

Who should do what?

The role of Government and non-Government actors in improving social mobility in the UK

David Johnston, CEO of Social Mobility Foundation and Member of Social Mobility & Child Poverty Commission

Introduction

The Social Mobility Foundation

The Social Mobility (and Child Poverty) Commission

Who should fix the problem?

Government

Parents

Schools

Universities

Employers

Etc

Prime Minister David Cameron, 7 October 2015

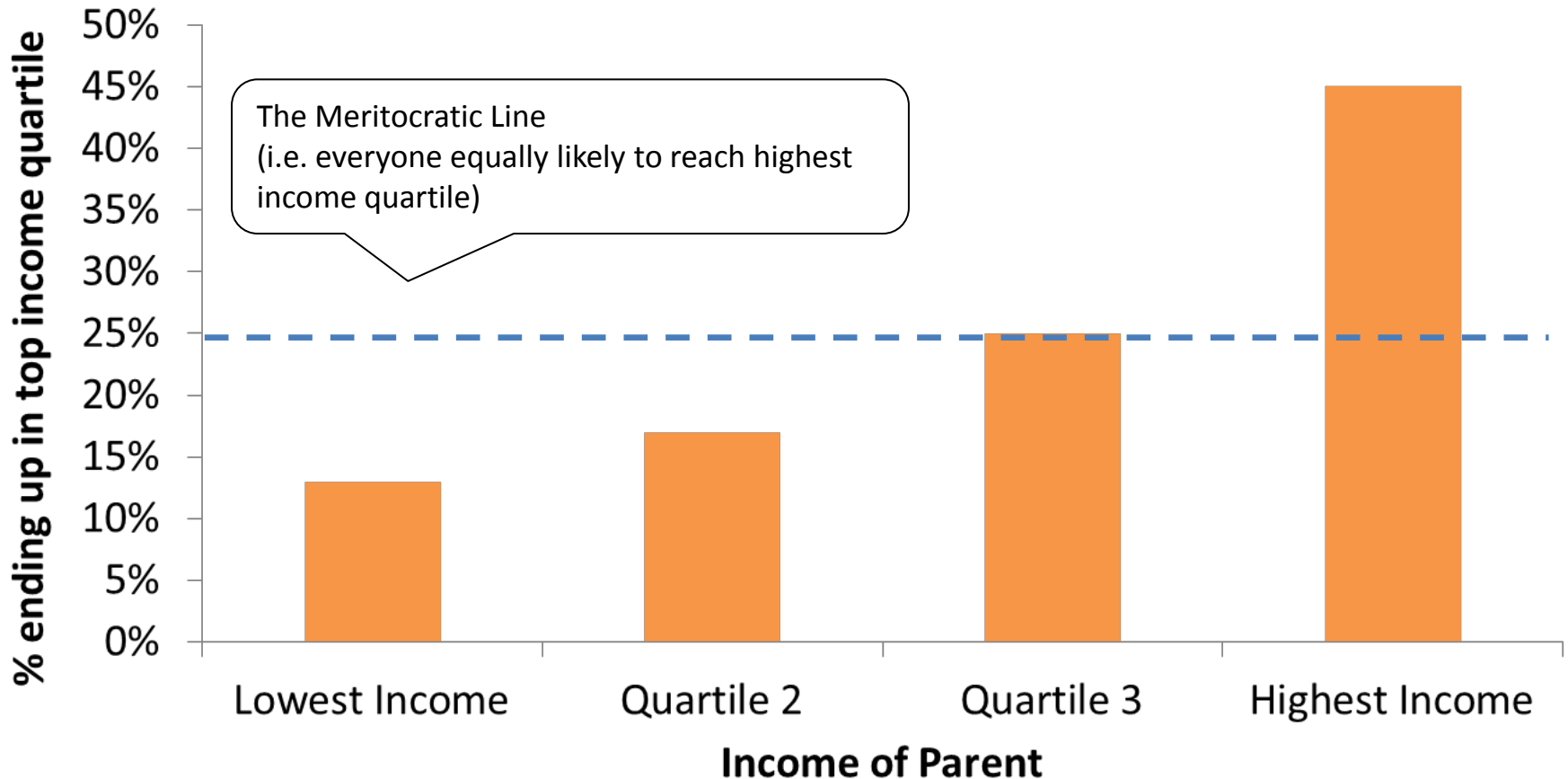
‘*The brick wall of blocked opportunity.....*

In politicians’ speak: a “lack of social mobility”.

In normal language: people unable to rise from the bottom to the top, or even from the middle to the top, because of their background.

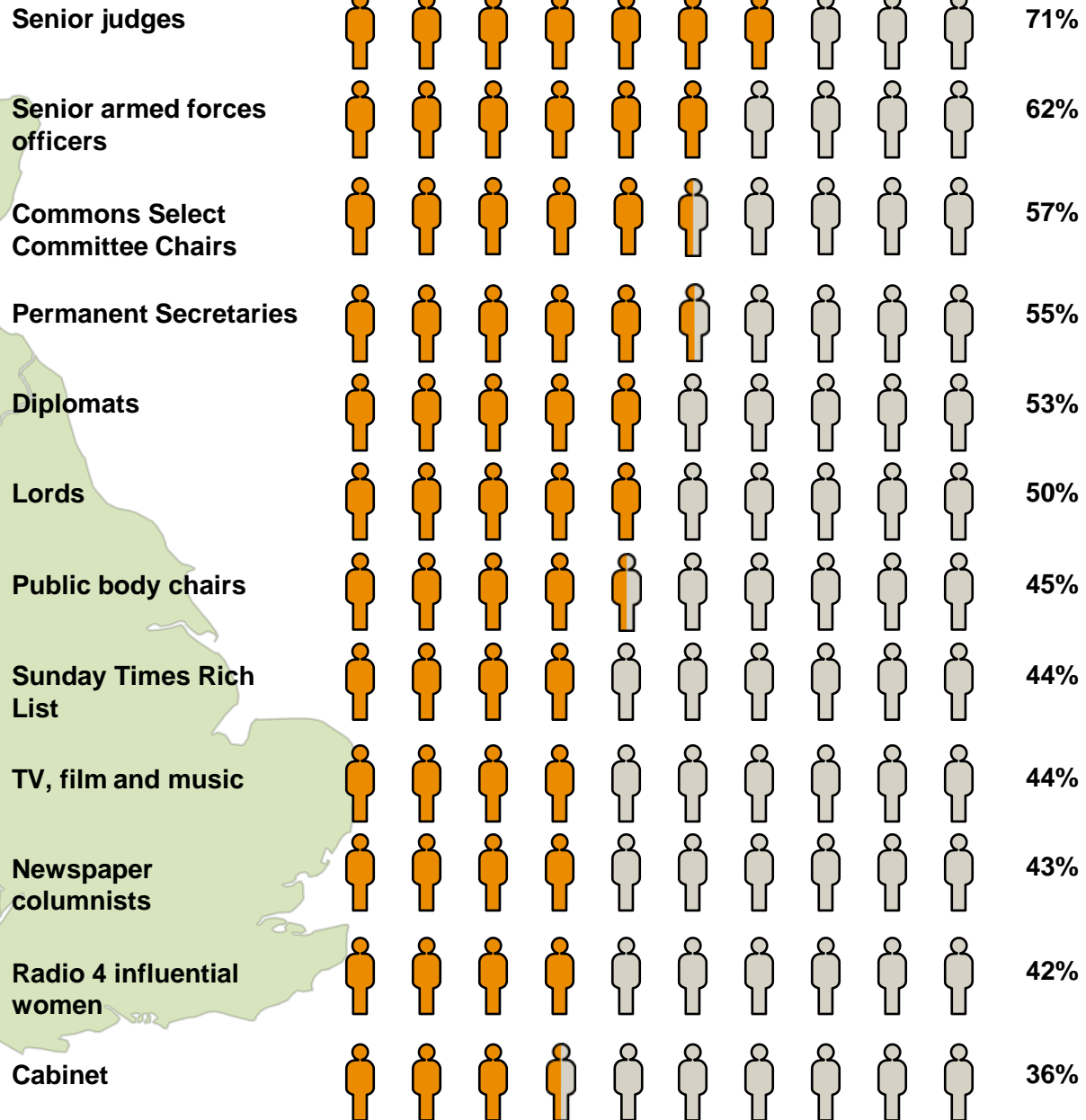
Listen to this: Britain has the lowest social mobility in the developed world. Here, the salary you earn is more linked to what your father got paid than in any other major country.....we cannot accept that.’

In a mobile society, people get on in life because of their own efforts, not the family they are born into...

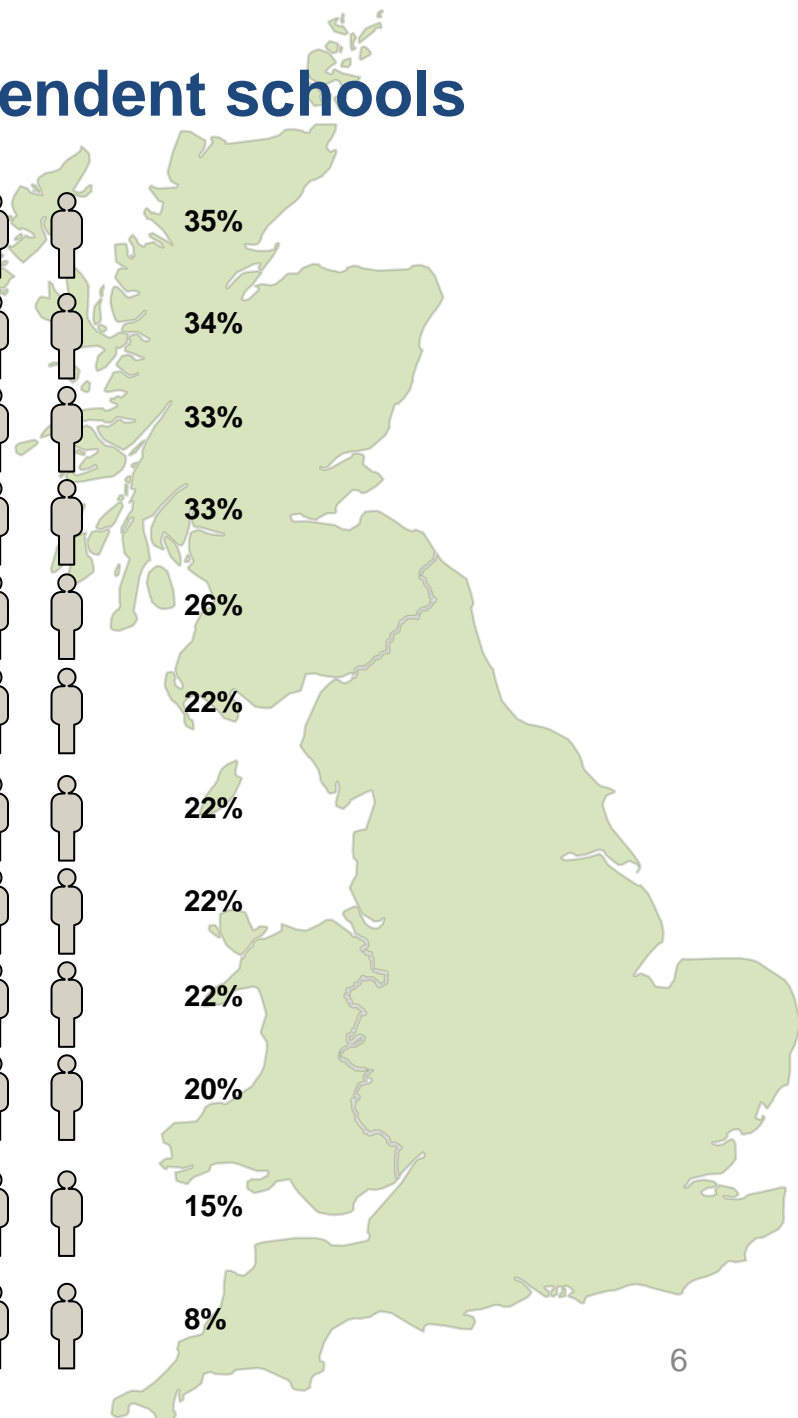


...but in the UK, those from high income backgrounds are far more likely to have high income as adults

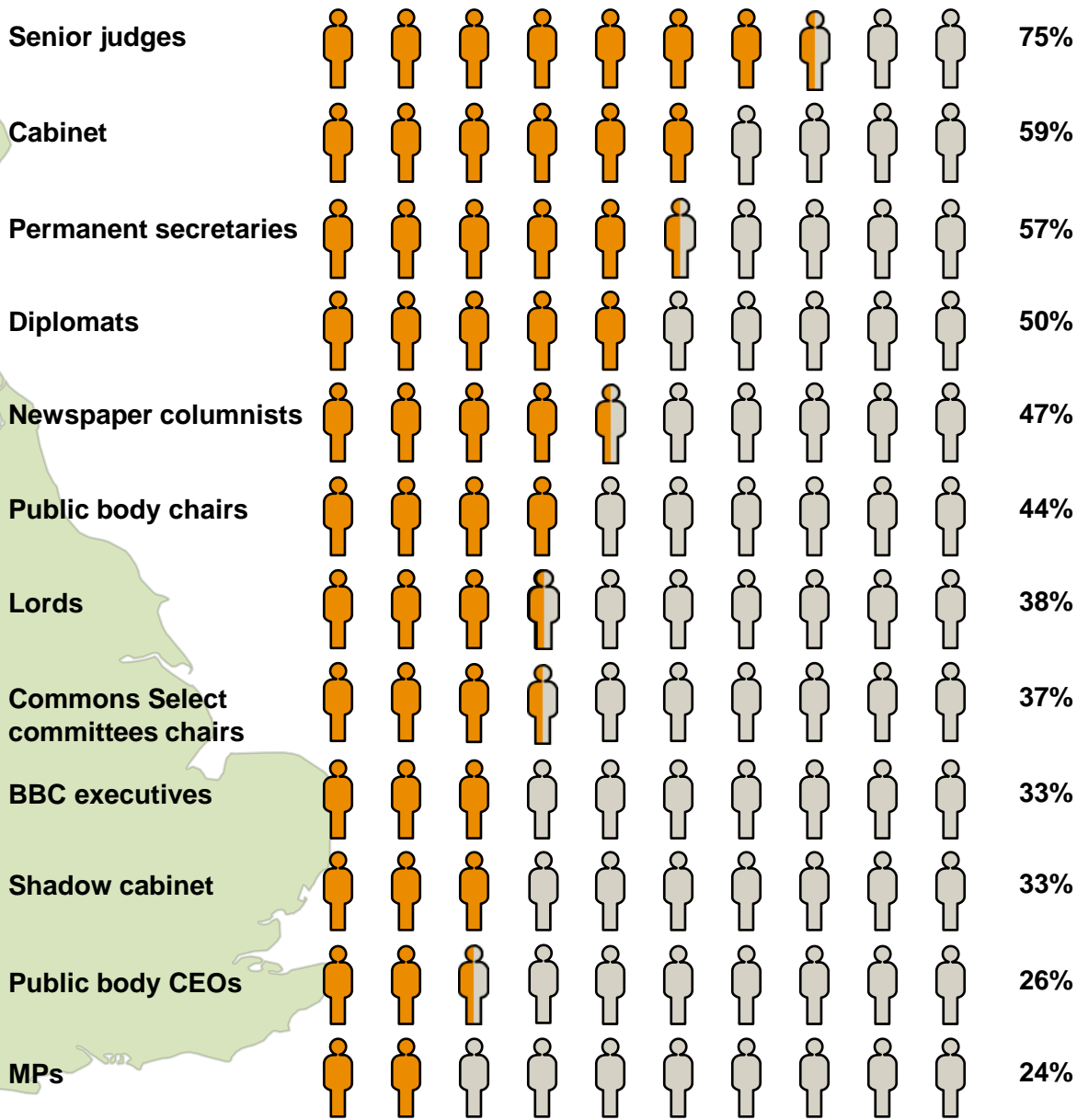
Britain's elite attendance at independent schools



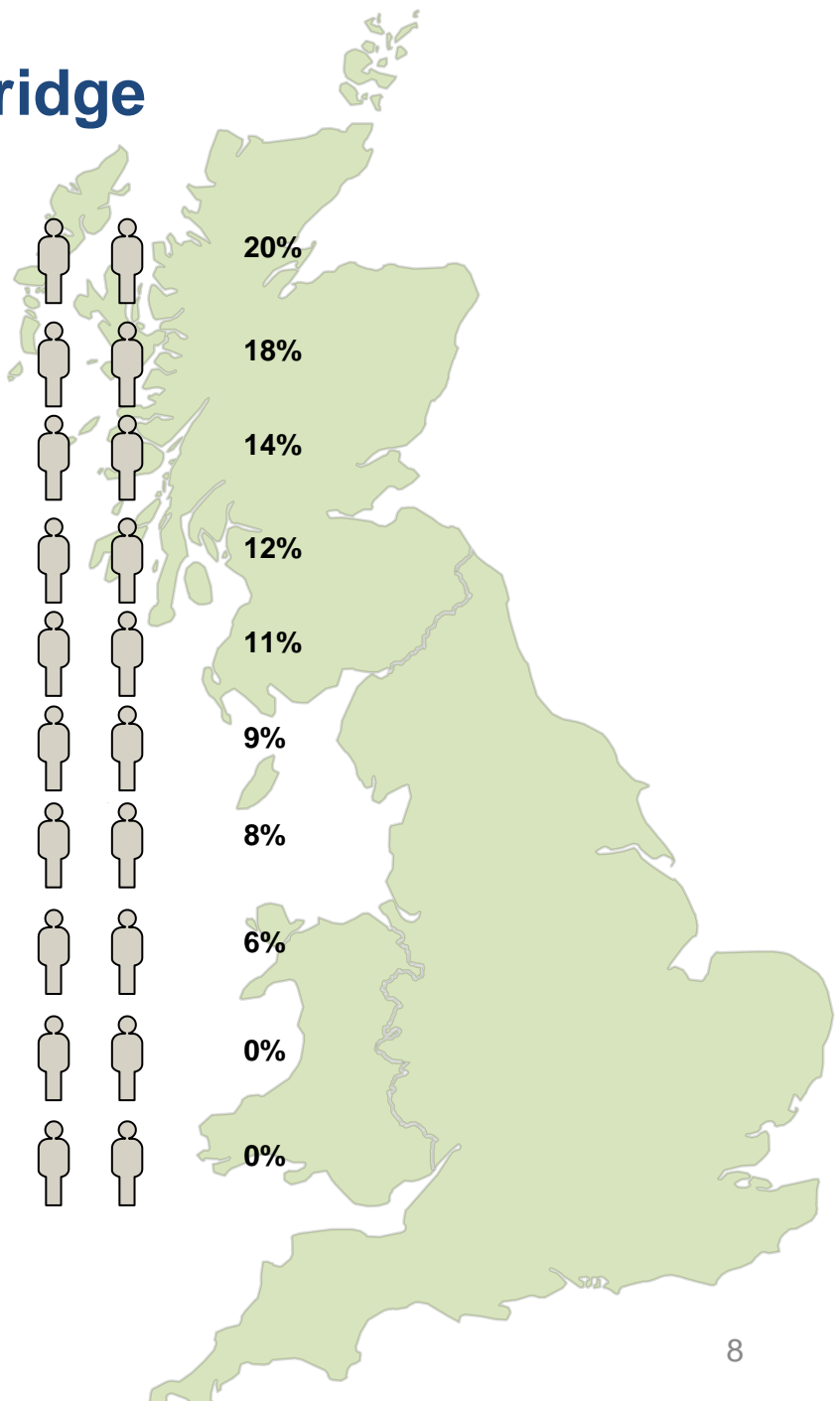
Britain's elite attendance at independent schools



Britain's elite attendance at Oxbridge



Britain's elite attendance at Oxbridge



Parents

The problem:

55% of disadvantaged children aged 5 are not 'school ready'

Sharp-elbowed parents and the 'Glass Floor'

Government has invested in Early Years Pupil Premium, Tax free childcare, etc

Commission wants gap in school readiness closed and national parenting campaign

Schools

The problem:

Huge variations in school quality and outcomes by region

	London (Best performing borough)	London (Worst performing borough)	Bradford
Primary School Outcomes (% achieving level 4 or above- All pupils)	Sutton and Richmond Upon Thames, 87%	Croydon, 75%	73%
Secondary School Outcomes (% achieving 5 A* - C)	Sutton, 80.2%	Waltham Forest, 66%	54.8%
Progression to Higher Education	Newham, 75%	Lewisham, 52%	60%
Progression to Russell Group	Kensington and Chelsea, 37%	Greenwich, 5%	9%
Professional Jobs (SOC 1-2)	Richmond Upon Thames, 48.3%	Newham, 20.4%	22.3%

Schools continued...

Children in most deprived areas are around half as likely to attend a school with 'outstanding teachers'

Best performing schools help 3x the number of children get 5 good GCSEs as others with similar disadvantage

Government has taken many actions: to create academies and free schools, diversify teacher training, change curriculum and produce destination data. Standards have improved

Commission wants incentive scheme for good teachers to teach where most needed, closing of gaps, and greater focus by teachers on poorest pupils and destinations

Universities

The problem:

The most advantaged students are c.6x more likely to attend elite university than the most disadvantaged (despite access overall)

Government has until recently had a student finance regime that has not discouraged applications generally but elite universities reward past performance over future potential and waste access money

Commission wants contextualised achievement and funds spent by universities on well-evaluated programmes not bursaries

Professions/businesses

The problem:

Many elite professions have a significant overrepresentation of people from 7% of schools and 2-10% universities

Professions are risk-averse and reward past academic performance; their practices often mean who you know is more important than what you know

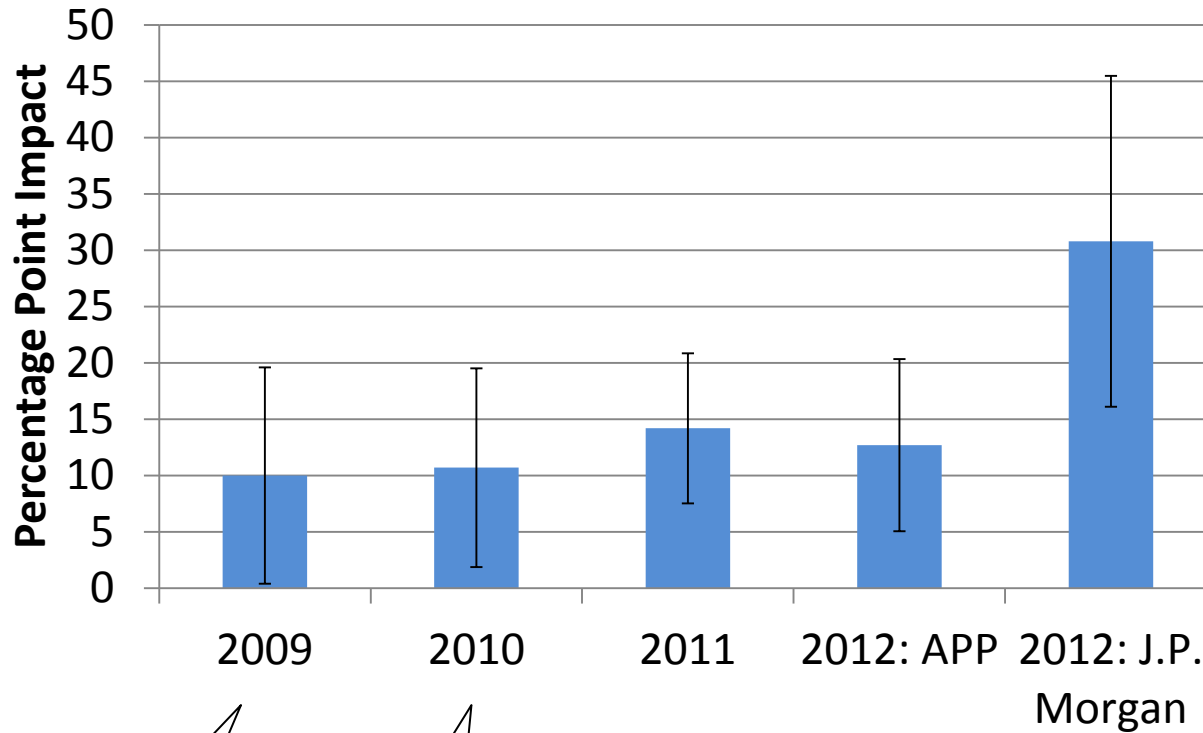
Commission wants action in 5 main areas: school outreach, work experience/internship, non-graduate entry, data monitoring and selection processes

The SMF's programmes

Young people from disadvantaged backgrounds with high grades given the network of support they might have in a middle class professional home

- Mentoring
- Internships
- University application support
- Skills development

Impact: Russell Group participation (amongst those going to university)



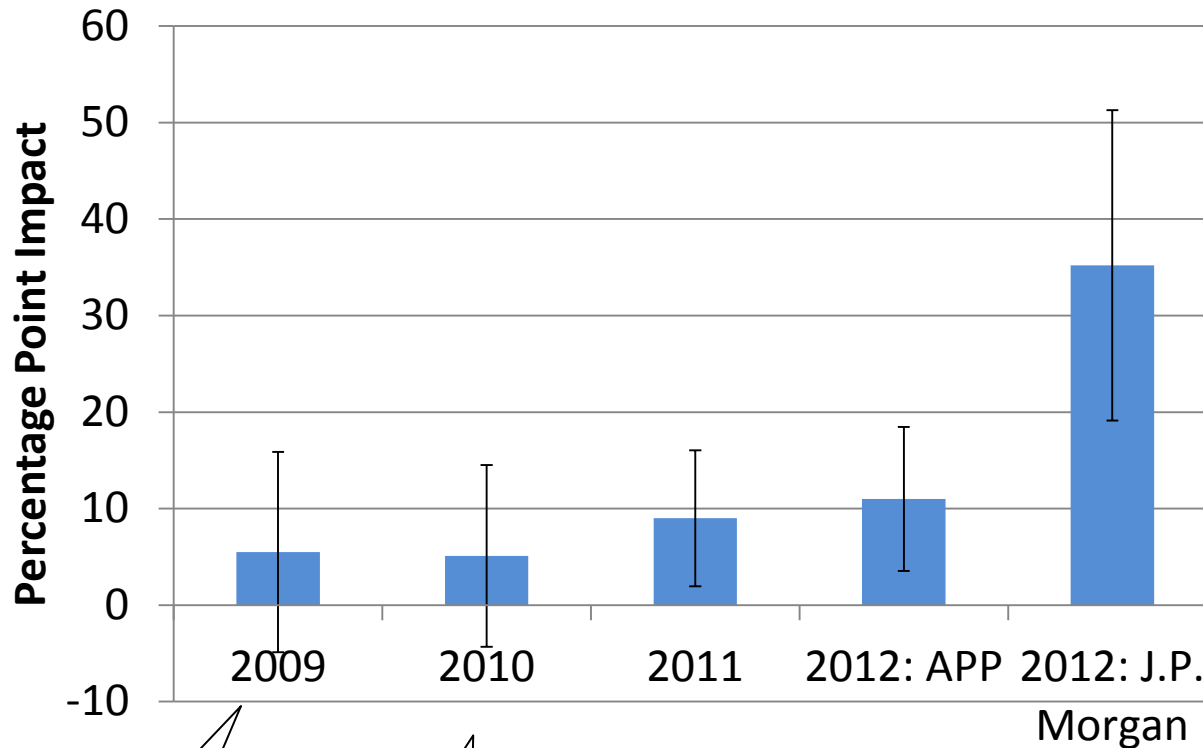
SMF Cohort

Equivalent to a
17% increase

Equivalent to an
18% increase

Equivalent to a
72% increase

Impact: “Top 10” participation (amongst those going to university)



SMF Cohort

Equivalent to a
16% increase

Equivalent to a
13% increase

Equivalent to a
130% increase

Contact details

david.johnston@socialmobility.org.uk

www.socialmobility.org.uk

<https://twitter.com/socialmobilityf>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/social-mobility-and-child-poverty-commission>

<https://twitter.com/smcpcommission>

Reports from which research quoted

Downward mobility, opportunity hoarding and the Glass Floor (2015)

Bridging the social divide (2015)

State of the Nation 2014 report (2014)

Elitist Britain? (2014)

An Evaluation of the Impact of Social Mobility Foundation Programmes on education outcomes (2015)