According to data provided from Care Inspectorate Wales[7], in June 2020 in Wales there are 25,681 adult places provided by 1,075 care homes. Occupancy rates are currently not officially published, but according to available estimates they are around 90%[8]. That would imply that the population living in adult care homes was approximately 23,110 at the start of the COVID-19 outbreak. The estimate includes Local Authority funded care recipients, privately funded clients and patients receiving NHS Continuing Healthcare in nursing homes. The split between older and younger adults is only available for care recipients who have care arranged by the local authority and the latest available data suggest that more than 85% of adult care home residents (without nursing) are aged 65 and above, and the figure rises to 95% for care home residents in receipt of the nursing component[9].

According to data provided from Care Inspectorate Wales there are 525 domiciliary support services in Wales in the current year[10]. Data on recipients of domiciliary care and other non-residential services is available for those in receipt of Local Authority care services. Latest figures for the number of adults who received a service during the year show that in 2018/19 around 28,600 adults received domiciliary care services (and 23,700 of these adults were aged 65 and above), while around 7,270 received day care services (53% of these were older adults)[11]. The number of individuals privately purchasing domiciliary care at home is not officially available, but it was estimated to be around 7,730 in 2017[12].

According to figures reported by Social Care Wales, in 2018 there were 53,000 staff[13] working for commissioned care providers and 11,900 staff[14] employed directly by Welsh Local Authorities. Overall, around 29,500 staff (45%) worked in the residential care sector, a further 21,000 (32%) in the domiciliary care sector while the rest worked in day care and mixed services.

Latest official estimates on the number of unpaid carers (caring for relatives or friends) are based on the 2011 Census, when there were over 370,000 unpaid carers (more than 12% of the Welsh population)[15]. More recent estimates looking at the effect of COVID-19 set the number

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[7] Received from CIW in June 2020, figures for 2019 and 2018 are available at https://careinspectorate.wales/sites/default/files/2019-09/190916-chief-inspectors-annual-report-2018-19-en.pdf and https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/Services-for-Social-Care-and-Childrens-Day-Care/cssiwservicesandplaces-by-setting-year respectively.

[8] For example https://content.knightfrank.com/research/548/documents/en/care-homes-trading-performance-review-2019-6698.pdf

[9] Based on number of adults who received a service during the year https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/Social-Services/Adult-Services/Service-Provision/adultsreceivingservices-by-localauthority-agegroup

[10] Received from CIW in January 2020.

[11] https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/Social-Services/Adult-Services/Service-Provision/adultsreceivingservices-by-localauthority-agegroup

[12] https://socialcare.wales/cms_assets/file-uploads/204-0217-SCW-ENG-5-year-strategic-plan-report_v11.pdf

[13] https://socialcare.wales/cms_assets/file-uploads/SCWWDP_commissioned-services_2018_eng_Final.pdf

[14] https://socialcare.wales/cms_assets/file-uploads/SCWWDP_local-authority-services_2018_eng_Final.pdf

[15] http://www.wales.nhs.uk/carers

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