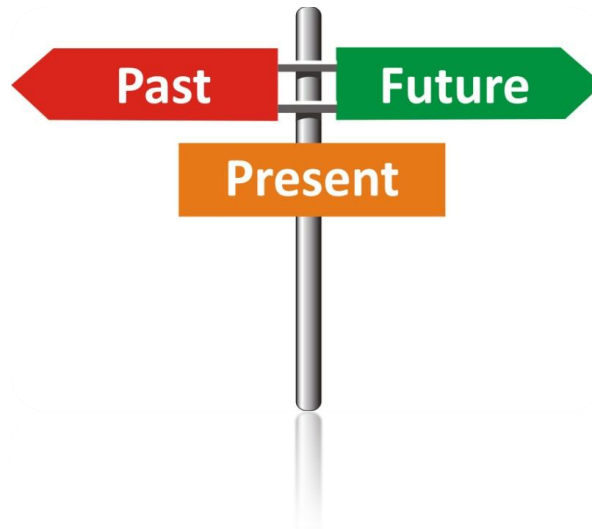


# Probation and Prisons in Ireland: From Poor Relation to Partnership Working



**Michael Donnellan,**  
Director General,  
Irish Prison Service

**Vivian Geiran,**  
Director,  
Irish Probation Service

# THE PAST - PROBATION

- Probation - *seen as the 'poor relation'*
  - *Viewed as soft, ineffective & irrelevant*
- Probation budget - *within the Prisons vote*
- Insufficient regard to research evidence
- Lack of Irish data and research



# THE PAST – PRISONS

- Punitive - ‘Zero tolerance’
- Numbers in custody - *steady growth*
- Prison - *the ‘default’ sanction*
- Little ‘joined-up’ thinking or approach

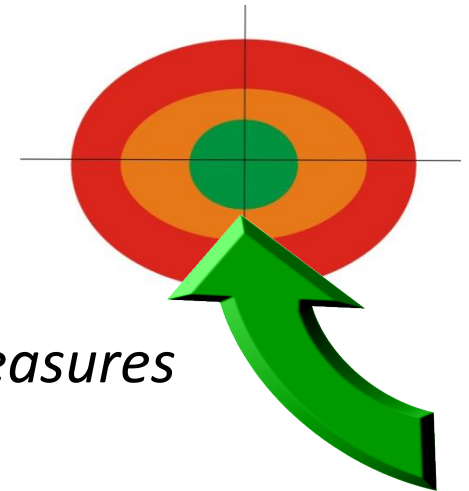


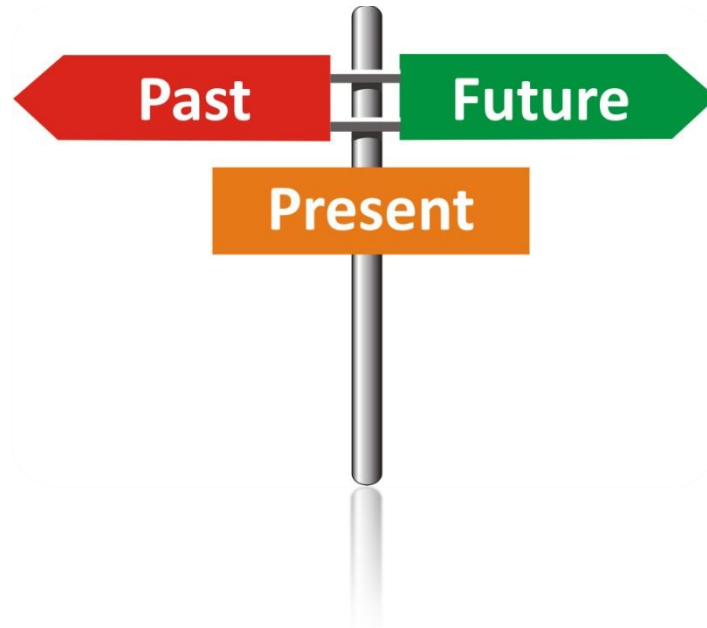
- Recognition of (a) separateness and  
(b) value in co-ordination
- Shared goals
- Shared data and information
- Joint Strategy
- Joint research & studies
- Co-located unit
- Joint management meetings



# THE FUTURE

- Review of Penal Policy / White Paper on Crime
- Joint strategy - *data, policy-making*
- Further reduce numbers in custody
  - *strategic focus/targets and specific measures*
- Justice system – *re-investment*
- Increase resources - *focus on community based sanctions*





# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh  
The Probation Service

Haymarket, Smithfield, Dublin 7 Ireland.

Tel: + 353 (0)1 817 3600

Fax: + 353 (0)1 872 2737

[www.probation.ie](http://www.probation.ie)

# THANK YOU



IDA Business Park, Ballinalee Road,  
Longford, Ireland.

Tel: +353 43 33 35100

Fax: +353 43 33 35371

[www.irishprisons.ie](http://www.irishprisons.ie)