

Probation *works*

Newsletter of the Probation Service (Ireland)

September 2013

In this edition: Launch by Minister of Community Service - Graffiti Removal – Buses, Offending Behaviour Groupwork Programme Manual Developed, New Director of Probation in Northern Ireland, The Probation Service in Numbers

Message from Director

Interagency and transnational co-operation continues to be a recurring theme through this edition of Probation works. All of the agencies in the Criminal Justice System, and beyond, have a role to play in reducing crime. We all add to our own unique value, and to that of our partner organisations, when we work positively together. There are some exciting conference opportunities in the coming months - see below, where mutual understanding and effective interagency co-operation can be further developed.



We continue to further develop group and individual programmes in the Probation Service to help offenders reduce their risk of reoffending. We have revised, updated and piloted our new Choice and Challenge offender programme manual, which is now being rolled out in practice. We are also continuing our priority focus on Community Service and welcome the recent launch by Minister for Justice and Equality, Alan Shatter of two new graffiti project buses.

There have been some significant new appointments in Northern Ireland recently. Congratulations to Cheryl Lamont, who has been appointed as (Acting) Director of Probation with the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI). This appointment follows the move by former PBNI Director Brian McCaughey to a new post of Director of Rehabilitation with the Northern Ireland Prison Service. We wish both Cheryl and Brian well for the future.

In Britain, there have also been two significant appointments announced. Mr. Mike Maiden has been appointed Director of the new National Probation Service, while Ms. Sarah Payne will become Director of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) for Wales. Mike and Sarah are due to take up their new appointments in April 2014, as part of the 'transforming rehabilitation' reforms in Britain. We look forward to continuing to develop our already excellent working relationships with all our colleagues in neighbouring jurisdictions.

Vivian Geiran, Director

Minister launches new Community Service Graffiti Removal Buses



Pictured Above: Minister for Justice Alan Shatter, T.D., Terry Fox, Community Service Supervisor and Vivian Geiran, Director of the Probation Service at the launch of two new Community Service Graffiti Removal vehicles

Minister for Justice, Alan Shatter TD, along with the Director, recently launched two new custom-designed and purpose-built buses for Dublin and Cork, to carry both those on Community Service and Community Return, their Community Service Supervisors, and all the necessary equipment for graffiti removal.

This investment by the Department of Justice and the Probation Service is a strong

endorsement of the value of these projects, run in co-operation with the various Local Authorities.

Last year, 145 offenders completed their Community Service/Community Return on the graffiti programmes, providing a valuable neighbourhood-improving service in Dublin and Cork.

Media Portrayal of Probation in Ireland (Journal Article)

The latest edition of the European Journal of Probation has just been published. It includes an article by Niamh Maguire (W.I.T.) and Nicola Carr, (Q.U.B.), entitled: "Changing Shape and Shifting Boundaries: The Media Portrayal of Probation in Ireland"

The article is available by clicking on the icon below.



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Offending Behaviour Groupwork Programme Manual Developed

The Probation Service has been using a range of offender programmes, which target key factors linked to offending and help offenders to reduce risk of further offending, and based on 'What Works' principles, over many years. These programmes are targeted at offenders who have been assessed by Probation Officers as being at medium to high risk of reoffending. Over the past year, our Programme Development Unit (PDU) in collaboration with the Bridge Project, based in Dublin, updated our Choice and Challenge programme and this month launched the revised and updated programme manual for use by Probation Officers and our project workers.



The Choice and Challenge programme facilitates participants in challenging negative beliefs and attitudes, encourages the development of pro-social attitudes and behaviours, and helps them to use positive problem-solving methods, and promotes personal growth, development and responsabilisation. The PDU/Bridge Team are now working with a range of front-line Probation teams to deliver the new Groupwork programme, as well as developing a one-to-one version of the programme, for use with offenders for whom group programmes are not feasible. Choice and Challenge is a core probation intervention and this updated version significantly strengthens our capacity in helping offenders to remain crime free.

Research Report on Women Offenders Launched

ACJRD recently launched their report - completed by Rosemary McHugh - on "Tracking the Needs and Service Provision for Women Ex-Prisoners. The report is available by clicking on the icon.



CEP (European Organisation for Probation) Newsletter

The latest edition of the CEP newsletter was published last month. It includes updates on CEP links and discussions with the European Commission and EUROPRIS (the European Organisation of Prisons and Correctional Services), as well as a report on Ireland's co-operation in the European transnational project to jointly develop anger management programmes - previously reported on here in the July edition of 'Probation works.'



Conference Dates for Your Diary

- [ACJRD's](#) 16th Annual Conference - entitled "Preventable Harm: Criminal Justice, Communities and Civil Society" - will be held in the Camden Court Hotel, Dublin 2 on Friday 04th October 2013.
- The Parole Board and ACJRD will host the "Parole in Ireland: The Way Forward - Experience from Other Jurisdictions" conference on Friday 25th October 2013 in the Law Society of Ireland, Dublin 7.
- ACJRD, with the Department of Justice and Equality, the Irish Prison Service and the Probation Service are planning the first Criminal Justice Conference, with the theme of "Penal Policy Reform," for Saturday 30th November 2013, in Wheatfield Prison, Dublin.

New Director of Probation in Northern Ireland

Ms. Cheryl Lamont has been appointed as (Acting) Director of the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI).



Cheryl LaMont, Acting Director, Probation Board for Northern Ireland.

Cheryl was previously Deputy Director with PBNI and her appointment as

Acting Director arises because of the move by former PBNI Director Mr. Brian McCaughey to a new post of Director of Rehabilitation with the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

Brian McCaughey taking up new position

Director of the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI), Mr. Brian McCaughey takes up a new post as Director of Rehabilitation with the Northern Ireland Prison Service this month. Brian has worked with PBNI for over thirty years, the past eight as Director of Probation.



Brian McCaughey newly appointed Director of Rehabilitation with the Northern Ireland Prison Service

The Probation Service in Numbers

9,025 offenders being supervised and/or assessed in the community by the Probation Service as of 15th August 2013.

2,087 people on Community Service nationally, on 15th August 2013.

1,053 the number of person-years in alternative (custodial) sentences that would have been imposed on those who were sentenced in 2012 to Community Service instead.

384,159 hours of unpaid work ordered by sentencing Courts to be done by offenders on Community Service in 2012.