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Appendix S1

EVOCS Stroke Interview Schedule

General questions:

Can you introduce yourself and share something about who you are and what is important to you? Can you tell me the story of your stroke? Can you tell me your general thoughts about returning to work following your stroke?

Questions for those who did receive vocational rehabilitation support

Intervention delivery: contexts and resources

- Can you tell me about your experience of vocational rehabilitation (VR)?
How long after your stroke did you receive VR? Was this at the 'right' time for you? Who provided it? Where was it given to you? (i.e., in the stroke unit, in offices/meeting room, in the community etc)
- How would you describe HOW you were given VR?
What was a typical 'session' like? How often? Was this enough? Too much? How was it given to you? (i.e., what did the interactions 'look' like – type of conversations, formal/informal, structured/unstructured, conversations while doing something else etc). Did you talk to others, or doing any visits to workplaces? Did you get support with any specific tasks?
- Can you talk to me about any difficulties you had with the VR offered to you?

Outcomes

- Was VR helpful for you? In what ways?
- Do you think that VR has helped (or not) your return-to-work process?
- Do you think that VR has helped you prepare for returning to work?
- Have you seen VR working in different ways for different people? Can you give me an example?

Mechanisms

- Why do you think VR was (or was not) helpful?
- What might have made it more effective?
- Did the way that VR was provided to you, and the type of support, change over your inpatient stay and after discharge? Was this helpful/unhelpful?
- How would you say you responded to the VR that was offered to you? (e.g. think, feel, act etc)

Future needs

- What sort of vocational support do you think you might need (in an ideal world) over the next 6 months? Why?

Magic bullet question:

- What would an 'ideal' VR programme look like for you? (e.g., who, when, how, why etc)

Questions for those who did not receive vocational support

- What were and are your thoughts regarding whether or not you could return to your pre-stroke employment?
- How confident did you feel about returning, or not, to work following your stroke?
- What was (*or would have been*) helpful for you? In what ways? (Ask questions for different system levels e.g., within-person, between self and healthcare providers, employer/workplace and wider system levels)
- What hindered (*or might have hindered*) your return-to-work? In what ways? (Ask questions for different system levels e.g., within-person, between self and healthcare providers, employer/workplace and wider system levels)

Magic bullet question: What would an 'ideal' VR programme look like for you? (e.g. who, when, how, why etc)