

Probation *works*

Newsletter of the Probation Service (Ireland)

March 2013

In this edition: *Community Service in action in Bray, Co. Wicklow, European Crime Prevention Network, Community Project Profile: Tivoli Training Centre, EU Project on treatment and transition of high risk offenders.*

Message from Director

Welcome to this second edition of *Probation Works* newsletter. Thank you to all those who sent us feedback on our first edition. Feedback is an essential part of this dialogue. In our work planning for 2013, we have continued to focus on expanding evidence-led programmes to help offenders to stop reoffending and provide viable sentencing alternatives to custody. We are in the process of developing and implementing exciting new service initiatives in a number of work areas, including new programmes for women, young people and sex offenders, as well as updating our general offence-focused work, anger management and tackling alcohol-related offending. We will report on progress on these developments in upcoming newsletters.

More than ever, we are working closely with our partners - including the Department of Justice, the Courts, Irish Prison Service, An Garda Síochána, Irish Youth Justice Service, Parole Board and others - to together provide joined-up services that help offenders, reduce crime and make communities safer. This second edition of *Probation Works* contains information on some Service projects and programmes, details of international collaborations, and some facts and figures that illustrate what we do, day to day, to assist offenders to change their behaviour and help to create safer communities.

Vivian Geiran, Director



Above: Photos of the workshop and development of the sets

CS Lewis' 'Dawn Treader' continues its quest with some help from Community Service in Co. Wicklow

Just as the Provensie children were drawn into the painting of the Dawn Treader in CS Lewis' third novel in the Narnia series, so too were some Community Service participants in Bray. In this instance however, it wasn't to help Caspian X, King of Narnia fulfil his oath to find the seven lost princes, but to join Bray's Reverend Stanley in celebrating the local church's 150th anniversary.

Offenders on court-ordered Community Service worked alongside other volunteers by preparing the workshop and painting the sets and props. The project, organised by Jan Alvey, Probation Officer and overseen by Mr Billy O'Neill, Community Service Supervisor, began in November 2012 and proved to be a great success, with all of the Probation Service clients attending "religiously".

In January 2013, the props were installed in Christ Church, Bray for the final touches in preparation of the official opening ceremony. The exhibition, which uses the wonderful world of Narnia to focus on the themes of Lent and temptation, was brought to life and unveiled to the public on 13th February 2013. The exhibition remains open until 31st March, 2013.

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www.pprobation.ie



Community Project Profile

Tivoli Training Centre, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin

As demand for the services of Tivoli increased over time, the limitations of the building became apparent and plans were drawn up for the development of a new purpose built training centre on the site. In 2008, funding for the development was secured from the Department of Justice and Equality through the Probation Service and the new Tivoli Training Centre re- opened in 2010.

Tivoli was founded in 1985 to address the need for services in the community which support the work of the Probation Service by giving individuals the capacity to make better choices for themselves that will ultimately lead to better and safer communities. The organisation is funded by the Department of Justice and Equality through the Probation Service.

Tivoli Training Centre is a multi-disciplinary centre providing programmes for adults and young people to address anti-social attitudes and behaviours. Training programmes include FETAC modules, key working, supported progression, outdoor pursuits, group work, certified educational modules, personal development and a range of other services.

Tivoli currently provide FETAC accreditation in 8 Major Awards at levels 2, 3, 4 and 5 plus the Leaving Certificate. Support programmes, care and educational planning and personal development are also offered on a group and individual basis. On Monday evenings the Alcohol and Offending Programme is co facilitated by a Tivoli worker and a member of the Probation Service. Programme participants are referred through the courts and the Probation Service.

Since the opening of the centre, Tivoli has celebrated the successes of its participants annually. The most recent was in December 2012 when Tivoli held an awards night for its Programme Participants which proved to be a great occasion for all. The awards were presented by Vivian Geiran, Director of the Probation Service. A variety of awards were achieved by 24 individual participants and included Leaving Cert, Leaving Cert Applied, FETAC awards at levels 2,3 & 4, and certificates for boxing. Visit the Tivoli website www.tivolitrainingcentre.ie for further details on the work of the centre.



Martin Tansey memorial lecture

ACJRD is delighted to announce that the Martin Tansey Lecture entitled " *Throw Away the Key: Public and Judicial Approaches to Sentencing - Towards Reconciliation*" will be delivered by The Hon Mr Justice Peter Charleton in the Criminal Courts of Justice, Parkgate Street, Dublin 8.

This annual memorial event will take place at **5.30pm on Wednesday 10th April 2013**. All are welcome but registration is necessary so please let us know if you are coming at admin@acjrd.ie

We look forward to seeing you there.

[Map to venue](#)



From left: Vivian Geiran, Director Probation Service; Sue Hall, CEO of West Yorkshire Probation Trust & PCA Chair, Brian McCaughey, Director Probation Board for Northern Ireland

Probation Chiefs Association Annual Conference 2013

The Director, Vivian Geiran, attended as an invited guest at the British Probation Chiefs Association (PCA) conference, in Birmingham, England on 14th and 15th March. The event provided a valuable opportunity to network with senior probation management colleagues from across the United Kingdom, and to update on and contribute to the debate on developments there. This debate is taking place in the context of major organisational changes planned for British probation.

There were also opportunities to discuss probation practice and innovation in Ireland, Britain and beyond. Interagency working, particularly Integrated Offender Management (IOM) programmes, building quality services, and probation workers' identities and cultures, featured strongly in presentations and workshop discussions. Further details on the conference are available at www.probationchiefs.org.

Probation Service contributes to EU Project on the treatment and transition of High Risk Offenders (Tallinn, Estonia 13th-16th March 2013)



Representatives from the Probation Service and the Irish Prison Service recently attended the first workshop of the EU Project (JUST2011-2012 JPENAG2943) European treatment and transition management of High Risk Offenders. The workshop in Tallinn focused on establishing a shared understanding of the target group, definitions and key actions among the participating national services in the transition management and supervision of high risk offenders in exiting from custody.

The objective of the project, funded by the European Commission through the Criminal Justice Programme, is to develop a European network for best practice of transition management of prisoners leaving custody, with a focus on high risk offenders.



Probation Service & Le Cheile make presentation to European Crime Prevention Network

The EUCPN (European Crime Prevention Network) established in 2001 (and re-launched in 2009) promotes crime prevention activity and provides a means through which good practice in preventing crime could be shared by Member States across the EU. Since the 1st of January 2013, coinciding with Ireland's Presidency of the EU, Ireland is chairing the European Crime Prevention Network. The theme for the next 18 months is 'Collaboration in Crime Prevention' and Ireland's Presidency will focus on two particular areas of crime: youth offending and internet crime.

As part of the programme of events Una Doyle, Regional Manager and Sean Kinehan, CEO of Le Cheile, delivered a presentation *Young Persons Probation: Restorative Justice and Mentoring Services* to the EUCPN Board Meeting held in Dublin Castle, on 26th March 2013. The presentation outlined the role and strategic priorities of the Probation Service in Ireland, focusing in particular on the contribution and added value made through the strategic and operational alliances established with Le Cheile for the delivery of services to young persons appearing before courts and their families.

The presentation was well received and in addition to providing an invaluable opportunity for the Service to show case innovative and collaborative practice in the area of addressing youth offending, it also provided an excellent opportunity for the Service to further establish networks and potential strategic alliances with our European partners in the on-going development and delivery of restorative justice and mentoring services. Visit the EUCPN website by clicking on their logo at the top of this article.

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Oireachtas Joint Committee Report on Penal Reform Published

The Oireachtas Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality launched their *Report on Penal Reform* on Wednesday 27th March, in Leinster House. The sub-committee on penal reform was "established specifically to examine 'back-door' strategies which involve some form of early release." The sub-committee's report makes five

recommendations: to reduce prison numbers, commute prison sentences of less than six months (and replace them with community service orders), increase standard remission of prison sentences, make legislative provision for structured early release from prison, and to address prison conditions and increase the use of open prisons.

A copy of the report is available by clicking the report icon above.



The Probation Service in Numbers

89%

of adult offenders under Probation supervision, who have a history of drug and/or alcohol abuse.

10,402

Meetings or interviews carried out by Probation staff with offenders in our Haymarket (Dublin Headquarters) office alone last year (2012).

365

Prisoners released early from prison between October 2011 and the end of 2012, under the Community Return scheme.

3

The three of the most common offences for which those who have been on Probation supervision and who subsequently reoffend were

1. Public Order
2. Theft
3. Drugs offences

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Reduce re-offending to create safer communities