

## **ACQUISITION BY SSCP SPRING TOPCO LIMITED OF ACORN CARE 1 LIMITED**

### **Variation Order made by the Competition and Markets Authority pursuant to section 72(4)(b) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act)**

Whereas:

- (a) the Competition and Markets Authority (**CMA**) made an initial enforcement order pursuant to section 72(2) of the Act in relation to the acquisition by SSCP Spring Topco Limited (**SSCP Spring**) of Acorn Care 1 Limited (**Acorn**) (the **Merger**) on 8 September 2016 (the **Initial Enforcement Order**);
- (b) the CMA considers that, based on the evidence it has received in its assessment of the Merger to date, it is appropriate to vary the Initial Enforcement Order.

For the purpose of varying the Initial Enforcement Order the CMA hereby makes the following order pursuant to section 72(4)(b) of the Act, addressed to Stirling Square Capital Partners LLP, Stirling Square Capital Partners Holdings Limited, Stirling Square Capital Partners Second Fund Holdings Limited and Stirling Square Capital Partners Third Fund Holdings Limited (Stirling Group) and SSCP Spring (the Variation Order).

Subject to the safeguards listed below, the Initial Enforcement Order is varied to amend the definition of the Acorn business as follows:

**'the Acorn business'** means the business of Acorn and its subsidiaries carried on as at the commencement date and involved in the supply of fostering services. It does not include the businesses of Acorn involved in the supply of residential care and special needs education services.

Accordingly, with effect from the date of this Variation Order Acorn's non-fostering business is not subject to the Initial Enforcement Order.

## **Safeguards**

The Variation Order is made subject to the individuals identified in Annex A below signing undertakings (in a form approved in advance by the CMA) to preserve the confidentiality of information relating to the Acorn business pursuant to paragraph 5(l) of the Initial Enforcement Order. In particular, these individuals will undertake not to discuss or otherwise share this information with any individual other than those already permitted to receive that information under the Initial Enforcement Order and related derogations.

Alba Ziso  
Assistant Director, Mergers  
28 February 2017

## **Annex A – Individuals who are to sign confidentiality undertakings**

[X]