



Social Mobility
Commission

Improving social mobility in the UK

Giving people the chance
to have a better life than
their parents



Easy
Read



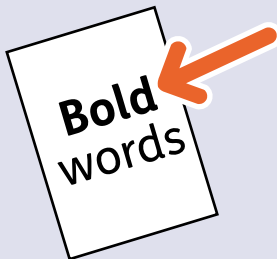
Easy Read



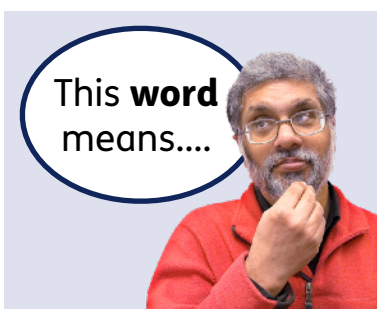
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



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.

What is in this booklet

About this booklet	4
Problems with social mobility	6
Improving social mobility.....	13
What the Social Mobility Commission will do.....	20
Find out more	21

About this booklet



This booklet is from the Social Mobility Commission.

Social mobility means giving people the 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 in the UK.



- Suggest how people in England can have better lives than their parents.



- Write reports for the government about social mobility.



In this booklet, we will tell you how we think social mobility in the UK can be improved.



Improving social mobility is all about helping **more** people have a better life than their parents.

Problems with social mobility

4 main issues

We think 4 main issues in the UK stop social mobility from improving:



1. There are now fewer jobs that pay a higher amount of money.



2. Some groups of people do not get the same chance to have a better life as other groups.

For example, some groups of people cannot go to good schools like other groups.



3. There are big differences between areas in the UK.

For example, some areas have lots of jobs available, while other areas have very few jobs available.



4. It is now harder for young people to have a better life than their parents.

For example, houses and education are more expensive.

Thinking about social mobility



There are many different ways of thinking about social mobility.



We think there are some problems with the way the government in the UK thinks about social mobility.



In the UK, when people think about social mobility they think about money.



Lots of people think that having a good education is the only way someone can have a better life.



So the government has focused on helping some **disadvantaged** young people go to university.



Disadvantaged people are groups of people who find it harder to get chances in life, because of who they are, the way they live or what their parents do or did.



For example, someone may be disadvantaged because they have a disability that makes it harder for them to do things or because their parents do not have money.



By focusing on just some **disadvantaged** young people, only a few young people get the chance to have a better life.



But lots of different people from different backgrounds should be getting the chance to have a better life, not just a few.



We think education is just 1 part of social mobility.



We also think that the way the government decides which young people are disadvantaged is not always right.



The government usually decides whether a young person is disadvantaged by looking at whether they get free meals at school.



But there are lots of other ways a young person can be disadvantaged, even if they do not get free meals.

Not enough information



The government should use good and correct information about the UK to make **policies**.



Government **policies** are plans that explain how the government will improve an issue.



We do not think the government collects enough information, and sometimes the information they collect isn't very good.



We also think that the information the government does use should be used carefully.



This means the government should think about any issues with the information it collects, and what it might be missing.

Areas



There are big differences between areas in the UK.



This means where a person is born affects whether they will get the chance to have a better life than their parents.



Most of the UK's jobs are in London and the areas around London.



This means the government spends a lot of its money on London and the areas around London.

More information



For more information about social mobility in the UK right now, you can read our booklet called ‘State of the Nation 2024’.



There is an Easy Read copy of this booklet here: www.bit.ly/4hmJFky

Improving social mobility



We think there are different ways social mobility in the UK can be improved.

Our 3 main ideas are:



1. The UK needs a stronger economy - we will explain what this means later in the booklet.



2. The government should support people who are not in education, training or working at all.



3. The government should learn more about how neighbourhoods and families affect social mobility.

A stronger economy



A country's **economy** is all about the amount of money a country has and its **standard of living**.

A country's **standard of living** is about how good the lives of the people who live there are.

We think the UK needs a stronger economy that:



- Uses new technology and new ideas to make more money and jobs.



- Makes better use of what the UK has now.



- Makes more jobs that pay a higher amount of money.



We think having this kind of economy will improve social mobility and standards of living in the UK.

Education



We think the government focuses too much on making policies that help young people go to university.



While we think it is good that more young people are going to university, we think these policies only help a few young people.



We think the government should also make policies that support **vocational education and training**.



Vocational education and training is learning how to do jobs that have more to do with hands-on skills that are needed day to day. Like learning to be a builder or carer.



We also think the government need to do more to support young people who are not in any kind of education, training or work.

Thinking differently



We think the government needs to change the way it thinks about and looks into social mobility.



The government needs to think about improving social mobility for **all** groups of people.



This means moving away from the idea that all policies can improve social mobility for all groups.



Because there are big differences between areas in the UK, it is much harder to get the chance at a better life in some areas.



So we think the government should make different social mobility policies for different areas.



We think **devolution** can help improve social mobility in the areas where it is much harder to get the chance at a better life.



Devolution means the government gives more power to local governments, like local councils.



Local governments would be able to make social mobility policies that they know meet the needs of people in their area.

We also think the government should have a better understanding of:



- What it means when we say someone is disadvantaged.



- How to support families from disadvantaged backgrounds, especially when their children are young.

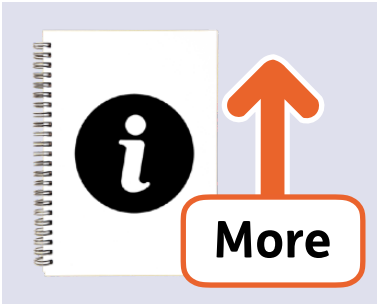


- Why some areas have worse education than other areas.



- How neighbourhoods and families affect social mobility.

Information



We think the government needs to collect more information.

It needs to collect information about:



- What policies work and why.



- What policies do not work and why.



This will help the government to make policies that meet the needs of different people.

What the Social Mobility Commission will do

We will carry on finding out more about:



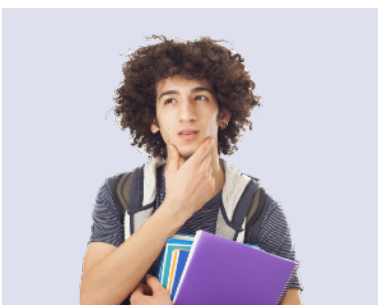
- Social mobility in general.



- How the UK's economy can help improve social mobility.



- Areas with good social mobility and areas with less social mobility.



- How a bad education can make social mobility harder for someone.

Find out more



You can find out more about our work on our website:

www.bit.ly/42MqLPk

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