

Community Awards 2019

Entry guide:

- **Criminal Justice Champion ***
- **Organisation of the year ****

See separate Entry Guide for 'Women', 'Policing and adults', 'Policing and children', 'Restorative approaches', 'Liaison and diversion', and 'Children in care' 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

- **Criminal Justice Champion***

This award is in recognition of an individual making a real difference in the criminal justice field by 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 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.

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

- Anyone can make a nomination
- You can nominate anyone working in the statutory or voluntary setting, whether as a member of staff, a volunteer or an outside employee
- Your nomination should explain why you think the person you are nominating deserves the award
- The person you are nominating should be leading by example in achieving best practice in their area of work
- The person you are nominating should ideally have worked in the criminal justice system for a long period of time and/or is an expert by experience of the criminal justice system
- 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 has reduced the number of people entering the criminal justice system
- The organisation recognises the contribution lived experience of the criminal justice system can bring to service delivery

How do I nominate?

- Any organisation 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 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

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.