

# Polling results report: 1 March 2021

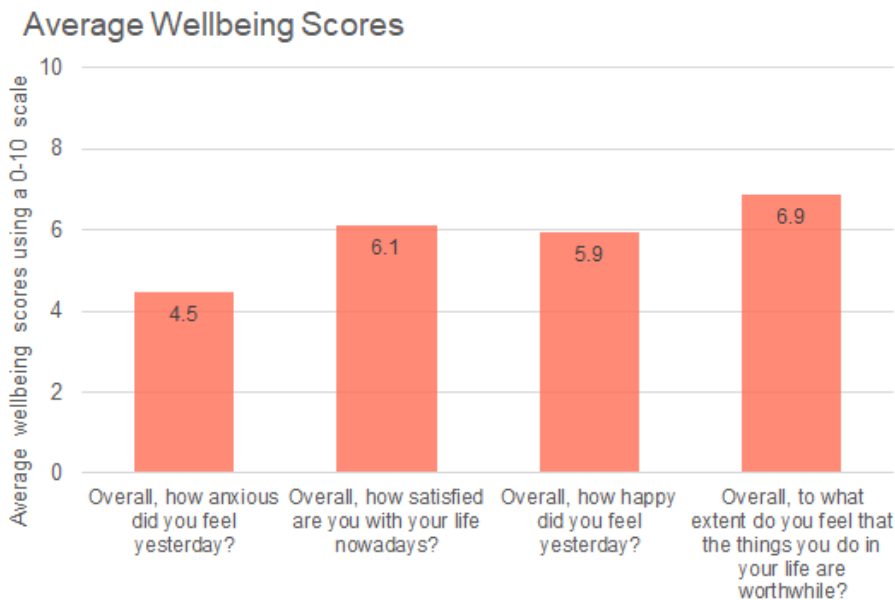
## This report

This report covers the period between the 9th February and 22nd February 2021.

## Wellbeing for February

Participants were asked the four wellbeing questions used by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) which we ask on a regular monthly basis. Below, you can see the results for this year's first wellbeing questions.

Fig.1



These wellbeing questions were asked whilst we continue to live through the third lockdown and just as the roadmap out of lockdown was being announced. One might intuitively expect the results to reflect difficulties during this time as people navigate how to look after themselves at this time of the year when the days are short and we tend to spend more time indoors.

Interestingly the average level of anxiety dropped this month and was its second lowest figure since we began to record wellbeing in April of last year. Participants are asked to rate themselves from 1 - 10 with 0 being not at all anxious and 10 being extremely anxious. At its lowest in August anxiety average was recorded at 4.4 whilst this month it was recorded at 4.8. Anxiety averages were at the highest at 5.3 in April 2020 when we were beginning to fully comprehend the impact of COVID - 19.

However at the same time this month, the average level for happiness recorded its lowest level at 5.9 and life worthwhile also recorded one of its lowest levels. Life satisfaction remained roughly the same for this month.

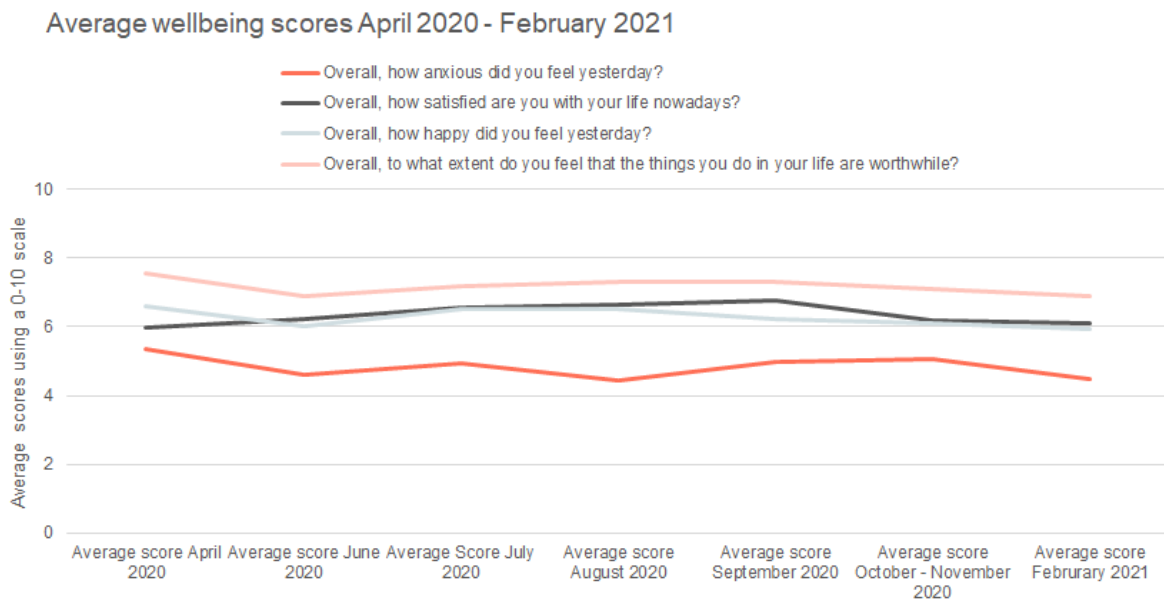


One might surmise that low levels of happiness, satisfaction and life worthwhile do reflect the fatigue that people are experiencing in this third lockdown during the winter months whilst anxiety levels are lower as people have come to terms with the pandemic threat but are not as concerned as they previously were due to the success of the vaccine roll out.

### Wellbeing over time

In Fig.2 you will see the results since we began recording the wellbeing measures in April 2020.

Fig. 2



The table above shows the trajectory since April last year. Life worthwhile results have slowly declined as have anxiety levels. Life satisfaction has hovered around an average of 6/10 since October last year. Happiness has dropped slightly this month.

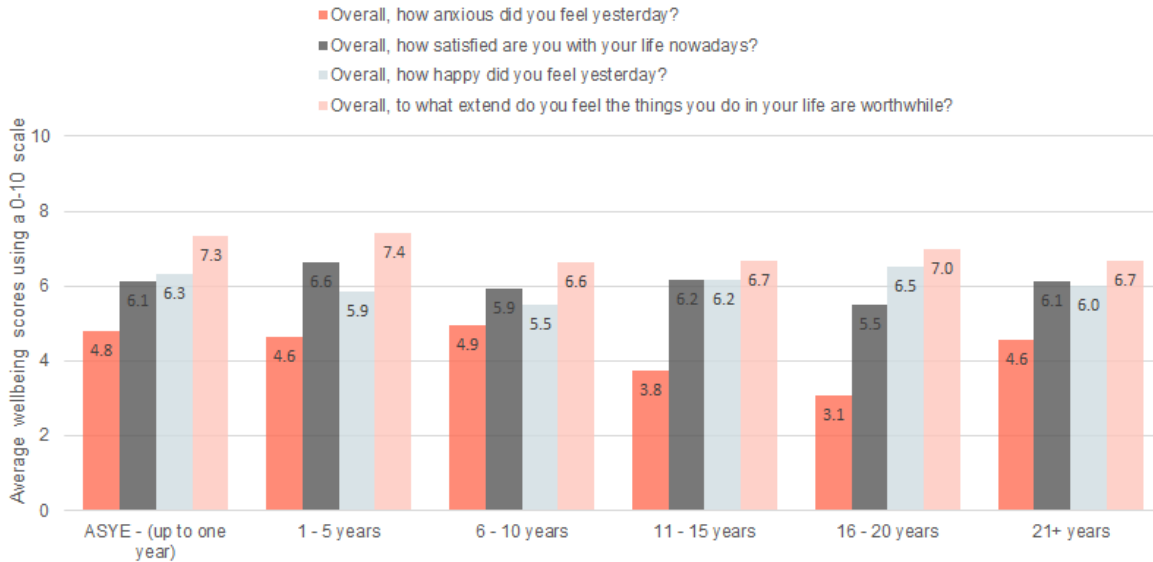
### Wellbeing and length qualified compared

In Fig.3 below you will see that we have compared wellbeing figures with length of time qualified.



Fig.3

### Average wellbeing scores vs years in service



For those social workers who have been qualified for 16 - 20 years their happiness levels were the highest and their anxiety levels the lowest out of all groups. However their overall life satisfaction was the lowest of all groups. Those who have been qualified for 6 - 10 years had the highest level of anxiety and the lowest levels of happiness whilst also recording low levels of life satisfaction and life worthwhile.

Without any other demographic information to apply, any attempt to understand this data is hypothetical. The response rate for this question was good overall, however still not high enough to make any significant conclusions. So, whilst bearing this in mind, influencing factors to consider might be age, (those qualified longer will ordinarily be older and have scored lower levels of anxiety in previous [polling](#)), level of seniority, ie those qualified between 6 - 10 years might be social workers holding more complex cases and higher caseloads as they will be considered experienced whereas those qualified longer might be in management roles.

### About WWCSC Polling

What Works for Children's Social Care runs fortnightly polls with social workers who have registered with us. Social workers registered with us are currently employed in a range of



organisations and we canvas their opinions about our current and future research agenda as well as current affairs, Wellbeing and social work practice. 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](#).