



**ACJRD**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2012**

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## **Executive Summary**

The Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development Ltd (ACJRD) has hosted a several events during 2012 including a Restorative Justice Working Group seminar, the launch of our 2011 Conference Report '*Mental Health in the Criminal Justice System -The deliverables of the Government's 'Vision for Change'*' and our 15th Annual Conference entitled "*Exit from Custody – Through-care, Resettlement and Related Issues*".

Research has continued to be a focus of the ACJRD activities with several projects underway during 2012.

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 who share common ground with the objectives of the ACJRD.

This report provides a summary of the events and activities for 2012 under the following headings: Research, Events, Membership, Working Groups, Newsletter, Commitment to Achieve Change, Governance and Associations Memberships.

## 1. ACJRD Research

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The ACJRD Research-Sub-Committee oversaw the following projects during 2012:

### **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.

### **Tracking the needs and service provision for women ex-prisoners**

This project will identify the multiplicity of needs of women ex-prisoners as they leave prison after serving short sentences (12-24 weeks). These women have been targeted as they often leave prison before they have had the opportunity to engage with services. The aim is to identify the gaps in services available to the target group and to present the findings to the service providers with the objective of analysing how this group of ex-prisoners, who are often homeless, can have their needs met.

This project is being funded by a grant from the St Stephens Green Trust.

## 2. ACJRD Events 2012

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Below is a summary of ACJRD events during 2012, please note the following outputs do not include the ACJRD Working Groups outputs which are profiled separately on page five.

### **2011 Conference Report Launch, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2012**

The ACJRD 14th Annual Conference Report Launch ‘*Mental Health in the Criminal Justice System -The deliverables of the Government’s ‘Vision for Change’*’ took place on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2012 in the Criminal Courts of Justice. A copy of the report can be viewed on the ACJRD website: <http://www.acjrd.ie>.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2012**

Dr Rogan, Barrister and Lecturer in SocioLegal Studies at Dublin Institute of Technology, presented the lecture entitled: *Prison Policy in Ireland: Rehabilitation, Research and Reform*. Dr Rogan’s lecture elicited a positive response from the audience which included staff members from many of the main Criminal Justice agencies and other members of the Criminal Justice community.

### **ACJRD 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference “Exit from Custody: Through-care, Resettlement and Related Issues” 12<sup>th</sup> October 2012**

The ACJRD Annual Conference 2012 was held at the Camden Court Hotel, Dublin 2. This one-day event was launched by Claire Loftus, Director of Public Prosecutions. An array of workshops and plenary sessions were provided for participants. The esteemed plenary speakers included:

- Michael Donnellan, Director General, Irish Prison Service
- John Costello, Chairperson, The Parole Board
- Vivian Geiran, Director, Probation Service
- Dr Mary-Louise Corr, University of Manchester

Participants also had the opportunity to attend two workshops during the conference. Workshops were presented by Professor Denis Bracken, Professor of Social work, University of Manitoba; Liam Herrick, Executive Director & Michelle Martyn, Research and Policy Officer, Irish Penal Reform Trust; Dr Michael Maguire, Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland; Sam White, Irish Prisons Coordinator, The Shannon Trust; Father Charlie Hoey, Care After Prison Project, who co-presented with Bríd O’Brien, Head of Policy and Media, Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed; Dr Nicola Hughes; Carol Coulter, Legal Affairs Editor, The Irish Times; and Professor Mike Nellis, Emeritus Professor in Criminal Justice, University of Strathclyde.

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. Chatham House rules prevailed throughout the conference.

This was a successful event for which the association received much positive feedback. A report containing the papers from this Conference was launched on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013 by Claire Loftus, DPP at The Green Street Courthouse, Dublin 7.

### **3. Membership**

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Three categories of ACJRD membership are on offer, - student €20.00, individual €30.00 and organisational membership €150.00. 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 2012 are down 21% on 2011 figures but down just 6% on 2010 as 2011 had been a particularly good year for memberships. In total there are 53 individual members and 19 Organisational members.

#### **4. 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 groups include Education, Mental Health, Reintegration, Restorative Justice and White Collar Crime.

Working Groups activities for 2012 are detailed below. The association was facilitated throughout by the generosity of Council members who chaired the seminar and provided the venue free of charge.

The ACJRD held a Restorative Justice Seminar entitled "*An update on the Probation Service Restorative Justice Projects*" at the Atrium, 51 St Stephens Green, Dublin 2 on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2012. This seminar featured presentations from Una Doyle, Regional Manager for Probation Service Restorative Justice Projects, Peter Keeley, Restorative Justice Services, Emily Sheary, Nenagh Community Reparation Project and Seán Kinahan, Le Chéile Restorative Justice Project, Limerick.

#### **Submissions**

The Mental Health working group contributed to ACJRD submissions to the Department of Justice and Equality's review of the Criminal Law (Insanity) Act 2006 as amended by the Criminal Law (Insanity Act) 2010, made on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012, and the Interdepartmental Group to examine the issue of people with mental illness coming into contact with the Criminal Justice System, made on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2012. Further details on this work can be found in the commitment to achieve change section of this report (below).

#### **5. 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.

Two newsletters were produced in 2012, one in spring and one in summer.

#### **6. 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).

On 6th March 2012, the Mental Health working group contributed to ACJRD submission to the Department of Justice and Equality's review of the Criminal Law (Insanity) Act 2006 as amended by the Criminal Law (Insanity Act) 2010.

On 23rd May 2012, the Mental Health working group contributed to the ACJRD submission to the Interdepartmental Group to examine the issue of people with mental illness coming into contact with the Criminal Justice System. The submission focused on themes examined in the ACJRD's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference entitled *Mental Health in the Criminal Justice System - The Deliverables of the Governments 'Vision for Change'*.

## **7. 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, Dublin City University and University of Limerick.

### **The following ACJRD Council meetings took place during 2012:**

17<sup>th</sup> January 2012, at the Irish Prison Service, Psychology/Probation Building  
28<sup>th</sup> February 2012, at the Probation Service, Smithfield  
27<sup>th</sup> March 2012, at the Law Society of Ireland, Education Centre  
29<sup>th</sup> May 2012, at the Criminal Assets Bureau, Harcourt Square  
3<sup>rd</sup> July 2012, at the Probation Service, Smithfield  
11<sup>th</sup> September 2012, at the Criminal Assets Bureau, Harcourt Square  
25<sup>th</sup> September 2012, at the Irish Prison Service, Smithfield  
6<sup>th</sup> November 2011, at the Director of Public Prosecutions offices, North King Street  
11<sup>th</sup> December, 2012, at the Law Society of Ireland, Education Centre

### **Staff Handbook**

The ACJRD Council officially adopted a Staff Handbook in 2011. This considerable document outlines the association's policies and procedures in relation to staff and the good governance of the ACJRD. Policy updates are made as required.

### **AGM 2012**

The ACJRD Annual General Meeting was held at the Camden Court Hotel on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2012, 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 2011 for adoption. The following update to the Association's Memorandum and Articles of Association was also adopted:

#### **Article 27 – Original**

*"The number of directors and the names of the first director shall be determined in writing by the subscribers of the memorandum of association or a majority of them."*

#### **Was replaced with:**

*"It was resolved that the minimum number of directors for the ACJRD is set at 8. All members are in agreement with current procedures and resolutions previously passed by the ACJRD."*

### **Council representation**

The Council of the ACJRD also represented the association at the following events:

- Danelle Hannan, ACJRD Manager, represented the association at a Children's Rights Alliance Members Constitution meeting regarding the Children's Referendum on March 1<sup>st</sup> 2012.
- Maura Butler represented the association at the Garda National Consultation Day in Dublin Castle Conference Centre on March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012
- Geraldine Corcoran, Clerical Assistant represented the association at the Wheel's Member's Policy Forum on April 19<sup>th</sup> 2012.
- Rosemarie McHugh, contracted to complete the 'Tracking the needs and service provision of women ex-prisoners' project attended the 'Women's strategy multi-agency meeting' in the Dochas center on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2012
- Maura Butler represented ACJRD in a discussion on White Collar Crime on the 'Tonight with Vincent Brown' show on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2012.
- Maura Butler, (ACJRD Chairperson) made a presentation on the work of the ACJRD to students of a Finuas/Law Society programme on Social Policy at the Law Society of Ireland on October 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Maura Butler made a presentation on the work of the ACJRD to students at NUI Maynooth, as part of their Criminal Law Fortnight on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **9. 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 2012.

### **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.*

Members of the IPRT were given the opportunity to profile their work in one of the workshops at the ACJRD Annual Conference 2012. The ACJRD maintained its membership of the IPRT in 2012.

### **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 2012.