

Commissioner Evidence Summary

The case for commissioning Advance 2 Go — May 2026

38%

PRISON LEAVERS IN WORK WITHIN 6 MONTHS (MOJ, 2025) — AN ALL-TIME HIGH DRIVEN BY SPECIALIST EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT

£22.7bn

ANNUAL COST OF REOFFENDING TO THE UK ECONOMY — EMPLOYMENT IS THE SINGLE BIGGEST REDUCING FACTOR (MOJ, 2025)

33%

REDUCTION IN REOFFENDING DIRECTLY LINKED TO SUSTAINED EMPLOYMENT AT 26 WEEKS (MOJ EVIDENCE BASE)

2,000+

PRISON LEAVERS RETURNING TO WEST YORKSHIRE EACH YEAR — THE POPULATION ADVANCE 2 GO EXISTS TO SERVE

About Advance 2 Go

Advance 2 Go Group CIC is a registered Community Interest Company delivering end-to-end rehabilitation and employment support for ex-offenders across West Yorkshire. We identify candidates in custody, prepare them for employment, place them with committed employers and sustain them in work at 13 and 26 weeks — the period at which reoffending risk is highest.

We are founded and led by Michael Giles LLB (Hons), who was arrested on 4th March 2008, received a custodial sentence, completed a full law degree in custody, had a wrongful element of his conviction overturned at the Court of Appeal with the support of a solicitor who believed in him, held sustained employment for years in a regulated company after release, and is still with the wife who believed in him throughout. He has a daughter who spent the first eight years of her life without her father, and has spent every day since his release trying to make that right.

"You need people who believe in you. And you need something to fight for. When both of those things are present, people are capable of far more than anyone — including themselves — imagined possible."

That is not a mission statement drafted in a meeting room. It is lived experience. And it is the foundation on which everything Advance 2 Go does is built.

Why Advance 2 Go Is Uniquely Placed

Lived Experience Leadership

Advance 2 Go is founded and led by someone who has direct, personal experience of the criminal justice journey — from arrest and custodial sentence through release, reintegration and legitimate success. Lived experience leadership is a scoring criterion in most MoJ and DWP social value frameworks.

Legal Expertise

The founder holds an LLB (Hons) completed during his custodial sentence. Specialist knowledge of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, criminal records disclosure law and DBS frameworks is embedded in every intervention we deliver. No other provider in West Yorkshire combines this with frontline delivery.

Court of Appeal — Won

The founder's wrongful conviction was taken to the Court of Appeal and overturned by a solicitor who believed in the case when the legal aid ran out — at his own cost. This experience is the direct foundation of Advance 2 Go's model: finding people who are ready to be believed in and standing beside them.

Sustained Employment — Years of Evidence

Post-release, the founder held sustained employment for years in a regulated company. Not a claim. Years of evidence that reintegration is real, complete and permanent.

The Full Pipeline — Prison Gate to Sustained Employment

Advance 2 Go delivers the complete rehabilitation and employment journey. We do not just find jobs — we address every barrier between custody and sustained employment.

01

IDENTIFY

Prison outreach and candidate identification — working with HMPPS, probation and through-the-gate services to find motivated candidates pre-release.

02

PREPARE

CV support, disclosure coaching under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, interview preparation and job readiness assessment. Built on legal expertise and lived experience.

03

PLACE

Matching job-ready candidates with committed employers across construction, logistics, hospitality and facilities management in West Yorkshire.

04

SUSTAIN

Post-placement mentoring and check-ins at 13 and 26 weeks — the period at which reoffending risk is highest and support matters most.

05

EVIDENCE

Tracking outcomes at 13 weeks, 26 weeks and 12 months. Building an evidence base that demonstrates impact and informs continuous improvement.

The Evidence Base

FINDING	DETAIL	SOURCE
Employment reduces reoffending by 33%	Prison leavers in sustained employment at 26 weeks reoffend at a rate 33% lower than those not in employment	Moj, 2019
Reoffending costs £22.7bn per year	The total economic and social cost of reoffending to the UK, including criminal justice, health, housing and welfare	Moj, 2025
38% of prison leavers now in work at 6 months	An all-time high — driven specifically by specialist employer engagement and employment support programmes	Moj, 2025
26% overall reoffending rate	Rising to 50% for those serving short sentences — the population most in need of through-the-gate support	Moj, 2025
90%+ employer satisfaction	Employers who hire ex-offenders rate them as motivated, reliable and trustworthy at rates exceeding 90%	Moj/Verian, 2023
2,000+ returners to West Yorkshire	Over 2,000 people return to West Yorkshire from custody each year — a sustained, identifiable local need	HMPPS/WYCA

Governance and Credentials

Advance 2 Go Group CIC is a registered Community Interest Company limited by guarantee. Our governance framework has been built to meet the requirements of statutory commissioners, grant funders and corporate partners.

CIC REGISTRATION Registered CIC No. 17222408 — asset lock confirmed, community interest statement on file	SAFEGUARDING Safeguarding Policy in place, DSL designated, prison environment protocols documented	DATA PROTECTION UK GDPR compliant Data Protection Policy, ICO registration in progress	EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES Ban the Box signatory, lived experience hiring policy, Equality Act 2010 compliant
THEORY OF CHANGE Full Theory of Change documented and available on request	RISK REGISTER Operational risk register reviewed quarterly, available to commissioners on request	HEALTH & SAFETY H&S Policy in place including prison environment and lone working protocols	ADDRESS Richmond House, Lawnswood Business Park, Redvers Close, Leeds LS16 6QY

How to Engage With Us

ROUTE	WHAT WE OFFER	WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU
Sub-contracting	Specialist lived-experience-led delivery for your prime contract — CFO Evolution, DWP or local authority programmes	Introduction to your commissioning team and access to your candidate referral pathway
Grant funding	Delivery of rehabilitation and employment support for a defined cohort, with full evidenced outcomes reporting	Grant application process — we are ready to apply immediately with full governance pack
Direct commissioning	End-to-end employment support contract for ex-offenders in West Yorkshire — identify to sustain	Expression of interest conversation — no pitch, no pressure
Partnership	Collaboration with other VCSE organisations working in the criminal justice and employment space	A conversation about where our work overlaps and how we might collaborate

Ready to have a conversation?

All commissioning and funding enquiries are handled personally by Michael Giles. We respond within one working day. No pitch, no pressure — just an honest conversation about whether there is a fit.

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