



Social Mobility
Commission

Social mobility in the UK

Helping people in the
UK have better lives



Easy
Read

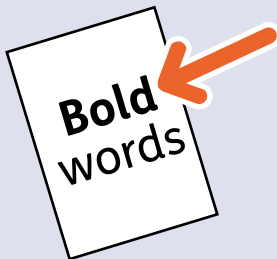
Easy Read



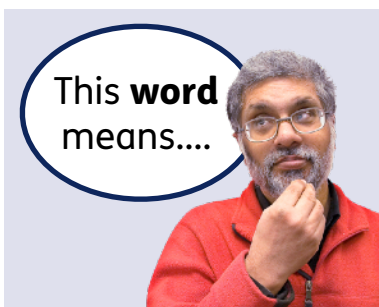
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.

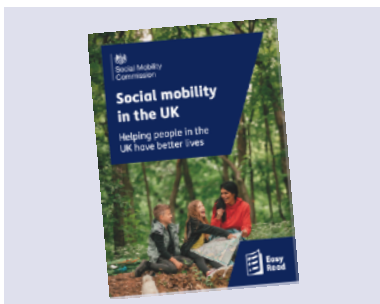


Blue and underlined words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

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About this booklet



This booklet was written by the Social Mobility Commission.

Social mobility means giving people a chance to have a better life than their parents, by having:



- More money.



- A better job.

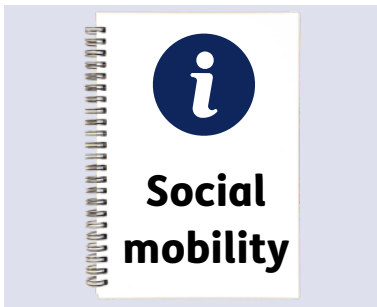


- A better home.



- More chances to learn.

Our job is to:



- Find out information about social mobility across the UK.



- Suggest how people in England can have better lives.



- Write reports for the government about social mobility.



In this booklet we will tell you about some information we have found out about social mobility in the UK.

About social mobility now



Remember, **social mobility** means giving people a chance to have a better life than their parents.

We think it is important to talk about:



- What stops people from having a better life.



- How we can help people have a better life.

We want to make sure that new ideas:



- Help the right people.



- Are planned using the information we have found out.

About what we found out



The information we find out helps make sure everyone has the chance of a better life, wherever they grow up.



We want the information to be used by government, places of work, schools and universities.



To make the information more useful we are now giving it about smaller areas of the UK.



We want to give organisations the same information about social mobility each year, called a **Social Mobility Index**.



You can look at all the Social Mobility Index information on our new website here:

social-mobility.data.gov.uk

What we found out

Social mobility since last year



Doing well at school can be a good way to get a better life.



We want to know how well children from families with not a lot of money do at school.



So we look at children who get free school meals, and how well they do at school.



Children who get free school meals usually do worse at school than children who do not.



The difference between children who get free school meals and children who do not is the same as last year for 5 year olds and 11 year olds.



But the difference has got bigger for 16 year olds.



Girls who get free school meals do better than boys who get them.



Some children from some **ethnic groups** who get free school meals do very well.

Ethnic groups are your race and the country that your family comes from.



Children in London who get free school meals do well at school.



The number of children who live in families who do not have a lot of money has gone up since 2012.



The UK has good schools.



In 2022, the number of young people who have a job is the highest it has been since 2014.



But for young people who do not have a job, it is harder to find one.



More young people whose parents did not go to university are now going to university.



In the past, if a young person passed a lot of exams, it meant they were more likely to get a better paying job.



Now more young people who have not passed many exams are earning more money than before.

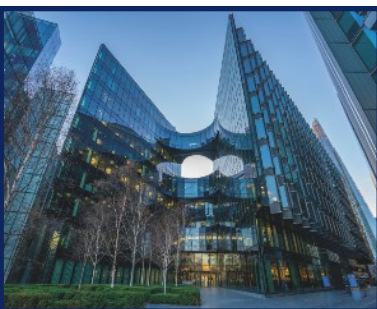


Fewer people are taking part in **politics**.

Politics is about how a country is run and the decisions that are made in that country.



The UK has had faster internet since 2020.



Good internet makes it easier for companies to start up and grow.

Social mobility across the UK

We have worked on new ways to look at:



- How well young people do earlier in life.



- What helps them do well.



We now have a better way of looking at how well young people do in different areas of the UK.

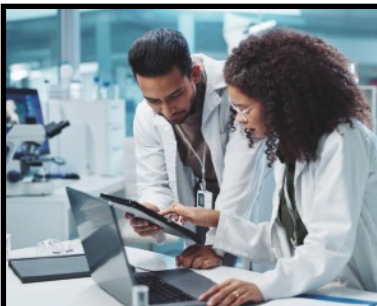
We have 3 new ways of looking at what helps or stops social mobility in different areas:



1. Looking at **Conditions of Childhood** - this means looking at what life is like for children.



Children who grow up in London and the areas around it have the best chances in life.



2. Looking at **Labour Market Opportunities** - this means looking at how easy it is to get a good job.



Young people in the North East and North West of the UK find it most difficult to get good jobs.

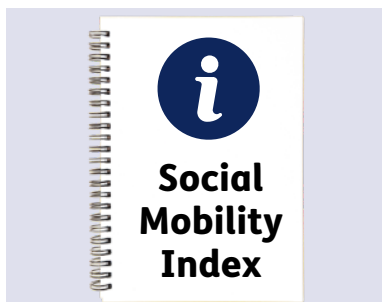


3. Looking at **Innovation and Growth**
- this means looking at where there are new jobs and businesses.



The best areas for this are London and the areas around it.

What we think should happen next



The Social Mobility Index helps us find out what stops people having better lives.



It will also help us understand how social mobility changes over time.



But we want to do more to help people have better lives.



We have made a new plan called **Innovation Generation** to help with social mobility.



The plan uses the information we get to see what needs to change.



We know that different people need help in different ways.



The information in the Social Mobility Index gives us ideas of how to help everyone in the UK.



We will help to make these changes happen.



We are excited to be part of this change and hope that we can help to make a big difference to people's lives.

Find out more



You can look at the full report and find out more about our work on our website:

socialmobility.independent-commission.uk

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