

Editorial

Irish Probation Journal, now in its 15th year, is a peer-reviewed journal that focuses on the broad field of probation and criminal justice policy and practice. The journal publishes articles on subjects from within probation, criminal justice and the wider criminology community. Each edition seeks to ensure that there is a broad range of contributions including research studies, practice initiatives, policy commentaries and a variety of book reviews.

The journal provides a valuable opportunity for academics, researchers and practitioners to share their knowledge, research findings and examples of good and innovative practice. It offers a forum for continuous learning and development not only for probation practitioners but also for the wider criminal justice system. Contributions from a diverse and multidisciplinary international audience continue to enhance the quality of this shared dialogue across borders.

The papers in this year's publication reflect current policy and practice developments, discuss findings and recommendations from research and generate discussion to inform learning and stimulate further critical analysis. A timely article that places victims at its centre draws from a range of disciplines including philosophy to promote the importance of adopting a humane approach to addressing harmful behaviour. The complexities of a converging relationship between the voluntary sector and the criminal justice system as they continue to build partnerships are explored in a paper that highlights challenges and poses key questions. A practitioner paper on risk assessment draws from case material to provide a stimulating overview of the challenges of reconciling tensions between theory and everyday practice.

An article on problem-solving courts including mental health courts demonstrates the learning from engagement with the American therapeutic jurisprudence system and describes the implication for emerging practice in Northern Ireland. Some of those themes also appear in the article on ADHD that draws from international research to highlight the need to provide adequate screening for this condition in order to intervene more effectively with young people in the system. Understanding the needs of service users so that services can respond appropriately was the aim of research conducted with a group of women in Limerick. The paper based

on this research contributes to our awareness and understanding of trauma and the need for trauma-informed care, with participant voices providing practical guidelines for improved practice across services.

Once again, the journal is further enriched by contributions from international jurisdictions. The article from Japan describes the evolution of probation practice in a narrative that includes oral history, legislative change and developments in penal policy. Readers will be particularly interested in the system of volunteering which is unique to Japan. Scholars of design are increasingly focused on the role of design as a tool for innovation and user satisfaction in the provision of government services. The paper from the Köln School of Design and the Royal College of Art outlines the interesting synergy of social design and offender rehabilitation.

A study on non-compliance opens an important discussion in the journal on issues of enforcement, and this paper draws from practice across European jurisdictions. It includes the findings from pilot research on the management of breach processes in the context of community service in Ireland and highlights the need for further research on the subject of non-compliance. Findings from an action research project on the impact of programmed interventions on attitudinal change demonstrate the importance of direct engagement by practitioners with data collation and analysis. We welcome, for a second year, the inclusion of a reflection and commentary from a practitioner on an article from the previous year: Orla Lynch's 'Understanding Radicalisation: Implications for Criminal Justice Practitioners'. We hope that this theme can continue into future editions.

Irish Probation Journal would not be possible without the commitment and efforts of the members of the Editorial Committee. We would like to put on record our thanks to the committee members who encourage and guide contributors through the journey of publication.

In particular this year we would like to put on record our thanks to Gerry McNally, a long-standing member of the editorial committee who is standing down as Editor of the journal after six years in this role. Gerry's advice, encouragement and enthusiasm have been invaluable in making *Irish Probation Journal* the success it is today.

We also extend our thanks to both the Probation Service and the Probation Board for Northern Ireland for continuing to support the journal.

Finally, we wish to invite both established authors and new writers to submit papers and articles for inclusion in future editions of the journal. We firmly believe that this cross-border initiative has the potential to contribute to policy and practice not only throughout the island of Ireland but internationally. We hope you enjoy this publication.

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