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Newsletter of the Probation Service (Ireland)

September 2018



Message from Director

Minister of State David Stanton TD opened the first National Conference of the Joint Agency Response to Crime (JARC) Initiative on Tuesday 25th September, in the Law Society of Ireland facility in Central Dublin. The Conference was an opportunity to review progress on the various local JARC projects, which were launched in 2015, and specifically to hear presentations of evaluations carried out to date. JARC brings multi-disciplinary and interagency co-operation, aimed at reducing victimisation and helping to create safer communities, to a new level in Ireland. Interagency collaboration is something Probation Service staff have always recognised and used as a key part of our practice 'toolkit.' This systems-based orientation is, in large part, because of probation officers' training as social workers and the systemic social work lens through which we approach our work and conceptualise human, community and societal problems. Evaluation evidence, which demonstrates the outcome and process gains of enhanced interagency co-operation, as in the case of JARC, spurs us on further to ensure that our system-wide collaboration is as good as it can be.



This month sees the commencement in post of a number of new appointees. These include Aidan O'Driscoll, who has recently taken up his new role as Secretary General of the Department of Justice and Equality. Drew Harris has also commenced in his new job as Commissioner of our police service, An Garda Síochána, this month. We wish both Aidan and Drew well and look forward to working with them, and their colleagues, into the future. In Northern Ireland, Paul Doran, who was Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Probation Board for Northern Ireland, has moved to become Director of Rehabilitation with the Northern Ireland Prison Service. From both a personal and professional perspective, I congratulate Paul on his appointment. I also look forward to continuing our already excellent working relationship with Paul and all his colleagues, in Prisons and Probation, and all our partner organisations, in Northern Ireland. Interagency co-operation, within our own criminal justice system, and indeed on a cross-jurisdictional (especially North-South) basis, has never been more important. There is already a solid foundation of that collaboration on which to build, and all the signs are that this can be further developed, into the future.

The next edition of *Probation works* will be published in November 2018.

Vivian Geiran

Director

Twitter: @VGeiran



Probation in Numbers



This month (September 2018) there are:

8,053 Persons under Probation Service Supervision in the community;

1,477 Prisoners receiving probation assistance in custody;

2,059 People on Community Service

1,262 Persons on various types of post-release probation supervision

1,235 Women on probation Supervision in the community, and

210 Persons under eighteen years of age under probation supervision in the community

The monthly Probation Service 'snapshot' statistical table for September 2018 is available at:

[Click Here](#)

Probation Service: Monthly Offender Population Report

Caseload	Community Regions (Point in Time September 1 2018)*				In Custody	Total (Persons)
	Eastern	Midlands and South East	South West	West and North West		
Total	3,424	1,765	1,493	1,371	1,477	9,530
Of Whom:						
Female	471	270	300	194	73	1,308
Male	2,953	1,495	1,193	1,177	1,404	8,222
Under 18	125	35	27	23	0	210
18 and over	3,299	1,730	1,466	1,348	1,477	9,320
Totals:	Total Caseload, in community:					8,053
	Total Caseload, in custody:					1,477
	Grand Total, national Probation Service caseload:					9,530
The following are the major community supervision categories.						
Probation Type Supervision**:					3,056	
Community Service:					2,059	
Supervision in the Community Post Release from Custody***:					1,262	
Community Return****:					65	
Life sentence prisoners on supervision in the community*****:					91	
Sex offenders on supervision post release from custody*****:					180	

***Regions**

Eastern: Dublin, Meath, Louth, Wicklow
 Midlands and South East: Kildare, Laois, Offaly, Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford
 South West: Cork, Clare, Limerick, Kerry
 West and North West: Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim, Longford, Roscommon, Cavan, Monaghan, Donegal, Westmeath

**Probation Type Supervision includes Probation Orders, Fully Suspended Sentence Supervision Orders, and Supervision During Deferment of Penalty.

*** Supervision in the community post release from custody includes Part Suspended Sentences, Temporary Release Supervision, Community Return, Life Sentence Prisoners on supervision in the community and Sex offenders on supervision in the community post release from custody.

**** Already included in the total of supervision in community post release from custody.

Kickstart Applications Received



A new initiative to support the development of social enterprises and increase employment for people with criminal convictions was launched on the 2nd July.

The 'Kickstart' Seed Fund programme will provide matching grants of up to €30,000 to organisations providing employment to former offenders and persons leaving prison. The scheme will provide grants of up to €10,000 to support Feasibility Studies and Market Research initiatives, and grants up to €30,000 for Start Up and Development Costs. It is intended that the scheme will enable successful projects to create commercially sustainable employment linked to a social benefit, using the social enterprise model of job delivery.

Launching the new fund, Mr. Vivian Geiran, Director of the Probation Service said that the aim of the initiative is to "increase employment opportunities for people with criminal convictions who find it difficult to access the labour market. The key criteria is that projects be viable, sustainable and deliver a social benefit."

The closing date for receipt of applications was extended until the 31st August 2018 to enable the maximum number of organisations to submit applications.

The Probation Service is delighted with the large number of applications received, and with the variety of projects proposed. It is expected that the decision making process will commence in the near future, and that the successful organisations will be then notified.

J-ARC National Conference



Pictured: Minister Stanton with Director of the Probation Service Vivian Geiran, Assistant Commissioner Pat Leahy, Director of the Prison service Michael Donnellan and DOJE Assistant Secretary Ben Ryan

Mr. David Stanton, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Justice and Equality, opened the National Conference of the Joint Agency Response to Crime (JARC) at the Law Society headquarters in Blackhall Place, Dublin 7 on the 25th September 2018. JARC, which was officially launched in November 2015, is a multi-agency initiative which aims to:

- Develop and strengthen a multi-agency approach to the management of prolific offenders;
- Prioritise such offenders for targeted interventions and supports to address their behaviour; and
- Reduce crime and victimisation in local communities.

The JARC initiative comprises a number of intensive offender management programmes which operate at a local level and are jointly managed by the Probation Service, An Garda Síochána and the Irish Prison Service, with active support from the Department of Justice and Equality.

The centrepiece of the National Conference was the independent evaluations that have now been completed on the three pilot JARC programmes, along with a comparative 'desktop' review (by an expert internal group) of those three evaluations. While it is difficult to draw definitive conclusions given the relatively small numbers of participants and short measurement timeframes, the initial indications are that the pilot programmes have helped to reduce both the frequency and severity of reoffending and, furthermore, have helped some participants to move completely away from crime.

Speaking at the conference, Minister Stanton said:

"JARC offers an inspiring example of cross-sectoral collaboration towards safer communities and a better future for its participants. Every success achieved under JARC is a genuine 'win' for the participant, for their community, for the criminal justice system and, I hope, for victims of crime who may take some comfort in knowing that they and others are less likely to be victimised in the future."

Conference attendees learned about and discussed a range of topics including the positive impacts of the pilot programmes, developments in how success can be

Drugs, Crime and Social Exclusion Conference in County Wexford

A major conference exploring the links between substance misuse, criminality and social exclusion took place in the Amber Springs Hotel in Gorey, Wexford on September 1st. Attended by 120 delegates including community activists and public representatives, the conference heard from an expert panel of speakers including Fr. Peter McVerry of the McVerry Trust, Tony Geoghegan of Merchants Quay Ireland and Brian Kehoe of Wexford Local Development on the link between drugs and crime.

Opening the conference, Declan McPartlin chairman of the Wexford Local Drugs and Alcohol Task Force stated that the task force had been in existence for fifteen years and in that time illegal drugs had become much more widely available in County Wexford, with a range of new types of drugs now easily accessible over the internet.

He went on to speak about the challenge of adequately responding to an increase in crime and anti social behaviour throughout the county, associated with substance misuse. "Although we have a strong National Drugs Strategy we don't have the resources to adequately implement it," he said, calling on the government to allocate extra resources to tackle what has now become a major problem in every town and village throughout Wexford.

The conference was organised by the County Wexford Local Drugs and Alcohol Task Force (CWLDATEF) and sponsored by Wexford Local Development. Membership on the CWLDATEF includes the Probation Service, An Garda Síochána, the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, the HSE, Customs and Excise, the Cornmarket Project and other voluntary and community organisations. The Probation Service hosts the meetings of the CWLDATEF in its Wexford premises and provides secretarial support to the task force.

measured in the future, the current state of play with JARC implementation, and further plans and prospects for JARC in the future.



RTE News piece regarding J-ARC Evaluation

Minister Flanagan pays tribute to outgoing Director General of Irish Prison Service, Michael Donnellan



Pictured: Irish Prison Service Director General, Michael Donnellan (left), with Vivian Geiran, responding to press questions at an event in Probation Service HQ earlier this year.

The Minister for Justice and Equality, Charlie Flanagan TD, has paid tribute to Michael Donnellan, who will complete his term as Director General of the Irish Prison Service with effect from Friday 30 November. Mr Donnellan has served as Director General since 2011, prior to which he spent six years as Director of the Probation Service.

Minister Flanagan said: "I want to pay a warm tribute to Michael Donnellan who has led the Irish Prison Service with energy, integrity and dedication for the last seven years. Since my appointment as Minister, I have witnessed Michael's progressive and compassionate approach first hand. He has led a significant culture change in the penal system as well as delivering improvements to the prison environment and championing a joined up approach to the management of offenders. Michael has

Le Chéile National Volunteer Conference



The Director of the Probation Service Vivian Geiran was invited to make the closing remarks, at the end of the National Volunteer Conference on 29 September 2018, organised by Le Chéile a Young Person's Probation Project funded by the Probation Service.

Le Chéile was established as a pilot project in north Dublin in 2005, to provide mentoring services to children 12- 18 years' old who were clients of the Probation Service. The organisation is now a nationwide, community-based volunteer mentoring and family support service, which provides a range of mentoring and family support programmes.

Le Cheile is also funded by the European Union, through the European Social Fund 2014-2020 Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning.

In his closing remarks, the Director takes the opportunity of thanking the Board and staff of Le Chéile for their drive and vision in progressing the organisation. Echoing the words of the Hollywood Film Producer Stephen Spielberg "The delicate balance of mentoring someone is not creating them in your own image, but giving them the opportunity to create themselves", the Director presented the Volunteer mentors at the conference with their certificates, which marked their contribution to mentoring young offenders and to the work of Le Chéile.

ACJRD Annual Conference 2018

overseen a reduction in the number of prisoners on restricted regime and worked with the Probation Service to deliver important prisoner rehabilitation initiatives.

From 2011 to 2017 Ireland reduced its prison population by 16% while reducing the number of prisoners on temporary release from 997 in February 2012 to 234 today. These outcomes are recognised at home and internationally and my Department was rightly proud when Michael was the recipient of the International Corrections and Prisons Association's Head of Service Award last year. Michael's personal leadership has contributed enormously to the improvement of our prison service and he will be missed by all his colleagues in the criminal justice system. I wish him all the best with what I'm sure will be an exciting next chapter for him."

The Probation Service joins with Minister Flanagan's warm tribute to Michael. We wish Michael well for the future and look forward to continuing to build on the strong and effective interagency bonds we have with the Irish Prison Service, and to deliver on the actions in our Joint Strategy, 2018–2020, so as to help create safer, more inclusive and fairer communities.

21st Anniversary of the Tower Project



Pictured: Deputy Director of the Probation Service Ita Burke, Regional Manager Dave Kenny and Senior Probation Officer Nuala Macken with Kenny Egan at Tower Anniversary

2018 marks the Tower Programme's (North Clondalkin Project) 21st anniversary, and the project held an open day event on the 27th September 2018, to celebrate the milestone.

The Open Day was attended by a number of local dignitaries, local community representatives, and Senior Probation Service managers. At the event, the project opened its Memorial garden to commemorate past deceased clients and staff members from the project. The garden will include a memorial bench and sculpture created by the clients. At the event, Ita Burke Director of Operations in the Probation Service planted a memorial tree to mark the occasion.

The Tower Programme is funded by the Probation Service, as part of its funding of Community Based organisations. The Project delivers programmes to promote pro-social attitudes and behaviours, and to offer educational and training opportunities that include personal development and skills training for people on probation



The 21st Annual Conference of the Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD), "Unlocking the Power of Data for Criminal Justice Research, Policy-Making and Practice" takes place on Friday 5th October, in Dublin.

The conference will pose the questions:

What kind of digital and automated data is there in Criminal Justice Policy, Practice and Research field?

How is, or should, it be collated, analysed, compared, legislated for, accessed and disseminated within appropriate ethical parameters?

How can such data be accessed and how might it be used, now and in the future, to:

- Develop policy in a national and international context on an evidence-based foundation?
- Motivate positive actions and outcomes for prosecutors, juveniles, victims of crime, probation supervision, reintegration of offenders and a safer society?
- Contribute to crime prevention, human rights, fair trial procedures and access for researchers and others, with appropriate data protection?

The 21st Annual Conference of the Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD), "Unlocking the Power of Data for Criminal Justice Research, Policy-Making and Practice" with national and international plenary speakers and a full programme of workshops, will take place on Friday, 5th October, 2018, at the Hilton Dublin Kilmainham, Kilmainham Square, Inchicore Road, Dublin 8. D08 XAK3

CPD POINTS:

Attendance at the conference may qualify for CPD points.

Qualification is determined by the points' issuer. ACJRD is happy to provide certificates of attendance on request. Please email enquiries@acjrd.ie in advance if you will require a certificate of attendance.

The CEP Awards are Coming!

supervision or at risk of offending.

Tower offers a number of initiatives including a Day Programme that provides training and education to Probation Service clients. The Dublin & Dun Laoghaire Education Training Board presented participants from the programme with certificates to mark the completion of their Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) accredited courses.



Pictured: Tree Planting at opening of Memorial Garden

Bridge – 'Change Works' Graduation Ceremony



Pictured: Minister Stanton attending the 'Bridge - Change Works' Graduation Ceremony on Thursday

Bridge is a funded project of the Probation Service in which persistent offenders from the Dublin area are engaged in demanding community based programmes. 'Change Works' is one of the core programmes of Bridge in which a range of services are provided to participants and delivered by a multi-disciplinary team including Probation Officers, education staff, key workers, Community Employment personnel as well as volunteers, who put together an individual learning programme for each participant.



The Confederation of European Probation (CEP) Awards are an important opportunity to celebrate outstanding contributions to probation in Europe. This is your chance to make sure that the best initiatives in probation work in Europe are recognised, showcased and rewarded!

The Confederation of European Probation (CEP) Awards are established to:

- Celebrate and recognise outstanding achievement in a range of probation settings
- Promote professionalism and excellence
- Foster good practice through dissemination of information about award winners
- Improve awareness of probation and stimulate publicity
- Encourage leadership and partnership
- Promote research and the sharing of professional knowledge
- Promote CEP values, and a commitment to diversity and human rights

The next Confederation of European Probation (CEP) Awards will be presented during the General Assembly in 2019 in Dublin! In 2019, we will have a new category, Innovation in probation, to recognise and showcase the best innovations in probation in Europe.

In 2016, projects and initiatives from Ireland and Northern Ireland achieved runners up awards in the first ever Confederation of European Probation (CEP) Awards in Bucharest.

Nominations will open soon, so you should now begin thinking about, preparing for and nominating your favourite project or initiative in the categories below:

1. Rehabilitation in the community - an award for work that is effective in rehabilitating probation clients and reducing reoffending.
2. Social inclusion - an award for work that has made a significant contribution to integrating probation clients into the community.
3. Public protection - an award for making a significant contribution to reducing risk of harm to potential victims.
4. Research - an award for research published in the last 5 years which has had a major impact on probation practice.
5. Innovation in probation - an award for the most promising innovative probation practices.

Check the Confederation of European Probation (CEP) website (www.cep-probation.org) and social media channels on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn regularly for the latest updates about the CEP Awards 2019!

As an inter-agency programme involving the Probation Service, An Garda Síochána and the Irish Prison Service, Bridge and the 'Change Works' programme plays a key role in rolling out and delivering the Joint Agency Response to Crime initiative in the Dublin area.

On September 6th a graduation ceremony was held for five former programme participants who have engaged with 'Change Works', to recognise the work they have done and the achievements they have made in completing their programmes and making positive changes in their lives. Minister Stanton attended the ceremony to congratulate Bridge and their clients. Addressing the graduates Minister Stanton acknowledged their efforts "The decision to address the issues behind past offending was yours alone. I hope you continue down this path and inspire others to follow you."

ACJRD Newsletter



For those seeking further reading this quarter's ACJRD Newsletter features pieces regarding the 5th Annual Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference, Restorative Justice Film 'The Meeting' and the ACJRD Academic Sponsorship in NIUII among others. Available [here](#).

Donegal Community Service Congratulated

We are happy to share the below article congratulating the Community Service team in Donegal for the valuable work they have done for the local community there.

Donegal County Councillor Jimmy Kavanagh thanks the service noting "They play an important role in the local community and in getting work done that the council would otherwise not have the resources to tackle." Click the image below to follow the link to the full article.



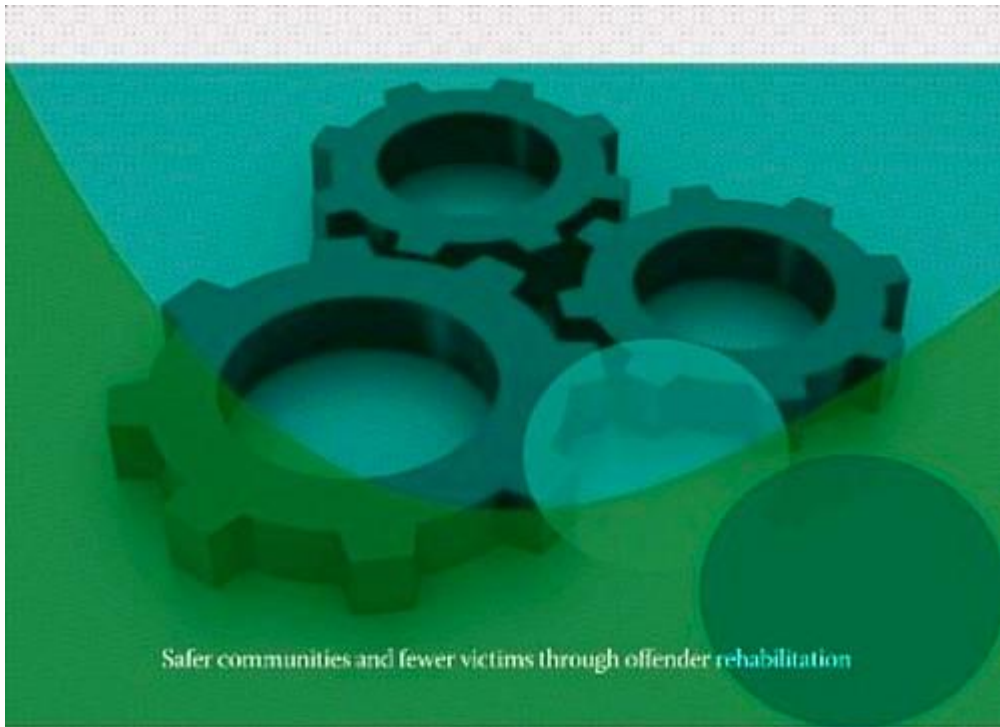
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Safer communities and fewer victims through offender rehabilitation

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