

Improving access to good work for young people

IES and Health Foundation youth employment
project

Cristiana Orlando

Introduction



- In 2017 the Health Foundation (HF) started the 'Young People's Future Health Inquiry' exploring the factors impacting the future health of young people.



- Employment emerged as one of the key building blocks for a good and healthy life.



- As part of the Inquiry, in 2019 IES published a report on the challenges young people, particularly disadvantaged groups, face when trying to access fulfilling and meaningful work.

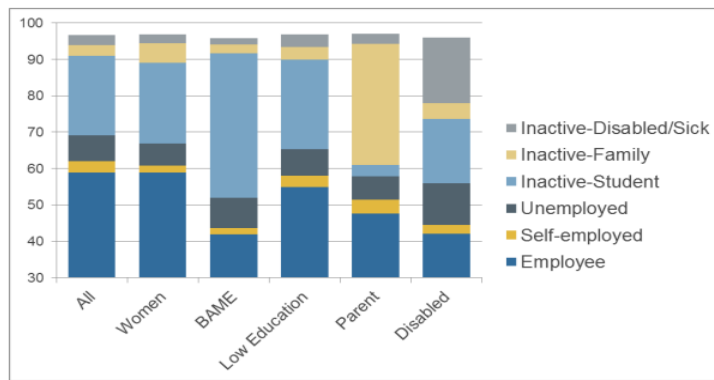


- IES then secured funding from HF for the current policy project to improve the quality of youth employment.

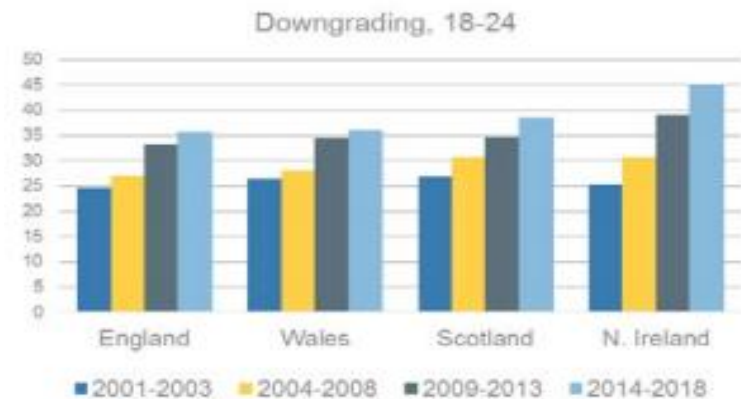
Youth employment pre/post Covid

The 2019 IES research showed young people were increasingly employed in insecure and poor quality work increasing the risk of 'scarring effects' on their lives

Figure 10: Economic activity and reasons for inactivity, ages 18-24



Source: UK QLFS, cross-sectional population weights used, years 2018.



At the time a Brexit recession was anticipated. The Covid-19 crisis significantly impacted the magnitude of the recession, creating urgency around youth employment

- Under 25s account for **46% of the total fall in employment**
- **500-600k** young people could find themselves **long-term unemployed this year.**
- Almost **one million NEET** already and will likely grow

What has this meant for young people?

The issues around youth employment have become (even) more pressing and the stark inequalities facing young people more visible



So what does this project aim to do?

Working across local areas in each of the UK nations, the project aims to:

1. Integrate the focus on access to work following Covid-19 with the quality of work, promoting *access to good work* in training and employment
2. Support local providers to navigate the new youth employment policy landscape and develop coordinated and joined up responses
3. Understand what works and what needs improvement and convey this to policy-makers to promote a focus on good work for all young people
4. Develop a cross-regional network of stakeholders to share learning and good practice, disseminate resources, and amplify voices in the field

How will the project achieve this?

Working with youth support and employment services, training and education providers, employers, young people, and decision-makers in each area to:

1. Use a collaborative place-based approach, focused on co-design and co-creation with local areas to tailor the work to each place's needs
2. Understand local and regional practice and identify opportunities and challenges for youth-focused training and employment provision
3. Bring stakeholders, employers, and young people together to discuss improving access to good opportunities and generating long-term impact
4. Provide support through tailored resources, workshops, and access to learning and influencing platforms

How could you benefit from participation?

Sharing your
expertise and
views on the
issues

Influencing
research
outputs

Accessing
tailored
research and
resources

Contributing
to influencing
the policy
agenda

Having an
advisory role
on the project

Supporting the
participation of
young people
and amplifying
their voices

Learning from
practice from other
stakeholders and
areas

Exposure to
networking and
collaboration
opportunities

Showcasing
good practice

Questions

- Does this project resonate with your work?
- What is your experience on the ground (opportunities/challenges you face)?
- Where and how could this project have the most impact?

Do you have questions for me?

Follow-up

If this project is of interest to you and your work and you would like to get involved, please get in touch:

cristiana.orlando@employment-studies.co.uk