

Fast facts

Social care: spending and workforce

The Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) collates, analyses and publishes a range of statistics related to adult social care in England.

Our statistics give detail on topics such as the number of adults receiving social care, the types of social care being provided to adults, the amounts being spent on social care by local authorities, safeguarding, direct payments and the experiences of both those receiving social care and carers for adults who are receiving social care.

Our statistics are based on data sent to the HSCIC by local authorities with responsibility for providing social services in England and are usually broken down to local authority level.

There is also an HSCIC *Fastfacts* sheet on social care: adults and carers receiving services, also available in the news and events section of the HSCIC website: <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/news-and-events>

Social care spending

Statistics on local council spending on adult social care can be found in the HSCIC report *Personal Social Services Expenditure and Unit Costs – England*. The latest report covering the year 2012/13 shows:

- Gross current expenditure by local authorities on adult social care across England in 2012-13 was £17.2 billion.

This is a decrease of less than half of one per cent in cash terms from the £17.2 billion spent in 2011-12, but represents two per cent decrease in real terms.

- Spending in 2012-13 was 12 per cent higher in cash terms and half of one per cent lower in real terms compared with **five years ago** in 2007-08 when it was £15.3 billion.
- Comparing 2012-13 spending with spending in 2002-03 (when it was £11.3 billion) shows a 52 per cent cash terms and 19 per cent real terms increase **over a ten year period**.

Social care workforce

Statistics on staff employed (directly and indirectly) by adult social services departments in England are contained in the HSCIC report *Personal Social Services: Staff of Social Services Departments at 30 September – England*. It is based on a census of staff taken annually on September 30 and the latest report shows:

- As at September 2013 there were **140,700 adult social services jobs** in councils in England.

This represents a decrease in adult social services jobs between 2012 and 2013 of seven per cent from 150,700 jobs in 2012.

- For around two-thirds of councils (101 out of 152) the number of **adult social services jobs reduced** between 2012 and 2013.

The reasons for these reductions are not known for the majority of councils (77 councils or 57 per cent of jobs). Of the 24 councils that did provide reasons, nine councils cited outsourcing as the reason for the fall (31 per cent of jobs), 14 councils reduced due to restructures and redundancies (11 per cent of jobs) and one council reduced due to a combination of both (one per cent of jobs).

- As at September 2013 there were **16,500 social worker jobs in councils** (a decrease of less than one per cent from 2012).

The number of whole time equivalent (WTE) social worker jobs increased by two per cent from 14,500 in 2012 to 14,800 in 2013.

- The majority of adult social services jobs **saw a decrease in ‘real term’ pay** between 2012 and 2013.

Care worker whole time equivalent (WTE) pay decreased by two per cent in real terms from £17,600 to £17,200 between 2012 and 2013. Social worker WTE pay also decreased by two per cent in real terms from £32,600 in 2012 to £31,900 in 2013.

More information

Access HSCIC information on a range of social care topics here:

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/social-care>

Social care statistics on other aspects of social care, such as the workforce employed in social care or children’s social care, are produced by the Department of Health, Skills for Care, the Department for Education, the Care Quality Commission and NICE. See the **HSCIC’s Health and social care information sources – a guide for journalists, England 2014** for guidance on which source of statistics can help you with which topic:

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/journalistinfo>

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