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Newsletter of the Probation Service (Ireland)

January 2018



Message from Director

January is a time for reflecting on what we have done and for looking forward and making new plans. The Probation Service's new strategic plan (2018–2020) is nearing completion. Looking back too, our *Probation works* newsletter is five years old this month. Both this newsletter, and its sister publication (for internal circulation) – *Probation Press* – produced on alternate months, were developed out of suggestions made by numerous Probation Service staff, on the need for more extensive and regular means of communication, both within the Probation Service, as well as with our external stakeholders 'audience.' It is difficult to over-emphasize the importance of communication, for any organisation or individual. Of course, newsletters in and of themselves do not satisfy all our communication needs and requirements. Nevertheless, I would suggest that we should not underestimate the importance and value of something as simple yet as effective as a newsletter, in delivering certain kinds of news and information, in a simple, timely, structured and targeted way.



When we started to publish *Probation works* and *Probation Press*, there were those who wondered whether we would have enough to say, on such a 'frequent' basis. That concern has been proven to be completely unfounded: Probation has many good stories to tell. In this age of increased availability and more immediate access to information via social

media, it is also important for modern organizations to keep up with such developments, and to harness their value for our work. We do now have a Probation Service Twitter account (@probation_irl). Last Autumn, we launched our 'Probation Works' campaign, on social and other media. The centre piece of that campaign was a series of short videos, featuring a range of speakers from different agencies and backgrounds, describing the value of Probation's work for them. That was a very successful initiative in helping us to get across the 'message' of what probation does, and its role and contribution in the wider Justice system. The task of communication is never done. It is also of course a two-way street, and we always welcome your feedback and input, on issues covered in our newsletters, or anything regarding what we do and how we do it. Over the past five years, numerous readers of our newsletters have commented on our communications and specifically our publication content. Please do keep that feedback coming this year!

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

Vivian Geiran
Director

Twitter: @VGeiran



Confederation of European Probation (CEP) Newsletter



The most recent edition of the CEP newsletter (December 2017) is a special issue on radicalisation and is available at

RASMORAD Project Meeting - on Radicalisation



Pictured above: Some of the participants at the RASMORAD workshop in Sofia, Bulgaria

the following link:

<http://createsend.com/t/t-0DFE558BE665039F>



EuroPris Newsletter

The January 2018 EuroPris newsletter, which features comment from EuroPris President Nils Oberg (Director General of the Swedish Prison and Probation Service), as well as pieces on radicalisation, mental health, and other issues, is available at:

http://myemail.constantcontact.com/January-EuroPris-Newsletter-2018.html?soid=1110081848856&aid=KK_wtczWG4A

Vivian Geiran attended and presented – at the invitation of the organisers – at the RASMORAD (Raising Awareness and Staff Mobility on violent Radicalisation in Prisons and Probation), which was held in Sofia, Bulgaria, on 17th to 19th January 2018. The RASMORAD project aims to improve the risk assessment methodologies on violent radicalisation currently in place in the project jurisdictions: Italy, France, Bulgaria, Romania, Belgium and Cyprus. Vivian’s presentation was titled: ‘Radicalisation: A Probation Perspective from Ireland and the Council of Europe.’

Probation in Numbers



This month (September 2017) there are:

8,192 *Persons under Probation Service Supervision in the community;*

1,448 *Prisoners receiving probation assistance in custody;*



Newsletter

January 2018

A Word from the President

Nils Öberg, Director General of the Swedish Prison and Probation Service:

Dear EuroPris Members,

"In the first EuroPris newsletter of 2018, I would like to wish you a happy new year and take the opportunity to reflect upon EuroPris' recent activities and future possibilities.

2017 was a year full of progress and activities. EuroPris arranged a large number of workshops, expert meetings and conferences, some of them being jointly arranged together with other organisations. Collaborations were for example with CEP on a mental health workshop and a foreign nationals expert meeting and with ICPA and CEP on the Technology in Corrections conference. EuroPris started in 2017 two new events - the Correctional Research Conference co-organised with ICPA and the Summer Course in Barcelona, being a joint initiative with the Criminal Justice Platform. Both will see a second edition in 2018."



Bridge Charity Cafe Evening



You are invited to the Bridge Charity Café Event in Third Space, Smithfield.

All proceeds will go to The Dublin Simon Community

Date: Wed, 7th February Time: 7.00pm – 9.00pm

We would love to see you there!



2,095 People on Community Service

1,254 Persons on various types of post-release probation supervision

1,221 Women on probation Supervision in the community, and

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

The monthly Probation Service 'snapshot' statistical table is available as:

<https://goo.gl/ZXywJZ>

Confederation of European Probation Mental Health Conference



Pictured above: Probation Service Director Vivian Geiran speaking at the CEP Mental Health conference

Probation Service on the Radio

Newstalk Radio ran a piece by Andrea Gilligan on the management of sex offenders in prison and in the community, on the Pat Kenny morning programme, on Monday 11th December. Brian Dack (Assistant Director) joined with Irish Prison Service Head of Psychology, Dr. Emma Regan, in contributing to an excellent discussion of sex offender management, and the joined-up working of Probation, Prisons and others, in this area of inter-agency working. You can catch up with the piece on Newstalk's Listen Back service, at:

http://www.newstalk.com/listen_back/

(The relevant item is in Pat Kenny show, Part 1, on 11th December, some minutes into that section of the programme).

Tuam Community Training Centre 30th Anniversary Celebrations



Pictured above: Deputy Director Una Doyle speaking at the Tuam celebrations

The Confederation of European Probation (CEP) and EuroPris (The European Organisation of Prison and Correctional Services) organised a very successful international expert workshop on Mental Health in Prison and Probation on 6–7th December hosted by the Probation Service in Haymarket. Over 80 participants from probation and prison services attended from 19 European jurisdictions and Japan. European prison and probation services are working with an increasing number of people with mental health issues and challenges. The prevalence of mental health problems among prisoners and probationers is considerably higher than in the general community.

The workshop provided a unique opportunity for practitioners in prison and probation, researchers and international experts to meet and share experience, knowledge and best practice. The workshop featured plenary presentations and discussion groups from local and international experts on knowledge, treatment and multi-disciplinary working in correctional settings and in the community.

CEP, Europris and participants expressed special appreciation and thanks to the Probation Service for hosting the workshop and for the warm welcome and hospitality extended. Many participants took the opportunity to learn more about probation in Ireland and meet with staff in Haymarket during their visit. Particular thanks and appreciation are due to staff for their assistance in discussing their work with the visitors.

All of the presentations and papers from the CEP–Europris Mental Health Workshop will shortly be available to read and download on the CEP website

Probation Service Deputy Director Una Doyle and Regional Manager Carmel Donnelly, as well as colleagues past and present, attended the Tuam Community Training Centre 30th Anniversary celebrations on December 1st.

It was a great opportunity to show the work that the centre does continually and also to highlight potential growth opportunities for the future. There was great feedback from the trainees and they enjoyed the day immensely which is what it is all about – ensuring that the trainee's achievements are recognised.

Mobile Community Service Unit



Pictured above: Work being completed on The Back Lane Hostel

The Mobile Community Service Unit began in May 2017 and since has been involved in a number of projects, including:

- Assisting Swords Tidy towns with litter picking, painting and landscaping projects.
- Assisting Raheny Tidy Towns with litter picking, landscaping, river cleaning, tree pruning and leaf collection. Raheny received a bronze medal in the tidy towns competition.
- Assisting Phibsboro Tidy Towns with litter picking, leaf collection and planting daffodil bulbs.
- The Iveagh Hostel – painting of bedrooms.

at www.cep-probation.org and on the Europris website at www.europris.org

PBNI Newsletter

The PBNI have released a new edition of Probation News, their newsletter. Click the link below to open.

<https://www.pbni.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/PB-News-Nov-17-Issue-7-final.pdf>

Overnight Sleep Out in Aid of Charity



Pictured above: Alan Hughes sleeping outside the Probation Service Head Office in aid of charity.

Alan Hughes and Rob Pickles, both of the Homeless Offenders Team, spent a night of 'rough sleeping' for charity on 19th December. They bedded down for the early part of the night near a

I have noticed a difference in the attitude the clients have towards the work rather than working on static sites. That might have something to do with my own mood also having a variety of work locations.



Pictured above: A flower bed in Swords, before and after.

The one big positive I find is the amount of pedestrians that thank the clients for the clean up work that they do really pays dividend for the clients.

Also clients learn of new areas of the city that they do not realise exist. They have told me that they have brought their children to parks we worked in or walked Sandymount and Dollymount strand which they have never visited before.

The clients also comment on the amount of litter that we pick up which I am sure they will pass on to their own children as a lesson.

So 2018 here we come!

Eamon Keenan
Community Service Supervisor



Pictured above: Sean Moore Park

surprisingly comfortable bronze statue at Temple Bar Square before heading to the pillars of the GPO. They finished by making their way back to base outside Probation Office headquarters at Haymarket, Smithfield before being 'rudely' awoken by Probation staff as they were coming in for work the next morning! All was done in the name of charity and over €600 was raised and kindly received by Brother Kevin at the Capuchin Day Centre. Many Thanks to the very kind generosity of all who donated.



Pictured above: Alan Hughes with a colleague during the sleep out.

Probation Service Strategic Plan 2018– 2020 Submissions Welcome

The Probation Service is developing its strategic plan for the years 2018–2020. As part of this process the Probation Service wants to consult with both internal and external stakeholders, including the general public. The

purpose of the consultation is to provide interested parties, including the general public, an opportunity to comment on the future strategy of the Probation Service and to provide their views on the role and priorities for the Service.

How to Contribute:

Members of the public and interested parties are invited to forward their views by email to a dedicated email address, psinfo@probation.ie. The closing date for submissions is the 16th February 2018.

**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'**

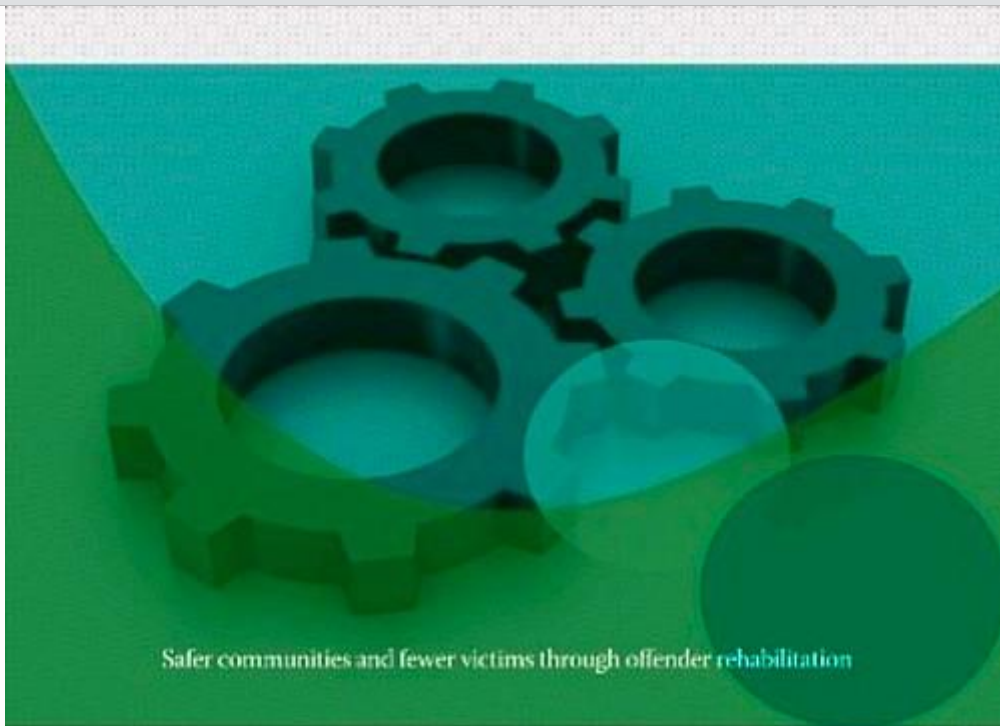
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Safer communities and fewer victims through offender rehabilitation

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