



Will Quince MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families

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Dr Andrea Coscelli CBE
Chief Executive of the Competition and Markets Authority
By email

23 May 2022

Dear Dr Coscelli,

I am writing to thank you for your market study into the children's social care placement market. Reform within the children's social care sector is undoubtedly needed, and I very much welcome the report and insightful recommendations.

Today I made a statement to Parliament putting on record the government's thanks for the report and outlining our initial response. As I said to the House, we will consider the recommendations of the Competitions and Markets Authority (CMA) report alongside those made by the Independent Review of Children's Social Care, and will respond in full by the end of the year.

My officials and I have begun to consider the recommendations in detail, and further engagement with key colleagues across government will inform our thinking. In addition to this, I have asked my department to conduct thorough research into the Children's Homes workforce, engaging with the sector and experts to develop proposals to improve oversight of the market.

I have also announced that I will establish a National Implementation Board, comprising of people with experience of leading transformational change, to challenge the system to achieve the full extent of our ambitions for children. The Board will also consist of people with their own experience of the care system, to remind us of the promise of delivery and the cost of delay.

In the meantime, to help local authorities meet their sufficiency duty, we are making a substantial investment in building new children's homes. The Chancellor announced £259 million capital funding in the Spending Review to provide high quality homes for some of our most vulnerable young people – closer to families, schools, and health services.

Although we are making progress, we know the sector still faces challenges. More children with more complex needs are being placed in residential care, and your report provides a vital contribution to our understanding of these challenges and a compelling case for change.

I look forward to working closely with the CMA and others over the coming months to address these significant challenges.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Quince". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct horizontal line at the end of the last word.

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