

“we gather
information
about the
social care
sector”

**getting the most out of your national minimum data
set for social care (NMDS-SC)**



what is the NMDS-SC?

Skills for Care's National Minimum Data Set for Social Care (NMDS-SC) is recognised as the leading source of robust workforce intelligence for adult social care. The NMDS-SC collects information online about providers offering a social care service and their employees. It is the social care provider that can register and keep their business information up to date at www.nmds-sc-online.org.uk.

Challenging economic times, shifting government policy and changing expectations of those needing care and support are altering the way the social care sector operates.

Our aim is to provide outstanding workforce intelligence relied upon by government, strategic bodies, employers and individuals to make decisions that will improve outcomes for people who use services in these times of change.

how can the NMDS-SC help your business survive and develop?

- **Positioning your business in a competitive market** - in turbulent times it is increasingly important for you to position your business as the social care provider of choice in your local area. You can use your NMDS-SC reports to compare your business against competitors.

Skills for Care has developed a Guide to Workforce Planning which includes top tips for preparing your planning and questions you need to consider to get started. Visit www.skillsforcare.org.uk/guidetoworkforceplanning to download your free guide.

- **Recruiting your staff** - The aggregated data within the NMDS-SC can be used alongside your own data to ensure that you are competitive with other social care employers; and in line with the labour market expectations of jobs in care, ensuring you have the best recruitment strategy.

Skills for Care has developed a range of resources to support employers with recruitment challenges: 'Finders keepers' the adult social care recruitment toolkit, available at www.skillsforcare.org.uk/finderskeepers.

- **Retaining your staff** - If you struggle to retain staff or have high levels of sickness, factors affecting this could be the number of hours being worked, how the level of pay compares to this and the number of people you care for. Comparative information from the NMDS-SC reports can help you review this.



- **Having the right skills for business success and meeting the government's personalisation agenda** - using the NMDS-SC qualifications and training record will help you identify training needs for your workforce to gain the vital skills mix needed to deliver a high quality service.

Skills for Care has a range of useful resources to help you decide what support your staff need to develop their skills, visit www.skillsforcare.org.uk/developingskills.

- **Choosing training and getting funding** - There are various sources of support to help pay for training. You will find information from your NMDS-SC useful to help you apply for funding.

Skills for Care provide access to funding for training. For more information about this visit www.skillsforcare.org.uk/funding. You will need to keep your NMDS-SC up to date to access Skills for Care funding.

Employers registered with the NMDS-SC also have access to free e-learning resources: e-End of Life Care for All (e-ELCA) for adult social care employees. For more information about how to access the user registration code, visit www.skillsforcare.org.uk/nmds-sc.

how does the NMDS-SC benefit the sector?

Skills for Care is continually asked to support strategic stakeholders, including government departments, with evidence based information about the social care workforce. Work continues with;

- **The Department of Health and the NHS Information Centre** - this informs decision making around funding, resources and policies that impact upon the sector.
- **The Care Quality Commission (CQC)** - NMDS-SC provides information directly to them to reduce the burden on employers. This only applies to employers who give permissions for this data transfer.
- **The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC)** - provides evidence on how important migrant workers are to the social care sector.
- **Local authorities** - NMDS-SC will help local authorities gain a clearer understanding of the workforce in their local area helping them develop their Integrated Local Area Workforce Strategies (InLAWS) and meet the Putting People First milestones.



why is the NMDS-SC the key source of information in the sector and how does this directly impact upon you as an employer?

- You gain access to the same information as Commissioners who make decisions about what services will be provided in a locality. This information would allow you to plan in advance and give yourselves a competitive advantage.
- As part of the inspection process the Care Quality Commission will need information about your organisation and workforce. Keeping your NMDS-SC information up to date will eliminate the need to replicate the information you provide them, saving you time and resources.
- The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) recommendation is that any Local Authority that commissions a service provider should ensure they have completed their NMDS-SC.

things you should know

- The online system is a free and secure online resource.
- Individuals will not be identified and the data is anonymised when used for reporting.
- Once your NMDS-SC is all entered online, updating it is really easy and you can then download and use your reports to help make decisions about your workforce. For more information about the reports that are available to you visit www.skillsforcare.org.uk/nmds-screports.



www.skillsforcare.org.uk/nmds-sc

NMDS-SC helpdesk: 0845 873 0129