

Probation *works*

Newsletter of the Probation Service (Ireland)

July 2014

In this edition: In this edition of *Probation works*: CEP launch new probation research website, the Probation Service in Numbers, Citizen Information Board Fines Act 2014 Bulletin, Justice Committee publishes report on Community Sanctions Bill, ACJRD News, Child to Parent Violence Conference, Council of Europe (CoE) news, Choice and Challenge Programme, I-MAP Anger Management Programme, Restorative Justice Conference.

Message from Director

The Probation Service remains on course to achieve its key objectives for 2014. This includes further developing our quality assurance framework for how we deliver offender assessment and supervision, in order to ensure that Court orders are managed effectively, to achieve reduced reoffending and risk of harm to the public, and to make good the harm done by crime. To this end, we are currently in the process of consolidating and further developing and refining practice standards in key areas of our work with offenders. This includes (see below) new offender programme developments and will be overlaid with a (recently revised) system of professional staff supervision, whereby staff accountability, effectiveness and professional support and development will be enhanced.



In all of this, and while we continually work to do things better, interagency co-operation continues to be a cornerstone of how we work. This involves close co-operation with Justice partners including the Department of Justice, Irish Prison Service, An Garda Síochána, IYJS, the Courts, and DPP's Office, as well as the wider grouping of State bodies, and the Community and Voluntary sector. We have also started the process to generate our new strategic plan for 2015 – 2017. And on the legislative front, the recent publication of the report on the Scheme of the new Community Sanctions Bill, by the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality, moves one important element of the Probation Service's modernisation a further step along the development road. While we continue to deliver probation services every day to around 9,000 offenders in the community, as well as to those in custody, this is in reality a 'Summer of Strategy' while we plan for even more innovation and development in how we equip and support our staff to deliver those services, to help achieve a safer and fairer Ireland.

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

Vivian Geiran, Director

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www.probation.ie

Confederation of European Probation (CEP) launches new website dedicated to 'demystifying' probation

Some fields of research, policy and practice – including probation- can be inescapably complex and clear information is not always easily accessible or available. It is important that information and knowledge about probation is made accessible to the general public, politicians, policy makers and also to workers in the field. CEP has now made a big step forward in this knowledge exchange field.

The results of this project have been launched this year as the [Probation Works webpages](#), hosted on the CEP (Confederation of European Probation) website.

Research and study on probation issues is expanding in Europe and across the world. Learning is increasingly being shared among different jurisdictions and many researchers. Knowledge is constantly updating. A broad consensus on key issues can now be found amongst researchers, policy makers and practitioners but is not always easily accessible.

At CEP's request, Professor Anneke Menger and Professor Jo Hergmanns of Hogeschool Utrecht University of Applied Sciences have constructed the website with "state of the art knowledge" on probation. The information should be both scientifically rigorous and practically relevant to a broad public of practitioners and interested lay persons.

Probation is complex and multi-faceted. Therefore, the team chose to use a question-and-answer format to approach the various topics and questions in probation. Asking the right questions is one of the most important talents in both research and education. Two editors, Professor Fergus McNeill of the University of Glasgow and Dr. Ioan Durnescu of the University of Bucharest, helped formulate a set of 10 questions that forms the centre of the Probation Works site.

Experts have contributed to the site by answering each of the questions in a text of 250 words, giving at the same time a complete and correct overview and making this information accessible to the general public. Academic knowledge is combined with applied scientific research from the world of community sanctions.

Questions include: why do people offend, how and why do people stop offending, what is the impact of probation and what are the costs and benefits of probation? Among the responding authors are Maurice Vanstone, Swansea University, Lila Kazemian, City University of New York, Gill Mclvor, University of Stirling and Rob Canton, De Montfort University, Leicester.



The Probation Service in Numbers:

The Probation Service Annual Report for 2013. Key findings included:

216 – total number of Probation Officers in the Probation Service

183 – Probation Officers working in communities across the country

33 – Probation Officers working in prisons and places of detention

43 – Community Service Supervisors – supervising offenders on Community Service and Community Return across the country

2 – the number of Prison Service staff co-located in the Community Return and Community Support Unit in Probation Service Headquarters

1 – the number of Senior Probation Officers co-located in the multi-agency SORAM (sex offender management) unit in Harcourt Square (An Garda Síochána), Dublin

1 –(National) Victim Services Co-ordinator in the Probation Service

5 – (Regional) Victim Services Officers in the Probation Service

Our 2013 Annual Report is available on the Probation Service website or by clicking [here](#)

Do visit the [Probation Works webpages](#) on the CEP (Confederation of European Probation) website and find out more on what is really known on effective practices in probation. For more information on CEP (Confederation of European Probation) and its work visit the [CEP website](#)

Young Person's Probation makes keynote contribution to Child to Parent Violence Conference

Rosemary Fox, Senior Probation Office in Young Person's Probation was a keynote speaker at the "Child to Parent Violence: Innovations in Practice, Policy and Research" conference at NUI Galway recently. Her presentation was titled "Implementing a Non Violent Resistance Programme-Reflections on Process and Practice".



Pictured above: Catriona Brosnan PO (organising committee), Rita O'Reilly (Parentline), Dr Paula Wilcox (RSPV project), Rosemary Fox SPWO, Michelle Pooley (RCVP Brighton), Eileen Lauster and Declan Coogan

The conference is part of the EU funded DAPHNE programme and involves 5 countries – England, Ireland, Bulgaria, Spain and Sweden. The project is called the Responding to Child to Parent Violence (RCPV) project. The RCPV project team consists of a group of international academics and practitioners led by Dr Paula Wilcox at the University of Brighton. The RCPV team aims to reflect a wide range of expertise on intervening with child to parent violence, (CPV) as well as geographical and cultural diversity across Europe. Declan Coogan, lecturer in social work in the School of Political Science and Sociology at NUI Galway is the RCPV Project Leader for Ireland and co-ordinates the Irish contribution to this action research project.

Mr Coogan said, "More and more parents are talking about child to parent violence which has been a hidden but growing social problem in Ireland and across Europe. Practitioners working with families in Ireland are increasingly hearing parents describing their experiences of child to parent violence".

The conference's aim was firstly to assist professionals working with children and families across a range of services to increase their awareness and skills development when faced with child to parent violence and secondly to inform academics, researchers and policy makers to try to better understand and respond to this problem throughout Europe.

One of the responses to CPV in Ireland is the Non Violent Resistance program. This skills intervention for parents who are living with Child to Parent Violence has been run interagency with Le Cheile and YPP in Limerick and Cork in a group setting this year.

Another intervention that was introduced at the conference was Break4Change which is a specialist intervention programme for CPV with parallel groups for parents and young people.

The conference website is <http://www.cpvireland.ie> and the project's website is <http://www.rcpv.eu>

PBNI - PS Information Sharing Protocol

The Information Sharing Protocol between the Probation Service and the Probation



Pictured above: Vivian Geiran, Director of the Probation Service with Cheryl Lamont, Director (Acting), PBNI

Board for Northern Ireland in respect of the Management of Sex Offenders and Offenders assessed as a Risk of Serious Harm to Others has recently been reviewed and agreed by the Directors of both Services

The Protocol has been extended to include offenders assessed as a risk of serious harm to others. This protocol facilitates the exchange of personal data and other information to enhance public safety and enable both Services to:

- agree voluntary arrangements for community sentences
- agree voluntary arrangements for post custodial supervision
- share information for the preparation of PSRs

Citizens Information Board Fines Act (2014) Bulletin

The current (June 2014) edition of the Relate bulletin, published by the Citizens Information Board, features



an easy-to-read guide and explanation of the Fines Act, 2014. This edition of Relate, which also contains explanations of key aspects of the Act, including attachment and recovery orders, and Community Service, is available by clicking the icon above.

I-MAP Anger Management Programme

As part of our strategic target to develop a suite of offending behaviour programmes, the Probation Service has begun to roll-out I-MAP, a one-to-one intervention designed to develop the skills and techniques which allow people to manage and control their anger.

The Individual Managing Anger Programme (I-MAP) was developed for the use of probation services in Romania, Italy and Ireland under the Co-operation for supporting the implementation of the Council Framework Decision 2008/947/JHA on the application of the principle of mutual recognition of judgements and probation decisions.

I-MAP is designed to be used in a community setting with adult males who have acknowledged that anger is an issue for them and may have played a part in their current conviction. The programme helps participants to manage and control their anger.

I-MAP is a one to one intervention programme designed to be delivered by a Probation Officer. It is a nine session programme with each session lasting between 75 - 90 minutes. It utilises approaches familiar to Probation Officers (cognitive behavioural therapy, best behaviour and communication models) as well as offering some new practices such as mindfulness.

Training in the use of the I-MAP programme is to be provided to all community based Probation Officers involved in the supervision of adult offenders. A first phase roll-out is being completed this month, with a second phase planned for the autumn.

Probation Programmes for Offenders: Choice & Challenge helping offenders to become Ex-Offenders

Probation Officers, Lorraine Kelly, Elaine Murphy and Nick Clarke from the Dublin South Inner City and Dublin South West Probation Teams jointly facilitated a Choice and Challenge Group Programme in May this year, with medium to high risk offenders under probation supervision.

Choice and Challenge is a core probation intervention and significantly strengthens the capacity of the Service in helping offenders to lead a pro-social and crime free lifestyle.

The aim of the programme is to challenge negative beliefs and attitudes as well as encourage the development of pro-social attitudes and behaviours.

Key factors linked to offending are identified and challenged and offenders are helped to reduce their risk of further offending. Of



Pictured above: Vivian Geiran, Director of the Probation Service meeting with a participant on the Choice and Challenge Programme

Justice Committee publishes report on the Scheme of the Criminal Justice (Community Sanctions Bill)

The Oireachtas Joint Committee on Justice, Equality and Defence has just published a report on the Scheme of the Criminal Justice (Community Sanctions) Bill. This legislation will, in due course, update and modernise the statutory basis for the work of the Probation Service with offenders, in communities and custodial institutions.



The Joint Committee's report is available above, by clicking on the icon.

The link to the relevant press release is [available here](#).



ACJRD update

The ACJRD (Association of Criminal Justice Research and Development – www.acjrd.ie) published its latest (Summer 2014) newsletter recently. This issue, which contains information on the 2014 ACJRD annual conference – scheduled for October this year – as well as on other events, and some recent publications, is available by clicking on the icon above.



the ten participants who started this recent group programme in Tallaght, eight successfully completed the programme. They were presented with their certificates by the Director, Vivian Geiran (pictured above).



European Forum for Restorative Justice Biennial Conference

As part of its ongoing commitment to the implementation of Restorative Justice approaches in working with offenders and victims, the Probation Service was pleased to participate in the 8th International Conference of the European Forum for Restorative Justice last month.

The conference “Beyond Crime: Pathways to Desistance, social justice and peace building” was held over four days in Belfast with representation from all continents. The conference brought together a diverse range of perspectives focusing at different levels on the personal, societal and political and inspired by a multitude of backgrounds and disciplines which included criminology, social and political sciences and peace research. The three interrelated themes of the conference offered participants the opportunity to deepen their understanding and reflect on the potential and limits of Restorative Justice. Essentially the conference revolved around 3 questions. Do RJ experiences help offenders to desist from crime? How can RJ contribute to social justice? What value does RJ bring to the agenda of peace building in divided and post conflict societies?

It was a very rich and varied event which was creatively and efficiently managed and harnessed the expertise available to promote maximum opportunities for learning and networking. In addition to the input from plenary speakers more than a hundred participants were selected to present their work and share their experience in numerous parallel workshops which ran over the four days.

The workshop inputs from the Probation Service and our Partners were well received. John Brosnahan, Senior Probation Officer for Young Persons Probation in Limerick and Elaine Slattery, Manager of Ceim ar Ceim (a Community Based Organisation funded by the Probation Service) provided an interactive training workshop on “Integrating Restorative Approaches in Probation Policy and Practice”.

A paper on “The Role of Restorative Practices (rather than restorative justice) in the Desistance Process” was delivered by Sheila Connolly, Director of Cork Alliance (a Community Based Organisation funded by the Probation Service). The paper explored opportunities for using restorative processes within day to day interactions with Service Users to support integration into the community, family and workplace.

Ingrid Colvin, Restorative Practices: A Development Officer for Limerick City, delivered a paper on “Restorative Practices a Whole Community Approach towards Social Justice in Limerick City”. This presentation considered the potential that a whole

Council of Europe (CoE) news

The 19th Council of Europe Conference of Directors of Prisons and Probation, took place in Helsinki, Finland, last month (17th and 18th of June). The conference theme was ‘Shared Goals, Shared Values in Prisons and Probation.’ Vivian Geiran, who fulfilled the role of moderator at one of the conference sessions, attended the event as Probation Service Director, as well as in his capacity as a member of the Council of Europe’s Council for Penological Co-operation (PC-CP).



The Director General of the Irish Prison Service, Michael Donnellan and Governor Martin O’Neill (pictured above) made a presentation at the conference on introducing cultural change in prisons. Conference papers are available by clicking on the CoE icon above.



Europris Newsletter

The July edition of the Europris Newsletter is available by clicking the icon above

community approach can make in contributing to better outcomes for children, young people and families by reference to a wide range of multi-agency initiatives undertaken in the city.

Papers from the conference will be available soon and a short film summarising the three days of the conference is available on the EFRJ website by following the link: [EFRJ Biennial Conference Film](#).