

APPENDIX A

West Berkshire Children's Life Satisfaction and subjective well being survey Summary of findings for presentation on 30th July 2015



The Children's Society was commissioned to conduct a subjective well being assessment of 8-16 year olds in West Berkshire using the on line survey and class based consultation method it employs across the country. The results of this survey that will be highlighted at the meeting on the 30th July are as follows:

- Overall the results indicate that children in West Berkshire have levels of well being that are as good as or in some domains higher than the national average
- Where well being is lower for some children it is likewise in keeping with what is seen nationally with little variation from the average
- As such it is children in West Berkshire who say they have experienced bullying, children who say they have a disability or difficulty in learning who have the lowest well being
- Children who said they were on Free School Meals or had no adult at home in paid employment were in the minority (less than 6% on FSM) but have lower levels of satisfaction than their peers in relation to life at home and thoughts about the future
- Other work conducted by The Children's Society suggests that school is an environment where being from a poor household hinders children's experience of school
- There was surprisingly little difference between boys and girls in their levels of well being with the notable exception of girls being unhappier than boys with their appearance
- On attitudes to health behaviour and sport we found that the majority of children reported taking exercise or being involved in sport regularly especially for primary age children. The vast majority of secondary age children thought that smoking and drug taking were unacceptable behaviours for people their age
- A higher than average number of children in the survey said they had some form of caring responsibility at home. There was some evidence of this in the consultation phase