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Newsletter of the Probation Service (Ireland)

July 2017



Message from Director

The content of the 22nd Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services, held last month in Lillestrøm, Norway, reminded me and all those present – if we need reminding – of the critical importance of our staff to the quality of the services we provide, and their outcomes. The theme of the conference was: (Prison and Probation) *Staff Recruitment, Training and Development, in the Twenty-First Century*. With a wide range of contributions from around thirty different jurisdictions and organisations, there was much to share and learn from our colleagues across Europe. It was also clear, that while there are differences in history, traditions, culture, and socio-political-legal contexts and structures, not to mention relative resource levels, among the different jurisdictions; there is considerable agreement in what we need to do to ensure that our staff are trained, developed and supported to be as effective as possible in implementing and delivering evidence-informed services, which are founded in human rights values and principles. I was also reminded, through the conference, that smaller jurisdictions and their probation and prison services, have as much to offer this type of discussion, as our larger partners. Both the Irish Probation Service and the Probation Board for Northern Ireland – among our many other colleagues, including the Irish Prison Service – made significant workshop presentations at the conference, and which were very well received. This type of international exchange serves to affirm the value in what we are doing here in Ireland, while exposing us to the range of learning that is available to us from all our colleagues – in probation and prison services – across the forty-seven Council of Europe Member States. By being part of that ongoing dialogue, we can continue to explore and discover what we do well, what we need to keep doing or stop doing, and how we can change, in order to be even more effective in what we do.



The next edition of *Probation works* will be published in September 2017.

Vivian Geiran, Director

Twitter: @VGeiran



New Deputy
Secretary General
Appointed



Following a recent open competition run by the Top Level Appointments Committee, Ms. Oonagh McPhillips has been appointed Deputy Secretary General in the Department of Justice and Equality, with responsibility for the Irish Criminal Justice System. Having joined the Department in 1989, Oonagh has served in ten different posts, prior to her appointment as Assistant Secretary for Corporate Affairs in 2015. The Probation Service congratulates Oonagh on her new appointment. We look forward to supporting and working with Oonagh in her new role, particularly in her stated goal of working towards a “fully joined up criminal justice system.”

Conference of
Directors of Prison
and Probation
Services

Council of Europe News



Vivian Geiran, will chair the next meeting of the PC-CP working group, on 20 - 22nd September, in Strasbourg. The PC-CP work programme for this year includes, *inter alia*, guidelines on practice regarding children of prisoners, development of a practice guideline on Restorative Justice in probation and prisons in Europe, and revision of the commentary to the European Prison Rules. The Group will also begin planning for next year's (23rd) annual Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services.

More information, including documents related to the work of the PC-CP are available through the following link:

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/prison/home>



- [The Probation Service welcomes the launch of the National Drugs Strategy 2017 – 2025](#)
- [Directors speech at Criminology Lecture UCD 23rd June 2017](#)
- [Minister Flanagan Welcomes Presentation of the Courts Service Annual Report 2016](#)
- [Minister Flanagan hosts Annual Roundtable meeting with Agencies in Farnleigh](#)

Sharing Social Innovation and Social Enterprise across the Border:
Best Practice in the Justice Sectors on the Island of Ireland
Workshop at Loughan House



Pictured above: Una Doyle, Probation Service Deputy Director, presenting at the Directors' Conference.



Pictured above: Delegates at the 22nd Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services.

The 22nd Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services, was held in Lillestrøm, Norway, last month. The theme of the conference was: Staff Recruitment, Training and Development in the 21st Century. More information, including the conference programme, presentations, and the agreed conclusion document of the conference, are available at the following link:

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/prison/conferences/lillestrom-2017-22conference-directors-prison-probation-services>

Date for Your Diary:
Parnell Summer
School

On Monday 12th June the North–South Social Innovation Network Steering Committee, with the co–operation of the Irish Prison Service and Governor Eddie Mullins, organised a cross border workshop titled *Sharing Social Innovation and Social Enterprise across the Border: Best practice in the Justice sectors on the island of Ireland*, at Loughan House Prison. The North–South Social Innovation Network Steering Committee, of which the Probation Service and Probation Board for Northern Ireland are members, planned the workshop as an opportunity to share learning and experience in Social Enterprise and Social Innovation by the Justice agencies based on ongoing projects and their long term commitment to the development of such initiatives.

This workshop followed the North–South Social Innovation Conference that took place in the Dundalk Institute of Technology in November 2016 launching the North–South Social Innovation Network. There was agreement by all participants at that Conference that there should be opportunities for cross–border and cross–sectoral collaboration, networking and learning and to identify “best practice” case studies and practical guidance across four themes, one of which was justice.

The workshop at Loughan House brought together criminal justice managers and practitioners as well NGOs from north and south of the border, with experts to discuss and explore opportunities for social innovation and social enterprises to contribute to the resettlement and engagement of ex–offenders in the community. There were plenary presentations by Siobhan Cafferty (PS–IPS Social Enterprise Project) and Cecilia Whitehorn (South Belfast Social Enterprise Hub) as well as case study presentations with considerable lively and enthusiastic discussion.

A surprise guest speaker at the event was Neven Maguire, celebrity chef and owner of the renowned MacNean House and Restaurant in nearby Blacklion. Neven spoke eloquently of his own training and business development and was most encouraging and supportive of the enterprise initiatives at Loughan House. He has provided work experience visits for participants at Loughan House as an introduction to the working environment. The workshop concluded with visits to the enterprise projects ongoing in Loughan House.

The Department of Justice and Equality, with the Probation Service and the Irish Prison Service, recently launched their Social Enterprise Strategy 2017–2019, *A New Way Forward*, which can be accessed at. <https://lnkd.in/gV6qNgh>

Pictured below: Image 1 - L-R Vivian Geiran, Cheryl Lamont (PBNI), Anthony Soares (Dep. Dir., Centre for Cross-Border Studies), and Michael Curran (Chair, N-S Social Innovation Network Steering Committee).
Image 2 - Neven Maguire and Paul Doran (PBNI).





The 2017 Parnell Summer School will be held at Avondale House, Rathdrum, County Wicklow, on 13-17 August 2017. The theme for this year's event, which will feature a wide range of eminent contributors, is: *Crime, Punishment and Justice*.

More information on the 2017 Parnell Summer School is available at the following link:
<http://parnell.society.com/activities/summer-school/#1466677027037-05be0371-e206>

Launch of Youth Agency Response to Crime (Y-JARC)

Youth J-ARC was officially launched on June 19 2017 at the Irish Prison Service training centre in Ballad, Portlaois. Youth J-ARC is the latest initiative under the Joint Agencies Response to Crime initiative, which targets young people ages 16 to 21 years who are the most prolific in their offending. It will provide an operational approach for co-ordinated and enhanced levels of co-operation and co-ordination between the Probation Service, An Garda Síochána, Irish Prison Service, Irish Youth Justice Service (Oberstown campus), Tusla and the Department of Education & Science.

Attendance on the day included representatives from the above agencies and the Department of Justice & Equality. Ms Ita Burke,

Probation in numbers



This month (July 2017) there are:

8,759 Persons under Probation Service Supervision in the community;

1,528 Prisoners receiving probation assistance in custody;

2,221 People on Community Service

1,235 Persons on various types of post-release probation supervision

1,265 Women on probation Supervision in the community, and

264 persons under eighteen years of age under probation supervision in the community

The monthly Probation Service 'snapshot' statistical table is available below:

[http://www.pprobation.ie/EN/PB/0/DBD00219D9C7EC0280258152005152B1/\\$File/Web%20Report%20Caseload%20End%20June%202017.pdf](http://www.pprobation.ie/EN/PB/0/DBD00219D9C7EC0280258152005152B1/$File/Web%20Report%20Caseload%20End%20June%202017.pdf)

Category	Community Supervision (Open to Public) 1 July 2017					Total (Persons)
	Female	Male	Total	In Custody	Total	
Totals:	3,265	5,494	8,759	1,528	10,287	
The following are the major community supervision categories:						
Probation Type Supervision ⁽¹⁾	3,265					
Community Service			2,221			
Supervision in the Community Post Release from Custody ⁽²⁾			1,235			
Community Return ⁽³⁾			70			
Life sentence prisoners on supervision in the community ⁽⁴⁾			98			
Sex offenders on supervision post release from custody ⁽⁵⁾			192			

UCD Criminology Institute Lecture

Director of Operations at the Probation Service opened the day's proceedings and welcomed approximately 50 participants from the two pilot locations, Cork (Gurranabraher and Mayfield) and Blanchardstown, Dublin.

Members of the National Co-ordination Team gave presentations and "Team ACER", the J-ARC initiative, Dublin Southside shared their experience and lessons learnt through case studies. Inter-agency workshops were facilitated in the afternoon, which promoted lively discussion and participation by all. Young Persons Probation will take the lead from the Probation perspective with links with colleagues in community or custody teams working with the older age groups.

Communities Benefitting from Community Service

Community Service provides offenders with the opportunity to pay back to the community in a positive way for the damage caused by their offending and to avoid a custodial sentence. In addition to offenders being afforded the opportunity to undertake unpaid work in the community in lieu of a prison sentence; communities across the country benefited from the contribution of community service/community return work. This work includes the maintenance of a number of community gardens and recreational facilities, youth clubs and community resource centres.



Dr. Gwen Robinson of the University of Sheffield delivered the Institute of Criminology Lecture, titled - *Patrolling the Borders of Risk: The new bifurcation of probation services in England and Wales* - on 23rd June, in the Sutherland School of Law, University College Dublin. Vivian Geiran delivered a response to Dr. Robinson's paper. Vivian's response is available at the following link:

[http://www.probation.ie/EN/PB/0/6841619557F46A198025814D00333C52/\\$File/Directors%20speech%20at%20Criminology%20Lecture%20UCD,%2023rd%20June%202017.docx](http://www.probation.ie/EN/PB/0/6841619557F46A198025814D00333C52/$File/Directors%20speech%20at%20Criminology%20Lecture%20UCD,%2023rd%20June%202017.docx)



Confederation of European Probation (CEP) News

The most recent edition of the CEP newsletter - is available at the following link:

<http://createsend.com/t/t-89B80371E14B7581>



Europris Newsletter

The latest edition of Europris newsletter is available at the following link:

<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?ca=04b08ac4-ba47-4e8a-a3f4-22595ee424bb&preview=true&m=1110081848856&id=preview>

Summer Blooms have arrived to Community Service in Bray!

Billy O'Neill (Community Service Supervisor) and all of his dedicated Community Service workers were kept extra busy this week as they received their annual donation of plants from Shelton Abbey Open Prison at the Community Service site in Bray. We are most fortunate to receive this annual donation of plants and a special mention must go to Governor Conal Healy and his staff in Shelton Abbey who always ensure that the Community Garden in the Little Bray Family Resource Centre has summer blooms. The Community garden is enjoyed by young and old from the Little Bray area with our Community Service team seeing the benefits of their work at a real local level.

Jan Alvey
Probation Officer

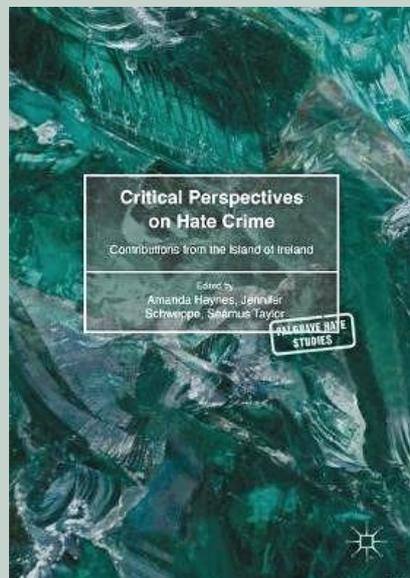


Interview with Leading Criminologists

The European Society of Criminology is now available on YouTube, with a series of 40–50 minute interviews with leading criminologists, available at the following link:

<https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCommPTU1z27MXC9rFlkCz6w/videos>

Critical Perspectives on Hate Crime Contributions from the Island of Ireland



([Palgrave Hate Studies](#) Series)

Palgrave Macmillan (2017)

Haynes, Amanda, Schweppe, Jennifer, Taylor, Seamus (Eds.)

524 pages Hardcover 978-1-137-52666-3 €83 approx.

Critical Perspectives on Hate Crime provides a unique insight into the lived realities of hate crime in Ireland and its treatment within the criminal justice system. Hate crime in Ireland, north and south, and its differential treatment in each jurisdiction's criminal justice system is examined within European and global policy contexts.

Contributions from Irish and international academic researchers are complemented by applied pieces authored by practitioners and policy makers actively engaged with affected communities. Gerry McNally (Probation Service) and Eithne McIlroy (PBNI) have contributed



**Launch of New
National Drugs
Strategy – 'Reducing
Harm, Supporting
Recovery' Strategy
2017 –2025**



The Probation Service welcomes the launch of the *'Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery' Strategy 2017 –2025*, the focus of which is to create a 'healthier and safer' Ireland.

The Probation Service believes that the misuse of substances, particularly alcohol and / or illegal substances is harmful to the individual, can lead to an increase in criminal activity and can cause victimisation in the community, particularly in those areas that experience socio – economic deprivation.

There is a clear association between substance misuse and offending behaviour, which highlights the importance of providing effective interventions through community based sanctions such as Probation Supervision, as well as in custody

Chapter 22, *Probation Practice and Offending Motivated by Hate and Discrimination*, to Critical Perspectives on Hate Crime.

This is an important and insightful collection of papers which will be of great value to policy makers, practitioners and scholars working on hate crime and criminal justice.

Irish Red Cross

The Irish Red Cross visited the Probation Service Offices in Haymarket on three dates in June and July to run the Culture of Non Violence programme.

This unique approach of peer-to-peer educators has proved successful in the past. It operates under the partnerships of the Irish Red Cross, the Irish Prison Service and The Probation Service. .

This empowering programme has proved once again to be a success. Twenty clients of the Community Return programme alongside Mary Keogh, Probation Officer and Gerry Condon Supervisor participated.

The overarching theme was that of a shared experience for participants of leaving Prison. Many of the participants had never discussed their re-entry to the Community and the challenges it presented. The group shared their difficulties and issues they had dealt with such as rebuilding trust with family, housing, employment and dealing with a criminal record. The participants were surprised at how similar their experiences of returning to the Community was. This proved to have a powerful impact on the participants with each person speaking of the challenges of resettlement. Both Mary and Gerry found that this provided them with a greater insight into what it is like for the Community Return Clients.

The three-day programme also looked at violence and ways and means of walking away from confrontation. The participants related to the Peer Led Facilitators and could transfer their experience of custody to the community. The final day focused on drug reduction.

The Irish Red Cross plans to contact each participant, within the next six months' time to discuss if the programme had an impact on their lives.

Mary Keogh is the current Probation Officer with responsibility for the Community Return Scheme for the Dublin area. Mary joined the Probation Service in January 2017, having always had a keen interest in working for the Probation Service. Her background is in Child Protection, Medical Social Work and Children's Disability Services.

Mary has enjoyed her time working on the Community Return Scheme and has found it a great learning foundation for her future in the Probation Service. On reflection, it has highlighted the importance of joint agency working. Mary has built a strong working relationship with the staff from the Irish Prison Service and other agencies. Reflecting on her practice over the last 8 months she feels that there is a need for clear communication with clients. It is an important programme for the resettlement of clients into the community. For Mary one of its most important effects it that it acts as an avenue back into employment sector. In brief it offers various opportunities to the clients that may not have arisen for them had they not partaken in the scheme.

Mary is leaving her post in August to take a place on the Probation Service Team in the

and after release. The Probation Service endeavours to assist Service Users in identifying and understanding the impact of substance misuse on their lives and the association with offending behaviour. In turn, we provide motivation and targeted interventions to facilitate positive change.

In line with the National Strategy, the Probation Service has developed its own specific Substance Misuse Strategy (2017/18) to facilitate an effective and targeted response to substance misuse among our Service Users.

**International
Conference on
'Working with
Juveniles & Young
Adult Offenders'**

On 6th & 7th June, the Confederation of European Probation (CEP) hosted its second international conference focusing on Juvenile and Young Adult Offenders. The event took place in Barcelona and delegates from twenty countries attended. A variety of Justice Agencies and Academics as well as the International Juvenile Justice Observatory and the Global Centre on co-operative security were represented.

The conference explored topical themes of juvenile radicalisation, social media and young offenders, desistance, family conferencing and restorative practices.

The knowledge on an international

Midlands Prison.

We wish Mary every success in the next stage of her career.

Save the Date!



"Youth Justice Policy in Ireland – Where to next?"

4th Annual Irish Criminal Justice Agency Conference, Dublin Castle, 4 July 2107

This one day conference was a collaboration of the Irish Youth Justice Service (IYJS), the Department of Justice and Equality, An Garda Síochána, The Probation Service, the Irish Prison Service and the Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD). The lead partner for 2017 was the Irish Youth Justice Service. The Probation Service (Gerry McNally & Brian Santry) was a member of the organising committee. The Probation Service was represented at the conference by 15 delegates.

Opportunities were provided throughout the day for delegates to share information, exchange views and network with colleagues who engage in similar or complementary areas of expertise. The Chatham House Rule applied for this conference.

Speakers on the day included:

Michelle Shannon, Director, Irish Youth Justice Service

David Stanton, TD, Minister of State for Justice, with special responsibility for Equality, Immigration and Integration

Judge John O'Connor, Childrens Court (Smithfield)

Professor Geoffrey Shannon, Special Rapporteur on Child Protection

Roxana Ungureanu, West University Timisoara, Romania

Julie Ahern, Membership and Public Affairs Officer, Children's Rights Alliance

Professor Ursula Kilkelly, Professor and Dean of Law, University College Cork

Dr. Fergal Lynch, Secretary General, Department of Children and Youth Affairs

Ten workshops took place during the Conference, with each delegate attending one workshop in the morning and one in the afternoon.

Click [here](#) to download a copy of the Conference Programme.

Save the Date!

The Brexit Impact on Criminal Justice Co-operation in Ireland

The 20th Annual Conference of the Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD) will take place on **Friday, 6th October, 2017**

At The Spencer Hotel, Excise Walk, IFSC, Dublin 1.

level about working with radicalised young people was very informative. The Global Centre in conjunction with International Centre for Counter Terrorism presented some of their research due to be published in July 2017 on rehabilitating Juvenile Violent Extremist Offenders in Detention. The International Juvenile Justice Observatory presentation referenced community based programmes throughout Europe aimed at deradicalising young people.

There were also presentations on current practices that are familiar which some Countries have broadened the scope of. Family group conferencing being used in Norway while a young person is in custody to support better outcomes on release, and restorative group conferences being used with violent juveniles in Czech Republic.

A presentation from a Clinical Neuropsychologist from Norway reminded us that young people's brains (particularly in relation to decision making and consequential thinking) continue developing until they are approximately aged 25. Something to continually bear in mind when working with all young people.

More information on the presentations, agencies and discussions are available at <http://www.cep-probation.org/presentations-juveniles-young-adult-offenders-conference-online-now/>

Sarah Finnegan
Senior Probation Officer

The theme of this year's ACJRD Conference is "*The Brexit Impact on Criminal Justice Co-operation in Ireland*".

Please check <http://www.acjrd.ie/> for programme updates and booking details.

Let us have your feedback and ideas.

Any suggestions for the next edition of the Probation Works newsletter?

Leave us your feedback by emailing us at 'news@probation.ie'

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Federation Wallonie–
Bruxelles Maisons de
Justice, Belgium



On Tuesday 25 April 2017, Rosemary Cronin met with probation colleagues in Brussels, Belgium to share professional experiences with a working group who are deciding the future direction of their Service. Within Belgium there are very particular challenges for the Probation Service, not least of which is the concern around radicalisation. There are separate services for French and Flemish-speaking populations is also feature. Rosemary met with the French speaking service, Federation Wallonie-Bruxelles, Maisons de Justice (www.fw-b.be-maisonsdejustice.be). Annie Devos Director General, chaired the working group. Rosemary provided an overview of the Irish Probation Service, gave a presentation on desistance informed probation practice (illustrated by use of case studies) and shared knowledge and experiences with regard to the implementation & application of LSI-r assessment tool. The presentation was warmly received and it was a nice opportunity to strengthen the collaboration between European colleagues.

