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**Care-experienced graduates' decision-making, choices, and destinations**

***Interview schedule three***

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| Catching up: The past 6 months |
| ***Summarise key points from the last interview focusing on employment/education, living situation etc.***   1. What has been happening since we last spoke?  * Employment/education * Housing/living situation * Health and wellbeing (if applicable) |
| If progressed from unemployed to employment SINCE last interview |
| 1. What was your experience of **finding** employment?    1. Did you experience any challenges in finding work?  * If so, what were these? * What **helped/would have helped** to overcome these? (support, access to services, money etc.)   1. If not, what in your experience made this a challenge-free process?  1. What has your experience of employment been like so far?    1. Is there anything you have found **challenging/difficult**? If so, what was challenging/difficult?  * The role itself * Adjusting to a new environment/new expectations * Working with other professionals/ fitting in * Managing work/life balance * Other?   + 1. What **helped/would have helped** to overcome these?   1. What, if anything, have you found **enjoyable** about employment? * Structure/Sense of normalcy * Money * Meeting new people * Learning new things * Other?  1. **Do you feel that your experiences have been similar to non-care-experienced graduates?**    1. **Why?**    2. **Why not?** 2. What are your plans for employment over the next year?  * Changing employment/ remaining?   1. If planning to change employment -Why? |
| If employed during last interview |
| 1. Has your employment situation changed at all?    1. If so, what was the change?       1. What led to this change? 2. What, if anything, have you enjoyed about employment since graduating? 3. What, if anything, have you not enjoyed about employment? 4. Is working life how you expected it to be?   4.1. If so, how?  4.2 If not, why?   1. Has your perception of employment changed at all since graduating?   4.1 If so, why?   1. **Do you feel that your experiences have been similar to non-care-experienced graduates?**    1. **Why?**    2. **Why not?** |
| If NEWLY progressed to further study since last interview |
| 1. What has been your experience of applying to/accessing further study?  * Application * Funding   1. Did you experience any challenges in this process? * If so, what were these?   1. What **helped/would have helped** to overcome these? (support, advice/guidance, access to services, money etc.)   2. If not, what in your experience made this a challenge-free process?  1. What has your experience of postgraduate study been like so far?    1. Is there anything you have found **challenging/difficult**? If so, what was challenging/difficult?  * Finances * Accommodation (if applicable) * Adjusting to a new environment (if applicable)/new expectations * Balancing work and study (if applicable) * Other?   1. What **helped/would have helped** to overcome these? (support, advice/guidance, access to services, money etc.)   2. Do you feel there are any differences in the level of support between undergraduate and postgraduate study?      1. If so, what are these? * University support * Local authority support * Financial support * Housing/accommodation support * Academic support   1. If you have needed support, how easy or difficult has it been to access this? * Why?   1. What, if anything, have you found **enjoyable** about postgraduate study? * Meeting new people * Learning new things * Other?  1. **Do you feel that your experiences have been similar to non-care-experienced graduates?**    1. **Why?**    2. **Why not?** |
| If in postgraduate study during last interview |
| 1. What has your experience of postgraduate study been like?  * Challenges * Enjoyable parts  1. Has it been how you expected it to be?    1. If not, why?    2. Are any changes needed to meet expectations, e.g. support? 2. What do you plan to do **after** your postgraduate degree?    1. Do you feel this is achievable?  * If so, what has helped you to feel this way? * If not, why?   1. Do you feel any support is needed to help you plan for your next steps after your studies? * If so, what support do you feel is needed?  1. What, if anything, are you looking forward to about graduating from postgraduate studies?    1. Why are you looking forward to this?    2. Is there anything you are not particularly looking forward to?  * If so, what are you not looking forward to? * Why?  1. **Do you feel that your experiences have been similar to non-care-experienced graduates?**    1. **Why?**    2. **Why not?**   **IF WITHDRAWN**   1. What were your reasons for withdrawing from your studies? 2. Is there anything that could have prevented this?    1. If so, what could have prevented it? 3. What did you do immediately after withdrawing?    1. Where there any challenges in doing this?  * If so, what were these?   1. Has there been any advantages to doing this? * If so, what were these? |
| Transitioning through graduate life |
| 1. Thinking about your current situation, is this where you expected to be at this point (a year out of university)?  * Employment * Accommodation   1. If not, why?   2. What led to those expectations?  1. Some people hold the view that university makes people from different background equal once they have their degree. Reflecting on your own experiences, do you agree or disagree with this?    1. Why? 2. **In your view, what benefits, if any, did higher education provide to your life?** 3. **What disadvantages, if any, did higher education provide to your life?** 4. Have your views about what you would like out of life changed at all since graduating?    1. If so, how have these changed? 5. What area/areas of your life matters most to you at the moment?  * Why? * How long has this been the case? |
| Thinking ahead |
| 1. What is your approach to planning for the future? E.g. ‘see what happens’, very organised etc.   1.1 Why?   * 1. Is this always how you have approached planning for the future?   1.2.1 If no, what do you feel led to the change?   1. What are your general feelings about the future?  * Optimistic * Pessimistic * Uncertainty   2.1 What has led you to feel this way? |
| The next generation of care-experienced graduates |
| 1. What advice would you give to another care-experienced person who is about to graduate?    1. What are your reasons for providing this advice? 2. Do you feel any changes are needed for future care-experienced graduates (e.g. systems, support?    1. What are these changes?    2. Why do you feel these are needed? |
| Additional points |
| 1. Is there anything that you would like to tell me about? 2. Is there anything you was hoping I would ask? |