</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>Devon & Cornwall Circles</i>	<i>38,492</i>	<i>33,735</i>	<i>(53,627)</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>18,600</i>
<i>Dorset Circles</i>	<i>15,000</i>	<i>23,188</i>	<i>(31,588)</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>6,600</i>
<i>Wiltshire Circles</i>	<i>9,600</i>	<i>18,150</i>	<i>(12,750)</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>15,000</i>
<i>Ministry of Justice Circles</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>5,448</i>	<i>(5,448)</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
	<i>155,409</i>	<i>336,257</i>	<i>(360,163)</i>	<i>5,000</i>	<i>136,503</i>

On 1/4/2023 Trustees released £3,000 from the Designated Fund towards the cost of interventions within the Restricted, Inform Young People project. During the year, they released a further £11,089 from the Designated fund towards the Training Manager's salary, retaining £13,911 in the Designated Fund towards future support for the Training Manager. During the year, Trustees also transferred £18,000 from Unrestricted Funds to support Restricted activities in Adapted Circles (£6,500) and Prison Circles (£11,500). All other Unrestricted sums were consolidated into Reserves at year-end, leaving the General Reserve at £40,349.

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9 SUMMARY OF FUNDS

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Movement in funds		Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 March 2024
		Income	Expenditure		
General Fund	39,300	179,639	(171,679)	(6,911)	40,349
Designated Fund	28,000	-	-	(14,089)	13,911
Restricted fund	136,503	229,141	(358,163)	21,000	28,481
	203,803	408,780	(529,842)	-	82,741

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2022</i>	<i>Movement in funds</i>		<i>Transfers between funds</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2023</i>
		<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>		
General Fund	37,712	144,689	(130,101)	(13,000)	39,300
Designated Fund	20,000	-	-	8,000	28,000
Restricted fund	155,409	336,257	(360,163)	5,000	136,503
	<i>213,121</i>	<i>480,946</i>	<i>(490,264)</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>203,803</i>

Restricted fund purposes:

Circles of Support and Accountability in Dorset, Wiltshire, Devon & Cornwall are for adults who have been convicted of serious sexual offences who have been assessed as medium to very high risk of re-offending/causing serious harm.

The non-location specific projects provide Circles of Support and Accountability for younger people (Young People's Service); for adults with intellectual difficulties (Adapted Circles); and for adults convicted of sexual offences started in prison prior to their release and then on into the community (Prison Project).

Circles Reboot is designed for adults (low to medium risk with high need) who have been convicted of internet offences involving indecent images of children.

The Inform Plus/Inform projects provide group and individual support programmes for individuals who have harmed sexually online and for the adult partners/family/friends impacted.

Ministry of Justice Circles are Circles commissioned by the Ministry of Justice for referrals from the Probation Service South West of adults who meet strict eligibility criteria.

Funds received in the year specifically for 2023-24 are included in deferred income (Note 5)

**CIRCLES SOUTH WEST
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10 Tangible Fixed Assets

COST

B/F	1,999
Additions	3,102
C/F	5,101

DEPRECIATION

B/F	(332)
Charge for year	(1,375)
C/F	(1,707)

NET BOOK VALUE

B/F at 31/3/2022	1,667
C/F at 31/3/2023	3,394

11 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

2024	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024
Fixed Assets	3,394	-	3,394
Trade Debtors	6,745	668	7,413
Accrued Income	-	2,498	2,498
Cash at bank and in hand	51,515	72,317	123,832
Current liabilities	(7,394)	(47,002)	(54,396)
	54,260	28,481	82,741
2023	<i>Unrestricted funds</i>	<i>Restricted funds</i>	<i>Total 2023</i>
Fixed Assets	1,667	-	1,667
Trade Debtors	4,204	-	4,204
Accrued Income	-	18,736	18,736
Cash at bank and in hand	102,536	134,798	237,334
Current liabilities	(41,107)	(17,031)	(58,138)
<i>Total</i>	<i>67,300</i>	<i>136,503</i>	<i>203,803</i>

12 RECOGNITION OF INCOME

Income is recognised when the charity is entitled to it and not when it incurs the related expense.

Unspent income for specific expenditure is carried forward as restricted funds.

If the income were to be recognised so that it was matched to the expenditure within the accounts, the income for the year would have been as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Pro forma income	478,869	431,022

13 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions during the year