How does the adult social care sector contribute to the Northern Ireland economy?

2023

Total value of the adult social care sector

Total: £1.5 billion

What about the contribution of carers?

Formal Carers
27,000

Residential care: 14,000 Domiciliary care: 8,000 Day care: 2,000 Other care settings: 3,000

Informal Carers
184,000

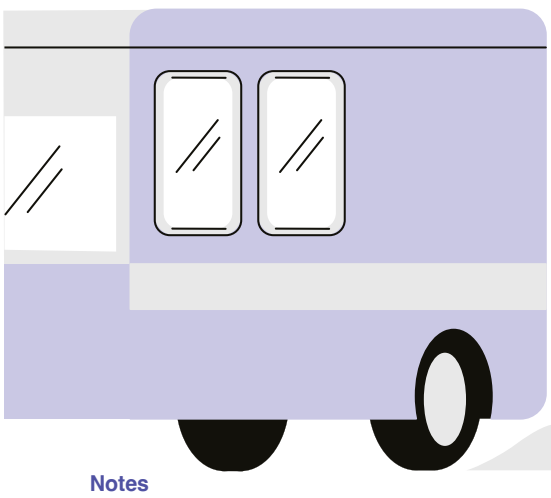
*1 figure represents 10,000 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)

Labour productivity

£26,700 per FTE

Socioeconomic benefits

The socioeconomic benefits of the adult social care sector in Northern Ireland are £12 billion, while the costs are £4.5 billion (2023). This means that for every £1 spent in the sector, there are £2.80 in socioeconomic benefits.



1 Improved wellbeing

2 Reduced NHS costs

3 Increased peace of mind benefits

4 Better quality of life

Notes
* Direct are the effects created by the adult social care sector, excluding informal care.
* Indirect are the effects created by the demand for intermediate goods and services by adult social care to provide its services.
* Induced are the effects created by changes in the purchasing behaviour of individuals directly and indirectly employed in the adult social care sector.
* GVA consists of the earnings of employees in formal adult social care and profits of independent care providers.
* All values are estimated using 2023 data.
* The sum of the values may be different from the total value given due to rounding.
* FTE = Full Time Equivalent

For more information, see Alma Economics (2024), Economic and social value of the UK adult social care sector: Northern Ireland.

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