

FR-AM-01

PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT POST-TREATMENT

**An Ending, Abandonment Or Hope For The Future?
The Impact Of How Circles Of Support And Accountability End**

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Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) is an international approach to the community integration of people convicted of a sexual offence whereby Core Members (people convicted of a sexual offence) are assisted in their integration by volunteers (lay members of the community) through pro-social modelling. Research into CoSA has demonstrated that it aids desistance, pro-social inclusion and reduces recidivism, with broadly parallel outcomes internationally. This paper will focus on the impact of a circle ending, as CoSA only lasts for 12 - 18 months, and the impact that this has on the Core Member. The paper is based on two mixed methods studies from the UK (McCartan, 2014; Thompson, 2016, 2017). The authors will draw on a number of interviews with Core Members, volunteers, CoSA staff and third-party stake holders to explore how a circle ends and the impact of this point of transition on Core Members. The research indicates that that CoSA provides an important service for Core Members, that the ending of a circle can be challenging/difficult (i.e., feelings of abandonment, rejection and hopelessness) as well as positive (i.e., a feeling of accomplishment, desistance and being able to manage ones one behaviour); but, regardless, that circles can blur the lines between social care, social support, friendship and risk management. The session will end with a discussion of how CoSA can reflect on this process and the impact that it has on Core Members and volunteers.

This paper is rated: Adult | Preliminary | Clinical & Research

Learning Goals

- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to understand how CoSA contributes to ongoing desistance and community integration.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to consider the importance of points of transition in the criminal justice process and how this impacts upon desistance and community integration.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to understand the impact of the ending of a circle on core members, from their and other people's perspectives.

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2020 ATSA Conference | Friday October 23 | 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM

David Thompson, PhD, is a Lecturer in Criminology and joined the School of Law in December 2014. Prior to this I was a funded PhD student at the University of Leeds and I was also a Research Assistant at the University of Leeds. Since 2007, I have held various teaching positions at Teesside University, Leeds Beckett University and the University of Leeds. David's thesis was titled 'Moving On after Getting Out: Support and Accountability for Convicted Sex Offenders' and was based on 30 semi-structured interviews with sex offenders. It examined how offenders perceived the addition of Circles of Support and Accountability and the use of volunteers during their reintegration into the community. The thesis was supervised by Professor Susanne Karstedt, Dr Stephen Hutchinson and Dr Birgit Völlm (University of Nottingham). David has recently co-authored a book on the Resettlement of Sex Offenders after Custody with Prof Terry Thomas published by Routledge and I am working with Dr Philippa Tomczak to examine the role of the voluntary sector in criminal justice.

Kieran McCartan, PhD, is a Professor of Criminology at the University of the West of England (UK), an Adjunct Professor at the Queensland University of Technology (Australia) and a visiting Research Fellow at the University of Huddersfield (UK). Kieran is the international representative on the ATSA board and the Conference chair of NOTA. He has a track record of public, academic and professional engagement on criminological issues, including the origins and causes of sex offending, and societal responses to sex offenders. Professor McCartan has a number of academic outputs, including, 105+ academic publications (incl., Journal Articles, Books, Book Chapters, External Research Reports & Professional/Practitioner publications); 130+ blogs; generated over 1/2 million pounds in external research funding; & has given 175+ external presentations (incl., Conference Papers & invited Keynotes). He is currently drafting recommendations for the assessment, treatment and management of people convicted of a sexual offence for the Council of Europe.

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Quaternary Prevention: Its Role Effective Safeguarding & Risk Management

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Sexual abuse prevention, especially Child sexual Abuse prevention, is going in stature both within the UK and internationally. However, we tend to focus on primary and tertiary prevention in place of secondary and quaternary prevention; with most criminal justice professionals not knowing what Quaternary prevention is. This session will examine what Quaternary prevention is, how it links to probation. its role in the management of people convicted of a sexual offence and what it looks like in practice (i.e., Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements as well as Circles of Support and Accountability)

This paper is rated: Adult & Youth | Preliminary | Research

Learning Goals:

- Upon completion of this presentation learners will be better able to understand what Quaternary Prevention is.
- Upon completion of this presentation learners will be better able to understand how quaternary prevention ties to desistance, harm reduction and risk management.
- Upon completion of this presentation learners will be better able to understand how quaternary prevention is a multi-agency and multi-disciplinary approach.

Kieran McCartan, PhD, is a Professor of Criminology at the University of the West of England (UK), an Adjunct Professor at the Queensland University of Technology (Australia) and a visiting Research Fellow at the University of Huddersfield (UK). Kieran is the international representative on the ATSA board and the Conference chair of NOTA. He has a track record of public, academic and professional engagement on criminological issues, including the origins and causes of sex offending, and societal responses to sex offenders. Professor McCartan has a number of academic outputs, including, 105+ academic publications (incl., Journal Articles, Books, Book Chapters, External Research Reports & Professional/Practitioner publications); 130+ blogs; generated over 1/2 million pounds in external research funding; & has given 175+ external presentations (incl., Conference Papers & invited Keynotes). He is currently drafting recommendations for the assessment, treatment and management of people convicted of a sexual offence for the Council of Europe.