## Why culture is the bedrock of a successful wellbeing strategy

#### **Clare Dare**

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PART OF \ pibGroup



#### My background

- Head of Consulting for Health and Wellbeing at PIB Employee Benefits
- > 35 years in Employee Benefits
- Supported some clients for 15+ years

**Previously at:** 

Broadstone



#### **Specialist in:**

- Supporting large corporate businesses
- Taking a holistic approach to health, risk and wellbeing
- Implementing preventative measures to contain costs and improve wellbeing



### Why does culture matter?





Consider your first experience joining a business.

### Why did you join them?



# What feelings do you have about it now?



# Consider your most recent experience joining a company.

# How does the dream sold at interview match the reality?



# How important was the culture of the business to you?



### What is different?





"A top-down approach to building company culture no longer works for several reasons.

For one, COVID-19 has upended how leaders interact with employees and how coworkers connect with each other. Next, company culture has grown in importance, thanks to recent high-profile crises at big name companies. A new culture-building approach is already in place at some organizations, one in which everyone in the organization is responsible for it.

Importantly, this model doesn't relegate culture-building to an amorphous concept that everyone influences but no one leads or is accountable for. And it weaves in perspectives from employees to customers, from middle managers to the CEO.

- Denise Lee Yohn, Harvard Business Review





#### What are the some of the barriers to getting this right?



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#### The cost of inaction

Not all the risks associated with poor wellbeing are visible; many are hidden or conflated with other issues.

A lack of investment in wellbeing and culture can result in:

- Poor onboarding
- > Poor communication
- Office politics
- Bullying/toxicity

Employees need clarity about who they work for, cultural expectations, and the wellbeing support available.



#### What are your challenges?

- How do you feel today about how well your culture is understood?
- Do you feel your wellbeing programme is aligned to this?
- > How authentic does it feel as we sit here today?



#### The wellbeing revolution

We surveyed 1,000 HR decision makers about their wellbeing support, key challenges, and priorities.



wellbeing strategy

to drive decisions

strong leadership support for wellbeing initiatives



#### **Wellbeing barriers**

What are the current wellbeing-related challenges?

Increa	asing costs								
Not er	nough budge	et							
Data a	availability/a	ocuracy							
Confli	icting busine	ess priorities							
Not er	nough time a	and / or peopl	e						
Lack of senior leadership support									
Lack of line manager skills or confidence to support employees									
Lack of a clear wellbeing strategy and objectives									
Lack	of data to un	derstand imp	act						
Lack of employee engagement									
There are too many wellbeing issues to address									
There are too many wellbeing providers									
Other									
Don't	know								
We do	o not face an	y challenges							
%	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	

**40%** of employers state that rising costs are a key challenge

A quarter feel there isn't enough budget or resource



#### **Key focuses for HR**



53% are trying to address employee loyalty and retention



52% want to increase employee satisfaction and engagement



48% are focusing on improved performance and productivity



42% are investing in an enhanced workplace culture



#### What are the future challenges?

Addressing different generational needs within the workplace										
Diversity, equity and inclusion objectives										
Childcare and support for families										
Providing support for individuals who have caring responsibilities										
An ageing population in the UK										
Providing employees with financial wellbeing support										
Line manager training in relation to wellbeing										
Managing the costs of providing health and wellbeing support										
Addressing underlying health risks – cancer, diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular disease										
Organisational transformation / changes in job roles										
Organisational resilience – attracting and retaining good employees										
I don't think my business will prioritise any well-being related challenges in the next 3 years										
■ 0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50	0%									

We also asked companies what they would implement if budget/resource was no issue:

> 52% would most want to introduce initiatives to support mental and emotional health

36% would invest in preventative measures



#### The changing workplace





Later retirement age

#### Needs to work part time

#### Sandwich carer

Works remotely

Differing attitudes

#### The changing workplace

How do you ensure everyone is included in your wellbeing initiatives?

Companies need to consider:

- > Generational differences
- Challenging legacy practices
- > Building trust in employees
- > Signposting resources



#### Why does 'belonging' matter?



#### Physiological Needs

breathing, food, water, shelter, clothing, sleep



# Businesses are results driven, but people are driven by beliefs



#### **Overcoming inertia**





# Is there value in this and what I am doing?



#### How do we experience?

**Our experiences drive our beliefs. There are three types of experience:** 





#### How can this apply to culture and wellbeing?



Q: so how can we change this?



### What is the why?



How do we communicate it to everyone effectively?



Why are we introducing these initiatives?



# How do they link back to our beliefs?



# Do our actions match our narrative?



### Are we being inclusive?



#### **Building consistency**

Communications need to be consistent across written communications, exec messaging and line manager conversations.

- > Mixed messaging can be damaging
- Ensure everyone understands the why and can explain onwards
- > Gather feedback





#### What works best?

The most successful wellbeing initiatives meet employees where they are; catering to diverse needs and providing impactful support.

- > Three key steps:
- > Understand the who
- > Educate on why
- > Engage on how



"The "good life" is described by philosophers and psychologists as consisting of authentic expressions of self, a sense of wellbeing, and active engagement in life and work.

Wellbeing and active employee engagement are outcomes of value in themselves to work organisations but also improve performance and reduce turnover.

- Anna Sutton, Living the Good Life





### It is win/win when we get it right:

Authenticity Personalisation Hidden Gems Data informed



#### **PIB Employee Benefits**

We are a client-focused employee benefits consultancy, providing holistic support to clients of all sizes – from micro-SMEs to large multinationals.

- > Formed in 2015, part of the PIB Group
- > 100 employees based across the UK
- > A headhunted, experienced team

**About PIB Group:** PIB Group has 3,800 employees across 18 offices in the UK, Ireland, Poland, Spain, Italy, Netherlands, Germany and Romania.

Every day, we see how employee benefits can have a transformational impact on the organisations we support – and on the lives of their people.

#### It's why we do things differently:





### **Questions?**

