

Community Awards 2017

Shortlisted projects

Organisation of the year category

Giroscope

In existence for 32 years and a Registered Charity since 2007, Giroscope operates in the St. Andrews and Newington wards of west Hull, two of the most deprived wards in the country with high levels of violent crime, substance abuse and anti-social behaviour. The Charity buys run-down houses in the area and converts them to a high standard to provide affordable rented homes, with no deposits or fees taken. Tenants are actively supported by the Charity, and many are volunteers who have worked on their own property.

Volunteers work alongside each other, under trained supervision, without reference to their backgrounds. They believe that non-judgmental engagement, coupled with support and opportunity, provides the best route forward for rehabilitation into the community.

In the past 18 months Giroscope has benefitted from the services of 326 volunteers, of whom 36% are ex-offenders ranging in age from 16 to 59. Of this cohort, re-offending rates run at 23% (local average of 40%), 23% achieved at least a Level 1 qualification, 52% received housing support/advice and 10% housed in safe and high quality accommodation accessing free furniture and home starter packs. 15% received a free bicycle. All volunteers received daily travel expenses and lunch.

Youth Justice SEND Project – Achievement for All

Achievement for All (AfA) has led a powerful new partnership with the Association of Youth Offending Team Managers and Manchester Metropolitan University to improve outcomes for young people in the youth justice system in England who have SEND (Special Education Needs and Disabilities).

The partnership has had a significant impact on the way YOTs (Youth Offending Teams) understand, assess and support SEND by improving links between local health, education and custody services. The project:

- Surveyed over 80 area partnerships
- Facilitated 11 practitioner workshops for over 400 youth justice staff, local authority SEND specialists, health managers

- Undertook research with young people in custody
- Created a contact book of nearly 2,000 professionals
- Rolled out a bespoke free-to-view online platform, the Youth Justice SEND Bubble, which contains SEND guidance, access to research, materials and case studies.
- Provided materials for a successful pilot of a peer review process and supported their reporting back to local management boards and
- Reported to policy makers on the emerging findings, making recommendations to secure further progress

This successful DfE-funded project continues to develop, with over 50 area partnerships committing to improvement activity, working towards AfA's newly created 'Quality Mark for work with young people in the justice system with SEND'.

41 Goodison Road – Everton in the Community, Everton Football Club

41 Goodison Road is a house that provides a unique home-like environment for young people to have a safe place where they develop their skills, access education and employment opportunities. It houses our early intervention and crime reduction programmes to provide a 'Young Persons Offer' and vital "front door" to knock at in a crisis. Its 'open door' enables young people to access a one stop shop of support that helps them to be safe, stabilise their lives and to feel part of a home-like structure giving them a sense of belonging.

Their youth justice programme reaches into some of the most challenging and hard-to-reach groups across Merseyside. They operate across the entire spectrum, helping and supporting young people in the youth justice system itself to a focus on crime prevention in areas of high anti-social behaviour and crime.

All the programmes offer a significant importance to tackling high levels of crime and an emphasis is placed on those young people who have or are at risk of offending, in care, leaving care. 162 young people have accessed 41 Goodison in the last year for intense support. Over 2000 accessed our early intervention community activities which have reduced crime by 75-82%.

Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust

The Criminal Justice Liaison & Diversion service is an all-age, all common vulnerabilities service providing support, advice, guidance, assessment and outreach to individuals within the criminal justice system. The service aims to support individuals at the first point of contact (police custody), identify appropriate vulnerabilities and needs, and divert into services that can provide specialist support, with the ultimate focus on reducing re-offending.

The team will support the individual throughout the duration of their involvement in the criminal justice pathway. Since the team started in 1995, it has established strong links with partner agencies such as police and probation and operates from designated office space within the three custody suites and four courts it currently

serves. The team was originally a pathfinder site for the National Diversion Programme and has been a Wave 1 site for the NHS England Liaison & Diversion Programme since 2014. The service is recognised as an area of best practice and has been cited in the Bradley Report (2009) and the Sainsbury's Report for Mental Health (2009).

Waymarks

Waymarks helps people with learning disabilities or autism, who have forensic histories or risky behaviours, to change their lives. The people we work alongside might be:

- Released on probation, licensed or on bail
- Subject of conditional or supervised discharge
- Assessed as at risk of offending behaviour

Alongside other agencies working within the Transforming Care agenda, they support people to thrive in their homes and local communities. They offer a realistic alternative to prison for past and potential offenders.

The charity was set up in the wake of the Bradley Report, which presented a comprehensive plan to reduce reoffending by ending the revolving door to custody for learning disabled offenders. The people we work with may have never previously lived in their own home. They really get to know them and agree with them how they want their lives to change. Success is when someone no longer needs us in order to live safely in the community.

Through our support, individuals regain positive choice and control over their lives. They make better community connections. Many gain friendships, enter employment and develop different interests. Giving people a reason to care gives people a reason to change.

No More Service - Stevenage Borough Council

The No More Service supports clients who have substance misuse issues or are involved in offending behaviour. They provide a holistic approach to address the causes and consequences of this behaviour in order to promote change. They provide one-to-one appointments, home visits, phone support and 'Team Around the Clients' meetings, putting the client at the centre of their support plan. Part of this support includes looking at their housing options, finances, relationships and employment.

Cumbria Constabulary

In 2013, the YJB published guidance to the police and Youth Offending Services (YOS) on the application of the out-of-court disposal framework for young people. In 2015, whilst conducting internal reviews of departments, it became apparent that this

guidance had not been adopted, the Constabulary working in isolation in relation to youth file decision making.

This project outlines the journey taken by the Constabulary, YOS and Criminal Justice partners toward a partnership decision making model. In 2015 disposal decisions were primarily made by the Criminal Justice Unit Manager, involving minimal contact with victims, internal staff with youth engagement responsibility, or the YOS. Community Resolutions delivered by operational officers were authorised by operational supervisors.

Post review, decision making responsibility on youth files within the Constabulary shifted to the Community Safety Unit, who have responsibility for officers seconded to the YOS, and overview of the 'Youth Triage' process. To that end, weekly meetings in each Territorial Policing Area were established to review files. This has evolved from initial involvement of the YOS Constable, Children and Young Persons Officers, and other CSU staff, to include the local YOS Manager or deputy. The project has improved services to victims, offenders and CJS Partners.

Turning Point Scotland

Turning Point Scotland was set up as an independent registered charity and limited company in 1999. The organisation now operates over 35 services from 180 locations across Scotland in 22 local authority areas. Turning Point Scotland has been developing person-centred support services for people with a history of offending behaviour since 2003, when the 218 service for women was launched.

In the last year, the organisation has taken the number of justice services it offers to more than half a dozen, mainly operating in the West of Scotland. Some services are offered during and after the completion of a custodial sentence including mentoring support, while others are offered as alternatives to custody, bail and to assist people to complete a Community Payback Order.

While the setting may change, the aim remains the same: Turning Point Scotland's justice services attempt to address the underlying reasons behind offending behaviour. If needs can be met around housing, mental health issues and substance misuse the risk of further offending behaviour is reduced.