

IN THIS EDITION OF PROBATION WORKS: Probation in Numbers, Irish Probation Journal 2018, Congratulations in order for JARC, PPAG Seminar, International Restorative Justice Week, Probation Service at Justice and Equality Committee, Y JARC, We Make Good and more...



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**Newsletter of the Probation Service (Ireland)**

**November 2018**



#### **Message from Director**

Receiving the 2018 Civil Service Excellence and Innovation Award in the *Excellence in People and Organisational Development* category, is a great honour for the Probation Service. As outlined in the item below, the Joint Agency Response to Crime (JARC), is a partnership initiative of the Probation Service, Prison Service, An Garda Síochána, and Department of Justice and Equality, which now also includes (in the Young Persons Joint Agency Response to Crime, or Y-JARC) the Irish Youth Justice Service, TÚSLA, Department of Education and Skills, Department of Health and various community and voluntary bodies, in responding in a focused and targeted way to serious and prolific offending at local level. The results of these local initiatives so far have been positive, in reducing reoffending, as well as improving interagency co-operation, among other positive outcomes.



This is the second Civil Service Excellence and Innovation Award in which we have shared. Two years ago, the Probation Service – with the Irish Prison Service – received the *Excellence in Innovation Award*, which acknowledged the achievement and the value of the Community Return programme. Both awards reflect on the importance of what every member of Probation Service staff, not just those directly involved in the JARC or Community Return programmes, and our other colleagues in other organisations, do every day. Both awards also highlight our commitment to, and the value of, close interagency co-operation in the criminal justice area. While we all bring our unique skills and role to the table, we really add great value to each other's work, when we join our efforts and share our focus and priority. We can go forward from celebrating these well-deserved achievements and recognition, and continue to build in this way for the future.

The next edition of *Probation works* will be published in January 2019

**Vivian Geiran**  
Director

Twitter: @VGeiran



## Probation in Numbers



This month (November 2018) there are:

**8,156** Persons under Probation Service Supervision in the community;

**1,469** Prisoners receiving probation assistance in custody;

**2,041** People on Community Service

**1,243** Persons on various types of post-release probation supervision

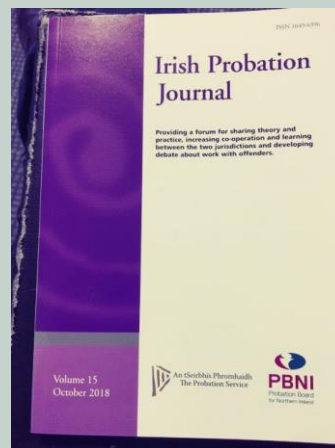
**1,255** Women on probation Supervision in the community, and

**227** Persons under eighteen years of age under probation supervision in the community

The monthly Probation Service 'snapshot' statistical table for November 2018 is available at:

[Click Here](#)

## Irish Probation Journal 2018



Irish Probation Journal, now in its fifteenth year, was launched at the annual Public Protection and Advisory Group seminar on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018 in keeping with a now well established tradition. A joint initiative of the Probation Service and the Probation Board for Northern Ireland the journal provides a forum for sharing good theory and practice across the criminal justice system.

This year's edition contains a range of stimulating papers that reflect current policy and practice developments and discuss findings and recommendations from research and other academic studies. Given the recent developments with promoting and embedding the victim perspective within criminal justice, it is fitting that the opening paper from the Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture series is focused on the need for a more humane approach to crime that begins with the victim experience. The inclusion of articles from Probation practice across the world is now a regular feature of the journal and this year's article from Japan, with its unique focus on volunteers as part of probation practice will prompt reflection on the benefits and challenges of integrating the voluntary and the statutory. Staying with the voluntary theme, the complexities of the relationship between the voluntary and criminal justice sector are outlined in a paper that raises a number of critical questions and

Probation Service: Monthly Offender Population Report

Caseload	Community Regions (Point In Time November 1 2018)*				In Custody	Total (Persons)	
	Eastern	Midlands and South East	South West	West and North West			
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,444</b>	<b>1,819</b>	<b>1,494</b>	<b>1,399</b>	<b>1,469</b>	<b>9,625</b>	
<b>Of Whom:</b>							
Female	473	283	287	212	65	1,320	
Male	2,971	1,536	1,207	1,187	1,404	8,305	
<b>Under 18</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>227</b>	
<b>18 and over</b>	<b>3,320</b>	<b>1,779</b>	<b>1,460</b>	<b>1,370</b>	<b>1,469</b>	<b>9,398</b>	
<b>Totals:</b>						<b>Total Caseload, in community:</b>	<b>8,156</b>
						<b>Total Caseload, in custody:</b>	<b>1,469</b>
						<b>Grand Total, national Probation Service caseload:</b>	<b>9,625</b>
<b>The following are the major community supervision categories.</b>							
<b>Probation Type Supervision**:</b>						<b>3,079</b>	
<b>Community Service:</b>						<b>2,041</b>	
<b>Supervision in the Community Post Release from Custody***:</b>						<b>1,243</b>	
<b>Community Return****:</b>						<b>71</b>	
<b>Life sentence prisoners on supervision in the community****:</b>						<b>89</b>	
<b>Sex offenders on supervision post release from custody****:</b>						<b>178</b>	

\*Regions

Eastern: Dublin, Meath, Louth, Wicklow

Midlands and South East: Kildare, Laois, Offaly, Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford

South West: Cork, Clare, Limerick, Kerry

West and North West: Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim, Longford, Roscommon, Cavan, Monaghan, Donegal, Westmeath

\*\*Probation Type Supervision includes Probation Orders, Fully Suspended Sentence Supervision Orders, and Supervision During Deferment of Penalty.

\*\*\*Supervision in the community post release from custody includes Part Suspended Sentences, Temporary Release Supervision, Community Return, Life Sentence Prisoners on supervision in the community and Sex offenders on supervision in the community post release from custody.

\*\*\*\*Already included in the total of supervision in community post release from custody.

## JARC Wins Major Award



This year's Civil Service Excellence and Innovation Awards which took place in Dublin Castle on 22nd November, was an evening of recognition and celebration for the Joint Agency Response to Crime (JARC) initiative which won the Award for 'People Skills and Organisational Development'.

The Joint Agency Response to Crime (JARC) is an intensive offender management initiative led on a collaborative basis by the Probation Service, An Garda Síochána, the Irish Prison Service and the Department of Justice and Equality. JARC brings together a number of specialised individual programmes which collectively manage prolific offenders with the aim of reducing crime and victimisation in local communities

The award reflects the tireless efforts of those involved in JARC and the success of the project to date.



demonstrates the need for further debate and research in this area.

International expertise is also visible in an article on Service Design, a collaboration between the Royal College of Art in London and the University of Koln. An article on Problem Solving Courts, based on studies in the USA gives a comprehensive overview of practice in substance misuse and mental health problem solving courts that highlights the benefits of therapeutic jurisprudence for offenders, victims and communities.

The readership will welcome articles that focus on core aspects of practice, including, risk assessment, Non-compliance and a paper that reviews action research undertaken to measure attitudinal change following programme interventions.

The 2018 Journal is available [here](#) and copies can be obtained from Probation Headquarters 01-8173600

Finally we invite established authors and new writers to submit papers for inclusion in next year's edition. If you wish to discuss or simply want to hear more about the Journal, please contact Ursula Fernée, Joint Editor at [ugfernee@probation.ie](mailto:ugfernee@probation.ie)

## PPAG Seminar



Pictured: Vivian Geiran, Probation Service Director and Chief Executive of PBNI Cheryl Lamont at the PPAG this month

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual Public Protection Advisory Group seminar was hosted in Haymarket on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November. The Public Protection Advisory Group [PPAG] is jointly chaired by Cheryl Lamont, the Chief Executive of the Probation Board for Northern

Pictured: The JARC Team receiving the Excellence and Innovation Award

## International Restorative Justice Week



Pictured: Dr. Ian Marder speaking at a Probation Service Event during Restorative Justice Week

Events to mark International Restorative Justice Week have now become part of the Probation calendar. This year's event in Haymarket brought together Probation staff from across the regions and representatives from the Judiciary, Community Based Organisations, Irish Prison Service and the Department of Justice and Equality for a seminar entitled "Informing and Inspiring Restorative Justice Practice" We were also joined by colleagues in the North West by video link to the Probation Office in Sligo.

Last month "Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec (2018)8 concerning restorative justice in criminal matters" was published. The Recommendation aims to encourage member states to develop and use restorative justice with respect to their criminal justice systems and to promote standards in its application and is available [here](#).

Ireland Vivian Geiran, and was established in 2006 to increase cross-border co-operation.

The seminar, themed "New Challenges and New Solutions across the Criminal Justice System, North and South" provided an opportunity to hear about innovative developments in police, prisons and probation practice, in Ireland, North and South. Presentations covered important issues such as service-user involvement and collaborating with volunteers to deliver the Circles of Support and Accountability. Staff from the Irish Prison Service gave us a good insight into the challenges of interdisciplinary work, and the development of the National Violence Reduction Unit. Managing senior citizens in prison was also the subject of one presentation, when Governor Richard Taylor and Senior Officer Wendy Graham from the Northern Ireland Prison Service illuminated the challenges and opportunities of managing this particular cohort.

An important event at the seminar was the launch of the 15<sup>th</sup> volume of the Irish Probation Journal. As always, the journal provides a platform for debate, discussion and highlighting good practice. If you have not picked up your 2018 edition, please do so.

The commitment of all criminal justice agencies to meet their obligation to protect the public and provide opportunities for service-users to desist from further offending was evident in all the presentations, and is highly commendable.

Of course, there is also a social element to the day, which afforded the chance to renew old acquaintances and friendships, and to build new ones.



## European Restorative Justice Policy Network (ERJPN)

Ursula Fernée, Assistant Principal Probation Officer, Restorative Justice and Victim Services Unit, was the Criminal Justice representative from Ireland at the

The seminar was addressed by Dr Ian Marder, expert advisor to the Council of Europe on Restorative Justice and recently appointed lecturer in criminology at National University of Ireland Maynooth. Dr Marder's overview provided an opportunity to hear more about RJ practice internationally, to recognise the developments that have taken place in the Irish context and to consider the opportunities that the Recommendation now affords.

Ursula Fernee, in her role as Assistant Principal and organisational lead on Restorative Justice and Victim Services presented on the work of the newly established dedicated, national Unit. Ursula highlighted the relevant milestones within Restorative Justice Practice over the last number of years, the important partnerships with community based organisations and the commitment of the Probation Service to the consistent integration of Restorative Justice models delivered in accordance with best practice guidelines. Further information was available in leaflet format and can be found at [www.probation.ie](http://www.probation.ie)

Finally, the audience had an opportunity to converse with a panel which included the two speakers, joined by Peter Keeley, Manager of Restorative Justice Services and Marian Walsh, Director of the Victims of Crime Office in the Department of Justice and Equality.

### Embedding Restorative Practices in County Wexford - Conference

A number of Probation Staff attended this conference, convened by Wexford Restorative Practices Partnership on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

Participants from a range of statutory, non- statutory and community organisations heard presentations relating to restorative practice in the education and community sectors. In his presentation, Tim Chapman, Restorative Justice trainer and Chairperson of the European Forum for Restorative Justice focused on practices in the criminal justice context. He emphasised the need for a robust model of Restorative Justice with practice that incorporated accountability, risk management, proportionality, inclusiveness and flexibility. Afternoon workshops provided a useful forum for exchange of ideas on how best to meet the challenges of embedding restorative practices across and through communities.

first meeting of the newly established European Restorative Justice Policy Network (ERJPN), held in Brussels on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

Since its foundation in 2000, the European Forum for Restorative Justice has worked to support and inform researchers, practitioners and policy makers interested in restorative justice.

The network has been set up with the support of the Justice Programme of the European Commission and it brings together representatives of the Ministries leading on restorative justice in each EU member state. The network has the following aims

- to create links across borders
- to share experiences, reforms, best practices and challenges in member states
- to make European policy makers aware of new research outcomes, innovative practices and international policy matters regarding restorative justice
- to learn about needs and how the European Forum could support the further development of policy
- to provide a forum for discussion

The Probation Service looks forward to engagement with the network in 2019 to support organisational commitment to wider and deeper integration of Restorative Justice practice.

### Probation Service at Justice and Equality Committee

Director, Vivian Geiran, with Ita Burke, Deputy Director and Brian Dack, Assistant Director, appeared before the Oireachtas Justice and Equality Committee on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November. The Committee hearing was considering new sex offender legislation which, among other provisions, will put multi-agency structures for risk assessment and management on a statutory basis.



Pictured: Staff from the Wexford Probation team with colleagues from the Corn market project and An Garda Síochána.

## We Make Good

On November 13th a new Pop-Up was launched in Smithfield selling a range of furniture and homewares designed by talented Irish Designers and proudly made by Social Enterprises Across Ireland.

The Pop-Up brings together the efforts of various social enterprises with links to the Probation Service such as PACE, Cairde Enterprises, The Solas Project and UC Solutions and designers such as Jonathan Blayney under the collective brand 'We Make Good'.

We Make Good is based in Haymarket and some of the beautiful pieces available are pictured below.

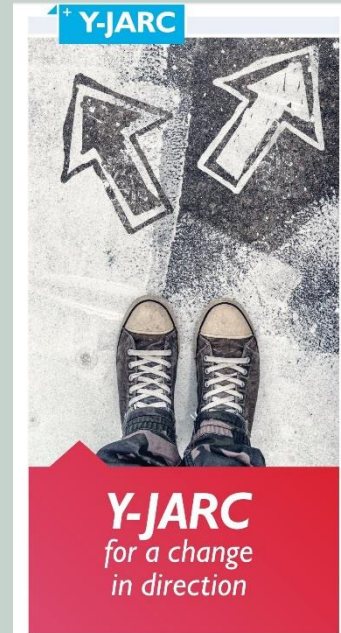
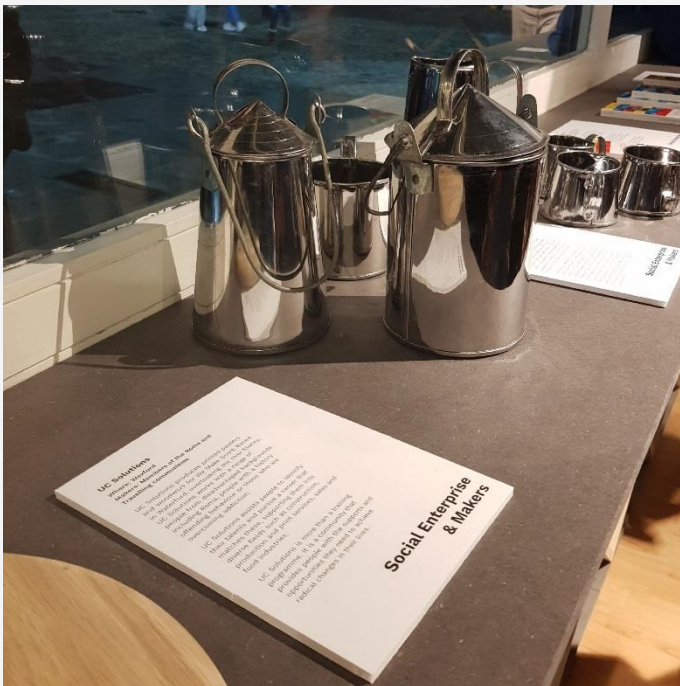


## Youth JARC Seminar

A Youth Joint Agency Response to Crime seminar was held in the Irish Prison Service college, Portlaoise on the 13<sup>th</sup> November '18. The event was attended by Minister of State, David Stanton T.D, members of the JARC National Co-ordination team, Mr Brian Dack, Young Persons Probation, YPP personnel and operational teams from all agencies involved in Y-JARC, Dublin and Cork.

Excellent presentations were delivered by interagency teams from both Y JARC Blanchardstown and Gurranaברה/ Mayfield (Cork), using case studies to illustrate strengths and challenges in working with young people who are at most risk of offending in their communities. Minister Stanton commended all for their commitment and hard work, acknowledging the challenges faced by young people on the programme.

There was plenty of opportunity to network over lunch and breaks with hospitality provided by IPS. The afternoon's session focused on reviewing standard operational procedures to build on and consolidate a best practice approach. The day's event was lively, informative and the last of a series of 3 Jarc practitioners events for 2018.



## Proclaiming European Probation Standards

Earlier this month, a quotation from the Council of Europe's European Probation Rules (2010) appeared on the wall of the entrance lobby of our Probation Service Headquarters in Haymarket, Dublin. The suggestion of Brian Dack, Assistant Director, the quotation (pictured here) is from the First Basic Principle in the European Probation Rules. It is a daily visible reminder of the foundational principles on which Probation work across Europe is founded.

The full text of the European Probation Rules, and links to other related Council of Europe standards, are available [here](#)



## Multilateral Meeting on Community Sanctions and Measures

Director, Vivian Geiran, with Maret Miljan (Estonia) and Dr. Ioan Durnescu (Romania) presented at a recent Council of Europe multilateral meeting to promote the values and practice of community sanctions and measures. The meeting, on 15-16<sup>th</sup> November, was attended by senior representatives from around thirty jurisdictions. The meeting focused on policies and practices regarding community sanctions, including offender assessment, probation supervision, community service, restorative justice, as well as related organisational and resourcing issues, across the Member States. There was an excellent exchange of experiences and views, and discussion, which facilitated mutual learning and development.



Pictured: Presenters at the MLM

## New Probation Service Offices Open in Newbridge

## Further Praise for Donegal Community Service

The efforts of the Donegal Community Service team continue to be recognised in local papers. On this occasion they have been thanked for the work they have done cleaning up the historic site commemorating a battle fought in 1650 at Scariffholis. Councillor Jimmy Kavanagh is quoted in the article, stating "*The Probation Service deserves great credit for the work they are doing in the local community*".

To read the full article click on the image below.



## 16 Days of Activism Event

As part of the 16 Days of Activism Opposing Violence against Women movement the Probation Service will be hosting another event on Monday December 10<sup>th</sup>, building from the success of last year's Orange the World event. The Service will be holding a seminar with talks from speakers from Aoihbneas Refuge and Garda National Protective Services Bureau.

People can follow the 16 Days campaign and listen to the voices of activists and survivors with [#HearMeToo](#)





On Monday October 22 the Probation Service Kildare Team formally commenced operations from their new office on Eyre Street, Newbridge. The Office of Public Works managed the design and refurbishment of the former Department of Social Protection office for use by the Probation Service.

The new state of the art premises consists of two interview rooms, a meeting room, and an open plan office for Probation Officers. The office now gives the Service a visible presence in the town of Newbridge, serving all of County Kildare



Check out more about the the Confederation of European Probation (CEP)website on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Linked in regular

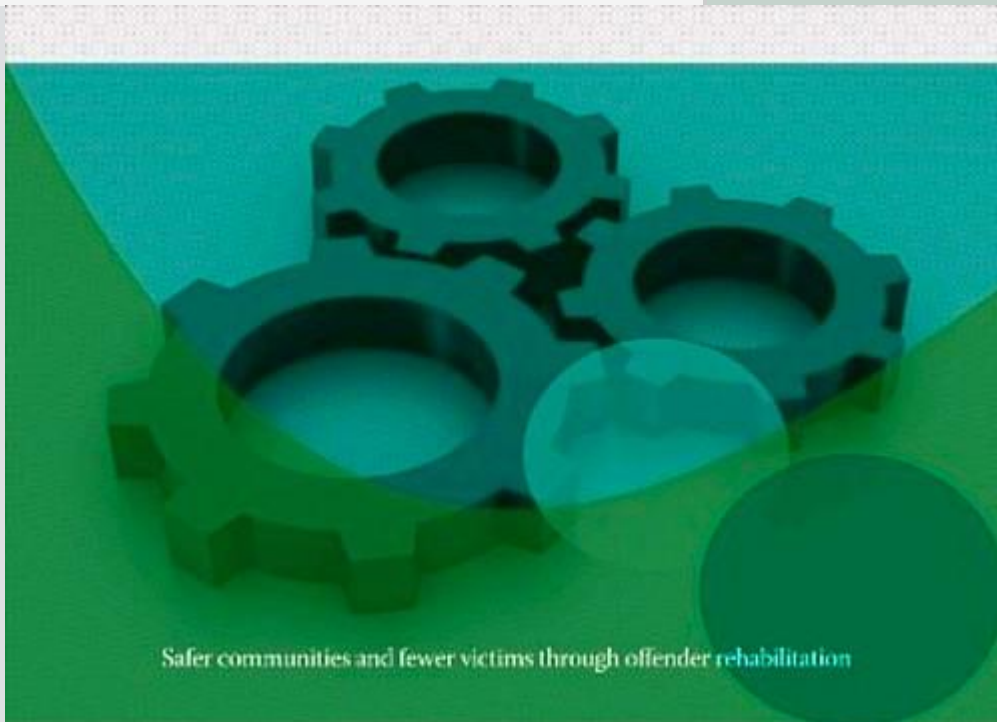
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