

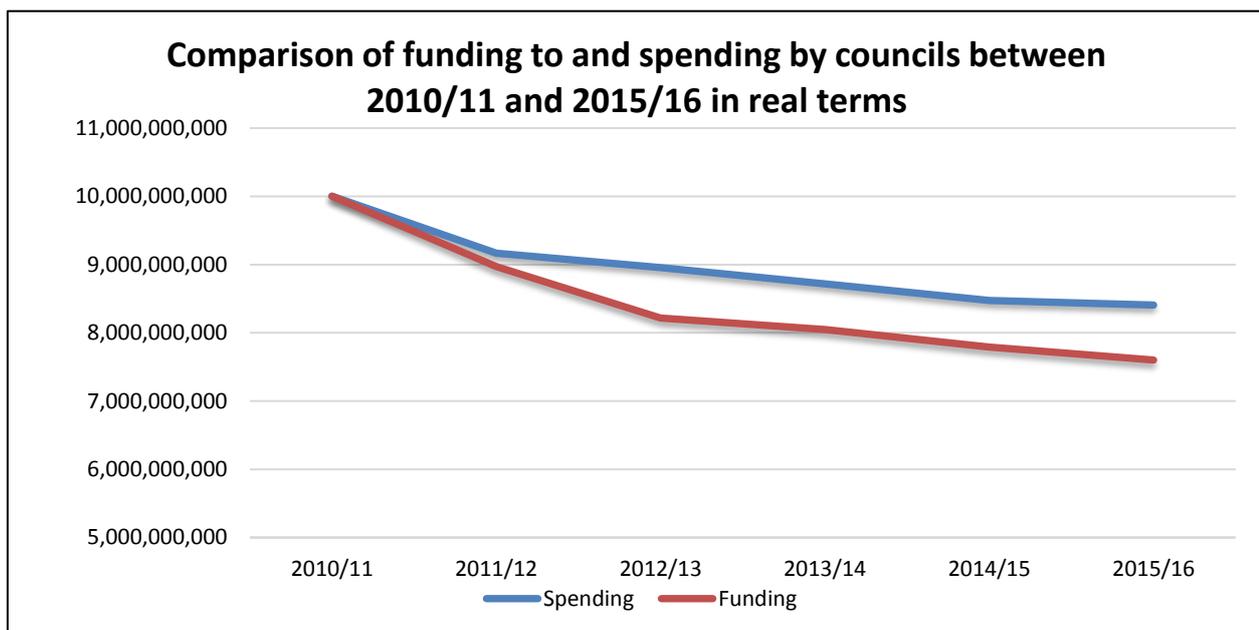
Turning the Tide report: Key findings

1. Reduction in central government funding for children and young people's services

Between 2010/11 and 2015/16, there has been a real terms decrease of £2.4bn in central government funding for children's services provided by local authorities. There is a widening gap between the funding local authorities are receiving and how much they are spending to provide children's services and keep up with increasing demand.

Official statistics from the Department for Education shows that between 2010 – 2017, demand has increased by:

- 13% increase in the number of children in care
- 4% increase in the number of children in need
- 31% increase in the number of children subject to a child protection plan
- 108% increase in referrals to children's social care services by those worried about a child



Modelled 'funding' as proportion of spending power

2010/11	2015/16	Difference 2010/11-2019/20
£10bn	£7.6bn	-£2.4bn

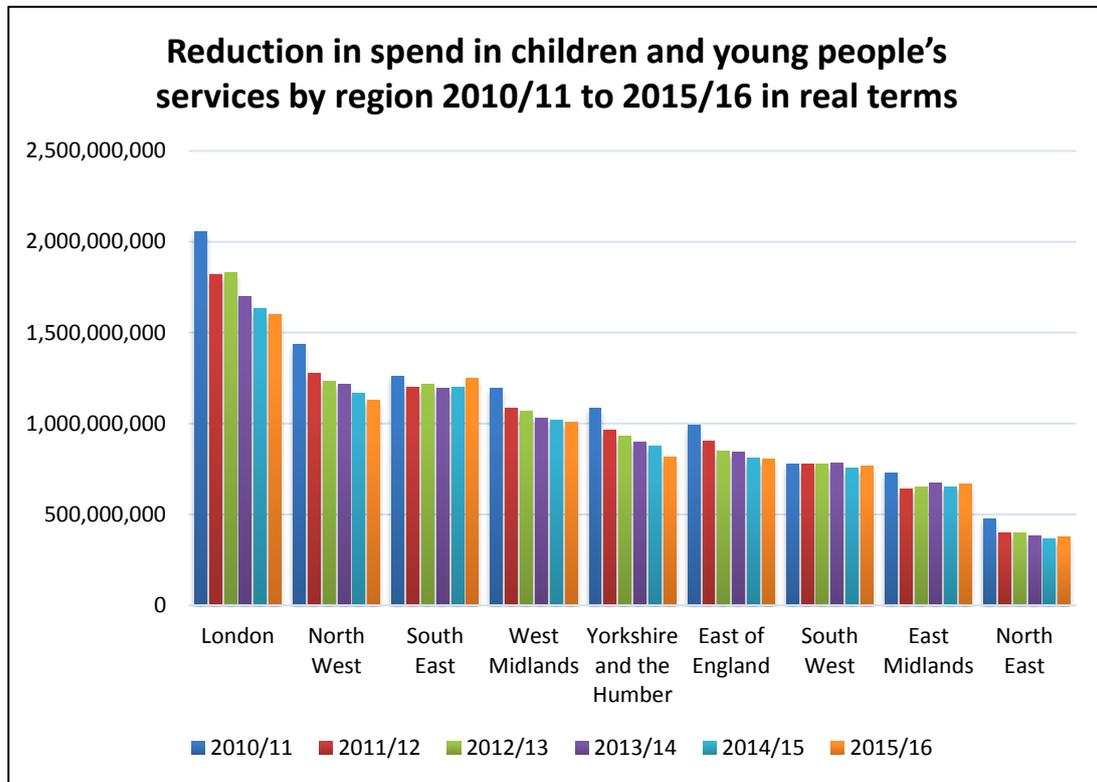
Funding for early intervention services has been particularly affected by funding reductions. Specific early intervention funding has fallen 55 per cent between 2010/11 and 2015/16. A reduction of £1.7 billion across England. By the end of the decade this will fall a further £388 million – 29 per cent in real terms - taking a further £808 million out of early intervention service across England.

Early intervention funding from central government

2010/11	2015/16	2019/20	Difference 2010/11-2019/20
£3.3bn	£1.5bn	£0.9bn	-£2.4bn

2. Reduction in local government spending on children and young people's services

- £10.bn - the amount spent by local authorities on children and young people's services in 2010/11.
- £8.4bn - the amount spent by local authorities on children and young people's services in 2015/16.
- £1.6bn - the real terms decrease in local authority allocations for children and young people's services between 2010/11 and 2015/16.



3. Recommendations

1. ***The Government should urgently address the funding gap in children's services.***

There is a growing gap between demand and resource, leaving too many children without the support they need. Analysis in this report has shown that it would more than an additional £2bn a year just to return funding to 2010 levels.

2. ***The Government should work with local authorities to ensure additional funds are used to improve early intervention.***

Alongside additional funding to address the growing gap, the Government should look at mechanisms to ensure local authorities invest in services that address problems early. Currently, local authorities struggle to provide early intervention services as well as meeting their statutory obligations towards children with in crisis. Additional funding could be used to facilitate services such as support for parents and community-based youth services.

3. ***Future decisions about investment in children's services should take into account local need, and the Government should clarify its plans to reform local government funding.***

The Government should ensure local authorities receive the level of funding necessary to respond to local demand. We know that local authorities with the most deprived communities have suffered the greatest reductions in spending power. This worrying trend must be reversed. Ministers must also put an end to the uncertainty surrounding the future of local authority funding overall, including the formula grant.