

A summary of the adult social care sector and workforce in Cheshire West & Chester 2022/23



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

In 2022/23 the adult social care sector in England had an estimated 18,000 organisations with 39,000 care-providing locations and a workforce of around 1.79 million posts.



The total number of posts in Cheshire West & Chester was around 12,000 in 2022/23. This was comprised of 11,000 filled posts and 950 vacancies. Since the previous year, the total number of posts were similar, the number of filled posts were similar and the number of vacancies has decreased by 50 (-4%).

There were an estimated 11,000 filled posts in adult social care, split between local authorities (8%), independent sector providers (73%), posts working for direct payment recipients (9%) and other sectors (10%). As at March 2023, Cheshire West & Chester contained 158 CQC-regulated services; of these, 79 were residential and 79 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 will increase by 21% (from 250,000 to 300,000 post) between 2022/23 and 2035.

From here on, the figures in this report refer to the 9,100 filled posts in the independent sector and local authority in Cheshire West & Chester only. Filled posts in other sectors are not included.

The independent sector information in this report was collected between April 2022 and March 2023, and local authority information dates from September 2022.

For information about changes in the workforce since March 2023, using monthly monitoring of the ASC-WDS, please see our Workforce Intelligence website¹.

Recruitment and retention

Skills for Care estimates that the staff turnover rate in Cheshire West & Chester was 47.4%, which was higher than the region average of 29.5% and higher than England at 28.3%. Not all turnover results in workers leaving the sector, over half (58%) of starters were recruited from within the adult social care sector, therefore although employers need to recruit to these posts, the sector retains their skills and experience.



We estimate that the vacancy rate in Cheshire West & Chester was 9.00%, which was similar to the regional average of 8.4% and similar to England at 9.9%.

¹ <https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/monthlytracking>

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 substantially which has impacted these trends.

Workers in Cheshire West & Chester had on average 8.6 years of experience in the sector and 70% of the workforce had been working in the sector for at least three years.

We know that recruitment and retention is one

Qualifications, training and skills

We believe that everyone working in adult social care should be able to take part in learning and development so that they can carry out their roles effectively. Learning and development helps everyone to develop the right skills and knowledge to enable them to provide high-quality care and support.