**Leeds CFO Activity Hub – Case Study**

A was referred to Leeds CFO Activity Hub in July 2021 as their probation practitioner wanted them to get involved in Arts and Crafts. However, when they were enrolled, they spoke to a support worker about other issues and had quite a significant action plan.

Their probation practitioner was concerned about their mental health being the biggest trigger and with no constructive use of their free time they may resort to reoffending. A was quite open about their risk of reoffending and how it was related to their drug use in that they used crime as a preventative method from using cocaine. They had been diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) from childhood trauma and was finding it very difficult to access treatment.

A seemed low in confidence, but they had an extraordinary talent for art.

The Hub referred A for housing support and then supported A to move into their accommodation and assisted them with sourcing furniture and appliances. Their support worker also worked with them to explore a PIP claim to maximise their income.

The Hub also provided a space for A to explore his creativity and they attended arts and crafts sessions and volunteered their time to create a decorative feedback box for the Hub.

A returned to custody in December 2021, a sentence given for offences committed prior to their time with the Hub. The Hub made sure that A knew they could return in the future.

In December 2022 they did return to the Hub and has shown a great deal of progress in the last year.

A is very thankful for the support they have received and feels that it has helped them on their path to making better life choices. A has been able to keep their accommodation which lifted them out of hidden homelessness, the Hub have also assisted in helping A to furnish their accommodation and obtain white goods.

A feels much more secure in their living situation and feels that this is supporting them in every area of their life.

A’s confidence has also increased, and they have applied and been granted assistance and funding through Koestler Arts Awards to try to progress their arts practice and to explore setting up their own business.