

1 Availability, use of, and satisfaction with greenspace, and children’s mental wellbeing at age 4 in a multicultural
2 urban deprived area: results from the Born in Bradford cohort study.

3

4 Rosemary R C McEachan, PhD*^a; Tiffany Yang, PhD^{ab}; Hannah Roberts, PhD^a; Kate E Pickett, PhD^b; Diana Arseneau-
5 Powell. MSc^b; Chris Gidlow, PhD^c; John Wright, FRCS^a; Mark Nieuwenhuijsen, PhD^e

6

7 *Corresponding author: rosie.mceachan@bthft.nhs.uk, +44 (0) 1274 38 3173

8

9 ^a Bradford Institute for Health Research, Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Bradford, BD9 6RJ, UK.

10 ^b Department of Health Sciences, Seebohm Rowntree Building, University of York, YO10 5DD, UK.

11 ^c Centre for Health and Development (CHAD), Staffordshire University, Brindley Building,

12 Leek Road, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, ST4 2DF

13 ^d ISGlobal, Barcelona Institute for Global Health, c/Rossello, 132 5th 2nd. 08036 Barcelona.

14

15

Citation:

McEachan RRC, Yang TC, Roberts H, Pickett KE, Arseneau-Powell D, Gidlow CJ, Wright J, Nieuwenhuijsen M. Availability, use of, and satisfaction with green space, and children’s mental wellbeing at age 4 years in a multicultural, deprived, urban area: results from the Born in Bradford cohort study. Lancet Planet. Heal. 2018;2.

16

17

18 **Abstract**

19 Background:

20 It is unknown whether quantity or quality of greenspace is more important for wellbeing. We aimed to explore
21 relationships between mental wellbeing amongst 4 year-old children with availability of, satisfaction with, and use of
22 greenspace in a multi-ethnic sample.

23

24 Methods:

25 Parent-reported mental wellbeing, assessed using the Strengths and Difficulties questionnaire was collected for
26 N=2594 four-year-olds. Total, internalising and externalising difficulties and prosocial scales were computed.
27 Residential greenspace using the Normalised Difference Vegetation Index around home addresses, and distance to
28 major greenspaces was computed. A sub-sample (N=832) completed measures of satisfaction with, and use of, local
29 greenspaces. Multiple regressions examined relationships and explored moderation by ethnicity (White British,
30 South Asian) or socio-economic status.

31

32 Findings:

33 Ethnicity moderated relationships between residential greenspace and wellbeing. Greenspace was negatively
34 associated with internalising difficulties for South Asian children only across all buffer zones (100m: B=-2.35 95%CI -
35 4.20, -.05; 300m: B=-3.15, 95%CI: -5.18, -1.13; 500m: B=-2.85 95%CI: -4.91, -0.80, N=1504), but this effect was
36 rendered non-significant after controlling for satisfaction with, and use of, greenspace. Satisfaction with greenspace
37 was significantly associated with fewer total, and internalising difficulties, and greater prosocial behaviour.

38

39 Interpretation:

40 Positive effects of greenspace on wellbeing differ by ethnicity. Satisfaction with the quality of greenspace is a more
41 important predictor than quantity of greenspace. Health and urban planners need to focus on both quality and
42 quantity of urban greenspaces in order to promote health, particularly amongst ethnic minority groups.

43

44 Funding: EU FP7 Framework (grant number 282996)

45

46 **Keywords**

47 Greenspace, Preschool, Ethnicity, Strengths and Difficulties, SDQ, Mental Health,

48

49 **Research in context**

50
51 **Evidence before this study**

52 We searched Web of Science, Medline and Psycinfo databases up to the 12th December 2017 with the following
53 search terms: ('Green space') and ('child' or 'preschool', both MESH headings) and ('mental health', MESH Term or
54 'strengths and difficulties' or 'SDQ'). We also searched reference list of previous systematic reviews in the area. We
55 included quantitative studies which calculated an objective measure of greenspace availability using geographical
56 information systems data (for example, % greenspace within a predefined buffer or satellite derived estimates of
57 greenspace density), included child or preschool aged samples and used the standardised 'Strengths and Difficulties
58 Questionnaire' as the primary outcome measure. We located 8 studies examining relationships between aspects of
59 greenspace and wellbeing assessed using the SDQ with inconsistent findings. None of these compared the relative
60 contribution of quantity, quality and use in associations between greenspace and wellbeing. Few studies explored
61 whether associations were moderated by socio-economic status and no studies explored variations by ethnicity.
62 Limitations of previous literature included being unable to control for parental wellbeing.

63
64 **Added value of this study**

65 Our study is the first to explore relative contributions of quantity, quality and use in relationships between
66 greenspace and wellbeing in a multi-ethnic urban deprived sample of preschool children. We found that more
67 greenspace was associated with fewer total, and internalising difficulties in South Asian origin children living in the
68 UK, but found no association for White British children. We found that South Asian children spent less time playing
69 outside in greenspaces, and that their parents were less satisfied with their greenspaces. We found that satisfaction
70 with quality of with local greenspaces was a more important predictor of wellbeing than either quantity, or use of
71 greenspace amongst South Asian Families. Unlike some previous studies, we found no evidence of moderation by
72 socio-economic status.

73
74 **Implications of all the available evidence**

75 Greenspace is a promising intervention to promote positive wellbeing in children. However, quantity of greenspace
76 is not in itself sufficient to promote health. Ethnic minority groups typically have less access to high quality
77 greenspaces which heightens health inequalities. Urban planners and public health professionals should work
78 together to increase the availability and quality of greenspaces for marginalised communities using a combination of
79 structural and community based interventions.

83

84 **INTRODUCTION**

85 Mental ill-health is a major source of disease ,(1) with costs estimated to be \$2.5 trillion globally.(2) Natural
86 environments are important determinants of physical and mental health(3-5) and, with over 50% of the global
87 population and 73% of Europe’s population (6) living in urban areas, urban greenspaces (UGS) have an important
88 role in improving the quality of life for urban dwellers. Despite a body of evidence linking UGS to mental health
89 amongst adults, a recent systematic review highlighted the paucity of evidence exploring relationships between
90 natural environments and children’s mental health. (4) As mental ill-health in childhood is an important predictor of
91 mental health in adulthood(7) it is important to ascertain the potential of UGS in promoting mental wellbeing
92 amongst children.

93

94 Studies have reported mixed effects of the impact of UGS on mental wellbeing (8-15) as assessed by the Strengths
95 and Difficulties Questionnaire (16).A limitation of these studies is that, with the exception of one (10), none were
96 able to control for the impact of maternal mental wellbeing on children’s outcomes, a factor which has been shown
97 to predict later distress amongst children (e.g. (17)). Differences in measurement of greenspace exposure also likely
98 played a role in the mixed research findings. Many studies use area-based measures of greenspace such as a
99 percentage of greenspace within a predefined geographic unit (e.g. (10)) or the normalised difference vegetation
100 index (NDVI), which estimates density of green vegetation within a predefined area (e.g.(11)). However, these
101 measures do not assess the actual or perceived quality of local greenspace, and how it is used by local communities.
102 Quality can be measured objectively through use of standardised audit tools (e.g. (18)) or via asking participants to
103 rate attributes of environments according to a range of criteria (e.g. (19)). Quality of greenspace has been shown to
104 independently predict adult’s mental wellbeing in addition to indicators of quantity (e.g. (19) and for a review see
105 (5)). A recent study explored relationships between objectively assessed quality, satisfaction with, and use of local
106 greenspace in a multi-ethnic deprived community.(20) Poorer quality greenspaces assessed via park audits
107 influenced perceived satisfaction with greenspaces, suggesting that satisfaction can be a useful proxy for objective
108 assessments of quality. Further, quality of greenspace predicted subsequent use of these spaces. To fully investigate
109 the differences in the relationships between greenspace and health outcomes for different groups, it is important to
110 have information about how these spaces are perceived and used. However with some notable exceptions (e.g. (9,
111 10)) there is a paucity of literature in this area and studies exploring the relative contribution of availability of,
112 satisfaction with and use of greenspace on mental wellbeing amongst children are warranted.

113

114 There is important debate in the literature about for whom interventions to promote greenspace availability and use
115 might be most effective. Interventions such as increasing access to nature may function as a tool to reduce health
116 inequalities by disproportionately benefiting those in greatest need.(21) Beneficial effects also appear to vary by
117 ethnicity, although results are mixed (e.g. (22, 23)) and there are no studies exploring variations in the context of

118 children's mental wellbeing. Reasons for ethnic differences are unclear, but it may be that minority groups use
119 greenspaces less due to dissatisfaction and perceived safety concerns. (24) These findings highlight the importance
120 of including measures of satisfaction and use of greenspace in studies aiming to identify relationships between
121 greenspace and health in addition to measures of availability.

122
123 The aim of the current study was to explore the relationships between availability of, satisfaction with, and use of,
124 urban greenspace (subsequently referred to as greenspace) and mental wellbeing amongst 4 year old children.
125 Secondary aims were to explore whether or not ethnicity or socio-economic status moderated any impact of
126 greenspace.

128 **METHODS**

129 Design and setting

130 This study was nested within a follow-up subsample of the 'Born in Bradford' cohort, a longitudinal study of 13776
131 children and 12453 mothers recruited during pregnancy at the City's main maternity unit between 2007-2011. Full
132 methods can be found in Wright et al. (25) Bradford is the 5th largest metropolitan city in the UK and is characterised
133 by high levels of ethnic diversity and deprivation (25). Fifty percent of the cohort are of South Asian origin.

134
135 Participants consented to long term follow-up, and to routine data linkage for health and education records. The
136 current study reports data from respondents who participated in a follow-up assessment when their child was 4
137 years old. The data reported came from information collected at baseline (during pregnancy), from bespoke
138 questions asked during the 4 year assessment, and from routine data linkage. Ethical approval was obtained from
139 Bradford Research Ethics Committee (reference 07/H1302/112).

141 Participants and procedure

142 2594 mothers attended a follow-up appointment during which they completed a detailed questionnaire assessing
143 the health of their child. Data were collected between October 2012 and June 2015. Appointments were offered in
144 English, Punjabi or Mirpuri languages; 69% were conducted in English. Of these, a subsample (N=832) completed an
145 additional detailed questionnaire on greenspace use and satisfaction. Due to resource constraints, the additional
146 questionnaire was offered only to English-speaking participants.

148 Measures

149 *Primary outcome*

150 The primary outcome for the study was parent-reported mental wellbeing assessed using the standardised Strengths
151 and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ). (16) The SDQ contains 25 items assessing 4 core dimensions of difficulties, two
152 of which are externalising (conduct problems and hyperactivity), and two of which are internalising (emotional
153 problems and peer problems). The questionnaire also assesses one area of strength: prosocial behaviour (range 0-5,
154 with higher scores indicating more prosocial behaviour towards others). The four difficulty domains can be summed
155 to create a 'total difficulties' score (range 0-40, with higher scores indicating greater difficulties); they can also be
156 combined into the two broader internalising and externalising subscales (both range 0-20, with higher scores
157 indicating greater difficulties).

158 *Greenspace measures*

159 We calculated measures of residential greenspace for each participant using the Normalised Difference Vegetation
160 Index (NDVI). To explore residential 'greenness', we calculated the NDVI within three straight line buffers of 100, 300
161 and 500m around participants' geocoded home address. NDVI ranges between -1 and 1, with higher numbers
162 indicating more green vegetation. We used the Landsat 5 TM (USGS) remote sensing data at 30m resolution of to
163 calculate NDVI values using the best available images between 2006-2011 (images from 10/06/2006 with the
164 exception of a small number of participants to the north of Bradford where a separate image was required and taken
165 on 28/09/2011). We excluded major water bodies >0.5 hectares because these values can skew the results of an
166 otherwise 'green' neighbourhood. Straight-line distances to major greenspaces (greater than 5000 square metre)
167 were calculated in metres.

168
169 A subsample of respondents (n=832) were asked to rate satisfaction with, and use of, local greenspaces.
170 Greenspaces were defined as public parks (including play areas specifically for children), sports playing fields or other
171 natural habitats (e.g. woodland) where there are plants and other vegetation. In order to ascertain how often
172 children used green spaces, we asked parents to report i) 'how many days their child spent playing outside in
173 greenspace per week' in summer months and winter months and ii) 'for how long on average their child spent
174 playing outside in green spaces on these days' (minutes per day). Responses were multiplied to create a 'weekly
175 playing outside index' for summer and winter. These indices were averaged to create an overall 'weekly playing
176 outside index' (minutes / week) as a proxy measure of time spent outside. Parents were then asked to report which
177 green space they used most frequently in summer months and were asked 'how satisfied are you with the quality of
178 this park?' with responses recorded on a five-point Likert-type scale ranging from 1 (very dissatisfied) to 5 (very
179 satisfied), where 3 was a neutral response.

180 181 *Ethnicity and socio-economic status*

182 Ethnicity was self-reported at baseline using standard classifications.(26) Due to large numbers in two main ethnic
183 groups, we split ethnicity into three groups: South Asian Origin, White British Origin and Other origin. This last

184 category represents a diverse group including Bangladeshi, Black-African and Mixed Race individuals. When
185 comparing results of findings by ethnicity, we contrast results for South Asian and White British groups only.

186
187 We assessed individual- and area-level indicators of socio-economic status following previous literature (e.g. (23)). At
188 an individual level we recorded mothers' educational status as 1 (not reached high school diploma level, including
189 those who marked 'unknown', 'foreign qualification' or 'other'), or 2 (high school diploma equivalent or higher). A
190 measure of subjective poverty was included using the item 'How well would you say you or you and your husband /
191 partner are managing financially these days'. Response options 'just about getting by', 'quite difficult' and 'very
192 difficult', 'does not wish to answer' were coded as 1 (struggling financially). Response options 'living comfortably'
193 and 'doing alright' were coded as 2 (not struggling financially).

194
195 At an area level we included the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) (27) as a measure of relative deprivation at a
196 national level. The IMD is constructed from seven domains of deprivation (income, employment, education, health,
197 crime, barriers to housing and service and living environment) at a lower super output area level (LSOA). Postcode of
198 mothers' place of residence at registration was mapped to LSOA which were then matched to IMD 2015 scores.
199 Given the high level of deprivation observed in the current sample (with 66% of the sample living in the in the most
200 deprived quintile of deprivation relative to UK averages), we split IMD scores into local quintiles of deprivation
201 (where 1=most deprived with in the sample and 5=least deprived).

202 203 *Other variables*

204 Other variables included: mother's age, mother's smoking, child's age, cohabitation status (married and living with
205 partner, not married and living with partner, not living with partner). Tertiles of household size were calculated for
206 the total sample population and for each ethnic group. We constructed a dichotomous variable indicating whether
207 the mother had a record of treatment for any 'common mental disorder' (for example anxiety, depression) during
208 the previous year from their routine primary health care data using a validated algorithm.(17)

209 210 *Statistical analyses*

211 We explored relationships between measures of greenspace with child's total, externalising, and internalising SDQ
212 scores as the outcome, as well as the prosocial scale. Analyses were carried out in R 3.3.1.(28) Analyses were
213 conducted for the total sample and separately for White British and South Asian groups for comparison. Mean
214 (standard deviation [SD]) and median (interquartile range [IQR]) were calculated for parametric and non-parametric
215 variables, respectively. Comparisons between the White British and South Asian groups were conducted with
216 Welch's *t*-tests and Mann-Whitney U-tests for continuous variables and Chi-square and Fisher's exact tests for
217 categorical variables. Ten high outlying responses for 'minutes spend playing outside per week' were identified. We

ran a sensitivity analysis removing these outlying responses and results were not altered. These participants were thus retained. P-values were also calculated to test for differences in characteristics between the total sample size and subsample of participants with the additional greenspace questionnaire.

Unadjusted regression models were computed, then covariates were entered sequentially in logical blocks after ethnicity was first adjusted for in the total sample population: demographic covariates (child's age, child's sex, mother's age, cohabitation status), socioeconomic covariates (maternal education, subjective poverty, household size, and IMD [quintiles were created for the total sample population and within each ethnic group]), and health behaviours (maternal smoking, record of any 'common mental disorder'). Analyses were calculated for all three buffer sizes (100, 300, and 500m). IMD quintiles and satisfaction with outdoor greenspace were entered as continuous variables. In the sub-sample of participants (n=832) we included data on satisfaction and use of local greenspace as predictors of wellbeing after controlling for all other confounding variables. These analyses therefore allow the comparison of quantity (NDVI), quality (satisfaction with), and use of greenspaces in associations with children's wellbeing.

To explore effect moderation by ethnicity or socio-economic status, we assessed inclusion of an interaction term between residential surrounding greenness and ethnicity, maternal education, or financial struggles by comparing fully-adjusted models with and without the interaction term using likelihood ratio tests. Moderation by ethnicity was significant; therefore we stratified the fully-adjusted models by ethnic groups.

Role of funding source

The study funders had no role in the study design, data collection, analysis, interpretation of data, drafting of the manuscript or in the decision to submit the paper for publication.

RESULTS

The final sample included 2594 mothers; of these, 58% were of South Asian Origin, 29% of White British Origin, and 13% reported other ethnicity (Table 1). The average age of mothers was 33 years (SD 5.5) and the average age of their child was 4.5 years (SD 0.4). Cronbach's alpha for total difficulties, internalising, externalising and the prosocial scale were 0.75, 0.62, 0.70 and 0.67 respectively. NDVI was significantly higher (greener) for White British mothers compared with South Asian mothers across all buffer zones. On average the sample lived 221 metres from a major greenspace, and there were no significant differences in distance to greenspace between ethnic groups (see Table 1).

Of the subsample who completed the additional questionnaire on greenspace use and satisfaction participants reported lower SDQ scores, higher NDVI scores, fewer mothers as "married and living with partner", a higher proportion of mothers with higher levels of education, and less deprivation (Supplemental file 1). No differences were noted when comparing the White British subsample with those who did not complete the additional

252 questionnaire. However, the South Asian population in the subsample reported lower SDQ scores, higher NDVI
253 scores at all three buffers, mothers with higher levels of education, fewer reports of financial struggles, fewer
254 household members, and slightly greater numbers of families in the quintile of least deprivation.

255
256 More residential greenspace assessed using NDVI was associated with fewer total, internalising, and externalising
257 difficulties in unadjusted models across all buffer zones (Supplemental file 2). However, after controlling for socio-
258 demographics, ethnicity, maternal smoking, and maternal mental health these effects were non-significant. There
259 were no relationships between NDVI and prosocial behaviour. We found no relationships between distance to major
260 greenspaces and any outcomes after adjustment. Distance to major greenspaces is thus not reported further within
261 the results.

262
263 With regards to residential greenspaces assessed using NDVI and children's mental wellbeing, there was no
264 moderation by socio-economic status (maternal education or financial struggles; results not reported), but
265 significant moderation of residential greenspace with total and internalising difficulties by ethnicity ($p < 0.05$ for all).
266 Table 2 reports stratified analyses for the two main ethnic groups within the sample: White British (N=663) and
267 South Asian (N=1504). In the unadjusted analyses, there were no relationships between residential greenspace
268 assessed using NDVI and behavioural difficulties or prosocial behaviour for children of White British mothers.
269 However, amongst South Asian participants, more residential greenspace was associated with fewer behavioural
270 difficulties across all three buffer zones in both unadjusted and adjusted models (fully adjusted model 4: 100m B=-
271 4.3, 95%CI -7.7, -0.9; 300m B=-5.2; 95%CI -8.9, -1.5; 500m B=-4.8, 95%CI -8.6, -1.1). We repeated analyses amongst
272 South Asian participants exploring externalising and internalising subscales and the prosocial scale separately. After
273 adjusting for all relevant variables we found that the impact of greenspace was apparent for internalising
274 behavioural difficulties only. This effect was apparent across all three buffer zones (fully adjusted model 4: 100m -
275 2.4, 95%CI -4.2, -0.5; 300m -3.2, 95%CI -5.2, -1.1; 500m -2.9, 95%CI -4.9, -0.8).

Table 1 Characteristics of study participants by ethnic group (full sample)

	Total		White British		South Asian		Other Ethnicity		P-value*
SDQ	N	Median (IQR)	N	Median (IQR)	N	Median (IQR)	N	Median (IQR)	
Total difficulties	2591	10 (6,14)	738	8 (5, 12)	1518	11 (7, 15)	333	8 (5, 12)	<0.001
Internalizing	2591	3 (2, 5)	738	2 (2, 6)	1518	4 (2, 6)	333	3 (1, 5)	<0.001
Externalizing	2591	6 (4, 9)	738	5 (3, 8)	1518	6 (4, 9)	333	5 (3, 7)	<0.001
Prosocial	2590	9 (7, 10)	738	9 (7, 10)	1518	9 (7, 10)	332	9 (7, 10)	0.6
Greenspace									
NDVI									
100m	2488	0.36 (0.30, 0.44)	665	0.41 (0.35, 0.48)	1505	0.33 (0.29, 0.41)	316	0.39 (0.33, 0.45)	<0.001
300m	2488	0.38 (0.32, 0.45)	665	0.43 (0.36, 0.49)	1505	0.35 (0.32, 0.42)	316	0.39 (0.34, 0.46)	<0.001
500m	2488	0.40 (0.08)	665	0.43 (0.37, 0.51)	1505	0.36 (0.32, 0.43)	316	0.39 (-.34, 0.46)	<0.001
Distance to major greenspace (m)	2487	221 (108, 406)	664	211 (100, 383)	1505	231 (116, 422)	316	214 (97, 381)	0.05
Demographics									
	N	Mean (SD)/%	N	Mean (SD)/%	N	Mean (SD)/%	N	Mean (SD)/%	
Age of child (year)	2594	4.5 (0.4)	740	4.5 (0.4)	1519	4.5 (0.4)	333	4.5 (0.4)	0.4
Gender of child									
Male	1302	50	386	52	741	49	175	53	0.1
Female	1292	50	354	48	778	51	158	47	

	Total		White British		South Asian		Other Ethnicity		P-value*
Age of mother (year)	2594	33.6 (5.5)	740	33.9 (6.1)	1519	33.4 (5.3)	333	34.1 (5.5)	0.1
Cohabitation status									
Married and living with partner (%)	2056	79	383	52	1418	93	253	76	<0.001
Not married and living with partner (%)	314	12	168	23	97	6	48	14	
Not living with partner (%)	224	9	188	25	4	1	32	10	
Socioeconomic status (mother)									
Maternal education									
A-level equivalent or higher (%)	1058	41	338	46	550	36	170	51	<0.001
Maximum of 5 GCSE, unknown, foreign, or other (%)	1530	59	402	54	965	64	162	49	
Subjective poverty									
Struggling financially (%)	817	32	245	33	485	32	88	26	0.6
Not struggling financially (%)	1775	68	495	67	1034	68	245	74	
Household size	2587	5.3 (2.0)	738	4.1 (1.2)	1516	6.1 (2.2)	331	4.5 (1.4)	<0.001
Tertile 1 (%)	1071	41	541	73	341	22	189	57	
Tertile 2 (%)	960	37	172	23	676	45	111	34	
Tertile 3 (%)	556	21	25	4	499	33	31	9	
IMD quintile									

	Total		White British		South Asian		Other Ethnicity		P-value*
Quintile 1	566	22	334	46	163	11	69	21	<0.001
Quintile 2	492	19	139	19	283	19	69	21	
Quintile 3	560	22	85	12	404	27	70	22	
Quintile 4	444	17	86	12	320	21	38	12	
Quintile 5	505	20	88	12	338	22	79	24	
Health behaviours									
Mother smoking									
Yes (%)	234	9	166	23	40	3	28	8	<0.001
No (%)	2353	91	570	77	1476	97	305	92	
Mother any CMD from in previous year									
Yes (%)	328	13	159	22	141	9	27	8	<0.001
No (%)	2266	87	581	78	1378	91	306	92	

277 Key: SDQ: Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (higher score indicates more difficulties, with the exception of the prosocial scale where higher scores indicate more
278 prosocial behaviour); NDVI: Normalised difference vegetation index (higher scores indicate greener environments); IMD: index of multiple deprivation (lower scores
279 indicate more deprived areas); CMD: Common mental disorder. Note: the total number of participants with SDQ scores does not mirror the scores when combined by
280 ethnicity due to two participants with missing ethnicity data but with SDQ scores. *P-values test differences between White British and South Asian groups. Mann-Whitney
281 U tests were used for non-parametric data, t-tests for parametric, Chi-square for categorical.

282

Table 2 Associations between NDVI and wellbeing by White British, and South Asian Origin groups (full sample)

	White British								South Asian							
	Total Difficulties ^a		Internalising ^a		Externalising ^a		Prosocial ^b		Total Difficulties ^a		Internalising ^a		Externalising ^a		Prosocial ^b	
	β	95% CI	β	95% CI	β	95% CI	β	95% CI	β	95% CI	β	95% CI	β	95% CI	β	95% CI
Unadjusted¹																
Mean NDVI 100 m	-0.11	(-4.3, 4.1)	0.59	(-1.5, 2.7)	-0.71	(-3.7, 2.3)	0.49	(-0.98, 2.0)	-5.90	(-9.2, -2.6)	-3.21	(-5.0, -1.4)	-2.68	(-4.8, -0.53)	0.18	(-0.92, 1.30)
Mean NDVI 300 m	-0.30	(-4.4, 3.8)	0.63	(-1.4, 2.6)	-0.92	(-3.8, 1.9)	0.46	(-0.96, 1.9)	-6.90	(-10, -3.4)	-4.01	(-5.9, -2.1)	-2.89	(-5.2, -0.58)	0.59	(-0.58, 1.80)
Mean NDVI 500 m	-0.47	(-4.5, 3.5)	0.49	(-1.5, 2.4)	-0.95	(-3.8, 1.8)	0.43	(-0.95, 1.8)	-6.42	(-9.9, -2.9)	-3.65	(-5.6, -1.7)	-2.77	(-5.1, -0.45)	0.65	(-0.53, 1.8)
Adjusted²																
Mean NDVI 100 m	-0.02	(-4.01, 3.97)	0.61	(-1.37, 2.59)	-0.63	(-3.43, 2.16)	0.51	(-0.91, 1.93)	-6.03	(-9.22, -2.78)	-3.21	(-4.99, -1.43)	-2.82	(-4.95, -0.67)	0.32	(-0.76, 1.39)
Mean NDVI 300 m	-0.36	(-4.22, 3.51)	0.59	(-1.32, 2.52)	-0.95	(-3.67, 1.75)	0.45	(-0.93, 1.82)	-6.99	(-10.47, -3.52)	-3.99	(-5.89, -2.09)	-3.01	(-5.31, -0.71)	0.71	(-0.45, 1.86)
Mean NDVI 500 m	-0.56	(-4.33, 3.21)	0.47	(-1.40, 2.35)	-1.04	(-3.68, 1.61)	0.45	(-0.89, 1.79)	-6.51	(-10.01, -3.01)	-3.67	(-5.58, -1.75)	-2.84	(5.52, -0.53)	0.72	(-0.44, 1.88)
Adjusted³																
Mean NDVI 100 m	-0.70	(-4.58, 3.17)	0.35	(-1.61, 2.33)	-1.05	(-3.78, 1.66)	0.7	(-0.71, 2.11)	-4.54	(-7.92, -1.16)	-2.49	(-4.35, -0.64)	-2.05	(-4.29, 0.20)	0.28	(-0.86, 1.43)
Mean NDVI 300 m	-0.29	(-4.05, 3.46)	0.62	(-1.29, 2.53)	-0.92	(-3.55, 1.72)	0.5	(-0.87, 1.87)	-5.44	(-9.14, -1.76)	-3.28	(-5.31, -1.26)	-2.16	(-4.62, 0.29)	0.74	(-0.51, 1.99)
Mean NDVI 500 m	-0.09	(-3.77, 3.58)	0.64	(-1.22, 2.51)	-0.74	(-3.31, 1.84)	0.47	(-0.87, 1.81)	-4.99	(-8.74, -1.23)	-2.95	(-5.01, -0.88)	-2.04	(-4.54, 0.46)	0.77	(-0.50, 2.04)
Adjusted⁴																
Mean NDVI 100 m	-0.67	(-4.54, 3.19)	0.41	(-1.56, 2.39)	-1.09	(-3.79, 1.61)	0.71	(-0.71, 2.12)	-4.27	(-7.65, -0.90)	-2.35	(-4.20, -0.50)	-1.93	(-4.17, 0.31)	0.36	(-0.78, 1.49)
Mean NDVI 300 m	-0.2	(-3.95, 3.55)	0.61	(-1.30, 2.52)	-0.81	(-3.43, 1.81)	0.44	(-0.94, 1.81)	-5.22	(-8.91, -1.54)	-3.15	(-5.18, -1.13)	-2.07	(-4.52, 0.39)	0.81	(-0.44, 2.05)
Mean NDVI 500 m	-0.01	(-3.68, 3.66)	0.59	(-1.28, 2.47)	-0.6	(-3.17, 1.96)	0.39	(-0.95, 1.73)	-4.82	(-8.57, -1.07)	-2.85	(-4.91, -0.80)	-1.98	(-4.47, 0.52)	0.86	(-0.41, 2.18)

Notes: ^a: higher scores indicate more difficulties; ^b: higher scores indicate greater prosocial behaviour; NDVI: Normalised difference vegetation index (higher scores indicate

greener environments); 1: White British N=663; South Asian N=1504; 2: adjusted for child age, child gender, maternal age, cohabitation status. White British N=663; South

Asian N=1504; 3: model 2 + maternal education, subjective poverty, household size, IMD, White British N=657; South Asian N=1489; 4: model 3 + maternal smoking,

mother's CMD in previous year. White British N=653; South Asian N=1486. Significant findings are highlighted in **bold italics**.

289

290 Table 3 Satisfaction with, and use of, greenspace by ethnic group (subsample)

	Total		White British		South Asian		Other Ethnicity		P-value*
	N	Mean (SD)	N	Mean (SD)	N	Mean (SD)	N	Mean (SD)	
Mins/week spent outside - Winter	831	95.75 (186.56)	336	130.68 (214.07)	365	58.12 (129.50)	130	104.69 (224.38)	0.001
Mins/week spent outside - Summer	831	372.07 (358.33)	336	401.71 (369.45)	365	357.44 (363.16)	130	336.52 (308.83)	0.03
Satisfaction with greenspace	805	4.04 (1.02)	328	4.16 (1.00)	352	3.93 (1.02)	125	4.05 (1.05)	0.001

291 Note: IQR –Interquartile range; SD: Standard deviation. *P-values test differences between White
 292 British and South Asian groups using Mann-Whitney U tests.

293

294 We repeated stratified analyses within the subsample of respondents. Satisfaction with, and use of,
 295 greenspace varied by ethnic group (Table 3). White British children spent significantly more time
 296 outside than South Asian children or children in the ‘Other Ethnicity’ category and parents of White
 297 British children also reported significantly higher levels of satisfaction with their local greenspace. In
 298 this subsample, there was a significant negative association between greenspace and internalising
 299 difficulties only amongst children of South Asian mothers, with increasing greenspace associated
 300 with fewer internalising difficulties. This association was strongest in the unadjusted models (100m
 301 B-4.05, 95%CI, -7.3, -.083; 300m B -4.96, 95%CI -8.4, 1.5, 500m B-4.6, 95%CI -8.1, -1.1). Significant
 302 effects remained after adjustment for demographics (model 2) across all three buffer zones. When
 303 controlling further for deprivation (model 3), and maternal smoking and mental health (model 4),
 304 significant associations were found only for the 300m and 500m buffer zones (see Supplemental File
 305 3).

306

307 In the final model, inclusion of time spent outside and satisfaction with greenspace rendered the
 308 influence of NDVI non-significant across all buffer zones. Within the South Asian subsample (N=363),
 309 satisfaction with local greenspaces was associated with significantly fewer internalising difficulties
 310 within 100m and 300m buffer zones (B=-0.28, 95%CI -0.56, -0.003; B=-0.28, 95%CI -0.56, -0.002
 311 respectively). It was also associated with lower total difficulties across all three buffer zone (B=-0.59,

312 95% CI -1.11, -0.07 for all three zones) and greater prosocial behaviour across all three buffer zones
 313 (B=0.2, 95% CI 0.02, 0.38). There were no relationships between satisfaction and externalising
 314 difficulties across any buffer zones. Finally, there was no effect of time spent outdoors on total,
 315 externalising, internalising difficulties or prosocial behaviour (Table 4, 100m buffer results reported).
 316 Amongst the White British sample, satisfaction with, and use of greenspaces was not associated with
 317 any measure of difficulty or prosocial behaviour (results not reported).

318
 319 Table 4 Fully adjusted model for South Asian Parents in the subsample (N=344 complete data sets,
 320 100m buffer only reported)

	Total Difficulties ^a		Internalising ^a		Externalising ^a		Prosocial ^b	
	β	95% CI	β	95% CI	β	95% CI	β	95% CI
NDVI	-1.63	(-8.20, 4.94)	-2.03	(-5.56, 1.50)	0.39	(-4.03, 4.82)	-1.03	(-3.31, 1.24)
Child's age	-0.57	(-2.08, 0.94)	-0.63	(-1.44, 0.18)	0.06	(-0.95, 1.07)	0.11	(-0.41, 0.63)
Child's sex								
Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Female	-0.58	(-1.53, 0.47)	0.10	(-0.46, 0.67)	-0.68	(-1.39, 0.02)	0.43	(0.06, 0.79)
Mother's age	-0.02	(-0.12, 0.08)	-0.01	(-0.06, 0.05)	-0.01	(-0.08, 0.05)	0.01	(-0.03, 0.04)
Mother's cohabitation								
Married and living with partner	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not living with partner	-1.24	(-3.37, 0.89)	-0.63	(-1.77, 0.52)	-0.61	(-2.05, 0.82)	0.34	(-0.40, 1.07)
Not married and living with partner	0.99	(-8.71, 10.69)	3.15	(-2.06, 8.37)	-2.16	(-8.69, 4.37)	2.07	(-1.28, 5.43)
Mother's education								
A-level equivalent or higher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maximum of 5 GCSE, unknown, foreign, or	1.50	(0.41, 2.58)	0.65	(0.07, 1.24)	0.84	(0.11, 1.57)	-0.01	(-0.38, 0.37)

	Total Difficulties ^a		Internalising ^a		Externalising ^a		Prosocial ^b	
	β	95% CI	β	95% CI	β	95% CI	β	95% CI
other								
Subjective poverty								
Not struggling financially	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Struggling financially	0.74	(-0.50, 1.98)	0.37	(-0.30, 1.03)	0.37	(-0.46, 1.21)	0.11	(-0.32, 0.54)
Number of members in household	-0.05	(-0.35, 0.22)	0.03	(-0.11, 0.18)	-0.09	(-0.27, 0.09)	0.03	(-0.32, 0.54)
IMD	-0.08	(-0.48, 0.32)	-0.01	(-0.23, 0.20)	-0.07	(-0.34, 0.20)	-0.07	(-0.21, 0.07)
Mother's smoking								
No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yes	0.10	(-2.63, 2.83)	-0.19	(-1.66, 1.28)	0.29	(-1.55, 2.13)	-1.00	(-1.94, -0.05)
Mother had mental disorder in previous year								
No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yes	0.99	(-0.75, 2.73)	0.81	(-0.13, 1.74)	0.18	(-0.99, 1.35)	0.32	(-0.28, 0.92)
Time spent outside (min)	0.0000	(-0.003, 0.002)	-0.001	(-0.002, 0.001)	0.001	(-0.001, 0.002)	0.0005	(-0.0004, 0.001)
Satisfaction with greenspace	-0.59	(-1.11, -0.07)	-0.28	(-0.56, -0.003)	-0.31	(-0.66, 0.04)	0.2	(0.02, 0.38)

321 Notes: ^a: higher scores indicate more difficulties; ^b: higher scores indicate greater prosocial
322 behaviour; NDVI: Normalised difference vegetation index (higher scores indicate greener
323 environments); significant results are highlighted in **bold italics**

324 **Discussion**

325 We explored relationship between children’s mental wellbeing and the availability of, use of, and
326 satisfaction with greenspace. We found a significant association between availability of greenspace
327 assessed using the NDVI and both total, and internalising behavioural difficulties amongst South
328 Asian children living in the UK, but not amongst White British children. When satisfaction and use of
329 greenspace were included in our analyses only satisfaction displayed a significant association with
330 wellbeing. Reported satisfaction with greenspace was independently predictive of internalising
331 difficulties, total difficulties and prosocial behaviour amongst South Asian children. Finally, we found
332 that most of our sample lived close to greenspaces, and that there were no associations between
333 distance to greenspace and mental wellbeing.

334 Unlike some previous studies (8, 23), we found no evidence of moderation of effects by socio-
335 economic indicators such as maternal education or subjective poverty. However, the current study
336 was situated in a highly deprived location in the UK, and this lack of variability may have contributed
337 to an inability to identify any differences by socio-economic status. There may also be issues of
338 residual confounding due to our inability to control, for example, for income or social class.

339 Moderation by ethnicity was apparent, with relationships between greenspace and children’s
340 mental wellbeing observed amongst South Asian children only. We found South Asian families faced
341 a triple count of inequity in relation to greenspace. Not only did NDVI scores indicate that South
342 Asian families had less residential greenspace than their White British counterparts, they also
343 reported less satisfaction with their greenspaces, and that their children spent less time playing in
344 greenspaces. Further, when satisfaction with greenspace was included in our analyses, it rendered
345 the association of residential greenness non-significant. Satisfaction with greenspace was
346 independently predictive of South Asian children’s wellbeing after controlling for demographics,
347 socio-economic status, maternal health behaviours and maternal mental wellbeing. This is an
348 important finding, suggesting that quality, in addition to quantity, of greenspace is important for
349 health. Some authors suggest that quality of greenspace may act as a moderating factor, meaning
350 that relationships between quantity of greenspace and health outcomes are stronger when quality is
351 higher.(29) We were unable to explore this in the current study as there was a mismatch in
352 specificity for our quality indicator (satisfaction with a specific local greenspace) and our measure of
353 quantity (NDVI in pre-specified buffer zones around residential addresses). Future research should
354 aim to explore the potential moderating role of greenspace quality in relationships with health
355 outcomes (i.e. are relationships between wellbeing and quantity of greenspace stronger when they
356 are of higher quality).

357 Internationally, there is evidence that more deprived groups have less access to greenspaces(30)
358 These inherent inequalities are further exacerbated if the quality of available greenspaces in
359 marginalised communities is worse. Within the current setting, Roberts et al(31) explored how the
360 quality of local parks was linked to satisfaction and use. They found ratings of satisfaction were
361 predicted solely by structural park features relating to quality such as the presence of amenities (for
362 example, presence of toilets, benches, shelters) and incivilities within the park (for example,
363 presence of litter or evidence of anti-social behaviour) rather than due to ethnic or socio-economic
364 characteristics of respondents. Poor quality parks and greenspaces can discourage use by
365 marginalised communities. Fears about safety and anti-social behaviour, and concerns about
366 cleanliness and maintenance, are key barriers to greenspace use. (32, 33) Policy makers need to
367 recognise these inequities and work to improve the perceptions of local greenspaces, in addition to
368 prioritising continued investment for maintenance and improvement of local greenspaces. Effective
369 interventions will take into account the needs and preferences of all groups who use greenspace to
370 ensure that they are acceptable to all, and to increase community ownership of local space. Co-
371 design will be central to this process, and, although evaluations of these types of interventions are
372 rare, there is evidence to suggest that co-designing interventions with local communities can result
373 in increased quality of(34), and use of (35) greenspaces. Implementation of system-wide changes to
374 improve local environments will be challenging and will require concerted multi-sector efforts and
375 co-operation from health, public policy and urban planning, and community perspectives in order to
376 be successful. (36, 37)

377

378 The current study had a number of strengths. To our knowledge, it is the first to explore the relative
379 contribution of availability, satisfaction with, and use of, greenspace on children's mental wellbeing.
380 It was conducted within a deprived urban area with a multi-ethnic group of participants, and thus
381 findings are likely to be transferable to other multi-ethnic urban settings in the UK. We were able to
382 control for an extensive array of potential confounding variables including the impact of maternal
383 mental distress on children's wellbeing to disentangle the independent effects of greenspace on
384 health in this group.

385

386 There are however a number of limitations. We used a validated parent-reported measure of
387 children's wellbeing; however, parental self-report may be subject to bias, including response bias. A
388 recent study found that relationships between greenspace and wellbeing differed depending on
389 whether parents or teachers were the primary informant. (9) Future research should aim to replicate

390 these findings using different tools to assess mental wellbeing within children. As mentioned above,
391 our sample was predominantly of South Asian origin and included individuals living within a highly
392 deprived area. Whilst this is reflective of our study setting(25), our findings may not be generalizable
393 to other more affluent and less ethnically diverse areas of the UK. Although we assessed the extent
394 to which children played outside in greenspaces, this was self-reported by parents and potentially
395 subject to response bias. In addition, bias in responses to questions on greenspace satisfaction and
396 use may have been introduced due to the subsample questions only being available to English
397 speakers. We were unable to control for more general physical activity within our analyses. Whilst
398 we assessed a wide range of potential confounders, there may be other unmeasured variables which
399 may contribute to residual confounding. Our measure of greenspace was calculated using NDVI
400 scores from two images assessed five years apart (selected as they had minimal cloud cover). Whilst
401 this may have introduced bias in our assessment of greenspace, previous research has found NDVI to
402 be highly stable across this time period in the current setting.(22) Finally, our measure of greenspace
403 satisfaction was based on respondents' frequently used parks rather than general neighbourhood
404 greenspace, and we did not include an objective audit assessments of park quality. Future research
405 should aim to include both objective and subjective assessments of quality when exploring
406 relationships with health outcomes, and explore whether satisfaction with specific frequently used
407 greenspaces is more important for wellbeing than perceptions of the neighbourhood as a whole.

408 Conclusions

409 Quality, in addition to quantity, of greenspace may be important for the mental wellbeing of ethnic
410 minority groups. Provision of greenspace alone is unlikely to produce health benefits for these
411 groups. Multi-sector approaches combining health, urban planners, policy makers and communities
412 are needed to develop new and creative solutions to improve the quality of local greenspaces, and
413 to increase satisfaction with greenspaces among marginalised communities.

414

415 **Contributor's statement**

416 RRCM, MN, JW, KP, and CG conceived study. RRCM drafted manuscript. TY performed analysis and
417 drafted manuscript with RRCM. RRCM, JW, KP, HR and DAP were responsible for data collection and
418 contributed to analysis. All authors revised manuscript and provided intellectual input. All authors
419 approved final manuscript.

420 **Acknowledgements**

421 Born in Bradford is only possible because of the enthusiasm and commitment of the Children and
422 Parents in BiB. We are grateful to all the participants, practitioners and researchers who have made
423 Born in Bradford happen. We gratefully acknowledge the contribution of TPP and the TPP
424 ResearchOne team in completing study participant matching to GP primary care records and in
425 providing ongoing informatics support. We thank Dr Graham Smith for computing the greenspace
426 variables used in this analysis.

427 **Ethical approval**

428 The research reported here was approved by Bradford NHS Research Ethics committee (reference
429 07/H1302/112).

430

431 **Conflict of interest**

432 The authors report no conflict of interest.

433

434 **Funding**

435 This work was supported by the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007–
436 2013) (grant number 282996) Positive Effects of Natural Outdoor Environments and the LIFE-CYCLE
437 project. The LIFE-CYCLE project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020
438 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 733206. This publication reflects
439 only the author's views and the European Commission is not liable for any use that may be made of
440 the information contained therein. RM, KP and JW are supported by the National Institute for Health
441 Research Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health and Research Care (CLARHC Yorkshire and
442 Humber). TY was supported by the, MRC Health eResearch Centre grant MR/K006665/1, and DA-P
443 was supported by a University of York Health Sciences Master Studentship. The funders did not
444 have any role in the writing of the manuscript or the decision to submit it for publication.

445 The corresponding author (RRCM) has full access to all the data in the study and final responsibility
446 to submit the manuscript for publication.

447

448 **REFERENCES**

449 1. Whiteford HA, Degenhardt L, Rehm J, Baxter AJ, Ferrari AJ, Erskine HE, et al. Global burden
450 of disease attributable to mental and substance use disorders: findings from the Global Burden of
451 Disease Study 2010. *The Lancet*. 2013;382(9904):1575-86.

- 452 2. McCrone P, Dhanasiri S, Patel A, Knapp M, Lawton-Smith S. Paying the Price: The cost of
453 mental health care in England to 2026. London: 2008.
- 454 3. Hartig T, Mitchell R, de Vries S, Frumkin H. Nature and Health. Annual Review of Public
455 Health, Vol 35. 2014;35:207-+. PubMed PMID: WOS:000336207500014.
- 456 4. Gascon M, Triguero-Mas M, Martinez D, Dadvand P, Fornis J, Plasencia A, et al. Mental
457 Health Benefits of Long-Term Exposure to Residential Green and Blue Spaces: A Systematic Review.
458 International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. 2015 Apr;12(4):4354-79.
459 PubMed PMID: WOS:000353488500061.
- 460 5. WHO Regional Office for Europe. Urban green spaces and health: A review of evidence.
461 Copenhagen, Denmark: 2016.
- 462 6. European Environment Agency. Ensuring quality of life in Europe's cities and towns.
463 Copenhagen, Denmark: 2009.
- 464 7. Loth AK, Drabick DAG, Leibenluft E, Hulvershorn LA. Do Childhood Externalizing Disorders
465 Predict Adult Depression? A Meta-Analysis. Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology. 2014;42(7):1103-
466 13.
- 467 8. Balseviciene B, Sinkariova L, Grazuleviciene R, Andrusaityte S, Uzdanaviciute I, Dedele A, et
468 al. Impact of residential greenness on preschool children's emotional and behavioral problems. Int J
469 Environ Res Public Health. 2014 Jun 27;11(7):6757-70. PubMed PMID: 24978880. Pubmed Central
470 PMCID: PMC4113842. Epub 2014/07/01. eng.
- 471 9. Feng X, Astell-Burt T. The Relationship between Neighbourhood Green Space and Child
472 Mental Wellbeing Depends upon Whom You Ask: Multilevel Evidence from 3083 Children Aged 12-
473 13 Years. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. 2017;14(3):235.
474 PubMed PMID: doi:10.3390/ijerph14030235.
- 475 10. Flouri E, Midouhas E, Joshi H. The role of urban neighbourhood green space in children's
476 emotional and behavioural resilience. Journal of Environmental Psychology. 2014;40:179-86.
- 477 11. Markevych I, Tiesler CM, Fuertes E, Romanos M, Dadvand P, Nieuwenhuijsen MJ, et al.
478 Access to urban green spaces and behavioural problems in children: Results from the GINIplus and
479 LISApus studies. Environ Int. 2014 Oct;71:29-35. PubMed PMID: 24953038. Epub 2014/06/24. eng.
- 480 12. Amoly E, Dadvand P, Fornis J, Lopez-Vicente M, Basagana X, Julvez J, et al. Green and blue
481 spaces and behavioral development in Barcelona schoolchildren: the BREATHE project. Environ
482 Health Perspect. 2014 Dec;122(12):1351-8. PubMed PMID: 25204008. Pubmed Central PMCID:
483 PMC4256702. Epub 2014/09/10. eng.
- 484 13. Feng X, Astell-Burt T. Residential Green Space Quantity and Quality and Child Well-being: A
485 Longitudinal Study. American Journal of Preventive Medicine. 2017 Nov;53(5):616-24. PubMed
486 PMID: WOS:000415221200015.
- 487 14. Richardson EA, Pearce J, Shortt NK, Mitchell R. The role of public and private natural space in
488 children's social, emotional and behavioural development in Scotland: A longitudinal study.
489 Environmental research. 2017 Oct;158:729-36. PubMed PMID: WOS:000408184700079.
- 490 15. Zach A, Meyer N, Hendrowarsito L, Kolb S, Bolte G, Nennstiel-Ratzel U, et al. Association of
491 sociodemographic and environmental factors with the mental health status among preschool
492 children-Results from a cross-sectional study in Bavaria, Germany. International Journal of Hygiene
493 and Environmental Health. 2016 Jul;219(4-5):458-67. PubMed PMID: WOS:000378965300017.
- 494 16. Goodman A, Lamping DL, Ploubidis GB. When to Use Broader Internalising and Externalising
495 Subscales Instead of the Hypothesised Five Subscales on the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire
496 (SDQ): Data from British Parents, Teachers and Children. Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology. 2010//;
497 38(8):1179-91.
- 498 17. Prady SL, Pickett KE, Croudace T, Mason D, Petherick ES, McEachan RRC, et al. Maternal
499 psychological distress in primary care and association with child behavioural outcomes at age three.
500 European Child & Adolescent Psychiatry. 2016 09/28
501 06/03/received
502 09/16/accepted;25:601-13. PubMed PMID: PMC4889639.
-

- 503 18. Gidlow C, van Kempen E, Smith G, Triguero-Mas M, Kruize H, Gražulevičienė R, et al.
504 Development of the natural environment scoring tool (NEST). *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*.
505 2018 2018/01/01/;29:322-33.
- 506 19. Francis J, Wood LJ, Knuiman M, Giles-Corti B. Quality or quantity? Exploring the relationship
507 between Public Open Space attributes and mental health in Perth, Western Australia. *Social Science*
508 & *Medicine*. 2012 2012/05/01/;74(10):1570-7.
- 509 20. Roberts H, McEachan RRC, Kellar I, Conner M, Gidlow CJ, Kelly B, et al. The influence of park
510 features on park satisfaction and park use in a multi-ethnic deprived urban area. *Landscape and*
511 *Urban Planning*. 2018;Under revision.
- 512 21. Mitchell R, Popham F. Effect of exposure to natural environment on health inequalities: an
513 observational population study. *Lancet*. 2008 Nov;372(9650):1655-60. PubMed PMID:
514 WOS:000260899900027.
- 515 22. Dadvand P, Wright J, Martinez D, Basagana X, McEachan RRC, Cirach M, et al. Inequality,
516 green spaces, and pregnant women: Roles of ethnicity and individual and neighbourhood
517 socioeconomic status. *Environment International*. 2014 Oct;71:101-8. PubMed PMID:
518 WOS:000341745100012.
- 519 23. McEachan RR, Prady SL, Smith G, Fairley L, Cabieses B, Gidlow C, et al. The association
520 between green space and depressive symptoms in pregnant women: moderating roles of
521 socioeconomic status and physical activity. *J Epidemiol Community Health*. 2016 Mar;70(3):253-9.
522 PubMed PMID: 26560759. Pubmed Central PMCID: PMC4789818. Epub 2015/11/13. eng.
- 523 24. Roe J, Aspinall PA, Ward Thompson C. Understanding Relationships between Health,
524 Ethnicity, Place and the Role of Urban Green Space in Deprived Urban Communities. *Int J Environ*
525 *Res Public Health*. 2016 Jul 05;13(7). PubMed PMID: 27399736. Pubmed Central PMCID:
526 PMC4962222. Epub 2016/07/12. eng.
- 527 25. Wright J, Small N, Raynor P, Tuffnell D, Bhopal R, Cameron N, et al. Cohort profile: The Born
528 in Bradford multi-ethnic family cohort study. *International Journal of Epidemiology*. 2012;Epub
529 ahead of print.
- 530 26. Office for National Statistics. *Ethnic group statistics A guide for the collection and*
531 *classification of ethnicity data*. London: Office for National Statistics, 2003.
- 532 27. Department for Communities and Local Government. *English Indices of Deprivation 2015*
533 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015>: Department for
534 Communities and Local Government; 2015 [2nd August 2008]. Available from:
535 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015>.
- 536 28. R Core Team. *R: A language and environment for statistical computing*. Vienna, Austria: R
537 Foundation for Statistical
538 Computing; 2016.
- 539 29. Lachowycz K, Jones AP. Towards a better understanding of the relationship between
540 greenspace and health: Development of a theoretical framework. *Landscape and Urban Planning*.
541 2013 2013/10/01/;118:62-9.
- 542 30. Rigolon A. A complex landscape of inequity in access to urban parks: A literature review.
543 *Landscape and Urban Planning*. 2016 2016/09/01/;153(Supplement C):160-9.
- 544 31. Roberts H, McEachan RRC, Kellar I, Conner M, Gidlow C, Kelly B, et al. The influence of park
545 characteristics on park satisfaction in a multi-ethnic deprived urban area. 2016.
- 546 32. Abbasi A, Alalouch C, Bramley G. Open Space Quality in Deprived Urban Areas: User
547 Perspective and Use Pattern. *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences*. 2016
548 2016/01/06/;216(Supplement C):194-205.
- 549 33. Gidlow CJ, Ellis NJ. Neighbourhood green space in deprived urban communities: issues and
550 barriers to use. *Local Environment*. 2011 2011/11/01/;16(10):989-1002.
- 551 34. Ward Thompson C, Roe J, Aspinall P. Woodland improvements in deprived urban
552 communities: What impact do they have on people's activities and quality of life? *Landscape and*
553 *Urban Planning*. 2013 2013/10/01/;118(Supplement C):79-89.
-

- 554 35. Roberts H, McEachan R, Margary T, Conner M, Kellar I. Identifying Effective Behavior Change
555 Techniques in Built Environment Interventions to Increase Use of Green Space:A Systematic Review.
556 Environment and Behavior. 2016. Epub Online first 19th December 2016.
- 557 36. Giles-Corti B, Vernez-Moudon A, Reis R, Turrell G, Dannenberg AL, Badland H, et al. City
558 planning and population health: a global challenge. The Lancet. 2016;388(10062):2912-24.
- 559 37. Nieuwenhuijsen MJ. Urban and transport planning, environmental exposures and health-
560 new concepts, methods and tools to improve health in cities. Environmental Health. 2016 March
561 08;15(1):S38.
562
563

Supplemental Table 1. Characteristics of study participants by ethnic group in sub-sample of women who completed the additional green space questionnaire (n=832).

		Total		White British		South Asian		Other Ethnicity				
		N=832		N=337		N=365		N=130	P-value*	P-value - total**	P-value - White British**	P-value - South Asian**
SDQ												
Total	829	8 (5, 11)	335	7 (5, 11)	364	9 (6, 12)	130	8 (5, 11)	<0.001	<0.001	0.1	<0.001
Internalizing	829	3 (1, 5)	335	2 (1, 4)	364	3 (2, 5)	130	2.5 (2.5, 5)	<0.001	<0.001	0.07	<0.001
Externalizing	829	5 (3, 8)	335	5 (3, 8)	364	6 (3, 8)	130	5 (3, 7)	0.3	<0.001	0.3	<0.001
Prosocial												
Greenspace												
NDVI												
100m	796	0.38 (0.32, 0.45)	310	0.41 (0.34, 0.47)	363	0.34 (0.29, 0.42)	123	0.40 (0.40, 0.45)	<0.001	<0.001	0.3	0.006
300m	796	0.39 (0.33, 0.46)	310	0.42 (0.36, 0.48)	363	0.36 (0.32, 0.43)	123	0.41 (0.34, 0.46)	<0.001	<0.001	0.2	0.01
500m	796	0.40 (0.34, 0.46)	310	0.43 (0.36, 0.50)	363	0.37 (0.33, 0.44)	123	0.41 (0.36, 0.45)	<0.001	<0.001	0.3	0.008
Distance to major greenspace (m)	796	217 (98, 381)	310	194 (91, 381)	363	231 (106, 372)	123	231 (87, 403)	0.02	0.7	0.7	0.3
Demographics												
Age of child (year)	832	4.5 (0.4)	337	4.5 (0.4)	365	4.5 (0.4)	130	4.4 (0.3)	0.08	<0.001	0.09	<0.001
Age of mother (year)	832	33.7 (5.57)	337	34.0 (6.0)	365	33.2 (5.2)	130	34.0 (5.2)	0.05	0.9	0.5	0.3
Cohabitation status												
Married and living with partner	595	72	167	50	337	92	91	70	<0.001	<0.001	0.3	0.6
Not married and living with partner	112	13	95	28	1	0	16	12				

		Total		White British		South Asian		Other Ethnicity				
		N=832		N=337		N=365		N=130	P-value*	P-value - total**	P-value - White British**	P-value - South Asian**
Not living with partner	125	15	75	22	27	7	23	18				
Socioeconomic status (mother)												
Maternal education												
A-level equivalent or higher	413	50	150	45	190	52	57	44	0.05	<0.001	0.6	<0.001
Maximum of 5 GCSE, unknown, foreign, or other	419	50	187	55	175	48	73	56				
Subjective poverty												
Struggling financially	229	28	110	33	90	25	29	22	0.02	0.003	0.9	<0.001
Not struggling financially	603	72	227	67	275	75	101	78				
Household size	828	4.8 (1.77)	337	4.1 (1.1)	363	5.7 (2.0)	128	4.4 (1.4)	<0.001	<0.001	0.8	<0.001
Tertile 1	425	51	249	74	100	27	76	60				
Tertile 2	171	21	56	17	89	25	26	20				
Tertile 3	232	28	32	9	174	48	26	20				
IMD quintile												
Quintile 1	236	29	145	47	54	15	26	20	<0.001	<0.001	0.8	0.04
Quintile 2	150	18	63	19	65	18	22	17				
Quintile 3	171	21	38	11	100	28	33	26				
Quintile 4	124	15	34	10	73	20	17	13				
Quintile 5	142	17	43	13	70	19	29	23				
Health behaviours												
Mother smoking												
Yes	100	12	71	21	14	4	15	12	<0.001	<0.001	0.5	0.1
No	738	88	264	79	349	96	115	88				
Mother any CMD from in previous year												

	Total	White British	South Asian	Other Ethnicity			P-value*	P-value - total**	P-value - White British**	P-value - South Asian**		
	N=832	N=337	N=365	N=130								
Yes	116	14	68	20	39	11	9	7	<0.001	0.2	0.5	0.3
No	716	86	269	80	326	89	121	93				

565 NOTES: Child SDQ and greenspace variables reported as median (interquartile range: IQR); remaining variables reported as mean (standard deviation: SD) or percent (%).

566 IMD quintile 1 [most deprived], quintile 5 [least deprived]

567 *P-values test differences between White British and South Asian groups. Mann-Whitney U tests were used for non-parametric data, t-tests for parametric, chi-square for
568 categorical.

569 **P-values testing differences between full sample compared to subsample.

	Total Difficulties		Internalising Difficulties		Externalising Difficulties		Prosocial Behaviour	
	β	95% CI	β	95% CI	β	95% CI	β	95% CI
Unadjusted¹								
Mean NDVI 100 m	-6.22	(-8.6, -3.9)	-3.6	(-4.9, -2.3)	-2.63	(-4.2, -1.1)	-0.02	(-0.81, 0.77)
Mean NDVI 300 m	-6.62	(-9.0, -4.2)	-3.9	(-5.2, -2.6)	-2.72	(-4.3, -1.1)	0.17	(-0.64, 0.98)
Mean NDVI 500 m	-6.43	(-8.8, -4.0)	-3.75	(-5.0, -2.5)	-2.69	(-4.3, -1.1)	0.17	(-0.64, 0.97)
Distance to greenspace (m)	-0.003	(-0.005, -0.001)	-0.001	(-0.002, 0.0004)	0.0001	(-0.003, -0.001)	0.0005	(-0.0001, 0.001)
Adjusted²								
Mean NDVI 100 m	-3.05	(-5.47, -0.63)	-1.59	(-2.88, -0.29)	-1.47	(-3.09, 0.15)	0.15	(-0.67, 0.98)
Mean NDVI 300 m	-3.53	(-6.01, -1.05)	-1.9	(-3.23, -0.57)	-1.63	(-3.29, 0.03)	0.36	(-0.48, 1.2)
Mean NDVI 500 m	-3.38	(-5.83, -0.92)	-1.75	(-3.06, -0.43)	-1.63	(-3.27, 0.01)	0.36	(-0.48, 1.2)
Distance to greenspace (m)	-0.002	(-0.004, -0.004)	-0.001	(-0.002, 0.001)	-0.002	(-0.003, -0.001)	0.0005	(-0.0002, 0.001)
Adjusted³								
Mean NDVI 100 m	-3.1	(-5.49, -0.71)	-1.54	(-2.83, -0.25)	-1.56	(-3.15, 0.03)	0.25	(-0.56, 1.06)
Mean NDVI 300 m	-3.59	(-6.04, -1.14)	-1.89	(-3.21, -0.57)	-1.7	(-3.33, -0.07)	0.41	(-0.41, 1.24)
Mean NDVI 500 m	-3.41	(-5.83, -0.99)	-1.75	(-3.06, -0.45)	-1.66	(-3.27, -0.05)	0.37	(-0.45, 1.19)
Distance to greenspace (m)	-0.002	(-0.004, -0.0004)	-0.0004	(-0.002, 0.001)	-0.002	(-0.003, -0.001)	0.0005	(-0.0001, 0.001)
Adjusted⁴								
Mean NDVI 100 m	-1.33	(-3.73, 1.08)	-0.74	(-2.05, 0.56)	-0.58	(-2.2, 1.03)	0.07	(-0.76, 0.91)
Mean NDVI 300 m	-1.34	(-3.84, 1.16)	-0.88	(-2.24, 0.47)	-0.45	(-2.13, 1.21)	0.16	(-0.71, 1.03)
Mean NDVI 500 m	-0.99	(-3.48, 1.50)	-0.65	(-2.01, 0.70)	-0.34	(-2.01, 1.33)	0.09	(-0.78, 0.95)
Distance to greenspace (m)	-0.001	(-0.003, 0.001)	0.0001	(-0.001, 0.001)	-0.001	(-0.003, 0.00001)	0.0003	(-0.0003, 0.001)
Adjusted⁵								
Mean NDVI 100 m	-1.35	(-3.75, 1.05)	-0.7	(-2.01, 0.61)	-0.66	(-2.26, 0.95)	0.16	(-0.68, 0.99)
Mean NDVI 300 m	-1.33	(-3.82, 1.16)	-0.86	(-2.22, 0.49)	-0.47	(-2.13, 1.20)	0.19	(-0.67, 1.06)
Mean NDVI 500 m	-1.01	(-3.49, 1.47)	-0.66	(-2.01, 0.69)	-0.35	(-2.01, 1.32)	0.11	(-0.75, 0.97)
Distance to greenspace (m)	-0.001	(-0.003, 0.001)	0.0001	(-0.001, 0.001)	0.001	(-0.001, 0.001)	0.0003	(-0.0004, 0.001)

Notes: ¹N=2485; ²Adjusted for ethnicity, N=2483; ³ Model 2 + child age, child gender, maternal age, cohabitation status, N=2483; ⁴ Model 3 + maternal education, subjective

poverty, household size, IMD, N=2454; ⁵ Model 4 + maternal smoking, mother's CMD in previous year, N =2447. Significant findings in **bold italics**.

Supplemental Table 3 Associations between NDVI and wellbeing by White British, and Social Asian Origin groups within the subsample

	White British								South Asian							
	Total Difficulties		Internalising		Externalising		Prosocial		Total Difficulties		Internalising		Externalising		Prosocial	
	β	95% CI	β	95% CI	β	95% CI	β	95% CI	β	95% CI	β	95% CI	β	95% CI	β	95% CI
Unadjusted¹																
Mean NDVI 100 m	1.15	(-5.4, 7.7)	1.15	(-1.93, 4.2)	-0.003	(-4.7, 4.7)	0.49	(-1.7, 2.7)	-4.8	(-10.7, 1.1)	-4.05	(-7.3, -0.83)	-0.75	(-4.7, 3.2)	-0.06	(-2.2, 2.0)
Mean NDVI 300 m	1.31	(-4.9, 7.5)	1.56	(-1.38, 4.5)	-0.25	(-4.7, 4.2)	0.39	(-1.7, 2.5)	-5.61	(-11.9, 0.72)	-4.96	(-8.4, -1.5)	-0.65	(-4.9, 3.6)	0.67	(-1.6, 2.9)
Mean NDVI 500 m	0.31	(-5.7, 6.3)	1.12	(-1.72, 4.0)	-0.82	(-5.2, 3.5)	0.63	(-1.4, 2.7)	-5.35	(-11.7, 1.00)	-4.60	(-8.1, -1.1)	-0.75	(-5.0, 3.5)	1.08	(-1.2, 3.3)
Adjusted²																
Mean NDVI 100 m	1.25	(-4.81, 7.31)	1.23	(-1.68, 4.15)	0.02	(-4.37, 4.41)	0.48	(-1.71, 2.67)	-3.49	(-10.40, 1.60)	-3.75	(-7.00, -0.51)	-0.64	(-4.65, 3.35)	-0.28	(-2.40, 1.83)
Mean NDVI 300 m	1.44	(-4.35, 7.23)	1.74	(-1.04, 4.53)	-0.3	(-4.50, 3.89)	0.36	(-1.73, 2.45)	-5.22	(-11.59, 1.15)	-4.65	(-8.09, -1.21)	-0.57	(-4.82, 3.68)	0.5	(-1.74, 2.75)
Mean NDVI 500 m	0.91	(-4.71, 6.53)	1.48	(-1.21, 4.19)	-0.57	(-4.64, 3.49)	0.54	(-1.48, 2.57)	-4.91	(-11.36, 1.52)	-4.29	(-7.77, -0.81)	-0.62	(-4.92, 3.67)	0.88	(-1.38, 3.15)
Adjusted³																
Mean NDVI 100 m	0.46	(-5.38, 6.30)	1.00	(-1.90, 3.87)	-0.53	(-4.74, 3.67)	0.58	(-1.62, 2.79)	-3.09	(-9.46, 3.28)	-2.91	(-6.36, 0.54)	-0.18	(-4.46, 4.09)	-0.51	(-2.80, 1.76)
Mean NDVI 300 m	1.49	(-4.09, 7.07)	1.64	(-1.13, 4.40)	-0.14	(-4.16, 3.87)	0.41	(-1.71, 2.52)	-4.44	(-11.39, 2.50)	-4.09	(-7.85, -0.34)	-0.34	(-5.01, 4.33)	0.34	(-2.14, 2.83)
Mean NDVI 500 m	1.47	(-3.94, 6.87)	1.52	(-1.16, 4.20)	-0.06	(-3.95, 3.83)	0.54	(-1.51, 2.59)	-4.83	(-12.01, 2.36)	-4.03	(-7.92, -0.14)	-0.8	(-5.63, 4.03)	0.87	(-1.69, 3.44)
Adjusted⁴																
Mean NDVI 100 m	0.56	(-5.30, 6.43)	1.15	(-1.77, 4.06)	-0.58	(-4.81, 3.64)	0.6	(-1.62, 2.83)	-2.79	(-9.19, 3.61)	-2.83	(-6.31, 0.64)	0.04	(-4.26, 4.35)	-0.81	(-3.09, 1.47)
Mean NDVI 300 m	1.42	(-4.17, 7.02)	1.68	(-1.10, 4.46)	-0.26	(-4.29, 3.77)	0.38	(-1.75, 2.50)	-4.12	(-11.09, 2.85)	-3.96	(-7.74, -0.18)	-0.16	(-4.85, 4.54)	0.13	(-2.35, 2.62)

Mean NDVI 500 m	1.25	(-4.17, 6.68)	1.51	(-1.18, 4.21)	-0.26	(-4.17, 3.65)	0.47	(-1.59, 2.53)	-4.56	(-11.76, 2.64)	-3.91	(-7.81, - 0.00003)	-0.66	(-5.51, 4.19)	0.7	(-1.87, 3.27)
--------------------	------	------------------	------	------------------	-------	------------------	------	------------------	-------	-------------------	--------------	-------------------------------	-------	------------------	-----	------------------

574 NOTES: 1 Unadjusted, White British N=308, South Asian N=363 ; 2 model 1 + child age, child gender, maternal age, cohabitation status, White British N=308, South Asian
575 N=363; 3: model 2 +maternal education, subjective poverty, household size, IMD, White British N=307, South Asian N=358; 4: model 3 + maternal smoking, mother's CMD
576 in previous year, White British N=305, South Asian N=356. Significant findings are highlighted in **bold italics**.