



**Social Mobility
Commission**



**Easy
Read**

Giving people across the UK fairer chances



**This is an Easy Read version of ‘Regional Insights:
Creating fairer chances across the regions’**

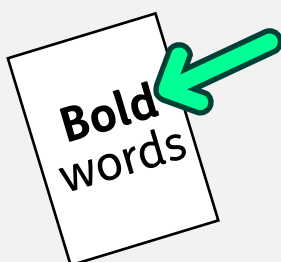
Easy Read



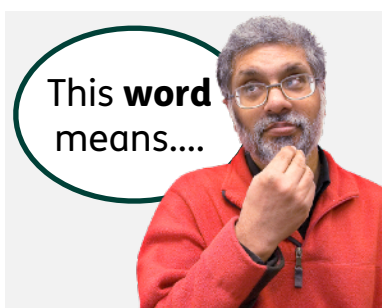
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



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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You can fill in a quick survey to say what you think about this Easy Read booklet:
<https://www.easy-read-online.co.uk/easy-read-feedback-survey>

About this report



We are the Social Mobility Commission.



We work to make **social mobility** better in the UK.

We will explain more about **social mobility** on the next page.



We wanted to find out about social mobility in different parts of the UK.



So we listened to people in different parts of the UK.



This report explains what we found out.

Social mobility

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 chance to learn.

Why we wrote this report



Social mobility is different in different places.



Some places give people more chances to learn, work in better jobs and make money.



Some places do not give people those same chances.



We want to help write plans to make social mobility better in all parts of the UK.



This report will help us to make sure that our ideas are right for different places.

The places we visited

We spoke to people in:



- The West Midlands, Greater Manchester, Liverpool and Barnsley.
- Scotland.
- Wales.

In 2026, we are going to visit:



- Northern Ireland.
- Other parts of England.



In the next 4 parts of this report, we will explain what we found out.

We will talk about:



- What people told us.



- What we think should happen.



We think our ideas will help to make social mobility better across the UK.

Young people



People told us that young people need support while they are still in school.



They should learn about work, and get a chance to try jobs.

Colleges



Colleges can do more to help young people plan their futures.



They can help people get the skills they need to work in good jobs.



Colleges and local companies should work together.



They can make sure that young people learn the right skills so that they can go out and get jobs.



Colleges in Greater Manchester are already doing this well.

Young people who are not working or learning



Nearly a million young people are not working or learning.

This could be for reasons like:



- They have not had the same chances as other people.



- They are disabled or have a health condition.



But we also need to think about which part of the country they live in.

Advice about jobs



Young people need better advice about jobs and how to get them.



This will help young people to learn that there are many different good jobs they can do.



In 2027, young people will be able to do **V levels**.



V levels will be where young people learn skills that will help them into jobs.



They will be able to do V levels in school or college instead of A levels or T levels.

Companies



Companies should work with schools and colleges in their local area.



They should give young people the chance to try working for at least 5 days.



This will help young people to understand different types of work.



Companies can also go into schools and colleges to explain more about what they do.

The skills and growth levy



The **skills and growth levy** is when large companies pay some money to the government.



The government lets them use this money on training young people who work for them.



We think that local areas should be in charge of this money, instead of the government.



This will help companies to work with local colleges and universities.

Getting around



For people to have good social mobility, they need to be able to get around their local areas.



This is because they need to be able to get to and from their job, college or university.



But in some parts of the UK, it is not easy to get around.

So we need to make it easier for people to:



- Get around their local area.



- Travel into their nearest city.

Cheaper public transport for young people



Public transport is buses, trains and trams.



We think that young people should get cheaper or free bus, train and tram tickets.



Some places already do this, like Scotland and Greater Manchester.



It helps young people to get to school or work.

Making choices about transport



Transport is how we get around. It includes public transport, cars, as well as walking and cycling.



We think that local areas should be able to make choices about transport.



The government should make sure that all areas get a fair share of money to pay for transport.

Giving local areas more control over transport



The government should give local areas more control over transport services, like buses.



People need public transport that is cheap and works well.



Giving local areas more control can help to make sure that transport is right for what people need.



For example, the council in Liverpool runs their local trains.

The countryside



Many places in the countryside do not have very much public transport.



This can make it hard for people to get to jobs or colleges.



The government should spend money on helping public transport in the countryside.

They should look at places where:



- There is no public transport in the evenings or on weekends.



- It takes people longer than 45 minutes to get to their jobs or training.

Benefits



Benefits are money from the government.

They help people who do not have much money to afford the things they need.



Many people do not have much money because they do not have a job.



The government needs to work on giving people a chance to get a job, not just give them money.



They should work with local areas to help people who need it most.

Sharing information



Different parts of the government have a lot of information about people's money and jobs.



But they do not share it with each other.



If each part of the government shared information, they could do more to help people.

Working with local organisations



The government works with local organisations to help people to get good jobs.



These organisations can help young people to start working or learning.



Next year, we will visit an organisation in Liverpool that is helping people to find jobs.

Skills



Many people who are not working and learning do not have the right skills for work.



But companies cannot do well unless local people have the right skills.



When the government supports people on benefits, it must help them learn new skills.



Companies can help with this too.

Reading, writing and maths



Many people find it hard to read and write.



The government needs to help people with reading, writing and maths.



But people should also work to help themselves get better at reading and writing.

Local communities



It is important for people to feel like they belong in their local community.



People need to see that they can do well in their local area.



Local plans that help the area are good for this.



People said that places are getting better when they have plans to improve the area.



Local leaders and groups should also work together to make people want to move to their areas.

Information



It is important to have good information about local areas.



This is because groups of local people are different, even when they live close together.



Councils should use this information to make choices that are right for each community.



Liverpool and the West Midlands are already doing this.

Strong local organisations



People use services more if they are based close to where they live.



Local places like community centres can help people who do not get help from anyone else.



This is because they are local places that they trust.



Organisations and councils across the country are working on good ways to do this.



They can learn from each other to make sure they are getting better at helping people.

What should happen next



The government and councils should think about the ideas in this report.



This will help them to support more people to learn new skills and get better jobs.



We will keep working in areas around the country to learn more.



This will help us to have more ideas to help local areas have more social mobility.

Find out more



You can look at our website here:
www.socialmobilitycommission.org

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