Designing user-centred, supportive work environments and wellness programmes informed by structured measurement and psychology

Healthy Cities Design Conference – 15th October

Cat Dean & Emely Broeker



The challenge



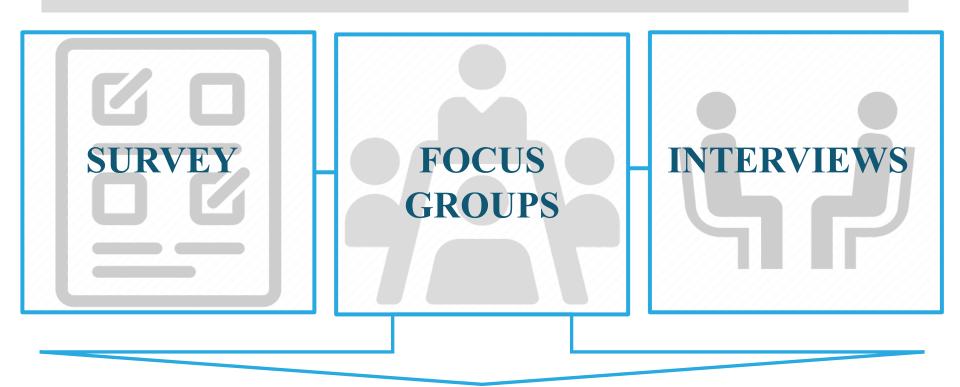
The context

- Work as Arup+, a consortium of 7 organisations
- Team of ~ 1400
- Geographically dispersed
- 7 year long project to deliver the hybrid bill



Our approach

Diagnostics



- 1. Affirm top wellbeing challenges
- 2. Make informed recommendations
- 3. Understand change readiness

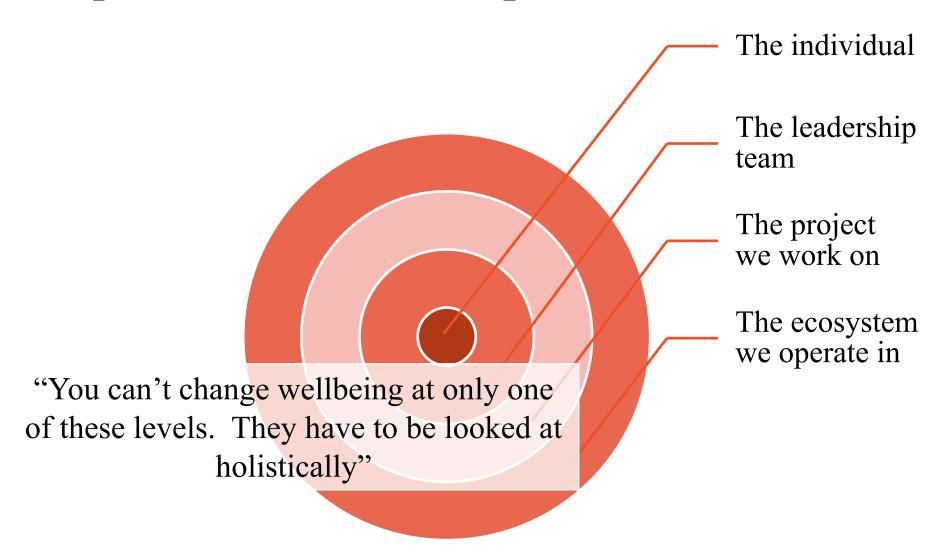


Insights to Wellbeing

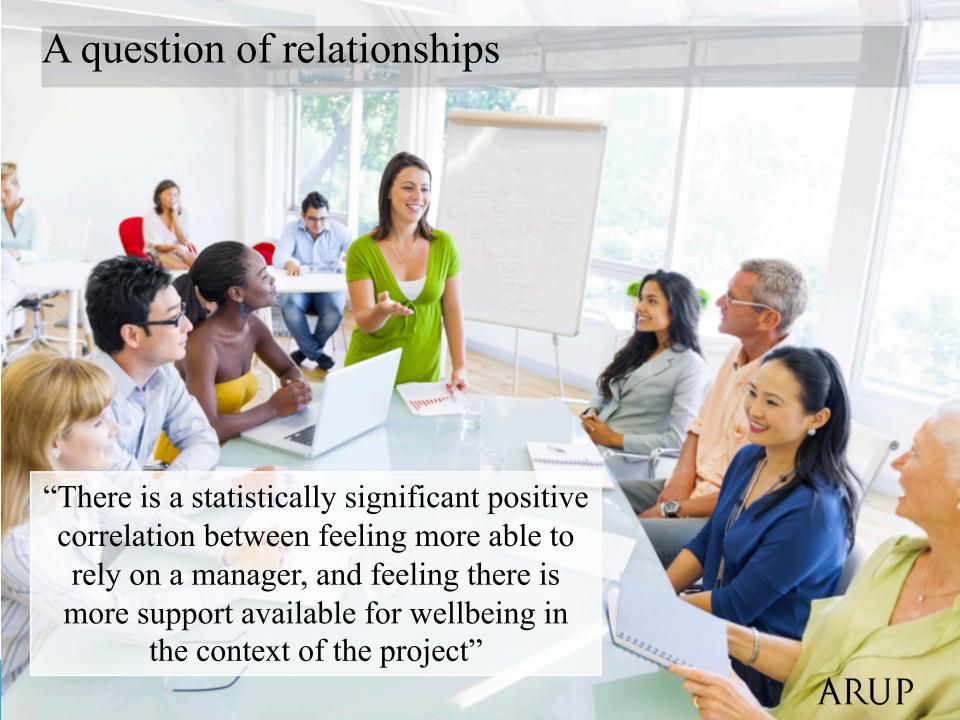
What emerged

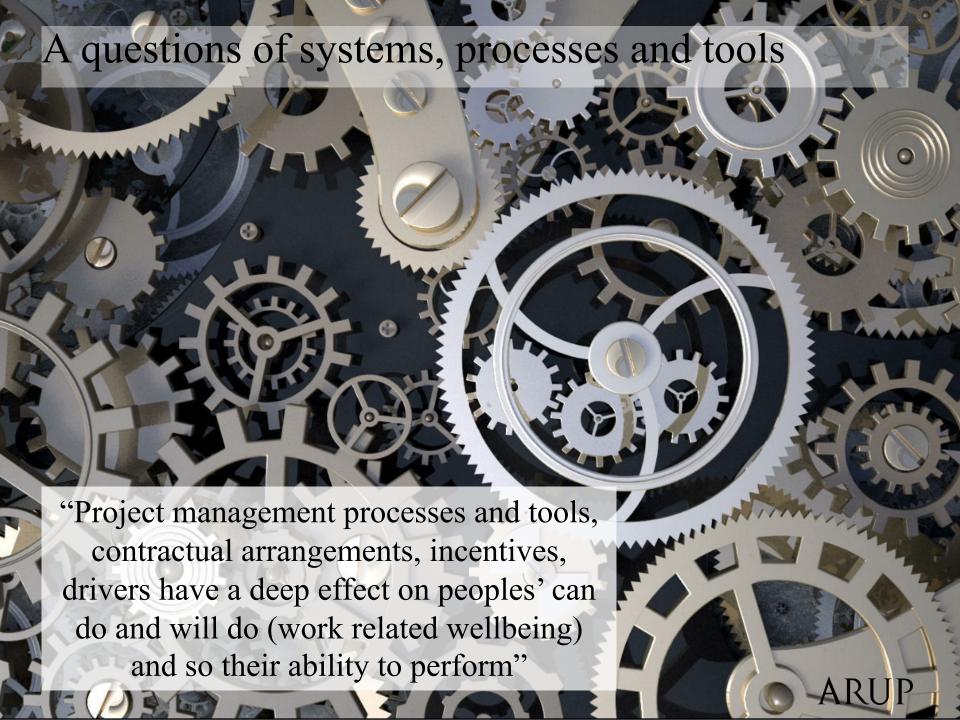


A question of ownership



ARUP





Our response

Create ownership at all levels





People often move straight onto the next goal without pausing to appreciate the effort and achievement of the previous work carried out.

Simply acknowledging success helps reawaken the parts of our brain that are best suited to problem-solving, remaining persistent in the face of short-term set backs, thinking of new ideas, and strengthen relationships.

<u>Action:</u> Acknowledge the effort and input, as well as the outcomes, of work done so far at the start of your next project meeting

"I would like to pause to say well done for sticking with this task, under difficult circumstances. As a result, we have <describe impact>"

ARUP + SAMBOLL I TYPES - COSTAIN

Wellbeing Champions



We all have mental health, just as we have physical health. Both can fluctuate and hence change from one minute to the next. With 1 in 6 of us likely to experience common mental health challenges, including anxiety, and depression, managing our own mental health is important. Working on any project can be demanding and at times we are all likely to experience pressure, but there is strong evidence that we can take steps to reduce the effects on our wellbeing.

There are several, trained Wellbeing Champions on the project, who want our staff to flourish at work, and can assist you in finding ways how to deal with pressures if you encounter them. We are all passionate about promoting positive mental health across the project, and normalise conversations around the topic. We have an open ear to anyone that wants to talk, and can signpost to appropriate resources and support you moving forward.

You can come and speak to us anytime. Call, email or just approach us.

Anything that you share, will remain completely confidential!



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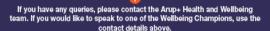
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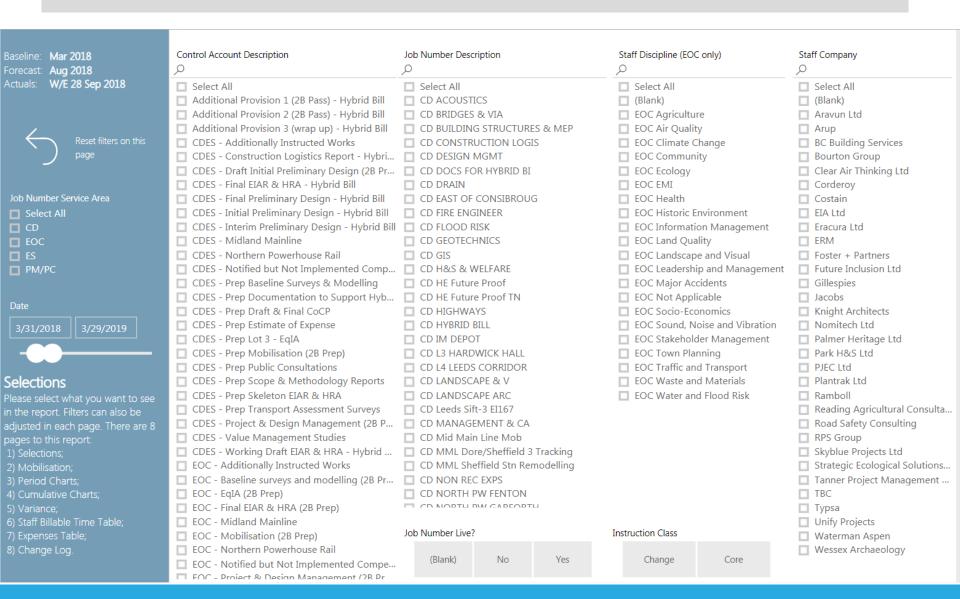








Improve system, processes and tools



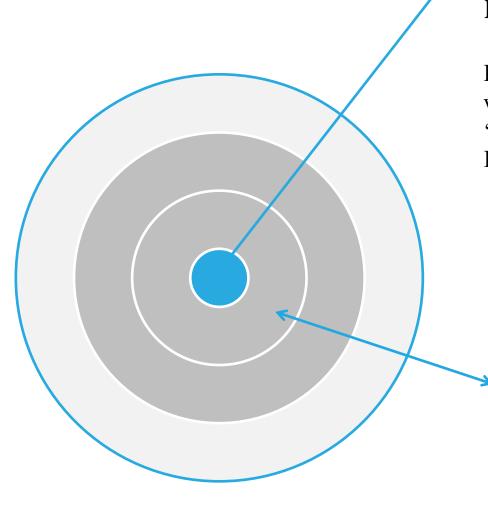


Moving forward

Can we ask the wellbeing questions differently?



How can we look at this differently?



The individual

Deep reflection about what it means to work 'well' Individual ownership

Consider the system

Understand what wellbeing means across the system Self-driven, sustainable change

Should we be considering wellbeing differently?

• Is wellbeing something that can ever be 'solved'?

Mindset shift:

- Connecting to what we, as individuals, need
- Connecting to what the system around us needs – and acting on this, even if the changes are small



What did we learn?

- Building ownership and accountability at all levels and system wide
- Getting people as involved in their own wellbeing story as they can
- Build opportunities to reflect and connect rather than dictated wellbeing interventions
- Allowing opportunities to influence the system to emerge

Maybe we need to shift our perspective on wellbeing: from a doctor patient model of 'curing' our wellbeing challenges, to a self led, or even community led approach. What do you think?