

SEARCH

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RESEARCH MEDAL WINNERS 2013

There are joint winners of the Research Medal 2013:

- Professors [Lesley McAra](#) and [Susan McVie](#), University of Edinburgh, for the Edinburgh study of youth transitions and crime; and
- [Professor Kevin Haines](#) and [Dr Stephen Case](#), Swansea University, for their work on the Swansea youth diversion scheme.

They received their medals at our [President's annual wine reception](#) at the Houses of Parliament on 4 July 2013. The Howard League has published [articles](#) about their research and information about how they worked to ensure that the research had impact.

More information about the winning research

The Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime (ESYTC)

Authors:

Professor Lesley McAra and Professor Susan McVie

Summary of research:

ESYTC is a longitudinal study of offending amongst a cohort of 4300 young people in the city of Edinburgh. It found that young people at most risk of serious offending experience considerable disadvantage, vulnerability and social adversity. Efforts to identify at-risk children early are unreliable, and doing so may risk stigmatizing certain young people and recycling them around the justice system with no beneficial effect. Desistance from offending is strongly influenced by critical events that occur during the teenage years, and appropriately targeted diversionary strategies at this life-stage can help young people to reduce or stop serious offending.

The Swansea Bureau: A partnership model of diversion from the Youth Justice System

Authors:

Dr Stephen Case and Professor Kevin Haines

Summary of research:

Swansea Bureau diversionary scheme works with young people admitting a first offence; assessing their needs following arrest and convening a decision-making panel that includes the young person and their family to establish appropriate actions. The Bureau 'normalises' offending (treating it as everyday youthful behaviour) and promotes prosocial behaviour, children's rights and parental/family involvement. Since the Bureau began, statistics indicate annual decreases in: numbers of first-time offenders, first-time entrants into the Youth Justice System and formal outcomes (Reprimand, Final Warning, Prosecution), alongside increases in the numbers of Informal Actions (diversion). The Bureau has received widespread positive qualitative feedback from stakeholders.

[Research medal](#)



Professor Lesley McAra



Professor Susan McVie



Professor Kevin Haines



Dr Stephen Case

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