

Howard League for Penal Reform

Community Awards 2019

Entry guide:

- **Women category**
- **Policing and adults category**
- **Policing and children category**
- **Restorative approaches category**
- **Liaison and diversion category**
- **Children in care category**

See separate Entry Guide for 'Criminal Justice Champion' and 'Organisation of the year' categories.

What are the Community Awards?

This is the Howard League for Penal Reform's annual awards for the country's most successful community projects encouraging desistance from crime. Projects which help to keep people out of the criminal justice system, by providing alternative, proportionate, effective and targeted interventions will help 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 approaches. The awards recognise projects and organisations whose work and practice is delivered above and beyond normal service delivery.

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.

- **Policing and adults**

This category is aimed at schemes run by police linked to formal or informal interventions with adults.

- **Policing and children**

This category is aimed at schemes run by police linked to formal or informal interventions with children.

- **Restorative approaches**

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

- **Liaison and diversion**

The project should provide liaison and diversion services identifying people who have mental health problems, learning disabilities, substance misuse issues and wider health and social vulnerabilities when they first come into contact with the criminal justice system. We particularly encourage applications that demonstrate a trauma informed approach to liaison and diversion practice and those that deliver an effective outreach function in community settings, incorporating support time recovery, peer support and volunteer roles.

- **Children in care**

This award is in recognition of an organisation which provides support for looked after children in residential care to avoid criminalisation.

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.

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. Please complete your nomination form using the following questions as your guideline:

1. Who does the project work with and how are people diverted from the criminal justice system?
2. What packages of support and interventions are provided to your clients? How are they tailored to their individual needs? How are clients involved in shaping your work and in decisions affecting them?

3. How many clients did the project work with last year? How does your project prevent re-offending and what are the re-offending figures for the previous year?
4. How do you monitor and evaluate your work? What impact is your project making? Please provide evidence of effectiveness and outcomes.
5. How is the project funded and how much does it cost to run per year?
6. Please provide a case study to show how the project has made a difference. Please note the case study provided may be used in future Howard League press work and communication.

How do I nominate?

- Any organisation, group or individual can make nominations
Self-nomination is encouraged as we want people to celebrate their work
- 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 category
- Download a nomination form from the Howard League for Penal Reform website at www.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

Submitting your nomination for ALL categories

Please provide **6 copies** of your nomination form to:

Catryn Yousefi, Programmes Manager

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 Monday 29 July 2019.

Timeline

May 2019	Nominations open
29 July 2019	Nominations close
10 September 2019	Judging panel meet
12 November 2019	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/or 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 **Tuesday 12 November 2019** 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.