

# Community Awards 2021

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**Liaison and Diversion 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.

**Liaison and diversion category**

The project should provide liaison and diversion services identifying people who have mental health problems, learning disabilities, substance misuse 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 outreach function in liaison and diversion practice and those that deliver an effective outreach function in community settings, incorporating support time recovery, peer support and volunteer roles.

**Criteria**

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 need to be at least one year old and 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:

* identify vulnerabilities for adults and young people who come into contact with the criminal justice system
* improve access to healthcare and support services, to meet identified needs
* minimise crisis by early assessment and intervention
* demonstrate trauma informed approaches to practice
* are rehabilitative and help to prevent future offending
* 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.

These awards would also welcome nominations for any project in this category working with people entering the criminal justice system as a result of problem gambling and provide an early intervention treatment opportunity using a diversion pathway. This would link in with the Howard League’s [Commission on Crime and Problem Gambling.](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhowardleague.org%2Fcommission-on-crime-and-problem-gambling%2F&data=02%7C01%7CCatryn.Yousefi%40howardleague.org%7C8228435c6c95415f355c08d7f6796842%7C453be58d6b1d470fba465932a3c7a978%7C1%7C0%7C637248873605898874&sdata=2YSUbY82gL90wx6HcoRglwGSvghwXCXaC%2B1%2FxMhwnLQ%3D&reserved=0)

**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 organisation 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](mailto: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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# Liaison and Diversion 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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