

# Fact Sheets: Social Care Sector



Adult social care spending in the UK has fallen by 9.9% between 2009/10 (£18 Billion) and 2016/2017 (£16.5 Billion).

An ageing population and younger adults with disabilities living longer are pushing up the cost of caring for older and disabled people, placing the social care system under huge strain. Based on current spending, a UK funding gap of £18 billion will open up by 2030/31.

Just over 870,000 adults received long-term support in 2015/16. Around two thirds were 65 or over.

About 400,000 fewer adults received social care services in 2013/14 than in 2009/10, as local authorities have had to prioritise funding for people with the most severe care needs.

Informal carers continue to absorb the bulk of the pressure – 75% said they had not received any support or service, which allowed them to take a break of between one and 24 hours from caring in the last 12 months.

As a result of the reductions in local authority social care spending in England, A&E departments have experienced a large increase in the number of older patients (over 65) increasing by 35% from 2.9 million to 3.9 million between 2009–10 and 2015–16.



**Social care is the provision of social work, personal care, protection or social support services to children or adults in need or at risk, or adults with needs arising from illness, disability, old age or poverty. That provision may have one or more of the following aims:**

- to protect people who use care services from abuse or neglect
- to prevent deterioration of or promote physical or mental health
- to promote independence and social inclusion
- to improve opportunities and life chances
- to strengthen families
- to protect human rights in relation to people's social needs

Across the UK, more people work in social care

**1.6 million**

than in the NHS

**1.4 million**

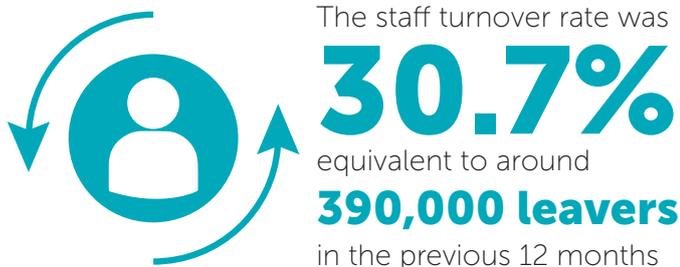
with social care representing **6%** of total UK employment

**32.2 million**

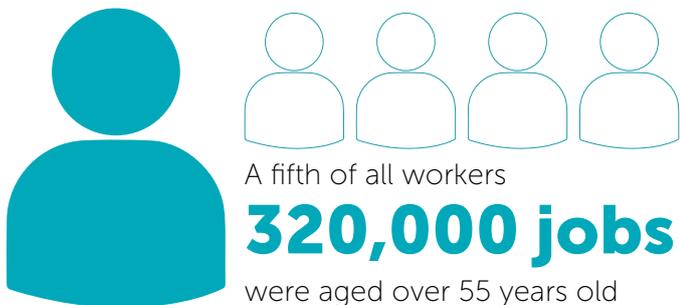
but the services and support in social care are not well known.

**The public are increasingly aware of the pressure being faced by the NHS, but much less so about the challenges facing social care, and what that might mean if they or a family member develops social care needs.**

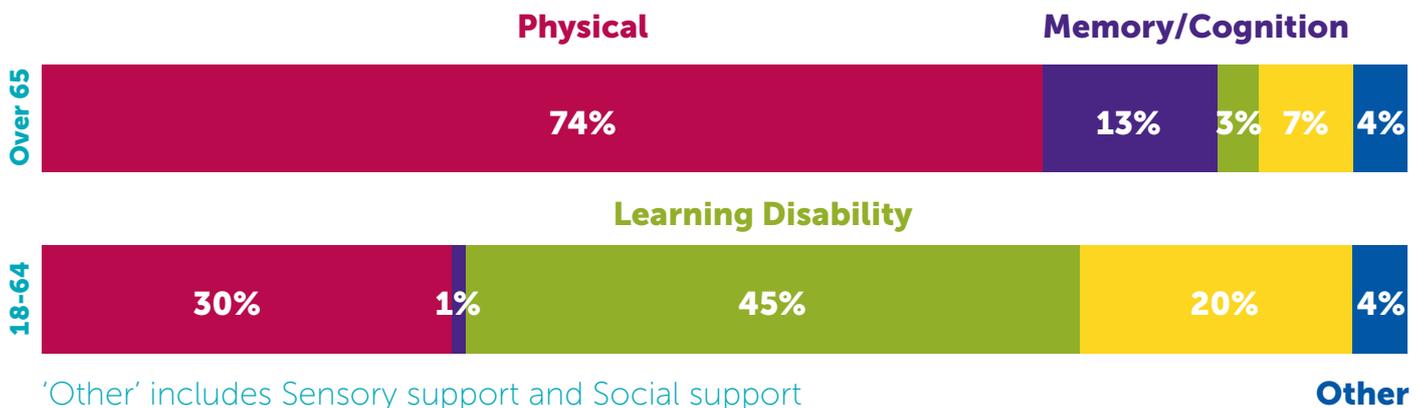
## Key findings from the Skills for Care Annual Report 2018 on the social sector include:



Many of these leavers move to other roles within the sector as **67%** of recruitment is from within adult social care.



- A quarter of the workforce (25%) were on a zero-hours contract (335,000 jobs).
- Adult social care has an experienced 'core' of workers. Workers had, on average, 8.2 years of experience in the sector.
- The vacancy rate was 8.0%, equivalent to around 110,000 vacancies at any given time. The majority of these vacancies (76,000) were care workers.
- The majority (83%) of the adult social care workforce were British, 8% (104,000 jobs) had an EU nationality and 10% (130,000 jobs) a non-EU nationality.



## Our Response

The Foundation's partnership with **Skills for Care** focuses on bringing skills and expertise from different backgrounds into the care sector. This partnership will enable recruiters and employers to identify essential and broader non-traditional skills in applicants.

The Foundation's partnership with **EY Foundation** will create programmes which promote careers within the social care industry and help care leavers fulfil their potential by moving successfully into further education and employment.