**HMPPS CFO Activity Hubs**

HMPPS Co-financing Organisation has been successful in securing an additional £60m of European Social Fund money to deliver a number of new Activity Hubs designed to provide safe and supportive spaces for offenders, which will complement (without duplicating) existing resettlement arrangements. This funding will sit alongside the existing £196M allocation to HMPPS CFO from the ESF Managing Authority.

The Hubs and their respective operating model will enable programme participants to access tailored support, receive advice and guidance, interact with positive role models and peers at a similar stage of their resettlement journey, develop plans to move forward and ultimately be supported into education, employment and training, as well as importantly equipping them with the necessary skills needed to desist from offending and successfully contribute to their local communities. The aim is to augment existing HMPPS services and maximise the benefit of provision already available.

The Hubs will be placed in carefully selected community locations throughout the country, with the exception of a pilot scheme focusing on veterans in custody which will operate in one prison (HMP Holme House).

**What the project is, including the specific activities undertaken as part of the project**

Programme participants will be referred by CFO3 prime providers, National Probation Service (NPS), Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs), Prison Education Framework (PEF) providers, prison based staff, as well as by self-referral. The expectation will be that referrals will be focused on those individuals not successfully engaging with statutory activity or those for whom additional support would be beneficial alongside existing support. Provision offered at the Hubs will be delivered by CFO staff where not currently available via Probation arrangements, but will primarily focus on delivery which will enhance resettlement services.

The existing CFO model will be maintained, to ensure that participants have a single point of contact within the Hub. This will provide consistency for the individual and allow staff to track progression milestones as appropriate.

The primary role of the Hub based Support Workers will be to facilitate and broker provision required by the individual across a number of areas e.g. education, skills or practical support packages to offenders on release or those serving community sentences. The following areas of delivery will be incorporated to reflect the standard resettlement pathways: accommodation; health; finance and debt; relationships; attitudes and behaviour; education; employment and substance misuse, as these have been designed to address criminogenic needs of offenders. Additionally, citizenship and mentoring provision will be built into the Hub ‘package’ of support. Only activity which complements Offender Management arrangements and is endorsed by Probation will be funded. All CFO provision will be required to fit within Probation Reform measures and must not duplicate or replicate mainstream activity – this is an ESF requirement. Processes and protocols currently in place to manage existing CFO contracts will be implemented to ensure that all activity adds value and is complementary.

In recognition of the difficulty of engaging with the target group, a programme of group activities centring on sports, media, arts and crafts will be provided, which will both make the Hub somewhere where participants want to come and help them develop key teamworking and personal skills. The provision of these activities will allow providers to embed education and training in non-traditional ways, more likely to be successful with this cohort. The aim will be to translate this early engagement into a more sustainable interest and commitment to a more formal approach to education/skills provision. This in turn will be delivered via providers as required.

**Where the project will be delivered**

The Hubs will form the delivery site for the majority of the activity, with a range of specialist providers brought in to deliver interventions, courses and generally give support as required, dependent on individually assessed needs and resultant action plans. Support Workers will be located at the Hubs, providing initial engagement, assessment and oversight of delivery to each individual. Where necessary and particularly in the latter stage of a participant journey as they start to develop the skills required to engage with the mainstream, delivery may be at third party locations such as colleges or training centres.

The Veterans Custody Hub will operate within a single wing of HMP Holme House, where practicable mirroring the operation of the community Hub. Modelling of P-nomis will be used to identify a prison with high numbers of veterans alongside considerations of whether this group can be progressed onto the Hub from other prisons within region. Agreement has been secured from the Prison Group Director for the chosen region before go-live in order to ensure sufficient participant numbers. Subject to modelling and Director sign-off, this may be augmented with another cohort of offenders in order to take advantage of the potential for peer support from the veteran group. The Veteran Hub, would in turn become a referral point to the community Hubs on release.

**Over what timescale**

Commissioning commenced in early 2020 and involve detailed delivery preparedness activity within the HM Prison and Probation delivery structures including CFO. The target contract award period will be the fourth quarter of 2020, with contracts commencing early 2021. Provider contracts will run until September 2023 to align with those for the existing CFO3 Primes. The actual end date for the programme will be December 2023. Again, this would align with the current HMPPS CFO3 programme dates. The detail of the delivery specification will be developed in conjunction with appropriate stakeholders (primarily NPS and HMPS) – this will take place from early 2020, to form the basis of the required content for the Invitation to Tender.

**Who will deliver it**

All services will be delivered via third party providers, following an open and competitive tendering process. Various models for delivery will be considered as part of the tendering process including single prime provider/multiple sub-contractor, consortium, special purpose vehicle (SPV) etc. Successful providers will deliver within each region based on the chosen model, utilising specialist organisations to deliver services as appropriate.

Potentially eligible offenders will be identified in conjunction with Offender Managers, with eligibility checks and assessments for suitability carried out utilising information from national linked IT systems (P-nomis and n-Delius), HMPPS CFO specific IT system and face-to-face assessment. Appropriate management of risk of harm issues will be key, particularly given the intention to provide the majority of services in community locations. Sharing of information relating to relevant risk factors with prime providers and other appropriate organisations will be a central consideration, alongside ensuring participant and staff safety.

The use of specialist organisations with expertise in delivering services to offenders with potentially complex needs will be essential to maximise engagement with individuals who would not generally respond positively to mainstream interventions. All provision will need to complement all existing services and demonstrate clear added value.

**Who will benefit from the project**

The project will target those offenders least likely to engage or co-operate with mandated or standard provision. A high proportion of offenders leaving custody will be focused on entering employment, without having had sufficient opportunity to address issues which may prevent sustainable work or successful resettlement. Additionally, significant numbers will be at risk of drifting back into criminal and anti-social behaviour during the critical 3 month post-release period. These will form the basis of the majority of throughput for the Hubs. This will be augmented by referrals for offenders on Community Orders where support available is thought to be particularly suited to their specific needs.

The Veterans Hub will have its own referral criteria limited both by the category and function of HMP Holme House and any ESF restrictions.

**What the benefits will be**

The CFO Activity Hub Model offers a unique opportunity to realise cross-Departmental benefits as offenders are supported to overcome barriers within a risk of harm framework including substance misuse, lack of work skills, lack of secure accommodation etc.

There will be a particular focus on general sequencing of activity and work will be carried out to identify potential for joint working across other CFOs, both via LEPs and directly with other Government Departments. This focus will continue throughout the programme, to ensure alignment with both ESF and mainstream offers.

It is envisaged that the additional activity will add value to other provision available in the community and provide a further point of referral for organisations with clients unable to confidently access these services.

HMPPS CFO

2020