



## Case Study 1

Healthcare Company



## The Programme

2019

SMART Office

**Feb – March 2020** 

Standard Office

**April – Aug 2020** 

COVID-Enforced Home Working

Sept – June 2021

Performance Insights
Programme



Evidence of a high performing workplace driving business impact, enhancing employee performance & wellbeing, and delivering value for money



Reinforcement of SMART office findings with a post-occupancy assessment and new cohort



With the unprecedented switch to home working, the team were poised to pivot and collect unique insights from the get-go



Validating initial remote working findings across the portfolio and informing future design standards for Office & Flex real estate



## **SMART OFFICE**

### "The team's productivity has gone through the roof since they moved into the SMART Office"

**Chief Digital & Technology Officer** 



## **Business Impact**

The team average cycle phases have been reduced by 72 days, moving from a total of 435.6 days to 363, a reduction of 17% in total duration of innovation cycles

**Increased collaboration by 40%** compared to baseline



## Value for money

The SMART office design costs the same to build, but uses 20-30% less space for the same amount of people

A increase in asset satisfaction of 23.8%, placing the SMART office amongst the 28 best workplaces in the world according to Leesman Index



## **Employee Performance**

**7% increase in employee performance** due to the SMART office design even though space/employee ratio was reduced by 1 meter



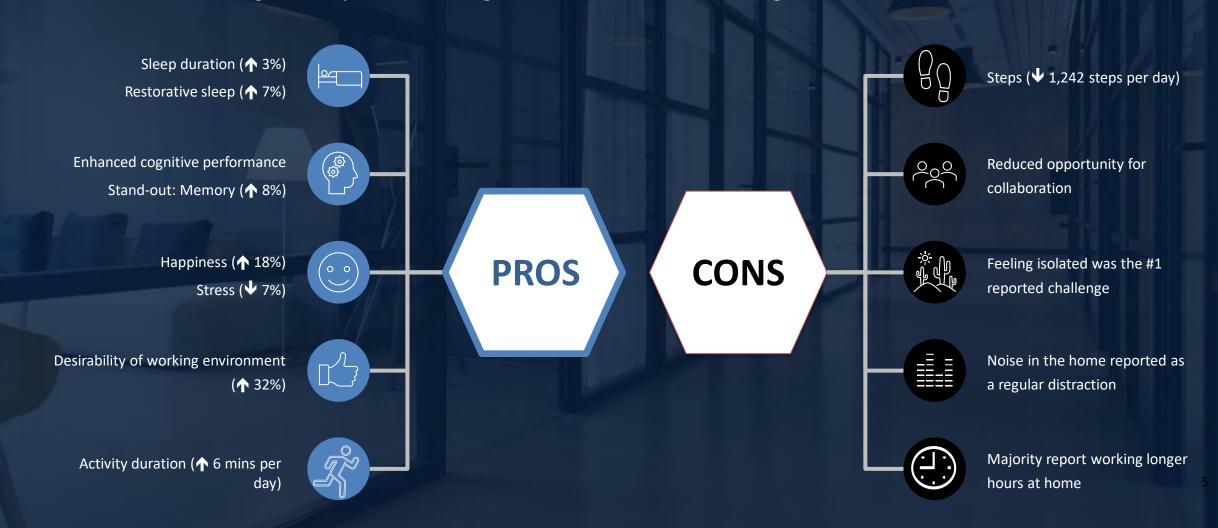
## **Employee Wellbeing**

- Happier & more energised employees (vs. control & baseline)
- Less anxious & worried employees (vs. baseline)
- 3 beats per minute decreased resting heart rate (vs. baseline)
- **700 additional steps** per day, equivalent to burning 1 kg of fat per year (vs. control group)
- Higher quality sleep (vs. control & baseline)



## **Home Working vs Office**

Overall Positive And Negative Impacts Following The Switch To Home Working





## **Home Working: Drivers of Performance**

Strong Relationship Between Desirability Of Home Working And Performance

- The desirability of home working was strongly *linked with performance (i.e. those reporting home* working as desirable, also performed better cognitively)
- Specifically, decision making (5%) and <u>distractibility (2%) were improved</u> in participants who reported home working as desirable
- Suggests that performance can be enhanced by creating desirable working environments (see next slide)





## **What Drives Home Working Desirability?**

**Comfortable Temperature** 



Temperature often provides as a matter of contention within offices

46% of respondents reported being in a comfortable temperature when also reporting home working as desirable

Dedicated Workstation



For many, finding a place to work in the house was a challenge with home working

51% of respondents who reported home working as desirable, also had access to a dedicated workstation

Comfortable Noise Levels



One of the main difficulties reported with home working was noise

67% of those reporting home working as desirable, also reported comfortable noise levels

**High Levels of Natural Light** 



Access to natural light is often recommended for wellbeing

71% of participants reporting home working as desirable, also reported high levels of natural light

Air Quality (Fresh, Clean, Good)



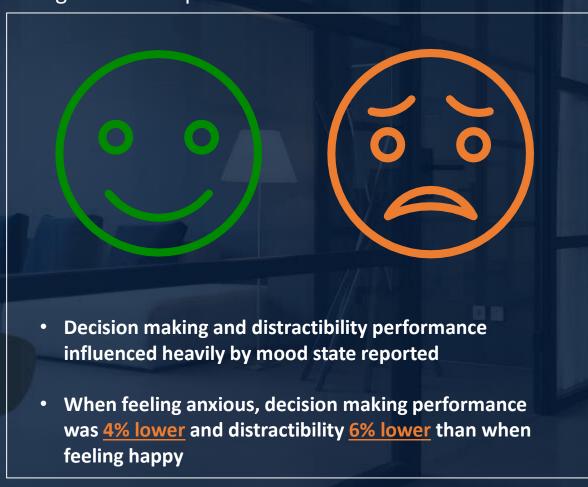
Good air quality benefits both health and the environment

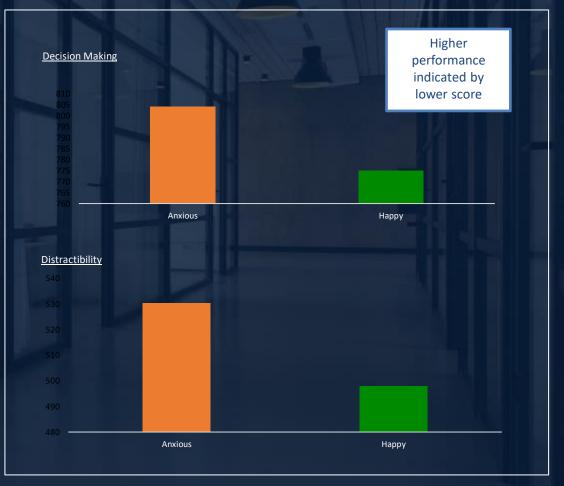
77% of respondents reported good air quality when also reporting home working as desirable



## **Drivers of Performance: Mood**

Strong Relationship Between Mood and Performance Identified







## **Drivers of Performance: Environment**

Environmental Factors Reported Most in **Top 10%** of Performers









"COMFORTABLE TEMPERATURE"

"COMFORTABLE NOISE LEVELS"

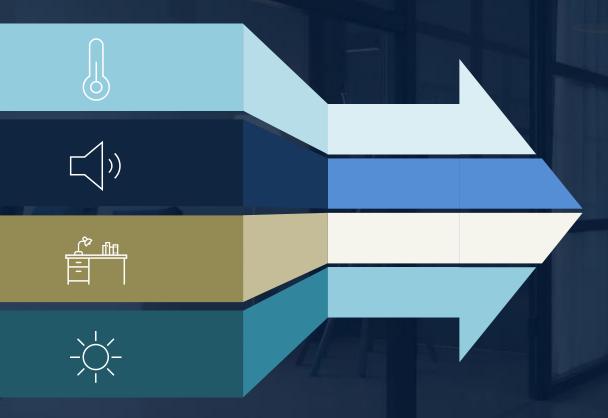
"DEDICATED WORKSTATION"

"HIGH LEVELS OF NATURAL LIGHT"



## **Drivers of Performance: Environment**

Environmental Factors Reported in **BOTTOM 10%** of Performers



"SLIGHTLY WARM"

"NON-DEDICATED WORKSTATION"

"SLIGHTLY LOUD"

"MODERATE LEVELS OF NATURAL LIGHT"



# Case Study 2

**Property Company** 



## **Programme of Work**

Feb - March 2020

Office Baseline Phase

**April – Aug 2020** 

**COVID-Enforced Home Working** 

TBC

**SMART Office Assessment** 



Baseline data collection at the Head office in Manchester, UK as part of the wider *Workplace Science Programme* 



Following COVID-19 induced mass employee-switch to homeworking, ART Health pivoted project scope in order to collect unique home-working insights



As the team re-enter the office following lockdown, data collection continues as part of the Workplace Science Project to assess the impact of a new SMART office and BAU



## **Home Working vs Office**

#### WELLBEING



## Understanding of the impact on physical wellbeing

✓ Steps (1,500 per day)
Sleep duration & quality maintained



## Understanding of the impact on mental wellbeing

Higher levels of happiness ( $\uparrow$  5%) Higher levels of stress ( $\uparrow$  5%)



## Validation of ability to enhance employee choice

Potential to increase staff attraction/retention

#### **PERFORMANCE**



#### Focused work has flourished

♠ Working memory (16%)

♠ Decision making (11%)

♠ Distractibility (4%)



## Identification of factors that help performance

Feeling happy
Dedicated workstation
Optimal environmental conditions



## Identification of factors that hinder performance

Feeling anxious Non-specific workstation Sub-optimal environmental conditions

#### **EXPERIENCE**



#### Identification of key home working benefits

#1 Removal of commute #2 Flexible work schedule #3 Increased time with family



#### Identification of key home working challenges

#1 Supporting dependents #2 Feeling isolated #3 Lack of collaboration



#### Majority preference for remote working

76% report home working as desirable Majority future preference includes home working time each week



## **Characteristics of High and Low Performers: Activity**

% Difference Home Working vs Office\*

Compared to the top 10% of performers, the bottom 10% had a larger average decrease in steps, active minutes and exercise minutes, following the change to home working

Higher activity levels may be a key driver to facilitate peak cognitive performance



A larger increase in sedentary activity is observed in the bottom 10% of performers



## **Characteristics of High and Low Performers: Sleep**

% Difference Home Working vs Office\*



Following the move to home working an increase was identified in average sleep duration and restorative sleep for top performers. A larger percentage decrease however, was seen in the lower performance group

A characteristic of high performers may therefore be that they are able to maintain higher levels of sleep duration and quality than those with poorer cognitive performance





## What the Data tells us



#### **Traditional Offices**

Traditional open plan office space is often inflexible, under-utilised and sub-optimal for performance, wellbeing & employee experience



#### **SMART Offices**

High-performing workspaces drive business impact, enhance employee performance & wellbeing, and deliver value for money



#### **Home Working**

choice, allows real estate savings, and can facilitate performance & wellbeing



#### The Future

A blended offering that re-balances
the portfolio to support working
environments which enable
employees to perform & feel at their
best



## **Future Considerations**



#### **Employee Experience**

- Majority preference for some level of remote working. Provides opportunity for personalisation
- Considerations for corporate responsibility, health
   wellness, employee experience and home office upgrades
- 3. Utilise evidence-based approach to inform flexible working policy



#### **Real Estate Synergies**

- A blend of physical offices, flexible space and remote working must be sustainable in the future
- Using an evidence-based approach to influence new workplace standards
- 3. Using data to inform & validate ways of working across portfolio



#### Collaboration

- 1. Physical office to be a focal point for collaboration
- 2. Investment required to change working environments to suit this demand
- 3. Using data to validate performance & collaboration across portfolio



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