

Workshop: The Future of Accreditation in Europe

This workshop has been jointly organized by the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research, in conjunction with the CEP, as an expert meeting on accreditation and evidence-based probation. The workshop as expert meeting draws together a range of scholars, managers and accreditation panel members from across Europe, to discuss and debate a number of key questions (see below) and to critically examine the different ways in which evidence-based probation might develop, and the role that accreditation and accreditation panels might play in this process.

The event will be chaired by Fergus McNeill, Professor of Criminology & Social Work at the University of Glasgow and by Mr. Leo Tigges, Secretary General of CEP.

Questions that will be addressed include:

- What has accreditation achieved?
- Under what conditions has it been most effective as a mechanism for increasing the effectiveness of services?
- What has limited its contributions to the development of effective probation?
- What are the proper relationships between accreditation, innovation and evaluation?
- What other strategies have services used in the pursuit of effective practice, and is there any evidence about which strategies have worked best?
- What can and what should be subjected to accreditation processes? Can a practitioner, a risk assessment tool, a practice process, a system, be accredited?
- What is the proper remit and composition for an accreditation panel?
- Should an accreditation panel advise governments and services on what kinds of practice developments are required, or simply make accreditation decisions on whatever is brought before it?
- What are the links between accreditation panels and professional training and education?

Method: A number of contributors from different jurisdictions have been approached to discuss their own experience of engaging with these issues. Their short inputs will provide the spur for a process of dialogue in which all participants can engage. The contributors will begin the conversation in each session by providing inputs explaining:

- Some information about the accreditation panel (reasons for establishing, starting date, composition) or alternative mechanisms for supporting evidence based practice.
- What are the areas of responsibility of the panel; does it address only the accreditation of programs or also other components of good practice (for

- instance diagnostic tools or professional education and skills). Does the panel have a more general advisory role with government or service delivery organisations in relation to programmes and/or good practice?
- How many programmes or other components have been accredited so far? What is in the pipeline?
- Some data about the number of offenders under supervision and the percentage of them that receive or accomplish accredited programmes and the distribution among the different programmes.
- Any evaluation evidence emerging from the use of accredited programmes (or other methods).

The event is jointly sponsored by the Scottish Government, Community Justice Division and by the Probation Board for Northern Ireland.

Schedule

9th February (Melville Room, Gilbert Scott Building)

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 6.30pm | Welcome Reception |
| 6.45pm | Reducing Reoffending: A Strategy for Scotland (Joe Griffin, Head of Community Justice Division, the Scottish Government). |
| 7.00pm | Desistance, 'What Works?' and Accreditation: Developing Practice (Fergus McNeill, University of Glasgow) |
| 7.15pm | The International Accreditation Meeting in 2008: its findings and present issues (Thijs van der Heijden, Accreditation Panel, The Netherlands) |
| 7.30pm | Dinner |

10th February (Melville Room, Gilbert Scott Building)

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 9.30am | The Irish Experience: North and South (Vivian Geiran, Irish Probation Service ; Geraldine O'Hare and Louise Cooper, Probation Board for Northern Ireland) |
| 11.00am | Refreshments |
| 11.15am | Nordic Experiences (Gerhard Ploeg, Ministry of Justice, Norway; Hans Monrad Graunbøl, Danish Ministry of Justice; Martin Lardén, Swedish Prison and Probation Service) |

1.00pm	Lunch
1.45pm	Experience in England and Wales (Prof. Mike Maguire, Cardiff University, Wales, UK) and in the Netherlands (F.C Fischer, Erasmus University Rotterdam)
3.15pm	Summing up
3.30pm	Refreshments/Close

Finding the Venue

A taxi from Glasgow Airport to the University should cost about £20. The Melville Room is located in the Main Building (the Gilmorehill Building of the University of Glasgow, pictured below) and is almost directly under the main tower, on the first floor. It is situated beside the Senate Room. The venue will be signposted from the Main Gate of the University on University Avenue, which is where you should ask to be dropped off by the taxi driver. The Main Gate (pictured on the right) is at the back of the building (the view on the left below is from the front).



If you are coming on the Underground, the nearest stop is Hillhead station. Turn left when you exit the station (onto Byres Road) and left again at the traffic lights at the junction of Byres Road and University Avenue. Proceed along University Avenue (up the hill) until you arrive at the Main Gate. Follow the signs from there, or ask the security staff for directions to the Melville Room.

You can download a detailed campus map here:

http://www.gla.ac.uk/media/media_1887_en.pdf

A10 on this map is the location of the Melville Room.