

Justice Directorate
Community Justice Services
Division

T: 0131-244 5434 F: 0131-244
3548

E:
wilma.dickson@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

To: Directors of Social
Work

Conveners,
Community Justice
Authorities

Chief Officers,
Community Justice
Authorities

αβχδεφγηιφ

19 February 2010

Dear Colleague

SCOTTISH COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS 2010

I am writing to give you details of the Scottish Government's plans for a national awards event to showcase the best community service projects taking place across Scotland. My team emailed Service Managers a few weeks ago to give them advance notice of our plans.

I am delighted to be able to tell you that the Scottish Community Service Awards will take place on Monday 24 May at the Radisson Hotel in Glasgow. We expect that around 350 people from Criminal Justice Social Work, Community Justice Authorities, ADSW, the judiciary, the Scottish Prison Service, the Police, CoSLA and Third Sector organisations will be invited to attend the lunchtime event, which will recognise and celebrate the work of Community Service teams who work with offenders to deliver community service projects across Scotland.

Nominations for the awards will be invited from both criminal justice social work and local communities and the award categories are:

- **Environmental** – Best community service project with a focus on cleaning up Scotland;
- **Skills Building** – Best community service project with a focus on improving offender skills and employability;
- **Partnership** – Best community service project with a focus on working with other organisations, such as voluntary organisations;
- **Community** – Best community service project with a focus on improving the local community. Nominations for this award can only be made by organisations or individuals within the community who have benefited from community service activity in their area; and
- **Overall best community service project.** The judging panel will select the winner of this award from the winners of the other 4 categories.

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.scotland.gov.uk

αβχδε αβχ α

The application forms and further information will be available from Monday 22 February on the Reducing Reoffending website www.scotland.gov.uk/csawards. We will accept a maximum of 2 applications per category from each local authority and the closing date for applications is **Friday 26 March**.

The applications will be judged by a panel of independent representatives with an interest in criminal justice in Scotland. Lesley Riddoch has agreed to be chair of the panel. The panel will short list 3 applications in each category. The shortlisted teams will be notified on Tuesday 20 April and will be invited to attend the awards ceremony on Monday 24 May. Film production company Mirage will also be in touch with the relevant team managers to make arrangements to film the shortlisted projects. We will show these film clips at the awards ceremony before the category winners are announced and are presented with their awards by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice.

Please note that in the event that a high volume of applications is received, an initial sift may be carried out by Scottish Government officials together with a representative of ADSW and CoSLA.

The Cabinet Secretary for Justice is visiting a community service project in Edinburgh on Monday, 22 February where he will unveil the awards to local media. Our communications team will spread the announcement to local newspapers across Scotland to encourage them to get behind the awards and will liaise with your corporate communication teams. Perhaps they might offer support to drum up local votes via your local newspaper, community radio, council website etc.

Local Community Service teams may find that they are contacted by members of the community for information on how to make a nomination.

I should be very grateful if you could take the opportunity to make sure that the Community Service teams in your authority know about the awards and that you encourage your teams to submit entries that highlight the excellent work they do.

If you require further information, please e-mail cs.awards2010@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or contact Susan Edington on 0131 244 3532 or David Scott on 0131 244 4259.

Yours Faithfully

Wilma Dickson

MRS WILMA DICKSON CBE
Deputy Director