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

**Registered social care professionals
frequently asked questions (FAQs)**

1. **What is Social Care Wales?**

From April 2017, the Care Council for Wales will be renamed Social Care Wales and take up wider responsibilities for improving the quality of social care. Social Care Wales will be a Welsh Government Sponsored Body and will build on the role of the Care Council by bringing together workforce development, workforce regulation, service improvement and research in one new organisation.

1. **Why is this change taking place?**

Social Care Wales is part of a wider range of changes introduced by the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016. The Act is intended to modernise the regulation of social care in Wales, embedding the aims of the earlier Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

1. **Will I need to register with Social Care Wales?**

If you are a social worker, social work student, social care manager or residential child care worker currently registered with the Care Council, your registration will automatically transfer to Social Care Wales from 3 April 2017. From that date, you can expect all communication about your registration to come from Social Care Wales. When your three year period of registration is next due for renewal, you will be invited to apply to renew your registration with Social Care Wales.

1. **How will the change affect my registration as a social care professional?**

The majority of the rules and requirements for your registration as a social care professional in Wales will remain unchanged: you must continue to maintain your professional registration; abide by the Code of Professional Practice for Social Care and comply with post-registration training and learning, and fitness to practise requirements.

1. **Are there any new rules and requirements I need to be aware of?**

There has always been an expectation that you keep your registration information up to date and inform us of any changes, for example, to your employment or contact details. Similarly, you should inform us without delay about any matters which may call into question your suitability to work in social care. Under Social Care Wales, failure to keep us informed about changes to your information may be considered to be serious misconduct and result in a referral to a fitness to practise panel.

Under Social Care Wales, you also need to renew your registration within a set timeframe – you must submit your renewal form at least 21 days before your renewal date – or your registration will automatically lapse.

When applying for or renewing your registration you will be asked whether you intend to practise in Wales. If not, you will not be able to register or renew your registration.

1. **Will social care managers continue to register with the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW), as well as Social Care Wales?**

Social care managers will only need to register with Social Care Wales – rather than both the Care Council and CSSIW. This change will take place following the implementation of new service regulations by CSSIW from April 2018.

1. **Do care home managers who are also registered with another professional body (such as, for example, the Nursing and Midwifery Council) need to register with Social Care Wales?**

Registration with Social Care Wales is for your social care role, irrespective of any registration you may hold with another regulatory body. As such, all care home managers will need to be registered with Social Care Wales, which will include the requirement to hold a social care managerial qualification.

1. **Will there still be a Public Register?**

Yes, Social Care Wales will continue to publish information about registered social care professionals. The Public Register will, however, show much more information than previously – including fitness to practise sanctions, qualifications that are required for your role, registration date, registration status and previous names.

1. **Do workers in adult care homes and domiciliary care need to register with Social Care Wales?**

Under the Care Council, social care workers in adult care homes and in domiciliary care were able to register on a voluntary basis. Under Social Care Wales, this voluntary registration is removed. However, over time, all social care workers will be required to register with Social Care Wales. 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.

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

You can find out more about the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 and the full range of changes to the regulation and inspection of social care in Wales by visiting the [Social Care Legislation in Wales Information and Learning Hub](http://www.ccwales.org.uk/regulation-and-inspection-of-social-care-wales-act-2016/).

1. **How do I find out more about Social Care Wales?**

You can find out more about Social Care Wales by visiting the [Care Council website](http://www.ccwales.org.uk/we-are-changing/).