

HM Prison and Probation Service Creating Future Opportunities - How effective is the CFO Activity Hub provision in supporting Persons Convicted of Sexual Offences (PCOSOs), particularly in relation to its service offer and its influence on their attendance?

PROJECT OVERVIEW

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 this offer, the CFO has developed the CFO Evolution programme, an enhanced provision designed to operate alongside mainstream services. A key component of this programme is delivery within dedicated community spaces known as Activity Hubs. The overarching aim of CFO Evolution is to provide intensive, personalised support for individuals who may benefit from alternative or specialist approaches. The provision is open to all offenders, including those convicted of serious offences and Persons Convicted of Sexual Offences (PCOSOs).

Engagement with both the CFO Evolution programme and the Activity Hubs is voluntary, enabling individuals to participate in activities according to their needs, interests, and personal motivations. Participants may attend as frequently as they choose and engage in a broad range of activities spanning soft skills development, wellbeing support, and practical assistance relating to accommodation, education, training, and employment.

This research project focuses on a specific sub group of the CFO cohort, PCOSOs, who have engaged with the programme through attendance at Activity Hubs. The study seeks to examine the relationship between the characteristics of PCOSOs and their patterns of engagement with different elements of the CFO offer, as well as to explore the factors influencing their voluntary return to the Activity Hubs. Drawing on this analysis, the project will identify opportunities to further strengthen and refine how CFO Evolution supports PCOSOs within Activity Hub settings, with the aim of enhancing participation, engagement, and overall outcomes.

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

PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS



Organisation and Team

Research and Statistics Team



Working Arrangement

In person



Selection Method

Interviews will be held online (via Teams)

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.

APPLICATION CRITERIA

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).