

WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 25TH SEPTEMBER 2012

Wirral School HELP Survey 2012 Analysis

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 The Wirral Health, Education and Lifestyle Profile (HELP) Survey was developed by Wirral Local Authority (LA) following the discontinuation of the national Tellus Survey in 2010. Its purpose is to capture data in areas that were formerly collected by Tellus regarding emotional health, well being and participation in positive activities. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of participation in the survey in Wirral schools, provide a summary of the outcomes based on the former Tellus national indicators and present an action plan developed by the Children's Trust Executive and Strategy Groups in response to the 2011/12 findings.

2.0 SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

2.1 Wirral schools were invited to participate in the HELP survey during the spring term of the 2011/12 academic year. The survey consists of Primary and Secondary school versions. The primary school version was aimed at pupils in year 6 and the secondary school version at students in years 8 and 10. Questions in both surveys are the same, with the exception of drug related questions and more detailed questions about the respondent's future in the secondary school version.

A total of 3,792 children across all schools responded to the survey compared to 1460 in the previous year. The increase is attributed to the high profile endorsement from both Primary Heads Consultation Group (PHCG) and Wirral Association of Secondary Headteachers (WASH) and the work carried out by the marketing team with schools.

The changes in response rates should be taken into account when analysing secondary survey data. Additionally, more females than males (63.3% to 36.7%) completed the secondary survey due to school type (i.e. more all girls' schools).

School Type	Total Number of Schools	Number of Schools represented in the Survey	Number of Schools Actively Participated	Total number of responses to the HELP Survey	Comparison with the 2010/11 HELP Survey
Primary	85	55	45	1602	903
Secondary	22	20	12	2133	515
Special	13	9	2	56	42
Totals	120	84	59	3791	1460

Table 1: HELP Survey Participation Rates

3.0 OUTCOMES FROM THE HELP SURVEY

3.1 Highlights from the Survey Responses

3.1.1 Summary

Only 17.3% of girls responded that nothing worries them then compared to 27.6% of boys. For Primary aged children the top three things that worry them the most are set out below:

Girls

School work and exams (48.6%)
Friendships (37.0%)
The way I look (33.0%)

Boys

School work and exams (37.1%)
Nothing worries me (27.6%)
My parents and family (24.4%)

More girls did worry about their parents and family than boys, 29.0% of respondents said it was something they worried about. By contrast 13.3% of boys worry about the way they look.

The Secondary age the results are set out below. Only 8.3% of girls responded that nothing worries them then compared to 25.7% of boys.

Girls

School work and exams (70.6%)
The way I look (55.1%)
What to do after Y11 (47.4%)

Boys

School work and exams (48.7%)
What to do after Y11 (39.0%)
Money (29.7%)

More girls did worry about Money than boys, 37.2% of respondents said it was something they worried about. By contrast 19.7% of boys worry about the way they look.

3.1.2 Being Healthy

Most young people in Secondary school felt happy about life at the moment, 61.7% of girls and 69.9% of boys. Both genders reported a high level of good friendships and that they felt about to talk to their parents and carers if they have a problem. Most secondary aged respondents didn't feel that they could speak to a youth worker.

A total of 20.8% primary school children eat their "five a day", compared to 15.2% of secondary school students. Whilst 5.3% of Primary children and 8.3% of secondary respondents state they eat none. Most young people do something active such as walking, running, sports etc most days each week.

For Primary schools, 93.8% of primary school children state they have never smoked, girls are more likely to have never smoked than boys. Overall 3.9% of all primary school children state they have been drunk at least once in the last 4 weeks.

The secondary survey provided some detail on drug and alcohol misuse, 88.8% of students say they have never taken drugs (Girls = 91.7%, Boys = 83.9%) and 71.1% say they have never smoked, with little difference across genders. Overall 18.5% of young people state they have been drunk at least once in the last 4 weeks.

3.1.3 Staying Safe

Young people generally feel very safe/quite safe in the area they live, travelling to and from school and using public transport. However, 17.8% feel a bit or very unsafe in the area they live.

In Primary, 40.3% of children said they had been bullied at some point in school. Of those, 23.9% said bullying took place in the last 4 weeks and 53.7% said this had happened a few times in the last year. 82.7% of all primary children did not express dissatisfaction with the way the school handles bullying with 71.1% saying that their school deals with bullying quite well or very well.

In Secondary, 32.3% of young people said they had been bullied at some point in school. Of those, 16.5% said bullying took place in the last 4 weeks and 43.7% said this had happened a few times in the last year. 72.3% of all of all secondary pupils did not express dissatisfaction with the way the school handles bullying with 53.9% saying that their school deals with bullying quite well or very well.

3.1.3 Enjoy and Achieve

For all children and young people the thing that they worried about the most is school work and exams.

For Primary, 88.2% of children thought that school was giving them useful skills and knowledge, 71.2% of children felt that their lessons were interesting and 81.2% felt that they had enough support from their teacher in learning. However, 46.4% of respondents stated that other children disrupted their lessons.

For Secondary, 76.6% of children thought that school was giving them useful skills and knowledge, 33.9% of children felt that their lessons were interesting and 58.0% felt that they had enough support from their teacher in learning. However, 54.0% of respondents stated that other children disrupted their lessons.

3.1.4 Making a Positive Contribution

Local parks, playgrounds and sports club remain the most common activities of young people in their free time. The most common things that prevent young people from doing activities they would like to do include the following: cost, activities are not available in their area, and because of not having anyone to go with. A total of 69.4% of primary school children have taken part in a group activity led by an adult outside of school lessons compared with 56.2% in secondary school.

The secondary survey focused on places to go on Friday and Saturday nights. A total of 20.2% said they had been to a youth club or taken part in an activity such as sports, arts or media. 60.9% either don't know or disagree that there are safe places to go on Friday and Saturday nights. 75.4% don't know or disagree that there are choices of activities available. The cost is given as the main reason for not using public transport (other than not needing to).

3.1.5 Economic Wellbeing

For Primary aged children 50.6% plan to stay on to do further education in college or sixth form with 56.3% saying they think they will go to university/higher education, there is a gender gap with 60.4% of girls saying they would progress to 52.4% of boys. A further 29% state they don't know what they will do when leaving school.

For Secondary aged young people, 65.4% plan to stay on to do further education in college or sixth form with 61.5% saying they think they will go to university/higher education, the gender gap is slight with 62.9% of girls saying they would progress to 60.1% of boys. A further 20.1% state they are not sure what they will do when leaving school. Most support when planning for the future comes from family, friends and teachers.

3.2.1 Former National Indicators

The Tellus Survey contributed to 5 of the former National Indicators. Their definition has been retained and the results shown in the table below. The table also contains comparisons with the 2010/11 HELP Survey and the 2009/10 Tellus4 data.

As noted previously due to the large differences in response numbers between years comparison of indicators between years should be carried out with caution. This factor should be considered across all the indicators but will be most pronounced for Indicator 115.

PI No.	Indicator Description	HELP Survey 2011/12	HELP Survey 2010/11	Tellus4 Wirral 2009/10
50	Emotional Health of Children	60.3	59.5	57.2
69	Children who have experienced bullying (<i>lower is better</i>)	23.8	27.9	26.8
110	Young Peoples Participation in Positive Activities	70.2	72.9	67.3
115	Substance Misuse by Young People (<i>lower is better</i>)	8.2	5.8	13.9
199	Children and young people's satisfaction with parks and play areas	56.4	57.5	52.5

Table 2: HELP Survey Performance Indicators based on former National Indicators.

3.2.2 Indicator Definitions

PI No.	Indicator Description	Definition
50	Emotional Health of Children	Based on the percentage of children with good relationships – has good friends and can talk to someone when they are worried about something.
69	Children who have experienced bullying (<i>lower is better</i>)	The percentage of children who state they have been bullied either in or outside of school in the last year. Bullying is defined as physical, verbal, emotional as well as exclusion from activities, damage to property or cyber (online) bullying.
110	Young Peoples Participation in Positive Activities	The percentage of young people in secondary school who have recently taken part in group led activities outside of school.
115	Substance Misuse by Young People (<i>lower is better</i>)	The percentage of young people who state that they have recently been drunk or taken drugs or volatile substances. For primary schools the questions relate to alcohol only, for secondary schools this includes drugs and volatile substances.
199	Children and young people's satisfaction with parks and play areas	Percentage of young people who state that parks and play areas in their local area are either very good or fairly good.

Table 3: Former National Indicator definitions.

4.0 ACTION PLAN

The HELP survey findings have been discussed at the Children's Trust Executive and Strategy Groups. A range of key activities which address areas raised in the HELP survey are underway through the delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan. In addition the Executive identified 5 key areas where responses indicated enhanced focus on specific issues would be beneficial. A summary of these focus areas are outlined below.

Outcome Area	Key Area	Actions
Being Healthy	Substance misuse (including alcohol)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source and disseminate relevant information and teaching resources. • Provide staff with user friendly materials to engage and advise young people on risks associated to Alcohol. • Review and update School Substance Misuse Guidance and Incident Management Document. • Continue to support Health Services in Schools provision. • Commission dedicated projects targeting girls. • Continue to develop and enhance peer education programme within schools.
Being Healthy	Body image	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More detailed survey with children and young people to provide a better understanding of what it is about "the way I look" that worries them. • Use the findings from this survey to plan interventions with children and young people including staff training and curriculum development.
Staying Safe	Bullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further individual school analysis of HELP data and follow up work with targeted schools. • Development work to enhance the intelligence gathered around bullying through additional survey questions.
Enjoy and Achieve	Behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce a revised policy and practice document related to behaviour and exclusions in partnership with all Wirral schools including those that offer specialist provision by March 2013. • Increase the capacity of mainstream schools in terms of managing behaviour and emotional health and well-being. • Continue to develop provision at the Pupil Referral Unit.
Positive Contribution	Youth Service Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A survey of providers to identify the range of charges for activities for young people. • Review of promotion of activities to increase effectiveness. The Council is developing a policy on the use of social networking. • Provide a forum for young people at the youth Voice Conference with invited guests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Merseyside Police to discuss safety. - Merseytravel to discuss transport costs and subsidies.
Social and Economic Wellbeing	Planning for the future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a business planning cycle to ensure that post 16 Provision meets the needs and demands of young people. • Develop and promote the use of a Wirral schools and providers transition protocol to assist the smooth transition for young people between key stage 4 and post 16

Outcome Area	Key Area	Actions
		<p>learning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and promote to young people and parents the Mersey Interactive Portal (www.merseyinteractive.com). Mersey Interactive is a website containing information and links to resources and support to assist with skills development, progression in to post 16 learning and finding an Apprenticeship. • Promote the Wirral online prospectus (www.ucasprogress.com) which features school sixth form, further education and foundation learning post 16 training opportunities. • Evaluate the effectiveness of the targeted careers education information advice and guidance service for children at risk of non participation post 16.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The HELP Survey has provided valuable information regarding the health education and lifestyle of young people in Wirral. Survey responses will be shared with schools and actions in identified areas will be carried out and monitored by the Children's Trust Executive.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

6. 1 The Children's Trust Board notes the report and the actions produced by the Children's Trust Executive.

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