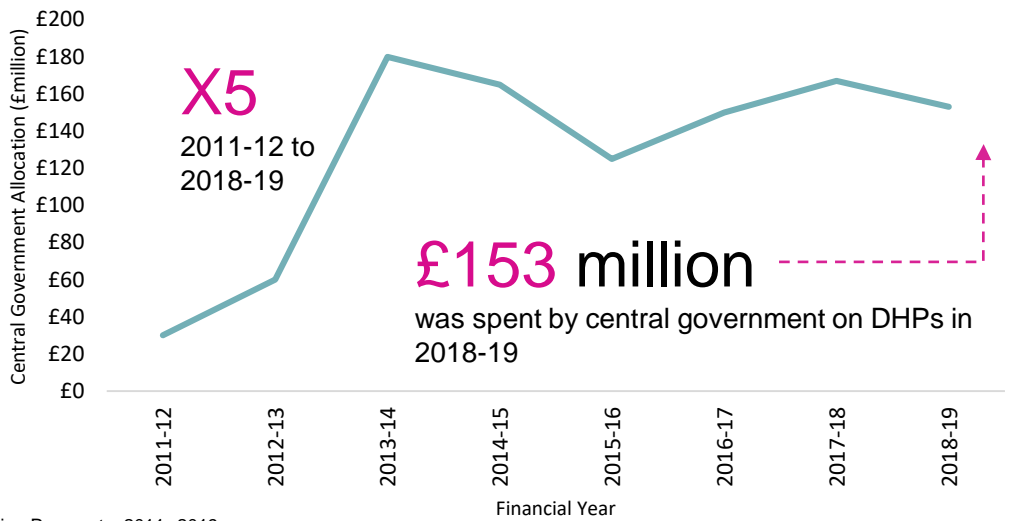




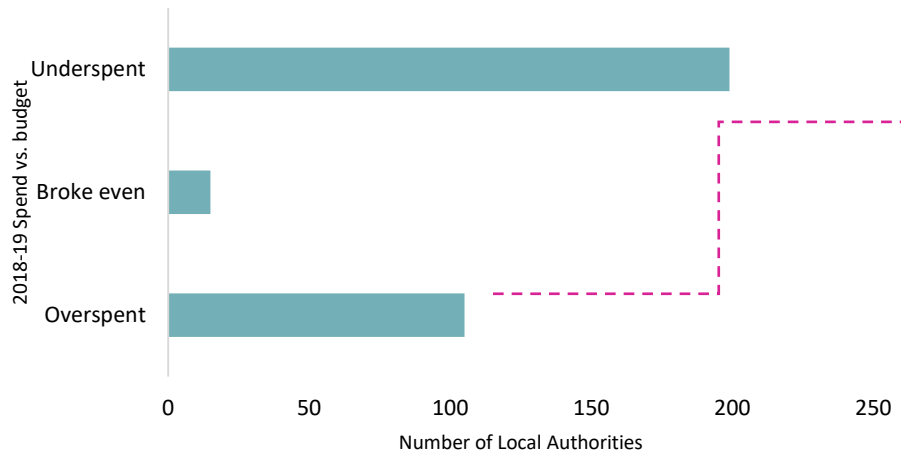
Has the growing housing benefit shortfall led to increased spending on Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs)?

- DHPs help local authorities support Housing Benefit claimants struggling to meet their housing costs due to welfare reforms.
- The spending round saw an additional **£40 million** allocated for 2019-20.



DWP, Use of Discretionary Housing Payments, 2011- 2019

In 2018-19, some local authorities underspent their DHP budget from central government, while others overspent by some margin

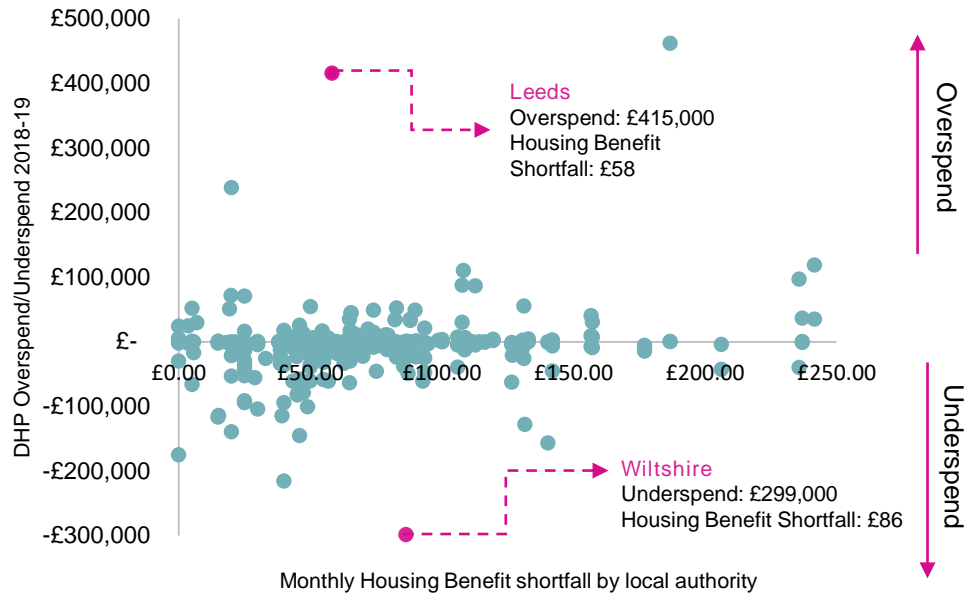


One-third of local authorities overspent their DHP budget in 2018-19

DWP, Use of Discretionary Housing Payments, 2019

The Housing Benefit shortfall isn't the only driver of DHP spend.

- Housing Benefit shortfalls are one of many reasons why low-income households may struggle to meet their housing costs.
- Other welfare reforms, such as the Spare Room Subsidy or the Benefit Cap, are driving spending on DHPs in some areas.



£1,150,537

Liverpool had the highest DHP overspend in 2018-19, despite having one of the lowest Housing Benefit shortfalls.



Source: Reform analysis of Valuations Office Agency statistics and DWP DHP 2018-19 Spending statistics, 2019

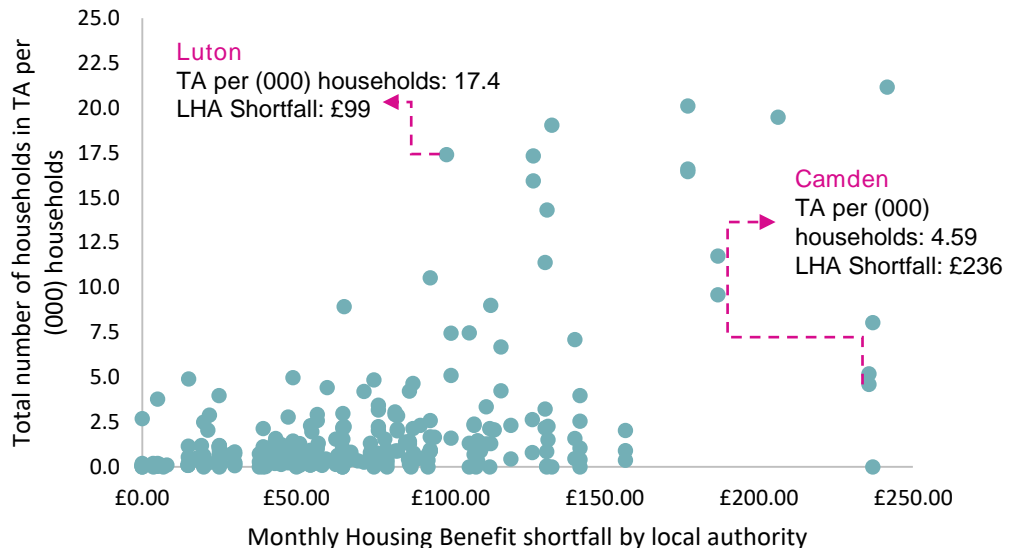
Has the growing housing benefit shortfall led to increased demand for temporary accommodation (TA)?

↑ 39%

Real term increase in spending on temporary accommodation between 2010-11 and 2015-16

£997 million

The amount Local Authorities spent on temporary accommodation in 2017-18



House of Commons briefing, 2019



Reform analysis of Valuations Office Agency Statistics and DWP Live Homelessness Tables, 2019

The causes of homelessness are complex, and Housing Benefit shortfalls are not the only driver of increased demand for temporary accommodation.



[Preventing Youth Homelessness: An Assessment of Local Approaches](#)

argues for a more preventative approach to homelessness reduction.