

IN THIS EDITION OF PROBATION WORKS: Probation in Numbers, CEP & Europris Newsletters, Travellers in Prison Initiative Conference, Tivoli Centre Awards Ceremony, Probation Service Recruitment, Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture, World Social Work Conference, Justice Trends Magazine, Galway community Service, Probation Institute Magazine, Family Relations Workshop



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Newsletter of the Probation Service (Ireland)

March 2018



Message from Director

The Irish Probation Service has long recognised the value and appropriateness of social work training and values to probation work. As an organisation, we have reflected this in many practical ways over the years. In recent times, most newly recruited probation officers have professional social work qualifications. Earlier this month, the Public Appointments Service (see below) launched a recruitment campaign for new probation officers to join the Service. For the first time, applicants in this competition will have to be



registered with CORU, the Health and Social Care regulating body for Ireland. It is my intention, and that of our senior management team, that we will move more strongly and clearly in linking our professional practice to social work. As well as long being recognised as an appropriate qualification foundation for probation work, recognising social work as our core professional foundation offers us the opportunity to further develop our organisational professionalism, implementing evidence-informed practice, increasing transparency and accountability, and enabling us to achieve better outcomes for all those we serve.

As well as ensuring our own specific organisation works as effectively as possible, we need to constantly strive to work hard to deliver the best interagency co-operation in criminal justice, in order to achieve shared goals. Reflecting this imperative, the Council of Europe's 2018 *Conference of Directors of Prison Service and Probation Services* in June, in Estonia, will have the issue of probation and prisons organisations working together effectively, to achieve shared goals, as its theme. The conference will consider issues such as developing leadership in our agencies, and explore different models of collaborative working, whether prison and probation services are delivered as part of a single, 'corrections' body, or as separate entities. In Ireland of course, prisons and probation are separate entities – although both are agencies of the Department of Justice and Equality. This is similar to the situation in two thirds of jurisdictions across the Council of Europe Member States. I, with several international colleagues, have reflected on this issue in the current edition of the *Justice Trends* international magazine. It is still my conclusion that while organisational structures may help or hinder multi-disciplinary co-operation, the real ingredients of success in interagency working are more about leadership, positive commitment and trust, all of which we need to recommit to, every day.

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

Vivian Geiran
Director

Twitter: @VGeiran



Probation in Numbers



This month (September 2017) there are:

8,155 Persons under Probation Service Supervision in the community;

1,508 Prisoners receiving probation assistance in custody;

2,143 People on Community Service

1,213 Persons on various types of post-release probation supervision

1,237 Women on probation Supervision in the community, and

220 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/73fKT6>

Confederation of European (CEP) Probation News

The most recent edition of the CEP newsletter (February 2018) has been published and is

The Probation Service is Recruiting



Want to work, as part of a team, in a national agency of the Department of Justice and Equality, in a structured, interagency criminal justice service delivery setting, where you can further develop your social work training and skills and put them to excellent use, working with offenders, motivating and helping them to change, to make communities safer and foster reintegration? The Public Appointments Service advertised, on 23rd March 2018, the launch of a campaign to recruit new probation Officers for the Probation Service. Applicants must be registered as social workers with CORU (the Irish Health and Social Care Professionals regulating body). The closing date for applications is 12th April 2018.

More information is available on the Public Appointments Service (www.publicjobs.ie) webpage:

<https://www.publicjobs.ie/publicjobs/campaignAdvert/75435.htm>

Travellers in Prison Initiative Conference

available at the following link:

<http://createsend.com/t/t-4D65AAB8448908CD>



Finnish and Chinese probation services continue to cooperate to improve community sanctions



Finland and China, two completely different countries, with different cultures and criminal justice systems. Despite all these differences, the cooperation between their probation services goes back 22 years. The Finnish Criminal Sanctions Agency was one of the first European probation organisations that started working together with the Chinese probation service. After all those years, the connection between them is still very strong. The Finnish and Chinese probation services recently started a four year project for the improvement of community sanctions in the countries.

[Read more >>](#)

EuroPris Newsletter

The March 2018 EuroPris newsletter is out now, and available [here](#).



Newsletter
March 2018

EuroPris Interview

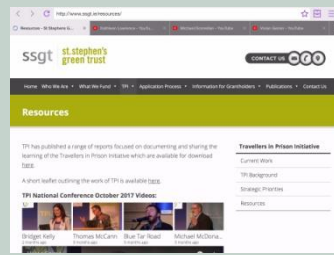
Jörg Jesse, Director General of Prison and Probation Administration of Mecklenburg - Western Pomerania (Germany)

EuroPris: What are the challenges for your service for the coming year?



Jörg Jesse: The closing of a prison and to distribute its staff to prisons they do not want to work in. A closer cooperation with municipalities and districts which are not interested in reintegrating their own citizens. To organise better conditions for children of prisoners and their families. Introducing restorative justice schemes in prison and probation services.

[Read more](#)



ssgt **st stephen's green trust**

Resources

Transition in Prison Initiative

19th National Conference October 2017 Videos

Drigit Kelly, Thomas McCann, Blaise Ross, Michael McDonnell

Presentations from the above conference, held in Dublin Castle on 20th October 2017, have been published on the St. Stephen's Green Trust (SSGT) website (www.ssgt.ie). The conference focused on documenting and sharing the learning from the Travellers in Prison Initiative. Speakers included various representatives from Traveller organisations and initiatives, and personal testimonies, as well as Minister of State, David Stanton TD, Probation Service Director, Vivian Geiran, and Irish Prison Service Director General, Michael Donnellan. Recordings of the conference presentations, as well as the closing music session, are available on the SSGT website:

<http://www.ssgt.ie/resources/>

Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture

"A more humane approach to addressing the harm of criminal behaviour starts with victims"



Home About Us Latest News Membership Publications Working Groups Research

Home » 11th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture

11th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture

ACJRD is pleased to announce that **Tim Chapman** will present the 11th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture, which will be held on **Tuesday, 17th April, 2018**, in the Juror Reception Area of the Criminal Courts of Justice. The ACJRD 20th Annual Conference Report "The Brexit Impact on Criminal Justice Cooperation in Ireland" will also be launched at this event.

Tim Chapman is the current Chair of the Board of the European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ) and a leading international expert on restorative justice issues. The EFRJ, established in 1998, is the leading organisation promoting the development of effective RJ policies, services and legislation in Europe. It aims to help establish and develop victim offender mediation and other restorative justice practices in the belief that every person in Europe should have the right of access to restorative justice services.

The 11th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture will be hosted by the ACJRD on Tuesday **17th April**. The lecture, which will be delivered by **Tim Chapman**, will be held in the Juror Reception Area of 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*, will also take place at this event. Registration is from 5:30pm, and the event will begin at 6:00pm.

Tim Chapman spent over 25 years working in the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI), playing an active part in developing "evidence-based practice" both with adults and young people. He is the current Chair of the Board of the European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ) and a leading international expert on restorative justice issues.

More information and booking details for this free event, are

Tivoli Centre Awards Ceremony



Pictured above: Vivian Geiran, Probation Director; Richard Phillips, Tivoli Training Centre Manager; Jared Huet, Tivoli Board Chair; Ursula Fumee, Probation Regional Manager

There was a great buzz in Tivoli Training Centre on Friday afternoon, 23rd February, as the canteen filled up with clients and well-wishers for an afternoon set aside to recognise the variety of achievements by Tivoli clients over the last year.

The afternoon started with the planting of a Tree of Hope as a symbol for all affected by suicide or living with mental health issues to let them know we support them and to create a reflective space to remember those we have lost. Friends and family of a former client, who died to suicide last year, read out a reflection and released balloons as the tree was planted, creating a beautiful contemplative moment.

This was followed up with the awards, and Tivoli are very grateful to Vivian Geiran, Probation Service, and Achmat Isaacs from the Health Service Executive (HSE) who graciously agreed to hand out the certificates. The clients appreciated the additional recognition that comes when an outside authority hands them a certificate and shakes their hand. We are also grateful to the many representatives from Probation, both the local offices and from Haymarket HQ, from the Education and Training Board, the HSE as well as local agencies we work alongside, who all came to support our clients.

It was a particular pleasure to acknowledge the achievement of 8 clients who have managed to achieve the full Major Award in General Learning at QQI level 4. This is a significant achievement and we are very proud of them. Most were unable to be present to collect their awards as they have since finished with the centre and in most cases are now working full-time.

available at the ACJRD

website: <https://www.acjrd.ie/contents/367>

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 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 (‘early bird’ rate available until 6th April), follow the Conference on Twitter: @SWSD2018 or visit the Conference website at: www.swsd2018.org.

Second Edition of *Justice Trends*(international) Magazine Published



The second edition of *Justice Trends* magazine, which was published recently, includes an interview with Vivian Geiran,

The afternoon concluded with tea, coffee, finger food and cakes, courtesy of Paul's hard work in the kitchen as well as the generosity of well-wishers! The centre was open for visitors to look around, although most stayed in the canteen, chatted and congratulated the clients on their awards.

*Richard Phillips
Tivoli Centre Manager*



Pictured above: Aisling Somers and Mick Crimmins, Tivoli Adult workers at the newly planted Tree of Hope

Galway City Council Community Service



The Probation Service in Galway have partnered with Galway City Council for over 10 years in carrying out various Community Service Projects. This has been made possible through the provision of a Probation Service mini bus which

Director, on his work with the Council of Europe's Working Group on Penological Co-operation, the PC-CP. In addition to a range of interesting articles by colleagues around the world, the international, and bilingual (English and Spanish) magazine also includes another short piece by Vivian, on his views on probation-prisons interagency work.

Justice Trends is available at the following link:
<http://www.prisonssystems.eu/justice-trends-magazine-second-issue-released/>



EuroPris Workshop on Family Relations

EuroPris will hold a workshop on prisoners' family relations, on 11-12 April 2018, in Vienna, Austria. The workshop, which will be hosted by the Federal Ministry for Constitution, Reform, Regulation and Justice, will offer participants an opportunity to share good practice, and consider some recent developments in relation to children of prisoners and related issues. These will include 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, will introduce the Council of Europe draft Recommendation document, and present 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/>

allows the Community Service Supervisor and the work party to respond to various requests from the City Council across the city as particular projects or works come on stream. This partnership approach works well as the City Council provide the necessary equipment required to undertake a particular project. An example of one such project that has recently commenced is the cleaning up of waterways in the City Centre. The City Council have provided the Waders, Life Jackets and relevant Health & Safety Instruction and the Community Service clients under the supervision and guidance of the Community Service Supervisor are undertaking the clean up.

The Trial Art Installation



The Trial is a compelling visual art installation on healthcare and human rights in the Irish criminal justice system. On multiple screens, three characters – Tommy, Charlie, Neili – tell the real life stories of those who have been held and worked in Irish penal institutions during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The Trial is exhibited in the resonant space that is Kilmainham Gaol Courthouse. Directed and produced by Visual Artist Sinead McCann, The Trial is a collaborative artwork with men from the Bridge Project, Dublin, who have lived prison experiences, and research by UCD historians, Catherine Cox and Fiachra Byrne.

DATE AND TIME

Fri, 13 Apr 2018, 09:30 –
Thu, 26 Apr 2018, 17:30

LOCATION

The Old Courthouse, Kilmainham Gaol
Inchicore Road
D08 RK28 Kilmainham



Probation Institute Magazine Published



The seventh edition of the Probation Institute magazine – *Probation Quarterly* – was published earlier this month.

Probation Quarterly is available at the following link:

<http://probation-institute.org/magazine/>

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'

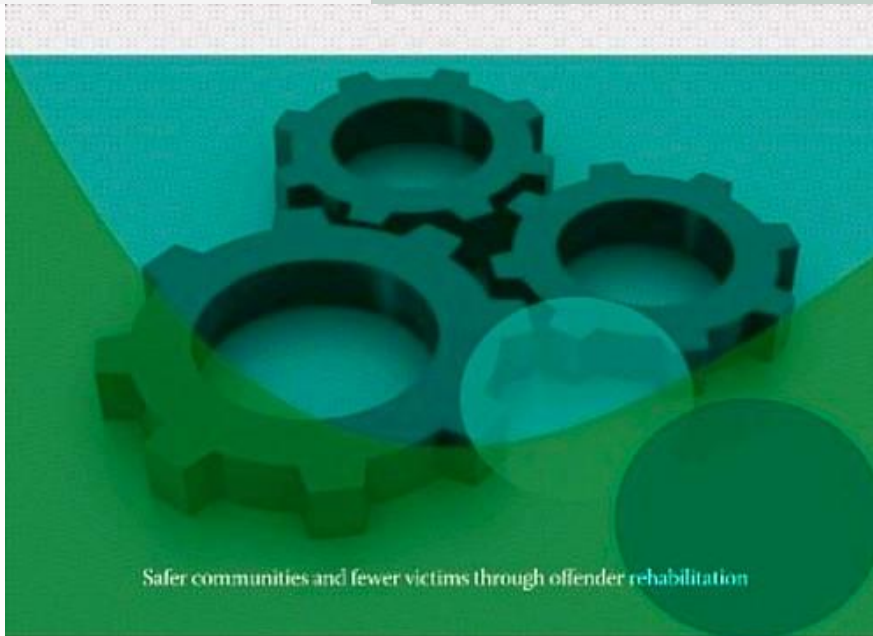
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Safer communities and fewer victims through offender rehabilitation

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