**ASC-WDS:** Content for introductory emails or newsletters to providers

Skills for Care and [LOCAL AUTHORITY TEAM] are dedicated to developing the adult social care workforce in [LA AREA]. This includes improving our understanding of the collective workforce to inform and guide our planning and commissioning, and so that we can provide targeted support for care providers.

One way that we can do this is by increasing coverage of The Adult Social Care Workforce Data Set (ASC-WDS), a free and easy-to-use online service from Skills for Care. It collects and safely stores data on things like how many people work at your service, their age and the qualifications they hold. When collected across entire local authority areas, this information can be used to create [accurate insights about the state of the workforce in the area](https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Adult-Social-Care-Workforce-Data/Workforce-intelligence/publications/local-information/Local-area-information.aspx).

If you’re new to the service, we encourage you to set up your ASC-WDS account and start benefitting right away. If you already have an account, this is your reminder to ensure your records are up to date.

**What are the benefits of ASC-WDS?**

The data collected is vital to the Government, the Department of Health and Social Care, local authorities and the Care Quality Commission as it allows them to plan, fund and monitor the sector. On top of this, there are a number of benefits to your organisation, including:

* access to funding for training and qualifications for your staff
* offers and discounts as part of the ASC-WDS Benefits Bundle, including on Skills for Care seminars and eLearning
* the ability to benchmark your workplace against others offering the same service in your local authority area, on metrics such as staff turnover, care worker pay and staff sickness
* a safe place to record training and qualifications data for your staff, as well as store and access key information about your workforce.

**Sharing data with your local authority**

By adding your data to ASC-WDS, we can be more aware of business and workforce needs in the area, and can target training events, funding information, advice and guidance and workforce planning initiatives**. Your data will remain anonymous unless you opt in to share specific information with us.**

Local authorities are responsible for reporting on the current and future health and care needs of local populations to inform and guide the planning and commissioning of services in the local area. Access to higher levels of valid and reliable workforce data will help us to ensure we have a more comprehensive picture of the local adult social care sector.

**Where can I get help with my ASC-WDS account?**

▪ Log in or create an account: https://asc-wds.skillsforcare.org.uk/login.

▪ Find out more about ASC-WDS: https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/ASCWDS

If you need help accessing your account or getting set up, the friendly support team are available to help. You can contact them via phone or email: **Call | 0113 241 0969**

Email | ascwds-support@skillsforcare.org.uk