

EX-ARMED SERVICES PERSONNEL

HMPPS Co-Financing Organisation



WHAT TO EXPECT

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Let's not generalise. The majority of ex-armed forces personnel, transition into 'civvy street' with minimal issues but what about those who don't? This brief overview will explain how HMPPS work with key staff, stakeholders and other relevant personnel to implement and action support to ex-armed forces personnel who find themselves in the Criminal Justice System (CJS).

EX-ARMED SERVICES
PERSONNEL

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HMPPS CO-FINANCING ORGANISATION (CFO)

Established in 2002 and has since secured over £530m of external funding for the MoJ.

Currently, CFO manages £256m of European funding to increase mainstream opportunities of offenders considered hard to reach in custody, the community and through the gate.

There are two projects that complement each other, as well as existing provisions and are known across the CJS as CFO resettlement programme (CFO3) and CFO Activity Hubs. Both of these are funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) and matched by the same amount of Government resources.



NETWORK FOR EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL (NESP)

The original CFO proposal was to work with those Detainees Under Sentence (DUS) at the Military Corrective Training Centre (MCTC) Colchester and those in HMPPS CJS who have previously served for the Armed Forces.

The focus is to support individuals through the gate, helping participants to find employment.

Over the duration of the project, work expanded considerably to include external organisations (RFEA, Ubique, SToMP, NPR and Ormiston families).

Consultations with senior stakeholders across MoJ, HMPPS and HMP veteran leads, as well as direct engagement with veterans has allowed us to develop our Ex-Armed Service Personnel Plan, which details strategic and legacy solutions that impact beyond the current funding period.



DELIVERY STREAMS

WHAT TO EXPECT

CFO along with the Armed Forces Covenant has worked on several delivery streams targeted specifically at veterans:

- The veterans specific therapeutic wing in HMP/YOI Holme House will focus delivery of supportive outcomes and moving participants on to mainstream provision
- Our specific provisions for detainees at MCTC Colchester continues to work with Shaw Trust to link them into the CFO3, or CFO Activity Hubs
- CFO's support also aims to strengthen risk management procedures, reducing inconsistencies in statutory engagement and standing operating procedures for managing re-offending, by lobbying to ensure more Veterans in Custody Officer (ViCSO)s are in place for consistent knowledge and skills, share experiences and best practice
- A veterans support map - open to professionals, veterans and Voluntary Community Social Enterprise (VCSE), it can be used to report demographics, geographical or type of support categories, and storage

WORKSTREAMS

Strand 1

Embed support into mainstream delivery

Strand 3

Ensure consistent levels of support across the custodial estate

Strand 2

Strengthen risk management procedures

Strand 4

Raise awareness of support available





PROJECT TEAM

The project team look at ways to sensibly and sensitively support veterans into the CFO3, which operates nationally across custodial and community sites. It is particularly focused on offenders with complex support needs, as well as general resettlement provision and support accessed via the Probation Service.

"WHENEVER I ATTEND THE HUB I FEEL SUPPORTED WITH WHATEVER I NEED SUPPORT WITH, I AM REALLY GRATEFUL"

CFO ACTIVITY HUB PARTICIPANT

MAINSTREAM DELIVERY

Strand 1 is specifically concerned with ensuring continuity of provision for detainees at MCTC Colchester as they

- transfer to the mainstream custodial estate
- or
- are discharged to their home communities

The provider (Shaw Trust) will continue to enrol suitable detainees from MCTC and link them to CFO3 or CFO Activity Hubs.

The initial period centred upon MoD and MoJ developing suitable processes, agreeing on protocols and implementing the strands, this phase will focus on integrating these into mainstream processes.



RISK MANAGEMENT

Currently, release and recall provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 only apply to service personnel sentenced to imprisonment, not members of the Armed Forces sentenced to service detention by the Courts-Martial. This has led to inconsistency in terms of statutory arrangements and standard operating procedures for managing re-offending.

Until recently, there has been no statutory supervision for the higher-risk detainees being released from MCTC unless they met certain sentencing criteria by the Courts-Martial.



Strand 2 explores the viability of extending probation supervision to members of the armed forces sentenced to service detention by the Courts-Martial.

A considerable amount of resources between HMPPS and MoD has supported this. See page 9 for further details.

The aim is parity between members of the armed forces and civilian offenders, both relating to the management of the risk of harm and resettlement opportunities.

The overall aim is to reduce the number of veterans re-entering custody as a result of escalation.



SUPPORT FOR ViCSO ROLE

Across England / Wales, many prisons have a nominated ViCSO. However, there are inconsistencies:

- not always in place
- variance in skills level and understanding of the cohort
- not enough time and/or resources are given to carry out the role effectively



Strand 3 would raise the profile of the role, lobbying to ensure each prison had a ViCSO, or ensure access to a ViCSO (i.e. regional ViCSO), where this is appropriate/relevant. Operationally it would offer:

- training to ensure consistent knowledge and skills
- improving data capture in P-Nomis and n-Delius to better identify numbers and location of veterans
- a dedicated Single Point of Contact (SPoC) to raise concerns
- best practice events and regular forums to share experiences
- nominated regional champions/lead roles
- national sponsoring Governor to provide senior buy-in
- links to officer recruitment and training
- external support and links to networks including veteran charities
- development of guidance and operations protocols
- offence specific support
- post custody support

VETERANS SUPPORT MAP

The Veteran Support Map was an unplanned support mechanism for veterans, staff and organisations that were developed during phase one. This initiative grew out of collaborative working between HMPPS CFO, Anglia Ruskin University and RBLI.

This strand has and will continue to develop the map to increase its usefulness to a wider audience. The aim is to increase visibility amongst professionals, veterans and VCSE.

CFO will, in turn, be able to report demographic, geographical, or type of support categories allowing for more entries in greater detail.



<https://mod.co-financing.org/veteran-support-map/>





CFO CURRENT PICTURE

Our support strands

Support for Prisons

During the delivery of NESP II, CFO has committed to supporting veterans in the CJS through a variety of means.

Early 2021 CFO recruited a CFO Veteran Lead with the view to continuing the work already started and to embed the delivery in a way that has never been done before.

Permission has been given by HMPPS Director-General for CFO to work closely with Prison Group Directors (PGD) across England and to offer more tailored specialist support and guidance where needed for veterans.

CFO has created an ex-armed forces action plan to help explain the support being offered to regions and prisons with little additional workload being asked from prison staff.

Support for MCTC

From the beginning of NESP, CFO has continued to support MCTC and Detainees Under Sentence (DUS) via CFO3 and now with the addition of CFO Activity Hubs.

In 2017, CFO created a working group to help address the issue of there being no statutory supervision for those being discharged from the forces and being released from MCTC for a high-risk offence.

The working group was created between HMPPS, MoD, MCTC, CFO and The Probation Service to commit resources for the high-risk offenders and collaborate to tie cross-government departments together in the policy.

In May 2021, a new chapter was written into the MAPPA Guidance.

CFO Activity Hub

In 2019 HMPPS CFO secured additional ESF monies to deliver a community-focused project to complement CFO3. From the delivery of NESP and NESP II, CFO staff developed key skills and knowledge on ex-armed forces personnel in the CJS.

This created the basis to write a specification for one of the CFO Activity Hubs to be prison-based (CFO Veteran Hub) and the delivery specifically for ex-armed forces personnel who co-locate with other vulnerable cohorts.

These 23 CFO Activity Hubs are located around England (one being in custody) and are managed by five different Prime Providers (Seetec, Ingeus, Shaw Trust, The Growth Company, Reed).



HMPPS Future Focus

-  Recognise inconsistencies, mapping what is currently offered across the estate
-  Developing more tailored support for those working directly with veterans in custody such as ViCSOs through training and raising awareness
-  Maintain and build on existing key stakeholder relationships across the veteran network
-  Continued support to MCTC via CFO and the Probation Service for the advice and training for staff specifically relating to risk management
-  MCTC will be able to enter DUS information directly onto the Violent and Sex Offender Register (ViSOR) - meaning information for high-risk offenders is handled within HMPPS guidelines
-  Reviewing and increasing veteran data diagnostics which supports tailored advice and evidence
-  Delivery of CFO Veteran Hub and evaluating the outcomes

GOING FORWARD

CFO-mod@justice.gov.uk

HMPPS CFO is committed to supporting ex-service personnel to reduce re-offending. The Ex-Armed Services Personnel Briefing Paper supports the ex-armed service personnel agenda and provides key evidence as to why ex-armed service personnel in the CJS require tailored support.

Using the Ex-Armed Services Personnel Action Plan, CFO will increase the awareness of support, and highlight the gaps where more support is needed. This work will always be in collaboration with the custodial estate, prisons, probation and MoJ Policy teams.

All of the key pieces of work that the CFO have highlighted will be evaluated, including the Veteran Hub at HMP/YOI Holme House.

We aim to publish these results on the CFO website in January 2024, with the intention of them influencing further projects and/or models around the country.

Developing and maintaining stakeholder relationships with all sectors is crucial for this area of work to succeed. If there are any queries relating to this brochure or ex-armed service personnel within CFO, they can be emailed to CFO-mod@justice.gov.uk





About Co-Financing Organisation

Around 80% of people who receive a caution or conviction have offended before.

We know that people with strong foundations in place to make a success of their lives are less likely to re-offend. CFO projects are aimed at addressing barriers via appropriate support mechanisms tailored to individual needs.

To find out more about the CFO3 or CFO Activity Hub projects, visit
www.co-financing.org