

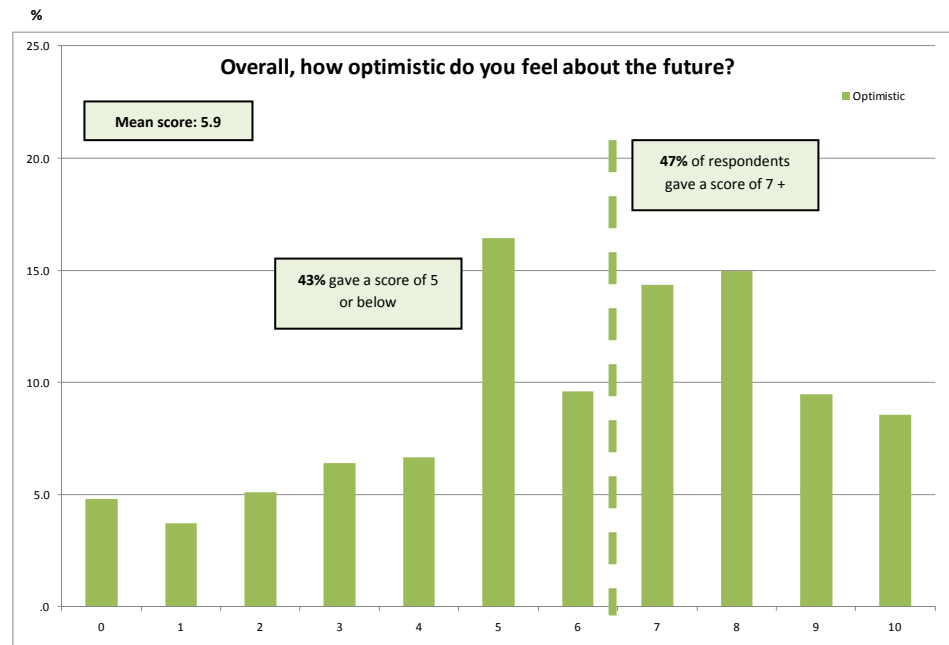
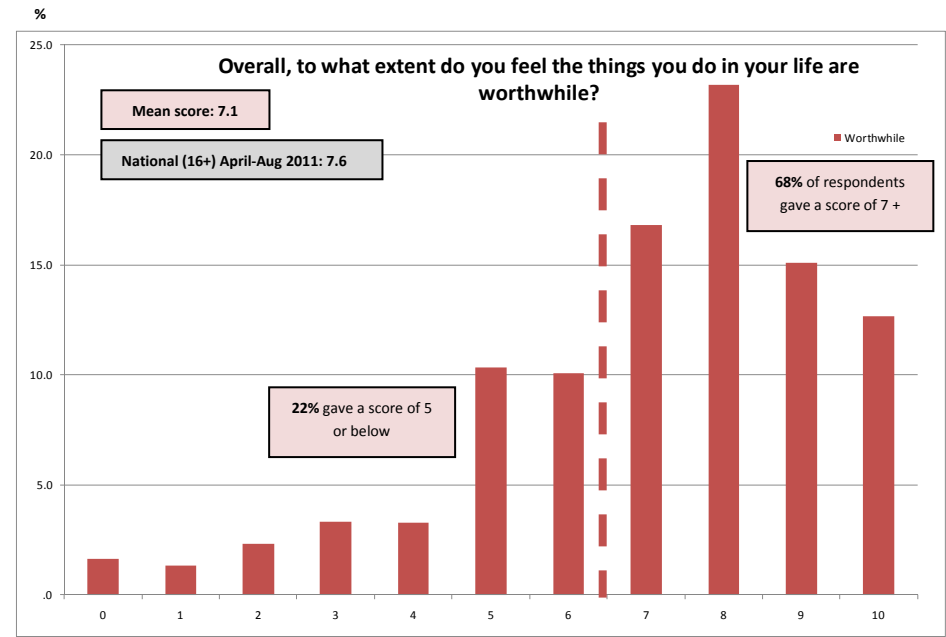
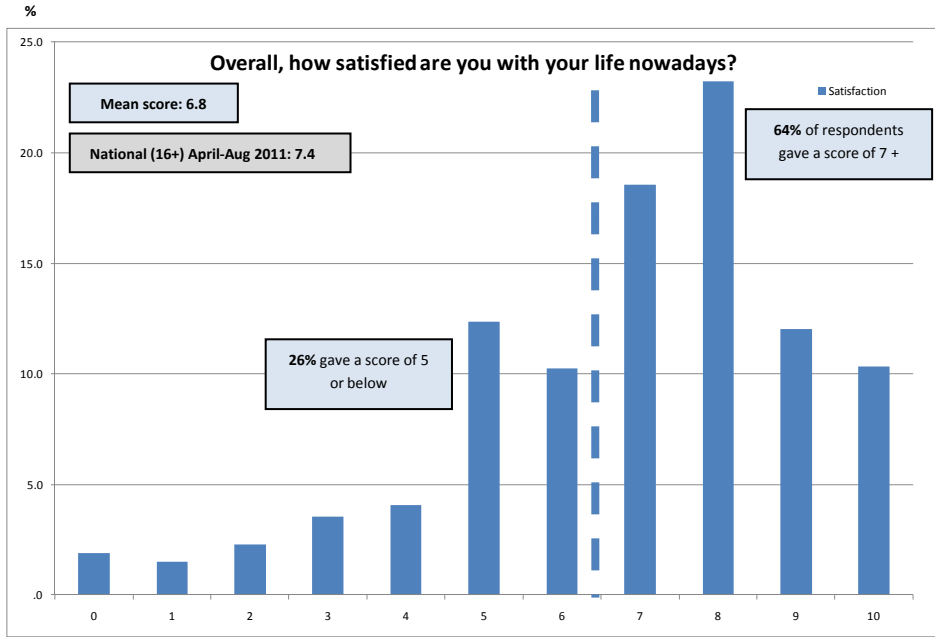
- This report explores the findings from the 'subjective wellbeing' questions from the 2011 *your place, your say* survey.
 - Towards the end of this survey respondents were asked five questions about their life overall:
 - ...how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?*
 - ...to what extent do you feel the things you do in your life are worthwhile?*
 - ...how happy did you feel yesterday?*
 - ...how anxious did you feel yesterday?*
 - ...how optimistic do you feel about the future?
- [Four of these Qs* were introduced into ONS surveys from April 2011, the fifth (optimism) is local to the *your place, your say* survey].
- Responses to all questions were on a 0 to 10 scale, where 0 is 'not at all' and 10 is 'completely'.
 - The purpose of these questions was to provide a subjective measure of how local residents assess their own general wellbeing to complement other intelligence. The Qs are currently still being tested by the ONS, so it is helpful to explore how the pattern of responses compares with the national experimental data as well as looking at the responses in their own right. We can also compare with CLIK 2012 survey (when available) as the Qs have been repeated across both surveys.

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS:

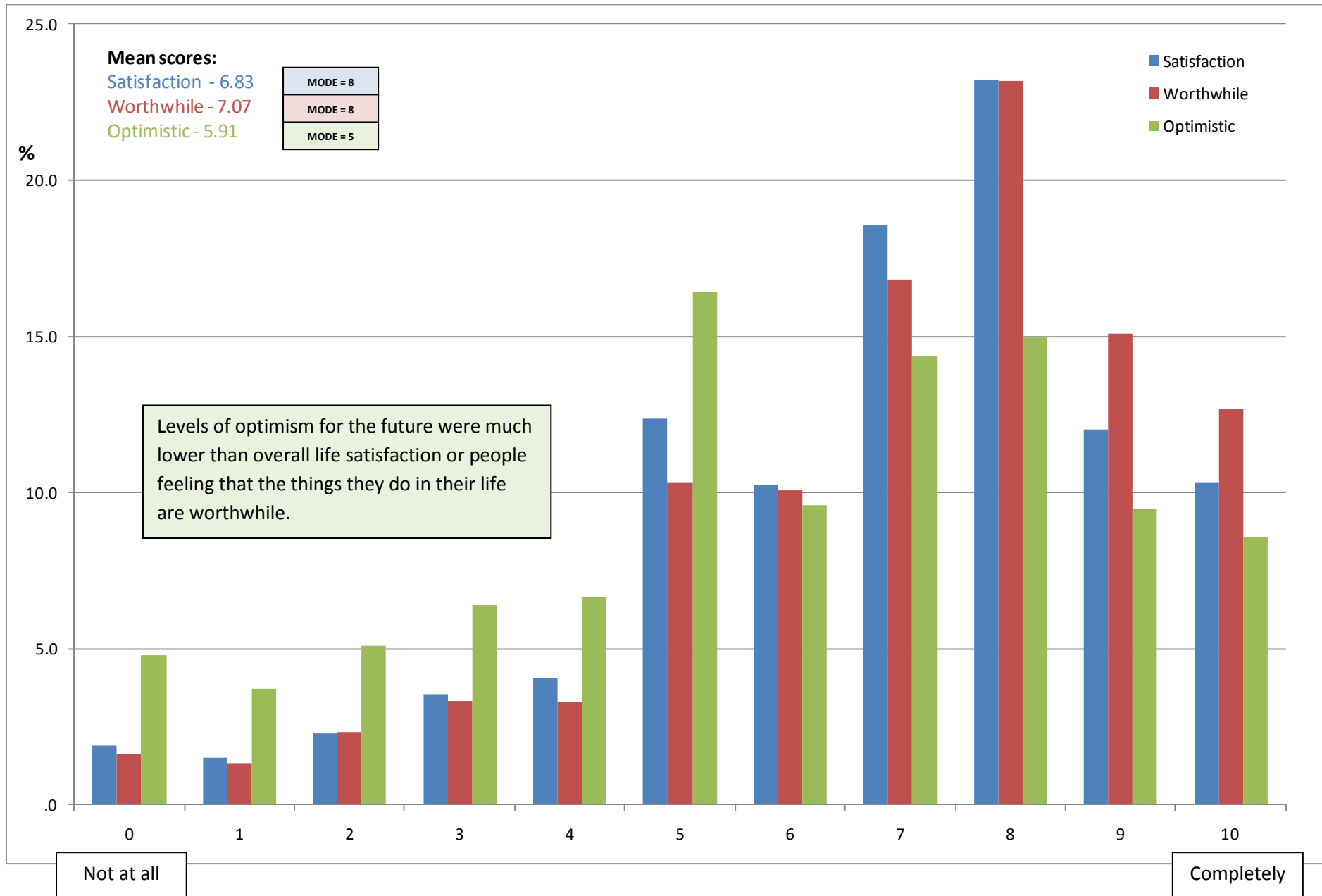
- **Life satisfaction:** nearly two thirds of respondents (64%) gave a rating of 7 or more. The mean score was 6.8. This compares with a national figure of 7.4 from the ONS experimental work (April-August 2011). In terms of geographical variations, the residents least satisfied with their life were in Dewsbury, with the most satisfied in Mirfield, Denby Dale and Kirkburton.
- **Worthwhile:** reflecting the national trend from the ONS work, a slightly larger proportion (68%) gave a rating of 7 or more for the extent to which they felt the things they do in life are worthwhile. The mean score for Kirklees was 7.1 (national figure: 7.6) and the same geographical trend as for life satisfaction was apparent.
- **Happiness:** this question performed similarly to overall life satisfaction, with 64% giving a happiness rating of 7 or more and a mean score of 6.9 (national figure: 7.4). However, as with the national data the spread of ratings was slightly wider, with a higher proportion (14%) giving the top rating of 10 for their happiness yesterday than for their overall life satisfaction (10%).
- **Anxiousness:** the majority (74%) gave a score of 5 or below, i.e. the lower end of the anxiety scale, with 20% giving a rating of 0 to indicate that they were 'not at all anxious' yesterday. However, a quarter (26%) gave a score above 5. The mean score was 3.5, in line with the national average of 3.4.
- **Optimism:** just under half of respondents (47%) gave a score of 7 or more for how optimistic they felt about the future, notably lower than the ratings given for the core subjective well-being measures of life satisfaction, doing things that are worthwhile and happiness yesterday. The mean score was 5.9.

- Exploring some of the **differences in views** between groups can help us to understand the factors that may have an impact on people's wellbeing:
 - residents in the Dewsbury **area** score least well across the range of subjective wellbeing measures.
 - household **income** appears to be an important factor – overall life satisfaction, feeling that the things you do in life are worthwhile, happiness and optimism for the future all increase as the level of household income increases.
 - in terms of **age**, older residents (65+) were the most satisfied with their life overall, were more likely to state that the things they do in their life are worthwhile and gave the highest happiness - and lowest anxiety – ratings. In contrast, younger residents are the most optimistic about the future and those aged 65+ feel the least optimistic.
 - being a single parent also appear to have a negative impact on overall life satisfaction and optimism for the future – but slightly less so in terms of perceptions of the things you do in life being worthwhile.

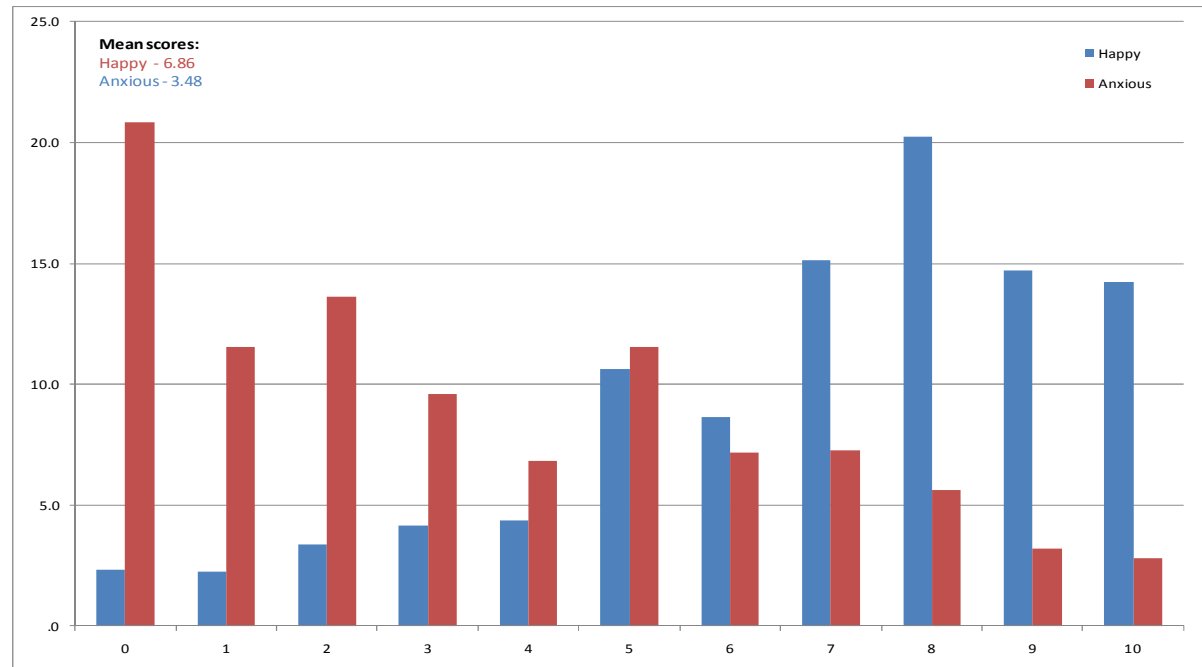
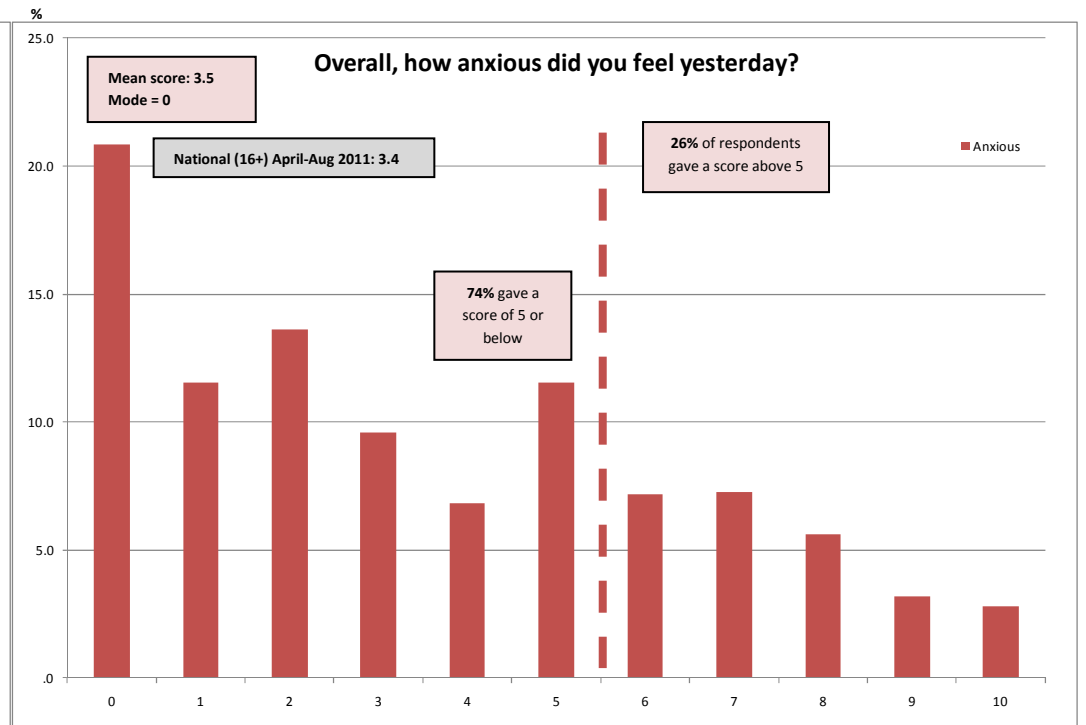
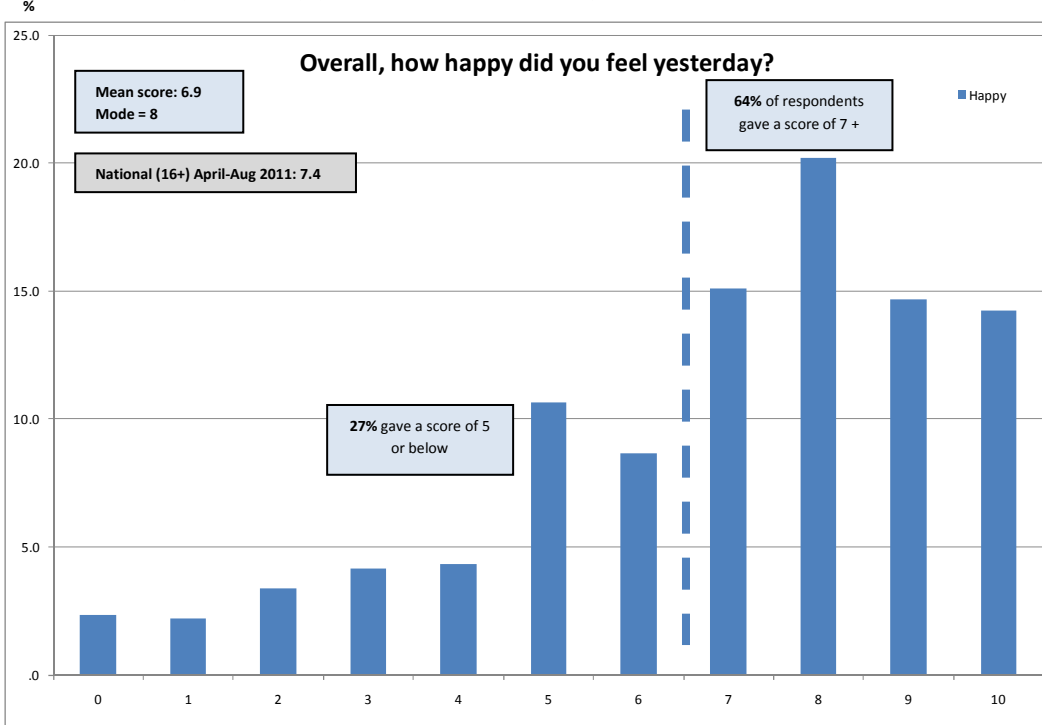
Life satisfaction, doing things that are worthwhile and feelings of optimism: Kirklees overall



Comparison of scores for the 'life satisfaction', 'worthwhile' and 'optimistic' questions



Feelings of happiness and anxiety: Kirklees overall



Differences by geographical area

As highlighted in the overall report from Qa Research, respondents in the Dewsbury area generally have the least optimistic outlook on life and score least well across the range of subjective wellbeing measures (see conclusion 31 –page 46).

	TVC Area						
	Total	Batley, Birstall and Birkenshaw	Dewsbury	Huddersfield	Mirfield, Denby Dale and Kirkburton	Spen Valley	The Valleys
How anxious did you feel yesterday	3.48	3.58	3.67	3.46	3.3	3.56	3.4
How optimistic do you feel about the future	5.91	6.07	5.34	5.85	6.26	5.82	6.1
How satisfied are you with your life nowadays	6.83	6.89	6.45	6.64	7.21	6.86	7.1
How happy did you feel yesterday	6.86	6.8	6.65	6.78	7.1	6.84	7.04
To what extent do you feel the things you do in your life are worthwhile	7.07	7.09	6.8	6.85	7.39	7.07	7.38

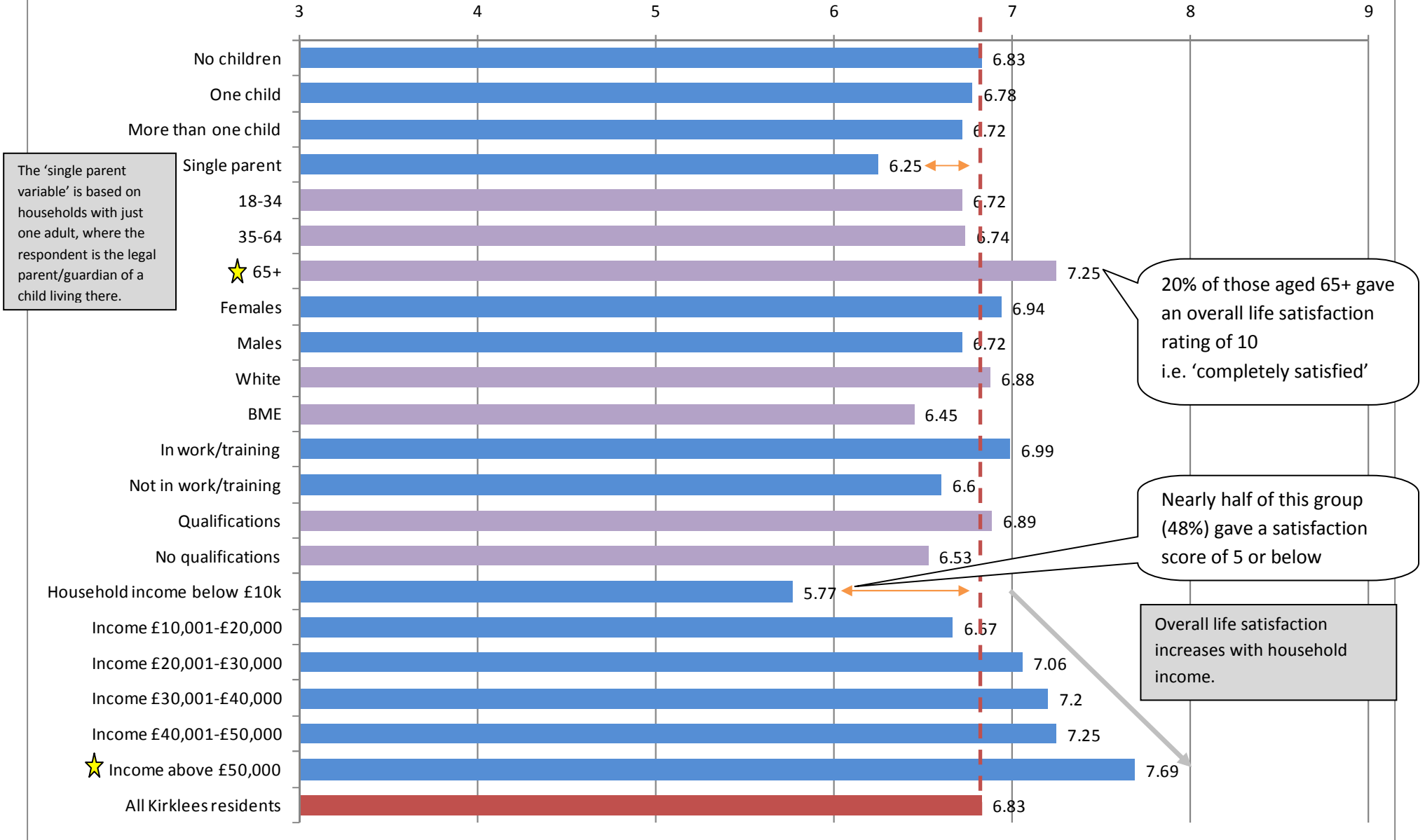
Base: All respondents (variable)

Those living in Mirfield, Denby Dale and Kirkburton and The Valleys generally score higher across these measures –following the same trend as overall satisfaction with the local area.

Differences between groups of residents

★ The most satisfied groups were those aged 65+ and those with an annual household income above £50k.

Overall life satisfaction



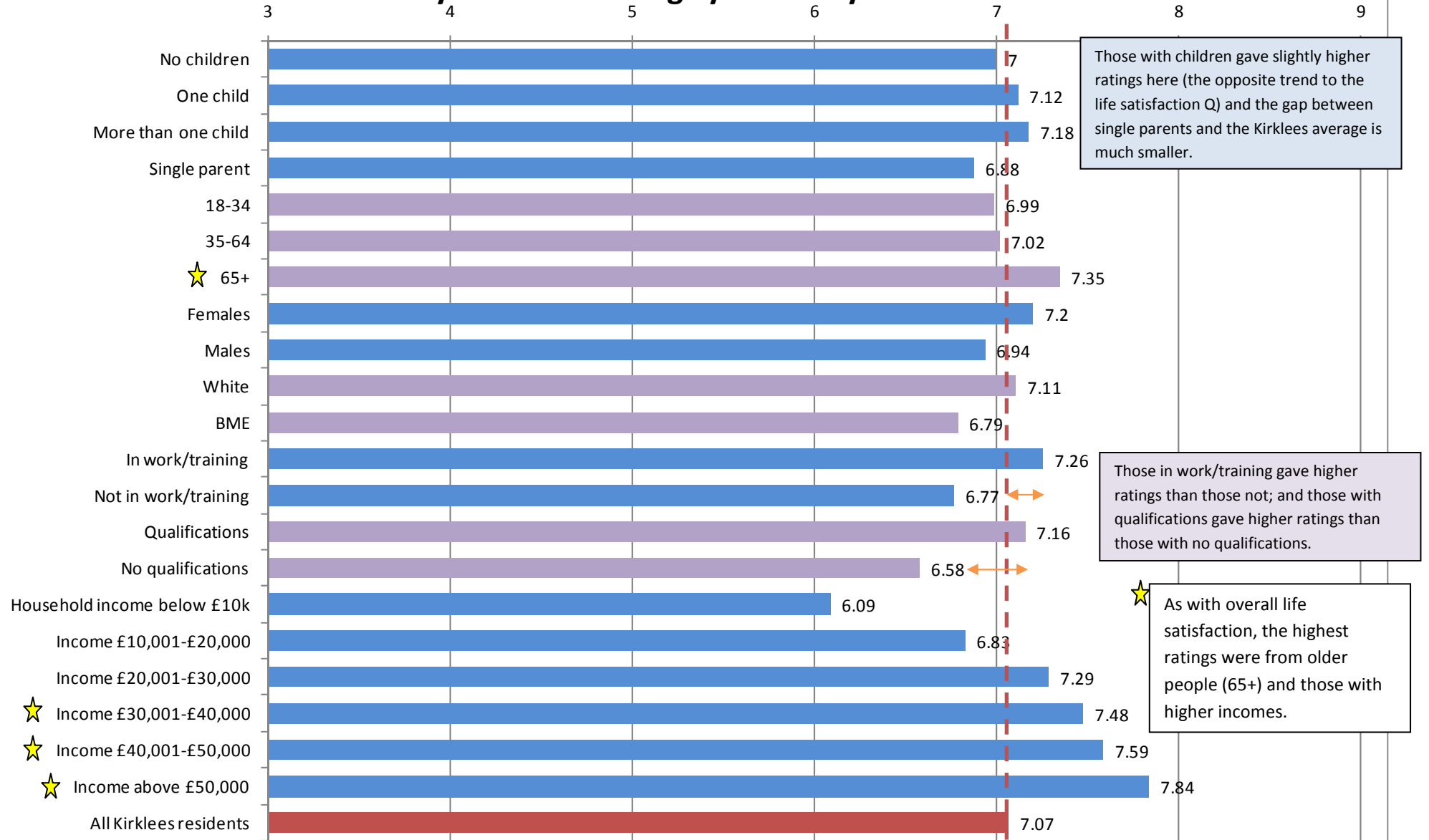
The 'single parent variable' is based on households with just one adult, where the respondent is the legal parent/guardian of a child living there.

20% of those aged 65+ gave an overall life satisfaction rating of 10 i.e. 'completely satisfied'

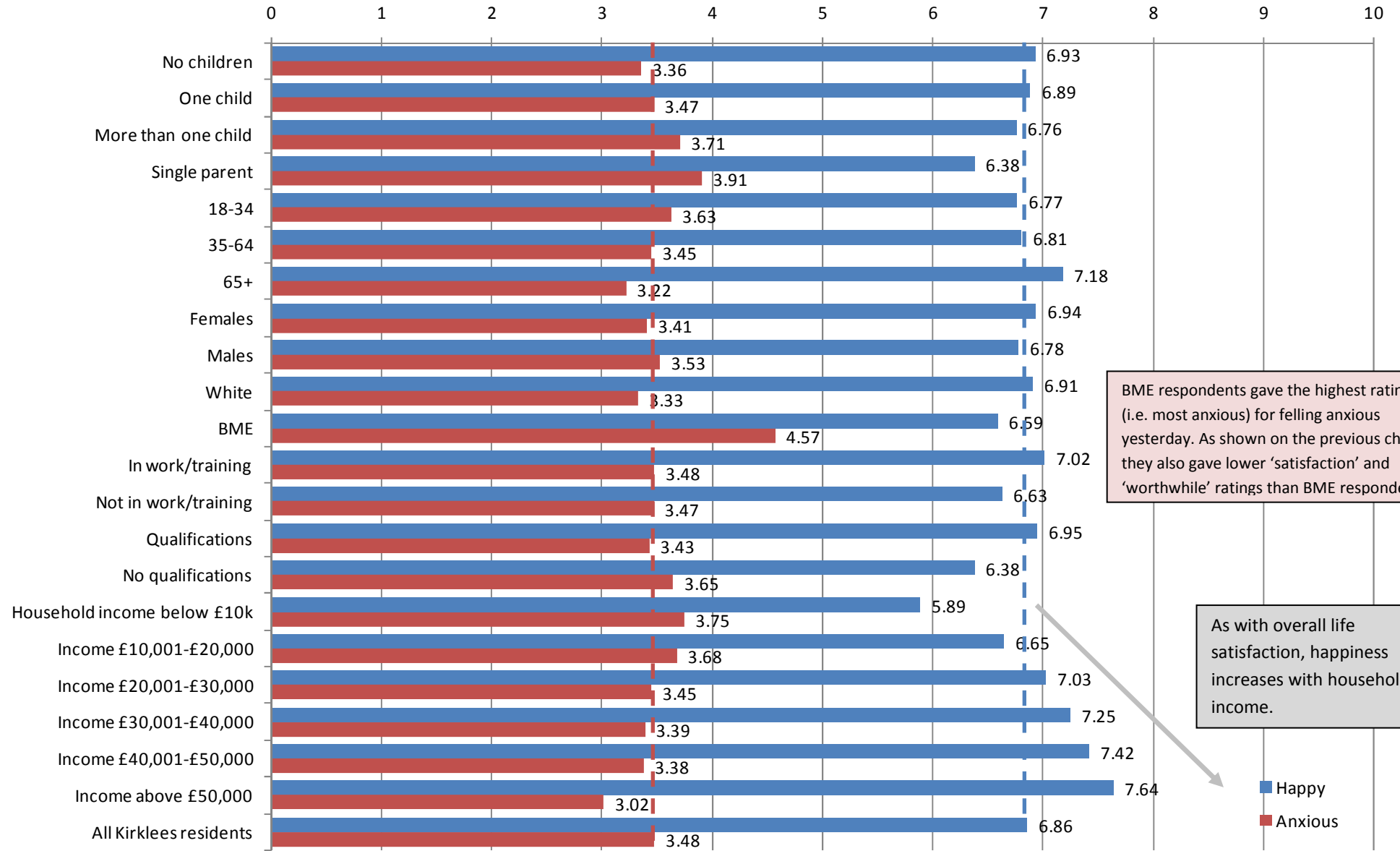
Nearly half of this group (48%) gave a satisfaction score of 5 or below

Overall life satisfaction increases with household income.

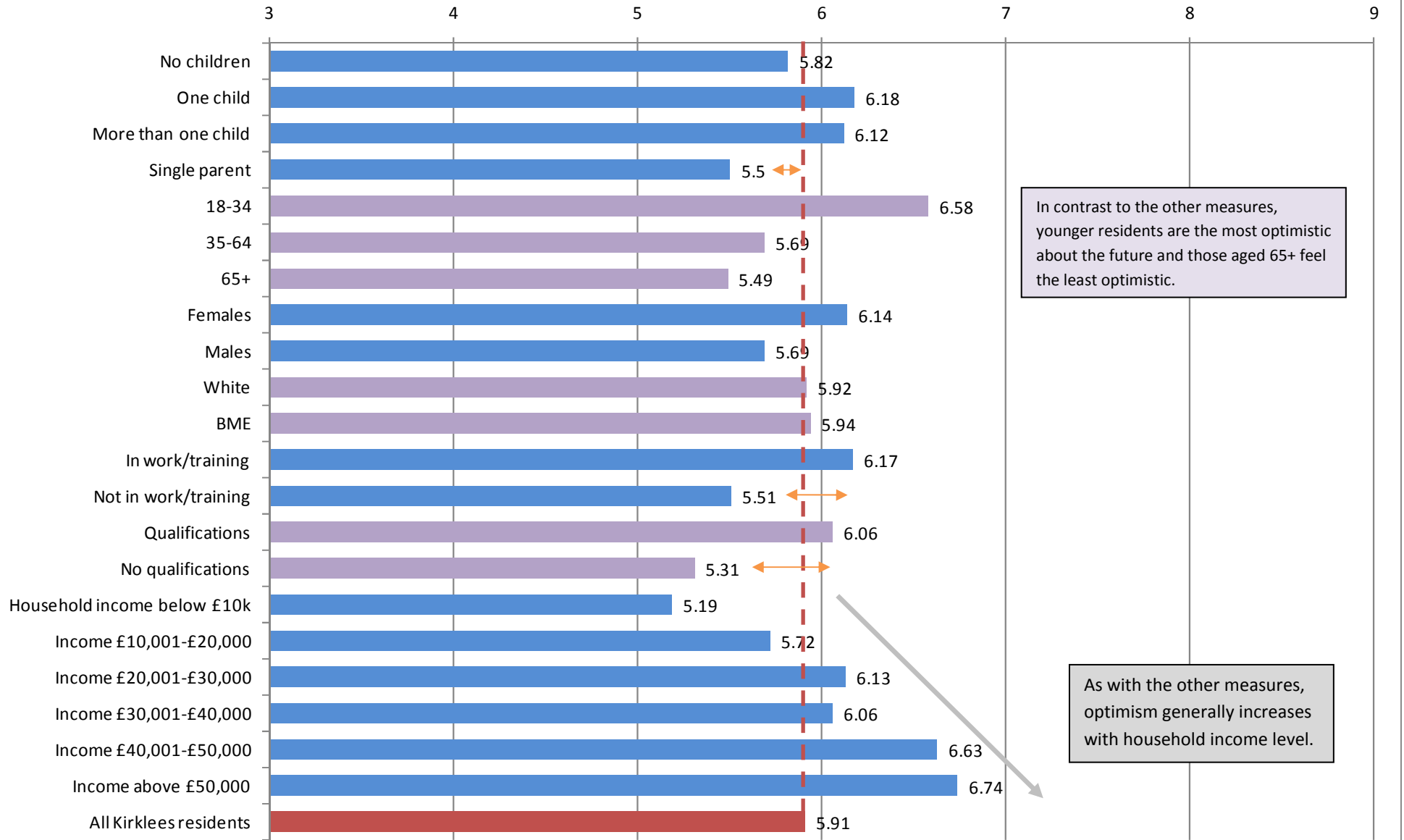
To what extent do you feel the things you do in your life are worthwhile?



How happy/anxious did you feel yesterday?



How optimistic do you feel about the future?



In contrast to the other measures, younger residents are the most optimistic about the future and those aged 65+ feel the least optimistic.

As with the other measures, optimism generally increases with household income level.