It is - as always - a pleasure to publish a new issue of Probation Quarterly. Things rarely stand still in the world of probation. Since my last editorial we have a new justice minister - the 10th in twelve years - and more change is on the way with the HMPPS One reforms and a new Chief Probation Officer incoming, following the announcement that Sonia Flynn is moving into a new role overseeing the long-awaited introduction of a professional register for probation staff. Change is always difficult, but it can also provide opportunities for improvement and The Probation Institute - recently constituted as a charity - is working hard to be a loud voice in the world of probation as it embarks on this next stage of professionalisation. If you want to support the work of the Institute then you can join here: https://www.probation-institute.org/how-to-join. Membership will give you access to events, training resources and research projects.

Many of the articles in this issue tackle the issue of change, both on an organisational, policy and individual level. Thus, we have articles from Peter Stanford, Mark, Liam and Paul Gavin focusing on the role that probation can play in supporting people to change. Meanwhile, Sam Ainslie focuses on what needs to change for probation to reimagine probation practice in her review of the recently published book, Reimagining Probation Practice. Jacky Burrows and Sarah Smith both focus on potential changes to policy to enable a more inclusive service and Lizzy Jewell reports on Working Chance’s recent research into changes in attitudes towards employing people with convictions.

In recent years we have seen concerted efforts to put the harms that come from gambling in the spotlight. Many of these harms overlap and intersect with criminal justice-related issues. It is for this reason that this issue includes a themed section on gambling and related criminal justice harms. The first article in this section provides an overview of the causes and consequences of gambling. Subsequent articles explore the support that gamblers do and do not receive once they are under criminal justice supervision as well as discussion of the overlap between gambling and certain offences. There is a lot to be done to ensure that people who gamble are supported in their efforts to reduce the harm that gambling can cause and I hope that this themed section can move the debate forward in the field of probation.

If you are experiencing gambling harm, please call the National Gambling Helpline on 0808 8020 133 for free and confidential support.

I hope you enjoy reading the issue.