

RECOLLECT Topic Guide for qualitative interviews (WP1)

For Interviewer

Content will be used for 2 papers:

1) Paper 03: The national impact of COVID-19 on mental health recovery support from Recovery Colleges: qualitative study

The aim of this study is to explore

- How the pandemic has affected Recovery Colleges (including what it was like prior to the pandemic)
- How Recovery Colleges have operated during the pandemic
- How changes made during the pandemic, may be taken forward (it at all)

2) Paper 04: The organisational context and history of RCs in England

The aim of this study is to explore

- How and why Recovery Colleges were set up
- Choices that were made in during early development
- Changes which have happened since early development of the Recovery Colleges
- Future directions of the Recovery College

Four Areas to cover:

1. History of the Recovery College (Paper 04)
2. Pre-pandemic operation (Paper 03, Paper 04)
3. Modifications due to the pandemic (Paper 03)
4. Post pandemic plans (Paper 03, Paper 04)

TOPIC GUIDE BEGINS

Introduction

I would like to learn about your Recovery College. I will be asking questions about how your Recovery College operated in the past, how it is now, and plans for the future. Every college is different so there are no right and wrong answers, and if there's anything you don't know then that's fine. Everything you say will be kept confidential unless you disclose to us that either you or someone else is at risk from harm, in which case we will have to inform someone else. We may use quotes you have said in publications, but it will not be possible to identify you. I will begin recording now.

[Note to interviewer: note all components identified as modified during pandemic on the survey (section D) and explore in Section 3 questions.]

Opening Question: Can you tell me about how you first got involved in the Recovery College?

Prompts

- *What is your role?*
- *Is this the first Recovery College you have worked in?*

[Note to interviewer: depending on the opening questions, some /all questions in Section 1 may be difficult to answer]

Section 1: History of the RC (Paper 4)

1) Can you tell us when and why your Recovery College was set up?

Prompts:

- *Where did the idea come from?*
- *What was the Recovery College set up to achieve?*
- *How does the Recovery College fit with wider activities and services in the organisation?*

2) Could you tell us a briefly about the early development of the Recovery College?

- *Key people or groups involved in development*
- *Things that helped*
- *Key challenges or obstacles (e.g. administrative/bureaucratic, resistance, resources)*

3) Could you tell me about how the Recovery College has changed since it has been opened?

- *What prompted key changes?*
- *What was the process of change?*

Section 2: Pre-pandemic operation (Paper 3 and Paper 4)

I now want to ask you about how your college was working before the pandemic – and then I'll go on to ask about pandemic-related changes in the next section.

4) Prior to the pandemic, what were the main barriers for students wanting to access your Recovery College?

Prompts

- *Who is your college for? Did everyone from those group(s) feel the college is relevant to them?*

- *Did you do any work to look at access barriers? If yes, what did you find and do as a result?*
- *Were there any environmental barriers to access, e.g. public transport, location of the college*
- *Were there other options you were aware people used instead of your college? If so, why do you think they chose these options instead?*
- *Were there waiting lists for some courses?*

5) Prior to the pandemic, what were the most important components of your Recovery College that helped support students?

Section 3: Modifications due to the pandemic (Paper 03)

6) How has your Recovery College changed since the beginning of the pandemic?

Prompts

- *Changes to courses offered (course topics, face-to-face or online)*
- *Any disruption to service?*
- *How you make decisions*

7) What has been the effect on how your college works?

Prompts

- *Is the 'offer' the same?*
- *Positive and negative impact on students?*
- *Positive and negative impact on staff?*

[Note to interviewer: Note the answer to Section A., Q13 on the survey and explore in question 8 (see below)]

8)

EITHER

In the national survey, you reported that your Recovery College currently uses Individual Learning Plans. How are these used at present?

Prompts:

- *How did your Recovery College use Individual Learning Plans prior to the pandemic?*

OR

In the national survey, you reported that your Recovery College doesn't currently use Individual Learning Plans. How is student progress currently supported at your Recovery College?

Prompts:

- *How was student progress supported prior to the pandemic?*

9) [When relevant – Make sure you have survey results to hand] When you completed your survey, you identified one / several areas as having changed due to the pandemic. Could you tell me about the changes for each of these areas?

10) Have these changes had any effect on?

Prompts

- Access (facilitators and barriers)

- Technology
- Resources
- Staffing
- Courses
- Students
- Goals
- Demand
- Links with other services

Post pandemic plans (Paper 03, Paper 04)

11) Once the impact of the pandemic has passed, will you aim to go back to how your college operated before the pandemic, or are there some changes you've made that you plan to keep?

Prompts

- *Changes to courses offered*
- *Changes to online or face-to-face learning*
- *Changes to how you engage with students*
- *[When relevant - Note the answer to Section A., Q13 on the survey] Changes to use of Individual Learning Plans*

12) More generally, once the impact of the pandemic has passed, what are the next priorities for the development of your college in the future (e.g., next 2 years)?

This is the end of the interview. Thank you for answering these questions. How did you find the interview?

TOPIC GUIDE ENDS