Circles of Support & Accountability

An initiative designed to enhance safer reintegration of sex offenders into the community
What is COSA?

Impact on offenders we work with

Impact on professionals we work with

Good practice?
Circles of Support & Accountability

The Circle comprises volunteers from the community who are supported by professional staff.
The Three Key Principles

**Support**
- Reduce Isolation and Emotional Loneliness
- Model Appropriate Relationships
- Demonstrate Humanity and Care

**Monitor**
- Public Protection
- Safer Communities
- Support Statutory Authorities – Police, Probation, MAPPA

**Maintain**
- Hold Offender Accountable
- Relationship of Trust
- Maintain Treatment Objectives

Reduce Re-offending
DANGER
Registered Sex Offender Lives Here
Report Suspicious Behavior to:
(361) 854-4122  NCCSCD
(361) 826-2900  NCSO
(361) 886-2600  CPFD
Impact on offenders:

- Fearful
- Fatalistic
- Endless restrictions/”never free of it”
- Some were unaware
- Some isolated themselves further
- Welcomed it – no intention of re-offending
- Community acceptance?
Impact on professionals:

- Formalised disclosure
- Increased intelligence
- Disclosure is a two-way process
- A tool to gain compliance

- Public support?
- Placating public?
Good practice:

- Volunteer knowledge/training vital
- Involve families of offenders
- Buy-in of offenders
- Volunteers to disclose?
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