

# A summary of the adult social care sector and workforce in Wirral 2023/24



Skills for Care is the strategic workforce development and planning body for adult social care in England. We work with employers, Government, and partners to ensure social care has the right people, skills, and support required to deliver the highest quality care and support, now and in the future. Our role is to respond and adapt to the emerging trends and needs within social care, using data and evidence to drive forward widescale change.

The information within this summary has been produced by Skills for Care using the Adult Social Care Workforce Data Set (ASC-WDS). We use the data collected by the ASC-WDS 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 indicates the figure has been suppressed.

## Size and structure of the workforce

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In 2023/24 the adult social care sector in England had an estimated 18,500 organisations with 40,000 care-providing locations and a workforce of around 1.84 million posts.

The total number of posts in Wirral was around 11,500 in 2023/24. This was comprised of 11,000 filled posts and 600 vacant posts across all sectors.

Since the previous year, the total number of posts has increased by 475 (4%), the number of filled posts has increased by 550 (5%) and the number of vacancies has decreased by 75 (11%).

The estimated 11,000 filled posts were split between local authorities (4%), independent sector providers (78%), posts working for direct payment recipients (7%) and other sectors (12%).

In 2023/24, the CQC register showed there were 163 regulated services in Wirral; 113 were residential and 50 were non-residential services.

If the workforce grows proportionally to the projected number of people aged 65 and over then the total number of adult social care posts in the North West region Tf1al sectors.

Across England, the vacancy rate has decreased compared to last year and the number of filled posts has increased. During this period international recruitment increased which has impacted these trends.

Workers in Wirral had on average 9.8 years of experience in the sector and 76% of the workforce had been working in the sector for at least three years.

We have many resources and tools available to help. Please visit our [values-based recruitment](#) page for more information. Skills for Care have also collaborated with the adult social care sector and people who draw on care and support to develop a [Workforce Strategy](#), which includes [attraction recommendations and commitments](#).

## **Employment information**

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We estimate Wirral had 8,900 adult social care filled posts in the local authority and independent sectors. These included 650 managerial roles, 450 regulated profession roles, 6,500 direct care (including 5,400 care workers), and 1,200 other-non-care proving roles.

The average number of sickness days taken in the last year in Wirral was 5.3, (6.8 in North West and 5.3 across England). With an estimated directly employed workforce of 8,000, this means employers in Wirral lost approximately 42,000 days to sickness in 2023/24.

Over half of the workforce (57%) usually worked full-

