

Are there inequalities in access to and outcomes of the Youth Employment Gateway (YEG) Programme?

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Study in development



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Introduction

The Youth Employment Gateway (YEG) Programme is provided by Sefton@Work and provides young adults with intense, personalised support to enter the job market. People are eligible for the programme if they live in Sefton, are aged between 18 - 24 years and have been out of work for >8 weeks. The Service monitors progress whilst a client is on the programme using a self-assessment tool called a Workstar Outcomes Tool. A baseline is established at the start of the programme and the Workstar is revisited whilst on the programme. Employment outcomes for clients are achieved if the client retains employment for 26 weeks. The programme has not the capacity for evaluation.

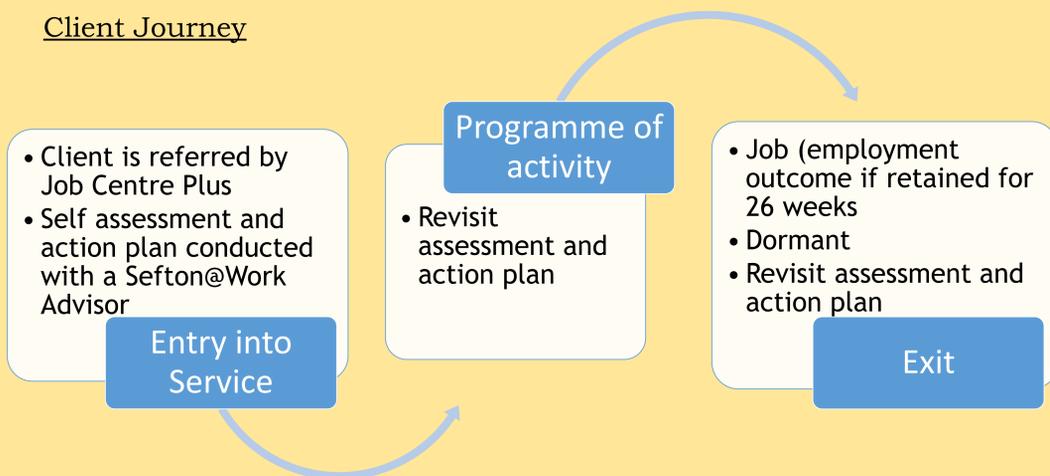
Youth unemployment can have adverse effects on people's life courses¹ and therefore helping young people into work can help reduce health inequalities. The negative health experiences of unemployment are not specifically limited to the unemployed but also extend to their families and the wider community².

A study of the transition into employment of young people who are NEET (Not in education, employment or training) found the quality of careers advice and support is particularly important for this group³. Schemes that provide careful job matching and training can be more effective in sustaining employment⁴, however, employment schemes, are often most effective for groups closest to the labour market, such as people with higher levels of education, and can therefore increase inequalities⁵.

Aim

To investigate whether there are differences in the access to and the effectiveness of the Youth Employment Gateway (YEG) between socioeconomic groups and why these may occur.

Client Journey



References

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Objectives

This study will look at:

Access - Does access to YEG differ by socioeconomic group (SEG) Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), educational attainment?

Improvement - Does improvement in self-assessed outcomes (Work Star Outcomes Tool) and employment outcomes differ by SEG, and is this influenced by the relationship between SEG and employment outcomes?

Are there **Motivations, barriers or enablers** that influenced access, attendance and experience of the programme and what helped or hindered clients from securing and sustaining employment, and how the YEG contributed to these?



Methods

A mixed methods approach consisting of two components is planned:

- 1) The analysis of routine data collected by the service
- 2) Qualitative semi-structured interviews with clients

Basic descriptive statistics of the client group will be collected, linking to Lower Super Output Area codes and Indices of Multiple Deprivation. Neighbourhood data from NOMIS will also be collected on the numbers of people eligible for the service i.e. those groups aged between 18-24 who have been claiming Job Seekers Allowance for more than 8 weeks in Sefton. Work-star scores will be analysed and how this varies by initial educational level and IMD level of residence and regression modelling will be used to investigate the association between socioeconomic group and employment outcomes. Semi-structured interviews will be carried out with approximately 8 clients, selected through purposive sampling. Participants will also be invited to take part in a workshop to look at the findings.

Implications for practice

Improvements in service provided

Recommendations to other service areas

Could help funding applications