Appendix 1: Qualitative interviews topic guide

1. Socio-economic circumstances:

1.1 Educational history and qualifications

1.2 Employment/study
- Nature of employment/study
- Working hours and conditions - permanent/temporary; full-time/part-time; salaried or hourly rate
- Satisfaction with work/study
- Experience of finding work, prior unemployment
- Areas of difficulty/success
- Relationships with students/workmates
- Experiences of discrimination
- How far work/study matches with childhood aspirations
- Influence on occupational choices – parents, family, friends, school, culture
- Future plans

1.3 Other regular activity – hobbies, voluntary work

1.4 Housing

  - Tenure, cost, contribution to rent

  - How long he/she has lived in property

  - Number of people living in the same accommodation and relationship (family, friends, co-tenants)

  - Condition of the property (participant report/researcher's observation)

  - How many rooms, own room

  - Likes and dislikes about accommodation – cost, overcrowding

1. 5 Finances
- Sources of income – salary, student loan, benefits, support from family
- Financial difficulties, e.g. debt
- Contribution to household budget

2. Health
2.1 General health

  - How the participant feels health is generally

  - Check for previous or current conditions

  - In receipt of treatment – NHS and/or other

2.2 Mental health

  - How the participant feels mental health is generally

39   - Check for previous or current conditions
40   - In receipt of treatment – NHS and/or other
41

42 2.3 Explore any particular stresses the participant is facing in life
43   *e.g.* work, relationships, money, discrimination
44   Elicit an example if possible.
45

46 2.4 Explore opportunities/challenges in transition from teens to adulthood and feelings about
47 these.
48   - Responsibilities, decision-making
49   - Finances
50   - Changes in relationships – family/friends/colleagues/romantic
51   - Areas of stress or conflict
52

53 2.5 Explore what helps the participant to cope with difficulties/changes in life.
54   *e.g.* friends, family, religion
55   If possible, elicit an example of when the person faced a problem and how they
56   responded.
57

58 **3. Identity and discrimination**

59 3.1 Ethnic identity

60   -   How the participant defines ethnicity – to self/others
61   -   How strongly he/she identifies with ethnicity - visits to 'home' country, use of
62   another language, food, music, clothing, membership of any ethnically affiliated
63   organisations
64   -   Experiences of racism/discrimination – media, society, community, school,
65   workplace
66

67 3.2 Religion
68   -   How participant defines his/her religious affiliation
69   -   Nature and frequency of attendance at place of worship and religious practice
70   -   Importance of belief/religious identity
71   -   Experiences of discrimination - media, society, community, school, workplace
72

73 3.3 Gender
74   -   Gender identity
75   -   Social/cultural expectations of role
76   -   Experiences of discrimination - media, society, community, school, workplace
77

78 **4. Relationships**

79 4.1 Family relationships
80   -   amount of contact
81   -   level of support
82   -   helpful/unhelpful aspects of family relationships
83   -   areas of agreement and conflict

84
85 4.2 Friendships
86   - amount of contact
87   - level of support
88   - mainly from own or other ethnic groups
89   - areas of agreement and conflict
90
91 4.3 Romantic relationships
92   - how long together
93   - amount of contact
94   - level of support
95   - from own or other ethnic group
96   - areas of agreement and conflict
97

98 **5. Neighbourhood environment**

99   - feelings about neighbourhood e.g. sense of community/belonging, crime/safety,
100   expense
101   - relationships with neighbours
102   - use of community resources
103

104 **6. Political and economic situation**
105   - impact of government policy on participant, changes to student finances/benefits
106   - impact of economic downturn
107   - government policy/societal attitudes towards ethnic minorities/immigration
108