#

# Community Awards 2021

**Children in Care and Care Leavers Category**

**What are the Community Awards?**

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.

The Howard League for Penal Reform’s annual community awards celebrate 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 awards recognise projects and organisations whose work and practice are delivered above and beyond normal service delivery.

**Children in care and care leavers category**

Children in care and care leavers are disproportionately represented in the youth and adult criminal justice systems. This award recognises work being done across sectors to: understand and highlight the factors leading to this over-representation; prevent criminalisation of this group of children and young people; and/or provide support to children in care, and/or care-experienced young people aged 25 years or under, who have been involved with the criminal justice system with a view to preventing further criminalisation. Entries are encouraged from the police; youth offending teams; children's homes and children's social care; academics; and third sector organisations in order to highlight the range of work being done in England and Wales and to encourage multi-agency approaches to tackling this problem. These awards also welcome nominations from those working primarily on missing episodes and child criminal exploitation where initiatives have a focus on preventing the criminalisation of children in care and care leavers affected by these issues.

This category is linked to the Howard League’s programme of work to [prevent the criminalisation of children in residential care.](https://howardleague.org/our-campaigns/programme-to-end-the-criminalisation-of-children-in-residential-care/)

**Criteria**

The competition is open to statutory agencies, children’s homes, academics and voluntary organisations that have programmes of work which look to divert children in care and care leavers from the criminal justice system. We want to hear from projects that are making a real difference in the criminal justice field.

The projects nominated are required to be at least one year old and need 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
* enhance understanding of the factors contributing to the over-representation of children in care and care leavers in the criminal justice system
* offer support to children in care and care leavers up to the age of 25 who have already had contact with the criminal justice system with a view to preventing further criminalisation

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

* works with children and care leavers
* prevent the criminalisation of this group of children and young people
* provide support to children in care, and/or care-experienced young people who have been involved with the criminal justice system
* 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.

**How do I nominate?**

* Complete the form below
* 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 organization can enter more than one project
* You can enter the same project in more than one category, but a separate nomination form needs to be completed for each category
* Supporting evidence can be provided including evidence of effectiveness. Make sure any such material directly supports your entry.

**Submitting your nomination form**

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

Due to the number of requests for extension, deadline for nominations has been extended to 5pm **Monday 2 August**.

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**Children in Care and Care Leavers Category**

**Nomination form**

**Contact details of project nominated**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Project name |  |
| Organisation name |  |
| Lead contact name |  |
| Contact address |  |
| Email |  |
| Tel. No. |  |

**Your contact details (if different from above)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Your name and relationship to the project being nominated |  |
| Organisation name |  |
| Contact address |  |
| Email |  |
| Tel. No. |  |

**Nomination details**

Please provide details of your project referring to the entry guide and criteria above to outline the project being nominated. Please do not exceed more than 1,500 words.

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