

A summary of the adult social care sector and workforce in Wirral

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 Wirral there were an estimated **9,100** jobs in adult social care split between local authorities (**2%**), independent sector providers (**88%**) and jobs for direct payment recipients (**10%**). As at September 2018 Wirral contained 166 CQC regulated services; of these, 126 were residential and 40 were non-residential services.

The adult social care workforce is growing. Across England it has increased by 21% since 2009, and in the North West region, by 1% 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 North West region will increase by 34% (from 213,000 to 285,000 jobs) by 2035. Skills for Care can produce workforce forecasts at a local level, for more information please see:

www.skillsforcare.org.uk/wiandlocalauthorities

The adult social care sector was estimated to contribute £38.5 billion per annum to the English economy and in the North West region, this contribution was estimated to be between £5.0 and £5.4 billion¹. 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



Recruitment and retention

Skills for Care estimates that the turnover rate in Wirral was 24.2%, which was lower than the region average of 30.2% and lower than England at 30.70%. Not all turnover results in workers leaving the sector, over two thirds (71%) 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 Wirral had on average 9.7 years of experience in the sector and 75% of the workforce had been working in the sector for at least three years.

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

Skills for Care estimates that in Wirral, 4.6% of roles in adult social care were vacant, this equates to around 375 vacancies at any one time. This vacancy rate was similar to the region average, at 7.1% and lower 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

Staffing overview

The estimated number of adult social care jobs in the Wirral area was 9,100 including 700 managerial roles, 475 regulated professionals, 6,900 direct care (including 4,900 care workers), and 1,100 other-non-care proving roles.

The average number of sickness days taken in the last year in Wirral was 4.7 (5.5 in North West and 5.1 across England). With an estimated directly employed workforce of 7,500 this would mean employers in Wirral lost approximately 36,000 days to sickness in 2017/18.

Around a quarter (25%) of the workforce in Wirral were on zero-hours contracts.

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



More than half (60%) of the workforce worked on a full-time basis, 31% were part-time and the remaining 9% had no fixed hours.

Demographics

The majority (78%) of the workforce in Wirral were female and the average age was 43.1 years old. Those aged 24 and under made up 10% of the workforce and those aged over 55 represented 24%. Given this age profile approximately 2,200 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 North West this was 93%. An estimated 95% of the workforce in Wirral had a British nationality, 2% had an EU nationality and 3% had a non-EU nationality, therefore there was a similar reliance on EU and non-EU workers.

Pay

Table 1 shows the full-time equivalent annual or hourly pay rate of selected job roles in Wirral (area), North West (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

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

	England	Region	Area
Full-time equivalent annual pay			
Social Worker*	£34,900	£33,200	£35,100
Registered nurse**	£29,400	£28,600	£29,900
Hourly pay			
National Living Wage	£7.50	£7.50	£7.50
Senior care worker	£8.96	£8.63	£8.62
Care worker	£8.19	£7.96	£7.96
Support and outreach	£9.37	£8.84	£8.53

*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 59% of the workforce in Wirral hold a *relevant* adult social care qualification (57% in North West and 53% in England).

Of those workers without a relevant adult social care qualification recorded, 52% had three or more years of experience in the adult social care sector, 92% had completed or were in the process of an induction and 47% 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

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 North West 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

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



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

