

**Title:** The #BeeWell project: making young people's wellbeing everybody's business

**Theme:** Innovations in research design and measurement on the focus of the Conference

**Subtheme:** Children's participation and voices

### **Authors**

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### **Thematic importance**

The relevance of the #BeeWell project to the ISCI Conference 2022 topic ("Children's rights and opportunities in an unequal world: research, policy and intervention") is well summarized in our strapline 'Listen. Act. Celebrate'. Inspired by article 12 of the UNCRC, the entire #BeeWell project and survey was co-produced with adolescents in Greater Manchester (UK). It aims to give voice to young people, provide schools and communities with localised insights that can inform interventions to promote wellbeing and celebrate young people's participation.

### **Introduction**

The #BeeWell project aims to provide insight into the development and drivers of wellbeing, targeting the peak age period for the onset of mental health difficulties and declining subjective well-being. Some innovative elements are its longitudinal design, the large scale of the project in one of the major metropolitan areas in Europe, its focus on some traditionally ignored socio-demographic groups, and the aim of working together with schools and communities to facilitate localised response. #BeeWell, therefore, addresses several major gaps and Greater Manchester is well-placed for such a study, being socially and economically diverse, having a relatively high need in terms of adolescent mental health difficulties, and being uniquely equipped to act on such data due to increased devolved power.

### **Methods**

All 274 secondary schools across Greater Manchester were invited to participate, 211 signed up, and in the first wave 165 returned data, completing online surveys in autumn 2021. The

study benefits from a robust design considering crucial constructs, and a very large sample (n 37978) representative of the Greater Manchester population. The programme comprises a three-wave annual longitudinal study, following adolescents aged 12-13 at the first wave, as well as an annual cross-sectional sample of adolescents aged 14-15.

The #BeeWell survey contains 115 items. Most are existing scales or single-item measures, covering 6 key wellbeing domains (psychological wellbeing, optimism, self-esteem, autonomy, life satisfaction, negative and positive affect) and numerous drivers. Moreover, the #BeeWell project also aims to take advantage of the multiple data linkage possibilities available (e.g. indices of deprivation, public transport accessibility, etc.).

We aim to make an anonymised dataset of the first data wave publicly available via the Open Science Framework in summer 2022.

Beyond research, the #BeeWell team will work closely with schools and communities to facilitate localised responses to promote wellbeing, and with young people.

## **Results**

We will present the main findings from the first wave of data collection, including the study of school and area-of-residence effects on young people's wellbeing, and inequalities in wellbeing. The latter will include a focus on groups of young people that have barely been studied in the past in the field of wellbeing research such as those with special needs, those of minority gender identity, and those of minority sexual orientation.

## **Conclusions and implications**

The conclusions and implications presented will include what we have learned from both the analysis of data from the first wave as well as the process of developing a large-scale project on young people's wellbeing of these characteristics.