

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 24th March 2023

Subject: #BeeWell Year 2

Report of: Councillor Mark Hunter, Portfolio Leader for Children and Young People and
Caroline Simpson, Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Children and Young
People

Purpose of Report

Over the last two academic years #BeeWell has listened to 60,000 young people in Years 8, 9 and 10 across Greater Manchester (GM) on their wellbeing. This report outlines the key findings of the survey results, ahead of publication in late March 2023, and provides an overview of next steps.

Recommendations:

The GMCA is requested to:

1. **Listen:** Note the key findings of the second year of the #BeeWell survey results.
2. **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.
3. **Celebrate:** Share examples of where #BeeWell data has been utilised and had impact locally.

Contact Officers

Jane Forrest (jane.forrest@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

Francesca Speakman (Francesca.speakman@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

Equalities Impact, Carbon, and Sustainability Assessment:

Recommendation - Key points for decision-makers

The GMCA is requested to:

1. **Listen:** Note the key findings of the second year of the #BeeWell survey result highlighted in the report.
2. **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.
3. **Celebrate:** Share examples of where #BeeWell data has been utilised and had impact locally, from year 1 data or as they occur in year 2.

Impacts Questionnaire

Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion	G	#BeeWell publishes data and information on a neighbourhood level, annually, to support community response to young people's voices and making young people's wellbeing, everybody's business. Whilst the direct impact of the results of the survey is not yet known, #BeeWell highlights inequalities in the experiences of young people by protected characteristic, including gender, SEN status and sexual orientation. From our work in Year 1, it's clear there is an appetite to reduce these disparities (particularly in the long term) but requires further understanding of local action taken.
Health	G	#BeeWell seeks to publish data on all aspects of young people's wellbeing and health, to enable partners and the GM system to make positive changes. This includes data on physical activity, health and nutrition alongside measures of psychological wellbeing. #BeeWell also produces briefings, including our most recent one from Year 1 data highlighting the strong relationship between peer-peer support and loneliness to note correlations in data. #BeeWell seeks to work with colleagues in health to display the differences between neighbourhoods in GM, and articulate the benefit of pivoting to prevention for young people's mental health by enhancing wellbeing.
Resilience and Adaptation		
Housing		
Economy		
Mobility and Connectivity		
Carbon, Nature and Environment		
Consumption and Production		

Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target: Not applicable.

Further Assessment	Further Assessment	Further Assessment	Further Assessment
G Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.	A Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.	R Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.	RR Negative impacts overall.

3. Equalities Impact Assessment

✔ Based on your Impacts Questionnaire response, you are required to complete this Equalities Impact Assessment.

Guide

This form based on the GMFRS Equalities Impact Assessment.

Some fields have already been answered based on the responses you provided on the Introductory sheet (marked here with an asterisk). If any of these are incorrect, please edit them on the Introductory form.

This section is not scored.

Answer:

If you have completed an Equalities Impact Assessment for this proposal in another form there is no need to complete this form, but please give details of the EIA completed that will be attached with the proposal:	<i>If alternative EIA state here</i>
---	--------------------------------------

In accordance with s149(1) of the Equality Act 2010, Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) are required in the exercise of their functions to have due regard for the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic, and persons who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between those who have a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't.

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of the persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

"Relevant protected characteristics" are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.

As part of its compliance with this ongoing duty, TfGM undertakes an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) for any significant strategy, project, policy, process or procedure using a standard screening form designed to identify any adverse impacts on members of the above "protected characteristic groups" and to record actions planned to ameliorate any adverse impacts, should any be identified.

Section 1

Name of policy / initiative / Service to be impact assessed*	#BeeWell Year 2 Headline Findings
Corporate objective being addressed*	Work with the 10 local authorities in GM to drive collective activity
Department / function carrying out the assessment*	Public Service Reform
Who is responsible for the implementation of the policy / initiative / service? (function head /department manager)*	Francesca Speakman, Jane Forrest
Who is involved in the impact assessment?	Francesca Speakman, Amy Hibbert
What are the aims / objectives of the policy / initiative / service?	To develop a unified measure of wellbeing across GM young people to better inform policy, services and education, putting young people's voice at the centre of everything we do and highlighting any disparities in equality.
Who is intended to benefit from the policy?	Young People across Greater Manchester
What are the main outcomes of the policy (this is key to being able to identify what monitoring is needed)?	Annual survey results at a neighbourhood level shared publicly through the GM dashboard. Local, hyperlocal and regional action to pivot existing programmes and identify new investment in responding to the data.
Is the policy for external or internal purposes?	Internal & External
Are other organisations involved in the delivery?	Yes
If yes please state who:	The University of Manchester, Anna Freud Centre, Gregson Family Foundation

What information/ past experience do we have i.e. a similar initiative and what did this information tell us? (info can be demographic data i.e. census findings, research findings, comparisons between similar policies in our Service and other Services, survey data, equality monitoring data, ad hoc data gathering exercises)	Year 1 results led to £700,000 direct investment as a result, including understanding the experiences of LGBTQ+ young people (qualitative research) and investment in response project from the ICP.
How will information be collected regarding the impact of the policy /initiative /service/ employment policy etc?	Annual results pivot the priorities for the programme team and highlight areas of need for our 100 coalition partners and colleagues within each of the 10 local authority areas.
Has a search of the internet revealed an impact assessment conducted by other Fire and Rescue Services or local authorities of a similar policy/initiative?	No
If yes – is it possible to adapt / incorporate findings	n/a
Date of Policy Review*	02.03.2023

Section 2

Impacts Identified

Age	Research and #BeeWell results highlight a reduction in wellbeing as young people get older (between year 8 and year 10) - #BeeWell hopes to inspire partners to respond and positively impact the inequality identified.
Disability	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. #BeeWell hopes to inspire partners to respond and positively impact the inequality identified.
Gender	Cisgender (cis) males reported higher life satisfaction (7.11) than cis females (6.13) #BeeWell hopes to inspire partners to respond and positively impact the inequality identified, building on the work with sector partners begun in Year 1.
Race	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. #BeeWell hopes to inspire partners to respond and positively impact the inequality identified.
Religion and Belief (including no belief)	
Sexual Orientation	Heterosexual young people report 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) #BeeWell hopes to inspire partners to respond and positively impact the inequality identified, building on the work with sector partners begun in Year 1.
Transgender	Trans and gender diverse young people reported the lowest life satisfaction (5.28) #BeeWell hopes to inspire partners to respond and positively impact the inequality identified, building on the work with sector partners begun in Year 1.
Pregnancy and Maternity	
Marriage and Civil Partnership	
People experiencing or at risk of socio-economic disadvantage (including those with lower income or carers, ex-offenders and armed forces veterans)	

Section 2: Consultation & Engagement

Involved	Consulted
Include who was involved	Include who was involved
University of Manchester	#BeeWell Youth Steering Group
Anna Freud Centre/ CORC	Directors of Childrens Services
Gregson Family Foundation	Assistant Directors of Education
GMCA	Schools
#BeeWell Delivery Board	Childrens Health and Wellbeing Colleagues
	#BeeWell Advisory Board

Further local consultation with young people and colleagues will occur post publication once neighbourhood dashboard is available.

Risk Management

N/A

Legal Considerations

There are no specific legal implications with regards to this report

Financial Consequences – Revenue

There are no specific legal implications with regards to this report

Financial Consequences – Capital

There are no specific legal implications with regards to this report

Number of attachments to the report: 0

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

N/A

Background papers

N/A

Tracking/Process

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution

No

Exemption from call in

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?

No

GM Transport Committee

N/A

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

N/A

1. #BeeWell Year 2 – Confidential Headlines

Introduction/Background

1.1 #BeeWell 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.

1.2 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.

1.3 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.

1.4 Key headlines

- Life satisfaction and mental wellbeing scores of young people across GM have been **very stable across the two years**. However, as expected, **wellbeing has declined somewhat for young people moving from Year 8 into Year 9**, reflecting wider research that wellbeing declines with age during adolescence.
- There is **stability in the inequalities** highlighted in year 1 analyses, particularly for **gender and sexual orientation**. As the same patterns have been identified once again, this gives us greater confidence in highlighting the need for action in reducing disparities in wellbeing for young people.
- A notable **reduction in sleep** has been observed, with 41.8% 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 equates to around 9 students in the average Year 9 classroom not getting enough sleep.
- In 2022, 63% of young people agree or strongly agree that they have **good places to spend free time**, compared to 71% in 2021. Meaning 8 young people in an average class of 22 do not feel like they have good places to spend their free time, rising from 6 out of 22 in 2021.

2. Listen – Emerging key findings

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

2.1. Overall wellbeing

2.1.1. 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.

2.1.2. As expected, **wellbeing has declined somewhat for young people moving from Year 8 into Year 9** (the longitudinal cohort). This contrasts with the relative stability of the wellbeing scores for Year 10 pupils in both years of the #BeeWell survey. This reflects wider research that wellbeing declines with age during adolescence.

2.1.3. 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 2022. *However, caution is required in 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.*

2.2. Wellbeing inequalities

2.2.1. There is stability in the inequalities highlighted in year 1 analyses. 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](#).

2.2.2. The **substantial gender and sexual orientation** inequalities identified in our 2021 data remain evident in 2022.

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

Trans and gender diverse (TGD) young people reported the lowest life satisfaction (5.28)

Heterosexual young people report 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)

2.2.3. 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.

2.2.4. 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-Q5.

2.2.5. 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 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.

2.2.6. 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 indicated that neighbourhood differences account for a small but significant amount of the variation on young people's wellbeing: [SocArXiv Papers | This is the place: a multi-level analysis of neighbourhood correlates of adolescent wellbeing \(osf.io\)](#)*

2.3. 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:

- 2.3.1. Health and Routines – **sleep**. Utilising both the 2021 and 2022 data, we can see that the longitudinal cohort (Those who were in year 8 and moved to year 9) saw a reduction in sleep from 64% getting enough to feel awake and concentrate at school to 58%. This equates to around 9 students in the average Year 9 classroom not getting enough sleep to concentrate. We see this decrease further for those eligible for Free School Meals, from 60% in 2021 to 54% in 2022.
- 2.3.2. Environment – **good places to spend free time**. In 2022, 63% of young people agree or strongly agree that they have good places to spend free time, compared to 71% in 2021.
- 2.3.3. 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 unsafe, which equates to 3 young people in an average school class of 22. 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. This report can be found here: [display.aspx \(manchester.ac.uk\)](#).

3. Listen – continuing the conversation with young people

#BeeWell's ambition is to start the conversation with young people about how to support their mental health and wellbeing across Greater Manchester. The next phase

will be focused on how to continue the conversation with young people 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, led by our Youth Co-Creation Lead utilising the Lundy Model of Participation.

3.1. **The Politics Project:** In July 2021, the GM Children's Board agreed to participate in digital surgeries to discuss the #BeeWell findings with young people across Greater Manchester. These digital dialogue sessions were facilitated by The Politics Project and produces a youth-led narrative for each local authority area as to what's important to young people, the summary for year 1 can be found here: [Reflections on Digital Dialogue: #BeeWell - By The Politics Project - #BeeWell \(gmbeewell.org\)](https://www.gmbeewell.org). The digital surgeries have been commissioned for a second year and will take place in the Spring/Summer term, post local elections. Locality colleagues will receive invitations in the coming weeks.

3.2. **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.

3.3. **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.

4. 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).

4.1. 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.

- 4.2. 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.
- 4.3. CORC are also offering locality sessions across each of the 10 local authority areas, to bring together wellbeing leads to support local communities of practice. #BeeWell will also be offering thematic virtual spaces for specialist settings, including AP/PRU and SEN.
- 4.4. The information gathered in these sessions will be combined with learning from our independent evaluators to understand any broader support required for GM schools.

5. Act – Neighbourhood results

The neighbourhood-level dashboard will be updated at the end 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.

- 5.1. The neighbourhood-level dashboard will be updated at the end 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.
- 5.2. The dashboard will be made publicly available on March 31st and shared with Directors of Childrens Services, Assistant Directors for Education and #BeeWell partners prior to this.
- 5.3. #BeeWell will also create one-page briefings for each local authority areas highlighting areas of note and look to work with local teams to understand where to share this information locally within our “#BeeWell Roadshow” beyond publication in April.
- 5.4. On the 30th March we will be hosting a preview event of the headlines for the #BeeWell Coalition of Partners to inspire responses to the Year 2 data: [#BeeWell Coalition of Partners: Survey Findings Launch Tickets, Thu 30 Mar 2023 at 14:00 | Eventbrite](#)

5.5. 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.

6. Next steps – Reporting cycle

A version of this report will go to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority on March 25th 2023. #BeeWell partners will be briefed in various meetings across March and April and invited to comment.

7. Next steps – Recommendations

The GMCA is requested to:

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.