

Social, Caring and Advisory Services

Do you want to help and support people with their physical and mental wellbeing? Do you want to make a difference to the lives of people who are experiencing social and emotional problems?

If you love working with people and are caring, calm and patient, then you might find working in the social, caring and advisory area a rewarding career.

What areas can I work in?

You could be working in advisory services, childcare and education, community education, psychology and counselling, social work or social care. You might specialise in working with adults or children, or help and support people of all ages.

What kind of companies can I work for?

You might work for:

- advice centres and services
- playgroups or nurseries
- community education centres
- the National Health Service (NHS) or private health companies
- local authorities
- health and welfare charities.

What's the job market like?

It can be quite difficult to get a job in advisory and counselling services, although there are lots of voluntary opportunities.

Community learning and development work includes adult learning, youth work and a wide range of other community support and development jobs.

Job prospects still remain fairly good in social care services, with 2018 figures indicating a rise in employment. There are currently 204,610 workers, compared to 202,090 in 2017, a rise of 1.2% since 2017. There is a current demand for more mental health workers and social workers.

There is expected to be an increase in vacancies for Early Learning and Childcare Practitioners due to the Scottish Government pledging to increase free childcare hours from 16 to 30 hours a week by August 2020. It is increasingly popular to enter this profession through a Modern Apprenticeship in Early Years.

The largest three sub-sectors are still housing support/care at home, care homes for adults and day care of children. Collectively these account for 78% of the social services workforce.

Oxford Economics employment forecasts (commissioned by Skills Development Scotland) suggest that the social care workforce will grow by 5%, or 8,000 jobs, between 2019 and 2029.

Facts and figures

- The care and social services sector makes up 8% of employment in Scotland.
- The private sector was the largest employment type for adult services at 41% and second for children's services at 38% in 2018.
- 15% of the workforce are male, but it is almost double in the criminal justice and residential children's services sub-sectors.
- The average working age in public sector employment is 48, and in the private sector 41. The average age of early years workers in the private sector is 28.
- There are 10,989 social workers registered with the Scottish Social Services Sector (SSSC) in Scotland.

Want to find out more?

The [Scottish Social Services Council](#) website has a section called 'Careers and Education', with lots of resources, including downloadable careers leaflets.

The Sector Skills Council, Skills for Care and Development, has the '[A Question of Care](#)' website with information on careers in care.

Sources

- Scottish Social Services Sector Council Strategic Plan (2020-2023) (May 2020)
- Scottish Social Services Sector: Report on 2017 Workforce Data (Scottish Social Services Council) (November 2019).
- The Implications of National and Local Labour Markets for the Social Care Workforce, Ekosgen (November 2019)