

Youth Transitions and Social Change

Schedule for Individual Interview 5 18 September 2002

1. Introduction: renegotiating consent, explain interview structure (not just catchup) OFF TAPE

2. Mapping changes:

Education:

- Revising ambitions, have things gone as planned
- Looking back, how has the role of education changed in shaping your ambitions and your social life
- Regrets, relief, reassessing worth
- Future plans

Work and money

- earnings and hours
- how they spend their money: keep/ travel/ fun-
- debt and feelings about debt (do they expect it – eg student loans)
- skills, training
- identity and relationships at work

Leisure

- juggling time, how they do it, how easy and/ or chaotic this feels
- socialising, with whom and where – changes
- drink, drugs, transport, communications (phones, emails etc)
- Friendships – are they changing, keeping in touch, are they a resource? How?
- Media and consumption as a resource

Home life, relationships and intimacy

Romance – Is there something special about a couple relationship vs other kinds of relationships?
(inc if not in a couple – get views of a couple relationship)
What tensions does it bring with it, do you miss out?
How does it affect relationships with the family/ friends?
Impact on other other life plans: work, education, housing?
How does sex make a difference, issues re pregnancy contraception etc.?
Feelings: security, vulnerability, dependence/ independence/ reciprocity
How does relationship act as a resource?

Home life Changes re dependence/ independence since research began (last 3 years) including money, housework/chores, freedom etc.
Leaving home – plans and actual
Feelings: security, taking chances, risks (does having a secure home life make it more possible to take risks)
How does family act as a resource?

Looking at these changes – in what new ways do you feel that you are becoming **adult**? Are there any **critical moments** in this?

Community

Do you see yourself as being part of a community / communities? Has this changed since you left school/ town/ home?

Definition: *'could be your neighbourhood, a religious or ethnic community, a group of young people who like the same music, or attend the same college, just any group that you identify with'*

In terms of your local community, what *activities* (if any) tie you in? Eg – volunteering, helping neighbours, your family, working. Is there a role for young people in the community? How do adults see young people?

What do you think your reputation is in your community? Family reputation, sexual reputation, work reputation, trouble reputation. How can you change a reputation? What does it mean to be popular now? How has this changed from your school days?

What does the prospect of leaving your locality feel like for you? What would make it difficult to leave, why? Do many people leave? Do they return?

What does the word 'Home' mean to you? Could you make your 'home' anywhere?

Networks

What are your networks – do you see yourself as being 'well networked' compared to others in terms of work, leisure etc.? Are these networks intergenerational? Are they family based or wider?

Where do you go for support? Emotional; social; material, opportunities, ideas, careers

Social mobility and social change

Do you expect to do better /same/ less well in life than your parents? How might this be linked to gender? For example have the lives of women changed more than men?

Is their lifestyle still relevant/ possible? How has the world changed between their generation and yours?

Prompt around family – parenting style, family as a resource, gender roles.

Hopes and fears

Next interview in 12-15 months. What do you hope will have happened by then? What do you fear?

Offer opportunity to have / give previous interview tapes back.