



## Message from Director

The most recent edition of the *European Journal of Probation* (see item below) contains an article co-authored by a criminology researcher (who is also a former service user) and an academic. The resulting piece, by Wayne Hart and Dr. Deirdre Healy, both of University College Dublin, really packs a punch, in terms of the nature and description of the personal journey it relates, as well as the academic analysis of that process. The article, in addition to setting out a description of Wayne's personal journey through trauma, crime, and addiction, and through imprisonment and probation supervision, to desistance from crime, provides an academic analysis of that individual journey, relative to the theoretical and research literature on desistance. In the process, the piece provides an insight, among others, into the positive impact that an effective probation officer-client relationship, with the right interventions at the right time, can have on the life direction and decisions of someone under probation supervision. I found the article hugely energising, as I am sure colleagues will too. It also provides much food for thought, from an organisational development perspective, for the Probation Service and the wider Justice system.



The World Conference on Social Work and Social Development was held in Dublin earlier this month. The Probation Service was proud to be one of the three main sponsorship partners of the event, which attracted over two thousand delegates, from all five continents, to Ireland. As well as presenting and chairing sessions, a number of our probation officers attended the Conference as delegates. A roster of other colleagues operated the Probation Service's information stand in the Conference exhibition hall, providing valuable information on the work of the Service to the numerous callers to the stand – those seeking general information, or wanting to make contact for specific reasons, for example for research purposes. The Probation Service's contribution to the World Conference, on all levels, reflects our deep commitment to the social work profession as the foundation of probation work in this jurisdiction. This has been manifested most recently through the requirement, from earlier this year, for new Probation Officer entrants to the Service to be registered professional social workers. This will help us to maintain and indeed continue to develop our standards of professionalism in the services we deliver in communities and custodial institutions across the country, into the future.

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

Vivian Geiran

**Director**

Twitter:



## Probation in Numbers



This month (July 2018) there are:

**8,435** Persons under Probation Service

Supervision in the community;

**1,528** Prisoners receiving probation assistance in custody;

**2,170** People on Community Service

**1,277** Persons on various types of post-release probation supervision

**1,407** Women on probation Supervision in the community, and

**222** Persons under eighteen years of age under probation supervision in the community

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

[Click Here](#)

## Council of Europe – Probation and Prison Directors – Conference



The 23<sup>rd</sup> Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services (CDPPS) was held last month (19–20<sup>th</sup> June 2018), in Jõhvi, Estonia. The Conference had, 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, presented at a workshop on the model of service delivery through separate prison and probation organisations. Gerry McNally, Assistant Director, contributed to the Conference in his capacity as President of the Confederation of European Probation (CEP), on the subject of services' capacities and workloads. Paul Doran, Probation Board for Northern Ireland, presented on leadership and management of services.

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

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

Probation Service: Monthly Offender Population Report

Caseload	Community Regions (Point in Time July 1 2018)*				In Custody	Total (Persons)
	Eastern	Midlands and South East	South West	West and North West		
<b>Total</b>	3,963	1,824	1,600	1,448	1,528	9,963
<b>Of Whom:</b>						
Female	491	280	332	218	88	1,407
Male	3,072	1,544	1,268	1,232	1,440	8,556
<b>Under 18</b>	126	40	27	29	0	222
<b>18 and over</b>	3,437	1,784	1,573	1,419	1,528	9,741
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>Total Caseload, in community:</b> 8,435 <b>Total Caseload, in custody:</b> 1,528 <b>Grand Total, national Probation Service caseload:</b> 9,963					
The following are the major community supervision categories.						
<b>Probation Type Supervision**:</b>						3,143
<b>Community Service:</b>						2,170
<b>Supervision in the Community Post Release from Custody***:</b>						1,277
<b>Community Return****:</b>						71
<b>Life sentence prisoners on supervision in the community****:</b>						90
<b>Sex offenders on supervision post release from custody****:</b>						187

\*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 Suspendable Sentence Supervision Orders, and Supervision During Deferment of Penalty.

\*\*\* Supervision in the community post release from custody includes Part Suspendable 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.

## Council of Europe - Recommendation on Restorative Justice

## Minister Launches Annual Reports and Strategies



On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June, Minister for Justice and Equality, Charles Flanagan TD, launched the Probation Service's Annual Report for 2017, and our new Strategic plan for 2018 to 2020, entitled: *One Vision, One Team, One Standard*. The Minister also launched the Irish Prison Service Annual Report 2017, and the Probation-Prisons Joint Strategy for 2018 to 2020. Launching the various documents, Minister Flanagan praised the high level of Probation-Prisons interagency co-operation, thanked staff for their work, welcomed the improved outcomes arising from such co-operative working, and urged further similar developments in the future. Our Annual Report 2017, our Strategic Plan for 2018-2020 (*One Team, One Vision, One Standard*), and the joint Prisons-Probation Strategy, are all available on our website and portal.

Extern Derry Project – 'Positive Learning'



The European Committee on Crime Problems (the CDPC), at its most recent Plenary Meeting, in Strasbourg, last month, approved the text of a Recommendation on the use of Restorative Justice in Criminal Matters. The Recommendation, which will set the standards for Restorative Justice in criminal justice for the future, including in probation work, was developed over the past year by the Working Group on Penological Co-operation (the PC-CP) of the Council of Europe, with Dr. Ian Marder of Maynooth University engaged as the external expert/consultant on the project. The finalised text, incorporating amendments made at the Plenary meeting, will now be considered by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, for final sign-off, and publication.

The final draft of the Recommendation on Restorative Justice in Criminal Matters (the version considered by the CDPC last month) is available at the following link: <https://rm.coe.int/pc-cp-2017-6-e-rev-8-recommendation-cm-rec-2018-xx-concerning-restorat/16807bcfb0>

## World Social Work Conference (SWSD18) 2018 in Dublin

The Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development, took place in the RDS, Dublin, on 4-7<sup>th</sup> July 2018. The Conference theme was – 'Environmental and Community Sustainability: Human Solutions in Evolving Societies.' The event, which was opened by Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, was partnered by the Probation Service (as a 'Silver Sponsor') and attracted over 2,000 delegates from all over the world. Probation Service Director, Vivian Geiran, delivered a paper at the conference, on *Implementing Evidence-Informed Practice in Probation*.



Pictured above: Ronnie Armour, Director, Northern Ireland Prison Service; Gina McIntyre, CEO, Special EU Programmes Body; Charlie Mack, CEO, Extern Group; Cheryl Lamont, CEO, Probation Board for Northern Ireland, and Vivian Geiran. This is a text block..

The recently established cross border Extern 'Positive Learning' project was officially launched with an atmosphere of excitement in its Derry city premises in Springfield Industrial estate on 1<sup>st</sup> June .

This event was attended by approx. 60 people , including representatives from all of the partner agencies , including PBNI , Probation Service Ireland , Northern Ireland Prison Service and TIDES training & consultancy in addition to members of the Special EU programmes Body ( SEUPB) The initiative has been awarded 1.88 million euro of EU funding under the Peace 1V programme and is managed by SEUPB (The Special EU Programmes Body).

Positive Learning aims to engage with 630 individuals over a 3 year period in the Derry/Donagall cross border area, whom are considered to be the most socially excluded in society, specifically this will include prisoners, ex- offenders, probation clients, homeless persons and refugees.

Adults from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds will be brought together with a view to improving relations and exploring community, identity and diversity issues. Whilst vocational skills development opportunities aim to support participants to reintegrate into their respective communities and gain employment by offering accredited courses in electrical installation, carpentry, ICT, catering, manual handling and horticulture over the 26 week programme.

All attendees at the launch were presented with a seedling plant grown on site to signify the potential and positive futures which it is hoped participants will develop through the project.



## ACJRD Annual ICJA Conference



The Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD) 2018 Annual Conference will be held on **Friday, 5th October, 2018 at the Hilton Hotel, Kilmainham, Dublin.**

The Conference title is *Unlocking the Power of Data for Criminal Justice Research, Policy-Making and Practice.*

The Conference will feature Irish and international speakers on measuring effectiveness, use of data and research in criminal justice policy and practice, and human rights issues, among other plenary presentations. In addition, there will be a series of workshops for thematic discussion and dialogue.

More information, registration details and the full 2018 Annual Conference programme will be available shortly on the ACJRD website at [www.acjrd.ie](http://www.acjrd.ie). Put the date in your diary and register as early as possible as the ACJRD Annual Conference is often booked out early!

All papers and workshop presentations from previous ACJRD Annual Conferences are available on the ACJRD website at <https://www.acjrd.ie/publications>



## The CEP Awards are coming!

The **Confederation of European Probation (CEP) Awards** are an important opportunity to celebrate outstanding contributions to probation in Europe. This is your chance to make sure that the best initiatives in probation work in Europe are recognised, showcased and rewarded!

The **Confederation of European Probation (CEP) Awards** are established to:

- Celebrate and recognise outstanding achievement in a range of probation settings
- Promote professionalism and excellence
- Foster good practice through dissemination of information about award winners
- Improve awareness of probation and stimulate publicity
- Encourage leadership and partnership
- Promote research and the sharing of professional knowledge
- Promote CEP values, and a commitment to diversity and human rights

The next **Confederation of European Probation (CEP) Awards** will be presented during the General Assembly in 2019 in Dublin! In 2019, we will have a new category, **Innovation in probation**, to recognise and showcase the best innovations in probation in Europe. In 2016, projects and initiatives from Ireland and Northern Ireland achieved runners up awards in the first ever **Confederation of European Probation (CEP) Awards** in Bucharest.

Nominations will open soon, so you should now begin thinking about, preparing for and nominating your favourite project or initiative in the categories below:

1. **Rehabilitation in the community** – an award for work that is effective in rehabilitating probation clients and reducing reoffending.
2. **Social inclusion** – an award for work that has made a significant contribution to integrating probation clients into the community.
3. **Public protection** – an award for making a significant contribution to reducing risk of harm to potential victims.
4. **Research** – an award for research published in the last 5 years which has had a major impact on probation practice.

## Research Strategies Launched

A new Research and Data Strategy for the Justice Sector will be published by the Department of Justice and Equality on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> July. The Strategy will promote and facilitate better collaboration and information sharing between the Department of Justice and Equality, its agencies and stakeholders that will result in more effective and beneficial development of data, information, and research. It will also support and provide a structure for the criminal justice sector's engagement with the wider criminology and research community.

One of the first steps in the implementation of the Research and Data Strategy for the Justice Sector has been the appointment of Gurchand Singh as the new Chief Information Officer in the Department of Justice and Equality. He will take up this appointment at the beginning of September.

The Department of Justice and Equality Research and Data Strategy for the Justice Sector is available on the Department of Justice and Equality [website](#).



The Probation Service launched the Service Research Strategy and Action Plan 2018–19 this month in Haymarket. In launching the Research Strategy and Action Plan, the Director, Vivian Geiran, highlighted how it reflects the Probation Service commitment to be a learning organisation. He also said that The Research Strategy and Action Plan will make a valuable contribution in helping our Probation Service work better, enhance our engagement with the research community and contribute to the criminal justice knowledge base to inform policy and practice development.

The Probation Service Research Strategy and Action

5. **Innovation in probation** – an award for the most promising innovative probation practices.

Check the **Confederation of European Probation (CEP)** website ([www.cep-probation.org](http://www.cep-probation.org)) and social media channels on **Twitter, Facebook, Instagram** and **LinkedIn** regularly for the latest updates about the CEP Awards 2019!

## Social Enterprise – Kickstart Fund



Pictured above: Probation Service Director Vivian Geiran at the launch of the Kickstart Initiative on July 2nd.

As part of the Department of Justice and Equality's Social Enterprise Strategy, *'A New Way Forward'* The Probation Service, in collaboration with the Irish Prison Service, submitted a proposal to access funding through the Dormant Accounts Disbursement Scheme 2017-2019 in order to support the development of social enterprises operating within the criminal justice sector.

The proposal sought the allocation of specific funding in order to operate a Seed Capital Fund to support new or existing social enterprises operating within the criminal justice sector. The 'Kickstart' Seed Fund programme will provide matching grants of up to €30,000 to organisations providing employment to former offenders and persons leaving prison. A total of €300,000 has been approved for the programme.

Plan 2018-19 is available on the Probation Service website at [www.probation.ie](http://www.probation.ie)

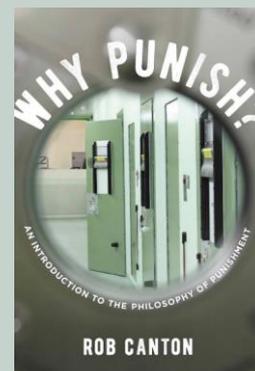
## Oireachtas Report on Penal Policy Launched



The Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice and Equality published its Report on Penal Reform and Sentencing, on 10th May 2018. The Report considers and make recommendations on various aspects of sentencing, diversion, and community sanctions and measures, including probation and community service, as well as imprisonment, and related matters.

The Report is available [here](#).

## Bill McWilliams Memorial Lecture 2018



A key feature of the new initiative is that it will allow applications that represent a number of Social Enterprises working in collaboration.

It is intended that the scheme will enable successful projects to create commercially sustainable employment linked to a social benefit, using the social enterprise model of job delivery.

The new initiative was welcomed, by both the Minister of Justice and Equality, Mr Charles Flanagan T.D., and the Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development Seán Kyne, T.D.

Further details and applications forms are available on the Probation Service and Irish Prison Service websites:

<http://www.probation.ie/>

<https://www.irishprisons.ie/>

**The deadline for submitting applications for funding from Kickstart has been extended to 31st August.**

## European Journal of Probation

The most recent edition of the *European Journal of Probation*, among a variety of very interesting and useful items, includes an article from Ireland, co-authored by Wayne Hart and Dr. Deirdre Healy: “‘An inside job’: An autobiographical account of desistance.” In it, Wayne Hart describes his personal journey through early adverse life experiences in Dublin, addiction and crime, prison and probation, to a crime-free life and employment as a drugs project worker, and most recently to being a student and researcher at University College, Dublin. In the article, Wayne’s individual story is “accompanied by a reflective academic commentary that situates these personal life experiences within the wider desistance literature.” Crucially, the article “offers a critical appraisal of existing knowledge viewed through the lens of one person’s journey towards desistance.”

The article is available online, at: <http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/ejpa/0/0>

Prof. Rob Canton, of de Montfort University, delivered the 21st Bill McWilliams Memorial Lecture, at the Institute of Criminology, Cambridge University, England, last month (26th June 2018). The content of Rob’s thoughtful, and thought-provoking, lecture was based on some of the central themes of his most recent book: *Why Punish? An Introduction to the Philosophy of Punishment*.

A video recording of the Lecture is available at this (Confederation of European Probation [CEP]) link:

<https://www.cep-probation.org/prof-rob-canton-delivers-the-21st-bill-mcwilliams-memorial-lecture/>

## Summer School 2018

The Criminal Justice Platform Europe (CJPE) organised the 2nd International Criminal Justice Summer School on Radicalisation & Violent Extremist Offenders (Barcelona 3–6 July 2018).

The Summer School is a combination of workshops, plenary sessions and field visits bringing together participants with a background in prison, probation and restorative justice from European countries.

The Criminal Justice Platform Europe (CJPE) comprises the Confederation of European Probation (CEP), European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ) and Europris, the European Prisons Network. Each organisation member of CJPE addressed the topic of Radicalisation & Violent Extremist Offenders from their own but complementary angle in one of the three parallel workshop sessions.

Copy and follow the links below to download the reports of the three parallel workshops:

Workshop Report: Characteristics of a VEO  
[http://www.euforumrj.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Workshop-Report\\_Characteristics-of-VEO.pdf](http://www.euforumrj.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Workshop-Report_Characteristics-of-VEO.pdf)

## 'An inside job': An autobiographical account of desistance

**Wayne Hart**

University College Dublin, Ireland

**Deirdre Healy**

University College Dublin, Ireland

### Abstract

Various theories have been put forward to explain the processes underpinning desistance from crime. To provide additional insights into this phenomenon, this article presents an autobiographical account of one man's journey towards a crime-free life. The narrative reveals a change process that is at once personal and universal, and describes the external forces that shaped his pathway to desistance as well as his experiences of personal fortitude and agency. In addition, it highlights the role of probation supervision as a catalyst for change. The autobiographical account is accompanied by a reflective academic commentary that situates these personal life experiences within the wider desistance literature. While the reader may view the autobiographical tone of this article as subjective, it should be noted that the account is not simply a re-telling of an individual life story but offers a critical appraisal of existing knowledge viewed through the lens of one person's journey towards desistance.

### Keywords

autobiography, desistance, persistence, age-graded theory of informal social control, cognitive transformation, Ireland

### Introduction

This article presents an autobiographical account of the lead author's journey into and out of crime, which highlights in particular the roles played by structure, agency and probation supervision in the transition from 'offender' to 'law-abiding citizen.' As an

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Workshop Report: Exploring 'Alternatives to Detention'

[http://www.euforumrj.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Workshop-Report\\_Exploring-alternatives-to-detention.pdf](http://www.euforumrj.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Workshop-Report_Exploring-alternatives-to-detention.pdf)

Workshop Report: Reimagining Violent Extremism Restoratively

[http://www.euforumrj.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Workshop-Report\\_Reimagining-violent-extremism-restoratively.pdf](http://www.euforumrj.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Workshop-Report_Reimagining-violent-extremism-restoratively.pdf)



## The Probation Service - Probation Board for Northern Ireland Joint Management Meeting



Pictured: The PS-PBNI Joint Management Meeting, in Belfast, recently.

## Parole Board Conference



A very successful and well-attended Parole Board Conference led by John Costello, Chair of the Parole board, and supported by the Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD) was held at the Law Society of Ireland on **Thursday, 10th May, 2018.**

The Conference was Chaired by Mr. Justice Garrett Sheehan, and featured presentations by Michael Lynn S.C. on the national and international legal context in managing parole processes, [Martin Jones](#), CEO of the Parole Board for England and

Members of the Probation Service Executive Leadership Team were hosted by their Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI) counterparts, in Belfast, at the end of last month (June) for this year's North-South Joint Probation Management Meeting. The annual meeting always provides a valuable opportunity to share and plan co-operation and development in practice and information sharing, for example, as well as work on new or ongoing joint projects.

## Social Enterprise and Employment for People with Criminal Convictions

TheJournal.ie published an opinion piece by Probation Service Director, Vivian Geiran, and Irish Prison Service Director General, on the subject of using social enterprise to increase employment opportunities for ex-offenders, today (30th July 2018). The article, which also draws attention to the 'Kickstart' social enterprise seed-funding programme, is available at the following link:

<http://www.thejournal.ie/readme/we-need-to-use-every-avenue-possible-to-help-ex-offenders-find-gainful-employment-4135837-Jul2018/>



thejournal.ie

10 of 32 Next: Man to stand trial in UK accused of causing death of Irishman by dangerous driving

### 'We need to use every avenue possible to help ex-offenders find gainful employment'

Those seeking to begin a new life after a criminal conviction regularly discover that the obstacles to entering the labour market are simply too great to overcome, writes Vivian Geiran and Michael Donnellan.

Image: Shutterstock/MikeDotta

Today 7:00 a.m. 3,904 Views 9 Comments

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PEOPLE WITH CRIMINAL convictions regularly find it difficult, often impossible, to get a job. And yet having a job can be a key factor in helping someone to stay away from further offending.

## J-ARC Seminar

Wales on the England and Wales parole system while [Dr Laura Janes](#), Legal Director of The Howard League outlined some of the critical issues facing England and Wales system.

In addition, there were presentations by [Shane McCarthy](#), The Parole Board, [Paul Mageean](#), Commissioner, Parole Commissioners for N.I, and [Barry Donoghue](#), Deputy Director, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions on how parole works on the island of Ireland.

All the papers and workshop presentations from the Parole Board Conferences are available on the ACJRD website at <https://www.acjrd.ie/contents/372>

## Confederation of European Probation Newsletter

The latest **Confederation of European Probation (CEP) Newsletter** is a special issue on radicalisation and violent extremism in probation practice in Europe. It can be accessed and read at <http://createsend.com/t/t-1EEAD2D211A79F45>

This special issue features contributions from practitioners and experts in Romania, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, France, Italy and Sweden on topics including the impact of probation work, resocialisation of violent extremists, deradicalisation programmes, treatment initiatives and policy challenges in European criminal justice systems.

The Confederation of European Probation (CEP) Newsletter is an excellent way to keep abreast of what new and significant in developments in probation and community supervision policy and practice across Europe. You can subscribe at <https://www.cep-probation.org/news/subscribe-to-cep-newsletter/> to receive the CEP Newsletter directly to your e mail.

Do visit the CEP website at [www.cep-probation.org](http://www.cep-probation.org) for probation and community supervision resources, conference and events news and updates and for links and information on probation colleagues across Europe.

The Probation Service Headquarters in Smithfield hosted a seminar on 28th June for the “Acer 3” initiatives under the J-arc (Joint-Agency Response to Crime) programme. Acer 3 is a multi-agency approach which manages identified persons involved in burglary or burglary related offences. The Director, Vivian Geiran welcomed the Minister of State, David Stanton to launch the seminar. Minister Stanton acknowledged the success and commitment shown by all involved in the programme and commended the important work being done to reduce offending.

The focus of the seminar was on best practice and the South Dublin multi-agency team presented on the revised Standard Operational Procedures (SOP), illustrated with practical examples and shared experiences. Probation Officer Anita Charles, PS, Sarah Jane Craddock (Irish Prison Service), Edward Walsh and Barry Adams (An Garda Síochána) gave a comprehensive and practical outline of their approach using the revised SOP to illustrate best practice in action.

Electronic monitoring and Data sharing were other topics covered on the day, by speakers Andy Brennan (Prisons), Rose Sweeney (Garda) and Derek Coffey, Programme Director, Criminal Justice Hub, Department of Justice.

Approximately 50 people attended, with representatives from Dundalk, Waterford, Limerick, the Dept. of Justice & Equality, the Garda Síochána Analysis Service and the J-arc National Co-ordination Team. The event facilitated lively discussion and sharing of experiences from all agencies involved in the Joint Agency Response to Crime initiative.



Minister of State for DOJE, David Stanton, addressing J-ARC seminar.

## Yellow Ribbon Run

## 3rd Edition of Justice Trends Magazine

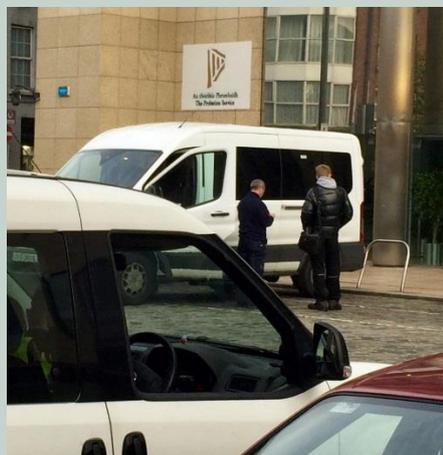


The third edition of Justice Trends magazine was published in June.

It features exclusive interviews with Ministers of Justice and Director Generals of Prison and Probation Administrations from around the world, as well as articles by renowned experts in the field and a groundbreaking experts panel on Electronic Monitoring.

Please find latest issue available [here](#).

## Community Service Buses



Pictured: Community Service Buses in Action.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of June probation officers from the homeless offenders team Laura Burke and Tracey Carroll participated in the Yellow Ribbon Run relay in Prague.

The Yellow Ribbon Run is an outstanding project, which gives a second chance to people with a criminal past and helps break down prejudice. It also popularises, through running, the topic of employment of former prisoners.

The concept originated in Singapore and was brought to the Czech Republic in 2016. The Yellow Ribbon on runners clothing serves as a symbol of return of former offenders, including prisoners, into society. It is a symbol of hope that is based on Tony Orlando's song 'Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Old Oak Tree'.

The motto of the Yellow Ribbon Run is 'RUN AWAY FROM PREJUDICE'. Prejudice harms reintegration of offenders back into society. Prisoners who leave prison, for example, have difficulties finding employment, which for many is a prerequisite to live a fully fledged, non criminal life. In the Czech Republic a number of private businesses are involved in the organisation of the run.

The relay is one of three Yellow Ribbon events, with a marathon and half marathon also taking place on different dates. The success of the run is evident with 450 runners taking part in the events, including 25 prisoners and 18 former prisoners. Staff from the Czech Prisons, Probation and Mediation service and the Rubikon Centrum Project also took part.

Overall the event was a very enjoyable and inclusive occasion which brought a lot of awareness to the difficulties endured by former offenders attempting to reintegrate into society.



"Team Ireland" consisted of Laura Burke, Tracey Carroll, Michael O'Brien with Jiri Kawan (kindly joining the team from the Czech Department of Justice). Michael O'Brien was one of the fastest runners in the relay finishing in a time of 0:17:23. Laura and Tracey will not be publishing their times!

Community Service Supervisor Martin Connaughton took the time to provide us with his experience of how Community Service Buses have improved and expanded the reach of community service in Galway City and County:

"The Community Service bus has been a great, or should I say vital addition to the service in Galway over the past ten years and with the arrival of the new bus last year it has allowed us to expand both the work we do and also increase the profile of community service.

It has allowed us to take on Community Service work all over Galway that we could not have done previously. We have been able to take on many different projects for different host organisations, from one off jobs, such as clearance of derelict sites, to the continued maintenance of many different parks and walkways in the city. We regularly link in with the County Council Wardens and do work along the shoreline and recreational areas.

One of the biggest advantages of being mobile with the extra advantage of being able to tow a trailer is we can transport our clients, who often have very limited access to public transport, our tools and equipment and remove any waste and rubbish as the work is being completed.

The Service has been able to link in with other organisations and we have already worked with the WERLA (Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities) initiative and are in a position to continue to do so into the future."

**Martin Connaughton, Community Service Supervisor**

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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





*Safer communities and fewer victims through offender rehabilitation*

