



Gofal Cymdeithasol **Cymru**
Social Care **Wales**

What is registration and who needs to register

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Go to

<https://socialcare.wales/registration/what-is-registration> for the latest version.

Information about registration and who needs to register.

What is registration?

We register people working in certain roles in social care in Wales to help keep the public safe. When someone joins our Register it means they're skilled and competent to work in social care, and they have the right values to provide good care and support for the people of Wales.

More than 66,000 people are currently registered with us. They work in a variety of roles in social care, which we've listed below.

Everyone on the Register must:

- have, or be working towards, the right qualifications
- be physically and mentally fit to work
- have the right character and be competent
- follow the [Code of Professional Practice for Social Care and practice guidance](#)
- intend to practise social care in Wales
- practise in the field that relates to their application for registration.

Who needs to register with us

People working in the following roles need to register with us. This is a legal requirement.

□ **Social workers**

You must register before you start working as a social worker in Wales. 'Social worker' is a protected title. This means that it's illegal to use the title unless you're registered with us.

□ **Social work students**

You must apply to register once you have been accepted onto your course, and be registered before you start your first practice placement,

□ **Social care workers:**

- adult care home workers
- domiciliary care workers
- residential child care workers
- residential family centre workers
- secure accommodation service workers
- special school residential workers.

You have six months to register from the date you start working in your role.

□ **Social care managers:**

- adoption service managers
- adult care home managers
- adult placement managers
- advocacy managers (services for children and young people)
- domiciliary care managers
- fostering service managers
- residential child care managers
- residential family centre managers
- secure accommodation service managers
- special school residential managers.

You must be registered before your first day in a new job.

[Find out how to register](#)

What you need to know about registering

- [View transcript](#)

Here's a quick guide to essential information about registration with Social Care Wales.

Social Care Wales maintains the register of social care workforce in Wales.

The Register shows who has shown they have the right values, skills and training to be a social care worker.

It helps the public to know they can trust you and rely on you as a worker.

When you are registered, you'll be able to use the title of your profession.

You'll also be supported by

- the code of professional practice for social care
- Formal practice guidance that describes good practice
- Information and resources that tries to address some of the things that are important to you in your work
- Invitations to events, conferences and consultations

It's time to Register!

Everyone on the register must agree to follow the Code of Professional Practice and Practice Guidance for their role. Copies can be found within

the application form and on our website.

To start your application, visit SCW online.Wales to create an account.

SCW online is our registration portal. It includes step by step guides on how to register.

If you aren't registered yet, you can use SCW online to apply online.

As a part of this process, you'll need to upload the documents listed and choose an appropriate person to endorse your application.

Once you are registered, you can use SCW online to maintain your registration.

Allowing you to update any changes such as your address, job details, personal and professional information, renew your registration and pay your fees.

You can also use SCW online to keep an up-to-date record of your continuous professional development (CPD).

For more information or to start your registration, please visit

www.scwonline.wales

SCWonline has changed colour but the way you use it remains the same as described in this video.

Working in more than one role or changing your role

If you work in more than one of the roles listed above, for example, as an adult care home worker and a domiciliary care worker, or if you change the type of role you work in, you'll need to apply for additional registration or [change your registration](#) through your SCWonline account.

If you're not sure if you need to register with us or when you should register by, get in touch with us at registration@socialcare.wales and we'll be happy to help.

How we manage the Register

We use the Social Care Wales (Registration) Rules 2024 to manage the Register. These rules are approved by Welsh Government and are the basis for registering the social care workforce.

- [Registration Rules 2024](#)
PDF 498KB
- [Content of Register Rules 2024](#)
PDF 170KB

How many people are on the Register?

As of September 2026, the number of registered persons are:

- 6,953 social workers
- 5 adoption service managers
- 1,366 adult care home managers
- 27,577 adult care home workers
- 14 adult placement managers

- 3 children and young people advocacy managers
- 1,075 domiciliary care managers
- 24,117 domiciliary care workers
- 24 fostering service managers
- 526 residential child care managers
- 5,706 residential child care workers
- 6 residential family centre managers
- 113 residential family centre workers
- 4 special school residential managers
- 43 special school residential workers
- 784 social work students.

Internationally qualified applicants

Since 1 October 2022, we've:

- received 642 applications from individuals who qualified outside of the UK
- registered 316 individuals who qualified outside the UK. Please note these individuals may have applied before October 2022.

There are 376 people who qualified outside the UK on the Register.

Workforce reports

Each year we publish data reports on the information given to us by applicants and registered persons.

[See all registration data reports](#)

Search the Register

[See who's registered with us](#)