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### **CSDG welcomes Select Committee's call for greater support for the children's services sector**

The Children's Services Development Group (CSDG) wholeheartedly welcomes the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee's report following its inquiry into the funding of local authority children's services, and the recommendations it has made to ensure all children and young people receive the high quality, outcomes-focused care they require.

CSDG was pleased to have been invited to give oral evidence to the inquiry and support the Committee's recognition of the essential role independent providers play in helping local authorities meet rising demand, particularly for children with more specialist and complex needs.

The Committee's call for local and central government to do more to understand the drivers of demand is of paramount importance, and more must be done to ensure there is the capacity to meet the services required. Crucial to this is appropriate funding and greater collaborative working between local authorities and providers, so that the sector can continue its vital work in supporting vulnerable children and young people.

CSDG also welcomes the Committee's recognition that outcomes-focused commissioning and procurement is essential to meeting a young person's needs. CSDG is campaigning for the implementation of a commissioning approach that is based on needs not cost, via the development of a National Outcomes Framework. This would benchmark all providers on value, quality, cost and outcomes to support effective outcomes-based commissioning.

*A spokesperson for CSDG said: "The Children's Services Development Group is very pleased to have contributed to the Committee's inquiry and are encouraged to see a number of our long-standing recommendations referenced in the report.*

*We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with both local and central government to achieve these recommendations and ensure all vulnerable children and young people get the care and support they need to live happy and fulfilling lives."*

**-ENDS-**

Notes for editors:

1. For more information, please contact Beatrice Allen on 020 3102 3626 or [beatriceallen@wacomms.co.uk](mailto:beatriceallen@wacomms.co.uk)
2. CSDG is a coalition of leading independent providers of care and specialist education services for children and young people with complex needs. Members include Compass Community, Core Assets Group, NFA Group, Outcomes First Group, SENAD Group and Witherslack Group.

Members provide various settings and services, including special educational needs, residential care and fostering across all of England's 152 local authorities. As a collective voice for the independent sector, CSDG champions child-centred, meaningful, and outcomes-focused support for vulnerable children and young people in order to ensure their stable and successful transition into adulthood.