

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh
The Probation Service

Safer communities and fewer victims through offender rehabilitation



An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh
The Probation Service

*Progress is impossible
without change...*

George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)



Working with offenders to assist them turn away from crime



An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh
The Probation Service

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Section 1

Introduction and Context

Introduction

I am very pleased to present the Probation Service Annual Report for 2015 to Ms Frances Fitzgerald TD, Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality. This report sets out the work and the performance of the Service during 2015 against our key objectives and priorities.



In 2015 we continued to implement the Government's Programme for National Recovery 2011-2016. We also supported, contributed to and worked closely with the Department on their *Programme for Change and the Civil Service Renewal Programme*.

Rehabilitating offenders to achieve and maintain positive change is at the core of our work. We believe that offenders can change their behaviour and through rigorous assessment and effective case management we can help them achieve their potential as law abiding citizens. We also believe that offenders must accept responsibility for their behaviour and where possible make good the harm they do. Equally, we are committed to respecting the rights of victims of crime in all our work with offenders. Probation practice is delivered, informed and underpinned by social work practice and our dedicated staff have a specific expertise in intervening with offenders and in assessing and managing risk.

In May 2015, we launched our *Strategic Plan for 2015 to 2017*, which sets out the Service's strategic direction for the next three years. This strategy builds on our achievements to date with an agenda that is committed to the further development of a professional service, effective in reducing the risk of re-offending, bench-marked against best international probation practice and one in which our stakeholders are confident. May 2015 also saw the publication of the second Probation Service and Irish Prison Service Joint Strategy which sets out how both organisations will continue to advance and improve our joint working, in conjunction with our statutory, community and voluntary partners. Progress on this strategy is incorporated in the 2015 Annual Report.

With our partners in the criminal justice agencies we continued to implement the recommendations of the 2014 Penal Policy Review which highlighted the need to increase efficiencies in the way we do our business and the need for a multiagency approach in the development of a just, proportionate, humane and effective penal system. The Joint Agency Response to Crime (JARC), commencing in four locations in Dublin was launched by Minister Fitzgerald on 30th November. We are committed to further developing these close working relationships and to future co-operation in extending the JARC initiative to more locations over the coming year. Recognising the added value the community brings to our work across the country, during 2015 the Probation Service, through the Department, provided funding of €10.7m to Community Based Organisations who work with and alongside us in the reintegration and rehabilitation of offenders.

There was a lot to celebrate in 2015: Our third Recidivism Study on reoffending rates among those under our supervision (probation and community service) was published by the Central Statistics Office in December 2015. Overall, the findings were positive, in that they record an improvement in reoffending outcomes among our client group as a whole, when compared with the previous study.

The Service is very proud of our achievement in receiving the Civil Service Excellence Award for Innovation, in respect of the interagency (Prisons-Probation) Community Return programme. The award reflects the innovation, dedication, persistence and quality of Probation Service staff, recognising and acknowledging the best of what we do. This award was presented by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD at a ceremony in Dublin Castle.

I look forward over the coming year to delivering on our strategic goals, to continued partnership working with the Department, our Criminal Justice Partners and others at home, in Europe and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vivian Geiran".

Vivian Geiran, Director



THE ROLE AND WORK OF THE PROBATION SERVICE

The Probation Service is an agency of the Department of Justice and Equality, committed to working for safer communities and fewer victims through offender rehabilitation.

The Service is an organisation with a national remit whose role is to contribute to public safety through the management of community sanctions and measures. Our primary goal is improving public safety through the rehabilitation and reduction in offending of those in our care. The Service has 395 staff located in over 35 community based offices in every county in Ireland, as well as having staff based in all 14 prisons. We are a national service, delivered locally, providing services to Courts, custodial institutions and communities across the country.

The Probation Service manages orders of the Criminal Courts, through the supervision of offenders in the community. This is achieved through the effective assessment and management of offenders and by working closely with a wide range of statutory, community and voluntary organisations to deliver services.

The Probation Service dealt with over 14,500 offenders in the Community in 2015

A detailed breakdown of statistical data is available in the appendices at the end of this document



All of those who work in the Criminal Justice System share the goal of helping to create a safer and a fairer Ireland. Interagency co-operation with our Justice partners, particularly the Courts, the Irish Prison Service, An Garda Síochána, the Irish Youth Justice Service, and the Parole Board, is central to everything we do. The Probation Service, as an integral part of the justice system, has a significant contribution to make to the Department of Justice and Equality's intent to build a coherent, strategic approach to reducing offending.

The Probation Service contributes to a safer and fairer Ireland by:

- Ensuring Court ordered supervision is implemented
- Reducing the likelihood of reoffending and risk of harm to the public
- Making good the harm done by crime (reparation and restorative justice)

The principal areas in which the Probation Service delivers services are:

- Offender Supervision and Sentence Management;
- Community Service and Community Return;
- Young Persons Probation (YPP);
- Community Partner Initiatives, (including Community Based Organisations in receipt of funding).

The work of the Probation Service broadly falls into two categories (1) offender assessment and (2) offender supervision and management.

(1) Offender Assessment:

Probation Officers provide assessment reports for the Courts and the Department of Justice and Equality, the Irish Prison Service, the Parole Board and other bodies as required. Offender assessment underpins the work of the Service. It informs sentencing decisions, including an offender's suitability for a community sanction, as well as the interventions we engage in with offenders to promote change and facilitate reintegration.

(2) Offender Supervision and Management:

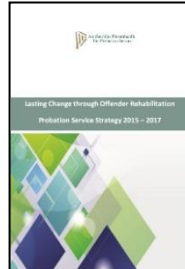
Offenders placed under our supervision by the Courts are assigned a Probation Officer who, following a thorough assessment, works with the offender to address the underlying issues related to their offending. The supervision is done in a structured way, built around a comprehensive case management plan, addressing the factors that have contributed to the offending behaviour.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Building our Strategy for 2015-2017

In May 2015, the Probation Service launched its Strategic Plan for 2015-2017. The Plan sets out our strategic direction for the next three years and provides a high level framework for our annual work plans, mapping our strategies to our main operational activities.



The consultation process has been vital to the development of this strategy and in ensuring its relevance to service users, staff, criminal justice partners and other stakeholders. Extensive consultation took place with staff from all sections of the Service and our Service funded Community Based Organisations. Consultation also took place with our criminal justice partners, including the Courts Service, the Irish Prison Service and An Garda Síochána, as well as staff representative groups and service users.

“The strategy builds on our achievements to date with an agenda that is committed to the further development of a professional service, effective in reducing the risk of re-offending, bench-marked against best international probation practice and one in which our stakeholders are confident.”

Vivian Geiran, Director

The Strategy sets out what we want to achieve and how we as an organisation intend to deliver our goals.

Over the period of this Strategy we will continue to work in collaboration with our statutory, community and voluntary partners, to improve outcomes in our shared objective; to help create a safer and fairer Ireland.

A new Joint Strategy with the Irish Prison Service

In May 2015, the Probation Service and the Irish Prison Service published a new Joint Strategic Plan, 2015-2017. This new plan builds on the foundation and success of the previous (2013-2015) one, and specifically on the strong commitment to interagency working by the two Services (Probation and Prisons).



Pictured above (from left): Vivian Geiran, Probation Service Director, Minister Frances Fitzgerald TD, Michael Donnellan, Director General, Irish Prison Service

“The purpose of the joint strategy prepared by the Prison and Probation Services is to focus on interventions that encourage the development of a multi-agency problem solving approach. The second joint strategy builds on the work already underway reflecting the integrated approach to working with offenders by the two Services – work which is closely aligned to the focus of rehabilitation and reintegration contained in the report of the Penal Policy Review Group.”

Minister Frances Fitzgerald TD

Section 2

Delivering Services in 2015

Probation staff engage with individual offenders, and establish a professional relationship with them, aimed at motivating and helping them to make positive changes in their lives, so as to avoid further offending.

We hold offenders to account for their behaviour and challenge any behaviours or attitudes that might signal a return to offending ways. We achieve our goals through a range of innovative interventions and targeted programmes, benchmarked against best international practice.

Probation Officers utilise a wide range of established and validated risk assessment instruments in their assessment of offenders. These risk assessment instruments, in conjunction with the officers' social work training, allow officers assess offenders needs related to risk of reoffending and / or risk of causing future harm.

We supply a range of high quality reports to assist the Courts, at all levels, nationwide in their decision-making functions. These reports provide a thorough assessment of the offender and promote, where appropriate, the use of a range of community sanctions and measures.

In 2015 we completed over 9,500 Probation (Pre-Sanction) Reports and over 2,000 Community Service Assessments for Courts nationwide.

A detailed breakdown of statistical data is available in the appendices at the end of this document.



The Probation Service also undertake other reports for the Parole Board, the Department of Justice and Equality, the Irish Prison Service and other bodies as required.

In 2015 we also completed:

72 Assessment and Home Circumstances reports for the Parole Board

70 reports on Life Sentence Prisoners for the Irish Prison Service

20 Repatriation Reports for the Department of Justice and Equality

A detailed breakdown of statistical data is available in the appendices at the end of this document.



The Service remains committed to providing appropriate high quality assessment reports, in addition to expanding the range of reports available.

Many offenders under our supervision have complex needs such as alcohol or drug problems, literacy issues, and social skills deficits. These offenders require a broad range of support and assistance in the community if they are to make better choices for themselves and their communities.

Officers use many tools in their role to support desistance and reduce reoffending. These include targeted programmes, developed by the Service, to address issues in an offender's life which have an established link to reoffending. Probation Officers also refer offenders to specialist services, such as drug treatment programmes.

In 2015 we continued to roll out our Service developed targeted programmes that address specific contributors to offending:

The **Choice and Challenge** programme was delivered as a group work programme in a number of locations nationwide, while a number of officers delivered the individual **Choice and Challenge** module to offenders, as part of their individual structured engagement with those on probation supervision. Michelle Mc Shane, Probation Officer, Donegal, shares her experience of delivering the **Choice and Challenge** Programme in 2015.



“Using the Choice and Challenge programme, which helps offenders change anti-social attitudes and behaviours, has become a crucial part of our work in Donegal. The programme provides a structured approach which challenges offending behaviour and addresses victim empathy, offering clients a ‘voice’ and the possibility to see that there is always a choice.”

Overall, I have found that the response to the programme from clients has been very positive and they enjoyed the focused intervention, which is relevant to their everyday lives. On completion of the modules of the Programme, they value their achievement.”

Michelle Mc Shane, Probation Officer, Donegal.

As part of our work with offenders in custody, programmes were also delivered in a number of prisons and places of detention. The choice and challenge groupwork programme was delivered in Mountjoy and Wheatfield prisons in 2015 with preparatory work commencing on these group programmes in Cork and Limerick prisons for delivery in early 2016.

The *Living with Life* programme which focuses on the internal capabilities of offenders, assisting them in completing sentence management plans, was delivered in Cork, Limerick, the Midlands and Portlaoise prisons in 2015.

Responding to the relationship between substance misuse and offending the Service’s **Alcohol Awareness Programme**, which was finalised in December 2014, was made available for national delivery by our staff and our partner Community Based Organisations in 2015.



Picture Above: Probation Officers Dave Murphy, Nick Clarke and Collette Byrne with participants on the Choice and Challenge Group programme (November 2015).

Community Service

In 2015 the Service continued to implement the community service scheme, a cost effective direct alternative to imprisonment.



...a social
& health service
for people who are homeless

FAST FACT

In 2015, we managed almost 2,000 Community Service Orders totalling 291, 197 hours in lieu of 987 years.

This equated to €2.5* million of unpaid work for the benefit of the community.

*Notional value at minimum wage rate of €8.65

F A C T

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. In 2015 this work included the maintenance of a number of community gardens and recreational facilities, youthclubs and community resource centres.

A secondary benefit of the community service/community return schemes has been the opportunity it creates for offenders to learn valuable work and life skills.

Community Service/Community Return Scheme commended for its contribution to the Homeless Services in Dublin

In 2015 the Alice Leahy Trust Homeless Service was one of the beneficiaries of the Community Service/Community Return schemes where the Service facilitated the repainting of the Centre which Alice described as being “carried out to a very high standard.”

Alice Leahy, Director of the Trust, also advised that the work was “commented on by both people who use the service and visitors who support us.” Fulsome in her praise for the “quality of supervision” and “the quality of staff” she wrote:

“

We pride ourselves in maintaining a nice welcoming centre so when there was an opportunity for us to have it re-painted we were only too happy to have people on community service do it for us. The work carried out was to a very high standard and was widely commented on by both people who use our service and visitors who support us. The quality of supervision was obvious down to the last detail e.g. they tidied up every day after their work and everything was left spic and span on completion of the job. This might sound very simple but we all know that when you pay somebody to do a job very often you are left to tidy up after them. ”

Alice Leahy
Director & Co-Founder
TRUST



“In lieu of a prison sentence, participants on Community Service work on tasks that would otherwise not be done, for example painting, groundwork, gardening and clearance in areas around the city and county.

It is rewarding to see participants do their community service and then move on and never see them return. It’s great if I meet them again and get positive feedback in that their life has moved on and progressed and they haven’t got into more trouble.”

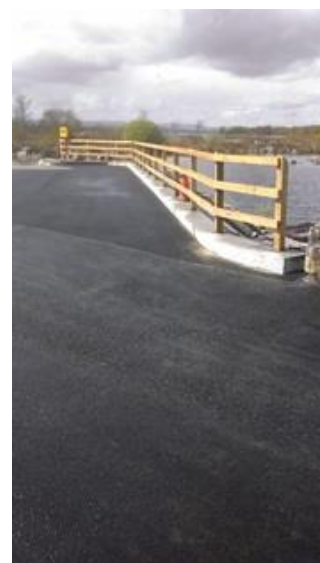
Martin Connaughton.

We have a wide variety of predominantly male clients from 18 years to over 50. The group includes every nationality with mixed abilities and different backgrounds. I try to match the job to the person and utilise the participants as best I can.

My job is to brief the participants, go through Health and Safety expectations and good work practices with them. I try to nurture them and bring them along in order to get their Community Service Order completed. I also try to help with their outlook to life in general, things are not always as bad as they might seem.

We have ongoing work doing litter picks and general tidy up along the shore line from Galway City to Lettermore and Roundstone. There is also ongoing work pruning, strimming and grass cutting in areas around the city, in cemeteries and along riverbanks. I am particularly proud of a river bed area, which is maintained to a high standard by the Community Service team

Benefits of the work include giving the participants a goal and a sense of value when work is completed and their work is appreciated. It gives them structure.



Above: Before and after photos of Kilbeg Pier, Co. Galway.



Above: Before and after photos of Westside, Co. Galway.

Young Persons Probation (YPP)

Young Persons Probation (YPP) is a specialised division of the Probation Service with responsibility for the assessment and supervision of young offenders in the community; YPP works with children and young people between the ages 12-18 who come before the Courts or who are in the Children Detention Schools/Centre.

In 2015, we worked with almost **900** young persons referred to the Service

A detailed breakdown of statistical data is available in the appendices at the end of this document.



In 2015 the Probation Service purchased a new online Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) for young offenders which has been integrated into our Case Tracking System. This YLS/CMI is applied to persons under 18 years of age at Pre Sanction Report and during Supervision stages. The YLS/CMI is designed to help Probation Officers assess the rehabilitation needs of young offenders. This will also facilitate the generation of management information and reports.

Innovative, creative, multiagency community based responses are required for effective engagement with the young persons with whom we work. The Ballyrunners Programme is one such initiative:

Project Profile: Ballyrunners - Heading in the Right Direction

Established in 2009 Ballyrunners is an activity and skills based programme targeting young people who can be described as “very hard to reach” by mainstream services.

The age range is from 16-24 years and is of mixed gender. All participants are from the Ballymun area.

Working in partnership, the Probation Service and the Ballymun Job Centre created a group work programme where staff took a very much “hands on” approach to engaging young people. In their roles as

coordinators and facilitators staff from both services actively participated alongside the young people in the different modules, building positive relationships, promoting pro-social activities and challenging criminal and anti-social behaviour.

Linked with the Bronze Gaisce Award (President’s Award) outcomes focus primarily on progressing the young people into placements in education, training, and employment.

The Ballyrunners Programme **80** young people have successfully completed the Ballyrunners programme over the last six years. **80%** have either obtained employment or returned to education/training.



Rachel Lillis, Senior Probation Officer at the 2nd Annual Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference “**Engagement with Young People**, Dublin Castle July 2015”.

COLLABORATION WITH OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERS

While each organisation and agency within the Criminal Justice System brings its own unique contribution, we multiply what each of us brings to the table when our energies are combined in a focused way.

The Probation Service's commitment to further developing interagency working continued in 2015, through a range of programmes delivering more integrated offender supervision and case management, particularly in co-operation with the Irish Prison Service and An Garda Síochána, as well as the Irish Youth Justice Agency, and others.



Pictured above: Minister Frances Fitzgerald TD speaking at the launch of the Joint Agency Response to Crime (J-ARC) initiative in November 2015.



Pictured above: Vivian Geiran, Probation Service Director, Michael Donnellan, Director General, Irish Prison Service, Minister Frances Fitzgerald TD, Garda Commissioner Noreen O'Sullivan responding to questions at the J-ARC launch in November 2015.

Joint Agency Response to Crime (J-ARC)

The Joint Agency Response to Crime, comprising four new interagency initiatives in Dublin, targeting and working with a range of prolific and high impact offenders, to reduce their offending, was formally launched by Minister Frances Fitzgerald TD in November 2015.

The JARC initiative builds on existing co-operation between the Probation Service, the Irish Prison Service and An Garda Síochána. As well as improving interagency information sharing and other co-operation between these three Justice organisations, the initiative also draws together a more focused and coordinated combination of community based resources, including accommodation, addiction treatment and income maintenance, which can all contribute to reducing the risk of reoffending.

A cutting edge ICT solution is also being developed by the Department of Justice and Equality, to facilitate interagency co-operation in JARC. The JARC initiative will be evaluated for effectiveness, with lessons learned and applied in future developments to help create safer communities and fewer victims. Launching J-ARC the Minister said;

“While it is well known that I am particularly committed to strengthening support for the victims of crime, as Minister for Justice and Equality, I would also like to oversee a system which aims to reduce the number of victims by a reduction in offending. The launch of J-ARC today is an endorsement of the work done by criminal justice agencies and community organisations together in challenging offending behaviour which has at its centre the needs of victims to feel safer in their communities.”

Minister Frances Fitzgerald TD

Joint Probation Service and Irish Prison Service Strategy

The Probation Service and Irish Prison Service continue to have a multiagency approach to offender management and rehabilitation from pre to post imprisonment in order to reduce re-offending and improve prisoner outcomes.

For the majority of those either incarcerated or sentenced to sanctions in the community, similar criminogenic needs and risks exist. Lack of employment, abuse of alcohol and drugs, anti-social attitudes and companions, emotional and personal difficulties, poor educational achievement, family problems, and lack of housing or accommodation are prominent among them. Such multiple needs are often interrelated and mutually reinforcing. The development of a multi-agency problem-solving approach to address the complex range of needs are more likely to be effective than focusing on single issues in isolation.

Recognising the need to address these multi-faceted issues and bring together partners to develop and deliver responses that work, the second Joint Probation Service and Irish Prison Service Strategic Plan 2015 – 2017 was launched in May 2015. The Strategy identifies eight strategic priorities.

Irish Youth Justice Service

The Probation Service continued to work closely with the Irish Youth Justice Service. In 2015 we contributed to the implementation of the 'Youth Justice Action Plan 2014-2018 alongside our colleagues in An Garda Síochána, Irish Youth Justice Service, TUSLA and the Irish Prison Service. Key actions for 2014 and 2015 were reviewed and a plan prepared for 2016.

We were also involved in the review of the Garda Liaison Scheme which commenced in 2015 and continues into 2016 which is chaired by a retired Judge and includes representatives from the relevant Criminal Justice Agencies.



Joint Probation Service and Irish Prison Service Strategic Priorities 2015 - 2017



1. Ensuring that all sentenced prisoners can be assisted in their rehabilitation and community reintegration throughout their sentence.
2. Building on the success of the Community Return Programme of earned early release.
3. Engaging with service users to reduce the risk of re-offending, creating safer communities through improved service provision.
4. Enhance pre-release planning for prisoners.
5. Promoting social inclusion
6. Promotion of joint integrated responses to crime.
7. Responding to Victims - upholding the rights, supports and protection of victims.
8. Providing support for short sentenced prisoners.



Our work in and with communities

The Probation Service recognises and acknowledges the important role that the community plays in working with offenders, supporting their rehabilitation, re-integration and engagement in a positive lifestyle.

Providing opportunities for the community to engage with us is an important feature of our work. This includes creating opportunities for volunteering and the provision of community service placements.

The Probation Service provides funding and support to community based organisations to develop and deliver services in communities, which enhance the work of the Probation Service in changing offending behaviour. Our work is supported by 61 Community Based Organisations (CBOs).

Each year these organisations commit to a range of outputs in line with the Strategy and Work Plans of the Probation Service.

The services provided include training and education, offender management programmes, residential accommodation and drug/alcohol abuse treatment programmes. The CBOs offer a service to offenders who would otherwise not be in a position to avail of a mainstream service opportunity.

FAST FACT

During 2015, the Probation Service provided **€10.7** million to Community Based Organisations working with adults, and the Irish Youth Justice provided **€5m** through the Probation Service to the Young Person Probation projects.



Alcohol Awareness Programmes

The Probation Service has long recognised the serious detrimental impact of excessive alcohol use in society. Both of the Service's 2011 and 2012 drugs and alcohol surveys found high levels of alcohol use amongst those referred to us by the Courts. Committed to providing effective interventions to reduce rates of alcohol related reoffending, building on a number of previous initiatives, a new Alcohol Awareness Programme was developed for delivery in 2015. The programme is for delivery across the country by both Probation staff and our network of community based organisations.

The four session group based programme targets adult offenders and aims to:

- Increase the understanding of participants in relation to the health risks associated with excessive alcohol use
- Raise participants awareness in relation to the increased risks of negative behaviour associated with alcohol use
- Enable participants to take practical steps to monitor, manage and reduce alcohol use
- Meet the requirements of a court directed alcohol awareness programme

A number of Community Based Organisations were invited to attend an information seminar in the Probation Service offices in Haymarket in July 2015 to introduce the programme. A number of these organisations are now providing the Alcohol Awareness programme as part of their programme of interventions to offenders.

"We aim to reduce re-offending and increase the confidence and life skills of participants to enable them to have increased employment, life opportunities and outcomes."

Vivian Geiran, Director of the Probation Service

Benefitting from European Social Funding

2015 saw the inclusion for the first time of five of our Community Based Organisations in the European Social Funding Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020, which is part supported by the Irish Government.

The five projects are:

- **Le Cheile** which is a nationwide volunteer mentoring and family support service.
- **Céim ar Chéim** and **Southill Outreach** projects targeting educational needs and promoting pro social lifestyles.
- **Dochas don Óige** provides educational and training needs for young people.
- **Tus Nua** is a specialised service supporting homeless women upon their release from prison or women with an offending background whose main aim is to facilitate resettlement and reintegration in the community.



The above projects are part supported by the Irish Government and the European Social Fund as part of the ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020.

Circles of Support & Accountability (CoSA)

A unique and innovative community justice initiative

In 2015 the Probation Service provided funding to PACE, a Community Based Organisation, to establish CoSA as a two year pilot project in the greater Dublin area.

Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA), is a unique and innovative community justice initiative for post-release monitoring of medium and high risk sex offenders in and by the community.

The Probation Service has developed an expertise over the last number of years in its assessment, treatment and management of sex offenders. It has achieved this in partnership with a number of different statutory and non-statutory organisations.

Interagency co-operation is, and will continue to be, a key strength of the project in the future.

Anastasia, service user at Dochas Don Oige one of the projects that benefits from ESF funding shares her experience.

My name is Anastasia¹ and I'm from Galway. I was referred to Dóchas don Óige by the Probation Service five months ago and I really enjoy it. My sister had been here previous to me, but left over a year ago now. Because of her advice and because I saw how Dóchas helped her I'm here now.



"It makes you feel good, I leave here every evening feeling better than when I came in."

Anastasia

The days are very relaxed here while doing our work. Everyone gets on well with each other which is another great thing. We get all our work done while we are in here. My favourite day is Wednesday as we do a Health & Fitness module, which includes going out to Westside to play soccer for an hour.

I have lots of plans for the future. My interests include music and cooking, so I can see myself going down the route of social care and working with kids. There is a course in Galway Technical Institute which I am interested in, so hopefully I will get that.

"The staff here go out of their way to help you in any way possible. This help and support keeps people off the streets by offering them guidance... the best thing I have ever done was come in here, because I do want an education."

Anastasia

¹ Not young person's real name.



Project Profile

2015 was a momentous year for Southhill Outreach as it celebrated 25 years of working in collaboration with The Probation Service, other services and the local community, to reduce anti-social and offending behaviour, thereby contributing to making Southhill a safer place to live. Southhill Outreach is one of the seventeen community based organisations delivered in collaboration with the Probation Service and funded through the Irish Youth Justice Service.



Founded in 1990, as a response to local concerns about anti-social behaviour by groups of young people in the Southhill area of Limerick city, Southhill Outreach has since extended to work throughout Limerick City and County, Clare and North Kerry.

The approaches adopted by Southhill Outreach enable the project to work with those considered hardest to reach. These include Street Work and the Inreach (Detention Schools) Programme.

In September 2015, Southhill Outreach held a conference in the magnificent and iconic setting of Thomond Park to celebrate its 25th birthday. The theme of the conference was 'Effective Practice in Engaging Young People' and was a huge success with over 190 delegates attending including founding members, Vincent Byrne, Senior Probation Officer, and John Hanafin. The keynote speaker was Dr Mary Louise Corr of Queens University, Belfast, who presented her findings on working with marginalised youth. The day concentrated on the importance of relationship, and the different ways that we build purposeful relationships with young people.

Southhill Outreach has always sought to remain innovative and responsive to the needs of the local community.



"While trends come and go, times change, the issues change, but the one thing that remains the same is that our work isn't effective unless we build good quality purposeful relationships; with other agencies, with communities, but most importantly with the young people with whom we work."

Siobhan Abbot, Manager Southhill Outreach

339 Probation Service clients* were referred to Community Based Organisations supported by the European Social Fund in 2015.

* 322 young persons and 17 adult offenders.



The above project is part supported by the Irish Government and the European Social Fund as part of the ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020.

Responding to Victims Concerns

The Probation Service is committed to reducing the number of victims of crime through the successful rehabilitation of offenders. Victim concerns are central to all our engagement with offenders in pre-sentence reports, individual offender supervision plans, individual and group work programmes and all risk management work.

FAST FACT

In 2015, the Service completed **47** Victim Impact Reports for Court. When completing these reports the Service recognises the special needs of victims and seeks to enable them to reflect their circumstances to the Court.

F A C T

The Probation Service at all times endeavours to respond in a prompt, sensitive and helpful manner to any requests from victims of crime for information or assistance.

The National Victim Services Team responded to a range of queries from victims throughout the year. This included requests for clarification regarding the nature of our work with offenders, the meaning and responsibilities attached to particular Court Orders (Probation) or information in relation to support services.

Pilot Victim Offender Mediation

A pilot programme to provide a Victim – Offender Mediation Service for victims of sexual crime, approved by the Minister for Justice and Equality, commenced in September 2015.

The Probation Service's National Victim Services Team co-ordinates and oversees the delivery of the pilot through a core group of Probation Staff who have participated in a specialised mediation skills and dedicated training on sexual trauma in the latter part of 2015.

In 2015 the Probation Service reiterated its goal of providing an appropriate, timely and effective response to all victim requests/concerns in accordance with our Victims Charter (2010) and Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council which is currently being transposed in to national legislation. The Service's commitment to implementing a victim sensitive response is contained in the Probation Service Restorative Justice Strategy Implementation Plan 2015-2017 (Feb 2015).



Victims' Rights Conference



Pictured above with Ita Burke, Deputy Director Probation Service and Ursula Fernée, Regional Manager are Professor Shane Kilcommins from the School of Law, UL and Dr. Luke Moffett from the School of Law, Queens University Belfast

The Centre for Criminal Justice and School of Law at the University of Limerick hosted a conference entitled 'Victims' Rights: An Agenda for Change' in September 2015.

The Probation Service was pleased to contribute to the parallel sessions with a presentation from Regional Manager Ursula Fernée, Victim Services Coordinator, entitled "Victim Perspectives in Probation Practice: The Change, the Choices and the Challenges". The presentation tracked the development of victim awareness/engagement in our work with offenders and the measures which are currently in place to support the Service's commitment to a victim sensitive response in all our work with offenders.

Service User Engagement and the development of Peer led Initiatives

In 2015 the Service extended its involvement with service users in the development and delivery of services.

One such initiative is the partnership between the Irish Prison Service, the Probation Service and Irish Red Cross. The objective of the project is to improve community awareness and reduce recidivism through Irish Red Cross volunteers (prisoners) transitioning from prison into the community.

The 'Community Based Health and First Aid' module has been delivered in all prisons in Ireland since 2009. In partnership with the Probation Service, the programme was extended into the community in 2015. Twenty participants on the Community Return and Community Service Scheme completed this programme in Probation Service Headquarters. One of the two Red Cross facilitators was a serving prisoner and the second an ex-prisoner and former participant on the Community Return scheme.

In November 2015, the Service secured funding to pilot two further service user / peer support initiatives - one for service users leaving prison and the second a community based peer education programme for women offenders. We look forward to further developing these initiatives in 2016.



Pictured above: Participants on the Red Cross training event held in Probation Service Headquarters, Dublin in September 2015.

Twenty Years in reflection

Gerard Quigley
Clerical Officer



Gerard Quigley, Clerical Officer in the Probation Service, Limerick where he has worked for almost twenty years reflects on his experience supporting front line service delivery.

"When I first joined the Probation Service almost 20 years ago I didn't at first see our clients as people who have an important part to play in society. However, early on, when I saw the way our Probation Officers work with the clients and the possibilities for the client that they saw, I began to change my views.

"I'd like people to realise that just because they got probation or community service doesn't mean they got off."

"I'd also like people to realise the serious effort involved, both from the point of view of the Probation Service and the clients themselves, in trying to turn their lives around."

Gerard Quigley
Clerical Officer with the Probation Service

I think this type of positive engagement makes the client even more determined to live a crime free life.

A rewarding aspect of working in the Probation Service is hearing the clients speak of how the Service has helped them turn their life around. Sometimes, they come in and chat about their new direction in life. Such as how they have found secure employment and achieved some level of academic success. "

WORKING ACROSS BORDERS

In 2015 the Probation Service continued to work closely with our Northern Ireland and European Justice partners.

On November 18th 2015 Cheryl Lamont, Acting Director (PBNI) and Ita Burke, Deputy Director (PS) accompanied by Paul Doran, Deputy Director (PBNI) and Una Doyle Deputy Director (PS) gave Joint presentations on North-South co-operation in probation in Stormont.



Pictured above: Ita Burke, Director of Operations, Probation Service presenting at Stormont

This was followed a week later by a presentation by Vivian Geiran, Probation Service Director with Cheryl Lamont, accompanied by Ita Burke and Paul Doran, to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement.

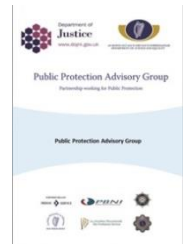


Pictured above: Paul Doran, Deputy Director (PBNI), Vivian Geiran, Director (Probation Service), Cheryl Lamont Acting Director (PBNI), Ita Burke, Director of Operations (Probation Service)

On both occasions, the quality of the joint cross-border working by the two Services was acknowledged and positive discussion followed.

Public Protection Advisory Group Seminar 2015

The sixth annual Cross-Border Public Protection Advisory Group Seminar took place in Belfast on Friday 20th November 2015. The Seminar, themed "Innovation for Safer Communities" brought together representatives from police, prison, probation and government departments in Ireland North and South to consider new and innovative practice and explore ways to further develop and enhance partnership working.



The Seminar was attended by the Northern Ireland Justice Minister, David Ford. Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald, TD, was represented by Vivian Geiran, Director of the Probation Service.

Speaking at the conference, Vivian Geiran, Director of the Probation Service said:

"This year's seminar will again provide an opportunity for the various agencies to discuss and further explore innovative approaches and solutions to common problems and, in doing so contribute to making our communities safer by reducing crime and addressing offending behaviour"

Ms. Cheryl Lamont, Director of the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (Acting), was delighted to host the seminar and added:

"Collaboration has always been central to the work of both probation services on this island. There has been significant recent co-operation on a range of operational areas of work including; the supervision of sex offenders, the assessment and management of female offenders and providing pre-sentence reports."



Pictured above: Northern Ireland Justice Minister, David Ford MLA, Cheryl Lamont Acting Director (PBNI), Judge Rosemary Horgan, (President of the District Court), Vilma Patterson, Chairman (PBNI), Vivian Geiran, Director (Probation Service)

Irish Probation Journal

The twelfth edition of the Irish Probation Journal was launched at the North-South Public Protection Seminar at City Hall Belfast on 20th November 2015. Irish Probation Journal has, since 2004, been jointly published annually by the Probation Service and the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI).



Pictured above: Northern Ireland Justice Minister, David Ford MLA with Gail McGreevy (PBNI) and Gerry McNally (Probation Service) co-editors of the Irish Probation Journal

The Journal plays an important role in stimulating innovative thinking and promoting the sharing of good practice. It provides a valuable peer-reviewed opportunity for academics, researchers and practitioners to present their knowledge, research findings and examples of innovative practice:

Irish Probation Journal 2015 features original and important papers on criminal justice themes and issues. Papers examine sentencing trends in Irish Courts, work with offenders with mental illness, the operation of criminal networks, supervision of non-Irish nationals, information exchange in the supervision of serious offenders moving around Europe and the historical role of



literacy and education in Irish reformatory schools among many other important themes and subjects.

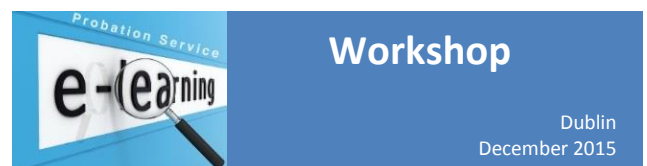


In 2015, Vivian Geiran was elected as Chair of the Council of Europe (CoE) working group on penological (probation and prisons) co-operation (PC-CP).

Vivian was initially elected to the PC-CP as an ordinary member at the end of 2013. The PC-CP comprises nine expert members elected through the plenary meeting of the CoE Committee on Crime Problems, the CDPC.

Current PC-CP members are from Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Switzerland and Ireland, and from a variety of professional backgrounds, including probation, prisons, justice administration, legal and related fields. The group meets in Strasbourg four times a year.

The PC-CP carries out a range of functions, including reviewing and making proposals on the operation of probation and prison systems in Europe, monitoring the operation of probation and prison rules, commissioning the annual penal statistics of the Council of Europe (SPACE I & II), as well as exploring, reviewing and commenting on a range of related issues.



In December 2015 EuroPris, CEP (the European umbrella body representing Probation agencies across Europe) and the Probation Service jointly organised and hosted a workshop on the use of e-learning methods in the training of Prison and Probation staff in Dublin. The aim of the workshop was to learn from experienced e-learning providers as well as from Services who have only recently started (or who are exploring the possibilities) to integrate e-learning methods in their staff training. The workshop was attended by delegates from a number of probation and prison services from across Europe.

Probation Service represented at the Second World Congress on Community Sanctions.



In July 2015, the Probation Service was represented at the World Congress on Community Corrections hosted by the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) and the International Community Corrections Association (ICCA).

The purpose of the World Congress is to bring together community corrections leadership professionals from all corners of the world to share effective practices, promising initiatives and challenges faced in providing services to those being supervised by justice systems.

Gerry Mc Nally, Assistant Director, Probation Service presented at the Congress on the successful Community Return Programme in Ireland to an audience of international practitioners, policy makers and academics.

European Probation Directors' Meeting

Vivian Geiran attended the biennial meeting of Directors of Probation in Europe which was convened by the Confederation of European Probation (CEP). The meeting covered a wide agenda of issues, including radicalisation, foreign national offenders, implementation of EU Framework Decisions, and probation's interface with the media as well as an update on desistance research and its implications for staff training and practice. Vivian also took part in a panel discussion on 'Alternative Models of Providing Probation Services.'

Knowledge sharing with international partners

In 2015, the Probation Service was delighted to host visits from international delegations from Norway and Latvia who came to Ireland to learn from our practice and experience on delivering a range of community sanctions.



Pictured above: Delegates Anda Smilten and Sintija Dzalbe with Therese Molyneux, Department of Justice and Equality, Valerie Callanan and Ursula Fernee, Probation Service.



Pictured above: CEP Board Member Gerry McNally (2nd from right), with delegates from Turkey, Estonia and Finland, at the CEP conference in The Hague.

Section 3

Striving for Excellence,
Celebrating our successes

To demonstrate the effectiveness of our interventions, we must measure the recidivism (re-offending) rates among persons placed under our supervision.

The work of the Central Statistics Office (CSO), along with the co-operation of partner criminal justice agencies, has opened up great opportunities to conduct significant recidivism research on community sanctions in Ireland and to make a major contribution in critical criminological review as well as policy and practice development. The third Central Statistics Office Recidivism Study for the Probation Service was published on 14th December 2015 and is a detailed report of recidivism among offenders placed under Probation Service supervision or placed on Community Service in 2009.

The study reports that close to 63% of offenders did not reoffend within a three-year period of being placed under Probation Service supervision. When compared with the 2008 cohort, the overall recidivism rate fell from 41.0% to 37.3%. Some highlights are outlined below.

The re-offending rates were lower for females with almost 70% of females not reoffending in the period. Re-offending rate for offenders on Community Service Orders was lower than in the previous report on the 2008 cohort; 67.5% did not re-offend in comparison with 61.6% in the 2008 cohort report. The re-offending rate for offenders on Probation Supervision was also lower; almost 60% did not re-offend in comparison with 57.7% in the previous study.

“I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of Probation Service staff in delivering interventions that have positively contributed to the decline in recidivism among those offenders supervised by the Probation Service ... the information and lessons from this study will make a valuable contribution to better and more effective Probation Service practice, better outcomes for offenders and to making communities safer”.

Vivian Geiran, Director

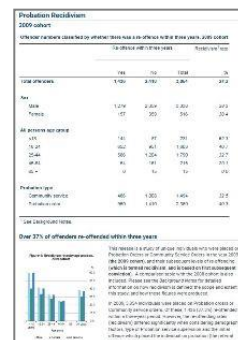
Commenting on the report, Minister for Justice and Equality Frances Fitzgerald said

“I welcome the fact that recidivism levels for both those who were released from prison in 2009 and those who were supervised by the Probation Service have fallen by 3.5% and 3.7% respectively. I am confident that the joint initiatives recently introduced, including the Community Return and Community Support Schemes, will result in lower recidivism levels being reported in the prison cohort in future. I am very pleased with the continued improvement in offending reduction among those on probation supervision.”

Minister Frances Fitzgerald TD

The CSO Report on the Probation Service 2009 cohort Recidivism Study is available on the Central Statistics Office website at www.cso.ie and also by following the publications link on the Probation Service website at www.probation.ie.

The CSO report is available on the CSO website www.cso.ie



AWARDS

A BIG YEAR FOR COMMUNITY RETURN

Civil Service Excellence in Innovation Award win for Community Return



On 3rd December 2015 the Probation Service/ Irish Prison Service Community Return initiative proudly received the inaugural Civil Service Excellence and Innovation Awards.

The Excellence in Innovation award, presented by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD, recognised the contribution the Community Return Programme makes to the effective reintegration of ex-prisoners into the community. It also highlighted the high calibre of our staff and the high standards that we, as a Service, achieve on a daily basis in our work towards creating a safer and fairer Ireland.

The Community Return Programme, operational since 2011, was developed to facilitate offender reparation to communities, to reduce prison overcrowding, incentivise good behaviour and to enhance resettlement and reintegration post custody.

The Community Return Programme is jointly managed by a team comprised of Probation Service and Irish Prison Service staff based in the Probation Service Headquarters in Haymarket, Smithfield, Dublin 7. Community Return provides for an incentivised scheme for earned temporary release for qualifying prisoners with conditions of supervised community service with post release supervision and support.

Community Return has been highly successful and has exceeded all expectations. In 2015, 352 prisoners successfully completed the Scheme.



Pictured above: Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD with Brian Dack, Justin McCarthy and June Kelly at the Civil Service Excellence awards



Pictured above (from left): Justin McCarthy, June Kelly, Minister Brendan Howlin TD, Brian Dack and Vivian Geiran.

COMMUNITY RETURN

Over **1,500** prisoners have been released early from custody, under Probation Service supervision since commencement of the scheme.

352 Offenders successfully completed Community Return in 2015.

Arklow Community Service receive special mention at the 2015 Excellence in Local Government Awards

Community Service in Arklow were the recipients of an award for their work on Arklow's Duck Pond, Nature Walk and Leisure Area which won out in the Parks and Recreation category of the 2015 Excellence in Local Government Awards. The Awards are held to celebrate the outstanding work being carried out by local authorities all over Ireland.



Pictured above: Corey Bateman, Environmental Protection Officer with Arklow Town Council presenting William O'Neill, Community Service Supervisor with a 2015 Excellence in Local Government special mention award.

The pond itself, measuring 1km in circumference, is ideal for wildlife enthusiasts and leisure walkers, and provides a diverse mix of amenities including Howard's Way, Slí Na Sláinte, seafront walk, crazy golf, outdoor gyms, a skateboard park, a playground and running track.

The work has proven to be very rewarding to the community service and community return participants, and has provided them with a number of new skills coupled with affording them the opportunity to give back to their local community in a creative and constructive fashion.



Pictured above: Stephen Plunkett of U-Casadh, Waterford and Gary Doggett, Pro-Social Drivers Programme, Donegal.

Probation Officers make the grade at the Irish Social Work Awards 2015



Pictured (from left): Donal O'Malley (Chair, IASW), Aileen McDonnell (Winner, Practice Teacher of the Year Award), Majella Hickey, Probation Officer (Practice Teacher Award Finalist), Vivian Geiran (receiving Finalist Award on behalf of David Williamson, SPO) and Senator Jillian van Turnhout.

The Probation Service was well represented at the 2015 Irish Social Work Awards, with Majella Hickey (PO) and David Williamson (SPO) both nominated (by UCC and TCD respectively) for the 2015 Practice Teacher of the Year Award.

The Awards event was a great success, and a fantastic celebration of what is best in social work in Ireland. The Probation Service was very proud to be part of the event and looks forward to continuing our positive engagement with IASW in 2016.

Social Entrepreneurs Ireland Awards 2015

The 2015 Social Entrepreneurs Ireland awards were held in the Mansion House on Tuesday 13th October. Two organisations and entrepreneurs with links to the Probation Service were each awarded Social Entrepreneurs Ireland's Impact Award: Gary Doggett, of the Pro-Social Drivers Programme, Donegal, and Stephen Plunkett of U-Casadh, Waterford.

Established in 2012 the Pro-Social Drivers Programme is a community response to the high instances of antisocial driving in the county. Since November 2012, the project has delivered 13 driver rehabilitation courses to approximately 120 participants.

U-Casadh is an integration project which supports the work of the Probation Service by assisting the provision of community sanctions and the reintegration process. U-Casadh receives direct funding from the Probation Service.

Section 4

Supporting the Delivery of Services

Human Resources

At all times the Probation Service is committed to maximising our capability to provide the best service that we can to all our customers and our ability to respond to changing priorities and demands.

During 2015 we continued to realign resources to maximise front line service delivery and ensure appropriate management structures in place.

Our dedicated staff have a specific expertise in intervening with offenders and in assessing and managing risk. We work to ensure that Probation Officers are as skilled and informed as possible in their work with offenders. Probation practice is delivered, informed and underpinned by social work practice.

Following the retirement of one of the Deputy Directors in 2015 the post was filled through open competition and Una Doyle was appointed as Deputy Director in November 2015. Vacancies at Regional Manager level were filled from the existing panel and four promotions to Senior Probation Officer took place. In addition the Service also recruited a number of temporary Locum Probation Officers to fill critical short term vacancies in front line service delivery.

Staff Training and Development

Throughout 2015 the Service continued to support the work of staff by providing training courses, seminars and conferences to all grades. In all 62 internal training events took place covering a diverse range of subject matters pertinent to all aspects of probation work including risk assessment, group-work, structured one-to-one interventions, and engaging effectively with those convicted of sexual offences.

During 2015 training was provided to support the full implementation of the Probation Service Professional Staff Supervision Policy, which was introduced in September 2014. The training, which focused on the role and responsibilities of the supervisor, was rolled out to all managers of professional staff in the Service, up to and including Deputy Directors. Training commenced for supervisees during the latter

part of 2015, and will continue to be rolled out in 2016.

A focus throughout 2015 was to support Probation Service professional staff with continuous professional development requirements for those registered with the regulating body for the health and social care professions, CORU. Two information sessions were held, one in Dublin and one in Portlaoise and a 'Social Work Registration and Continuous Professional Development' resource, which contains information relevant to this important process, has been created and made available to staff via the staff portal.

The Service continued its close relationship with third level institutions and partner agencies in 2015 with a number of initiatives being delivered. This included inputs to the Advanced Diploma in Juvenile Justice, Kings Inn, Social work and legal training programmes in University College Cork, Trinity College and University College Dublin. Presentations on risk assessment were also delivered to the Operations Directorate, Irish Prison Service, to develop a better understanding of risk assessment and in turn better inform decision making. Additionally, as in previous years, the Service continued to facilitate professional social work practice placements for the universities nationwide.

Considerable Health and Safety training was provided to staff nationally on Fire Safety, First Aid and First Aid Refresher, Evac Training and Safe Pass. A number of seminars were held on Health and Safety in the workplace to raise awareness of the key legislation and responsibilities around Health and Safety.

In conjunction with the State Claims Agency two staff completed Lead Auditor Training for the purposes of supporting and enabling the further roll out of our Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems. Staff also attended training on the State Claims Agency National Incident Management System.

In early 2015 training was provided to a number of staff on the 'Core Portal' in advance of, and to

facilitate, the Services move to the new payroll shared services centre.

A number of staff also attended communication training as part of the Services Communications Strategy to maximise communications both with internal and external stakeholders.

Wellbeing

We recognise that a positive working environment is important to the health and wellbeing of all our staff. During 2015 we continued to create awareness and promote healthy lifestyles among staff. This involved a broad range of activities including lunchtime pilates and basketball, weekly. In addition another very successful social activity is the regular attendance of staff at popular musicals in the Bord Gais Theatre.

FAST FACT

Music is one of the most powerful means for inducing powerful positive emotions with its influence staying strong across time



As part of the staff wellbeing initiative the Service was delighted to support Probation staff who, with their colleagues from the Courts Service, form the “Just Sing” choir. In November 2015, the choir under the baton of conductor Ruaidhri O'Dalaigh gave an eclectic performance of tunes to suit all musical tastes ranging from the *Quare Fellow* classic ‘*The Auld Triangle*’ through to the Beatles ‘*All You Need is Love*’. The proceeds raised at the event, €431 in total, went towards Brother Kevin’s Penny Dinners at the Capuchin Friary on Bow Street.



Pictured above: Ruaidhri O'Dalaigh leading the Just Sing choir in their recent concert in Haymarket November 2015

Contact Person Scheme

In June 2015 a new Contact Person Scheme was launched in the Service. Contact Persons completed a selection process and subsequent training course before taking up the positions.



The role of the contact person, “is to provide information and support in a confidential, non-judgmental and off the record discussion to any employee who feels they have been subjected to harassment, sexual harassment or bullying or against whom a complaint has been made.”

The contact person scheme is provided for in the *Dignity at Work-Anti Bullying, Harassment And Sexual Harassment Policy for the Civil Service (Feb 2015)*.

Probation Service Diversity Champions Programme launched in April 2015



As part of our ongoing commitment to inclusivity and dignity in the workplace, the Service was delighted to join our justice partner organisations, An Garda Síochána and the Irish Prison Service, in taking up membership of the Diversity Champions Programme under the auspices of GLEN (Gay and Lesbian Equality Network).

Diversity Champions is a workplace programme designed specifically to assist employers benefit from the inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender employees. Diversity Champions support leading employers in communicating their commitment to LGBT diversity and inclusion.

From the Probation Service perspective, it is anticipated that participation in Diversity Champions will assist in better support and ensuring our policies, culture and services are more inclusive.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

The IT Unit in the Probation Service provides and maintains a range of IT services which support the operational and strategic functions of the Service. During the year changing business processes were incorporated into the Service’s Case Tracking System. The Service is represented on both the Department’s ICT Governance Group and ICT Liaison Group and liaises with the Department’s IT Unit on an ongoing basis.

Within the Service the APEX (expert users) Group and Business Process Group continue to meet on a regular basis to discuss and evaluate the need for development and enhancement of business processes.

Information Management

The Probation Service has continued to develop systems for the management and analysis of data. In 2015 all key management meetings were supported with appropriate data. In March 2015 the Service began publishing point in time statistics on our website at the beginning of each month.

During the year we improved systems for capturing data on Ethnicity and Nationality, which in itself will inform our operational business and enhance service delivery. We also further developed the Service’s Community Based Organisations database to improve functionality and facilitate additional management and performance reporting for the European Social Fund.

Information Requests

Information and communication requests continued to be co-ordinated through our Corporate Services Unit. In addition a dedicated Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit ensures prompt responses for personal information and information on the work of the Service.

In February 2015 officials from the Department of Justice and Equality presented on the sections of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 at a meeting of the Senior Management Team.

Training on Freedom of Information and Data Protection issues was incorporated into induction training for new managers.

Information Access Requests Received	
Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests	23
Data Protection Requests	7
Requests from other agencies	9
Total Requests	39

Information Requests Co-ordinated centrally	
Press Queries	10
Dail Questions	42
Other*	200
Total	252

* (includes responses to representations from public representatives, requests for input to policy documents etc.)

Communication

In 2015 the Service continued to proactively drive its communication programme. Six external newsletters “Probation works” and six internal newsletters “The Probation Press” were published in the year. We also published both the Department of Justice and Equality’s Newsletter and the Court Service News on our internal portal alongside the Confederation of European Probation (CEP) Newsletter. All issues of Probation Works are available on our website.

The Service’s Communication Group continued to meet on a regular basis to discuss issues arising, and a number of staff received communications training. Building on this in September we established a Media and Communications Group with the purpose of supporting our interface with the media and further developing and promoting the work of the Service.

FAST FACT
 In 2015 there was a combined total of **19,537** client interviews held in our Dublin Haymarket, Cork and Limerick offices .



Research



The Probation Service is a learning organisation committed to quality service delivery, evidence based practice and effective, accountable results. Evaluation, research and quality assurance are key actions for the Service in ensuring best and most effective practice and results in its work. In addition to internal studies and reviews, the Probation Service works with academic institutions, national and international researchers and postgraduate students to facilitate, encourage and support research and evaluation studies on identified areas of Service work and related data.

In 2015, fourteen post-graduate studies were commenced or completed facilitated by the Probation Service on topics such as joint agency working, older probationers, gender responsive strategies and social enterprise within the Criminal Justice Sector among others.

In 2015, the Irish Research Council funded, as part of their employment-based research programme, two PhD candidates who have been employed by community based organisations (CBOs), with the ongoing support and facilities of the Probation Service, to work on criminal justice and probation related topics.

The Probation Service is represented on the Irish Prison Service Research Group and the two services work together to encourage and facilitate research projects.

Offender Compliance on Supervision Seminars



Pictured above: Gerry McNally, Dr Beth Weaver, Una Doyle, Dr Mairead Seymour and Vivian Geiran

Probation Service staff attended the first of a series of seminars on offender compliance on community supervision hosted by Dr. Mairead Seymour, DIT School of Languages, Law and Social Sciences in DIT Grangegorman in June 2015. This first seminar, part of a programme of events based on Dr. Seymour's research on compliance, provided a platform to discuss the barriers and challenges to offender compliance, as well as effective strategies for promoting offender compliance in the community.

Two further seminars were held later in 2015, hosted by the Probation Service, in which Dr. Beth Weaver, Senior Lecturer from the University of Strathclyde explored the theme of offender compliance on community supervision. Dr. Weaver focused on compliance in the context of supervising high risk service users in the community.

The seminars were a huge success, with a large crowd in attendance at Haymarket who were joined by colleagues who participated from our Cork Office via video link.

Estate and Facilities

Throughout 2015 the Estate and Facilities Unit continued to liaise with the Office of Public Works and with Probation Service Regional Managers on the management of Probation Service Estate and Facilities.

The Service offices in Carmen's Hall and Crumlin were consolidated into a new office in Cork Street, Dublin 8. The new office provides an improved work environment for our staff and better access to services for service users. The office, in a building shared with the Department of Social Protection, provides the opportunity for a 'one stop shop' for our clients.

The Estate Review Implementation Group, chaired by the Director, continued to meet on a regular basis to co-ordinate the overall Estate Review Implementation plan.

Sharing Initiatives

The Probation Service remains committed to ensuring that every opportunity is taken to maximise the use of available resources. In 2015 our facilities in Haymarket were used on a regular basis by a number of outside agencies, in the main by a range of Community Based Organisations and the Irish Prison Service.

We played host to a number of different seminars, conferences and training events including welcoming delegations from Latvia and Norway. In December a Joint CEP workshop on e-learning was facilitated over two days in the Probation Service Headquarters in Haymarket.

Health and Safety

Health and Safety continues to be a priority for the Probation Service. During the year we continued to promote awareness with information sessions being held on Health and Safety on a number of occasions. The Health and Safety portal is kept up to date at all times with staff having easy access to protocols and standard operating procedures.

Health and Safety committees met regularly throughout the year and Health and Safety was included on the agenda for National, Regional and Team meetings.

We continued to progress the Occupational Health and Safety System (OHSAS) and two staff were trained in OHSAS auditing, facilitated by the State Claims Agency. In the latter part of the year dedicated Health and Safety training was provided on a regional basis to Managers in the Service.

Procurement

The Probation Service continues to monitor purchasing expenditure, review purchasing requirements and consolidate the purchasing of goods and services to ensure value for money.

During 2015 the Service continued to avail of contracts placed centrally by the Office of Government Procurement, centralised framework agreements and tender arrangements made available by the Department of Justice and Equality and its Agencies as well as other Departments.

Purchasing of office supplies and consumables are efficiently managed by bulk ordering and centralised purchasing.

Energy Awareness

The Service continued to promote Energy Awareness in 2015. All required data was submitted to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), on time. By the end of 2014 we achieved a savings of 5% on the 2009 baseline figure and the energy report for December 2015 in respect of Head Office, Haymarket shows a decrease of 22% since December 2014 with CO2 emissions for the same period decreasing by 13.3%.

**OUR HAYMARKET OFFICES
CONSUMED 22% LESS ENERGY
IN 2015 THAN IN 2014**

A detailed breakdown of statistical data is available in the appendices at the end of this document.



Section 5

Meeting our Targets

THE FOLLOWING OUTLINES PROGRESS IN SOME OF THE KEY AREAS FOR 2015

Throughout the year the Service measured its performance against its strategic goals outlined in the Service Strategy Statement 2015 – 2017 and against the programme of work mapped out in the Service workplans.

GOAL	PROGRESS
PROMOTION AND DELIVERY OF COMMUNITY SANCTIONS AND OFFENDER REHABILITATION.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service developed Group and Individual Programmes, facilitated on an ongoing basis, to address offence related issues as part of the structured supervision process. • 323 persons commenced Community Return 2015. • Programme of Research in collaboration with third level institutions, researchers, academics and students underway.
STRENGTHEN OUR SERVICE TO COURTS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of high quality assessments provided to the courts nationwide. • Revision of systems underway to facilitate readiness for the Fines (Payment and Recovery) Act 2014 implementation. • National communication strategy for engaging with the judiciary in development. • Regular communication at national, regional and local level ongoing with the judiciary.
COLLABORATION WITH OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In partnership with An Garda Síochána and the Irish Prison Service the Joint Agency Response to Crime (JARC) launched in November 2015. Currently working with offenders in three initiatives. • The second joint strategy between the Probation Service and the Irish Prison Service for 2015 to 2017 developed • Third Recidivism Study in collaboration with the Central Statistics Office completed and published in December 2015.
DEVELOPING A MORE VICTIM-SENSITIVE RESPONSE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pilot programme to provide a Victim – Offender Mediation service for victims of sexual crime commenced. • Ongoing upskilling of victim services team complete. • Restorative Justice Implementation Plan developed and 2015 actions progressed.
ENGAGING WITH THE COMMUNITY.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued focus on delivery of Probation Service strategy and priorities with our network of Community Based Organisations. • Three service user/peer led initiatives commenced. • Probation Service participation in multi-agency fora to ensure better outcomes for offenders continued.

Update on Year 1 of the Joint Probation Service/Irish Prison Service Strategy

1

Rehabilitation and Community Reintegration

IN FACILITATING THE REHABILITATION AND COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION OF SENTENCED PRISONERS, WE HAVE:

- Commissioned a joint review of funded addiction services to the prisons and community. We plan to publish this review in mid-2016.
- Reviewed existing funding arrangements for CBOs to ensure appropriate oversight, governance, financial management and output. This includes the establishment of a Joint Service Financial Oversight Group.
- Identified a schedule of offender programmes to be delivered in prison in order to reduce reoffending.
- Scheduled, in autumn 2016, an independent external review of the application of Incentivised Regimes Policy to ensure a transparent and open application of the Policy
- Commenced the examination of the potential for a prison based Drug Therapeutic Community to facilitate better outcomes for prisoners post release.
- Enhanced collaborative working on the sentence management of sex offenders between the Irish Prison Service Psychology Service, Probation Service and Integrated Sentence Manager Officers.

2

Community Return

FOLLOWING ON THE PUBLICATION OF THE EVALUATION OF COMMUNITY RETURN, WE HAVE:

- Commenced the implementation of the recommendations of the report in the areas of assessment, engagement with DSP and in reach services.
- Delivered on an integrated approach to Community Return having developed rehabilitative initiatives, including work training, education and addiction recovery.
- Developed an accredited horticultural initiative in Thornton Hall in collaboration with the City of Dublin Education and Training Board.
- Continued to review the assessment processes for the Community Return Programme to ensure robust arrangements are in place.
- Revised the target to 370 participants per annum in reparative and restorative structured releases, in view of the decreased pool of prisoners in custody and the consequent challenges in identifying suitable candidates.

3

Supports for Short Term Prisoners

IN THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT FOR SHORT SENTENCED PRISONERS, WE HAVE:

- Examined possibilities and advanced plans to establish Community Support Schemes in the Midlands Campus and Castlerea Prison. These will become operational in 2016.
- Authorised 389 structured releases to the Community Support Scheme in 2015.
- Scoped a formal evaluation of Community Support Scheme.
- Ensured consistent assessment and release procedures based on learning of scheme to date.

4

Reduce Risk of Re-offending

IN ENGAGING WITH SERVICE USERS TO REDUCE THEIR RISK OF RE-OFFENDING, WE HAVE:

- Piloted initiatives in collaboration with CBOs to engage ex-offenders as peer mentors with offenders under temporary supervised release.
- Piloted a post release community based programme in Dublin, building on the work of the Red Cross organisation across the prison estate. Further programmes will also be held in Limerick and Cork in 2016.
- Captured feedback from ex-offenders through surveys and focus groups, further developing and enhancing our practice.
- Explored funding possibilities for ex-offender employment in the Community Return Project.

5

Pre-Release Planning

IN ENHANCING PRE-RELEASE PLANNING FOR PRISONERS, WE HAVE:

- Committed to forging improved collaborative arrangements with statutory and voluntary providers to respond to the re-integration needs of released prisoners.
- Significantly advanced stage of the development of a Prisoner Release Policy to ensure the effective transition of offenders into the community. We plan to formally commence this Policy in mid-2016.
- Begun the process of developing collaborative agreements, underpinned by protocols, with providers in accommodation, education, financial support, healthcare and training /employment.
- Established a central point of contact, in keeping with Children First Guidelines, notifying Tusla (Child and Family Agency), of all pending releases of sex offenders into the community.

6

Promoting social inclusion

TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION, WE HAVE:

- Building on the Irish Prison Service/Probation Service Women's Strategy we are responding to the needs of women prisoners and pursuing a dedicated approach to working with women offenders in the community.
- Established a 'Travellers in Prison Initiative', in partnership with the St. Stephens Green Trust, to identify and respond to the particular needs of this group.
- Identified specific interventions with prisoners aged 18-21 years with a focus on reintegration that takes into account individual developmental needs.

7

Joint integrated responses to crime

TO PROMOTE JOINT INTEGRATED RESPONSES TO CRIME, WE HAVE:

- Conducted initial SORAM meetings in the prison with identified medium to high risk sex offenders, who will enter the Sex Offender Risk Assessment and Management arrangements on release.
- Piloted "Joint Agency Response to Crime" initiatives providing for co-ordinated and enhanced levels of co-operation and co-ordination between An Garda Síochána, the Probation Service and the Irish Prison Service: -
 - The Ballymun Strive initiative which concentrates on those causing a high level of harm or disruption to the local area. We are motivating them to desist from crime and to have their needs supported by local agencies or face an appropriate level of intervention necessary to disrupt their criminal lifestyle.
 - The Bridge Project - Change Works Programme which concentrates on violent offenders in the Dublin area who have been assessed as likely to cause serious harm, aligning Garda Case management, Probation Case Management, Integrated Sentence Management and Community Return (Irish Prison Service).
 - Acer3 - which concentrates on the management of identified offenders who have been convicted or charged with burglary offences from the Dublin 8 and Dublin 24 areas.
- Committed to evaluate each of the above initiatives which will measure their effectiveness.
- Delivered joint training initiatives in J-ARC across the agencies.

8

Responding to Victims

IN RESPONDING TO VICTIMS, WE HAVE:

- Worked in collaboration, and in line with legislation to give effect to the European Directive (2012/29/EU), to provide an appropriate, timely and effective response to all victim requests/concerns.
- Explored the feasibility of developing a joint information leaflet on the services available to victims.
- Continued to contribute and represent our respective services on the work of the Victims of Crime Office, Department of Justice and Equality.

Section 6: Appendices

CONTENTS

- Glossary of Terms
- Probation Service Organisational Chart
- Probation Service Regional Map
- Probation Service Office Locations Map
- Finance
- Statistics
- Listing of Community Based Organisations in receipt of funding through the Probation Service

Glossary of terms

ASSESSMENT

Probation Officers deliver an offender assessment service to Courts to assist in sentencing decisions, particularly where probation supervision or community service is being considered. There are two main types of offender assessment report:

PRE-SANCTION REPORT (PSR) These are also known as ‘probation reports’, and they assess suitability for a community sanction and identify issues relevant to reducing reoffending. Building on the findings of structured risk assessment, probation reports outline the underlying factors in the offending behaviour, the offender’s attitude to the crime and motivation to change, and action to be taken to help prevent further offending.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT (CSR) These reports assess suitability of an offender to do unpaid work in the community instead of going to prison.

SUPERVISION

PROBATION ORDERS

Probation Orders are one of a range of options open to courts when sentencing individuals found guilty of criminal behaviour. Offenders give an undertaking to the court that they will be of good behaviour; avoid further crime; adhere to the conditions of the order and to follow the directions of a supervising Probation Officer, who will monitor and help them to stay out of further trouble.

COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS

Instead of a prison sentence, convicted offenders over 16 years of age may, instead, be given the opportunity by the Court to perform unpaid work for the community. The legislation for Community Service Orders allows a Judge to sentence an offender to between 40 and 240 hours work. Any Order made must be completed within a year. Community Service is a direct alternative to a prison sentence and an Order will only be made by the Judge where a custodial sentence has first been considered.

COMMUNITY RETURN

The Community Return Programme is an incentivised scheme introduced in line with the recommendations of the Thornton Hall Project Review Group which provides for earned temporary release under which offenders, who are assessed by the Irish Prison Service, are offered early temporary release in return for supervised community service. Officers of the Probation Service assess offenders as to suitability and motivation to complete the community work.

The scheme is applicable to suitably assessed prisoners who are serving sentences of more than one and less than eight years. Those participating are granted renewable temporary release having served at, or after, the 50% stage of their sentence, with a condition of their release to undertake community service supervised by the Probation Service.

SUPERVISION DURING DEFERMENT OF PENALTY

Supervision during deferment of penalty is a judicial practice whereby the Court does not proceed to determine the appropriate penalty but instead postpones the decision to a further date, on condition that the offender complies with the supervision of a Probation Officer and avoids reoffending.

POST RELEASE SUPERVISION

Under the Sex Offenders Act, 2001, Judges can sentence sex offenders to a period of probation supervision following their release from prison. Such offenders are monitored closely. During supervision, the Probation Officer focuses on the offence committed and its implications for public safety, helping the offender to see the past offending behaviour as a problem, identifying risk factors and developing strategies and supports to ensure there is no repeat offending.

CONDITIONAL SUSPENDED OR PART-SUSPENDED SENTENCES

Judges can deal with a case by way of a suspended or part-suspended sentence with conditions of probation supervision. This means the Judge may:

- Issue a prison sentence of a number of months or years; and
- Suspend all or part of the sentence for a period of time, conditional on the offender remaining under the supervision of a Probation Officer for the specified time for which the custodial sentence is suspended.

SUPERVISED TEMPORARY RELEASE

The Probation Service supervises some prisoners on temporary release from custody (as provided for in the Criminal Justice Act, 1960 and the Criminal Justice (Temporary Release of Prisoners) Act, 2003) in the community with specific conditions aimed at helping with their reintegration in the community and supporting them to avoid further offending. Life sentence prisoners on release in the community are obliged to co-operate and comply with Probation Service supervision as a condition of temporary release. Such prisoners, in the normal course, remain subject to supervision for the remainder of their lives.

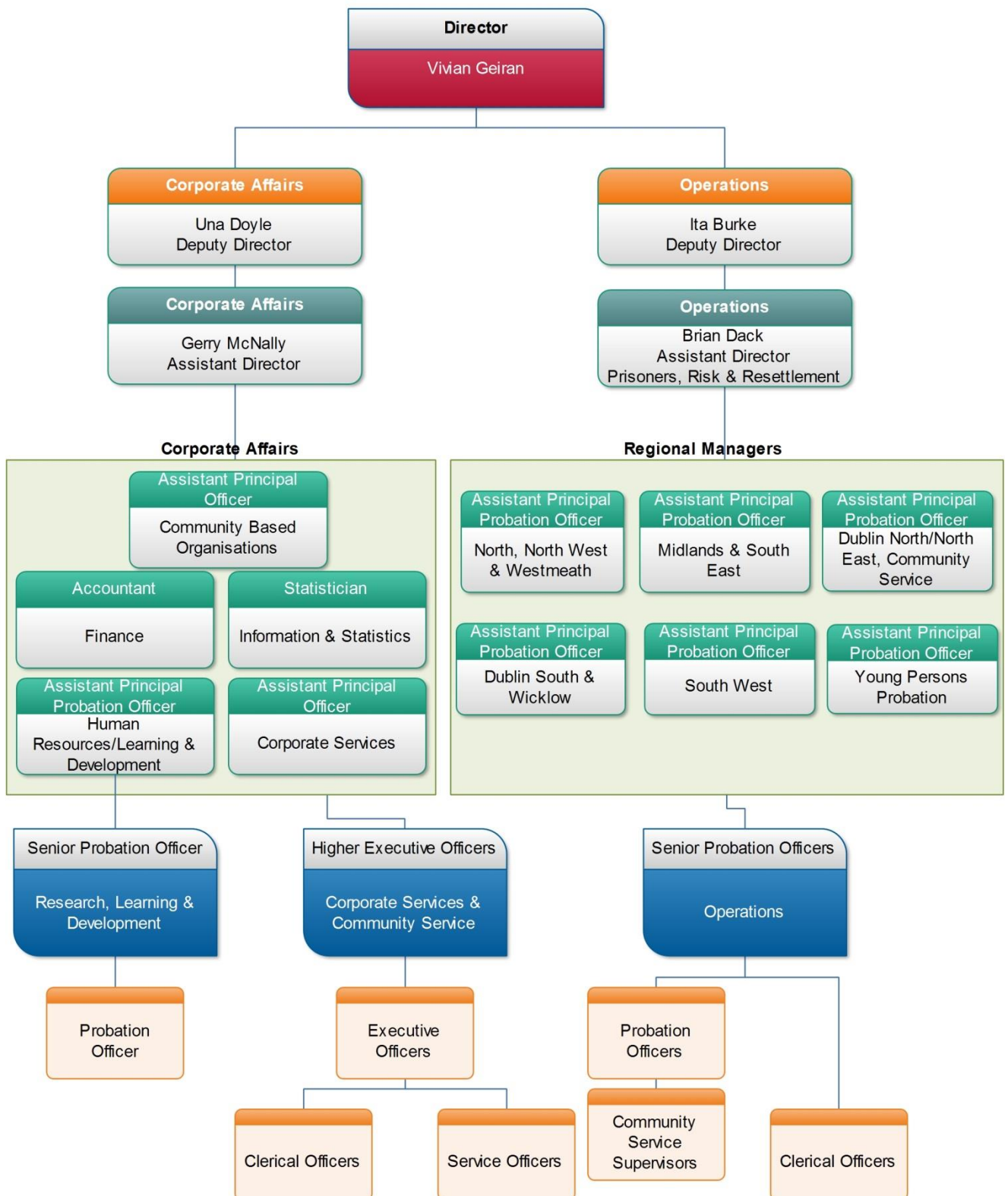
FAMILY CONFERENCE

In addition to the above, there are a variety of disposals managed by the Probation Service specific to young persons who offend, as outlined under the Children Act 2001, as amended. These include Family Conferencing. A Family Conference is based on principles of restorative justice which, in essence, means healing the harm done to victims, while holding the offender accountable for his or her actions. The aim of the Family Conference is to divert the young person who has accepted responsibility for his/her behaviour from court, conviction and custody, and from committing further offences.

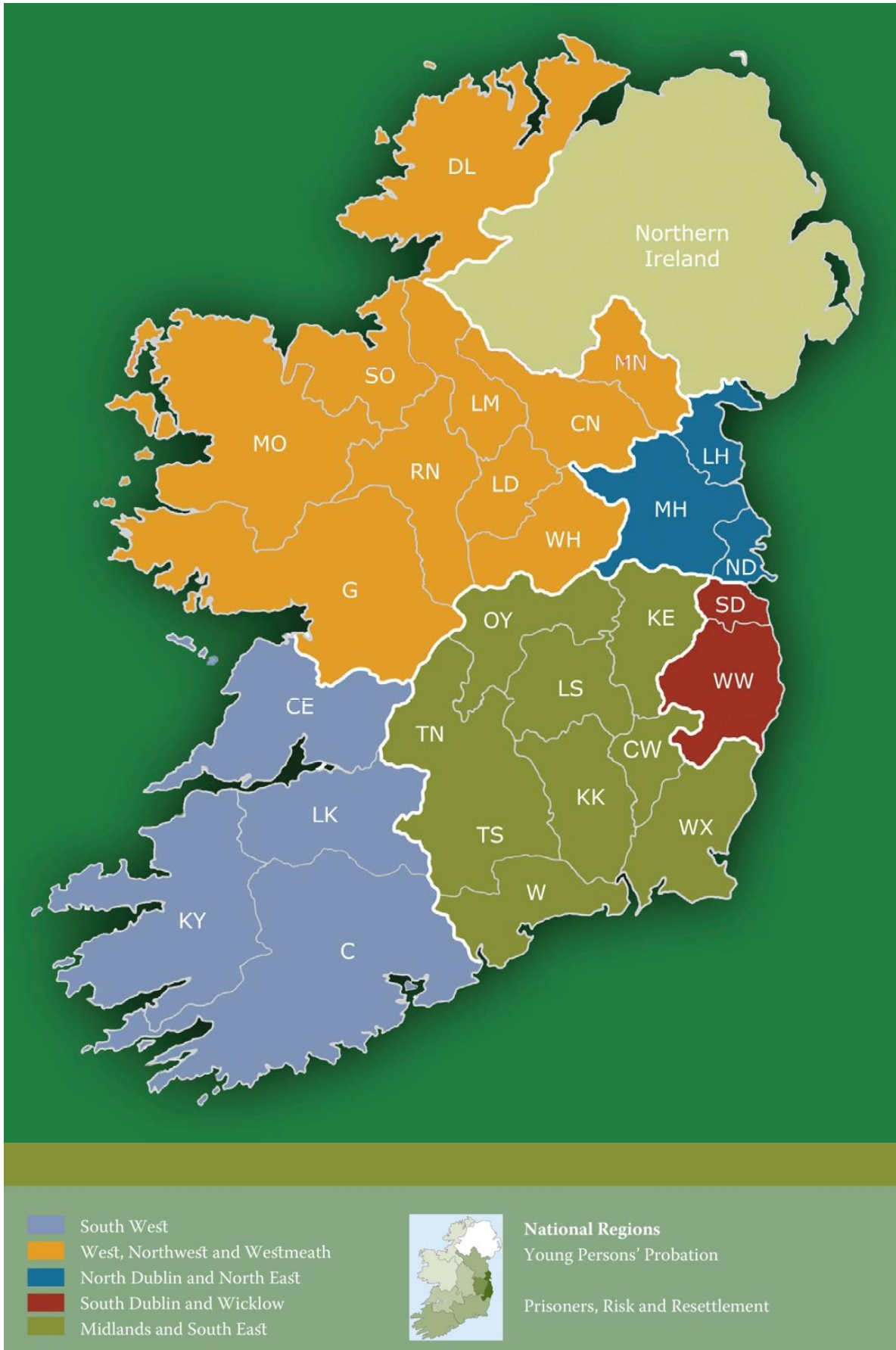
ACTION TAKEN IN CASES OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH COURT ORDERS

In cases where offenders on supervision fail to comply with the terms of any of the above supervision orders, they are returned to the relevant court to face the consequences. This can include imposition of an alternative penalty, up to and including a custodial sentence.

Probation Service Organisational Chart 2015

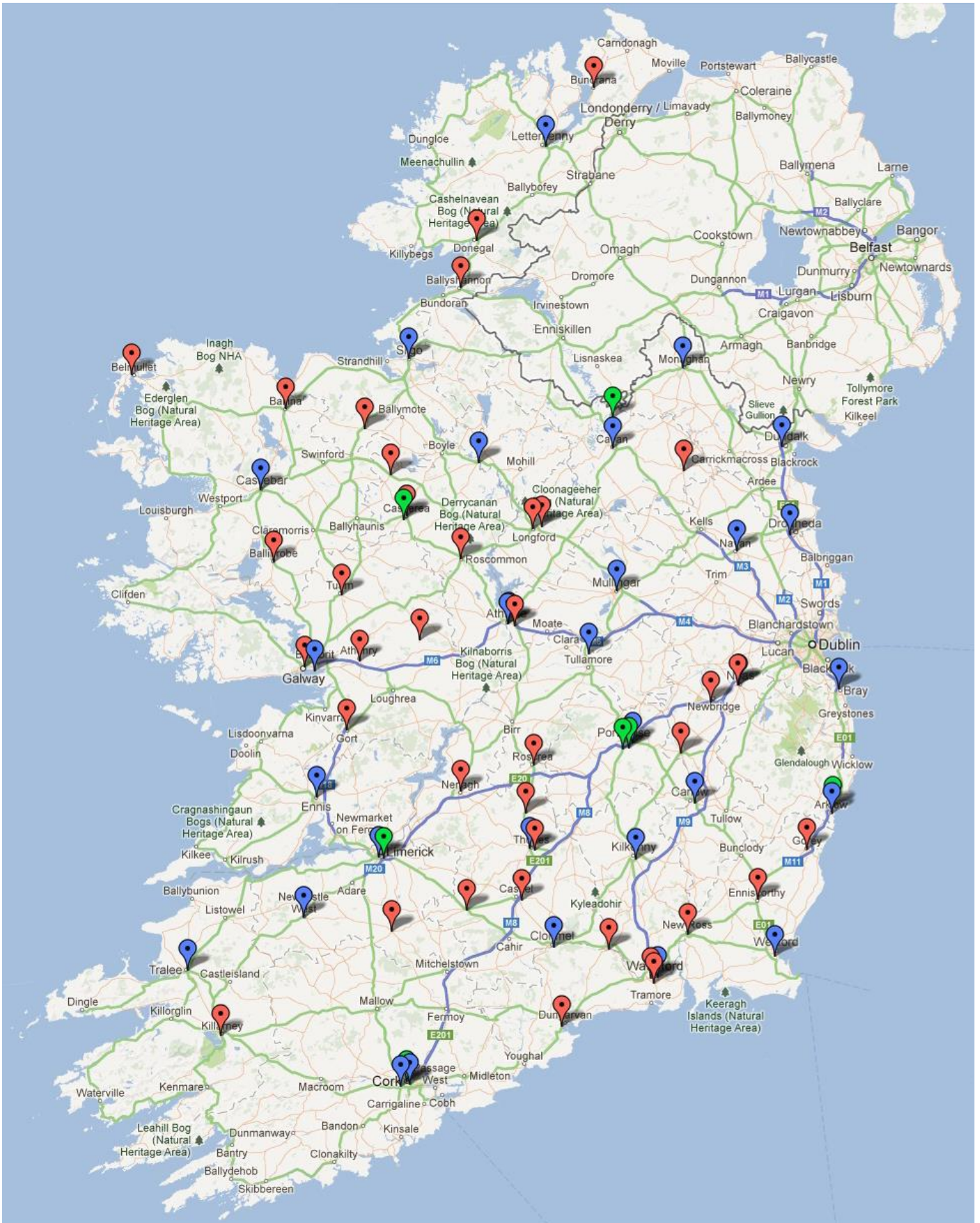


Probation Service Regions



Main Probation Service Delivery Locations 2015

(Probation Service Offices, Prisons and Court Offices)



Finance

FINANCIAL STATEMENT INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2015					
		BUDGET PROVISION	PROVISIONAL OUTTURN	SAVINGS	EXCESS
		€000	€000	€000	€000
VOTE 24	JANUARY- DECEMBER 2015				
B.10	Salaries, Wages and Allowances	22,252	20,773	1,479	
B.11	Operational (Travel, Postal & Telecom, Office Premises, Office Machinery)	3,275	2,946	329	
B.12	Services to Offenders				
	Assistance to Voluntary Bodies (Current)	10,732	9,784	948	
B.13	Community Service Order Scheme	2,067	1,999	68	
	TOTALS	38,326	35,502	2,824	

FINANCIAL STATEMENT INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2014					
		BUDGET PROVISION	OUTTURN	SAVINGS	EXCESS
		€000	€000	€000	€000
VOTE 24	JANUARY- DECEMBER 2014				
B.10	Salaries, Wages and Allowances	20,721	20,703	18	
B.11	Operational (Travel, Postal & Telecom, Office Premises, Office Machinery)	3,775	3,171	604	
B.12	Services to Offenders				
	Assistance to Voluntary Bodies (Current)	10,732	10,170	562	
B.13	Community Service Order Scheme	2,067	2,062	5	
	TOTALS	37,295	36,106	1,189	

Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997

The following information is provided in accordance with the Act within the guidelines issued by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. The Probation Service has procedures in place to ensure that all invoices are paid within the statutory time limit. While the procedures have been designed to ensure compliance with the Act, they only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance against material non-compliance with the Act.

These procedures operate in the financial period under review and, in the case of late payments, the relevant suppliers were notified and the interest due was paid to them.

In accordance with the prompt payment of Account Act, 1997, the following information is provided in respect of the financial period ending December 31st 2015:

(a) Payment Practices

The Probation Service makes payment to suppliers in accordance with the terms specified in the respective invoices or conditions specified in individual contracts, if appropriate. Since 2002 the standard terms are 30 days.

Late payments:

Invoice Amount	No. of Invoices	Amount of Interest Paid €
Under €317	2	81.92
Over €317	0	0
Total	2	81.92

Statistics 2015

Statistics – Overall

Overall	2013	2014	2015
Total number of Offenders dealt with in Community over year*	15,984	15,134	14,927
Total court referrals to the Probation Service	8,705	8,482	8,466
Total number of persons referred from courts to the Service	7,578	7,416	7,265

New Referrals From Court	2013	2014	2015
Referral for Probation (Pre-Sanction) Reports	5,027	4,817	5,072
Referral for Community Service Reports	2,005	1,943	1,702
Pre-Sanction Reports to consider Community Service	692	649	719
Orders without prior report	931	1,037	936
Family Conference	50	36	37
Total Court Referrals	8,705	8,482	8,466

Completed Reports	2013	2014	2015
Probation (Pre-Sanction) Reports**	9,987	9,818	9,707
Community Service Reports (Standard)**	1,857	1,665	1,502
Community Service Reports (Same Day)	853	812	732
Parole Board – Assessment and Home Circumstances Reports	50	84	72
Repatriation Reports provided to the Department	19	18	20
Victim Impact Reports – Total number of reports Completed	59	53	47
Reports on Life Sentence Prisoners to IPS	74	71	70
Total Completed Reports	12,899	12,521	12,150

* This includes offenders being dealt with at the beginning of the year in addition to new referrals made during the year. This also includes referrals from IPS (including Community Returns) and repatriated offenders.

**Please note that this includes all progress reports requested from court in addition to initial assessment reports. This does not include Same Day reports.

Statistics – Supervision

Supervision	2013	2014	2015
Orders for Supervision during year (Probation Orders)	1,640	1,716	1,851
Orders for Supervision During Deferment of Penalty	1,732	1,585	1,419
Community Service Orders	2,354	2,197	1,938
Fully Suspended Sentence with Supervision	753	798	670
Part Suspended Sentence Supervision Orders	440	586	490
Post Release Supervision Orders	40	40	36
Other Orders	126	170	189
Total Supervision Orders made during year	7,085	7,092	6,593
Number of life sentence prisoners supervised in the community*	76	73	80
Number of sex offenders supervised in the community*	211	321**	354

* Figure for life sentence prisoners and sex offenders are the total supervised over the year.

** New methodology for the counting of sex offenders introduced during 2014.

Statistics – Community Service

Community Service	2013	2014	2015
Referral for Community Service Reports	2,005	1,943	1,702
Pre-Sanction Reports to consider Community Service	692	649	719
Total Reports considering Community Service	2,697	2,592	2,421
Community Service Reports (Same Day)	853	812	732
Community Service Orders made	2,354	2,190	1,937
Total number of Community Service Hours ordered in lieu of custodial sentence	352,007	327,730	291,197
Total alternative sentence in years that would otherwise have been served	974	995	987

Statistics – Community Return and Prisons

Community Returns	2013	2014	2015
Number of offenders on Community Return on December 31 st	108	149	55
Number of offenders that commenced over the year	396	455	323
Number of successful completions over the year	327	461	352
Prisons	2013	2014	2015
Number of prisoners on PSSSO's in prison on December 31 st	664	685	687
Number of sex offenders in prison on December 31 st that have been in contact with the Probation Service	373	294	307
Number of new prisoners in contact with Probation Service	543	578	467
Total number of prisoners dealt with over the year	3,029	2,922	2,658

Age / Gender breakdown of new court referrals

Age Category	Gender			%
	Female	Male	Total	Female
12-17	66	649	715	9.3%
18-24	323	2,461	2,784	11.6%
25-34	467	2,220	2,687	17.4%
35-44	275	1,189	1,464	18.8%
45-54	117	449	566	20.7%
>54	41	209	250	16.4%
Total	1,289	7,177	8,466	15.2%

Statistics – Female offenders

New Referrals From Court	2013	2014	2015
Referral for Probation (Pre-Sanction) Reports	769	845	912
Referral for Community Service Reports	185	202	173
Pre-Sanction Reports to consider Community Service	83	71	63
Orders without prior report	146	144	136
Family Conference	8	2	2
Total Referrals Female Offenders	1,191	1,264	1,286
Supervision (Female Offenders)	2013	2014	2015
Probation Orders	341	350	416
Orders for Supervision During Deferment of Penalty	281	222	225
Community Service Orders	204	191	175
Fully Suspended Sentence with Supervision	104	109	99
Part Suspended Sentence Supervision Orders	28	36	31
Other Orders	20	9	17
Total	978	917	963

Statistics – Young Persons

New Referrals From Court	2013	2014	2015
Referral for Probation (Pre-Sanction) Reports	758	775	805
Referral for Community Service Reports	13	15	12
Pre-Sanction Reports to consider Community Service	3	9	10
Orders without prior report	27	26	25
Family Conference	50	36	36
Total Referrals Young Persons	851	861	888
Supervision	2013	2014	2015
Probation Orders	256	242	273
Orders for Supervision During Deferment of Penalty	373	370	306
Community Service Orders	28	20	30
Fully Suspended Sentence with Supervision	4	8	15
Part Suspended Sentence Supervision Orders Made	29	7	10
Deferment of Detention Orders			4
Detention & Supervision Orders			49
Other Orders*	123	93	124
Total Supervision Orders Young Persons	813	740	811

*Other Orders includes various disposals under the Children Act, 2001.

Flow of Persons on Supervision during 2015

Order Type	Flow of Persons on Orders			
	Active Jan 1 2015	Orders Commenced	Orders Closed	Active Jan 1 2016
Probation_Order	1,626	1,694	1,665	1,655
Community Service Order	2,160	1,855	2,171	1,844
Fully Suspended Sentence with Supervision	1,052	650	745	957
Part Suspended Sentence with Supervision	898	468	502	864
Community Return	149	327	421	55
Life Sentence Prisoner Supervision	73	6	1	78
Temporary Release Supervision	15	5	15	5
Post Release Supervision	119	34	35	118
Family Conference	20	35	34	21
Deferment of Penalty	414	1,312	1,373	353
Other	200	148	160	188
Total	6,726	6,534	7,122	6,138

Offence Breakdown of all Referrals and Orders made 2015

Offence Category	Referrals During 2015	Orders	
		Probation Type Supervision	Community Service Orders
Theft	24.7%	24.4%	20.4%
Assault Offences	15.1%	15.6%	13.8%
Drug Offences	14.5%	14.6%	13.3%
Public Order Offences	11.7%	12.3%	16.5%
Burglary	9.2%	11.1%	7.6%
Road Traffic Offences	6.4%	3.5%	12.6%
Property Offences	4.0%	4.3%	4.3%
Robbery	3.5%	3.8%	1.0%
Dangerous Acts	3.0%	2.4%	4.4%
Weapons & Explosives	3.0%	3.6%	2.7%
Offences against Justice	1.8%	1.9%	1.2%
Sexual Offences	1.4%	1.7%	0.2%
Fraud Offences	1.2%	0.5%	1.4%
Miscellaneous Offences	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%
Homicide Offences	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
Kidnapping	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Court Referrals by Court Venue – 2015

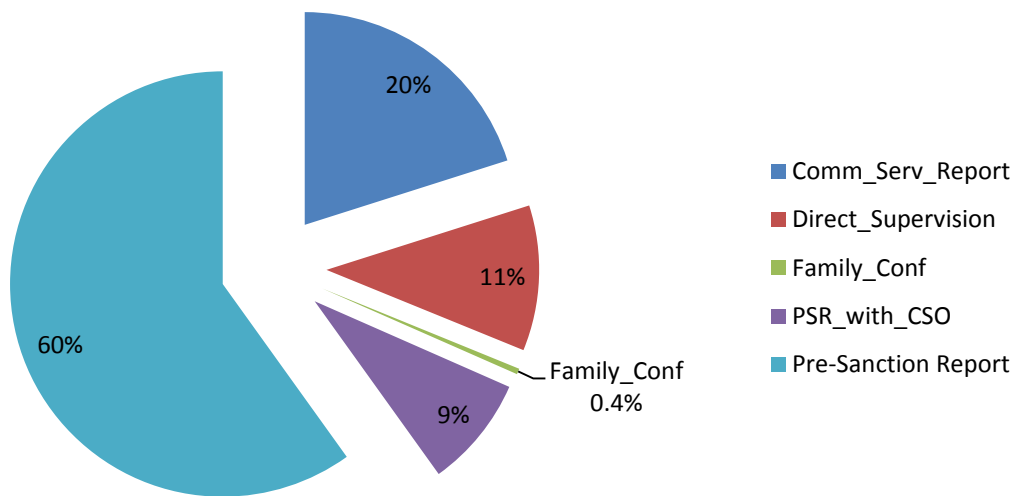
	Jurisdiction			
	Circuit Court and Higher Courts	Circuit Court Appeals from District Court	DC District Court	Total
Dublin (CCJ)	431	84	912	1427
Tallaght	.	.	257	257
Smithfield (Children court)	.	.	250	250
Chancery Street (Bridewell)	.	.	205	205
Blanchardstown	1	1	184	186
Dunlaoghaire	.	.	135	135
Swords	.	.	88	88
CloverHill	.	.	78	78
Balbriggan	1	.	18	19
Drug Treatment Court	.	.	15	15
Other Dublin courts	2	.	13	15
Total Dublin (City and County)	435	85	2,155	2,675
Cork	209	10	763	982
Limerick	51	4	260	315
Waterford City	63	23	130	216
Portlaoise	25	10	177	212
Galway City	68	17	123	208
Tullamore	29	13	135	177
Ennis	46	11	119	176
Carlow	25	3	138	166
Letterkenny	27	.	138	165
Bray	5	4	149	158
Cavan	26	.	129	155
Kilkenny	24	7	124	155
Dundalk	45	.	97	142
Naas	35	17	90	142
Navan	.	.	141	141
Wexford	41	.	94	135
Wicklow	47	22	45	114
Midleton	.	.	110	110
Mallow	.	2	102	104
Trim	46	12	44	102
Drogheda	.	.	99	99
Tralee	43	11	45	99
Nenagh	19	.	74	93

Court Referrals by Court Venue – 2015

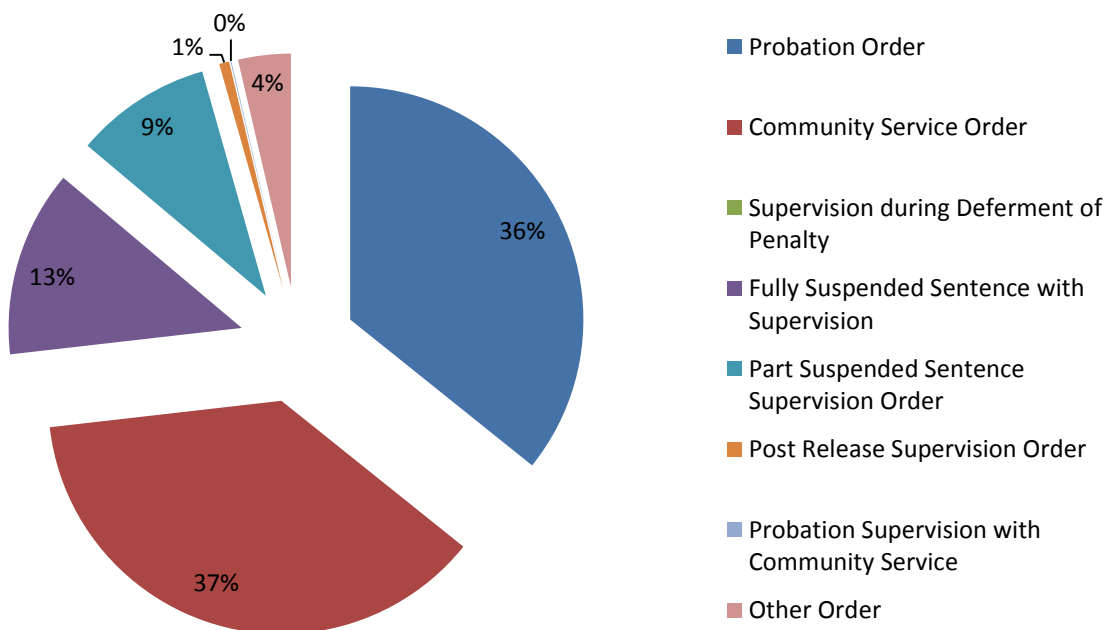
	Jurisdiction			
	Circuit Court and Higher Courts	Circuit Court Appeals from District Court	DC District Court	Total
Castlebar	40	.	35	75
Mullingar	32	3	37	72
Sligo	29	1	41	71
Monaghan	18	.	49	67
Clonmel	30	.	36	66
Bandon	.	.	52	52
Gorey	.	.	51	51
Carrickmacross	.	.	49	49
Athlone	.	1	47	48
Fermoy	.	.	47	47
Virginia	.	.	47	47
Longford	16	3	26	45
Thurles	1	.	44	45
Arklow	1	1	42	44
Bantry	.	.	44	44
Newcastlewest	.	.	39	39
Dungarvan	.	2	33	35
Tipperary	.	.	33	33
Roscommon	15	2	10	27
Ballina	.	1	23	24
Ballinasloe	.	.	24	24
Kinsale	.	.	23	23
Carrick-on-Shannon	4	.	18	22
Clonakilty	.	.	22	22
Killarney	.	.	22	22
Macroom	.	.	21	21
Buncrana	.	.	19	19
Carrick-on-Suir	.	.	17	17
Listowel	.	.	15	15
Loughrea	.	.	15	15
Skibbereen	.	.	15	15
Ardee	.	.	13	13
Cashel	.	.	13	13
An Fal Carrach	.	.	12	12
Carndonagh	.	.	12	12
Athy	.	.	11	11
Total	1,504	266	6,696	8,466

All other courts that made 10 or less referrals in 2015 and are not detailed in the table but include in the total figures.

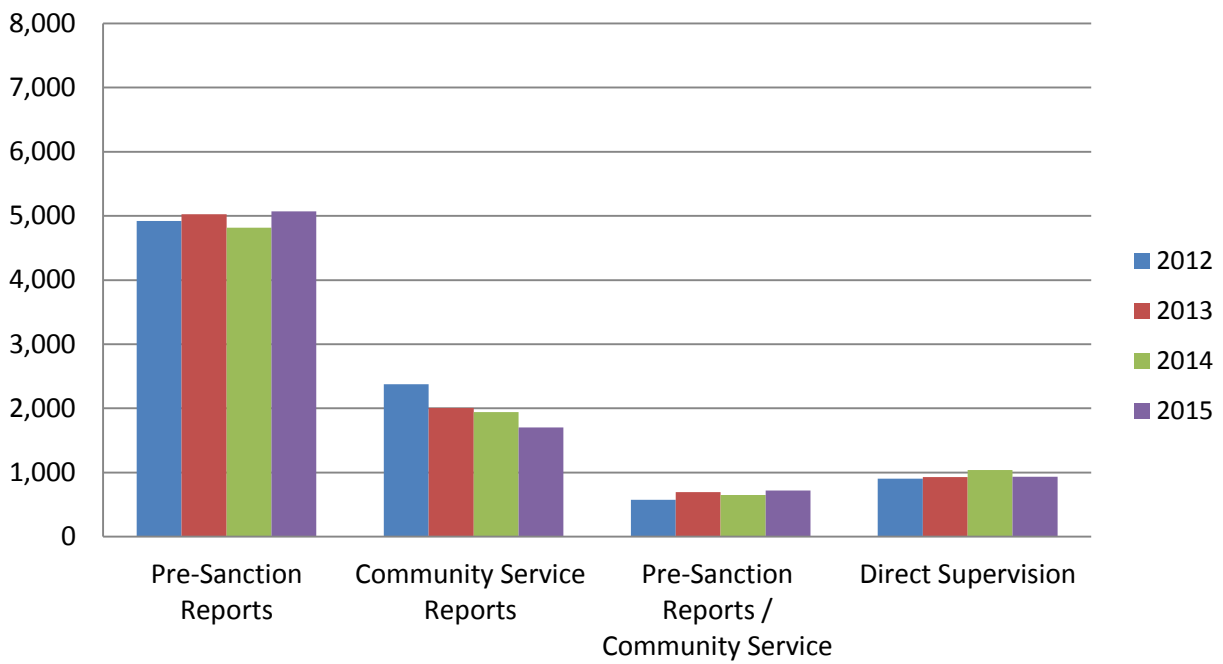
Breakdown of New Referrals 2015



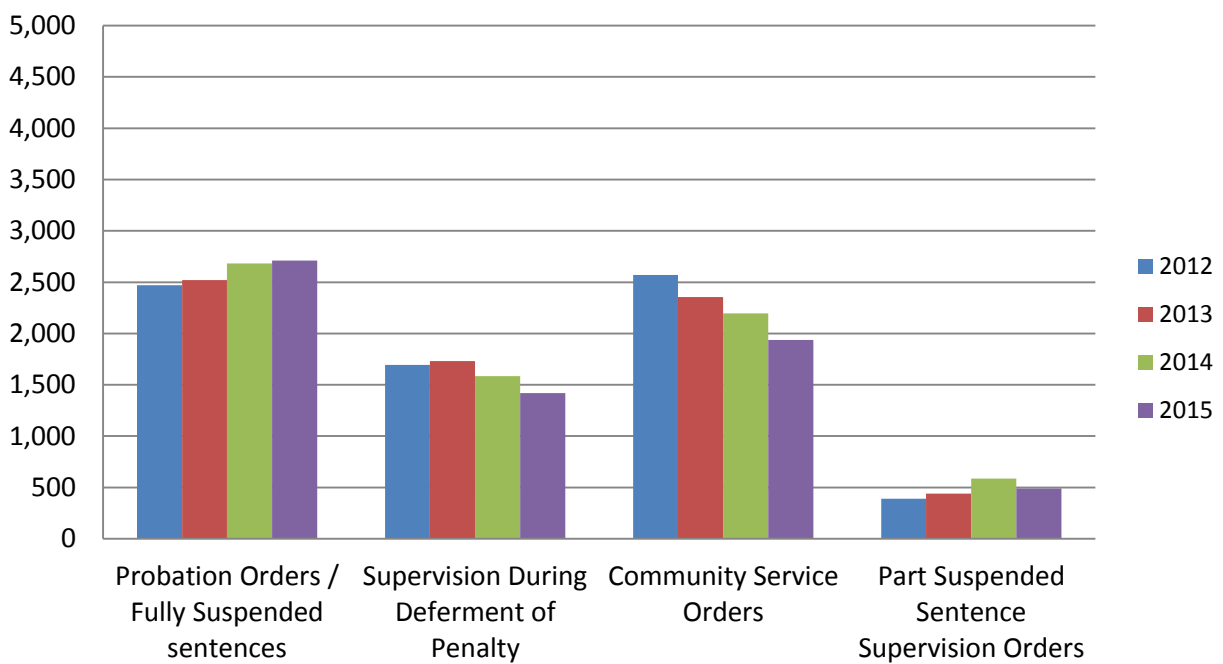
Breakdown of Court Orders 2015



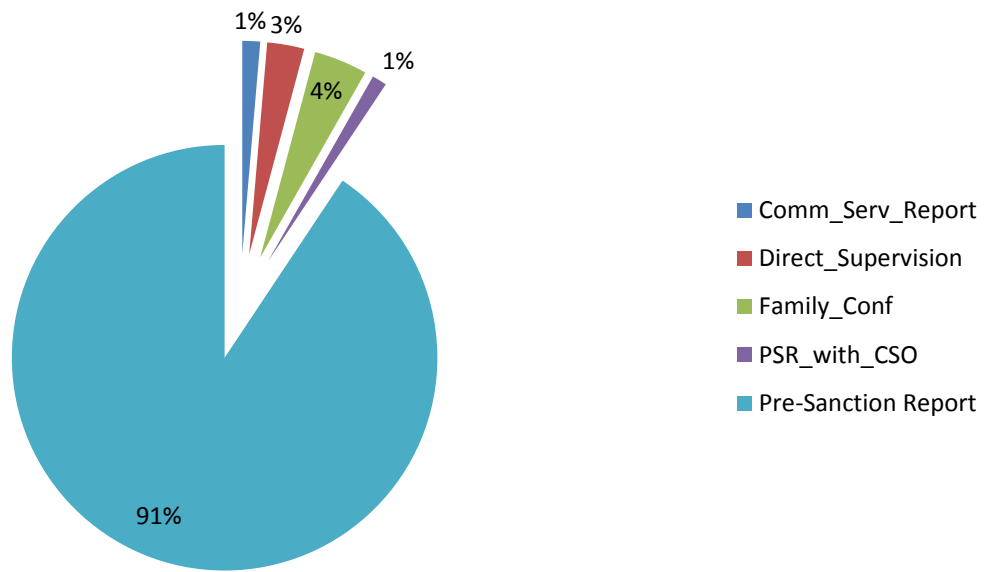
Trend of Offender Assessment Reports Requested 2012 to 2015



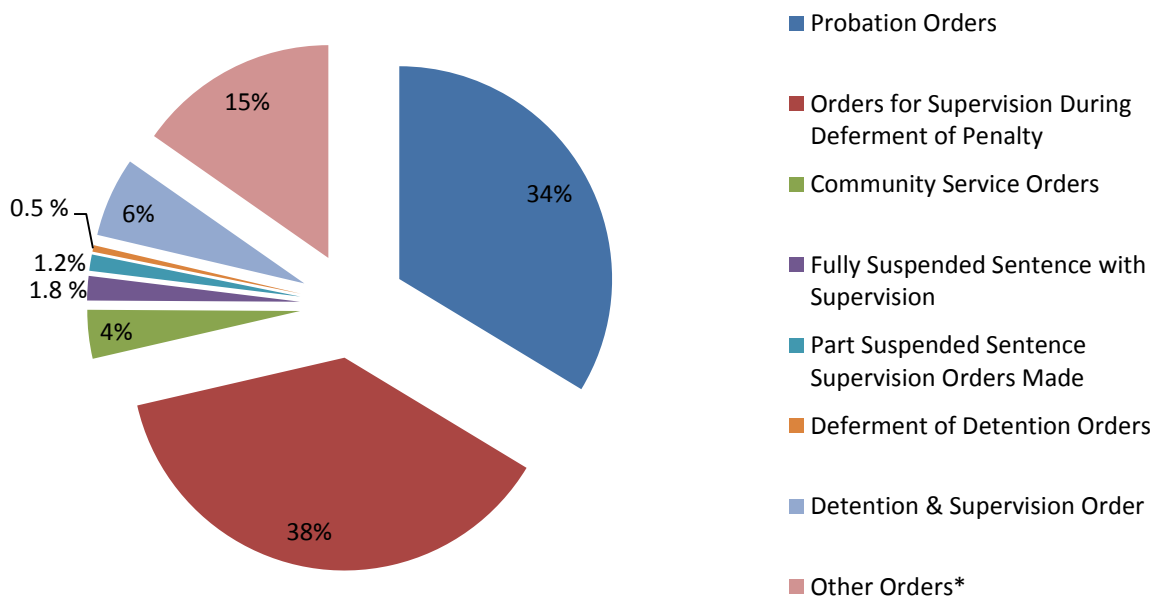
Trend of Orders Made by Year 2012 to 2015



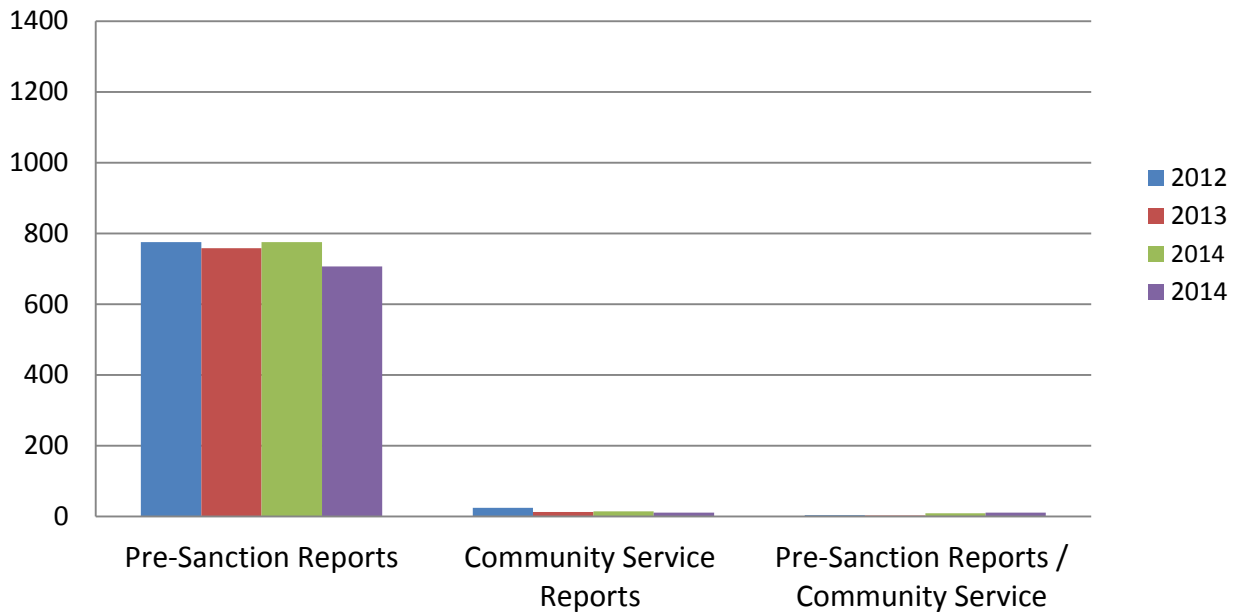
Breakdown of New Referrals (Young Persons) 2015



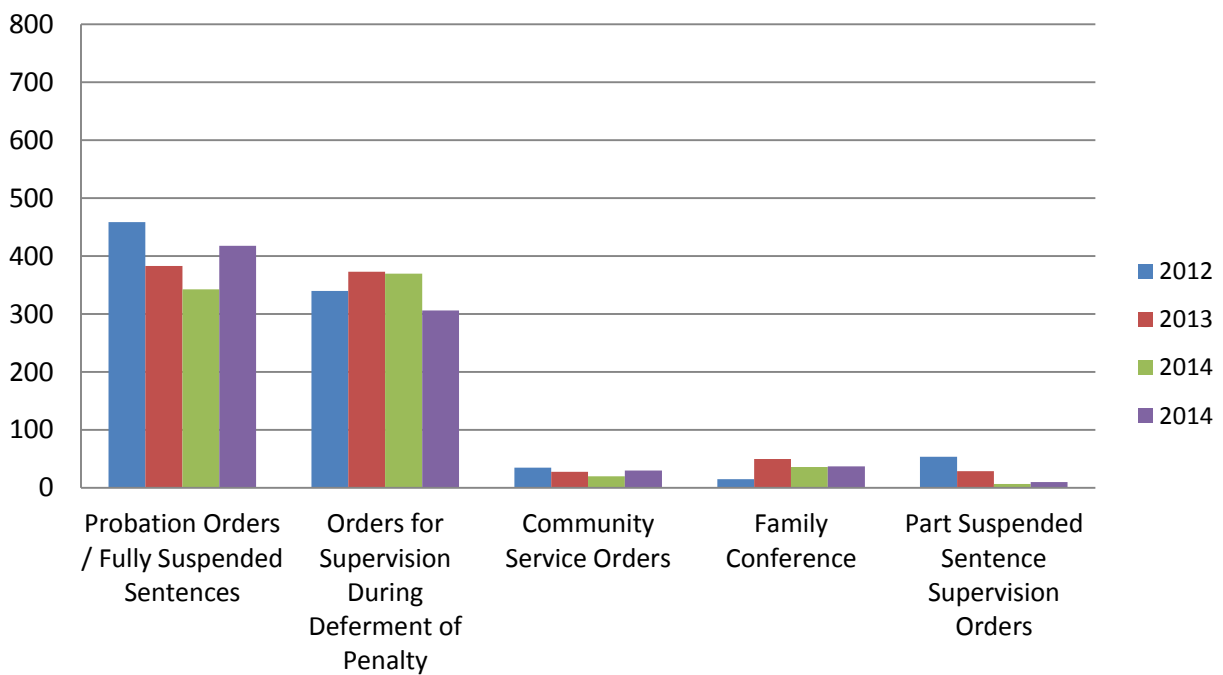
Breakdown of Court Orders (Young Persons) 2015



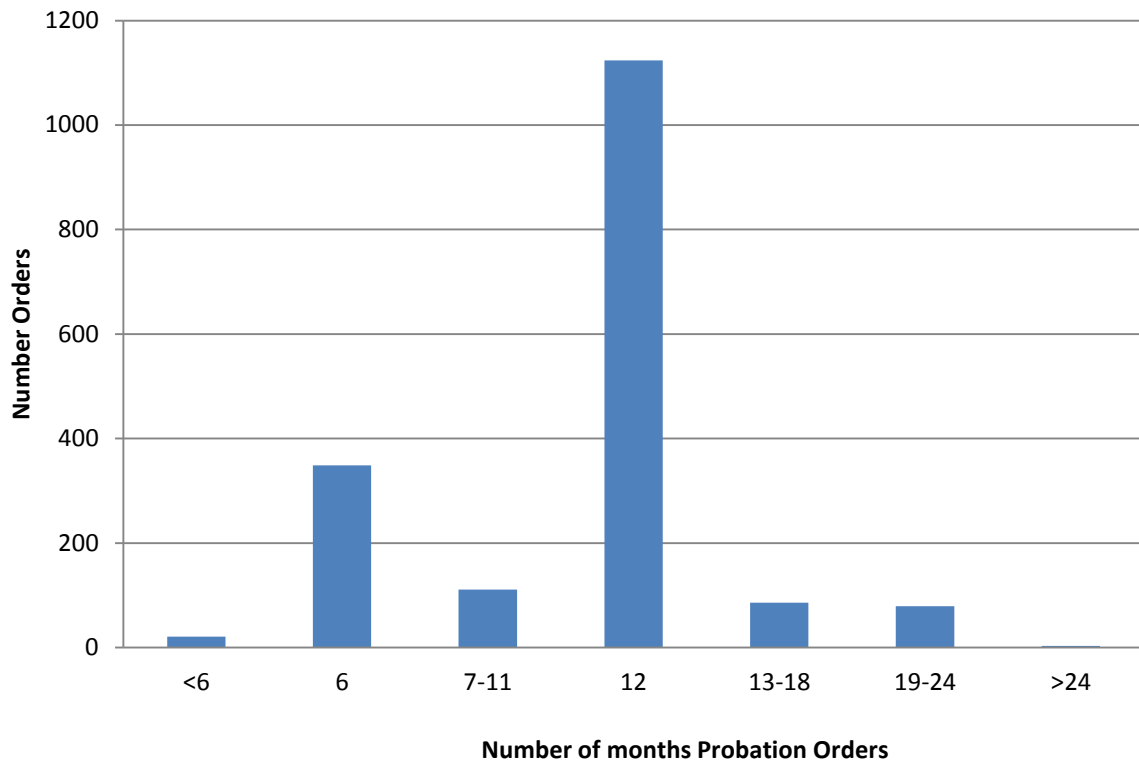
Trend of Offender Assessment Reports Requested (Young Persons) 2012 to 2015



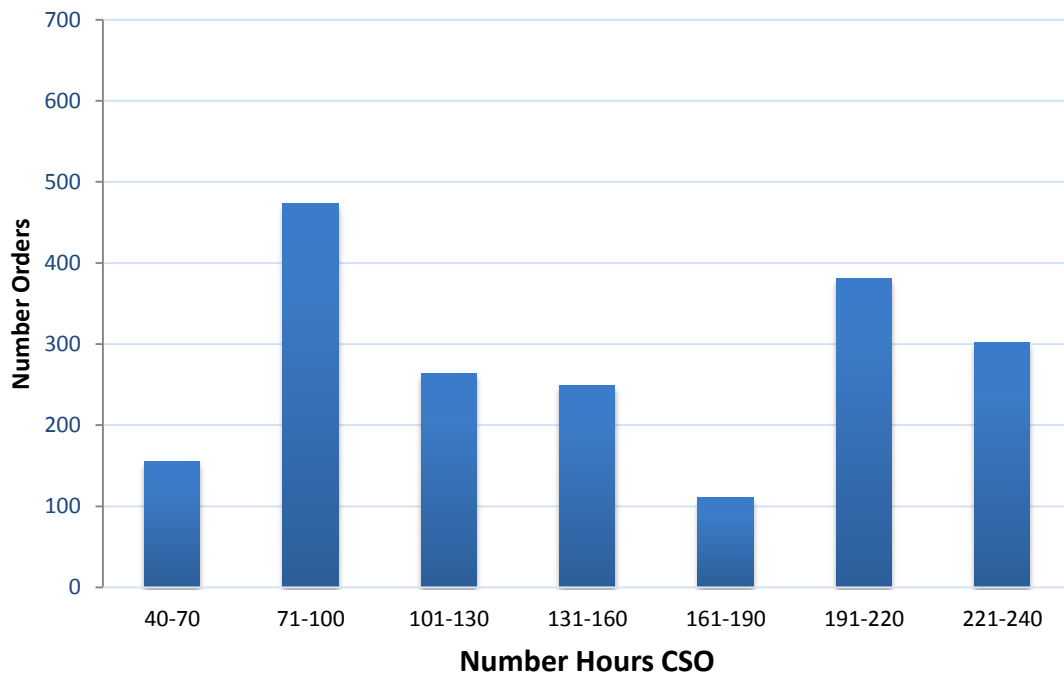
Trend of Orders Made by Year (Young Persons) 2012 to 2015



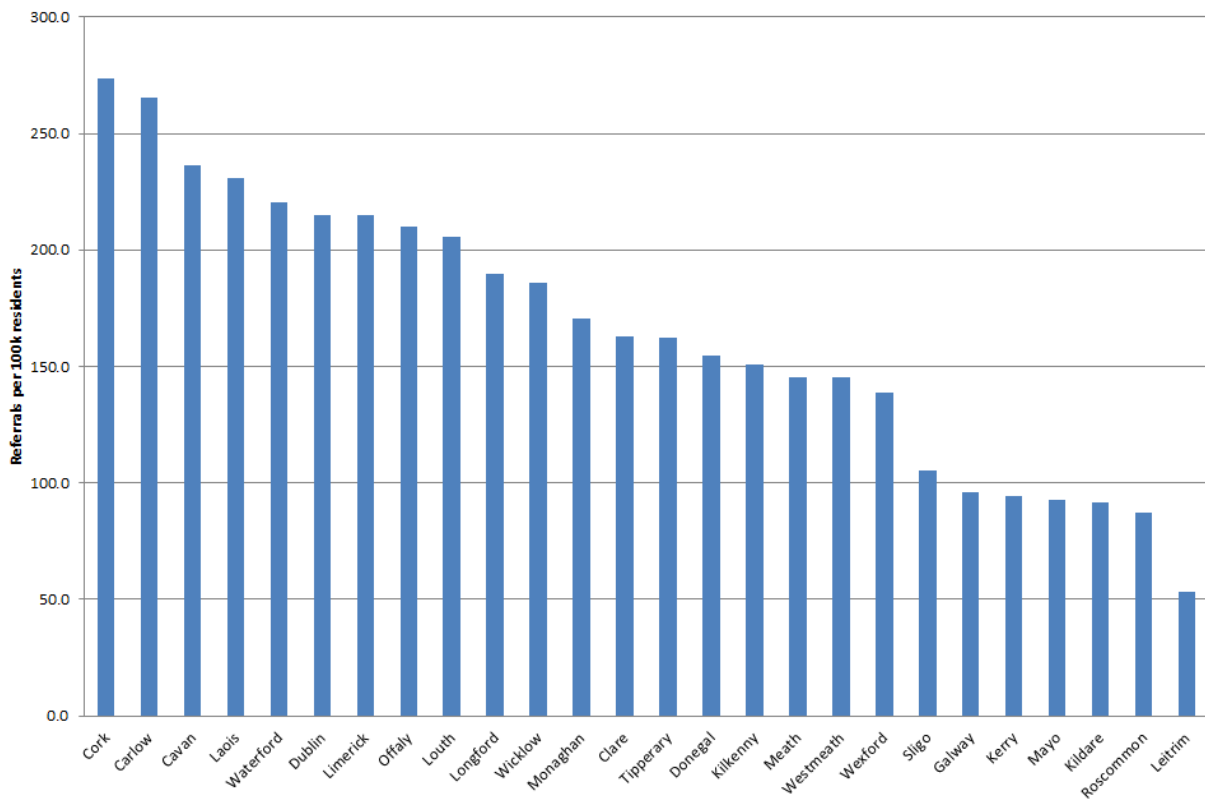
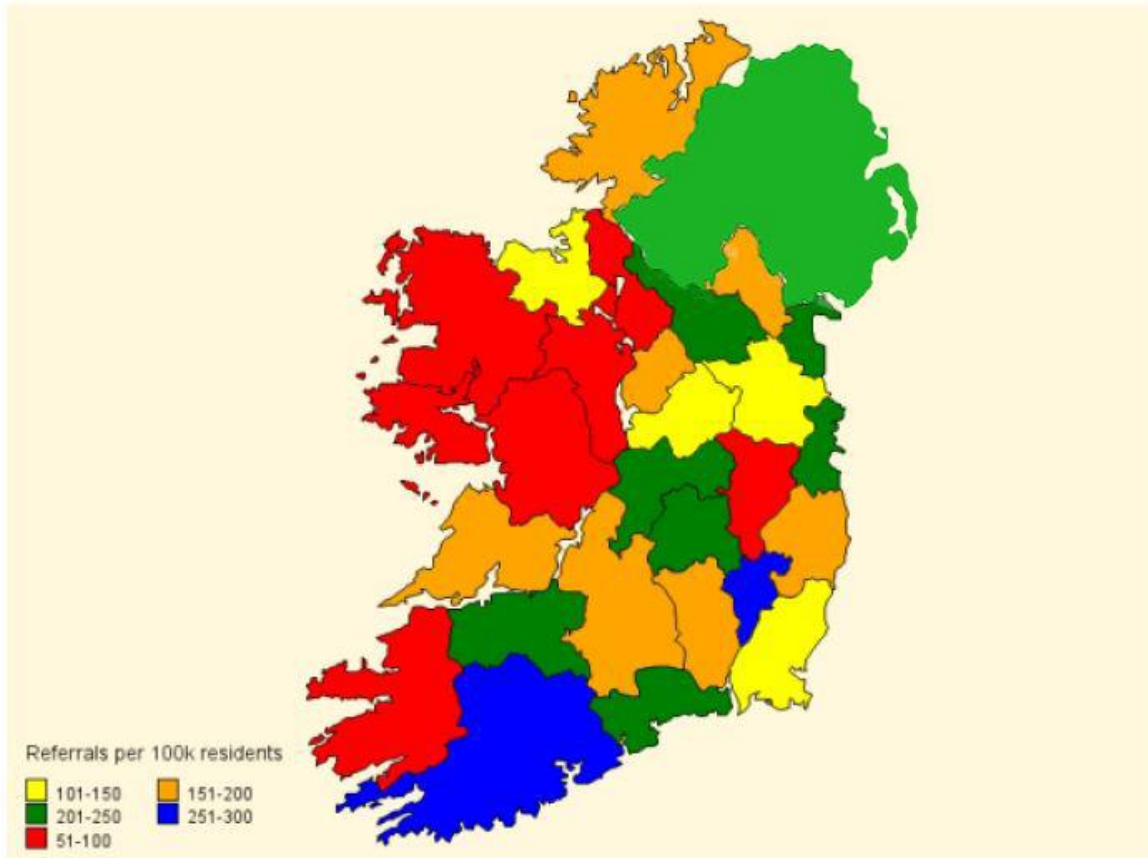
Distribution of Probation Orders made in 2015



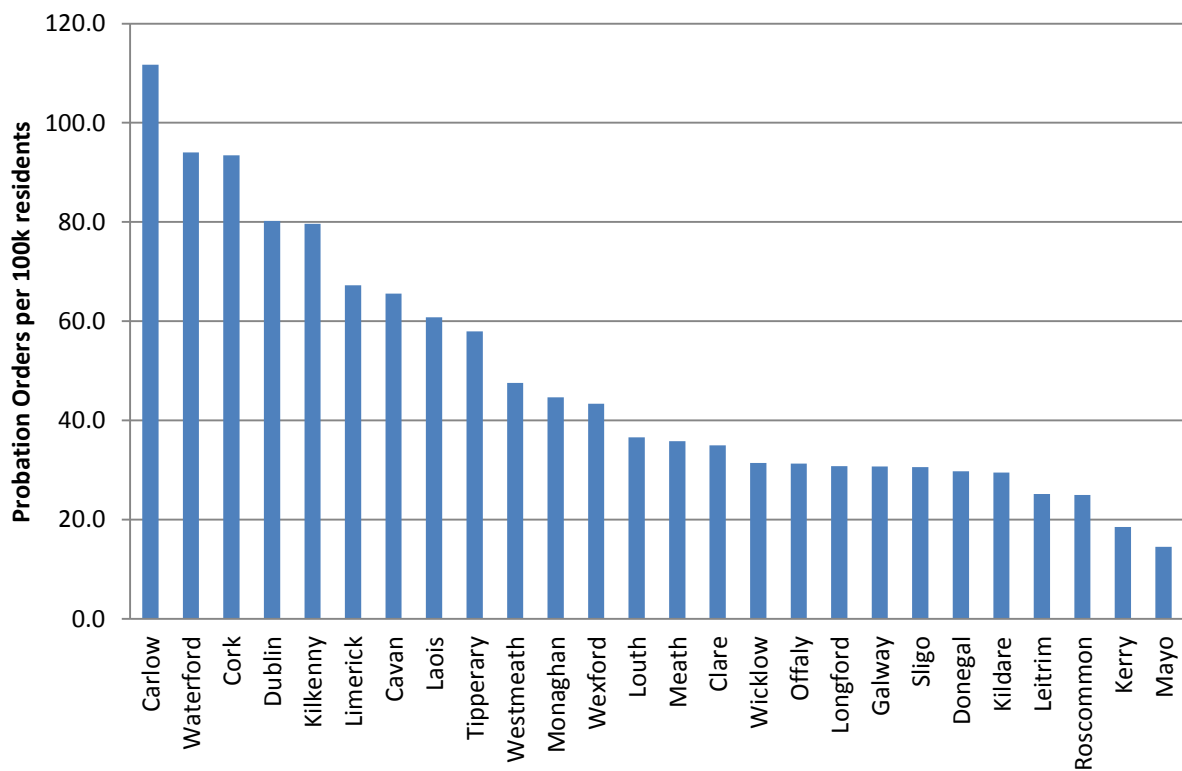
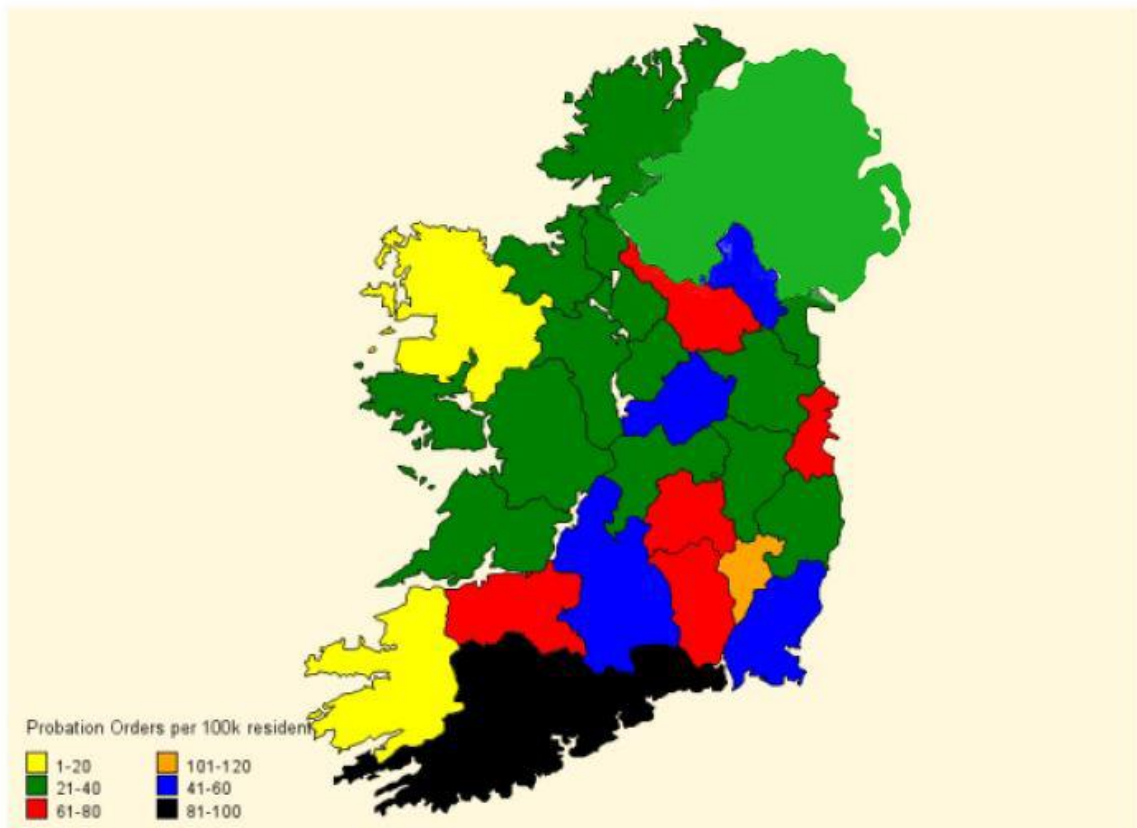
Distribution of Community Service Orders made in 2015



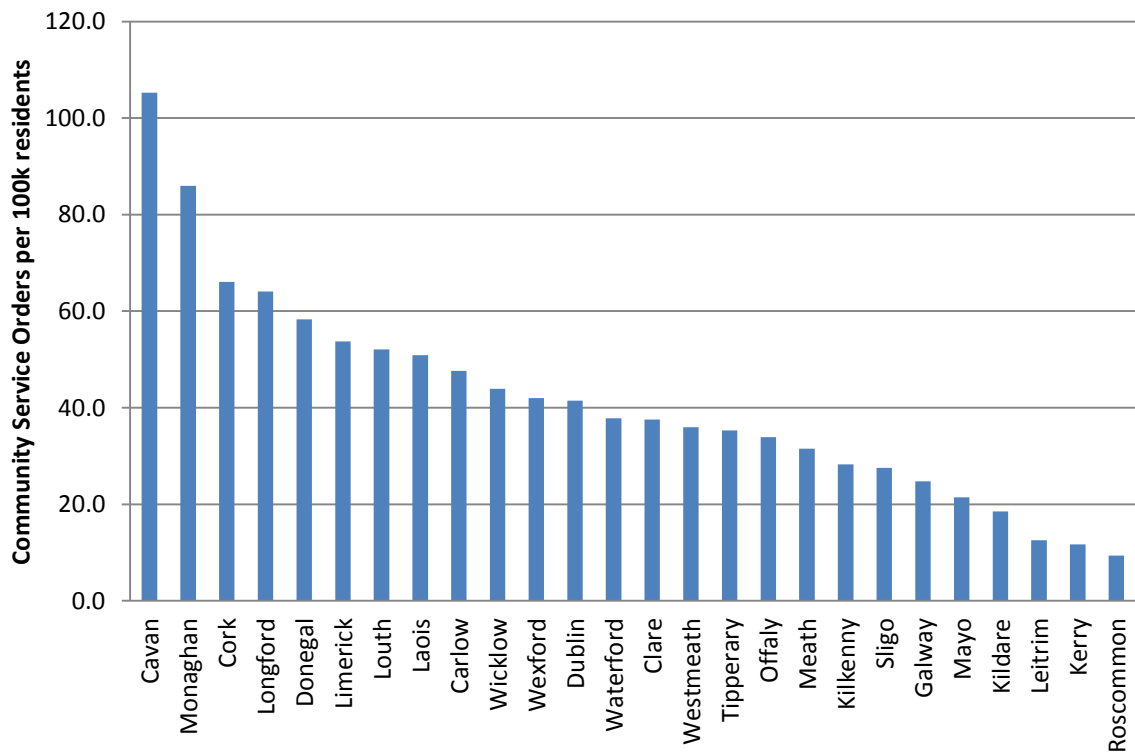
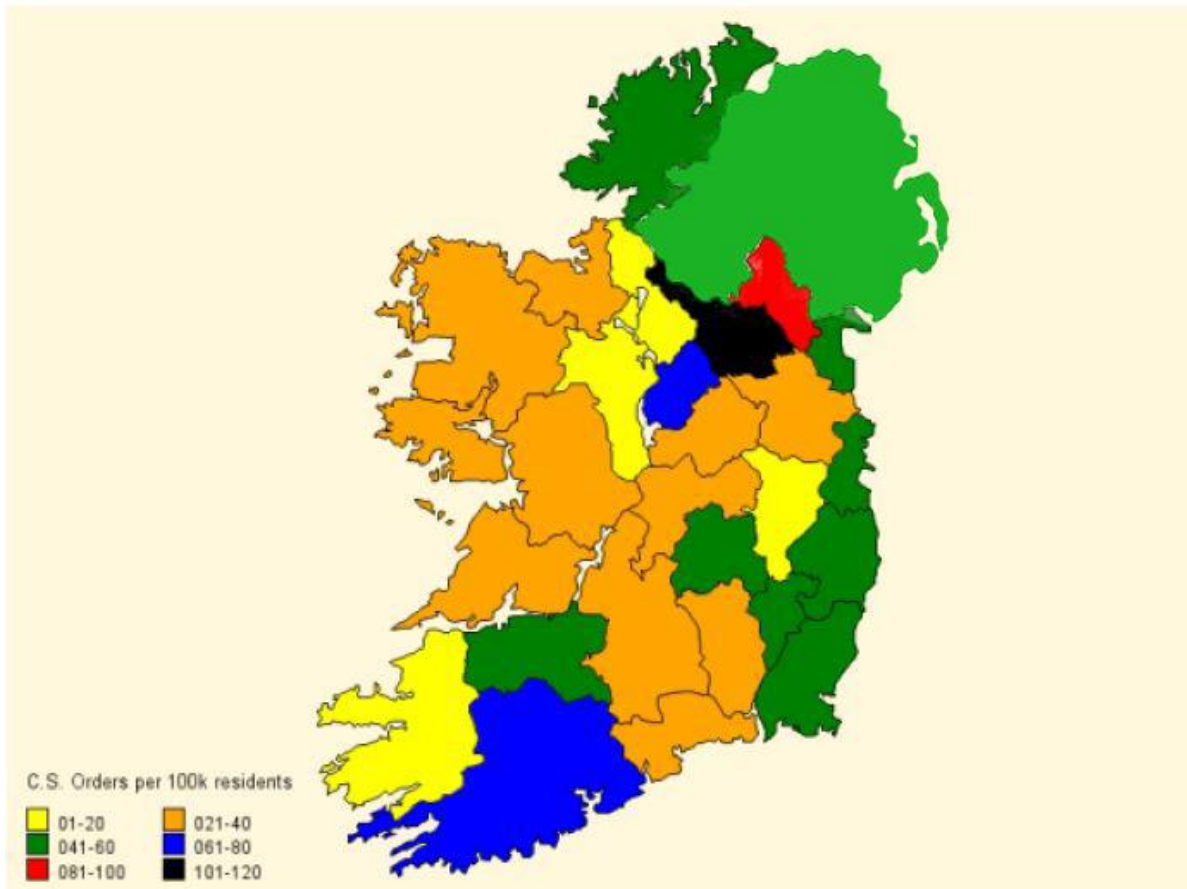
Number of New Referrals in 2015 per 100,000 residents



Number of Probation Orders in 2015 per 100,000 residents



Number of Community Service Orders in 2015 per 100,000 residents



Community Based Organisations in receipt of funding support through the Probation Service

- (1). **Adventure Sports Project (YPP)**, School on Stilts, Rutland Street, Dublin 1
- (2). **Aftercare Recovery Group**, 48 Seville Place, Dublin 1
- (3). **Aiseiri Cahir**, Townspark, Cahir, Co Tipperary
- (4). **Aiseiri Wexford**, Roxborough, Wexford, Co. Wexford
- (5). **Aislinn(YPP)**, Ballyragget, Co Kilkenny
- (6). **Ana Liffey Project**, 48 Middle Abbey Street, Dublin 1
- (7). **Athy Alternative Project**, Community Service Centre, Nelson Street, Athy, Co Kildare
- (8). **Ballinasloe Training Workshop**, Canal House, Harbour Road, Ballinasloe, Co Galway
- (9). **Ballymun Youth Action Project**, Horizons Centre, Balcurris Road, Ballymun, Dublin 11
- (10). **Bridge Project**, Unit 3, 131-133 Francis Street, Dublin 8
- (11). **Bushypark (Clarecare)**, Bushypark House, Bushypark, Ennis, Co Clare
- (12). **Candle Community Trust (YPP)**, PO Box 1145, Lynch's Lane, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10
- (13). **Ceim ar Cheim(YPP)**, Unit 5 Shannon Development Units, Knockalisheen Road, Moyross, Co Limerick
- (14). **Ceim Eile (Aiseiri)**, 1 Glencarra, Ballybeg, Waterford, Co Waterford
- (15). **Churchfield Community Trust**, 107-109 Knockfree Avenue, Churchfield, Cork City, Co Cork
- (16). **Coolmine Therapeutic Community**, Ashleigh House, The Stables, Damastown, Dublin 15
- (17). **Cork Alliance Centre**, Robert Scott House, 6 Patrick's Quay, Cork City, Co Cork
- (18). **Cornmarket Project – Wexford Local Development**, 9 Mallin Street, Cornmarket, Wexford, Co Wexford
- (19). **Cox's Demesne (YPP)**, The House, 15-16 Oakland Park, Dundalk, Co Louth
- (20). **Crinan**, 72 Sean McDermott Street, Dublin 1
- (21). **Cuan Mhuire Athy**, Milltown, Athy, Co. Kildare
- (22). **Cuan Mhuire Bruree**, Bruree, Co Limerick
- (23). **Cuan Mhuire Coolarne**, Coolarne, Turloughmore, Co Galway
- (24). **Cuan Mhuire Farnanes**, Farnanes, Co Cork
- (25). **Daughters of Charity Community Services (YPP)**, 8/9 Henrietta Street, Dublin 1
- (26). **Dochas don Oige (YPP)**, Liosban Industrial Estate, Tuam Road, Galway, Co Galway
- (27). **Educational Trust**, c/o Block 3, Grove Court, Grove Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15
- (28). **Fellowship House**, Spur Hill, Doughcloyne, Togher, Cork City, Co Cork
- (29). **Fusion CPL**, Cherry Orchard Health Centre, Cherry Orchard Grove, Dublin 10
- (30). **GROW**, National Support Office, 6 Forrest Mews, Forrest Road, Swords, Co Dublin

Community Based Organisations in receipt of funding support through the Probation Service

- (31). **Grattan House Project**, St Nicholas Church, Cove Street, Cork City, Co Cork
- (32). **Guild of St Philip Neri**, St Vincent De Paul, 91-92 Sean McDermott Street, Dublin 1
- (33). **Job Sampling Initiative**, St Brigid's Family and Community Centre, 37 Lower Yellow Road, Waterford, Co Waterford
- (34). **Kerry Adolescent Counselling (YPP)**, Balloonagh, Tralee, Co Kerry
- (35). **Kilkenny Employment for Youth**, Garden Row, Off High Street, Kilkenny, Co Kilkenny
- (36). **IASIO (Linkage Programme)**, Block 3, Grove Court, Grove Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.
- (37). **Le Cheile (YPP)**, 24 Tivoli Terrace South, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin
- (38). **Matt Talbot Adolescent Services (YPP)**, Rockview, Trabeg Lawn, Douglas, Co Cork
- (39). **Matt Talbot Adolescent Services (YPP)**, Cara Lodge Residential Treatment Centre, Ahiohill, Enniskeane, Co Cork
- (40). **Matt Talbot Community Trust**, Rear of Assumption Church, Kylemore Road, Dublin 10
- (41). **Merchants Quay Project**, 4 Merchants Quay, Dublin 8
- (42). **Restorative Justice in the Community**, Connolly Street, Nenagh, Co Tipperary
- (43). **PACE**, Block 3, Grove Court, Grove Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.
- (44). **PALLS**, Unit 2, Docklands Business Park, Dock Road, Limerick, Co Limerick
- (45). **Restorative Justice Services**, Village Green, Tallaght, Dublin 24
- (46). **SAOL Project**, 58 Amiens Street, Dublin 1
- (47). **Southill Outreach (YPP)**, The Factory, Southside Youthspace, Galvone Industrial Estate, Limerick, Co Limerick
- (48). **Stepping Out Athlone**, National Learning Network, Belhavel, Golden Island, Athlone, Co Westmeath
- (49). **Tabor Lodge**, Ballindeasig, Belgooly, Co Cork
- (50). **Tallaght Probation Project**, Courthouse Square, Westpark, Tallaght, Dublin 24
- (51). **Tivoli Training Centre**, 24 Tivoli Terrace South, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin
- (52). **Tower Programme**, Cusack House, St Mark's Lane, Neilstown Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22
- (53). **Trail**, 12-13 Berkley Street, Dublin 7.
- (54).. **TREO**, 34 Tycor Business Centre, Tycor, Waterford, Co Waterford
- (55). **Tuam Community Training Workshop**, Vicharschoraland, Tuam, Co Galway
- (56). **Tus Nua**, Abigail Centre, Kildonan Road, Finglas, Dublin 11
- (57). **U-Casadh Project**, Solas Building, Belmont Park, Ferrybank, Co Waterford
- (58). **Westview Day Centre (YPP)**, Westview House, 17 Audley Place, Cork
- (59). **Wexford Centre Project (YPP)**, 5/7 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1
- (60). **WHAD (YPP)**, Orchard Community Centre, Cherry Orchard Grove, Dublin 10
- (61). **WRENS (YPP)**, Killinarden Enterprise Park, Killinarden, Tallaght, Dublin 24



An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh
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