

## HM Prison and Probation Service Creating Future Opportunities - How effective is the interaction between the CFO Programme and Persons Convicted of Sexual Offences (PCOSOs) within the prison environment?

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### PROJECT OVERVIEW

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His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) includes a specialist team, Creating Future Opportunities (CFO), which delivers targeted interventions for individuals in custody and on probation across England. As part of its offer, the CFO has developed the CFO Evolution programme, an enhanced provision designed to operate alongside mainstream services. Its purpose is to provide more intensive, tailored support for individuals who may benefit from alternative or specialist approaches. The provision is accessible to all offenders, including those convicted of serious offences and Persons Convicted of Sexual Offences (PCOSOs).

Participation in CFO Evolution is voluntary, allowing individuals to engage in a wide range of activities according to their needs and motivations. These activities span the development of soft skills, as well as practical support relating to accommodation, education, training, and employment.

This research project focuses specifically on a sub-group of the CFO cohort, PCOSOs, who have engaged with the programme while serving custodial sentences. The study aims to explore the relationship between PCOSO characteristics and their patterns of engagement with different elements of the CFO provision. Building on this analysis, the project will also identify opportunities to strengthen and refine how the CFO programme supports PCOSOs, with a view to enhancing both participation and outcomes.

Using R, SPSS, Excel and Word, a report and infographic will be created to illustrate the findings.

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## PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

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### Organisation and Team

Research and Statistics Team



### Working Arrangement

In person



### Selection Method

Interviews will be held online (via Teams)

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## SUPPORT AND TRAINING

- The student will be mentored by the unit's Research and Statistics lead as well as supported by policy and performance/delivery colleagues. The student will experience first-hand how provision is delivered, with visits to HM prisons, probation and Activity Hub locations to gain an understanding of the Criminal Justice System. The student will be working within a team with many years' experience of working with offenders with multiple barriers.
- The student will be exposed to large datasets and helped with data analysis, utilising any existing Excel, R, Python and SPSS skills (primarily explanatory statistics, Chi-squared and odds ratios) and developing communication skills – both verbal briefings with PowerPoint and written dissemination of Word document.

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## APPLICATION CRITERIA

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### ESSENTIAL

- An understanding of the Criminal Justice System.
- A desire to learn and understand offending behaviour.
- A basic knowledge of statistical analysis.
- The ability to use Word, Excel and PowerPoint to create reports and infographics.

### DESIRABLE

- Use of SPSS, R or Python (Chi-squared, odds ratios, logistic regression).