

IN THIS EDITION OF PROBATION WORKS: Probation and Prisons 2016 Annual Reports, Social Enterprise Strategy, Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference, European Radicalisation Awareness Network, CIPD Awards, ACER-3 Programme, CEP Board meeting, Council of Europe News, Visit to British National Probation Service, Probation in numbers, Slovenian Probation Service Visit, CoSA conference, Profile Piece, NOTA Conference, Retirement Function.

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Newsletter of the Probation Service (Ireland)

May 2017



Message from Director

Our Annual Report for 2016, presented to Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald TD, evidences the breadth as well as the depth of the work undertaken by Probation Service staff across the country. From a quantitative point of view, Probation staff worked with around 15,000 offenders last year, mainly in the community, but also in custody. That work involved assessing individuals' risk of reoffending and of causing harm, and supervising and helping them to address the factors that contributed to their offending in the first place, and which might – if unchecked – lead to further offending again in future. Probation Officers supervise offenders on probation, on community service and on a range of targeted programmes aimed at specific categories of individual and types of offending. These include women, young people, sex offenders, life sentence prisoners, those with substance misuse or mental health issues, first time offenders, and prolific offenders, among others. We believe in people's capacity to change, and the dedication, training and skills of our staff, working closely with all our partners, ensure that we do the best we can to achieve successful outcomes, and that we continue to be a learning organisation, open to change, growth and continuous improvement in what we do.

We are already starting to work on generating our new Probation Service strategic plan, for 2018-2020. I envisage that that plan will focus on building on the good practice foundations already laid down over many years. It will also concentrate on further striving to be the best probation service we can be, drawing on the immense resources and creativity of our staff, our professional values and practice base, and the strengths built up through effective partnerships with our sister organisations in the justice and wider governmental and NGO sectors. As well as building on existing good practice, we will also focus on developing new ways to achieve our goals. One example of this is our commitment to the joint Justice sector Social Enterprise

Strategy, launched by the Tánaiste the same day as our Annual Report. We will also continue to develop targeted responses such as extending the Joint Agency Response to Crime (JARC), as well as exploring how we can continue to implement best, evidence-informed practice in all our interventions and programmes.

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

Vivian Geiran, Director

Twitter: @VGeiran



Presentation of 2016 Probation & Prisons Annual Reports

Council of Europe News

www.coe.int/prison



Vivian Geiran, chaired the meeting of the PC-CP working group, on 10-12th April, 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.

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>

Updated Council of Europe Compendium of Prisons and Probation Standards





Pictured above: Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality TD Frances Fitzgerald speaking at the launch of the 2016 Probation & Prisons Annual Reports; alongside Vivian Geiran, Director of the Probation Service and Michael Donnellan, Director General of the Irish Prison Service.

The Probation Service Annual Report, together with the Irish Prison Service Annual Report, in respect of 2016, were presented to Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald TD, on Monday 15th May 2017. The two Annual Reports were launched at an event, hosted by the Prison Service, in the newly built training workshop building in Mountjoy Prison, Dublin. Speaking at the event, The Tánaiste said: “The use of prison as a sanction of last resort is a core principle of penal reform” and went on to praise the co-operation between the two organisations – prisons and probation – to ensure the most effective rehabilitation and reintegration for offenders.

The Probation Service Annual Report 2016 is available at:
<http://www.probation.ie/EN/PB/WebPages/WP1600002>

The Tánaiste’s speech for the event is available at



The Council of Europe (CoE) has just published an updated version of the ‘Compendium of conventions, recommendations and resolutions relating to prisons and community sanctions and measures.’ With a foreword by Mr. Philippe Boillat, Director General of Human Rights and the Rule of Law at the CoE, and an introduction by Vivian Geiran, Chair of the PC–CP (Council for Penological Co-operation) Working Group, the Compendium is an up to date collection of all the CoE Standards related to prisons and probation management and practice. The Compendium is available at the following link:

<https://rm.coe.int/compendium-of-conventions-recommendations-and-resolutions-relating-to-/1680714781>

Visit to British National Probation Service



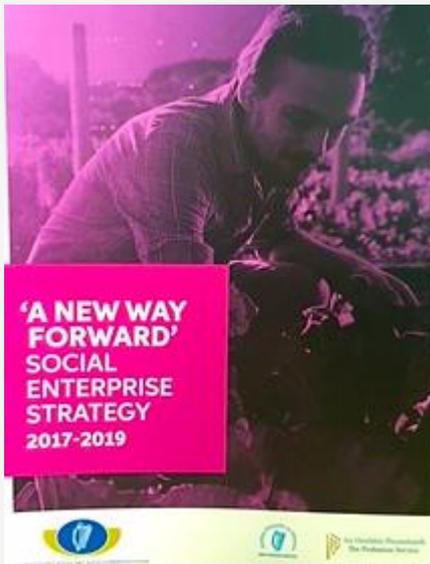
Pictured above: Vivian Geiran (second from L) and Ailish Glennon (fourth from L) on recent visit to NE England

Probation Service Director, Vivian Geiran and Regional Manager, Ailish Glennon made a joint visit, with Probation Board for Northern Ireland CEO, Cheryl Lamont and Psychologist, Geraldine O’Hare to the

the following link:

<http://justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/PR17000156>

Launch of Joint Strategy on Social Enterprise



A new joint strategy on social enterprise in the criminal justice system was launched by Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald TD, on Monday 15th May 2017. This took place at the same event as the launch of the two (Probation Service and Prison Service) Annual Reports in Mountjoy Prison, Dublin. The Strategy, generated by a Justice steering committee, comprising Criminal Justice, business and NGO sector representatives, sets out a vision and plan for developing Social Enterprise in the Justice sector, to improve access to employment for ex-offenders, and thereby contribute to reduced reoffending, and safer, fairer and more inclusive communities.

The Social Enterprise Strategy is available at:

<http://www.probation.ie/EN/PB/WebPages/WP1700017>

National Probation Service (NPS) North East Division, on 4th and 5th May 2017. The visit was hosted by Lynda Marginson, NPS (North–East) Director and her colleagues, specifically those in Durham, Middlesbrough and Newcastle. The visitors had an opportunity to learn about a number of British projects, including the CheckPoint (alternative to prosecution) project, and responses to offenders with personality disorder, and those involved in extremism–motivated offending, as well as having a range of discussions on organisational and practice development and how to further develop cross–jurisdictional co–operation between our organisations. In addition, the visit incorporated a visit to *Fork In The Road* restaurant, a Social Enterprise in Middlesbrough, which employs ex–offenders and those on early release from prison, where the visitors had discussions with Andy Preston, Manager of *Fork In The Road*, and with a number of people employed there.



- [Address by the Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald T.D. at the Launch of the Irish Prison Service Annual Report 2016, the Probation Service Annual Report 2016 and the launch of “A New Way Forward – the Joint Social Enterprise Strategy 2017 –2019, Mountjoy Prison.](#)
- [Fewer–Offenders–Being–Imprisoned – Today FM](#)
- [50% fall in jailing of fine defaulters](#)

Date for Your Diary: Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference



The fourth annual conference of the Irish Criminal Justice Agencies is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 4th July 2017, in Dublin Castle. The theme of this year's one-day conference is: *Youth Justice Policy in Ireland: Where to Next?* This event is a collaboration between the Department of Justice and Equality, Probation Service, Irish Youth Justice Service (IYJS), Irish Prison Service, An Garda Síochána, and the Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD). IYJS are the lead agency for this year's conference.

More information on the ICJA Conference is available at the ACJRD website: <http://www.acjrd.ie/contents/337>

European Radicalisation Awareness Network Meeting held in Dublin

- [Monkstown's Probation Boxer – Joins Irish Army](#)

Probation in numbers



This month (May 2017) there are:

8,787 Persons under Probation Service Supervision in the community;

1,532 Prisoners receiving probation assistance in custody;

2,192 People on Community Service

1,253 Persons on various types of post-release probation supervision

1,360 Women on probation Supervision in the community, and

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

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

<http://www.probation.ie/EN/PB/WebPages/WP17000013>

appreciation for the warm welcome, support and hospitality at the Probation Service during their visit and meeting.

More information on RAN (P&P) and a post meeting paper reporting on lessons learned, insights and follow-up initiative will be available on the RAN (P&P) website at

https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation_awareness_network/about-ran/ran-p-and-p_en

PBNI Receives Human Resources Award



Pictured above: Gillian Robinson (centre) receiving her award at the recent CIPD awards event.

Congratulations to our Probation Board for our Northern Ireland (PBNI) colleagues on their recent Human Resources (HR) award. PBNI head of HR, Gillian Robinson, won a Highly Commended citation in the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) (Northern Ireland) HR Director of the Year Award, at an event held in the Titanic Centre, Belfast, on Thursday 18th May. The HR Director of the Year award recognises significant

managed and delivered on the ground in local communities.

It was a very busy three-day programme and valuable, thought-provoking and informative experience for our Slovenian colleagues. They expressed particular thanks for the generous welcome and hospitality provided by everybody and looked forward to future contact between the Probation Service in Ireland and Slovenia.

Since their visit, progress in setting up the Probation Service has continued. On 24 May, the law officially setting up the Probation Service and making provision for work in courts was passed by the National Assembly in Ljubljana. The Probation Service in Slovenia hopes to have appointed probation officers and to begin operations early next year.

CoSA Conference

The CoSA conference took place on the 5 April 2017 in the Wood Quay Venue and was operated on a Circles model. The Conference was specifically targeted to benefit Probation Officers, members of An Garda Síochána and other practitioners working with people with convictions for harmful sexual behaviour in the community.

The conference aimed

1. To introduce Circles of Support & Accountability nationally.
 2. To generate an understanding of how CoSA contributes to: risk reduction / the prevention of further victims and safer communities.
- Speakers included Dr. Lisa Cuthbert, CEO PACE, Chris Kania, Circles Co-ordinator from Greater Manchester and Wendy Leaver, retired Detective from the Canadian Police Service and Circles Advocate. Wendy was definitely the highlight of the conference with a witty and inspiring presentation. Without doubt the conference assisted in providing the audience with an understanding of how CoSA contributes to risk

contribution to the HR and People Management profession in Northern Ireland.

ACER-3 Programme

The Joint Agency Response to Crime (J-ARC) is a joint strategy between An Garda Síochána, the Probation Service and the Irish Prison Service which confirms our joint commitment to target the 20% of recidivists who are responsible for 80% of crime; to manage the nominated prolific offenders in order to reduce crime and enhance public safety by strengthening through the co-ordination/integration of policy, practice and research between our organisations.

The ACER-3 programme is part of this initiative which began in March 2015 and is facilitated by the Dublin South Inner City and Tallaght Probation teams. ACER-3 is a multi-agency approach to the management of identified offenders charged with burglary, it provides an operational approach for co-ordinated and enhanced levels of co-operation and co-ordination between the three agencies. ACER-3 is currently in operation in two districts within the Dublin region- Dublin 8 and Dublin 24. Target selection is based on their long history of repeated burglary offences. The selection is carried out by the three Justice agencies. At present the Dublin South Inner city and Tallaght teams work with approximately ten targets.

As part of the ongoing development of the ACER-3 programme a new system called E-JARC was created during mid 2016. E-JARC is a computer data base for sharing information relating to targets between all the three Justice agencies.

An evaluation of the ACER-3 programme was carried out in late 2016 and early January 2017, which provided evidence indicating that burglaries had decreased as a result of this initiative. The ACER-3 initiative has been rolled out

reduction, the prevention of further victims and Safer Communities.

Profile Piece – Eamon Keenan, Community Service Supervisor



Pictured above: Vivian Geiran, Geraldine Broderick and Eamon Keenan, Community Service Supervisor.

Eamon Keenan joined the Probation Service in March 2013 following a career in the Construction Industry working as a Plasterer, where he put his degree in Construction Site Management to good use. Prior to joining the Probation Service, Eamon was working in Alberta, Canada where he was employed in the Oil Industry but decided to return home on being offered a position as a Community Service Supervisor. Since joining the Probation Service, Eamon has mainly worked in hostels, The Iveagh, Granby and Le Froy to name just a few.

The Probation Service received delivery of our third minibus recently and Eamon is putting his training to good as operator of the new Mobile Bus Project. It is planned to modify the Dublin Community Service Bus, to enable it to accommodate carrying tools and community service supplies. In the

nationally to three other regions including Limerick, Dundalk and Waterford.

Raja R. Nemala
Probation Officer.

Confederation of European Probation (CEP) Board Meeting in Dublin



The Board of CEP (Confederation of European Probation) held its 88th meeting at the Probation Service Headquarters in Smithfield, Dublin on Thursday 6th April 2017. This was the first meeting of the new CEP Board, elected at the CEP General Assembly in Bucharest last November.

Vivian Geiran, Director of the Probation Service, welcomed the CEP Board members and secretariat to Dublin and hosted a dinner for the CEP Board members with guests representing criminal justice agencies and interests in Ireland.

The Board meeting was chaired by the CEP President, Gerry McNally, Assistant Director in the Probation Service. The CEP Board considered important Probation policy and practice issues

meantime, the bus will be used to carry clients to and from community service sites, to allow the Probation Service provide more flexibility to both our clients and the various community service projects in which they are involved.

NOTA Conference



Pictured above: Pauline Downey, Snr. Probation Officer, Dr. Karl Hanson and Mary McDonald Snr. Probation Officer at the National Organisation for Treatment of Sexual Abusers (NOTA) Conference.



Pictured above: Recipients of the 'Stable and Acute' 2007 Certification, at the National Organisation for Treatment of Sexual Abusers (NOTA) Conference.

Retirement Function

including the development and strengthening of probation in Europe, addressing radicalisation and co-operation with other criminal justice services and agencies.

The CEP Board members and secretariat thanked Vivian Geiran and the Probation Service for their warm welcome and hospitality in hosting the 88th meeting of the Board.

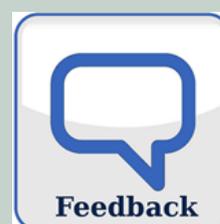


Pictured above: Members of the *Just Sing* choir.

The annual function for retired Probation Service colleagues took place on Wednesday the 10 May 2017 in Haymarket. As usual there was a great attendance on the day with former colleagues travelling quite some distances to be here.

Each year our retired colleagues look forward to this gathering, not only to meet up with one another, but also to meet with staff currently working in the Service.

Again this year we were very fortunate to have a performance from the choir – *Just Sing*, which went really well and was very much appreciated by all.



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