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

**Frequently asked questions (FAQs)**

1. **Why is the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 being introduced?**

The Act is being introduced to ensure continuous improvement of the **quality of care and support** 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.

1. **Who does the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 affect?**

The Act will affect the care and support sector: a wide range of organisations, managers and staff, as well as people who use regulated care and support services.

1. **What are the major changes that the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 introduces?**

There are five main areas of change under the Act:

* [The Act establishes Social Care Wales](http://www.ccwales.org.uk/edrms/157962/)
* [Regulation of the social care workforce](http://www.ccwales.org.uk/edrms/157963/)
* [Regulation of social care service providers](http://www.ccwales.org.uk/edrms/157961/)
* [New approach to inspection of local authorities and how they report](http://www.ccwales.org.uk/edrms/157959/)
* [Requirements for local authorities and Welsh Ministers in terms of market stability and oversight](http://www.ccwales.org.uk/edrms/157960/)

1. **When will we know more about the detail of the changes the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 brings in?**

The detailed requirements for all the changes will be set out in regulations developed by Welsh Government. The workforce regulations and some service regulations (registration as a service provider, variation of registration, service provider annual returns, and information to be included in notifications to local authorities) have been consulted upon during phase one, between June to September 2016. These draft regulations will be laid before the National Assembly in winter 2016 to allow the workforce regulations to come into force in April 2017.

The rest of the regulations – including requirements to be placed on service providers and responsible individuals, offences arising from these requirements, requirements of local authorities, regulated advocacy services, market stability and market oversight – will be consulted upon in phase two, in summer 2017. Draft service regulations will be laid before the National Assembly in winter 2017 to allow the service regulations to come into force in April 2018.

1. **Where can I find out more about the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016?**

These FAQs are part of a suite of awareness-raising materials about the Act. [Additional resources can be found here](http://www.ccwales.org.uk/risc-act-learning-resources/).