CIRCLES SOUTH WEST

England & Wales · Charity number 1138726

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Company number	07369778
Registered	2010-11-01
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Circles South West Crown Chambers Bridge Street Salisbury Wiltshire SP1 2LZ
Phone	07717 442413
Email	info@circlessw.org.uk
Website	www.circles-southwest.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 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

Activities: CIRCLES SOUTH WEST IS A COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMME WHICH WORKS CLOSELY WITH STATUTORY SERVICES, HELPING KNOWN SEX OFFENDERS LIVE OFFENCE-FREE LIVES.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, NATIONAL.
- Bristol City
- Cornwall
- Devon
- Dorset
- Gloucestershire
- Somerset
- Wiltshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£548,241	£552,117	£78,865	12
2024-03-31	£408,780	£529,842	-	-
2023-03-31	£480,946	£490,264	-	-
2022-03-31	£520,119	£478,325	£213,121	12
2021-03-31	£505,434	£380,798	£171,327	10

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Kieran McCartan	Chair	2016-09-27
Dr Cody Porter		2024-09-24
Ian Keys		2021-06-10
Marcella Mathis		2022-05-21
Paul Alexander Douglas		2025-11-27
Peter Estall		2017-11-09
STEPHEN ASHTON BA HONS		2012-09-21
Sophie Rigali		2021-11-03
Stephen Barry		2017-11-09
TIM PRICE		2015-03-12

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CIRCLES SOUTH WEST

England & Wales - Charity number 1138726

Accounts

CIRCLES SOUTH WEST

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Report & Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 March 2025

Company number 07369778

Registered Charity number 1138726

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CIRCLES SOUTH WEST TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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 2025. The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the Charity comply with current statutory requirements[1], 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
REGISTERED CHARITY ADDRESS	Crown Chambers, Bridge Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 2LZ (from 1 June 2025). Previously 7 Madeira Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH1 1QL

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

	Appointed as Trustee
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	November 2021 (former Deputy Chair)
Marcella Mathis	May 2023
Dr Cody Porter	September 2024

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Jo Burden	Appointed June 2013

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
Wilsons, 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
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 on 12 January 2017. 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. More than half of our Trustees are current or former Circle Volunteers. Expressions of interest in becoming a CSW Trustee are welcomed.

Objects of the Charity

The objects of the Charity are to address 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 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. The individual who has sexually harmed becomes the 'core member' of a Circle that meets regularly helping them to safely integrate 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 in 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).

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 have also more recently begun to position ourselves as a reputable provider of harmful sexual behaviour and risk assessments (including AIM3[2] and RSVP[3]).

This year we secured a 10 year contract to provide services at HMP Ashfield, a private prison run by Serco that solely accommodates men convicted of sexual offences, providing pre-release programmes and 'Through-the-Gate' Circles.

We also provide 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 works alongside the agencies with 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 2023 when CSW achieved the very high score of 95.4% compliance against national standards[4] 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%).

[2] AIM3 is a structured professional judgment framework designed to assess the level of concern around a young person's sexual behaviour, identify intervention targets, guide decisions about supervision and support.
[3] Risk for Sexual Violence Protocol is a structured professional judgment tool used to assess the risk of sexual violence.
[4] Code of Practice Review Report dated 7 August 2023, Circles UK

ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE

2024 marks 30 years since the first CoSA began in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada when members of Revd Harry Nigh's Mennonite congregation started to support Charlie Taylor, on his release from prison. This significant milestone was marked with a celebration event in London in November at which the founding Pastor Harry Nigh made a key note address and CSW was represented on the conference volunteer panel.

2024-25 has been a successful year for CSW; we have continued to deliver our core service alongside complementary provision, and have grown our offer. We remain true to our mission to the benefit of service users, local communities and 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 ever-increasing challenges of income generation; to complex service user needs; 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 coordinated more CoSA than ever before (a 37% increase on the previous year[5]); broadened our services; developed new working alliances; accessed alternative income sources; and grown services complementing our core offer, for example, by providing risk assessments. Securing a 10 year contract to provide pre-release services at HMP Ashfield is a significant achievement providing welcome stability for future years.
- Human Resources: to meet the increased demand for volunteers this year we have refreshed our volunteer recruitment strategy, investing additional resources into volunteer recruitment and retention. We have created a Code of Conduct that sets out expected behaviours from all engaged in duties on behalf of CSW in a voluntary or paid capacity in order to create an inclusive culture which fosters belonging and respect, values and celebrates difference for all. We have maintained our commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) by designing and rolling-out our new in-house EDI awareness training for 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 continue to invest in cyber security measures and are Cyber Essentials Plus certified.
- Evaluation: to demonstrate that what we do works, we continue to robustly monitor our work and promote the findings of our most recent independent evaluation.
- Strategic Planning: to inform the next iteration of the charity's strategic plan we held a joint staff and Trustee away day with the intention of publishing our new strategic plan in 2025.

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 an ongoing challenge and we are fortunate

[5] This year we coordinated 66 CoSA compared to 49 in the previous year

to experience very low staff turnover. We continue to dedicate 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.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR

HMP Ashfield Contract

HMP Ashfield is a Category C adult male training prison near Bristol that accommodates adult men convicted of sexual offences. It is privately run by Serco. CSW secured a 10 year contract to provide pre-release and resettlement services that commenced in November 2024. We have designed and written the Phoenix Pre-Release Group Programme that we will deliver twice per year. We are also contracted to provide Through-the-Gate CoSA for men resettling in South West England. In addition, we act as a conduit for CoSA referrals to other Circles Providers outside the South West Region, providing initial assessments and making the link with the resettlement area.

serco

CSW Conference June 2024 – Taunton Racecourse

60-plus delegates joined our June conference with the theme *Preventing Sexual Abuse in a Digital Age*. Michael Sheath and Geese Theatre kicked off the day with a powerful play and keynote address. Delegates had the opportunity to attend a variety of workshops throughout the day, led by CSW staff and partner organisations. The workshop on 'Breaking the Cycle' groupwork programme[6] was co-led by a service user.

MoJ CoSA CONTRACT: CoSA for South West Probation Service

This contract 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. We coordinated 29 MoJ Circles this year which is 44% of the total number of CoSA coordinated in-year. Contract Year 3 is confirmed through to August 2025 with the possibility of a further Contract Year 4.

Ministry of JUSTICE

[6] Breaking the Cycle groupwork programme is a psycho-educational support group for women with children whose partner or ex-partner has abused children (or where there are concerns about the same)

OPERATIONS

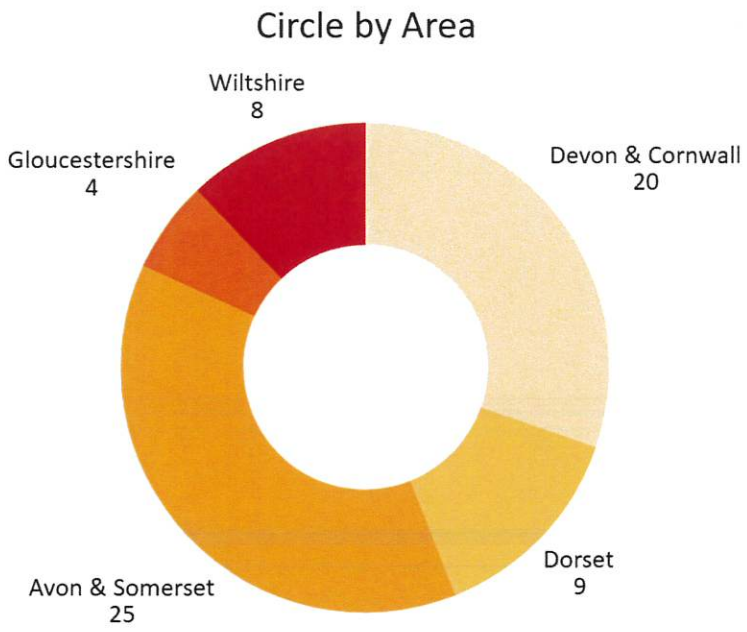
Circles of Support and Accountability

We coordinated a total of 66 CoSA for 66 individual core members, a 37% increase on the previous year[7] (the significant increase as a result of the MoJ CoSA contract for South West England). 43 (65%) CoSA were newly established in-year (since April 2024); the other 23 (35%) had started before April 2024 and continued into the current year.

We coordinated Circles in all five police force areas in the South West region, including '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 Circles[8].

Number of Circles by area

The greatest number of Circles were provided in the Avon and Somerset area, closely followed by Devon and Cornwall:

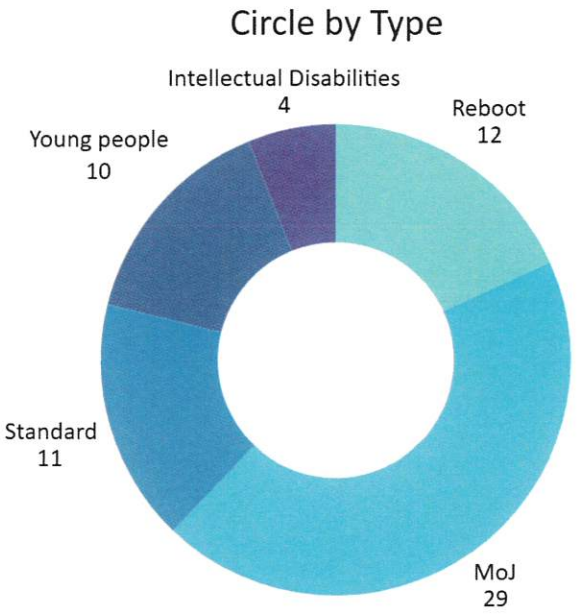


[7] In 2023-24 we coordinated 49 CoSA

[8] 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.

Number of Circles by type

Almost half the Circles coordinated this year were directly funded by the Ministry of Justice for People on Probation meeting very specific eligibility criteria:



Aggregate demographic and index offence data for core members can be found at Appendix 1.

Outcomes: Circles of Support & Accountability

27 Circles closed in 2024-25 of which 5 were Circles Reboot (reported separately). 14 (non-Circles Reboot) ran their natural course with an average active period of 14 months. The 5 Circles Reboot ran for an average of 5 months.

8 Circles closed earlier than planned:

- 4 core members withdrew consent
- 1 core member arrested for further sexual offences
- 2 core members recalled
- 1 core member (young person) disengaged.

"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

"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.

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.

The full evaluation report can be downloaded at this link CSW CoSA 5 year Evaluation by Reseach in Practice Feb23 and the findings are summarised below at Appendix 2.

Case Studies

Two CoSA case studies can be found at Appendix 3.

Complementary services

Complementary services have this year included:

Provision	Description	No. of service users
Inform Young People[9]	121 intervention for young people in trouble with school or police for problematic online behaviour	4
CLIP	121 intervention for young people with problematic or lower level harmful sexual behaviour - CSW designed, piloted and rolled-out in response to demand	22
Bail Support Service	121 intervention for young people on bail for sexual offences	1
Breaking the Cycle[10]	Groupwork (and 121) psycho-educational programme for non-offending partners of men who have sexually abused children	4
HSB / risk assessments	2 x AIM3[11] and 2 x RSVP[12]	4
	Total	35

HMP Ashfield (Serco)

Contract mobilisation for this 10 year contract with Serco began in November 2024. 2 staff are based part-time at the prison to deliver a pre-release programme and Through-the-Gate CoSA. We have:

- Designed and written the Phoenix pre-release (10 session) programme and a condensed 1 day programme
- Recruited men to commence Phoenix Pre-Release Programmes
- Set-up 1 Through-The-Gate Circle (core member resettling in Devon).

Training / workforce development for professionals

We delivered 13 training / workforce development events and workshops for professionals with excellent feedback. 212 professionals attended training events over the year with more attending workshops. Provision included for example: Working with people who have sexually harmed (Levels 1 and 2); Working with young people with harmful sexual behaviour (Levels 1 and 2); Internet Offending; Risk and Interventions; Indecent Exposure.

[9] Licenced as Approved Provider by the Lucy Faithfull Foundation
[10] Licenced as Approved Provider by Circles South East
[11] AIM3 is a structured professional judgment framework designed to assess the level of concern around a young person's sexual behaviour, identify intervention targets, guide decisions about supervision and support.
[12] Risk for Sexual Violence Protocol is a structured professional judgment tool used to assess the risk of sexual violence.

Consultancy support for organisations

We provided consultancy support to:

- Safer Plymouth (Community Safety Partnership) – HARP Phase 2 Development & Report
- Circles UK / NEPACS – mentoring support for circle provider coordinators (x 3)
- Catch22 – expert consultant on Inclusion and Development Group.

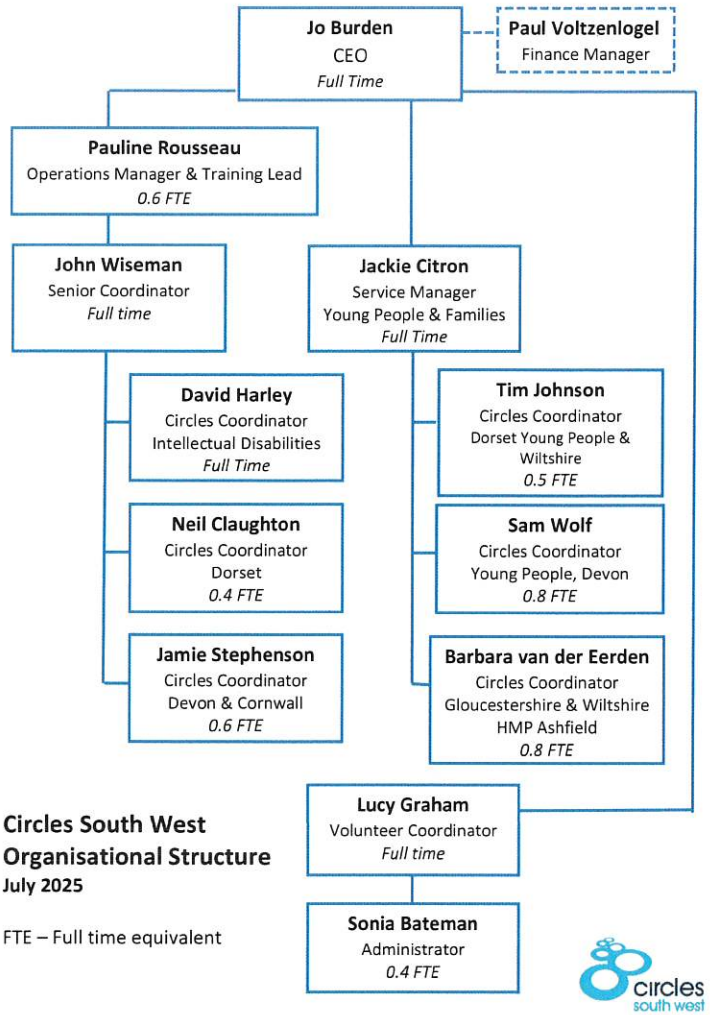
STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

"Keep up the fantastic work, our community needs you. We are grateful"[13]
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.

CSW is a Real Living Wage Employer. Our '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.



[13] 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. More than 260 volunteers were involved in the 66 Circles coordinated during the year, contributing between them a conservative estimate of around 15,000 hours volunteering time[14]. A conservative estimate of the value in-kind that our volunteers have contributed this year is around £260,000[15]. At the end of 2024-25 we had 223 retained, trained volunteers across the region.

In recent years we have introduced our Volunteer Long Service Award, recognising the huge contribution that some Volunteers make with their involvement in many Circles over many years. The awards ceremony has become a standard part of our AGM.

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 £3927 per Circle[16].

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 is seen to be making a difference. It is considered welcoming and inclusive with volunteers feeling appreciated and supported. Findings from our most recent research of the experience of 203 Volunteers are detailed in the table below:

[14]Using the RiP identified average no. of 227 hours per circle
[15] Using £17.30 per hour as the UK median hourly wage (ONS, 2025)
[16] As per footnote 15 above

Table 1: Aggregate responses from 203 volunteers involved in 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 news 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 total recognised income in 2024-25 amounted to £548,241 (previous year £408,780). This method of recognising income is in accordance with the SORP, the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, and indicates an increase of income in the year of 34%, largely explained by significant delivery in relation to the MoJ CoSA contract and new contract with Serco at HMP Ashfield (providing pre-release programmes and Through-the-Gate CoSA).

Of the recognised income that related to grants, £322,559 (67%) consisted of public sector grants and £155,888 (33%) was derived from Trusts and Foundations. This represents a significant shift in the balance of income sources compared to previous years, largely because of the MoJ CoSA contract and the new HMP Ashfield contract as above. The balance of recognised income, £69,794, related primarily to (external fee-earning) training & consultancy (including elements of the HMP Ashfield contract).

Expenditure amounted to £552,117 (previous year £529,842). At the year-end £78,865 (previous year £82,741) was carried forward to fund activities in future years. The Charity held £64,814 in advance payments for work to be delivered in 2025-26, all of which was held in cash at the Charity's bank.

The Charity's current cash position is sufficient to meet commitments. The Charity has promises of some £311,843 for work to be delivered in 2025-26 which, together with sums carried forward and deferred income, represents 67% of the approved budget. This is slightly more favourable than the 59% in hand year ending March 24 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 again meet that 'sufficiency' objective.

However, at the 2024-25 year-end the total level of general unrestricted reserves was £34,127 (previous year £40,349). So, in 2025-26 an additional £5,623 will be needed to bring the reserves back up to the required level. The fall in reserves relates directly to the MoJ CoSA contract payment mechanism. This is currently being considered by the MoJ, and we are anticipating some reconciliation payment before the end of the 2025-26 financial year.

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 concern 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. Meetings are held both in person and via online-conferencing to ensure maximum attendance and representation. 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 and key policy areas. The Board oversees general governance, sets the overall strategic goals and regularly monitors overall performance against our key objectives. CSW's most recent Code of Practice Compliance Review was undertaken by Circles UK in 2023 when CSW was re-certified as an approved Circles Provider with a 95.4% compliance rating against national standards (see page 4).

Operational Risks Summary - Referrals continue to outstrip capacity and the operationalisation of the MoJ CoSA Contract increased demand for our services. While this is welcome, contract demands meant a risk of not being able to provide sufficient trained and vetted volunteers. This year we have managed to meet all our targets and contractual requirements for new circles but contractual delays, outside of our control, have proved a significant financial challenge; the Board closely monitors our performance in this

area. Initiatives have been undertaken to attract more volunteers with additional training and assessment events scheduled to meet this rising demand. The environment we operate in as charity is constantly changing but CSW has proven it can adapt, often at very 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 serious safeguarding issues involving CSW operations and no critical incidents declared 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 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 2024-25 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 significant funds for our 2025-26 budget, but there are challenging objectives to meet the full budget, the Board will regularly monitor fundraising to ensure the targets are met. 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 year this included a change of Government with changes in policy objectives in the criminal justice sector. The Board looks to ensure we are ready for any changes and able to take advantage of any new opportunities that may arise. 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 is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), ensuring compliance with data protection regulations. CSW recognises the need to review, and upgrade where necessary, our IT security; we have invested significant time and resources into this and have this year been recertified Cyber Essentials Plus certified compliant. This has cemented 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 we have secure data storage. There have been no data breach, GDPR failures or loss of any sensitive information this year; trust we keep all our partners information secure is vital to our work.

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. We also want to grow our work in the two South West prisons that exclusively accommodate men convicted of sexual offences (HMP Ashfield and HMP The Verne). In addition, imparting our knowledge and expertise in this field to other professionals through quality training and consultancy serves to educate, promoting greater understanding and contributing to a more effective multi-agency workforce.

The outlook for the next 12 months is good. We are excited about plans for 2025-26, including:

- Providing many more CoSA across the region, including MoJ CoSA Contract Year 3 providing CoSA in South West England for People on Probation
- Commencing delivery of our new HMP Ashfield pre-release programmes and Through-the-Gate CoSA
- Continuing to support Safer Plymouth to create the conditions for a community prevention service (HARP)
- Continued delivery of our services for young people and families including CLIP, Inform Young People and Breaking the Cycle, including impact measurement
- Providing specialist harmful sexual behaviour and risk assessments for local authorities
- Launching our new strategic plan.

CSW Operations 2025-26

The diagram below shows CSW's planned operations for 2025-26, 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 2025-26

Income Generation and Added Value

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 2025-26 from three of the five South West OPCCs but the potential for funding beyond March 2026 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.

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 benefits 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 to meet the significant increase in the number of CoSA coordinated.

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 2024-25 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:

- Avon & Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner
- Catch22
- Circles UK (from National Philanthropic Trust UK)
- Charles Heywood Foundation
- Devon & Cornwall Police & Crime Commissioner
- Dorset Council
- Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner
- Friends Therapeutic Community Trust (Glebe House)
- Gloucestershire Police & Crime Commissioner
- Herbert Ward Charity
- Ministry of Justice
- North Somerset Council
- Plymouth City Council
- Sir James Reckitt Charity
- Swindon Council
- The AB Charitable Trust
- The Bromley Trust
- Torbay Council
- West Exe School
- Wiltshire & Swindon Police & Crime Commissioner

(This list does not include new donors for 2025-26)

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).

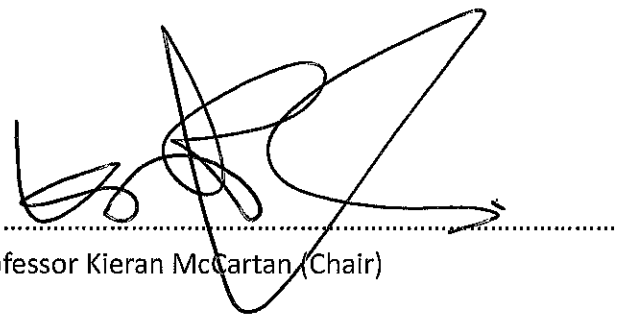
Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure of the charitable company for 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 24/9/2025 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 2025

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Circles South West (the Company) for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 24 to 33.

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: 9 October 2025.

CIRCLES SOUTH WEST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2025
COMPANY REGISTRATION NO. (ENGLAND AND WALES) 07369778

		2025			2024
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
		£	£	£	£
INCOME FROM	**Notes**				
Donations and Legacies					
Grants					
Private Sector	2a	57,610	71,890	129,500	*217,226*
Public Sector	2a	27,101	321,846	348,947	*157,770*
Donations	2b	116	-	116	*556*
Investments					
Bank and deposit interest	2c	-	-	-	-
Other incoming resources	2d	29,928	39,750	69,678	*33,228*
TOTAL		**114,755**	**433,486**	**548,241**	*408,780*
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	3	116,688	435,429	552,117	*529,842*
TOTAL		**116,688**	**435,429**	**552,117**	*529,842*
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		(1,933)	(1,943)	(3,876)	*(121,062)*
Transfer between funds	8	(18,200)	18,200	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		**(20,133)**	**16,257**	**(3,876)**	*(121,062)*
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		54,260	28,481	82,741	*203,803*
Total funds carried forward		**34,127**	**44,738**	**78,865**	*82,741*

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 2025
COMPANY REGISTRATION NO. (ENGLAND AND WALES) 07369778

	Notes	2025		2024	
FIXED ASSETS	10		3,681		*3,394*
			3,681		*3,394*
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	4	51,514		*9,911*	
Cash at bank and in hand		111,936		*123,832*	
		163,450		*133,743*	
LIABILITIES					
Creditors falling due within one year	5	(88,266)		*(54,396)*	
Net current assets			75,184		*79,347*
Total net assets			**78,865**		*82,741*
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Unrestricted Funds	7		34,127		*54,260*
Restricted Funds	8		44,738		*28,481*
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			**78,865**		*82,741*

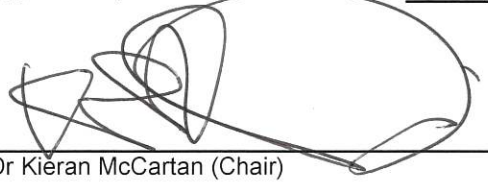
The Trustees consider that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to have an audit under the provisions of section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ("the Act") and members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

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 24/9/2025 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 2025
COMPANY REGISTRATION NO. (ENGLAND AND WALES) 07369778

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cashflows from Operating Activities		
Net Cash provided by Operating Activities	**(9,272)**	*(110,400)*
Cashflows from Investing Activities		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(2,624)	*(3,102)*
Net Cash provided by Investing Activities	**(2,624)**	*(3,102)*
Net Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period	**(11,896)**	*(113,502)*
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	**123,832**	*237,334*
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	**111,936**	*123,832*
Net Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period	**(11,896)**	*(113,502)*

Notes to Cashflow Statement

Reconciliation of net income to net cash flows from operating activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net income for the reporting period	(3,876)	*(121,062)*
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	2,337	*1,375*
(increase)/decrease in debtors	(41,603)	*13,029*
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	33,870	*(3,742)*
Net cash provided by operating activities	**(9,272)**	*(110,400)*

Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash in hand and at bank	111,936	*123,832*
Total cash and cash equivalents	**111,936**	*123,832*

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 1. The registered office is Crown Chambers, 12 Bridge Street, Salisbury SP1 2LX

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.

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, using the straight-line method. Depreciation is provided on the following basis: Computer equipment 33%.

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.

Note

2 INCOME - by fund

		2025			2024		
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	*Unrestricted funds*	*Restricted funds*	*Total*
		£	£	£	*£*	*£*	*£*
a.	**Grants**						
	Private sector	57,610	71,890	129,500	*123,905*	*93,321*	*217,226*
	Public sector	27,101	321,846	348,947	*21,950*	*135,820*	*157,770*
		84,711	**393,736**	**478,447**	*145,855*	*229,141*	*374,996*
b.	Donations	116	-	116	*556*	-	*556*
c.	Bank/Deposit Interest	-	-	-	-	-	-
d.	Other income	29,928	39,750	69,678	*33,228*	-	*33,228*
	Total income	**114,755**	**433,486**	**548,241**	*179,639*	*229,141*	*408,780*

3 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2025			2024		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	*Unrestricted funds*	*Restricted funds*	*Total*
	£	£	£	*£*	*£*	*£*
Rehabilitation of offenders						
Direct costs	-	422,353	422,353	-	*344,557*	*344,557*
Governance costs	-	13,076	13,076	-	*13,606*	*13,606*
External training and overheads						
Direct costs	109,406	-	109,406	*167,079*	-	*167,079*
Governance costs	7,282	-	7,282	*4,600*	-	*4,600*
	116,688	**435,429**	**552,117**	*171,679*	*358,163*	*529,842*

Governance costs	2025	2024
	£	£
Finance management and bookkeeping costs	15,689	*15,668*
Accountancy charges	2,900	*500*
Independent examination fee	1,260	*1,330*
Trustees Meeting expenses	509	*708*
	20,358	*18,206*

Note	4 DEBTORS	2025 £	2024 £
	Trade Debtors	30,304	7,413
	Prepayments & Accrued Income	21,210	2,498
		51,514	9,911

5	CREDITORS	2025 £	2024 £
	Trade creditors	12,098	9,472
	Taxation and social security	9,567	8,371
	Other creditors	47	-
	Accruals	1,740	1,740
	Deferred income	64,814	34,813
		88,266	54,396

	Deferred Income	2025 £	2024 £
	Balance at 1 April 2024	34,813	37,933
	Amounts released to income	(34,813)	(37,933)
	Amounts deferred in the year	64,814	34,813
	Balance at 31 March 2025	**64,814**	34,813

Deferred income comprises funding received during the year to be recognised as incoming resources in 2025-26. £3,902 (2024 £3,407) related to unrestricted funds and £60,912 (2024 £31,406) to restricted funds

6	ANALYSIS OF STAFF COSTS	2025 £	2024 £
	Salaries and wages	378,040	362,739
	Social security costs	32,592	29,997
	Pension costs	13,181	13,850
	Total	**423,813**	406,586

One employee received emoluments over £60,000 (2024 1)
The average monthly headcount was 12 (2024 12).
During the year, no Trustee received remuneration or benefits in kind (2024 £nil).

During the year 2 Trustees (2024 1) were reimbursed £327 (2024 £83) for travel and office expenses

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 £64,025 (2024 £60,977).
All staff costs are divided among the operational funds according to staff time expended.

Notes

7 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

2025

	Balance at 1 April 2024	Movement in funds Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 March 2025
General Fund	40,349	114,755	(116,688)	(4,289)	34,127
Designated fund	13,911	-	-	(13,911)	-
	54,260	**114,755**	**(116,688)**	**(18,200)**	**34,127**

2024

	Balance at 1 April 2023	*Movement in funds Income*	*Expenditure*	*Transfers between funds*	*Balance at 31 March 2024*
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*

8 RESTRICTED FUNDS

2025

	Balance at 1 April 2024	Movement in funds Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 March 2025
Rehabilitation of Offenders:					
Young People's Services	19,125	111,420	(118,732)	-	11,813
Adapted Circles	5,156	-	(23,356)	18,200	-
Reboot Circles	-	31,350	(31,350)	-	-
HMP Ashfield	-	39,750	(39,750)	-	-
Gloucestershire Circles	-	25,000	(25,000)	-	-
Devon & Cornwall Circles	2,400	32,942	(22,142)	-	13,200
Wiltshire Circles	1,800	26,388	(8,463)	-	19,725
Ministry of Justice Circles	-	166,636	(166,636)	-	-
	28,481	**433,486**	**(435,429)**	**18,200**	**44,738**

2024

	Balance at 1 April 2023	*Movement in funds Income*	*Expenditure*	*Transfers between funds*	*Balance at 31 March 2024*
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)*	*-*	*-*
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*

On 1/4/2024 Trustees released £13,911 from the Designated fund towards the Training Manager's salary, All other Unrestricted sums were consolidated into Reserves at year-end, leaving the General Reserve at £34,127.

9 SUMMARY OF FUNDS

	Balance at 1 April 2024	Movement in funds Income	Expediture	Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 March 2025
General Fund	40,349	114,755	(116,688)	(4,289)	34,127
Designated Fund	13,911	-	-	(13,911)	-
Restricted fund	28,481	433,486	(435,429)	18,200	44,738
	82,741	**548,241**	**(552,117)**	-	**78,865**

	Balance at 1 April 2023	*Movement in funds Income*	*Expediture*	*Transfers between funds*	*Balance at 31 March 2024*
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*

Restricted fund purposes:

Circles of Support and Accountability in Dorset, Gloucestershire,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.

HMP Ashfield exclusively accommodates adult men convicted of sexual offences. This private prison is managed by Serco who subcontracts CSW to provide a pre-release programme and 'through-the-gate' Circles.

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 2025-26 are included in deferred income (Note 5)

10 Tangible Fixed Assets

COST	
B/F	5,101
Additions	2,624
C/F	7,725
DEPRECIATION	
B/F	(1,707)
Charge for year	(2,337)
C/F	(4,044)
NET BOOK VALUE	
B/F at 31/3/2024	3,394
C/F at 31/3/2025	3,681

11 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

2025	**Unrestricted funds**	**Restricted funds**	**Total 2025**
Fixed Assets	3,681	-	3,681
Trade Debtors	-	30,304	30,304
Prepayments & Accrued Income	2,551	18,659	21,210
Cash at bank and in hand	55,249	56,687	111,936
Current liabilities	(27,354)	(60,912)	(88,266)
	34,127	**44,738**	**78,865**

2024	*Unrestricted funds*	*Restricted funds*	*Total 2024*
Fixed Assets	*3,394*	-	*3,394*
Trade Debtors	*6,745*	*668*	*7,413*
Prepayments & 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)*
Total	*54,260*	*28,481*	*82,741*

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:

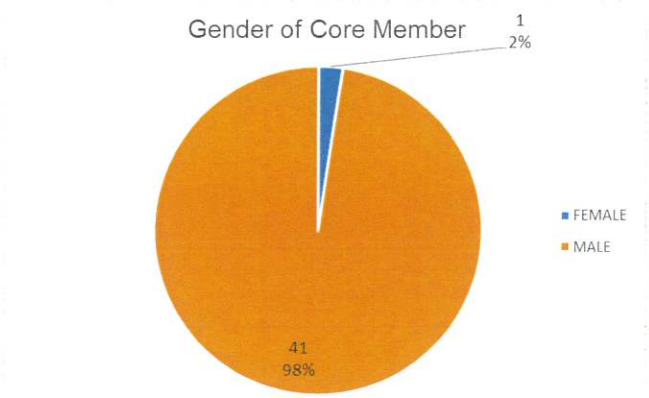
	2025	*2024*
	£	£
Pro forma income	497,171	*478,869*

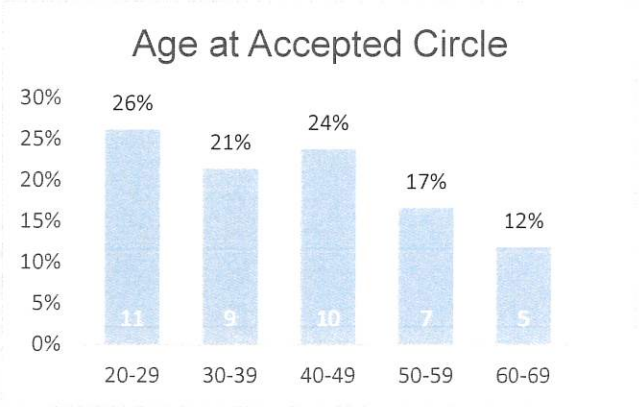
13 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

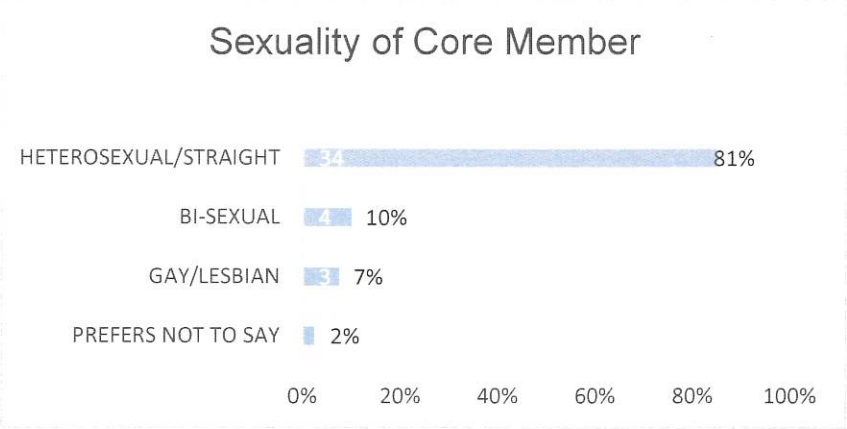
There were no related party transactions during the year

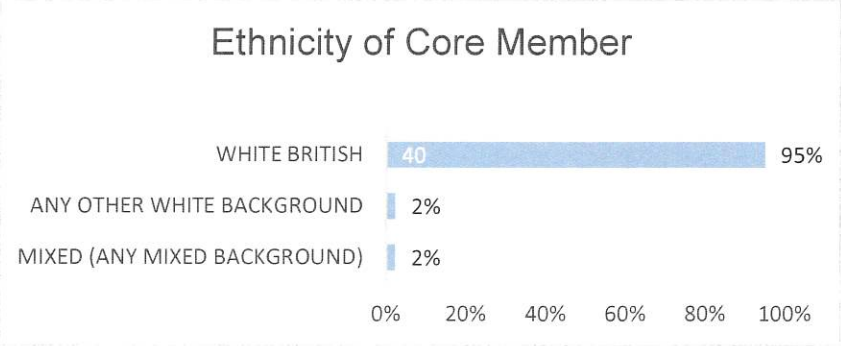
APPENDIX 1 Core Member Demographic and Index Offence Data

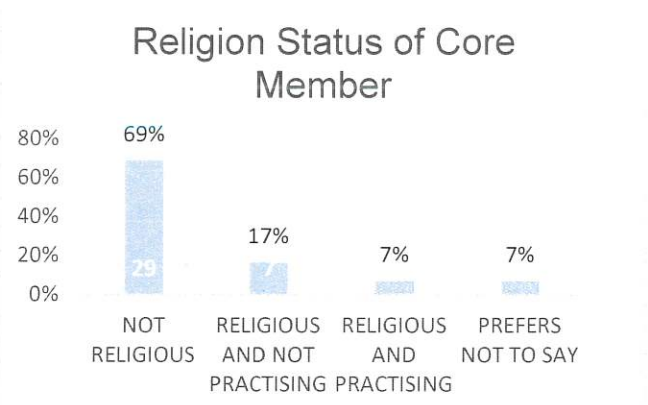
The following charts provide a snapshot of aggregate demographic and criminogenic data relating to 42 core members involved in 42 new Circles that started since April 2024:

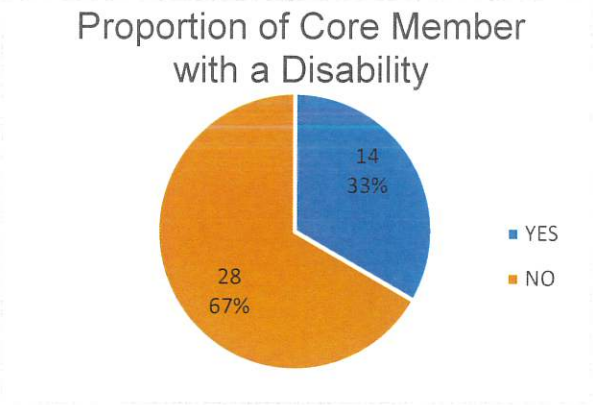


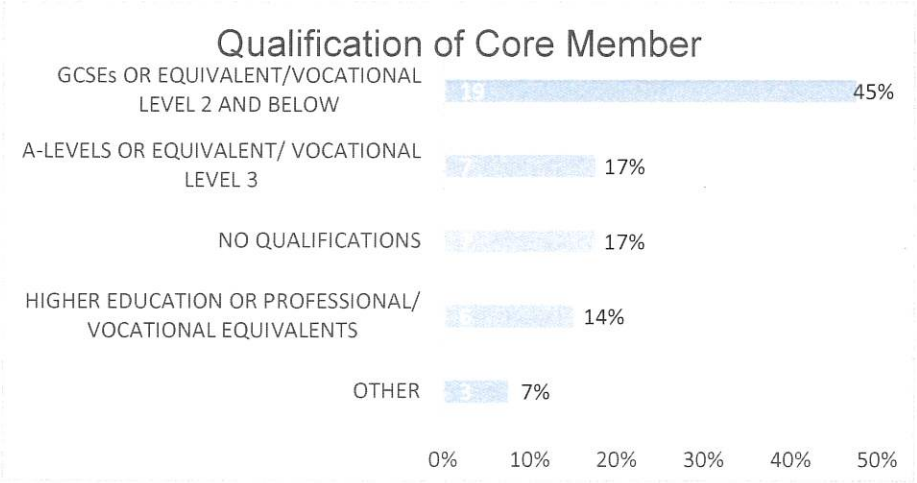


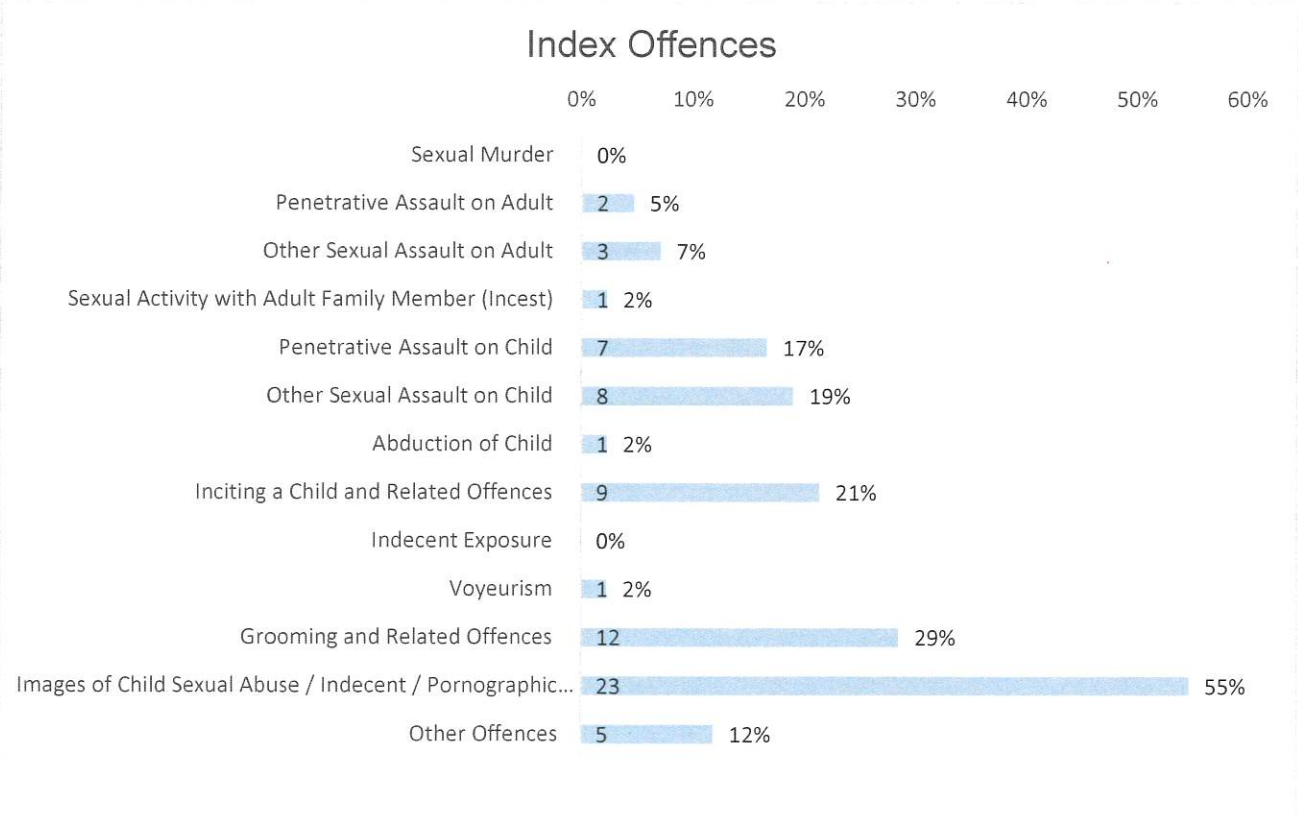





Religion Status of Core Member
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
69%
17%
7%
7%
29
NOT RELIGIOUS
RELIGIOUS AND NOT PRACTISING
RELIGIOUS AND PRACTISING
PREFERS NOT TO SAY


Proportion of Core Member with a Disability
14
33%
28
67%
YES
NO


Qualification of Core Member
GCSEs OR EQUIVALENT/VOCATIONAL LEVEL 2 AND BELOW
45%
A-LEVELS OR EQUIVALENT/ VOCATIONAL LEVEL 3
17%
NO QUALIFICATIONS
17%
HIGHER EDUCATION OR PROFESSIONAL/ VOCATIONAL EQUIVALENTS
14%
OTHER
7%
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%


Index Offences
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
Sexual Murder
0%
Penetrative Assault on Adult
2
5%
Other Sexual Assault on Adult
3
7%
Sexual Activity with Adult Family Member (Incest)
1
2%
Penetrative Assault on Child
7
17%
Other Sexual Assault on Child
8
19%
Abduction of Child
1
2%
Inciting a Child and Related Offences
9
21%
Indecent Exposure
0%
Voyeurism
1
2%
Grooming and Related Offences
12
29%
Images of Child Sexual Abuse / Indecent / Pornographic...
23
55%
Other Offences
5
12%

APPENDIX 2 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 Reseach 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

APPENDIX 3 CoSA 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

CIRCLES SOUTH WEST

England & Wales - Charity number 1138726

Accounts

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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33 Cash Flow Statement
34 Notes to the Financial Statements

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 requirements[1], 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)*

	Appointed as Trustee
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

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
Wilsons, 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 winning[2] 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 2023[3] 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 polices 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 profiled 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.

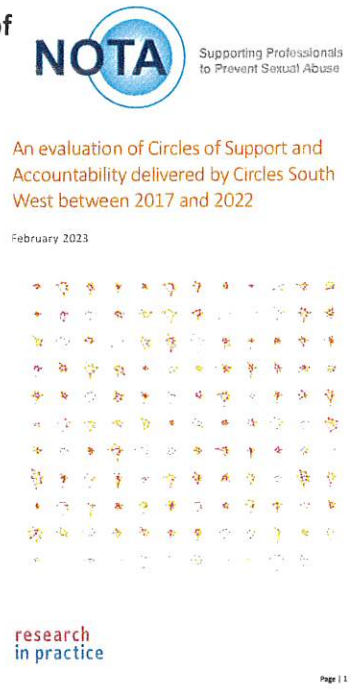
2023-24 HIGHLIGHTS

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

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 Cycle[4] 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

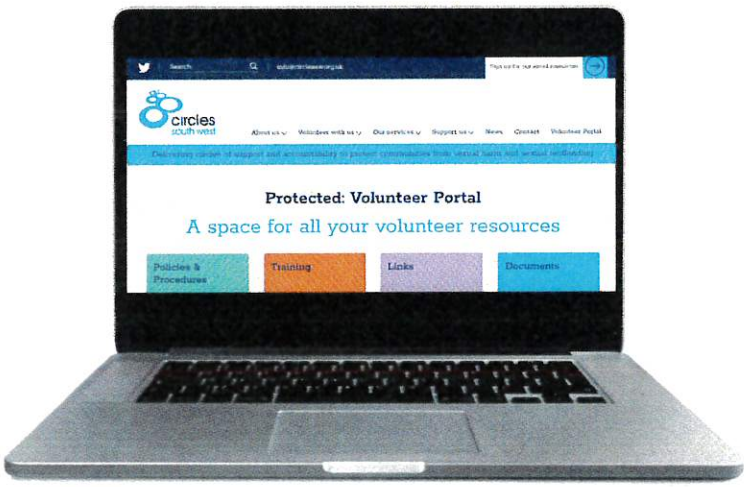
Circles SW Podcast 3 - YouTube

[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 standards[5] (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 EVALUTION

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)

[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 Circles[6]

Core Member Diversity[7]

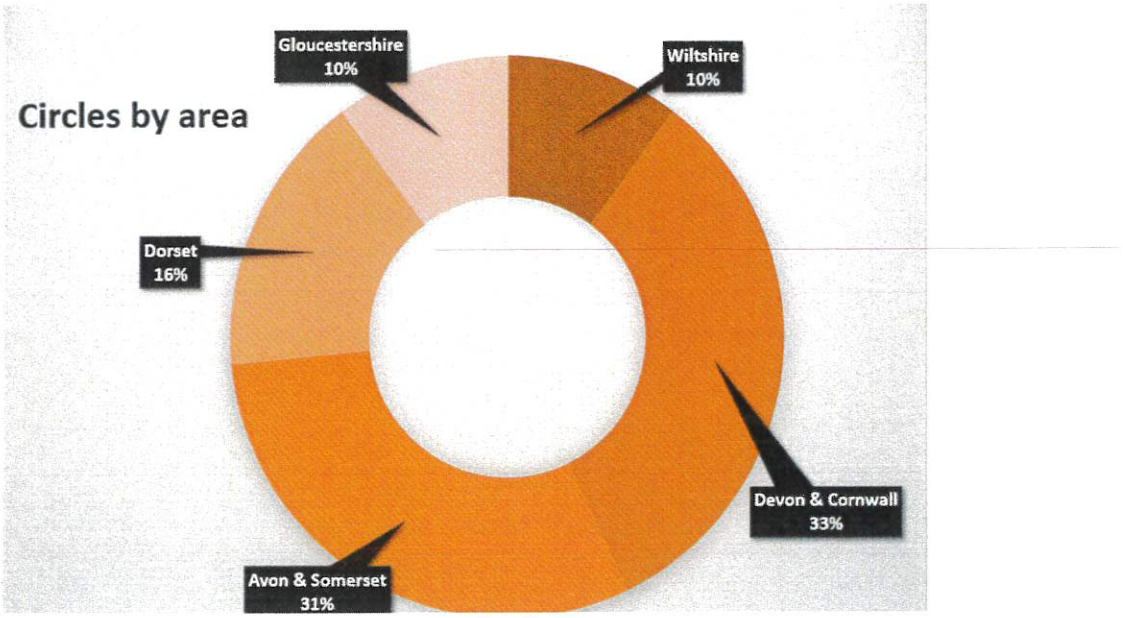
Core members complete a diversity monitoring form at the beginning of their Circle. In terms of gender, 1 core member was recorded as female and 4 (8%) core members as other (i.e. non-binary or intersex). 96% of core members were recorded as white British and 4% 'mixed (any background)'. 53% said they 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

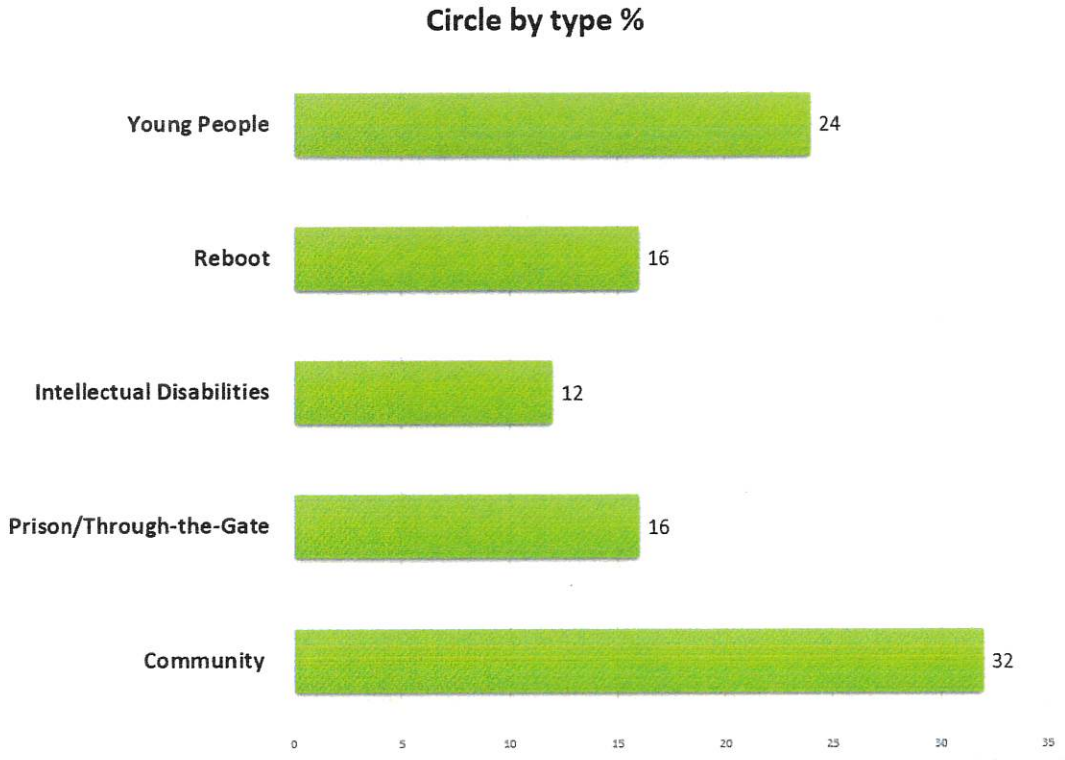
Number of Circles by area

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



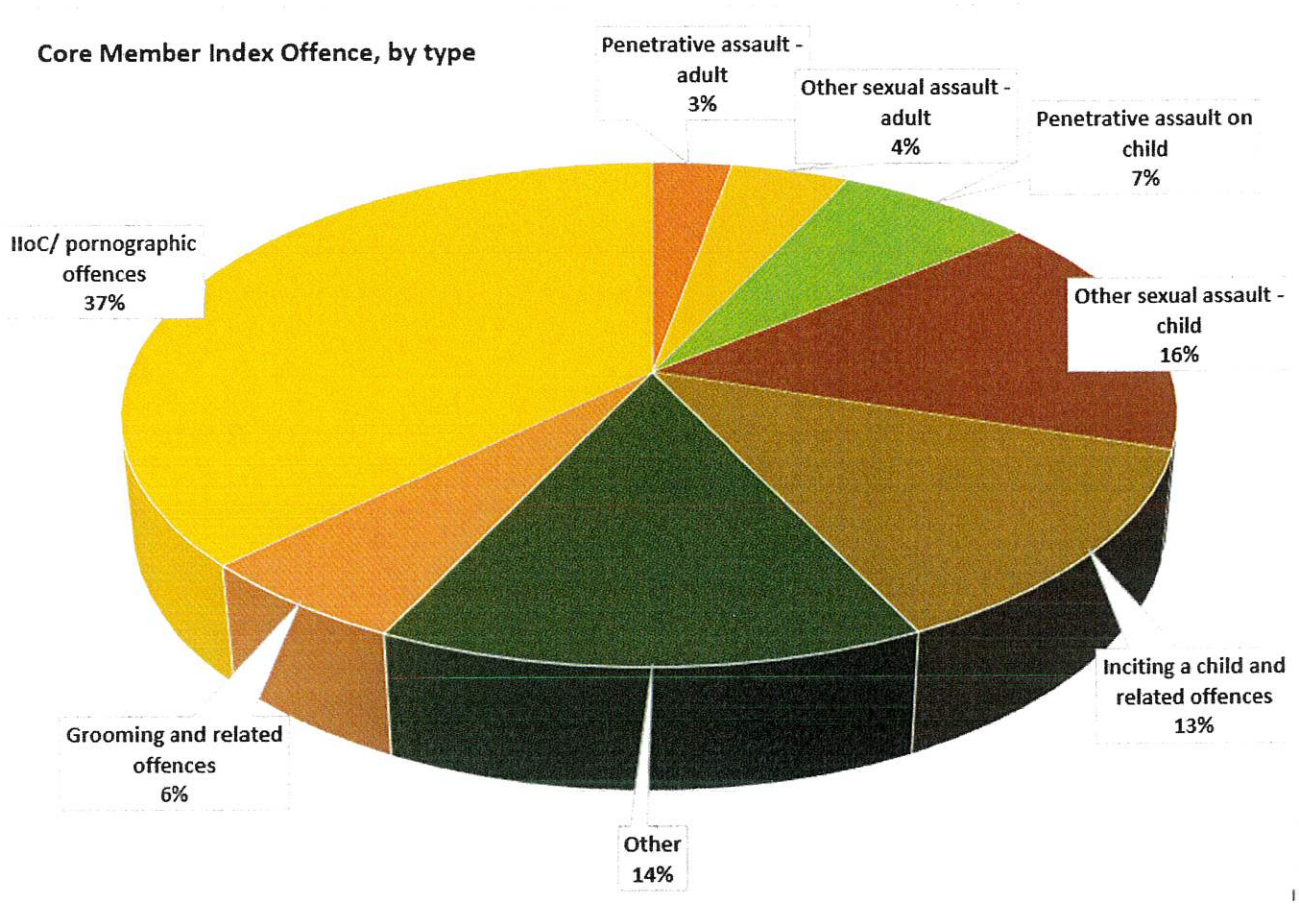
Number of Circles by type

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 Reseach 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

Licenced 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.

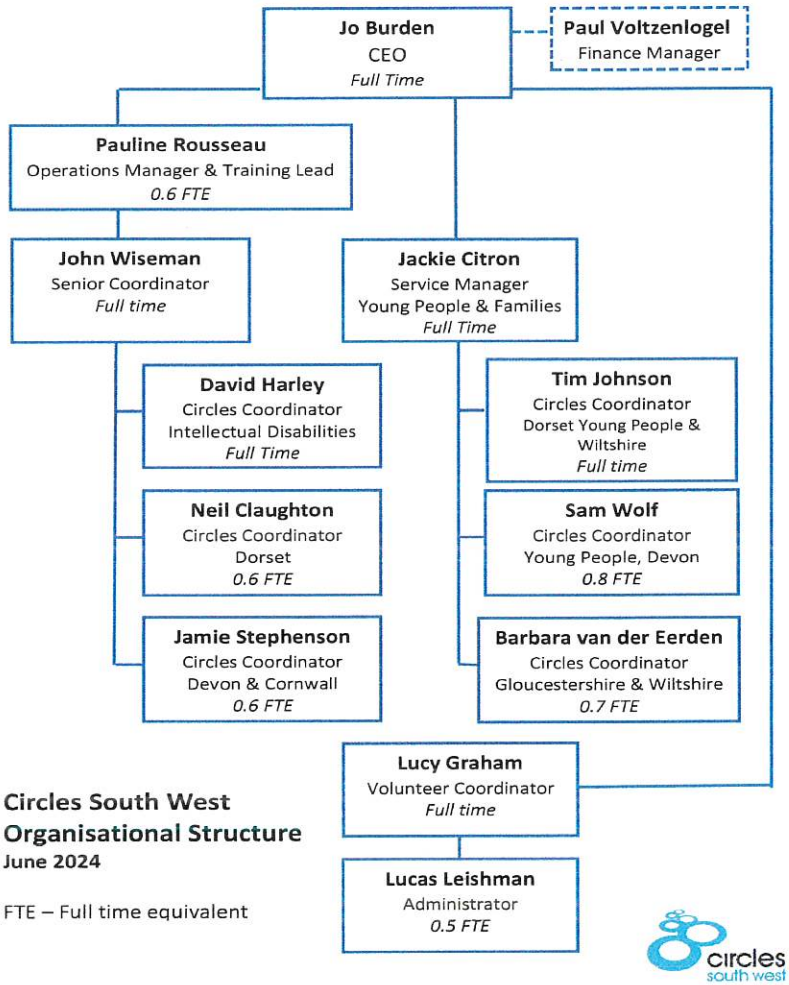
STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

"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 time[9]. A conservative estimate of the value in-kind that our volunteers have contributed this year is around £82,900[10]. 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 Circle[10]

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:

[9]Using 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 news 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 complaint). 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.

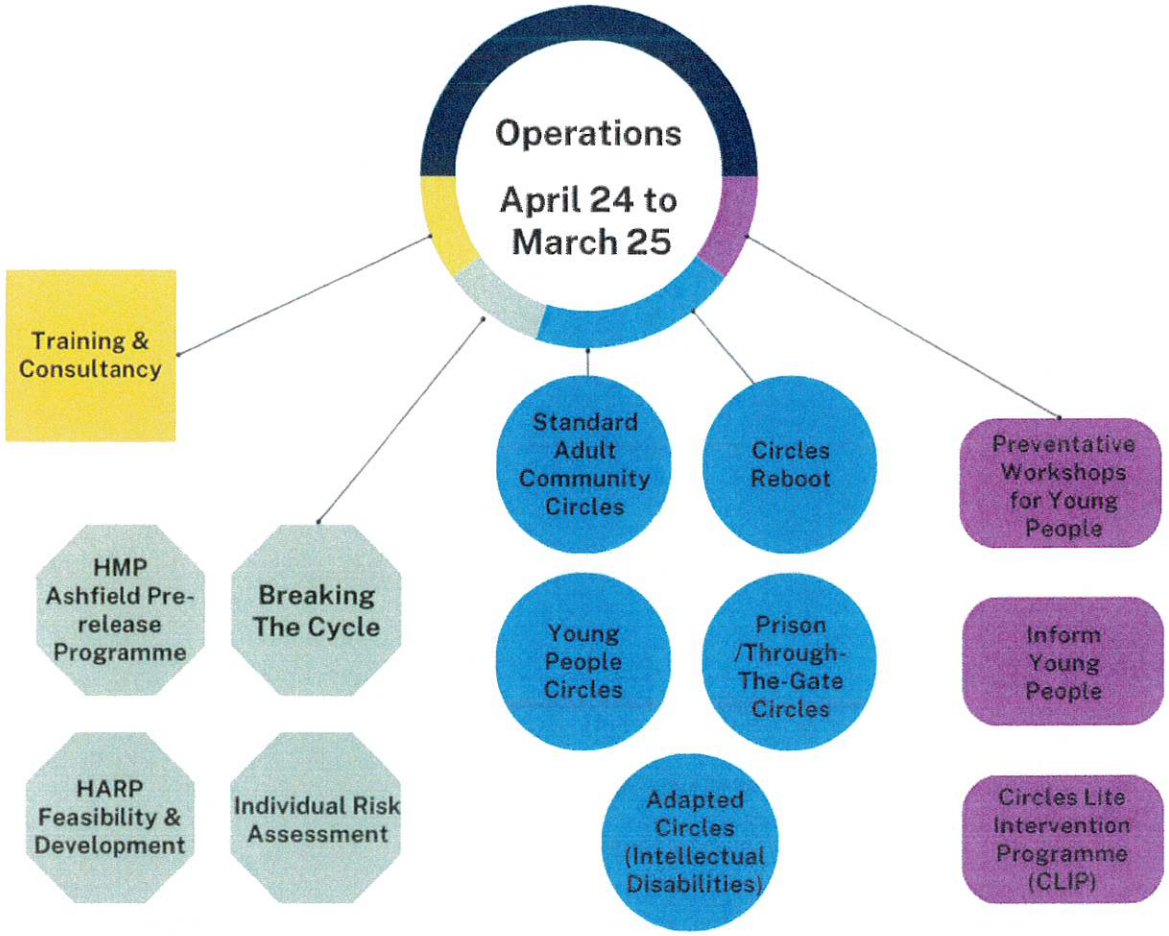
The outlook for the next 12 months is good. We are excited about plans for 2024-25, including:

- 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 28 November 2024 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: 5 December 2024

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

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

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 28 November 2024 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
	£	£
Cashflows from Operating Activities		
Net Cash provided by Operating Activities	**(110,400)**	*(63,307)*
Cashflows from Investing Activities		
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*

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.

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.

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*

Note	4 DEBTORS	2024	2023
		£	£
	Trade Debtors	7,413	4,204
	Accrued Income	2,498	18,736
		9,911	22,940

5	CREDITORS	2024	2023
		£	£
	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	2024	2023
		£	£
	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	2024	2023
		£	£
	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.

Notes

7 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

2024

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Movement in funds Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 March 2024
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

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

8 RESTRICTED FUNDS

2024

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Movement in funds Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 March 2024
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

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

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.

9 SUMMARY OF FUNDS

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Movement in funds Income	Expediture	Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 March 2024
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**

	Balance at 1 April 2022	*Movement in funds Income*	*Expediture*	*Transfers between funds*	*Balance at 31 March 2023*
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*
	213,121	*480,946*	*(490,264)*	*-*	*203,803*

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)

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	*Unrestricted funds*	*Restricted funds*	*Total 2023*
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)*
Total	*67,300*	*136,503*	*203,803*

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

CIRCLES SOUTH WEST

England & Wales - Charity number 1138726

Accounts

CIRCLES SOUTH WEST

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Report & Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 March 2023

Company number 07369778

Registered Charity number 1138726

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33 Cash Flow Statement
34 Notes to the Financial Statements

FLETCHER & PARTNERS

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

SALISBURY

CIRCLES SOUTH WEST TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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 2023. The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the Charity comply with current statutory requirements[1], 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)*

	Appointed as Trustee
Stephen Ashton	April 2012 (former Chair and Treasurer)
Tim Price (Deputy Chair)	March 2015 (resigned as Chair and appointed as Deputy September 2022)
Dr Kieran McCartan (Chair)	September 2016 (appointed as Chair September 2022)
Chris Maynard (Treasurer)	July 2017
Stephen Barry	November 2017
Peter Estall	November 2017
Diane Wills	*Resigned September 2022, both as Trustee and Deputy Chair*
Ian Keys	June 2021
Leonie Cole (Secretary)	June 2021
Sophie Rigali	November 2021
Marcella Mathis	May 2023

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Jo Burden	Appointed June 2013

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
Wilsons, 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 winning[2] 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 a 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 workforce development for professionals working with people who have sexually harmed. 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. In April 2021[3], CSW achieved 97.7% compliance against national standards (i.e. the 'Code of Practice for Circles of Support & Accountability v4 July 2018' and the 'Code of Practice for Young People's Circles of Support & Accountability v1 2018'). Our next Compliance Review is scheduled for later in 2023.

[3] Code of Practice Review Report, June 2021, Circles UK

ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE

We are proud to look back on 2022-23 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 workforce development 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 restructured the staff team; recruited new staff and enhanced our staff well-being package. We commissioned an independent pay and reward review and introduced a new employee pay structure. To meet the demand for volunteers we have refreshed our volunteer recruitment strategy and have invested 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 training for all staff and volunteers and introducing EDI training as a core training module for all new volunteers.
- Infrastructure development: to ensure contract readiness and standards compliance we have migrated to a new IT system, appointed a new IT managed services support organisation and introduced more sophisticated cyber security requirements. All staff and the nominated Trustee Lead for Data Protection have undertaken data protection training provided by an expert organisation, Hope and May. Thanks to the generous support of Lloyds Bank Foundation Enhance programme, we are in the process of a full data protection audit being undertaken by Hope and May with any remedial work to be undertaken early in 2023-24.
- Evaluation: to demonstrate that what we do works, we have continued to robustly monitor our work, commissioned independent evaluation and raised profiled 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 skill 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.

2022-23 Highlights

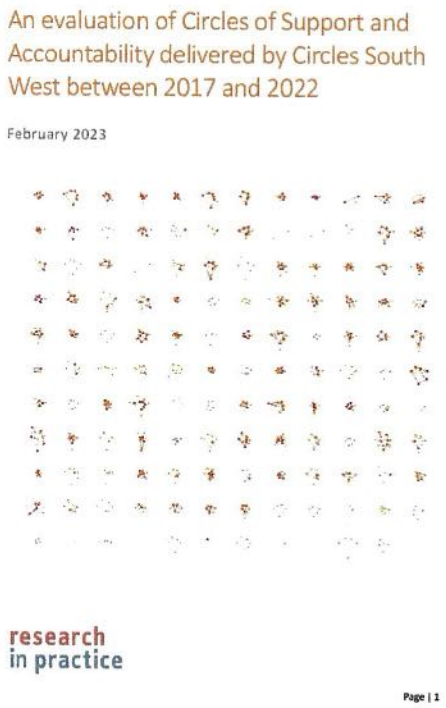
5 year independent evaluation of 131 Circles by Research in Practice: published February 2023

Between 2017 and 2022 Research in Practice evaluated 131 Circles provided by Circles South West.

The final report was published in February 2023 and 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

The findings were presented at the NOTA Annual International Conference in May 2023.



Ministry of Justice Contract: Circles of Support and Accountability for South West Probation Service

Ministry of JUSTICE

Via the Probation Services Dynamic Framework we were advised of contract award in November 2022. Following significant delay, contract mobilisation commenced in March 2023. In the first year we are contracted to provide the Probation Service with 12 Circles 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) and have at least 18 months on Licence or Order.

Podcast Launch

This year we launched Circles South West's Podcast on Buzzsprout. The first two episodes focus on raising the profile of volunteering as part of our refreshed volunteer recruitment strategy. Listeners hear first-hand from our volunteers about their motivation to volunteer with us, their learning and their thoughts about how volunteering in a Circle has impacted both them and society more broadly.

Episode 1 - Maz's Story: Maz has been volunteering with us for six years. In the first of our podcasts she talks about how she first heard about the work we do and why she decided to get involved.

"For me, the premise of no more victims really inspired me because I have known people on the other end of sexual abuse... we all need to do what we can to support change" Maz, Circle Volunteer

Listen here: CSW Podcast on Volunteering - Meet Maz

Episode 2 – Will's Story: Following the successful completion of the Young People's Circle in which he volunteered, Will talks about why he volunteers with Circles South West, essential volunteer qualities and working as part of a team.

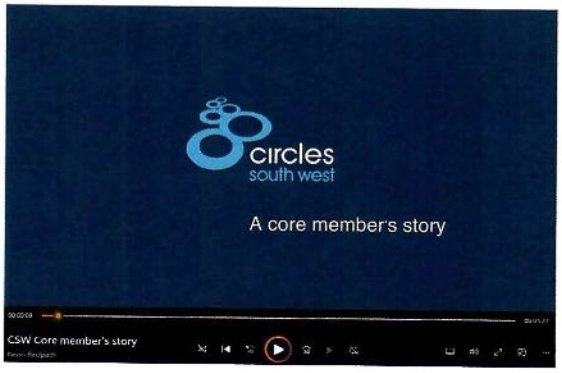
"Circles is an opportunity for people to take a stand together. Misogynism and sexual violence against women is something that is being talked about and being bought into the spotlight more now and Circles is an opportunity for you to take an active role in being part of the solution" Will, Circle Volunteer

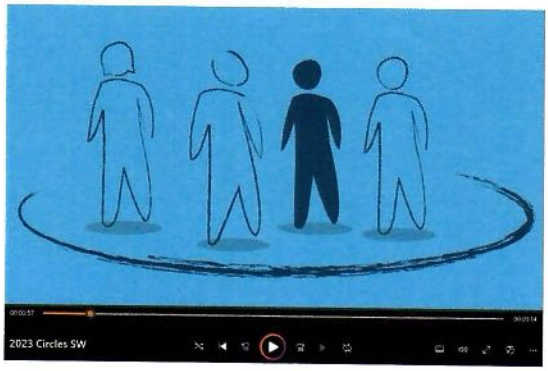
Listen here: CSW Podcast on Volunteering - Meet Will

New promotional films

We produced two new promotional films this year:

A Core Member's Story: is an interview with a core member which was shown at our November 2022 AGM. It has since been anonymised with the core members' voice replaced by that of an actor in order that it can be used in volunteer training and for promotional purposes in the public domain.





About Circles of Support & Accountability (Circles South West): is a basic introduction to Circles that includes the contribution from many stakeholders and the transcript of a core member interview that was spoken by an actor. This latest 2023 edition includes new footage by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall, and the Director of Research in Practice speaking about the 5 year evaluation outcomes.

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)
- Breaking the Cycle: groupwork (and individual programme) for non-offending partners (Licenced as Approved Provider by Circles South East)
- Inform Plus: groupwork for men convicted of offences involving indecent images of children (IIOC) (Licenced as Approved Provider by the Lucy Faithfull Foundation)
- Training and consultancy for professionals around working 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

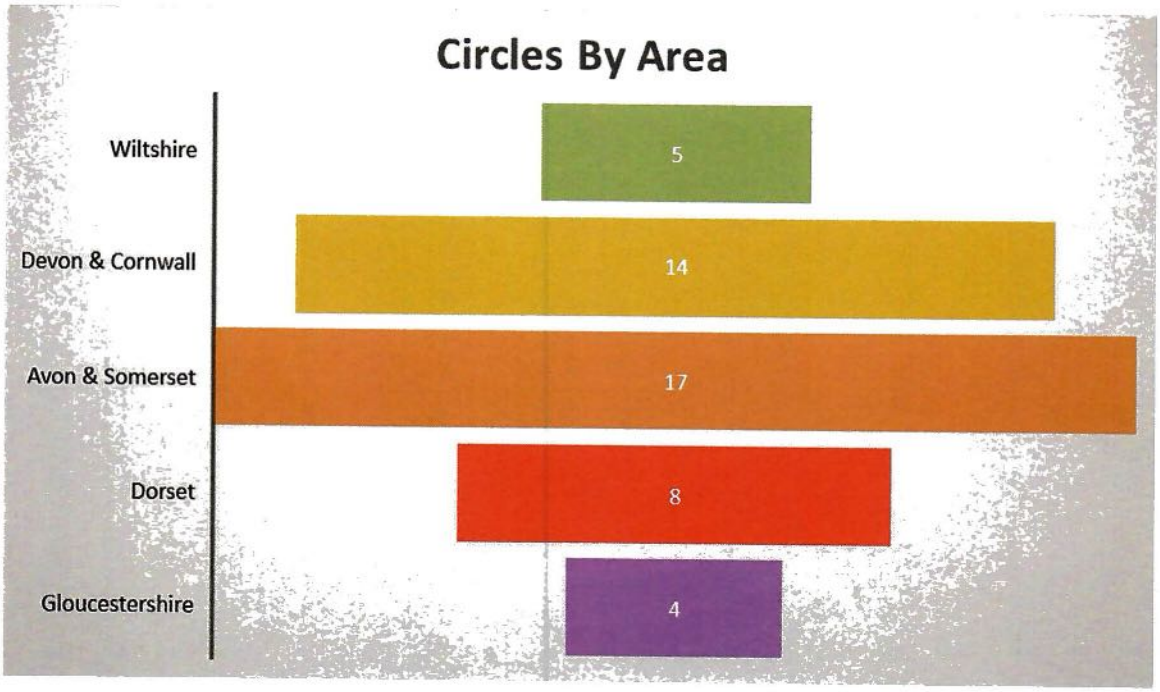
In 2022-23, we coordinated 48 active Circles. 25 (52%) of those Circles were newly established in year (since April 2022) with the other 23 (47%) starting before end-March 2022 and straddling the current and previous year.

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 Circles[4]

Number of Circles by area

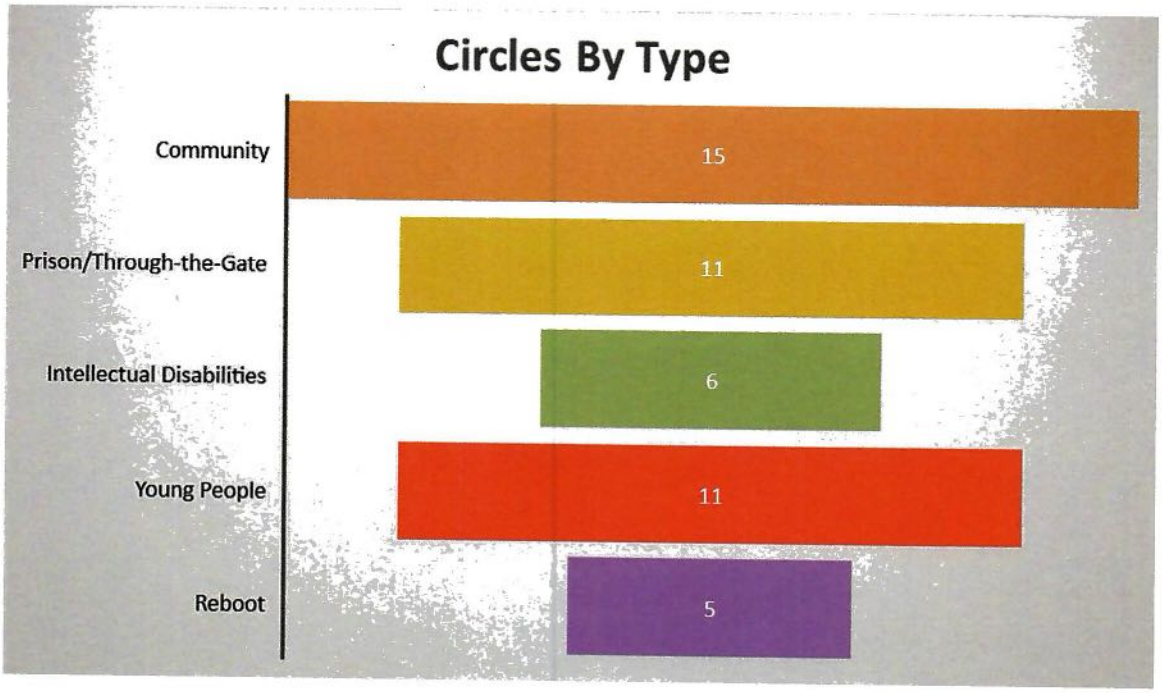
As can be seen from the visual below, 35% of all Circles were located in Avon and Somerset and 29% in Devon and Cornwall:

[4] 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.



Number of Circles by type

31% were 'standard' community Circles for adults. 23% were Circles for young people and another 23% were Prison/Through-The-Gate Circles. Significantly more Prison/Through The Gate Circles started this year due to the Covid legacy.



Core Member Referrals

During the year 2022-23, there were 89 new core member referral enquiries which converted to 33 formal referrals of whom 4 were assessed as not suitable. 80% of adult referrals were made by the Probation Service, despite no funding from Probation. Other referrers included prisons, police, Children's Social Care, Glebe House Therapeutic Community.

Core Members' Diversity[5]

Core members complete a diversity monitoring form at the beginning of their Circle. In terms of gender, 2 core members were recorded as female (1 adult, 1 U18) and 3 core members as other (2 adult, 1 U18). 88% of core members were recorded as white British, 2% as white Irish, 2% as other white background and 8% as mixed (any background). 40% said they had a disability as defined by the Equality Act 2010. 67% were recorded as heterosexual and 23% gay, lesbian or bisexual. At the point they were allocated to a Circle, core members were between 10 years old and 71 years old, including 19% young people under 18 years old.

Index Offences, Prevention Orders

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.

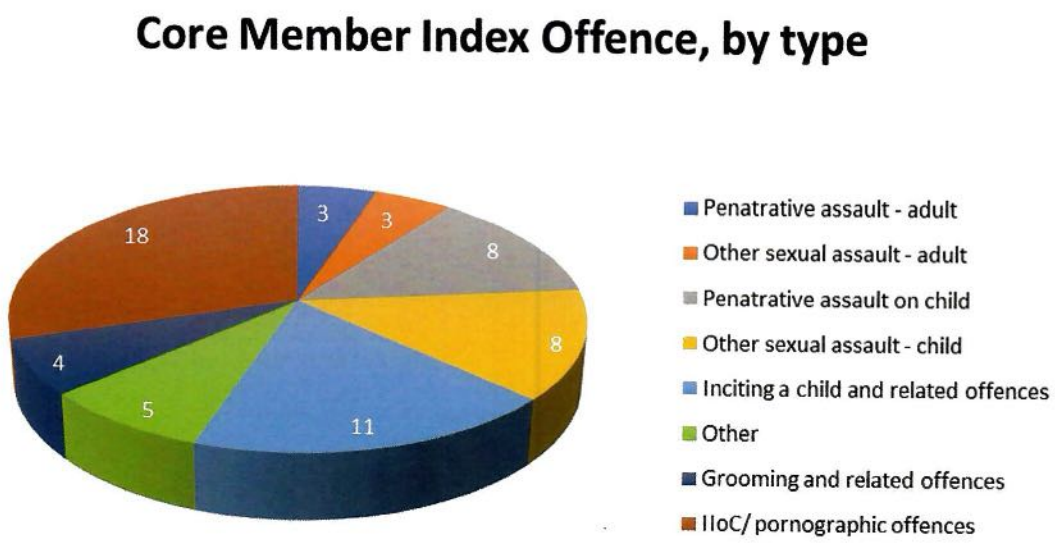
Most of our younger core members U18 had not been convicted in relation to their Harmful Sexual Behaviour. The majority of this cohort had been involved in intra-familial abuse, and specifically sibling sexual abuse.

Note on the incidence of Sibling Sexual Abuse: as at April 23, we have 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

[5] Using diversity monitoring categories defined by Circles UK

Core Member Index Offence, by type



Key:
CSA = Child Sexual Abuse
IIOC = Indecent Images of Children

Of those convicted, 26% of core members were on licence at the point of referral whilst 60% of core members were subject to a Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO).

Outcomes: Circles of Support & Accountability

28 Circles closed in 2022-23. Of these, 23 (79%) ran their natural course. The median active period was 12 months (Circles Reboot 5-6 months).

5 Circles closed earlier than planned:

- 1 was recalled at 6 months > Sentence End Date, for new non-sexual offences of assault and criminal damage
- 1 had to close after only a month due to the very serious and rapid deterioration of CM health
- 1 was forced to close at 3 months as the CM withdrew consent
- 1 YP Circle closed at 5 months as CM failed to comply with agreed rules/engage
- 1 YP Circle closed at 9 months due to concerns CSW shared with social services about the family

"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 Her Majesty's Prison & Probation Service (HMPPS) National Research Committee (NRC). The full final report was published in February 2023. It can be downloaded at this link CSW CoSA 5 year Evaluation by Reseach in Practice Feb23 and the findings are summarised below (excerpt from Blog by Lead Researcher, May 23):

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. Whatever the reasons for their isolation and seclusion, 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 C – young person

C, 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. C had previously engaged in a number of incidents of HSB with vulnerable same aged peers.

C 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 C's independence skills; help develop C's social / relationship skills; support C to engage with College; help C 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 C 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 C struggled with relationships at college and at home. The Circle worked hard to develop positive relationships with C. They caught the bus with him to Circle meetings, helping him develop independence skills, confidence and self-esteem. The Circle supported C to join a gym and encouraged healthy eating. The Circle Coordinator collaborated with C and professionals to develop a Safety Plan., supporting C's adherence to this.

By the end of the Circle, C 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. C had made a good friend at college and was confident using buses.

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

CASE STUDY K (adult)

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

K (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. In view of this, he was to be managed at Level 2 MAPPA on release due to multi agency involvement.

K 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.

K 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. K 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.

K'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

Inform Plus

Licensed by the Lucy Faithfull Foundation, CSW is an Approved Provider of Inform Plus (in Devon, Cornwall, Dorset and Wiltshire). This 11 session (11 week) psycho-educational groupwork programme is for men arrested, cautioned or convicted of internet offences involving indecent images of children (IIOC).

Commissioned by Devon and Cornwall Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC), between 2020-2022, CSW delivered 4 programmes specifically for men convicted of IIOC, referred by the police. 16 men completed the programme.

Independent evaluation undertaken by Research in Practice (funded by Nota) will be published in 2023. The draft report concludes that *"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".*

Breaking the Cycle

Licenced 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.

Commissioned by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon, we delivered a Wiltshire group between March-May 2022. Wiltshire Social Care also commissioned the programme on an individual basis. In 2023 we will deliver a Bristol programme (charitable trust funded).

This programme 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.

Inform Young People

New for 2022-23 is Inform Young People, an 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.

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 2022 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
- Salvation Army and ARA Recovery for All both commissioned staff training in working with people who have sexually harmed
- Bristol Social Services and Shekinah (Make Amends, Plymouth) both commissioned specialist consultancy support (risk assessment guidance and case management group supervision respectively)
- Norway Correction Service purchased places on our volunteer core training residential weekend as part of their development of Circles of Support and Accountability
- Dorset Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner commissioned multi-agency training for professionals around working with young people with harmful sexual behaviour

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

"Keep up the fantastic work, our community needs you. We are grateful"[6]
Alison Hernandez, Police & Crime Commissioner for Devon & Cornwall

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. 176 volunteers were involved in the 48 Circles coordinated during the year, contributing between them 8172 hours volunteering time[7]. A conservative estimate of the value in-kind that our volunteers have contributed this year is around £135,491[8]. At the end of 2022-23 we had 166 retained, trained volunteers across the region.

Independent evaluation: 'volunteering experience'

For the 5 years 2017-2022, Research in Practice independently evaluated the CoSA provided by CSW. This included a specific focus on the 'Volunteering Experience' of 203 Volunteers involved in 131 Circles. A summary of the findings is produced below; the full evaluation report published in February 2023 can be accessed at this link: CSW CoSA 5 year Evaluation by Reseach in Practice Feb23

Circles volunteers were overwhelmingly positive about their experiences with CSW. 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 saw 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 received from CSW was highly commended and the majority felt well prepared for their circle. Although relationships with core members took time to develop in some cases, volunteers mainly spoke of positive and respectful relationships with core members, which enabled meaningful work in the circle. Almost all volunteers said that they would volunteer again in the future, and recommend volunteering with CSW to a friend.

Volunteering Hours

"The substantial number of volunteering hours reported by Circles South West is a testament to the hard work of the volunteers and professionals involved. Volunteers' external use of the knowledge and skills learned through Circles, and their increased awareness of and advocacy for the potential community role in rehabilitation, also highlights the broader impact of Circles" (Research in Practice)

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.

It is important to note that these figures *include data for completed Circles only* on a specific date in 2021

[6] Via Twitter
[7] Using the RiP identified average no. of 227 hours per circle
[8] Using £16.58 per hour as the UK median hourly wage for "Business and public service associates" (ONS, 2020)

(the numbers would be substantially higher had active Circles been included).

Reporting on 78 Circles there were:

- a total of 17,674 volunteering hours
- 7,438.5 direct volunteering hours plus 10,235.5 indirect volunteering hours
- This equates to 227 volunteering hours per Circle
- This represents a staggering £293,035 overall, or £3756 per Circle[9]

Volunteering Experience

"Volunteers' feedback presents a positive picture of volunteering with Circles South West, describing how organisational values align 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" (Research in Practice)

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 news 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

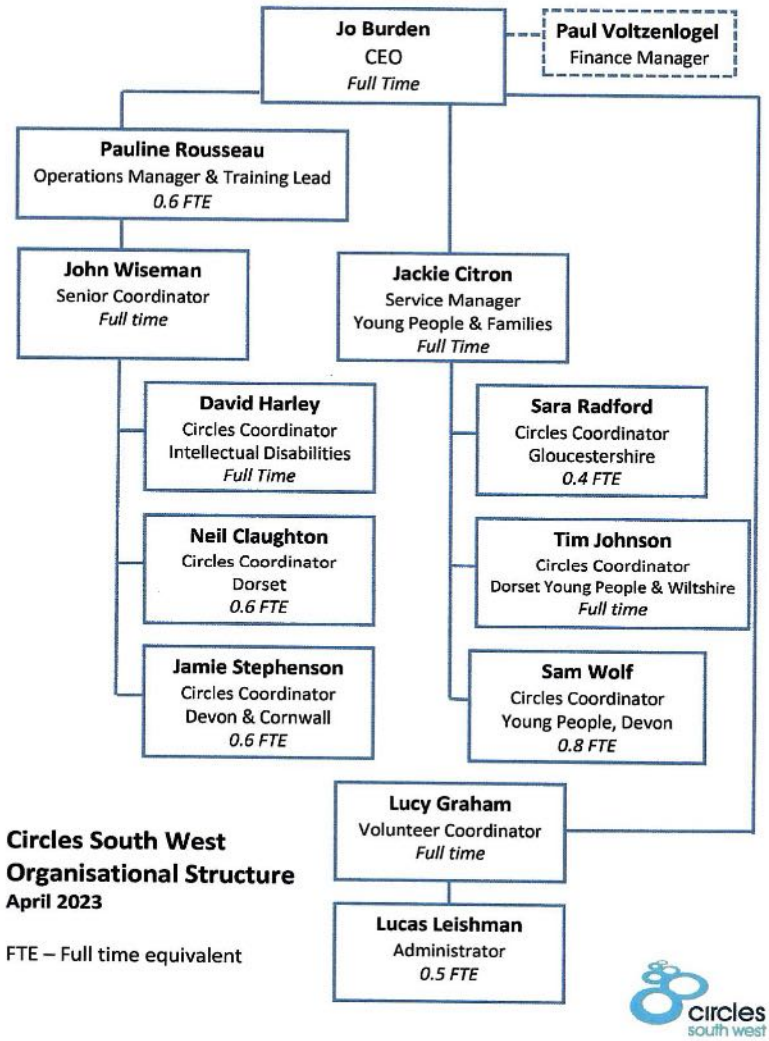
"As an organisation, Circles South West was described as "supportive", "friendly", "professionally run", "remarkably able", "efficient" and "well organised", with an important mission. It was felt to be making a difference. It is considered welcoming and inclusive with volunteers feeling appreciated and supportive" (Research in Practice)

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

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.

We introduced a new staff structure this year, making better use of the available resources and providing internal progression opportunities for existing staff. We appointed 4 new staff (3 part-time), increasing to 9.5 full-time equivalent staff from April 23 (compared to 8.7 FTE at April 22). Like other voluntary sector organisations, we are finding it increasingly challenging to recruit suitably qualified staff with the required skills, knowledge and experience for our niche work. With the support of Lloyds Bank Foundation, RootsHR undertook an independent Pay and Reward review, including salary bench-marking exercise, resulting in the introduction of a fair and equitable salary banding structure with effect from July 22. The 'staff well-being' package introduced last year continues to be well received; this includes 'emotional well-being' support from an independent counsellor, away days and a rewards and benefit platform.



REVIEW OF FINANCIAL POSITION AND PERFORMANCE

We have successfully attracted a level of funding in line with our budget. The Charity's recognised income in 2022-23 amounted to £480,946 (previous year £520,119 when significant funds had been brought forward due to the 'Covid-slide' i.e. work deferred due to pandemic restrictions[10]). This method of recognising income is in accordance with the SORP, the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, and indicates a decrease of recognised income in the year of 7.5%.

Of the recognised income that related to grants, £152,907 (33%) consisted of public sector grants and £313,661 (67%) was derived from Trusts and Foundations. Expenditure amounted to £490,264 (previous year £478,325). At the year-end £203,803 (previous year £213,121) was carried forward to fund activities in future years. The Charity held £37,933 in advance payments for work to be delivered in 2023-24 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 £340,099 covering work to be delivered in 2023-24 (which, together with sums carried forward and deferred income, represents 82% of the approved budget) and the Trustees therefore consider that the charity will have sufficient cash resources to meet liabilities as they fall due, and that it is 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. Some donors have asked to remain anonymous. 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 £38,760 would meet that 'sufficiency' objective.

[10] For example, Prison/TTG Circles were significantly delayed due to the complexities of Covid-management in the prison estate

At the 2022-23 year-end the total level of unrestricted reserves is £67,300 (previous year £57,712). The Board has considered this level of reserves and has, within that, designated £25,000 to extend the delivery of 'fee earning' training and consultancy for professionals by funding the part-time position of Training Lead, and £3,000 to support the delivery of Inform Young People in 2023-24. The balance of £39,300 therefore meets the objective of the Reserves policy.

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 measure are in place and that actions required are 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. New Trustees have been onboarded over recent times to bring in fresh ideas and the Board works well as a team and often alongside staff members. 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. Trustees have taken part in extensive EDI training and workshops this year to support the implementation of our EDI policy. The Board oversees general governance, sets the overall strategic goals and regularly monitors overall performance against our key objectives.

Operational Risks Summary - Referrals continue to outstrip capacity and we have continued to explore other funding opportunities to try and bridge that gap. The environment we operate in as charity is constantly changing but CSW has proven it has the ability to adapt, often at short notice and take advantage of new opportunities as they arise. As well as our traditional funders, CSW has been successful in securing funding for Circles from the Ministry of Justice through the Probation Service Dynamic Framework after a rigorous national bidding process. Overall, our funding and delivery levels have remained stable and are expanding. There have been no Safeguarding issues involving CSW operations and no other 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 bids for funding are for fixed term only and 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 also need to ensure we have sufficient unrestricted funding to maintain general operations. Bidding for new funds continued while innovative funding was explored to bolster our operations. The risks of moving into new areas were thoroughly examined by the Board, balancing the dangers of being seen to be going "off mission" versus the need to ensure we have general funds to continue with core business. This is something that is under constant review to ensure we always deliver in line with the overall objectives of the charity. We constantly monitor our reserves and ensure they are appropriate, with any excess being directed back to our key operational work. 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. 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 always to exceed standards where it is practical to do so. CSW recognised the need to review and upgrade, where necessary, our IT security and we have made significant steps this year. We have achieved CE Certification, migrated to an even more secure IT system as well as new IT managed service provider. This has improved our ability to communicate and share information securely with other organisations, including Governmental bodies as well as ensuring the information we store is as secure as possible.

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 committed to growing our provision for those secondary victims who are impacted but who often go unheard and unsupported; the non-offending partners, family and friends. 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.

The outlook for the next 12 months is good. We are excited about plans for 2023-24 that include:

- 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
- mobilisation and year 1 delivery of our newest contract with the Ministry of Justice to provide Circles in South West England for the Probation Service
- continued delivery of our newer services such as Inform Young People, Circles Reboot and Breaking the Cycle
- producing the next CSW Podcast with a focus on Breaking the Cycle User Voice
- launching our new strategic plan
- disseminating the findings of the independent evaluation of Circles, as published in February 2023 (summary above)
- implementing even more sophisticated IT systems and achieving Cyber Essentials Plus certification, with the support of PC Comms and Cyber Tec
- ensuring that our data protection processes are of the highest standard with the support of specialist consultant, Hope and May.

We are also looking forward to two new independent evaluation reports of our work, on:

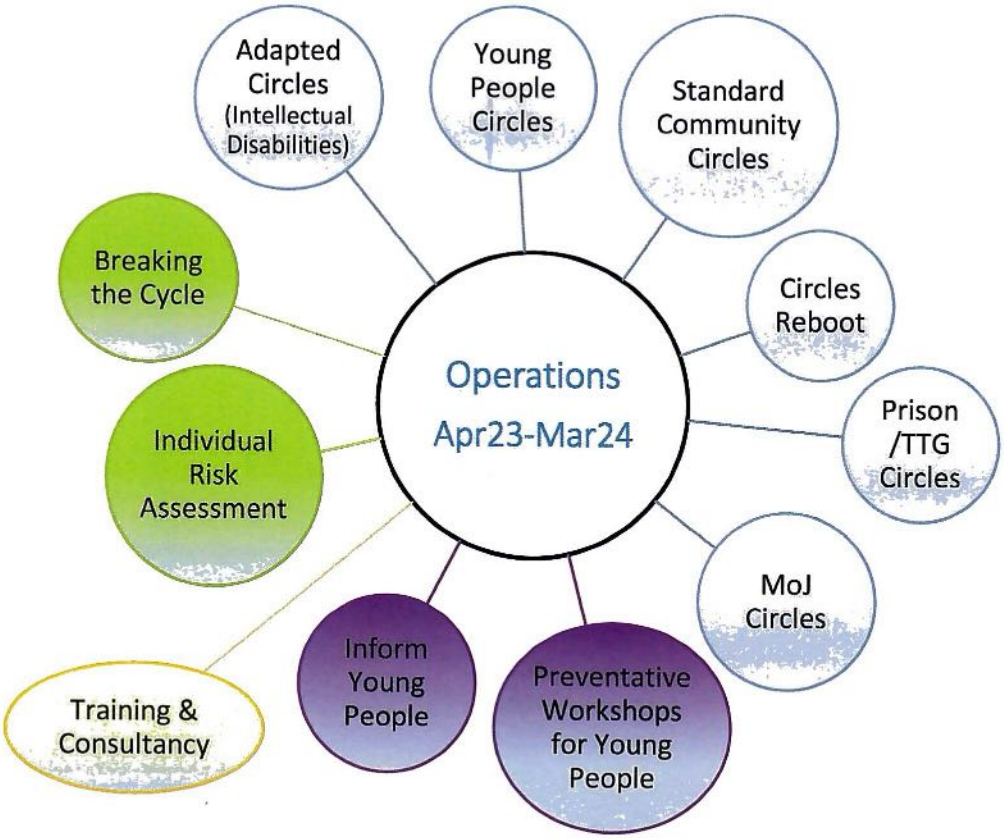
- Inform Plus (for men convicted of online offences involving IIOC, referred by Devon and Cornwall Police) - undertaken by Research in Practice and funded by Nota
- Circles ReBoot (national pilot programme)

Revised national standards for Circles – Code of Practice for Circles of Support and Accountability V5 – were introduced by Circles UK in November 2022. We have worked to ensure compliance with the newly introduced requirements in anticipation of our Code of Practice Compliance Review scheduled for April/May 2023, to be conducted by Circles UK.

CSW Operations 2023-24

The diagram below shows CSW's planned operations for 2023-24, 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 2023-24



Income Generation and Added Value

In 2022-23 we secured £152,907 from local public sector sources and £328,039 from voluntary sources, including grants from independent funders, donations and earned income. This means that for every £1 of public funding, we levered in £2.15 from other sources.

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

The vast majority of our referrals for Circles are from Probation and, as at the end of 2022-23 we have received no financial contribution from the Probation Service. However, this is due to change in 2023-24 when we begin to deliver on the recently awarded MoJ CoSA contract.

We have secured funding for 2023-24 from four of the five South West OPCCs but the potential for funding beyond March 2024 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.

We introduced a new staff structure this year, making better use of the available resources and providing internal progression opportunities for existing staff. Thanks to the support of the Lloyds Bank Foundation Enhance Programme, RootsHR undertook an employee pay and benefits review, including a sophisticated salary benchmarking exercise; as a result a new Pay and Reward Policy and salary band structure were introduced in the Summer of 2022. The 'staff well-being' package introduced last year has been well received which includes 'emotional well-being' support from an independent counsellor, 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 and this was compounded by the pandemic. In response we are working on a refreshed volunteer recruitment strategy which includes increasing our investment in volunteering this year.

In order to be contract and national standards compliant we continue to refine our IT systems, including cyber security. In 2023 we intend to achieve Cyber Essentials Plus certification and migrate to a more secure IT system.

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 2022-23 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:

- Catch22
- Circles UK (from National Philanthropic Trust UK)
- Devon & Cornwall Police & Crime Commissioner
- Devon County Council
- Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner
- Enham Trust (Personal Independence Payment)
- Friends Therapeutic Community Trust (Glebe House)
- Gloucestershire Community Foundation
- Gloucestershire Police & Crime Commissioner
- Henry Smith Charity
- Lloyds Bank Foundation
- Ministry of Justice
- North Somerset Council
- Paul Hamlyn Foundation
- Sir James Reckitt Charity
- South Gloucestershire Council
- The AB Charitable Trust
- The Bromley Trust
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- The Triangle Trust
- Wiltshire & Swindon Police & Crime Commissioner

(This list does not include new donors for 2023-24)

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 20/09/23 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 2023

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Circles South West (the Company) for the year ended 31 March 2023 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: 26 September 2023

CIRCLES SOUTH WEST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2023
COMPANY REGISTRATION NO. (ENGLAND AND WALES) 07369778

		2023			2022
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
		£	£	£	£
INCOME FROM	**Notes**				
Donations and Legacies					
Grants					
Private Sector	2a	117,039	196,622	313,661	*335,041*
Public Sector	2a	13,272	139,635	152,907	*159,303*
Donations	2b	1,603	0	1,603	*249*
Investments					
Bank and deposit interest	2c	3	0	3	*8*
Other incoming resources	2d	12,772	0	12,772	*25,518*
TOTAL		**144,689**	**336,257**	**480,946**	*520,119*
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	3	130,101	360,163	490,264	*478,325*
TOTAL		**130,101**	**360,163**	**490,264**	*478,325*
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		14,588	(23,906)	(9,318)	*41,794*
Transfer between funds	8	(5,000)	5,000	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		**9,588**	**(18,906)**	**(9,318)**	*41,794*
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		57,712	155,409	213,121	*171,327*
Total funds carried forward		**67,300**	**136,503**	**203,803**	*213,121*

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 2023
COMPANY REGISTRATION NO. (ENGLAND AND WALES) 07369778

	Notes	2023		2022	
FIXED ASSETS	10		1,667		*0*
			1,667		*0*
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	4	22,940		*2,880*	
Cash at bank and in hand		237,334		*302,640*	
		260,274		*305,520*	
LIABILITIES					
Creditors falling due within one year	5	(58,138)		*(92,399)*	
Net current assets			202,136		*213,121*
Total net assets			**203,803**		*213,121*
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Unrestricted Funds	7		67,300		*57,712*
Restricted Funds	8		136,503		*155,409*
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			**203,803**		*213,121*

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 20/09/23 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 2023
COMPANY REGISTRATION NO. (ENGLAND AND WALES) 07369778

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cashflows from Operating Activities		
Net Cash provided by Operating Activities	**(63,307)**	*44,088*
Cashflows from Investing Activities		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(1,999)	-
Net Cash provided by Investing Activities	**(1,999)**	-
Net Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period	**(65,306)**	*44,088*
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	**302,640**	*258,552*
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	**237,334**	*302,640*
Net Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period	**(65,306)**	*44,088*

Notes to Cashflow Statement

Reconciliation of net income to net cash flows from operating activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net income for the reporting period	(9,318)	*41,794*
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	332	-
(increase)/decrease in debtors	(20,060)	*(2,640)*
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(34,261)	*4,934*
Net cash provided by operating activities	**(63,307)**	*44,088*

Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash in hand and at bank	237,334	*302,640*
Total cash and cash equivalents	**237,334**	*302,640*

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 1. 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.

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.

Note

2 INCOME - by fund

	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
a. Grants	£	£	£	£	£	£
Private sector	117,039	196,622	313,661	123,079	211,962	335,041
Public sector	13,272	139,635	152,907	14,248	145,055	159,303
	130,311	**336,257**	**466,568**	137,327	357,017	494,344
b. Donations	1,603	-	1,603	249	-	249
c. Bank/Deposit Interest	3	-	3	8	-	8
d. Other income	12,772	-	12,772	16,299	9,219	25,518
Total income	**144,689**	**336,257**	**480,946**	153,883	366,236	520,119

Other income includes £nil received from Covid-19 Business Continuity measures (2022 £5,965)

3 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Rehabilitation of offenders						
Direct costs	-	348,856	348,856	-	326,726	326,726
Governance costs	-	11,307	11,307	-	11,689	11,689
External training and overheads						
Direct costs	122,013	-	122,013	134,197	-	134,197
Governance costs	8,088	-	8,088	5,713	-	5,713
	130,101	**360,163**	**490,264**	139,910	338,415	478,325

Governance costs	2023	2022
	£	£
Finance management and bookkeeping costs	15,653	14,777
Accountancy charges	500	500
Independent examination fee	1,080	1,080
Trustees Meeting expenses	2,162	1,045
	19,395	17,402

Note	4 DEBTORS	2023	2022
		£	£
	Trade Debtors	4,204	2,880
	Accrued Income	18,736	-
		22,940	2,880

	5 CREDITORS	2023	2022
		£	£
	Trade creditors	10,497	8,488
	Other creditors	8,128	8,171
	Accruals	1,580	6,910
	Deferred income	37,933	68,830
		58,138	92,399

	Deferred Income	2023	2022
		£	£
	Balance at 1 April 2022	68,830	65,694
	Amounts released to income	(68,830)	(65,694)
	Amounts deferred in the year	37,933	68,830
	Balance at 31 March 2023	**37,933**	68,830

Deferred income comprises funding received during the year to be recognised as incoming resources in 2022-23. £37,933 (2022 £33,773) related to unrestricted funds and £nil (2022 £35,057) to restricted funds

	6 ANALYSIS OF STAFF COSTS	2023	2022
		£	£
	Salaries and wages	318,633	307,649
	Social security costs	27,493	25,748
	Pension costs	12,507	11,912
	Total	**358,633**	345,309

There were no employees with emoluments over £60,000.
The average monthly headcount was 12 (2022 12).
During the year, no Trustee received remuneration or benefits in kind (2022 £nil).
During the year 5 Trustees (2022 3) were reimbursed £717 for travel and office expenses (2022 £238).

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 £56,702 (2022 £52,276).

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

Notes

7 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

2023

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

2022

	Balance at 1 April 2021	*Movement in funds Income*	*Movement in funds Expenditure*	*Transfers between funds*	*Balance at 31 March 2022*
General Fund	*43,739*	*153,883*	*(139,910)*	*(20,000)*	*37,712*
Designated fund	-	-	-	*20,000*	20,000
	43,739	*153,883*	*(139,910)*	*0*	*57,712*

8 RESTRICTED FUNDS

2023

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

2022

	Balance at 1 April 2021	*Movement in funds Income*	*Movement in funds Expenditure*	*Transfers between funds*	*Balance at 31 March 2022*
Rehabilitation of Offenders:					
Young People's Services	*25,681*	*73,336*	*(78,100)*	-	*20,917*
Adapted Circles	*14,901*	*43,310*	*(50,831)*	-	*7,380*
Prison Project	*11,735*	*86,902*	*(54,017)*	-	*44,620*
Reboot Circles	-	*19,757*	*(19,757)*	-	-
Inform/Inform Plus	*2,802*	*31,666*	*(15,068)*	-	*19,400*
Devon & Cornwall Circles	*30,334*	*39,956*	*(31,798)*	-	*38,492*
Dorset Circles	*13,296*	*37,516*	*(35,812)*	-	*15,000*
Wiltshire Circles	*14,112*	*26,944*	*(31,456)*	-	*9,600*
Befriending Services	*14,727*	*6,849*	*(21,576)*	-	-
	127,588	*366,236*	*(338,415)*	-	*155,409*

Inform Young People project. At year-end, they added £13,000 to the Designated fund, being an addition of £10,000 to the funds held towards the salary of the Training Manager, and £3,000 for further Inform Young People interventions. All other Unrestricted sums were consolidated into Reserves at year-end, leaving the General Reserve at £39,300.

9 SUMMARY OF FUNDS

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Movement in funds Income	Expediture	Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 March 2023
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
	213,121	**480,946**	**(490,264)**	-	**203,803**

	Balance at 1 April 2021	*Movement in funds Income*	*Expediture*	*Transfers between funds*	*Balance at 31 March 2022*
General Fund	*43,739*	*153,883*	*(139,910)*	*(20,000)*	*37,712*
Designated Fund	-	-	-	*20,000*	*20,000*
Restricted fund	*127,588*	*366,236*	*(338,415)*	-	*155,409*
	171,327	*520,119*	*(478,325)*	-	*213,121*

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)

10 Tangible Fixed Assets

COST	
At 01/04/2022	-
Additions	1,999
At 31/03/2023	1,999
DEPRECIATION	
At 01/04/2022	-
Charge for year	(332)
At 31/03/2023	(332)
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31/03/2023	1,667
At 31/03/2022	-

11 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

2023	**Unrestricted funds**	**Restricted funds**	**Total 2023**
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)
	67,300	**136,503**	**203,803**

2023	*Unrestricted funds*	*Restricted funds*	*Total 2022*
Debtors	*2,880*	*-*	*2,880*
Cash at bank and in hand	*95,035*	*207,605*	*302,640*
Current liabilities	*(40,203)*	*(52,196)*	*(92,399)*
Total	*57,712*	*155,409*	*213,121*

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:

	2023 £	*2022* £
Pro forma income	431,022	*426,604*

13 RELATED PARTY

There were no related party transactions during the year

CIRCLES SOUTH WEST

England & Wales - Charity number 1138726

Accounts

CIRCLES SOUTH WEST

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Report & Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 March 2022

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 2022

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 2022. The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the Charity comply with current statutory requirements[1], 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)*

	Appointed as Trustee
Stephen Ashton	April 2012
Tim Price (Chair)	March 2015
Dr Kieran McCartan (Deputy Chair)	September 2016
Chris Maynard (Treasurer)	July 2017
Jane Barkes	resigned November 2021
Stephen Barry	November 2017
Peter Estall	November 2017
Diane Wills	November 2017 [re-appointed; formerly May 2014-January 2017]
Ian Keys	June 2021
Leonie Cole (Secretary)	June 2021
Sophie Rigali	November 2021
Marcella Mathis	May 2022
Robert Starling	Appointed June 2021. Resigned February 2022
Paul Davies	Resigned November 2021

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Jo Burden	Appointed June 2013

[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

ADVISERS

Independent Examiner
James Fletcher FCA, Messrs Fletcher & Partners
Crown Chambers, Bridge Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 2LZ
Bankers
Unity Trust Bank, PO Box 7193, Planetary Road, Willenhall WV1 9DG

Solicitors
Wilsons, 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 winning[2] 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. With a 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 professionally trained 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' 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.

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

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'. This includes 'Inform' (in partnership with the Lucy Faithfull Foundation) and 'Breaking the Cycle' (in partnership with Circles South East).

We also provide workforce development for professionals around working with people who have sexually harmed. This transfer of knowledge and expertise is developing our reputation as a trusted provider of training and consultancy in our specialist field, with a business model that will reinvest income generated into our core services.

Relationships with Other Bodies

CSW works within the structures of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and closely with the 'responsible agencies' – 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. Most recently in April 2021[3], CSW achieved 97.7% compliance against national standards (i.e. the 'Code of Practice for Circles of Support & Accountability v4 July 2018' and the 'Code of Practice for Young People's Circles of Support & Accountability v1 2018').

[3] Code of Practice Review Report, June 2021, Circles UK

ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE

Small and local charities demonstrated "absorptive capacity" by 'soaking-up' the unprecedented impact of the crisis on their work, operations and the individuals and communities they support; and then showing tremendous "adaptive capacity" by responding rapidly and flexibly through adjustments and innovations ongoing
The Value of Small in a Big Crisis, Lloyds Bank Foundation, 2021

Surviving as a small-to-medium (SME) charity in the pandemic

The Covid-19 Pandemic has been the most extraordinary time. It has had an unprecedented impact on societies and communities across the world, significantly affecting the way we interact, work and live. Inevitably, its impact continued to permeate our work this year and as a result we continued to adapt our services to ensure Covid-secure provision. The Government's 'Living with Covid' Plan was published in February 2022 when all legal restrictions ended. However, we are mindful that Covid has not gone away and we continue to navigate delivery with continued interruptions due to Covid-related absences for staff, volunteers, service-users, delivery partners and so on.

Nevertheless, we are pleased to present this report from a continued position of strength having demonstrated exceptional agility in our response to the pandemic. This year has been one of continued delivery adaptation (including blended[4] Circles, small group volunteer training events), catching up and adjusting to the new normal, all the while with the shadow of another Covid wave a constant threat. Staff and volunteer resilience, innovation, flexibility and determination, combined with funder support, mean that we end the year having again delivered an impressive level of service provision and in good financial health.

We have foregrounded our achievements and performance with our response to the pandemic. Despite this, the last year has seen CSW continue to sustain its core work and develop complementary services for the benefit of the service users, local communities and partner agencies with whom we work to achieve our vision of 'No More Victims' of sexual abuse.

This year we have focused on:

- Continuing to effectively navigate the impact of the pandemic with an absolute priority on providing direct services, thereby remaining true to our mission
- Extending our impact by continuing to extend our services, develop new working alliances and access alternative income sources
- Delivering fee-earning workforce development for professionals, thereby generating unrestricted funds
- Developing complementary services to our core work

[4] 'blended' circles were designed in response to pandemic restrictions meaning that a circle could meet with some members in the room (minimum of 2 volunteers at all times) plus some individuals joining the room via online video facility (i.e. Zoom). This meant that individuals who were covid vulnerable, shielding or isolating could still join their circle

- A renewed focus on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), including developing a new EDI Strategy, with companion action plan for the next period
- Restructuring our staff team and enhancing staff well-being package to ensure the most agile and effective use of our staff resource
- Robustly monitoring our work to facilitate independent evaluation by Research in Practice

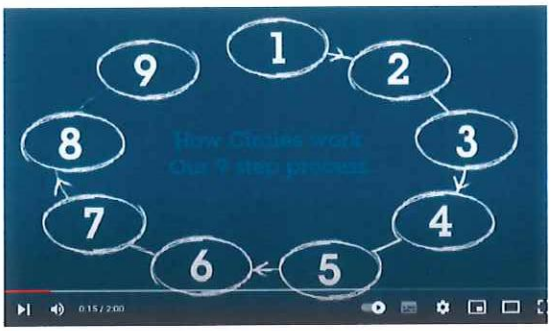
We are entirely invested in ensuring that we attract and retain the right staff, volunteers and trustees and that they have the necessary knowledge and skill to contribute effectively to CSW's development and provision. We continue to dedicate significant resources to volunteer recruitment and retention, a necessity as the general demand is high for willing, available, 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.

2021-22 Highlights

HMI Probation Evidenced Effectiveness of Circles

In October 2021 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) updated its website around research on sexual offending. This included a welcome statement about the impact of Circles as a commissioned service used by the Probation Service. The findings focused on Circles provided by Circles South West, including our two minute summary 'explainer': 'How a Circle works' and the following statements showing strong endorsement for Circles:



Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation

- ✓ *'Circles of Support & Accountability have been found to reduce risk and increase compliance with registration requirements'.*
- ✓ *'COSA has been found to reduce reoffending and increase compliance by high risk sexual offenders'.*

Full report here: https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/research/the-evidence-base-probation/specific-sub-groups/sexual-offending/?s=09

HMPPS Telephone Befriending Service

VCS Emergencies Partnership

Between January-August 2021, and in partnership with the national charity Volunteering Matters we provided a Telephone Befriending Support Service to 23 People on Probation assessed by HMPPS as particularly vulnerable as a result of the pandemic. This involved 17 experienced volunteers, trained specifically for this role, who welcomed this additional opportunity, particularly those shielding (Covid).

In providing this well received service, CSW made 426 calls to People on Probation and is pleased to have made a small contribution to the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Emergencies Partnership[5].

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

With the support of Lloyds Bank Foundation Enhance Programme we have focused on becoming a more equitable, diverse and inclusive organisation, including:

- With the expertise and guidance of Ngozi Lyn Cole, we have this year co-produced our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and companion Action Plan. We have started rolling out facilitated learning events for all staff, trustees and volunteers
- With the support of Reach Volunteering we have reviewed our Trustee recruitment process and have appointed new Trustees, widening the diversity of the Board.

CoSA Code of Practice Compliance Review: *'Well done on an excellent achievement'*

In Spring 2021 we were the subject of the 'CoSA Code of Practice Compliance Review' undertaken by Circles UK on behalf of the Ministry of Justice. The process included submission of detailed documentation evidencing compliance with the 12 national standards and 43 requirements of the Code of Practice, and 3 x 1 day site visits in Bournemouth, Yeovil and Swindon. We were delighted to achieve 97.7% compliance.

"The review highlighted how much work was done and how sound the organisation's Circles practice is. The achievement is even more remarkable when viewed against the challenges of COVID-19... It is clear that Circles South West is a healthy, resilient and professional organisation. Well done on an excellent achievement"

Riana Taylor, CEO, Circles UK, June 2021

[5] The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Emergencies Partnership is made up of a range of organisations within the sector with the aim of improving coordination at national and local levels before, during and after emergencies. Bringing together local, national and global expertise from the sector, the Emergencies Partnership aims to help people prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies, so that they can rebuild their lives.

OPERATIONS

Our core offer and main provision is Circles of Support and Accountability. In addition we provide complementary group-work (Inform Plus) for men convicted of offences involving indecent images of children (IIOC); individual and group-work support for non-offending partners, family and friends (Inform and Breaking the Cycle). We also provide training and consultancy for professionals. The first part of this section focuses on Circles, followed by short reports on other provision.

Context: service delivery in a second pandemic year

We started the year with most Circles meeting (Covid-secure) face-to-face, 'blended' as necessary. We continued to work within the parameters of Government and Public Health England guidelines and regulations ensuring voluntary informed consent for in- person meetings from all those involved. Young People's Circles were a particular challenge as they hinge on activity-based meetings. With many community activities remaining closed, our volunteers were creative, coming up with innovative and fun ways of engaging our younger core members, from playing Covid-secure board games to socially distanced cycle rides. Prison/Through-the-Gate Circles were similarly challenging for different reasons; with Prison visiting and Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) suspended, these Circles had to be postponed; our HMP The Verne Project in Dorset was suspended until September 21 when access resumed. Nevertheless, we have achieved a remarkable level of service provision and this is entirely down to the creativity, willingness and flexibility of our volunteers and staff. We thank them all.

We continued to provide a comprehensive 3 module Volunteer core training package, the first two modules delivered online and the final module being delivered Covid-secure, face-to-face in small groups at local level. Since September 21 we have reverted to our usual volunteer core training and assessment weekend residential events, albeit keeping numbers smaller than pre-Covid times.

We continue to offer a monthly, online volunteers' event to enable everyone to keep in touch and to provide a forum for additional training, development, learning and discussion.

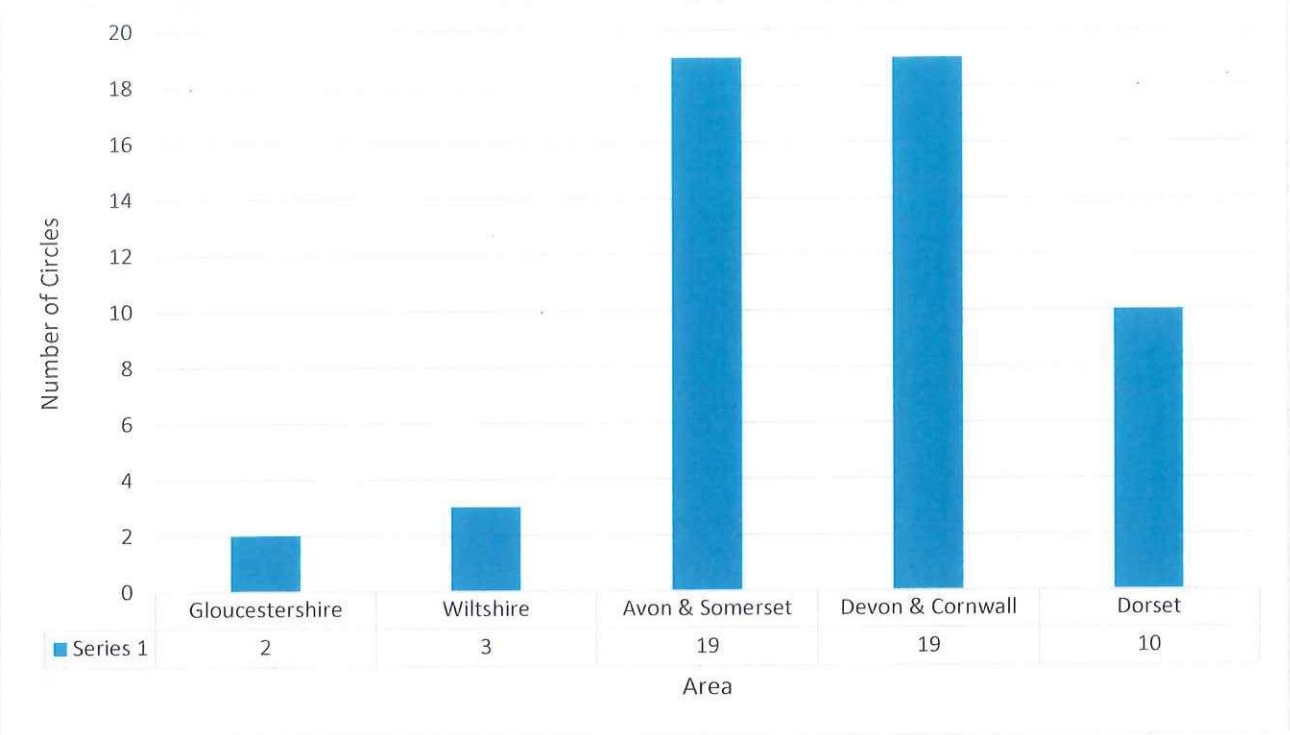
Circles of Support and Accountability

In 2021-22, we coordinated 53 active Circles (up by 18 on the previous year). 31 (58%) of those Circles were newly established in year (since April 2021) with the other 22 (42%) carried forward from the previous year.

We coordinated Circles in all five police areas in the South West region which comprised 'standard' community Circles for adults, prison/through the gate Circles, Circles for young people (10 years plus), Circles for adults with intellectual disabilities and a new variation, Reboot Circles*.

*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. In this Year 1 of the current pilot led by Circles UK, CSW coordinated 6 Reboot Circles. The national evaluation will be published later in 2022 before Year 2 gets underway.

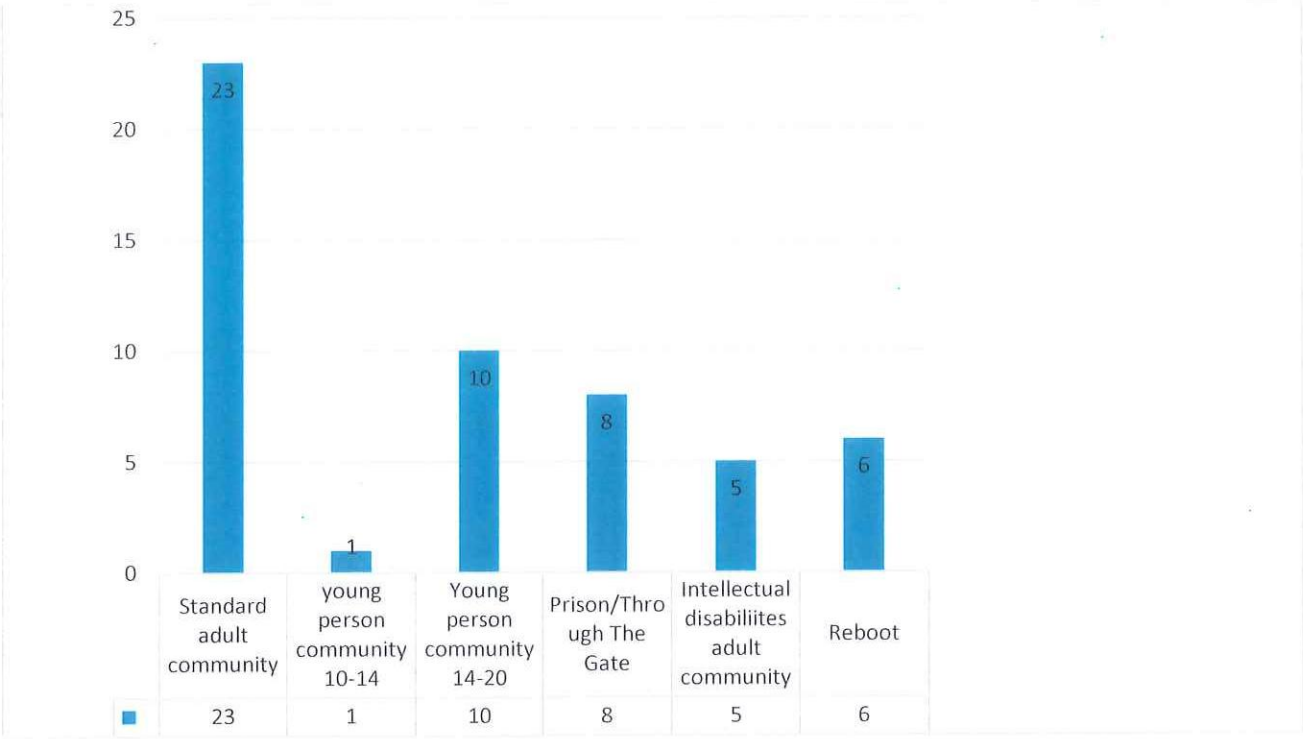
Number of Circles by area



A third of all Circles were located in Devon and Cornwall, well supported by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Another third were located in Avon and Somerset[6], although none of these were 'standard' community Circles for adults; rather all 19 were specialist Circles, adapted specifically for young people, for adults with intellectual disabilities or were prison/through the gate Circles or Reboot Circles.

[6] comprising the Unitary Authorities of Bristol, Bath & North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset, and the County of Somerset

Number of Circles by type



Just under half of the Circles were 'standard' community Circles for adults and around a fifth were Circles for young people. Due to Covid restrictions, significantly fewer Prison/Through The Gate Circles started this year.

Core Member Referrals

During the year 2021-22, there were 73 new core member referral enquiries of which 22 converted into formal referrals, all of which were allocated to a new Circle. The additional new Circles were from referrals carried forward from the preceding period. 83% of adult referrals were made by the Probation Service, despite no funding being forthcoming from Probation. Other referrers included prisons, police, Children's Social Care, Youth Offending Team, Glebe House Therapeutic Community.

Core Member Diversity

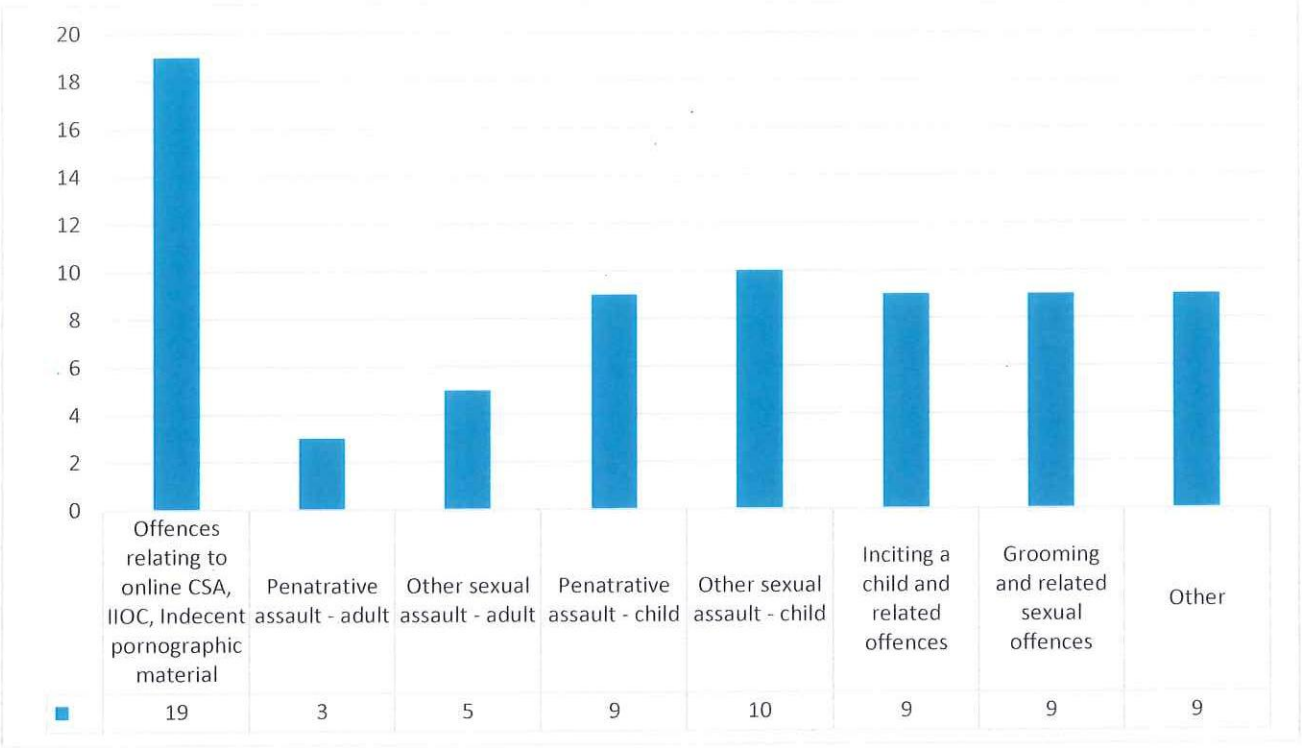
In 2021-22, we provided Circles for 2 female core members, both U18. 90% of core members self-defined as white British; 1 white Irish; 2 white other; 1 mixed and 1 other. 38% said they had a disability as defined by the Equality Act 2010. 75% self-defined as heterosexual, with 25% saying they were gay, lesbian or bisexual. At the point they were allocated to a Circle, core members were between 10 and 65 years old. This included 15% young people under 18 years old.

Index Offences, Prevention Orders

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 were un-convicted, reaching eligibility threshold for our young people's service in terms of their harmful sexual behaviour. The majority of this cohort had been involved in intra-familial abuse, and specifically sibling sexual abuse.

Core Member Index Offence, by type



Key:
CSA = Child Sexual Abuse
IIOC = Indecent Images of Children
'Other' includes sexual murder and abduction of child as well as breaching Sex Offender Registration (SOR) and/or breach of Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO)

Of those convicted, 42% of core members were on licence at the point of referral whilst 55% core members were subject to a Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO) or Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO).

Outcomes: Circles of Support & Accountability

"Overall we have shown a marked difference in a balanced measure of dynamic risk between the start and end of Circles. In other words, during the time that Circles have been active, perceived risk due to dynamic factors has reduced for core members. Further evidence from across the evaluations suggests that the Circle has had a large contributory effect in this reduction of risk" Research in Practice

29 Circles closed in 2021-22. Of these, 23 (79%) ran their natural course for an average active period of 11.7 months (the average period reduced slightly as Circles Reboot are 3-6 months duration). 4 (14%) core members were recalled due to risky behaviour[7]. The other 2 Circles that closed early were for young people and both collapsed without really starting largely due to Covid restrictions.

"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

Since 2017, Research in Practice https://www.rip.org.uk/ has independently evaluated CoSA, with ethics approval from Her Majesty's Prison & Probation Service (HMPPS) National Research Committee (NRC). The research 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.

Reporting in 2022 on a data-set of 124 CoSA, Research in Practice found the outcomes in the table below for core members between the start and end of their CoSA:-

[7] No new offences but behaviour included inappropriate search terms on mobile phone, possession of cannabis, lack of disclosure within relationship

Table 1: Outcomes for 124 core members between the start and end of their Circle, 2017-2022

%age core members (n=124)	category
80%	had improved wellbeing
78%	were making more careful decisions
78%	were better managing their sexual thoughts & behaviour
77%	were better integrated into their local community
73%	were less isolated
69%	had reduced their general risk
68%	had increased involvement in hobbies/activities
52%	were more engaged in education, training and volunteering

"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. Whatever the reasons for their isolation and seclusion, 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

The majority of core members appear to have reduced dynamic risk of reoffending at the end of their Circles compared to the beginning... evidence from across the evaluations suggests that the Circle has had a large contributory effect in this reduction of risk" 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 STUDY: TOM (name changed to protect anonymity)

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

Tom (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. In view of this, he was to be managed at Level 2 MAPPA on release due to multi agency involvement.

Tom 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.

Tom was interviewed and assessed as suitable and seemed genuine in his motivation to lead an offence free life.

Tom 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, one step at a time. 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 re-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. Tom 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.

Tom'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

Inform Plus

Licensed by the Lucy Faithfull Foundation, CSW is an Approved Provider of Inform Plus (in Devon, Cornwall, Dorset and Wiltshire), the 11 session (11 week) psycho-educational groupwork programme for men convicted of internet offences involving indecent images of children. Devon and Cornwall Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has commissioned CSW to deliver 6 programmes for up to 60 men referred by the police. Independent evaluation is being undertaken by Research in Practice (funded by Nota).

Inform Plus 1. Camborne: complete. Group ran September-December 2020 with the 3-month review in May 2021 (Covid postponed). Five men started the programme (after receiving nine referrals) and five completed.

Inform Plus 2. Exeter: Group ran December 2020 to June 2021 (with 2 suspensions due to Covid Lockdowns). 3-month review Oct 2021. Seven men started the programme and four completed. During the programme one man left as he moved out of county and two left because of changes in their working shift patterns.

Inform Plus 3. Plymouth: Group ran July-Sept 2021 with seven men (nine referrals received) 3-month review Dec 2021.

Total Inform Plus referrals: 32. Total Inform Plus completions: 16

Inform

Licensed by the Lucy Faithfull Foundation, CSW is an Approved Provider of Inform (in Devon, Cornwall, Dorset and Wiltshire), the 5 session (5 week) educational-support course for partners, relatives and friends of men convicted of internet offences involving indecent images of children. Devon and Cornwall OPCC has commissioned CSW to deliver 6 programmes for up to 48 adult participants.

Inform 1. Camborne: Group ran June-Sept 2021.

Total Inform referrals: 5. Total Inform completions: 5

Breaking the Cycle

Licenced 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.

We have facilitated 1 Wiltshire group (March-May 2022), funded by Wiltshire & Swindon Police and Crime Commissioner. Wiltshire Social Care also commissioned the programme for an individual woman.

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.

This has included:

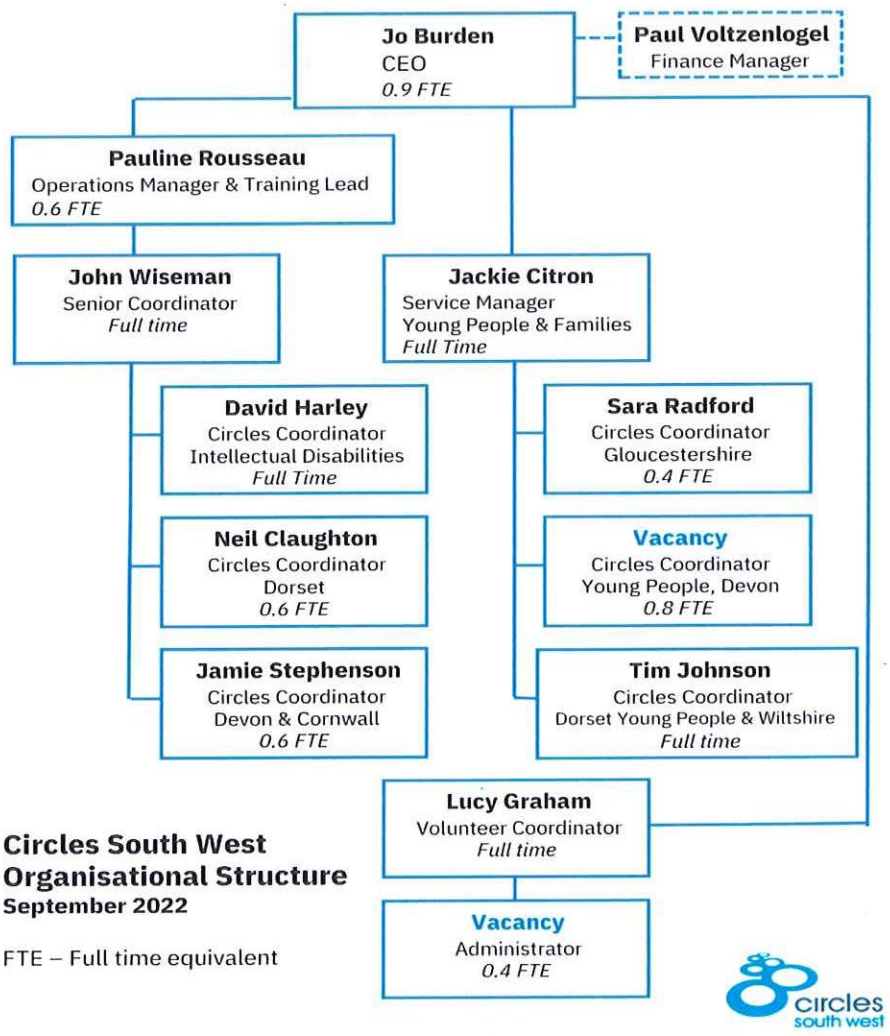
- Our Summer 2021 Training Programme comprising 5 open access 1 day events in Bournemouth, Bristol and Plymouth; 'working with people who have sexually harmed' (Level 1) and 'living and working in a pornified world'
- Plymouth Together for Childhood commissioned 5 multi-agency accessed 1 day events in Plymouth 'working with people who have sexually harmed' (Level 1)
- Catch22 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
- Avon and Somerset Police commissioned 2 x 1 day MOSOVO training events 'living and working in a pornified world'.

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, 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, particularly over the last couple of years, when the usual job insecurity, home working isolation, limited resources and challenging nature of the work have been compounded by the complexities of living and working in a pandemic.



[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. 166 volunteers were involved in the 53 Circles coordinated during the year, contributing between them almost 8,900 hours volunteering time[9]. A conservative estimate of the value in-kind that our volunteers have contributed this year is around £147,000[10]. At the end of 2021-22 we had 203 retained, trained volunteers across the region.

Since 2017, Research in Practice https://www.rip.org.uk/ has independently evaluated CoSA. In 2021 they specifically evaluated on the volunteering aspect of Circles producing a separate 'Volunteering Experience' report, summarising the feedback of 154 Volunteers involved in 64 separate Circles. This evaluation also captured and reported on volunteering hours. The following provides a summary of their findings. The full evaluation reports can be found here on our website: Making a difference - Circles South West (circles-southwest.org.uk)

Volunteering Hours

"The substantial number of volunteering hours reported by Circles South West is a testament to the hard work of the volunteers and professionals involved. Volunteers' external use of the knowledge and skills learned through Circles, and their increased awareness of and advocacy for the potential community role in rehabilitation, also highlights the broader impact of Circles" (Research in Practice)

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.

It is important to note that these figures *include data for completed Circles only* and the numbers would be substantially higher were active Circles included.

Reporting on 78 Circles there were:

- a total of 17,674 volunteering hours
- 7,438.5 direct volunteering hours plus 10,235.5 indirect volunteering hours
- This equates to 227 volunteering hours per Circle
- This represents a staggering £293,035 overall, or £3756 per Circle[11]

Volunteering Experience

"Volunteers' feedback presents a positive picture of volunteering with Circles South West, describing how organisational values align 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" (Research in Practice)

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[9]Using 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)

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

Table 2: Aggregate responses from 154 volunteers representing 64 Circles

%age Volunteers (n=154)	category
100%	Volunteer felt able to cope with the emotional pressure of volunteering for Circles
99%	Volunteers thought the training adequately prepared them for their Circles
99%	Volunteers felt supported by Circles South West throughout their time volunteering
99%	Volunteers felt safe volunteering with Circles
99%	Volunteering expectations were met
96%	Volunteers recommend volunteering with Circles South West
92%	Volunteers found their experiences volunteering with Circles rewarding
88%	Volunteers believed their Circle had a positive relationship with the core member
86%	Volunteers thought their Circle volunteers were well matched to the news of the core member
83%	Volunteers intend to volunteer in another Circle in the future
75%	Volunteers reported learning valuable new skills through volunteering with Circles
66%	Volunteers said they had applied new skills gained outside of Circles
61%	Volunteers thought their core member was accountable to the Circle
49%	Volunteers thought the Circle had significantly reduced the core member's risk of reoffending

"As an organisation, Circles South West was 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" (Research in Practice)

What Volunteers said

Volunteer comments relating to the above responses include those below. The full evaluation reports can be found on our website here Making a difference - Circles South West (circles-southwest.org.uk)

99% Volunteers felt supported by Circles South West throughout their time volunteering
"Support from Circles South West and coordinators in particular was highly regarded, with coordinators considered available and understanding, holding regular reviews and checking in proactively, while also being reachable through phone, text and email. Some knew support was available but reported not needing to use it, others described receiving practical and emotional advice and support through their coordinators" (Research in Practice)

99% Volunteers thought the training adequately prepared them for their Circles
"By far the most insightful and useful training I have experience[d] throughout my professional career" (Volunteer)

"The training Circles provides for its volunteers is outstanding, provided by passionate coordinators who have a lot of experience in this field and who are very knowledgeable about the topic" (Volunteer)

99% volunteering expectations were met
"I've come to the conclusion that the model does work, enhanced by individual differences on both sides ... there's also an element of chemistry (magic?!) where the whole is greater than the sum of all the parts" (Volunteer)

"I do not personally feel that I have definitely made a significant difference to our core member. However, Circles SW as an organisation has exceeded my expectations" (Volunteer)

92% Volunteers found their experiences volunteering with Circles rewarding

"Volunteers were extremely positive about their experiences. Building relationships and positive changes in core members' attitudes and behaviours were referenced as being especially rewarding. Comments also cited improved situations in school, voluntary work or accommodation. Other comments referenced seeing a core member begin to open up and trust the Circle, gain a fresh perspective and make progress toward their goals. Understandably, volunteering experiences appeared directly linked with Circles' outcomes, with those reaching a "good" conclusion often described as rewarding" (Research in Practice)

"Volunteers overwhelmingly reported feeling safe in Circle" (Ibid)

"It is rewarding to see that he is no longer so dependent on the Circle and is building a life again, making new friends and maintaining employment" (Volunteer)

"It has been a very rewarding year. CM has definitely grown in confidence and all of our friendships have grown too. CM has started college, started dating, made friends, learned to use public transport, had a job and more! It has been really special to be able to achieve all of these goals he had" (Volunteer)

88% volunteers believed their Circle had a positive relationship with the core member

"[I]t was very gratifying to see the CM begin to trust us and open up, enjoy our company and recognise that he could form positive relationships with adults" (Volunteer)

"[H]e appreciated that we were there for him without judging him, and gave him the opportunity to have a continuing dialogue where he was seen as a human being rather than a sex offender" (Volunteer)

61% volunteers thought their core member was accountable to the Circle

"I believe we have helped the core member in other aspects of his life, for example, helping him engage in conversation rather than merely talking at people" (Volunteer)

"I believe the circle has offered CM the right amount of support and accountability, which he lacked prior to his offence" (Volunteer)

"[A] friendship had begun and the CM did not want to let [group] down" (Volunteer)

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL POSITION AND PERFORMANCE

This second year of the Covid pandemic has seen unprecedented pressure on the funding of charities, and CSW has not been immune to that. However we have been successful in attracting a level of funding in line with our original budget. The Charity's recognised income in 2021-22 amounted to £520,119 (previous year £505,434). This method of recognising income is in accordance with the SORP, the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, and indicates an increase of income in the year of 3%.

Of the recognised income that related to grants, £159,303 (32%) consisted of public sector grants and £335,041 (68%) was derived from Trusts and Foundations. Of the total recognised income, £127,588 unexpended funds were brought forward from the previous year. Expenditure amounted to £478,325 (previous year £380,798). At the year-end £155,409 (previous year £127,588) was carried forward to fund activities in future years. The Charity held £68,830 in advance payments for work to be delivered in 2022-23 all of which was held in cash at the Charity's bank.

The continuing impact of the pandemic on the Charity's operations has been significant meaning we are still 'catching up' with restricted income and associated work deferred from the previous year due to 'Covid-slide'[12]. This includes Circles, group work and training. Adapting provision within the context of Covid restrictions and context has also continued to have an impact on costs, for example, paying for community facilities for Circle meetings that would have ordinarily taken place at cafes that were closed or highly restricted; increased numbers of volunteer training events to accommodate smaller numbers of volunteers.

The Charity's current cash position is sufficient to meet commitments. In addition, the Charity has promises of some £235,756 covering work to be delivered in 2022-23 (which, together with sums carried forward and deferred income, represents 86% of the approved budget) and the Trustees therefore consider that the charity will have sufficient cash resources to meet liabilities as they fall due, and that it is 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. Some donors have asked to remain anonymous. We are very grateful to them all.

[12] 'Covid-slide' meaning that, with funder agreement, we deferred some restricted income expenditure until such time these services could be delivered

Reserves Policy

The Board has consistently reviewed the Reserves Policy over time, and particularly since 2017 when it was defined in terms of the need to fund an immediate stop to all activities and subsequent closedown.

Last year the Board again considered the rationale for the Reserves policy with a view to determining a 'sufficient' level of required reserves so as to ensure that the funding stream devoted to our core operations is maximised. Recognising the duty to balance the needs of current and future service users, we need to have sufficient reserves to allow our charity to cover known liabilities and contingencies, absorb set-backs and take advantage of change and opportunity.

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 considered that unrestricted reserves of £37,000 would meet that 'sufficiency' objective.

At the 2021-22 year-end the total level of unrestricted general reserves is £57,712 (previous year £43,739). The Board has considered this level of reserves and has designated £15,000 to extend the delivery of 'fee earning' training and consultancy for professionals, and £5,000 to support the delivery of Inform Young People, a new complementary service licenced by the Lucy Faithfull Foundation (see below).

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 measure are in place and that actions required are 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 Summary - The skill set and representation of the Board is an issue that was identified as a potential gap. There are also a number of Trustees who have been loyally and enthusiastically serving CSW for a number of years and a need was seen to refresh, bring in new perspectives and consider succession planning. Four new Trustees were appointed to the Board this year to refresh our approach with one replacing our longstanding secretary who retired in 2021. The Board aims to have between 8 and 12 members at any one time to ensure resilience and assist with succession planning, currently the

Board has 11 members. As we emerged from the Covid pandemic we retained all our staffing, our finances remained resilient and we have started to increase both. The Charity has produced a new Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) strategy, undertaken training and is incorporating EDI principles within our overall strategy.

Operational Risks Summary - Due to our policy of continuing to operate Circles, where possible and safe to do so, we have seen referral rates and funding levels begin to return to pre-pandemic levels. Referrals continue to outstrip capacity and we have continued to explore other funding opportunities to try and bridge that gap. Changes in Police and Crime Commissioners as a result of the 2021 elections has produced some challenges but, overall, our funding and delivery levels have remained stable and have started to increase post pandemic. We have qualified on the Probation Service Dynamic Framework and hope to soon have the opportunity to tender to provide Probation Service funded Circles in the South West region. Due some unknowns in this process there may be a risk of competition from another organisation if we are unsuccessful in this bid but because of many unknowns it is hard to quantify this risk; the Board will continue to monitor. There have been no Safeguarding issues or other critical incidents reported 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 bids for funding are for fixed term only and 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 also need to ensure we have sufficient unrestricted funding to maintain general operations. Bidding for new funds continued while innovative funding was explored to bolster our operations. The risks of moving into new areas were thoroughly examined by the Board, balancing the dangers of being seen to be going "off mission" versus the need to ensure we have general funds to continue with core business. This is something that is under constant review to ensure we always deliver in line with the overall objectives of the charity. We constantly monitor our reserves and have managed to maintain and actually increase them slightly. 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. This is frequently reviewed at a Board level.

Compliance Risk Summary - In order 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 always to exceed standards where it is practical to do so. This year's pandemic regulations and guidance has provided further challenges to ensure we operate safely within an unpredictable environment with thorough risk assessment and management processes being a key part of our strategic leadership model.

FUTURE PLANS

The Charity continues to develop and be sustained, in the short term at least. 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 committed to growing our provision for those secondary victims who are impacted but who often go unheard and unsupported; the non-offending partners, family and friends. 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.

The outlook for the next 12 months is good as we look forward to a year without Covid impacting in the way it has for the previous 2 years since March 2020. We are excited about plans for 2022-23 that include the introduction of new services (e.g. Inform Young People), an extension of the Circles Reboot national programme and, we hope, Circles commissioned by HMPPS via the Probation Services Dynamic Framework.

CSW Operations 2022-23

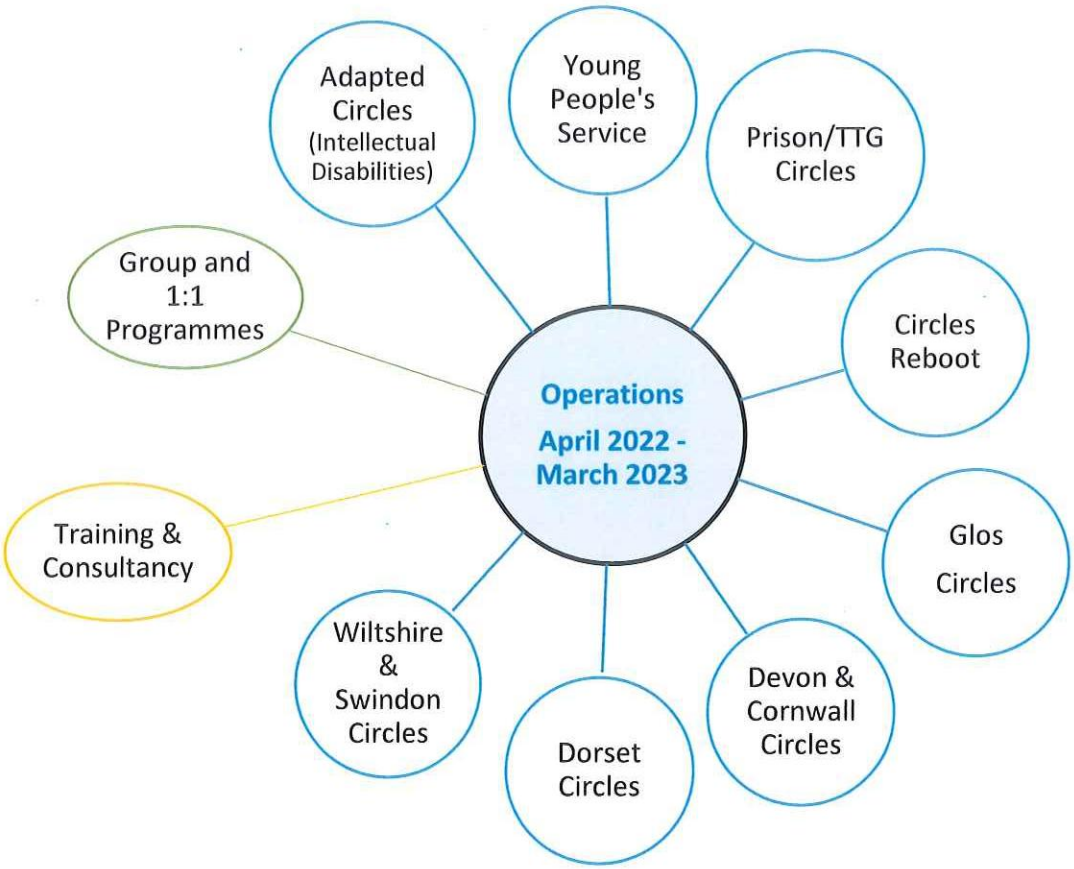
The diagram below shows CSW's planned operations for 2022-23. Some services are fully funded, some require match-funding to release secured funds, and others are 'spot purchased', becoming available as new funds are sourced.

New for 2022-23 is Inform Young People, an 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 behavior (TA-HSB). CSW is licenced by the Lucy Faithfull Foundation to provide Inform Young People in South West England, staff having recently undertaken training. We are grateful to the Paul Hamlyn Foundation for supporting this important new initiative.

Sustainability of the Charity is dependent on demonstrating that what we do works. We have commissioned Research in Practice to undertake a Phase 2 independent evaluation of Circles, extending their original evaluation to capture a significant additional number of completed datasets, from which to draw statistically significant conclusions pertaining to the adapted Circles projects. This evaluation contributes to the growing UK evidence base on the effectiveness of CoSA as well as informing programme development and replication. The Phase 2 final report is due for publication at the end of 2022.

In addition, Research in Practice is separately evaluating Inform Plus (pilot project in Devon and Cornwall, commissioned by Devon and Cornwall OPCC), funded by Nota (National Organisation for the Treatment of Abusers) Research Committee.

CSW Operations 2022-23



Income Generation and Added Value

In 2021-22 we secured £159,303 from local public sector sources and £360,816 from voluntary sources, including grants from independent funders, donations and earned income. This means that for every £1 of public funding, we levered in £2.26 (£2.73 previous year) from other sources.

We are proud of our achievements in relation to income generation but this remains a constant challenge: more time is dedicated to fundraising and, despite our best attempts, full cost recovery is rare. Most funders want to fund innovation rather than core costs or 'more of the same' and we have diversified our offer to maximise this potential. However, our experience is that there is less availability of funding for our 'core work' and increasing competition for scarce resources. This appears to have been compounded by the pandemic.

The majority of our referrals for Circles are from Probation and, despite ongoing discussions, we currently receive no financial contribution from the Probation Service. However, we have qualified on the Probation Services Dynamic Framework and understand that there will be commissioning of Circles across the country in 2022-23.

We have secured funding for 2022-23 from four of the five South West OPCCs but the potential for funding beyond March 2022 is as yet unknown and we anticipate will be impacted by the new priorities of the PCCs new in post in 2021.

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. With this in mind and following consultation, we introduced a 'staff well-being' allocation in our 2021-22 budget. The associated 'emotional well-being' support from an independent counsellor, away days and rewards and benefit platform have been well received. With the support of Lloyds Bank Foundation Enhance Programme, RootsHR has been commissioned to undertake a pay and benefits review, the results of which will be adopted in 2022-23, aligned with our staff restructure (see above).

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 2021-22 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:

- Avon & Somerset Police Community Trust (Commissioners' Fund)
- Circles UK
- Devon & Cornwall Police & Crime Commissioner
- Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner
- Friends Therapeutic Community Trust (Glebe House)
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- Gloucestershire Police & Crime Commissioner
- Henry Smith Charity
- Lloyds Bank Foundation
- Nota Research Committee
- Paul Hamlyn Foundation
- Sir James Reckitt Charity
- South Gloucestershire Council
- The AB Charitable Trust
- The Bromley Trust
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- The Triangle Trust
- Torbay NHS Foundation
- Volunteering Matters
- Wiltshire & Swindon Police & Crime Commissioner

(This list does not include new donors for 2022-23)

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).

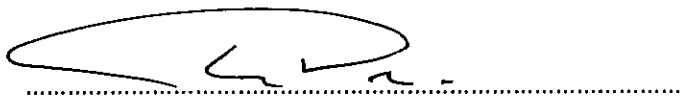
Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure of the charitable company for 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 22/9/22 and signed on its behalf by:



Tim Price (Chair)

CIRCLES SOUTH WEST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Circles South West (the Company) for the year ended 31 March 2022 which are set out on pages 33 to 39.

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: 10 October 2022

CIRCLES SOUTH WEST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2022
COMPANY REGISTRATION NO. (ENGLAND AND WALES) 07369778

		2022			2021
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
		£	£	£	£
INCOME FROM					
	Notes				
Donations and Legacies					
Grants					
Private Sector	2a	123,079	211,962	335,041	*287,986*
Public Sector	2a	14,248	145,055	159,303	*135,550*
Donations	2b	249	0	249	*326*
Investments					
Bank and deposit interest	2c	8	0	8	*108*
Other incoming resources	2d	16,299	9,219	25,518	*81,464*
TOTAL		**153,883**	**366,236**	**520,119**	*505,434*
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	3	139,910	338,415	478,325	*380,798*
TOTAL		**139,910**	**338,415**	**478,325**	*380,798*
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		13,973	27,821	41,794	*124,636*
Transfer between funds	8	-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		**13,973**	**27,821**	**41,794**	*124,636*
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		43,739	127,588	171,327	*46,691*
Total funds carried forward		**57,712**	**155,409**	**213,121**	*171,327*

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 2022
COMPANY REGISTRATION NO. (ENGLAND AND WALES) 07369778

	Notes	2022		2021	
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	4	2,880		*240*	
Cash at bank and in hand		302,640		*258,552*	
		305,520		*258,792*	
LIABILITIES					
Creditors falling due within one year	5	(92,399)		*(87,465)*	
Net current assets			213,121		*171,327*
Total net assets			**213,121**		*171,327*
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Unrestricted Funds	7		57,712		*43,739*
Restricted Funds	8		155,409		*127,588*
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			**213,121**		*171,327*

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 22/9/22 and signed on its behalf by:

Tim Price (Chair)

CIRCLES SOUTH WEST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2022
COMPANY REGISTRATION NO. (ENGLAND AND WALES) 07369778

	2022	2021
	£	£
Cashflows from Operating Activities		
Net Cash provided by Operating Activities	**44,088**	*117,932*
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	**258,552**	*140,620*
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	**302,640**	*258,552*
Net Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period	**44,088**	*117,932*

Notes to Cashflow Statement

Reconciliation of net income to net cash flows from operating activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Net income for the reporting period	41,794	*124,636*
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	-	-
(increase)/decrease in debtors	(2,640)	*18,623*
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	4,934	*(25,327)*
Net cash provided by operating activities	**44,088**	*117,932*

Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2022	2021
	£	£
Cash in hand and at bank	302,640	*258,552*
Total cash and cash equivalents	**302,640**	*258,552*

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.

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 £1,000 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.

Note

2 INCOME - by fund

	2022			2021		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	*Unrestricted funds*	*Restricted funds*	*Total*
a. Grants	£	£	£	*£*	*£*	*£*
Private sector	123,079	211,962	335,041	*112,657*	*175,329*	*287,986*
Public sector	14,248	145,055	159,303	*12,230*	*123,320*	*135,550*
	137,327	**357,017**	**494,344**	***124,887***	***298,649***	*423,536*
b. Donations	249	-	249	*326*	-	*326*
c. Bank/Deposit Interest	8	-	8	*108*	-	*108*
d. Other income	16,299	9,219	25,518	*21,275*	*60,189*	*81,464*
Total income	**153,883**	**366,236**	**520,119**	*146,596*	*358,838*	*505,434*

Other income includes £5,965 received from Covid-19 Business Continuity measures (2021 £62,564)

3 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2022			2021		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	*Unrestricted funds*	*Restricted funds*	*Total*
	£	£	£	*£*	*£*	*£*
Rehabilitation of offenders						
Direct costs	-	326,726	326,726	-	*220,588*	*220,588*
Governance costs	-	11,689	11,689	-	*11,367*	*11,367*
External training and overheads						
Direct costs	134,197	-	134,197	*144,780*	-	*144,780*
Governance costs	5,713	-	5,713	*4,063*	-	*4,063*
	139,910	**338,415**	**478,325**	*148,843*	*231,955*	*380,798*

Governance costs	2022	*2021*
	£	*£*
Finance management and bookkeeping costs	14,777	*14,030*
Accountancy charges	500	*500*
Independent examination fee	1,080	*900*
Trustees Meeting expenses	1,045	-
	17,402	*15,430*

Note	4 DEBTORS	2022 £	2021 £
	Debtors	2,880	240
		2,880	240

5 CREDITORS	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	8,488	5,805
Other creditors	8,171	11,066
Accruals	6,910	4,900
Deferred income	68,830	65,694
	92,399	87,465

Deferred Income	2022 £	2021 £
Balance at 1 April 2021	65,694	98,629
Amounts released to income	(65,694)	(87,629)
Amounts deferred in the year	68,830	54,694
Balance at 31 March 2021	**68,830**	65,694

Deferred income comprises funding received during the year to be recognised as incoming resources in 2022-23. £33,773 (2021 £30,000) related to unrestricted funds and £35,057 (2021 £35,694) to restricted funds

6 ANALYSIS OF STAFF COSTS	2022 £	2021 £
Salaries and wages	307,649	273,008
Social security costs	25,748	22,025
Pension costs	11,912	10,575
Total	**345,309**	305,608

There were no employees with emoluments over £60,000.
The average monthly headcount was 12 (2021 10).
During the year, no Trustee received remuneration or benefits in kind (2021 £nil).
During the year 3 Trustees were reimbursed £238 for travel and office expenses (2021 £nil).

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 £52,276 (2021 £50,827).

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

Notes

7 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

2022

	Balance at 1 April 2021	Movement in funds Income	Expediture	Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 March 2022
General Fund	43,739	153,883	(139,910)	(20,000)	37,712
Designated fund	-	-	-	20,000	20,000
	43,739	**153,883**	**(139,910)**	**-**	**57,712**

2021

	Balance at 1 April 2020	*Movement in funds Income*	*Expediture*	*Transfers between funds*	*Balance at 31 March 2021*
General Fund	*40,209*	*146,596*	*(148,843)*	*5,777*	*43,739*
Designated fund	*5,730*	*-*	*-*	*(5,730)*	*-*
	45,939	*146,596*	*(148,843)*	*47*	*43,739*

8 RESTRICTED FUNDS

2022

	Balance at 1 April 2021	Movement in funds Income	Expediture	Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 March 2022
Rehabilitation of Offenders:					
Young People's Services	25,681	73,336	(78,100)	-	20,917
Adapted Circles	14,901	43,310	(50,831)	-	7,380
Prison Project	11,735	86,902	(54,017)	-	44,620
Reboot Circles	-	19,757	(19,757)	-	-
Inform/Inform Plus	2,802	31,666	(15,068)	-	19,400
Devon & Cornwall Circles	30,334	39,956	(31,798)	-	38,492
Dorset Circles	13,296	37,516	(35,812)	-	15,000
Wiltshire Circles	14,112	26,944	(31,456)	-	9,600
Befriending Services	14,727	6,849	(21,576)	-	-
	127,588	**366,236**	**(338,415)**	**-**	**155,409**

2021

	Balance at 1 April 2020	*Movement in funds Income*	*Expediture*	*Transfers between funds*	*Balance at 31 March 2021*
Rehabilitation of Offenders:					
Young People's Services	*93*	*73,351*	*(47,763)*	*-*	*25,681*
Adapted Circles	*124*	*29,431*	*(14,654)*	*-*	*14,901*
Prison Project	*88*	*63,528*	*(51,881)*	*-*	*11,735*
Inform/Inform Plus	*98*	*37,453*	*(34,749)*	*-*	*2,802*
Gloucestershire Circles	*111*	*13,172*	*(13,283)*	*-*	*-*
Devon & Cornwall Circles	*74*	*57,663*	*(27,403)*	*-*	*30,334*
Dorset Circles	*49*	*51,352*	*(38,105)*	*-*	*13,296*
Wiltshire Circles	*68*	*17,888*	*(3,844)*	*-*	*14,112*
Befriending Services	*-*	*15,000*	*(273)*	*-*	*14,727*
External Trading & Consultancy	*47*	*-*	*-*	*(47)*	*-*
	752	*358,838*	*(231,955)*	*(47)*	*127,588*

At year-end Trustees established a Designated Fund to provide funds in 2022-23 for a training Manager (£15,000) and (£5,000) towards the cost of 8 interventions within the Inform Young People project. All other Unrestricted sums were consolidated into Reserves at year-end.

9 SUMMARY OF FUNDS

	Balance at 1 April 2021	Movement in funds Income	Expediture	Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 March 2022
General Fund	43,739	153,883	(139,910)	(20,000)	37,712
Designated Fund	-	-	-	20,000	20,000
Restricted fund	127,588	366,236	(338,415)	-	155,409
	171,327	**520,119**	**(478,325)**	-	**213,121**

	Balance at 1 April 2020	*Movement in funds Income*	*Expediture*	*Transfers between funds*	*Balance at 31 March 2021*
General Fund	*40,209*	*146,596*	*(148,843)*	*5,777*	*43,739*
Designated Fund	*5,730*	-	-	*(5,730)*	-
Restricted fund	*752*	*358,838*	*(231,955)*	*(47)*	*127,588*
	46,691	*505,434*	*(380,798)*	-	*171,327*

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).

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.

Her Majesty's Prison & Probation Service 'Telephone Befriending Service' was provided in partnership with the national charity Volunteering Matters and is part of the VSCE Emergency Partnership. It provided a telephone support service for People on Probation assessed as particularly vulnerable in the Covid Pandemic.

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 – pilot being led by Circles UK with national evaluation.

Funds received in the year specifically for 2022-23 are included in deferred income (Note 5)

10 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

2022	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2022
Debtors	2,880	-	2,880
Cash at bank and in hand	95,035	207,605	302,640
Current liabilities	(40,203)	(52,196)	(92,399)
	57,712	**155,409**	**213,121**

2021	*Unrestricted funds*	*Restricted funds*	*Total 2021*
Debtors	*240*	*-*	*240*
Cash at bank and in hand	*49,739*	*208,813*	*258,552*
Current liabilities	*(6,240)*	*(81,225)*	*(87,465)*
Total	*43,739*	*127,588*	*171,327*

11 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:

	2022	*2021*
	£	£
Pro forma income	426,604	*290,969*

12 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions during the year

13 COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The emergency measures imposed by the Government to control the COVID 19 pandemic restricted the ability of Circles South West to operate normally during 2021-22. While the situation is returning to a degree of normality, restrictions on normal operations are still being felt. The Trustees continue to work to minimise the impact of the exceptional challenges caused by the pandemic and the measures taken by the Government to control it and the effects of the pandemic do not result in any adjustment being needed to the value of assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date.

The Trustees of Circles South West remain confident that they will be able to overcome the continuing operational difficulties and as a consequence these accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

CIRCLES SOUTH WEST

England & Wales - Charity number 1138726

Accounts

CIRCLES SOUTH WEST

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Report & Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 March 2021

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 2021

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 2021. The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the Charity comply with current statutory requirements[1], 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)

	Appointed as Trustee
Stephen Ashton	April 2012
Jane Barkes (Secretary)	January 2013
Paul Davis	January 2013
Tim Price (Chair)	March 2015
Dr Kieran McCartan	September 2016
Chris Maynard (Treasurer)	July 2017
Stephen Barry	November 2017
Peter Estall	November 2017
Diane Wills (Deputy Chair)	November 2017 [re-appointed] *Formerly May 2014-January 2017*
Robert Starling	June 2021
Ian Keys	June 2021
Leonie Cole	June 2021

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Jo Burden	Appointed June 2013

[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

ADVISERS

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

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

Solicitors
Wilsons, 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

"Circles South West is an incredible organisation that works to prevent sexual abuse by reducing the risk of re-offending" Office of Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner"[2]

CSW is the award winning[3] Charity that uniquely provides Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA/Circles) across South West England, an innovative community approach to reducing sexual reoffending. The Charity's primary aim is to stop re-offending by those who have committed sexual offences and therefore prevent further sexual abuse, which has profoundly damaging consequences for victims, their families and communities.

ROBIN CORBETT AWARD

Each Circle provides a small group of professionally trained 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 (un-convicted). This individual becomes the 'core member' of a Circle that meets regularly to provide support, helping to reduce the isolation, which increases the likelihood of reoffending. The Circle helps 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 his or her continuing behaviour and is alert for 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 offender and the community. Circles work towards there being 'No More Victims' by:

Howard League for Penal Reform
Community Awards 2020
Commendation
Children in care & care leavers category

- reducing 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.

Complementing our core work, we have more recently begun to provide support services for partners and family members impacted by an individual's sexual offending, enabling them to become 'protectors'. This includes Inform (in partnership with the Lucy Faithfull Foundation) and Breaking the Cycle (in partnership with Circles South East).

We are also developing a small fee-earning training and consultancy arm. Our ambition is to transfer our knowledge and expertise to become a trusted provider of training and consultancy in our specialist field, reinvesting income generated into our core services.

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[2] Via Twitter
[3] 2019 Robin Corbett Award for Prisoner Re-integration and 2020 Howard League Community Award Commendation (Children in Care and Care Leavers' category)

Relationships with Other Bodies

CSW works within the structures of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and closely with the 'responsible agencies' – 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 harm being done by known perpetrators.

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. Most recently in April 2021[4], CSW achieved 97.7% compliance against national standards (i.e. the 'Code of Practice for Circles of Support & Accountability v4 July 2018' and the 'Code of Practice for Young People's Circles of Support & Accountability v1 2018').

[4] Code of Practice Review Report, June 2021, Circles UK

ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE

Small and local charities demonstrated "absorptive capacity" by 'soaking-up' the unprecedented impact of the crisis on their work, operations and the individuals and communities they support; and then showing tremendous "adaptive capacity" by responding rapidly and flexibly through adjustments and innovations ongoing
The Value of Small in a Big Crisis, Lloyds Bank Foundation, 2021

NO MORE VICTIMS

Surviving as a small-to-medium (SME) charity in the pandemic

The Covid-19 Pandemic has been the most extraordinary time. It has had an unprecedented impact on societies and communities across the world, significantly affecting the way we interact, work and live. Inevitably dominating CSW's world, its impact has permeated every aspect of our work for over a year since March 2020. Like so many organisations, we have had to make difficult decisions and quickly adapt our approach. New policies and procedures were designed in response to our new environment, their implementation dependent on the cooperation of staff and volunteers.

We are pleased to present this report from a position of strength having demonstrated exceptional agility in our response to the pandemic. Staff and volunteer resilience, innovation, flexibility and determination, combined with funder support, mean that we end the year having been able to deliver a remarkable level of service provision and in relatively good financial health. Successful navigation of the pandemic has depended on early and carefully considered strategic decisions made in response to emerging issues. This included:

- Adopting a 'stop the clock' strategy i.e. with funder approval we deferred some restricted income expenditure to the following year
- Accessing the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) to facilitate furloughing the majority of staff for a proportion of their working time
- Transitioning Circles provision online for Lockdown#1 (from March 2020) with contingencies where this was not possible
- Transitioning to Covid-secure face-to-face Circles provision from July 2020 within the parameters set out by Public Health England for providing formal support groups and volunteering, and only with voluntary consent by all members
- Suspending group-work programme delivery for some of the year
- Postponing fee-earning training and consultancy delivery to 2021.

We adapted our provision in response to the ever-changing pandemic restrictions imposed and our volunteers have been pivotal to this. We know that social isolation is a key factor in the risk of reoffending; the pandemic has imposed an unprecedented degree of social isolation to the whole of the population and its effect is exacerbated in the lives of our core members. We have risen to the challenge to continue to provide Covid-secure person-centred services with meaningful contact, being mindful of individuals' risks and accommodating their needs as far as possible under the circumstances.

In addition to our usual services, between January-March 2021, and in partnership with the national charity Volunteering Matters, we have provided a Telephone Befriending Support Service to 21 People on Probation assessed by HMPPS as particularly vulnerable as a result of the pandemic. This has involved 19 experienced volunteers, trained specifically for this role who have welcomed this additional opportunity, particularly those shielding. The contract has been recently extended to August 2021. In delivering this contract, CSW is pleased to have made a small contribution to the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Emergencies Partnership[5].

We have foregrounded our achievements and performance with our response to the pandemic. Despite this, the last year has seen CSW continue to sustain its core work and develop complementary services for the benefit of the service users, local communities and partner agencies with whom we work to achieve our vision of 'No More Victims'.

This year we have focused on:

- Making careful and timely decisions to effectively navigate the impact of the pandemic, continuing to provide direct services, thereby remaining true our mission
- Extending our reach to achieve 'No More Victims' by continuing to extend our services, develop new working alliances and access alternative income sources
- Re-modelling our sustainability strategy to include maximising our internal expertise to generate unrestricted funds
- Developing complementary services to our core work
- Robustly monitoring our work to facilitate independent evaluation by Research in Practice
- Navigating the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and adapting services in response to this.

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 skill to contribute effectively to CSW's development and provision. We continue to dedicate significant resources to volunteer recruitment and retention, a necessity as the general demand is high for willing, available, suitable volunteers.

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

[5] The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Emergencies Partnership is made up of a range of organisations within the sector with the aim of improving coordination at national and local levels before, during and after emergencies. Bringing together local, national and global expertise from the sector, the Emergencies Partnership aims to help people prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies, so that they can rebuild their lives.

2020-21 Highlights

Howard League Community Award Commendation (2020)

In recognition of our work with young people, in late 2020 we received a prestigious Howard League Community Award Commendation in the Children in Care and Care Leavers Category. More information at these links:

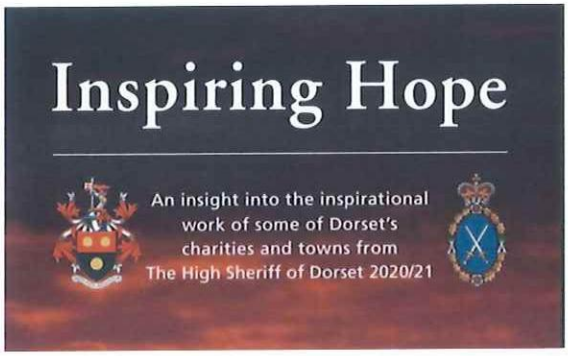
The Howard League | 2020 Community Awards Winners and

Circles South West Commended in Howard League Community Award - Circles South West (circles-southwest.org.uk)

Code of Practice Compliance Review: *'Well done on an excellent achievement'*

In Spring 2021 we were the subject of the 'Code of Practice Compliance Review' undertaken by Circles UK on behalf of the Ministry of Justice. The process included submission of detailed documentation evidencing compliance with the 12 national standards and 43 requirements of the Code of Practice, and 3 x 1 day site visits in Bournemouth, Yeovil and Swindon. We were delighted to achieve 97.7% compliance.

"The review highlighted how much work was done and how sound the organisation's Circles practice is. The achievement is even more remarkable when viewed against the challenges of COVID-19 that Circles South West had to contend with. It is clear that Circles South West is a healthy, resilient and professional organisation. Well done on an excellent achievement" (CEO, Circles UK, June 2021)



'Inspiring Hope' by The High Sheriff of Dorset

This publication featured Circles South West as one of the 'inspirational' charities of Dorset in 2020/21.

"I have met and I have been hugely impressed by what they do, how they work and the needs they fulfil in our community particularly over the past year and during the pandemic" High Sheriff of Dorset

Circles South West's 10th Anniversary

2020 was Circles South West's 10th year of operation and we had planned a celebratory conference in June to mark the occasion. Due to pandemic restrictions this was postponed to November. However, with another Lockdown came another postponement. We hope to re-schedule this event in 2022.

Media engagement

With 'Enhance Support' from the Lloyds Bank Foundation, staff and trustees benefitted from training and coaching in media engagement from Philippa Budgen, Criminal Justice Media Consultant and former BBC journalist.

Recent interviews about our work with a local TV station and local radio station are accessible on our website, for example:

CHAOS TV UK: interview with the High Sheriff of Cornwall [February 2021]

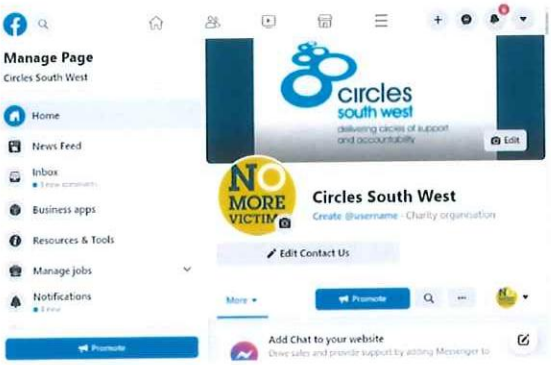
Circles Coordinator featured on Chaos TV for High Sheriff Briefing - Circles South West (circles-southwest.org.uk)

BBC Radio Devon: interview

https://circles-southwest.org.uk/circles-south-west-features-on-radio-devon/

Social Media: launching Circles South West's Facebook presence

CSW continues to be active on Twitter with almost 1500 followers. We are soon to launch our new Facebook page to further raise our profile.



OPERATIONS

"Circles have worked for years and proved to be successful at supporting some of the most challenging men who have been released and Circles... work to ensure they do not go on to reoffend. Evaluations in Canada, in various European countries and in the UK have shown that recidivism is reduced. It's not a magic bullet, but if the patient and skilled work of tenacious volunteers can prevent victims of sex crimes, then it is all to the good"

Frances Crook OBE, CEO, Howard League for Penal Reform

Context: Circles provision in the pandemic year

We have continued to coordinate Circles via zoom, telephone and Covid-secure face-to-face meetings (the latter from Summer 2020 onwards where assessed as safe and appropriate to do so). We have worked within the parameters of Government and Public Health England guidelines and regulations at all times and have ensured voluntary informed consent from all those involved. Sometimes we have 'blended' provision, combining remote with face-to-face where, for example, a Circle volunteer is shielding and unable to attend in person. We have risk assessed every venue that we use for face-to-face meetings, ensuring adequate space for the "2 metre rule". Young People's Circles have been a particular challenge as they involve a huge amount of activity-based meetings. Our volunteers have come up with innovative and fun ways of engaging our younger core members, from playing Covid-secure board games to socially distanced cycle rides.

The reason we have been able to achieve this remarkable level of service provision is because of the creativity, willingness and flexibility of our volunteers and staff. We thank them all.

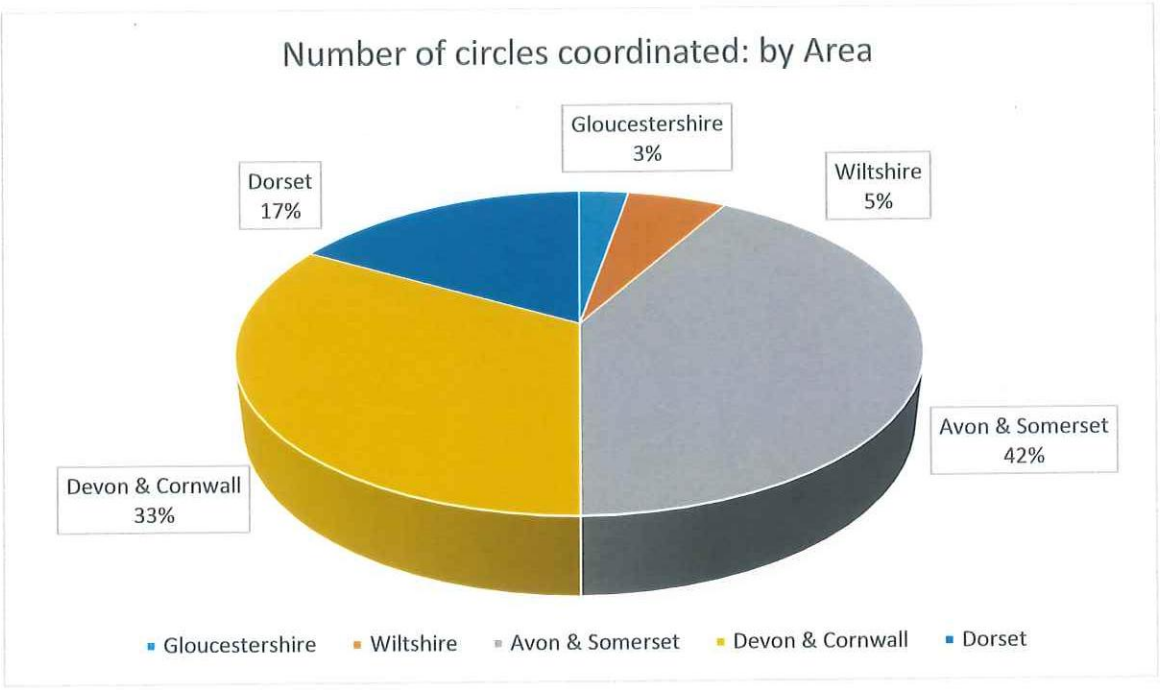
We delivered Covid-secure face-to-face volunteer core training in August and September 2020. However, due to Lockdown#2 we postponed the November core training event and subsequently moved this online. This was embraced with the enthusiasm typical of our staff team who designed and delivered a comprehensive 3 module core training package, the first two modules delivered online and the final module being delivered Covid-secure face-to-face in small groups at local level.

We also offer a monthly, online volunteers' event to enable everyone to keep in touch and to provide a forum for additional training, development learning and discussion.

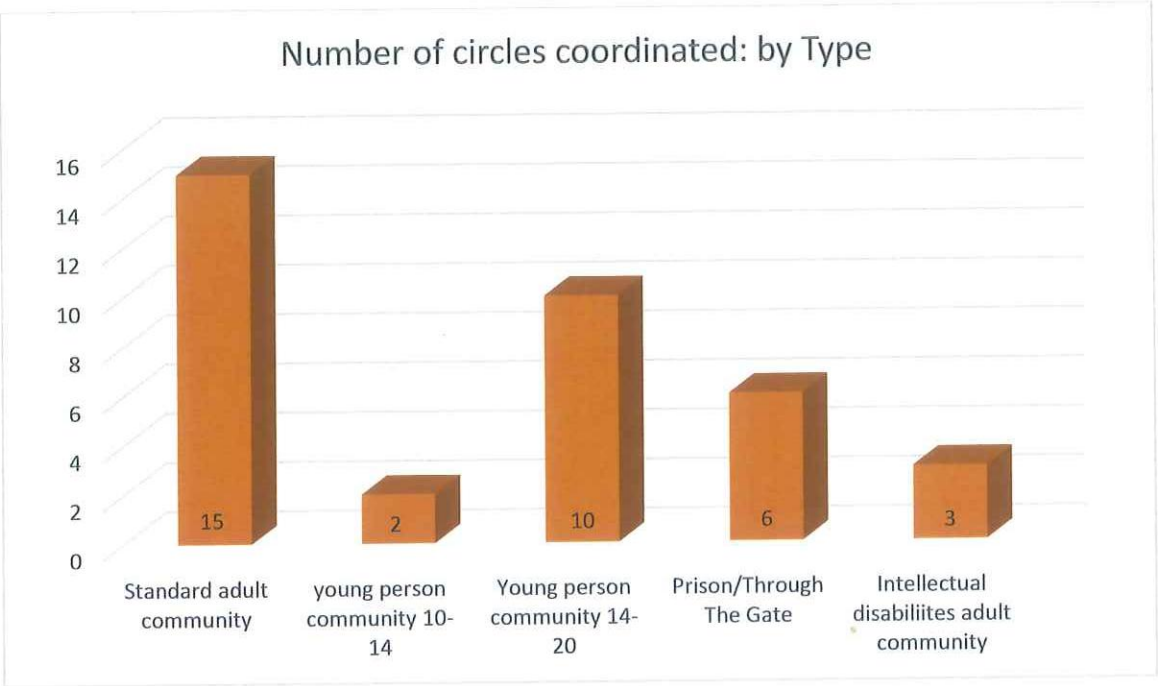
Circles of Support and Accountability

In 2020-21, we coordinated 35 active Circles. 16 (44%) of those Circles were newly established in year (since April 2020) with the other 20 (66%) carried forward from the previous year. As explained above, these Circles were conducted remotely (e.g. Zoom) for some of the time, however, we maintained our position of assessing potential new core members face-to-face only. This, combined with furloughed staff and limited venue access meant that no new Circles commenced for the 6 months between April and September 2020.

We coordinated Circles in all five police areas in the region which comprised 'standard' community Circles for adults, prison/through the gate Circles, Circles for young people (10 years plus) and Circles for adults with intellectual disabilities.



A third of all Circles were located in Devon and Cornwall, well supported by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Just under half the Circles were located in Avon and Somerset (comprising the Unitary Authorities of Bristol, Bath & North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset, and the County of Somerset). However, it is important to note that none of these were 'standard' community Circles for adults. All 15 of these Circles were specialist Circles, adapted specifically for young people, adults with intellectual disabilities or prison/through the gate Circles. These Circles were solely funded by Trusts and Foundations with no statutory funding contribution, with the exception of a small donation from social services for youth circles. This year we have been funded specifically to extend the geographical reach of our specialist Circles.



Just under half of active Circles were 'standard' community Circles for adults and another third were Circles for young people. Due to Covid restrictions, significantly fewer Prison/Through The Gate Circles started this year.

Core Member Referrals

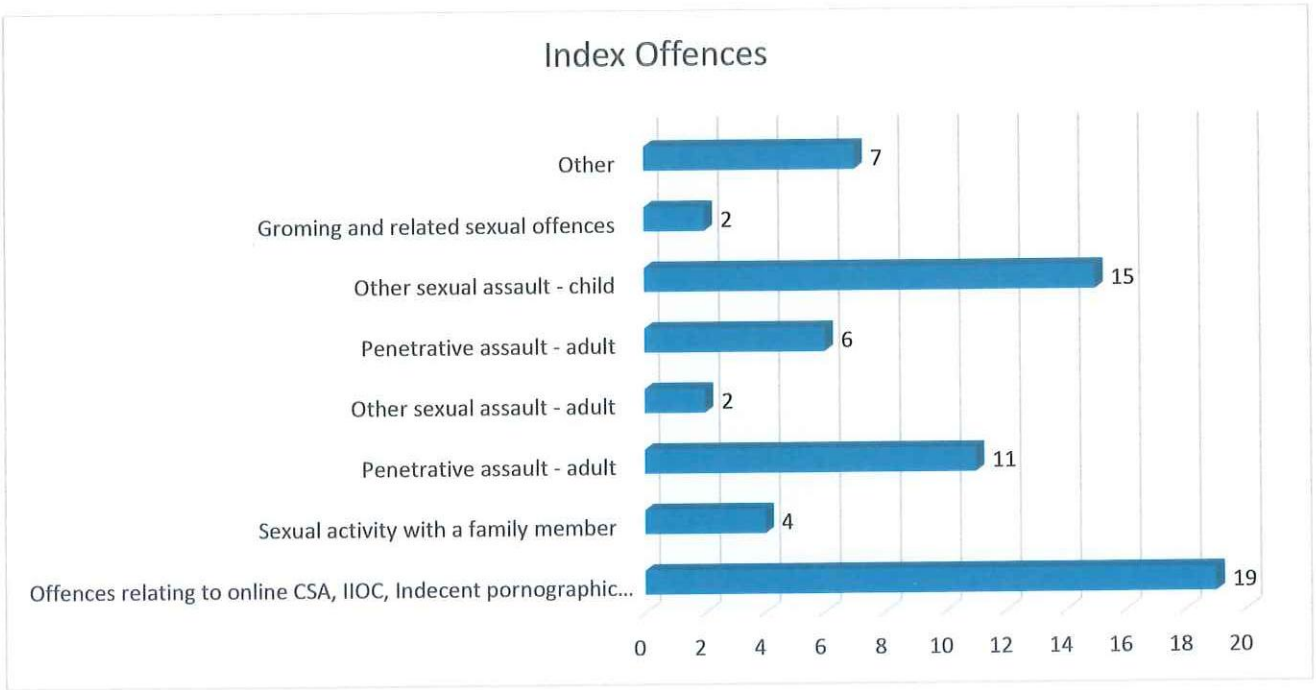
During the year 2020-21, there were 68 new core member referral enquiries of which 31 converted into formal referrals. 17 (55%) formal referrals were allocated to a new Circle in-year. 80% of adult referrals were made by the National Probation Service (NPS). Other referrers included prisons, police, Children's Social Care, Youth Offending Team, Glebe House Therapeutic Community.

Core Member Diversity

In 2020-21, we provided Circles for 2 female core members (both 14 years old). 91% of core members were White British, with 1 White Irish and 1 White 'Other'. A third had a disability. 86% self-defined as heterosexual, with 2 gay and 2 bisexual. At the point they were allocated to a Circle, core members were between 10 and 75 years old. This included 23% young people under 18 years old.

Index Offences, Prevention Orders

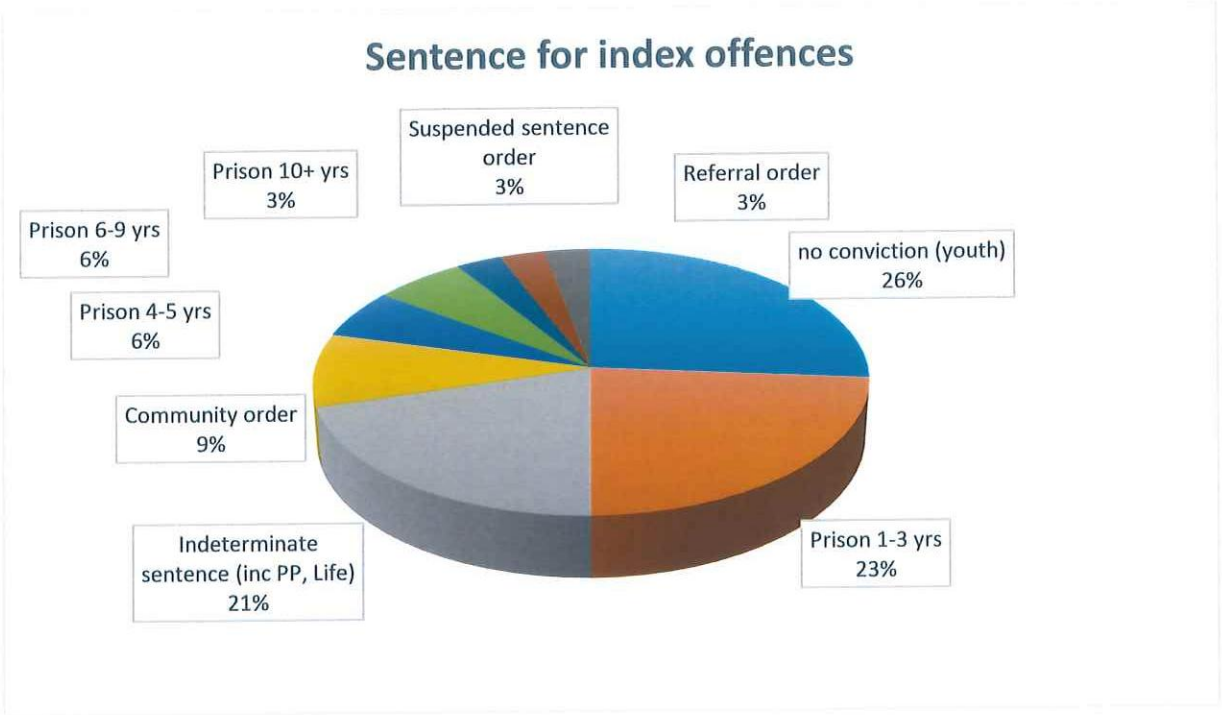
For the purposes of the summary presented below, the 'index offence' is defined as the last sexual offence for which the core member was convicted, in most cases the offence(s) for which the most recent sentence was imposed. Most core members were convicted of more than 1 category. A significant proportion of our youngest core members were un-convicted, reaching eligibility threshold for our young people's service in terms of their harmful sexual behaviour. The majority of this cohort had been involved in intra-familial abuse.



'Other' includes abduction of child, inciting a child to take part in a sexual act, voyeurism, underage sexual intercourse, breach Sex Offender Registration

CSA = Child Sexual Abuse

IIOC = Indecent Images of Children



Of those convicted, 64% of core members were on licence at the point of referral whilst 40% core members were subject to a Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO) or Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO).

Outcomes

"Overall we have shown a marked difference in a balanced measure of dynamic risk between the start and end of circles. In other words, during the time that circles have been active, perceived risk due to dynamic factors has reduced for core members. Further evidence from across the evaluations suggests that the circle has had a large contributory effect in this reduction of risk" Research in Practice

16 Circles closed in 2020-21. Of these, 9 (56%) ran their natural course for an average active period of 13 months. 2 (12.5%) Core Members were recalled due to risky behaviour. The other 5 (31.%) Circles closed earlier than planned running for between 8 and 11 months; 1 as he secured a job with varying shift work patterns and the other 4 due to core member lacking motivation to continue within pandemic restrictions.

"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"

Since 2017, Research in Practice https://www.rip.org.uk/ has independently evaluated CoSA, with ethics approval from Her Majesty's Prison & Probation Service (HMPPS) National Research Committee (NRC). The research 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.

Reporting in 2021 on a data-set of 99 CoSA, Research in Practice found the outcomes in the table below for core members between the start and end of their CoSA. As a result of the pandemic, it is inevitable, perhaps, that outcomes are slightly less favourable than reported last year (n=85). Nevertheless, outcomes are very positive overall and core members reported on the value of Circles during the pandemic as also evidenced by the Code of Practice Review Report:

"Perhaps the most powerful commendation of the response by CSW to the Covid pandemic was from interviews with the core members. For vulnerable individuals, their Circle appears to have been a crucial lifeline and has offered them support and engagement with others during a prolonged period of anxiety and isolation" Circles UK, 2021

Table 1: Outcomes for 99 core members between the start and end of their Circle, 2017-2021

%age core members (n=99)	category
79%	were better integrated into their local community
79%	had improved wellbeing
78%	were making more careful decisions
75%	were better managing their sexual thoughts & behaviour
70%	had increased involvement in hobbies/activities
69%	had reduced their general risk
69%	were less isolated
60%	were more engaged in education, training and volunteering

"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. Whatever the reasons for their isolation and seclusion, 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"

The majority of core members appear to have reduced dynamic risk of reoffending at the end of their Circles compared to the beginning... evidence from across the evaluations suggests that the Circle has had a large contributory effect in this reduction of risk"

"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, Independent Evaluator)

CASE STUDY: TOM (name changed to protect anonymity)

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

Tom (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, 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. In view of this, he would be managed at Level 2 MAPPA on release due to multi agency involvement.

Tom 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.

Tom was interviewed and assessed as suitable and seemed genuine in his motivation to lead an offence free life.

Tom met with his Circle volunteers at 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, one step at a time. 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 reengage 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 of 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. Tom 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.

Tom'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 giving 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

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

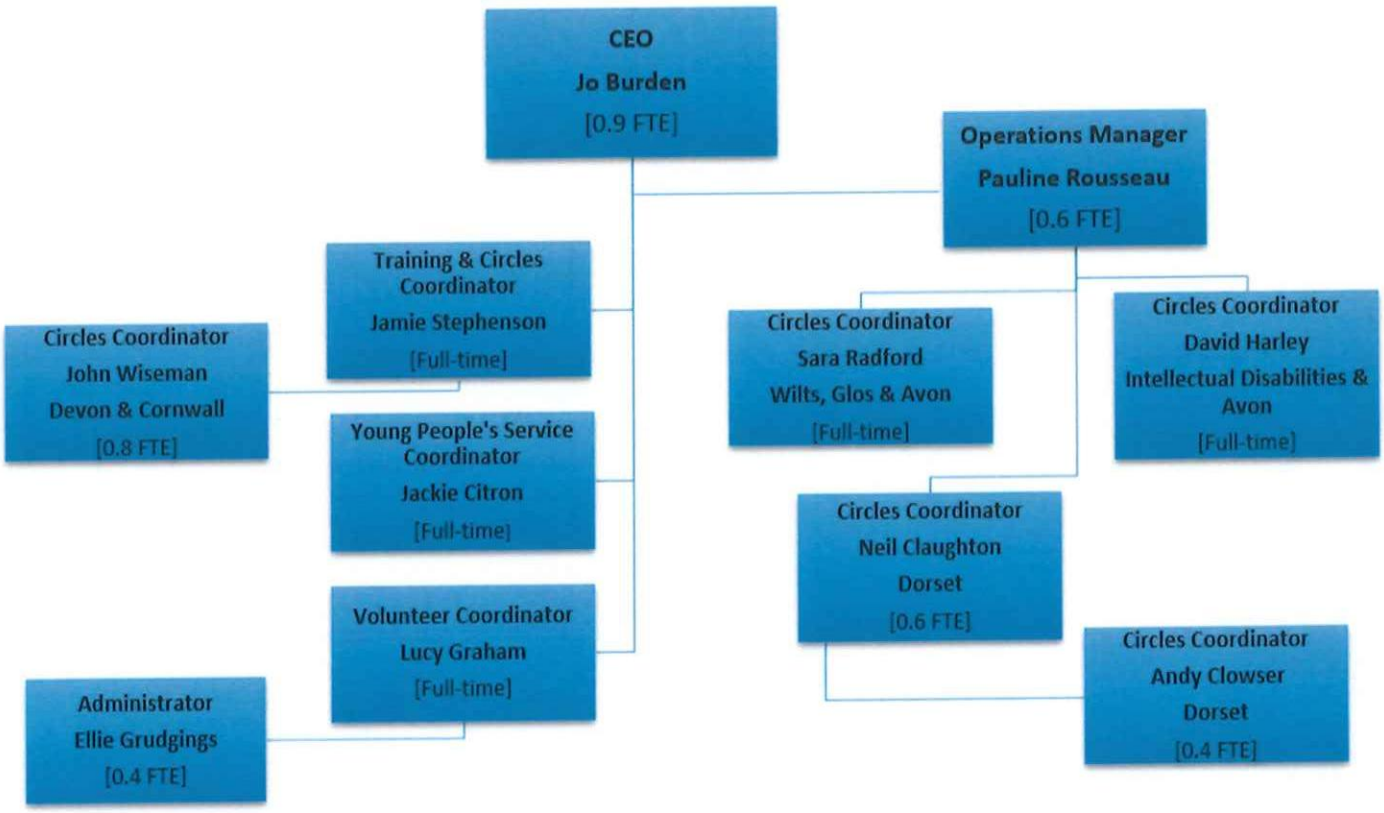
"Keep up the fantastic work, our community needs you. We are grateful"[6]
Alison Hernandez, Police & Crime Commissioner for Devon & Cornwall

Staff

Our exceptionally skilled and dedicated staff bring extensive combined experience of probation, MAPPA, social work, police, prisons, treatment programmes, 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, particularly over the last year, when the usual job insecurity, limited resources and challenging nature of the work have been compounded by the complexities of living and working in a pandemic.

From July 2021 the staff team increases by 0.8 full-time equivalent post compared to the same point the previous year when we appoint a second part-time Circles Coordinator in Dorset and a part-time Administrator.

Staff structure (from July 2021)



FTE = full-time equivalent

[6] 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. 148 volunteers were involved in the 35 Circles coordinated during the year, contributing between them around 6120 hours direct volunteering time. A conservative estimate of the value in-kind that our volunteers have contributed this year is around £101,500. At the end of 2020-21 we had 189 retained, trained volunteers across the region.

Since 2017, Research in Practice https://www.rip.org.uk/ has independently evaluated CoSA. This year they have specifically evaluated the volunteering aspect of Circles producing a separate 'Volunteering Experience' report summarising the feedback of 154 Volunteers involved in 64 separate Circles. They have also captured and reported on volunteering hours. This paper provides a summary of their findings. The full evaluation reports can be found here on our website: Making a difference - Circles South West (circles-southwest.org.uk)

Volunteering Hours

"The substantial number of volunteering hours reported by Circles South West is a testament to the hard work of the volunteers and professionals involved. Volunteers' external use of the knowledge and skills learned through Circles, and their increased awareness of and advocacy for the potential community role in rehabilitation, also highlights the broader impact of Circles" (Research in Practice)

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.

It is important to note that these figures *include data for completed Circles only* and the numbers would be substantially higher were active Circles included.

Reporting on 78 Circles there were:

- a total of 17,674 volunteering hours
- 7,438.5 direct volunteering hours plus 10,235.5 indirect volunteering hours
- This equates to 227 volunteering hours per Circle
- This represents a staggering £293,035 overall, or £3756 per Circle[7]

Volunteering Experience

"Volunteers' feedback presents a positive picture of volunteering with Circles South West, describing how organisational values align 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" (Research in Practice)

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

Table 2: Aggregate responses from 154 volunteers representing 64 Circles

%age Volunteers (n=154)	category
100%	Volunteer felt able to cope with the emotional pressure of volunteering for Circles
99%	Volunteers thought the training adequately prepared them for their Circles
99%	Volunteers felt supported by Circles South West throughout their time volunteering
99%	Volunteers felt safe volunteering with Circles
99%	Volunteering expectations were met
96%	Volunteers recommend volunteering with Circles South West
92%	Volunteers found their experiences volunteering with Circles rewarding
88%	Volunteers believed their Circle had a positive relationship with the core member
86%	Volunteers thought their Circle Volunteers were well matched to the news of the core member
83%	Volunteers intend to volunteer in another Circle in the future
75%	Volunteers reported learning valuable new skills through volunteering with Circles
66%	Volunteers said they had applied new skills gained outside of Circles
61%	Volunteers thought their core member was accountable to the Circle
49%	Volunteers through the Circle had significantly reduced the core member's risk of reoffending

"As an organisation, Circles South West was 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" (Research in Practice)

What Volunteers said

Volunteer comments relating to the above responses include those below. The full evaluation reports can be found on our website here Making a difference - Circles South West (circles-southwest.org.uk)

99% Volunteers felt supported by Circles South West throughout their time volunteering
"Support from Circles South West and coordinators in particular was highly regarded, with coordinators considered available and understanding, holding regular reviews and checking in proactively, while also being reachable through phone, text and email. Some knew support was available but reported not needing to use it, others described receiving practical and emotional advice and support through their coordinators" (Research in Practice)

99% Volunteers thought the training adequately prepared them for their Circles
"By far the most insightful and useful training I have experience[d] throughout my professional career" (Volunteer)

"The training Circles provides for its volunteers is outstanding, provided by passionate coordinators who have a lot of experience in this field and who are very knowledgeable about the topic" (Volunteer)

99% volunteering expectations were met
"I've come to the conclusion that the model does work, enhanced by individual differences on both sides ... there's also an element of chemistry (magic?!) where the whole is greater than the sum of all the parts" (Volunteer)

"I do not personally feel that I have definitely made a significant difference to our Core Member. However, Circles SW as an organisation has exceeded my expectations" (Volunteer)

92% Volunteers found their experiences volunteering with Circles rewarding

"Volunteers were extremely positive about their experiences. Building relationships and positive changes in Core Members' attitudes and behaviours were referenced as being especially rewarding. Comments also cited improved situations in school, voluntary work or accommodation. Other comments referenced seeing a Core Member begin to open up and trust the Circle, gain a fresh perspective and make progress toward their goals. Understandably, volunteering experiences appeared directly linked with Circles' outcomes, with those reaching a "good" conclusion often described as rewarding" (Research in Practice)

"Volunteers overwhelmingly reported feeling safe in Circle" (Ibid)

"It is rewarding to see that he is no longer so dependent on the Circle and is building a life again, making new friends and maintaining employment" (Volunteer)

"It has been a very rewarding year. CM has definitely grown in confidence and all of our friendships have grown too. CM has started college, started dating, made friends, learned to use public transport, had a job and more! It has been really special to be able to achieve all of these goals he had" (Volunteer)

88% volunteers believed their Circle had a positive relationship with the core member

"[I]t was very gratifying to see the CM begin to trust us and open up, enjoy our company and recognise that he could form positive relationships with adults" (Volunteer)

"[H]e appreciated that we were there for him without judging him, and gave him the opportunity to have a continuing dialogue where he was seen as a human being rather than a sex offender" (Volunteer)

61% volunteers thought their core member was accountable to the Circle

"I believe we have helped the core member in other aspects of his life, for example, helping him engage in conversation rather than merely talking at people" (Volunteer)

"I believe the circle has offered CM the right amount of support and accountability, which he lacked prior to his offence" (Volunteer)

"[A] friendship had begun and the CM did not want to let [group] down" (Volunteer)

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL POSITION AND PERFORMANCE

The Charity's recognised income in 2020-21 amounted to £505,434 (previous year £392,342). This method of recognising income is in accordance with the SORP, the principles of recommended accounting practice and indicates an increase of income in the year of 29%.

Of the recognised income that related to grants, £135,550 (32%) consisted of public sector grants and £287,986 (68%) was derived from Trusts and Foundations. A further £46,691 unexpended funds were brought forward from the previous year. Expenditure amounted to £380,798 (previous year £389,160). At the year-end, £127,588 was carried forward to fund activities in future years, a significant proportion of which related to activities postponed due to 'Covid-slide'. The Charity held £65,694 in advance payments for work to be delivered in 2021-22 all of which was held in cash at the Charity's bank.

The impact of the pandemic on the Charity's operations has been significant. As previously stated, in order to safeguard the financial health of the organisation, we adopted a 'stop the clock' strategy meaning that, with funder agreement, we deferred some restricted income expenditure until such time these services could be delivered ('Covid-slide'). We suspended of our fee-earning training and consultancy delivery, meaning the income generation anticipated was postponed by 12 months. We accessed the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme to facilitate furloughing staff in support of this strategy and we successfully applied to The Julia and Hans Rausing Trust to cover some of our fixed core costs to ease the deficit we may otherwise have seen. These combined activities mean that we ended the year in relative financial health but with significant income carried forward in relation to deferred services requiring imminent delivery in the new financial year.

The Charity's current cash position is sufficient to meet commitments. In addition, the Charity has promises of some £309,726 covering work to be delivered in 2021-22 (which, together with sums carried forward and deferred income, represents 99% of the approved budget) and the Trustees therefore consider the current financial position to be sound.

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 more recently seen a broadening of our offer to test out on a small scale the delivery of

- training and consultancy for professionals to develop their skills and knowledge in working with people with harmful sexual behaviour and those who have sexually offended;
- group-work and 1:1 programmes for those arrested, cautioned and convicted of sexual offences;
- group-work and 1:1 programmes for 'non-offending partners' and family members of the same.

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. Some donors have asked to remain anonymous. We are very grateful to them all.

Reserves Policy

The Board have consistently reviewed the Reserves Policy over time, and particularly since 2017 when it was last defined in terms of the need to fund an immediate stop to all activities and subsequent closedown.

The last year of the Coronavirus pandemic has seen unprecedented pressure on the funding of charities, and CSW has not been immune to that. However we have been successful in attracting a level of funding in line with our original budget, although a number of our programmes have, with the agreement of our donors, and in response to the needs of our Core Members, had to be delayed with start dates some months later than originally planned. That success, and the management of the issues relating to the pandemic, has encouraged the Board to look again at the rationale for the Reserves policy with a view to determining a 'sufficient' level of required reserves so as to ensure that the funding stream devoted to our core operations is maximised.

The trustees recognise that they are under a duty to balance the needs of current and future Core Members. We need to have sufficient reserves to allow our charity to cover known liabilities and contingencies, absorb set-backs and take advantage of change and opportunity.

The Board has 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 a level of Unrestricted reserves of £37,000 would meet the 'sufficiency' objective. At the 2020-21 year-end the level of Unrestricted General reserves was £43,739.

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 measure are in place and that actions required are 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.

The continuing Covid pandemic has heavily influenced our risks assessment processes this year with new risks and differing drivers influencing established risk areas.

Risk areas are grouped under five strategic headings:

(i) Governance Risks

The skill set and representation of the Board is an issue that was identified as a potential gap. There are also a number of Trustees who have been loyally and enthusiastically serving CSW for a number of years and a need was seen to refresh, bring in new perspectives and consider succession planning. With the support of the Lloyds Bank Foundation Enhance Programme, 'Reach Volunteering' has undertaken a targeted campaign to recruit new CSW trustees from under-represented communities, including younger people as well as attracting people who can fill skills gaps including in HR and marketing experience as well as commercial/private sector experience. At the time of writing (June 21) the first round of applicants are in the selection process.

As a result of the pandemic, the additional risk of 'staff welfare' was included; uncertainty for the future, challenges to personal finances with the potential effects on overall physical and mental wellbeing were recognised as potential risks to our staff, so support was put in place to reassure and assist. Our staff's support and wellbeing is vital to CSW as part of our aim to be a progressive employer but also to ensure we are fit to resume full time operations as soon as circumstances allow. CSW has managed to retain all our staff and all will be fully operational again from June 2021.

(ii) Operational Risks

The pandemic raised a real risk of our operations coming to a complete halt and failing to deliver on projects and targets/outcomes agreed with funders. We therefore took the decision to risk assess and continue to deliver where safe to do so, following all Government advice and safeguards. Where volunteer training and Circles could be delivered remotely, we did so. At that time there was no research into the effectiveness of remote Circles but it was clearly better than the alternative, providing no service at all. However, we were keen to resume face-to-face operations as soon as Government advice allowed and risk assessments were undertaken to ensure the safety of staff, volunteers, core members and the general public. We therefore resumed face-to-face operations to a limited degree from July 2020, gradually increasing as the restrictions lift further. By taking this risk-based approach, CSW were one of few providers to continue with face-to-face Circles and close monitoring has not highlighted any issues as a result.

Safeguarding issues are a key risk area that is regularly reviewed to ensure safety to all those who work with, volunteer for or come into contact with CSW. CSW should be a safe place for everyone but constant vigilance is needed in the area to ensure this is always the case, so it is a high priority for the Board. It is clear in CSW that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and any concerns are reported and treated with the seriousness they deserve.

(iii) Financial Risks

Sustainable funding is an ongoing risk for the charity and is constantly monitored by the CEO and Board of Trustees. Most bids for funding are for fixed term only and 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 also need to ensure we have sufficient unrestricted funding to maintain general operations. The pandemic has made the issue even more critical and it was important to keep our funders up to date and be honest about delayed delivery. Our funders were sympathetic to our approach and no funding was withdrawn for late or failed delivery. We were fortunate to receive a generous donation from the Julia and Hans Rausing Charity Survival Fund that made a huge difference to the out-turn this year. Bidding for new funds continued while innovative funding was explored to bolster our operations. The risks of moving into new areas were thoroughly examined by the Board, balancing the dangers of being seen to be going "off mission" versus the need to ensure we have general funds to continue with core business. This is something that is under constant review to ensure we always deliver in line with the overall objectives of the charity.

We constantly monitor our reserves and, despite a very challenging year, have managed to maintain them at a level considered by the trustees to be more than sufficient. 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. This is frequently reviewed at a Board level.

(iv) External Risks

This is an area where loss of our reputation and credibility as an organisation has the potential to seriously impact our ability to operate and delver. It is vitally important that CSW maintains high standards of integrity and our objectives are clearly expounded to the community. Feedback from funders, partners agencies and the community is vital. Proactive work on communications with the press and our response to media enquiries are also key.

(v) Compliance Risk

In order 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 always to exceed standards where it is practical to do so. This year's pandemic regulations and guidance has provided further challenges to ensure we operate safely within an unpredictable environment with thorough risk assessment and management processes being a key part of our strategic leadership model.

FUTURE PLANS

The outlook for the next 12 months is good. The greatest operational risks to the organisation for the foreseeable are:

(i) being unable to deliver deferred services due to lack of operational capacity
(ii) another Lockdown

In response to (i) above, we have, with effect from July 2021, recruited a new part-time Circles Coordinator that will help to ensure that we can deliver the deferred work within the timeframe agreed with the funders.

In response to (ii) above, we have learned a huge amount in the last year; assuming that Public Health England guidance on formal support groups and volunteering remained the same, we now have in place the policies, procedures, systems, processes and experience to continue to safely deliver services in the Lockdown situation and under varying restrictions. Although valuable, we have learned that 'Remote Circles' (e.g. online via Zoom) are not ideal and we would therefore work within Public Health guidance to provide Covid-secure face-to-face services where permitted and safe to do so, with the voluntary consent of all involved.

Whilst the outlook for the coming year is positive, looking forward into 2022-23 we anticipate some challenges with income generation for a number of reasons. For example:

- we anticipate that the impact of the pandemic will negatively impact the availability of funding going forward; we know that many grant makers were generous in making Covid emergency funds available but, for most, this was sourced from a finite pot. For example, we have been notified by one significant funder that potential continuation funding of £100k will now be restricted to c£30k.

- due to the pandemic the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) elections were postponed from May 2020 to May 2021. As a result the general trend was continuation funding for all currently grant funded local services. However, there are 4 new PCCs in the South West and we anticipate that there may be changes in all 5 south west PCC funding priorities in 2022-23. Whether they will continue to support CSW's core work is yet to be seen.

We are passionate in our desire to impact positively on the lives of people who have sexually offended as they move along their desistance journey and thereby to make an important contribution to the prevention of sexual abuse in south west communities. The Charity continues to develop and be sustained, in the short term at least. However, we produce this report at a time of national instability resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. Inevitably, not all charities working in criminal justice will survive and we must remain alert and responsive to the uncertainty, instability and fragility that will inevitably impact on volunteering, income generation and partnership work as well as the health and well-being of

volunteers, service users and staff. Significant challenges lie ahead that will necessitate creative adaptation if we are to sustain a healthy organisation and achieve our mission. Our CEO continues to benefit from the Lloyds Bank Foundation 'Recovery and Resilience' Leadership Programme (delivered by the School for Social Entrepreneurs). We are grateful to Lloyds Bank Foundation for its generous sponsorship.

It is very possible that our 'new normal' will mean many more months of swinging between socially distanced activity and lockdown; we have risen to the challenge of creatively re-modelling our core work so that we can continue to deliver quality services within the confines of the restrictions, whatever they may be.

CSW Operations 2021-22

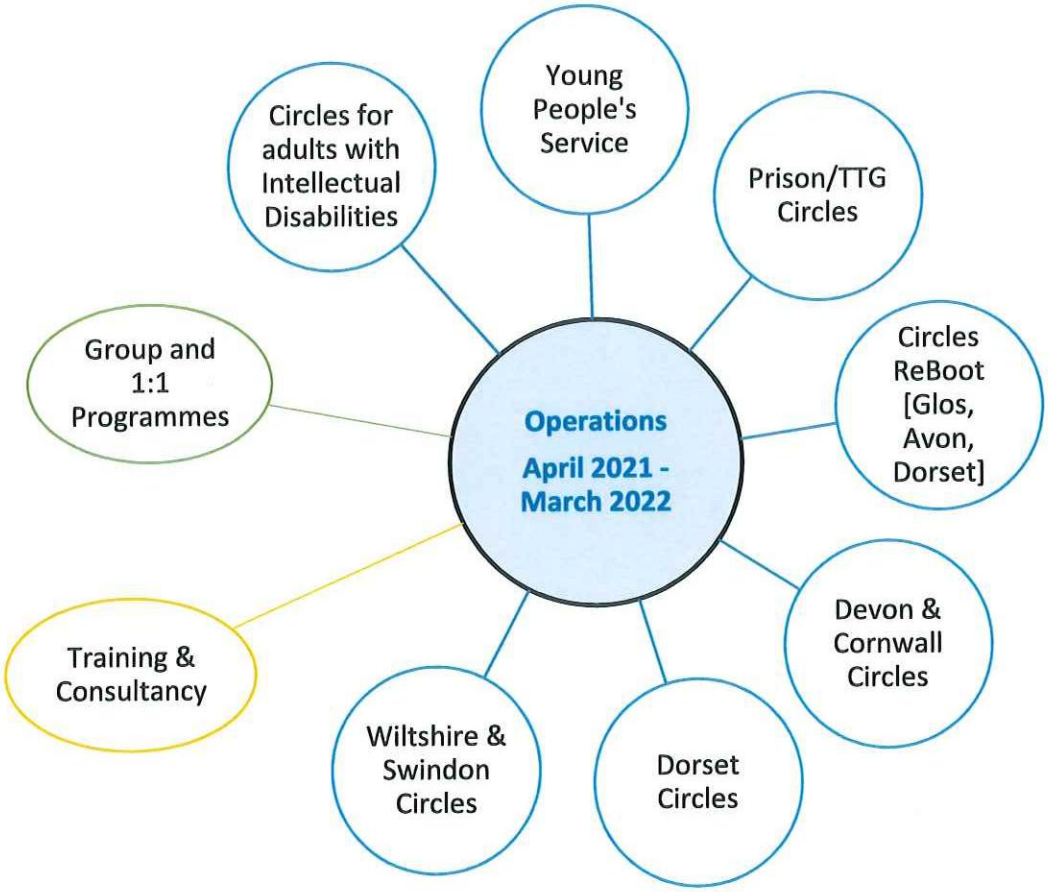
The diagram below shows CSW's planned operations for 2021-22. Some services are fully funded, some require match-funding to release secured funds, and others are 'spot purchased', becoming available as new funds are sourced.

Our fee-earning training and consultancy arm is our newest initiative. Our ambition is to transfer our expertise to become a trusted provider of training and consultancy in our specialist field, reinvesting income generated into our core services. We have tested this out on a small scale providing training and consultancy for professionals and group-work programmes for partners and families of people who have sexually offended, enabling them to become 'protectors'. External training delivery has been suspended for the last year due to the pandemic. However, over the second half of the year we have been designing delivery packages and are excited to have 5 face-to-face training delivery days scheduled in July and August 2021.

Sustainability of the Charity is dependent on demonstrating that what we do works. We have commissioned Research in Practice to undertake a Phase 2 independent evaluation of Circles, extending their original evaluation to capture a significant additional number of completed datasets, from which to draw statistically significant conclusions pertaining to the adapted Circles projects. This evaluation contributes to the growing UK evidence base on the effectiveness of CoSA as well as informing programme development and replication.

In addition, Research in Practice is separately evaluating Inform Plus (pilot project in Devon and Cornwall, commissioned by Devon and Cornwall OPCC), funded by Nota (National Organisation for the Treatment of Abusers) Research Committee (Note: our Devon and Cornwall Inform Plus is solely for men *convicted* of sexual offences who are *police-only* managed).

CSW Operations 2021-22



Income Generation and Added Value

In 2020-21 we secured £135,550 from local public sector sources and £369,884 from voluntary sources, including grants from independent funders and donations. This means that for every £1 of public funding, we levered in £2.73 from other sources, almost tripling the public sector investment. This trend is set to continue in the coming year.

We are proud of our achievements in relation to income generation but this remains a constant challenge: more time is dedicated to fundraising and, despite our best attempts, full cost recovery is rare. Most funders want to fund innovation rather than core costs or 'more of the same' and we have diversified our offer to maximise this potential. However, our experience is that there is less availability of funding for our 'core work' and increasing competition for scarce resources. We anticipate that this will be compounded as a result of the pandemic.

The majority of our referrals for Circles are from Probation and, despite ongoing discussions, we currently receive no financial contribution from Probation across the region. We are pleased to have qualified on the Probation Services Dynamic Framework and hope that this will mean formal arrangements with Probation resulting in commissioned work following the Unification of the Probation

Service in June 2021. We understand that local criminal justice partners will play a more direct role in commissioning services and we will work hard to build effective relationships with the South West Reducing Re-offending Board.

We have secured funding for 2021-22 from all five South West OPCCs (although in Gloucestershire and Avon & Somerset these are small contributions to the Circles Reboot[8] pilot programme) but the potential for funding beyond March 2022 is as yet unknown and will be impacted by the new priorities of the PCCs.

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. With this in mind and following consultation we have included a 'staff well-being' allocation in next year's budget.

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 what is currently a very uncertain environment.

[8] Circles ReBoot is new for 2021-22, a national pilot programme led by Circles UK that will be independently evaluated. This 12 session Circle delivered over 6 months is specifically designed for adults who have been convicted of internet offences involving indecent images of children and are assessed as low-to-medium risk of harm. Circles South West has been commissioned to deliver 6 Reboot Circles in 2021.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND THANKS

Our 2020-21 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:

- Devon & Cornwall Police & Crime Commissioner
- Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner
- Friends Therapeutic Community Trust (Glebe House)
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- Gloucestershire Police & Crime Commissioner
- Henry Smith Charity
- Lloyds Bank Foundation (including Covid Emergency Fund)
- Nota Research Committee
- Paul Hamlyn Foundation
- Sir James Reckitt Charity
- South Gloucestershire Council
- The AB Charitable Trust
- The Bromley Trust
- The Julia and Hans Rausing Trust
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- The Rayne Foundation
- The Triangle Trust
- Wiltshire & Swindon Police & Crime Commissioner

(This list does not include new donors for 2021-22)

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; and
- 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 3rd Nov 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

.....

Tim Price (Chair)

CIRCLES SOUTH WEST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Circles South West (the Company) for the year ended 31 March 2021 which are set out on pages 33 to 42

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: 12 January 2021

CIRCLES SOUTH WEST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2021
COMPANY REGISTRATION NO. (ENGLAND AND WALES) 07369778

		2021			2020
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
		£	£	£	£
INCOME FROM	**Notes**				
Donations and Legacies					
Grants					
Private Sector	2a	112,657	175,329	287,986	*250,118*
Public Sector	2a	12,230	123,320	135,550	*131,958*
Donations	2b	326	-	326	*2,618*
Investments					
Bank and deposit interest	2c	108	-	108	*64*
Other incoming resources	2d	21,275	60,189	81,464	*7,584*
TOTAL		**146,596**	**358,838**	**505,434**	*392,342*
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	3	148,843	231,955	380,798	*389,160*
TOTAL		**148,843**	**231,955**	**380,798**	*389,160*
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		(2,247)	126,883	124,636	*3,182*
Transfer between funds	8	47	(47)	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		**(2,200)**	**126,836**	**124,636**	*3,182*
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		45,939	752	46,691	*43,509*
Total funds carried forward		**43,739**	**127,588**	**171,327**	*46,691*

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 2021
COMPANY REGISTRATION NO. (ENGLAND AND WALES) 07369778

	Notes	2021		2020	
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	4	240		*18,863*	
Cash at bank and in hand		258,552		*140,620*	
		258,792		*159,483*	
LIABILITIES					
Creditors falling due within one year	5	(87,465)		*(112,792)*	
Net current assets			171,327		*46,691*
Total net assets			**171,327**		*46,691*
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Unrestricted Funds	7		43,739		*45,939*
Restricted Funds	8		127,588		*752*
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			**171,327**		*46,691*

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 3rd November and signed on its behalf by:

Tim Price (Chair)

CIRCLES SOUTH WEST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2021
COMPANY REGISTRATION NO. (ENGLAND AND WALES) 07369778

	2021	2020
	£	£
Cashflows from Operating Activities		
Net Cash provided by Operating Activities	**117,932**	*69,395*
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	**140,620**	*71,225*
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	**258,552**	*140,620*
Net Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period	**117,932**	*69,395*

Notes to Cashflow Statement

Reconciliation of net income to net cash flows from operating activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net income for the reporting period	124,636	*3,182*
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	-	-
(increase)/decrease in debtors	18,623	*(11,090)*
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(25,327)	*77,303*
Net cash provided by operating activities	**117,932**	*69,395*

Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2021	2020
	£	£
Cash in hand and at bank	258,552	*140,620*
Total cash and cash equivalents	**258,552**	*140,620*

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 company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. 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.

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 £1,000 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.

Note

2 INCOME - by fund

		2021			2020		
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	*Unrestricted funds*	*Restricted funds*	*Total*
		£	£	£			£
a.	**Grants**						
	Private sector	112,657	175,329	287,986	*91,017*	*159,101*	*250,118*
	Public sector	12,230	123,320	135,550	*10,664*	*121,294*	*131,958*
		124,887	**298,649**	**423,536**	*101,681*	*280,395*	*382,076*
b.	Donations	326	-	326	*1,618*	*1,000*	*2,618*
c.	Bank/Deposit Interest	108	-	108	*64*	*-*	*64*
d.	Other income	21,275	60,189	81,464	*-*	*7,584*	*7,584*

Other income includes £62,564 received from Covid-19 Business Continuity measures (2020 £Nil)

3 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2021			2020		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	*Unrestricted funds*	*Restricted funds*	*Total*
	£	£	£			£
Rehabilitation of offenders						
Direct costs	-	220,588	220,588	*93,897*	*261,894*	*355,791*
Governance costs	-	11,367	11,367	*3,736*	*10,055*	*13,791*
External training and overheads						
Direct costs	144,780	-	144,780		*17,700*	*17,700*
Governance costs	4,063	-	4,063		*1,878*	*1,878*
	148,843	**231,955**	**380,798**	*97,633*	*291,527*	*389,160*

Governance costs	2021	2020
	£	£
Finance management and bookkeeping costs	14,030	*13,226*
Accountancy charges	500	*840*
Independent examination fee	900	*1,050*
Trustees expenses	-	*553*
	15,430	*15,669*

Note	4 DEBTORS	2021 £	2020 £
	Accrued income	-	3,000
	Debtors	240	15,863
		240	18,863

5 CREDITORS	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	5,805	5,001
Other creditors	11,066	7,272
Accruals	4,900	1,890
Deferred income	65,694	98,629
	87,465	112,792

Deferred Income	2021 £	2020 £
Balance at 1 April 2020	98,629	11,250
Amounts released to income	(87,629)	(11,250)
Amounts deferred in the year	54,694	98,629
Balance at 31 March 2021	**65,694**	98,629

Deferred income comprises funding received during the year to be recognised as incoming resources in 2021/22. £30,000 (2020 £13,660) related to unrestricted funds and £35,694 (2020 £84,969) to restricted funds

6 ANALYSIS OF STAFF COSTS	2021 £	2020 £
Salaries and wages	273,008	246,823
Social security costs	22,025	21,915
Pension costs	10,575	9,734
Total	**305,608**	278,472

There were no employees with emoluments over £60,000.
The average monthly headcount was 10 (2020 8.25).
During the year, no Trustee received remuneration or benefits in kind (2020 £Nil).
During the year no Trustees were reimbursed for travel and office expenses (2020 £553).
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 £50,827 (2020 £50,275, including recognition of underpayments in previous years).
All staff costs are divided among the operational funds according to staff time expended.

Notes

7 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

2021

	Balance at 1 April 2020	Movement in funds Income	Expediture	Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 March 2021
General Fund	40,209	146,596	(148,843)	5,777	43,739
Designated fund	5,730	-	-	(5,730)	-
	45,939	**146,596**	**(148,843)**	**47**	**43,739**

2020

	Balance at 1 April 2019	*Movement in funds Income*	*Expediture*	*Transfers between funds*	*Balance at 31 March 2020*
General Fund	*40,209*	*103,363*	*(97,633)*	*(5,730)*	*40,209*
Designated fund	*-*	*-*	*-*	*5,730*	*5,730*
	40,209	*103,363*	*(97,633)*	*-*	*45,939*

8 RESTRICTED FUNDS

2021

	Balance at 1 April 2020	Movement in funds Income	Expediture	Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 March 2021
Rehabilitation of Offenders:					
Young People's Services	93	73,351	(47,763)	-	25,681
Adapted Circles	124	29,431	(14,654)	-	14,901
Prison Project	88	63,528	(51,881)	-	11,735
Inform/Inform Plus	98	37,453	(34,749)	-	2,802
Gloucestershire Cyber Circles	111	13,172	(13,283)	-	-
Devon & Cornwall Circles	74	57,663	(27,403)	-	30,334
Dorset Circles	49	51,352	(38,105)	-	13,296
Wiltshire Circles	68	17,888	(3,844)	-	14,112
Befriending Services	-	15,000	(273)	-	14,727
External Training & Consultancy	47	-	-	(47)	-
	752	**358,838**	**(231,955)**	**(47)**	**127,588**

2020

	Balance at 1 April 2019	*Movement in funds Income*	*Expediture*	*Transfers between funds*	*Balance at 31 March 2020*
Rehabilitation of Offenders:					
Young People's Services	*18*	*55,785*	*(55,710)*	*-*	*93*
Adapted Circles	*13*	*22,533*	*(22,422)*	*-*	*124*
Prison Project	*479*	*54,218*	*(54,609)*	*-*	*88*
Inform/Inform Plus	*-*	*14,970*	*(14,872)*	*-*	*98*
Gloucestershire Cyber Circles	*4*	*18,271*	*(18,163)*	*-*	*111*
Devon & Cornwall Circles	*147*	*51,506*	*(51,579)*	*-*	*74*
Dorset Circles	*144*	*35,532*	*(35,627)*	*-*	*49*
Wiltshire Circles	*1,019*	*18,016*	*(18,967)*	*-*	*67*
External Training & Consultancy	*1,477*	*18,148*	*(19,578)*	*-*	*47*
	3,300	*288,979*	*(291,527)*	*-*	*752*

The Restricted fund 'External training and consultancy' was redesignated as Unrestricted at 1 Apr 2020
All Unrestricted sums were consolidated into Reserves at year-end.

9 SUMMARY OF FUNDS

	Balance at 1 April 2020	Movement in funds Income	Expediture	Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 March 2021
General Fund	40,209	146,596	(148,843)	5,777	43,739
Designated Fund	5,730	-	-	(5,730)	-
Restricted fund	752	358,838	(231,955)	(47)	127,588
	46,691	**505,434**	**(380,798)**	-	**171,327**

	Balance at 1 April 2019	*Movement in funds Income*	*Expediture*	*Transfers between funds*	*Balance at 31 March 2020*
General Fund	*40,209*	*103,363*	*(97,633)*	*(5,730)*	*40,209*
Designated Fund	-	-	-	*5,730*	*5,730*
Restricted fund	*3,300*	*288,979*	*(291,527)*	-	*752*
	43,509	*392,342*	*(389,160)*	-	*46,691*

Restricted fund purposes:

The community-based Circles of Support and Accountability in Dorset, Wiltshire Devon & Cornwall are for adults who have been convicted of serious sexual offences and are considered to be at a high risk of re-offending/causing serious harm. The Gloucestershire 'Cyber Circles' Project is similar but has a specific focus on internet offenders (cyber-sexual crimes).

The non-geographic 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).

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

Her Majesty's Prison & Probation Service 'Telephone Befriending Service' is provided in partnership with the national charity Volunteering Matters and is part of the VSCE Emergency Partnership. It provides a telephone support service for People on Probation assessed as particularly vulnerable in the Covid Pandemic.

Funds received in the year specifically for 2021-22 are included in deferred income (Note 5)

10 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

2021	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021
Debtors	240	-	240
Cash at bank and in hand	49,739	208,813	258,552
Current liabilities	(6,240)	(81,225)	(87,465)
	43,739	**127,588**	**171,327**

2020	*Unrestricted funds*	*Restricted funds*	*Total 2020*
Debtors	*3,000*	*15,863*	*18,863*
Cash at bank and in hand	*65,976*	*74,644*	*140,620*
Current liabilities	*(23,037)*	*(89,755)*	*(112,792)*
Total	*45,939*	*752*	*46,691*

11 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:

	2021	*2020*
	£	£
Pro forma income	290,969	*383,640*

12 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions during the year

13 COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The emergency measures imposed by the Government to control the COVID-19 pandemic restricted the ability of Circles South West to operate normally through 2020-21. While the situation is beginning to return to a degree of normality, that restriction on normal operations is still being felt. The Trustees continue to work to minimise the impact of the exceptional challenges caused by the pandemic and the measures taken by the Government to control it and the effects of the pandemic do not result in any adjustment being needed to the value of assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date.

The Trustees of Circles South West remain confident that they will be able to overcome the continuing operational difficultiess and as a consequence these accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.