

Probation *works*

Newsletter of the Probation Service (Ireland)

July 2016

IN THIS EDITION OF PROBATION WORKS: Annual Reports Launch, Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference, North-West Europe Probation Forum, Bill McWilliams Memorial Lecture, Public Service Reform Conference, Social Enterprise at Loughan House Open Prison, PC-CP News, European Conference of Probation & Prisons Directors, Probation in numbers, Communications – New Website for Probation Service, Confederation of European Probation Newsletters, EuroPris Newsletter June 2016 published, Probation related publications.

Message from Director

Three recent events have prompted a look backwards as well as encouraging a forward view in how we reflect on where the Probation Service has come from, and our future direction. The first event that comes to mind was the recent launch, by Tánaiste Frances Fitzgerald TD, of the Probation Service's 2015 Annual Report. The second was the third annual Irish Criminal Justice Agencies' conference, which was held the day after the Annual Report launch. And the third event was last week's Public Service Reform and Innovation Conference, in Dublin. The publication of our Annual Report gave us pause to reflect on the achievements of last year and the many positives on which can build, this year and into the future. In particular, the Tánaiste highlighted our commitment to effective interagency working, exemplified in new initiatives such as the Joint Agency Response to Crime, and the impact that cross-agency co-operation has in creating safer and fairer communities.



The theme of the Criminal Justice Agencies' conference was about putting research evidence into practice in criminal justice, and invites us to consider how we can and must continue to develop better ways of doing what we do, based on the most up to date research evidence of what works, to deliver the most effective offender programmes and provide quality customer services. This was re-echoed in turn at the Public Service Reform and Innovation conference, organised by the Department of Public Service and Reform, in Dublin Castle last week. At that conference, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Paschal Donohue TD, paid tribute to public servants who had both consolidated and innovated over the past few years, in times of economic difficulty for the country, while urging those at the conference, and their colleagues, to continue to innovate, to provide the best services possible to the public. Again, the themes of innovation and collaborative working were strongly to the fore in numerous examples presented at the conference, about a range of exciting developments across the public service, all aimed at delivering improved experiences and outcomes for our citizens and our communities. I am committed to working with all our stakeholders to explore and implement the best professional practice in our own work with offenders, victims and communities. I am also confident that, as well as the commitment and energy of our own staff in this, we can count on our colleagues, both within the Justice system and more widely, to work with us in building collaboration for better outcomes.

The next edition of *Probation works* will be published in September 2016.

Vivian Geiran, Director



Annual Reports Launch

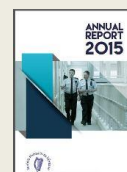
The Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald TD, launched our Annual Report, and that of the Irish Prison Service, in our Haymarket office on Monday 27 June. In her speech, the Tánaiste warmly praised the Probation Service for the work we do, and particularly the way we work in an interagency way with our partner agencies to achieve offender rehabilitation. In his speech at the event, Vivian Geiran emphasised that, as an organisation: "We achieve whatever we do, through the professionalism, skill, dedication, perseverance, and social work values of our staff, engaging with our clients to co-produce positive change, and working closely with our partner organisations." Our annual report is available on our website: www.probation.ie



Pictured above: Vivian Geiran, Director of the Probation Service, Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald TD and Michael Donnellan, Director General of the Irish Prison Service at the recent launch event in Haymarket.

The Tánaiste also launched the Irish Prison Service's new [Strategic Plan 2016 – 2018](#) and associated documents including:

- [Communications and Engagement Plan 2016 – 2018](#)
- [Psychology Strategy 2016 – 2018](#)
- [Capital Strategy 2016 – 2021](#)
- [Joint IPS/ETBI Education Strategy 2016 – 2018](#)



The Probation Service, Headquarters, Haymarket, Smithfield, Dublin 7. Tel: (01) 817 3600

www.probation.ie

Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference

The third annual Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference was held in Dublin Castle on 28 June 2016, on the theme: *Putting Research into Practice in Criminal Justice*. This year, the Probation Service was the lead conference partner for the conference, which was

organised by the Association of Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD). The conference, which was attended and closed by the Tánaiste, Frances Fitzgerald TD, was a great success, and featured plenary presentations from Irish and international experts. A central element of the event was a 'round-table' engagement of researchers with research commissioners, aimed at building engagement and co-operation between operational services such as the Probation Service, and the academic and wider research community.

Papers from the conference will be available on the ACJRD website: www.acjrd.ie.



Pictured above: Professor Fergus McNeill presenting at the conference



Pictured above: Professor Fergus McNeill presenting at the conference

New Initiative - Meeting of North-West Europe Probation Forum

To coincide with the ICJA Conference in Dublin Castle on 28 June, the Director – Vivian Geiran - convened a meeting, on Monday 27 June, in Haymarket with the Directors of Probation in Northern Ireland (Cheryl Lamont), Guernsey (Anna Guilbert) and Jersey (Brian Heath). The meeting also had the benefit of an input from Professor Fergus McNeill, of the Scottish Centre for Criminal Justice. Sharing a similar history, legislative base, and social work foundation for our work, the meeting provided an ideal opportunity for the heads of the four services to discuss shared challenges and ways in which we might foster greater cross-jurisdictional co-operation, particularly in the area of professional practice, evidence-informed policies and developing and implementing effective services in offender rehabilitation. It is hoped that the meeting would become an annual event, with inter-service contact taking place between meetings, and the group may extend to include Scotland and The Isle of Man. Cheryl, Anna and Brian also attended the ICJA Conference the following day.



Probation in numbers

In 2015, there were:

14,972 people were assessed and/or supervised by the Probation Service in the community during the year;

1,938 Community Service Orders were made.

1,851 were directly ordered by Courts to be on Probation supervision in the community,

323 were released from prison on the Community Return programme

80 life sentence prisoners were supervised in the community, and

354 sex offenders were supervised in the community.

The [Probation Service Annual Report for 2015](#) is available by clicking on the icon to the left. A breakdown of the Probation Service 'caseload' at the start of July 2016, is also available by clicking on the icon below.

Probation Service - Monthly Offender Population Report (July 2016)									
Category	Female	Male	Total	Probation	Community	Other	Unsupervised	Unassessed	Total
Total:	1,938	14,972	16,910	1,938	14,972	0	0	0	16,910
The following are the major community supervision categories:									
Probation Order	1,851	14,972	16,823	1,851	14,972	0	0	0	16,823
Community Service Order	1,938	0	1,938	1,938	0	0	0	0	1,938
Life Sentence Prisoners on Supervision in the Community	80	0	80	80	0	0	0	0	80
Sex Offenders on Supervision in the Community	354	0	354	354	0	0	0	0	354

Bill McWilliams Memorial Lecture

Vivian Geiran delivered the nineteenth Bill McWilliams Memorial Lecture in Cambridge University on Monday 20 June 2016. The theme of Vivian’s lecture was: *Penal Reform and Probation in Europe: Positive Change of Direction, ‘Nudges to the Rudder,’ or ‘Steady as She Goes’?* Vivian’s presentation highlighted some of the positive ‘straws in the wind’ of penal policy change in Europe and the influence of probation and other factors on this. In the introduction to his lecture, Vivian spoke of identifying: “indicators of some discernible movement towards a new belief in offender rehabilitation and some practical, albeit small, signs of a movement across various jurisdictions and regions, away from punitiveness, towards more of an emphasis on and a belief and an action in strengthening support for offender rehabilitation.”



Pictured (L to R): Prof. Rob Canton, Mrs. Brenda McWilliams, John McWilliams and Vivian Geiran, at Cambridge University Institute of Criminology for the Bill McWilliams Lecture.

He concluded that while positive gains can be fragile and must be protected and fostered, we should be confident for the future, as long as we keep forward momentum, even in small ways, and exercise leadership, including listening to voices from the side and outside (the otherwise excluded, and those whose voices may not otherwise be heard, including offenders). The lecture, which will be published in due course in the *Howard Journal*, is available now to view on YouTube by clicking on the image.



Click on the image above to access a YouTube video of the Nineteenth Annual Bill McWilliams Memorial Lecture

Public Service Reform Conference

Vivian Geiran presented a paper – *Customer, Consumer or Client: Putting the Service-User Centre Stage in Probation* – at the Public Service Reform conference in Dublin Castle on Thursday 14th July 2016. The paper explored the basis and practice of quality customer service with offenders on probation supervision, and concluded that not only is quality customer service the right thing to do in criminal justice services, it helps us to deliver more effective as well as fairer programmes.



PC-CP News

Vivian Geiran, as Chairman of the Council of Europe’s Council for Penological Co-operation (the PC-CP) attended the Plenary Meeting of the Council of Europe’s Committee on Crime Problems (the CDPC) in Strasbourg last month (June). He reported on progress being made by the PC-CP in a number of areas of its work, specifically in completing a handbook on radicalisation for prison and probation services, revision of the European Rules on Community Sanctions and Measures, and a White Paper on Prison Overcrowding in Europe. Papers related to the work of the PC-CP are available by clicking on the Council of Europe icon above.



Communications – New Website for Probation Service

The Tánaiste launched our new website on Monday 27th June, 2016. The aim of the new site layout is (a) to focus how we deliver information over the web, on identifiable ‘customer’ groups, and (b) making Service information more accessible and user-friendly. While the new site is now ‘live,’ aspects of it are still in development and content will be updated accordingly. We would love to get your feedback on the website at any time. The website is accessible by clicking on the icon above.



EuroPris Newsletter June 2016 published

The June 2016 edition of the EuroPris Newsletter has been published and is available by clicking on the icon above.



Scottish Justice Matters

The latest edition of *Scottish Justice Matters*, a publication of the Scottish Consortium of Crime and Criminal Justice (SCCCJ) was published last month, with the theme of *Community and Justice*, and includes an article by Vivian Geiran and Michael Donnellan (Irish Prison Service), entitled: *Re-imagining Community and Justice: The Irish Experience*. The current edition of *Scottish Justice Matters* is available by clicking on the icon above.



Probation related PUBLICATIONS



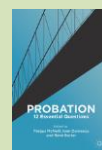
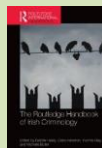
A number of recent publications have come to our attention: *The Routledge Handbook of Irish Criminology* was formally launched by Irish Prison Service Director General, Michael Donnellan, at the recent North-South Irish Criminology Conference.

A new book, *Offending and Desistance: The Importance of Social Relations*, by Dr. Beth Weaver, was joint winner of the British Society of Criminology's book prize. Beth's book is reviewed in the current edition of the [\(British\) Probation Journal](#), which in turn is currently available to access free.

Professors Fergus McNeill and Ioan Durnescu had their new book – *Probation: 12 Essential Questions* – was published by Palgrave, while Fergus and Ioan were in Dublin presenting at the Irish Criminal Justice Agencies conference at the end of last month.

Dr Hannah Graham's new book – *Rehabilitation Work: Supporting Desistance and Recovery* – has been published by Routledge, and explores "compelling differences between official and institutional accounts of rehabilitation work and the fascinating realities of what workers *actually* do in practice."

The latest edition of the (British) *Prison Service Journal* focuses on the theme of young people in custody, is available by clicking on the icon above.



European Conference of Probation & Prisons Directors
Vivian Geiran attended the 21st Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services on 14 and 15 June 2016, on the theme of *Community Involvement in Prison and Probation Work*. A highlight of the conference was the workshop presentation by two Irish ex-prisoners and their work as volunteer facilitators in the Community Based Health and First Aid programme in prisons and probation, a joint Irish Red Cross-Probation-Prisons project. As President of the Council of Europe's working group on penological co-operation (the PC-CP), Vivian delivered the closing summary of proceedings to the conference. The conference programme and related papers and presentations, including Vivian's closing speech, is available via the link below:

[21st Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services](#)

Confederation of European Probation Newsletter – Special Edition

The latest edition of the Confederation of European Probation (CEP) newsletter, which has just been published, is dedicated to the issue of radicalisation to violent extremism. Vivian Geiran contributed an article, on the work on addressing radicalisation in prisons and probation, by the Council of Europe's Council for Penological Co-operation (the PC-CP). The newsletter is available on the CEP website or by clicking on the icon above.



Social Enterprise at Loughan House Open Prison

Speaking in the course of officially opening the new social enterprise café and shop at Loughan House Open Prison on Saturday 16th July 2016, Tánaiste Frances Fitzgerald TD highlighted the importance of employment in fostering desistance from crime, and praised the additional value this new project would bring to Loughan House residents, particularly in preparing for their move back into the community. Also speaking at the opening, local (Blacklion) restaurateur Neven Maguire welcomed the initiative and its potential for further developing links with the local community. He also described how the food business affords such rich opportunities for many, in prison and in the community. Domini Kemp, food writer, and self-described "serial entrepreneur" praised the leadership of Loughan Governor, Eddie Mullins, and his team, among



Pictured from L to R: Siobhán Cafferty (Bridge Probation Project Manager), Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald TD, Eddie Mullins (Governor, Loughan House), and Olivia Boyle, Probation Officer.

others, in getting this initiative going. A large crowd attended the event, on a gloriously sunny day and a bright one for initiative and enterprise in the justice system. But the real stars of the show were the residents of Loughan House, who made, prepared and served the produce on sale – from teas and coffees, through various food products, to handcrafts, paintings and hand-woven basket-work – and manned the café, shop and garden centre, on the day



Pictured from L to R: Michael Donnellan (Irish Prison Service Director General), Domini Kemp, Neven Maguire, and Tánaiste, Frances Fitzgerald TD.

The general CEP newsletter for June 2016 is available by clicking on the icon below.

