UKHCA Summary Paper

An overview of the UK domiciliary care sector

January 2012

Version 28

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Introduction

1. Introduction

UKHCA is the professional association of homecare providers from the independent, voluntary, not-for-profit and statutory sectors. More information about us can be found in Section 8.

These headline statistics are aimed at researchers, management consultants and organisations considering entry into the homecare sector. The figures are a summary of the most recent analysis available and will be revised as new data becomes available. More information can also be found on the UKHCA website www.ukhca.co.uk.

The homecare sector suffers from a lack of routine data collection in all four administrations of the UK. Often statistics do not reflect the number of people who pay for their care privately, as they are not counted in local authority returns. In addition, information and analysis is sparser for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland than for England. Despite this, the figures below help to give a summary of how many people benefit from homecare, who provides the care, and how it is paid for.

Due to the number of requests for information, UKHCA regrets it is unable to provide any further detailed analysis or telephone support to independent consultants or non-member organisations. A limited amount of support is available to voluntary and statutory sector organisations and registered charities. Genuine enquiries from the media can be made to the Head of Policy and Communication on telephone 020 8288 5297, mobile 07920 788993 or media@ukhca.co.uk.

2. Homecare or care homes?

A number of organisations contacting us are looking for information about the care home sector (these were previously known as Nursing Homes and Care Homes). UKHCA does not hold any data on care homes, but we have provided a list of useful links in Section 9 of this paper.
3. Disclaimer

This document is provided for information purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained herein, the Association can accept no responsibility for errors of fact or omission.
4. England

England has by far the most numbers of people in receipt of homecare services because of its larger population and it also has the most data available on the homecare sector. The majority of people in receipt of homecare receive it through local social services, which assesses need for help according to certain eligibility criteria. Most councils contract out the supply of homecare services to the independent sector, which now provides over four fifths of publicly funded homecare.

However, the apparent inability of government social care funding to keep pace with demand means that many service users are seeing their eligibility for care re-assessed by their council, with “low-level” help and services cut back, while the independent sector finds that contract prices offered by local authorities often failing to keep pace with inflation and other statutory burdens on employers.

Social care funding in England is due for a major government review and current agenda is to ensure that service users who are eligible for state-funded care are allocated an up-front “personal budget” that allows them to design their care packages more freely, for example by employing their own staff or using a homecare provider of their choice.

**Number of state-funded service users**

An estimated 340,600 people (in around 328,600 households) were receiving homecare through local authorities during one survey week in 2008.\(^1\) During 2008-2009 an estimated total of 577,000 adults of all ages received homecare through their local authority.\(^2\)

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Intensity of care

On average, households receive 12.4 hours of homecare with total contact time across England estimated at 4.1 million hours a week. While the number of contact hours of homecare provided has doubled since 1997 the actual number of people supported has decreased by 18%, since figures of numbers of people using the service was collected in 2000.

Eligibility for state-funded care

The falling numbers of people receiving state-funded care indicates the statutory sector is targeting services to those who need more intensive support, rather than those with lower level needs. With an overall pattern of tightening “eligibility” criteria operated it is now estimated that around 72% of councils only offer homecare services to those with “substantial” or “critical” needs. A recent study estimated that around 450,000 older people in need of care have some sort of shortfall in the formal care they receive, with 275,000 older people with less intensive needs getting no support from their local council.

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Gross annual public expenditure on older people’s homecare in 2008-09 was an estimated £2.7 billion, and overall expenditure on day and domiciliary care across all adult age groups totalled nearly £6.5 billion. In 2008-9, local authorities recouped nearly 14% of their expenditure on all adult social care services through fees charges to service users (this equates to £2.3 billion). An analysis performed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection in 2009 found that for homecare council’s recouped £285 million - 14% of total income from charges.

Direct Payments are a cash payment from statutory services, enabling the service user to use the money to pay for care of their choice. The most recent national statistics for 2008-9 estimated 86,000 of people over 18 were receiving a direct payment and of these 19,000 were receiving their direct payment through a personal budget. A more recent estimate is that 115,000 people were receiving direct payments in 2009, and 29,000 of these were thought to be informal carers. It is not known what proportion of users buy homecare with a direct payment. However direct payment rates can be insufficient to buy in care. For example a survey in 2007 found that the average day rate for England was £8.87 an hour. Expenditure on direct payments has risen as numbers of people using them has increased and now equates to £815 million or 5% of overall gross expenditure for adults.

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9 Personal Social Services Expenditure and Unit Costs England, 2009-10. p. 5 Table 2.1. [http://www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/009_Social_Care/pss0910expfinal/Personal_Social_Services_Expenditure_Report%202009-10_v2.pdf](http://www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/009_Social_Care/pss0910expfinal/Personal_Social_Services_Expenditure_Report%202009-10_v2.pdf)


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Number of hours and spend by self-funding service users

Increasing numbers of people are needing or choosing to fund their own care. Of those ineligible for council supported care it is estimated that 150,000 are purchasing care at home privately. Total private payment for community based care such as homecare, (including top ups on statutory care) is estimated at £1.46 billion a year. Another market estimate put the amount of privately purchased homecare at 1.4 million hours a week, and approximately 27% of hours of private homecare is purchased on a live-in basis.

Average price for hour of homecare

The average price for a weekday, daytime hour of care privately purchased from the independent sector in 2009 was estimated as £12.98 in a market survey, a figure which should be used with extreme caution given geographical variations. The survey analysis also found that there was no evidence to support the suggestion that private purchasers pay significantly higher than statutory purchasers of care.

Average length of visit

Laing and Buisson have reported on a survey that indicated just over half of local authority funded visits lasted 30 minutes. 16% of visits were of 15 minutes, and a further interesting measurement was that 19% of a homecare workers time was spent travelling.

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Supply of homecare
81% of publicly funded homecare is now provided by the independent sector, compared to 5% in 1993.\textsuperscript{20}

Commissioning and contracting
The main purchasers of homecare are local authorities who are estimated to buy 80% of the hours of care provided by the independent sector.\textsuperscript{21} In a survey undertaken by UKHCA in 2004 60% of independent providers were thought to rely on local authority purchase for more than three quarters of their business, with almost 15% of providers dependent on local authorities as their only customer.\textsuperscript{22} This dominant purchasing power allows authorities to exert a downward pressure on costs of homecare. To illustrate in 2009-10 the average unit cost of "in house" local authority homecare had risen to £30.85, while the average unit cost of homecare to authorities from using independent providers was £15.10. Effectively the independent sector is operating at less than half the cost of the statutory sector.\textsuperscript{23}

Provider numbers
In November 2010 there were 5,526 home care agencies registered in England\textsuperscript{24}, in 2008 (84%) were based in the private and voluntary sector.\textsuperscript{25}
Standards and Regulation

Providers in England are regulated under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) which took over from the Commission for Social Care Inspection on 1st April 2009. Homecare providers met or exceeded 82% of the former National Minimum Standards in 2007-8. 26 In its first publication on the State of both health and social care 2009 the Care Quality Commission found that 77% of homecare agencies had received a quality rating of “good” or “excellent”, with just 1% rated as “poor”. 27 CQC’s quality rating system was subsequently discontinued, and an alternative “Excellence Award” is not expected to come into operation before April 2012.

Size of Workforce

In 2010 the estimated size of the domiciliary care workforce was 351,470, including; 267,180 in independent sector, 48,130 in the voluntary sector and 36,160 in local authorities. 28

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England

Profile of workforce

The workforce is predominantly made of female part time workers. The latest data puts homecare at a turnover rate of 18.1%.29 Using updated figures from December 2008 – February 2009, the average hourly pay for a homecare worker was £6.80. This figure which should be used with caution given geographical variations.30 Workforce information has been provided by homecare providers as part of a “National Minimum Dataset” project co-ordinated by workforce body Skills for Care.

Statutory Regulators


The Health Professions Council is currently exploring the practicalities of registering social care workers on a voluntary basis following the expected abolition of the General Social Care Council in July 2012.


Legislation


References

29 National Minimum Dataset online research page. Go to National Key Statistics Report which should allow downloadable information from the most recent month. Go to Workforce: Worker Summary by Main Service Type and look for the domiciliary care figures for careworkers in England. See http://www.nmds-sc-online.org.uk/research/researchdocs.aspx?id=9


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The Care Quality Commission (Registration) Regulations 2009 are available to download from the Office of Public Sector Information http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/3112/contents/made


Further Reading


Contact the Care Quality Commission (see above) for information on these documents which are now held by the new regulator.


Skills for Care National Minimum Dataset and State of Social Care Workforce. Available from Skills for Care Tel 0113 2451716 or download from www.skillsforcare.org.uk/view.asp?id=977
5. Wales

The majority of people in receipt of homecare in Wales receive it through local social services operated by the 22 local authorities in Wales, which assess need for help according to certain eligibility criteria. Most councils contract out services to the independent sector, which now provides just over half of publicly funded homecare and there has been a continued policy emphasis on helping people remain at home.

There have been calls for free personal homecare in Wales, but so far policy makers have not followed Scotland’s lead. The Social Care Charges (Wales) Measure has been introduced to eliminate the large variation in social care charges elicited by local authorities for non-residential care. Under the measure, local authorities will only be able to charge a maximum of £50 per week for non-residential social care, regardless of the social and financial means of the person using the service.\(^{31}\)

Much less data is available in Wales on the independent homecare sector, but anecdotal evidence provided to UKHCA suggests the picture is similar to England with the independent sector finding that contract prices offered by local authorities often fail to keep pace with inflation and other statutory burdens on employers.

**Number of state-funded service users**

There were 17,205 older people and 4,603 younger adults in receipt of publicly funded homecare during one sample week in September 2010, totalling 21,800 people, which is a decrease of 5% since 2009 with the most significant drop being the number of people who receive more than 20 hours of homecare.\(^{32}\) Overall 24,638 people received homecare in the year 2009-10.

**Intensity of care**

The overall number of people receiving less intensive packages of homecare fell again in 2010-11. The majority of people (nearly 70%) receive 10 hours or less of care

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per week.33 There is little data on the operation of eligibility for care by local authorities but this indicates that lower level packages of care are decreasing.

**Direct Payment users**

The number of adults receiving a direct payment in Wales in 2010-2011 rose to 2,734 but still only represents approximately 4% of service users.34 Direct payment rates can be insufficient to buy in care. A survey in 2007 found that the average day rate for Wales was £6.74 an hour, the lowest in the UK.35

**Public expenditure**

Net public expenditure on all personal social care services was £1.3 billion in 2007-2008, with £1.3 million spent on homecare for older people. Expenditure on older people increased by £7 million (1%) between 2006-07 and 2007-08.36

**Average price for hour of homecare**

A market report by Laing and Buisson shows that the average price for independent sector homecare by social services in Wales was £12.33. This figure should be used with extreme caution due to the geographical variations.37

**Supply of homecare**

In 2010-11 overall 11.2 million hours of care were delivered in Wales by both the independent and statutory sector. 68% of state-funded homecare was provided under contract by the independent sector, with the sector providing 7.6 million hours of publicly funded homecare in

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35 Direct Payment Survey Report (2007). p.58. Personal Social Services Research Unit. [www.pssru.ac.uk/dps/dps_reports.htm](http://www.pssru.ac.uk/dps/dps_reports.htm)


The pattern is one of increasing use of the independent sector by local authorities.

### Provider numbers

On 31 March 2009 there were 354 domiciliary care agencies registered with the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW). 87% of these were run by the independent sector. CSSIW only monitor numbers of establishments not size of provision but recently there has been an increase in the number of agencies exceeding 200 hours of provision a week, these larger agencies make up 76 per cent of all provision according to CSSIW.

### Standards

Providers in Wales are regulated by the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales against certain standards. In 2008-2009 CSSIW found that there had been significant improvements in the quality of homecare services and that homecare providers were performing well in a number of areas, including care planning, quality assurance and medication.

### Size of Workforce

In 2001 there were an estimated 6,000 homecare workers in the independent sector. Since then very little information has been collected on the independent sector homecare workforce in Wales. Local Authority homecare staff number 6,857 and of these 5,755 are part-time.

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41 Next steps: Non-statutory Domiciliary Care Providers in Wales, Main Findings. UKHCA, CCETWS and TOPSS (2001). Page 3. Not available to download.

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Statutory regulators

Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW), 4/5 Charnwood Court, Heol Billingsley, Parc Nantgarw, Nantgarw, CF15 7QZ. Telephone: 01443 848450. www.cssiw.org.uk. Prior to 1 April 2007 CSSIW was known as CSIW – Care Services Inspectorate for Wales.

Care Council for Wales, South Gate House, Wood Street, Cardiff, CF10 1EW. Telephone: 029 2022 6257. www.ccwales.org.uk.

Legislation

Care Standards Act 2000 is available to download from the Office of Public Sector Information www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2000a.htm. For sales telephone The Stationary Office: 0870 600 5522


National Minimum Standards for Domiciliary Care Agencies in Wales (2004) is available from the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales. Telephone 01443 8484450 or download from www.csiw.wales.gov.uk/docs/Standards_Domiciliary_Care_e.pdf

Further reading


Wales

www.dataunitwales.gov.uk/Publications.asp?cat=56

6. Scotland

As with England and Wales, the majority of people in receipt of homecare in Scotland receive it through local social services, which assess need for help according to certain eligibility criteria. A small majority of homecare continues to be delivered by the councils’ in-house services, and the proportion of statutory funded care delivered by the independent sector is growing.

Since July 2002 people aged 65 and over have been eligible for free personal care and can no longer be charged by local authorities for such services in their own homes, although they can be charged for domestic services. The policy has contributed to a shift from use of residential care to homecare. However there is a debate about the sustainability of the policy in the long term and current funding shortfalls have led to some local authorities operating “waiting lists” for the free services. As in England and Wales, the independent sector has also found that contract prices offered by local authorities often fail to keep pace with inflation and other statutory burdens on employers.

Number state-funded service users

An estimated 66,224 people were receiving a homecare service provided or purchased by a local authority at the end of March 2010. This was a decline from the previous year. 666,400 hours of care were provided that week, mainly to people aged 65 and over.\(^{43}\) Of those in receipt of homecare an estimated 46,700 older people were in receipt of free personal care.\(^{44}\)

Intensity of homecare

The pattern is one of increasingly intensive packages of care for those most in need. On average, households received 10.1 hours of homecare. In 1999 the average was 5.1 hours.\(^{45}\)

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### Scotland

#### Number of self-funding service users

Although there is no data on numbers of self-funding service users, a recent estimate placed private purchase of homecare at an estimated £34 million a year, based on estimates from UKHCA’s study of homecare in Scotland in 2004 and Scottish Household Survey data. ⁴⁶

#### Direct Payment users

The latest figures show that the number of people in receipt of direct payments in 2008/9 is 3,017.⁴⁷ However direct payment rates can be insufficient to buy in care, although a recent survey found that the average day rate for Scotland was the highest in the UK at £9.70 an hour.⁴⁸

#### Public expenditure

Gross expenditure by local authorities on adult homecare in 2005-2006 was £498 million.⁴⁹ Around £273 million was spent on free personal care for home care clients, which accounted for 73% of total net expenditure on publicly funded homecare.⁵⁰

#### Average price for hour of homecare

A market report by Laing and Buisson shows that the average price for independent sector homecare by social services in Scotland was £12.12. This figure should be used with extreme caution due to the geographical variations.⁵¹

#### Supply of homecare

The majority of service users receive homecare provided by in-house teams but the use of the independent sector is growing, particularly for more intensive packages of

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Scotland
care. In 2010 27% of publicly funded homecare was
provided solely by the independent sector, with 7% a
combination of service from local authority and the
independent sector. The remainder, 66% was provided
solely by local authorities.\(^{52}\)

**Commissioning and contracting**

UHKCA’s survey of the homecare sector in 2004 found
that more than 70% of independent providers relied on a
single local authority for more than three-quarters of their
business.\(^{53}\)

**Provider numbers**

From figures supplied to UKHCA in March 2008, 765 care
at home services were in operation, 111 run by local
authorities and 650 (85%) by independent (private and
voluntary) sector. The largest number of services
registered are in the voluntary sector, who run 414
services.\(^{54}\) However the Care Commission has previously
commented that these services tend to be smaller in the
number of hours of care they provide, and Scotland’s 32
local authorities still provide the most hours of care to the
largest numbers of individuals.\(^{55}\)

**Standards**

The Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care has
been merged with the Social Work Inspection Agency to
form the Social Care and Social Work Improvement
Scotland (SCSWIS) from the 1\(^{st}\) April 2011. In its final
report of grading registered services, the Scottish
Commission for the Regulation of Care, it found that care
at home services achieved some of the best sets of
grades of services for adults, with 80% of services
achieving grade 4 or above in every theme and 25% of

\(^{52}\) Scottish Government Statistics Release. Home Care Services, Scotland (2010). Scottish

\(^{53}\) McCliment, Grove and Berry. Who Cares Now? An updated profile of the independent sector home
www.ukhca.co.uk/pdfs/whocaresnowscotland.pdf

\(^{54}\) Data supplied by the Care Commission by email (dated 8 March 2010) to UKHCA.

\(^{55}\) Care Commission Quality of Care Services in Scotland 2005-2006 (2007). Care Commission, P. 38
www.carecommission.com/images/stories/documents/publications/reviews/qualitycare/The%20qualit
y%20of%20care%20services%20in%20Scotland%20-%20Feb%202007.pdf

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services achieving grade 5 or above for every theme.56

Size of workforce

Using data from 2007 the Scottish Social Services Council recently estimated the combined care at home and housing support workforce was estimated at 67,120, across the statutory and independent sector.57 There is no breakdown of independent sector figures but subtracting from this a 2008 estimate of local authority homecare staff and managers of 18,662 58, the independent sector workforce could be in the region of 48,000 staff. This compares with UKHCA’s survey from 2004 which had estimated the independent sector workforce at 6,700.59 Without a clear national dataset all estimated figures should be used with caution.

Statutory regulators


Legislation


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56 Care Commission. Final Making the grade report (2011). Publications are being transferred to the SCSWIS website: http://www.scswis.com/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=156&Itemid=37. In the meantime, a hard copy can be ordered by calling: 0845 600 9527

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Scotland


Further Reading


Hexagon Research and Consulting, for the Scottish Executive. Evaluation of the Operation and Impact of Free Personal Care. Available priced £5.00 from Blackwells Bookshop Blackwell's Bookshop, 53 South Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1YS Telephone: 0131 622 8283 or download from www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/02/27143831/0
7. Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland a major review of public administration has created five Health and Social Care Trusts that operate both health and social care services. The proportion of statutory funded care delivered by the independent sector under contract to the Trusts is growing.

The Trusts assess need for help at home according to certain eligibility criteria, and in Northern Ireland, domestic services, using the traditional nomenclature of “home help” services are still largely available. However, as with the rest of the UK there are signs that such services are being cut back, according to campaigners such as Age Concern and Help the Aged NI. The independent sector has also found that contract prices offered by the Trusts often fail to keep pace with inflation and other statutory burdens on employers. In 2008 Northern Ireland homecare providers were regulated and inspected for the first time by the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA).

**Number of state-funded service users**

During one survey week in September 2010, an estimated 23,389 persons were in receipt of publicly funded domiciliary care services. This includes persons in receipt of what was classed as “home help”.

In a survey of homecare providers published in 2009 analysis found that 78% of service users were aged 65 and over. In the same survey the majority of providers help people with mental health problems, learning difficulties and other physical disabilities, with a smaller number helping people with sensory disabilities.

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The percentage of people cared for in their own home has increased by 32% over the last decade, but at the same time there has been a reduction in less complex support services, suggesting resources are being targeted at those with most intensive needs. In 2010 it was estimated that 7,346 service users were receiving what was called “intensive” domiciliary care, classed as 6 or more visits and more than 10 contact hours a week. This was an 11% increase than in the previous year.

As of 31 March 2007 660 people were in receipt of direct payments in Northern Ireland although this figure is likely to be increasingly out of date. However direct payment rates can be insufficient to buy in care, and a survey published in 2007 found the average day rate for Northern Ireland was £7.82 an hour.

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64 Northern Ireland Audit Office. Report by the Controller and Auditor General for Northern Ireland. Older People and Domiciliary Care (2007). p.10  
Public expenditure
Expenditure on domiciliary care services, including home help, increased by 40% in the four years from 2002-03 to 2005-6. The gross planned expenditure for domiciliary care in 2008-9 by Health and Social Care Trusts was £130 million.66

Average price for hour of homecare
A market report by Laing and Buisson shows that the average price for independent sector homecare by social services in Northern Ireland was £11.07. This figure should be used with extreme caution due to the geographical variations.67

Statutory purchasers
The five Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland are the dominant purchasers of domiciliary care. Trusts were responsible for 65% (£71 million) of the total £110 million spent on domiciliary care in 2005-2006. The Trusts spent £38 million of this on the purchase of domiciliary care services from the independent sector, but this is likely to have risen.68

Supply of homecare
Overall, the independent sector is estimated to provide around 58% of publicly funded homecare (134,595 hours a week, equating to 6.9 million hours a year) although this varies between the five Health and Social Care Trusts in terms of amount outsourced.69 The independent sector also provides the majority of out of hours services (including almost all of overnight and 24 hour services) providing on average 11.7 hours of care per client compared to the statutory sector average of 6.6 hours per client.70

www.niauditoffice.gov.uk/pubs/onepress.asp?arc=False&id=189&dm=0&dy=0
70
Commissioning and contracting

Providers rely heavily on Health and Social Care Trusts to purchase their services. In a 2008 survey of statutory, voluntary and independent sector providers, of those who responded 94% were either statutory services or provided care under contract to the HSC Trusts. Data supplied by DHSSPS to UKHCA in 2008 indicated that the costs to the Trusts of using the independent sector is on average £9.84 an hour, while in-house services cost £11.81.

Provider numbers

According to data provided by the social care regulator, RQIA, there were 126 ‘traditional’ domiciliary care agencies and 134 supported living schemes, totalling 260 providers at February 2011. Half of providers in the survey of domiciliary care providers in 2008 said that they had fewer than 20 employees, and 19% said they had more than 100 employees.

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70 Community Information Branch. Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety. Domiciliary Care Services for Adults in Northern Ireland (2009). Table 3 and Table 2. The figure is for one week in September. http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/domiciliary_care_services_for_adults_2010.pdf
73 Data obtained from the “Domiciliary Care Agencies” spread sheet at http://www.rqia.org.uk/what_we_do/registration___inspection_and_reviews/service_provider_directory.cfm, downloaded February 2011.

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In 2002 it was estimated that there were nearly 4,250 homecare workers and managers in the independent sector. However data on the independent sector workforce is sparse. The most recent survey of the Health and Social Care workforce in the HSC Trusts gives numbers of home helps/domiciliary care staff at 5,737.

Statutory regulators

Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA), 9th Floor, Riverside Tower, 5 Lanyon Place, Belfast, BT1 3BT. Telephone: 02890 517500. www.rqia.org.uk.


Legislation


Further reading


About UKHCA

8. About UKHCA

UKHCA is the professional association for organisations that provide domiciliary care, home nursing and allied services.

The Association’s mission is to promote high quality, sustainable homecare through leadership and support for homecare organisations.

Professional Representation - UKHCA represent the views of homecare providers with national policy makers and the media.

Advice and support - UKHCA is the first point of contact for professional advice about the sector, with a telephone helpline service for legal, employment and practice-based enquiries.

Conferences and Events - A programme of conferences, workshops and events runs in the four nations of the UK. Member organisations receive preferential rates on all events.

Training and learning - UKHCA helps organisations access available training funds and runs a training workshops throughout the year.

Updates and publications - Regular email alerts, mailings and a member-only website complement our bimonthly magazine, Homecarer, for breaking news and guidance on key practice issues.

Commitment to Quality - The UKHCA Code of Practice, revised in January 2007, enables member organisations to demonstrate their commitment to quality and to use the UKHCA logo, which is recognised throughout the social care sector.

Membership Services - UKHCA enables organisations to access criminal record disclosures and provides an optional insurance scheme designed specifically for homecare providers.
9. Useful websites

About homecare (domiciliary care)

The UKHCA website has a range of materials available to the public. The site can be reached at www.ukhca.co.uk.

A comprehensive list of links of interest to the homecare sector can be found at www.ukhca.co.uk/links.aspx.

About care homes

- National Care Association – www.nca.gb.com
- Registered Nursing Home Association – www.rnha.co.uk
- The English Community Care Association – www.ecca.org.uk
- Care Forum Wales – www.careforumwales.org
- Scottish Care – www.scottishcare.org