Title of paper: Measuring children’s subjective well-being: comparison of different measurement instruments and approaches

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Abstract:
There are now a considerable number of different questions and scales available for measuring children’s overall subjective well-being (SWB). These include measures of life satisfaction (e.g. Huebner’s Student Life Satisfaction Scale, Cantril’s ladder), well-being indices (e.g. Cummins’ Personal Well-Being Index – School Children), and indicators of mental health (e.g. Goodman’s Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire).

This presentation will focus on a comparative analysis of these different approaches to measuring children’s SWB based on data gathered through two surveys of the well-being of children undertaken in 2008 and 2010 (samples of 7,000 and 5,000 respectively) in England by The Children’s Society in collaboration with University of York; and also on data gathered through other ongoing social research surveys of children in England.

The presentation will discuss:
- The properties of different measures and their strengths and weaknesses.
- The strength of associations between the different measures
- The extent to which the different measures are associated with socio-demographic variables, domain-specific measures of well-being and behavioural indicators.

The aim of the presentation will be to provide an overview of the advantages and disadvantages of different approaches to the measurement of children’s SWB.