

Probation *works*

Newsletter of the Probation Service (Ireland)

July 2015

In this edition of *Probation works*: CDPPS Conference, The Probation Service in Numbers, New Probation Service Office in Dublin South Inner City Open for Business, SORAM News, Registration Opens for International Conference on Restorative Justice, Recent Probation Related Publications, Offender Compliance on Community Supervision Workshop, Joint Agency Response to Crime, Irish Social Work Awards 2015, Research and Evaluation Opportunities, Criminal Networks Research, NOTA Conference.

Message from Director

I attended the Council of Europe's 20th Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services, in Bucharest, Romania, last month. The overarching theme of the conference was 'Strategic Challenges for Prison and Probation Services,' with specific focus on the topic of radicalisation of prisoners and probationers. Radicalisation to violent extremism continues to be a focus for all justice agencies across the European area, and it is increasingly important to adopt and progress interagency approaches to addressing such issues, to learn from each other and build on positive developments. The conference provided a valuable opportunity to consider these and other current issues for probation and prison services in the Council of Europe member states. As well as facilitating practical opportunities to share learning, experience and interventions with European colleagues, the conference enabled the advancement of a shared approach and response to the full range of strategic and operational issues discussed.



Closer to home, the Probation Service's focus on and commitment to further developing interagency working continues, 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. The Joint Agency Response to Crime, which has recently put in place four new initiatives in Dublin, working with a range of prolific and high impact offenders, including violent offenders and those committing burglaries, builds on existing interagency structures and is expected to deliver improved outcomes through a focused and intensive approach by all the partner agencies. More information on these initiatives will follow in due course. In the meantime, we will continue to develop both the programmes themselves, and the underlying multi-agency practice that underpins them, and which offers such promise for effective interventions in creating safer communities, into the future.

The next edition of *Probation works* will be published in September 2015.

Vivian Geiran, Director

CDPPS Conference

Vivian Geiran attended the 20th Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services (CDPPS) in Bucharest on 9th and 10th of June, 2015. Topics considered and discussed at the conference included radicalisation to violent extremism and other strategic challenges facing prison and probation services. Vivian, who is a member of the Council of Europe's (CoE) Council for Penological Co-operation, the PC-CP, chaired one of the plenary sessions of the conference, which specifically explored staff training, and community engagement to aid prisoner reintegration. He also held a bilateral meeting with Ms. Iuliana Carbutaru, Director of the Romanian Probation Service. The two discussed current developments in probation and the wider criminal justice system, in Ireland and Romania, as well as areas of co-operation between the services. (The Irish and Romanian Probation Services were key partners in the international co-operation project which developed the I-MAP anger management programme for offenders).



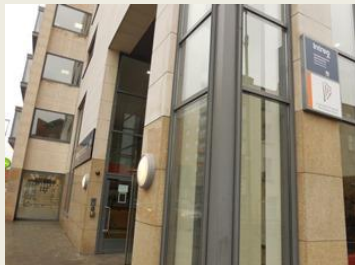
The programme and other details of the CoE/CDPPS conference are available on the CoE website by clicking on the icon above. More papers from the conference will be published there in due course.

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www.pprobation.ie

New Probation Service Office in Dublin South Inner City Open for Business

Last month, through the good offices of the Office of Public Works (OPW), we opened our newest office facility, in Dublin's South Inner City. The Department of Social Protection are the 'anchor tenant' in the Guild Building, on the corner of Cork Street and Ardee Street, in Dublin 8.



The building, which will be our base (we occupy one floor) for probation services in the South City, is ideally located in terms of access and proximity to our client population base, convenient to a variety of public transport routes, and replaces two of our previous locations, in Carmen's Hall and Crumlin.

The new office is a bright, modern facility, offering quality estate and related facilities to our clients and staff using the building, and adds significantly to our ability to deliver quality services on Dublin's South side. Location details are available by clicking on the photo above.



The Probation Service in Numbers

12,379 - total number of offender assessment reports completed in 2014, for the Courts (12,295) and Parole Board (84), combined.

8,482 - referrals by Courts to the Probation Service in 2014.

3,637 - referrals by Courts to the Probation Service, in respect of persons under 25 years of age.

43% - of Court referrals were under 25 years of age.

12 - the number, in months, of the probation supervision orders most frequently made by Courts.

* (Source: Probation Service Annual Report, 2014).

Registration Opens for International Conference on Restorative Justice

CEP and the Probation and Mediation Service of the Czech Republic (which will be celebrating its 15th anniversary in 2015) are jointly hosting a conference on the use of restorative justice during probation, the use of mediation between offender and victim during criminal proceedings and supervision, and Probation support and assistance for victims.

The conference programme brings together experts, policy advisors and practitioners in the field of probation and restorative justice and will address the following topics:

- How to integrate Restorative Justice and Victim Support in daily probation practice?
- What are 'best practices' or do various models and practices demonstrates there is no one way to 'the truth'?
- Is mediation an appropriate tool for all crimes or are there specific exclusionary criteria?
- What do victims want? What do victims need?
- How to involve the community into the process of "restorative justice framework"?

The conference programme can be accessed at <http://cep-probation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Prague-conference-programme.pdf>

For more information visit <http://cep-probation.org/registration-open-for-cep-international-conference-on-restorative-justice/>

Offender Compliance on Community Supervision

Probation Service staff attended a workshop on offender compliance on community supervision hosted by Dr. Mairead Seymour, DIT School of Languages, Law and Social Sciences at Rathdown House, DIT Grangegorman on Wednesday 17th June.



Pictured above: Dr. Mairead Seymour, DIT School of Languages, Law and Social Sciences

The workshop is part of a programme of events based on Dr Seymour's work on compliance providing a platform to discuss the barriers and challenges to compliance, as well as effective strategies for promoting offender compliance in the community. Two further workshops will be held later in 2015.

This workshop explored the question 'What Works in Promoting Compliance with Offenders on Community Supervision' with keynote presentations by Dr Pamela Ugwu-dike and Prof Peter Raynor co-editors of 'What Works in Offender Compliance? International perspectives and evidence-based practice' (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013).



In her presentation titled 'Compliance with community-based orders: what works?' Dr Ugwu-dike outlined some of the findings from her research on the strategies used by front-line practitioners to encourage compliance and how they are deployed in practice. Building, in particular, on the work of Bottoms (2001) and Robinson and McNeill (2008).

Federal Probation (USA)

The latest (June 2015) edition of Federal Probation journal has been published and is available by clicking on the icon. This edition contains articles on offender reinforcement and punishment, intensive probation supervision, dealing with outstanding/active warrants, and an evaluation of the HOPE (Hawaii) project.



Date for Your Diary

This year's annual NOTA (National Organisation for the Treatment of Abusers) international conference is being held in Dublin this year, from Wednesday 16th to Friday 18th of September 2015. The conference, with a theme and title of: "Sexual Offending Research and Practice: Sharing our knowledge to make a difference," will be opened by Minister of State Aodhán Ó Ríordáin TD. The Probation Service has a long history of involvement in NOTA, including representation on the Branch Executive Committee. This year's conference programme, which includes an array of Irish and international experts in this field, has been published and registration is open. Further details available by clicking on the icon above.



SORAM News

Detective Superintendent Michael Daly has taken over the Chair of the National SORAM Steering Group from Brian Dack, Assistant Director in the Probation



Detective Superintendent Michael Daly

Service, who vacates his seat after his tenure. DS Daly is new to An Garda Síochána having worked in the Royal Ulster Constabulary/ Police Service of Northern Ireland, and the Metropolitan Police in London for over thirty years.

Michael was the first promotion from the Police Service of Northern Ireland to the An Garda Síochána under a scheme that emanated from the Good Friday Agreement, enhancing cross border cooperation, and is legislated for in the Garda Síochána Act, 2005.

Michael is based within Garda National Protective Services Bureau (GNPSB), and is the Garda national lead for sex offender Management and Domestic Violence. With his experience with Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland (PPANI) he brings a wealth of experience in the area of public protection of high risk offenders.

CEP and EuroPris newsletters published

The July 2015 editions of both the CEP and EuroPris newsletters have been published. The newsletter can be accessed by clicking on the relevant icon below icon below.



CEP



EuroPris

Joint Agency Response to Crime

Signed in November 2014, the Joint Agency Response to Crime (J-ARC) is a joint strategy between An Garda Síochána, the Probation Service and Irish Prison Service which confirms our joint commitment to target the 20% of recidivist which are responsible for 80% of crime. The strategy commits to enhancing public safety by strengthening the co-ordination/integration of policy, practice and research between our organisations.

A number of joint agency operational initiatives have been established on a pilot basis under the strategy. Each Initiative aims to ensure an enhancement of communication between agencies and the alignment of offender management processes currently in operation.

STRIVE Ballymun

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The Bridge Project - Change Works Programme

The Ballymun initiative targets those causing a high level of harm or disruption to a designated area in East Ballymun, motivating them to desist from crime and have their needs provided by local agencies or face an appropriate level of intervention necessary to disrupt their criminal lifestyle. In addition, people connected with the offenders (families/siblings of offenders, those dependant on drugs/alcohol etc.) are offered support for their needs by local agencies. It is anticipated that this initiative will allow the community an opportunity to develop a more positive environment in which to live.

The Bridge Project have recently published an information brochure on the 'Change Works' programme aimed at key stakeholders and referrers. The brochure outlines the referral process and explains the three phases of the programme. A copy of the brochure is available by clicking on the icon.

ACER 3

ACER 3 is a multi-agency approach to the management of identified offenders charged with burglary. It provides an operational approach for co-ordinated and enhanced levels of co-operation and co-ordination between An Garda Síochána, Probation Service; and Irish Prison Service. It places the offender at the centre of the process; identify his/her needs, strengths and risk; and provide an interagency co-operation and co-ordinated response in addressing such needs and risks. ACER 3 is currently been piloted in two districts within the Dublin Region.

The three pilots are now up-and-running, spearheading the development of a model of effective practice which can strengthen effective practice between the three justice organisations.



Pictured above: Vivian Geiran, Director of the Probation Service, John Twomey Assistant Garda Commissioner, Michael Donnellan, Director General of the Irish Prison Service signing a Joint Agency Response to Crime Protocol in November 2014





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.

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

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 event, which was organised by the Irish Association of Social Workers (IASW), was held in Dublin on the evening of Thursday the 4th of June. This was the first time the Awards were held and it was a great achievement and honour for the Probation Service that two of our staff were among the three nominations in this category.

The first place award for Best Practice Teacher went to Aileen McDonnell, who works in mental health services, but even then, there was a Probation connection! Aileen worked with us as a temporary Probation Officer for a spell several years ago. She commented on the night that "This was always going to be a win for Probation, no matter what!" Well done to all those who were nominated, in all categories, especially to David and Majella.

The Awards event was a great success, and a fantastic celebration of what is best in social work. Here's looking forward to the 2016 Awards, when we hope many more Probation nominees will feature.

2nd Annual Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference



The 2nd Annual Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference took place on **Wednesday, 15th July, 2015**, at the Dublin Castle Conference Centre (Upper Yard). The 2015 theme of the conference was **"Engagement with Young People"**. This important Conference was a collaboration between the Department of Justice and Equality, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA), An Garda Síochána, The Probation Service, the Irish Prison Service and the Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD).

Speakers included: Ms Frances Fitzgerald, TD, Minister for Justice and Equality; Dr. James Reilly, TD, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs; Nóirín O'Sullivan, Garda Commissioner; Professor Ursula Kilkelly, School of Law, University College Cork; Dr Seán Redmond, Research and Evaluation Unit, DCYA; T/Chief Constable John Long, Avon and Somerset Police, QPM; John Twomey, Assistant Garda Commissioner.

Articles on Impact of Solitary Confinement and Restorative Justice in 'UCD Today'

The latest (Spring 2015) edition of university magazine 'UCD Today' contains two articles of particular interest. The first, by Olive Keogh, is a discussion on a new book by Ian O'Donnell, Professor of Criminology at University College Dublin (UCD), about solitary confinement in prison and its impact. Olivia's article summarises some of the key findings from Prof. O'Donnell's book - 'Prisoners, Solitude and Time' (Clarendon Studies in Criminology, OUP) - including discussion of human resilience and individual coping strategies, as well as the idea of 'post-traumatic growth.'



The second is a piece on the recently published study - "Sexual Trauma and Abuse, Restorative and Transformative Possibilities" - by (former probation officer) Dr. Marie Keenan, of UCD School of Applied Social Science and Bernadette Fahy, Research Consultant - on the impact of restorative justice in cases of sexual violence. An online copy of *UCD Today* is available by clicking on the icon above.

New research study on criminal networks and pathways into crime

Dr Sean Redmond made a presentation to the Senior Management team on the 8th of July based on his recent empirical doctoral research - Greentown Study.



Pictured above: Dr Sean Redmond presenting on his recent 'Greentown' study to the Probation Service Senior Management Team

The focus of the research was the role of criminal networks in influencing children's pathways into crime. Using a case study design the research, over a two year period, unpicks the complex relationships that underpin a criminal network based in "Greentown", a Garda sub-district outside Dublin.

An article on the research and its findings will be published in the 2015 Irish probation Journal.

Research and Evaluation Opportunities

The Probation Service proposes to establish a directory of researchers, experts and evaluators who wish to be considered in tender competitions for research, evaluation or similar contracts in the future and is inviting expression of interest from qualified persons or bodies.

If you, your company or your organisation are interested in being included please email contact details and a brief outline of your area of expertise, relevant experience and qualifications to research@probation.ie

Please note that inclusion in the directory is not a guarantee or grounds for expectations that you will be included in any future tender competition.

The directory will be an in-house Probation Service record. The Probation Service is an agency of the Department of Justice and Equality. Details and information recorded will not be provided to any person or body outside the Department of Justice and Equality without your prior permission.

Should you require further information or clarification please send your enquiry by email to research@probation.ie

The Probation Service welcomes visit of Latvian Ministry of Justice Delegation



The Probation Service was delighted to host a visit from 2 delegates, Anda Smilten and Sintija Dzalbe, from the State Law Department of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Latvia.

The focus of the visit was the Juvenile Justice system with particular regard to legal frameworks, court and probation practice, restorative justice and community engagement. The contribution of staff and partner agencies to the success of this visit was greatly appreciated.



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