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DEMAND
DYNAMICS OF ENERGY, MOBILITY AND DEMAND

WELFARE, EMPLOYMENT AND ENERGY DEMAND

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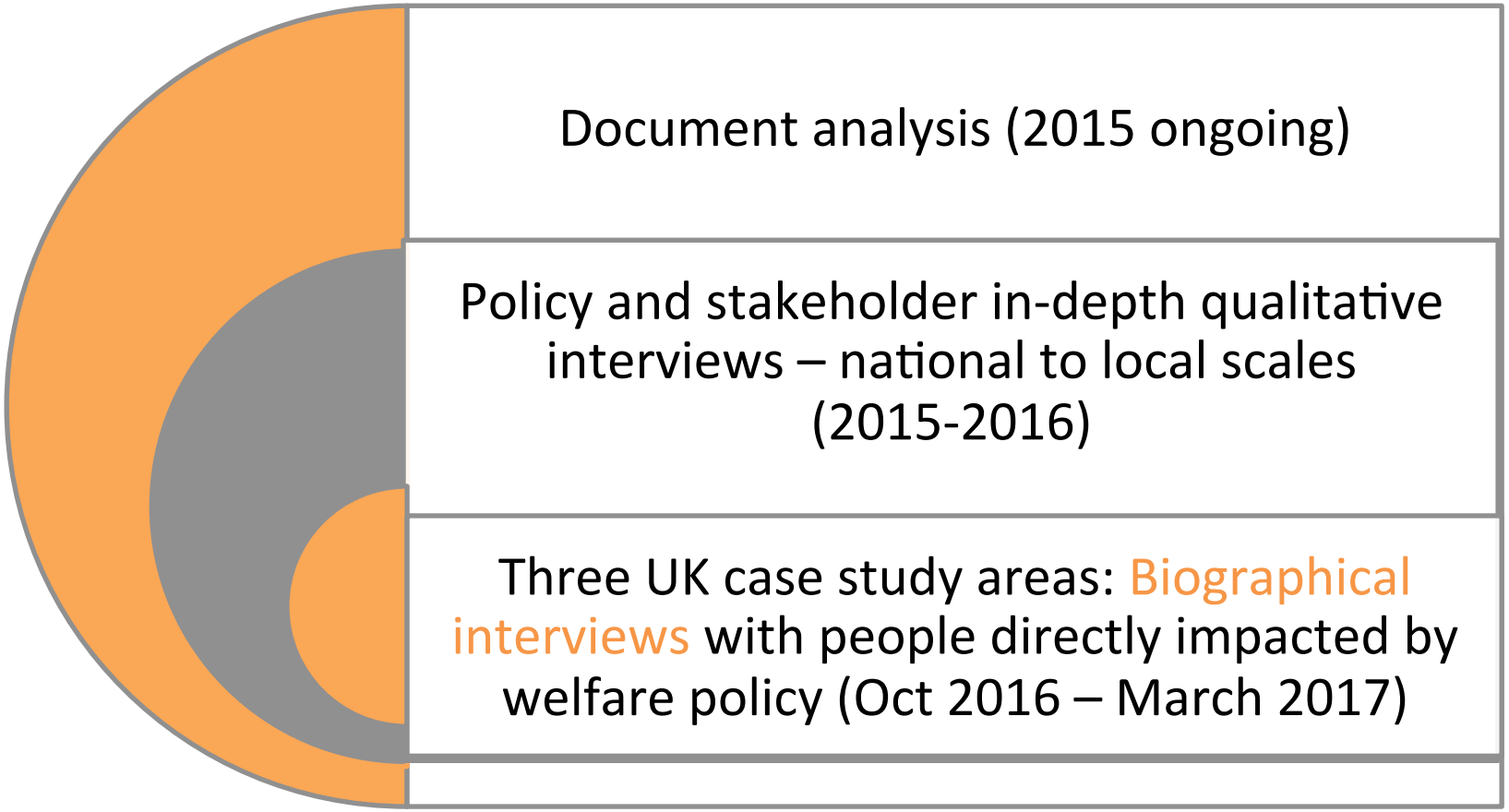
Welfare and employment policy

- Poverty and social justice
- Welfare reform
- Employment
- European funds
- Older people
- Household energy
- Health and safety reform
- State pension age
- Automatic enrolment in workplace pensions
- State pension simplifcation
- Child maintenance reform

Welfare energy project – methods and future plans



Four dimensions [beyond] 'energy' governance

- Other policy areas have direct forms of influence on energy needs and the nature of contemporary energy issues
- They have influence related to contribution to wider governance goals and cross governmental agendas
- Role of other areas of governance in creating longer term trajectories that influence what is possible or not within energy policy as well as constituting contemporary needs for energy
- Significance of framing and agenda setting outside of energy policy that influences what is conceived as possible

Energy vulnerability – issues and concepts

- Conceptualizing energy vulnerabilities (Simcock et al. 2015)
- Biographical methods – energy use across and between different spaces of everyday life (Butler et al. 2014)
- Constitution of need for energy as central to energy poverty
- Beyond energy policy to understand the role of governance in energy vulnerabilities

Directly influencing needs and vulnerabilities

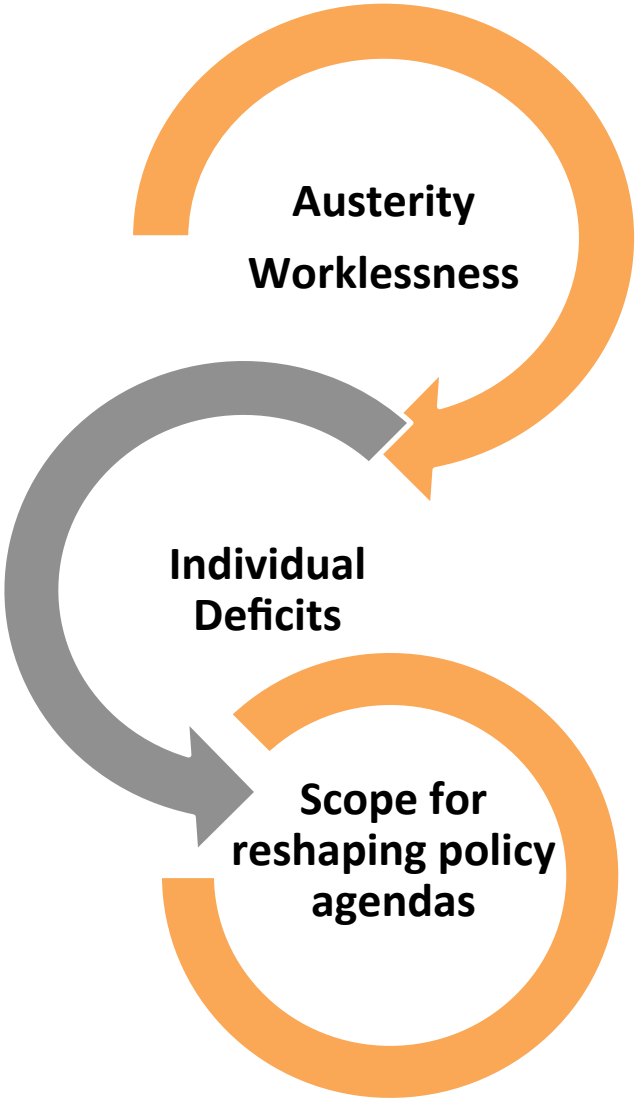
- Welfare reforms can be highlighted as exacerbating energy vulnerabilities, for example in disproportionately affecting disabled people (Citizen's Advice, 2015) and unemployed people.
- These groups are now identified as particularly energy vulnerable with new definitions and more complex understandings. But direct aspects of 'energy' policy - cold weather payments and winter fuel payment targeted at elderly.
- Role of wider political context shaping policies across government – e.g. political sensitivities about voters.
- Wider welfare policies (e.g. zero hours contracts, work placements) also shape poverty and exacerbate vulnerabilities

Directly influencing needs and vulnerabilities

"I've worked out how much Universal Credit is going to affect disabled people and some people are going to be hugely worse off and yet they're saying there's no impact" (Interviewee Policy Delivery)

"I suppose the target group that it mainly hits i.e. old people, is a politically significant group as well. **The fact that we're dealing with elderly people who are at risk of fuel poverty and seem to have a lot of sway politically because they all vote.** As we know when it comes out ... and it came out when our Secretary of State resigned, one of the things that he talked about was the **political clout of the silver voters.** That was quite interesting. So yeah, it is a very political area. I haven't worked in an area of DWP that's been so political I think as fuel poverty". (Interviewee Policy DWP)

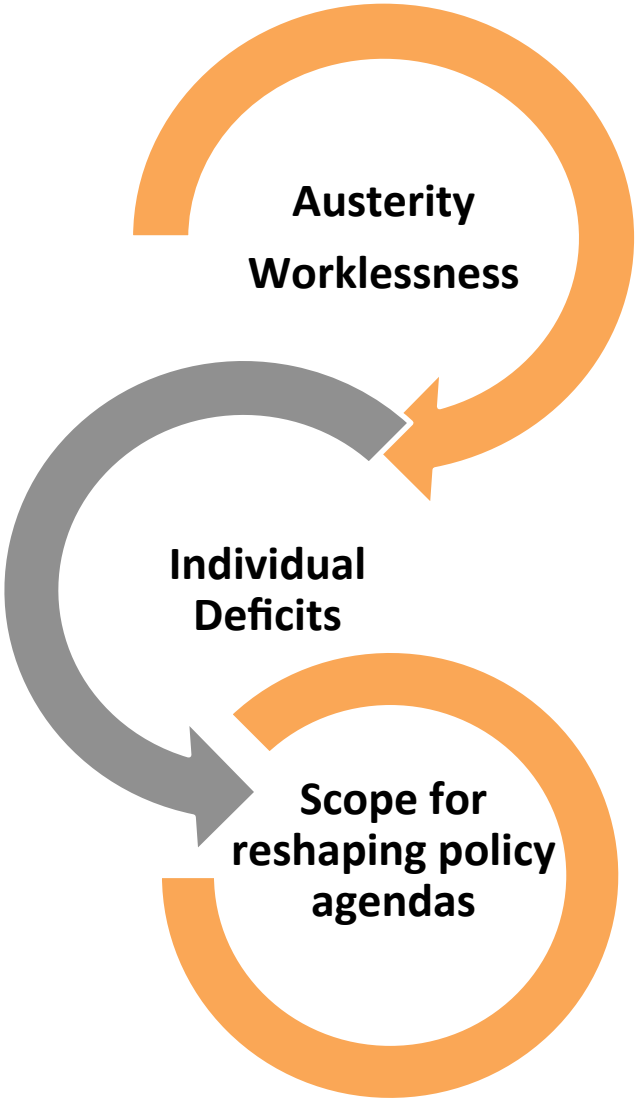
Framing and agenda setting



Being employed helps promote recovery and rehabilitation and prevents the harmful physical, mental and social effects of long-term sickness absence. **Fit for Work is designed to… [help] employees to get back to work as soon as is appropriate.** (DWP, 2014)

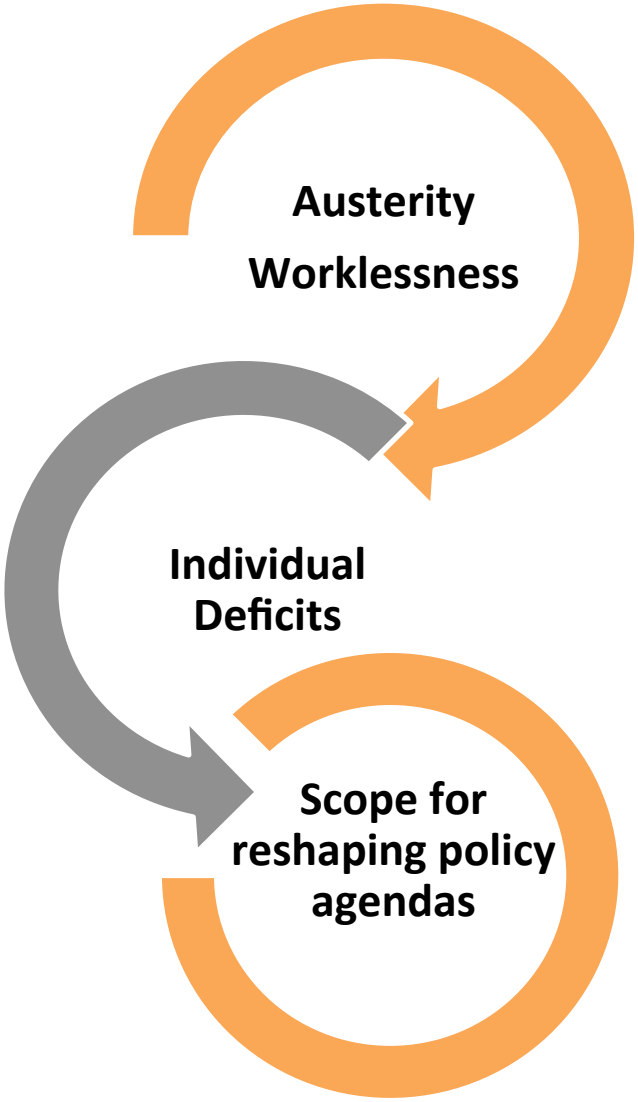
Interviewee: "I suppose politically… that they've gradually over time managed to paint people on welfare as scroungers yet most of the people on welfare are actually working hard, or else they have a very legitimate reason for not working but they've managed to paint this thing… over a long period of time". (Interviewee Policy)

Framing and agenda setting



- Time travel surveys show increasing levels of travel related to work (Carlson-Kanyama and Linden, 1999)
- High job densities contribute toward increasing distances travelled for work (Boussauw et al. 2010)
- Work place energy use versus home working (Spurling and Mcmeekin, 2015)

Framing and agenda setting



Reimaging different trajectories of work (Spurling and McMeekin, 2015)

The Economist Intelligence Unit

TOMORROW'S WORKPLACE?

THE EMERGENCE OF HUBS FOR THE UNTETHERED WORKFORCE*

Written by the Economist Intelligence Unit

HUBS OF IDEAS

Requires a different framing of the problem beyond individualism

Thank you

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