



# STRATEGIC CFO CATALYST PROGRAMME

A new kind of development programme for NHS CFOs, focused on what really matters and giving hope and purpose

**Being a CFO in the NHS right now is incredibly tough. As a CFO you are expected to balance the books in the face of rising demand, workforce pressures, and endless system complexity — all while being told to deliver better outcomes.**

But most of the support out there doesn't match the reality of the job. It's generic. It's disconnected from the daily pressures. And it rarely helps to solve the actual problems being faced.

Existing support is focused on technical or generic leadership, missing the complex demands of the CFO role, which requires collaboration, transformation, and moving towards new models of care and "business models". Support often lacks practical NHS-specific content and real-world case studies.

Personal resilience and team development are also underrepresented, leaving CFOs without support for their wellbeing or developing future finance leaders.

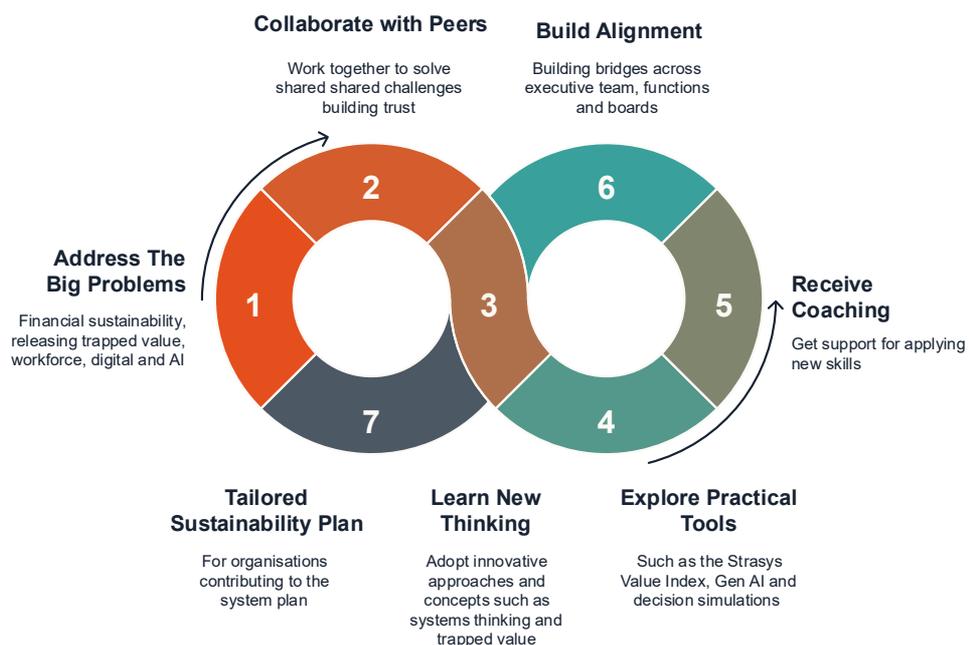
## A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO CREATE VALUE AND BUILD CAPABILITY

Strategic CFO Catalyst Programme is a capability development programme designed for NHS CFOs based on innovative thinking in strategic financial management. It's practical, action-focused, and tailored to the NHS using Strasys' unique value creation methodology.

The programme aims to give CFOs the space to step back, tackle the real financial and operational challenges in their organisations and work alongside peers within their system to build more productive and trusting relationships to deliver their objectives.

It's not about theory for theory's sake. It's about giving participants the tools, ideas, and headspace to lead with confidence and make a lasting impact — for their trust, their system, and the populations they serve.

## WHAT WILL PARTICIPANTS DO?



# THE DIFFERENCE

The Strategic CFO Catalyst programme is different because it's built around real NHS challenges, not classroom theory. It helps CFOs tackle urgent problems like financial sustainability and the "trapped value", while building the skills, tools, and relationships they need to lead across the system.

Unlike generic executive courses, it's grounded in the realities of NHS finance, includes tailored coaching, and results in a practical sustainability plan. Crucially, it reduces long-term reliance on external consultants by strengthening in-house capability — saving time, money, and energy while delivering real impact where it matters most.

## John Grinnell

CEO, Alder Hey Children's  
NHS Foundation Trust



## Claire Liddy

CFO, Mid Cheshire Hospitals  
NHS Trust



## Tangible value Delivered

- A live project that creates **measurable impact** (e.g. cost savings, productivity gain, service redesign).
- A clear, evidence-based **sustainability plan** for each CFO/organisation.
- A stronger, more connected ICS finance **leadership community**.
- **Lasting capability** to lead strategically and collaboratively.

## How it works

- Six months process to enable delivery of in year benefits.
- Four one-day in-person sessions (every 4 weeks) – offsite.
- Ongoing research and insight support between sessions.
- Personal coaching support for each participant
- A summit with board members from the system.



# EXAMPLE COHORT ONE PROGRAMME

**Objective:** Support the development of a robust “real” 3-year recovery plan for a system with 16 providers.

**Context:** Currently it is hard to figure out where the savings are in the system and within the organisations. Benchmarking has been exhausted. However, there is significant trapped value in the system that can be released through more pragmatic, evidence based “3-year recovery plans”. This will be the focus of the development programme.

**Approach:** This will be led by a multi-disciplinary team and will also include professional team coach with extensive experience in blue chip organisations. The objective is to bring different thinking to achieve the set objectives, building on the Strasys value creation methodology.

