

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE 'BOTHERED' SAYS NEW STUDY

Best mother's day present ever with evidence that children really do care

Rather than the 'am I bothered?' stereotype of self-obsessed and ungrateful teenagers, a new report, released by researchers at London South Bank University, shows that children and young people appreciate their parents and want the best for them in the future. This includes seeing their parents enjoy a better lifestyle and a good relationship with everyone in their family.

The key findings of the study are:

- Young people hope that their parents will have a pleasurable and relaxing life in the future

"...I think that they want to settle down in a nice country village in Devon or something like that and just while away their days doing sod all basically" says Steven, aged 19.

- Young people want their parents to be healthier in the future or have bigger and better houses, cars and income
- As they grow older, children and young people become more aware of their parents' dreams and hopes and often feel a strong sense of responsibility to their parents. Some hope to repay them in the future by making life easier for them.

"..you want to repay them...so if I ever got rich or won the lottery or....I would always want to buy them a nice car or house or whatever to repay them for what they've done" says Ashley, aged 14.

The report's main author, Sarah Baker - Research Fellow at London South Bank University says:

"Many of the children and young people we spoke to have the good of their parents in mind. They hope that their mum and dad will have an enjoyable and relaxing life, perhaps moving to the countryside or overseas. They also want their parents to work less and to have a healthy old age. And what is more, they can see themselves as contributing to the best for their parents in the future."

Ms Baker adds:

"In contrast to ideas that young people just aren't bothered about their parents or anything else, children and young people thought a lot about their mum and dad being happy in the future. Even when not everyone in their family was getting on with each other, and there were difficult relationships with their parents, they wanted these to improve in the future."

For immediate release

The report is part of the 'Your Space' study¹ that follows the changes in young people's personal relationships as they grow older. The study seeks to capture young people's views about their relationships, in their own words. Capturing data in this way will ensure that decision makers are better placed to design policies and strategies to suit the young people's needs.

Notes to editors

A copy of the full report '*Are they bothered? Children and young people's hopes for their parents' futures*' is available at

http://www1.lsbu.ac.uk/families/yourspace/Parents'_Futures.pdf

The 'Your Space' Project

The 'Your Space' siblings and friends project is based at London South Bank University and is part of the Economic and Social Research Council funded Timescapes programme, a major UK longitudinal study that tracks changing family and personal relationships over time. The project is seeking to document people's experiences of growing up, relationships, having children, living in families and growing older through carrying out seven different research projects based at five different University institutions across the UK. Data is being collected through a variety of methods that include in depth interviews, diary methods and visual methods. Data gathered from these projects will be preserved in an online Archive that will be made available for current and future generations to use. For further details on the Timescapes Project and online archive please visit: www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk

Media Contact:

Sarah Finney: Tel: 0113 343 8489 email: S.J.finney@leeds.ac.uk

For further information about the study, contact:

Web: <http://www1.lsbu.ac.uk/families/yourspace> ; www.timescape.leeds.ac.uk

Sarah Baker: bakers3@lsbu.ac.uk

Susie Weller: wellers@lsbu.ac.uk

¹ The 'Your Space' study is part of a larger research study called Timescapes, which is collecting information about the nature of personal relationships and how they change over time, from over 400 people across the UK over a 5 year period. Methods used include in depth interviews, collecting photographs and illustrations i.e. timelines.