

Young Futures Project Phase 3 research description – Second-year out interviews

The project method in Phase 3 involved focus group interviews with young people who had left school in 2017, or in a few cases the year before or in 2018. Individual interviews took place either face to face or via a phone interview when focus groups were not possible. A total of 20 interviews (32 interviewees) were completed in this phase. Table 1 shows the type and number of interviews for each site. The interviews and focus groups lasted for up to 70 minutes, with the average being around half an hour. They were all recorded with permission and transcribed. The young people also completed a short informal questionnaire before the focus group/individual interviews, to gather more information about their background and current situation.

Table 1: Interviews at each site

Town (pseudonym)	Type of Interview	Total Interviews	Total Interviewees
East-town	3 individual interviews*	3	3
Sea-shore	Individual interview, Individual interview*, 1 Focus group (n=4)	3	6
Wheat-town	4 Individual interviews, Individual interview*, 1 Focus group (n=2)	6	7
Market-town	2 Individual interviews, Individual interviews*, 1 Focus group (n=3)	4	6
Fruit-town	Individual interview, 1 Focus group (n=2)	2	3
West-town	Individual interview*, 1 Focus group (n=6)	2	7
Total	9 Individual interviews, 6 Individual interviews*, 5 Focus groups	20	32

*indicates phone interview; n=number of participants in each focus group interview.

Case studies for each site, of around 4-6 pages, were written up under a number of headings which were based around the project research questions and the interview questions. The writing up of the case studies were followed up with a cross case analysis. A list of interview questions is provided below.

Interview questions for 'second year out' interviewees

- When you were still at school and thought about your future after school, did you see yourself primarily working or primarily studying –or both? (note: Check for 'gap year' possibilities).
- Or were you uncertain?
- When (in what year) did you decide what you wanted to do? What did you imagine prior to that (if anything)?
- How did families, friends, schools, community organisations, employers, training organisations, universities help you plan what to do after school? Was there more information or advice that you would have liked?
- Was there anything in particular about your local area as a location that affected your (or others') post-school plans?
- What did you end up doing after you left school? How has it been?
- What, if any, information or assistance would you like now, to help you plan ahead?
- Thinking about other young people that you know, when do you think young people start to make decisions about finishing school and about staying or leaving your local area?
- What could change to provide better post-school outcomes for a larger proportion of young people?

- What could change for the community and local employers to better utilise young people's talents?
- What would you say to a young person in your local area about to leave school?