

the Howard League for Penal Reform

THE HOWARD
JOURNAL OF PENOLOGY
and CRIME PREVENTION

ADVICE, SUPPORT
AND CAMPAIGNING

HOWARD LEAGUE
FOR PENAL REFORM

**2014–2015
Annual
Review**



What if I don't?

Speak to your prison officer or another member of staff on your wing or building. If your request or complaint can't be fixed with in the way, you should write an application. Wing applications are held under 144.

What if the leading officer or wing manager can't help?

If you still can't get a member of staff to look at your request or complaint, or will not pay if you want to talk or want to discuss this.

I want to speak to someone at management level. What do I do?

You can make a governor's application (ask the leading officer or wing manager that you want to talk to). You can also ask to speak to the medical officer, chaplain or a member of the Board of Visitors.

Can I go to the Board of Visitors with a request or a complaint?

Yes. You can apply to any time - using the wing application system - to speak to a member of the Board. But the Board will usually expect you to have tried to solve your problem first with prison staff first.

I have made an application but I am still not happy. What do I do next?

You can make a formal complaint to writing. You can do this in any way, but it is best to try to solve your problem first by speaking to staff and using the application system first.

Complaint forms should be kept available for you to pick up or use when you go to your residential area. You don't have to pay for a form.

If you think that a member of staff has behaved wrongly, the governor can a complaint form or a complaint form-complaint form. This form clearly states what happened and how you think the member of staff did wrong. Say if someone told you what happened and explain your complaint with any evidence which you have.

Can I have my complaint outside the Prison Service?

Yes. You can complain to the Independent Prison and Probation Ombudsman, but you must have completed the internal complaint procedure first. You should complain to the Ombudsman within one month of receiving the final response to your complaint from the governor. There is a request letter about how to complain to the Ombudsman.

Are there other people or organisations outside the prison system I can complain to, besides the Ombudsman?

Yes. But it will usually be quicker to try to solve the problem using the prison system first. Many of the outside organisations will expect you to have tried to deal with your complaint inside the prison system first.

There is a larger version of the leaflet which gives more information about complaining outside the prison system. Copies should be available in your wing or building.

Remember you have the right to make a formal written complaint at any time. But you should always speak to a member of staff in your area or to your leading officer or wing manager, first. This should be done as quickly as you can.



COMPLAINTS BOX

Sue Wade, chair of the board of trustees

The stand-out achievement of the year was to overturn the ban on families sending books to their loved ones in prison. This had a practical impact for the man or woman locked for long hours in a cell but also great symbolic value. The public got behind the Howard League's campaign as people empathised with prisoners, and this may do something to counter the depressing assumptions made about the populist agenda from some of the media and politicians. The final rule change not only allowed books to be posted in but there is no longer an arbitrary limit on the number of books people can have.

The political discourse about prisons and penal reform changed after the general election and the Howard

League's chief executive and I met the new Lord Chancellor to discuss our concerns, and were received with courtesy and some interest.

The trustees' strategy for the work of the charity aims at being radical, ambitious and influential. The integrity, consistency and evidence-based campaigning of the charity continued to have impact.

I want to thank my fellow trustees for their hard work this year. They give their time and expertise unstintingly to the cause. We said goodbye to some special people who had given many years' service to the charity and I want in particular to thank Dick Whitfield, a former chair of the board, and David Wilson, vice chair for many years.



Frances Crook, chief executive

Next year the Howard League for Penal Reform will celebrate its 150th birthday. In 1866 the Howard Association was founded to end the death penalty and to work for a society where more people live free from crime, victims find succour and people who commit crime turn their lives around. Much has been achieved.

The last year, however, has been particularly challenging and a time of great change in criminal justice policy. Prison conditions have deteriorated to a point where they are no longer safe. The death rate has become a national scandal. The dismantling of the century old probation service resulted in muddle and waste. Yet, towards the end of the year there were glimmers of light that could indicate a new era. National fiscal austerity could herald new thinking in penal policy whereby less is better.

In this maelstrom the Howard League provides impartial and well-researched ideas and campaigns aimed at the public good. We have succeeded in achieving change.

Our work with police continues to result in reductions in child arrests.

Our legal work helped hundreds of children and young adults get justice inside prisons, helped them through the parole process and helped them settle safely on release.

Our research programme triggers new thinking and supports academics to explore and examine the criminal justice landscape.

Our campaign to overturn the ban on sending books to prisoners was finally successful and the limit on the number of books prisoners may have in their possession was lifted.

Our work in partnership with law firms and other charities contributed to the Supreme Court decision that authorising solitary confinement must be reformed.

During the year charities came under intense scrutiny. I am proud to say that the leadership and scrutiny of the Board of Trustees is robust, that having gained Investors in People status our management and administrative systems are efficient, and our financial situation is healthy.



Report of the trustees

Our overall objectives are to

- Create membership growth to provide authority, reach and income
- Allow capacity for new ideas including strong academic credentials
- Develop our government relations
- Increase our outward campaigns
- Continue our investment in good governance

In particular the trustees wanted to see more emphasis on fundraising, increased focus on strategic litigation to achieve our charitable objectives and to start planning for our 2016 anniversary.

We achieved success in fundraising (some trusts funded us for two simultaneous projects, we secured a second Lottery grant, door to door recruited committed donors). Strategic litigation included judicial review on legal aid and intervention in Supreme Court on solitary confinement. We started planning for 2016.



ING

coming demand



College of Policing

In a typical day in a typical force...
There is approximately one officer on duty for every 1,753 people living in the force area.



Officers will make 50 arrests. 1.6 of these arrests will be for sexual offences.

Ongoing demand

In addition to reacting to calls for service, on a typical day the undertaking proactive of the public including:



Officers will deal with - amongst other crimes - 8 dwelling burglaries, 77 thefts, 11 thefts from a motor vehicle, 3 thefts of a motor vehicle, 36 violent crimes, 1 robbery, 2 sexual assaults, including 1 rape.

MAPPA

Managing approximately 1,181 sexual and violent offenders under Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements in partnership with other

Approximately 150
offenders are
included
reco

Approximately 150
offenders are
included
reco

Support and young people
to a Child Protection

calls are



Approximately 150
crimes are reported

As well as
dealing with crime,
officers will:




Chief Constable Alex Marshall, CEO of the College of Policing

Reform sentencing

Each year over 100,000 people walk through the prison gate. We champion sentences that work towards building a society where more people live free from crime. The charity finds ways that people can turn their lives round instead of leaving them on the scrapheap. The new Justice Secretary, Michael Gove, quoted Winston Churchill in his seminal first speech on the issue, saying he had an unfaltering faith that there is a treasure, if only you can find it, in the heart of every man.

Strategic aim: To influence sentencing to reduce the use of prison

Indicators of success:

- Reduction of short prison sentences by 10%
 *In June 2015 there were 6,279 people serving short sentences (less than 12 months) compared to September 2013 when there were 7,055. We have monitored sentencing and published briefings urging restraint by the courts and the use of restorative community programmes.*
- Reduction of the prison population to 80,000
 *In August 2014 there were 85,696 men, women and children in prison and this had increased to 85,956 in August 2015. The number of women has remained broadly the same. The good news is that the number of children in custody has fallen by more than 100, or 10% in the last year. The success of our campaign to reduce child arrests has fed through the system so that fewer children go to court and custody.*
- Ensure that young people spend the shortest period of time in the penal system
 *The number of children in penal custody has reduced by two thirds. Our investigation into the routine triple punishment of children through curfews and tagging that was a route into prison led to a complete change of policy and practice. We pressed police, CPS and courts to protect girls who come into conflict with the law and the number in custody fell to only 38.*



Frances Crook; David Kirkby, Senior Research Fellow at Bright Blue; and Andrew Selous MP, Prisons Minister, at the fringe meeting at Conservative Party Conference

Investing in the community

Over the last century community sentences developed so that they had half the reoffending rate of short spells in prison. The new landscape of sentences run by private companies is as yet unproven. Whilst the criminal justice system is not designed to resolve problems of mental and physical health, illiteracy or unemployment, it can make matters worse.

Strategic aim: To focus resources on safer communities

Indicators of success:

- Influence community responses to crime so they are appropriate, proportionate and reparative
- ✓ *We created an evidence base and network of local success through the Community Awards and organised open days for the best schemes across the country. We highlighted the problems created by the precipitate dismantling of probation and privatisation of large chunks of the service.*
- Challenge the Transforming Rehabilitation agenda
- ✓ *As significant reform of services delivering public safety is considered, the Howard League provides a critical assessment of principles and efficacy. We shone a light on good practice and highlighted failings via public and media discourse.*
- Young people to have better knowledge and understanding of their rights
- ✓ *The Howard League has the only dedicated legal service for children and young adults in penal custody. Our legal and participation team dealt with more than 1,000 calls on the confidential advice line. We put together and distributed information leaflets about Mappa for young people.*



the Howard League for Penal Reform

org Less crime,
safer communities,
fewer people
in prison

11




Baroness Doreen Lawrence speaking at the Howard League Community Awards

Justice for children and young people

Children in conflict with the law need love and support, not locking up. There are better ways to ensure that the troubled child of today does not become the adult prisoner of tomorrow.

Strategic aim: To reduce and improve contact with the criminal justice system

Indicators of success:

- Reduction in child arrests by 25%
 *The Howard League is the only voluntary group working with the police on child arrests and detention. Our research revealed over 318,000 child arrests in 2008. Last year we published the outcomes of our liaison with police which had resulted in a reduction in child arrests to 129,000.*
- Improving children and young people's access to justice and rights
 *We finally got permission from the High Court to go ahead with our judicial review to challenge curtailment of legal aid to child and adult prisoners. We developed the legal advice line and handled over 1,000 calls a year.*
- Represent and advise children and young people to achieve positive outcomes for themselves
 *Elements of our five year programme of participation with young people who have experienced the penal system are being continued. We published a review of how young people see the issue of maturity that challenged common misconceptions. Our lawyers helped over 300 young people in custody overturn unlawful treatment and punishments, travel smoothly through parole and secure safe release arrangements.*



Change inside prisons

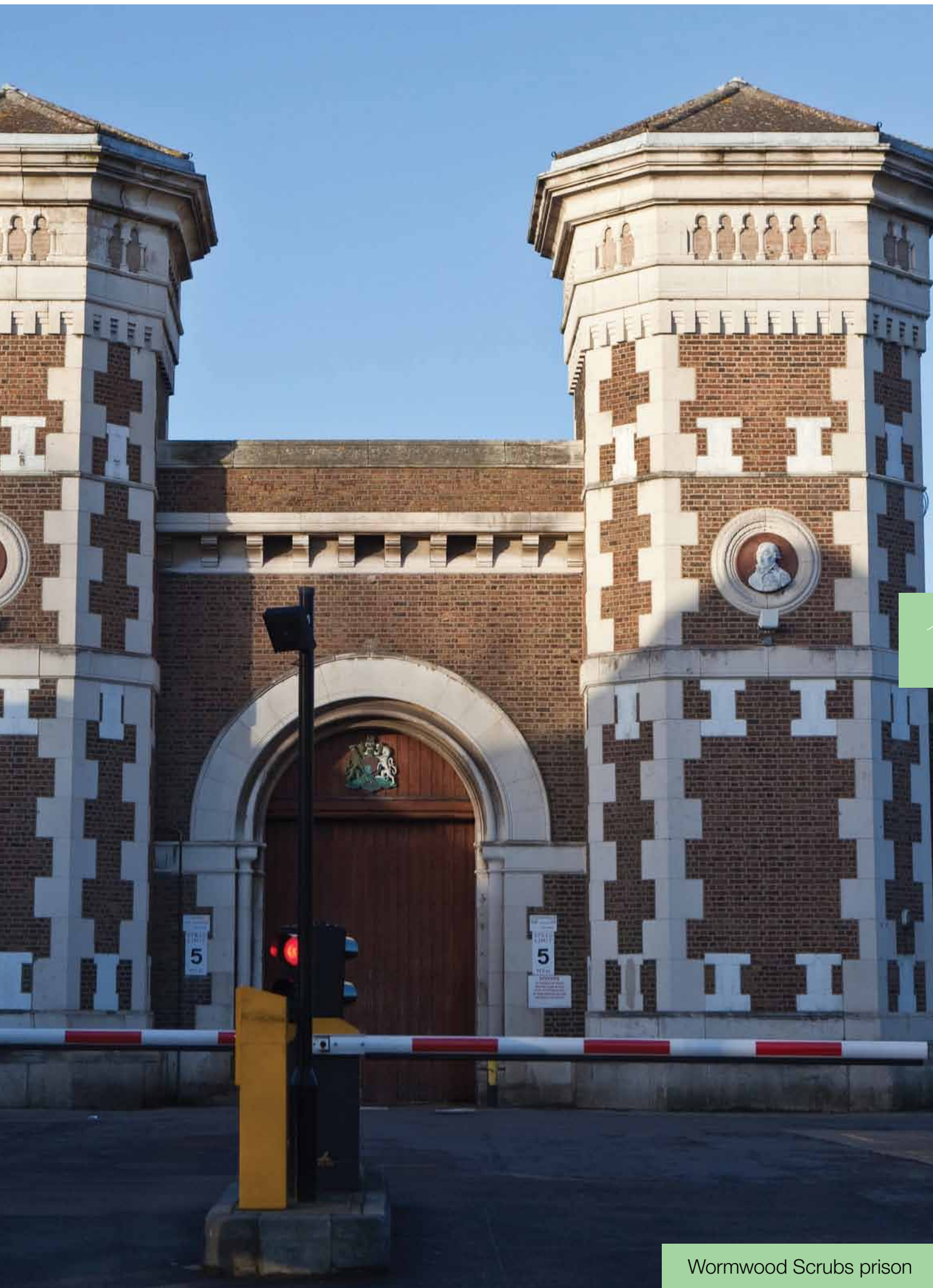
Sentence inflation means that England and Wales has more people in prison sentenced to life than all the other 46 countries in Europe combined. There are more than 30,000 adult men serving more than four years. Prisons have deteriorated to such a poor state that prisoners live in idleness and futility and staff work in filthy conditions.

Strategic aim: To improve treatment for people inside prisons

Indicators of success:

- Reveal issues around sex in prison
 - ✓ *The Commission on Sex in Prison published several briefings, revealing that coercive sex and rape was more prevalent in prison than had been recognised. The Commission found that sending children to prison may make them more likely to commit sexual offences in adulthood. The final report featured first hand accounts from former prisoners of their experience of sex behind bars.*
- Challenge sentence planning and poor treatment of prisoners
 - ✓ *The Howard League campaign to overturn the ban on sending books to prisoners was successful. The publication of research and policy reviews highlighted overcrowding, poor conditions and staff cuts and generated thoughtful media narrative around the prison crisis. We succeeded in putting a stop to government plans to build a mega prison for children.*
- Uncovering failures in practice and accountability around privatisation
 - ✓ *As more criminal justice services are outsourced, the failure of the Ministry of Justice to manage and oversee the contracts has worsened. The Howard League maintained public scrutiny on the breakup of probation. We revealed that private prisons suck 23% of the budget despite only running 11% of the institutions.*









Strengthening the charity

At a time when charities are under increased scrutiny, the Howard League Board of Trustees works hard to set clear strategic aims and to scrutinise delivery of the charity's planned work. The Board oversees the financial controls to make sure they are robust, efficient and effective. The Howard League benefitted from a substantial legacy gift seven years ago and it was invested in ongoing work to achieve charitable objectives, new projects and the long term health and viability of the charity. Part of the investment in the future was to recruit new members and donors to reduce the charity's reliance on sporadic funding by trusts and to augment our national reach and influence. Financial independence ensures policy independence and integrity.

Strategic aim: To increase the strength and influence of the organisation

Indicators of success:

- Membership/committed givers to reach 10,000
 *The charity has 11,000 members and committed donors. These are people all over the country who support our campaigns and give regularly to our work.*
- Improved media coverage of our work
 *The campaign Books for Prisoners achieved the truly spectacular success of driving sympathy and empathy for prisoners. The media and social media coverage of Howard League research, concerns and campaigns was extensive and positive.*
- Increased fundraising income by 20%
 *Thousands of people are giving regularly to our work. Trusts continue to fund specific programmes. Income from events and legal representation supported those areas of work. We have diverse funding streams so that the charity is not reliant or beholden to anyone.*
- Develop influence with opinion leaders and practitioners
 *The Chair and Chief Executive had a meeting with the new Secretary of State for Justice soon after the 2015 election. The Books for Prisoners campaign was supported by the country's top writers and we have maintained contact with them.*



- ✓ *Our work with the police was recognised when the Chief Executive was recruited to the advisory committee for the HMI to help develop inspections of care for vulnerable people in custody. The charity meets with Ministers and Parliamentarians and provides evidence to Select Committees. Academics from top universities contribute to our work.*
- Improved digital communications
- ✓ *The Howard League is the market leader in digital communications. The charity has over 30,000 people and organisations on our email list, 3,000 early career academics are part of the network, and 18,000 Twitter followers. The website is a source of authoritative information for students, journalists and members of the public.*
- Developed targeted supporters and networks
- ✓ *This year we worked in partnership with Defence for Children International in Belgium, France and Italy to examine the treatment of children in detention. The Lawyers' Network held meetings to discuss difficult issues relating to safeguarding.*
- Be a learning organisation
- ✓ *The Big Lottery Funded project U R Boss came to an end last year and the charity achieved a smooth transition by securing funding to continue participation of young people in the penal system for three more years. The trustees ensure that the charity invests in its staff through training and being a leader in the field for good terms and conditions and fair remuneration. The trustees hold strategic planning days annually to review progress and set the vision for the year ahead.*

The charity will continue to work for a reduction in the number of men, women and children in prison. At a time of austerity it would be sensible to cut back the bloated criminal justice and penal systems.



Ministry of JUSTICE



Plans for the year ahead

The charity will work to reduce first time entrants to the criminal justice system with a new programme based in Wales working with women.

We will continue our campaign to reduce child arrests and work to improve the treatment of children and improve their access to justice.

We will work to reduce custodial remands and challenge the use of breach and recall that are driving up the prison population.

We are concerned that whilst the number of children in custody has fallen by two thirds, the number of black and minority ethnic and Asian children has not reduced and we will be working to reduce this disproportionality.

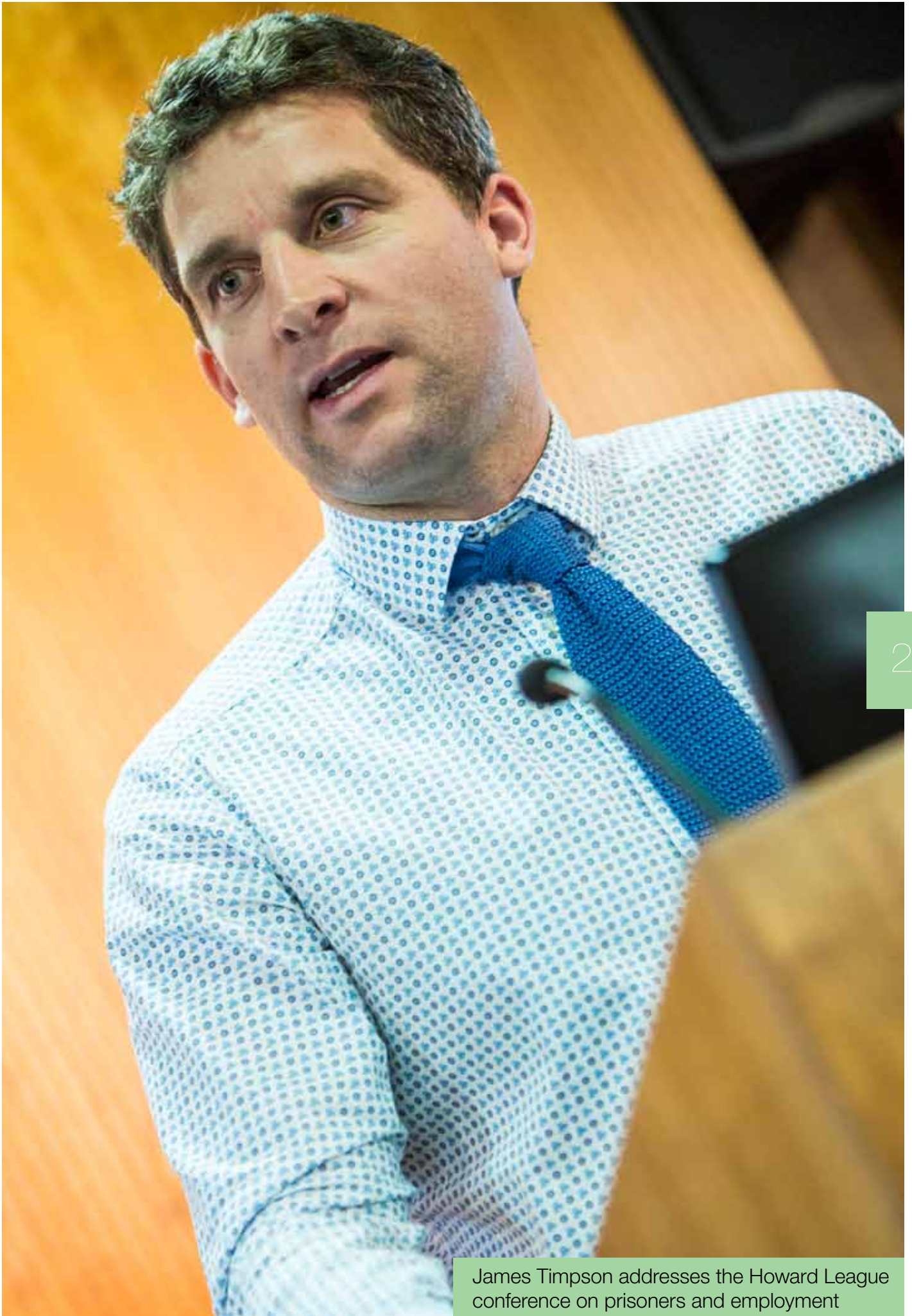
The number of people dying by suicide in prison is a scandal and a human tragedy. We have launched a new programme of work in partnership with the Centre for Mental Health to address this.

Prison conditions have deteriorated to such an extent that many prisons are no longer safe for prisoners or staff. We will press for reducing the number of prisoners, making sure they are staffed appropriately and staff training is improved.

Our legal work will continue to represent children and young people in custody to help them achieve safe resettlement. We will develop the advice line, aiming to deal with more than 1,000 calls.

We are planning to have 15,000 members and regular donors by May and hope to reach 20,000 by the end of our 150th Birthday Year in 2016.

Next year will be a critical year for fundraising and staff and trustees will be concentrating on raising the support to make sure the charity is well resourced for the future.



James Timpson addresses the Howard League conference on prisoners and employment

Research advisory group

Associate Professor Vanessa Barker
Stockholm University

Dr Christopher Bennet
Sheffield University

Dr Charlotte Bilby
Northumbria University

Dr Lawrence Burke
Liverpool John Moores University

Associate Professor Rachel Condry
Oxford University

Dr Pascal Décarpes
Bern University, Switzerland

Professor Stephen Farrall
Sheffield University

Professor Loraine Gelsthorpe
Cambridge University

Dr Elaine Genders
University College London

Professor Barry Goldson
Liverpool University

Professor Kevin Haines
Swansea University

Professor Fergus McNeill
Glasgow University

Professor Andrew Millie
Edge Hill University

Professor Valsamis Mitsilegas
Queen Mary University, London

Nicola Padfield
Cambridge University

Professor Jo Phoenix
Leicester University

Dr David Scott
Liverpool John Moores University

Dr Lizzie Seal
Sussex University

Dr Gilly Sharpe
Sheffield University

Professor Jonathan Shepherd
Cardiff University

Dr Julie Trebilcock
Middlesex University

Howard Journal of Criminal Justice

Editors

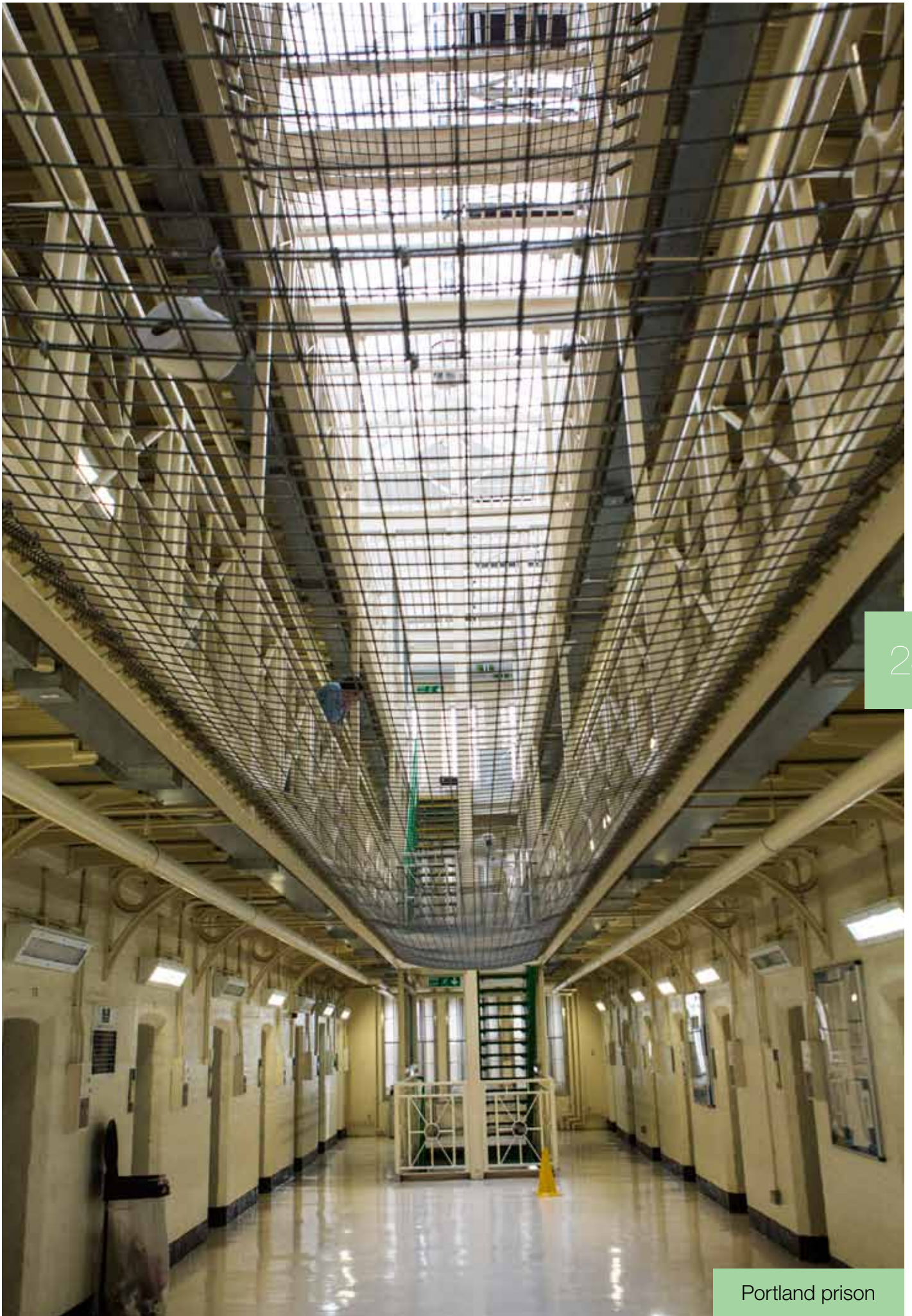
Professor David Wilson
Professor Penny Green

Publishing editor
Brenda McWilliams

Managing editor
Anita Dockley

The Howard League benefitted from the contribution of many students and volunteers during the year, thank you.

The charity is grateful to Clifford Chance LLP for seconding trainee lawyers to support the work for young people.





Publications

Howard League for Penal Reform makes submissions to Parliamentary committees and government reviews based on its legal representation of young people in the penal system and our extensive research. These are available free of charge on the website.

Annual report and accounts 2014

Commission on Sex in Prison: Coercive sex in prison

Commission on Sex in Prison: The healthy sexual development of children in prison

Commission on Sex in Prison: Experiences of former prisoners

All Party Parliamentary Group on Women in the Penal System: Report of the inquiry into preventing unnecessary criminalisation of women

You can't put a number on it: A report from young adults on why in criminal justice maturity is more important than age (jointly with the Transition to Adulthood coalition)

Rethinking the gateway: Using evidence to reform the criminal justice system for victims and people who offend (jointly with the Mannheim Centre for Criminology at the LSE), written by Peter Neyroud CBE QPM



Trustees

Jan Anderson
Matthew Ball
Professor Neil Chakraborti
Professor Penny Green
Samantha Kennedy
Sally Lewis, Treasurer
Gerry Marshall
Elizabeth Morony
Professor Tim Newburn (Until July 2015)
Coral Newton
His Honour John Samuels QC
Lucy Scott-Moncrieff
Chris Sheffield OBE, Vice Chair
Professor Pamela Taylor
Sue Wade OBE, Chair

Sally Lewis, treasurer



The year has been very buoyant for the Howard League. A five year project came to an end, resulting in a reduction in staff numbers, and the organisation managed the transition with ease resulting in a positive financial position at the year end.

The organisation had annual expenditure of £1.9m and total funds at £3.7m.

Income received at the year end was £919,067, reduced from last year due to the ending of the U R Boss project, funded by the Big Lottery, which contributed 42% of the charity's income last year. The legacy of the project continues with the participation of young people in the campaigning work and the holistic approach of the legal team, and further funding of £450,000 over 3 years from the Big Lottery was granted. This project started in April 2015.

The investment in recruiting members is starting to show returns with increased membership income and general donations. The trustees have assessed the business case for the continuation of this fundraising method, especially in the current climate.

We continued the prudent planned draw down from the Strategic Reserve created with the donation from Lord Parmoor's trust to support our infrastructure and fund relevant projects.

The planned contribution of £784,281 from the strategic reserve shows up in the statement of financial activities as funding the difference between unrestricted income and expenditure.

Funding from the Strategic Reserve supports our policy and communications work, membership recruitment and research programme, boosting the charity's profile in the field of penal reform.

Reserves

The total funds of the charity stand at £3.7m. The £388,862 represents restricted funds received for specific projects or purposes and is not available for general use. The strategic reserve accounts for just over £2.3m, comprising the total £6m donation less amounts which the trustees have agreed to use to date, plus an increase in the value of the investments held. A further £1.4m is tied up in our freehold property and other fixed assets.

The reserves policy is aimed at maintaining operating reserves at a level which will enable the charity to meet its future commitments and ensure that there are adequate funds to run the charity for at least 12 months.

Unrestricted operating reserves, including property, restricted and

designated funds, and taking account of current and future commitments, amounts to £3.3m equivalent to two years operating expenditure, which is considered adequate in the current circumstances.

Investments

The trustees have the power to invest in such assets as they see fit. Investment decisions were taken with a view to:

Maximising total return at a low level of risk

Maintaining reasonable access to ensure the availability of funds for the purposes they are intended

Avoiding investments which are not compatible with the aims of the Howard League or which were detrimental to its wellbeing.

As at 31 May 2015, our holding in Schroder's charity multi asset fund was valued at £2.2m. The balance of the strategic reserve was held in short term deposits managed to maximise return and maintain accessibility without placing the capital value at risk.

During the financial period the investment returns were positive as the equities markets performed better than anticipated.

Summary of financial information

Income £

Income item	£
Voluntary Income	169,970
Activities for generating funds	14,817
Investment income	87,871
Charitable activities	643,409
Other	-

Total income 916,067

Investment gains 123,831

Expenditure £

Expenditure item	£
Cost of generating income	365,992
Governance	81,932
Investment management	17,158
Charitable activities	1,393,586
Other	-

Total expenditure 1,858,668

Assets & liabilities

Assets & liabilities item	Asset Value £
Own use assets	1,216,017
Long term investments	2,335,019
Other assets	342,471

Total Liabilities (179,570)

Charitable spending

Spending type item	Value £	Spending type item	% of total spending
Income generation and governance	465,082		25
Charitable spending	1,393,586		75

The summary of financial information shows the income raised for our activities, the cost of raising the income and amounts spent on our charitable activities. The information is taken from the full financial statement which was approved by the trustees on 14 October 2015. In order to gain a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity, the full audited financial statements, trustees' annual report and auditors report can be consulted. Copies can be obtained from the Howard League offices or www.howardleague.org

the **Howard League** for **Penal Reform**

1 Ardleigh Road
London
N1 4HS
Registered charity
No. 251926

t 020 7249 7373
e info@howardleague.org
w www.howardleague.org
Company limited by guarantee
No. 898514



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

ISBN 978-1-905994-97-7



9 781905 994977 >
978-1-905994-97-7