



INVITATION TO TENDER: BREAKING THE CARE TO PRISON PIPELINE

About IPRT and Our Work

The Irish Penal Reform Trust is Ireland's leading independent charity campaigning for a penal system that is just and humane; protects and promotes human rights, equality and social justice; and uses prison as a last resort. Our work is underscored by the recognition that prison is inherently damaging in itself, and impacts disproportionately on marginalised and disadvantaged groups. Our goal, therefore, is to shift the focus of Ireland's penal system away from its current emphasis on punishment towards approaches based on prevention, early intervention, diversion, and the integration of criminal justice policy with wider social policy.

The Issue

It is widely recognised – both nationally and internationally – that children in care of the State are more likely than other children to end up in conflict with the law, more likely to become criminalised, and more likely to end up in detention, and ultimately prison. The profoundly negative cycle of the criminalisation of young people in care results in poorer outcomes for the individual young person, but also for communities and wider society. While the connections between the experience of care and prison have long been identified, we wish to address the questions as to *what extent* this is the case in Ireland, *why* this is happening and *how* we can break this cycle.

The Research

IPRT is now inviting tenders for the research and production of a report examining the reasons for the over-representation of children in care, or with experience of care, in the criminal justice system in Ireland and identifying the best ways to address and reduce the criminalisation of these young people. We expect that the final report would include:

- **A literature review** of current domestic and international research about the criminalisation of looked after children and young people;
- **Examination of data** to establish to what extent children living in residential or secure care are being criminalised at higher rates than other groups of children, including those in other types of care.
- **A significant emphasis on development of policy proposals and recommendations** grounded in best practice which support better outcomes for young people at risk of criminalisation in care, including identification of critical points for better interventions and existing gaps in such provision as well as examination of innovative or successful approaches in other jurisdictions.

NB: Tendering individuals should note that the successful tender will be required to establish and work with an Advisory Panel in consultation with IPRT. A call for submissions will also be issued to gather a wide variety of stakeholder views to inform the project. It is expected that the research should involve the participation of those affected by these issues and this can be facilitated by partner organisations currently working with young people. It is expected that the report will be used as a practical campaigning tool and will form the source material for a wider project on breaking the care to prison pipeline. The timeline for production of research will be in the region of 6-8 months from January 2018.

Requirements:

- Postgraduate degree in a relevant discipline;
- Demonstrated knowledge of the care system and criminal justice policy as it relates to children;
- Solid grounding in international and European human rights standards as they relate to children and young people;

- Experience in producing high quality documents to agreed deadlines and within strict word-counts to publication standard;
- First-rate drafting abilities, exceptional writing skills, attention to detail and ability to adhere to budgetary requirements.

Tender Process and Timeline:

Tendering individuals or organisations must submit a brief tender document as soon as possible or by 18 December 2017 at the latest. Each tender should be no more than 800 words (2 pages) and should include:

- Profile of the individual making the proposal (with CV as attachment);
- Details of previous relevant work in this area;
- Approach/methodology proposed to achieve the key deliverable;
- Costing (fixed price);
- Estimated number of days for completing the work.

Assessment of Tender:

Each tender received will be assessed on the basis of:

CRITERIA	SCORE
Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the brief	25
Track record in production of relevant work	25
Approach/methodology	25
Value for Money	25
TOTAL	100

PLEASE NOTE:

- Additional information may be sought at the assessment phase.
- Before final decision, a number of the most competitive tenders may be invited for further discussions on their proposals for the purpose of elaboration, clarification and/or aiding mutual understanding.
- IPRT shall not be liable for any costs and/or expenses incurred in respect of the preparation or the submission of any tender documents or associated material.
- A valid Tax Clearance Certificate is to be supplied with the tender and is to be valid when invoice is being submitted for payment. Details of VAT registration are to be supplied with the tender.
- Lowest tender is not a guarantee of success.
- IPRT reserves the right to reject any or all of the proposals submitted and will not be obliged to accept the lowest or any tender.

Tenders should be submitted by e-mail to director@iprt.ie by noon on 18 December 2017 at the latest.

Queries should be directed to Michelle Martyn, IPRT Senior Research and Policy Projects Manager at mmartyn@iprt.ie