

Probation *works*

Newsletter of the Probation Service (Ireland)

May 2016

IN THIS EDITION OF PROBATION WORKS: European Electronic Monitoring Conference, Council of Europe News, European Prison and Probation Directors Conference 2016, Probation Service contribute to Judicial Conferences, Canal House trainees achieve success, Multi Agency Peer led Violence and Drug Overdose Prevention programmes, 9th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture, Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference (June 2016), Probation in numbers, Probation Related Publications, Probation in the media, Joint PS-IPS Community Return Co-Location Unit expanded.

Message from Director

The Programme for Government, published this month, places a renewed priority on tackling crime, offending and victimisation in our communities. Now, as much as ever, there is an imperative on the Probation Service, to focus on our key role: reducing reoffending through offender rehabilitation, helping to make good the harm caused by crime and ensuring that court-ordered sanctions such as probation and community service, are implemented efficiently and effectively. To do this, we continue to co-operate intensively with the Irish Prison Service, An Garda Síochána, the Irish Youth Justice Service, and all our partners, to build our joint capacity to be as effective as we can. We are also driven by the ambitious implementation plan in place to action the recommendations of the Strategic Review of Penal Policy, which was published by the Minister in 2014. All of this in turn underscores the importance of the current recruitment competition for probation officers, already well under way, and which will provide us with additional trained and skilled probation officers. Our staff are our key resource, enabling us to achieve our goals, and particularly that of helping offenders to become ex-offenders.



The research evidence for our work, and the professional values and standards on which we base it, were never more important than they are now. Preparations continue for the third Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference, to be held on Tuesday 28th June, in Dublin Castle. The conference, co-ordinated by the Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD) will provide opportunities to reflect on and explore the importance of data collation, analysis and research in informing our work, and to share knowledge and learning, as well as building our capacity to further develop our own practical contribution to data analysis and research. And on the subject of standards: the week before last I chaired a meeting of the Council of Europe's working group on penological co-operation, the PC-CP. In the context of that discussion (see separate item below), it was as clear as ever to me that professional values and standards, allied to professional training and evidence-informed practice, form the bedrock for everything we do in our work, and are an essential combination if what we do is to have the best outcomes.

The next edition of *Probation works* will be published in July 2016.

Vivian Geiran, Director



European Electronic Monitoring Conference

The tenth Electronic Monitoring (EM) Conference, organised by the Confederation of European Probation (CEP) was held last month (19-21 April 2016) in the Latvian capital Riga. Vivian Geiran participated in a panel discussion at the conference, with colleagues from France, Estonia and Scotland, on future possibilities for EM in Europe. This session in particular emphasised the value that EM can add to probation supervision and the need for EM to be used in the wider context of effective offender supervision systems, rather than as a 'stand-alone' measure, in order to be most effective. There were also excellent presentations from Professors Mike Nellis (a review of the state of play regarding EM in Europe), Anthea Hucklesby (an overview of EM-related issues) and Carol Hedderman (on evaluating programmes), as well as from a range of practitioners in the Criminal Justice field, and representatives of EM service suppliers.



Pictured, L to R: Julien Morel d'Arleux (France); Maret Miljan, (Estonia); and Vivian Geiran; with session chair, Andy Bruce (Scotland) at the panel discussion on possible futures for EM).

The conference programme and presentations and papers are available at the CEP website which can be accessed by clicking on the icon below.



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Council of Europe News

The Council of Europe (CoE) working group on penological co-operation, the PC-CP held its second meeting of 2016 from 11-13 May 2016, in Strasbourg, France. The Working Group, which is chaired by Vivian Geiran, comprises nine individuals, elected from among nominees from the forty-seven CoE member states. At last week's meeting, the group progressed the

development of a handbook on radicalisation to violent extremism, for probation and prison managers and staff; and updated guidelines on community sanctions and measures; as well as addressing a draft white paper on prison overcrowding in Europe; and the organisation of this year's conference for Directors of Prison and Probation Services, to be held in Zaandam, the Netherlands in June. A report on the working group proceedings will be available in due course, as usual, on the PC-CP (CoE) website which you can access by clicking on the icon above.



European Prison and Probation Directors Conference 2016

The 2016 Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services (CDPPS) will take place on 14 and 15 June 2016, in Zaandam, in The Netherlands. This 21st (annual) CDPPS will have as its theme: 'Community Involvement in Prison and Probation Work.' Among a range of inputs to the conference, two Irish former prisoners, who are now facilitators of a community-based health programme, for prisoners and ex-offenders, and which is co-ordinated by the Irish Red Cross, in partnership with the Irish Prison Service and the Probation Service, will present at one of the conference workshops. More information on the conference will be available on the Council of Europe website which can be accessed by clicking on the icon above.

Probation Service contribute to Judicial Conferences

The Probation Service was invited to contribute to the recent 2016 Annual Judicial Conferences held under the auspices of the Committee for Judicial Studies. Presentations were made by Ursula Fernée, Probation Service Regional Manager with responsibility for the Communications Strategy with the Judiciary. This opportunity supported the Service goal of increasing awareness, understanding and confidence by the Judicial System in Probation Service interventions with offenders.

In light of the growing interest by the Circuit Court in the application of Restorative Justice approaches, the President of the Circuit Court requested an input to the Conference on developments by the Probation Service in this area.

A presentation was also made to the District Court Conference which was delivered jointly with Ms Eithne McIlroy, Assistant Director with the Probation Board for Northern Ireland and was entitled Cultural Competence in the Courtroom. Both presentations focused on developments to respond to the changing demographic profile on both parts of the Island. The Probation Service paper reflected on developments to support 'best practice' in the area of cultural diversity since the publication of the National Action Plan on Racism (2005-2008)

Joint PS-IPS Community Return Co-Location Unit Expanded

The Probation Service recently welcomed the appointment of Prison Officer, James Grehan to the Joint Co-Location Unit. Officer Grehan joins the Unit from the Midlands Prison. With over 17 years' experience his is a valuable addition to work of the Irish Prison Service and the Community Service Team. It is hoped that his assignment will facilitate the further roll out of the Joint Service Strategic Plan. The Probation Service wishes James the best in his new role and look forward to working in partnership with him.

Probation related PUBLICATIONS



EuroPris Newsletter published

The May 2016 edition of the EuroPris newsletter has been published. The newsletter can be accessed by clicking on the icon.



EuroVista

PROBATION AND COMMUNITY JUSTICE



Eurovista Journal

The latest edition (Volume 4, Number 1) of the *Eurovista* journal, which contains a number of articles, including ones on evaluating probation practice, and judges' perceptions of probation, is available on the **CEP website** or by clicking on the Eurovista icon above.

European Journal of Parental Imprisonment

The *Children of Prisoners Europe* organisation has announced that the next edition of its European Journal of Parental Imprisonment will focus on the theme of community sanctions for parents and the impact on children. The current edition of the Journal, published recently, focuses on 'Child impact assessment and sentencing' and contains an interview with Vivian Geiran and an accompanying article by Dr. Fiona Donson of UCC. The Journal is accessible via the journal icon above.



Probation News - PBNI Magazine

You can now access the fourth edition of the Probation Board for Northern Ireland's magazine Probation News via the report magazine icon.



Canal House trainees achieve success

10 trainees from Ballinasloe Training Workshop (Canal House), a Probation Service funded community organisation, were presented with a range of Certification at QQI Level 3 and 4 by Probation Service Regional Manager, Ailish Glennon at a recent award ceremony. Trainees achieved certificates for completing the Probation Service's "Alcohol and Offending Behaviour" programme, having taken part in the Probation Service's "Alcohol Awareness" previously. Other certification/awards presented on the day included manual handling and fire safety certs as well as Safepass Licenses. Staff in the centre also achieved certs for completing training on "Emerging trends in drug use". Canal House was established in 1977 and, next year, will celebrate 40 years of working with the Probation Service to reduce re-offending and increase the opportunities for participants to gain employment, life opportunities and better outcomes overall.



Probation in numbers

At the start of the current month (May), there were:

7,956 people being assessed and/or supervised by the Probation Service in the community;

2,037 of those were on Community Service Orders.

1,247 were on supervision in the community, post-release from custody;

92 of these were on Community Return programme,

80 are life sentence prisoners, and

171 are sex offenders on post-release supervision orders.

The latest figures, representing the Probation Service 'caseload' at the start of May 2016, are available by clicking on the icon below.

Multi Agency Peer led Violence and Drug Overdose Prevention programmes delivered in Probation HQ

One of the aims of the Irish Red Cross programme is to improve community awareness and reduce recidivism through Irish Red Cross volunteers transitioning from Prison into the Community. A pilot between the Irish Red Cross, Irish Prison Service and Probation Service has been ongoing for the past number of years. Since 2009 the 'Community Based Health & First Aid' module has been delivered in all prisons in Ireland.



Since 2015 this programme has been replicated and expanded into the community with two modules 'Violence Prevention' and 'Drug Overdose Prevention' being delivered in three separate groups by volunteers from the prison. The most recent delivery of the 'Violence Prevention' module was delivered at Probation HQ in Smithfield on the 9th, 12th and 13th of May 2016. Seventeen volunteers consisting of community return clients, community service clients and Probation staff took part and received certification. Volunteers reported an extremely positive experience with a follow up training day scheduled for June 9th. Evidence suggests involvement in activities which contribute to the well-being of others by using mentoring, peer support and volunteering initiatives can help develop a more positive and constructive identity and benefit the desistance process.

The Irish Red Cross volunteers in prison and now in the community have gained knowledge and skills relating to health awareness, personal and community well-being. Through the Community Return Scheme the volunteers consisting of trained Irish Red Cross ex-prisoners have begun engaging with at risk groups in Probation and it is envisaged that this can be expanded into further community settings. The overall goal for the programme is for clients to fulfil part of their Community Return commitment by delivering elements of the Community Based Health & First Aid programme to other at risk individuals in the community. The ultimate future goal includes some of these volunteers moving into paid positions as 'facilitator trainers/programme developers'.

Preparations Continue for Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference in June 2016

The third Irish Criminal Justice Agencies conference, organised in partnership with the Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD), will be held on Tuesday 28th June 2016 in Dublin Castle. The conference theme will be: *Evidence-Informed Decision Making: Putting research into practice in Criminal Justice*. More information will be available on the probation.ie and acjrd.ie websites.

Category	Female	Male	Total	Change	Net
Total	1,862	6,094	7,956	1,247	1,027
Probation	1,862	6,094	7,956	1,247	1,027
Supervision	1,247	4,000	5,247	1,247	1,027
Life sentence prisoners	80	1,920	2,000	80	80
Sex offenders on supervision	79	1,920	2,000	79	79
Sex offenders on supervision post release from custody	171	1,920	2,091	171	171
Totals:					
Female Caseload, in custody	1,862		1,862		
Female Caseload, in community					
Female Total Caseload	1,862		1,862		
Male Caseload, in custody		6,094	6,094		
Male Caseload, in community					
Male Total Caseload		6,094	6,094		
Grand Total, national Probation Service caseload			7,956		

9th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture

The 9th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture was held at the Courts of Criminal Justice, Parkgate Street, Dublin 8, on Thursday, 7th April, 2016 before a large and receptive audience representing criminal justice, community and other interests.

The Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr. Anne-Marie McAlinden of Queen's University Belfast on "The Reintegration of Sexual Offenders".



Pictured Above: Maura Butler & Dr. Anne-Marie McAlinden

Dr. McAlinden is a Reader, and Director of Research in the School of Law at Queen's University Belfast. Her main research interests lie in the areas of the management of violent and sexual offenders, institutional child abuse, and restorative justice where she has published extensively.

The Martin Tansey memorial lecture will be published in Irish Probation Journal volume 13 later this year and will be available on the ACJRD website at www.acjrd.ie

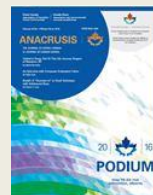
North-South Social Innovation Corridor

A North-South Social Innovation Corridor Steering Group has been established to develop new or renewed collaborative cross-sectoral and cross-border links between organisations and actors involved in social innovation activities. The Innovation Corridor initiative is intended to foster productive links between the higher education institutions and the private, community and statutory sectors in both jurisdictions, explore key emerging issues and share experience and knowledge.

The Probation Service and the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI), with their established experience in cross-border co-operation and exchange, were represented at the first meeting of the North-South Social Innovation Corridor Steering Group at the Centre for Cross-Border Studies in Armagh on April 4th by Gerry McNally, Probation Service and Paul Doran, Probation Board for Northern Ireland.

'Just Sing' Choir Light Up Function for Retired Colleagues

The annual Probation Service function for retired colleagues took place on Tuesday the 12th April 2016 in Haymarket. There was a great attendance on the day with former colleagues travelling quite some distances to be here. The gathering is looked forward to by retired colleagues and current staff each year, and plays an important part in acknowledging the past while looking to the future.



Vivian Geiran, Director welcomed all and spoke briefly about some significant events during the year including the Civil Service Innovation Award for Community Return. This year we were fortunate to have a performance from our choir – *Just Sing* which went really well and was very much appreciated by all. Some retired colleagues made contact the following day to say that they really enjoyed the occasion and in particular they wished to acknowledge the choir's performance.



Daffodil Day

The annual Irish Cancer Society coffee morning was held on Wednesday, 9th March 2016 from 10.30am to 11.30am in the Probation Service canteen in Haymarket. A big thank you again to all those who baked and brought goodies on the day and to those who donated money. €855 was lodged into the Irish Cancer Society's bank account - €120 of this was very kindly donated by the Cavan Probation Office.



Article on Probation Service work in Donegal

The work of the Probation Service was featured recently in an article in the Donegal News newspaper (22/04/2016). The article focussed on the role of Probation Officer Michelle McShane and looked at the day to day work of the Service in Donegal. The article is available by clicking on the link below.



[Donegal News Article](#)



Pictured Above: Gerry Dogget, Prosocial Driver's Programme

Donegal anti-social driving course starts in Monaghan

A new course aimed at changing the behaviour of drivers facing serious road traffic charges is now being run outside Donegal for the first time. The Prosocial driving course, an innovative initiative between Pro-social Ireland, Garda Traffic Corps and the Probation Service, has been running in Donegal for four years and its success has seen it adopted by a judge in the Cavan-Monaghan court district. The programme featured recently in an article in the Donegal Democrat which can be accessed via the icon below.

