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Independent provider alliance welcomes emphasis on tackling cost-based commissioning in Committee's report

The Children's Services Development Group (CSDG) wholeheartedly welcomes the Education Select Committee's report on fostering, and the important recommendations it has made to ensure high quality, outcomes-focused care is provided to all children in care.

We particularly welcome the Committee's conclusion that fostering placements should be made based on an expert and carefully considered analysis of each child's needs, rather than on cost alone.

The Committee's emphasis on ensuring the government provides local authorities with sufficient resources to ensure financial concerns do not take precedence over the needs of the child is an important step in ensuring that quality, rather than cost, is of paramount importance when making these commissioning decisions.

CSDG also welcomes the report's recommendations in relation to the ongoing development and training of the foster care workforce. Our members pride themselves on the very high levels of care and training provided to their own carers, and we look forward to working with the government to ensure that these high standards can be rolled out across the sector.

Lizzie Wills, CSDG spokesperson, said: "The Children's Services Development Group has been very pleased to see a number of our long-standing recommendations in relation to the reforms needed to the fostering sector reflected by the Committee in its report.

"We're looking forward to working with the government, and with other sector stakeholders, to continue to drive up quality and outcomes across the sector."

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors:

1. For more information, please contact Beatrice Allen on 0203 102 3626 or beatriceallen@wacomms.co.uk.
2. [CSDG](#) is an alliance of independent providers of care and specialist education services for children and young people with complex needs. Members include Compass Community, Core Assets Group, National Fostering Agency Group, Outcomes First Group, SENAD Group, and Witherslack Group.

Members provide a large number of settings and services including special educational needs, residential care, and fostering across all of England's 152 local authorities.