

Probation *works*

Newsletter of the Probation Service (Ireland)

February 2013

In this edition: Research Study of reoffending by those under Probation Supervision, The Probation Service in numbers.

Message from the Director

Welcome to this first edition of the “*Probation works*” Newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep you better informed about what the Probation Service is doing and also to open up more channels for dialogue and feedback. We plan to publish this newsletter regularly, and hope you find the material in it interesting and helpful. We welcome feedback via our dedicated email address psinfo@probation.ie and look forward to hearing from you. The newsletter will contain news regarding developments in Probation work and related areas. We would also hope to include some regular features that will give you an insight into who we are and what we do.



Vivian Geiran, Director

Garda Adrian Donohue

The Probation Service extends our sympathies and condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Detective Garda Adrian Donohue, brutally killed in the line of duty on Friday, 25th January 2013. Adrian was known, respected and liked among Probation staff, particularly those on our County Louth team, based in Dundalk, who worked with Adrian in numerous situations and cases. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Probation Service in the Press:

The Irish Times published an article by Probation Service Director, Vivian Geiran in their “*Law Matters*” section of the newspaper on 17th December 2012. The article, entitled “*Justice is served by probation*” is available by clicking this icon



The Irish Times, (Sat 22nd Dec 2012) also made reference to the Director’s article and the re-offending study carried out by the Probation Service and the Central Statistics office, under the editorial heading “*Better Sentencing*”. This editorial can be read by clicking the icon below



Re-offending by those under Probation Service Supervision: Research Study Published.

The first ever study of re-offending among persons who had been under Probation Supervision or on Community Service was published in November 2012. The study which was carried out by the Probation Service in collaboration with the Central Statistics Office, tracked 3,500 offenders who had been on either Probation or Community Service in 2007 and reviewed their level of reconviction over the following 4 years. The research found that 63% of offenders tracked in the study did not re-offend. This is reflective of the high quality of supervision provided by probation service staff. The full report is available on our website and on the CSO website or by clicking on the icon above. We plan to replicate this study in 2013 and future years, in partnership with the Central Statistics Office.



Report of the Working Group on Efficiency Measures in the Criminal Justice System Published

The Working Group on Efficiency Measures in the Criminal Justice System – Circuit and District Courts, which was established in Nov 2011 at the request of the Chief Justice, The Hon. Mrs Justice Susan Denham, and the Minister for Justice & Equality, Mr. Alan Shatter TD, submitted its report to the Chief Justice and the Minister on the 30th November 2012. The group identified and reported on how efficiencies and cost reduction measures could be achieved in the operations of the Circuit and District Court, with particular emphasis on how the agencies in the sector interact with the Courts and with each other. The full text of the report is available at the following link: [Report on Efficiency Measures in the Criminal Justice System](#)

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter in the future you can unsubscribe by emailing us on psinfo@probation.ie including the word *unsubscribe* in the subject line.

Varied Applications of Restorative Practice Seminar

On 21st January 2013 the ACJRD and [ACJRD Restorative Justice Working Group](#) held a seminar entitled '**Varied Applications of Restorative Practice**' at the offices of the Probation Service, Haymarket, Smithfield, Dublin 7.

[Dr Donna Hicks](#), Associate at the Weatherhead Centre for International Affairs, Harvard University, gave the presentation: [Conflict and Dignity - the Lessons for Restorative Justice Practice](#).

The seminar also featured presentations from: [Austin Stack](#), Assistant Governor, Wheatfield Prison; [Nadette Foley](#), [Facing Forward](#); [Andy Tuite](#), Community Relations, Garda Office for Children and Youth Affairs.



Pictured above: Nadette Foley, Austin Stack and Dr Donna Hicks



Governance Training for Community Based Organisations

The Service provided training on corporate governance to five separate groups of managers, board members and relevant probation staff in December 2012 and January 2013.



Training was facilitated by Chris White of Boardmatch and feedback from participants was extremely positive.

Probation on TV

BBC1 television are scheduled to screen a documentary entitled "*Out of Jail and on the Streets*" on Tuesday, 5th February 2013. The programme "looks at the probation system in Britain through the eyes of the professionals who operate it", and may help to shed light on the often unseen work of probation staff.

Irish Probation Journal – 2012 Edition

Volume 9, (2012 Edition) of the Irish Probation Journal has been published. Copies of the journal and all the articles in it are available at the following link.

Irish Probation Journal Vol. 9
[Click here](#)

The Probation Service in Numbers

• **218**

Probation Officers in Ireland.

• **40**

Community Service Supervisors.

• **7,434**

Offenders under probation supervision in the community today.

• **1208**

Offenders being assessed in the community today.

• **€39.071 million**

The total budget for the Probation Service in 2013

• **63%**

The percentage of offenders under Probation Service Supervision in the Community who do not re-offend (see recidivism study)

• **1,016**

"Same Day" Community Service assessment reports completed for Courts by Probation Officers in 2012.

• **14**

The number of prisons and detention centres that Probation Service staff work in.

• **26**

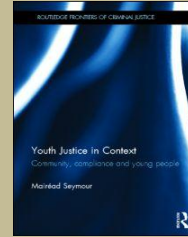
The number of counties that community based staff work in.



Reduce re-offending to create safer communities

Hot off the Press: *Youth Justice in Context* by Mairéad Seymour

This book, recently published by Routledge, examines the influence of legislative, organisational, policy and practice issues in shaping what constitutes compliance and how non-compliance is responded to when supervising young offenders in the community. It also addresses the impact of adolescent developmental immaturity and social and personal circumstances in mediating expectations of compliance. The book's author, Mairéad Seymour, acknowledges the staff and management of the Probation Service, in her research for this publication and in particular Mairéad commented on the role of Young Persons Probation Officers and Senior Probation Officers who went "above the call of duty in facilitating the research with young people".



Young Persons Probation Officers and Senior Probation Officers went "above the call of duty in facilitating the research with young people"

New Director of Corporate Affairs

Ita Burke has been promoted to the post of Deputy Director, with responsibility for Corporate Affairs. Suzanne Vella moves from Corporate Affairs to take up the post of Director of Operations



Ita Burke, Deputy Director

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