



Supports and services are provided to those at risk of entering the criminal justice system, offenders, ex-offenders, their families, schools, communities, and the public at large that encourages reintegration, community safety and prevention of crime.

The John Howard Society of Belleville and District serves Hastings County, Prince Edward County and Quinte West. The agency provides intake, assessment and referral services for youth and adults, counselling, advocacy, pardon application assistance, community education, Help Line and the Community Support Worker for Youth Program.

The Community Support Worker for Youth Program is a community based intervention for youth 12 to 17 who do not have a probation officer. Referrals can be made by police officers, lawyers, the courts, community agencies, family members or the young person themselves. The program can:

- Identify the risk and needs facing a young person and develop individualized supports for youth who are at risk and/or in conflict with the criminal justice system.
- Provide assistance to youth and their family to locate supportive services and/or interventions to address the situation they are experiencing.
- Provide support to parents and/or guardians.
- Assist in accessing community services.
- Advocacy.
- Develop a support team and plan.
- Provide information regarding the court system and assist as needed.
- Provide education and assistance to reduce the incidence of further charges.
- Bail supervision for youth unable to obtain a surety and are willing and motivated to participate.
- Provide immediate telephone and if necessary on site counselling 24 hour a day seven days a week through the Help Line (613-922-9355) for youth 12 to 17 and parents and families who are concerned about the young person. Intervention may include further telephone counselling, an on-site visit, referrals to other community services and involvement of other emergency services.