

TRAFFORD COUNCIL – CHILDREN’S SERVICES

Report to: Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee
Date: 19.11.24
Report for: Information
Report of: Sally Atkinson , Specialist Commissioner Childrens Health
Report Title The BeeWell Survey

In Autumn 2021, the BeeWell Survey was co-created with young people, schools and mental health experts and is recognised as a gold standard survey to measure adolescent wellbeing across England.

The survey gathers the thoughts and feelings of young people each year to determine their wellbeing and the factors that influence these. Results are published privately to schools and publicly by neighbourhood.

This report provides an overview of the findings in the most recently published survey and the actions being taken by Trafford in response

Recommendations

For scrutiny committee to note the contents of this report and offer challenge to the service.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

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Background

The #BeeWell survey is divided into two sections that together encompass what matters most to young people. The first section is for the “domains” of wellbeing; different aspects of wellbeing. The second section is for the “drivers” of wellbeing; the different influences on wellbeing.

Areas of wellbeing (domains)



Meaning, Purpose and Control
(e.g. autonomy, life satisfaction, optimism)



Understanding Yourself
(e.g. psychological wellbeing, self-esteem, stress and coping, and emotion regulation)



Emotions
(e.g. positive affect, negative affect)

Influences on wellbeing (drivers)



Health and Routines
(e.g. physical health, sleep, nutrition, physical activity)



Hobbies and Entertainment
(e.g. free time/time use, use of social media, participation in arts, culture and entertainment)



Relationships
(e.g. relationships with parents/carers, friendships and social support, bullying, harmful or abusive relationships, interactions and experiences, and loneliness)



School
(e.g. school connection, attainment, relationships with staff)



Environment and Society
(e.g. home environment, caregiving responsibilities, material deprivation, local environment)



Future
(e.g. life readiness)
*Greater Manchester survey only



Wellbeing Support
(both inside and outside of school)
*Hampshire, IoW, Portsmouth & Southampton survey only

The survey has now reached 63,000 Children and Young People (CYP), this equates to 55% of all registered pupils in Greater Manchester and reached 60% of Greater Manchester secondary schools. Greater Manchester average scores are lower than national averages and international comparisons (Appendix 1.0).

This year's data captures how responses have changed as young people have moved from Year 8 in 2021, Year 9 in 2022 to Year 10 in 2023, and compares three years of Year 10 snapshots.

In 2021, Year 8 and Year 10 pupils completed the survey. This year only Year 10 pupils completed the survey with 1,275 Trafford CYP responding from 12 (63%) of Trafford's 19 Secondary Schools with representation across all Trafford neighbourhoods:

North: Lostock High School, Stretford Grammar, and Stretford High School

Central: Sale Grammar School

South: Altrincham Grammar School for Girls, Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College, Saint Ambrose, Wellington School

West: Flixton Girls School, Saint Anthony's Roman Catholic School, Urmston Grammar Academy, Wellacre Technology Academy

Survey Outcome

The survey is broken down by neighbourhood, North, South, West and Central and sets out the information using a RAG rating format on severity with Green being the most positive and Red being the most negative. (Appendix 2.0)

There were distinctive differences in the views of young people in different neighbourhoods which is perhaps understandable and reflects the demographics in Trafford. This means that there will need to be differences in the plan to reflect needs.

The 1275 CYP who responded to this year's survey account for 43% of the 2936 Y10 pupils who live in Trafford.

- The North neighbourhood received the most responses with 461, representing 73% of the 631 Y10 pupils living in this neighbourhood.
- In the South neighbourhood 343 (34%) of 1017 Y10 pupils completed the survey.
- West neighbourhood received 273 responses, representing 48% of the 563 Y10 pupils living in the neighbourhood.
- The Central neighbourhood recorded the lowest response level with 198 (27%) of 725 Y10 pupils who live in this neighbourhood responding.
- Though the data in relation to gender is incomplete the available data shows 48% male, 52% female split.

The responses in the survey do not include CYP who are home schooled. However, gaining responses from this group of young people is being trialled in a limited area outside of GM, in the upcoming 2024/25 survey and it is hoped will be included as standard in future iterations.

We can also see results for 128 children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The survey recognises that Free School Meals (FSM) is not the most accurate measure of poverty, but in this context, and avoiding the need for CYP to answer difficult questions in relation to this, FSM is viewed as the most appropriate measure. This year's survey recorded responses from 187 pupils who access FSM.

Young people in the central area reported higher than average scores in relation to wellbeing which has raised the Trafford average overall. Changes over the two-year period show:

- The north of the borough reported lower self-esteem, material deprivation and social opportunities to support their wellbeing
- The north also reported they felt discriminated because of their race and/or religion and children in the west feel they are discriminated because of their disability
- A high number of responses from females have improved psychological wellbeing and life satisfaction
- Bullying scores improved over the 2-year period in central, north and south however declined in the west
- Results in the north show that young people felt less happy in comparison to other neighbourhoods
- Though local environment scores were good compared to other areas in GM, there was a deterioration in how young people felt about community spaces
- The metric with the greatest reduction was how much time young people spent on hobbies

- There was a significant reduction in the satisfaction with local environment in terms of community spaces across all four neighbourhoods and the participation in arts culture had declined (whilst some of this may be accounted for by changing age and stage of development)
- North is the only neighbourhood to see a drop in both self-esteem and emotional regulation domains, all other neighbourhoods were consistently amber or had made improvements
- Central is the only neighbourhood to see improvements in emotions
- South, west and central reported improved levels of life satisfaction and the north reported a decline
- North and west neighbourhoods have both seen no improvements within health and routines, south and central have both seen improvements in health, diet and physical activity.
- South neighbourhood has seen the biggest decline in participation in arts, culture and entertainment.
- North is the only neighbourhood to see a decline in school attainment and relationships with school staff, where is south and central this improved.
- Both north and west saw no improvement in environment and society, whilst south and central are both rated 'green'
- South neighbourhood recorded the lowest levels of preparedness and optimism in the newly added 'future' domain with 5 of 18 drivers rated red, including meeting a business, careers advisor, work experience, apprenticeship or traineeship and GM apprentice and careers service.
- South neighbourhood saw the greatest number of drivers rated 'green' in the relationship domain; areas included relationships with parents/carers, friendships and social support, bullying, discrimination and disability.

Implementation

Following the publication of the report there has been wide dissemination and information sharing. Partners have been asked to ensure that in all plans they are developing across activity in Trafford they take account findings of the survey. This information is then being centrally collated into an action plan held by the Children's commissioning team, this relates to findings that are red and amber and is broken down by neighbourhood.

This plan whilst still in development highlights all the findings from the survey, the agreed relevant actions, relevant leads and timelines for development. Here are some of examples of activity so far:

- In response to low levels of physical activity, Move More partnerships have been established to co-design and co-produce action plans to enable communities who are less active to move more. Includes formal sport and activity opportunities as well as active travel opportunities. In north neighbourhood there are partnerships set up in Old Trafford and Stretford starting in December
- The upcoming retender of Trafford's Sports based Mentoring service to include transitions plans to support CYP into community sports groups and teams
- Emotional regulation - Commissioning of a parent education programme on children's mental wellbeing
- School attachment, attainment and relationships with staff - Belong- Attachment and Trauma Informed Schools will be delivered in all Trafford Schools by the Virtual School.

- Self Esteem - Self-esteem workshops to be included in broader universal offer in Schools
- During monitoring of mentoring services, closer attention and prioritisation will be given to the youth outcome star focusing on areas including feeling able to identify risk, control behaviour, and feeling they have a strong network around them
- Develop wellbeing guide to support parents to support their child`s wellbeing
- Safe area to live - Targeted work in Gorse Hill, including Personal Safety and Bystander training and Community Cohesion for Young people, residence and businesses.

Schools involved in the survey received their own dashboard, and they then use this within the school to implement change. Appendix to the report is a case study (Appendix 3.0) from one of the schools demonstrating how they have made changes to their extracurricular activity offer following the findings in relation to loneliness.

There is more work to do to understand how this is being taken forward by other individual schools.

All progress against the action plan will then be collated to feedback to children and young people following a 'you said, we did' format. It is planned that this will be rolled out through schools in June 2025.

Feedback will be used to shape and develop commissioning activity as well as shaping the narrative within quality assurance meetings to ensure providers are delivering support in and targeting engagement in line with the findings.

Appendices

1.0 National and Greater Manchester Data Comparisons



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2.0 BeeWell Summary



#BeeWell
2023.24.pptx

3.0 Case Study – Stretford Grammar School



Case Study - Bee
Well.docx