

## Site

Interventions Alliance

## Name of project / initiative

Chatham CFO Activity Hub

## Overview

CFO Activity Hubs support unemployed people (18 yrs and over) on probation, including in the 90 days post-sentence, to help participants overcome barriers into work, and support their desistance and reintegration into their local communities. Because participation in an Activity Hub is voluntary, providers need to ensure their services are seen by their target group as supportive, and responsive to their needs, if they are to engage effectively with them. Interventions Alliance (IA) feel their Chatham CFO Activity Hub is an example of best practice in working with young adult male offenders, who are often reluctant to engage with non-mandated services. Their focus is on building trust and positive relationships with the young men, providing positive role models, engaging in guided challenging conversations supporting their desistance, and teaching a range of core living skills such as cooking fresh food, developing artistic skills, and learning how to work as a team and communicate effectively.

## Its impact

IA report high levels of positive engagement from the young men at Chatham Activity Hub, in spite of their voluntary nature and young men being a traditionally hard-to-reach group, with positive feedback on the impact of their work on the young people's journeys and reintegration, both from the young men themselves and from fellow professionals.

## What's special about it

IA believe it is the skill-set and approach that the staff have developed in working with young men that makes Chatham Activity hub special.

## Wider applicability

IA feel this approach could be of benefit in the way young male offenders are managed, and engaged with, across the criminal justice system.

## For more information:

Contact: [jo.wood@interventionsalliance.com](mailto:jo.wood@interventionsalliance.com)

See also: [interventionsalliance.com/cfo-activity-hubs/cfo-activity-hub-chatham/](https://interventionsalliance.com/cfo-activity-hubs/cfo-activity-hub-chatham/) [website]