

# **What Good Looks Like**

**CJA Awards 2017**

*kindly supported by The Hadley Trust*

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# Criminal Justice Alliance Awards 2017

***The Criminal Justice Alliance Awards serve as a powerful reminder that in sometimes very challenging times there remains a huge amount of innovative and measurably effective work taking place in the criminal justice sector at ground level across the country. Below are some examples of entrants to this year's CJA Awards, demonstrating for the third year running a constellation of good practice and local impact.***

- **DIVERT – Winner, Outstanding Organisation of the Year**



A Metropolitan Police custody programme which aims to divert 18-25 year olds away from crime, DIVERT addresses a gap in statutory provision for young adults coming into police custody in central London. Young people are offered the opportunity to speak to DIVERT's trained practitioners about their lifestyle, independent from the offence for which they've been arrested. It's the first police custody diversion programme of its kind. The practitioners explain numerous opportunities that an individual can be referred into and put in place an individual long term journey plan to try and ensure they fulfil their goals around employment, development and education. DIVERT therefore identifies clear areas of vulnerability that can be addressed during custody, which it uses as a teachable moment. Among 118 young people who've engaged with DIVERT thus far, the re-offending rate is 7 per cent, 22 per cent less than the average for adult offenders in Lambeth.

- **Youth Justice Legal Centre – Runner Up, Outstanding Organisation of the Year**

Founded in 2015, the YJLC seeks to make the criminal justice system a fairer place for children. It provides training to lawyers representing children in criminal proceedings. They are not currently required by law to undertake any specialist training to understand the special protections, procedures and legislative frameworks and sentences that apply to children, nor their increasing vulnerabilities and complex needs. YJLC has already delivered high quality training sessions to over 50 lawyers, created a website providing an encyclopaedia of youth justice law and developed meaningful relationships with key regulatory authorities including the Law Society and the Bar Standards Board.



- **Leeds Youth Panel – Longlisted, Outstanding Organisation**



The Panel is a partnership jointly run by West Yorkshire Police and Leeds Youth Offending Service. Its aim is to ensure out of court disposal decisions are proportional, accountable and result in individually tailored interventions. It addresses the causes of offending and repairs harm to victims, while implementing the Taylor Review's recommendations to deal with children at the lowest justice tier and divert them away entirely where possible. Between June 2016 and August 2017, 396 young people have been through the Panel process and over 70 per cent have successfully completed their voluntary panel interventions.

- **Addaction, Journey to Recovery - Longlisted, Outstanding Organisation**

Addaction delivers a psychosocial drug and alcohol service to 18-21 year olds at HMYOI Feltham. Its approach is to identify opportunities for young adults to explore their creativity and talent in a positive way. This process is started while in custody and aims to equip them with inspiration and contacts to achieve their goals after release. In a joint project with *The Word* magazine, creative content is published to promote recovery and identify a supportive recovery community both within custody and the community. The service has also delivered a joint workshop with the Geese Theatre Company.



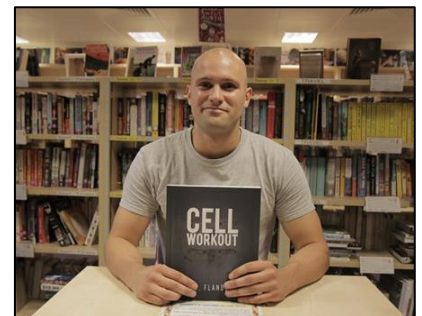
- **Catch22, Veterans in Custody project – Longlisted, Outstanding Organisation**



A Catch22 project at HMP Doncaster, Veterans in Custody aims to improve outcomes for ex-service personnel and consequently improve outcomes across the establishment. It runs weekly peer support groups facilitated by a retired army officer and volunteer mentors. This year they've held 76 group mentoring sessions with 834 attendances. They also undertake advocacy work to ensure the needs of ex-service personnel are understood and catered for both by the prison and CRCs in the community, both pre and post release. Volunteers and Catch22 caseworkers liaise with an individual's CRC caseworkers to ensure their support plans are tailored to their level of need.

- **LJ Flanders – Winner, Outstanding Individual of the Year**

Cell Workout was created by LJ during his own prison sentence as a way to stay healthy and maintain mental wellbeing. He subsequently developed a book, now published by Hodder & Stoughton. LJ has since developed the workout into an intensive two week course focussing on physical development as well as goal setting, resilience and motivation. LJ delivered this course in HMP Wandsworth in 2016, working with over 100 men. Most increased physical fitness and also felt more able to take control of keeping fit and healthy for the longer term. LJ has supported Unlocked Graduates with training of their trainee prison officers as well as encouraging prisoners to consider distance learning as a champion for the Prisoners' Education Trust.



- **Foreign National Prisoners Projects – Longlisted, Outstanding Organisation**



These St Giles Trust projects provide specialist support to foreign national prisoners in HMP Huntercombe and HMP Downview. Serving prisoners are trained to a professional qualification in Information, Advice and Guidance. This allows them to advise other prisoners on issues including housing, employment, establishing contact with friends and family, help with translation and immigration and legal issues. To date 65 prisoners have qualified at Level 3 and a further ten progressed to undertake the Level 4 qualification. The projects have benefits both for the peer advisors and those they support, who are assisted by a fellow prisoner who can be a role model for positive change.

- **Professor Theresa Gannon – Shortlisted, Outstanding Individual**

Professor Theresa Gannon, of the University of Kent, led the research team that developed the first comprehensive theory of deliberate firesetting and the first associated assessment and treatment protocol for offenders. The protocol has now been evidenced to be effective and long-lasting: firesetters who receive the treatment in prison are 3.5 times less likely to be interested in fire, relative to untreated firesetters. Theresa has also led development of training for 18 UK prisons on treating firesetters, and is leading development of an international training package, with countries from Australia to Denmark so far benefitting.



- **Inside Out – Shortlisted, Outstanding Organisation**



Inside Out is a social enterprise attached to HMP Askham Grange in York. Women from the prison are employed undertaking administrative work sourced from local businesses, including data input, bookkeeping, social media management and telesales. A live office environment is replicated where women are able both to hone existing skills and learn new ones to increase their chance of post-release employment. Women are also coached about CVs, references, disclosure letters and interviews. To date, three in five of 80 women supported has secured paid work after their placement, in contrast to a national average of one in three female offenders.

- **Khulisa – Longlisted, Outstanding Organisation**

Khulisa supports the rehabilitation of young offenders and adult prisoners in Bolton, helping them understand and tackle the root cause of their violent behaviours. They use a five-day intensive programme blending restorative techniques and trauma-informed methodologies. The programme promotes violence reduction, improved well-being and increased cognitive functioning, aiming to reduce reoffending and increase employability. Over 90 per cent of participants have reported a reduction in violent tendencies, and only seven per cent of participants have reoffended within 12 months, compared with the national average of nearly half.



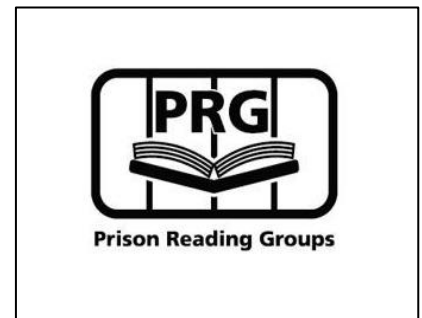
- **Lucy Perman – Winner, Lifetime Achievement Award**



Lucy joined Clean Break in 1997 as Executive Director. The charity uses theatre to support women caught up in the criminal justice system. It works with female prisoners, former prisoners and also those at risk of offending to develop creative writing and acting skills. Clean Break also works with leading education institutions - such as Rose Bruford College, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and the London College of Communication - to ensure effective and sustained impact for its work. Before joining Clean Break, Lucy worked in a number a roles in organisations with political, social and educational values with the common thread of arts creating change in society. Lucy received an MBE for her services to drama in 2004.

- **Prison Reading Groups – Longlisted, Outstanding Organisation**

PRG sets up and manages reading groups in prisons as well as providing support for prison Family Days. Groups choose the books they read and copies are theirs to keep or pass on. Meetings are informal, not traditional 'classes', where there are no right or wrong answers. The emphasis is on the pleasure of reading and discussion which becomes the spur to better literacy. Books also connect prisoners with family, allowing them to read the same books and become more engaged with their children's reading. PRG currently runs 48 reading groups in 34 prisons and in the last year provided 2,945 books for 298 meetings.



- **Alisa Purton – Shortlisted, Outstanding Individual**



Alisa, a psychologist at HMPPS, has developed a new conflict resolution model based on principles of restorative justice aimed at reducing violence within the youth estate. The model tackles issues including gang violence, social isolation and disputes between young people and staff. Wider benefits include developing parent relationships with officers and preparing young people for return to their community. Uniquely, Alisa has also put in place a clinical supervision model – now used in four YOIs - to assist Conflict Resolution Officers to both recognise their own emotional responses and provide a space for them to address their feelings about situations they encounter.

- **Safe Ground, Man Up – Shortlisted, Outstanding Organisation**

*Man Up* is a pioneering programme which aims to help individuals tackle issues of masculine identity, the impact of stereotypes and the limits imposed by traditional gendered roles. The programme endeavours to challenge attitudes and outcomes experienced by men as a result of wanting to fulfil gendered expectations. *Man Up* has been delivered in a variety of prison environments – both in the adult and youth estate – as well as a range of community settings. In a recent programme in HMP Isis, 98 per cent of participants scored the course highly as 'an effective tool to reduce offending behaviour'.



- **Switchback – Shortlisted, Outstanding Organisation**



Switchback aims to change the way offenders - 'Switchback Trainees'- participate in society, enabling them to lead stable, rewarding lives. It provides an intensive rehabilitation programme for 18-30 year-old men being released from prison. Work begins inside, staying with prisoners as they move through the gate and challenging them to take control of all aspects of their lives. Alongside one-to-one support, Trainees gain work-based training in a café and access other work experience opportunities, alongside inspirational visits, tours and meetings with Switchback's industry partners. Only nine per cent of Trainees reoffend within a year of leaving prison, compared with 44 per cent of all prison leavers.



- **Bounce Back Foundation – Longlisted, Outstanding Organisation**

Bounce Back works in and out of prison with people at the crucial transition point of their reintegration into the community after a custodial sentence. It trains individuals in construction skills – an area of both skills shortages and plentiful jobs – and supports them into legitimate, sustainable employment, either in its own social enterprise or with its numerous local construction industry partners. Bounce Back is also making headway in reducing ex-offender discrimination by employers. It now engages more than 400 people every year. Of those supported, three in five progress into employment and the monitored re-offending rate is 12 per cent.



- **Offploy CIC - Longlisted, Outstanding Organisation**



Serving a prison sentence himself, Offploy MD Jacob Hill identified how badly the prison system failed to support ex-offenders into employment. Within weeks of release, Hill pitched a new, business-friendly approach to finding ex-offenders employment to an investor. Huddersfield-based Offploy now dedicates its attention to placing ex-offenders with corporate clients looking for a new, low-risk talent pool and increased retention. Offploy also offers an employability course to ex-offenders. To date, it has helped 12 people with convictions find employment, with eight in sustained employment, in addition to having 30 committed vacancies from employers for ex-offenders.

- **Victims First Northumbria – Shortlisted, Outstanding Organisation**

Since its creation in 2015, Victims First Northumbria (VFN) has supported over 16,000 victims of crime. A key element of support offered is victim-led restorative interventions. All staff are RJ-trained and dedicate significant time to supporting victims to ensure that a restorative intervention will help their recovery. VFN was one of the first victims' services to receive the Restorative Service Quality Mark. Victim satisfaction is at 98 per cent, and 98 per cent of victims are contacted within 48 hours of referral. VFN has developed a Victim Advisory Group, intended to empower victims and help their recovery, as well as feeding into VFN for improvements in service delivery.



- **Why Me? – Longlisted, Outstanding Organisation**



Aiming to ensure that all victims of crime have access to Restorative Justice across England and Wales, Why Me? runs the Valuing Victims Campaign. Its purpose is to hold the government and Police and Crime Commissioners to account for their expenditure on RJ. It's found - through Freedom of Information requests - a discrepancy in PCC reporting, spending and understanding about what constitutes accessible and safe restorative justice and what's spent on it. These findings prompted an invitation from the Victims Commissioner to sit on her advisory group, meetings with Ministry of Justice and Parole Board officials and renewed engagement from 22 of 42 PCCs.