

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT UNDER DEVOLUTION: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF SUB-STATE WELFARE REGIMES

PHASE 3: PERSPECTIVES FROM GROUND-LEVEL SERVICE-DELIVERY STAFF

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INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Participant Sample: Job coaches/advisers/mentors who are working/have previously worked with young unemployed people in Jobcentre Plus/Youth Hubs/Civil Society Organizations/ and Organizations like Careers Wales, Fair Start, National Careers Service.

Introduction
<p>Introductory warming up questions:</p> <p>a). How are you?</p> <p>b). How has your day been?</p>
Topic 1: Frontline staff's roles and responsibilities
<p>a). Tell me something about yourself and your role? What are your tasks and responsibilities?</p> <p>Follow up: How long have you worked in this sector?</p> <p>b). What are the schemes/policy initiatives you implement/deliver? (Devolved and non-devolved)</p> <p>Follow up: What programmes do you cross refer to? (Devolved or non-devolved)</p> <p>c). What are the key challenges you face in your role?</p> <p>Prompt:</p>
Topic 2: Frontline staff's perceptions of youth (un)employment policies (devolved/non-devolved)
<p>a). What are your perceptions about these schemes?</p> <p>b). What according to you are the differences between these policy initiatives?</p> <p>c). What support do young people get from your devolved/non-devolved programmes?</p> <p>Follow up: Which programmes/policies do you find more helpful for young people and why?</p> <p>Follow up: What kind of help do you think young people need? (To get work/ to get the work they want?)</p>
Topic 3: Influence of sectoral cultures/practices- conditionality and sanctions & targets and monitoring processes, on the frontline delivery of (un)employment provisions
<p>a). (We know that conditionality is tightening and subsequently sanctions are increasing...) Is there anything in devolved policy counteracting the increasing conditionality / sanctions in the central government policy arrangements?</p> <p>b). Are there any target requirements for your role for each of these policies? What are they?</p>

(Are there any differences or similarities between the target requirements of devolved and central government policies?)

c). Is there a monitoring process for each scheme? What is it? (Are there any differences or similarities between the monitoring processes of devolved and central government policies)

Follow up: How do these targets and monitoring processes affect and shape your work?

Prompt: Could you elaborate a little more?

Topic 4: Frontline Staff's perceptions of young (un)employment provision claimants

a). What kind of young people do you work with?

Prompt:

b). What (if any) are the most common/key concerns/issues that claimants have shared with you over the period of time in relation to the (un)employment policies and their delivery?

Follow up: Have you experienced any difference in the satisfaction/dissatisfaction levels of young people with regards to/between devolved and non-devolved policies?

Topic 5: Interaction and Intersection of devolved and non-devolved policy arrangements on ground

a). What do you think are the key issues/ loopholes in the youth unemployment policies you are working with?

Follow up: Do you think these issues differ by country? If yes, how?

b). What according to you are the key challenges in tackling youth unemployment?

Follow up: Do you think the challenges are different for your country? If yes, how?

c). Do you anticipate/see any divergence or differences between the non-devolved central government policy approaches towards tackling youth unemployment and devolved policy approaches in your country? If yes, what are these differences?

d). What are your perceptions about the devolved policy arrangements?

Follow up: Do you think they are important?

Probe: If yes, how? If not, why?

e). We broadly know that different devolved governments have different political ideologies that also underpin the devolved policy arrangements. For example,Do you see them reflected in your day-to-day work?

Follow up: Have things changed over your time here?

Topic 6: Frontline staff's perceptions about the role of CSOs

a). What role do you think the CSO's currently play in employment service delivery to young people?

Wrapping up

Ending cooling down questions:

a). Any demographic detail (If needed)

b). Is there anything you would like to add? Is there anything you think I have missed or misunderstood?

c). Do you have any questions that you would like to ask me?