



BRIGHT FUTURES

We're calling for the services that change children's lives to be properly funded

Helping children and young people to fulfil their potential is a key ambition of all councils, but our children's services are under increasing pressure.

Demand has gone up...

Over the past years demand for children's services has risen dramatically.

The number of children subject to child protection enquiries has increased 151 per cent in 10 years – from 73,800 in 2006/07 to 185,450 in 2016/17.

Over the same period, the number of children on child protection plans increased by more than 23,000.

The total number of looked after children reached a new high of 72,670 in 2016/17. This equals 90 children coming into care every day, and represents the biggest annual rise of children in care in seven years.

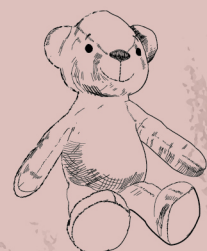
...and funding has been cut

By 2020, local government in England will have lost 75 pence out of every £1 of core central government funding that it had to spend in 2015.

Overall, councils are facing a **£2 billion funding gap** for children's services by 2020.

In 2015/16, councils were forced to **overspend on their children's services budgets by £605 million** across England.

Government funding for the **Early Intervention Grant** has been cut by almost **£500 million** since 2013. It is projected to drop by a further **£183 million** by 2020.





Councils have worked hard to protect budgets for essential child protection but funding pressures are leaving children and young people unable to access support until they reach breaking point.

**We cannot carry on like this.
Our children should get the best – not just get by.**

We are calling on the Government to:

1. Plug the growing £2 billion funding gap for children's services by 2020

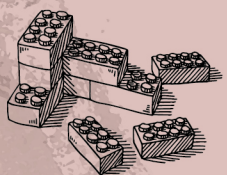
Children's services are absolutely vital and must be fully funded to ensure vulnerable children get the appropriate support they need.

2. Reverse the cuts to early intervention funding to local councils

Without this funding, councils have found it increasingly difficult to invest in the early help services, such as children's centres and family support, that can prevent children and families problems escalating.

3. Share the Department for Education's £300 million budget for improvement and innovation in children's services with councils

Devolving a proportion of this budget to councils would help deliver an enhanced programme of sector-led support for children's services, including specific support for those councils judged to require improvement.



Join our call to government for fully funded children's services.
www.local.gov.uk/bright-futures | #gettingthebest