

Children & Young People Surveys 2020/21



OxWell – to understand the impact of COVID-19 on the wellbeing of young people during lockdown/school closure from May-July 2020.

19,000 children and young people aged between 8-18yrs.
237 schools participated in 6 counties in the South East.

How safe pupils are feeling at school and home? – 79% at school and 91% at home.

Over 1000 students aged 8-13yrs reported self-harming at least once during lockdown.

The effects of lockdown on the following had these overall responses:

Happiness – felt slightly worse

Loneliness – felt lonelier

Sleep – slightly worse

Managing schoolwork – largely worse

Mental Health support – it was largely parent, carer, or friend they spoke to

Thinking about going back to school – overall looking forward to going back!

OxWell 2020 School Survey Preliminary Findings

Be Supported – to obtain feedback from children and young people in Oxfordshire about how supported they feel by the services they use, from 30th March 2021 for 6 weeks.

159 children and young people aged between 8-18yrs (25yrs with additional needs).

This survey was developed to find out the 5 following things:

- Do you know who to speak to when in need of support?
- Do you feel listened to and believed?
- Are you able to access information in a way which suits you best?
- Do you see any staff who work with you as inspiring role models?
- When you talk to staff, do you feel they are experienced and caring?

≈ Most of the feedback gathered in 2021 was positive, about how supported children and young people feel by the services they use in Oxfordshire.

≈ Overall figures from 2021 indicate children and young people are feeling more supported than in 2020.

≈ There were clearly areas which they felt services could be improved.

≈ They clearly value positive and established relationships with their workers and support staff, but often feel unsupported when these relationships break down, stop, or are felt to be non-existent.

≈ It is also important to keep listening to what children and young people tell us to ensure all services and workers across the county can support them as effectively as possible.

Be Supported Survey 2021



The Big Ask - The Big Answer

The Big Ask survey results are now available. Over half a million children responded – the largest survey of its kind in history.

As we emerge from the pandemic, children have said how the past year has affected them and what needs to happen as we recover.

Despite the sacrifices they have made the majority of children say they are happy.

Children were united in what they said across all identity groups, every part of the country and across all age groups - they said they want to get back to school, to get on, and do well. To have fulfilling lives. To look after their families. To make their communities better. They want to contribute to a better, fairer world – and crucially, they care about a greener world and the environment.

What this generation of children said

The responses have been analysed, and a report sets out what children have said across six areas below - family, community, health, school, work, and children in care.

Children care deeply about family – families of all kinds. They care about being part of happy homes. This is particularly important for vulnerable children.

Children care deeply about community. They want to get outside and play. To have enough to do in their neighbourhoods. They want to feel safe and protected in online spaces.

Children were united in showing a new consciousness of the importance of health and wellbeing. The pandemic has affected their wellbeing and now they want good mental and physical health to be a priority in their lives.

Children are pleased to be back in school. As we recover, they have asked for support to make a success of the opportunities returned to them. This is especially important for children who found learning harder in lockdown.

Children described ambitious plans for the world of work and their futures. Many of them want to do civic-minded jobs which help other people - to be part of the recovery from the pandemic. They want to be treated fairly as they choose from a variety of pathways towards a career.

The same ambitions were true of children in care. They described both gratitude and frustration at the level of support they currently receive.

What happens next to deliver for children

The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza will be visiting schools around the country and providing learning resources on The Big Ask so that children know that they have been listened to and what is going to be delivered for them.

This is an exciting moment to put children at the heart of the recovery from the pandemic.

Please find below social media assets and please feel free to contact Rachel de Souza's office if you would like to learn anymore about the report. Please use #thebigask and mention @ChildrensComm in any tweets.

Over half a million children responded to #thebigask survey, the largest ever survey of children, and the @ChildrensComm has listened. The Big Answer shares children's responses and what can be done to answer them

www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/the-big-answer

"This is not a 'snowflake generation.' It is a heroic generation" -

@ChildrensComm Dame Rachel de Souza has published The Big Answer report, a response to her #thebigask survey, the biggest survey of children who shared

current feelings and future needs. www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/the-big-answer

A girl, 15, responding to @ChildrensComm #thebigask survey, “there’s plenty of young people who wish their voices could be heard and I think it’s about time we start listening. Thank you for this”. The Big Answer shares responses and how we can help www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/the-big-answer Children told us they care about the environment and the planet. The second most common concern for children about their future was protecting the planet and environment. @ChildrensComm #thebigask survey www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/the-big-answer.

**Information provided by The Children’s Commissioner for England,
Dame Rachel de Souza
(September 2021)**

Additional research:

[Young Minds - Coronavirus Report Jan 2021.pdf](#)

[Youth Employment - Youth Voice Census](#)

[British Council - Next Generation UK Report.pdf](#)