

Editorial

Now in its 14th year, *Irish Probation Journal* continues to be the sole specialist journal in Ireland dedicated to sharing research, evaluation, analysis and discussion on probation and community sanctions. *Irish Probation Journal* also encompasses a wide range of themes and issues that affect probation practice and community sanctions including social, legal, human rights, security and public safety matters.

Irish Probation Journal now has an established local and international audience that extends well beyond probation practitioners and includes judges, academics, policy-makers, researchers, teachers, students and the wider community. This diverse, multidisciplinary and international audience, our readers and friends, stimulates debate and provides an important, informed and critical readership for authors and the themes and issues featured.

Probation in Ireland has a strong tradition of collaboration, innovation and working across borders and boundaries, professional and geographical. *Irish Probation Journal* supports and encourages that co-operation and engagement, not only in Ireland but also in the rest of Europe and across the world.

Irish Probation Journal particularly welcomes the continued development of criminology in third-level education in Ireland and appreciates the major contribution academics and researchers are making to the development of criminal justice research and critical evaluation. Academics and researchers are also making a valuable contribution to the development of criminal justice policy and practice, which can only benefit and improve practice and outcomes for everyone.

This edition of *Irish Probation Journal* features valuable and timely contributions from established academic authors and experts, new researchers introducing their work, probation practitioners telling us about their hands-on experience and the leaders of the Probation services, North and South, describing current challenges.

In a new feature this year, a Probation Officer has provided a response and commentary, based on her experience in practice, to ‘Chronic Offenders and the Syndrome of Antisociality: Offending is a Minor Feature!’ by Georgia Zara and David Farrington, published in *Irish Probation Journal* 2016. We welcome this response, showing how *Irish Probation Journal* can stimulate reflection, questions and constructive discussion about what we do and can hope to achieve. We do hope that others will be encouraged to put pen to paper to contribute to discussions and exchange of ideas.

With articles on contemporary and emerging themes including radicalisation, the economics of interventions, desistance, ‘revenge porn’ and many other topics, we hope that *Irish Probation Journal* 2017 will help promote critical and constructive thinking, debate and discussion on the complex issues facing policy-makers, researchers, practitioners and the wider community in criminal justice, and in relation to community sanctions, in particular.

The cross-border, and now international, *Irish Probation Journal* editorial team invites authors to submit papers for *Irish Probation Journal* 2018. The editorial team and reviewers encourage and support authors in preparing contributions. *Irish Probation Journal* is committed to presenting the best-quality papers encompassing analysis, research, policy and practice perspectives to ensure that *Irish Probation Journal* continues to be a positive and constructive forum for sharing, co-operating and learning. Submission details are included inside the back cover.

We hope that you find this edition of *Irish Probation Journal* as thought-provoking and stimulating as we have in preparing it and, once again, we invite and encourage authors to take the next step and submit an article for the next edition of *Irish Probation Journal*.

Gerry McNally
The Probation Service

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