

**TELLUS3 SURVEY****Report of the Director of Children's Services**

**Strategic Priorities:** Prosperous City; Healthy City; Safe City; Attractive and Inclusive City

**Corporate Improvement Objectives:**

C101 – Delivering customer focused services

C102 – Being 'One Council'

C103 – Efficient and effective Council

C104 – Improving Partnership Working to Deliver 'One City'

**1. WHY HAS THIS REPORT COME TO COMMITTEE?**

This report has come to Review Committee in order to:

- demonstrate Sunderland's contribution to the annual, national consultation exercise – the Tellus Survey
- share the outcomes from that exercise
- seek members' views on how the information could be used

**2 BACKGROUND**

**2.1** The Tellus survey is an annual, on-line survey managed by Ofsted, and administered by schools. It is in its third year, and so named Tellus3 for 2008. The survey is designed to gather the views of children and young people on a range of issues across the five outcomes to provide national benchmark data. The target is that 900-1,300 young people in years 7, 8 and 10 complete the survey in each local authority.

**2.2** The questions in the survey are directly focused on gathering information for Ofsted's Children's Services inspections. A small number, particularly those relating to emotional well-being and substance misuse, are also for use by other government departments as part of the National Indicator Set for their work with local authorities.

TellUs3 took place between March and June 2008.

**3. TELLUS3 IN SUNDERLAND**

**3.1** Ofsted randomly selected 61 Sunderland schools to work with children and young people to complete the survey. Special schools were included for the first time. In Sunderland, 24 schools took part in the survey this year: 14 primary and 10 secondary. See Appendix One for a list of schools that took part.

**3.2** Approximately 1,400 responses were made by children and young people in Sunderland. A summary of all responses is included in Appendix Two.

## **4. WHAT DID CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TELL US?**

- 4.1** On the whole the responses made from Sunderland were comparative to those made by children and young people throughout the country. However some responses were significantly different to the national picture.
- 4.2** Children and young people in Sunderland responded more positively than nationally in the following:
- They have one or more good friends
  - They can talk to an adult, other than their Mum and Dad
  - They feel safer on public transport
  - They have somewhere quiet at home to do homework
  - They find it easier to get help with work at school
  - More of them have been to the cinema, theatre or gym recently
  - They feel they get good information and help in planning their future
  - They like their local shops

Appendix Three sets out these specific responses in 2008 together with a comparison from 2007 to 2008.

- 4.3** Children and young people in Sunderland responded more negatively than nationally to the following:
- Young people drink more frequently
  - A slightly higher proportion of pupils never enjoy school
  - Fewer children had been to music groups or lessons outside of school
  - They want their local area to be “cleaner and have less litter”, to have “better parks and play areas” and for there to be “fewer young people hanging around”
  - A higher number would like to see ‘better school lessons’

Appendix Four sets out these specific responses in 2008 together with a comparison from 2007 to 2008.

## **5. Comparisons over time**

- 5.1** The Tellus survey has taken place over the last three years, but changes to the questions limits the value of drawing statistical comparisons over time. There are, however, common themes running through the survey in Sunderland over the period. Drinking alcohol remains, and that is being addressed through the new Risk and Resilience Strategy and other initiatives. Improving parks and play areas is also an issue and was identified as a theme for discussion at the recent State of the City debate. The success of the play pathfinder bid will bring 3.5 million to the city to develop and improve 28 play areas and establish a City Adventure Centre at Silksworth.

## **7. USING THE INFORMATION**

- (i) The general themes will contribute to the Children’s Trust needs assessment.

- (ii) It will be presented to the Children's Trust Strategic Partnership and partners will be asked to consider how they can use it in their own organisations.
- (iii) Members may wish to consider how else the information could be used as part of the scrutiny process.

**Primary schools (14)**

Barnes Junior  
Grangetown Primary  
Willow Fields Primary  
New Silksworth Junior  
Castletown Primary  
Hetton Lyons Primary  
Barnwell Primary  
Richard Avenue Primary  
Our Lady Queen of Peace RC  
Oxclose Village Primary  
Farringdon Primary  
Quarry View Primary  
Valley Road  
Wessington Primary

**Secondary schools (10)**

Farringdon Community Sports College  
Thornhill  
Hetton  
Oxclose Community  
Sandhill View  
St Aidan's RC  
St Robert of Newminster  
St Anthony's RC  
Springwell Dene  
Venerable Bede CE

**Appendix Two**



### Appendix 3: Tellus 3 Survey, 2008:

Sunderland pupil responses that are significantly positive compared to National

Sunderland responses that are significantly different (positive) to National:				% pupils responding:		
Outcome:	Question:	Significant Response Category:		Sunderland: 2007	2008	National
Being Healthy	Please tick the option that best describes you	I have one or more good friends		n/a	96	95
		When I'm worried about something I can talk to an adult other than my mum and dad	True	n/a	58	52
			Not True	n/a	20	23
Staying Safe	How safe from being hurt by other people do you feel?	On public transport:	Very Safe	n/a	28	23
			Very Unsafe	n/a	4	5
Enjoying and Achieving	Which of these things, might help you do better in school?	Somewhere quiet at home to do homework		18	13	16
	How easy it is to get help with your work at school when you need it?	Quite easy		n/a	62	58
		Quite difficult		n/a	17	19
	Which of these things have you been to in the last four weeks	Cinema or theatre		n/a	63	56
		Gym		n/a	39	27
Making a Positive Contribution	What do you think of the information and help you get to plan your future?	It's good enough		43	34	28
Achieving Economic Wellbeing	Which of these things would do the most to make your area a better place for you to live?	Better shops		41	40	45

n/a: not applicable: same question not asked in 2007

#### Appendix 4: Tellus 3 Survey, 2008:

Sunderland pupil responses that are significantly negative compared to national

Sunderland responses that are significantly different <b>(negative)</b> to National:			% pupils responding:		
Outcome:	Question:	Significant Response Category:	Sunderland: 2007	2008	Nat ional
Being Healthy	Have you ever had alcohol?	I have been drunk three or more times in the last four weeks	12	10	6
Enjoying and Achieving	I enjoy school	Never	12	9	7
	Which of these things have you been to in the last four weeks	Local park or playground	n/a	68	74
		Music group or lesson (not in school lessons)	n/a	16	19
Achieving Economic Wellbeing	Which of these things would do the most to make your area a better place for you to live?	Cleaner and less litter	46	53	48
		Better parks and play areas	46	51	47
		Fewer young people hanging around	27	31	27
	What do you think of the parks and play areas in your area?	Very or Fairly Good	n/a	39	44
		Very Poor or Fairly Poor	n/a	36	30
	What, if anything, would do the most to make your life better?	Better school lessons	n/a	14	11

n/a: not applicable: same question not asked in 2007