Feedback from the consultation

CENTRE FOR LONGITUDINAL STUDIES

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who responded to the consultation on the joint NCDS-BCS70 sweep. All contributions were carefully reviewed by the study team, and we sought guidance from our Scientific Advisory Network to help prioritise the suggestions received.

Below, we provide a summary of the feedback and our responses. To support clarity and transparency, all responses have been anonymised and summarised. Where appropriate, similar points have been grouped together. This approach is intended to make the feedback easier to follow, but please be assured that every individual response was considered in full.

While we greatly appreciate all input, it has not been possible to accommodate every request. The survey is limited to 50 minutes in length, and we must balance the need to retain core longitudinal content, introduce new measures, and maintain participant engagement.

The summary below outlines the key themes raised, the decisions made, and the rationale behind them. Where relevant, we reference new questions included in the draft questionnaire, available on the CLS website.

Please get in touch with us with any further feedback you may have via e-mail (carole.sanchez@ucl.ac.uk and t.adali@ucl.ac.uk) by September 30.

Suggestions on Theme 1: Family, relationships and identity

Topic	Suggestion	Feedback
Caring responsibilities	Numerous requests were received to expand questions on caring responsibilities. Prior sweeps have focused primarily on caring for parents. It was suggested that questions are expanded to cover all caring responsibilities.	A new module on caring responsibilities based on questions asked in ELSA and Understanding Society has been added. Questions cover caring responsibilities in the household, caring responsibilities outside of the household, who provides care to, nature of care provided and total hours of care provided(questions CARHOM through CAREHRS). Care provided to grandchildren is covered separately - replicating previous NCDS/BCS70 sweeps, please see GRANDC through GCCARHM.
Caring responsibilities	To capture if parents are living in the household and if the cohort member thinks they will need to care for them in the future and are making changes to facilitate this.	We collect information on whether parents/parents-in-law are living in the household (HHNUMWH). We have also added a new question to cover the reasons why they are living with the cohort member (PARWHYLIVE). Questions have been added on care provision (see above), both inside and outside of the household, but we have not added a question on future care needs of parents due to space constraints.
Caring responsibilities	To cover caring for grandchildren/how much time spent and what activities they do. Is this care provided on a more 'formal' basis to allow children to work? Are grandchildren living nearby?	Questions on caring for grandchildren have been repeated from NCDS Age 62 and BCS Age 51 Surveys (GRANDC through GCCARHM). We have not this time added a question on proximity of grandchildren due to space constraints.
Children	Reasons for not having children or reasons for not having 'more' children.	BCS70 participants without children were asked the reasons for this at age 42 and age 51. We have included a question for NCDS and BCS70 participants this time (WHYNOC). (We have not added a question for those with children on why they have not had more).

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Climate change	Climate change - various suggestions provided covering: investments made (type of car etc)/actions taken (whether recycle)/perceptions/attitudes and anxiety around climate change/consumption habits and whether these are changing due to climate change/influences (family/social media)/impacts of changes in temperatures/weather patterns on health	We have repeated two attitude questions asked in previous sweeps ('Problems in the environment are not as serious as people claim' and ': Preserving the environment is more important than any other political issue today.') (q27b and q3o).
Discrimination	Experience of discrimination and harassment due to age, sex, gender, sexual orientation, religion, social class, accent etc.	We will collect details on identity but not discrimination/harassment due to this. To be considered again for future sweeps.
Domestic labour	Questions covering the division of domestic (unpaid) labour within the household	Due to space constraints, we were unable to add these questions. These questions were asked in the BCS70 Age 51 Survey.
Gender identity	Include a question on gender identity	We have added a question on gender identity (CMSEX2 and CMGENDER).
Identity	Ask about sexual identity	We have added a question on sexual identity (SXID).
Mental load and emotional labour	Mental load / emotional labour: project managing a household, caring responsibilities	We are not including the division of labour in the household questions as these were asked in previous BCS70 surveys. We have added more extensive questions on caring responsibilities, please see more on this above.
Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood characteristics - in addition to linkage to also collect personal views and aspects on factors such as access to grocery stores,	Linkage to geographical indicators will continue based on address at interview. Questions on neighbourhood have been included (repeated from previous sweeps) covering 'belonging to a neighbourhood' and 'frequency of taking to neighbours' (q31 and q32).

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	cinemas, green spaces, safety in neighbourhood, pollution etc.	
Nostalgia	Collective nostalgia for bygone eras - how is the past collectively experienced today and why does it induce nostalgia. Suggestion was to include Baldwin index of nostalgia.	We were interested in this idea but after discussion with the Scientific Advisory Network concluded that this was not highest priority for this survey.
Parent mortality	How old parents were when they died	This has been asked in all recent sweeps and will be repeated (see MADIED and PADIED).
Perceived social mobility	Perceived social mobility	We have added a question on social class identity (repeated from BCS70 Age 42, see CLASS)
Personality	Questions covering personality disposition of study member - to look further into stability of personality over time and how this is a predictor of partnerships, health, wellbeing and mental health. To have direct alignment of adult personality with childhood items.	We have not added personality questions this time around. Detailed personality questions were asked in the BCS70 Age 51 Survey and NCDS Age 50 Survey. Personality traits are relatively stable in older age and the personality questions are too lengthy to administer in this short web survey.
Pets	Whether have pets - a companion in old age/encourages walking	Repeated question asked in BCS70 Age 51 – PSC (see PETS).
Reflective life review	Include essay-style, reflective questions—similar to those in previous sweeps—to enhance analysis of sentiment and attitudes. Example: "Now that you are 68 years old, looking back on your life, what stands out to you, and how have these experiences shaped who you are today?"	We welcome this idea and propose using a similar question from ELSA: *"Thinking back over your life, with its wide variety of enjoyable as well as difficult experiences, please write about three aspects of your life that have been especially important to you, and how they affected you."* This will meet the aim and allow cross-survey comparisons.

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Relationship quality	Relationship quality - to continue to collect this as in previous sweeps, to monitor changes	Added for partner only (how happy with partner and how close to partner) (PARTCLOSE and RELSAT1).
Social contact	Social isolation/social contact: questions on social networks and social interactions (e.g. number of friends, how often see them, how often interact with family/friends, how the interaction happens if online or in-person)	Added questions from previous sweeps - covering frequency of contact with friends and family (FAMMEET, FAMCONS, FRDMEET, FRDCONS).
Social support	Social support	Added Social Provisions scale as well as a general question on emotional support (have people around/ willing to listen to problems, see LISTEN)
Technology	Technology - covering trust of data use	We have added a number of new questions on internet usage - what they use the internet for/confidence in using it and reasons for not using the internet. In the question that asks reasons why they do not use the internet for various tasks, it has an option related to trust (I don't trust the internet) (see INTERNET, INTCONF, INTNOUSE).
Technology	Use of social media - in particular what platforms used, what content and topic areas viewed and whether seen political content. Covering also whether this has an impact on health.	Social media questions from BCS70 Age 51 have been added related to frequency of use of social media. Detailed health questions will allow for the study of the impact of social media use on health (see SMFREQ, SMFREQD, SMFREQH).
Technology	Digital literacy/ inclusion for an ageing population - how often use the internet/confidence in using digital devices/whether they have a fear of being scammed and whether use online health services or devices (blood pressure monitors)	We have added a question from ELSA covering the services used via the internet and we have added a question to cover how confident they are in using these internet services (see above). Use of specific devices for medical monitoring have not been included.
Technology	Use of digital technologies in family and social relationships (e.g., video calls, messaging apps,	We ask questions on how often the study member has contact with friends and family - besides meeting up. This contact covers

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	social media) to maintain and enhance social connections. In particular, frequency/type and quality of contact	phoning/writing/emailing/text messaging/video calling and social media (FAMCONS and FRDCONS).
Technology	Attitudes to AI - experiences with it / understanding how it is used/impact of AI and how study members can protect themselves from AI-related harms.	Added new questions taken from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey covering their opinion on the impact of AI, whether they have used AI chatbots in the past month and what they have used AI for (see AIIMPACT, AICHAT, AICHATW).
Time-use	General time use - time caring/looking after children/voluntary activities	We cover time spent on various activities separately and haven't brought this together into one question. This was attempted in the COVID web survey but was challenging to work and had a high break off rate.
Victimisation	Questions covering types of violence (physical, sexual, economic, psychological, etc.) as well as victim-perpetrator relationship types, timing of victimisation and indication of severity/injury. Suggestions include mirroring those from the Crime Survey for England and Wales. Questions to cover own experiences as well as experiences as business owner/work and contact with CJS. Questions covering Intimate Partner Violence and Abuse (IPVA) as well as abuse by other family members	This is an important topic and was discussed with our Scientific Advisory Network. Concerns were raised about the sensitivity of these questions for this sweep. The BCS70 Age 51 Survey very recently asked questions on IPVA. This could be considered for the next major sweep. For now, we have added life events questions asking: "Have you, or an immediate family member, been subject to abuse, attack or threat for another reason" and "Have you or an immediate family member been a victim of crime." (see LIFEEVENTS1)
Voting	Voting - in general and local elections	We will ask about voting in last general election (see VOTE and VOTEWHO) but there is not scope within this survey to cover local elections (these happen at different time points so difficult to cover adequately).

Suggestions on Theme 2: Housing, finances, employment, and education

Topic	Suggestion	Feedback
Age discrimination	Barriers to extended working lives often stem from discrimination or poor workplace adaptation. Suggested Questions: - Have you experienced age-related discrimination at work? - Do you feel supported by your employer in extending your working life? - What factors would encourage you to stay in work longer?	Unfortunately due to the time constraints we have in this questionnaire we have not been able to add a specific question related to discrimination at work due to age. However, for those transitioning in and out of work, we capture reasons for their move which could indicate some of the barriers faced such as ill health (in WPREAS as a potential retirement reason, CLJYEND for leaving work, UMEMPY for reason of unemployment).
Benefit receipt	Important to ascertain whether participants are receiving benefits	We will have a question on sources of income which will include the most commonly received benefits as answer options (SRCINC08). Space constraints mean we cannot this time ask about income from each benefit received individually.
Economic activity changes	Include questions on changes in occupation, including those who continue working after retirement, participation in voluntary work, and shifts in working hours (e.g. full-time to part-time).	The economic activity history section will capture this information.
Financial expectations	Include questions on financial expectations—e.g. expected expenditure over the next 10 years, saving for social care costs, perceptions of pension adequacy, and plans for passing on wealth.	While these topics are not asked directly, the survey includes questions on savings, debt, mortgage payments, and pensions to build a detailed picture of current financial circumstances and future planning. We also cover financial expectations through questions such as: "What are the chances that at some point in the future you will not have enough financial resources to meet your needs?" (YLQ40m) "What are the chances you will ever move to a nursing home or require

Topic	Suggestion	Feedback
		long-term care at home?" (YLQ40f) These items help us understand both financial preparedness and anticipated care needs.
Financial situation	Include subjective questions about the current economic situation and financial management, such as reducing spending on essentials due to rising costs and confidence in handling unexpected expenses.	We have included the question, *"How well would you say you personally are managing financially these days?"* which was used in previous sweeps (see FINNOW). However, we have not asked specifically about reducing spending on essentials due to rising costs or confidence in meeting costs, although questions on financial expectations cover future finances (as outlined above).
Housing expectations	Include questions on expected future house moves, reasons for moving, how long respondents expect to stay in their current property, and plans for downsizing.	We have not covered intensions to move in the future but we do ask about reasons for moves which have happened - where downsizing is an option (HOMEG). The expectations module also includes a question about the likelihood of moving into a care home/nursing home in the future (YLQ40f).
Housing expectations	Include questions on whether people are renting or plan to rent in retirement, and whether they can afford these housing costs or have concerns about meeting them.	We will establish whether participants are currently renting (TENCK-TENURE). We have not specifically asked about expectations to rent in later life. The expectations module does however include a question which captures concerns about meeting living expenses in future (YLQ40m).
Housing quality	Include questions on housing quality, heating, overcrowding, satisfaction, and linkage to more detailed housing data.	We have repeated questions from previous sweeps on housing which include tenure and number of rooms (TENCK - TENURE, NUMROOMS), which in combination with information we will collect about number of people in the home can be used to derive a measure of overcrowding. We have also included a question on damp (DAMP), and a question on satisfaction with housing (HOMSAT).
Housing suitability	Include questions on housing suitability for disability and mobility issues, including any adaptations made (e.g. stair lifts).	We recognise this will become an increasingly important topic as study participants age. Space constraints mean we have not added questions on

Topic	Suggestion	Feedback
		this topic to the web survey - but this will very likely be a key topic for the next main sweep.
Housing wealth	Collect information about the value of property owned and outstanding mortgage.	We have included a question on whether participants own their homes outright or have a mortgage (TENCK-TENURE). We have also included a question about the value of property owned (see HVAL, HVALB).
Hybrid working arrangements	Important to better understand working patterns in terms of split between home working and working elsewhere.	Questions adapted from recent survey sweeps to allow for better understanding of the split between home working and working elsewhere (see WRKPLCE, WRKPLCESE, WRKPROP).
Income	Important to capture income from all sources - including from owned property	Space constraints mean that we have had to reduce the level of detail collected with regard to the different components of income. We have included a question on different sources of income (SRCINC08) - and will follow this with a question asking for total household income from all sources. It will not be possible to collect income from each source separately on this occasion.
Inheritance tax	Include questions on inheritance tax and any measures taken to limit or avoid it.	We did not feel that NCDS and BCS70 were the most suitable studies to cover this topic
Intergenerational financial mobility	Include questions that allow comparison of income and financial circumstances across generations.	Childhood sweeps collected information about family income. Adult sweeps have collected information about participant income. This data can be used to compare circumstances across generations.
Intergenerational transfers	Include questions on inherited wealth and intergenerational transfers—particularly support given to children, how inheritance is used (e.g. for retirement planning or pensions), and broader patterns of wealth transfer.	This was asked in detail in the previous NCDS sweep and to a lesser extent in the previous sweep of BCS70. After careful consideration we have concluded that there will not be scope to include these questions in the web survey, though we envisage repeating these questions again in the next major sweep.

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Job satisfaction	Vital to measure job satisfaction	We will repeat the question JOBSATIS from previous sweeps which measures job satisfaction.
Job security	Job security - and self perception on whether they would be able to find another job, in particular related to age.	We ask about job security in general but do not ask this specific to age (please see JSECURE).
Job stress	Important to include a measure of job stress	This has been added (see WKSTRESS).
Non-compete clauses	Include questions on the prevalence of non-compete clauses restricting post-employment work for competitor firms	Our view was that this is too niche a research interest for the measure to be included in this survey.
Occupational hazards	Occupational hazards including noise exposure/environmental issues	We collect detailed information on occupation - and concluded that this information could be used to make assumptions about noise exposure and other risks.
Pensions	Include questions on the use of support and advice from family, friends, and professionals when making decisions about pensions.	Added a new question from ELSA Wave 11 (WPINFS).
Physical demands of work	Collect information about the physicality of occupations	We collect detailed information on occupation - and concluded that this information could be used to make assumptions about physicality. We have asked specifically about physicality of work in prior sweeps.
Productivity	Ask participants how productive they are at work and whether changes to working arrangements (such as more working from home) could, in their view, make them more productive?	As noted above we have improved questions about working from home to better understand people's working patterns - but we have not added questions about how productivity could be improved.

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Qualifications	Participation in education and or formal training	Space constraints mean that we have had to reduce the detail in terms of qualifications obtained compared to previous sweeps, but we will establish which qualifications have been obtained since last sweep (ANYQUA through WHATQUALX).
Retirement	Include questions on how ill health affects retirement decisions, early access to private pensions, and leaving the labour market earlier than planned.	We have extensive questions on ill-health and the data collected will usable to assess the impact on access to private pensions and early retirement.
Retirement adjustment	Include measures of wellbeing in retirement, specifically focusing on the retirement adjustment process. Recommended tools include the Retirement Resources Inventory (RRI), Reasons for Retirement Questionnaire (RRQ), Retirement Experiences Questionnaire (REQ), Self-perceived Stress in Retirement Scale, and the Adjustment to Retirement Scale.	It has not been possible to include these specific scales in the web survey - but we do have extensive measures of well-being, which can be used in combination with the economic activity history data to compare wellbeing amongst those who are retired and those who are not.
Retirement and longevity	Include questions on life expectancy and the impact of this on retirement planning	The expectations module will cover life expectancy (see YLQ40a, YLQ40b, q24) and retirement expectations (YLQ37b, YLQ39a, YLQ39b, YLQ40c, YLQ40d, YLQ40e) - and the economic activity history will capture information about the timing of retirement.
State pension	Establish whether (NCDS) participants have claimed their state pension or deferred	We have added questions on this - from ELSA Wave 11 (see WPSPD through WPSPD3Y).
Zero-hours contracts	Important to establish whether participants are working on zero-hours contracts	This has been added (see ZEROWK).

Suggestions on Theme 3: Health and wellbeing

Topic	Suggestion	Feedback
Adverse Childhood Experiences	Ask about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) experienced as a child. https://www.acesaware.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/ACE-Questionnaire-for-Adults-Identified-English-rev.7.26.22.pdf	We have life-course data which will provide this information. We recently included some of these questions in the NCDS Age 62 survey 'Childhood Questionnaire'. Retrospective ACEs were also asked of NCDS participants at age 44.
Caring needs	Caring needs of study member. Disability - activities of daily living are important - IADL/ADL. Receipt of care - are they receiving care from family/friends or via the council/private	We have added a new section covering the caring requirements of the study member. We have adapted questions used on ELSA/NHSD and cover ADLs (Activities of Daily Living) and IADLs (Instrumental Activities of Daily Living). We have also added questions on receipt of care (see HEBAL through CAHRI).
Children	Child health	This has been asked in previous sweeps - there is not enough scope to cover this in this survey.
Cognition	Cognition - request received to repeat cognitive tests given to cohort members previously to help monitor progressive decline	The cognitive tests conducted in recent sweeps are not suitable for web administration. We hope to administer an online battery of cognitive tests - separately to the web survey. In the web survey we will ask a question on self-rated memory (MEMORY).
Cognition	Self-reported memory	A question has been added from ELSA (MEMORY).
Dental health	It has been shown that number of teeth has been associated with cognitive decline, frailty, mental health and social isolation among others.	Two questions have been added about teeth (number of teeth as asked in NCDS Age 62) (see TEETH) and self-rating of dental health from BCS70 Age 51 (DENHLTH).

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Diet	Diet	Recent sweeps have had an Online Dietary Questionnaire (ODQ). We do not have the scope to cover adequately in this sweep.
Eyesight and Hearing	Establish whether uses hearing aid or glasses	We have included questions on functional hearing and vision - which include use of hearing aids (but not use of glasses) (HEARPRB through HEARAGE, EYEPRBT through EYEAGE).
Falls	Collect information about falls	Repeated questions asked on the NCDS Age 62 Survey (FALL12M through OFRACW).
Gambling	Collect information about gambling	This has been covered in our younger cohorts but due to space constraints has not been added to this survey.
Health care	Include qualitative questions on experiences of seeking health care and how this has made people feel	We have added a series of questions on health care - but due to space constraints we have not included qualitative questions on this topic.
Health expenses	Collect information about health expenses and future planning for health expenses	A question has been added (based on a question used in the ELSA survey) which asks for all services accessed whether they have been used under NHS or paid for privately (SERFUND). There is also a question from ELSA which asks if they have paid for care received at home in the past 2 years. We have not covered future planning for health/care expenses (although we do ask about savings).
Health insurance	Ask about private health insurance	Repeated questions asked in NCDS Age 62 Survey (WPPHI, PRIVHC).
Health services	Attendance at GP and general health seeking behaviours and outcomes.	Questions added have been based on ELSA/NSHD covering access to all health services/whether able to access/time waited and if private or NHS funded (SERVUSE-SERVACC).

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Incontinence	Collect information about incontinence	Due to space limitations, it has not been possible to cover this topic area in this sweep.
Laterality	Left and right handedness	We have not added a question on this but this information has been collected previously.
Medication	Collect information about medication taken	Collecting detail on all medications taken is beyond the scope of this survey. We have added a question on weight loss medication (MEDSWEIGHT).
Menopause	Menopause including HRT/other treatments for symptoms of menopause	Repeated questions from the BCS70 Age 51 survey (covering also menstruation, GYNPRBHP through HRTPERB).
Mental health conditions	Cover mental health conditions in questions on chronic conditions	We have added a response option to the question about chronic conditions (KHLPRB2) - 'An emotional, nervous or psychiatric problem' to question KHLPRB2.
Mental health conditions	Include CASP-19 scale to increase comparability with other ongoing ageing studies.	CASP-6 has been added for both NCDS and BCS70. This was asked in NCDS Age 62 and NCDS 55 (Q19a through Q19f).
Mortality risk perception	Measure perceived uncontrollable mortality risk (PUMR) using two 0–100 scale questions comparing estimated longevity with maximum health effort versus no effort	The expectations module does include questions about anticipated life expectancy - we ask what age people expect to live to, plus how likely it is that people will live to different ages (q24, YLQ40a and YLQ40b). We have not however included questions differentiating between levels of effort to maximise health.
Musicality	Include musicality phenotypes via self-report questions—covering emotion regulation through music, social musical reward, and musical rhythm—given their links to loneliness, social connection, language development, and cognitive function.	This is an interesting suggestion but there is not enough space in this sweep to cover these topics in the detail required. This questionnaire does include leisure activity questions on playing music and attending concerts (see MUSIC, CONCERT).

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Neurodiversity	Include questions on neurodiversity, covering both diagnosis and self-identification, with screeners such as CATI-6 (autistic traits) and ASRS-5 (ADHD symptoms).	Given time constraints, we have not included validated screeners, but we have added a question on whether participants identify with a trait or have received a diagnosis, and at what age (NEUROT, NEURODAG, NEUROAGE). This is adapted from the NCDS Age 61 Life History Questionnaire.
Pain	Pain/chronic pain- impact on daily activities	Two questions have been added from the BCS70 Age 51 Survey (from the SF_36 - pain subscale). They ask how much pain they have had in 4 weeks (q20) and the extent that this interferes with work (inside and outside the home including housework) (q21).
Psychological resilience and sense of purpose	Psychological resilience and sense of purpose are key factors in healthy ageing. Suggested Questions: - To what extent do you feel your life has purpose? - How confident are you in your ability to adapt to changes in later life? - How often do you feel optimistic about the future?	This is well covered by the CASP-6 Quality of Life scale which has been added (Q19a through Q19f).
Sexual health	Include measures of sexual function and wellbeing—such as the brief Natsal-SF scale and the new 13-item Natsal sexual wellbeing measure—given their links to physical/mental health, relationships, and sexual health outcomes.	We agree this is an important area, but space constraints prevent us from covering it in the required detail in this sweep. We will consider it for the next main sweep.
Sleep	Collect information about sleep	Questions on sleep repeated from previous sweeps (YLQ12, YLQ13, YLQ14a, YLQ14b).
Smoking and drinking	Vital to repeat measures of smoking and drinking.	The AUDIT-PC will be repeated as a measure of problematic drinking (DRINKFQ-DRWORRY). For smoking we have repeated questions as

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		asked in previous sweeps (SMOKING through AGEQUIT) (and also cover vaping via ECIGUSE).
Stammering	Questions on whether cohort members currently stammer. Childhood sweeps contain questions about stammering, but most cases spontaneously recover at puberty. Adults who persist in stammering after that point are likely to be lifelong stammerers.	We have not added questions on having a stammer as this would only impact on a small proportion of the cohort and due to space constraints we do not have the scope to cover in this sweep.
Social contact	Loneliness - UCLA loneliness scale	Added three questions from UCLA loneliness scale as well as a fourth question asking 'how often do you feel lonely'. These questions were also asked in the previous sweeps (LONELYA through LONELYC and LONELY).
Subjective well-being	Important to measure stress, anxiety and life-satisfaction	We have repeated our standard life-satisfaction question which has been included in many sweeps (LIFESAT1). Anxiety is covered by the GAD-2 - and we have several other mental health scales (GAD2PHQ2A through, MHSTILL5). We have a specific question on job stress (WKSTRESS).
Weight loss	Collect information about intended and unintended weight loss	We have repeated questions asking for weight and whether they are trying to lose weight (CHANGEWT).
Weight loss medication	Establish whether using weight loss medication	We have added a new question on this (MEDSWEIGHT).