

## **U R Boss: Legal service shaped by young people in custody**

### **Evaluation for the Howard League for Penal Reform**

#### **1. The Howard League for Penal Reform**

The Howard League for Penal Reform is a national charity established in 1866. Its charitable aims state that its focus is England and Wales, but it also has consultative status with United Nations and the Council of Europe.

The charity's work is based on *less crime, safer communities, fewer people in prison*.

Our current work includes: a legal service for children and young adults in penal custody; campaigns on reducing penal custody for children and women in prison; policy reports including on the role of the prison officer and a review of the age of criminal responsibility across Europe in 2009; academic research for instance "Why carry a weapon? A study of knife crime amongst 15-17 year old males in London"; and developing student societies in universities.

For more information please visit [www.howardleague.org](http://www.howardleague.org)

#### **2. U R Boss: Legal service shaped by young people in custody**

##### **Vision**

The Howard League for Penal Reform's vision is for every child and young person, whatever their background or circumstances, to have the support they need to:

- be healthy
- be safe
- enjoy and achieve
- make a positive contribution
- achieve economic well-being

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child provides the fundamental vision for the work of the charity:

The child should be fully prepared to live an individual life in society, and brought up in the spirit of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality and solidarity.

## **What is the programme going to do?**

- To enhance the legal service being provided by the Howard League for Penal Reform to children and young people in the penal system
- To campaign to change national and local policy and practice in the statutory and voluntary sectors working with children and young people
- To change public attitudes to children and young people in the penal system
- To come up with new ideas about children and young people in the penal system

## **How is U R Boss going to work?**

Working alongside young people, guiding and supporting them, being guided and supported by them.

### ***Shaped by and for young people in the penal system***

The staff team will combine lawyers, support and policy development staff.

Six project outcomes have been identified:

**Outcome 1:** Increased safety and enhanced quality of life for 150 young clients per year through corporate parents providing proper support and care in penal custody and on release.

**Outcome 2:** 50 young people in custody and released in the community each year will have been involved in identifying activities, planning, managing and disseminating issues relating to the legal service and the campaigns that develop. Will set template and precedent for how authorities can consult and involve young people in conflict with the law in policy planning and decision-making.

**Outcome 3:** By the end of the project, 300 organisations, lawyers and statutory agencies will have increased the involvement of young people who are in conflict with the law in the development and review of their services.

**Outcome 4:** Over five years 650 young clients helped to achieve their secret ambitions, making sure their corporate parents help them to flourish and develop skills for a crime-free and enjoyable life.

**Outcome 5:** 100 children trained and supported to participate in policy and practice decision making at the highest level nationally and locally to benefit all children in contact with the criminal justice system through the development of policies in the community that are child friendly and give children the wherewithal to desist from offending.

**Outcome 6:** 650 young clients into economic well-being and to overcome their disadvantageous upbringing so that they achieve their full potential.

U R Boss is funded by the Big Lottery.

### **3. Definitions**

The Howard League for Penal Reform's legal service is for young people in the penal system: both juveniles and young adults. Our remit extends to young people under the jurisdiction of the criminal justice system in England and Wales.

### **4. Research tasks**

#### **a. Purpose of evaluation**

- To document the development of the Howard League for Penal Reform's U R Boss project.
- To evaluate the charity's work to achieve each of the U R Boss' six identified outcomes with particular reference to the development and application of youth participation strategies.
- To assess the impact of youth participation on the charity's practices and outcomes.
- To identify prominent themes from U R Boss to develop for both interim and final reports.
- To use the lessons from U R Boss to assess the potential and practicalities for youth participation in shaping legal and children's services and identify key service delivery signposts.

#### **b. Methodology**

- Review of existing material regarding legal needs and outcomes for young people in the penal system and the development of youth participation among 'hard to reach' groups.
- Analysis of data collected by U R Boss project through its case management system and project records.
- Interviews with key stakeholders including U R Boss staff, young people, staff from statutory bodies and opinion formers.
- Young people will actively engage in discussions about the direction and outputs of the evaluation.

#### **c. Limitations**

- Confidentiality – Access to some information may be restricted dependent on the status of the legal action and the assessment of the Head of the Legal Team.
- Risk – A full risk assessment will be undertaken with regard to the access that researchers have to young people

- Capacity – An assessment will be made regarding the capacity of young people under the age of 18 to participate in the evaluation. Consent will be sought as necessary.
- The successful applicants will be required to undertake an enhanced CRB check and any other statutory requirements.

All issues relating to these limitations will be discussed with the successful applicants.

## **5. Outputs**

- Review meeting/contact – minimum monthly contact with Howard League for Penal Reform regarding development of work. This will normally be conducted via email/telephone.
- 6 monthly progress meetings in the offices of the Howard League for Penal Reform will involve youth participation, the U R Boss team and the Howard League for Penal Reform's research advisory group. A written review will be required to support these meetings. It will include recommendations to aid the delivery of the project's outputs.
- Reports
  - five short interim findings reports (single issue, 2-3000 words) will be required. These will be for publication.
  - final evaluation report to be published June 2014. Report should be no more than 25,000 words
- Dissemination – required to participate at launch event and conferences to promote the final report and interim reports as appropriate. Media and other dissemination opportunities as appropriate.

## **6. Timescale**

U R Boss is a five year project which started in July 2009 with the first dedicated staff starting in October 2009. The evaluation team will be in place in February 2010. The project will be completed in July 2014.

The evaluation will cover the period January 2010 to March 2014.

## **7. Budget**

A maximum of £110,000 is available for the evaluation.

## **8. Tendering Process**

The tender application should be no longer than 6 sides of A4 long. In addition you must provide:

- A completed tender registration form
- A brief cv for each member of the evaluation team
- Information about how you propose to spend the budget during each year of the evaluation.

- Equal opportunities monitoring form for each applicant

The tender must include information about the applicant's:

- Knowledge and experience of the client group, youth participation, working with 'hard to reach' client groups and the penal and legal system.
- Experience of conducting evaluations (ideally of criminal justice interventions)
- Strategy/methodology for meeting the required aims and outputs
- Consideration of ethical issues
- Two referees' contact details

## **9. Selection process**

Two hard copies and an email version of the tender application must reach Anita Dockley, Research Director by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009. Successful candidates will be informed during week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> December. Please indicate an appropriate email address for contact during this week.

Shortlisted applications will be called to interview on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2010 in the offices of the Howard League for Penal Reform.

All information should be sent c/o Elsie Egbulefu, The Howard League for Penal Reform, 1 Ardleigh Road, London, N1 4HS

[Elsie.egbulefu@howardleague.org](mailto:Elsie.egbulefu@howardleague.org)



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