



An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh  
The Probation Service



# The Probation Service *Mental Health Policy and Practice*

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# The Picture that emerges....



- **No scientifically robust data available**
- **Review of LSI-R assessments indicates that:**
  - i. **33.7% of clients assessed had received mental health treatment in the past**
  - ii. **30% were determined to be exhibiting some signs of mental distress (mild anxiety or depression)**
  - iii. **3% were identified as having active psychosis.**
- **Analysis of one team in Dublin in 2016:**
  - i. **74% of women had mental health difficulties**
  - ii. **62.4% of men.**
- **Particular areas of concern**
  - i. **Dual Diagnosis (MH and poly drug use)**
  - ii. **Suicidal Ideation/self harm**
  - iii. **Personality Disorder**
  - iv. **Access appropriate services**

# Probation Service Response

- Development of an action plan to strengthen Mental Health awareness and practice in our work with offenders
- Cross-grade group established to have oversight of implementation of the action plan, and to undertake specific elements of the plan.

# Key Elements of Plan

- Promote MH awareness in our offices
- Further training for staff:
  - i. Mental health for Social workers
  - ii. Suicide Prevention (STORM)
  - iii. Working with offenders with personality disorders
- Build partnerships with IPS Psychology Service to improve services to offenders in the community with MH difficulties
- Engage with MH services at a strategic level to improve communication and engagement – to address service delivery concerns for offenders in the community



No, but we're on our way.....

# Practice Challenges



There are a number but two I want to highlight:

1. Accessing MH services (No triage system in place)
2. Dual diagnosis

# Some possible solutions.....



Building national and local partnerships with MH services

Building interagency structures, as we do very well in other areas of our work