

Intergenerational Issues: shifts in progress, politics (and policies?)

INET Conference, Edinburgh

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October 2017

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(Relative) social mobility as THE intergenerational debate

Intergenerational mobility – everyone's on about it



'the only thing that counts is not where you come from
but what you are'

(Tony Blair, Prime Minister, 2001)

'we have strived to deliver equal opportunity — that
success doesn't depend on being born into wealth or
privilege, it depends on effort and merit'

(Barack Obama, 2013)

Intergenerational mobility – it drove *the social investment state*

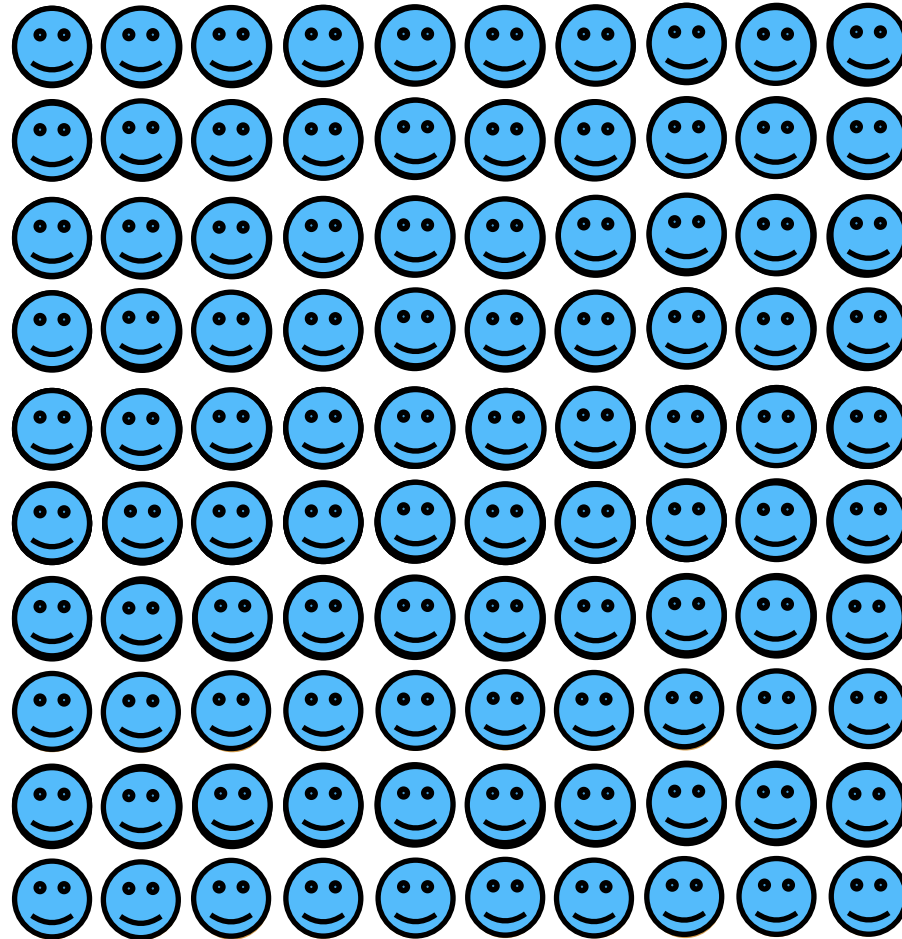


- Early years interventions
- Parenting support
- Deprivation weighted education spend
- Higher education participation & access
- Family income support/childcare
- Asset based welfare

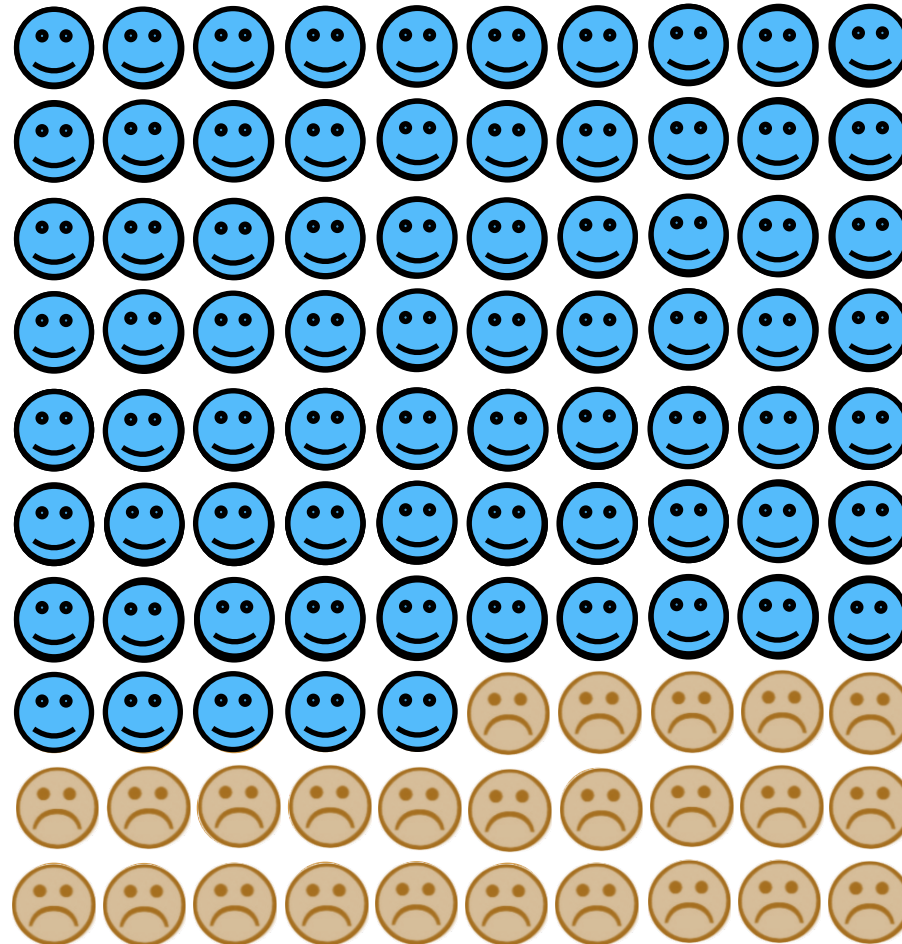


A thought experiment on generational progress

Thought 1: cohort progress, no social mobility

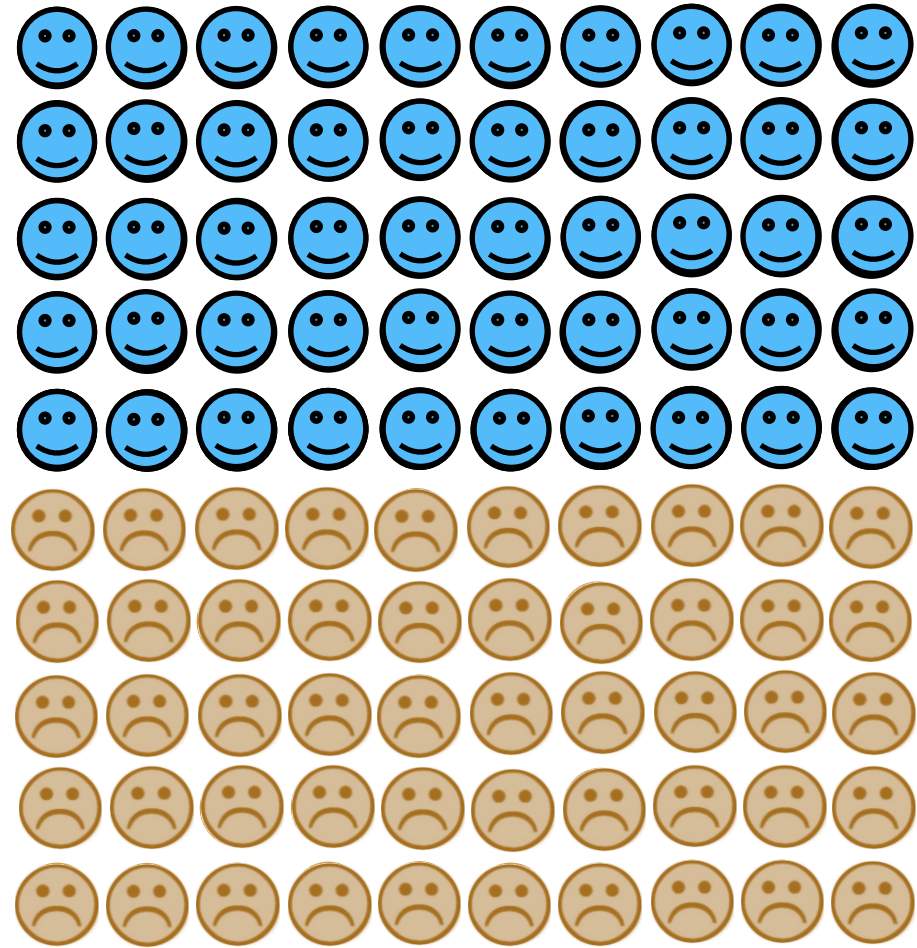


Thought 2: cohort progress, perfect mobility



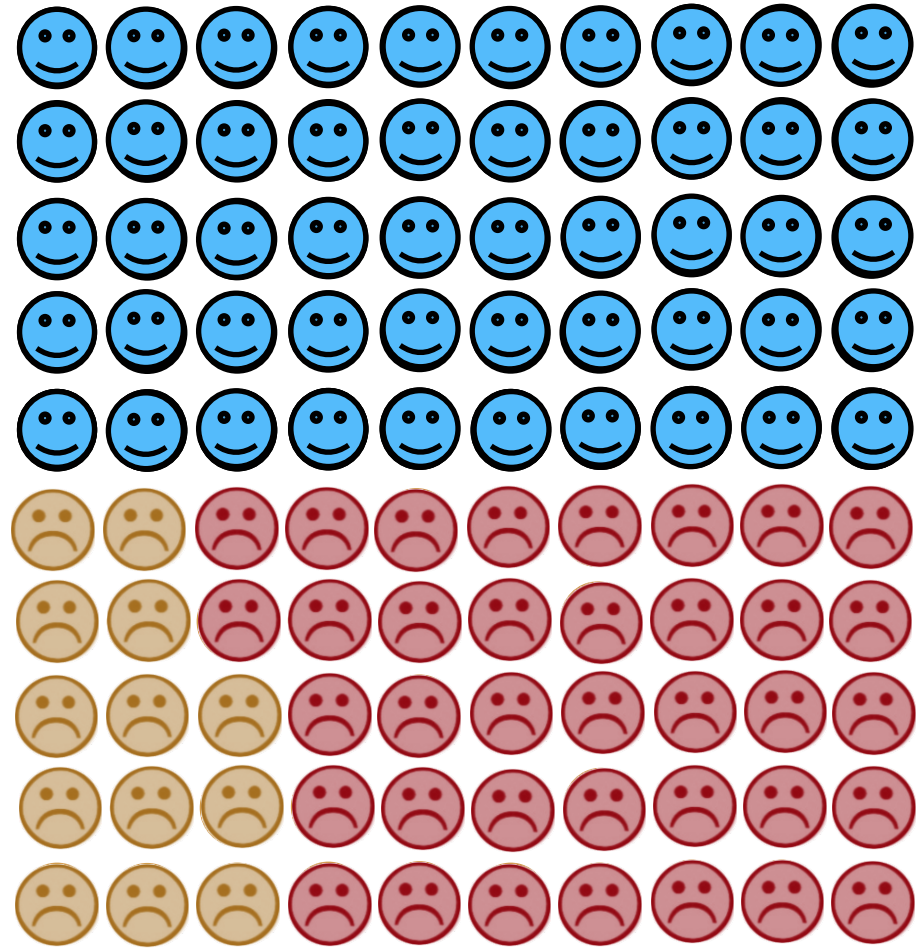
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Thought 3: no cohort progress, perfect mobility



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Thought 4: who is angriest?

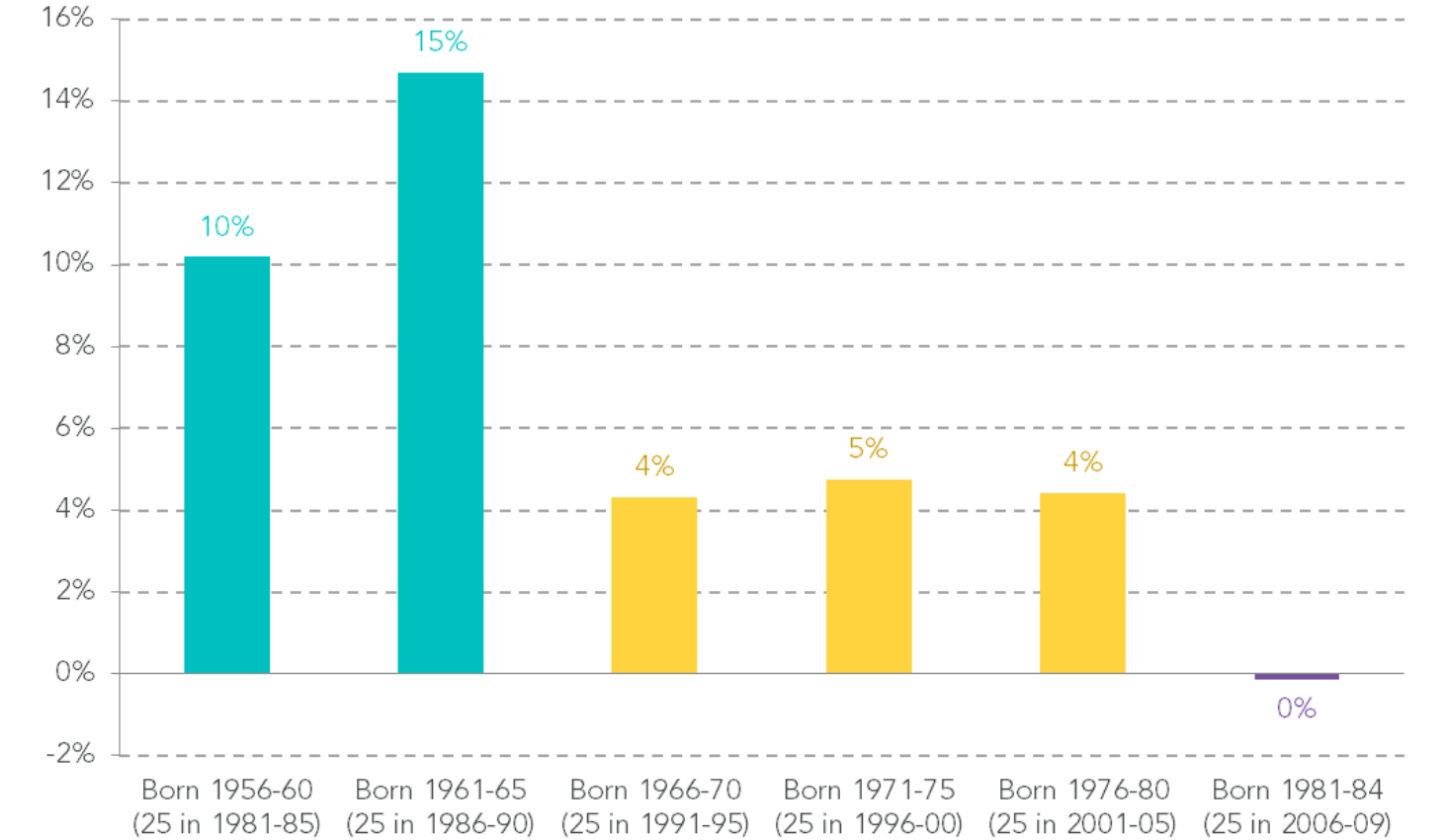


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Are the times a changin'?

This is clearly crisis related – but not just the crisis...

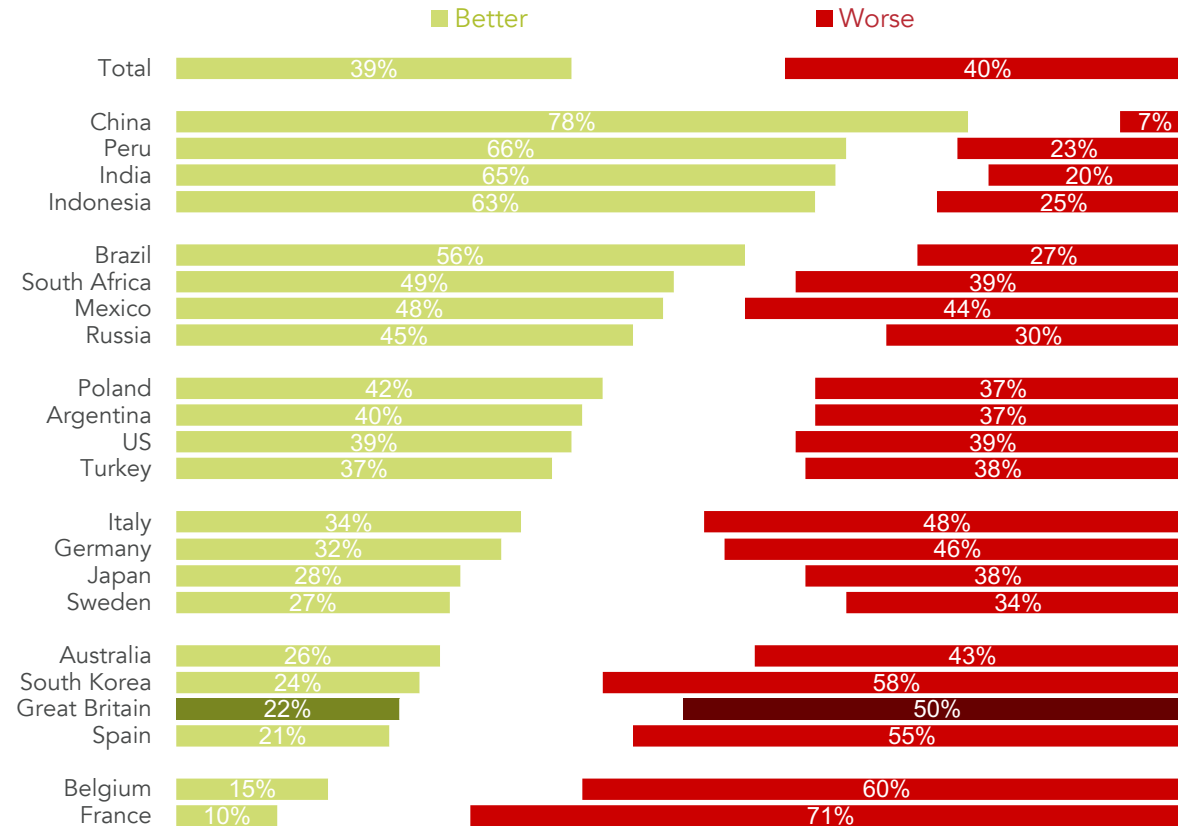


Growth in pay at age 25 between successive five-year birth cohorts: Real weekly pay (RPIJ-adjusted), UK

And no – this isn't just Brexit Britain 1



“Will today's young people will have a better or worse life than their parents?”

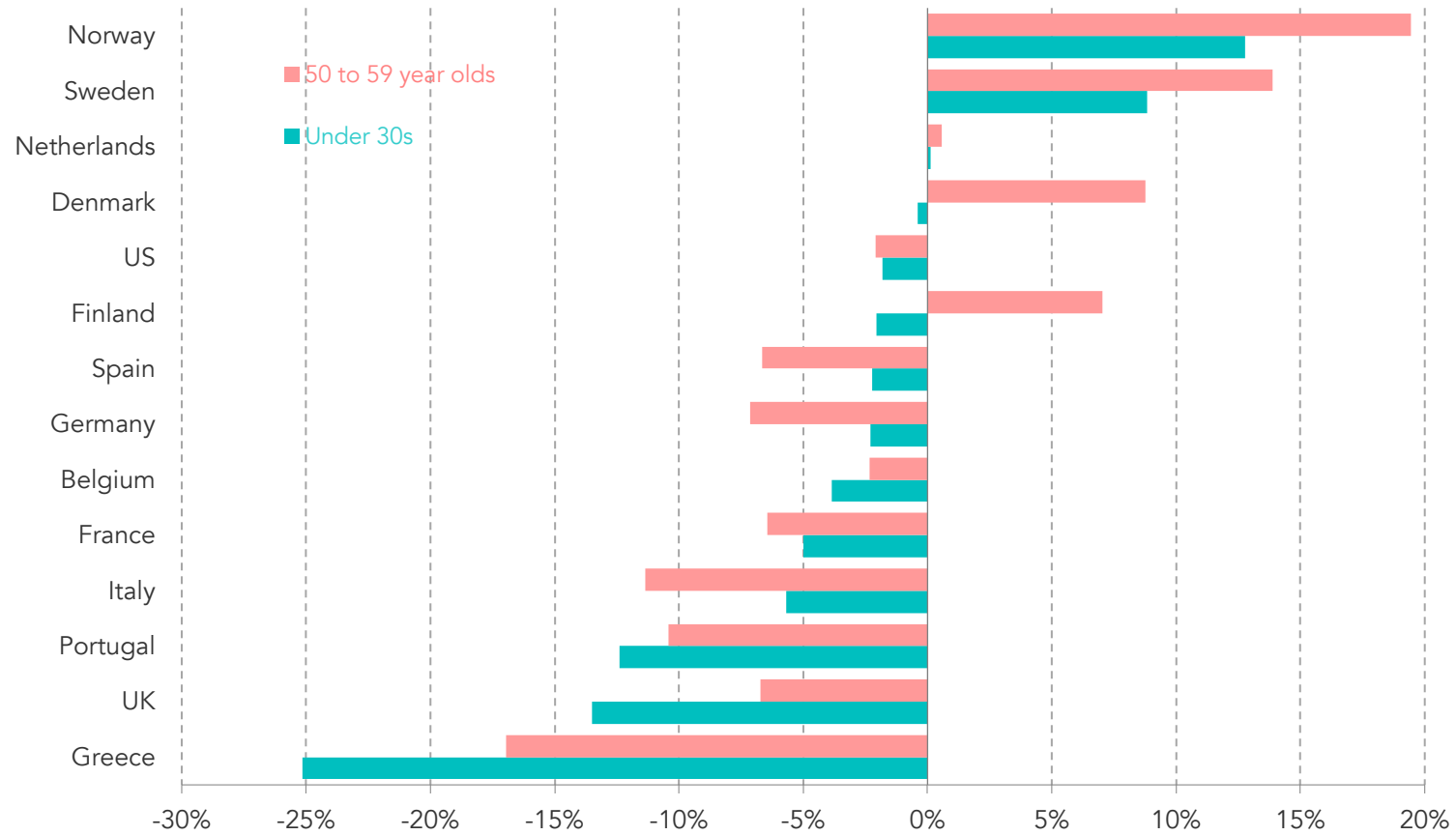


Notes: Base of 18,810 adults aged 16+ in 22 countries, fieldwork conducted September-October 2016.
Source: Ipsos Global Trends Survey 2017

And no – this isn't just Brexit Britain 2



Change in **real** earnings between 2006 and 2014, selected age bands



Source: Eurostat



Where for politics and policy?

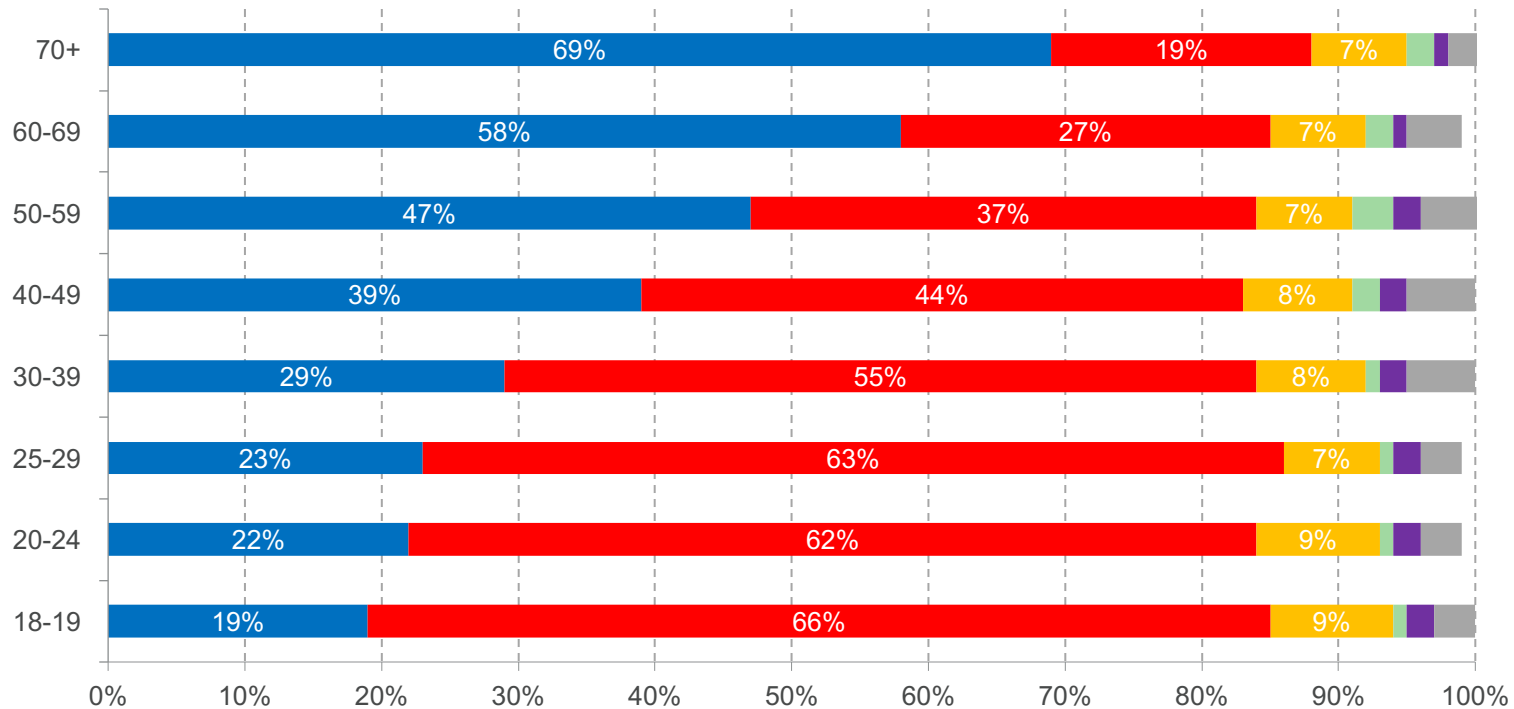
Recognition and division



“There is a growing divide between a more prosperous older generation and a struggling younger generation...”

Theresa May, July 2016

Which party did you vote for? (2017 General Election, by age-group)



Source: RF analysis of YouGov, *How Britain Voted 2017*

Policy shifts?



Big picture

- Competition vs previous agendas
- Existing agenda – new arguments

The micro

- Revisit who pays for new costs
- Life stage or cohort redistribution
- Opportunity races – public vs private
- The return of inheritance

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