

Community Awards 2017

What are the awards?

This is the Howard League for Penal Reform annual awards for the country's most successful community projects encouraging desistance from crime. The Howard League believes that projects which help to keep people out of the criminal justice system, by providing alternative, proportionate, effective and targeted interventions will reduce the risk of re-offending.

The Howard League believes that measures should be in place to ensure that children and adults can be diverted from prosecution where appropriate, with courts and custody reserved for people who cannot be managed in any other way. Every effort should be made at the earliest point of contact to resolve issues in the community and if necessary refer children and adults to more appropriate services that meet their needs.

These annual awards celebrate best practice in diversionary work and champion work in the community that challenges and changes people for the better – be it with children; women; mental health programmes or restorative justice.

Awards categories

- **Women**

The project should offer gender specific provision for women at the earliest stage possible to keep them out of the criminal justice system through close partnerships with police, courts and other local agencies.

- **Policing and adults**

This category is aimed at schemes run by police linked to formal or informal interventions with individuals following an arrest providing appropriate support at the earliest stage.

- **Policing and children**

This category is aimed at schemes run by police linked to formal or informal interventions with children. The award will recognise projects working with children and young people to desist from crime and keep them out of the youth justice system, by providing appropriate and professional support at the earliest stage.

- **Restorative Approaches**

The category is aimed at police-led schemes using restorative approaches and principles to tackle crime and anti-social-behaviour.

- **Liaison and diversion**

The programme should provide liaison and diversion services identifying people who have mental health problems, learning disabilities or substance misuse vulnerabilities when they first come into contact with the criminal justice system.

- **Residential care (New)**

This award is in recognition of an organisation which provides support for looked after children. The award will recognise projects working with children and young people in care which encourage them to desist from crime and keep them out of the youth justice system, by providing appropriate and professional support at the earliest stage.

- **Criminal Justice Champion***

This award is in recognition of people making a real difference in the criminal justice field by continually striving to reduce the number of people entering it. This person has shown outstanding skill and dedication in their work, pushing the boundaries in achieving best practice and promoting justice. The award is open to individuals who work in the voluntary, community or statutory sectors. This award is for an individual and not a project.

- **Organisation of the year***

This award is in recognition of an organisation making a real difference in the criminal justice field by continually striving to divert people from the criminal justice system. The organisation takes a whole team approach in providing a comprehensive and cohesive service and a programme of interventions that reduce the risk of re-offending.

** Please note there are separate criteria and application forms for these categories - see below.*

What are the criteria for the Community Awards?

The competition is open to statutory agencies and voluntary organisations that are delivering diversionary schemes. We want to hear from projects that are making a real difference in the criminal justice field.

The projects nominated are required to meet one of the following criteria:

- divert first time entrants away from the criminal justice system, or
- divert individuals away from courts and provide alternatives to sentencing

Projects also need to meet at least one of the following criteria:

- are rehabilitative and help to prevent future offending
- identify risk and offer a package of support and interventions at the earliest possible stage
- offer a programme tailored to individual needs
- service users are involved in shaping the work and in decisions affecting them

- have strong partnerships in place and a commitment to liaison with other services
- work collaboratively with the local community
- use a system to evaluate the effectiveness and outcomes of the programme
- are cost effective.

*** What are the criteria for the Criminal Justice Champion?**

- Your nomination should explain why you think the person you are nominating deserves the award
- Anyone can make a nomination - though you cannot nominate yourself
- You can nominate anyone working in the statutory or voluntary setting, whether as a member of staff, a volunteer or an outside employee
- The person you are nominating needs to be making a real difference to the criminal justice field, pushing the boundaries in promoting justice
- The person you are nominating should be leading by example in achieving best practice in their area of work
- The person you are nominating needs to give consent to being nominated.

***What are the criteria for Organisation of the year?**

- Your nomination should explain why you think the organisation you are nominating deserves the award
- Anyone can make a nomination – self nomination is permitted
- You can nominate any organisation working in the statutory or voluntary setting
- The organisation needs to be making a real difference to the criminal justice field, pushing the boundaries in promoting justice
- The organisation should be leading by example in achieving best practice in their area of work
- The organisation has reduced the number of people entering the criminal justice system
- Strong partnerships should be in place responding to the distinctive needs and risk factors of service users in stemming their flow into the criminal justice system.

How do I nominate?

- Any organisation, group or individual can make nominations. Self-nomination is also permitted (except for Criminal Justice Champion category)
- We welcome nominations from statutory and voluntary organisations
- An organisation can enter more than one project
- You can enter the same project in more than one category however a separate nomination form needs to be completed for each entry
- Download a nomination form from the Howard League for Penal Reform website at <http://howardleague.org/community-awards/>

- Supporting evidence can be provided including evidence of effectiveness. Make sure any such material directly supports your entry. Please note supporting evidence will not be returned.

Completing the nomination form

The judges will be looking for a clear description of the work done. General statements or unsupported claims of the value of the work will not be sufficient. Wherever appropriate, include a clear description of:

- the project, its aims and objectives
- the work done, the target group and partnerships
- how the work met or exceeded its goals/targets, or improved outcomes
- how service users are involved in shaping the work and in decisions affecting them
- evidence of effectiveness – provide as much information as possible on the application about your evaluation process
- any research carried out or procedures put in place to monitor and guide the work and determine future performance.

Please note the ‘Project summary’ will be used for the initial shortlisting process. Provide succinct, accurate, jargon free details wherever possible.

Submitting your nomination for ALL categories

Please provide **5 copies** of your nomination form to:
 Catryn Yousefi, Programmes Manager
 The Howard League for Penal Reform, 1 Ardleigh Road, London, N1 4HS

Please **also email a copy** of your nomination form to:
catryn.yousefi@howardleague.org

The deadline for nominations is 5.00 pm on Tuesday 25 July 2017.

Timeline

May 2017	Nominations open
25 July 2017	Nominations close
5 September 2017	Judging panel meet
8 November 2017	Awards conference and ceremony*

Judging process

- All nominations will be collected centrally and will be shortlisted internally by the Howard League for Penal Reform

- Shortlisted nominations will be assessed by an independent and external judging panel. The judging panel will be made up of senior criminal justice professionals, health professionals, academics, representatives from key voluntary organisations and other partners
- If any judge is connected to an entry they will not lobby or vote for that project
- Each entry will be judged using a scoring system and finalists drawn up accordingly
- Representatives from all shortlisted projects will be invited to an awards ceremony on **Wednesday 8 November 2017** where there will be the opportunity to exhibit and discuss their project.*

What is the prize?

Winners will be announced and invited to make a presentation at the awards ceremony to an audience of policy makers and practitioners. The winners will be presented with awards plaques. Winning schemes will be highlighted and widely publicised through the press, the Howard League for Penal Reform website and publications.

* Shortlisted projects will be invited to attend the conference at a reduced delegate rate.