

"It was very
focused on
lessons and
not so much
on life"

How exploring student perceptions of
secondary and HE careers provision can
support cross-sector collaboration

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Session

- ▶ Rationale behind the research journey
- ▶ The scoping stage: What do we already know and what do we need to find out?
- ▶ The doing stage: The good, the bad and the ugly of tackling the research study.
- ▶ Research findings
- ▶ What now?
- ▶ Q&A

My Path to Research



The Research Gap



- CAREERS PROVISION IN SECONDARY & HE IS OFTEN DISCONNECTED



- CAREERS PROVISION IS NOT USUALLY INCLUDED IN OUTREACH TRANSITION RESOURCES



- LIMITED RESEARCH ON HOW PAST EXPERIENCES SHAPE UNIVERSITY ENGAGEMENT



- ▶ What's a supervisor??
- ▶ Ugh, ethics approval...
- ▶ Who wants to be a participant? Anyone??

Research Methodology



- Approach: Qualitative, semi-structured interviews



- Participants: 3 first-year university students from state schools



- Analysis: Reflexive thematic analysis

Key Finding 1 - The Impact of Covid-19



- CAREERS EDUCATION WAS DEPRIORITISED DURING LOCKDOWN



- STEMM STUDENTS RECEIVED MORE SUPPORT THAN OTHERS



- VIRTUAL CAREERS PROVISION WAS PATCHY AND LACKED ENGAGEMENT

Key Finding 2 - The Teenage Brain & Career Decisions



- Difficulty planning for the future

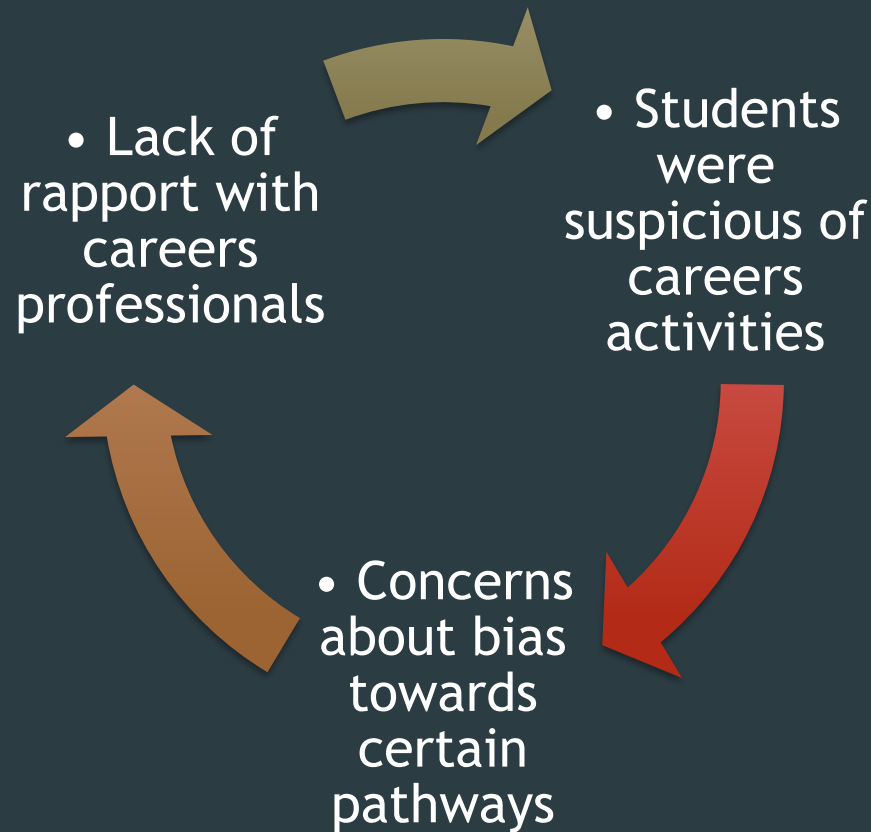


- Struggles with engagement & attention



- Need for context & immediate relevance

Key Finding 3 - The Role of Trust



Key Finding 4 – Social Capital & Peer Influence



- Students with strong social capital engaged more



- Peer discussions were a key source of career information



- Lack of opportunity for peer support limited engagement

Key Finding 5 - Autonomy & Agency



- Students valued choice & independence in careers learning



- Mandatory activities were often disengaging



- Lack of student voice in provision design

Implications for Practice and Future Research



- Build trust through student-centred approaches



- Strengthen cross-sector collaboration



- Increase peer-to-peer career learning



- Embed careers education within subject teaching

Cross-Sector Collaboration Strategies



- Joint projects between secondary & HE careers teams



- Shared training & resource development



- Longitudinal careers support from school to university

What now?

- EdD study with the aim of creating a toolkit or framework for practitioners



Use of participatory methods, taking a 'nothing about them without them' approach to improve engagement and create a more cohesive careers support journey.



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