

*Substance Misuse and Offending: An Innovative Partnership
Providing Assessment and Treatment*

Deirdre Murphy and Alistair Sweet

Summary The extent of drug misuse by offenders appearing before the courts has increased markedly in recent years. This paper presents an overview of a collaborative working partnership, between the Probation Board for Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Community Addiction Service, that seeks to provide assessment and treatment for offenders with substance misuse problems. The article outlines the nature of the service provided, the potential benefits for the offender, for the wider community and, through the process of inter-agency collaboration, for the organisations involved.