

CSDG Statement

Support and Aspiration: A New Approach to special educational needs and disability – Progress and Next Steps Document

CSDG welcome the Government's continued focus on reducing the adversarial nature of the SEN system and expanding parental choice.

However, the group is disappointed that, despite strong representation from the sector, parents will still be prevented from stating a preference for a non-maintained or independent special school place.

This is likely to have a disproportionate effect on children with the most complex needs, who require the specialist and expert care that is often only available within the non-maintained and independent sector.

CSDG strongly welcomes moves towards greater use of personal budgets for children with SEN but believe that this must run hand in hand with true parental choice. We would echo concerns raised at consultation that personal budgets must contain sufficient resource to meet each child's needs and not represent an overall reduction in funding.