

Capacity

As a bit of context, we are incubating a new, staff-owned social enterprise (called Juno) to run children's homes across Liverpool City Region (with financial backing from an LA plus charitable funders/social investors). We're building this on the back of collaboration with care experienced young people and all the LAs around here, given the pressing need for higher quality residential care (so children don't have to be sent miles outside the region) and the desire for a more ethical, mixed market locally.

So we welcome the Interim Report and many of its finding/analysis, but want to emphasise a few things and questions for further exploration by the CMA – particularly putting more of a spotlight on the voluntary sector and co-production:

- Why has the proportion of voluntary sector-run provision reduced over time? It'd be useful to get a deeper understanding of this trend, speaking to voluntary sector providers for insights, etc
- Similarly, what are the barriers for new voluntary sector entrants to the market?
- What ideas and mechanisms are out there to create a more mixed, balanced market?
- There feels little mention of the power of co-production in the Interim Report, and whether designing services with children/care experienced young people might improve outcomes?