

## Children's Social Care - UK - April 2015

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"The structure of the children's social care market has inevitably been affected by the government-led public expenditure cuts over the last five years, as local authorities dictate the quantity of services provided and which companies provide them. However, the sector has avoided the widespread cuts seen in adult social care as only a few areas have seen spending fall."

– Lewis Cone, B2B Analyst

This report looks at the following areas:

- What are the key determinants driving the industry?
- Was the market affected by the financial crisis and how has it recovered since? Have there been any structural changes as a consequence?
- How has the government influenced and shaped the development of the sector?
- What are the key issues the UK industry needs to address to be able to improve efficiency and performance?
- What does the future hold for the UK children's social care industry?

The Children and Families Act has led to many reforms, particularly with SEN care and adoption, but further changes to the market are still required. The dual role of LAs as commissioners and providers of care can still disrupt the efficiency of the market and the lack of suitable local market information increases the likelihood of children's care needs not being met.

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### DID YOU KNOW?

This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market

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A number of barriers restrict the market from operating at full efficiency

Public expenditure cuts strain existing social care facilities and resources, with no foreseeable change ahead

Children's services are being increasingly outsourced to independent providers

The implementation of provisions made in the Children and Families Act in September 2014 was the first step towards an industry-led call for sector reform

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Which sectors of the market can expect to see the most growth in the near future?

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Is enough being done for those with special educational needs?

What effect has the shift towards private sector provision had on the market?

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#### Trade associations

Association of Directors of Children's Services Ltd

British Association for Adoption and Fostering

Independent Children's Homes Association (ICHA)

Nasen

Nationwide Association of Fostering Providers

National Portage Association

#### Trade magazines

Child Care (Monthly)

Children & Young People Now (Fortnightly)

Social Work News (Quarterly)

Who Cares? (Quarterly)

#### Trade exhibitions

ADCS Annual Conference 2015

Community Care Live Birmingham 2015

National Children and Adult Services Conference 2015

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