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Healthcare intelligence

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

MARKET REPORT

THIRD EDITION

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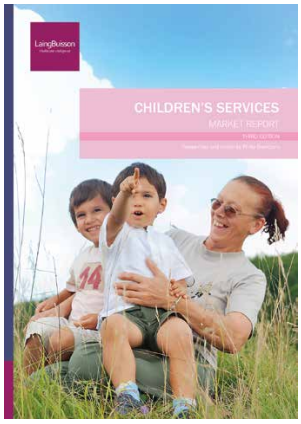
Spending constraints and increased demand lead to new ways of working in children's services

The children's services market in the UK is estimated to be worth £14.1 billion, 70% being accounted by children and young people's social care services and the remaining 30% by special education services.

However, in a market which is heavily reliant on state funding, while demand for services has grown, spending on children's services has contracted in real terms in recent years owing to the period of fiscal austerity under the Coalition Government.

There was some marginal real growth in the market in 2015/16 in a year of low inflation though further fiscal austerity looms unless current political uncertainty triggers a change a direction.



At the same time, children and young people's services unsurprisingly remain a high priority for local authorities and with the ongoing need for cost savings they are looking for ways of commissioning which deliver value for money and improve outcomes for children and young people. This includes contracting at 'scale and with scope' with providers where price discounts and joined up consistent service propositions can deliver savings and high quality.

The children's care and special education sector is diverse with many areas having their own dynamic drivers, offering opportunities and challenges from year to year. Many large and medium sized providers have developed diverse services to meet these drivers, and are now well placed to meet significant structural changes in the commissioning landscape as the twin need for value and quality gains momentum.

What the report covers

Market structures of:
Special education
Foster care
Adoption
Residential care
Leaving care support
Safeguarding
Growth and consolidation trends
Spending and policy issues
Politics and regulation
Major provider profiles
Market and quality tables
Private equity involvement

Financial Appendix

Accompanying Children's Services **contacts datasets also available call for details**

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