

Is the private sector ready to capitalise on the children's services stability?

The sixth edition of LaingBuisson's *Children's Services UK market report* is essential reading for anyone involved in this vital part of the UK's social care sector, be they a provider, a commissioner, an investor, an advisor or a policy maker. Written and researched by leading industry expert and commentator, Tim Read, this industry standard report provides unique and in-depth insight into all areas of the market, and specifically focuses on children's care and special education within the Children's Services market, including foster care, adoption, children's residential care, leaving care, and special schools and colleges, but also covering safeguarding and other related services.

Focusing on the 2022/23 calendar year, the report offers expert analysis into the £20.56 billion sector. It shows that number of looked after children has continued to grow over the last decade, although 2020/21 saw a marginal volume decline. The impact of background economic conditions and the associated pressure on family situations may suggest that there is likely to be continued volume growth ahead.

The report reflects upon the impact of Covid-19 on the market, which has demonstrated the defensibility of sectors backed by statutory public funding providing essential support to vulnerable people. The attractiveness of the sector has meant that investment activity has bounced back.

The statutory underpinning of these services highlights the essential nature of these services and the importance placed on them by society. As a result, services covered in this report are primarily funded by the public sector. Government instability has bought change and reform in the sector to a crawl. With EHC plans on the rise, coupled with supply constraints and an ongoing retirement of suppliers, how much has the independent sector stepped in where government supply has been lacking?

Who is the report for

- Children's residential home providers
- Fostering agencies
- Adoption agencies
- Special education providers
- Local authority commissioners
- Directors of Children's Services
- Banks and other financial institutions

What the report covers

- Market**
 - Special education
 - Residential care
 - Foster care
 - Adoption
 - Other services
- Inspection and regulation**
- Payors**
- Major providers**
- Investors**
- CMA investigation**
- Market potential**

- Appendices**
- Glossary**
- Regulators**
- Trade bodies**
- Major provider profiles**
- Financial appendix**

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Containing new and rebased data, the latest edition of this LaingBuisson's report offers insight into the current state of the UK healthcare sector's digital transformation, and the potential benefits of scaling and penetrating existing proven technologies across the whole NHS.

While digital health spending as a percentage of the overall healthcare budget has increased since 2020, we argue; is it enough to encourage a full-scale adoption

of digital technology and construct a solid foundation for the NHS to build upon?

Vital reading to anyone with an interest in this emerging market.

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Socialcare

CareMarketsUK covers the social care market including residential care, nursing care, adult specialist care, children's services, childcare, housing with care, homecare, supported living and community care. Subscription includes:

- Unique content - ten issues a year bring you market data and content you will not find elsewhere
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Reports



Retirement housing

Looking specifically at specialist, purpose-designed, self-contained accommodation for over 55-year-olds, this report covers the breadth of the UK's retirement housing market.

The retirement housing market has, anecdotally, experienced a strong rebound following the slump of the pandemic. It is highly attractive for investors looking for long-term yields.

Retirement housing, nevertheless, faces challenges. Image is one of them and to reach its full potential, this needs to change so that people view moving to purpose-built, age-appropriate accommodation as a positive choice, rather than a matter of last resort.

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Dentistry

The 'high street' dentistry market, was valued at £8.3 billion in 2020/21, representing shrinkage of nearly 10% in real terms since the previous year. Of this, private sector dentistry accounted for £4.6 billion, while NHS spend amounted to £3.7 billion.

This report evaluates the significant impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the fragmented market. Updated figures show that demand decreased perhaps less than might have been expected to a level of 56% in 2020.

By October 2021, 47% of patients had returned to a dental practice after the nationwide lockdown ease.

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