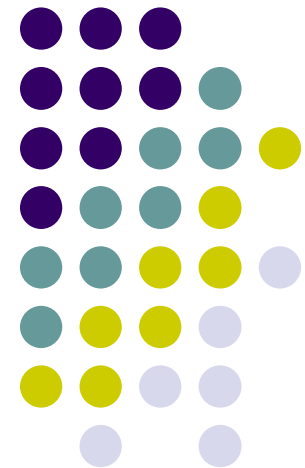




Community Based networking in Probation and Prevention



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Leipzig, 2nd June 2008

Ireland



Ireland 2008



- Population of 4.5 million people
- Celtic Tiger Economy
- Crime Levels in Ireland among lowest in European Union
- Overall rise of 1.7 per cent in total headline crime in 2007-8
- Probation Service supervise almost 8,000 in community
- Prison Population 3,400 - 74 per 100,000



The Probation Service

We aim to reduce the level of crime in the community and increase public safety by:

- the effective management of offenders in the community;
- challenging offending behaviour; and
- facilitating the integration of ex-offenders



The Probation Service - Who we are

- Agency of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform
- National service . almost 50 locations
- 500 staff
 - Probation officers
 - Administrative staff
 - Community Service Supervisors
- Young Persons Probation Division
- Annual budget of 54 million euro
- Significant change process underway



The Probation Service – what we do



Two main areas of work

1. Assessment 8,500 reports for Courts
 - Parole Board
 - Department
 - Irish Prison Service

- Risk Assessment tool
- Dedicated Assessment teams

2. Supervision and Rehabilitation of offenders

- Probation type supervision
- Community Service
- Life sentence and other ex prisoners
- sex offenders



The Probation Service and Community



- Located in communities
- Tradition of working in partnership with other organisations
- Government policy . joined up government
- Reintegration

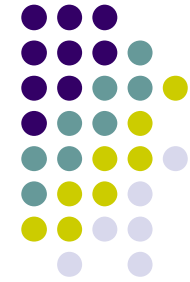
The Probation Service and Community



Community engagement in action:

- **Participation** . Community partnerships, local and regional drug task forces, community initiatives and consultation. Offices and officers in communities.
- **Funding and Support** . financial and resource support for community and neighbourhood projects and initiatives to reduce offending.
- **Community Service** . Unpaid work for the benefit of community by offenders on local projects that otherwise would not be done.

The Probation Service and Community



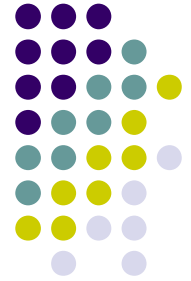
- Up to 40% of the Probation Service budget is dedicated to funding almost 50 community based organisations and projects
- Funding of 15 Young Persons Probation projects is managed by the Irish Youth Justice Service
- The key priority is that they support the work of the Probation Officer managing offenders in the community
- Providing employment placement, accommodation, drug treatment, education and training, restorative justice initiatives

The Probation Service and Community



- Promoting social inclusion of offenders
- Meeting identified priority needs
- Contributing to the reduction of offending and public safety
- Evidence-based best practice
- Not duplicating already available services
- Added value to the work of the Probation Service
- Value-for-money and proper governance

Target Areas for Funding



- Restorative Justice
- Domestic violence
- Employment support
- Resettlement & integration
- Accommodation
- Alcohol/drugs programmes
- Offending behaviour
- Children Act 2001 initiatives
- Diversity/ Equality
- Training and education

Probation Service Funded Projects in the Community



- **Examples of Good Practice and Effectiveness**

- **Tus Nua**

- Partnership with an established NGO to provide accommodation and support for homeless women at high risk of re-offending and high need in resettlement in the community

Probation Service Funded Projects in the Community



- **Examples of Good Practice and Effectiveness**
 - **Churchfield Community Trust, Cork**
 - Partnership with a local community group to provide structured training, support and re-integration for persistent male offenders with addiction, offending and anti-social behaviour problems.

Probation Service Funded Projects in the Community



- **Examples of Good Practice and Effectiveness**

- **Le Cheile**

- Development of a community based initiative with management participation of professional, statutory and community interests to establish a nationwide mentoring programme for young offenders.

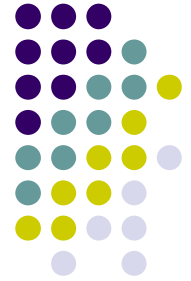
The Probation Service and Community Projects



Issues and challenges:

- Passion for mission
- Bias towards informality, participation and consensus
- Dual bottom lines . financial and mission
- Outcomes are difficult to assess
- Mixed skill levels of staff
- Participation of volunteers

The Probation Service and Community Projects



More issues, challenges and some solutions:

- Importance of governance in the community non-profit sector
- Clarity of purpose and priorities
- Business Planning Arrangements
- Funding Agreement
- Measurement - Outputs and Outcomes

Community Service



- **Criminal Justice (Community Service) Act 1983**
- **40 - 240 hours unpaid work as a direct alternative to a specified term in custody**
- Work on projects and placements of benefit to the community on tasks that would not otherwise be done.
- Consultation with, and proposals from, communities.
- Maintenance of community centres and facilities, graffiti removal and site rehabilitation, development of facilities for communities such as school gardens, community landscaping environmental initiatives etc.

Project Development Information



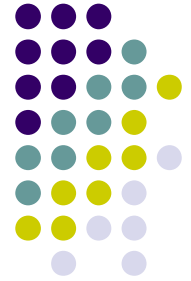
Making it Work for Offenders

A toolkit for Developing Employment Projects for offenders

European Offender Employment Forum

- www.eoef.org

The Probation Service



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