

## Editorial

Welcome to the twentieth edition of *Irish Probation Journal (IPJ)*. It is safe to say that the *Irish Probation Journal* has gone from strength to strength over its two decades. Over the past twenty years, *Irish Probation Journal* has become a recognised forum for the sharing of criminal justice research, evaluation, analysis, and discussion on probation and community sanctions. We are confident that the broad range of contributions in this year's edition will further contribute to the richness of this well-established knowledge base.

One of the real strengths of *Irish Probation Journal* has been its willingness to seek and support academic and practitioner-based research and opinion across Europe and beyond, to inform effective practice and achieve our shared goals of safer communities and fewer victims. You will find in this edition contributions from Irish and international academics, Probation Services, the judiciary, the community and voluntary sector and, most notably, contributions by lived experience academics and practitioners informed by their experience in the criminal justice system.

The editorial committee would like to thank all those who have contributed to this year's publication and acknowledge their commitment to sharing knowledge and promoting critical debate on important issues. In January 2023, the editorial committee convened an online workshop for those interested in writing for *IPJ*. This now-annual event encourages future articles and has a track record for planting a seed and supporting first-time authors. The 2023 workshop was attended by over twenty participants. The level of enthusiasm from participants was very encouraging, as was their willingness to collaborate on joint endeavours, which we anticipate will bear fruit in future editions.

Thematically this year's publication features articles focusing on the lived experience of people in contact with the justice system, sexual offending, homelessness, resettlement, youth offending, education for change and social enterprise. Marking its anniversary, there is a reflection on the twenty years of the *Irish Probation Journal*, against the backdrop of the collaboration

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between two distinct Probation Services, fittingly co-authored by *IPJ*'s original joint editors.

In keeping with now-established tradition, our flagship article is based on text from the annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture organised by the Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD). We are delighted to be able to co-operate with ACJRD in the publication of this important paper and to share it with the *IPJ* audience. Importantly, this edition also has a range of articles and practice notes from practitioners working in probation and across the criminal justice sphere, including social enterprise, as well as academics and recent graduates conducting research.

The Martin Tansey Lecture explores 'The Sentencing of Children in the Irish Youth Justice System'. Providing insights into how the youth justice system might address the justice and welfare dichotomy, the paper reviews the growing scientific knowledge on child development and international court innovations in the sentencing of young offenders, as well as exploring issues in evolving capacity and the age of criminal responsibility.

The theme of youth justice is central in the following article. Our understanding of youth deviance is probed through the case of the Buggy Malones, a delinquent youth subculture that featured prominently in the media in 1970s Dublin. The article examines the challenge of capturing and understanding this phenomenon by looking at pop cultural and personalistic images and public policy, as well as the role of the media.

There is an interesting complementarity in two papers focusing on sexual offending. One explores issues from the perspective of the children of those convicted of downloading images of child sex abuse. The second approaches the complex issue of denial as it relates to sexual offending, examining the literature and research, and exploring the issues arising through treatment and desistance.

It is difficult to overemphasise the increasing importance of the lived experience for probation practice, particularly in its impact on service development, engagement and effectiveness. The cohort of articles in this edition of *IPJ*, based on a wide range of personal experiences and research, is testimony to the growing contribution of lived experience as well as related research and innovation.

In 'A Critical Reflection on Being a Lived Experience Researcher' the author reflects on his own experience on entering higher education in a bid to transform his life, and interviews others with similar experience, to investigate the complexities and possibilities of 'transformation' in this way. The challenges

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of living with a criminal record and in setting up the Spéire Nua ('New Horizon') project to establish and validate evidence of positive change are explored in 'Translating Lived Criminal Justice Experience into Policy Innovation'.

In a particularly timely and comprehensive article, 'Emancipatory Pedagogy in Prison', the authors examine the challenges and opportunities in transformative teaching and research practices in university-prison classrooms, and how co-produced learning can dismantle barriers between those affected by the criminal justice system and those who are not. On a related theme, the innovative role that social enterprise can play in addressing employment barriers for those with criminal convictions is highlighted in the contribution on developments at the Cornmarket Project.

The challenges of resettlement and homelessness are examined in two papers. The resettlement needs of foreign national prisoners returning to home, which can sometimes be overlooked, are reviewed in a comparative analysis of two reports which have examined this in Ireland and in the UK. The second paper provides an experienced practitioner's perspective on working with people subject to Probation Service supervision who are experiencing homelessness in rural Ireland.

As *Irish Probation Journal* has reached the special milestone of its twentieth edition, the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI) and the Probation Service have commissioned a review focusing on the future of the *Irish Probation Journal* as a high-quality criminological and criminal justice journal, reflecting changes in Probation practice and service delivery, and harnessing the benefits from digital content and communications technology developments. If you might wish to contribute to the review, please send your submission as soon as possible to [irishprobationjournal@probation.ie](mailto:irishprobationjournal@probation.ie). All submissions received before the conclusion of the review will be forwarded to the reviewer.

Our particular appreciation and thanks, this year, are extended to Ursula Fernée, who has recently retired from the Probation Service. Ursula has been a member of the *IPJ* editorial committee since 2011 and has been joint-editor since 2018. Her commitment, knowledge and experience have been invaluable in the continued development of *IPJ* and she will be sincerely missed.

Thanks, also, to the members of our advisory panel, and our anonymous reviewers, who play an important role in advising the editorial committee, reviewing submissions and in providing guidance and feedback. We would also like to express our appreciation to the Probation Service and the Probation Board for Northern Ireland for their continued support.

Finally, to our authors and readers, we want to thank you for continuing to support and champion the *Irish Probation Journal*. As always, if anyone wishes to submit an article proposal for consideration for next year's *IPJ*, please contact the joint-editors at the email addresses on the inside cover of the Journal, or any member of the editorial committee.

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