

Polling results report: 20 January 2021

This report

This report covers the period between the 22 December 2020 and 18 January 2021. Participants were asked for the final time this year the four wellbeing questions from the office of National statistics (ONS). Participants were also asked what part of the country they resided in. At the time this survey went out the country was experiencing different levels of restrictions based on COVID numbers in their area. As the numbers in the North began to decrease the numbers in Kent and the South East had started to rise dramatically, resulting in tougher restrictions. The idea to compare wellbeing figures against location was to see if this had made any significant difference to people's perception of their wellbeing.

Wellbeing

The wellbeing questions cover four areas; anxiety, happiness, life satisfaction and life worthwhile. Social workers were asked to score themselves from a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being not at all and 10 being completely.

Fig.1



Comparing the average figures above with the last time in November (see brackets) when we asked social workers shows a 0.1 point increase in happiness (6.1), life worthwhile (6.8) and satisfaction (6.2) and a 0.1 point drop in anxiety (5.1). This might reflect participants looking forward to the Christmas break and seeing some albeit limited family or friends. Comparing social workers averages with the national averages collected by the [Office of National statistics](#) between 16 December and 3rd January indicate that social workers are below average levels for wellbeing.



Average anxiety score by location

In fig 2 below you will see the results for anxiety by location. Due to low numbers there can be no significance attributed to the result. For example, the North East indicates a high level of anxiety but is represented by only one person.

Fig.2



Three regions have lower levels of anxiety than the polling averages have been over the course of the year. For most of the year, anxiety has hovered around the 5/10 range and is in line with national results. It seems counter intuitive that one of the regions with lower anxiety levels is the South East which would include Kent. Kent's numbers increased dramatically during this time and it was placed in tier 4 restrictions on the 19th December, just before Christmas. One would have assumed anxiety would have gone up in this area as numbers were growing. East and West Midlands also show differences between them with the average in the East at 6.3 and in the West at 3.9. Looking back at the [tier status](#) at 17 December however, there were some differences, with East Midlands having more areas in Tier 3, ie higher numbers, than West Midlands at that time. This may explain some of the differences but again I would highlight that the numbers are too low to make any significant connections.



Average happiness score by location

Fig.3



The two regions who stand out in Fig. 3 are the East of England and the North East with much lower scores for happiness, well below the averages that have been seen over the year. Again response numbers are low and it may have been a particularly difficult day when the polling was completed. It seems the South East participants were feeling very positive despite being in Tier 4 just before Christmas.

Average life satisfaction score by location

Fig. 4

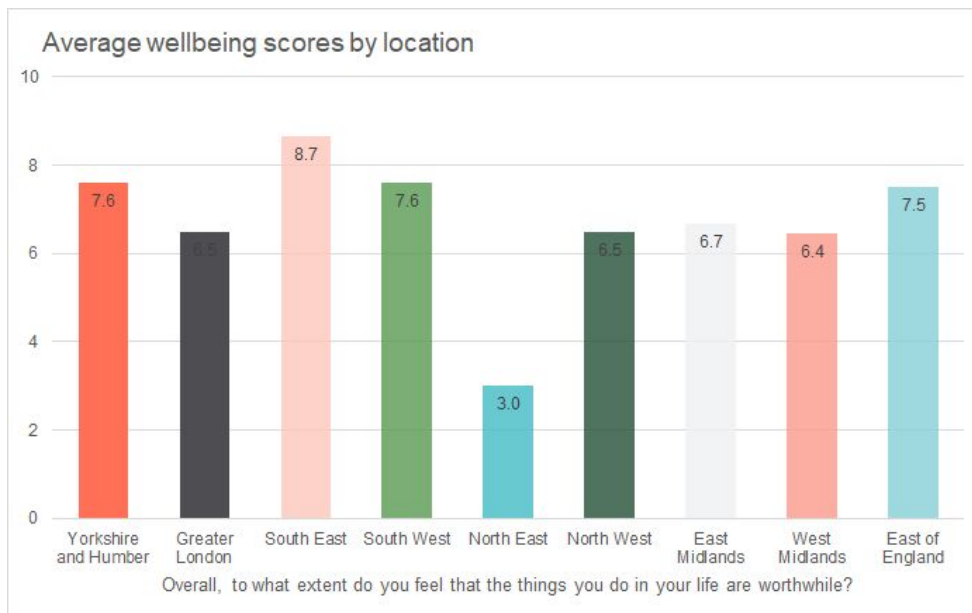




The average for life satisfaction was higher this month at 6.3 and looking at Fig.4 there are some regions that were much higher therefore raising the monthly average. There is the same trend seen in the previous two graphs with North East and East of England providing much lower averages but based on low numbers.

Average life worthwhile score by location

Fig.5



The trend for the regions follows in Fig 5 and it is reassuring to see how high the averages are for most of the regions with the South East at a really high 8.7. The national average for the period 16 December to 3 January according to the Office for National statistics for things done in life being worthwhile was 7.2. There were four regions in this poll that were higher than that average.

About WWCSO 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 864 social workers currently registered to participate. 55 Social Workers responded to this poll which was low, but could be due to a number of reasons including the time of the year.

We would like to thank you all for taking the time to complete the polls and also ask that you encourage your colleagues to [sign up](#).