

IN THIS EDITION OF PROBATION WORKS:

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Newsletter of the Probation Service (Ireland)

September 2019



Message from Director

Earlier this month, I announced that I will retire from my position as Director of the Irish Probation Service at the end of this year. Two obvious questions that present themselves are: why retire? and why now? There is no great mystery in my responses to these questions. I have served as Director since August 2012, having first joined the Service as a Probation Officer in



1987. There is not always, nor necessarily ever, a particularly 'good' or 'bad' time to retire. I did indicate when I took on the role of Director, that I would aim to serve in this post for around seven years, at which point I would review the situation. Having done that (personal review) recently, I recognise the Probation Service has come through an extensive period of change, and is in a relatively good place as an organisation, although there is still more to be done to maximise the potential of the agency. I believe the Probation Service is now at a critical stage of its ongoing development, particularly regarding the continuing evolution and implementation of our Irish probation practice model and framework for service delivery. In that respect, the organisation will benefit from having a new person, new thinking and new energy at this level, to guide it through the coming few years, and I have decided to make way for that person. I am confident that the Service will continue to benefit and build from its well established and solid values and practice base, from the continuing dedication of its management team and

colleagues across the entire organisation, in constantly seeking to build on that solid practice foundation, and to deliver ever-improving services, for better outcomes. I intend to work out my remaining time in my current role in the same way as I have always approached my work – with dedication, urgency and commitment. I will also use this time, in collaboration with my Departmental and Probation colleagues, to ensure, insofar as we can, the smoothest and most effective transition phase to the new leadership, as possible.

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

Vivian Geiran

Director

Twitter: @VGeiran



Probation in Numbers



This month (September 2019) there are:

9,146 Persons under Probation

Service Supervision in the community;

1,564 Prisoners receiving probation
assistance in custody;

2,342 People on Community Service

1,340 Persons on various types of

ACJRD Conference - Save the Date!



The 22nd ACJRD Annual Conference, “Behind Closed Doors: Crimes of Violence, Coercive Control and Abuse in Family and Intimate Relationships” will take place on **Friday, 11th October, 2019**, in **The Richmond Education and Event Centre, Smithfield, Dublin 7**. Bookings will open shortly. All those on our mailing list will be notified once bookings open.

post-release probation supervision

1,394 Women on probation

Supervision in the community, and

220 Persons under eighteen years of age under probation supervision in the community

The monthly Probation Service 'snapshot' statistical table for September 2019 is available at:

[Click Here](#)

Probation Service: Monthly Offender Population Report

Caseload	Community Regions (Point in Time September 1 2019)*				In Custody	Total (Percentage)
	Eastern	Midlands and South East	South West	West and North West		
Total	4,069	1,903	1,497	1,677	1,564	100
Of Whom:						
Female	584	289	266	255	63	14
Male	3,485	1,614	1,231	1,422	1,501	86
Under 18	120	37	34	29	0	2
18 and over	3,949	1,866	1,463	1,648	1,564	100
Totals:						
					Total Caseload, in community:	9,111
					Total Caseload, in custody:	1,564
					Grand Total, national Probation Service caseload:	10,675
					The following are the major community supervision categories.	
					Probation Type Supervision**:	3,111
					Community Service:	2,211
					Supervision in the Community Post Release from Custody***:	1,789
					Community Return****:	900
					Life sentence prisoners on supervision in the community*****:	900
					Sex offenders on supervision post release from custody*****:	1,111

*Regions
Eastern: Dublin, Meath, Louth, Wicklow
Midlands and South East: Kildare, Laois, Offaly, Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford, Westford
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 Detention of Penalty.

*** Supervision in the community post release from custody includes Part Suspended Sentences, Temporary Release Super 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.

PBNI Seminar

This conference will appeal to policy makers, those working in government agencies, professionals, practitioners, academics and those involved in community and civil society groups from a wide range of disciplines within the Criminal Justice System. Non-members of ACJRD are welcome to attend this event.

A programme of plenary speakers and workshop presenters will include national and international representatives from the criminal justice sector.

Confirmed Speakers include:

- Charlie Flanagan TD, Minister for Justice and Equality
- Sarah Benson, Director, Women's Aid
- Caroline Counihan, BL, Legal Advisor to Safe Ireland
- Collette Eaton-Harris, Senior Practice Advisor, SafeLives
- Caitriona Gleeson, Programme and Communications Manager, Safe Ireland
- Professor Marianne Hester, School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol
- Dr Ian Marder, Department of Law, Maynooth University
- Dr. Rosaleen McElvaney, School of Nursing, Psychotherapy & Community Health, Dublin City University
- Siobhán O'Brien Green, Trinity Research in Childhood Centre, Trinity College Dublin
- Sarah Jane O'Dwyer, Interim CEO, AnyMan
- Patricia Rickard-Clarke, Chairperson, Sage Advocacy
- Dr Fergus Ryan, Senior Lecturer and Director of Teaching and Learning, Department of Law, Maynooth University
- Callie Zinsmeyer, Mediator, Case Worker, Restorative Justice Services

Opportunities will be provided throughout the day for delegates to share information, exchange views and network with colleagues who engage in similar or complementary areas of expertise.

Conference fees for ACJRD members:



Pictured: Dale Ashford (PBNI Chair), Cheryl Lamont (CEO), Sonia Crozier (Chief Probation Officer) and Vivian Geiran (Director)

The Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI) held a seminar, entitled 'Justice: Improving Outcomes for Communities,' in the Long Gallery of Stormont Parliament Buildings, Belfast, on Friday 27th September. Vivian Geiran, Director, participated at the event, which was attended by politicians, senior justice sector and other governmental and public service figures, as well as members of the Judiciary and academics/researchers, and senior NGO executives, on behalf of the Irish Probation Service. The seminar heard presentations from a range of senior personnel, on the subjects of working collaboratively, to achieve better outcomes for communities. The seminar included lively debate of relevant issues and also featured a panel discussion, chaired by journalist and radio/TV presenter Mark Carruthers, and to which five Permanent Secretaries contributed to the discussion and question and answer session. The seminar provided a valuable opportunity for cross-sectoral sharing and learning as well as the chance to build positive networking.

Tivoli Project Awards

ACJRD member	€99
ACJRD student member	€30

Conference fees for non-members:

You are welcome to attend, but we would encourage you to join the association prior to the conference so that you can avail of the member's discounted rate. Information on membership of the Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development can be found at www.acjrd.ie/membership.

Non-member	€120
Student non-member	€45

Visitors from the Czech Republic



Pictured: Irish Probation Service and Czech Probation and Mediation Service staff in Probation HQ

As part of an ongoing commitment to assist practice development in other jurisdictions a group of 12 staff from the Probation and Mediation Service of the Czech Republic were hosted on the 17th and 18th September. The group were facilitated by the Staff Learning and Development Section and were looking specifically at our work with young people.

Presentations were made by staff from YPP and the Restorative Justice and Victims Unit, as well



Pictured: Martina O'Neill, Probation Officer and Richard Phillips, Tivoli Project Manager

The Tivoli Training Centre in Dunlaoghaire, County Dublin, held its annual open day and celebration of service user achievements, on Friday 13th September. Vivian Geiran attended and spoke at the event, commending the Centre clients, as well as the management, staff and Board of Tivoli for their hard work over the year. Vivian acknowledged the important role the Tivoli Centre plays as a key probation facility – providing training, education and employment, self-development, community service and other opportunities – to those under Probation supervision in South County Dublin. Centre Manager, Richard Phillips, presented a bouquet of flowers to Probation Officer, Martina O'Neill, for her work in Tivoli, commending Martina particularly for her work on the women's programme there. After the 'formalities,' the afternoon concluded with a barbecue and an opportunity to view a range of the achievements by programme participants over the past year, and to meet staff and service users.

IBEC Event

as the IYJS and AGS. The group also visited the Childrens court to meet with Judge Toale and Sarah Finnegan, PO, as well as having field trips to the Candle Project and Oberstown Campus. An opportunity was also taken to gain some greater understanding of practice in the Czech Republic and the high emphasis placed on mediation between offender and victim.

There was a lot of opportunity to both show the work we do but also to look at how we might take some learning from the Czech experience. The feedback from the group was very positive about the Service and the staff they met and we look forward to hosting the final group in this exchange programme in early 2020.

Joerg and Esa Retirements



Pictured: Mr. Joerg Jess (top) and Mr. Esa Vesterbacka (bottom)

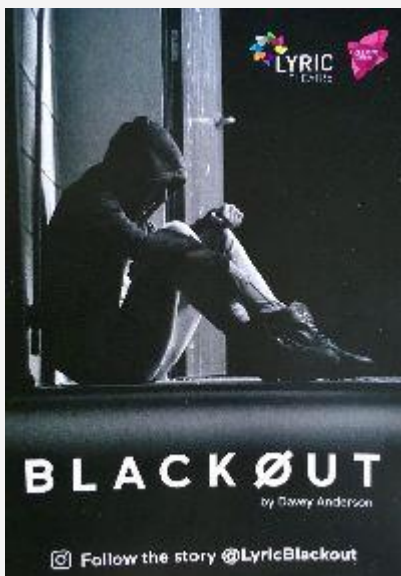
Two significant figures on the European probation and corrections stage retire this month: Mr. Joerg Jesse, Director General in Mecklenburg-West Pommerania and Mr. Esa Vesterbacka, Director General in Finland. Both Joerg and Esa will be known to many in Ireland and across Europe, as well as in other parts of



Pictured: Eddie Mullins (Mountjoy Governor), Nikki Gallagher (Solus), Minister David Stanton, Danny McCoy (IBEC CEO) and Domini Kemp (Chef)

On September 2nd, IBEC hosted an event with SOLAS, highlighting how hiring ex-offenders can have a positive impact on the workplace and for society. Minister David Stanton addressed employer groups to outline the important role they can play in the reintegration of ex-offenders through the creation of job opportunities.

'Blackout' performance at Belfast's Lyric Theatre



the world, where they have contributed much to the positive developments in probation and prisons work, as well as more widely in the criminal justice field. We thank both Joerg and Esa for what they have contributed to our professions and wish them well as they enter this new phase of their lives.

Yellow Ribbon Run



Pictured: Probation Service staff participating at the Yellow Ribbon Run

On 28th September the First 5km "Yellow Ribbon 5km Run" took place in Loughan House, Cavan, organised by the Irish Probation Service in conjunction with the Irish Prison Service, The Probation Board for Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

The Yellow Ribbon Run has a number of goals which promote offender integration into the community with a focus on employment of ex-offenders and also to promote a second chance at making good. IASIO who were present on the day accepted donations for their Client Contingency Fund, which helps to enable ex-offender employment as part of community engagement.

Staff in each of the four services, Funded

Vivian Geiran, along with an invited audience of senior Justice, Probation, Prisons and other officials, members of the Judiciary, as well as academics and other justice and education system stakeholders, attended a special performance of the 'Blackout' play at the Lyric Theatre in Belfast on Friday 27th September. 'Blackout,' a Creative Learning / Lyric Theatre production, is sponsored and supported by the Northern Ireland Department of Justice and the Northern Ireland Prison Service, Department of Education, Belfast City Council, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, and the Policing and Community Safety Partnerships. It tells the story of 'James,' a young man struggling with some very serious issues in his life. Audiences, which include secondary school students as the play tours Northern Ireland, get the chance to see the dramatisation of what happens the night before James is arrested, as well as its aftermath, and to talk to young men who share their experiences of crime, custody and of coping with life afterwards.

The story of 'Blackout' on tour can be followed on Instagram @LyricBlackout.

Expansion of Community Return

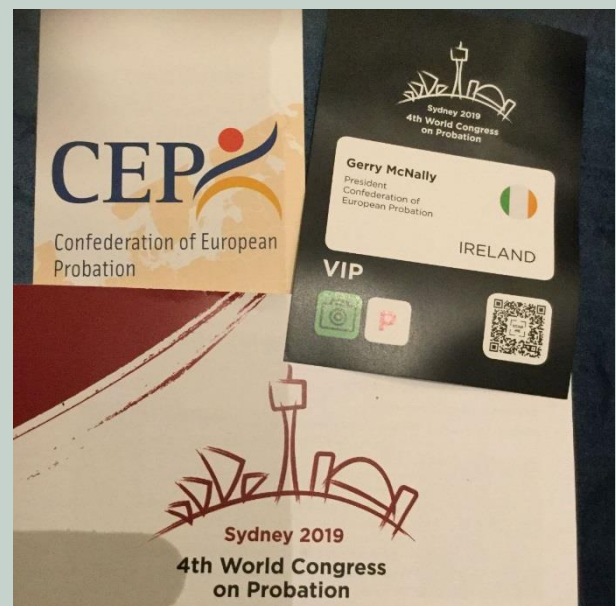


The Minister for Justice and Equality, Charlie Flanagan TD, has announced the expansion of the eligibility criteria for the Community Return Scheme. The expansion of the eligibility criteria is

Projects and offenders participated in the 5km in the grounds of Loughan House replacing their normal Saturday Parkrun, with many supporters on the side line cheering on the participants on their way.

It is hoped that the success of Saturday's event will be the foundation for similar successful events in the future.

4th World Conference on Probation in Sydney



Gerry McNally, Probation Service Assistant Director and President of the Confederation of European Probation (CEP), attended the 4th World Congress on Probation in Sydney, Australia on 18th-20th September hosted by the Corrective Services NSW. CEP, with APPA and ICPA, have supported the hosting of the WCP around the world to connect the world probation family as well as promoting contact and sharing of expertise and experience.

Prof. Fergus McNeill opened the World Congress with an insightful and challenging paper on

in line with recommendations from the Community Return Evaluation Report carried out by the Irish Prison Service and the Probation Service in 2014, as well as the May 2018 report on Penal Reform and Sentencing by the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Justice and Equality. The new criteria came into effect at the beginning of August.

Under the expansion, the qualifying period for Community Return for prisoners who are serving a sentence for a period of between 1 and 3 years inclusive is shortened. Instead of the qualifying period being 50% of the sentence imposed by the Court, it will instead be 50% of sentence as remitted under the Prison Rules.

principled probation and what it means. There were keynote papers also by Prof. Faye Taxman, Prof. Kyoko Hazama and other distinguished speakers. In addition, there were international workshops from an array of presenters and services. The World Congress is a valuable bi-annual opportunity to bring together and meet experts in community based sanctions and probation from around the world.

The presentations and workshop papers from the 4th World Congress on Probation in Sydney are being assembled by the Congress hosts and will be available in due course on the Confederation of European Probation (CEP) website at www.cep-probation.org.

In the meantime do visit the CEP website to see the WCP programme and for lots of probation news and updates. You can also subscribe there to receive the bi-monthly CEP newsletter for news and articles on probation topics, events and publications.

The 5th World Congress on Probation will be held in Ottawa, Canada in September 2021 hosted by the Parole Board of Canada and partners.

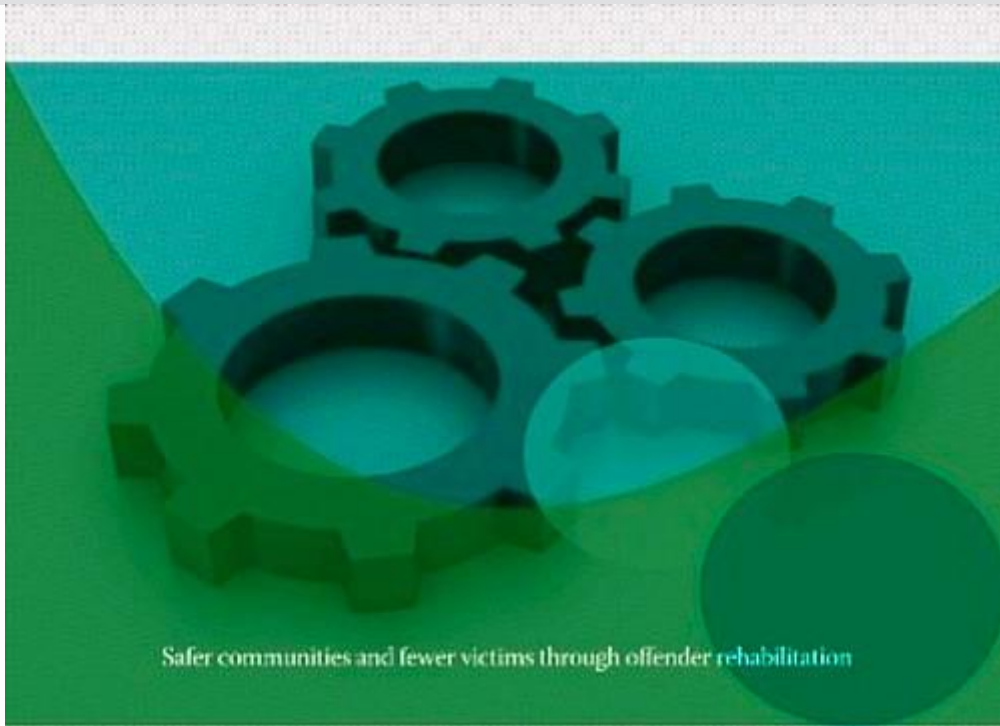
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Our mailing address is:

Haymarket, Smithfield, Dublin 7, D07 WT27.

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