



PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Project title: Youth unemployment under devolution: a comparative analysis of sub-state welfare regimes

Phase 3: Perspectives from ground-level service-delivery staff

Thank you for considering taking part in this research project on youth unemployment and policy paradigms and approaches under devolution in the UK. The project will collect data through qualitative interviews from the ground level service delivery staff: Jobcentre Plus coaches and Youth Hubs coaches in three devolved nations of the UK (England, Scotland and Wales) during May and June 2023.

Before you decide whether or not to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being undertaken and what it will involve. The following information sheet outlines the purpose of the research and provides a description of your involvement and rights as a participant, if you agree to take part. Please take time to read it carefully and discuss it with others, if you wish. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if you want to have a talk about the study.

Thank you for reading this.

What is the purpose of this research project?

This research project aims to conduct an in-depth examination and comparative analysis of the ways in which youth (un)employment policies play out on the ground in the three devolved nations of UK, England, Scotland and Wales, through a systematic investigation of the perspectives of frontline staff interacting with the young people at the sites of service delivery. In doing so it will examine the implications of any differences and similarities for both the youth unemployment provision and devolved policy arrangements. The broader aim of the project is to critique the conventional idea of 'one UK welfare state' and, in doing so, progress our understanding of the impact of decentralisation, devolution and territorial rescaling on welfare state formation across Western Europe. The study will employ qualitative research methodology and will make use of in-depth interviews for the purpose of data collection.

Why have I been invited to take part?

You have been invited to take part in the research as it seeks to gauge the perspectives of staff engaged in the ground-level delivery of youth (un)employment services such as Jobcentre Plus Coaches and Youth Hubs Coaches in England, Scotland and Wales.

Do I have to take part?

No, your participation in this research project is entirely voluntary and it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide to take part, we will discuss the research project with

you and ask you to sign a consent form, which you can sign and return in advance of the interview. If you decide not to take part, you do not have to explain your reasons and it will not affect your legal rights. You are free to withdraw your consent to participate in the research project at any time, without giving a reason, even after signing the consent form.

What will taking part involve?

Your decision to take part in the research will involve an in-depth interview with the researcher, spanning between 45-60 minutes, at a time, place and medium (in-person, skype, zoom, telephone) suitable for you. With your permission it will be recorded.

The interview will be semi-structured, which means that while there will be questions to guide the discussion, you will be equally free to discuss whatever you feel is important to the topic of youth unemployment policy provisions, how they are perceived at the ground-level of service delivery, and the processes and mechanisms involved in their implementation, in the country in which you are based (England, Scotland or Wales). If you prefer the questions will be shared with you in advance of the interview. If needed there will be a follow up interview of 30-45 minutes duration, which too will be recorded with your consent.

Will I be paid for taking part?

You will not be paid for taking part in the research.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There will be no financial benefits or direct advantages to you from taking part in this research. However, the issue of youth unemployment has both immediate and long-term implications for individuals, families, society, economy and the wider problem of rising inequalities, and your contributions will help us develop a better understanding of the current youth (un)employment policy paradigm, how it works on ground level, its effectiveness, its strengths and inadequacies and how it shapes the welfare regime in your country (England, Scotland or Wales). They will help us identify the key differences and similarities in the youth unemployment policy provisions and their delivery between the three devolved states of UK and their implications for the young people, and will lead to valuable inter-country learnings on the issue. The resulting research will be useful in formulation of a more informed and robust policy on the subject of youth unemployment in future.

What are the possible risks of taking part?

There are no physical, psychological or confidentiality related risks of taking part in the study. As a participant you will have the right not to answer any question that you are psychologically or otherwise uncomfortable with. Your data will be kept completely confidential and will be stored in a secure place. The recording will be transcribed and the transcript fully anonymised (names of yourself and all the other participants, as well as anyone you mention, will be changed so that nobody is identifiable). You will not be identified in any report, publication or presentation of the research.

Will my taking part in this research project be kept confidential?

All information collected from (or about) you during the research project will be kept confidential and any personal information you provide will be managed in accordance with data protection legislation. The recording of your interview will be transcribed, and the

transcript will be fully anonymised (names of yourself and all the other participants, as well as anyone you mention, will be changed so that nobody is identifiable).

What will happen to my Personal Data?

Your personal data will be kept strictly confidential and protected as per the data protection legislation. No-one will listen to the interview apart from myself and the professional transcriber. Cardiff university approved agency, 'Essential Secretary', will be used for the transcription of the data. Your personal data will be processed over the period of May 2023-November 2023. The research team will anonymise all the personal data collected from, or about, you in connection with this research project (names of yourself and all the other participants, as well as the names of any institution or any other person you mention, will be changed so that nobody is identifiable), with the exception of your consent form. After anonymisation your interview recording will be deleted, and the transcripts and the consent forms will be kept safely for three years after the research has been published. These will then be destroyed in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

During the course of research, I will send you a copy of the transcript. At this point, you will have the opportunity to take out any part of the interview that you would prefer not to be shared with anyone else. No one will see the anonymised transcripts apart from myself and a Research Assistant familiar with data protection protocol. However, note that it will not be possible to withdraw any anonymised data that has already been published or in some cases, where identifiers are irreversibly removed during the course of a research project, from the point at which it has been anonymised. The anonymised data will be made available via the UK Data Service repository, with a DOI identifier, at the end of the project for future research purposes.

Cardiff University is the Data Controller and is committed to respecting and protecting your personal data in accordance with your expectations and Data Protection legislation. Further information about Data Protection, including:

- your rights
- the legal basis under which Cardiff University processes your personal data for research
- Cardiff University's Data Protection Policy
- how to contact the Cardiff University Data Protection Officer
- how to contact the Information Commissioner's Office

may be found at <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/public-information/policies-and-procedures/data-protection>

What happens to the data at the end of the research project?

The anonymised transcripts will be kept safely for three years after the research has been published. These will then be destroyed in accordance with the Data Protection Act. The completely anonymised data will be made available via the UK Data Service repository, with a DOI identifier, at the end of the project for future research purposes. The data would be utilised by the future academic research/publications in the field of youth unemployment and policy analysis under devolution.

What will happen to the results of the research project?

It is our intention to publish the results of this research project in academic journals and present findings at conferences. The results are likely to be published within 6-12 months of completing analysis and writing-up. Post-publication I will inform you about where you can obtain a copy of published research from or if you prefer I will send you an electronic copy via email. You will not be identified in any report, publication or presentation, however I intend to use verbatim quotes from participants in the results.

What if there is a problem?

If you wish to complain, or have grounds for concerns about any aspect of the manner in which you have been approached or treated during the course of this research, please feel free to contact the Chief Investigator for the research, Dr Sioned Pearce at pearces11@cardiff.ac.uk. If your complaint is not managed to your satisfaction, please contact the Project Mentor, Professor Paul Chaney at chaneyp@cardiff.ac.uk.

However, if you are harmed by taking part in this research project, there are no special compensation arrangements. If you are harmed due to someone's negligence, you may have grounds for legal action, but you may have to pay for it.

Who is organising and funding this research project?

This research is organised by Dr Sioned Pearce, Lecturer in Social Policy at Cardiff University's School of Social Sciences and Nivedita Narayan, Research Assistant at Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research and Data (WISERD), in Cardiff University. It is funded by The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

Who has reviewed this research project?

This research project has been reviewed and given a favourable opinion by the School Research Ethics Committee, School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University.

Further information and contact details

Should you have any questions relating to this research project, you may contact us during normal working hours:

Dr Sioned Pearce, Chief Investigator: 0.70, Glamorgan Building, [\(0\)2920 879192](tel:02920879192), pearces11@cardiff.ac.uk

Nivedita Narayan, Research Assistant: sbarc|spark Building, [\(0\)2920 879338](tel:02920879338), NarayanN1@cardiff.ac.uk

Thank you for considering taking part in this research project. If you decide to participate, you will be given a copy of the Participant Information Sheet and a signed consent form to keep for your records.