

Date: 29 August 2018

For immediate release

2017 Scottish Social Service Workforce Data Report

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) published the 2017 Workforce Data Report today. The report shows that the size of the social service workforce has increased to 202,090, a rise of 0.7% since 2016, the highest level recorded since these reports began. The social service workforce makes up approximately 7.7% of all Scottish employment. The whole time equivalent (WTE) measure of the workforce is 150,960, an increase of 0.3% since 2016.

This year the stability index of the workforce is 77.1%. This means just over three-quarters of the workforce remained in the same post since last year.

The largest employer type differs between local authority areas, with services in Orkney, Shetland and Na h-Eileanan Siar (the three island authorities) provided mainly by the public sector. However, in most areas the private sector is the largest employer.

Lorraine Gray, SSSC Chief Executive said: 'This year we have seen growth in the social service workforce by 0.7% to 202,090 with the whole time equivalent (WTE) measure also rising by 0.3% to 150,960 people.

'The social service workforce is an important and growing sector. It makes up 7.7% of all Scottish employment, which is around 1 in 13 people. The three largest areas are housing support/care at home, care homes for adults and day care of children; together these account for almost 78% of the workforce. This will continue to grow with policy changes like self-directed support and the increased entitlement of childcare hours meaning we will need more care at home/housing support and early years workers over the next few years.'

Key points from this year's Workforce Data Report.

- The size of the workforce has increased to 202,090, a rise of 0.7% since 2016. This is the highest level recorded since these reports began. The social service workforce makes up approximately 7.7% of all Scottish employment.
- The whole time equivalent (WTE) measure of the workforce is 150,960, an increase of 0.3% since 2016.
- The stability index of the workforce is 77.1%. This means just over three-quarters of the workforce remained in the same post since last year.

- The largest employer type differs between local authority areas, with services in Orkney, Shetland and Na h-Eileanan Siar (the three island authorities) provided mainly by the public sector. However, in most areas the private sector is the largest employer.
- The three largest sub-sectors are housing support/care at home, care homes for adults and day care of children; together these account for almost 78% of the workforce.
- The median* age of the workforce is highest in the public sector (48) and lowest in the private sector (41). Early years workers in the private sector have the lowest median age (28).
- The percentage of men working in the sector is 15%, although it is around double or greater that proportion in criminal justice and residential children's services.
- The workforce is mainly employed on permanent contracts (81%).
- The median figure for the typical weekly hours worked by staff is 31.5 and 50% of the workforce work full time (more than 30 hours per week).

The report combines administrative data from the Care Inspectorate with data collected by the SSSC directly from local authorities to form a comprehensive picture of the paid workforce employed in the social service sector in Scotland at the end of 2017. The SSSC is an official statistics provider.

ENDS

Notes to the editor

Download the 2017 Workforce Data Report here <https://data.sssc.uk.com/data-publications/22-workforce-data-report/178-scottish-social-service-sector-report-on-2017-workforce-data>. The report presents information on the number of people who work in the social service sector and a breakdown of the number of people working in all sub-sectors (ie the different types of social services) and across employer types (public, private, voluntary) in individual local authority areas.

* Median is a type of average. If all the values in a data set are ranked in order, the middle value will be the median. When there is an even number of data items, the values of the two middle values are averaged using the mean. At least half of the values will be greater than or equal to the median.

Media enquiries

Lorraine Wakefield, Senior Communications Officer, 01382 317922 or 07970 656447

Background

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is the regulator for the social service workforce in Scotland. Our work means the people of Scotland can count on social services being provided by a trusted, skilled and confident workforce.

We protect the public by registering social service workers, setting standards for their practice, conduct, training and education and by supporting their professional development. Where people fall below the standards of practice and conduct we can investigate and take action.

We:

- publish the national codes of practice for people working in social services and their employers
- register people working in social services and make sure they adhere to our codes of practice
- promote and regulate the learning and development of the social service workforce
- are the national lead for workforce development and planning for social services in Scotland.

We publish data and official statistics on the social service workforce. Our data underpins our workforce planning and development role and government, local authorities, health and social care partnerships, employers and others use it in national and local workforce planning.

Find out more about us at:

Website: www.sssc.uk.com

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/SSSCnews>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thesssc>

Instagram: <http://instagram.com/ssscnews>