

‘Valuing Improvements in Mental Health’

A call for Partner organisations to develop an online tool measuring impact of changes to mental health.

Housing Associations help thousands of tenants and residents to better mental health. It is now possible to measure and understand these improvements using the wellbeing valuation method.

Until recently it has been a challenge to find a simple, yet credible and robust way to value improvements in mental health. This is due to improvements in mental health occurring incrementally with marginal improvements and progress sometimes being difficult to track.

A solution to this issue was developed last year when HACT and Simetrica’s [ground-breaking research](#) revealed it is possible to break down in more detail the value of various stages in assessing mental health linking the Short Warwick Edinburgh Mental-Wellbeing Scale to wellbeing valuation.

HACT are now looking for organisations to join Catalyst Housing Association (currently piloting the new values) and work with us to build a slick and simple online calculator website so these values can be easily applied. The website will enable users to understand, measure and communicate the impact of their work on mental health.

Initial discussions with Housing Associations have proved positive and build on the momentum being generated around Social Value information increasingly being integrated into decision making and service evaluation. The development of an online calculator which specialises in reporting mental health interventions will be invaluable to track changes in mental health quickly, effectively, accurately thereby allowing timely and targeted action to be taken.

Why is this project important?

Whilst the values themselves are a huge step forward, the ability to easily apply them is critical to their worth. Having impact information available quickly will change fundamentally the way organisations consider, report, commission, provide, and evaluate their mental health interventions.

What does getting involved entail?

- Being a thought leader by having a seat on the Steering Group to inform the development of the online calculator.
- A role in the testing process.
- Able to invest financially in the project. We are looking for three or four partners able to contribute £3,000+VAT apiece. We will also consider small contributions from smaller organisations.

What's in it for you?

- Involvement in an exciting new project which will have a significant impact in our understanding and insight into the impact of Housing Association services into the mental health of communities across a range of services such as anti-social behaviour, financial inclusion, community investment, wellbeing and specialist supported housing services.
- Your logo on the website and all associated publicity material.
- Free 2-year annual subscription to use the calculator valued at £500+VAT per year.

Where do the values come from?

- Analysis of national datasets using the **wellbeing valuation (WV) approach** drew on people's lived experience of mental health, both good and bad, captured through their responses to the **Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS)**. We revealed how this impacts on overall wellbeing captured through their self-reported life satisfaction.
- Analysis revealed the impact of an improvement in mental health (e.g. from a WEMWBS score of 18 to 22) on life satisfaction and calculated the amount of money that would produce the equivalent impact on life satisfaction, giving us monetary values for movement within the scale.
- The wellbeing valuation approach features in HM Treasury's Green Book: Appraisal and Evaluation in Central Government.

Why WEMWBS?

WEMWBS' growing popularity as a practical measure of impact is driven by both its academic rigour and its credibility with and relevance to health audiences – increasingly important as local funding and delivery partners.

WEMWBS is the most widely known measure of mental wellbeing in the UK¹ and is used in a wide range of settings that contribute to mental health including health, education, arts, and business.²

- By quantifying mental wellbeing, WEMWBS has become an agent for mental health promotion in a variety of disciplines and settings.³
- It has potential to highlight the effectiveness of low cost community interventions.⁴

Why HACT?

HACT is an innovation agency that provides futures-oriented solutions, projects and products for UK housing. HACT delivers thought leadership and drives new ideas for business transformation through our platform of research, impact measurement and data analytics, as well as through our engagement with other sectors and our work on connected technologies. We work alongside housing providers to drive change within their own businesses. HACT helps housing providers

¹ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/user-guidance/well-being/about-the-programme/advisory-groups/well-being-technical-advisory-group/dh-paper-for-ons-tag-meeting-on-15-april-2013.pdf>

² https://academic.oup.com/eurpub/article/27/suppl_3/ckx186.237/4555852

³ https://academic.oup.com/eurpub/article/27/suppl_3/ckx186.237/4555852

⁴ https://academic.oup.com/eurpub/article/27/suppl_3/ckx186.237/4555852

maintain and refine resilient and successful businesses by generating actionable evidence to inform the development of new, smarter, and more efficient ways of working.

[HACT's Social Value Bank](#) has become the default approach to social impact measurement in the housing sector and HACT's ongoing work has secured its position as a thought-leader in this area.

These new vales broaden the resources HACT has made available to enable a deeper understanding of the impact of community interventions to housing providers and others working with communities.

What else?

Please visit [here](#) to see the full report.

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