



Report

Report to:	Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority
Date of Meeting:	2 September 2011
Report by:	Manager, Justice Services

Subject:	North Lanarkshire Council Restorative Justice Team wins Prestigious National Award
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Inform members of the Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority of North Lanarkshire Restorative Justice Teams success in winning the Howard League for Penal Reform Award in the unpaid work category.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The CJA is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the report be noted

3. Background

3.1. The community programmes awards were launched in November 2005 as part of the Howard League for Penal Reform's aim of increasing public and government support for community sentences. These annual awards celebrate best practice in community sentencing and champion the cutting edge of the criminal justice system, with work in the community that challenges and changes people for the better – be it unpaid work, drug and alcohol treatment programmes, or restorative justice.

By finding outstanding community programmes that work with individuals who have committed crime, it is hoped that the Community Programmes Awards will not only celebrate success but also promote positive practice in the delivery of community sentences. Well-resourced and well-structured programmes will raise public protection, bringing down the rate of reoffending, and repay the damage done by crime in a way which custodial sentences cannot.

4. Summary

4.1. The Community Programmes Award 2011 were presented on Wednesday 6th July at a ceremony in the Kings Fund in Central London. Ian Hislop editor of Private Eye and television personality presented the award to Lillian Cringles, Manager, Justice Services, North Lanarkshire. Out of over 100 entries Restorative Justice won the award for their outstanding work to reduce crime.

Director of the Howard League for Penal Reform, Frances Crook, said: "The Howard League for Penal Reform is recognising the country's most successful community programmes at our Community Sentences Cut Crime conference. This is a

wonderful opportunity to promote excellence in our criminal justice system and praise the people who bring down crime in their area.

“The winners of our Community Programme Awards are beacons of best practice and a key example of how hard working professionals can succeed with those who have committed crimes and help them turn their lives around. It is by emulating examples like these that we can build an effective criminal justice system for the future.” Also speaking at the event was the Rt Hon Sir Alan Beith MP; Fergus McNeill, Professor of Criminology & Social Work, Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research, University of Glasgow; Paul McDowell, Chief Executive, Nacro; Frances Done, Chair, Youth Justice Board for England and Wales and Frances Crook, Director, The Howard League for Penal Reform.

5. Employee Implications

5.1. Success in this national award has had a positive impact on staff morale.

6. Financial Implications

6.1. There are no current financial implications a result of winning the Howard League Award.

7. Other Implications

7.1. The Howard League have proposed that a local event is organised for early 2012 to highlight the work of North Lanarkshire Restorative Justice Community Payback Scheme. As part of the Community Sentences Cut Crime Campaign the event aims are to encourage public and government support for successful community sentences. Information about the kind of open days/events the Howard League held last year is available <http://www.howardleague.org/opendays/>

Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority

24 August 2011

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Ext: 01698 332195

E-mail: CrinlgesL@northlan.gov.uk