



Introduction

The health and care workforce are at the heart of how the NHS and social care deliver care and services to patients and their families. In addition, the NHS is Wales's biggest employer, currently directly employing over 110,000 people. Together with volunteers and unpaid carers, the health and social care workforce impacts the social, cultural, and economic prosperity of Wales.

With rising demand on health and care services, the workforce constantly adapts to meet the needs of the current and future population. Across the NHS, staff help and support the most vulnerable on hospital wards and in the community.

Community health services play a key role in keeping people well at home or closer to home, supporting people to live independently. Swansea Bay University Health Board's Acute Clinical Teams (ACT) provide medical and nursing care for adults in their own homes. Carrying out traditionally-hospital based assessments and investigations, the ACT teams are estimated to have prevented 6,299 hospital admissions since January 2022, saving the health board around £12 million.

Education is central to shaping our future healthcare workforce, as well as increasing employment opportunities across our NHS. Aneurin Bevan University Health Board has been engaging with school aged children to educate them on the variety of healthcare roles and careers, while Health Education Improvement Wales (HEIW) has collaborated on a new flexible nursing degree to help support nursing studies around home life, encouraging people with life experience to join the nursing profession.

This briefing highlights examples of how the health and care workforce are meeting the changing needs of the population across Wales.