

Response ID ANON-183P-JTJT-8

Submitted to Review of the Measures of National Well-being
Submitted on 2022-12-09 13:12:49

About your response

Are you responding to this survey on behalf of an organisation or a group?

Yes, I am responding on behalf of an organisation

If you selected 'Yes', please provide the name of the organisation or group. :

The SIPHER Consortium

If responding on behalf of an organisation or a group, what sector do you represent?

Academia

If other, please specify. :

Can we include your anonymised quotes from this survey in our consultation report?

Yes

We may want to follow up on some of your feedback or contact you for further well-being research. Please provide your email address if you are happy to be contacted.

Email:
david.innes@glasgow.ac.uk

What matters to national well-being

In your opinion, what is most important for national well-being?

In your opinion, what is the most important thing to national well-being? This is an optional question, and there is no right answer to it.:

In our view the key to improving national wellbeing can only be achieved with a genuine reduction in health and economic inequalities. The conditions in which we are born, grow, live, work and age are key drivers of health and resulting wellbeing. Preventing ill health related to these "social determinants of health" requires well-coordinated policies across many sectors, such as the economy, welfare, housing, education and employment. The SIPHER Consortium are using systems science approaches to explore the complex causal relationships between upstream policies and wellbeing, economic and equality outcomes, and in so doing have developed a set of wellbeing indicators that can be combined to enable our systems models to measure how different groups of people will be impacted by potential policy changes.

Our seven key wellbeing indicators which we refer to as the "SIPHER 7" (<https://sipher.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Sipher-7-report.pdf>) are

- physical health affecting daily activities;
- mental health affecting daily activities;
- feeling lonely and left out from others;
- household disposable income after housing costs;
- employment situation (or main daily activity);
- housing quality; and
- perceived safety of the neighbourhood

We think that wellbeing has can only be assured if all seven dimensions above are considered.

Your feedback on the measures of national well-being

In your opinion, how representative are the current measures of national well-being of our well-being as individuals, as communities and as a nation?

In your opinion, to what extent are the current measures of national well-being representative of aspects important to our well-being as individuals, as communities and as a nation? - Individuals:
Unrepresentative

In your opinion, to what extent are the current measures of national well-being representative of aspects important to our well-being as individuals, as communities and as a nation? - Communities:
Neither representative nor unrepresentative

In your opinion, to what extent are the current measures of national well-being representative of aspects important to our well-being as individuals, as communities and as a nation? - Nation:
Representative

The Measures of National Well-being framework captures well-being across 10 domains: personal well-being, relationships, health, what we do, where we live, personal finance, economy, education and skills, governance, and environment.

Personal well-being:

There should be a greater emphasis on inequalities. Each domain should report not just the averages but some indicator of spread across individuals (or maybe by socioeconomic groups or geographical areas). The only indicator with subgroups appears to be gender groups for "Feeling safe" in the Where we live domain. It would be interesting to know which other indicators have significant gender differences and what other subgroups have been compared?

There is insufficient indication of demographic factors and how this impacts the measures. There does not seem to be sufficient consideration about the pathways between domains e.g. if you have less disposable income you might have less time to take part in arts/cultural activities or have related anxiety.

Our relationships :

Health :

Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) is a good measure however measuring the gap in HLE at birth between the most and least deprived as used by the Welsh government would be a good additional or alternative indicator.

(<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-05/a-report-on-the-national-outcomes-framework-for-people-who-need-care-and-support-and-carers-who->

What we do :

SIPHER has developed a Work and Health Evidence Gap Map (<https://sipher.ac.uk/employment-health-egm/>) which explores the relationships between employment and health outcomes.

We know from reviewing the available evidence base that work doesn't always have a positive impact on wellbeing for a variety of reasons. It is questionable whether the unemployment rate and job satisfaction from understanding society is enough to capture this?

In the Welsh government framework referenced above they measure the employment rate of those over 50 and those adults aged 16-64 who are Equality Act core or work-limiting

Where we live :

The indicator on satisfaction with accommodation could be supplemented with an objective measure such as available local authority data from the Housing health and safety rating system (HHSRS). This would capture housing quality in relation to known health risks.

Personal finance :

Low-income households are measured as "individuals in households with less than 60% of median income before housing costs". In addition to this measure (which is a good indicator of poverty levels) we would like to see a new measure of financial resilience e.g. % of population able to face unexpected costs/ events without having to make sacrifices (e.g. skipping meals) which would be likely to have a significant impact on their health and wellbeing.

Economy :

A key topic of interest for SIPHER is the relationship between inclusive economy, or wellbeing economy policies, and wider health outcomes and inequalities. To address this topic, the consortium has developed a set of inclusive economy indicators (<https://sipher.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/SIPHER-Inclusive-Economy-Indicator-set.pdf>)

SIPHER's inclusive economy indicators are designed for use in statistical and computational modelling of the complex relationships between economic inclusion and health and wellbeing, at both individual and societal levels We have aimed to capture a) the extent of economic inclusion in places (local authorities, Combined Authorities and other subnational policy geographies), relative to each other, at a given point in time and b) change in economic inclusion over time.

We would recommend considering whether some of the ONS domains could be combined in a similar way to more accurately assess how national economic conditions (such as national debt and inflation) impact on individuals in a broader sense.

Education and skills :

Human capital measures tend to assume that people with higher skills, qualifications etc. earn more however this is not always the case. We think it would be beneficial for these measures to be supplemented with other indicators such as literacy, numeracy, and digital literacy rates. These skills are very important at all stages of life.

Governance :

The trust in government measure could be extended to trust levels in other institutions e.g. the Police and the Legal System.

Environment:

We would recommend supplementing this domain with measures related to biodiversity, air quality, water pollution and the % of individuals that have easy access to high-quality green or bluespace.

Your feedback on the measures of national well-being

The measures of national well-being aim to capture what matters most to the UK public in relation to their well-being. In your opinion, to what extent does the title "Measures of National Well-being" explain what this framework and indicators relate to?

Neither well nor poor

Your use of the measures of national well-being outputs

Do you use any of the measures of national well-being outputs (for example, our bulletin, dashboard or dataset)?

Yes, I use some or all of the outputs

Your use of the measures of national well-being outputs

To what extent do our current measures of national well-being outputs meet your needs?

To what extent do our current measures of national well-being outputs meet your needs? - Bulletin:
Well

To what extent do our current measures of national well-being outputs meet your needs? - Dashboard:
Well

To what extent do our current measures of national well-being outputs meet your needs? - Dataset:
Neither well nor poor

What do you use the measures of national well-being outputs for?

Background information, For your own research, To include figures or insights in reports, Modelling and/or forecasting, Monitoring

If other, please specify. :

If you do not use some of our outputs (the bulletin, the dashboard or the dataset), could you provide some reasons why?

If you do not use some of our outputs (the bulletin, the dashboard or the dataset), could you provide some reasons why?:

Please rank in order of their priority to you (where 1 means most important and 3 means least important) the ways in which we could improve our statistics to make the measures of national well-being outputs more useful.

Please rank in order of their priority to you, the ways in which we could improve our statistics to make the measures of national well-being outputs more useful. - Timeliness (estimates are updated frequently and are timely when published):
3

Please rank in order of their priority to you, the ways in which we could improve our statistics to make the measures of national well-being outputs more useful. - Granularity (estimates are available for various demographic and geographical sub-populations):
1

Please rank in order of their priority to you, the ways in which we could improve our statistics to make the measures of national well-being outputs more useful. - Comparability (estimates allow for confident evaluation of differences over time, between groups and across indicators):
2

Do you have any other feedback on how we could make our outputs more useful to you?

Do you have any feedback on how we could make our outputs more useful to you? :

The outputs would be more useful if they enabled analysis at a smaller geographic scale i.e. sub local-authority level.

Your use of the measures of national well-being outputs

The Measures of National Well-being framework draws on data supplied by multiple sources and organisations. When using the measures of national well-being outputs, do you refer to the original sources of the data?

Yes

Your use of the measures of national well-being outputs

For what reasons do you refer to the original data sources for the measures of national well-being?

For technical details (for example, methodology or sample information), For additional estimates, For additional sub-population breakdowns, To access raw data for my own analysis

If other, please specify. :

Your feedback on accessibility of the measures of national well-being outputs

How do you typically access our outputs?

On a desktop computer, laptop or similar

If other, please specify. :

How do you typically find the measures of national well-being outputs?

If other, please specify. :

Please rank in order of importance to you (where 1 means most important and 3 means least important) the different ways of presenting insights.

Please rank in order of importance to you the different ways of presenting insights. - Written commentaries and summaries of insights:

3

Please rank in order of importance to you the different ways of presenting insights. - Charts and data visualisations:

2

Please rank in order of importance to you the different ways of presenting insights. - Numbers and data tables:

1

Thinking about our Measures of National Well-being dashboard, what are the three main types of information you would like the dashboard to provide?

Thinking about our Measures of National Well-being dashboard , what are the three main types of information you would like the dashboard to provide? - Overview of all indicators:

1

Thinking about our Measures of National Well-being dashboard , what are the three main types of information you would like the dashboard to provide? - Information on the latest data points:

2

Thinking about our Measures of National Well-being dashboard , what are the three main types of information you would like the dashboard to provide? - Visualisation of trends over time:

3

Thinking about our Measures of National Well-being dashboard , what are the three main types of information you would like the dashboard to provide? - Data insights and commentary:

Thinking about our Measures of National Well-being dashboard , what are the three main types of information you would like the dashboard to provide? - Assessment of significance of change over time:

Thinking about our Measures of National Well-being dashboard , what are the three main types of information you would like the dashboard to provide? - Other:

If other, please specify. :

Our Measures of National Well-being dashboard includes various types of information listed below. Please rate how easy or difficult it is to find each of them in the dashboard currently.

Our Measures of National Well-being dashboard includes various types of information. Please rate how easy or difficult it is to find each of them in the dashboard currently. - The latest estimate for each indicator:

Easy

Our Measures of National Well-being dashboard includes various types of information. Please rate how easy or difficult it is to find each of them in the dashboard currently. - Data commentary:

Easy

Our Measures of National Well-being dashboard includes various types of information. Please rate how easy or difficult it is to find each of them in the dashboard currently. - Assessment of change over time:
Easy

Our Measures of National Well-being dashboard includes various types of information. Please rate how easy or difficult it is to find each of them in the dashboard currently. - Links to the original data sources:
Easy

Our Measures of National Well-being dashboard includes various types of information. Please rate how easy or difficult it is to find each of them in the dashboard currently. - Links to the Measures of National Well-being bulletin and dataset:
Easy

The Measures of National Well-being dashboard is our primary tool for dissemination of the national well-being statistics. Do you have any further feedback on how it could be improved?

The Measures of National Well-being dashboard is our primary tool for dissemination of the national well-being statistics. Do you have any further feedback on how it could be improved? :

It should be clear in the footnote of each indicator graph on dashboard where the data is from, e.g. Understanding Society.

Your feedback on accessibility of the measures of national well-being outputs

Our Measures of National Well-being dataset includes the estimates, quality information and selected breakdowns for each measure. Are you able to find the information you need in the data tables?

Yes

Your feedback on accessibility of the measures of national well-being outputs

How frequently would you like us to update the measures of national well-being outputs (for the indicators where new data becomes available)?

How frequently would you like us to update the measures of national well-being outputs (for the indicators where new data become available)? - Data update (dataset and dashboard):

Quarterly

How frequently would you like us to update the measures of national well-being outputs (for the indicators where new data become available)? -

Commentary update (bulletin):

Quarterly

Any other feedback

Would you like to share with us any research that is relevant to the review of the indicators included in the Measures of National Well-being framework and the insight communication tools we use?

Would you like to share with us any research that is relevant to the review of the indicators included in the Measures of National Well-being framework and insight communication tools we use?:

We would like to highlight SIPHER's own indicator sets which are available to view on our website

Wellbeing Indicators – <https://sipher.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Sipher-7-report.pdf>

Health Indicators – <https://sipher.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/SIPHER-Health-Indicators-Report-V1.3.pdf>

Inclusive Economy Indicators - <https://sipher.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/SIPHER-Inclusive-Economy-Indicator-set.pdf>

Are there any specific developments that you would like to see in the future in the Measures of National Well-being framework?

Are there any specific developments that you would like to see in the future in the Measures of National Well-being framework? :

A search on the ONS webpage for “well-being inequality” suggests that the last time inequality in personal well-being was addressed in any publication was July 2018. We would like to see this updated.

We would also like to see more cross-sectional analysis related to inequality- e.g. by ethnicity, gender, age, socioeconomic background etc.

Do you have any final comments on our current national well-being measures or outputs?

Do you have any final comments on our current national well-being measures or outputs? :

We would welcome some clearer narrative to how the well-being relate to other ongoing work e.g. new Integrated Care System (ICS) population health matrix.