

Quakers in Yorkshire

**Reports and attachments delivered at meeting held in Leeds
on Saturday 16 January 2016**

Report from Under 19s Coordinating Group

Junior Holidays

Yorkshire Holiday School – Epistle

Easter Settlement 2015

Young Friends at Easter Settlement

Outreach Projects Committee Report

Members of Outreach Projects Committee

Circles of support and Accountability - Presentation

January 16th 2016 – report to QiY

Under 19s Coordinating Group

1 Introduction

My name is Kate Marks and I am from Sheffield Central Meeting. I have been a member of the Under 19s coordinating group for 2 years and took over as convenor from Hilary Evens at the beginning of 2015. The other two independent members of the group are Rosemary Daley from Keighley Meeting and Jude Acton from Leeds Carlton Hill Meeting

The coordinating group has traditionally met twice a year with representatives from Junior Holidays, Yorkshire Friends Holiday School and Easter Settlement. These meetings have been a chance for past events to be reviewed and future plans to be shared.

2 Safeguarding

One of the important parts of our work is to ensure safeguarding procedures are properly followed and this year Stacey Almond from Sheffield Meeting and Madeleine Kay from York Friargate Meeting have been our group's safeguarding co-ordinators. They have worked with the Under 19s coordinating group to revise our safeguarding policy which is almost ready to go to trustees and will then be used as our policy from 2016 onwards.

3 Reports

In a moment I will ask Guy Milner from YFHS and Joyce Latimer and Chris Petrie from ES to present their reports for this last year to you, but before they do I will tell you about what the year has looked like for Junior Holidays.

Junior Holidays

At the beginning of 2015, with no active JH committee in place, the independent members of the Under 19s coordinating group joined George Race from Hebden Bridge Meeting to act as a temporary JH committee. A weekend at Barmoor in June 2015 had already been booked so our first priority was to get everything in place to ensure the weekend happened. Heather Woolley from Scarborough Meeting had offered to lead the weekend and Rosemary from the under 19s co-ordinating group offered to support her with the organisational side.

By the time of our next full meeting in May, just 5 weeks before the weekend itself, we had enough volunteers for the weekend **but** only 7 children had booked places. The deadline for booking was approaching and it looked like there weren't going to be enough children for the weekend to happen. As we got nearer to the weekend more children booked places, some just days before, and 17 children went to Barmoor.

The weekend itself was a huge success. However it nearly didn't happen as Heather had to withdraw from leading it due to illness. Fortunately Rosemary, Jude and Hilary Evens from Harrogate Meeting rang round their contacts and found willing volunteers to help out and share the responsibility of leading. In the future JH will have a reserve list of volunteers who would be ready to step in for a JH event if needed.

January 16th 2016 – report to QiY

The number of potential volunteers for JH events has grown this year. Jude facilitated a workshop in May for anyone who wanted to know more about what volunteering for Children and Young people's events involved. Ten people took part in the workshop giving very positive feedback and we now have a growing bank of volunteers for JH events.

We met as a temporary JH committee again in October 2015 joined by Tasha Heny from York Friargate Meeting. This was an opportunity to review the Barmoor weekend and, with the news that 3 people had been nominated to join the JH committee by the end of 2015, it was also a chance to begin to make plans for 2016.

Although there was only one JH event this year, it was a successful, safe and happy one. The underlying issue of finding volunteers to run and organise JH events has been addressed and the future for JH looks much more positive than it did this time last year.

As we begin 2016, the JH committee is made up of 5 people: George, Tasha and three newly appointed members - James Hargreave (Settle Meeting), Rachel Muers (Leeds, Carlton Hill Meeting) and Claire Wigzell (Leeds, Carlton Hill Meeting). Hopefully one of them will be up here next year reporting on a successful 2016 for JH. I know that Barmoor has already been booked for 24-26th June and there are plans for a 5 day summer residential to coincide with HS.

I will now ask Guy Milner to present the report on HS 2015 and tell you about the plans for HS 2016.

Yorkshire Friends Holiday School report – 15 minutes?

Now I will ask Joyce Latimer and Chris Petrie to report on Easter Settlement 2015 and share plans for 2016.

Easter Settlement report – 15 minutes?

4 Website and volunteering

All that it remains for me to say is that all the information about YFHS, ES and JH is on the updated QiY website so do go back to your Meetings and tell everyone to have a look! If you or anyone from your Meeting would like to know more about volunteering for a JH event, let me, Jude, Rosemary or one of the JH committee know.

Kate Marks (Sheffield Central)

Live and Learn

Epistle from Holiday School 2015

We gathered together at the beginning of our week, old friends full of hugs and smiles, new friends bravely putting aside their nerves as they were welcomed on arrival. They gradually found their way into the Holiday School community through games and dances in our first social. One day in, it was becoming increasingly hard to tell who was at Holiday School for the first time, and who was an old hand.

Our theme this week was “Live and Learn”. Guy Milner, a member of our own Holiday School staff team, introduced the theme and ourselves to each other in our first interactive session.

As well as getting us mixing and discussing, he talked of John Woolman – a man who would score highly if you were to ever produce a game of Quaker Top Trumps. Woolman’s moral stance against slavery became stronger as he was went from refusing to draw up wills which included the inheritance of slaves, to eventually leaving his profession and preaching to convince others that owning slaves was essentially unchristian.

We considered choices we would make when faced with a range of ethical dilemmas, questioning how strongly we would be able to stand up for things we believe in or to stand against those we don’t. There was no right or wrong answer to these scenarios. Those of us who are older realised our responses were shaped by our life experience - we were not always sure we would have had the same confidence to stick up for our beliefs if posed the same issues at the age of 13.

Our second session of the week followed on well. Phil Lucas, a Friend from South East Scotland, came to talk to us about Quaker Objections to War. We learnt how Quaker views about the First World War developed as the War progressed. A sense of loyalty and national duty led some Friends to join the armed forces despite our peace testimony, and others joined the newly founded Friends Ambulance Unit. It was enforced conscription that strengthened the Quaker anti-war stance at that time.

Many of us learnt for the first time what a tough path conscience objection had been for Friends as they faced appalling prison conditions, mental anguish and possible execution. We thought about conscience objection in the present day context and watched the film ‘The Unseen March’ questioning the militarisation of UK schools.

Learning more about our Quaker faith continued in our third session as we welcomed Howard Nurden and Lucy Sam from the Children and Young Peoples Section of Friends House. We got to know our way around Quaker Faith and Practice before following separate exercises which focused on different aspects of the book. Some of us explored themes through drama, while others re-wrote sections of Advices and Queries or reviewed how passages had changed over the years. The written contributions from this session will go to editorial board of a new book which will serve as a Quaker Faith and Practice for young people.

Our final session, titled Mission Blue, was presented by Kat Sanders, a marine biologist working with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. She was an engaging, inspiring speaker who communicated her love of the ocean and its wildlife to us all. With a colourful, but sometimes distressing slide show she took us through an exploration of some of the major problems facing marine species, and explained the vital importance of oceans to our human existence. She then told us about some local initiatives to improve awareness of the North Sea habitat.

Fitting in with our theme, she presented lessons for us to learn in the context of the environment, suggesting you can't change what you refuse to confront, and encouraging us to become the change we want to see in the world. Her love of life shone through and she urged us to embrace the opportunities we have to live our own lives to the full.

The sessions give our week structure and content and this week they were particularly thought provoking. However, they are only one part of what makes Holiday School such a unique experience.

Our game this year also got us thinking. How would each nest group try to win its planet's elections? We were given the problems our planet faced in an intergalactic landscape and we had to win hearts and minds by presenting our manifestos on HS TV. While some parties gave reasoned arguments about how best to solve food shortages or immigration problems, others seemed more intent on maintaining or abolishing the supremacy of left-handedness in their futuristic world.

The game was one of many opportunities for our nest groups to have fun and work as a team. Potted sports is another favourite occasion for fun, teamwork and lots of laughter. We enjoyed the pirate theme and all the ways in which the student helpers could think of for getting us wet; the water slide has become an annual treat.

Our nest groups provide us with a home for the week. We can make new friends across the age groups and get to know people we wouldn't otherwise expect to talk to. We share our experiences of the day, continue talking about issues raised in the sessions, enjoy games, and have space to be ourselves in a supportive network. This year we had an additional focus for our creativity as we worked on lip synch music videos. Talents emerged as we interpreted Kate Bush, Taylor Swift and even Jesus with our own individual flair, not to mention the group that covered itself in peanut butter in the cause of its artistic endeavor. The first of these videos viewed in our final social was 'Happy' and this must have been how we all felt as we watched the imaginative and fun ways the groups had risen to the challenge.

Throughout the week, in our socials, activity groups and free time we build our community – an inclusive, friendly place. We celebrate each other's talents and enjoy each other's company. We recognize what an amazing experience we are having, often bringing out what's best in ourselves, sometimes allowing us to loosen the ties of what holds us back.

Our Meetings for Worship and Epilogues are the spiritual backbone of our week. We try to allow our thoughts to settle as music guides us into the silence. The Epilogues take different forms and can add magic into our shared experience. When taking a silent walk, holding hands in the evening darkness smiles broke out as we excitedly but silently pointed out a hedgehog on our path.

Meeting gives us a point of stillness, calmness and reflection. Although our tiredness grows through the week, we maintain a sense of gathered togetherness in silent worship. Ministry in Meeting can leave us with memorable words that are part of our spiritual growth.

It was in Meeting that we heard William Penn's words paraphrased: Love is the hardest lesson; but for that reason, we should take the most care to learn it.

This week we have lived. We have learnt. And we have loved.

We leave enriched, ready to continue to live and learn, and, importantly, to love.

EASTER SETTLEMENT 2015 REPORT TO QiY

Easter Settlement 2015 had the theme “Food for Change” and Geoff Tansey gave us not only a comprehensive overview of the world of big food and some idea of the problems of growing food but much food for thought over the weekend and, hopefully, later. Other things happened, too. The weather was kind, so the walkers stayed dry, the jigsaw puzzlers completed the jigsaw, the Tai Chi people Tai Chi’ed, the Easter singers sang, Easter eggs were found and eaten, Hot Cross Buns appeared, and, of course, the Centenary Cake – actually three cakes, contributed by Janis Leslie - was cut by Mavis, and eaten by everyone.

There were 63 Settlers and 3 dogs at Easter Settlement of which 11 were children. For the first time that I know of not all the Friends that applied could be accommodated. There were, non-the-less, 23 spare beds. Both myself and Cober Hill are aware of this mismatch and unfortunately Cober Hill’s efforts to improve the portioning out of rooms between ourselves and the Scottish Dancers who also use Cober Hill over Easter came to naught. There was, in fact, plenty of room for families with children and for Friends willing to share, but trying to book after the closing date, this year 19 February, may lead to disappointment.

I leave it to Joyce to tell you what the children did and their activities.

This year the Brochures and Booking Forms were posted to all Local Meetings 10 days ago, and e-mailed copies were sent to all who have attended over the last few years and whose e-mail addresses I have. Incidentally, apologies for the e-mails sent without attachments. I have had to split the list of email addresses as it is now long enough to count as spam. There are some spare copies of the Brochure and Booking Form on the table in the Foyer, for anyone whom I have managed to miss. Closing date is 19 February, so please book early. So far I have had 7 applications. As I expect to be in hospital from the 19th January (this Tuesday) please do not expect responses until at least the 25th.

As you will see Arthur Pritchard will be facilitating this years Easter Settlement on the theme “Building the Confident Quaker Voice”. Do not for a moment think you can substitute this weekend simply by coming to Quarterly Meeting and listening to Arthur read the minutes. No, you need to personally experience the product of Arthur’s years at Bretton Hall combined with the philosophy of Augusto Boal’s “Theatre of the Oppressed”, only obtainable by coming to Easter Settlement 2016 in person.

Finally, I am pleased to say that the QiY subsidy for those under 22 years will continue, and that we have managed to keep the cost down to a 1% rise over last year.

Young Friends at Easter Settlement 2015

Robert and I facilitated 6 sessions over the weekend ranging in length of between 45 mins and 3 hours. Young Friends ranged in ages between 5 and 15 years. Because of the low numbers of older children they agreed to be in one group.

We were able to go outside for many of these sessions and provided a range of craft, story-telling and games for the inside sessions.

We were able to use many of the outside activities available at Cober Hill and to ensure boundaries of responsibility were clear had a parent signing in and out for the facilitated sessions.

The film I am going to show you has been made by the Young Friends with a range of tablets, cameras and mobile phones. We have learnt the difficulty of using these devices for sound recording so I apologise for the quality of some sound. This film was then edited by the Young Friends and presented instead of a play on the final evening. Feedback from the YF was that they enjoyed watching the film with everyone rather than performing.

Joyce Latimer

Outreach Projects Committee Report for 2015

The Outreach Projects Committee (OPC) was set up in 2013 to support and encourage all forms of outreach and inreach, receive grant applications and provide funding for projects from any Quaker Meeting in Yorkshire not fully funded locally. The committee comprises a representative from each of our seven Area Meetings and primarily operates as a working group by email, with one face-to-face meeting each year, currently in March.

This year the OPC has approved the funding for five projects (two of which will take place in 2016), amounting to a total of £2904. Those taking place in 2015 have been in the form of stalls at large events, from one day stalls at Sheffield Peace and Craft Fair (Sheffield Central LM) and Leeds Gay Pride (Carlton Hill LM) to three days at Beverley Folk Festival (Beverley LM). The reports for these events are available from the lead Friend involved, details of which have been circulated to Area Meetings under the heading 'Spreading the Word' and are also available for you today. If Meetings are considering an outreach project in the near future, please do use the experience and knowledge of Friends who have completed a project, and they may also have materials they can lend out (eg Beverley LM's panels from their 'Live Adventurously' exhibition in 2014).

Funding was also approved in the latter part of 2015 for two projects that will take place in 2016 – a series of Quaker Quest events including a drama presentation, talks and a workshop; and a day's workshop by the Kindlers – both from the York Local Meetings.

This was not a year of 'plain sailing' for the OPC. Having been so ably guided by our previous clerk, James McCarthy, 2015 saw us clerkless and no one coming forward to take up that service – for a variety of reasons, largely time and email constraints, (and in my case being the 'newbie!'). Consequently we drifted along, with committee members doing their best to support applications from their own Area Meetings, until we came unstuck over an application for a substantial amount of funding and as a result the Quakers in Yorkshire Trustees were asked to step in to help. After a, thankfully fairly short, period the OPC was up and running again in October with a new clerk and enthused committee, and since then things have been going as smoothly as they can. As most of our work is done by email it is reliant on committee members to discern and comment on applications via this medium in a timely manner (our terms give us 5 days for an initial response) and largely this works well. I am always impressed by the thoughtful consideration Friends give applications, and the helpful advice often given. Our Area Meeting representatives are happy to advise on and facilitate applications to the OPC and also help to spread the word about the availability of OPC grants to their Area Meetings.

With funding already granted for two projects taking place next year, 2016 promises to be a year in which outreach (and inreach) will be thriving in our area. If you have the opportunity to be part of a project yourself in the coming year, I would encourage you to do so, often sharing our lives as Quakers can not only help others come to know us, but can also be spiritually enriching for ourselves and our Quaker communities.

Annabel May, Clerk (December 2015)

Quaker Outreach Projects in Yorkshire 2015

Please find below the outlines of projects funded (or funding agreed but yet to take place) by the Quakers in Yorkshire Outreach Projects Committee in 2015. If you are considering a similar project to any of these, it may be helpful to contact those involved – as well as practical advice, past projects sometimes have materials that they can lend out.

Annabel May, clerk, QiY Outreach Projects Committee
Happyquaker2015@gmail.com

Meeting	Format	Theme	Venue	Date	Report available	Contact
Kindlers	Day workshop	Enlivening and facilitation	York	2016		james.mccarthy90@ntlworld.com
York Meetings Quaker Quest and Outreach Planning Group	Drama, workshops, talks	Quaker Quest	Varied within York area	2016		johnsallyb@hotmail.co.uk
Beverley	Stall	Quakers Now	Beverley Folk Festival	June	Yes	chrisfellowes@btinternet.com
Carlton Hill	Stall	Quaker - Equality	Leeds Gay Pride	August	Yes	Pauline@paulineleonard.plus.com
Sheffield Central	Stall	Quaker	Peace and Craft Fair, Sheffield Town Hall	November	Yes	k.wallace312@btinternet.com

Quakers in Yorkshire Outreach Projects Committee Members Jan 2016

John Batchelor (Friargate) – York Area Meeting

David Cook (High Flatts) – Central Yorkshire Area Meeting

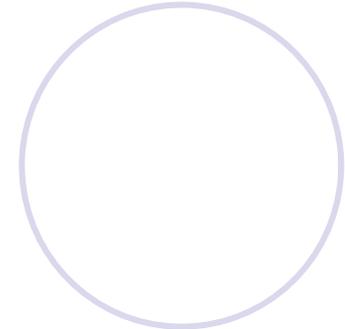
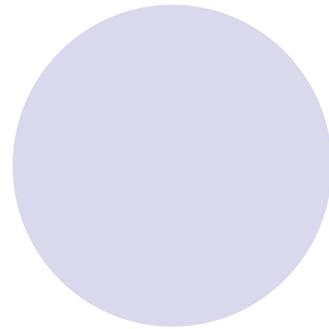
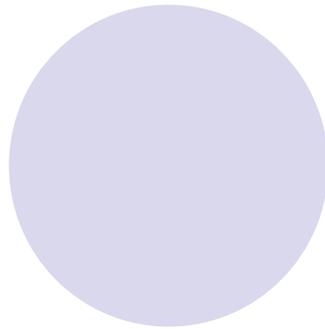
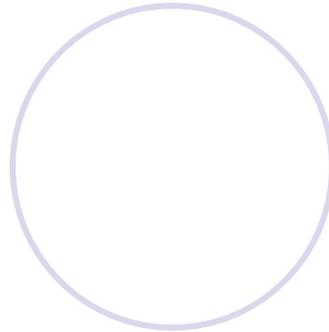
Deryck Hillas (Huddersfield) – Brighouse West Yorkshire Area Meeting

Annabel May (Beverley) – Pickering and Hull Area Meeting

Floe Shakespeare (Airton) – Craven and Keighley Area Meeting

Kathleen Wallace (Sheffield Central) – Sheffield and Balby Area Meeting

Iona Lyons (Carlton Hill) - Leeds Area Meeting

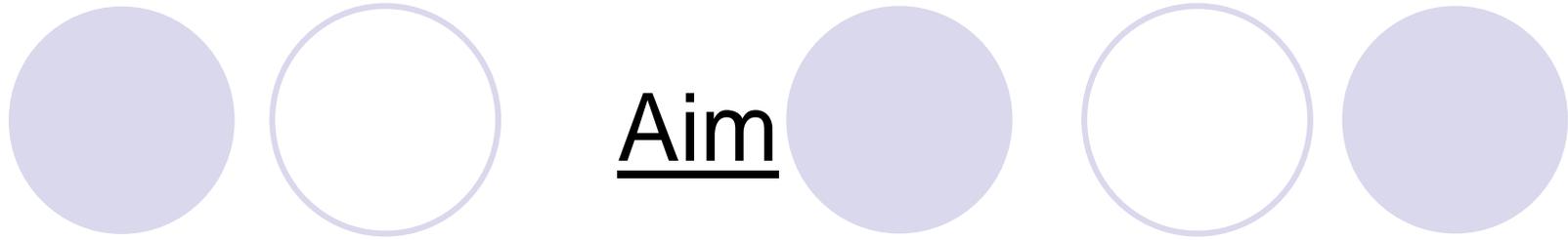


**Yorkshire, Humberside & Lincolnshire
Circles of Support and Accountability**

Tammy Banks & Denise Cann

CEO

Trustee & Circle Volunteer



NO MORE VICTIMS

To substantially reduce the risk of future sexual offending by supporting offenders ('core members') who are committed to not re-offending.

To assist them to integrate within the community and leading responsible, productive and accountable lives.

YHCoSA Explained (Video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qO6sjM6ZWp0>

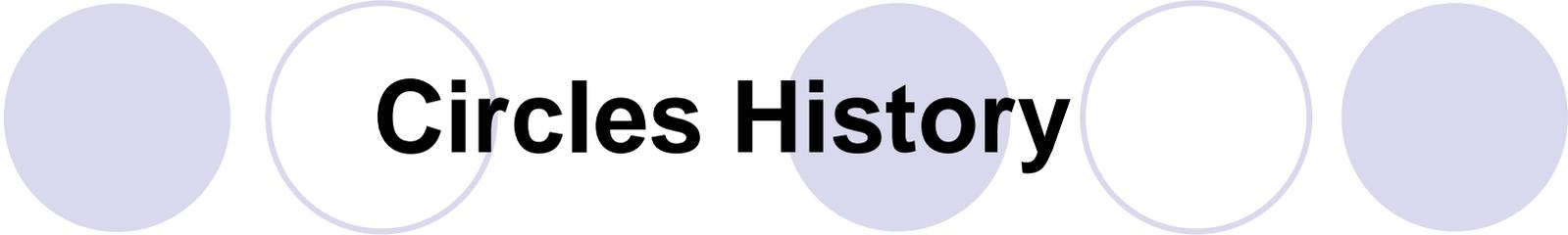
theguardian

Charity
Awards 2013

Small charities,
big impact

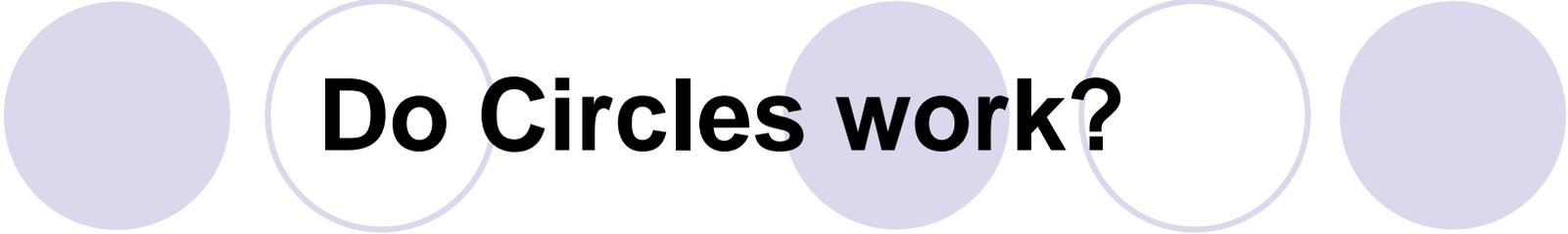
In association with


ZURICH®



Circles History

- First Circle Canada 1994
- Quakers
- UK Pilots 2002
- Regional interest
- Circles UK
- YHCOSA
- YHLCOSA



Do Circles work?

- 70-83% reduction in recidivism (Canada 5 yr study matched group)
- UK study 71 Circles 3 non contact offences
- YHCOSA 64 Circles 1 sexual re-offences (non contact)

Core Members

Risk Factors

- Emotional loneliness
- Social isolation

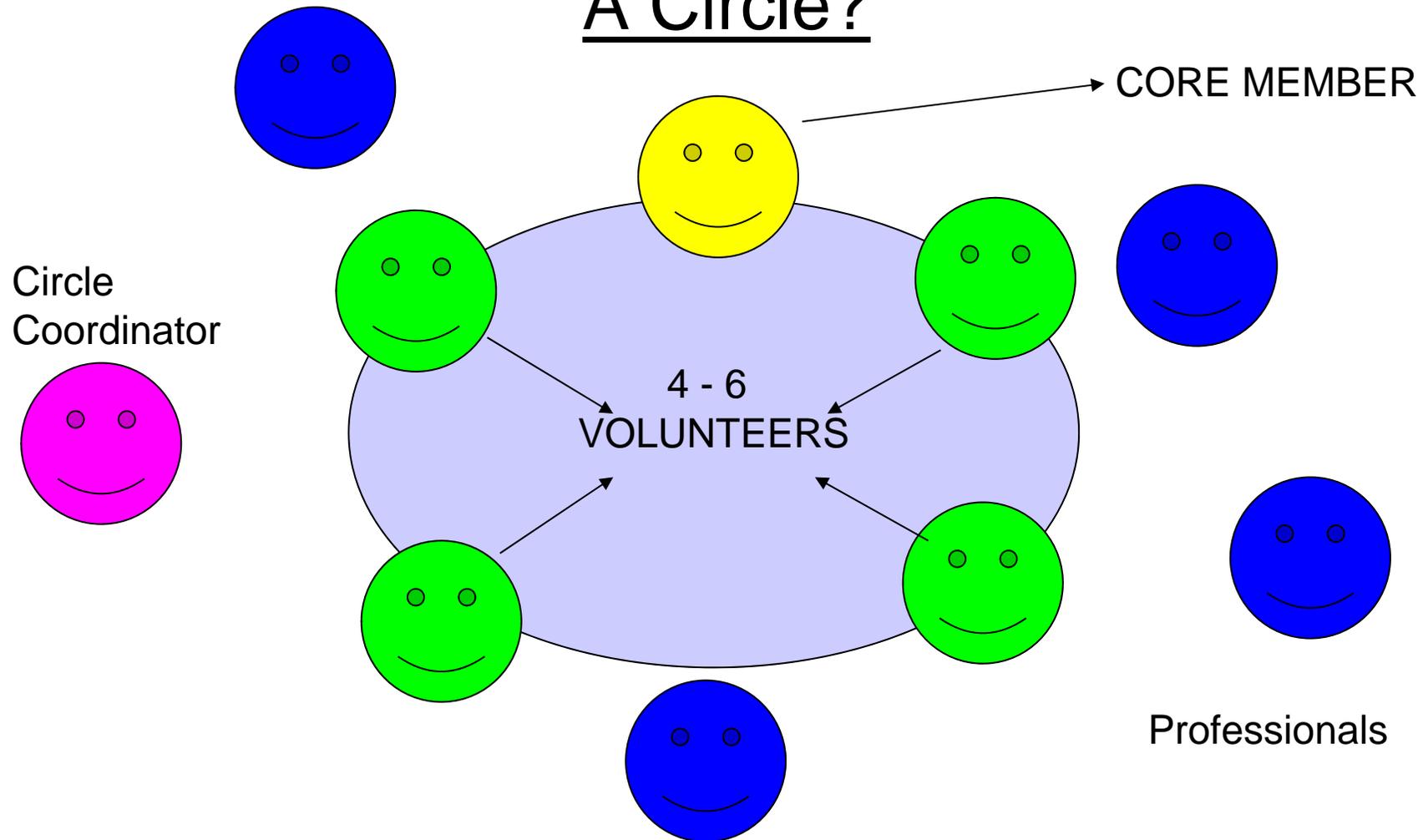
Protective Factors

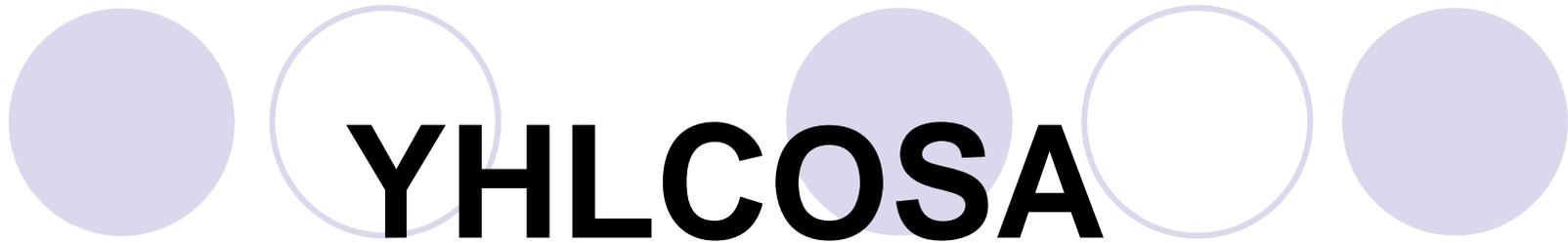
- Stable relationships with adults
- Pro social network
- Active commitment to change
- Stable employment/voluntary activities



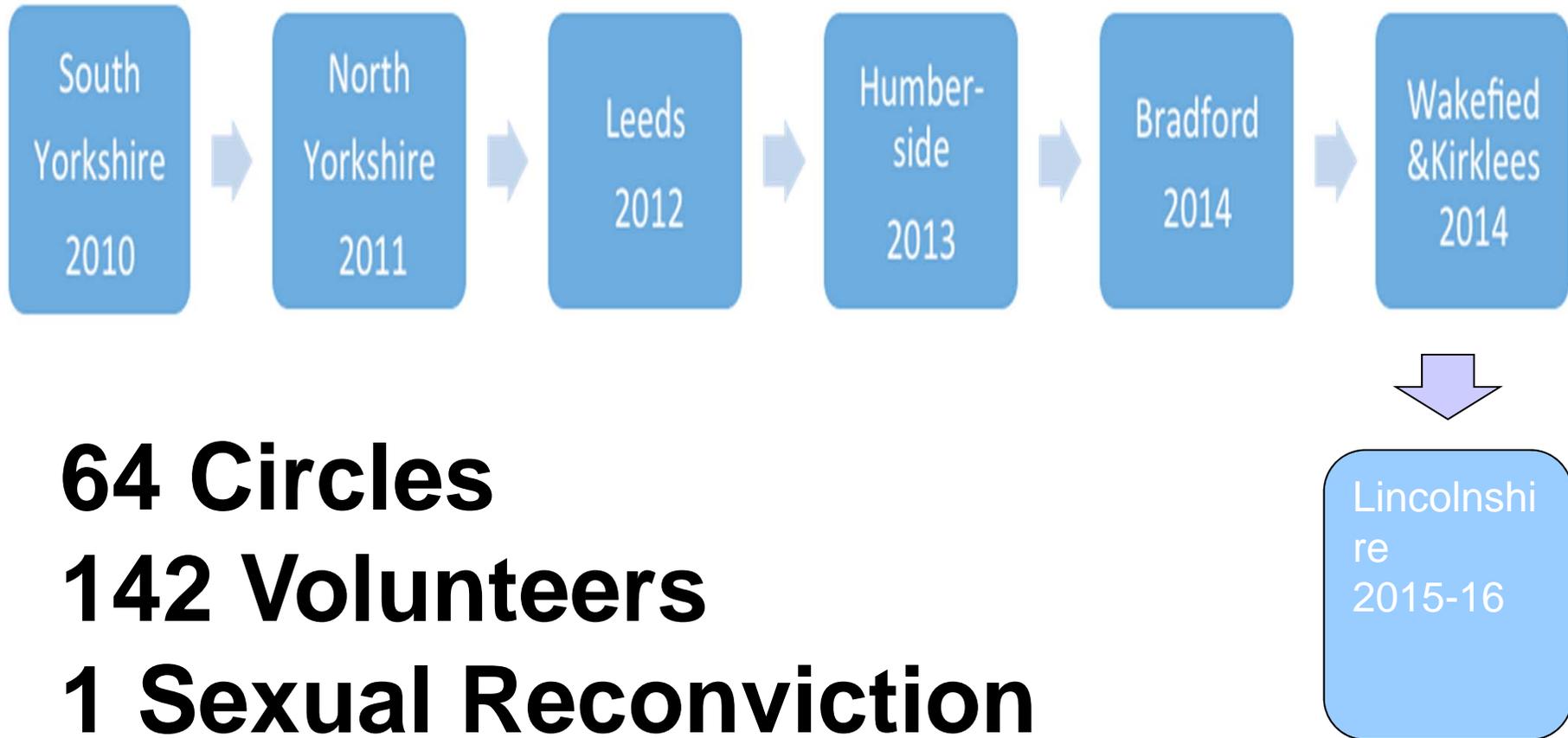
It's not magic.....it's magical

A Circle?





YHLCOSA



64 Circles

142 Volunteers

1 Sexual Reconviction

Last Year YHLCOSA 2015

- Trained 146 volunteers (91 new 55 existing)
- 30 Circles
- Lincolnshire
 - Funding
 - Support
 - Name
- 100% Audit
- Accredited Training
- Duke of York Award
- Evaluation
- Innovations
 - Catholic Church
 - Denier
 - Partnership with Respond LD Circle



2016 - Challenges

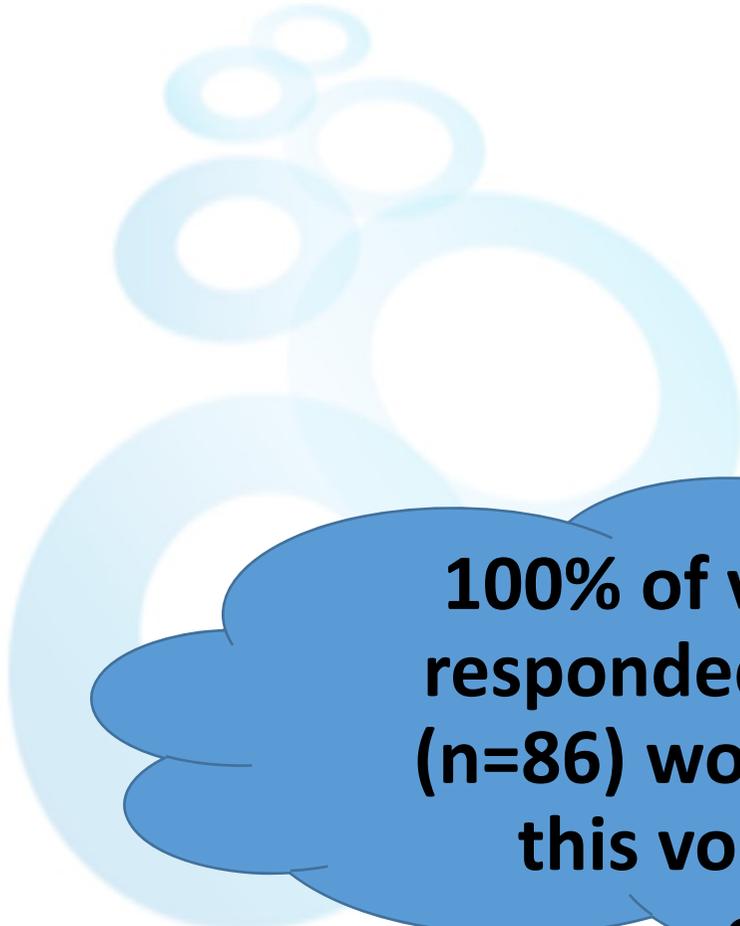
- **Funding**
 - Currently operating on reserves
 - Looking for a sustainable source of income
- **Volunteer Diversity**
- **Remain embedded in our values & principles**
- **Increased demand for service**
 - Self identifying communities
 - 'lower' risk



Introducing Volunteers.....

Volunteers are exceptional

- The magic ingredient of Circles
- Asked to commit to a Circle for 12 months
- Numerous motivations for being a volunteer
- Rigorous selection and training provided
- Regular supervision and support provided by Circle Coordinator
- Our volunteers in Yorkshire dedicated over 4162 hours in the last year.



100% of volunteers who responded to the surveys (n=86) would recommend this volunteering to others.

yorkshire and
humber side