



Key Facts

Changing Lives for Safer Communities

Who we are

- The Probation Board for Northern Ireland is a Non Departmental Public Body of the Department of Justice. It has responsibility for assessing and supervising people who have offended who are in custody and in the community, including the delivery of behavioural change programmes and supervising community service.
- All Probation Officers are Social Work qualified and are registered with the Northern Ireland Social Care Council.
- Our role is Changing Lives for Safer Communities.

What we do

On any given day Probation supervises 4,100 people throughout NI.

During 2017/18 we...

- ...Wrote over 8,000 reports for Courts and the Parole Commissioners.
- ...Supervised 116,000 hours of unpaid Community Service work to the community.
- ...Worked with 1,000 service users throughout NI prisons.
- ...Supported 291 victims through the Victim Information Scheme.
- ...Delivered behavioural change programmes including domestic violence and sexual violence programmes in the community and in custody.

Caseload

- There are approximately 4,100 people on Probation's caseload at any one time.
- 66% of the caseload is aged 20-39.
- 11% are currently under supervision for sexual offences.
- 29% are currently under supervision for violence against the person offences.
- 4% were assessed as posing a Risk of Serious Harm.
- 10% of the caseload is female.

Partnerships

- We sit in every Policing and Community Safety Partnership in NI.
- We are a key agency in the Public Protection Arrangements NI which assesses and manages certain sexual and violent offenders.
- We are part of 'Reducing Offending in Partnership' alongside police, prisons, the Department of Justice and Youth Justice Agency to tackle prolific offenders.
- We supervise female offenders and work with the voluntary sector, women's centres, and the prison service through the 'INSPIRE' model of reducing offending.
- We work closely with the Department of Justice, the Judiciary and charities to deliver Problem Solving Substance Misuse and Domestic Abuse court programmes.

How We Are Doing (2015/16 cohort)

- 68.5% of those supervised by Probation through a community sentence did not go on to reoffend within one year.
- In Northern Ireland, the one year proven reoffending rate for adults who were released from custody on community supervision was 31.5%. Overall, the one year proven reoffending rate for adults who were released from custody was 39.1%.
- “PBNI is an effective organisation which delivers its services against challenging standards.” - CJI Report 2013

We Change Lives

“Probation has given me the chance to have a future with my children.” – Service user on Probation Order

“My time during my ECO has been highly helpful and has given me the foundations to build on and keep changing for the better.” – Service User on Enhanced Combination Order

“Working with ASPIRE helped me to change my ways of thinking and the decisions that I make. I feel like a different person and it has made me a stronger person. Now I know I am more focussed with my life and it's all thanks to the project. I really appreciate it because it saved my life and made me a better father.” – Service User supervised through ASPIRE project

“I know I done wrong, but was treated like a normal person rather than a criminal and that was a good feeling.” – Service User on Enhanced Combination Order

“The person I am today is not the person who walked out of the Court house in 2016, with the help and support from Community Service and encouragement of Cancer Research I've finally got my life and career back on track.” – Service User on Community Service Order

We work with Victims

“The PBNI consider victims as central to their service and emphasise the importance of offenders addressing the harm they have caused.” – CJI Report 2013

Probation has a Victim Information Scheme for victims of crime.

The scheme seeks to ensure that victims of crime receive information about what it means when someone is sentenced to an Order which requires supervision by the Probation Board.

Through community sentences like community service victims can have a say in what type of work an offender completes as part of their court order.

Victims of crime can register with the scheme by leaflet or online at www.pbni.org.uk

* Figures correct as at 31 March 2018.

Contact details



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