



Department
for Education

Children and family social work workforce in England, year ending 30 September 2019

Metadata guidance document

February 2020

Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| Description | 2 |
| Coverage | 2 |
| Data availability and confidentiality..... | 3 |
| Data files..... | 3 |
| Annex A: Variable listing and descriptions | 4 |
| Annex B: How to use the underlying data files | 6 |

Description

This document describes the underlying data in the ‘Children and family social work workforce, year ending 30 September 2019’ .csv data files.

This year, the children and family social work statistics are published as official statistics, whereas in previous years they have been classified as experimental statistics. More information on [official statistics](#) is available from the UK Statistics Authority.

Users should read all footnotes and caveats included in this publication to understand the practical applications and limitations of the data. In particular, any comparisons with statistics in previous publications should be treated with caution as changes from year to year may not reflect actual changes in figures, but may simply indicate improvements in data quality. Refer to the Data Quality and Uses section in the technical document for more information on data quality issues.

Coverage

The information in this statistical release is based on data collected in the annual statutory census collection on the children’s social work workforce. The census collects information from local authorities in England on the children and family social workers and agency workers they employ within their children’s services department. Children and family social workers are social workers registered with the Health and Care Professional Council (HCPC) working in a local authority children’s services department, or, if working in an authority where the services are joined up, working exclusively with children and families.

This is the third year that local authorities have provided data at an individual social worker level, whereas in previous years data was submitted to the department at an aggregate (local authority) level. Data was collected for all local authority and agency social workers in post at the 30 September 2019.

Kingston upon Thames and Richmond upon Thames submit a joint return through Achieving for Children, a social enterprise company created by the Royal Borough of

Kingston upon Thames and the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames to provide their children's services. As a result, their social work workforce data is not available at an individual local authority level and is instead reported together against Kingston upon Thames. This reporting arrangement has no impact upon regional and national-level aggregations.

The underlying data files include national, regional and local authority-level information for England.

Refer to the technical document for more information on the data and the methodology used to calculate the measures included in this publication.

Data availability and confidentiality

The following conventions are used throughout the underlying data.

'c' Where the data is deemed to be sensitive, all figures have been replaced with the letter c (confidential). In addition, secondary suppression may be applied to preserve confidentiality.

'.' Not applicable

'..' Not available

Data files

This statistical release includes the following underlying data files in .csv format:

| File name | Content | Geographical level | Years |
|--|--|---|--------------|
| CSWW_FTE_and_Headcount_characteristics_2019 | Children and family social workers: snapshot of full-time equivalent (FTE) and headcount at 30 September | National; regional; and local authority | 2017 to 2019 |
| CSWW_Starters_and_Leavers_characteristics_2019 | Children and family social workers: starters and leavers in year ending 30 September | National; regional; and local authority | 2017 to 2019 |
| CSWW_FTE_and_Headcount_rates_2019 | Children and family social workers: absence rates, agency workers, caseload, turnover and vacancy rates | National; regional; and local authority | 2017 to 2019 |

CSWW: Children's Social Work Workforce

Annex A: Variable listing and descriptions

Variable names and descriptions for each underlying data file are provided below.

CSWW_FTE_and_Headcount_characteristics_2019 Snapshot of full-time equivalent (FTE) and headcount number of children and family social workers at 30 September by characteristic

| Variable name | Variable description |
|---------------------|---|
| time_period | The year of the census collection, for example 2018-19 |
| time_identifier | Year ending 30 September |
| geographic_level | Geographical level: national, regional and local authority |
| country_code | Country code – 9 digit code |
| country_name | Country name |
| region_code | Region code (Government Office Region) – 9 digit code |
| region_name | Region name (Government Office Region) |
| old_la_code | Local authority code (old) |
| new_la_code | Local authority code (new) – 9 digit code |
| la_name | Local authority name |
| count | Count: Full-time equivalent (FTE); headcount |
| characteristic | Characteristic: Total; Gender; Age group; Time in service; Role; and Ethnicity (headcount only) |
| characteristic_type | Type of characteristic, for example female or male |
| number | Number of children and family social workers at 30 September |
| percent | Percentage of children and family social workers at 30 September |

CSWW_Starters_and_Leavers_characteristics_2019 Children and family social workers starters and leavers during the year ending 30 September by characteristic

| Variable name | Variable description |
|---------------------|---|
| time_period | The year of the census collection, for example 2018-19 |
| time_identifier | Year ending 30 September |
| geographic_level | Geographical level: national, regional and local authority |
| country_code | Country code – 9 digit code |
| country_name | Country name |
| region_code | Region code (Government Office Region) – 9 digit code |
| region_name | Region name (Government Office Region) |
| old_la_code | Local authority code (old) |
| new_la_code | Local authority code (new) – 9 digit code |
| la_name | Local authority name |
| count | Count: Full-time equivalent (FTE); headcount |
| characteristic | Characteristic: Total; Gender; Age group; Time in service; Role; and Ethnicity (headcount only) |
| characteristic_type | Type of characteristic, for example female or male |
| number_of_starters | Number of family social workers starting during the year |
| starters_percent | Percentage of family social workers starting during the year |
| number_of_leavers | Number of family social workers leaving during the year |
| leavers_percent | Percentage of family social workers leaving during the year |

CSWW_FTE_and_Headcount_rates_2019 Absence, agency, caseload, turnover and vacancy: numbers and rates

| Variable name | Variable description |
|-------------------------------|--|
| time_period | The year of the census collection, for example 2018-19 |
| time_identifier | Year ending 30 September |
| geographic_level | Geographical level: national, regional and local authority |
| country_code | Country code – 9 digit code |
| country_name | Country name |
| region_code | Region code (Government Office Region) – 9 digit code |
| region_name | Region name (Government Office Region) |
| old_la_code | Local authority code (old) |
| new_la_code | Local authority code (new) – 9 digit code |
| la_name | Local authority name |
| social_worker_fte | Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) children and family social workers at 30 September |
| leaver_fte | Number of FTE children and family social workers leaving during the year |
| turnover_fte | FTE turnover rate during the year |
| working_days_lost_fte | Number of working days lost during the year |
| absence_rate_fte | Absence rate during the year |
| agency_fte | Number of FTE agency workers at 30 September |
| agency_worker_rate_fte | FTE agency worker rate at 30 September |
| agency_cover_fte | Number of FTE agency workers covering vacancies at 30 September |
| agency_cover_rate_fte | Percentage of FTE agency workers covering vacancies at 30 September |
| vacancy_fte | Number of FTE vacancies at 30 September |
| vacancy_rate_fte | FTE vacancy rate at 30 September |
| vacancy_agency_cover_rate_fte | Percentage of vacancies covered by FTE agency workers at 30 September |
| case_holders_fte | Number of FTE caseholders at 30 September |
| cases | Number of cases held at 30 September |
| caseload_fte | Caseload: average number of cases per FTE child and family social worker at 30 September |
| social_worker_headcount | Headcount of children and family social workers at 30 September |
| leaver_headcount | Headcount of family social workers leaving during the year ending 30 September |
| turnover_headcount | Headcount turnover rate during the year ending 30 September |
| agency_headcount | Headcount of agency workers at 30 September |
| agency_worker_rate_headcount | Headcount agency worker rate at 30 September |
| agency_cover_headcount | Headcount of agency workers covering vacancies at 30 September |
| agency_cover_rate_headcount | Headcount of agency cover rate at 30 September |

Annex B: How to use the underlying data files

Underlying data files can be filtered by column to retrieve specific information. An example of how to do this is provided here to assist users.

Details on how to filter datasets is available online. Please see the [Microsoft Excel Office Support page](#) for instructions on how to filter data in a range or table.

The example below relates to the underlying data file
CSWW_FTE_and_Headcount_characteristics_2019

Example: retrieve data for a specific characteristic and local authority

To search FTE age group information for Barnsley authority, the following filters should be set: **geographic_level** to *Local authority*, **la_name** to *Barnsley*, **count** to **FTE** and **characteristic** to *Age group*. The relevant data for Barnsley is shown in columns L to O.

| time_per | time_id | geograph | country | country | region | region | old_la | new_la | la_name | count | character | character | number | percent |
|----------|-------------|------------|----------|---------|----------|-------------|--------|----------|----------|-------|-----------|-------------|--------|---------|
| 201819 | Year end in | Local auth | E9200000 | England | E1200000 | Yorkshire & | 370 | E0800001 | Barnsley | FTE | Age group | 20 to 29 ye | 31.5 | 23.8 |
| 201819 | Year end in | Local auth | E9200000 | England | E1200000 | Yorkshire & | 370 | E0800001 | Barnsley | FTE | Age group | 30 to 39 ye | 31.5 | 23.8 |
| 201819 | Year end in | Local auth | E9200000 | England | E1200000 | Yorkshire & | 370 | E0800001 | Barnsley | FTE | Age group | 40 to 49 ye | 22.8 | 17.2 |
| 201819 | Year end in | Local auth | E9200000 | England | E1200000 | Yorkshire & | 370 | E0800001 | Barnsley | FTE | Age group | 50 to 59 ye | 37.2 | 28.1 |
| 201819 | Year end in | Local auth | E9200000 | England | E1200000 | Yorkshire & | 370 | E0800001 | Barnsley | FTE | Age group | 60 years o | 9.5 | 7.2 |



Department
for Education

© Crown copyright 2020

You may re-use this document/publication (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v2.0. Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

To view this licence:

visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3

email psi@nationalarchives.gov.uk

About this publication:

enquiries www.education.gov.uk/contactus

download www.gov.uk/government/publications

reference: Children and family social worker workforce in England 2018-19,
metadata guidance document



Follow us on Twitter:
[@educationgovuk](https://twitter.com/educationgovuk)



Like us on Facebook:
facebook.com/educationgovuk