

# Polling results report: 10 November 2020

## This report

This report covers the period between the 27 October and 09 November 2020. Participants were asked the four questions on wellbeing provided by the Office of National Statistics. We have been asking these four questions since April 2020 to capture the wellbeing of social workers as we continue to be impacted by the pandemic.

## October - November Wellbeing

Participants were asked the following four questions regarding their wellbeing' see below in Fig 1.

Fig 1



The above results show some movement with anxiety levels rising slightly as happiness, life worthwhile and life satisfaction have fallen from where they were in September. The polling survey spanned over the time of the second lockdown announcement on 31 October and results may reflect the impact of that news. Also, it is now approaching winter and the short days and long nights also tend to impact on people's overall wellbeing.

The [Office of National Statistics](#) (ONS) reported for the period of 28 October to 1 November that life satisfaction average was at 6.5, Life worthwhile average was 7.2 and happiness was at an average of 6.7, all of which are higher averages than the social worker averages reported here. However, ONS also highlighted that the life satisfaction and life worthwhile



average this week was the lowest reported since March of this year and down on last year's averages pre - pandemic.

### Comparison of wellbeing scores since April 2020

Wellbeing data has been collected since the end of March/beginning of April of this year and can be seen below. Averages for life satisfaction has been declining since September whilst anxiety has slowly crept up and is close to where it was in April when we experienced the first lockdown.

Fig.2



Data will continue to be collected monthly and any changes to average scores will be highlighted. Research to compare participants' responses to national averages is currently underway to create comparison tables with the overall population over the time period they have been collected at WWCS. As can be seen in the brief snapshot provided in this report, social workers appear to have higher anxiety levels and lower levels for happiness, life satisfaction and life worthwhile. Although useful, it may be more realistic to compare wellbeing averages from professions that have similar roles and responsibilities ie those in frontline services and allied care professions. At this time we do not have this information.

### About WWCS Polling

What Works for Children's Social Care runs regular polls with social workers who have registered with us. Social workers are currently employed in a range of organisations and we canvas their opinions about our current and future research agenda as well as topics impacting on social work practice. There are 833 social workers currently registered to participate. 73 Social Workers responded to this poll.