

**Creating safer communities; is the Circle approach suitable for sexual harm causers with an intellectual and/or developmental disability?**

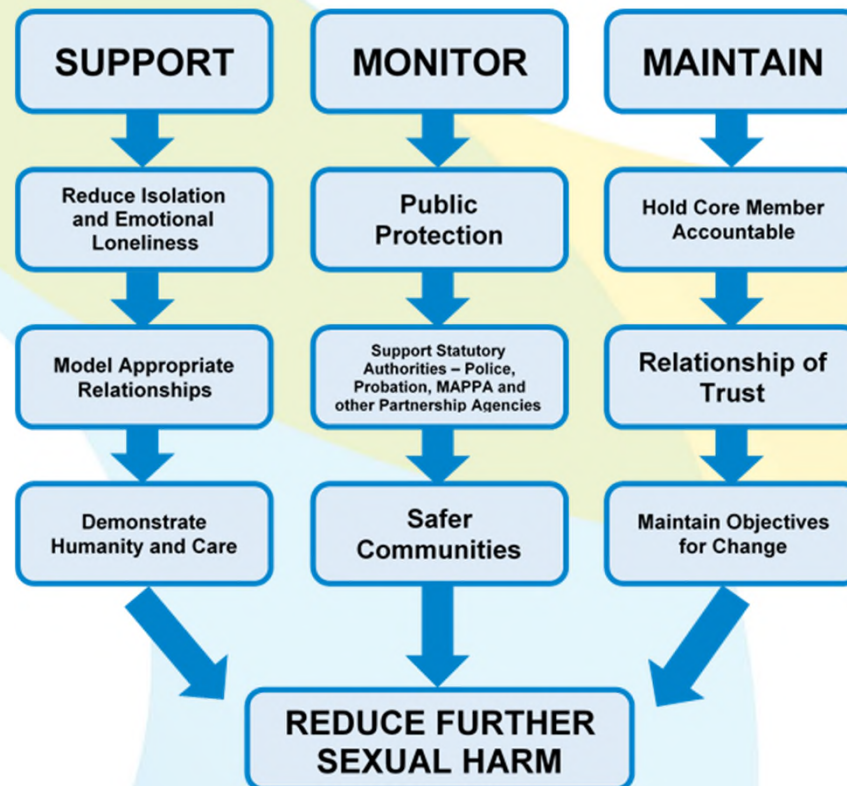
**Why do Adults with Intellectual Disability engage in Harmful Sexual Behaviour?**

**Why do Adults with ASC Engage Harmful Sexual Behaviour?**

**The treatment and management of sexual harm  
causers with ID/ASC who come into contact with the  
criminal justice system**

## **What are Circles?**

**THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK  
THREE KEY PRINCIPLES**





**Are Circles suitable for sexual harm causers with an intellectual and/or developmental disability?**

## **What adaptations have been tried and why?**

- Volunteer training
- Materials.
- Tools/language
- Length of Circle
- Referrals from other agencies.
- Risk assessment tools – tools adopted or specifically designed for use with people with ID/ASC.
- Dynamic Risk Review (DRR).



## **Worthwhile?**

- Not enough data
- Cannot isolate the key factors which distinguish between a positive or negative outcome for mainstream Circles used with CMs with ID/ASC
- Impact of adapted mechanisms for CMs with ID/ASC yet to be proven.

## **But.....**

- Case study evidence is persuasive
- DRR scores on the majority of risk factors decrease over time
- Improvements in the control of thoughts and behaviours, risk management and family relationships
- Positive shifts in CM engagement and better rates of completion

## Case studies...

‘A’

- IQ of 71 - did not qualify for learning disability services
- managed by Probation
- significant ACEs including sexual and physical abuse
- confused about sexuality/highly sexually preoccupied
- sought put ‘anonymous’ sexual encounters
- often told untruths and habitually put himself in risky situations
- originally convicted for sexually assaulting a 15 year old

## **Case studies:**

### **‘B’**

- high-functioning Autism
- received input from children’s services since age 8
- inappropriate behaviour on public transport
- preoccupation with pornography - sadistic sexual acts
- high degree of oversight from parents and university – disliked this
- frustrated by limited peer friendships
- gaps in sexual knowledge & sex and the law.