

For immediate release

Independent provider alliance welcomes Prime Minister's continued focus on outcomes for children in care

The Children's Services Development Group (CSDG) has welcomed the clear message from the Prime Minister that children's social care services must improve or they will be taken over. CSDG has been campaigning for reform in the commissioning of services by effectively benchmarking all providers, local authority, independent, and voluntary on value, quality, cost, and crucially – outcomes.

CSDG spokesperson Lizzie Wills said: ***CSDG welcomes the clear message from the Prime Minister that children's social care services must improve or they will be taken over. We must enable the innovation and best practice that exists in the independent and voluntary sectors to play a much greater role in tackling poor outcomes. CSDG looks forward to further detail on these plans and engaging and collaborating with central and local government.***

In the context of the Spending Review next month, where local authorities are expected to be put under even greater financial pressure, it is imperative that local leaders harness the expertise and investment that is available. Until local authorities equally consider the services that exists beyond their own in-house provision, children in care will not have equal opportunities as their peers.

For too long, looked after children and children with complex needs have achieved below average educational outcomes or been five times likelier to be convicted of a crime than their peers. We must break this cycle and ensure the care system acts as a springboard to success.

CSDG welcomes the acknowledgment by government that the children's services market needs reform.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

1. This press release is in response to the Prime Minister's key note speech which can be found [here](#).
2. For more information, please contact Jessica March at jessicamarch@westminsteradvisers.co.uk or on 0203 102 3621.
3. [CSDG](#) is an alliance of independent providers of care and specialist education services for children and young people with complex needs. Members include Acorn Care & Education, Foster Care Associates, National Fostering Agency, Options Group, Priory Group, SENAD Group and Witherslack Group.
4. To see CSDG's most recent report, which calls for the introduction of a National Outcomes Framework, *Collaborating for better outcomes: final report form the Children's Services Taskforce*, please use this link on CSDG's [website](#). This report was published jointly with the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU).