



**Award for jail charity that gives youngsters the real inside story**

**Harsh lesson pays off**

Award winners: Prison officers Tim Clarke, Mark Hazzard, Sam Virgo and Leita Temple  
Photograph: Carlos Laprida

Behind bars: Monks Park School pupils Rhiannon Mellor and Liam Daniels, both aged 13, get a taste of jail life with the help of Sam Virgo, Bristol Prison's school liaison officer, as part of a No Way Trust presentation day  
Photograph: Dave Setts

**A PRISON charity which works with children to make them aware of the reality of prison has won an award for outstanding achievement.**

The No Way Trust is one of 10 winners in an awards scheme organised by the Avon and Somerset Criminal Justice Board.

More than 40 prison officers donate their time for the No Way Trust's *Prison! Me! No Way!* project.

They go into schools and talk to youngsters to discourage them from making a mistake which could ruin their adult lives.

The aim of the project is to show children the stark reality of prison life in an attempt to deter them from committing crime.

News of the outstanding achievement award comes just after the No Way Trust was awarded a grant from the Let's Make It Happen campaign fund.

The £825 grant will fund a presentation day at a school in Bristol.

*Prison! Me! No Way!* days are held at different schools about 10 times a year and involve the police, the prison service, the fire brigade, drugs and alcohol advice groups and victim support groups.

Tim Clarke, a senior prison officer at Horfield

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jail, said: "The scheme was established in Hull by three prison officers who wanted to do something to stop young people being locked up.

"They wanted to get across the true picture of what life is like in prison.

"TV programmes such as *Bad Girls* glamorise prison life and young people think it's cool, but the reality is very unpleasant.

"The scheme grew and is now nationwide. In Bristol it has been going for about nine years with officers from Horfield, Eastwood Park women's prison and Ashfield young offenders' unit."

He said group members were delighted to get the award, especially as they had been nominated by a member of the public.

Mr Clarke, the trust's Bristol co-ordinator, said: "You lose a lot more than just your freedom by being in prison.

"You lose your identity, your privacy, family contacts, your friends, your home and your job.

"There are no luxuries in prison. You can't get drunk. You can't go to parties.

"It's pretty dismal, really. You are locked up with

another prisoner in a confined cell who you might not like, someone who might be suffering from mental illness, someone who might have committed a much worse crime than you have. They might be unhygienic and smell.

"You live in a cell and there's no way out."

Ann Carpenter, of the No Way Trust, explained: "We go into schools with a very realistic mock prison cell. We show pupils the sort of weapons inmates have made and the injuries they have received or caused while inside."

The trust is one of a number of organisations to benefit from the Let's Make It Happen Great £10,000 Community Giveaway. The money, set aside by Combined Insurance and the *Evening Post*, is being shared between individuals, groups and charities that help the community.

Clive Robinson, managing director of Combined Insurance, said: "We're delighted the awards have had such an immediate impact on the local community in Bristol.

"We're looking forward to seeing the dreams of other winners being realised in the coming months."

The appeal has now been closed and a presentation evening will be held soon.