

Polling results report: 7 April 2021

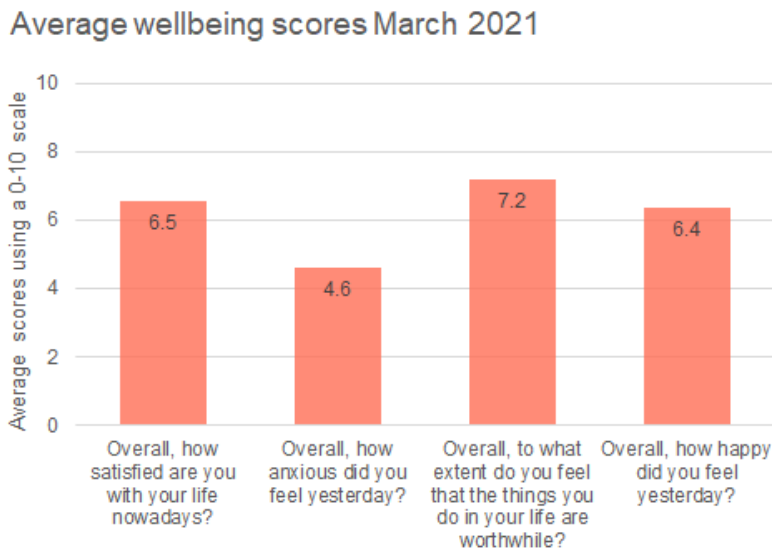
This report

This report covers the period between the 23rd March and 6th April 2021. A total of 105 participants answered this polling survey.

Wellbeing for March

Participants were asked the four wellbeing questions used by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) which we ask on a regular monthly basis. Below, in Fig 1 you can see the results for March.

Fig.1



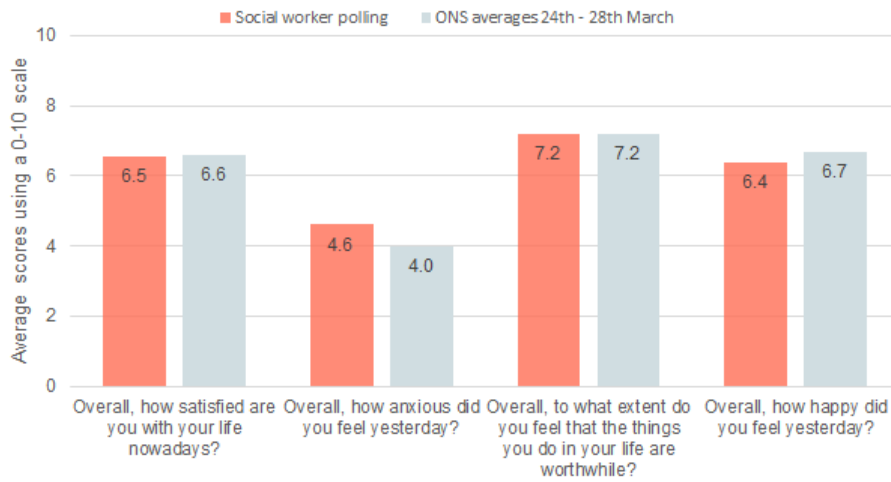
Comparing the results with February's results one can see that there has been an increase in every domain over the last month. Anxiety has crept up marginally from 4.5 last month to 4.6 this month. However, happiness is at 6.4 this month, (5.9 last month) , satisfaction is at 6.5 (6.1 last month) and life worthwhile is at 7.2 (6.9 last month) are slightly larger increases indicating a more positive sense of wellbeing. Overall the averages appear to reflect where they were in the summer and late autumn of last year.

Below in Fig 2 is a comparison between personal wellbeing averages for social workers over two weeks from 23rd March to 6th April with the national population for the week commencing 24th March 2021.

Fig. 2



Average wellbeing scores March 2021

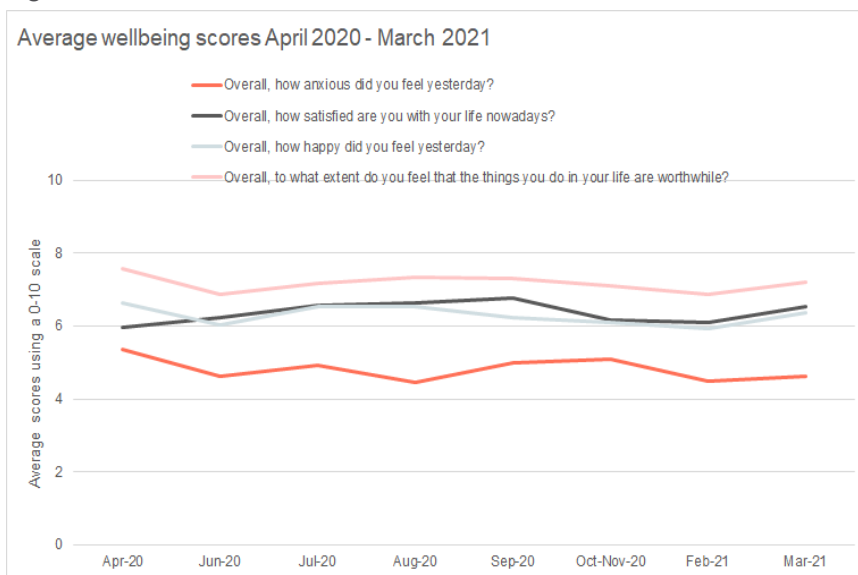


One can see that Social workers have lower levels of personal happiness and satisfaction alongside higher levels of anxiety. Life worthwhile is at the same levels for both groups. In the past comparisons with the national averages have shown bigger discrepancies between them and social workers results. Anxiety levels have consistently been higher for social workers over the past year and may likely be due to the type of work and responsibilities they have.

Wellbeing over time

In Fig.3 you will find the average scores over time from April 2020

Fig. 3





Keeping some meetings virtual

“As a result of them moving online, Team Meetings have been regular, well attended and informative.”

Social workers are also in favour of keeping some meetings virtual e.g. *‘Routine meetings [should continue] to be held virtually’* e.g. *‘CIN/ Core Groups’*. One practitioner suggests the decision around whether to host an in person or virtual meeting should be based on the parent or family’s preference. Some social workers highlight that virtual meetings have increased accessibility and attendance for families and professionals too e.g. *‘I would also like some meetings to still be held virtually, as this has helped families to access meetings easier’*. Others highlighted a preference for training being online too: *‘I prefer meetings training etc. being online as I can get much more done’*. Although keen to keep some meetings virtual, some respondents also highlighted the need for regular breaks in between meetings: *‘A recognition of our online limits and the need for regular breaks’*.

About WWCSA 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](#).