

# A summary of the adult social care sector and workforce in Bedford

2017/18

Skills for Care, as the leading source of adult social care workforce intelligence, has created this summary because good quality information about the workforce is vital to help inform planning and decision making. This will contribute to the delivery of high quality social care services and improve outcomes for people who use these services, both now and in the future.

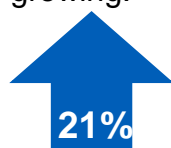
The information within this summary has been produced by Skills for Care using the National Minimum Data Set for Social Care ([NMDS-SC](#)). We use the data collected by the NMDS-SC to create workforce models that, in turn, allow for estimates of the whole adult social care workforce and its characteristics to be produced. The \* notation throughout refers to use of raw data from the NMDS-SC.

## Size and structure of the workforce in this area



In 2017 the adult social care sector in England had an estimated 21,200 organisations, 41,000 care providing locations and 1.6 million jobs. In Bedford there were an estimated **5,900** jobs in adult social care split between local authorities (**10%**), independent sector providers (**87%**) and jobs for direct payment recipients (**2%**). As at September 2018 Bedford contained 124 CQC regulated services; of these, 79 were residential and 45 were non-residential services.

The adult social care workforce is growing. Across England it has increased by 21% since 2009, and in the Eastern region, by 9% since 2012.



If the workforce grows proportionally to the projected number of people aged 65 and over then the number of adult social care jobs in the Eastern region will increase by 47% (from 173,000 to 255,000 jobs) by 2035. Skills for Care can produce workforce forecasts at a local level, for more information please see: [www.skillsforcare.org.uk/wiandlocalauthorities](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/wiandlocalauthorities)

The adult social care sector was estimated to contribute £38.5 billion per annum to the English economy and in the Eastern region, this contribution was estimated to be between £4.2 and £4.8 billion<sup>1</sup>. Almost half of this is estimated to be the wage bill of the sector. Skills for Care can produce economic contribution estimates at a local level, for more information please see: [www.skillsforcare.org.uk/economiccontribution](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/economiccontribution)



## Recruitment and retention

Skills for Care estimates that the turnover rate in Bedford was 28.1%, which was lower than the region average of 33.9% and similar to England at 30.70%. Not all turnover results in workers leaving the sector, around three quarters (76%) of those recruited came from within the adult social care sector, therefore although employers need to recruit to these posts, the sector retains their skills and experience.

Adult social care has an experienced 'core' of workers. Workers in Bedford had on average 7.7 years of experience in the sector and 72% of the workforce had been working in the sector for at least three years.

<sup>1</sup>The Economic Value of the Adult Social Care sector – England, June 2018  
<https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/economicvalueengland>

Skills for Care estimates that in Bedford, 11.9% of roles in adult social care were vacant, this equates to around 700 vacancies at any one time. This vacancy rate was similar to the region average, at 9.7% and higher than England at 8.0%.

Using both workforce intelligence evidence and our links with employers and stakeholders across England, we know that recruitment and retention is one of the largest issues faced by employers. We have many resources and tools available to employers to help with recruitment and retention issues. For more information please visit: [www.skillsforcare.org.uk/recruitment-retention](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/recruitment-retention)

### Staffing overview

The estimated number of adult social care jobs in the Bedford area was 5,900 including 475 managerial roles, 225 regulated professionals, 4,500 direct care (including 3,600 care workers), and 650 other-non-care providing roles.

The average number of sickness days taken in the last year in Bedford was 2.7 (4.9 in Eastern and 5.1 across England). With an estimated directly employed workforce of 5,200 this would mean employers in Bedford lost approximately 14,500 days to sickness in 2017/18.

Around a quarter (24%) of the workforce in Bedford were on zero-hours contracts.

### Chart 1. Proportion of workers on zero hours contracts by area



More than half (57%) of the workforce worked on a full-time basis, 30% were part-time and the remaining 12% had no fixed hours.

### Demographics

The majority (82%) of the workforce in Bedford were female and the average age was 42.4 years old. Those aged 24 and under made up 11% of the workforce and those aged over 55 represented 23%. Given this age profile approximately 1,300 people will be reaching retirement age in the next 10 years.



Nationality varied by region, in England 83% of the workforce were British, while in Eastern this was 82%. An estimated 76% of the workforce in Bedford had a British nationality, 10% had an EU nationality and 14% had a non-EU nationality, therefore there was a higher reliance on non-EU than EU workers.

### Pay

Table 1 shows the full-time equivalent annual or hourly pay rate of selected job roles in Bedford (area), Eastern (region) and England. These data were captured for the local authority sector as at September 2017 and the independent sector as at March 2018. At the time of analysis the National Living Wage was £7.50.

Skills for Care can produce national living wage tools and analysis at a local level, for more information please see: [www.skillsforcare.org.uk/NLW](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/NLW)

**Table 1. Average pay rate of selected job roles by area**

|                                 | England | Region  | Area    |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Full-time equivalent annual pay |         |         |         |
| Social Worker*                  | £34,900 | £33,600 | £36,700 |
| Registered nurse**              | £29,400 | £29,300 | £29,000 |
| Hourly pay                      |         |         |         |
| National Living Wage            | £7.50   | £7.50   | £7.50   |
| Senior care worker              | £8.96   | £8.96   | £9.35   |
| Care worker                     | £8.19   | £8.18   | £8.23   |
| Support and outreach            | £9.37   | £8.95   | £9.89   |

\*Statutory sector social workers only.

\*\*Independent sector registered nurses only.

Please note that pay varies by sector, with local authority pay generally being higher than independent sector pay.

## Qualifications, training and skills

Skills for Care believes that everyone working in adult social care should be able to take part in learning and development so they can carry out their role effectively, this will help to develop the right skills and knowledge so they can provide high quality care and support.



Skills for Care estimates show that 55% of the workforce in Bedford hold a *relevant* adult social care qualification (48% in Eastern and 53% in England).

Of those workers without a relevant adult social care qualification recorded, 61% had three or more years of experience in the adult social care sector, 97% had completed or were in the process of an induction and 46% had engaged with the Care Certificate.

### Further information and relevant resources

Workforce estimates were based on independent sector information derived from the NMDS-SC as at March 2018 and local authority information as at September 2017. For more detail about the methodology used to create these estimates please see: [www.skillsforcare.org.uk/workforceestimates](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/workforceestimates)

Skills for Care provides outstanding workforce intelligence relied upon by the sector to make decisions about adult social care planning and service delivery. To read more publications, including the State of the adult social care sector and workforce in the Eastern region and short briefings covering topics such as pay trends, social workers, registered nurses in the adult social care sector and the nationality of the workforce please see:

[www.skillsforcare.org.uk/WIpublications](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/WIpublications)

For a bespoke analysis of workforce information at a local level or to answer any specific questions you have about the adult social care workforce please contact: [analysis@skillsforcare.org.uk](mailto:analysis@skillsforcare.org.uk)



Example topics include; a more detailed workforce report about adult social care within this area, provision of care for people with learning disabilities or other types of people who use social care services, and much more.

To be kept up to date with workforce intelligence news please join our mailing list by registering with Skills for Care and selecting “workforce intelligence publications”. You can also follow us on twitter [@SfC\\_NMDS\\_SC](https://twitter.com/SfC_NMDS_SC)

For more information please email [analysis@skillsforcare.org.uk](mailto:analysis@skillsforcare.org.uk)

