**Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016**

**Social care professionals**

**What’s it all about?**

The Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 provides a revised, streamlined framework for the regulation and inspection of social care services in Wales. It embeds the aims of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

The Act is being introduced to improve the **quality of care and support** in Wales.   
It will do this by strengthening protection, increasing accountability and giving a stronger voice to people who use care and support services.

**Who will it affect?**

Local authorities, care providers, managers, the workforce and people who use the following **regulated services**: care homes, secure accommodation, residential family centres, adoption and fostering, adult placements, advocacy, and domiciliary support.

**What’s going to be different?**

The Act marks a shift away from a system of regulation focused on compliance with minimum standards towards a system and culture which takes greater account of the impact that care and support services have on people’s lives and **well-being**.



* Local and national **market stability reports** introduced
* Better **market** **oversight** of important providers by the regulator
* Standardised **reporting** across local authorities
* Local authority inspections **focus on impact**and well-being
* The Care Council and the Social Services Improvement Agency will become **Social Care Wales**: an agent for change in the sector
* **Duty to co-operate** with CSSIW
* Better **accountability** through ‘responsible individuals’
* New annual **provider returns**
* Changes to CSSIW service **registration**
* Provider inspections **focus on impact** and well-being
* **Mandatory registration** of care workers, as well   
  as social workers and managers
* **Workforce** registration with **Social Care Wales**
* Regulation of care worker**training**

**How will this affect social care professionals?**

Registration with [Social Care Wales](http://www.ccwales.org.uk/edrms/157962/) will be mandatory for social workers, social work students and residential child care workers, as well as all managers of [regulated care and support services](http://www.ccwales.org.uk/edrms/157961/).

The current requirement for managers to also register with the CSSIW will no longer apply. Over time, domiciliary care workers and adult care home workers will also have to be registered. Voluntary registration will be removed by April 2017.

Other new staff groups may have to register in future. Staff who provide advocacy and early years staff are examples of such groups. This gives flexibility to respond to changes in the sector.

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**Professionals registered with the Care Council**

Social workers, social work students, social care managers and residential child care workers are currently registered with the Care Council.

Their registration will be automatically transferred to Social Care Wales from   
3 April 2017.

**Domiciliary care and adult care home workers**

The register for domiciliary care workers will open in 2018 and their registration is mandatory from 2020.

The register for adult care home workers will open in 2020 and their registration is mandatory from 2022.

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The detailed requirements for all the changes will be set out in regulations developed by Welsh Government.

Social Care Wales will work closely with the care sector and the CSSIW to ensure the process for registering the workforce is understood by employers and care workers, and that the timetable is appropriate for all concerned.The aim of the Register is to make sure that all social workers and social care workers are suitable for work in social care.

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**Good to know**

Social Care Wales must promote and maintain high standards of conduct and practice among social care workers, high standards in the training of social care workers and public confidence in social care workers. To achieve this aim, as well as registration of the workforce, Social Care Wales will take on new responsibilities to regulate **care and support worker training** to ensure the sector workforce reaches an approved standard. Social Care Wales will continue to regulate social work training.