

# Probation *works*

Newsletter of the Probation Service (Ireland)

March 2015

**In this edition of *Probation works*:** Probation Service to publish regular online Statistical Updates, Annual Conference of Social Care Ireland, North South Co-operation, Probation Service publish 2015-2017 Strategic Plan, Council of Europe News, EuroPris newsletter published, Probation Service honoured with Best Partnership Award in Athlone, Probation Service in Numbers.

## Message from Director

This month, I am delighted to publish the Probation Service's new strategic plan, for 2015-2017. The document - *Lasting Change through Offender Rehabilitation* - sets out an ambitious work programme for the next three years. Our focus in this plan is very much on how we can focus on and facilitate positive change, rehabilitation and social reintegration in the offenders we work with, in the community and in custody, to help achieve safer communities and fewer victims. As always, there is considerable focus in the strategic plan on interagency and inter-jurisdictional work and programme development. The core work of the Probation Service, set out in the strategy, is focused on managing Court orders effectively, reducing offenders' risk of harm and of reoffending, and making good the harm caused by crime. These high level goals will be progressed through a series of thirty-four specific actions, under five thematic work areas.



Accurate, up to date data are also crucial in contributing to effective policy-making and organisational resource and work planning. I am also pleased to announce the publication of a new set of headline statistics related to the Probation Service's work. The monthly offender population will be published on the first working day of each month and will be available on our website. The first publication of these statistics - in respect of March 2015 - is now available on our website. Production and publication of these and other Service data will further help us to improve how we monitor and manage our work demands, outputs and outcomes, and manage resources accordingly.

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

**Vivian Geiran, Director**

## Probation Service to publish regular Statistical updates online

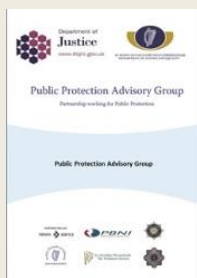
Starting this month (March 2015) the Probation Service will publish monthly statistical updates on the Service's caseload of offenders currently being dealt with in the community and in custody. This summary information, taken from data on our (IT) Case Tracking System, will reflect a 'snapshot' of our caseload at a single point in time each month, and will be published on the first working day of each month.

While the categorisation of probation referrals can be relatively complex in reality, this monthly bulletin will capture and reflect the situation in simple terms, highlighting 'headline' categorisations by geographical spread, age and gender, predominantly, with some statistical breakdown of some of the more significant supervision categories. This initiative marks an important development and the resulting statistics will be available to Service stakeholders, researchers and anyone with an interest in the work of the Service. The statistics in relation to Monday the 2nd of March 2015 are now available on our website at:

**[Probation Service Monthly Statistical Report.](#)**

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### North South Co-operation

A meeting of the Public Protection Advisory Group, which is co-chaired by Probation Service Director Vivian Geiran and (Acting) Director of the Probation Board for Northern Ireland, Cheryl Lamont, was held in Probation Service Headquarters building in Haymarket, Dublin on Friday 20th of March.

The Group meets alternately in Dublin and Belfast and co-ordinates the joint - police/prisons/probation - public protection work programme across the island. One of the annual features of this co-operation is the now annual North-South PPAG seminar, which brings together probation, prisons and police practitioners from all six services, to share good practice, consider ongoing and future developments, and input to criminal justice policy and practice development.



### Annual Conference of Social Care Ireland

Vivian Geiran presented a keynote paper at the annual conference of Social Care Ireland, in Sligo on Wednesday the 25th of March. The subject of the paper was: *The Role of the Probation Service in Breaking Barriers and Building Relationships*.

Other presenters at the conference included TUSLA CEO - Gordon Jeyes, social justice campaigner and homeless services provider - Fr. Peter McVerry, and academic - Dr. Pamela Trevithick.



### Council of Europe News

Minutes of the most recent PC-CP meeting are posted at: PC-CP Minutes. The next PC-CP meeting is on 22nd to 24th of April.

The 20th Conference of Directors of Prisons and Directors of Probation Services will be held in Bucharest, Romania, on 9th and 10th of June 2015. The meeting will be co-hosted by the Romanian Prison and Probation Services, and the Council of Europe, and have as its theme - *Strategic Challenges for Prison and Probation Services*. More information is available here and the full conference programme will be published soon, on the CoE/PC-CP web page.



### Probation Service publish 2015-2017 Strategic Plan

The Probation Service have recently published our new strategic plan, for 2015-2017. The document - *Lasting Change through Offender Rehabilitation* - sets out an ambitious work programme for the next three years and can be accessed on our website or by clicking on the icon above.

## Probation Service honoured with Best Partnership Award in Athlone

The Probation Service were recently honoured with the best partnership award from Athlone Tidy Towns Committee as a result of the work of Community Service in and around Athlone town. The Probation Service have worked closely with Athlone Tidy Towns for the past number of years and the award is indicative of the high regard that Tidy Towns and the local community have for the Probation Service's contribution to their excellent work.



Pictured above: Tom Ryder, Probation Officer and Christy Haugh, Community Service Supervisor with the Best Partnership Award.

A primary focus of Athlone Tidy Towns is to encourage the local community to improve their environment and make the area a better place to live, work and visit. It is the epitome of community spirit whereby local people come together to improve their own area. People subject to both community service and community return have played a pivotal role in assisting Athlone Tidy Towns in meeting their objectives.

Christy Haugh, Community Service Supervisor oversees the work of both community service and community return participants in the area. Work undertaken includes a variety of tasks such as the installation and maintenance of flowerbeds, potting up hanging baskets, trimming grass, pruning shrubs, weeding, litter picking and the painting of railings and bins throughout the park and town.

The work has proven to be very rewarding to the community service participants and also provides them with a number of new skills and allows the participant to give something back to their local community as a means for making up for their offending behaviour.

## Probation Service in Numbers Comparisons

**2,145,289** - the number of people under probation supervision in Europe.\*

**1,679,217** - people in prison in Europe.\*

**4.8 million** - people under probation/parole supervision in the USA.\*\*

**2.2 million** - people incarcerated in the USA.\*\*

\*Source: Council of Europe / University of Lausanne penological survey (SPACE I [prison population] and SPACE II [probation]) statistics, available [here](#).

\*\*Source: [Bureau of Justice Statistics, USA](#).

## EuroPris newsletter published

The January 2015 edition of the EuroPris newsletter has been published. This edition includes a feature an interview with Marianne Vollan, Director General of the Directorate of the Norwegian Correctional Service



The newsletter can be accessed by clicking on the icon above.