



Working with people with convictions
PACE celebrating 50 years supporting change





Working with people with convictions for harmful sexual behaviour

PACE

Presented by Dr Lisa Cuthbert, PACE CEO

2nd Dec 2019

Prisoner Aid through Community Effort (PACE)

- 50 years experience
- Founded by a group of volunteers
- Community based and community response
- Not for profit, registered charity
- Funded by the Probation Service
- Partnership Working



PACE



Prevention Services

Safer Lives

Foothold Floating Support

Circles of Support and Accountability



Accommodation Services

Two tiered supported

Low support transitional independent

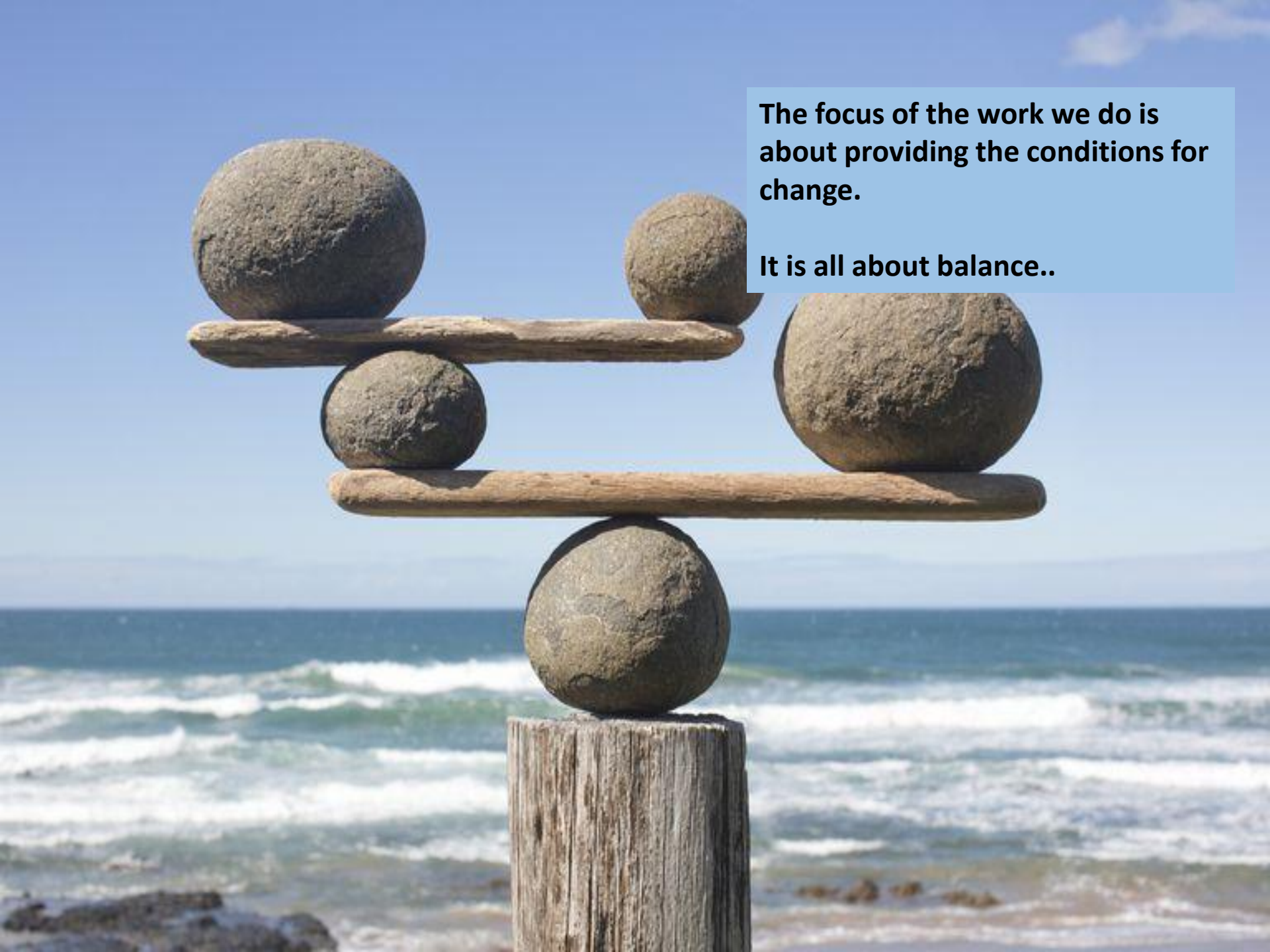


Training & Soc Enterprise Services

Restorative focus

Social Enterprise

Integration

A photograph of a stone balancing sculpture on a beach. The sculpture consists of a vertical wooden post with a large, smooth, dark stone balanced on top. A horizontal wooden beam is balanced on the stone. On the left side of the beam, a medium-sized dark stone is balanced. On the right side, a large, smooth, dark stone is balanced. Another horizontal wooden beam is balanced on the medium stone on the left. On the left side of this second beam, a large, smooth, dark stone is balanced. On the right side, a medium-sized dark stone is balanced. The background shows a blue sky, a blue ocean with white waves, and a sandy beach.

The focus of the work we do is about providing the conditions for change.

It is all about balance..

PACE Prevention Services –Moving beyond risk

Safer Lives Treatment Programme

- 3 x groups a week working with 24 men
- Good Lives model, strengths based, protective factors

Foothold Floating Support

- High need, high risk homeless
- Support
- ID, addiction, mental health issues

Circles of Support & Accountability

- Trained volunteers
- Inner Circle
- Outer Circle
- Core Member

Circles of Support and Accountability

Inner Circle

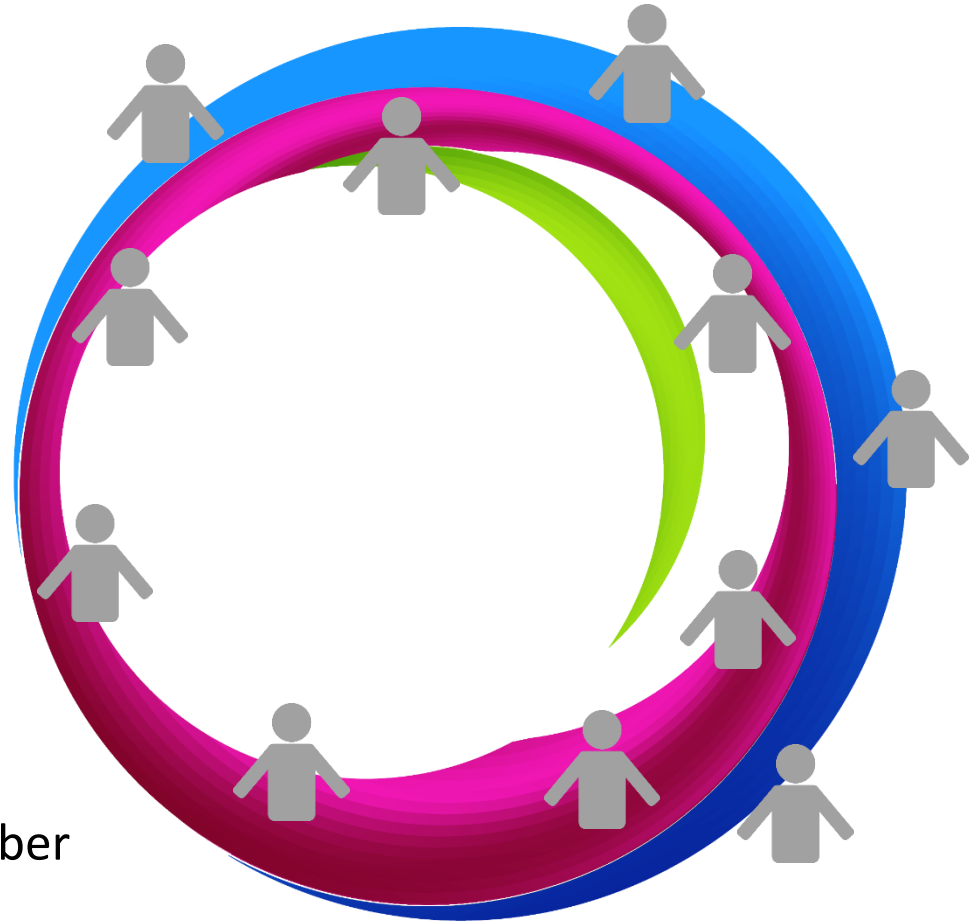
 Core Member

 Volunteers

Outer Circle

 Professionals

- Supervising Probation Officer
- Liaison Gardaí
- Others working with Core Member



Preventing Further Victims

A background image showing the upper bodies of four people sitting on a light-colored wooden bench. From left to right: a person in a white polo shirt, a person in a dark t-shirt, a person in a black and white striped shirt, and a person in a grey zip-up hoodie. The image is slightly blurred and has a warm, yellowish tint.

Why is there a need for CoSA?

- Safety
- Responsibility
- Inclusiveness
- Community Involvement
- Growth and Learning
- Individuality and Respect
- Effective at reducing recidivism

Cosa 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, Health)



Maintain

Hold Offender
Accountable



Relationship of Trust



Mainrain Treatment
Objectives



Reduce Reoffending

Saunders & Wilson 2003

Assisted desistance- PACE Prevention Services Evaluation

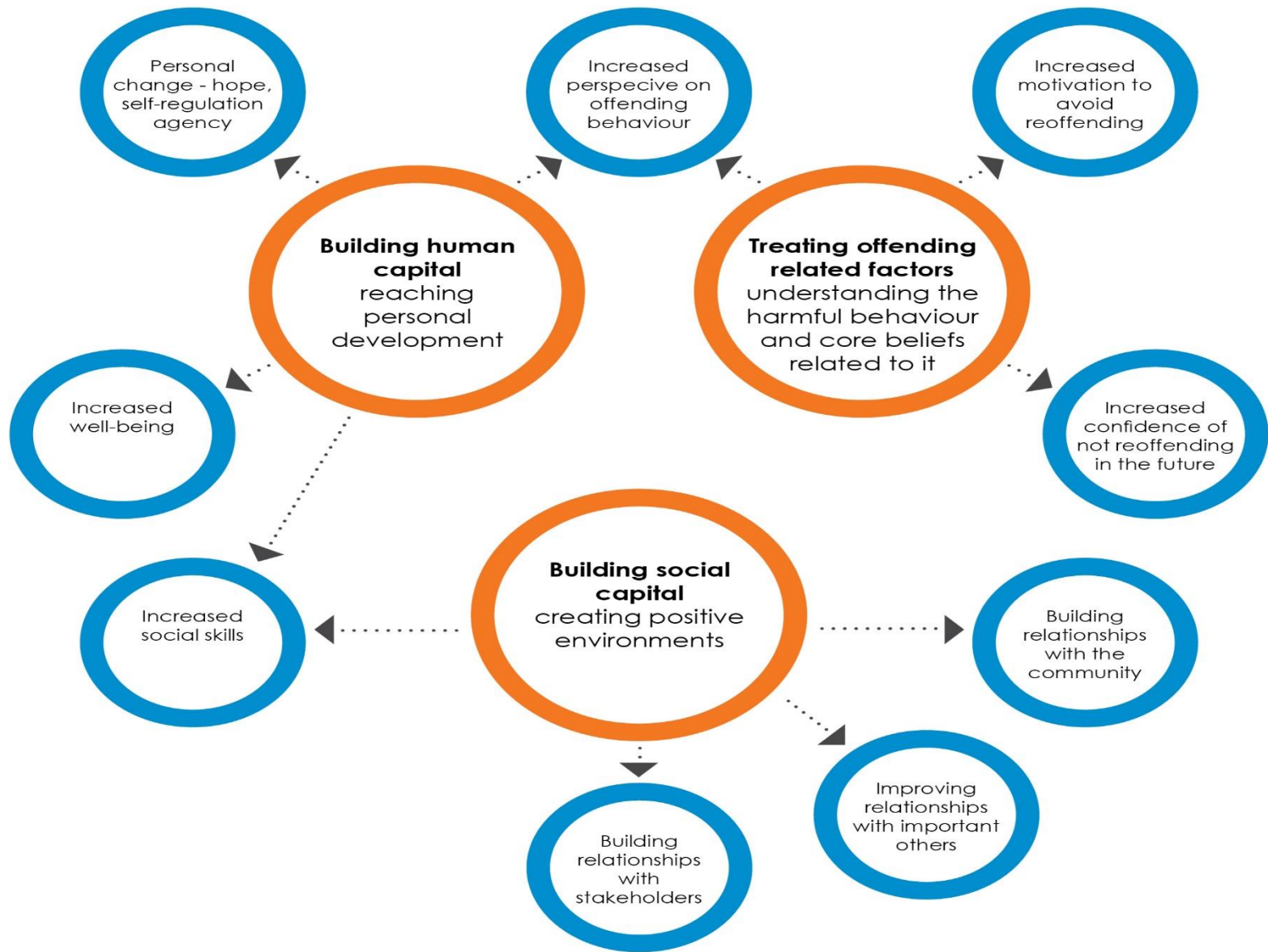
A group of people are sitting in a circle on chairs, some holding notebooks, suggesting a group therapy or support session. The image is in a warm, slightly desaturated tone.

Encompasses:

- Desistance
- Rehabilitation
- Reintegration

Four-part rehabilitation framework:

- Individual/psychological
- Social
- Legal
- Moral (McNeill, 2012)



Research Findings

- For some full integration may never be possible
- “simply being able to survive another day is an achievement in itself”

Research Outcomes

- **94.5% experienced positive or very positive personal & life changes, attributed to PACE**
- **Foothold “most participants attributed personal change directly to the help and encouragement of the Support Worker”**
- **Learning to express emotions, developing coping mechanism**

Research Outcomes

- Understand offending as a choice
- Deepen self-awareness
- Integrate others points of view
- Improvement in social skills
- Isolation
- Complexity of reintegration
- Decrease in motivation to offend 92%

“I've changed to a great degree. Safer Lives put together the pieces of the jigsaw for you. Talking about it with others, sharing the experience made it more real”. (Kevin, Safer Lives)

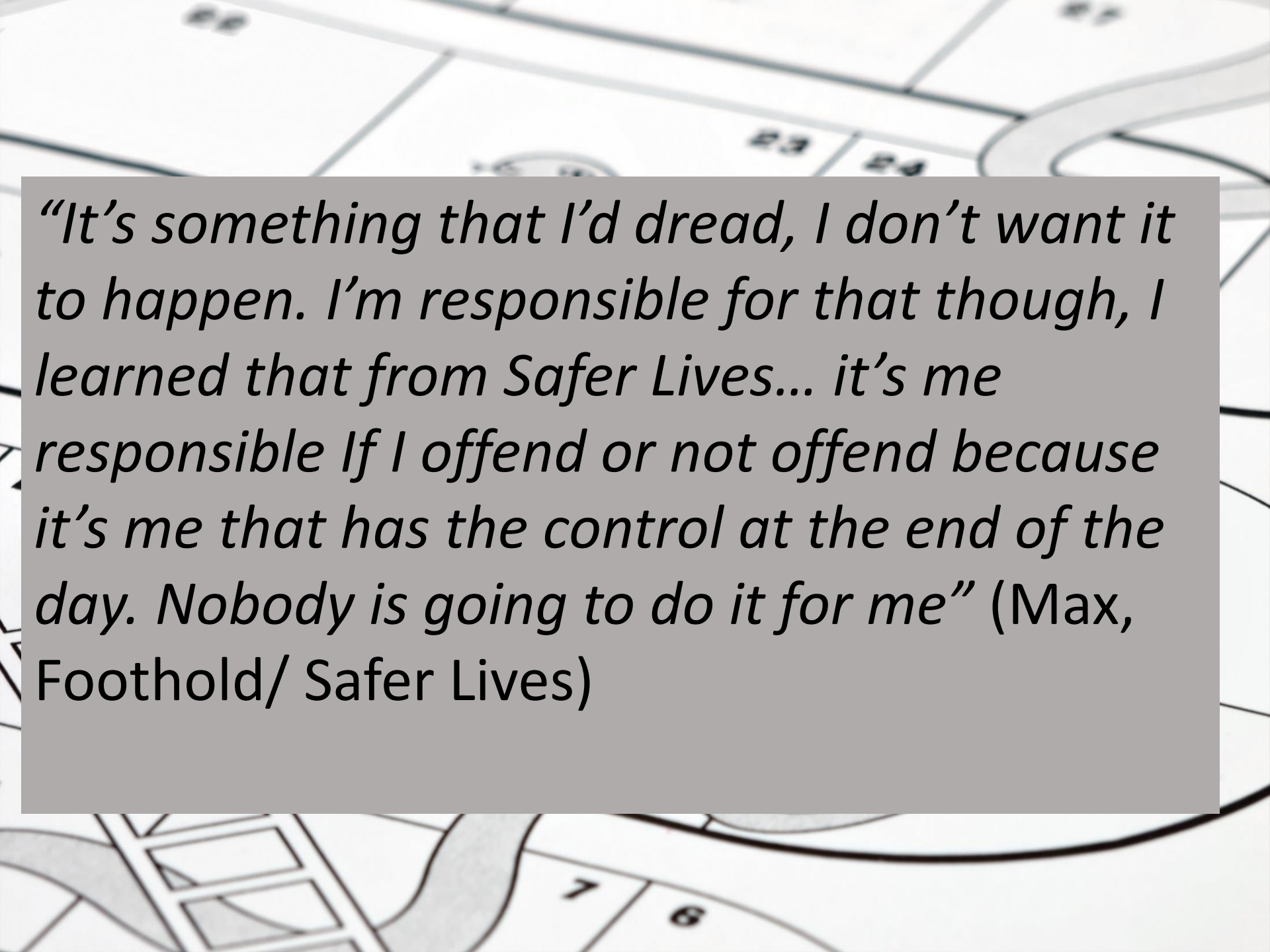
“I was looking at the outside world and blaming the circumstances of my life for finding myself in the place where I was. That is where I was. And my experience now is that where I am now and where I have been at any particular point in my life, is the result of my own interaction with the outside world and how I was in myself in terms of that interaction” (Ben, CoSA)

Key Lessons

- **Accountability for the future**
- **Programme interconnectedness and flexibility**
- *“The likes of [Foothold support workers] are a great help because if I’ve an issue in Safer Lives... They explain it, ‘They’re doing this or that. ‘I don’t agree with that’. ‘Well maybe have a look at it this way’... I certainly couldn’t do without them both, I had no hope when I started the programme”. (John, Foothold/Safer Lives)*

Challenges

- **Employment**
- **Accommodation**
- **Avoiding dependence**
- **Timing of engagement**
- **Mainstreaming**
- **Life long approach**

A background image of a map showing a street grid. A road curves from the top right towards the bottom right. Street numbers are visible: 22, 23, 24, 7, and 6. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey rectangle.

“It’s something that I’d dread, I don’t want it to happen. I’m responsible for that though, I learned that from Safer Lives... it’s me responsible if I offend or not offend because it’s me that has the control at the end of the day. Nobody is going to do it for me” (Max, Foothold/ Safer Lives)

Research recommendations

Foothold – National strategic policy for accommodation issues

Safer Lives – Significant Others, Intellectual Disability and Maintenance group

CoSA – Establish Circles outside of the Greater Dublin area, Public education

