

ual ■ london college of fashion

In 2007, the government-commissioned Corston report highlighted the plight of vulnerable women in the criminal justice system and made recommendations for a more female-focused approach towards their rehabilitation.

As a result, a group of female prisoners worked with the college to write and illustrate a fashion magazine for inmates at HM Prison Send in Surrey. Students on the college's fashion media courses played a key role in guiding the inmates in producing the publication while staff also supported the process.

As well as giving a major boost to the prisoners' confidence, the project prompted a number of the women to embark on study in further or higher education upon their release. The magazine has also inspired the college to extend its work with female offenders by creating a garment manufacturing and training unit at another prison.

John Widdowson, principal and chief executive of New College Durham and one of the judges, said that by partnering inmates with academics and students, the project helped the women to "think constructively not just about their life outside prison but also their previous, often unsatisfactory, experience of education".

He added: "the judges were also impressed by how the project enhances the experience of students by showing how their specialist discipline can inspire and motivate other to achieve."