Dear [Minister],

The state of children’s wellbeing in the UK is deeply troubling – young people in this country have the lowest levels of life satisfaction in Europe and according to the latest PISA data, the UK ranks 70th out of 73 countries in young people’s wellbeing ([2022](https://stat.link/uo4s8z)). We find ourselves in a wellbeing crisis. We are therefore seeking your support and leadership in committing to a national children and young people’s wellbeing measurement programme across England.

Aside from the moral imperative to improve young people’s wellbeing, there are also good economic and political reasons to do so. [Analysis by Pro Bono Economics](https://www.probonoeconomics.com/the-82-billion-question) shows that closing the gap in wellbeing outcomes for secondary school age children between the UK and the Netherlands, a country with relatively high levels of wellbeing, would provide around £82 billion in wellbeing benefits every year, based on HM Treasury methodologies. Politically, given that [73% of parents/carers](https://www.youthsporttrust.org/media/fvuhgb3n/wellbeing-survey-february-2021.pdf) support young people’s wellbeing measurement in schools, a national programme would demonstrate to them and to young people themselves, that the government is listening and their future is a priority.

One of the key barriers to improving children and young people’s wellbeing is the lack of data available to determine why it is so low, which places are struggling and succeeding, and what interventions and practices make the most difference. Whilst a patchwork of regional approaches to wellbeing measurement provides pockets of insight, the potential remains untapped without coordination and reach. This is why we believe national wellbeing measurement is needed to reverse the downward trends in children’s wellbeing and for closing the gap against international peers by:

* Providing **local communities** with the data they need to implement a step change in the support provided to children and young people, whether through schools, local government and health systems or local charities;
* Equipping government departments with the data, analysis and insight they need to improve both the delivery, and the evaluation, of **national programmes** designed to benefit young people; and
* Clearly demonstrating to children and young people, and their parents, carers and teachers, that the government means what it says when it talks about being **child-centred**, putting young people's voices at the heart of decision making.

The benefits of national wellbeing measurement have the potential to support a wide range of government departments and bodies, as well as the work of every local authority and integrated care system across England. National wellbeing measurement is a vital tool for demonstrating how mission-driven collaboration across departments can unlock progress on shared outcomes, and truly demonstrate that this new government is the government of renewal.

[The Our Wellbeing, Our Voice](https://www.ourwellbeingourvoice.org/) coalition was set up by #BeeWell, Pro Bono Economics, The Children’s Society and Fair Education Alliance and is made up of a [growing group of partners](https://www.ourwellbeingourvoice.org/about). We are seeking the Government’s commitment to a national programme of children and young people’s wellbeing measurement, beginning with the establishment of a time-limited cross-sector working group to guide its rollout.  With this expert guidance, policymakers can make crucial decisions on its details, including support needed for schools, the appropriate frequency for undertaking measurement, and the role of children and young people’s voices in its design and delivery.

The Our Wellbeing, Our Voice coalition has submitted a bid to the 2025 Comprehensive Spending Review and are currently engaging with MPs and Peers to lay an amendment to the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill. We would greatly value your support in championing this issue to ensure all our young people grow up healthy and happy, and believe success belongs to them.

Yours sincerely,