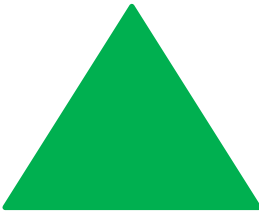


<b>Grant Ref Code and Name:</b> 2017-11-R008 Circles UK
<b>Grant Details:</b> Total Grant: £70,000 Amount funded to date: £70,000 Amount remaining: £0 Start date: March 2018 End date: May 2021 Date of Report: 10 May 2021

<b>Grant Summary:</b>  Circles UK is a small national charity established to quality control the delivery of “circles” by the local providers. Circles are a method of supporting sex offenders following their release from prison to not reoffend. Our funding will pump prime the creation circles in North Wales, which will then be funded by local agencies in the future.  The grant is also allowing Circles UK to pilot a new “circle” model to support low risk sex offenders. It is anticipated the new low risk circle will give local circle providers more opportunity to support their communities and secure additional statutory funding.  <a href="http://circles-uk.org.uk">circles-uk.org.uk</a>

<b>1. What is the progress towards the first expected key achievement?</b>			
Ensure Circles UK has staffing resources in place to project manage and lead the proposed new developments			
<b>Measures for this achievement</b>		<b>Target date</b>	<b>Progress towards these measures</b>
1a.	Recruit for Development post from current sessional staff pool	June 2018	Completed and staff in post. A temporary project manager was recruited to back fill for the National Development Manager to enable her to oversee the key developments. The Circles UK National Quality Manager took on lead responsibility for the low risk support package.
1b.	Project specifications for both projects compiled and agreed	July 2018	Completed and agreement reached with the two Providers in Wales as well as the working party for the low risk support package.
1c.	Progress reports received monthly	Sept 2018 onwards	Progress is measured at monthly supervision meetings with CEO and staff leading on these projects. Quarterly

			progress reports are submitted to the Board of Trustees.
1d	Consider CUK staffing resources for possible work to enable adoption of adapted Circles programmes for Wales (for Young People and for people with Autism / Intellectual Disability – see 2 <sup>nd</sup> key achievement objective below)	July 2020 onwards	Currently on hold due to the Covid 19 lock down. At the time of writing the final end of grant report this position is unchanged. The Youth Circles programme has been completed and rolled out to Circles Providers but Wales (Circles Cymru) is not in a position to adopt the programme due to the impact of COVID-19.

<b>2. What is the progress towards the second expected key achievement?</b>			
Circles are provided throughout Wales and in North Wales to the same high standard as in South Wales			
<b>Measures for this achievement</b>		<b>Target date</b>	<b>Progress towards these measures</b>
2a.	Agree project and specification with key stakeholders	June 2018	Meetings took place with both Wales Providers and project and time frames were agreed in July 2018.
2b.	Circles Cymru take over provision of high risk Circles in North Wales with transfer of resources	August 2018	There was a delay with the transfer of the Circles due to recruitment delays of staff in Circles Cymru as well as budgetary constraints in the National Probation Service (NPS) (Circles Cymru is an NPS Provider). However, all Circles were transferred in December 2018 to Circles Cymru.
2c.	Volunteer recruitment strategy and target numbers agreed – 10 by December 2018; 16 by February 2019; 20 by May 2019	December 2018 February 2019 May 2019	Recruitment strategy agreed in December 2018 and including Circles Cymru continuing to use some of the Circles volunteers in north Wales. There are difficulties with recruiting volunteers in North Wales and most of Circles Cymru's volunteers are students from local universities. Circles UK has been working with Circles Cymru to identify alternative recruitment strategies. The shortage of volunteers means that some volunteers participate in more than one Circle at the same time, but this does not seem to be a problem for them. Despite the recruitment difficulties, there are currently 30 active volunteers and 45 are awaiting training.
2d.	Circles in North Wales are up and running – 3 by December 2018; 5 by February 2019; 8 by May 2019	December 2018 February 2019 May 2019	Circles Cymru were affected by budget restrictions as a result of a decision taken by the national Executive Director of Probation to discontinue Probation funding for Circles provision. However, the Probation Divisional Director in Wales has agreed to continue to fund

			Circles from the local divisional budget and has invested additional resources. There are currently 10 Circles running in Wales, 5 of which are in North Wales.
2e.	Engagement with PCCs to elicit support and possible financial backing	April 2019	Discussions on co-commissioning are on-going. Circles UK worked with the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) / HMPPS on creating a co-commissioning framework for the joint funding of Circles from police, PCCs, Probation and Prisons. This document was issued jointly from MOJ and Circles UK in March 2019 and is currently under discussion by Probation, Police, PCCs and Prison Governors. The re-unification process (when staff move from private providers back to the National Probation Service) is expected to happen at the end of June 2021. Services will then be commissioned regionally through co-commissioning arrangements between probation, police, PCCs and other key stakeholders. Funding may be made available for Circles provision through this mechanism.
2f	Meeting with key stakeholders facilitated by CUK to review the program implementation and lessons learnt	September 2019	Meeting took place with key stakeholders to assess progress, ensure all systems and processes are in place to enable full delivery in North Wales by Circles Cymru. All agreed that the transfer process between the two organisations was successfully completed. Circles Cymru put in place the necessary resources to enable recruitment of volunteers and operations in north Wales.
2g	Presentation to Welsh Assembly on Circles, sharing lessons learnt assessment and successes achieved	January 2020	Staffing changes in Circles Cymru meant that this presentation could not take place. Further consideration to be given to this aspect and whether it would be viable to do such a presentation. Currently on hold due to COVID-19.
2i	If viable to expand Circles offer to include adapted Circles models, approach the Youth Justice Board and Young Offender Teams to illicit their support. Agree take up targets – 2 in 2020 and 5 in 2021	May 2020 May 2021	Contact was made with the Youth Justice Board by Circles UK and the CEO and National Development Manager met with two senior managers and supplied information on Youth Circles. Consideration was given to Circles UK attending a practice seminar which is attended by all Youth Offender Team operational managers. A response from the Youth Justice Board is still awaited. The impact of COVID-19 has affected this work.

2j	If viable to expand Circles offer to include adapted Circles models, identify the structure in Wales which oversees Transforming Care and discuss the possibility of a partnership using the adapted Circles programme for People with Autism and / or Intellectual Disability	January 2021	This is not viable due to the restructuring changes that are happening in HMPPS (the re-unification process which was referred to in 2e). COVID-19 has also hampered new developments as organisations are understandably unable to implement new programmes due to COVID-19 rules and restrictions.
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<b>3. What is the progress towards third expected key achievement?</b>			
Develop and implement a low-risk sex offenders Support Package			
<b>Measures for this achievement</b>		<b>Target date</b>	<b>Progress towards these measures</b>
3a.	Agree project and specification with key stakeholders	Sept 2018	Completed and a professional expert appointed to act as an advisor to the project and to assist with the development of the theoretical underpinning and theory of change.
3b.	Set up working party to develop the programme, including materials	Oct 2018	In place and progressing. There has been a delay due to the need to clearly identify the target group for this support programme. It has now been agreed to focus on those who access online child sexual exploitation materials.
3c.	Core materials developed	July 2019	This is in progress. At a Coordinator Forum for Circles Provider Coordinator staff which was facilitated by Circles UK, in March 2019, work was done with the group to scope out some of the materials content and focus.
3d.	Project piloted and evaluation completed	Jan 2020	There is a delay to the project roll out due to wanting to incorporate new research that only emerged in January 2020. Discussions have taken place with the researchers (Lincoln University and Online Protect) to enable the use of some of their materials in the Circles UK new programme. A licence agreement is currently being drawn up. The COVID-19 lock down has also caused delays to the project. At the time of writing the end of grant report, the agreement with Lincoln University and Online Protect has been finalised and is in place.
3e.	Programme available to national Circles Provider network	April 2020	Due to the delays described above, the project will be launched and the pilot commenced at the beginning of September 2020. This will be done in

			<p>partnership with Lincoln University, Online Protect and Circles Providers. The launch of the new programme (called Circles ReBoot) took place in September 2020 through an online event. It was a highly successful event which was attended by close to a hundred people. Key speakers at the launch included Chief Constable Simon Bailed who reiterated the support of the police for the programme, the advisor to the programme (Prof Derek Perkins), the Lincoln University /Online Protect evaluation team, Circles UK staff and Trustees, Circles Providers and other key stakeholders from both national and international organisations. The launch event explained the programme methodology, who it is intended for and how the programme would be piloted and evaluated. The launch event received excellent feedback. Circles UK also published a blog in a number of publications after the event to promote the new programme.</p>
3f	Approach police and probation to commission the programme. Targets: 25 purchased in 2020; 50 purchased in 2021	May 2021	<p>Due to COVID-19 there is a roughly 6 month delay to the implementation of the programme. As it is a face to face programme which will be piloted and evaluated before final roll out, the implementation could not be shifted to online delivery. It is intended to include 12 Circles ReBoot in the pilot. The first pilot Circle is due to start in May 2021. The full pilot is expected to complete by November 2021 (as Circles ReBoot is a 12 session programme, delivered over 6 months).</p>
3g	Monitor uptake and successful completion of the programme by Circles Providers through quarterly reports	Sept 2020 onwards	<p>Due to delays caused by COVID-19, this date has been put back and the first pilot Circles ReBoot will commence in May 2021.</p>
3h	Publish evaluation of the programme and promote via social media, CUK website, Circles Providers' websites	Oct 2020 to Jan 2021	<p>Evaluation is expected to be completed after the pilot Circles ReBoot are completed. The first evaluation report is expected in December 2021 with a final report due 6 months later (this is because the Core Member (the sex offenders that participate in a Circle) will be contacted 6 months after having completed the programme to monitor the impact of the programme.</p>
3i	Consider wider dissemination and	February 2021 onwards	<p>Full post-pilot implementation of the programme is expected to start in</p>

marketing of the programme, eg. to international Circles partners and police	February 2022 in the UK. Consideration will be given thereafter to making it available to Circles Providers in other countries.
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**4. Optional – please detail any additional expected achievements you would like us to know about.**

It has been decided to focus the Circles programme for low risk people on people who access illegal images of children and commit non-physical contact offences as there is such a demand for services to address this issue. The partnership with Lincoln University and Online Protect is an extremely positive development and will give research and theoretical validation to the programme design. Due to this partnership, it was decided to pilot and evaluate the programme before full implementation as that would enable a full testing of the effectiveness of the methodology. This is important as this is the first Circles programme of its kind that has been developed internationally and there is significant interest in the programme. Although doing a pilot and a full evaluation have caused delays to the final implementation, we believe that the pilot and evaluation approach will increase the credibility of the programme. This is important as there has been a significant increase in the number of people who access Child Sexual Exploitation Material during the COVID-19 lock down period. Interventions to address this form of abuse are urgently needed, but it is crucial to develop credible and evidence based programmes which is what the pilot and evaluation of Circles ReBoot will hopefully show.

**5. If you specified in your Expected Key Achievements document that there would be additional income generated as a result of the grant please include the final income figures (including all income sources e.g. trading, contract grants etc.)**

	Start date of year	Total additional income		
		Expected at start of grant	Reforecast	Received to date
Year 1	April 2018	£355,000	£	£330,000
Year 2	April 2019	£355,000	£	£210,000
Year 3	April 2020	£324,835		£244,800

**Please explain how these figures relate to the budget submitted for the grant and any assumptions made.**

The application to the Triangle Trust is for a total of £70,000, £35,000 in year one (2018/19) and £35,000 in year 2 (2019/20). In year 1 (2018/19), CUK still needs to raise £25,000 to deliver its total projected budget (at the moment £330,000 of £355,000 is secured). Similarly in year 2 (2019/20), CUK needs to raise £145,000 that is not yet secured. In year 3 we need to raise £80,000. We have targeted other funders apart from the Triangle Trust and I can provide more information as required. Circles UK also holds an amount of £102,000 in Reserves which is over and above the projected budgets for the 3 year period.

**6. Has any aspect of the grant delivery not progressed as expected and have any subsequent changes been made?**

Yes, there has been a delay to outcome 3 (development of the low risk Circles programme) due to the decision to pilot and evaluate the new programme as well as the impact of

COVID lock down restrictions as outlined in section 3 above. However, the piloting of the programme and the full evaluation will improve the final product and is an advantage. This delay is therefore not a set back, but COVID-19 has resulted in an additional delay of 6 months which is a set back.

**7. Has the grant achieved the expected results overall or did anything need to change?**

It is envisaged that the results of the grant will be achieved, although there will roughly be a 6 month delay to the roll out of the low risk Circles programme due to the reasons outlined above as well as the impact of the Corona virus Covid19 lock down restrictions.

**8. What are the future plans for the development funded by this grant? (include details of any further funds secured to continue the work)**

This is the end of grant report. However, I was hoping that Circles UK could apply for another grant from the Triangle Trust. We have been extremely grateful for the support of the last 3 years. It seems from the Triangle Trust website that funding is now only available for young offenders and not for adults. Clarity will be sought on this aspect.

**9. Is there anything you have not included elsewhere in the report that you feel we should know? E.g. you might have some wider reflections about the impact of the grant overall both within your organisation and beyond.**

The COVID-19 virus brought unprecedented challenges. This has presented additional risks for Circles UK and Circles Providers as we needed to design alternative ways of providing Circles at very short notice. Many of our service users are high risk individuals for whom social isolation may present additional risky situations. The majority of sexual abuse takes place in homes and the lock down may intensify the risks to children who are potentially in one space with their abuser.

The grant from the Triangle Trust enabled us to develop Circles Reboot for those who access Child Sexual Exploitation Material. It turned out that this work could not have more timely as there has been a significant increase in this type of offending during the COVID-19 lock down period. A number of organisations reported significant increases in online abuse. The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) reported an increase of almost 50%. From March to July 2020, its hotline logged 44,809 reports of images compared with 29,698 the year before. At least 8.8 million attempts by UK internet users to access videos and images of children suffering sexual abuse were blocked during lockdown (IWF website). *The National Crime Agency estimates that at least 300,000 UK citizens pose a risk of online sexual harm to children (April 2020 statement). In April 2021 the police reported that an average of 700 children are being safeguarded every month in relation to online Child Sexual Exploitation. Circles UK is extremely grateful to the Triangle Trust for enabling us to develop this highly relevant and crucial new programme.*

COVID-19 continued to pose significant challenges throughout 2020/21 and Circles UK had to continue to provide additional support to Circles Providers. Many of the Core Members (service users) that we work with in Circles are not allowed to access the internet due to the crimes that they have committed. Telephone contact therefore became extremely important and Circles UK provided guidelines to Providers on how to make telephone calls with service users more meaningful. We also designed online training for Circles Coordinators to ensure that they had continuous training and development support. In February 2021 we facilitated an online event for Coordinators which focused on resilience. The feedback from this event was extremely positive. We are also hosting a series of additional online seminars for Circles Coordinators – in March 2021 we got a guest facilitator to present a seminar on a new risk management tool that is used for sex offenders.

