Measuring Subjective Wellbeing – Bath and North East Somerset Summary
July 2012

The Office for National Statistics has recently released the initial findings of their national wellbeing programme. This research attempts to define subjective wellbeing of residents in the United Kingdom. Results are available for all top-tier authorities excluding London Boroughs.

The wellbeing data was collected using four survey questions:
- Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?
- Overall, to what extent do you feel the things you do in your life are worthwhile?
- Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday?
- Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday?

measured on a scale of 1-10.

Fig. 1 illustrates that the average scores for the Bath and North East Somerset. For the first three 'positive' wellbeing measures, the area scores significantly higher than the England and South West scores.

Amongst South West authorities, the area is ranked second to Cornwall for “satisfied”.

Conversely, the average score for ‘anxious’ is higher than both South West and England averages and is the third highest in the South West after Plymouth and Bristol, although this may not be statistically significant.

Fig. 2 provides more detailed % breakdowns of residents giving a low or high score for each question*. The % of the population scoring ‘low’ levels of wellbeing is lower than national and regional levels.

---

*For ‘Life Satisfaction, worthwhile and happy yesterday’, scores of 0-6 are considered low and 7-10 considered high, while for ‘anxious yesterday’ scores of 0-3 are considered low and 4-10 considered high based on ONS analysis.
Other factors – National Findings:

**Sex:** On average, women reported higher ratings than men for the 'life satisfaction' and 'worthwhile' questions, and the same average rating as men for the 'happy yesterday' question. However, women also reported higher average ratings for the 'anxious yesterday' question.

**Age:** Overall higher ratings of were reported by younger and older people, and lower ratings are reported by those in the middle years.

**Relationship Status:** Married people, those in civil partnerships and cohabiting couples had higher ratings across all domains when compared to single and widowed people.

**Ethnicity:** Significantly lower results were recorded by people of a non-white ethnicity across the range of questions.

**Disability & Health Status:** People who defined their health as poor or very poor and those describing themselves having a disability reported significantly lower results across the range of questions. In particular, nearly half of people who reported their health as ‘very bad’ reported a high rating for ‘anxious yesterday’.

**Employment and Occupation:** Unemployed people scored significantly low on ‘happy yesterday' and ‘worthwhile'. Wellbeing seems to vary by occupation, with ratings for ‘worthwhile' being significantly higher in ‘caring, leisure and other service occupations' and ‘professional occupations'. There was little variation in ‘anxious yesterday' between occupations.

Find Out More:
- [ONS Subjective Wellbeing: Main Report](#)
- [Interactive map of average wellbeing scores for UK local authorities](#)