



acjrd

ACJRD

ANNUAL REPORT

2014

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Executive Summary

The Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD) Ltd has hosted a wide array of events, seminars and publication launches during 2014. These included our 17th Annual Conference entitled “Youth Justice Transformation”, and the Inaugural Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference entitled “Penal Policy Reform” which was a collaboration of the ACJRD, The Department of Justice, The Irish Prison Service and the Probation Service. The ACJRD also held Working Groups seminars and events at which attendees had the opportunity to contribute their opinions and share perspectives.

Research has continued to be a focus of the ACJRD activities with several projects underway during 2014.

Throughout the year the Association has contributed to Government consultations as appropriate and continues to maintain memberships and relationships with other not-for-profit organisations which share common ground with the objectives of the ACJRD.

This report provides a summary of the events and activities for 2014 under the following headings: Research, Events, Membership, Working Groups, Newsletter, Commitment to Achieve Change, Governance and Association’s Memberships.

1. ACJRD Research

The ACJRD Research-Sub-Committee oversaw the following projects during 2014:

'Best Practice, Current Difficulties, Future Needs', 'Tracking the needs and service provision for women ex-prisoners'

The Association believes that quality research findings are essential to a more effective and responsive criminal justice system. To assist future research efforts, the Association wishes to explore how collaboration between criminal justice policy makers, practitioners and researchers might be further enhanced to their mutual benefit. To this end a study has been commissioned to consider what works best in conducting criminal justice research projects, what difficulties arise in terms of data, access, etc., and what actions might be taken to support efficient and effective research projects into the future. The study will involve compilation of the views of policy makers, practitioners and researchers who have recent experience of criminal justice research projects.

This study has been funded by a grant from The Children's Act Advisory Board.

DCU Community Knowledge Exchange

This programme matches student researchers with community organisations in order to facilitate projects of mutual benefit. The ACJRD has begun discussions with DCU staff regarding potential research projects.

2. ACJRD Events 2014

Below is a summary of ACJRD events during 2014. Please note the following outputs do not include the ACJRD Working Groups outputs which are profiled separately on page five.

2013 Conference Report Launch, 26th February 2014

Nora Owen, former Minister for Justice, launched the report from our 16th Annual Conference entitled "*Preventable Harm: Criminal Justice Communities & Civil Society*" on 26th February, 2014, at the Atrium of the Department of Justice, St Stephen's Green.

7th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture, 29th April 2014

The 7th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture, entitled "*Integrated Offender Management: pooling resources and expertise and creating effective working partnerships*" was delivered on 29th April, 2014, by Professor Paul Senior, Director of the Hallam Centre for Community Justice at Sheffield Hallam University at the Criminal Courts of Justice, Parkgate Street.

ACJRD 17th Annual Conference "Youth Justice Transformation" 17th October 2014

The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr. James Reilly T.D. launched this one day conference which saw international and national experts address "Youth Justice Transformation" in a number of plenary and workshop sessions.

Throughout the conference, delegates were encouraged to share information, present their own perspectives and network with colleagues who engage in similar and related areas of work. The Chatham House Rule was invoked for this event.

Conference Plenary Presentations were delivered by: Peter Taylor, Community & Learning Development Managers Scotland; Peter Mullan, Office of the DPP; Dr Elaine Arnall, Buckinghamshire New University; Patricia Muldoon, Youth Justice Agency of Northern Ireland with D.I Mark Dennison, PSNI; Dr Máiréad Seymour, D.I.T and Ursula Fernee, The Probation Service.

The conference programme also featured a number of workshops. Presentations were delivered by: Sarah Jane Judge BL, University College Cork; Eimear Ryan with Dr Margaret McGovern, Assessment Consultation and Therapy Service (ACTS); Superintendent Colette Quinn, An Garda Síochána; Etain Quigley, Sutherland School of Law, UCD; Elaine Slattery, Céim ar Chéim with John Brosnahan, Limerick Young Person's Probation; Tony O'Donovan, IYJS with Pat Bergin, Oberstown; Anne Conroy, Le Chéile Mentoring and Youth Justice Support Services; and Ciara O'Driscoll, Collinstown Community College.

Inaugural Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference "Penal Policy Reform" 20th September 2014

The Department of Justice and Equality, the Irish Prison Service, the Probation Service and the Association for Criminal Justice Research & Development held the Inaugural Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference in Wheatfield Place of Detention, Dublin. The 2014 conference theme was *Penal Policy Reform*.

Conference speakers included: Minister for Justice and Equality, Ms. Frances Fitzgerald T.D.; Michael Donnellan, IPS; Tom O'Connor, Ph.D., Transforming Corrections and Western Oregon University; Deirdre Malone, Irish Penal Reform Trust; Maeve Lewis, One in Four; and Vivian Geiran, Probation Service

The Conference also featured a number of workshops. Presentations were delivered by: Tim Linehan, Central Statistics Office; Aidan Gormley, The Probation Service and Ciaron McAuley, Irish Prison Service; The Irish Red Cross - Community Based Health and First Aid in Prisons Programme; Andy Brennan, Irish Prison Service & Claire Brennan, Probation Service; Paddy Richardson, Irish Association for the Social Integration of Offenders; Tom O'Connor, Ph.D., Transforming Corrections and Western Oregon University; and Maeve Lewis, One in Four

3. Membership

Three categories of ACJRD membership are on offer; student €25.00, individual €35.00 and organisational membership €155.00. Organisational membership is based on a flat rate: this includes all members of that organisation, with up to five members able to attend any one ACJRD event.

Benefits to ACJRD members include; special rates on ACJRD conferences, seminars and other public events, publications on research and conference/seminar proceedings, priority bookings

at all ACJRD events, circulation of the newsletter, the option to become involved in the ACJRD working groups and access to a range of peer networks.

Membership rates for 2014 are down 10% on 2013 levels. This is equivalent to the rate of membership in 2012. In total there are 47 individual and student members and 20 Organisational members.

4. ACJRD Working Groups

The ACJRD has established working groups through which members can input into the activities of the association. Current groups include Addiction, Education, Juvenile Justice, Mental Health, Reintegration, Restorative Justice and White Collar Crime.

Working Groups activities for 2014 are detailed below. The Association was facilitated throughout by the generosity of Council members who chaired each seminar and provided venues free of charge.

Seminar: "Effects of Alcohol and Illicit Drugs on Mental Health"

The ACJRD and the ACJRD Addiction and Mental Health Working Groups held the seminar "*Effects of Alcohol and Illicit Drugs on Mental Health*" at the offices of the Probation Services in Smithfield on Thursday, 10th April, 2014. Speakers and topics included:

- "*Illicit Drugs and Mental Health*"; Dr Des Corrigan, Consultant to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Addiction (EMCDDA).
- "*Adolescent Substance Use and Mental Health*"; Dr Bobby Smyth, Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist, Senior Clinical Lecturer, Trinity College Dublin and member of the National Advisory Committee on Drugs and Alcohol.
- "*Evidence of Alcohol and Illicit Drugs on the Young People in Oberstown*"; Miriam Finnegan, Addiction Counsellor, Assessment, Consultation and Therapy Service (ACTS) and Child and Family Agency (TUSLA).

Seminar: "Empowerment through Literacy Seminar"

The ACJRD and their Education Working Group held the seminar "*Empowerment through Literacy*" on Wednesday, 16th July, 2014 in the Law Society of Ireland, Blackhall Place, Dublin 2.

The seminar featured presentations from the following speakers: John Hurley, H2 Learning @the Digital Hub; Danielle McKenna, The Dolphin House Home Work Club, Rialto Youth Project; and Dr Liz McLoughlin with Dr Catherine Maunsell, RiSE – Reintegration into Society through Education and Learning project, St Patrick's College, Drumcondra.

Working Groups Networking Event

ACJRD held a Working Groups Networking Event in the Blue Room of the Law Society of Ireland, Blackhall Place, Dublin 7, on Wednesday, 17th December, 2014.

The evening was an opportunity for Working Group members to meet members of their own and other Working Groups and to meet members of the ACJRD Council. There was also a chance to input into the plans for the ACJRD Working Groups in addition to hearing about the 2015 Calendar of events.

5. Newsletter

The ACJRD Newsletter is delivered via email to members and interested parties of the Association and is also available on the ACJRD website. The newsletter keeps members informed about current and forthcoming events and includes news from our members and developments in the criminal justice sector.

As well as promoting the ACJRD, the Newsletter is designed to attract and encourage new members. This service is produced in-house and there are no printing or postage costs.

Three newsletters were produced in 2014: Spring, Summer and Autumn. News Bulletins were also circulated in July and November.

6. Commitment to Achieve Change

ACJRD makes appropriate submissions in satisfaction of its mission and vision in areas where there is relevant expertise and interest. All submissions made by the ACJRD are available on our website www.acjrd.ie.

The views expressed in ACJRD submissions are those of ACJRD in its independent capacity and are not those of the ACJRD members' organisations or their employers.

In January 2014, ACJRD made a submission to the Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality on *Community Courts*. Following the submission, the ACJRD was invited to attend a public session of the Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality for a discussion on the Community Courts System.

In May 2014, ACJRD made a submission to the Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality on *Garda Oversight*. Following the submission, the ACJRD was invited to attend a public session of the Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality for a discussion on Garda Oversight.

In September 2014, ACJRD made a submission to the Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality on *The Effects of Gangland Crime on the Community*. Following the submission, the ACJRD was invited to attend a public session of the Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality for a discussion on the effects of Gangland Crime on the community.

7. Governance

The ACJRD Council includes representatives from: The Department of Justice, The Probation Service, The Irish Prison Service, The Office of the DPP, An Garda Síochána, The Garda Síochána Inspectorate, The Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Dublin City University, University of Limerick, The Law Society of Ireland and the Revenue Commissioners.

The following ACJRD Council meetings took place during 2014:

28th January, 2014, at the offices of the Garda Inspectorate, 87 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2
25th March, 2014 at the Offices of the DPP, 90 North King Street, Dublin 7
15th April, 2014 at the IPS Offices, North Circular Road, Dublin 7
10th June, 2014 at the School of Law, New Square, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin 2
15th July 2014, at the Offices of the Revenue Commissioners, Dublin Castle, Dublin 2
9th September 2014, at the Offices of the Revenue Commissioners, Dublin Castle, Dublin 2
21st October 2014, at the Education Centre, The Law Society of Ireland, Blackhall Place, Dublin 7
2nd December 2014, at the offices of the Garda Inspectorate, 87 St Stephens Green, Dublin 2

AGM 2014

The ACJRD Annual General Meeting was held at the Camden Court Hotel on Friday 17th October, following the close of our annual conference. At this meeting of ACJRD members the Association's Auditors, Browne Murphy and Hughes, presented the ACJRD audited accounts 2013 for adoption.

Council representation

The ACJRD Council members and the ACJRD Manager have also represented the association at a number of events during the year. These have included:

- Maura Butler's attendance at the Dublin City Business Association Seminar on Community Courts entitled "A Cost Effective Solution for Managing Street Crime", 29th January, 2014.
- Maura Butler's attendance (as a presenter) at the meeting of the Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality to discuss the topic of Community Courts, 29th January, 2014.
- Danelle Hannan's attendance at the CDI Final Evaluation Report "Leading Community Change", launched by Frances Fitzgerald TD, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, 3rd April, 2014.
- Maura Butler's attendance at The Ombudsman for Children's Office, 10th Anniversary Symposium "Children, Families and the State", 25th April, 2014.
- Maura Butler's attendance at the launch of two Ballyfermot NEYAI reports "Let them talk" and "Aistear in Action", 30th April, 2014.
- Maura Butler's attendance as an observer at the meeting of the Joint Committee on Justice Defence and Equality, 7th May, 2014.
- Maura Butler (as a presenter) and Finbarr O'Leary's (in the gallery) attendance at the meeting of the Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality to discuss the topic of Garda Oversight, 14th May, 2014.
- Finbarr O'Leary's attendance at the Irish Prison Reform Trust Report Launch: "Travellers in the Irish Prison System: A Qualitative Study", 19th May, 2014.
- Finbarr O'Leary's attendance at the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice Book Launch of "Re-imagining imprisonment in Europe", 5th June, 2014.
- Maura Butler's attendance at the New Communities Partnership launch of "Migrant Family Support Service", 10th June, 2014.
- Maura Butler's attendance at the Campus Engage Symposium "Conversations for Change", 17th June, 2014.
- Patricia Flynn's attendance at the presentation to Seanad Éireann entitled "Children's rights in Ireland" by Judge Catherine McGuinness, 19th June, 2014.
- Maura Butler's attendance at the Department of Justice Farmleigh Consultation Seminar on "Justice Reform", 20th June, 2014.

- Maura Butler and Finbarr O’Leary’s attendance at the Justice Committee Reports Launch arising from the submissions and public hearings into the heads of the Criminal Justice (Community Sanctions) Bill 2014 and the Community Courts, 10th July, 2014.
- Patricia Flynn’s attendance at the official unveiling of four new stamps in recognition of the Irish Prison Service and its key role in Care and Custody, Rehabilitation, Restorative Justice and Education launched by the Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald T.D., 7th August, 2014.
- Maura Butler’s attendance at a reception in honour of Mountjoy Campus Governor Edward Whelan’s retirement, 29th August, 2014.
- Maura Butler’s attendance at the “European treatment and transition management of high risk offenders” conference, 3rd – 5th September, 2014.
- Finbarr O’Leary’s attendance at the launch of the Parole Board Annual Report 2013, 10th September, 2014.
- Maura Butler’s attendance at the “Five Nations Biennial Conference on Children, Young People and Crime”, 9th – 12th September, 2014.
- Maura Butler’s attendance at the launch of the Report of the Department of Justice Penal Policy Review Group, 17th September, 2014.
- Maura Butler’s attendance at the launch of the Report arising from the submissions and public hearings on the Review of An Garda Síochána Act 2005, 9th October, 2014.
- Patricia Flynn’s attendance at the Children’s Rights Alliance UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) kick-off event and Dublin consultation, 13th November, 2014.
- Patricia Flynn’s attendance at the Victims’ Rights Alliance/*JUSTICIA* conference, 14th November 2014.
- Maura Butler’s attendance at the King’s Inns Lecture ‘Youth Justice in the Community’ , 19th November
- Danelle Hannan’s attendance at the Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 20th November, 2014
- Patricia Flynn (as a presenter), Finbarr O’Leary and Danelle Hannan’s (in the gallery) attendance at the at the meeting of the Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality to discuss the topic of Gangland Crime, 10th December, 2014
- Finbarr O’Leary’s attendance at the Law Reform Commission Report Launch ‘Disclosure and Discover in Criminal Cases’, 15th December, 2014

8. Associations and Memberships

The Children’s Rights Alliance

The Children’s Rights Alliance is a coalition of over 90 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working to secure the rights and needs of children in Ireland, by campaigning for the full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It aims to improve the lives of all children under 18 years, through securing the necessary changes in Ireland’s laws (strengthening children’s rights in the Constitution), policies and services.

The ACJRD maintained its membership of the Children’s Rights Alliance in 2014.

The Irish Penal Reform Trust

The Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT) is Ireland's leading non-governmental organisation campaigning for the rights of people in prison and the progressive reform of Irish penal policy. Established in 1994, IPRT has a well-established role as an independent voice in public debate on the Irish penal system. IPRT is committed to reducing imprisonment, respecting the rights of everyone in the penal system, and progressive reform of the penal system based on evidence-led policies.

The ACJRD maintained its membership of the IPRT in 2014.

The Wheel

The Wheel is a support and representative body connecting community and voluntary organisations and charities across Ireland. Established in 1999, The Wheel has evolved to become a resource centre and forum for the community and voluntary sector.

The ACJRD maintained its membership of the Wheel in 2014.