

The Safer Living Foundation

Project Evaluation Update to the Board of Trustees

August 2019

Foreword

This document aims to report upon the recent progress made by the different projects the Safer Living Foundation runs in comparison to previous Evaluation Update Reports. This document's primary audience is the charity's board of trustees and is updated for presentation at board meetings twice a year. For more detailed information on all of the SLF's project's evaluations, please see the most recent full text of the SLF Evaluation Update Report July 2019 that is available on the SLF website.

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Prison Circles of Support and Accountability

Overview of CoSA Journeys

The Safer Living Foundation (SLF) have started 23 prison-based Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA). The figure below demonstrates prison CoSA activity recorded in July 2019 in comparison to last year's report concerning CoSA still running, planned endings and unexpected endings.

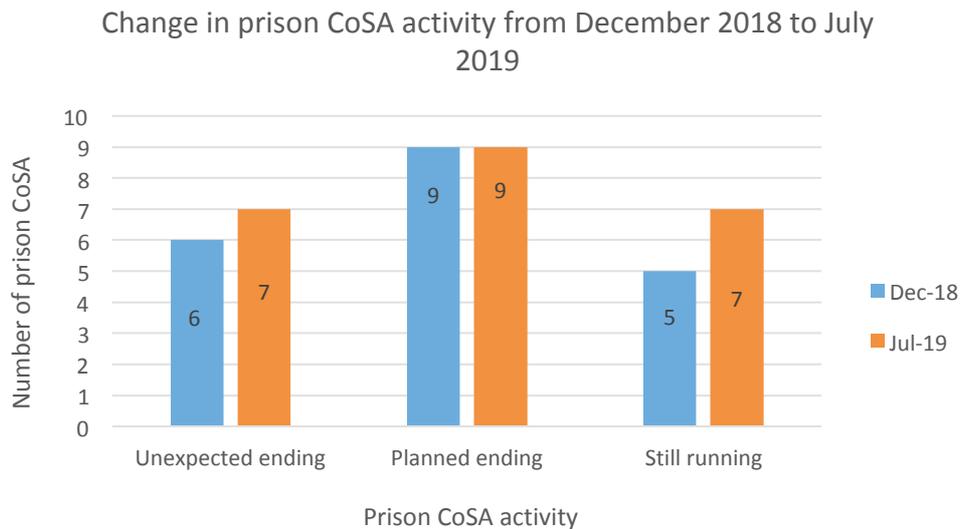


Figure 1. Change in Prison CoSA activity from December 2018 to July 2019.

Data shown in Figure 1 demonstrates that the SLF have started an additional 3 prison CoSA since December 2018. There has been an unexpected ending since CoSA activity was recorded in December 2018; this unexpected ending cannot be considered a 'successful Circle' as the Core Member was recalled before the 3-months of being on their CoSA. There have been no more planned endings between December 2018 and July 2019. However, two more CoSA were started and are still running at the time this report was written.

Community Circles of Support and Accountability

Overview of CoSA Journeys

The SLF have started 23 community CoSA. The figure below demonstrates community CoSA activity recorded in July 2019 in comparison to last year's report concerning CoSA still running, planned endings and unexpected endings.

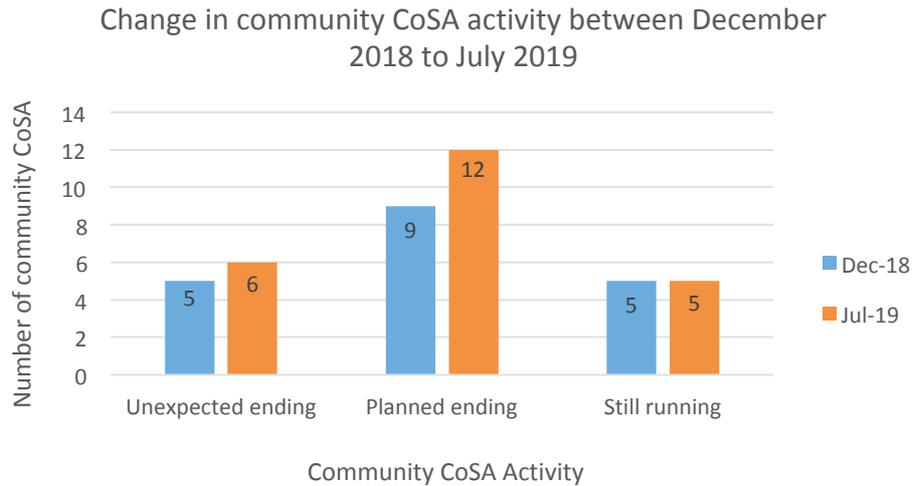


Figure 2. Change in community CoSA activity from December 2018 to July 2019.

Data shown in Figure 2 demonstrates that the SLF have started an additional 3 community CoSA since December 2018. There has been an unexpected ending since CoSA activity was recorded in December 2018; this unexpected ending cannot be considered a ‘successful Circle’ as the Core Member was recalled before the 3-months of being on their CoSA. There have been three more planned endings between December 2018 and July 2019. Five CoSA are still running currently.

Young People’s Circles of Support and Accountability

Overview of CoSA Journeys

The SLF have started 8 young people’s Circles of Support and Accountability (YPCoSA). The figure below demonstrates YPCoSA activity recorded in July 2019 in comparison to last year’s report concerning CoSA still running, planned endings and unexpected endings.

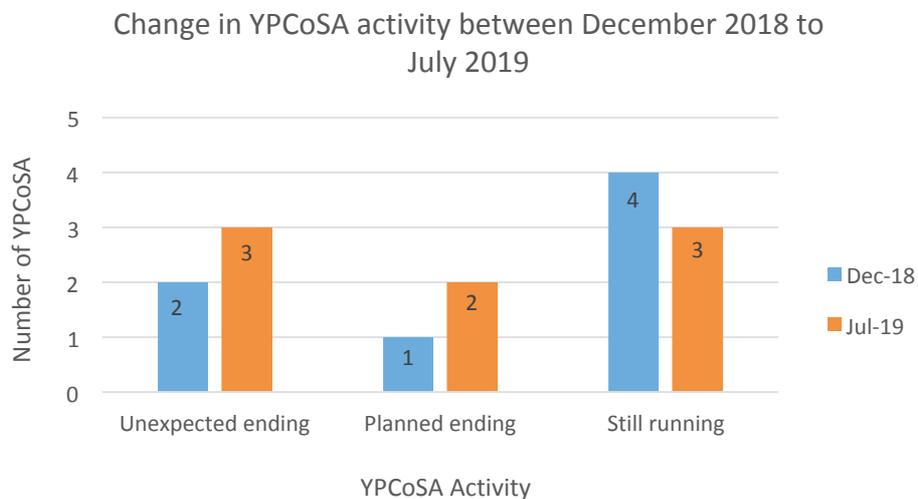


Figure 3. Change in YPCoSA activity from December 2018 to July 2019.

Data shown in Figure 3 demonstrates that the SLF have started an additional YPCoSA since December 2018. There has been an unexpected ending since CoSA activity was recorded in December 2018; this unexpected ending cannot be considered a 'successful Circle' as the Core Member was recalled before the 3-months of being on their CoSA. There has been one more planned ending between December 2018 and July 2019. Three CoSA are still running currently, one less than that was running in December 2018.

The Apollo Project

Overview of young people's journeys

There have been five young people to engage with the Apollo Project. Basic demographic and offending information is currently available on four young people. The age range from age at the start of the project commencement is 12-16 and all have been based in the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire area. Further demographic information will be available in the next update report.

Project Referrals

Number of Referrals

Circles of Support and Accountability

In December 2018 we found that there had been 209 different CoSA referrals to the SLF since the charity commenced these projects. According to the data collected in July 2019, there has been a 23% increase in the number of recorded referrals since last December (total: 273). The figure below demonstrates the change in number of CoSA project referrals from December 2018 to December 2019.

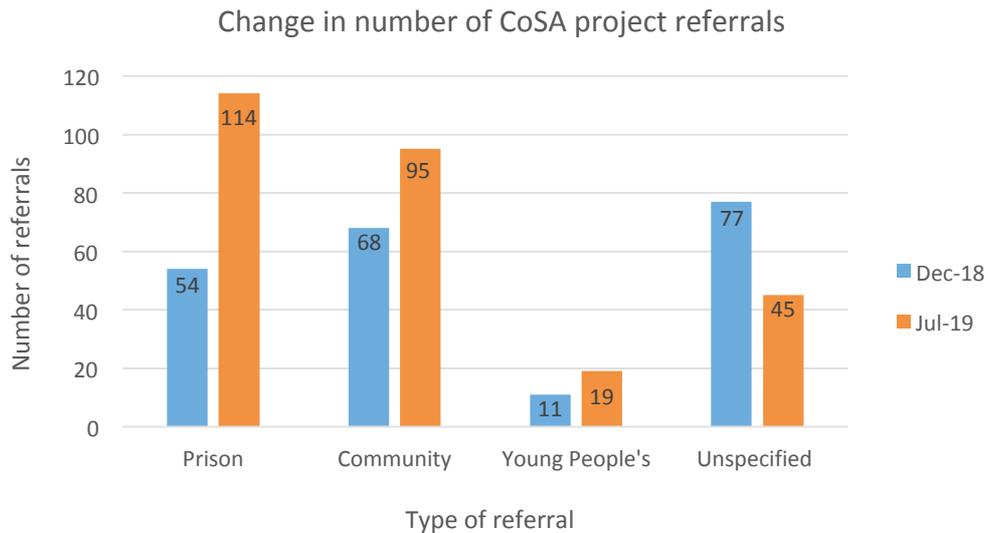


Figure 5. Change in the number of CoSA project referrals made from December 2018 to July 2019

Figure 5 demonstrates that there has been a 111% increase in referrals for prison-based CoSA, a 40% increase in referrals for community CoSA and a 73% increase in referrals for a YPCoSA. There has been a 42% decrease in the number of unspecified referrals that suggests an improvement in SLF record keeping and also information-gathering from referrals sources. The 23% increase in overall referrals evidences the charity's increased need, visibility and outreach.

The Apollo Project

The Apollo Project became operational after data was collected for the December 2018 SLF Evaluation Update Report. Information on the Apollo Project was collected in July 2019, therefore, the following data pertains to the referrals that were accepted, rejected are on stand-by at the time this report was written.

There have been 12 referrals for the Apollo project; 11 came from external agencies not otherwise specified and one from the parent of a young person. Of those received, 41.5% were accepted, 17% were rejected and 41.5% were awaiting a decision. The referrals rejected were because the individual was too young (1) and there was no follow up from the referral agency (1).

Sources of Referrals

Circles of Support and Accountability

CoSA referrals are received from a variety of sources from within the prison system, from external agencies in the community and even sometimes from the individual requiring support. The figure below details the different referral sources. It also shows how the number of referrals within these categories have changed since December 2018.

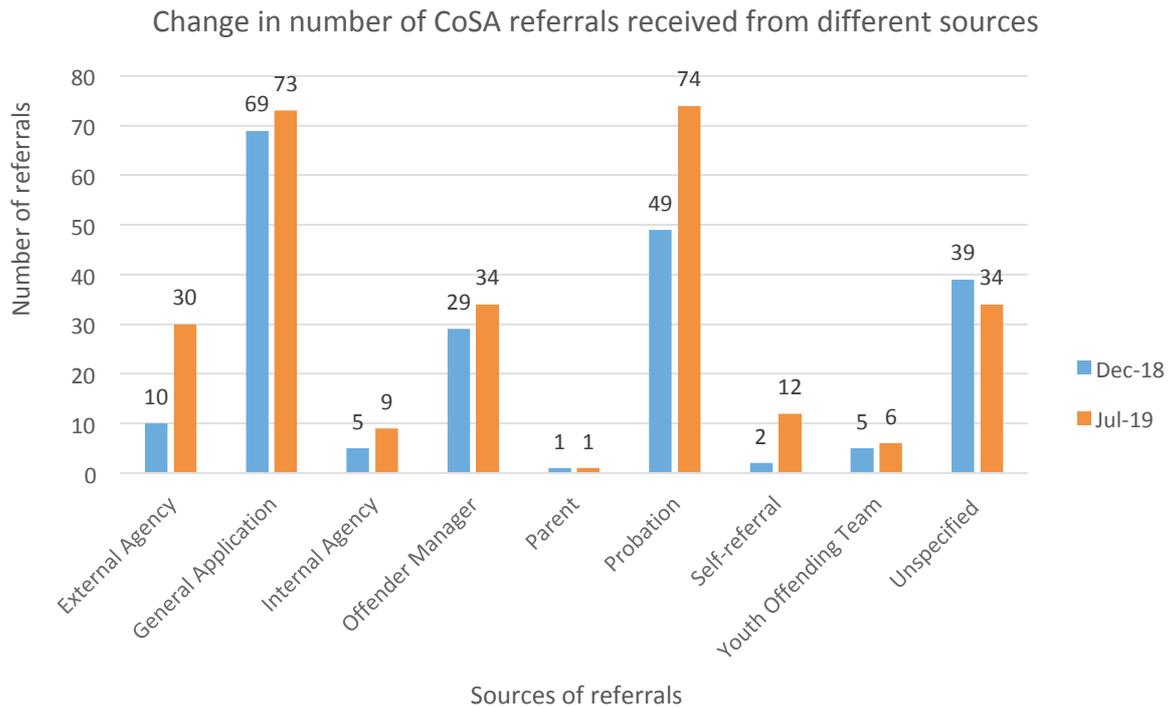


Figure 7. Change in the number of referrals received for CoSA from different sources

Figure 7 shows that there has been an increase in referrals across 78% of our sources from December 2018 to July 2019. This number evidences the increased visibility of the SLF, the efforts of the coordinators in disseminating their projects and overall the need for CoSA.

Note. For more information on demographic, offending and risk information of Core Members and individuals involved with the Apollo Project, please see the latest version of the SLF Evaluation Update Report (July 2019).

Volunteers

Activity

Since the SLF's CoSA projects became operational, and from the data we have available, there have been a recorded number of 402 individuals to enquire about volunteering for the charity.

A total of 176 volunteers have completed initial core training since June 2015, 52 of these have since completed top-up training. There are currently 50 active volunteers active on a Circle, with 24 on a prison CoSA, 16 on Community CoSA and 10 on YPCoSA.

A total of 40 volunteers are lined up to start on a CoSA. At the time this report was written, 6 volunteers are waiting to be interviewed and 9 volunteers have been interviewed but are awaiting training.

Dropouts

A number of volunteers to drop out of the service over the lifetime of their own CoSA journey. The figure below demonstrates the breakdown of volunteer dropout during a CoSA process as collected in July 2019. The SLF have reported a total of 82 volunteer dropouts.

Breakdown of volunteer dropout across the volunteer process.

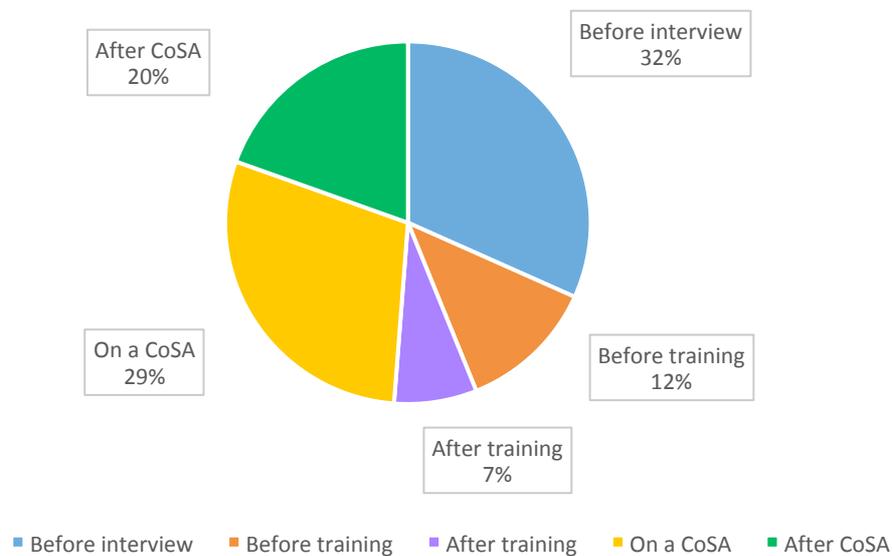


Figure 8. The proportion of volunteers who have dropped out at different time-points across the volunteer process

Volunteers have decided to discontinue their voluntary work with the SLF for a number of reasons including: no reply at attempts to contact; job/work commitments; travel issues; busy; personal issues; moved out of the area; unsuitable for the job; no longer interested; other. Whilst a volunteer dropping out due to obtaining employment elsewhere highlights the value of SLF voluntary work on one's CV, we ought to learn from volunteers dropping out after training, whilst on a CoSA and after a CoSA due to the time and money the charity spends on their training and personal development. Furthermore, there could be a negative impact on the Core Member should one of their volunteers dropout, for example: distrust; struggles with disclosure; need for consistency and routine; and possible reinforcement of abandonment throughout their life.

The Aurora Project

Note. More information on the progress of the Aurora Project (TAP) will be available in the next report.

The Corbett Centre for Prisoner Reintegration

Note. More information on the progress of the Corbett Centre will be available in the next report.