



# **Collaborative Working with CFO**

**How CFO can complement the support you provide to  
participants within the Criminal Justice System**

# Collaborative Approach

CFO take a collaborative approach when working with community and custody services. Mainstream activities which participants are engaging with are taken into account to reduce duplication and ensure the CFO Evolution programme complements your delivery.

Previous (and ongoing) collaboration has taken place with DWP, CRS ETE, New Futures Network, Prison Employment Leads and more.

In the case of CRS, for example, CFO have facilitated their 3-tiered approach to ETE services - being high, medium and low.

CFO have been able to support CRS participants at all complexity levels by:

- Opening up training opportunities
- Providing educational activities on a weekly basis
- Granting opportunities to gain genuine qualifications
- Helping with CV writing, disclosure, interview skills and more
- Funding courses and equipment, PPE etc. (on case-by-case basis)

Working with the CFO Evolution programme can help participants to better engage with mainstream education and employment services.

The holistic approach of the programme regularly increases motivation, confidence and outlook; all of which reduce barriers to reoffence and help participants to settle in the community.

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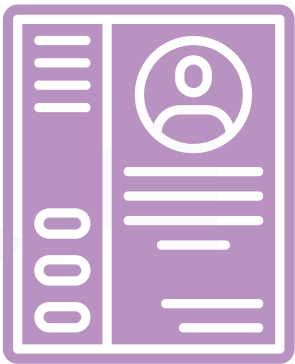
*I couldn't have done this without you a few months ago. I had nothing and no-one to help me and I was on the verge of re-offending just to get by. Thank you so much for all your help, from teaching me to make toasties, how to clean my clothes, to giving me the confidence to get a job. You have been a diamond! -*

**Adam\*, CFO Activity Hub Participant**

” -

# Support Available

CFO support can include (but is not exhaustive to):



## Employability

CV writing, job searches, interview preparation



## Education

Accessing education, courses and digital college



## Training

Accredited courses (including CSCS) and qualifications



## Finances

Budgeting, money management, spending habits



## Personal Skills

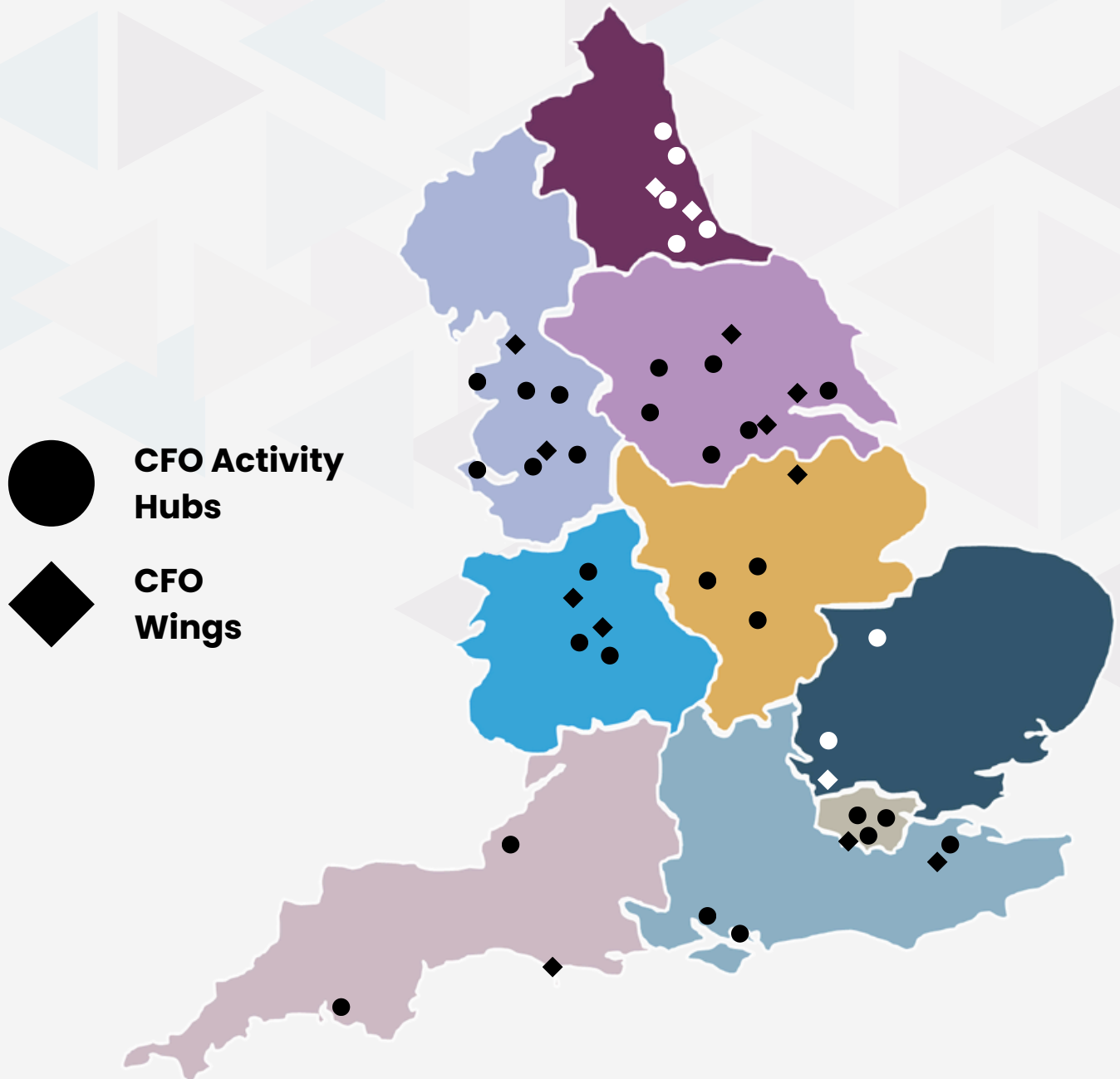
Boosting confidence, thinking skills and behaviours



## Independent Living

Healthy eating, how to be a good tenant, personal wellbeing

# Delivery Map



CFO delivery is available both in custody and the community.

This map represents the CFO Wings in custody and CFO Activity Hubs in the community. In custody, wider delivery is available at outlier and feeder prisons, whilst in the community, wider delivery is available across all regions. These locations are not marked on the map.

To find out what is available for participants in your area, please contact your regional provider via: [CreatingFutureOpportunities.gov.uk/Contact](https://www.creatingfutureopportunities.gov.uk/Contact)

# Joint Working

An example of CFO's collaborative working being a big success, is in the work done alongside DWP.

Through this partnership, CFO and DWP have made significant strides in supporting offenders within the community by:

- Providing safe spaces where DWP colleagues can meet with participants, including those who are unable to visit a Job Centre due to risk factors.
- Facilitating cross-referrals between DWP and CFO Activity Hubs, maximising funding opportunities for our participants.
- Offering alternative spaces at CFO Activity Hubs for DWP to host job fairs in a welcoming, relaxed environment.
- Establishing a dedicated DWP point of contact for participants where possible at all CFO Activity Hubs, promoted through our weekly schedules.
- Delivering joint training sessions to upskill CFO Activity Hub and DWP staff, ensuring they can fully leverage available resources.

This collaboration exemplifies CFO's commitment to improving outcomes for individuals and communities alike.

To collaborate with CFO in your local area, please contact your regional provider via: **[CreatingFutureOpportunities.gov.uk/Contact](https://www.creatingfutureopportunities.gov.uk/Contact)**



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“We were both blown away with the support you all give at the CFO Activity Hub and the relaxed friendly atmosphere you have created for all who attend” –  
**Disability Employment Adviser Lead, DWP**  
”



# 15,765

Activities have been delivered in the community since the launch of CFO Evolution

Toby\* is one of the many participants who have benefitted from this collaboration between CFO and DWP.

Having received a sanction, Toby\* had previously disengaged with DWP, but Ayiri from DWP met him at a sports day at the Lewisham CFO Activity Hub. The conversation they had allowed for exploration of the sanction and how they could overcome this barrier.

The Lewisham CFO Activity Hub staff advocated for Toby\* to receive a bursary and be enrolled on an electrical installation course to reduce the challenge of low income, which presented as a risk of reoffence otherwise. Ayiri set up a meeting with Toby\* at the Hub and managed to get the sanction removed so that he could attend the course.

This upskilled Toby\* and, with the encouragement of his Support Worker at the CFO Activity Hub, he entered part-time employment, making for a successful rehabilitation journey thanks to the joint effort of CFO and DWP.

Another to see the positive side of the collaboration was Darius\*. Ayiri met the participant at a drop-in session, whereby Darius\* explained he was having trouble getting funding as he was unable to communicate the validity of the CSCS card and forklift training he was undertaking. The training had been arranged via the Lewisham CFO Activity Hub, which required clarification.

Ayiri arranged a case conference with Darius\*'s Work Coach and Team Leader to explain the situation in full, securing the much-needed funding for Darius\* and reducing the likelihood of reoffence. Darius\* also had a travel pass arranged for attended the examination and managed to successfully join the labour market thanks to this support.

This partnership with DWP has had significant benefits for participants at the Lewisham CFO Activity Hub as they are able to overcome a huge barrier to engagement.

The safe environment means participants are comfortable speaking with DWP, and referrals run vice-versa. Nobody is left behind and a valuable resource is made use of, with a single point of contact that makes it easy for both staff to arrange appointments, and for participants to engage with a familiar face.

To see what CFO services are available in your region, please visit:

**[CreatingFutureOpportunities.gov.uk/](https://www.creatingfutureopportunities.gov.uk/)**  
**CFO-Delivery-Map**

# How to refer

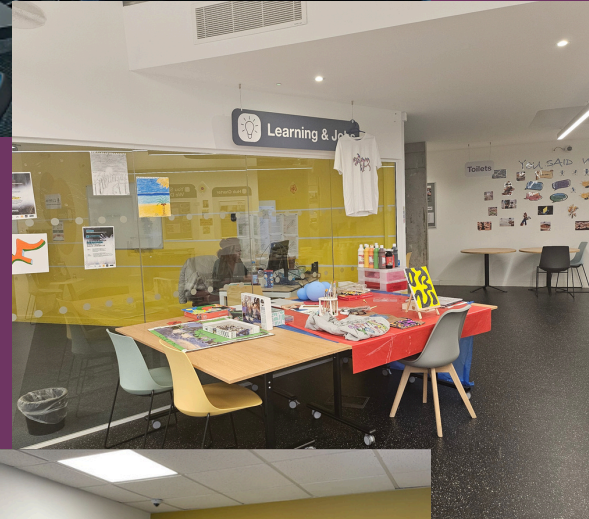
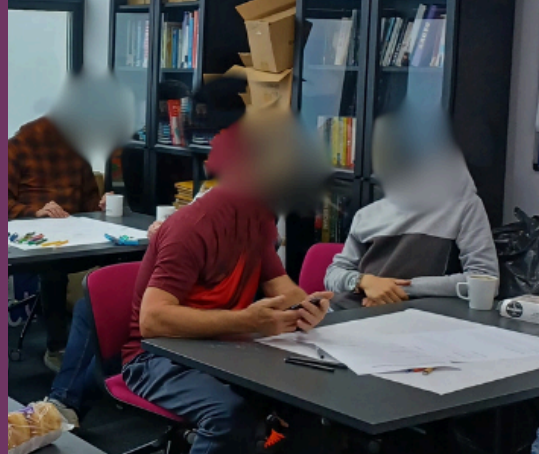
CFO accept referrals from a diverse range of stakeholders.

Making a referral to CFO services is simple and easy. Simply go to [CreatingFutureOpportunities.gov.uk/](https://www.creatingfutureopportunities.gov.uk/) **CFO-Evolution-Referrals** fill out the form, and your referral will be shared with the relevant CFO provider.

CFO services are complementary to mainstream provisions, providing wraparound support tailored to each participant's journey and avoiding any duplication of provisions. CFO activities regularly help participants to engage with mainstream services, and reduce reoffending.

Each region has a different CFO Prime Provider, and as a result, services can differ from region-to-region. Should you require further information about the services available in your area please get in contact with your nearest CFO location here:

[CreatingFutureOpportunities.gov.uk/](https://www.creatingfutureopportunities.gov.uk/)  
**Contact**



The CFO Evolution programme is funded by HMPPS CFO. For more information about CFO services, please visit:

**[CreatingFutureOpportunities.gov.uk](https://www.creatingfutureopportunities.gov.uk/)**

