



Social workers on the Register - 1 April 2021



What are the key points?

- Social workers have had to register with us since 2005
- 6,470 social workers are registered, an increase from 6,293 in 2020
- 4,172 told us they have a social work caseload
- To support the sector during the COVID pandemic we have not removed anyone from the Register for failing to renew their registration in the last year.



How many joined and left the Register?

- In the last 12 months 454 social workers joined the Register and 277 left
- 47% of those leaving did not maintain their registration
- 19% of those leaving had retired
- 13% continued to work in social care outside Wales
- 1 social worker was removed following a fitness to practise hearing and 3 were currently suspended.



Where are social workers employed?

- 73% work in local authority social services
- 7.5% work in the private sector
- 4% work in the third sector
- 4% are self-employed
- 36% of social workers have been in their current role for three years or less
- 13% have been in their current role for 10.



What are the five year trends?

- The ratio of female to male social workers remains 4:1
- The number of social workers on the Register has increased by 7% since 2016
- The percentage employed in the private sector increased from 4.5% in 2016 to 7.5%
- The percentage who hold a Master's or Bachelor's degree in Social Work increased from 36% in 2016 to 52% this year.



What qualifications do social workers hold?

- All social workers on the Register are qualified
- 52% hold a Bachelor's or Master's degree in Social Work
- 34% hold a Diploma in Social Work
- 10% hold an older accepted social work qualification
- 3% qualified outside the United Kingdom.



What is the profile of social workers?

- There are 5,341 women and 1,129 men
- The average age of social workers is 46
- 88% of social workers are white, white British, white Welsh or white Irish
- 40% of social workers speak some Welsh or are fluent
- 3% of social workers have a disability.