

## Personal well-being estimates

Personal well-being estimates are based on 4 indicators; life satisfaction, worthwhile, happiness and anxiety. Each indicator is based on one question;

1. Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays? Where 0 equals 'not at all satisfied' and 10 being 'completely satisfied'
2. Overall, to what extent do you feel the things you do in your life are worthwhile? Based on 0 being 'not at all worthwhile' and 10 is 'completely worthwhile'.
3. Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday? Based on 0 being 'not at all happy' and 10 is 'completely happy'.
4. Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday? Based on 0 being 'not at all anxious' and 10 is 'completely anxious'.

The Black Country area is based on average of all the local authorities within the boundaries.

### In summary

- In the year ending March 2019, the average rating for life satisfaction in the Black Country is 7.50, this is below the UK average of 7.71. Compared to the year ending March 2018, life satisfaction has improved by 1.0% in the Black Country – above the UK average of 0.3%.
- In the year ending March 2019, the worthwhile average rating for in the Black Country is 7.67, this is below the UK average of 7.89. Compared to the year ending March 2018, this has increased by 0.5% in the Black Country area – above the UK average of 0.1%.
- In the year ending March 2019, the average happiness rating in the Black Country is 7.31, this is below the UK average of 7.56. Compared to the year ending March 2018, the Black Country has improved by 0.4% and the UK average increased by 0.5%.
- In the year ending March 2019, the average anxiety rating in the Black Country was 2.72, this is below the UK average of 2.87. Compared to the year ending March 2018, the Black Country has increased by 2.0% while the UK average decreased by 0.7%.

### In detail

#### Life satisfaction

- In the year ending March 2019, the average rating for life satisfaction in the Black Country is 7.50, this is below the UK average of 7.71. Compared to the year ending March 2018, life satisfaction has improved by 1.0% in the Black Country area and the UK increased by 0.3%.
- This is the first year since the year ending March 2013 where the full UK baseline at local level is available. Comparison from March 2013 shows that the Black Country has increased by 1.5% (from an average score of 7.39), while the UK has increased by 3.4% (from a score of 7.46).
- Within the Black Country, Sandwell had the highest score in life satisfaction at 7.54 and this has increased since the year ending March 2018 by 1.8%. In contrast, Wolverhampton has the lowest life satisfaction score at 7.40, although this has increased by 1.6% from the previous period.

- In the year ending March 2019 within England, where the number local authority has the highest score for life satisfaction is number 1 (Flyde with 8.45), Wolverhampton ranked at 310 which is an improvement from the year ending March 2018 at 320. Dudley came in at 290<sup>th</sup> which is the same place as 2018, Walsall moved from 277 in 2018 to 282 in 2019 and Sandwell moved from 306<sup>th</sup> place to 275<sup>th</sup> place.

Figure 1: Average life satisfaction score by Local authority

	Average (mean) ratings								% Change from 2017/18	% Change from 2012/13
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19		
Dudley	7.33	7.58	7.67	7.58	7.60	7.55	7.47	7.51	0.5%	-0.9%
Sandwell	7.26	7.39	7.40	7.24	7.62	7.57	7.41	7.54	1.8%	2.0%
Walsall	7.40	7.58	7.58	7.52	7.54	7.67	7.52	7.53	0.1%	-0.7%
Wolverhampton	6.74	7.00	7.03	7.10	7.14	7.12	7.28	7.40	1.6%	5.7%
<b>Black Country</b>	<b>7.18</b>	<b>7.39</b>	<b>7.42</b>	<b>7.36</b>	<b>7.48</b>	<b>7.48</b>	<b>7.42</b>	<b>7.50</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>1.5%</b>
West Midlands Region	7.28	7.43	7.49	7.57	7.62	7.67	7.67	7.70	0.4%	3.6%
United Kingdom	7.42	7.46	7.51	7.61	7.65	7.68	7.69	7.71	0.3%	3.4%

### Worthwhile

- In the year ending March 2019, the worthwhile average rating for in the Black Country is 7.67, this is below the UK average of 7.89. Compared to the year ending March 2018, this has increased by 0.5% in the Black Country area and the UK increased by 0.1%.
- Compared to March 2013 shows that the Black Country has increased by 0.4% (from an average score of 7.64), while the UK has increased by 2.5% (from a score of 7.70).
- Within the Black Country, Walsall had the highest score at 7.77, however this has decreased since the year ending March 2018 by 0.4%. In contrast, Wolverhampton has the lowest life satisfaction score at 7.49, and this has decreased by 0.9% from the previous period.
- In the year ending March 2019 within England, where the number local authority has the highest score for worthwhile is number 1 (South Derbyshire with 8.46), Wolverhampton ranked at 321 which has moved down from the year ending March 2018 at 316. Dudley came in at 299<sup>th</sup> place which has improved from 319<sup>th</sup> place in 2018, Walsall moved from 233 in 2018 to 255 in 2019 and Sandwell moved from 305<sup>th</sup> place to 268<sup>th</sup> place.

Figure 2: Average worthwhile score by Local authority

	Average (mean) ratings								% Change from 2017/18	% Change from 2012/13
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19		
Dudley	7.71	7.76	7.79	7.73	7.70	7.70	7.54	7.67	1.7%	-1.2%
Sandwell	7.44	7.64	7.64	7.53	7.59	7.60	7.63	7.74	1.4%	1.3%
Walsall	7.66	7.83	7.75	7.68	7.81	7.83	7.80	7.77	-0.4%	-0.8%
Wolverhampton	7.22	7.31	7.34	7.39	7.43	7.45	7.56	7.49	-0.9%	2.5%
<b>Black Country</b>	<b>7.51</b>	<b>7.64</b>	<b>7.63</b>	<b>7.58</b>	<b>7.63</b>	<b>7.65</b>	<b>7.63</b>	<b>7.67</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
West Midlands Region	7.53	7.63	7.72	7.76	7.79	7.86	7.82	7.83	0.1%	2.6%
United Kingdom	7.67	7.7	7.74	7.82	7.84	7.86	7.88	7.89	0.1%	2.5%

## Happiness

- In the year ending March 2019, the average happiness rating in the Black Country is 7.31, this is below the UK average of 7.56. Compared to the year ending March 2018, the Black Country has improved by 0.4% and the UK average increased by 0.5%.
- Compared to the year ending March 2013, the Black Country has increased by 1.2% (from an average score of 7.22), while the UK has increased by 3.6% (from a score of 7.30).
- Within the Black Country, Wolverhampton had the highest score for happiness at 7.34, and has increased by 1.5% since the year ending March 2018. In contrast, Sandwell and Walsall had the lowest happiness score at 7.30. Since the year ending March 2018, Sandwell has decreased by 0.9% and Walsall decreased by 1.1%.
- In the year ending March 2019 within England, where the number local authority has the highest score for happiness is number 1 (Rushmoor with 8.35), Wolverhampton ranked at 295 which has moved up from the year ending March 2018 at 299. Dudley came in at 298<sup>th</sup> place which has improved from 315<sup>th</sup> place in 2018, Walsall moved from 252<sup>nd</sup> place in 2018 to 302<sup>nd</sup> place in 2019 and Sandwell moved from 257<sup>th</sup> place to 301<sup>st</sup> place.

Figure 3: Average happiness score by Local authority

	Average (mean) ratings								% Change from 2017/18	% Change from 2012/13
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19		
Dudley	7.17	7.24	7.3	7.34	7.35	7.12	7.14	7.31	2.4%	1.0%
Sandwell	7.2	7.31	7.37	7.12	7.32	7.25	7.37	7.30	-0.9%	-0.1%
Walsall	7.34	7.43	7.5	7.35	7.43	7.51	7.38	7.30	-1.1%	-1.7%
Wolverhampton	6.74	6.91	7.15	7.11	7.08	7.09	7.23	7.34	1.5%	6.2%
<b>Black Country</b>	<b>7.11</b>	<b>7.22</b>	<b>7.33</b>	<b>7.23</b>	<b>7.30</b>	<b>7.24</b>	<b>7.28</b>	<b>7.31</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
West Midlands Region	7.20	7.26	7.41	7.43	7.46	7.50	7.52	7.54	0.3%	3.9%
United Kingdom	7.29	7.30	7.39	7.46	7.48	7.51	7.52	7.56	0.5%	3.6%

## Anxiety

- In the year ending March 2019, the average anxiety rating in the Black Country was 2.72, this is below the UK average of 2.87. Compared to the year ending March 2018, the Black Country has increased by 2.0% while the UK average decreased by 0.7%.
- Compared to the year ending March 2013, the Black Country has increased by 3.5% (from an average score of 2.62), while the UK decreased at a faster rate of 5.3% (from a score of 3.03).
- Within the Black Country, Wolverhampton had the lowest score for anxiety at 2.42, however this has increased by 4.8% since the year ending March 2018. In contrast, Walsall had the highest anxiety score at 3.14, however since the year ending March 2018, this has decreased by 2.8% (from 3.23).
- In the year ending March 2019 within England, where the number local authority has the lowest score for anxiety is number 1 (Fareham with 1.75), Wolverhampton ranked at 33<sup>rd</sup> place which has moved down from the year ending March 2018 at 12<sup>th</sup> place. Dudley came in at 166<sup>th</sup> place



which has moved down from 53<sup>rd</sup> place in 2018, Walsall moved from 278<sup>th</sup> place in 2018 to 3277<sup>th</sup> place in 2019 and Sandwell moved from 46<sup>th</sup> place to 42<sup>st</sup> place.

**Figure 4: Average anxiety score by Local authority**

	Average (mean) ratings								% Change from 2017/18	% Change from 2012/13
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19		
Dudley	3.00	2.97	2.64	2.62	2.89	3.00	2.57	2.83	10.1%	-4.7%
Sandwell	3.03	2.82	2.78	2.92	2.78	2.70	2.54	2.47	-2.8%	-12.4%
Walsall	3.15	2.78	2.77	2.77	2.85	2.76	3.23	3.14	-2.8%	12.9%
Wolverhampton	2.44	1.92	1.78	2.49	2.54	2.54	2.31	2.42	4.8%	26.0%
<b>Black Country</b>	<b>2.91</b>	<b>2.62</b>	<b>2.49</b>	<b>2.70</b>	<b>2.77</b>	<b>2.75</b>	<b>2.66</b>	<b>2.72</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>
West Midlands Region	3.04	2.85	2.67	2.63	2.75	2.80	2.70	2.76	2.2%	-3.2%
United Kingdom	3.13	3.03	2.92	2.86	2.87	2.90	2.89	2.87	-0.7%	-5.3%

Source: ONS, Personal well-being in the UK, released 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/bulletins/measuringnationalwellbeing/april2018tomarch2019>