**Bradford Mental Health Champions Project**

**A Report on Children and Young People’s Mental Health and**

**Emotional Wellbeing Needs Which Have Arisen from COVID-19**

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1. The audit was carried out across the Bradford District in order to gather a quick snapshot of children and young people’s recovery and any emerging concerns in school in order to inform commissioners, the LA and school leaders in relation to interventions and next steps.
2. Audit based onmulti-agency report from across Yorkshire and the Humber (April 2020) to consider the mental health needs of children and young people as a result of COVID-19 and how to respond to these needs.
3. The key principles of this audit align with those in the guide and include:
   * Not over-medicalising or jumping to diagnostic conclusions
   * Appreciating that it is normal for children and young people to have various degrees of worry about returning to education
   * Understanding that every CYP is unique, and their needs may change over time
   * Building on risk and protection factors for a child or young person’s mental health
4. Audit completed by the Mental Health Champion, or a member of staff with an overview of social, emotional and mental health issues across the individual schools. Intention to give an overall ‘feel’ of the emotional climate in the setting rather than an exact measure of number of cases. An adapted version of the audit was also used to collect data on staff wellbeing.
5. Within the sample there were 41 primary schools including five with a joint early years or nursery phase. There were also seven secondary schools, one special school and one tertiary (Sixth Form) school.

**Children and Young People’s Audit**

1. **General:** At the fourth time point, 94% of schools’ MHC reported many to almost all of their students to be happy to be back at school after the third national lockdown. The remaining three schools reported about half of their school pupils to feel this way.
2. 98% of MHC thought that many to almost all of their pupils were **happy to be able to see their friends** again upon their return to school.
3. **I feel ready to get back to learning:** 81% of primary school MHC rated many to almost all pupils to feel ready to get back to learning. Among the secondary and tertiary phases, 75% felt that many of their pupils were ready to learn again. The special school felt that about half of their pupils were ready to get back into learning.
4. **I am confident I will be able to catch up with missed work**. Only 40% of schools reported many to all their students to feel confident in their ability to catch up with missed work. A further 38% reported only about half of their pupils to have this confidence. This slightly decreased from the third time point where 46% reported many to almost all, and 46% reported about half of their pupils to feel this way. 47% primary school MHC, and 13% secondary and tertiary MHC felt that many to almost all of their CYP were confident in their ability to catch up with missed work.
5. **I am happy about the new way of doing things, and I can cope with the changes caused by coronavirus and lockdown**. 78% of MHC thought that about half to many were happy about this (a slight increase from the third time point, where 69% MHC reported this result). A further 10% of MHC at this time recorded almost all of their pupils to feel happy about this.
6. 90% of MHC felt that about half to almost all of their schools’ CYP had **enough mojo to get them through whatever might happen** (similar to the previous audit where 85% of MHC reported this same answer).
7. 88% of MHC reported many to all to **feel safe at home** and not be mistreated. Furthermore, 70% felt that many to almost all of their CYP’s families **get enough help and support** at home.
8. **Findings by BAME Demographic:** When looking at the fourth audit responses in association with school proportions of BAME students, there are not many major differences. For example, when comparing those schools with < 25% BAME CYP and those with ≥ 75% BAME
9. **I’m Eating ok:** A slight difference can be seen in whether MHC thought their CYP were eating okay; 73% of MHC from schools with < 25% eligible for FSM, and 54% of MHC from schools with ≥ 25% eligible rated many or more of their pupils to be eating okay.

**Figure 1**: Percentage of MHC who rated ‘Many’ or ‘Almost All’ of the children or young people at their school on the item “I am eating okay”, by percentage of CYP eligible for FSM within their school. Comparisons are shown to the second and third time points.

1. Regarding school life, 85% of MHC from schools with < 25% CYP in the most deprived decile rated about half to almost all of their pupils to be **confident in their ability to catch up with missed work**. However, of those schools with ≥ 75% CYP in this decile, 71% of MHC gave this same answer.
2. On the item **“I feel I have enough mojo to get me through whatever might happen**”, 58% of MHC from schools with < 25% CYP in decile 1 reported many to almost all students to feel this way. Of those MHC from schools with ≥ 75% CYP in decile 1, 43% gave these answers.

**Staff Audit**

1. 90% of MHC felt many to almost all of their staff were happy to be back at school. This result shows a 6% rise since the last time this data was collected, demonstrating a trend of increase from previous reports.
2. Similarly, little differences were seen in response to the statement “I feel ready to get back to teaching”, where 90% of MHC thought many or almost all of their staff felt this way; this shows only a small decrease from the first and second audits (95% and 92% respectively)
3. Further similarities can be seen again from previous audits in MHC responses to staff's confidence in their student’s ability to catch up with missed work. 44% reported that many to almost all of their staff had this confidence. Response to this statement has shown a steady decrease from the previous audit, 46%, and the one before of 50%.
4. 71% of MHC suggested that many or almost all of their staff members felt happy about the future and had a few ideas of what it might be like for them; increasing from the previous report.
5. Of schools with < 25% of students living in the top three most deprived deciles nationally, MHC perceptions of staff confidence in their students’ ability to catch up with missed work suggested that only 45% of MHC thought many to almost all of their staff would agree with this statement. This differs from the previous audit where 80% of MHC reported that many to almost all their staff had this confidence.
6. Of the schools with ≥ 75% of students in deciles 1 to 3, 48% reported the same response. This differs from the previous point this data was collected (33%).

Full report available here:

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