

Community Service in Northern Ireland

John Bourke*

Summary: As 2007 is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Probation Board for Northern Ireland being given the legislative responsibility for community service, this article reflects on important aspects of community service practice and developments in Northern Ireland over the period. It also considers the challenge in reshaping and modernising community service in Northern Ireland to be both aware of the need for public protection and successful in assisting offenders to reduce reoffending, increase their employability and enhance their social inclusion.

Keywords: Community service, reparation, reconviction, social inclusion, employment-related skills.