

**Office of the Children's Commissioner**

**“What we say we need”:  
A report on the important items,  
opportunities and aspirations for  
children and young people**

**November 2013**

**Amplify (the Children's Commissioner's  
advisory group of children and young people)**

with

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**[www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)**

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# About the Office of the Children's Commissioner

The Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC) is a national organisation led by the Children's Commissioner for England, Dr Maggie Atkinson. The post of Children's Commissioner for England was established by the Children Act 2004. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) underpins and frames all of our work.

The Children's Commissioner has a duty to promote the views and interests of all children in England, in particular those whose voices are least likely to be heard, to the people who make decisions about their lives. She also has a duty to speak on behalf of all children in the UK on non-devolved issues which include immigration, for the whole of the UK, and youth justice, for England and Wales. One of the Children's Commissioner's key functions is encouraging organisations that provide services for children always to operate from the child's perspective.

Under the Children Act 2004 the Children's Commissioner is required both to publish what she finds from talking and listening to children and young people, and to draw national policymakers' and agencies' attention to the particular circumstances of a child or small group of children which should inform both policy and practice.

The Office of the Children's Commissioner has a statutory duty to highlight where we believe vulnerable children are not being treated appropriately in accordance with duties established under international and domestic legislation.

## **Our vision**

A society where children and young people's rights are realised, where their views shape decisions made about their lives and they respect the rights of others.

## **Our mission**

We will promote and protect the rights of children in England. We will do this by involving children and young people in our work and ensuring their voices are heard. We will use our statutory powers to undertake inquiries, and our position to engage, advise and influence those making decisions that affect children and young people.

## **This report is © The Office of the Children's Commissioner 2013**

Please reference this report as follows: Amplify et al (2013). *"What we say we need"*: A report looking at the basic items, opportunities and aspirations that are important to children and young people. London: Office of the Children's Commissioner.

# **About Amplify, the Children's Commissioner's advisory group of children and young people**

Amplify is the Children's Commissioner's advisory group of children and young people. Amplify is a group of young people advising the Children's Commissioner and her team. Its members are at the heart of the Children's Commissioner's work, making sure the voice of children and young people is listened to and taken seriously.

## **Some of the things Amplify members do include:**

- putting their ideas and opinions about what matters to children and young people directly into the Office of the Children's Commissioner's plans and activities
- leading projects with the support of OCC staff
- sharing views on our work and the issues that affect young people
- helping OCC to interview job applicants and some of the companies from which OCC commission research and other work
- contributing to the Government's thinking about policy and the law
- representing children and young people's views at important meetings with government departments, researchers, charities and others.

Amplify currently has 26 members aged between 11 and 17 and meets three times a year to share views and experiences. Members also keep in contact through their own secure online forum, and by working in smaller operational groups and through other meetings throughout the year.

## Foreword by the Children’s Commissioner

I am delighted to write this foreword to Amplify’s latest report. As my young advisers they, alongside other groups of young people, are at the heart of all of our work. Amplify have previously led other projects, notably a survey about the commercialisation of childhood in 2011–12. This report on what makes life a success or a challenge for children and young people is their latest production. Its strength lies in the research behind it being developed, led and promoted by young people themselves in partnership with the OCC Amplify chose to research this issue because it was important to them.

As Children’s Commissioner, I and staff at the OCC work together to represent children’s and young people’s voices, views and interests to people and organisations that make decisions which affect their lives such as the Government, local authorities and frontline staff. Our work is all about promoting and protecting children’s rights.

The United Kingdom signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1991. It contains a vital set of promises and entitlements for every child in the UK. The rights cover every aspect of childhood, from health and wellbeing through education to safeguarding and freedom from fear, abuse, neglect and violence. My role is based on the Convention.

Members of Amplify have undertaken the research you will find in this report. They were concerned that children and young people, especially when they live in low income families, are the least likely people in society to have their voices heard by adults who make decisions that affect their lives. Amplify wanted to do a research project where they asked children and young people what really matters in their lives. What makes life a challenge? How should the adult world, from the Government to parents to service providers, support children and young people to achieve all they might as young citizens? How should the same adults work to ensure children and young people do not have their chances spoiled by low income, or a lack of choices and opportunities caused by other problems in their lives?

Amplify members working on this project were given a budget to co-design both the research and a web-based survey. They have since worked diligently with my staff to sift, analyse and present their findings, after more than 1,300 children and young people responded to their questions and voiced their concerns as well as their triumphs, sometimes achieved against massive odds.

Children and young people themselves know – often more than anyone else – what their lives are like. They can often tell adults how they could be improved, if everything that should be done was being done to support their ambitions, fulfil their needs and assure their rights. This report makes it clear that, although efforts are being made by many adults and organisations to do the very best for them, not all children and young people are helped to do as well as they could, and should.

Amplify should be proud of the work they present in this report. I ask you to join me in welcoming what it says to the adult world. I know Amplify would want me to thank the staff of the OCC who have supported and guided them in creating and presenting it. So, my thanks and appreciation go to those staff, and to Amplify members, for an insightful and informative report that asks us, simply, to listen to and act for the child.

**Dr Maggie Atkinson**  
**Children’s Commissioner for England**

## Foreword by Amplify

Hello! My name's Sam and I'm a member of Amplify, the Children's Commissioner's advisory group of children and young people, and this report is about what we say we need.

We wanted to find out from children and young people what are the basic things, opportunities and hopes that all children and young people need to live happy lives. If we can understand this, we can begin to identify what is missing for some children and young people and think about how, regardless of how much money they have or background they're from, all children could be provided for and supported in order to live and achieve.

Three times a year, Amplify have a residential meeting. At one of these meetings the group spoke about making sure that we gather information from a wide and diverse range of children and young people and so we therefore decided that an interactive questionnaire would be the most fun and accessible option.

As some of the young people we wanted to hear from would be experiencing poverty, we also spoke about how we would ensure that the questions would not be insensitive to those completing the survey. We decided to use a rating system so respondents could rank the options in order of importance rather than sharing their own personal stories.

Thinking about our findings, the most interesting discovery we made was the value children and young people placed on relationships, services and in particular the support services available to them. It was also interesting to see the differences in answers given by disabled young people, those who are in care or leaving care, and those who are not.

We hope that our report highlights what is important to children and young people, and shows you what we think will help children and young realise their hopes and dreams.

We hope that the findings will help policymakers and service providers understand the views of the children and young people, and therefore go on to make changes that are in the best interests of children.

We are now going to work with the team at the Office of the Children's Commissioner to share these findings and ensure that they are reflected in local and national child poverty strategies. We call upon policymakers and service providers to listen to the voices of children and young people.

Thanks for reading,

**Sam**

# 1. Introduction

During 2012, Amplify (the Children's Commissioner's advisory group of children and young people) embarked on developing and carrying out a research project. As a group they decided they wanted to explore the impact that living in low income households had on children and young people's lives.

What makes this research distinct is that it was designed and administered by children and young people for children and young people. It presents their views on what is important to them.

## 1.1 What did Amplify want to find out and why?

Through a series of workshops Amplify considered many topics relating to the impact that living in low income families has on the lives of children and young people. The topics considered included, peer-lead research with children and young people living in poverty and further qualitative analysis on how poverty impacts on the children and young people's lives. The topic was also chosen because Amplify were worried about the numbers of children and young people living in low income families and how these numbers were on the increase. In addition, they were concerned about the inequality in access to certain material items<sup>1</sup>, opportunities and realising hopes and dreams.

After a number of in-depth working groups, Amplify decided the most pressing issue they wanted to explore was the inequality in access to material items and opportunities. They were also interested in identifying what things other than money, would help children and young people achieve their hopes and dreams. This was so that they could support government thinking and how to support children and young people to achieve.

Amplify want the findings of this research to be used by the Government to support them to plan, provide and tailor services so that they meet the needs of children and young people.

## 1.2 Context

This work builds upon previous work carried out by the Office of the Children's Commissioner, looking at children and young people's views and experiences of living in poverty (Office of the Children's Commissioner, 2011). It has been carried out alongside work we have been undertaking with the Child Poverty Unit (Office of the Children's Commissioner, 2013a) and additional work looking at the impact of poverty on disabled children's rights (Office of the Children's Commissioner, 2013b).

Amplify started this research by looking at what other organisations and the Government were doing to research the needs of children and young people living in low income households. The things they were most interested in were the British Household Panel Survey (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2012) and Joseph Rowntree Foundation's Minimum Income Standards (Davies et al, 2012).

Amplify noted that the surveys and research used by policymakers was usually undertaken with adults and therefore focused on their views and perceptions. Amplify

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<sup>1</sup>The items are outlined in Appendix B, pages 30–33.

decided they wanted to build on what is known about adults' attitudes and choices in order to find out from children and young people what they consider to be important basic items, opportunities and aspirations available to all of their peers.

### 1.3 Methodology

Amplify decided that they wanted to develop an interactive survey to collect data on the items, opportunities and aspirations that are important to children and young people. They wanted it to be fun for children and young people. In addition, the group had the survey designed to ensure that visually impaired children and young people would be able to take part in the research.

Amplify decided to use a survey method as this allowed a wide range of children and young people to take part. It also offered benefits in terms of cost and distribution. They thought that children and young people would be more likely to take part in a web-based survey. They also wanted the survey to be adapted into a workshop so it could be completed by children and young people in a group.

Following a competitive tender the online survey was designed by Brightec, who specialise in designing interactive websites and mobile apps and who had expertise in involving children and young people in the design of interactive websites. Amplify were fully involved in the tendering process.

The survey asked the following four multiple choice questions with the choice of free text answers. These are illustrated below.

#### 1. Which items do you think children and young people

- can't live without
- should have
- would be nice to have
- do not need?

A full list of the items can be found in the printed version of the survey in Appendix B.





## 2. What opportunities are important for all children and young people?

This question was designed to identify which opportunities are important to children and young people. The different opportunities could be dragged into the shopping trolley in order of importance. A full list of the opportunities can be found in the printed version of the survey in Appendix B.

**Which of these are important for all children and young people?**  
Drag your answers into the shopping trolley

Access to health care | Access to education | Access to sports, hobbies or other leisure activities | To celebrate a special occasion like birthdays, festivities or religious occasions

To have support and advice in making important decisions | To be able to go on holidays & day trips | To have a say in decisions that affect you | Fill in your own answer

To undo your answer, drag the bag onto the shelf

Start again 1 2 3 4 I'm done!

The interface features a blue background with a dark blue header. A shopping trolley icon is on the right. Navigation arrows are on the left and right. A character is pushing the trolley. A speech bubble contains the instruction 'To undo your answer, drag the bag onto the shelf'. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Start again', a progress indicator (1, 2, 3, 4), and 'I'm done!'.

## 3. What are children and young people's hopes and dreams?

This question was designed to identify the hopes and dreams that are important to children and young people. The hopes and dreams could be dragged into the thought clouds in order of importance.

**What are your hopes and dreams?**  
Drag your dreams into the clouds in order of importance, one being the most important.

To go to university or college | To access work/have a job | To have a home | 7 | 8

To go on holiday | To have a social life including friends | 5 | 6

1 | 3 | 4

2 | To do my chosen hobby | To have a family | Fill in your own answer

Start again 1 2 3 4 I'm done!

The interface features a blue background with a dark blue header. A character is lying on the floor with a notepad and pen. Thought clouds are scattered across the screen. Navigation arrows are on the left and right. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Start again', a progress indicator (1, 2, 3, 4), and 'I'm done!'.

#### 4. What helps children and young people achieve their hopes and dreams?

This question was designed to identify what would help children and young people achieve their hopes and dreams. What helps children and young people could be dragged into the shield in order of importance.



Amplify promoted the survey amongst their peers and using social media. The Office of the Children’s Commissioner supported the distribution by promoting the survey through their networks which included schools, youth and participation services and voluntary and community sector services working with children and young people.

Amplify wanted the survey to be downloadable so that it could be completed offline with groups of children and young people. The Office of the Children’s Commissioner’s Participation team held workshops in three schools for pupils there to complete the survey.

#### 1.4 How did we analyse the data?

The Office of the Children’s Commissioner carried out part of the data analysis on behalf of Amplify using a combination of SPSS (PASW 17.0.2)<sup>2</sup> and Microsoft Excel (2010). The data was disaggregated to individual level for all questions. OCC then worked with Amplify to analyse the data, pulling out the key themes and drafting the recommendations.

Throughout the report we have presented a breakdown of responses for children and young people living in or leaving care and for disabled children and young people. Despite having some similar responses, the analysis highlights some important differences that will be presented throughout the report.

Whilst we received responses from all regions across England we have not

<sup>2</sup> SPSS Statistics is a software package used for statistical analysis.

presented an analysis of the data by region as we found little difference geographically. In addition, we have not presented any analysis of the data in relation to ethnicity or religion. This is due to the small number of respondents in each category.

Where possible, we have linked what children and young people have said with what is included in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). This helps us identify where children's and young people's answers overlap with the rights outlined in the convention.

### **1.5 Presentation of the findings**

Amplify wanted to present the data in a report format using OCC's branding. They thought presenting the data in this way would help to ensure that the findings were taken seriously by those making decisions about policy and services for children and young people.

Amplify are also developing a short film that will present the findings and key messages to children and young people.

### **1.6 The structure of this report**

The rest of this report summarises the findings from the online survey as follows:

- key messages
- key findings
- conclusion
- recommendations.

## 2. Key messages

These key messages are developed for policymakers and service providers. They illustrate what is important to children and young people and aim to ensure that policies and services meet the needs of all children and young people with a specific consideration given to those living in low income families.

### **Money**

Nearly 90% of the respondents selected money as something that is needed to help children and young people achieve their hopes and dreams.

*"...money is important to have a good life"* (survey respondent)

Through the workshops and during the analysis of the data it was apparent that money is important because it enables children and young people to access items, opportunities and achieve their hopes and dreams. This indicates that money is important in supporting children and young people to realise their rights as outlined in the UNCRC.

### **Access to services**

Although money was important to children and young people so was access to services including education, health, advice and support. Access to education was the most selected response to the question 'What opportunities are important for children and young people?' However, health was ranked as the most important opportunity with education second and support and advice in making important decisions ranked third. This shows that children and young people value their right to health (Article 24, UNCRC) and education (Article 28, UNCRC). It is also important to note that children and young testified to the importance of access to mental health services.

### **Importance of family and friends**

Children and young people also place a high value on relationships with their family and the right to a family life (Article 9, UNCRC) as well as expressing a strong desire to have a family of their own.

*"if you haven't got a family to support you or help you then you'll be isolated"* (survey respondent)

*"You can't live without someone, especially as a child cos you need to be looked after"* (survey respondent)

The children and young people also valued having friends and being able to socialise with them.

### **Basic items**

Children and young people highlighted basic items that they people could not live without. These included items such as having a home, someone to care for you, food and water.

These items are recognised as basic rights for children and young people.

### **Disabled children and young people**

Disabled children and young people placed a greater emphasis on sport, holidays and ability to travel as important opportunities. They also rated a good social worker (where appropriate) and good transport as important in helping them achieving their hopes and dreams. This suggests that disabled children and young people face greater challenges in their access to recreation and travel and place a greater value on support from professionals including social workers, teachers and support staff.

### **Children and young people in care or care leavers**

Children and young people in care placed a greater emphasis on access to practical items such as cookers, clothes, a living room and the need to feel safe in their home. In addition, they also placed greater value on support from professionals. This suggests that children in care may face greater challenges in getting hold of certain items and place a greater emphasis on support from professionals including social workers, teachers and support staff.

### 3. Findings

#### 3.1 The respondents

A total of 1,301 children and young people completed the online survey ranging in age from 6 to 23 years old. 58% of respondents were female, 35% were male and 7.9% preferred not to say. 12% said that they had a disability and 15% preferred not to say. Overall, 5% of respondents said they were in care or leaving care and 23% said they preferred not to say. A full break down of the demographic information including ethnicity, religion and the geographical region of those who took part can be found in Appendix A.

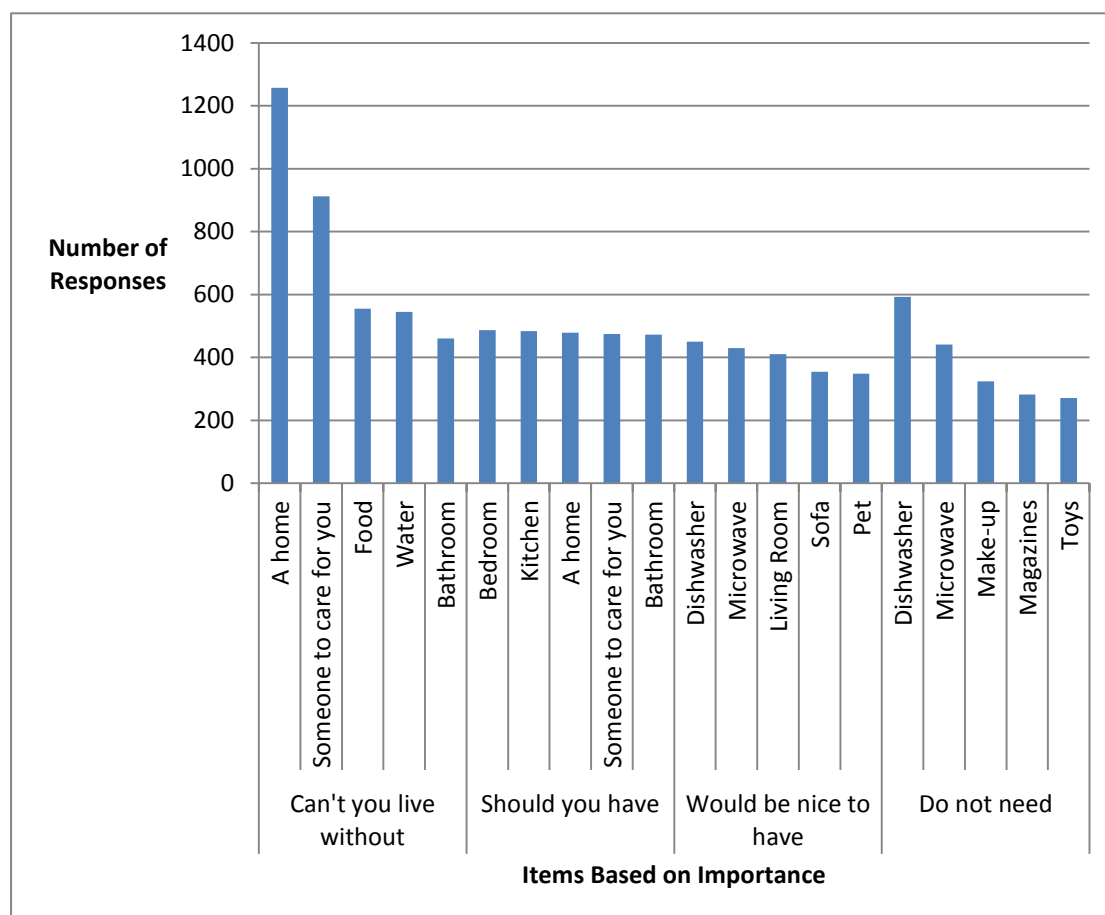
#### 3.2 Question 1: Which items children and young people can't live without and items they do not need

The table below shows the top five things that all 1,301 children and young people who filled in the survey selected in each of the options we gave them.

Ranking	Can't you live without	Should you have	Would be nice to have	Do not need
1	A Home	Bedroom	Dishwasher	Dishwasher
2	Someone to care for you	Kitchen	Microwave	Microwave
3	Food	A Home	Living Room	Make-up
4	Water	Someone to care for you	Sofa	Magazines
5	Bathroom	Bathroom	Pet	Toys

The responses are also listed in the graph below.

**Figure 1: Graph showing items children and young people can't live without and items they do not need**



From this we can see that children and young people place a higher value on certain items including a home, someone to care for them, food, water and a bathroom.

Disabled children and children in care also rated clothes as one of their top five things they could not live without. This may indicate that these children and young people may be unable to access the clothes that they feel are necessary.

In the survey, children and young people were also given the option of providing their own response. The word cloud below illustrates the most common responses we received (the larger the word the more people used it). The word cloud illustrates that children and young do give importance to some material or luxury items (like music, mobile phones, headphones, iPods and Xboxes). However, it also shows that they recognise that some things are more essential than others.

Friends, family and food were the three most popular answers children and young people provided as their own response demonstrating the importance children place on these.

Figure 2: Word cloud showing children and young people's own responses to what items they cannot live without



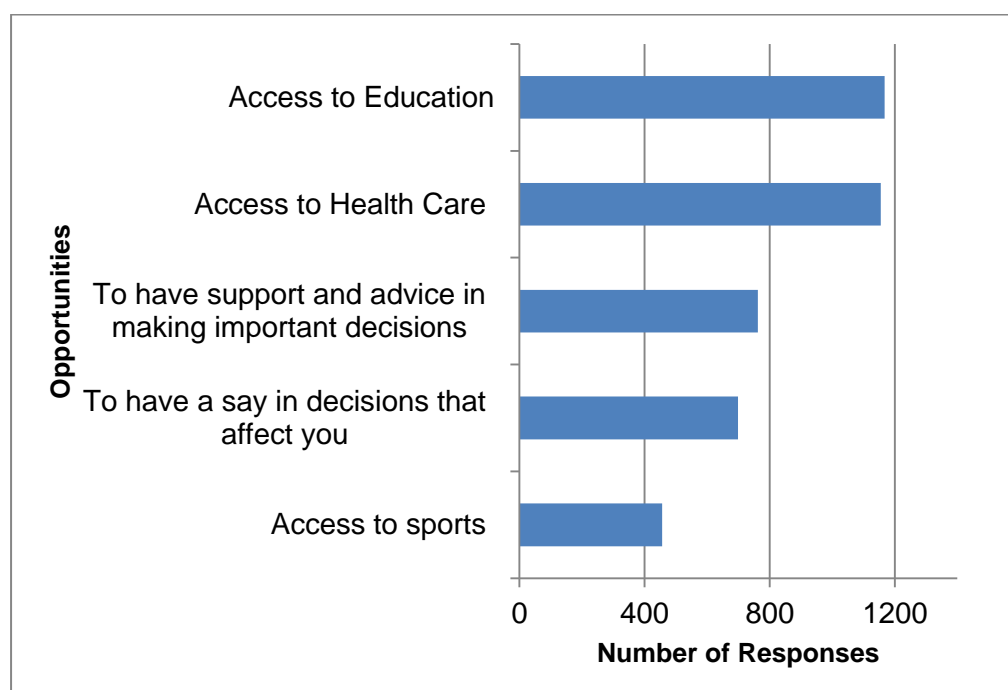


### 3.3 Question 2: What opportunities are important for all children and young people?

The top five opportunities respondents would like to have were:

- access to education 89.7% (1,167)
- access to health care 88.8% (1,155)
- to have support and advice in making important decisions 58.6% (762)
- to have a say in decisions that affect you 53.7% (699)
- access to sports 35% (456).

**Figure 3: What opportunities are important for all children and young people?**



Although, the majority of children and young people selected access to education as one of the opportunities they would like to have, the majority of respondents rated access to healthcare higher in terms of importance. This was followed by access to education, to have support and advice in making important decisions and to have a say in decisions that affect you. These findings demonstrate the importance children and young people place on access to basic services including support and advice. They also want a say in decisions which affect their lives which is a right outlined in Article 12 of the UNCRC.

Disabled children and young people differed in their responses. They rated access to sport and going on holiday more highly than non-disabled children and young people. This indicates that they face greater challenges in their access to recreation.

Children and young people also had the opportunity to add in their own response to questions. Through their own responses children and young people told us about the importance of being able to access mental health facilities. One extreme response was a young person suggesting that they could not live without their razor blade to cut themselves.

The word cloud below illustrates the most common responses we received (the larger the word the more people used it). The word cloud illustrates the importance placed on families, friends, happiness, support and money. Equally important is access to sport, extra-curricular activities and play.

**Figure 4: Word cloud showing what opportunities are important for all children and young people**

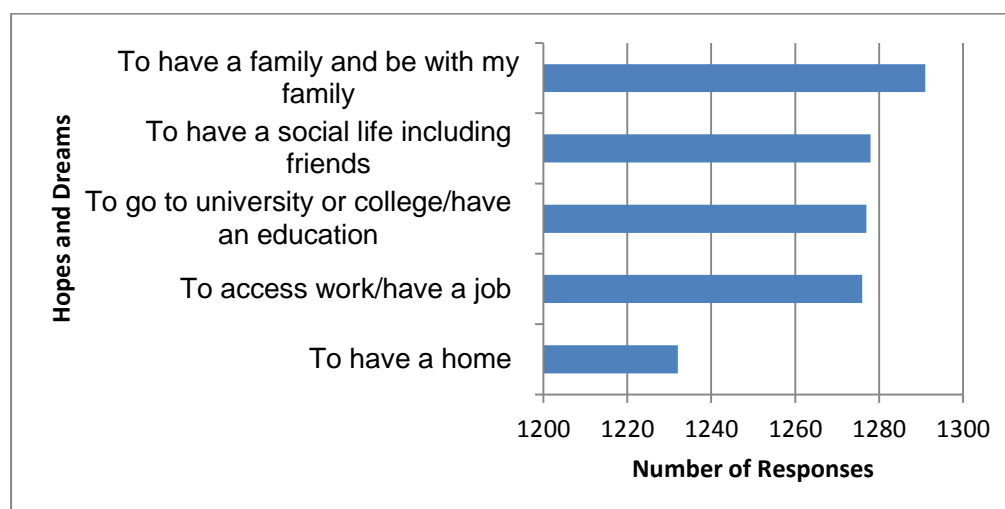


### 3.4 Question 3: What are your hopes and dreams?

Overall the top five most selected hopes and dreams that our respondents had were:

- to have a family and be with my family 99.2% (1,291)
- to have a social life including friends 98.2% (1,278)
- to go to university or college/have an education 91.1% (1,277)
- to access work/have a job 98% (1,276)
- to have a home 94.7% (1,232).

**Figure 5: Top five hopes and dreams identified by children and young people**



These findings show the top five hopes and dreams that our respondents had. It is evident that children and young people place importance on having a family of their own. They also place importance on having a social life and being with friends. These hopes and dreams are rated more highly than education and accessing work and having a home. This indicates that a support system and relationships with family and friends are more important than access to the right opportunities and services.

These results could also suggest that policies relating to children and young people need to both support a child's right to a family life and enable them to socialise with friends.

Disabled children and young people rated going on holiday and ability to travel more highly which may relate to the significant challenges they face in this area.

There were a vast range of free text answers provided in relation to children's hopes and dreams. Responses varied dramatically, and included:

- children and young people who described their hope of getting married, having a family and good personal relationships
- others talked about the importance of getting good grades, being successful and accessing their dream job. Examples of children and young people's dream jobs included author or journalist, footballer, dancer, singer, doctor, teacher, pilot, to open their own shop or to be a police officer
- some children and young people hoped to travel, have a gap year in Africa to help children or hoped to be able to foster children in the future.

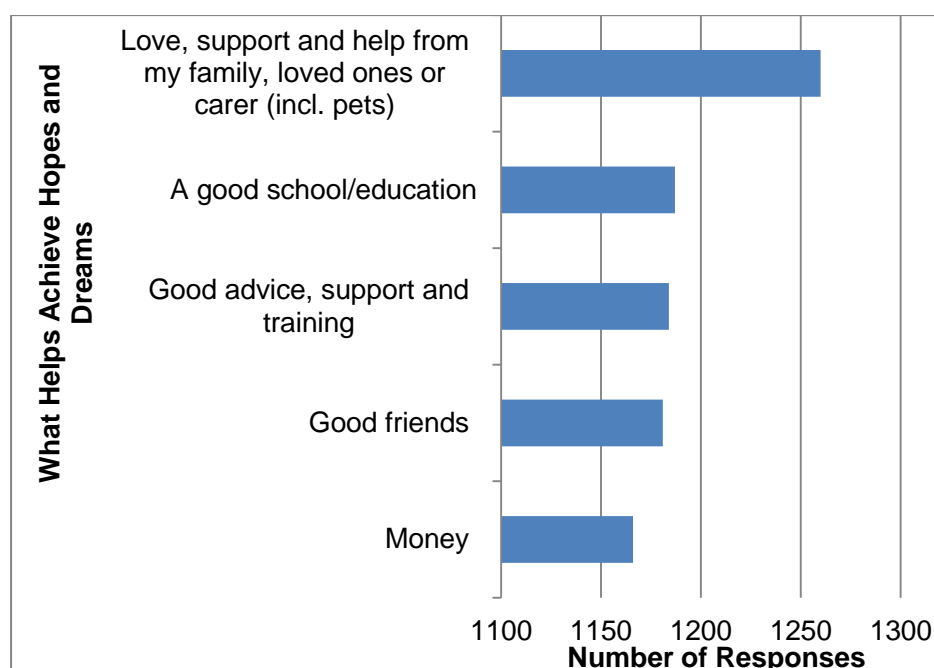
A relatively small number of children and young people's hopes and dreams were not as positive and related to hopes of being free from self-harm, not to feel insecure, to be beautiful and to lose weight. Whilst most children and young people feel safe, secure and supported the survey results suggest that there is a notable minority who need active and immediate protection from harm. These children and young people need access to professionals and services who can identify their needs and respond appropriately.

### 3.5 Question 4: What would help you achieve your hopes and dreams?

Overall the top five ways most selected ways to help achieve our respondents' hopes and dreams were identified as:

- love, support and help from my family, loved ones (including pets) or carer 96.8% (1,260)
- a good school/education 91.2% (1,187)
- good advice, support and training 91% (1,184)
- good friends 90.8% (1,181)
- money 89.6% (1,166).

**Figure 6: The top five things that will help children and young people to achieve their hopes and dreams**



The findings highlight that love, support and help from family, loved ones (including pets) or a carer was the most important way of helping children and young people achieve their hopes and dreams. Children and young people placed a good school/education as second most important thing with good advice, support and training being placed third.

This again indicates the importance of good support systems from both family and advice from specialist support services as well as the importance of education. It is also clear that money is important in helping children and young people achieve their hopes and dreams.

Overall children in care tended to rate feeling safe in your home slightly more highly than children and young people not in care. This may reflect the lack of past stability or current stability or living within a chaotic home environment or care placement. Disabled children rated a good social worker or youth worker, money, nice teachers, good transport and to feel safe in your own home higher than support from family and a good school.

There were a vast range of free text answers provided in relation to what helps

children and young people to achieve their hopes and dreams. Again there was a wide variety of responses that included love and happiness; lower tuition fees or help with tuition fees; god and faith; determination and having the right attitude; family; hard work; and, to be honest.

Children and young people also hoped and dreamed about the absence of negative influences in their lives. For example they wanted to be self-confident; receive better mental health services, and *'not having depression'*; *'not being bullied'*; and *'having a good state of mind'*.

The free text answers highlight the importance placed on families, friends, happiness, education, faith and positive attitudes. Equally important is access to good mental health services and support with wellbeing.

## 4. Conclusions

The survey results provide an interesting picture of the items, opportunities and aspirations that are important to children and young people in 2013. Far from being unrealistic the report highlights the value children and young people place on basic items such as having a home, someone to care for you and food and water, as well as services that they value like health and education and support and advice. In addition children and young people viewed access to good mental health services as very important. The right to access these items and services is outlined within the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

A consistent message throughout was that children and young people valued their relationships with their families and friends and wanted access to professional advice and support services. Children and young people in care or leaving care and those with a disability placed even greater importance on their relationships with professionals including social workers, youth workers and support staff.

What surprised us was that what children and young people value as important is already reflected in chapter three – Supporting Family Life and Children’s Life Chances of the Child Poverty Strategy (DWP & DfE, 2011). They reinforce messages outlined in the strategy around of enabling children to achieve through access to a good education. They also recognise the importance of health services and highlight the importance of good quality accessible mental health provision and support for children.

Although money is important to children and young people they stressed that it is important because it enables them to access opportunities and wanted to use it to realise hopes and dreams. Therefore we should never underestimate the importance of money in shaping hopes and dreams, and enabling them to be realised. Money is a means to an end – not the end in itself.

The evidence outlined within this report contains strong messages from children and young people. It can be used to ensure that policy and service provision for children and young people is based on what children and young people view as important and essential to their lives in 2013.

## 5. Recommendations

Based on the key findings from this research, Amplify have worked with the Office of the Children's Commissioner to develop the following recommendations.

1. **Refining the measure of child poverty to reflect what is important to children and young people** – it should recognise the primary importance of money in defining poverty, but also measure access to certain items, services and opportunities as key in determining outcomes.
2. **The next Child Poverty Strategy due to be published in April 2014 needs to reflect the views and interests of children and young people and their understanding of deprivation, and what determines quality of life and social mobility. It should include the following dimensions.**
  - **Family life and other important relationships** – the strategy should also reflect the value children and young people place on family and other positive relationships with friends, carers and professionals. This will help local authorities prioritise policies and services that support family life and involve children and young people in these decisions.
  - **Education** – ensure that access to good quality and relevant education is prioritised as children and young people view this as an important opportunity.
  - **Health** – ensure that health is prioritised within the Child Poverty Strategy so it reflects the views and interests of children and young people. A particular focus needs to be on providing access to good quality mental health provision.
  - **Support and advice services** – the strategy needs to recognise the value of support and advice services. These are seen as a key way of helping children and young people achieve their hopes and dreams. In addition, support and advice services need to take account of the unique needs of children with disabilities and children who are in care and care leavers.

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## Appendix A: Demographic information on the survey participants

### Ethnicity of the children and young people who responded

Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
Any other Asian Background	12	0.9
Any other Black/African/Caribbean background	5	0.4
Any other Ethnic Background	19	1.5
Any other Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Background	22	1.7
Any other White Background	31	2.4
Arab	3	.2
Bangladeshi	14	1.1
Black African	24	1.8
Black Caribbean	17	1.3
Chinese	5	0.4
Indian	37	2.8
Mixed - White and Asian	17	1.3
Mixed - White and Black African	11	0.8
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	20	1.5
Pakistani	13	1.0
White British	835	64.2
White Gypsy or Irish Traveller	11	0.8
White Irish	18	1.4
Prefer not to say	186	14.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Religion of the children and young people who responded

Religion	Frequency	Percentage
Buddhist	8	.6
Christian	466	35.8
Hindu	16	1.2
Jewish	10	.8
Muslim	46	3.5
No religion	475	36.5
Other religion	59	4.5
Prefer not to say	221	17.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,301</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Geographical spread of the children and young people who responded

Area	Frequency	Percentage
East Midlands	42	3.2
East of England	82	6.3
Greater London	394	30.3
Midlands	24	1.8
No Answer	139	10.7
North East	42	3.2
North West	135	10.4
South East	356	27.4
South West	34	2.6
West Midlands	7	.5
Yorkshire and Humberside	46	3.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,301</b>	<b>100.0<sup>3</sup></b>

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<sup>3</sup> Figures are rounded.

## **Appendix B: The workshop version of Amplify's interactive questionnaire**

Hello! Amplify are a group of young people from all over England who work with the Children's Commissioner.

We present the voices and views of children and young people from across the country to those with the power to change things.

This survey has been made to gather your opinions as to what items, opportunities and experiences are important to you in your life.

There are 4 questions for you to answer and then a page to find out a bit more about you; any information you send us is safe and secure and we won't pass it on.

The answers you give will help us to write a report that we hope will influence those in Government to make things better in the lives of children and young people.

Thank you so much for completing our survey and taking the time to share your opinions with us.

The views you give are really important and make a big difference to the work we can do to help children and young people.

Thank you.


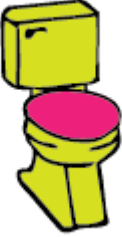
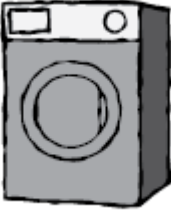



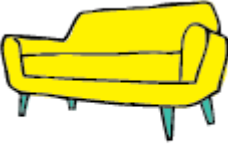

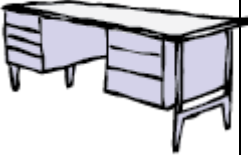









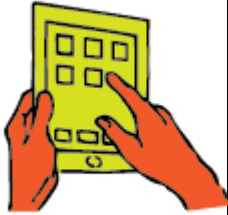

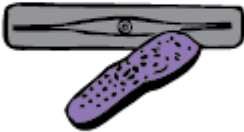



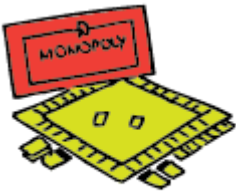





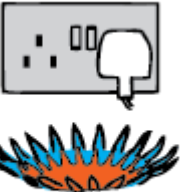



**Question 1 – Which of the items:**



<p><b>Can't you live without?</b></p>	<p><b>Should you have?</b></p>
<p><b>Would be nice to have?</b></p>	<p><b>Do you not need?</b></p>

# Place the items in the boxes above.

 <p><b>Home</b></p>	 <p><b>Someone to care for you</b></p>	 <p><b>Kitchen</b></p>	 <p><b>Bathroom</b></p>
 <p><b>Bedroom</b></p>	 <p><b>Lounge</b></p>	 <p><b>Dishwasher</b></p>	 <p><b>Microwave</b></p>
 <p><b>Fridge</b></p>	 <p><b>Cooker</b></p>	 <p><b>Sink</b></p>	 <p><b>Bath</b></p>

 <p><b>Shower</b></p>	 <p><b>Toilet</b></p>	 <p><b>Washing Machine</b></p>	 <p><b>Bed</b></p>
 <p><b>Wardrobe</b></p>	 <p><b>TV</b></p>	 <p><b>Sofa</b></p>	 <p><b>Dining Table</b></p>
 <p><b>Desk</b></p>	 <p><b>Chest of Drawers</b></p>	 <p><b>Pet</b></p>	 <p>Fill in your own</p>
 <p><b>Car</b></p>	 <p><b>Bicycle</b></p>	 <p><b>Public Transport</b></p>	 <p><b>Holiday</b></p>

 <p><b>Tablet (eg iPad, Kindle etc.)</b></p>	 <p><b>iPod</b></p>	 <p><b>Sky or Virgin TV</b></p>	 <p><b>Games Console</b></p>
 <p><b>Internet</b></p>	 <p><b>Toys</b></p>	 <p><b>Games</b></p>	 <p><b>Mobile Phone</b></p>
 <p><b>School Books</b></p>	 <p><b>Reading Books</b></p>	 <p><b>Magazines</b></p>	 <p><b>Fill in your own</b></p>
 <p><b>Gas / Electricity</b></p>	 <p><b>Food</b></p>	 <p><b>Water</b></p>	 <p><b>Fruit</b></p>

 <p><b>Vegetables</b></p>	 <p><b>Meat / Fish</b></p>	 <p><b>Juice / Fizzy Drinks</b></p>	 <p><b>Sweets / Chocolates</b></p>
 <p><b>Clothes</b></p>	 <p><b>School Uniform</b></p>	 <p><b>Coat</b></p>	 <p><b>Trainers</b></p>
 <p><b>Designer Labels</b></p>	 <p><b>Sports Clothes</b></p>	 <p><b>Hair Products</b></p>	 <p><b>Make Up</b></p>




## Question 2 – Which of these are important for all children and young people?

Pick 4 answers and put them in order of importance.


<b>Access to health care</b>	<b>Access to education</b>	<b>Access to sport, hobbies or other leisure activities</b>	<b>To celebrate a special occasion like birthdays or religious occasions</b>
<b>To have support and advice in making important decisions</b>	<b>To be able to go on holidays and day trips</b>	<b>To have a say in decisions that affect you</b>	Fill in your own answer...

# Question 3 – What are your hopes and dreams?


Put your dream clouds in order of importance.




To go to university or college



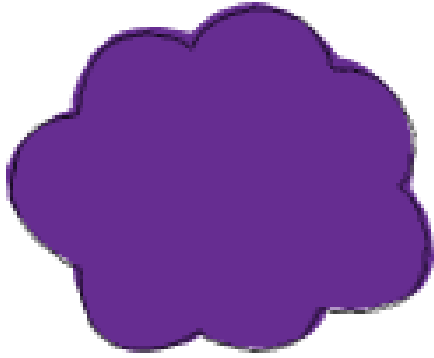
To have access to work / have a job



To go on holiday



To have a social life including friends



# Question 4 – What would help you achieve your hopes and dreams?

**Pick your answers and then put them in order of importance.**

<b>Good Transport</b>	<b>To go to playgrounds, playing fields, sports centres and youth clubs</b>	<b>A good social worker / youth worker</b>
<b>A Good School</b>	<b>Good Friends</b>	<b>Support or help from my family / carer</b>
<b>To feel safe in your home</b>	<b>To feel safe where you live</b>	<b>Good Advice</b>
<b>Money</b>	<b>To travel and visit different places</b>	<b>Nice teachers, school nurse, careers adviser</b>
<b>Fill in your own</b>		

# A bit about you...

<b>Gender</b>	
<b>Age</b>	
<b>Postcode</b>	
<b>Ethnic Background</b>	
<b>Religion</b>	
<b>Do you have a Disability?</b>	
<b>Are you In Care / Care Leaver?</b>	

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