

# Measuring Children's Wellbeing

APPG Wellbeing Economics Inaugural meeting

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018, 3pm – 4pm, Committee room 4

## **Annotated agenda**

### **1. Formalities of this inaugural meeting – the AGM and election of officers**

Election of officers:

Chair: Chris Ruane

Co-Chair: Peter Bottomley

Vice Chair: Richard Layard

Vice Chair: Gus O'Donnell

Vice Chair: Claire Tyler

Officer: Helen Goodman

### **2. Welcome and introduction to the APPG on Wellbeing Economics**

The original APPG on Wellbeing Economics was formed in 2009, the New Economics Foundation as the secretariat – thanks to NEF for their work over this period, which led to many productive discussions and an important report which looked at wellbeing in 4 main policy areas. The APPG has been reconstituted after a brief hiatus, and the What Works Centre for Wellbeing have taken over as the Secretariat, to build on the discourse and wellbeing science that has progressed in recent years and bring those discussions and developments to parliament.

**The objectives of the APPG on Wellbeing Economics (as agreed at kick off meeting 10<sup>th</sup> Sept 2018) are:**

1. Build on what's been done before and complement work of existing APPGs
2. Focus on reducing wellbeing inequalities (going beyond average levels of wellbeing)
3. Achieve broad parliamentary interest in wellbeing, through growing the membership of this group
4. Illustrate how wellbeing provides a different way of thinking about goals and what this would mean for different policy areas (using examples)
5. Pick up best practice examples (eg in devolved administrations, or at local or international level), useful for stories and media interest.
6. Inform the vision for the UK after the end of March and in the context of the spending review.

### **3. Introduction to Children's wellbeing, and why the AGM has chosen this topic for its inaugural meeting**

For this inaugural meeting, we will be focusing on children's wellbeing. This is an opportune time to bring together different experts and special interest groups for this issue, given the recent announcement from the Prime Minister of the importance of monitoring children's wellbeing as a key outcome, and the new data on children's mental health published in November.

The APPGs convening function is well placed at this time to host an event which provides a platform for debate and discussion on how children's wellbeing can be used to inform policies and practice for various departments and institutions.

Working with the Children's Society, we have several experts to share evidence on relevant aspects of Children's wellbeing, as published in recent reports and inquiries. This will inform a written report by the Children's society which will summarise the evidence presented here and potentially get us closer to a recommendation on how children's wellbeing should be measured and what impact it can have on policies and in turn, the wellbeing of the UK's children.

### **4. Introduction of our 5 Speakers**

Each speaker will share their insights for 5 minutes on the importance of measuring wellbeing and what implications it could have for policy and for children.

**Gill Main, University of Leeds:** Gill is an expert on child poverty, social exclusion, and subjective well-being. Her research has been motivated by an interest in how listening to children and families can help us to better understand and address child poverty.

**Emma Rigby, Association of Young People's Health:** Emma has led AYPH since it was set up in 2008. In her role as Chief Executive, she sits on a number of national strategic bodies working to improve young people's health including the Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum. Emma works closely with the Department of Health, Public Health England and NHS England championing young people's participation and better understanding of young people's health needs and experiences.

**Karen Newbigging, University of Birmingham:** Karen is standing in for Paul Burstow (on the original agenda), who was unable to attend at the last minute. He was chair of the commission on mental health prevention for children and young people. Karen is a member of this commission and will speak to its findings. She is also a Senior Lecturer in Healthcare Policy and Management at Birmingham University. Her recent work has focused on the implementation of health and social care policy, patient and public involvement, advocacy and action to tackle health inequalities and discrimination.

**Leon Feinstein, Children's Commissioner:** Leon is the Head of Evidence at the, leading the commissioners work on evidence, measurement, and analysis. He has extensive experience in academia and Government. He was Professor of Education and Social Policy at the Institute of Education, investigating intergenerational transmission of advantage and disadvantage in terms of social structure, education and income.

**Richard Crellin and Larissa Pople, The Children's Society:** Larissa and Richard are responsible for The Children's Society's research programme into subjective well-being. They produce the annual Good Childhood Report and provide the current national child well-being measure to the ONS. They will be focusing on the current state of play for children's well-being measurement and putting forward propositions about moving towards a more ambitious programme of national measurement.

## 5. Open for discussion

Questions for discussion:

- Is the case for wellbeing - and measuring wellbeing strong enough?
- Why have we not made more progress on focussing on children's wellbeing and what can be done to unblock the barriers?

Other contributors:

- Neil Smith, NatCen – share reflection from the Children's Mental Health data
- Jenny Edwards – Reflections on mindfulness interventions
- Catherine Newsome, DfE – Running two major RCTs on wellbeing interventions in schools

## 6. Summary and next steps

- The Minutes from this meeting will be available on the refreshed Wellbeing Economics APPG website in the coming weeks
- The Children's Society will write up this meeting in consultation with stakeholders, the secretariat and the members. A briefing will be published and used to begin further engagement with decision makers on this issue.
- The next meeting of the APPG will be held in February, and will be focussed on what a wellbeing approach would mean for the spending review. Please contact the secretariat if you are interested in attending this event and they will add you to the invitation list.

### Background materials referenced in the meeting

The [What Works Centre for Wellbeing](#) develops and shares evidence on what works to improve wellbeing.

The ONS have been asking people how they feel about their lives since 2011. Data is available on people's subjective wellbeing across the UK and at Local authority level too. You can [download the data](#) at local authority level from 2011 to 2018.

[Analysis by NEF](#) for the What Works Centre for Wellbeing analysed the relationship between wellbeing inequalities within local authority areas and the outcome of the EU referendum.