

IN THIS EDITION OF PROBATION WORKS: Probation in Numbers, Council of Europe – Probation and Prison Directors – Conference, Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture, EuroPris Workshop on Family Relations, World Social Work Conference (SWSD18) 2018 in Dublin Probation Service Recruitment, Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture, Minister for Justice and Equality visits Canal House, 11th Electronic Monitoring Conference: Presentations, Workshop Results and More!, Social Enterprise - Garden Café



[View the newsletter in your browser.](#)

[@probation_irl](#) / [www.probation.ie](#)

Newsletter of the Probation Service (Ireland)

May 2018



Message from Director

We will soon publish our new Probation Service Strategic Plan, for the three years, 2018-2020. The Strategy – entitled: *One Vision, One Team, One Standard* – will set out an ambitious plan for the ongoing development of the Probation Service as an organisation. It will also focus us on the continuous improvement of the services we deliver. This is all so that we can – individually and collectively, as an organisation – be as effective as we can be, in achieving our goals, through our unique and connected contribution to the Justice system, the communities we serve, and the clients with whom we work directly every day. Part of what we plan to do over the coming three years is to carry out a comprehensive review of our established professional practice, assess its fit with current research evidence, and put in place an implementation plan to make any improvements or enhancements required. This will be based on our well-founded professional practice and values base, but in a context of being a truly learning organisation, continually open to new learning and being flexible enough to adapt how we work, including to be transparent and accountable. We will also recommit to working with all our stakeholders, to co-create solutions to issues that need to be addressed, and to finding and implementing better ways to do things, where that is indicated.



In addition, we will join again with our colleagues in the Irish Prison Service in publishing very soon our third Joint Strategic Plan, for 2018-2020. Inter-agency co-operation in criminal justice continues to be crucial for successful outcomes in offender rehabilitation, and in helping to make Ireland safer, fairer and more inclusive. Our new Probation-Prisons joint strategy builds on inter-agency structures and developments to date, and includes particular focus on co-operation to improve sentence management, with an emphasis on what we collectively do to facilitate offender rehabilitation *in custody*. The strategy also commits us to continuing to prioritise specific categories of offenders. These include serious and prolific offenders, sex offenders, women and young people, and those with substance misuse and mental health issues. The joint strategy also includes actions on preparing offenders for employment, as well as on building our collective research capacity, and on increased inter-agency staff co-location and joint training, among others. Once published, both strategies, as well as our Annual Report for 2017, will be available on our website.

The next edition of Probation works will be published in July 2018.

Vivian Geiran
Director

Twitter: @VGeiran



Probation in Numbers



This month (May 2018) there are:

8,227 *Persons under Probation Service
Supervision in the community;*

1,510 *Prisoners receiving probation
assistance in custody;*

2,190 *People on Community Service*

Council of Europe – Probation and Prison Directors – Conference

The 23rd Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services (CDPPS) will be held next month (19–20th June 2018), in Jõhvi, Estonia. The Conference, which is “open to invited participants only who are high-ranking representatives of the prison and probation services of the member and observer States to the Council of Europe, international organisations,

1,236 Persons on various types of post-release probation supervision

1,273 Women on probation Supervision in the community, and

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

The monthly Probation Service 'snapshot' statistical table for May 2018 is available at:

[Click Here](#)

Probation Service: Monthly Offender Population Report

Caseload	Community Regions (Point in Time May 1 2018)*				In Custody	Total (Persons)
	Eastern	Midlands and South East	South West	West and North West		
Total	3,492	1,766	1,536	1,433	1,510	9,737
Of Whom:						
Female	468	289	325	211	75	1,348
Male	3,024	1,497	1,211	1,222	1,435	8,389
Under 18	138	43	26	27	0	234
18 and over	3,354	1,723	1,510	1,406	1,510	9,503
Totals:						
					Total Caseload, in community:	8,227
					Total Caseload, in custody:	1,510
					Grand Total, national Probation Service caseload:	9,737
					The following are the major community supervision categories.	
					Probation Type Supervision**:	3,145
					Community Service:	2,190
					Supervision in the Community Post Release from Custody***:	1,236
					Community Return****:	55
					Life sentence prisoners on supervision in the community****:	89
					Sex offenders on supervision post release from custody****:	182

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

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

World Social Work Conference (SWSD18) 2018 in Dublin

The Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development, takes place in Dublin this year. Registration is now open for the Conference, which takes place in the RDS, Dublin, on 4–7th July 2018. The Conference theme is – ‘Environmental and Community Sustainability: Human Solutions in Evolving Societies.’ The event, which will be opened by Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, is being partnered by the Probation Service (as a ‘Silver Sponsor’) and is expected to attract over 2,500 delegates from all over the world. Probation Service Director, Vivian Geiran, will

as well as renowned experts and researchers working in the field of execution of penal sanctions and measures,” will have as its theme: *Working together Effectively: Management and Co-operation Models Between Prison and Probation Services.* Michael Donnellan, Director General of the Irish Prison Service, and Vivian Geiran, Probation Service Director, will present at a workshop on the model of service delivery through separate prison and probation organisations. Paul Doran, Probation Board for Northern Ireland will present on leadership and management of services. Gerry McNally, Assistant Director, will contribute to the Conference in his capacity as President of the Confederation of European Probation (CEP).

More information on the CDPPS Conference, including the conference programme, is available at:

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/prison/johvi-2018>

Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture

deliver a paper at the conference, on *Implementing Evidence-Informed Practice in Probation*.



For up to date information on the World Social Work Conference, including registration, follow the Conference on Twitter: @SWSD2018 or visit the Conference website at: www.swsd2018.org.

University of Pittsburgh Student Visit



Pictured above: Students from the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA's comparative criminal justice programme. The group were lead by Dr. Patricia Brougham.

On Tuesday 15th May an undergraduate group from the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA, studying a comparative criminal justice programme visited the Probation Service, Haymarket. The group were led by Dr. Patricia Brougham. Ciara OConnor and Rosemary Cronin Senior Probation Officers facilitated a session providing an overview of the Probation Service. During the afternoon the group visited the Bridge Project and were facilitated by David Williamson, Senior Probation Officer.



Pictured above: Tim Chapman delivering the Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture.

The 11th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture was hosted by the ACJRD on Tuesday 17th April. The lecture, delivered by Tim Chapman, Chair of the Board of the European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ), and a leading international expert on Restorative Justice issues, was held in the Criminal Courts of Justice, Parkgate Street, Dublin 8. The launch of the ACJRD 20th Annual Conference Report, *The Brexit Impact on Criminal Justice Cooperation in Ireland*, also took place at this event.

More information is available at the ACJRD website: <https://www.acjrd.ie>

EuroPris Workshop on Family Relations



Social Enterprise – Garden Café



The Garden Café is located on the Grounds of Cork Foyer, Blackpool, Cork. It is open to the public Monday – Friday throughout the year, for breakfast and lunch daily in a Victorian Style Glasshouse. This unique initiative provides training and mentoring, in a live café environment, to persons who are interested in progressing to employment in the catering industry. Training is provided, both informally, through immersion in the context of on the job experience and formally through– certified training in (1) food hygiene, (2) management of food hygiene (3) customer service.

In 2017, a new initiative for women, subject to community service orders in Cork, was piloted by Churchfield Community Trust, in collaboration with the Probation Service. It is a gender specific, education based programme, which is run as part of the Garden Café Initiative, supporting the ethos of the Probation Service / Irish Prisons Service Female Offender Strategy. In addition to completing Community Service work, participants can combine the educational aspect of the programme, with gaining practical experience through mentoring while working in the Garden Café. This initiative is run as part of ETB QQI 4 in Customer Service. The programme encompasses (1) Principles of Customer Service (2) Communication and Interpersonal Skills (3) Working as part of a team. (4) Quality customer care and the customer. (5) Legislation. In terms of attendance, to date, the response rate from attendees has been excellent, as has the positive feedback from participants.

“I now feel more capable of re-entering the work force, solid and committed to my recovery and for that I am so

EuroPris held a workshop on prisoners’ family relations, on 11–12 April 2018, in Vienna, Austria. The workshop, hosted by the Federal Ministry for Constitution, Reform, Regulation and Justice, offered participants an opportunity to share good practice, and consider some recent developments in relation to children of prisoners and related issues. These included the work of the EuroPris Family Relations expert group, and the Council of Europe draft Recommendation on children of prisoners, as well as the work of the Children of Prisoners Network (COPE). Probation Service Director, Vivian Geiran, introduced the Council of Europe draft Recommendation document, and presented a concluding session on ‘How to move forward?’

More information on the workshop is available at the following link:

<http://www.europris.org/events/family-relations-workshop-vienna-11-12-april-2018/>

Minister for Justice and Equality visits Canal House



Pictured above: Senator Maura Hopkins, Minister for Justice and Equality Charles Flanagan, Centre Co-ordinator Orla McCaffrey, Chairman Páraic Lawless, Regional Manager Probation Carmel Donnelly.

grateful” - Garden Café Participant.



Pictured above: Staff from the Garden Cafe, Deirdre Coakley SPO, Paula O'Leary PO, Community Service Team Cork and Paul O' Donnell Project Manager Churchfield Community Trust.

GDPR

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will come into force on 25 May 2018. This new Regulation significantly increases the obligations and responsibilities for Organisations to be transparent about how they use and safeguard personal data whilst also being able to demonstrate accountability for their data processing activities.

Full information is available on: www.gdprandyou.ie

In preparation for the introduction of the new Regulation, in November 2017, the Department appointed a designated Data Protection Officer at

Minister for Justice and Equality Charles Flanagan visited Canal House – Ballinasloe Training Centre on a sunny Monday evening in May. Minister Flanagan spoke with staff, trainees and Board members about the work of the Centre, as well as guests from the community including Carmel Donnelly, Regional Manager of the Probation Service and Senator Maura Hopkins. Minister Flanagan commended the Centre for the work being undertaken, the range of training and education programmes being delivered, as well as supports with preparation for work, counselling/anger management, Probation Service Alcohol and Offending Behaviour Programmes and practical skills and qualifications towards increasing employment opportunities.

Minister Flanagan met with trainees and discussed the training programmes and pieces of work they were undertaking and future opportunities. He commended the students on their work and urged them to avail of the opportunities in the Centre. He also congratulated Canal House on their recent 40th Anniversary, discussing the strong links between the Department of Justice and Equality and the Probation Service with Canal House, providing support from the first days of Canal House opening to the present day. He spoke of the continued good links between staff within the Probation Service and Canal House.

Principal Officer Level, to drive GDPR across the Department and its Agencies. In addition, a new Data Protection Support and Compliance Unit has been established to provide support on GDPR to all staff. This new Unit is tasked with preparing, updating and managing the implementation of the DJE GDPR Implementation and Compliance Plan through each phase of the project.

Joint Garda-Probation Training

Pictured above: Joint Garda-Probation training in sex offender assessment (Stable & Acute 2007), April 25th in the Garda Station Anglesea Cork.



Irish Daily Mail Restorative Justice Article

An article appeared in the Irish Daily Mail on May 28th regarding the Probation Service Restorative Justice Programme.

11th Electronic Monitoring Conference: Presentations, Workshop Results and More!

The 11th Confederation of European Probation (CEP) Electronic Monitoring Conference took place on 16th-18th April 2018 in the wonderful city of Zagreb. The Conference was jointly organised by CEP with the Probation Service in the Republic of Croatia. More than 230 participants from 41 countries attended and this year's Conference theme was 'Blurring Boundaries, making and breaking connections'.

Electronic monitoring (EM) has matured into a familiar penal tool used widely across Europe and beyond. Its applications appear to be limitless and its purposes diverse. EM is often viewed as a panacea for a range of societal challenges within and beyond criminal justice leading to growing use in mental health, domestic violence, terrorism and immigration. Increasingly diverse target groups include mental health patients, dementia sufferers, children and young people, victims of domestic violence as well as offenders.

The expansion of existing and potential target areas, groups and the goals and purposes of EM has contributed to a blurring of the normative and operational boundaries within which EM is used. During the three-day Conference, participants heard and discussed the latest research and experiences with EM from experts, academics and probation/prison/police services and had many lively discussions and exchanges. Everyone also has opportunities to see the newest technology and be updated on the newest technical developments and EM practice.

The presentations, workshop results and

Face to face with their assailants

Six survivors of sex assault have met their attackers under 'restorative justice' pilot

SIX survivors of sexual violence have met their attackers face to face as part of a pilot 'restorative justice' programme organised by the Department of Justice.

The new programme is aimed at trying to heal victims and rehabilitate sex offenders, the Irish Daily Mail can reveal.

These meetings - carefully orchestrated by trained professionals - take place between victims and their attackers after a lengthy psychological preparation process on both sides to ensure the encounters would be beneficial.

The programme is being rolled out by the Probation Service, under the auspices of the Department of Justice.

The meeting can only take place once the sex offender has completed their prison term or suspended sentence.

While the Probation Service declined to comment on specific details of the programme, it is understood that all sex

EXCLUSIVE
By **All Bracken**
Crime Correspondent

offenders who participate must have undergone therapy and have 'acceptance' that their crimes greatly impacted on the lives of their victims.

A Department of Justice source said: 'Restorative justice will not work if the perpetrator does not accept that their crime has caused deep hurt and devastation.

'If they do not, restorative justice is pointless. Victims also must be psychologically in the right place for restorative justice to be beneficial for them.'

In a statement to the Mail, the Probation Service confirmed: 'To date, the Victim Services Team has processed or are currently processing six cases relating specifically to sexual crime.'

Fiona Doyle, whose father Patrick O'Brien was sentenced in 2015 to nine years for raping her, has told the Mail that she 'fully supports the initiative.'

By coincidence, Ms Doyle confronted her father in recent weeks in Dublin Mater Hospital to 'ask some questions', she said.

Though the visit was not

part of an official restorative justice process, she told the Mail she got 'closure' from confronting her gravely ill father.

She said: 'I would fully support victims of rape and sexual assault coming face to face with their abusers. It worked for me. I got some closure.'

Ms Doyle told the Mail how she confronted her father in late April at the hospital, where he was transferred to from Arbour Hill prison after

'Victim must be at centre of it'

he became seriously ill.

A number of years ago, Ms Doyle had taken part in research for a restorative justice project, and this sparked her interest in the concept, she said.

'I always wanted the opportunity to confront my father, so when I got the call from Arbour Hill to say he was in the Mater, I saw it as my chance,' she explained.

'As I drove up to the Mater, my stomach was churning. When I went up, I could see he was lying in a bed in a public ward. I went up to the nurses station [and] said, "I'm

Patrick O'Brien's daughter and I'd like to see him."

'The nurse went and spoke to the prison officer outside who went and spoke to my father. Then the prison officer came back to me and said "I'm sorry, he won't see you. The prison officer then went and asked him a second time and he agreed. He sat up the bed, swung his legs around, shook my hand, and said, "I'm sorry."

Ms Doyle said it is a moment she will never forget.

Though she questions sincerity of his apology, said, nonetheless, that she has "certain things" to her father has helped her move on.

Maeve Lewis of One in Five, a group that helps victims of child sex abuse, said: 'My view is that restorative justice is a very positive thing, the victim must be at the centre of it, unlike at the criminal trial. It must also be at the instigation of the victim.'

She said sex offenders have not undergone therapy to deal with their behaviour and should not be permitted to take part, adding: 'The offender needs to be accepting of their behaviour and the damage caused in order for it to be worthwhile exercise.'

all.bracken@dailymail

pictures from the CEP 11th Electronic Monitoring Conference are now available on the CEP website at:

<http://www.cep-probation.org/11th-electronic-monitoring-conference/>

Illegal Drug Public Consultation



A public consultation has been launched on the possession of illegal drugs for personal use. The consultation seeks the views of the public on the effectiveness of the current law and on what alternatives could be considered. The purpose of this public consultation is to inform the deliberations of a Working Group set up under Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery to examine alternative approaches for personal possession of illegal drugs.

The consultation can be accessed via an online questionnaire at <https://health.gov.ie/consultations>

The questionnaire can be accessed on phone, tablet or computer and should take less than 15 minutes to complete. The public consultation will end on the 30th June.

Let us have your feedback and ideas.
Any suggestions for the next edition of
the Probation Works newsletter?
Leave us your feedback by emailing us at
'news@probation.ie'

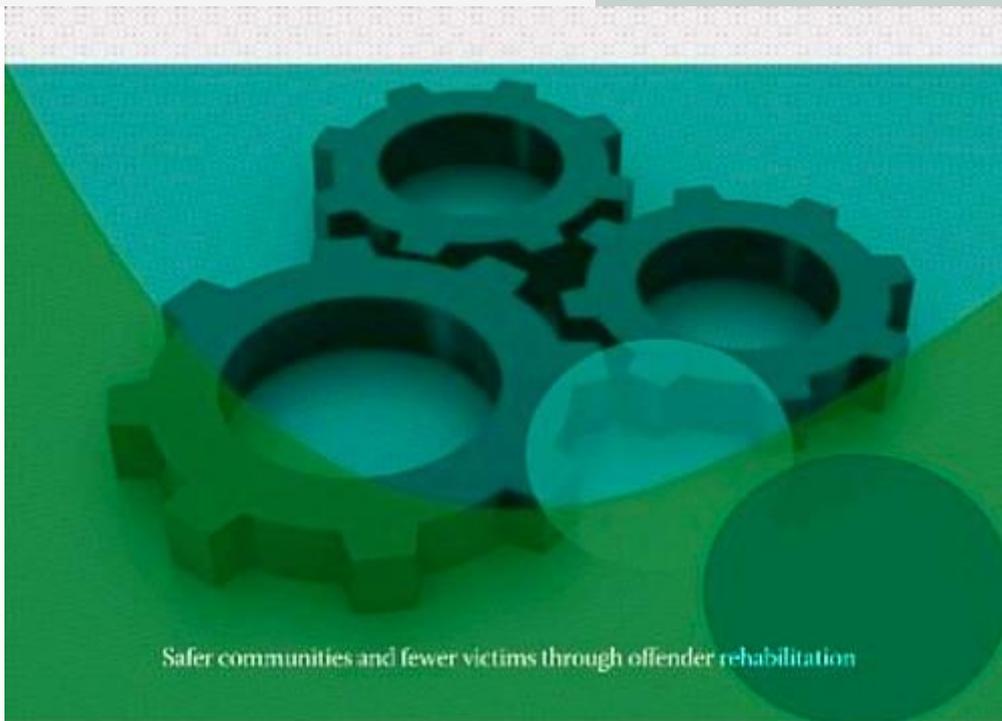
Follow the Probation Service on



[Twitter](#)



[Website](#)



Safer communities and fewer victims through offender rehabilitation

Copyright © 2018 Probation Service All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Haymarket, Smithfield, Dublin 7, D07 WT27.