

McCartan - 2015

Preventing Sexual Harm

Why change discourses.....

- o ***Need to shift from a Criminal justice (responsive) to a Public Health (preventative) narrative...***
 - o Discourses surrounding sexual harm tend to be located in the victim-offender paradigm, focusing on the personal impact of the offence.
 - o Giving the impression of isolated instances of sexual harm rather than a more systematic, embedded culture present in society.
 - o By stating that the victim and the offender are somehow unique it means that some sections of the public can disengage form the conversation.

- o ***Why?***
 - o High profile socio-political issue
 - o Both offenders and victims are members of society, they have to live in as well as engage in society
 - o Sexual offences and the responses are partly social constructions (difference between the act and the discourse).

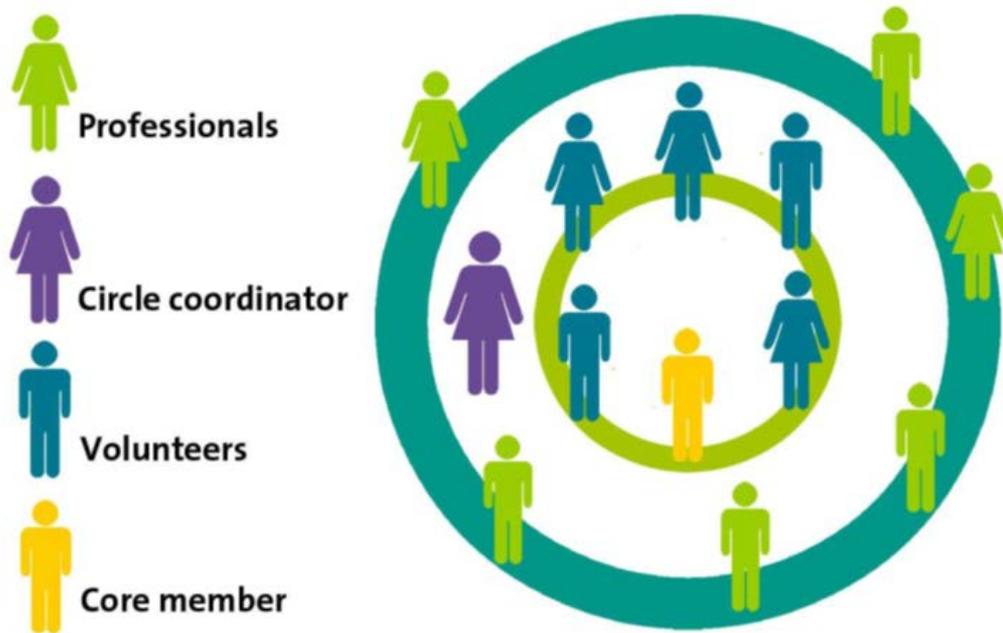
- o ***How?***
 - o Stakeholder, community leadership and community interaction
 - o Improving public understanding: education – research – dialogue

Sexual harm prevention

Targets	<i>Primary prevention</i>	<i>Secondary prevention</i>	<i>Tertiary prevention</i>
<i>Offenders</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General deterrence • Developmental prevention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interventions with at - risk children and adolescents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early detection • Treatment
<i>Victims</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal safety training • Resilience building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience building with at -risk children and youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ameliorating harms • Preventing re-victimisation
<i>Situations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity reduction • Extended guardianship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situational interventions in at-risk places 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety plans • Organizational interventions
<i>Communities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community education • Community capacity building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible bystander training • Enabling guardianship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interventions with “problem” families, peers, organisations, and communities

(Comprehensive prevention framework - Smallbone & Rayment-McHugh, 2013)

What is Circles of Support & Accountability (CoSA)?



McCartan, Kemshall et al (2014)

- CoSA supports and complements statutory supervision; not duplicate or fulfil the same function.
- CoSA supported risk management through proactive monitoring of behaviours and activities.
- CoSA reduced the social isolation of Core Members, provided practical help to support compliance with treatment programmes, and enabled Core Members to develop appropriate pro-social activities.
- Whilst CoSA is a volunteer-led initiative, it is not cost free.

- o Links to primary and tertiary prevention
- o 'Heal harms' and enable sex offender to take responsibility for actions.
- o Safely reintegrate, access to positive social networks and social capital are seen as critical to supporting non offending as well as desistance behaviour .
- o The idea of the volunteer as the conduit to the community, to positive networks and social capital.
- o Engage offenders, and engage communities via willing volunteers
- o 3 key strands:
 - o accountability,
 - o safe reintegration,
 - o behaviour change.