

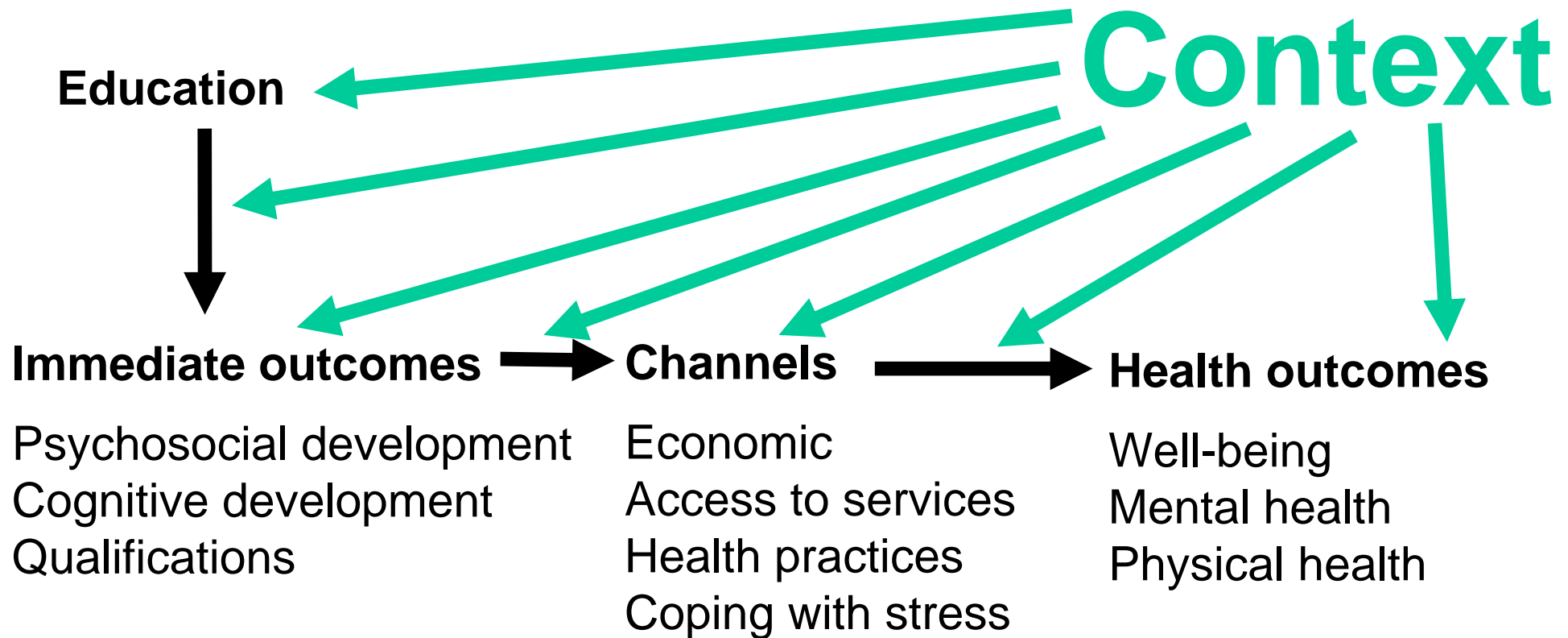


Pathways between Education and Health: Findings from case studies

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Processes through which education promotes health and well-being at the level of the individual



Well being and health: Where lifelong learning fits in



Research questions

How do the contributions of school and adult learning to well being and depression fit in with the rest of people's lives?

1. Which life circumstances are important?
e.g., economic, occupational, social, family, ability, prior qualifications, health, gender, ethnicity, age?
2. How do life circumstances interact with education to contribute to well being and depression?
3. How do the impacts of education vary throughout the life course?



Data collection

- In depth biographical interviews
- Focus on whole life story and where education has fitted in
- Complements previous WBL fieldwork (Schuller et al., 2002)



Sample frame

- Restrict breadth
 - Father manual unskilled or semi-skilled
 - Poor school attainment
 - Manual unskilled or semi-skilled at age 33
 - Women
 - White
 - Aged 46



Sample frame:

National Child Development Study



Sample structure

	Adult learning 33-42	No adult learning 33-42
Good well being and health at 42	7	2
Poor well being and health at 42	5	2



Initial impressions during data collection

1. Which life circumstances are important?

e.g., economic, occupational, social, family, ability, prior qualifications, health, gender, ethnicity, age?



Initial impressions during data collection

2. How do life circumstances interact with education to contribute to well being and depression?
 1. School – cumulative deprivation can lead to susceptibility to depression
 2. School – missed opportunities
 3. AL – practical constraints
 4. AL – personal development



Initial impressions during data collection

3. How do the impacts of education vary throughout the life course?
 1. School can have long lasting impacts
 2. AL and receptivity – may be about life stage
 3. Time of stability or time of change



Initial impressions during data collection

Additional points:

- Respondents who reported that AL had made a big difference to their lives had changed their occupations and occupational status as a consequence of the AL
- Well being and health benefits of AL are not uniform
- Not everybody needs AL



Helen

- Tough family background
- School undermining despite ability
- Nursing
- Family
- History of depression and anxiety
- Family responsibilities and works as cleaner
- Gardening

Cumulative deprivation in childhood, AL at a good time but constraints due to expectations and mental health



Christine

- Happy childhood
- Happy marriage
- Little occupational choice but happy as a home help
- Close family and friends
- Adult learning as enriching

Reduced opportunities but happy.



Carol

- Difficult family relationships
- Alapacea
- Marriage – breakdown
- Abusive relationship
- Alcoholism
- Not receptive to AL
- Recovery and moving on
- AL -?

School was a missed opportunity, AL at the wrong time



Louise

- Accident and family breakdown led to disengagement
- High maternal expectations
- Family
- AL at a good time – ready for change
- Huge occupational, economic, family changes

Maternal expectations high, receptive, opportunities

