

IN THIS EDITION OF PROBATION WORKS: PPAG, Irish Probation Journal 2016, Restorative Justice Week, Supervisable Project, PBNi Appointment, Bridge Team, Judge Michael O'Reilly, Alcohol & Offending Programme, CSO Recidivism Study, Social Innovation Conference.

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Newsletter of the Probation Service (Ireland)

November 2016



Message from Director

As we draw towards the end of 2016, I am conscious of many achievements over the past year. We have developed and implemented a range of new programmes, including a new alcohol and offending programme, and the Circles of Support and Accountability for sex offenders, as well as developing our restorative justice programmes and initiatives for women, among others. Our achievements, in the success of the Community Return programme for example, have been acknowledged nationally and internationally. In particular though, I call to mind the thousands of offenders with whom our dedicated Probation Service staff, in co-operation with our statutory and community/NGO sector colleagues, engage with, motivate and help to make positive life changes. They do this consistently, every day, in communities across the country, and in all our prisons and detention centres, all focused on making communities safer, reintegrating offenders and reducing victimisation.



There is, of course, no room for complacency. For example, there were many positive aspects of the Central Statistics Office's recently published study on reoffending by those who had been under Probation Service supervision in 2010. Nevertheless, the overall recidivism rate in this study had increased, by 0.2% – albeit a very small percentage – compared with the findings for the 2009 cohort. This points to the need to constantly ensure that our interventions with those under our supervision are about doing the right thing, with the right people, in the right way, to achieve best outcomes. The Probation Service, as well as focusing on issues to be progressed in what remains of 2016, at the same time looks forward to all the opportunities that the coming year offers, in our own core work, as well as in our critical interagency partnerships. In particular, it is an overarching priority to ensure we continue to develop our core interventions with offenders, based on the best available research evidence, thereby continuing to achieve the best outcomes possible in helping to make Ireland safer and fairer.

The next edition of *Probation works* will be published in January 2017.

Vivian Geiran, Director

Twitter: [@VGeiran](#)



Cross Border Public Protection Advisory Group (PPAG)



Pictured above: Mr. Vivian Geiran, Director of the Probation Service and Ms. Cheryl Lamont, Chief Executive of the Probation Board for Northern Ireland at the recent PPAG seminar.

PPAG Conference, Haymarket, 23rd November 2016.

The seventh annual cross border Public Protection Advisory Group (PPAG) seminar took place on Wednesday 23rd November 2016. The gathering provides a unique opportunity for criminal justice agencies, policy makers, managers and practitioners, from both jurisdictions on this island, to come together around mutual interests. The theme and focus of this year's presentations was "Partnership Working in Public Protection – Keys to Success".

This year the Seminar was hosted by the Probation Service in Haymarket. Mr. Vivian Geiran, the Director of the Probation Service, gave the opening address. Each subsequent presentation highlighted the ground breaking and collaborative developments which are led by the prison, probation and policing services within each jurisdiction.

During the morning, Garda Caroline Copeland and Ms. Pauline Downey, Senior Probation Officer spoke about the recent SORAM evaluation and next steps. Detective Superintendent Tracey Mageean, PSNI, elucidated the pilot Child Protection Disclosure Arrangements in Northern Ireland. Innovative approaches to Community Service North and south were presented by Mr. Paul Doran, Deputy Director, PBNI and Mr. Brian Dack, Assistant Director, Probation Service.

PPAG Continued



Picture 1: Garda Caroline Copeland, Research Unit of An Garda Síochána.

Picture 2: Detective Superintendent Tracey Mageean PSNI

Picture 3: Chief Officer Jimmy Keely – Irish Prison Service



- [Annual Cross Border Protection Seminar](#)
- [Probation Service marks Restorative Justice Week](#)
- [Tánaiste announces National Awareness Campaign as part of Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence 2016-2021](#)
- [Would You Believe? Beyond Redemption](#)

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KEVIN WARNER – What’s the Difference between Ireland and Iceland? One Letter and a Decent Prison System ... 234

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Irish Probation Journal is available now to read and download on the Probation Service website

at <http://www.probation.ie/EN/PB/WebPages/WP16000177> and the Probation Board for Northern Ireland website

at www.pbni.org.uk and shortly on EBSCOhost in colleges and libraries across the world.

Paper copies of Irish Probation Journal 2016 and most Irish Probation Journal issues can be requested, subject to availability, by sending an email to mcboland@probation.ie

All previous editions of Irish Probation Journal and individual articles can be read or downloaded for free at

<http://www.probation.ie/EN/PB//WebPages/WP16000126>

Supervisable – What's it like being on probation?

Community Projects and representatives from the Department of Justice and Equality to view a DVD which portrays a case re-enactment of an Offender Reparation Panel. A number of case vignettes were also presented from practice around the country. The event is a celebration of what has been achieved over the last number of years providing an opportunity for networking and creative learning.



Pictured above: Declan Donnelly and Eloise Gillespie, speaking at the "Restorative Justice 2016: Established Models/Bespoke Interventions" event.



Confederation of European Probation (CEP) News

The November 2016 edition of the CEP newsletter has been published and is available at the following link:

<http://createsend.com/t/t-191870929D8DAF23>



Europris News

The latest (November) edition of the Europris newsletter has been published and is available at:

<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1110081848856&ca=bf2086c2-dec1-494a-8f23-13ffb0aa91b6>

Northern Ireland Probation CEO Appointment

The Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI) has announced the



Pictured above: Two of the photos featured in the project exhibition.

Supervisible is a European project which uses photography to understand the experience of being on probation. An intriguing play on words the project uses the “photovoice” methodology where participants take a number of photographs over time and use these as the springboard for group discussions facilitated by an experienced artist, to reflect upon and explore the reasons, emotions and experiences behind the photographs.

Dr. Deirdre Healy from the Institute of Criminology, University College Dublin and Dr. Wendy Fitzgibbon from the Department of Criminology, University of Leicester are leading the project in Ireland. During the summer of 2016 the Probation Service in conjunction with its partner organisation Tallaght Probation Project was delighted to engage with this project. Tomás MacCarthaigh the manager of Tallaght Probation Project worked closely with Deirdre in facilitating eight participants from the project who agreed to use the “photovoice” method. Using disposable cameras, the eight participants, all of whom were male, went out in to their local area and took a total of eighty photographs. They subsequently met with Deirdre and Wendy to discuss the reasons for the choices they had made. On the 4th November 2016, an invited audience had the opportunity to see thirty six of those photographs which were on display in Tallaght Probation Project. Images were varied, ranging from training activity, religion and family to urban decay and rubbish. The audience had the opportunity to hear some interpretations from the art therapist Carolyne Kardia and the

appointment of Cheryl Lamont as their Chief Executive. Cheryl had been Acting Chief Executive for the past three years, and succeeds Mr. Brian McCaughey, who previously held the position. Following the appointment, Northern Ireland Justice Minister, Claire Sugden said: “Probation works within the justice system to change the lives of those who have offended and reduce the number of victims of crime. I congratulate Cheryl Lamont on her appointment. I am confident that Cheryl will lead PBNI on to greater achievements in the pursuit of reducing reoffending and changing lives for safer communities across Northern Ireland.” Also commenting on the appointment, Probation Service Director, Vivian Geiran said: “I am delighted with Cheryl’s appointment. I have known and worked with Cheryl over many years. Cheryl and I, as co-chairs of the North–South Public Protection Advisory Group, share a deep commitment to building probation practice and interagency co–operation, North and South. I look forward to further developing our close collaboration across a range of issues.” We extend our warmest congratulations to Cheryl and best wishes for the future.



Pictured above L-R : Northern Ireland Minister for Justice, Claire Sugden and Cheryl Lamont, Chief Executive of the Probation Board for Northern Ireland.

Profile: Programme Development Unit / Bridge Team

The Programme Development Unit/Bridge team is one of the newest creations in the Probation Service, having two very distinct functions within the service. The PDU was set up in 2012 within the Bridge team as a vehicle to design, test, and evaluate programmes for national roll out. The programme strategy adopted by the Service looks to ensure that structured and targeted programmes are available to all staff to assist in the supervision process and to add to the intervention armoury of officers. In 2013 the PDU delivered its first programme, Choice and Challenge Groupwork, to the Service. As it now stands the unit has delivered an individual Choice and Challenge programme, and Alcohol Awareness, Living with Life, individual Choice and Challenge and an Alcohol and Offending programme. In 2014 the Bridge team, which had been co–located and co– managed with the Dublin 1 team, became an entity in its own right and it was decided that the team would look at an intervention targeting men convicted of violent offences from across the Dublin area. In conjunction with Bridge a programme, CHANGEWORKS, was designed. In spring 2015 Bridge and CHANGEWORKS were designated as a J–ARC (Joint Agency Response to Crime) initiative. At the very same time the Bridge Project moved into its new home at Francis St, Dublin 8.

This week the Bridge premises were officially opened by the Tanaiste and Minister for Justice, Frances Fitzgerald, and the team that has been

audience were invited to record their interpretation of the messages contained in the images.

We look forward to a full report on the project early next year and welcome the opportunity it provides to better understand the offender's perspective and to inform and shape our interventions in to the future.



Council of Europe News

Vivian Geiran, who chairs the Council of Europe's Council for Penological Co-operation, will attend the upcoming plenary meeting of the Council of Europe's Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) in Strasbourg this week. Reporting to the CDPC on progress on the PC-CP work programme will include discussion of a number of areas of the PC-CP's 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 through the following link:

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/prisons/PCCP_en.asp

Death of Judge Michael Reilly, Inspector of Prisons



We learn with great sadness of the passing away of Inspector of Prisons, Judge Michael Reilly, who died suddenly at his home on Saturday (26th November). Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality expressed her sympathies to his family, saying: "Michael Reilly served the State with great commitment as Inspector of Prisons, a role he agreed to take on after a distinguished career on the bench as a judge in both the District and Special Criminal Court. He was robust and fair-minded in the way he carried out his work as Inspector of Prisons; he was not afraid to criticise where this was merited, but he retained the respect of everyone involved in penal policy throughout his tenure as

together for the last two years could look back on a lot of hard work and a lot of accomplishments. After an initial period of staff changes and sometimes short stays the team today consists of Niamh "the mammy" Dooley, Mark "the daddy" Rock and "Grandpa" Darren Ferguson. Having delivered on the programmes sought by the Service the team have also now 55 men convicted of violent offences and agreed as targets by ourselves, the Irish Prison Service (IPS) and An Garda Síochána (AGS), on our CHANGEWORKS books.

The team has also been to the UK and trained in the delivery of the RESOLVE programme, a 29 session groupwork programme for violent offenders: with Group 3 commencing in January 2017, and are dealing with both the rewards and challenges of working intensively with a group who have often caused great harm to individuals and the wider community. We have been developing great working relationships with our partners in IPS and AGS, as each Bridge target has a Detective Garda as a case manager. Along with our colleagues in Bridge we work in an exciting environment, one which offers huge potential for creative working.

As we move into 2017 this highly committed and skilled team is growing in capacity and are there to offer support to officers and Community Based Organisations from across the country who want to build on their skill base in relation to individual programmes and start groupwork programmes. In Bridge it's not 9-5 and it's nothing if not a place with steep learning curves, but it brings fantastic opportunities. Okay it's three Probation Officers to one office, there's no natural light in the building, there's lots of eyes on your work, and you can't always turn the phone off after work but on the other hand you'll get to work in a positive space and be challenged whilst having fun. There's a lot to be said for it.

By David Williamson.



Pictured above: Photo 1 – Gramps and the Daddy fly the flag in a charity tournament.

Photo 2 – The first RESOLVE graduates – and happy facilitators.



Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research

The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Studies (SCCJR), celebrating ten years since its establishment, has published its latest (November 2016) e-newsletter. The newsletter includes access to various

Inspector.” The Minister added that: “Judge Reilly was determined that his work would make a difference, and it did.” Irish Prison Service Director General, Michael Donnellan, paid tribute to Judge Reilly’s “passion and dedication” as inspector, commenting that: “Judge Reilly’s reports and recommendations have been the catalyst for many changes in the Irish Prison Service and his contribution to prison reform has been hugely significant.” Probation Service Director, Vivian Geiran, recalled the huge contribution Judge Reilly made to the development of community sanctions in Ireland, particularly Restorative Justice, and his work as part of the Expert Group on the Probation Service. The Review Group, in its Final Report published in 1999, set out an ambitious roadmap for modernisation of the Service. Vivian described Judge Reilly as a “great champion for human rights and penal reform, as well as for community sanctions, who will be sadly missed.” Judge Reilly had been Inspector of Prisons since January 2008. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.



Criminal Justice Platform Europe

INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS' WORKSHOP – Thursday 3rd November 2016

‘Alternatives to Detention – future direction and methods’

Criminal Justice Platform Europe (CJPE) comprises three organisations working in the fields of detention (EuroPris), Probation (Confederation of European Probation, CEP) and Restorative Justice (European Forum for Restorative Justice, EFRJ) working together ‘to reduce re-offending and the impact of crime and to improve methods of working with victims, communities and offenders throughout Europe.’ CJPE hosts workshops and expert meetings to address criminal justice issues, share knowledge and expertise and promote co-operation.

Criminal Justice Platform Europe organised a one day workshop led by experts in the field of criminal justice. The workshop explored and discussed

1. Future directions of alternatives to detention – community sentences, restorative justice, before and after the gate prison options
2. The content and implications of the draft proposals for new European Rules on Community Sanctions and Measures, recently published by the Council for Europe, which will be considered by the Council for Europe for approval in 2017 and
3. The latest practice developments in alternatives to detention across Europe’s prison and probation systems.

Speakers at the workshop included Vivian Geiran, (Director of the

resources and publications, including its 2015–2016 Annual Report, and blog posts, and is available at the follow link:

<http://us1.campaign-archive2.com/?u=ef4925e1e20466d876e003fd2&id=0525466cf4>

Social Innovation Conference: Lagan to Liffey



This Social Innovation conference took place on 2nd November, 2016 in the Dundalk Institute of Technology and was organised by the North/South Innovation Network .

Social innovations were described as a community driven process whereby new strategies, concepts, ideas and structures aim to meet the social needs of different groups within society. This means working collaboratively with communities, social enterprise and others committed to the development of social capital in disadvantaged communities.

This conference particularly addressed the areas of Regeneration, Justice, Health and Education.

The Key note speakers were Baroness Glenys Thornton, Chief Executive of the Young Foundation, UK and Deirdre Garvey, CEO of The Wheel , Ireland.

Colin Mc Cabrey , Economic Development Manager with Belfast city Council and Brendan Kenny , Acting City Manager with Dublin City Council spoke to the innovative approaches their housing authorities developed in response to social problems in their cities.

Panel discussions later in the day focused on the topics of Social Innovation and Regeneration, Social Innovation and Justice, Social Innovation and Health and Social Innovation and Education with a number of speakers delivering each segment.

At the Justice panel discussion Gillian Robinson , PBNI linked desistance to making clients as employable as possible, developing social capital and responsible citizenship whilst challenging offending behavior. Our own Siobhan Cafferty, manager of the Bridge project who has recently been seconded to take on the role of project manager for Justice Social Enterprise highlighted her research findings on Risk and Reward in the Criminal Justice System and also made the link between employment and desistance.

Alcohol & Offending Behavior Group work Programme

The Probation Service Programme Development Unit within the Bridge Project recently produced and published this group work programme at the request of the Service as a follow up to the 2011 'Drugs and Alcohol Survey'; which confirms the significance of alcohol across the Service's client population. 71% of alcohol misusing offenders had their misuse linked to their offending.

The programme was developed after a period of research and a pilot trial phase .

It is a Cognitive Behavioural Intervention which focuses on the four categories of relationship between substance use and offending, using

Probation Service) Chair of PC-CP, Council of Europe, Annemieke Wolthuis, European Forum for Restorative Justice, Peter van der Sande, EuroPris and Gerry McNally, President of CEP.

The workshop also featured workshops on Transition Management, Restorative Justice Interventions, Rehabilitation and Youth and Young Adult offenders.

You can download the presentations from the CEP website at www.cep.probation.org following the links to the knowledgebase using the following direct link <http://cep-probation.org/knowledgebase/cjpe-international-experts-workshop-on-alternatives-to-detention-barcelona-2016/>

The Probation Service welcomes publication of the 4th CSO Probation Recidivism Study 2010

Vivian Geiran, Director of the Probation Service welcomed the publication of the fourth Central Statistics Office (CSO) Report on Recidivism in the Probation Service for the 2010 cohort.

The CSO Report describes variations in recidivism as they relate to the original community based sanction imposed, gender and age of offenders, category of offence and subsequent re-offence.

Commenting on the publication of the report, Vivian Geiran said: *"This study focuses on a cohort of offenders from 2010, and shows the recidivism or re-offending rate of this cohort after a 3 year period. These categories of offenders were given sanctions by the Courts, such as a Probation Order or a Community Service Order. The results show that almost 63% of offenders given one of these alternative sanctions by the Courts in 2010 had not re-offended after 3 years."*

He went on to add: *"This compares well with the previous study, while the overall recidivism rate increased marginally from 37.3% to 37.5%, it is important to note that the profile of offenders in this year's study has changed quite significantly from previous studies. In previous studies there had been a large majority of offenders subject to Probation type supervision in the study cohort. In this year's cohort there has been a major growth in the number of offenders subject to Community Service Orders leading to a near-equal split in the study population. This change in offender profile may, in some part, explain the slight increase in overall recidivism level as Community Service is imposed as a higher tariff sanction and direct alternative to a custodial sentence."*

the Stages of Change Model of Prochasta and DiClemente .

The core principles of Motivational Interviewing and a Developmental approach is used to facilitate and promote sustainable change in the behaviour of the client group.

The aim being to reduce the likelihood of the client committing further alcohol related offences by facilitating a change in the clients' thinking and behaviour in relation to alcohol use and it's link to offending.

The programme is delivered over eight two hour sessions held weekly and is designed to be delivered by Probation staff on their own or by Probation staff in conjunction with staff from Probation funded Community based Organisations.

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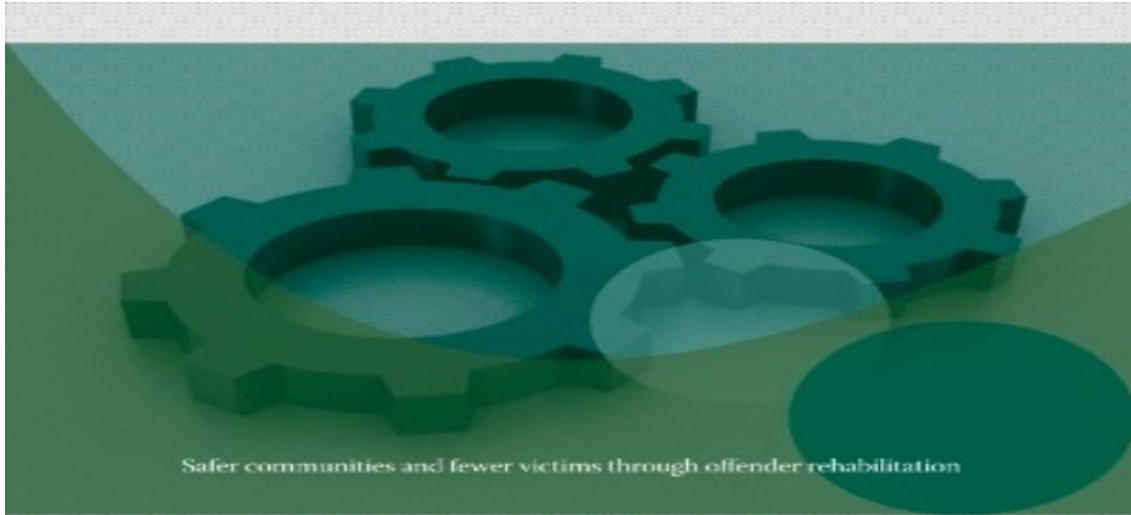
[Website](#)

The study also highlighted the following:

- Re-offending rates were lower for females than males, with almost 70% of females not reoffending in the period.
- Recidivism rates, in most cases, were seen to decrease as the offender's age increased.
- Public order offences are the most common original offences, with public order and theft being the most common offences on reconviction.

Vivian Geiran commended the work of the Central Statistics Office in their continued partnership with the Probation Service in undertaking these valuable studies, adding that the reports provide an overview of community supervision outcomes which will inform the work of the Probation Service in helping make communities safer.

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



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