

£100,000 Bill to Fund a Child's Future¹

Cost of UK's top career ambitions set to soar in 18 years' time²

Parents could be facing a bill in excess of £100,000 if their children grow up to fulfil their career ambitions according to new research released today by The Children's Mutual. In its annual 'What I Want to Be' poll, becoming a teacher, doctor or vet are the job of choice for five, six and seven year-olds, but parents are being warned to start saving now as the latter two could cost £116,000³ and £117,000⁴ respectively in 18 years' time.

Tony Anderson, Marketing Director of The Children's Mutual, said: "Parents tell us their young children are highly ambitious and that they, as parents, fully intend to help them fund their futures. But the sums of money the top careers command could cause financial nightmares for families who don't plan ahead. While the Coalition Government has announced its plan to significantly reduce payments into Child Trust Funds from 1 August 2010 and to abolish the scheme altogether for new babies born from 1 January 2011, the reality is that the cost of children's futures hasn't changed. We believe that the only way for parents to financially manage these costs is by saving regularly over the long term and are urging them to continue doing so."

The Children's Mutual questioned over a thousand parents about what their children said they wanted to be when they grew up and found that the majority of today's children are looking for a career which requires further training and education. The top careers of doctor, teacher and vet have featured in the 'What I Want To Be' poll for the last three years, demonstrating that children consistently aspire to careers that will need higher education. It currently costs £74,700⁵ to train to become a doctor and £75,100⁶ to become a vet but these are set to increase by around £41,000 based on current projection levels over the next 18 years.

93 per cent⁷ of parents of today's young adults are still funding their children, according to The Children's Mutual, and the expert in long-term savings for children does not anticipate this changing. It is urging parents to continue saving regularly over the long term rather than having to face finding such large sums of money in the future.

For more info see thechildrensmutual.co.uk or contact us . . .

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Top 10 career ambitions for 2010, according to The Children's Mutual⁸:

Ranking	2010 Top 10
1	Teacher (1)
2	Vet (2)
3	Footballer (4)
4	Doctor (3)
5	Fireman/woman (5)
6	Policeman/woman (7)
7	Pop Star (<i>New entry</i>)
8	Nurse (<i>New entry</i>)
9	Archaeologist/scientist (<i>New entry</i>)
10	Dancer (<i>New entry</i>)

Mr Anderson said: "The children questioned for our research are lucky enough to have a Child Trust Fund account and **with** half of accounts opened with us receiving additional savings on a monthly basis, we hope these children face brighter financial futures. The question going forward is how parents will fill the savings black hole for children born from January 2011 if the Child Trust Fund is scrapped."

For further information on The Children's Mutual, please visit www.thechildrensmutual.co.uk

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About the Research

In 2010, The Children's Mutual surveyed 1,200 parents of five, six and seven-year olds as part of its annual What I Want To Be survey. The survey is designed to track the career aspirations of children in the UK and looks at changing ambitions based on age, gender, family income and location.

Further research findings:

The research also revealed that girls and boys have different career ambitions, with girls favouring traditionally female caring or creative roles such as nurse and hairdresser. Becoming a pop star or actress also entered the top 10, suggesting an influence from the ongoing presence of talent shows such as *X Factor*, *Over the Rainbow* and *Britain's Got Talent*.

Top 10 career ambitions, girls vs. boys, according to The Children's Mutual

Ranking	Girls 2010 Top 10	Boys 2010 Top 10
1	Teacher	Footballer
2	Vet	Policeman
3	Doctor	Fireman
4	Nurse	Archaeologist/scientist
5	Dancer	Doctor
6	Hairdresser	Teacher
7	Pop Star	Vet
8	Artist	Astronaut
9	Actress	Soldier
10	Ballerina	Super Hero

Boys on the other hand chose stereotypical physical careers with soldier, fireman and policeman amongst their dream jobs. Boys' hopes of becoming a scientist may be sparked by the likes of *Doctor Who*.

Notes to editors

- The Children's Mutual has a large database of case studies available.
- David White, Chief Executive, and Tony Anderson, Marketing Director, The Children's Mutual are available for interviews.

About The Children's Mutual

- The Children's Mutual's mission is to help parents, grandparents, family and friends fulfil their hopes for today's children.
- The Children's Mutual specialises exclusively in family-focused finance products and is currently the choice of 1 in 3 parents for their child's Child Trust Fund, with nearly 825,000 accounts.
- The Children's Mutual has won The Moneyfacts Award for Best Child Trust Fund Provider every year since its 2006 launch and has been awarded the 2009 Best Children's Savings Provider by the Money Pages.

¹ The Children's Mutual figure of cost of being a doctor in 18 years is £116,000 and vet being £117,000, assuming 2.5% inflation a year from 2010 figures

² ibid

³ According to figures compiled using information from Medschoolonline.co.uk; NHS.uk; NUS; Pinnacleshop.co.uk; gmc-uk.org; bma.org.uk and the-mdu.com websites the cost of becoming a doctor today (November 2009) is £74,685. Assuming inflation is at 2.5% a year for 18 years, this figure rises to £116,000

⁴ According to figures compiled using information from Prospects.uk; NUS; BVA.uk; Veterinaryuniforms.uk websites the cost of becoming a doctor is currently £75,068 (December 2009) Assuming inflation at an assumed rate of 2.5% a year for 18 years, this figure rises to £117,000

⁵ The Children's Mutual figures on current education costs to become a doctor in 2010 see above

⁶ The Children's Mutual figures on current education costs to become a vet in 2010 see above

⁷ 72 Point Cost of Children Research – Jan 2010 - Question 15. Only 7.02% of parents said they wouldn't fund their adult children

⁸ Brackets denote rank of choice in 2009