

# The National Minimum Data Set for Social Care

(NMDS-SC)



[www.nmds-sc-online.org.uk](http://www.nmds-sc-online.org.uk)

## What is it?

The **National Minimum Data Set for Social Care (NMDS-SC)** is an online workforce data collection system for the social care sector. It's the leading source of robust workforce intelligence for adult social care.

It holds information on around 23,000 care-providing locations (across the statutory and independent sectors), and individual worker data for approximately 730,000 workers across England.

## Who uses NMDS-SC?

Adult social care providers use the NMDS-SC to enter workforce information to support their business and for workforce planning. They register, maintain and access an online account containing workforce information. They can use it to track staff retention rates and qualifications and produce personalised reports.

The Government, strategic bodies, commissioners and policy makers rely on this data for policy-making, service planning, development, workforce modelling and planning at national and local level for social care services.

Local authorities use NMDS-SC to help them plan resources for the local workforce and to commission services.

**We find being associated with NMDS-SC very supportive both from a strategic perspective and operationally.**

## What data does it provide?

The NMDS-SC provides information on the size and structure of the whole adult social care sector including:

- types of care services that are provided
- how much care provision there is
- a detailed picture of the workforce.

## Why do we need NMDS-SC?

The adult social care sector is changing and growing fast. It is crucial that the sector has clear, robust evidence of its size and scale. This will help reinforce its position as a major employer.

## What can NMDS-SC offer me?

- Collect data once and use it numerous times. With your permission, we can share it with NHS Choices, the [Care Quality Commission](#) and local authorities.
- Completing NMDS-SC allows you to apply for [Workforce Development Funding \(WDF\)](#).
- Allows staff to be counted and helps policy makers and commissioners plan for better service provision and funding across the sector.
- Helps create management information for workforce and service planning.
- Allows you to compare your organisation to other similar organisations, or the sector as a whole.
- Helps you manage and track training - you can record which staff have completed the Care Certificate for example.
- Gives you access to a valuable range of [free e-learning](#) including dementia and end of life care modules.
- Allows you to set pay rates with confidence using our local market intelligence.

Larger organisations can use the [bulk uploading data items \(BUDI\)](#) tool to upload large data files without the need for manual data entry.

## Personalised support for your organisation

Some organisations prefer to receive more indepth support to ensure they're setting up and managing their NMDS-SC account in the most efficient and sustainable way and making the most of their workforce information. We offer this support in three packages:

- 1. Embedding NMDS-SC into your business - how to plan and set up your account**  
A half-day session for organisations to assist with planning, setting up and experiencing NMDS-SC.
- 2. Inputting data and managing your NMDS-SC account**  
Includes parent and subsidiary accounts, starters and leavers, data protection, establishment information, logging into your account and reports and dashboards.
- 3. Evidence-based decisions – getting the most from your NMDS-SC account for leaders and managers**

Find out more about this support by emailing [nmds-support@skillsforcare.org.uk](mailto:nmds-support@skillsforcare.org.uk).

## Dashboards

Dashboards are easy to read screens which allow you to investigate your data quickly and easily. They have been designed to give instant access to your data and provide a wealth of features:

- Instant access to specific areas of workforce data i.e. pay rates, qualifications, turnover etc.
- Allows you to easily view your data and compare yourself against the wider sector.
- Ability to sort and then present your data in table or graphical formats.
- Export data as an image, Word document, PowerPoint/PDF or into Excel so you can manipulate your data and/or create charts.
- Access to information about your local area (population projections, CQC data, etc.).
- Provides links to valuable resources and advice.
- Easy to use point and click design.

### There are two types of dashboard:

**Open access NMDS-SC dashboards** - can be accessed by anyone visiting NMDS-SC online and provides anonymised data on the sector as a whole. You don't need an account to access the data. You can use the open access NMDS-SC dashboards as part of your role as a workforce planner, commissioner, social care employer, researcher or policy maker.

**My dashboards** - for NMDS-SC account holders only. 'My Dashboards' allow you to view your data, benchmark your organisation, and export information quickly and easily. Dashboard topics are based on key business issues.

 **We can compare our organisation against others in the local area to see how we're doing i.e. what we pay our staff compared with others and our turnover rates. It helps with our planning.** 

## How safe is my data?

We create a unique reference number for every worker. This is because we need to be able to distinguish between individual worker's records.

However, we don't know the identity of these workers – the NMDS-SC is not designed to identify individual workers, but distinguish between them.

We fully comply with data protection requirements and we work with the Information Commissioners Office to ensure we follow best practice. To find out more [visit our website](#).

## Further information

To help NMDS-SC account holders make the most out of their account, there are lots of resources to help. We've also produced two leaflets which are specific to dashboards:

- [introducing the NMDS-SC dashboards](#)
- [using data to benefit your business - a guide to dashboards for NMDS-SC account holders](#)

When you log into NMDS-SC you will also find a dashboard guide, a tutorial video and an 'introduction to dashboards' video.

## Help and support



Short helpful [animations](#) (two minutes), [films](#) and pre-recorded webinars explaining the NMDS-SC and the support service.



Free advice and support by phone from our friendly in-house support team 9am-5pm Monday to Friday. This dedicated team also take your feedback to inform system improvements. Call **0845 873 0129** (direct 0113 241 0969).



Email us [nmds-support@skillsforcare.org.uk](mailto:nmds-support@skillsforcare.org.uk).



Step-by-step guides and checklists to get you started. All available on the homepage [www.nmds-sc-online.org.uk](http://www.nmds-sc-online.org.uk).



Webinars for staff, scheduled at your convenience. Call or email us to arrange (see above).



A comprehensive online [FAQ section](#) for general queries.

## Next steps

1. Visit [www.nmds-sc-online.org.uk](http://www.nmds-sc-online.org.uk)
2. Register as a social care employer and find out the benefits
3. Gather and enter information about you and your workers
4. View and update your information
5. Keep it up-to-date

