



#BeeWell

Headline Findings:

Autumn 2022 Survey Results

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Introduction/Background

[#BeeWell](#) Greater Manchester is a collaboration between The University of Manchester, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, The Gregson Family Foundation, and the Anna Freud Centre. The programme measures young people's wellbeing on an annual basis and aims to bring about positive change in Greater Manchester's communities as a result.

The [#BeeWell survey](#) was co-created with 150 young people and then delivered to Year 8 and Year 10 pupils in Autumn 2021, hearing from 38,000 young people across 165 secondary schools. #BeeWell is supported by over 100 coalition partners, both local and national, who responded to the first year of data by pivoting existing programmes of work and unlocking an additional £700,000 of investment to support young people's wellbeing.

In Autumn 2022 #BeeWell surveyed 35,000 young people across 152 Greater Manchester secondary schools (including 22 new schools), in Years 9 and 10. Across the two years the survey has reached over 60,000 individual young people (given the repeated cohort) in 187 secondary schools.

Listen - Emerging Key Findings

The #BeeWell team have worked with the #BeeWell Youth Steering Group to identify the following early findings.

Overall Wellbeing

Life satisfaction and mental wellbeing scores of young people across GM have been **very stable across the two years**. (e.g., life satisfaction average score 6.6/10 in 2021, 6.5/10 in 2022). Similarly, in both 2021 and 2022, approximately 16% of young people in GM reported a high level of emotional difficulties. However, as expected, **wellbeing has declined slightly for young people moving from Year 8 into Year 9**, reflecting wider research that wellbeing declines with age during adolescence.

In 2021, the average life satisfaction and mental wellbeing scores of young people across GM were **lower than those of young people in England** (in studies using the same measures as in #BeeWell). This remains the case in 2022¹. *However, caution is required in*

¹ Updated life satisfaction national score taken from Good Childhood Report 2022; mental wellbeing national score taken from NHS Digital 2020 (NB: mental wellbeing scores not available in 2021 and 2022 NHS Digital reports).

interpreting differences between GM and national data, given the socio-demographic differences between the city-region and the country, the different age ranges of the GM and national samples, and the fact that the differences in scores are within the limits of expected natural variation.

There is stability in the inequalities highlighted in Year 1 analyses, particularly for **gender and sexual orientation**. The fact that the same patterns have been identified once again gives us greater confidence in highlighting the need for action in reducing disparities in wellbeing for young people. More details on the inequalities data from Year 1 can be found in our briefing, [here](#).

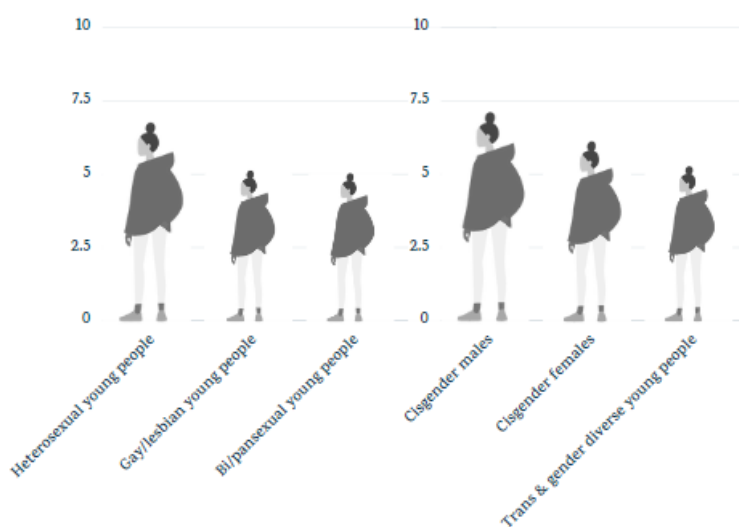
Cisgender (cis) males reported higher life satisfaction (7.11) than **cis females** (6.13)

Trans and gender diverse (TGD) young people reported the lower life satisfaction in comparison (5.28)

Heterosexual young people reported the highest life satisfaction (6.77)

Gay/lesbian young people reported lower levels of life satisfaction (5.13)

Bi/pansexual young people reported the lowest life satisfaction (5.04)



Life Satisfaction scores reported by different cohorts of young people (scores range between 0-10).

The pattern of rather modest and inconsistent **ethnicity** inequalities identified in our 2021 data remain evident in 2022. In 2022 the #BeeWell team received additional ethnicity category data as advised by the Race Equalities Panel. Further analysis of this data will be undertaken in the coming months.

There is a modest association between **socio-economic disadvantage** and wellbeing. This is most evident in relation to young people's life satisfaction scores. Life satisfaction scores increase from 6.44 to 6.67 between IMD Q1-Q5².

In 2022, young people in GM with **SEN** (receiving SEN Support or with an EHC Plan) reported very similar levels of life satisfaction, optimism, and mental wellbeing as their

² Life satisfaction scores in the #BeeWell survey are measured on a scale from 0 to 10.

peers without SEN. The proportion of young people with SEN reporting a **high level of emotional difficulties** is slightly higher at 17.6%, compared to 16% among their peers. The pattern of rather modest SEN inequalities identified in our 2021 data remain evident in 2022.

The pattern of **neighbourhood differences** in wellbeing identified in our 2021 data remain evident. There is some variation across GM neighbourhoods in the 2022 data, the most notable in relation to the % of young people reporting a high level of emotional difficulties (lowest neighbourhood: 8%; highest neighbourhood: 24%). *However, it is important to note that comparing neighbourhoods can over-emphasize differences given the comparison is between the highest and lowest scoring areas (that is, there may be little variation among the neighbourhoods in between). Nonetheless, our analysis of 2021 data [here](#) indicated that neighbourhood differences account for a small but significant amount of the variation on young people's wellbeing.*

The Drivers of Wellbeing

Initial findings will be followed by thematic briefings co-authored with partners for each of the key drivers of wellbeing, including physical activity, future and arts and culture. We hope to publish these in the Spring/Summer of 2023. The headlines below represent those that felt significant by the #BeeWell programme team and #BeeWell Youth Steering Group:

Health and Routines – **sleep**. A notable **reduction in young people reporting they get enough sleep** has been observed, with 41.8% (around 9 students in the average classroom of 22³) of Year 9 students reporting they aren't getting enough to feel awake and concentrate at school, compared to 36% in Year 8 and 46% by the time they reach Y10. This may, in part, be accounted for by age differences. We see a further increase for those eligible for Free School Meals not getting enough sleep, from 40% in Year 8 (2021) to 46% in Year 9 (2022).



9 young people in the average Year 9 classroom of 22 don't get enough sleep.

³ The latest [national data](#) indicates that the average class size in secondary schools is 22.3 pupils.

Environment – **good places to spend free time.** There has been a decline in young people reporting that they have good places to spend free time. In 2021, 75.5% of young people in Year 8 agreed or strongly agreed that they had good places to spend free time, compared to 67.6% of those young people when they were surveyed again in Year 9 in 2022. This equates to **just under 15 in the average class of 22 Year 9 pupils who think that they have good places to spend their free time.**



15 out of 22 young people in the average Year 9 classroom think they have good places to spend free time.

Environment – **perceptions of safety.** Following conversations with colleagues, the 'Safe area to live' item changed in 2022 from *'I feel safe in the area where I live.'* to *'How safe do you feel when in your local area? By "local area", we mean the area within about 5 minutes walking distance of your home.'* to facilitate work with *Policing, Crime, Criminal Justice, and Fire* - accordingly, caution is required when comparing 2021 and 2022 data. However, it is important to note that in 2022, 81% of young people reported that their area is very safe or safe to live in, whilst 14% reported that their area is fairly or very unsafe⁴, which equates to **3 young people in an average school class of 22.**



3 out of 22 young people in the average Year 9 classroom feel their area is fairly or very unsafe.

Using Year 1 #BeeWell survey results, colleagues from Education Policy Institute overlaid the #BeeWell data with publicly available data, producing a [report](#) that identified that neighbourhood crime risk was associated with fewer young people reporting they felt safe or that people in their area were trustworthy.

⁴ 81% of young people think that their area is very safe or safe to live in, 14% think their area is fairly or very unsafe, and 5% answered 'don't know'.

Listen - Continuing the conversation with young people

#BeeWell's ambition is to share the data back with young people and continue the conversation about how to support their mental health and wellbeing and involve them in the response to the findings. A few projects are already underway (outlined below) but there is an aspiration this data sparks conversations in communities across Greater Manchester utilising the Lundy Model of Participation.

The Politics Project: Following the success of the Digital Dialogue Sessions with The Project, we have commissioned The Politics Project to repeat the surgeries for a second year. The surgeries will take place in the Spring/Summer term, post local elections with the aim of producing a youth-led narrative for each local authority as to what's important to young people. The summary for Year 1 can be found [here](#).

Young Researchers Programme: A cohort of Year 10 pupils across GM are currently training as researchers, to work with the #BeeWell team and the University of Manchester to interpret the survey responses and identify future areas of research.

Proud to #BeeWell: A qualitative research study with the Proud Trust and UoM to better understand the highlighted inequalities within the data and what we need to do in response. This is a peer research project with 6 LGBTQ+ young people as paid co-researchers supporting the development, design, and delivery of the research to understand the 'WHY' behind the statistics outlined above.

Act - Support for Schools

Schools across Greater Manchester received their updated, bespoke data dashboards in January 2023. This provides schools with confidential insights into the strengths and needs of their pupils, with the ability to explore trends by gender, FSM eligibility, age, and SEN status. The update also includes a feature to explore the longitudinal data (Pupils moving from Year 8 to Year 9) and the snapshot data (Year 10 annual sample).

Pupils in non-mainstream schools were able to complete a short or symbol version of the survey. Settings that completed the symbol version of the survey or did not receive

enough responses for a bespoke dashboard will have received a specialist headlines report.

Schools are currently undertaking their 1:1 sessions with the Anna Freud Centre, Child Outcomes Research Consortium (CORC) in which we are hearing stories as to how the data has been used in settings which we hope to share in the coming months.

Act - Neighbourhood Results

The neighbourhood-level dashboard will be updated on the 31st of March 2023 to include Year 2 results. This will show variation in wellbeing across different communities, as well as insights into the key drivers of young people's wellbeing. Young people will be central to shaping the key messages that emerge from the neighbourhood analysis.

In 2021, we kept our tone around results celebratory in line with the request from our Youth Steering Group and given the programme was still in inception. Given the overall sample cohort has now increased to 60,000 and we are confident in the inequalities identified, the tone of #BeeWell will look to highlight the need for change and seek to reduce the disparities in wellbeing across Greater Manchester. Our Youth Steering Group have directed us to a tone that is realistic yet motivational.

Recommendations

Listen: Note the key findings of the second year of the #BeeWell survey results.

Act: Advise on how to encourage a system-wide response to the findings and ensure young people's voices are leading the response the survey findings.

Celebrate: Share examples of where #BeeWell data has been utilised and had impact locally.