



acjrd NEWSLETTER

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14th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture

Martin Tansey was the founding Chairperson of the Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD). Each year, ACJRD marks the contribution which Martin made to both Criminal Justice in Ireland and to this Association with a Memorial Lecture in spring.

Charlie Brooker, Honorary Professor, Centre for Sociology and Criminology, Royal Holloway, University of London will present his lecture *"Probation and Mental Health: Do We Really Need 'Equivalent' Care?"* at **5.30 pm on Monday, 24th May, 2021**.

Charlie Brooker has been a researcher and academic for over thirty years. His main interest was in psychosocial approaches for the care of people with serious mental health problems up until 1995 when he was professor of mental health both in Sheffield and Manchester. Since then, he has almost exclusively researched aspects of the Criminal Justice system and mental health. This work has taken him into police stations, prisons, courts, sexual assault referral centres, and, in the last 10-15 years, probation services. To book a place for this FREE event, please [click here](#).

7th Annual Irish Criminal Justice Agencies (ICJA) Conference



The 7th Annual Irish Criminal Justice Agencies (ICJA) Conference will take place online on **Friday, 4th June, 2021**. The theme for this year's conference is "**Protecting the Human Rights of Vulnerable Suspects and Offenders: Defining, Identifying and Responding to Vulnerabilities**".

This one-day conference is a collaboration of the Department of Justice, the Policing Authority, the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Irish Prison Service, An Garda Síochána, The Probation Service, the Courts Service, the Garda Síochána Inspectorate, the Office of the Revenue Commissioners and the Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD). The lead partner for 2021 is the Policing Authority.

For further details, including confirmed speakers, please [click here](#).

Reflections on a pandemic year, with ACJRD founder members

The ACJRD held a Members' event "*Reflections on a pandemic year, with our founder members*", online on Tuesday, 23rd February, 2021.

Three of the founding members of ACJRD - **The Hon. Mr. Justice Robert Eagar**, **Seán Aylward**, Chairman of the Board of SOLAS and former Secretary General of the Department of Justice and Equality, and **Professor Seán Redmond**, University of Limerick - discussed how the Covid 19 pandemic has impacted the Criminal Justice System. The event was moderated by **Ellen O'Malley Dunlop**, Psychotherapist, Group Analyst and Adjunct Professor at UL's School of Law, who enabled a most interesting and informative evening for ACJRD Members.

Working to Change

On Friday, 20th November, 2020, Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee TD, launched the report, '*Working to Change - social enterprise and employment strategy 2021 - 2023*'. This strategy sets out ambitious targets to increase the employment options for people who have criminal records and is supported, amongst others, by the Irish Prison Service and The Probation Service and by IASIO who currently host the Social Enterprise Initiative. To view the report, please [click here](#).

As part of this strategy, a new website has also been set up. This website, workingtochange.ie, is designed to provide information and signposting to other resources for:

- People **looking for work** who have a criminal record
- Employers **looking to recruit** suitable candidates with a criminal record
- Employers **looking for support** and guidance
- People and organisations **looking to support** the implementation of **this strategy**

Greentown Reports and Intervention Programme



Greentown Project: For the last five years, the Greentown project has lifted the lid on a hidden crime problem in Ireland, uncovering significant evidence of children’s engagement in crime networks. The research indicates that up to 1,000 children across the State could be involved with a criminal network.

Three of the reports are locally based case studies. The [Greentown Report](#) and the [Redtown Report](#) focus on network activity in two provincial towns. The [Bluetown Report](#) is an examination of criminal networks in one Dublin location. The fourth report, [National Prevalence Study](#), is a national survey which assessed the prevalence of problems identified in the Greentown study across Ireland. Taken together, the reports provide detailed examinations of the features of criminal networks that operate in locations where children were detected for involvement in high levels of burglary and drugs for sale and supply. The national study permits an estimation of the size of the problem across the State.

This innovative project, a partnership between the School of Law at University of Limerick, the Department of Justice and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) provides new insights into how criminal networks attract and confine children, encouraging and coercing them to be involved in serious crime and limiting their opportunities to escape their influence.

Intervention Programme: This programme is being implemented on a pilot basis in two locations. These pilots will get underway shortly and the lessons learned from the pilots will have a key influence on the development of the Department’s policies and interventions in the youth justice area. The new intervention programme will commence work with two local communities to implement the four core elements that make up the Greentown programme:

Network disruption

By examining the network, the University of Limerick research team will identify the means by which local children are recruited and retained. This element of the programme will identify and target individuals involved in cultivating relationships with children for crime, and employ legitimate means to frustrate this activity

Improving Community Efficacy

Local activities designed to improve the ability of the local community to withstand network influence and take back control of public spaces

Improved Pro-Social Opportunities

Pulling out the stops to encourage and incentivise children involved in a criminal network to re-engage with school, training or to secure and sustain employment

Improved Family Functioning

An intensive case-work relationship with families where children are engaged with crime networks. This element of the programme will seek to improve parenting capacity, acknowledging that parents may have client relationships with key network actors

For further information on the Greentown Project and the Intervention Programme, please [click here](#).

Circles of Support and Accountability



Prevention

Accommodation

Community

Enterprise

PACE is a community-based agency that has been working with people with convictions for over fifty years. PACE Prevention Services consists of three separate programmes designed specifically to work with people with convictions for harmful sexual behaviour. These programmes work with people with complex needs who are considered to be at significant risk of re-offending sexually and need to be managed safely in the community. PACE works in partnership with the statutory services to prevent further harm. See <https://paceorganisation.ie/>.

Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) is one of these programmes and is a community-based initiative operating on restorative justice principles. Working in partnership with the Probation Service, An Garda Síochána and other agencies, CoSA assists individuals (Core Members) with convictions for harmful sexual behaviour to live a life free of crime and from harmful behaviour. The aim of the Circle is **preventing further victims**.

Based on restorative principles, CoSA trains volunteers to assist individuals who have been convicted of a serious sexual offence(s) in their efforts to live a life free of crime and harmful behaviour.

At **2pm on Wednesday, 26th May, 2021**, CoSA will host, via Zoom, a webinar "**Spotlight on Prevention - Circles of Support and Accountability Preventing Further Harm**". Guest speakers include **Rev. Harry Nigh**, founder of CoSA, and **Professor Kiernan McCartan**.

If you would like to learn more about the webinar or about becoming a Circles of Support and Accountability Volunteer, please contact Michael on 087 4194322 (between 9am-4pm) or email cosa@paceorganisation.ie.

Mountjoy Prison Partners with Maynooth University

The Mountjoy Prison Maynooth University (MJMU) partnership aims to harness the transformative power of education to promote access to third level and support the reintegration of prisoners and former prisoners in society. Maynooth University support engagement within the space of the prison through a range of educational activities and through the creation of shared learning spaces for students in prison and students in university. The partnership provides strategic direction and support for a wide range of new initiatives.

To view more about the MJMU partnership please [click here](#).

ACJRD Membership 2021

ACJRD annual membership fees are now due.

Student €25 Individual €35 Organisation €155

The benefits of membership include reduced fees to attend our seminars and our Annual Conference as well as preferential booking opportunities for certain events. To become a member or to renew your membership, please [click here](#). New members are always welcome.

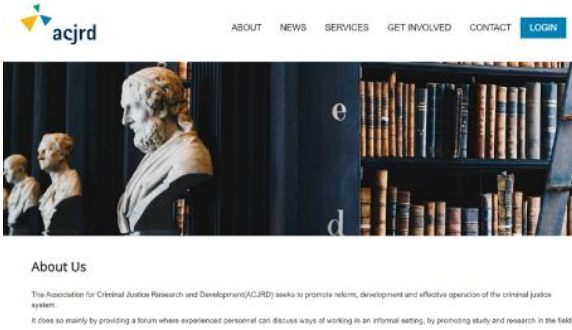
Request for Tenders

The Department of Justice is inviting tenders for two pieces of research work.:

- **A Review of the Processing of Sexual Offences: A Rapid Evidence Review**
To review the processing of sexual offences cases with the aim of identifying potential opportunities for time-savings and other streamlining in this area.
- **Approaches to the Concept of Parental Alienation in Other Jurisdictions**
To assess the framing – legislative and otherwise - of the concept of parental alienation internationally and the various approaches being taken to deal with this issue in other jurisdictions.

The closing date for both tenders is **5pm on Monday, 17th May, 2021**. For further information, please [click here](#).

ACJRD Website



Have you had a look at our new and improved website www.acjrd.ie?

Maura Butler, Chairperson, launched our new website on Tuesday, 23rd February, 2021.

We hope that you will find the website to be easy to navigate and that you like it as much as we do!

Public Consultation on Policing Priorities

The Policing Authority is holding an online Public Consultation on Policing Priorities for the Garda Síochána for 2022. The consultation, which is open to all, will be carried out online. It is hoped that individuals from a broad and diverse cross-section of society will take the opportunity to give their views on how policing resources may be allocated.

The Policing Priorities are determined annually by the Authority and set out the areas of policing that it believes the Garda Síochána should focus its attention, time and resources on, in any given year. The consultation tool allows you to spend 'points' on the policing activities that you consider a priority. The tool is user-friendly and accessible, and the consultation can be completed in 12 minutes. To take part, please [click here](#). **Closing date:** 31st May, 2021.

Recent Publications

Review of Protections for Vulnerable Witnesses in the Investigation and Prosecution of Sexual Offences

This review (also known as the O'Malley Review) by Tom O'Malley contains 52 actions with four overarching recommendations:

- Promoting better awareness of victims' rights legislation;
- Promoting education about the meaning and importance of consent;
- Improving inter-agency co-operation and exchange of information, especially in relation to services for victims; and
- Ensuring consistency in service delivery.

To view this review, please [click here](#).

Supporting a Victim's Journey: A plan to help victims and vulnerable witnesses in sexual violence cases

To view the Implementation Plan which was created considering the recommendations contained in the O'Malley Review and the necessary steps required to effectuate their implementation, please [click here](#).

Legislating for Hate Speech and Hate Crime in Ireland

To view this report on the Public Consultation 2020 regarding the Legislating for Hate Speech and Hate Crime in Ireland, please [click here](#). To view ACJRD's submission to this report, please [click here](#).

Youth Justice Strategy 2021-2027 - A new Youth Justice Strategy 2021 – 2027 has been developed under the guidance of an expert Steering Group chaired by Minister of State James Browne T.D. and with the benefit of broad consultation with stakeholders. ACJRD made a submission to this strategy. To view this report, please [click here](#). To view ACJRD's submission, please [click here](#).

Department of Justice Action Plan 2021 – Strategic Priorities & Initiatives

To view this report, please [click here](#).

Progress of the Penal System 2020 (PIPS) - Assessing Progress during a Pandemic

To view this report by the Irish Penal Reform Trust, please [click here](#).

Policing Performance by the Garda Síochána during the Covid 19 Health Crisis

This is the 13th Policing Authority report on this subject. To view, please [click here](#).

Office of the Inspector of Prisons Strategy Statement 2020-2023

The Strategic Plan from the Inspector of Prisons sets out the vision for the office of the Inspector over the period up to and including 2023, identifying the actions required to realise these. To view, please [click here](#).

Children's Rights and Police Questioning

This report by **Professor Ursula Kilkelly** and **Dr. Louise Forde**, Centre for Children's Rights and Family Law School of Law, University College Cork, was funded by the Policing Authority. To view, please [click here](#).

Moving Forward Together: Mental Health among persons supervised by the Probation Service

This report, by **Dr. Christina Power**, seeks to highlight the important issue of unmet mental health needs among vulnerable men and women living in the community subject to Probation Service supervision in Ireland. To view, please [click here](#).

Irish Prisons and Covid 19 - One year on

To view this report by the Irish Penal Reform Trust, please [click here](#).

Eurojust Annual Report 2019

To view this report by the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust), please [click here](#). To view Ireland's profile, please [click here](#).

Charleton and McDermott's Criminal Law and Evidence

The second edition of this work by Peter Charleton, Paul A McDermott, Ciara Herlihy and Stephen Byrne, is now available to buy online.



Our Values

- **Independence**
 - Seek, incorporate and objectively represent the collective views of the membership
- **Inclusiveness**
 - Embrace a broad multidisciplinary membership within and tangential to the criminal justice sector
- **Engagement**
 - We deliver a multitude of events, facilitate expert groups, request member input at all levels and provide networking opportunities with a focus on sharing and disseminating
- **Collaboration**
 - Work together with national and international actors and organisations on criminal justice initiatives and projects
- **Evidence-Based**
 - Emphasize the practical application of the findings of the best available current research

Our Mission is to inform
the collaborative
development of effective
evidenced-based policy
and practice
in criminal justice

Our Vision is the Fair
and Effective Operation
of the Criminal Justice
System