



**acjrd**

**ACJRD**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2016**

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## Executive Summary

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The Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD) has hosted a wide array of events and seminars during 2016. These included our 19th Annual Conference entitled “Cybercrime”, and the 3rd Annual Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference entitled “Evidence-Informed Decision Making: Putting Research into Practice in Criminal Justice” which was a collaboration of the ACJRD, the Probation Service, The Department of Justice, The Irish Prison Service and An Garda Síochána. The ACJRD also held Working Groups seminars and events at which attendees had the opportunity to contribute their opinions and share perspectives.

A highlight in 2016 was the celebration of the 20 year anniversary of the Association.

The Association also continues to further current and future Research opportunities, maintains a membership base and a number of Working Groups and also contributes to the criminal justice community in Ireland via quarterly newsletters and continued memberships and relationships with other not-for-profit organisations who share common ground with the objectives of the ACJRD.

This report provides a summary of the events and activities for 2016 under the following headings: 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ACJRD, Research, Events, Membership, Working Groups, Newsletter, Commitment to Achieve Change, Governance and Association’s Memberships.

# 1. 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ACJRD



On the occasion of its 20th anniversary, the Association took pause to reflect on its origins, its contributions and achievements within the Criminal Justice System.

A 'History of ACJRD' booklet was produced to provide readers with a brief reflection on what the ACJRD has accomplished since its foundation, and in so doing pay tribute to its Patron, The Hon. Mr. Justice Michael Moriarty, and all founding members, in particular Martin Tansey RIP, without whose dedication and vision the association may never have existed.

The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was also commemorated at a reception following the Annual Conference on October 7<sup>th</sup>, where certificates were presented to founding members and a series of posters depicting the History of the ACJRD were displayed.

Pictured right: The Honourable Ms. Justice Mary Ellen Ring is presented her founders certificate by ACJRD Chairperson, Maura Butler.



## 2. ACJRD Research

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The ACJRD Research-Sub-Committee oversaw the following projects during 2016:

### Conducting Efficient and Effective Criminal Justice Research Projects

#### - Best Practice, Current Difficulties, Future Needs

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 ongoing study involves the 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.

### 3. ACJRD Events 2016

Below is a summary of ACJRD events during 2016. Please note the following outputs do not include the ACJRD Working Groups outputs which are profiled separately on pages 10 and 11.

#### MARTIN TANSEY MEMORIAL LECTURES

The ACJRD marks the contribution Martin Tansey made to criminal justice in Ireland, and to this association, with a memorial lecture each spring.

Information and papers from the lectures which have taken place since the inaugural event in 2008 can be found at:

[www.acjrd.ie/publications](http://www.acjrd.ie/publications)

Pictured below: Dr Anne-Marie McAlinden and ACJRD Chairperson Maura Butler at the 2016 lecture.



#### 9th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture, 7th April, 2016

The 9th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture entitled "The Reintegration of Sexual Offenders" was delivered by Professor Dr. Anne-Marie McAlinden, Reader, and Director of Research in the School of Law at Queen's University College Belfast, at the Criminal Courts of Justice, Parkgate Street, Dublin.

The presentation considered current and future approaches to sex offender reintegration. It critically examined the core models of reintegration in terms of risk-based and strengths-based approaches in the criminal justice context as well as barriers to reintegration, chiefly in terms of the community and negative public attitudes. It also presented an overview of new findings from recent empirical research on sex offender desistance, generally referred to as the process of slowing down or ceasing of criminal behaviour.

ACJRD would like to thank the staff at the Criminal Court of Justice for their continued assistance in hosting this annual memorial lecture.

## ACJRD 19th Annual Conference "Cybercrime" 7th October 2016

This one day conference featured distinguished speakers from Ireland, joined by speakers from England and Northern Ireland.

The conference structure facilitated the presentation of plenary sessions supported by break-out groups, where delegates from the public and private sector shared their views, experiences and expertise.

The Conference Plenary speakers included:

- Robert Hayes, Microsoft Executive Cybersecurity Advisor, Europe, Middle East and Africa
- Det. Sergeant Michael Moran, Assistant Director, Vulnerable Communities, INTERPOL
- Professor Clare McGlynn, Durham Law School, Durham University
- Professor Anne-Marie McAlinden, School of Law, Queen's University Belfast
- Professor Dr. Geoffrey Shannon, Special Rapporteur on Child Protection
- Pauline Walley, SC

The conference programme also featured a number of workshops presentations delivered by: Dr. Orla Lynch, Lecturer in Criminology, University College Cork; Rebecca Dennehy, SPHeRE PhD Scholar, University College Cork; Dr. T.J. McIntyre, Chair, Digital Rights Ireland, and University College Dublin Sutherland School of Law; Margaret Martin, Director, Women's Aid; Dr. James O'Higgins Norman, Director, ABC - National Anti-Bullying Research and Resource Centre, and Senior Lecturer and Researcher, Dublin City University Institute of Education; Det. Superintendent Michael Gubbins, Garda Cyber Crime Bureau; Professor Maura Conway, School of Law and Government, Dublin City University and VOX-Pol; and Andy Harbison, Director - Head of IT Forensics, Grant Thornton Ireland.

The Chatham House Rule was invoked as necessary, to facilitate free discussion.

ACJRD sincerely thanks the expert presenters and all who contributed during discussions to this year's conference and subsequently wrote a paper for this publication.

## 3rd Annual Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference, 28th June 2016 “Evidence-Informed Decision Making: Putting Research into Practice in Criminal Justice”

The Probation Service (lead partner 2016), the Department of Justice and Equality, Department of Children and Youth Affairs, An Garda Síochána, Irish Prison service and the Association for Criminal Justice Research & Development held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference in the Dublin Castle Conference Centre. The 2016 conference theme was “Evidence-Informed Decision Making: Putting Research into Practice in Criminal Justice”.

Conference speakers included: Ms Frances Fitzgerald, TD, Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality; Vivian Geiran, Director, The Probation Service; James Martin, Assistant Secretary, Department of Justice and Equality; Professor Fergus McNeill, University of Glasgow; Professor Ioan Durnescu, University of Bucharest; and Dr. Niamh M Hourigan, Department of Sociology, University College Cork.



Maura Butler, ACJRD Chairperson and conference plenary speakers.

The Conference also featured a number of workshops. Presentations were delivered by: Aisling Sheehan, Project Specialist, and Mary Rafferty, Senior Manager, Centre for Effective Services; Kate Mulkerrins, Head of Prosecution Policy & Research Unit, Office of the DPP; Dr Nicola Carr,



Queen's University Belfast; Hugh Hennessy, Department of Justice and Equality; Pat Bergin, Campus Manager, Oberstown Children Detention Campus; Det. Superintendent Declan Daly, Garda National Protective Services Bureau; and Sam Scriven, Central Statistics Office.

A special feature of the 2016 event was roundtable discussions for invited research representatives, which ran parallel to the workshop sessions (pictured below). Feedback from the roundtable sessions was then relayed to the other delegates prior to the Conference closing.



## 4. ACJRD/DIT Criminology Prize

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The ACJRD sponsors an annual prize for outstanding academic performance on a Youth Justice related thesis on the MA in Criminology at the Dublin Institute of Technology. Francisca O'Kelly was awarded the 2016 prize for her dissertation entitled 'Equine Assisted Learning and Young Offenders'.



Pádraig Mawe, ACJRD Council presenting Francisca with her prize at the 2016 prize giving ceremony.

## 5. ACJRD Essay Competition

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The 2016 ACJRD Essay Competition was won by Angela Coyne for her essay, "Challenging the term 'criminal justice' when discussing the experiences of women who find themselves in the criminal justice system". Angela is an Irish-based PhD Candidate in Psychology at the University of Huddersfield.

Second place in the Essay Competition went to Aoife Fennelly for her essay, "The Magdalen Commission and the Value of Voice". Aoife is an MSc Student in Applied Psychology at TCD.

Pictured right: Angela Coyne and ACJRD Chairperson Maura Butler.



## 6. Membership

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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 2016 are up 9% compared with 2015 levels as the number of Organisational memberships continues to increase.

## 7. ACJRD Working Groups

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

Working Groups activities for 2016 are detailed below. The association was facilitated in the delivery of these activities by the generosity of Council members who chaired each seminar and provided venues free of charge.

### "Life After Care", March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016

This event was a collaboration between the ACJRD and its Juvenile Justice and Reintegration Working Groups. The seminar was presented by Don Bosco Care.

Don Bosco Care speakers at this event were:

- Brian Hogan CEO Don Bosco Care
- Rachel Valentine, Social Care & Outreach Aftercare Manager, Don Bosco Care
- Ciaran Kenny, Outreach Aftercare Worker, Don Bosco Care

The seminar was extremely interesting and very well received by all those present. It looked at the supports in place for young people leaving state care at 18 years of age, where it started and how it has transitioned, encompassing a vast range of issues such as lack of both familial and community supports, homelessness, criminal behavior, mental health, physical well-being, to name but a few.

The Seminar was hosted by the Education Centre at the Law Society of Ireland, Blackhall Place, Dublin 7.

### “Pathways Through Treatment – Responding to Findings”, May 30<sup>th</sup> 2016

This event was a collaboration between the ACJRD and its Addiction Working Group. The seminar was presented by:

- Anita Harris, Researcher/Project Worker and Co-Author of the CTC/TCD longitudinal study “Pathways Through Treatment”
- Peter Moylan, Outreach Worker and Co-Facilitator of the ‘Choice and Challenge’ (offending behaviour) programme in Coolmine Lodge.
- Treacy Cagney, Outreach and Clinical Nurse Manager

Coolmine Therapeutic Community and Trinity College Dublin co-authored the recently published longitudinal study “Pathways Through Treatment”. This seminar discussed the findings of the report and the response to those findings.

The Seminar was hosted by the Education Centre at the Law Society of Ireland, Blackhall Place, Dublin 7.

### Networking Event and Restorative Justice Seminar, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016

The annual ACJRD Networking Event took place on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December. The evening was an opportunity for ACJRD members and Working Groups to meet those with common interests, to renew acquaintances and share ideas.

Dr. Kieran O’Dwyer spoke at the event, giving ‘A critical overview of Restorative Justice in Ireland today’.

## 8. Newsletter

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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 other agencies and relevant organisations.

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. It promotes the creation and development of an online community for the ACJRD.

In 2016 newsletters were produced in Spring, Summer and Winter, in Autumn a News Bulletin was circulated.

## 9. Commitment to Achieve Change

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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](http://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.

There were no submissions made during 2016.

## 10. Governance

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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, The Revenue Commissioners, Dublin City University, University of Limerick, The Policing Authority and the Law Society of Ireland.

### The following ACJRD Council meetings took place during 2016:

- 19th January, 2016, at The Law Society of Ireland, Blackhall Place, Dublin 7;
- 1st March, 2016 at the Offices of the Garda Inspectorate, 87 St Stephens Green, Dublin 2;
- 19th April, 2016 at the Offices of the Director of Public Prosecutions, North King Street, Dublin 7;
- 31st May, 2016 The Department of Justice and Equality, 94 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2;
- 18th July, 2016 at The Law Society of Ireland, Blackhall Place, Dublin 7;
- 6th September 2016 at the Offices of the Director of Public Prosecutions, North King Street, D7;
- 25th October 2016 at The Law Society of Ireland, Blackhall Place, Dublin 7;
- 8th December 2016 at the Offices of the Garda Inspectorate, 87 St Stephens Green, Dublin 2.

### Council representation

The ACJRD Council members have represented the Association at a number of events during the year. These have included:

- Maura Butler's attendance at the National Discussion Day on juvenile justice held at Blackhall Place on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016.
- Pádraig Mawe represented ACJRD at a prize giving ceremony at Dublin Institute of Technology, on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016.
- Maura Butler attended the launch of "Developing Inside: Transforming Prison for Young Adults  
A New Approach to the Unique Needs of Young Adults (aged 18 – 24) in prison 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016.
- Maura Butler attended a Roundtable discussion in the Department of Justice & Equality on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016
- Maura Butler attended "Support after Homicide" at the Mansion House on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016

- Maura Butler attended the 10th North South Irish Criminology Conference at Maynooth University on 23 and 24 June 2016.
- Patricia Flynn represented ACJRD at a prize giving ceremony at Maynooth University on 16 September 2016.
- Maura Butler attended Roundtable discussion on 'Policy Makers, Practitioners and Researchers: Critical Friends?' at the Autumn Criminology Conference held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at Blackwater Castle, Fermoy, Cork.
- Catherine Pierse and Danelle Hannan attended Engaged Research Consultation on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016.
- Maura Butler attended a Policy Roundtable on 'Youth Pathways into Cybercrime' at UCD on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016.

## 11. AGM 2016

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The ACJRD Annual General Meeting was held at the Spencer Hotel on Friday 7th October, following the close of our annual conference. At this meeting of ACJRD members the associations Auditors, Browne Murphy and Hughes presented the ACJRD audited accounts 2015 for adoption by members.

A new constitution was also presented and adopted. This document was prepared with pro bono assistance from A&L Goodbody in conjunction with Pdraig Mawe, ACJRD Secretary, to ensure that ACJRD meets all requirements of the new Companies Act 2014.

## 12. Associations and Memberships

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### ***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, 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 2016.

***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 2016.