

Sector Summary Report Child Care & Education

Sector Definition

There is currently no Sector Skills Council for this area of work. The Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) aims to improve the lives of children, young people, their families and carers.

Overview

There is a total workforce of over 500,000 (80% employees, 20% self employed). The occupational groups covered by CWDC include: early years and childcare (70 per cent of the workforce); children and families social care (15 per cent of the workforce); learning development and support services (5 per cent of the workforce). There are also an estimated 250,000 voluntary workers in the children's workforce in England.

In 2006/07 the local authority social care workforce specifically working with children totalled around 55,000 headcount staff, equating to 46,700 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff. Around 67% were in fieldwork employment, 12% were in day care and 21% in residential care and special needs establishments. Current information the total workforce in social care occupations covered by CWDC totals 168,340 staff (including paid staff and foster carers, but not volunteers).

National research on volunteering (National Centre for Social Research & Institute of Volunteering Research, 2007) suggests that there may be around 2 million people engaged in formal volunteering across the children and young people's sector each month (other than in schools or education settings). It is not known how much of this is in social care.

They are one of six bodies forming the UK Skills for Care and Development Sector Skills Council and coordinate the Children's Workforce Network.

Future Skills Key Demand side issues for 2009/10

From research conducted by the SSCs for their Sector Skills Agreements, the following key issues were identified:

The CWDC Corporate and Business Plan 2008-2011 reveals there will be greater support for social workers and the social care workforce, leadership on youth work reform and strong support for workforce reform both regionally and locally. The organisation will continue to focus on current priorities, which include developing the Integrated Qualifications Framework, raising the skills of the early years workforce, delivering the Sector Skills Agreement and for continued funding of occupational groups to undertake new work that supports the delivery of the Children's Plan (DCSF).

Sector Qualification Strategies (SQS) and Vocational Qualification Reform (VQR)

All Sector Skills Councils have recently completed their SQS and Action Plans. Through this process a variety of new and updated qualifications will

emerge that are more closely aligned to the needs of employers. It is anticipated that there will be a need for providers to develop capacity and up skill their workforce to deliver new qualifications. There are at present 297 qualifications on the sector qualifications list these can be accessed through <http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/qualifications-list>
http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/workforce_strategy/workforce_strategy.aspx

Compacts

A sector compact is a non-contractual agreement between the Department for Innovation Universities and Skills, the Learning and Skills Council and a Sector Skills Council to work collaboratively to drive up demand for skills across England through Train to Gain. The LSC will be working with skills for Care to develop compacts in 2009/10. It is anticipated that the flexibilities within the compact will facilitate growth in provision.

Economic Developments

Recent and current work to develop the children's social care workforce includes: the establishment and extension of the Social Care Register for people who have been trained and assessed in the workforce; developing the role of the Lead Professional, who coordinates provision and act as a single point of contact for a child and their family.

Analysis of Provision - Train to Gain

This sector has been accessing the flexibilities of Train to Gain. In collaboration with Skills Active there is an initiative to qualify (nationally) 4000 Play workers to Level 3 by 2010. Additional Level 2 qualifications are

- National Certificate in Health & Social Care
- NVQ in Health and Social Care
- NVQ in Children's Care Learning & Development
- Certificate in Pre School Practice

WBL Apprenticeships

Nationally and regionally, the SSCs have indicated that there is a need to increase the uptake of apprenticeships. They are an important route for new recruits and existing non qualified staff to develop skills for employment. The Children's Care Learning & Development (CCLD) framework is designed by the Sector Skills Council [Skills for Care and Development](#).

Focus Recommendations for 09/10

- Respond to the economic developments in the region with regard to the development of the Social Care Register.
- Deliver the new qualifications when available ensuring that the provision continues to adapt and be responsive to sector needs.
- Develop new delivery models to allow SMEs to get involved and grow provision in the region.
- Drive up demand for Apprenticeships.