

Community Programmes Awards 2010

Entry Guide

What are the awards?

This is the Howard League for Penal Reform annual award for the country's most successful community programme. The awards aim to encourage public and government support for successful community sentences. The Howard League for Penal Reform believes that well resourced and well structured programmes raise public protection, bringing down the rate of offending, and repay the damage done by crime in a way which custodial sentences cannot.

Awards categories

An effort has been made to make the Community Programmes Awards truly reflective of the great work being carried out across the criminal justice system. This year we have introduced the following categories to reflect this work which include:

- **Children and young people**

The community programme should contribute to bringing down youth offending, help to reduce the frequency and seriousness of re-offending, through targeted work with children and young people involved in crime. The programme will tackle the many complex contributory factors that can lead to a young person offending and provides individually targeted intervention.

- **Adults**

The community programme should contribute to bringing down adult offending and help to reduce the frequency and seriousness of re-offending, through targeted work with adults who are involved in crime.

The adult category is supported and sponsored by Probation Association.

PROBATION
association
The Voice of Probation Employers

- **Women**

The community programme should provide holistic support for women, helping to tackle issues which trigger offending behaviour in order to prevent them from offending in the future. The programme should provide a dedicated and tailored service to help women turn their lives around and break the cycle of offending.

- **Education, training & employment**

The community programme ensures service users have access to an appropriate range of education and skills training to increase their chances of obtaining and keeping satisfying employment. The programme should help to

improve the quality of their lives and support other efforts aimed at reducing reoffending.

- **Unpaid work**

The community programme should allow offenders to learn cognitive and practical skills while under supervision. The programme should encourage the development of positive attitudes and behaviour towards work, individuals and the wider community whilst at the same time reduce the frequency and seriousness of re-offending.

Your organisation may enter as many categories as it wishes and can enter a project in more than one category, however a copy of the nomination form will need to be sent for each entry.

What are the criteria?

The competition is open to statutory agencies and voluntary organisations, which are developing innovative community schemes. The programmes nominated are required to meet at least one of the following criteria:

- programmes need to be part of a community sentence;
- are rehabilitative and help to prevent future offending;
- are realistic and positive;
- recognise the individual circumstances of offenders;
- offer a programme tailored to individual needs;
- meet the needs of specific client groups, for example, women, young people, adults;
- involve users in planning and evaluation;
- be based on restorative principles
- encourage offenders to think about the consequences of their crime;
- are cost effective;
- encourage offenders into employment or education; or
- work collaboratively with the local community.

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. Wherever appropriate, include a clear description of:

- the organisation and its aims
- the work done, the target group, who funds it, its aims/targets, and the budget
- how the work met or exceeded its goals/targets, or improved outcomes
- how service users were involved in shaping the work and in decisions affecting them
- the partners involved, and the structures or procedures used to ensure joint working
- evidence of effectiveness or outcomes – provide as much as possible on the application
- any research carried out or procedures put in place to monitor and guide the work and determine future performance

How do I nominate?

- Any organisation, group or individual can make nominations. Self-nomination is permitted
- We welcome nominations from statutory and voluntary organisations
- You may enter as many categories as you like and you can enter a project in more than one category, however copies of the nomination form will need to be sent for each entry
- Download a nomination form from the Howard League for Penal Reform website at www.howardleague.org
- Nomination forms need to be at the Howard League office by 5 pm Tuesday, 4 May 2010
- Please provide **8 copies** of your nomination form
- Nominations must include a synopsis of the community scheme
- Supporting evidence should be provided including evidence of effectiveness. Make sure any such material directly supports your entry. Please note supporting evidence will not be returned.

Timeline

14 November 2009	Awards launch at The Magistrates' Association AGM Nominations open
4 May 2010	Nominations close
May 2010	A shortlist for each category will be announced
26 May 2010	Judging panel meet
July 2010	Awards ceremony with an afternoon conference and wine reception

Judging process

- All nominations will be collected centrally and will be shortlisted internally by the Howard League for Penal Reform
- Nominations will then be assessed by an independent and external judging panel. The judging panel will be made up of senior criminal justice professionals, academics, representatives from key voluntary organisations and other partners
- If any judge is involved with 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
- All finalists will be invited to the awards ceremony in July 2010.

What is the prize?

Winners will be announced and invited to make a presentation at an awards ceremony to be held in the summer of 2010, to an audience of policy makers and practitioners.

The winners will be presented with awards plaques. The winning schemes will be highlighted and widely publicised through the press, The Howard League for Penal Reform website and publications.

Sponsorship

Sponsorship packages are available and can be tailored to meet your organisation's needs and budgets. For more information on sponsoring the awards or to discuss any other sponsorship opportunities please contact Catryn Yousefi on 020 7249 7373 or email catryn.yousefi@howardleague.org

Please return your nomination forms to:

Please provide **8 copies** of your nomination form to:
Catryn Yousefi, The Howard League for Penal Reform, 1 Ardleigh Road,
London N1 4HS

Closing date: The deadline for nominations is 5.00 pm Tuesday, 4 May 2010.

For further information please contact:

Catryn Yousefi:

Tel: 020 7249 7373

email: catryn.yousefi@howardleague.org