

Title: Collaborative Research Project on Career Development and Wellbeing for Young People in Secondary Schooling in Scotland, Wales, England and Canada

1. Background: The project aims to explore the intersection of career development and wellbeing among young people in secondary schooling across Scotland, Wales, England, and Canada. This collaborative research initiative seeks to investigate how careers advisers introduce wellbeing conversations during interview sessions delivered either offline or online, with the ultimate goal of enhancing the career exploration experience for all young people.

2. Objectives:

- Examine the strategies employed by careers advisers in introducing wellbeing discussions during career guidance interview sessions.
- Identify the types of questions asked and the approaches adopted in various settings.
- Assess the effectiveness of integrating wellbeing considerations into career exploration processes.
- Explore the impact of wellbeing-focused career guidance on young people's decision-making and future aspirations.
- Generate insights and recommendations to enhance the quality of career development support for young people in schools.
- Consider the ROI from effective policies and practices identified as part of the research.

3. Scope of Work:

- Conduct a literature review / share personal library resources to better understand current practices and research findings related to career development, wellbeing, and youth engagement / disengagement.
- Design and implement qualitative and quantitative research methodologies to gather insights from careers advisers, young people in schools, and relevant stakeholders.
- Collect data from diverse geographical locations.
- Analyse collected data to identify common themes, patterns, and best practices in integrating wellbeing into career guidance sessions.
- Engage with practitioners and experts in the field to validate findings and gather additional perspectives.
- Develop a comprehensive report and a produce a practical toolkit documenting research findings, lessons learned, and actionable recommendations for stakeholders involved in careers guidance in a wide range of school settings.

4. Deliverables:

- Rapid research evidence (RAE) summarising existing research and practices on career development, wellbeing, and youth engagement/ disengagement issues.
- Research protocols outlining the methodologies and procedures for data collection and analysis.
- Interim progress reports detailing key findings, challenges encountered, and adjustments made throughout the research and development process.

- Draft and final practical Career Development and Wellbeing Toolkit designed to support teachers, careers advisers and other allied professionals working in a wide range of school settings. Also, produce a research report presenting comprehensive insights, case studies, and recommendations for improving career exploration experiences for young people in schools.
- Presentation of findings to relevant stakeholders, including policymakers, educators, careers advisers, careers and employability services and youth organisations.

5. Timeline: The project will be conducted over a period of 12 months, week commencing mid-April 2024 and concluding on or before 15th December 2024. The timeline includes milestones for literature review, data collection, analysis, report drafting, and dissemination of findings. Adjustments may be made to the timing as the project unfolds.

6. Stakeholder Engagement: The project will involve active engagement with stakeholders at various stages, including project inception, data collection, and dissemination of findings. Stakeholders may include government agencies, educational institutions, career guidance professionals and professional bodies, and youth advocacy organisations.

7. Budget: Potential funding sources are being explored with interested organisations to support open access to the publications. Meanwhile, this work will be undertaken on a 'pro bono basis'.

8. Ethical Considerations: The research will adhere to ethical principles and guidelines for conducting research involving human participants. dmh associates adopts the [BERA ethical guidelines for educational research](#). Informed consent will be obtained from all participants, and measures will be implemented to ensure confidentiality, anonymity, and respect for privacy rights.

9. Project Management: A project team leader (Deirdre Hughes) will oversee the planning, execution, and monitoring of the research activities. Regular meetings will be held to review progress, address challenges, and make decisions to keep the project on track. Chris Percy and Liane Hambly (Senior Associates) will provide expert contributions and ongoing support to the project. Project partner leads will commit to ensuring mutually agreed processes and deadlines are met, reporting on tangible inputs, outputs and outcomes.

10. Evaluation: The project will assess its impact, effectiveness, and adherence to objectives through regular meetings. Feedback from stakeholders will be solicited at key points to identify areas for improvement and potential future research directions. Outputs and outcomes to be discussed and agreed.

11. Dissemination Plan: Research findings will be disseminated through various channels, including academic publications, conferences, workshops, and digital platforms. Efforts will be made to ensure accessibility and relevance to diverse audiences, including policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and young people themselves.

12. Conclusion: This collaborative research project aims to contribute valuable insights and recommendations to enhance the integration of wellbeing considerations into career development policies and practices across Scotland, Wales, England, and Canada. By fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange, we aspire to empower young people to make informed decisions and pursue fulfilling career pathways.