

# The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the care workforce in the UK

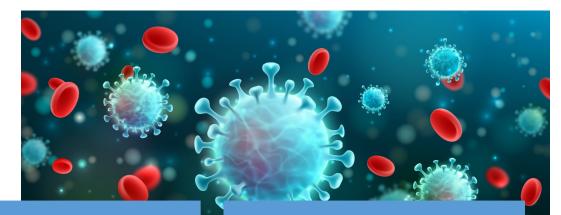
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11 Sep 2023

# Retention and Sustainability of Social Care Workforce (<u>RESSCW</u>) project



# The onset of COVID-19



# 01

What are the implications of COVID-19 on care workers' general wellbeing, working conditions, and intentions to quit the sector?

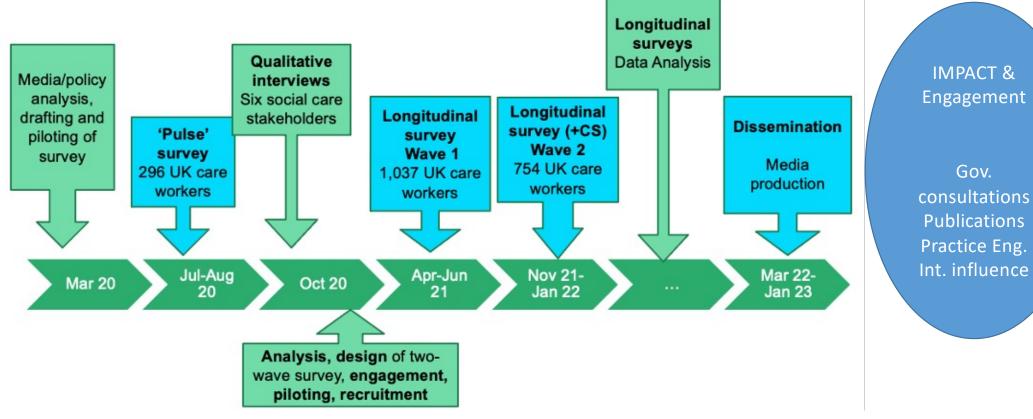
# 02

Are certain workers with specific individual and work characteristics more negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic?

# 03

Do any of these implications differ by care settings, especially between domiciliary and residential care?

# **C-19 WP timeline**



# Background: The UK social care workforce

- The UK social care system
  - Mixed care economy
  - Personalisation & marketisation
  - Disconnected and fragmented care delivery models
  - Underfunded
  - Long-standing recruitment and retention challenges
  - Legacy of political neglect

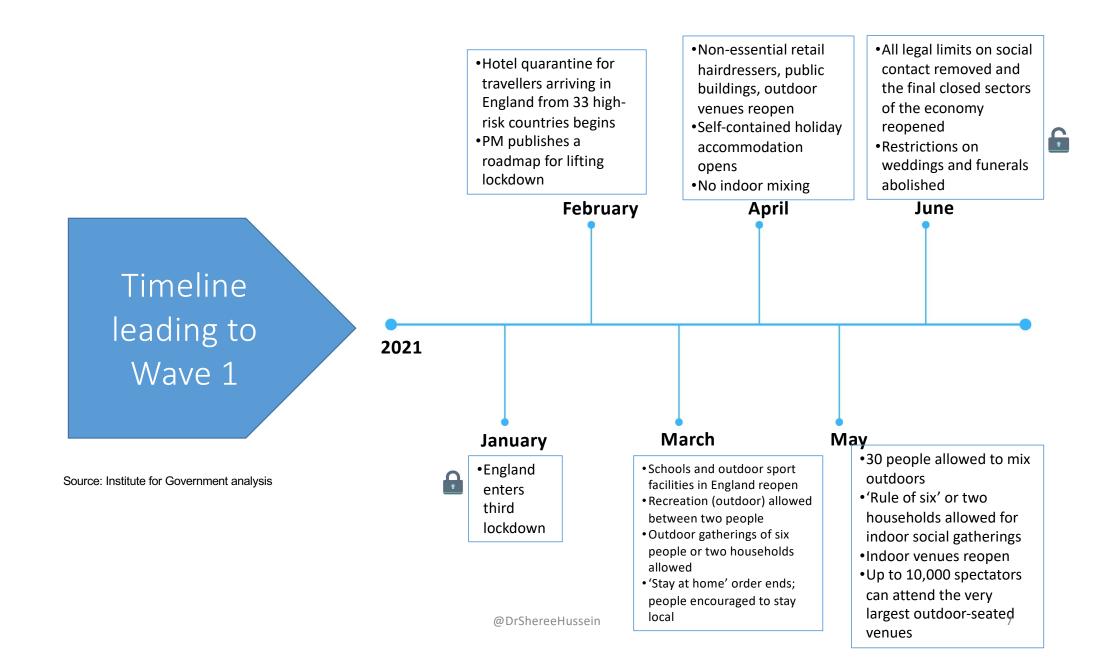
- Emotionally taxing work
- Working conditions
  - Contract (in)security, wages,
- The profile of the workforce
  - Gender, age, ethnicity, nationality
- Societal image and (under)value
- Relationship to the NHS

**Ongoing UK Reforms** 

# COVID19 policies & the social care workforce

- A complex assembly of policies.. For social care many guidance were fragmented and came too late
- The government's COVID-19: adult social care action plan was published in April
  - Almost a month after countrywide social distancing measures
  - In May, introduced a dedicated fund to fund to support infection control in care homes.
- Challenges in accessing PPE and testing
- System fragmentations  $\rightarrow$  difficult to co-ordinate support
- Attention, when arrived, was primarily on care homes

<u>Health Foundation</u>, July 2020 <u>King's Fund</u>, July 2020



# **Survey content**

#### **Pulse survey**

Jul-Aug 20

#### Demographics

Job-related characteristics (e.g. tenure, contract, role, setting, employer, client group)

COVID-specific topics (e.g. PPE)

Current vs. pre-COVID: employer, care setting/client group

Changes since onset of COVID: job-satisfaction-related aspects (e.g. pay, workload), intention to quit, overall job satisfaction, feelings at work, general health

#### Longitudinal survey: Wave 1

Apr-Jun 21

Demographics Job-related characteristics (incl. union membership) COVID-specific topics (incl. cases and vaccine uptake)

Current/past few weeks: jobsatisfaction-related aspects but extended, feelings...

Current: organisational commitment (e.g. seeking views, responding to suggestions) and job supports (e.g. respect, fair treatment, feedback)

Abuse (prevalence, type, perpetrator, action taken)

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#### Longitudinal survey: Wave 2

Nov 21-Jan 22

Since July 21: COVID-specific topics (incl. cases, vaccine uptake and mandate awareness)

Since July 21: Abuse (prevalence, type, perpetrator, action taken)

All other topics as in Wave 1

<u>All surveys</u> included open-ended questions (e.g. about abuse, wellbeing support received)



## Since the start of 2021:

32% increased workload without additional pay
27% self-isolated
20% increased paid working hours
18% took sick leave due to COVID-19
13% redeployed to a different role or workspace
13% stopped or was stopped by employer from working in different places to reduce spread of COVID-19

#### If self-isolated, took sick leave or stopped working



48% normal pay 28% statutory sick pay 9% employers' sick pay 11% no pay

Employers should have more staff to avoid increased workload

Domiciliary care, older adults

Care workers are now on thier knees and fatigued and yet still no light at the end of the tunnel.

Management, domiciliary care

We had to work longer hours with less staff

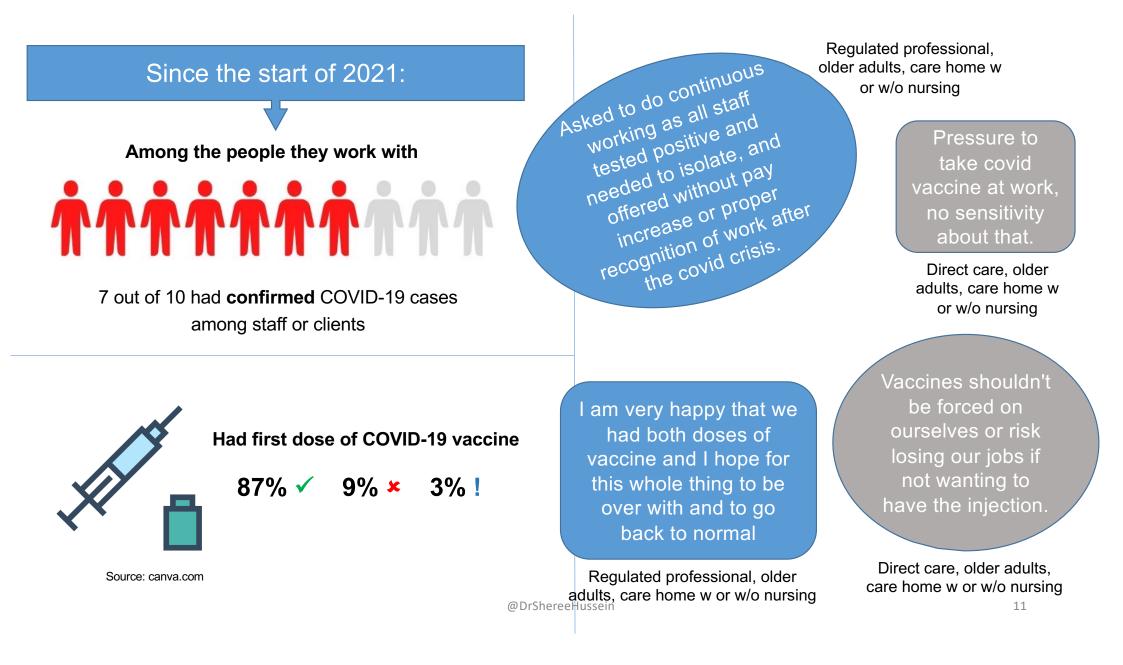
Direct care, supported living/extra care housing

Direct care, older adults, care home w or w/o nursing

it is such a struggle .. to keep my head above water to pay bills and council tax as i only received about £93 for the 11 days I had off with COVID 19

I work more hours than the legal limit.

Direct care, older adults, care home w or w/o nursing



## Experienced in relation to COVID-19:

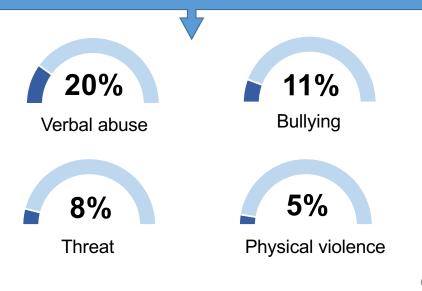


reported being abused (verbal abuse, bullying, threat or physical violence) Being called names, being threatened, being followed.

Direct care, adults with physical and/or sensory disability, supported living/extra care housing A huge amount of negative comments on social media, blaming carers for so many residents who died of covid, and blaming care homes of keeping residents hostage, unwilling to allow visits

Direct care, older adults, care home w or w/o nursing

## Experienced in relation to COVID-19:



#### Verbally abused by

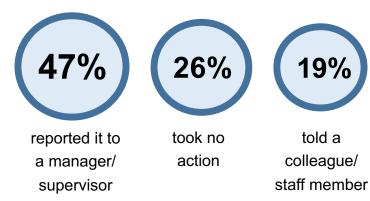
43% service user/client
32% service user's/client's family
24% colleague/staff member
24% general public
19% manager/supervisor

#### Bullied by

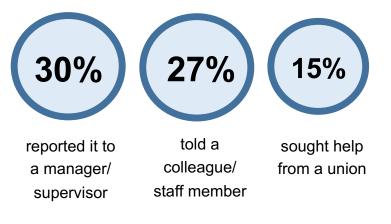
31% colleague/staff member
29% manager/supervisor
24% service user/client
16% service user's/client's family
10% general public

## Experienced in relation to COVID-19:

#### Verbally abused – action taken



#### Bullied – action taken



There was nothing I could do. It was reported to line management. I was trying to keep all within the government quidelines and to keep people safe but colleagues wanted to and did work against the directives given placing all others at risk. When this was raised they bullied and used threatening behaviour.

Management, care home w or w/o nursing

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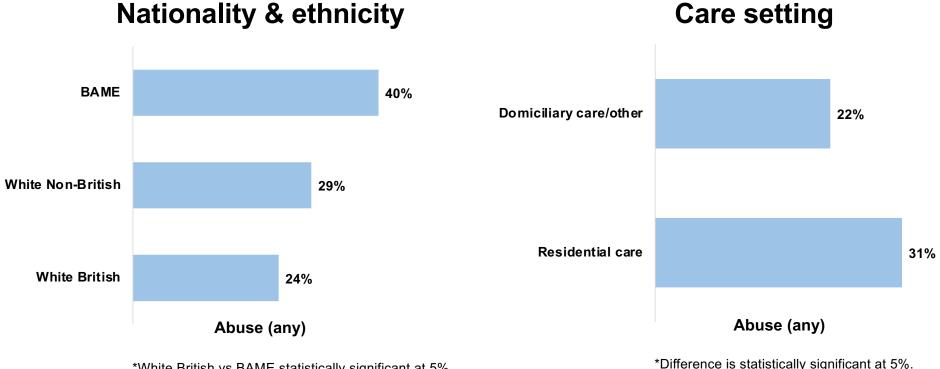
Direct care, adults with mental health needs, domiciliary care

It was reported to police and management, but they did nothing because "can't do anything about it because of covid restrictions and tenancy agreements". So we had to take the abuse for almost a year...

It's not safe to get help.

Direct care, adults with physical and/or sensory disability, supported living/extra care housing

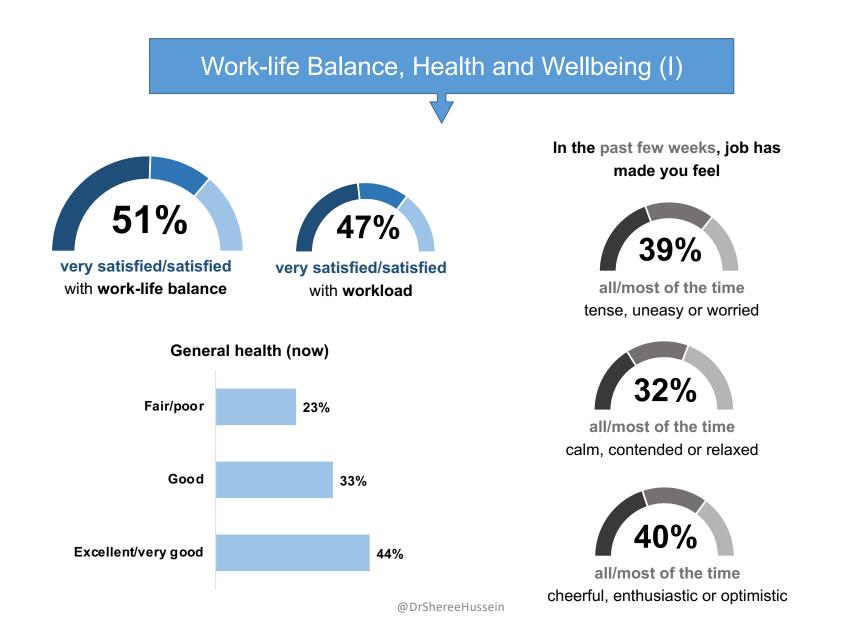
# **Abuse (any): differential experience**



\*White British vs BAME statistically significant at 5%. Remaining differences not statistically significant.

\*Difference is statistically significant at 5%.

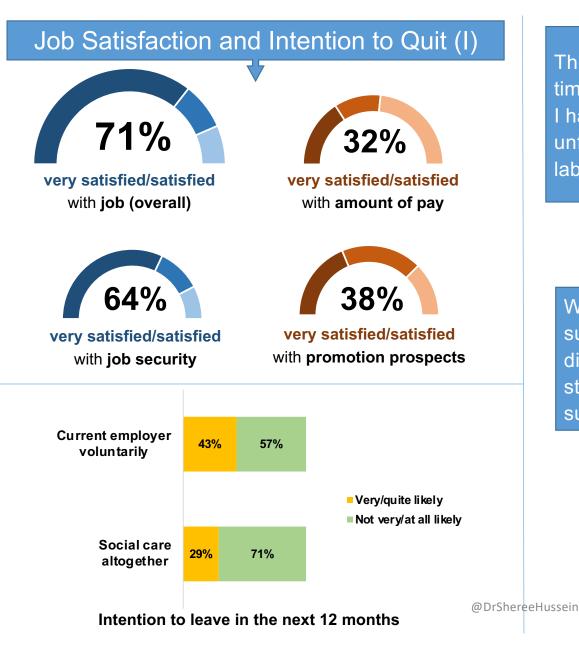
No significant differences by country



## Work-life Balance and Wellbeing (II)

Linear regression	Wellbeing [proxy] <sup>+</sup>	Wellbeing [work-life balance]
Abuse		
Yes	-0.185*** (0.023)	-0.312*** (0.064)
Abuse (count)		
Single	-0.128*** (0.028)	-0.143* (0.081)
Multiple	-0.254*** (0.030)	-0.519*** (0.082)
Abuse (type)		
Verbal abuse	-0.093*** (0.027)	-0.182** (0.077)
Bullying	-0.145*** (0.035)	-0.222** (0.096)
Threat	-0.033 <sup>ns</sup> (0.046)	-0.015 <sup>ns</sup> (0.123)
Physical violence	-0.107** (0.050)	-0.381*** (0.138)

<sup>+</sup>Composite index created from feelings questions. All specifications include controls for age band, gender, ethnicity & nationality, regional COVID-19 cases, regional COVID-19 deaths, employer type, care setting, client group, job role, tenure, contract type, union membership and north-south dummies. Robust standard errors in parentheses. \*\*\*p<0.01, \*\*p<0.05, \*p<0.1, <sup>ns</sup> not significant.



The desperately low pay, zero hours & no paid travel time is, the killer for this job. It's the most fulfilling job I have had. But I am constantly angry with the unfairness of the wages, pretence that it is unskilled labour, and so on. Which is why I can't stay.

Direct care, older adults and adults with physical and/or sensory disability, domiciliary care

We were hung out to dry , we don't want clapping support we want fair wages for an extremely difficult job , appreciation in the pay packet not standing on front doors . Jobs stacking shelves in supermarkets pay better .... how is that right?

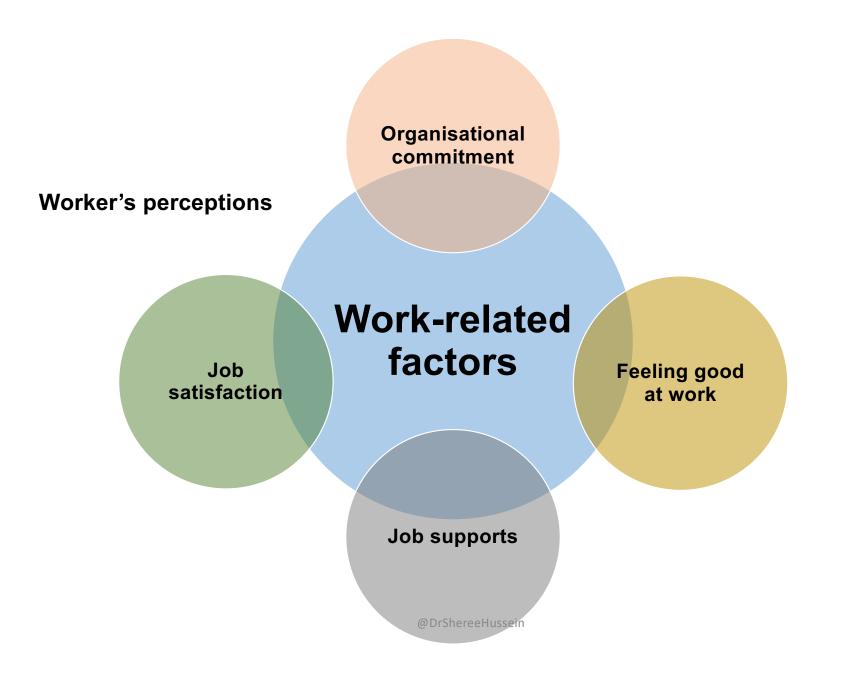
#### Direct care, older adults, care home w or w/o nursing

I feel undervalued, definitely under paid and have been looking for other jobs, not in care.

Management, care home w or w/o nursing

# Job-related attitudes & aspects

- A set of job-related attitudes and job aspects
  - Workplace Employment Relations Survey + Extra items relevant to social care
  - 5-point Likert-type scales [1,...,5]
- How best to utilise these variables?
  - Longitudinal dimension
  - Descriptively
  - Regression analysis
- <u>Challenge</u>: Many items, some of which are highly correlated
  - Factor analysis (FA): exploratory, as we do not have a clear idea of the structure or dimensions in a set of variables; *varimax* rotation; pooled sample
  - How to create the scales? Steps: a) reorder ordinal scales [-2,...,2]; b) additive per category
  - Pseudo-continuous (median cut-off) [-1,0,1] or normalised [0,...,1]?



Job satisfaction	Organisational commitment	Feeling good at work	Job supports
Proud to tell people - who I work for - I work in social care Feel loyal to my organisation Share many of the values of my organisation Job aspects - workload - job safety - job security - work-life balance - promotion prospects - amount of pay you receive - opportunities to use your skills - extent to which you can use your own initiative - support you receive from managers and/or co-workers - quality of care you provide	<ul> <li>How good the managers at the workplace are at:</li> <li>Listening to the views of employees or employee representatives about work-related issues</li> <li>Responding to suggestions from employees or employee representatives</li> <li>Seeking the views of employees or employee representatives</li> <li>Allowing employees or employees to influence final decisions</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Thinking of the past few weeks, the amount of time that your job made you feel:</li> <li>cheerful, enthusiastic, optimistic</li> <li>depressed, gloomy or miserable</li> <li>calm, contended or relaxed</li> <li>tense, uneasy or worried</li> </ul>	Immediate supervisor, line manager or boss: - Helps me perform well in my job - Provides useful feedback on my work - Treats me fairly - Is supportive if I have a problem - Recognises when I have done a good job - Respects me as a person - Can be relied upon to keep promises - Is successful in getting people to work together - Supports my learning and development

## **Factor loadings**

## Job satisfaction

Variable	Factor1	Uniqueness
JB_PRIDE	0.7854	0.3831
JB_SAT	0.7539	0.4316
JB_SUPPORT	0.7334	0.4622
JB_LOYAL	0.7274	0.4709
JB_SKILL	0.6969	0.5143
JB_SAFETY	0.6940	0.5184
JB_WORKLOAD	0.6589	0.5659
JB_VALUE	0.6502	0.5772
JB_PROMO	0.6409	0.5892
JB_SECURITY	0.6261	0.6080
JB_BALANCE	0.5730	0.6716
JB_INIT	0.5656	0.6801
JB_PAY	0.5342	0.7146
JB_QUALITY	0.5001	0.7499
3B_PRIDESC	0.4711	0.7780

## Organisational commitment

Variable	Factor1	Uniqueness	
JB_LISTEN	0.9438	0.1093	
JB_RESPOND	0.9359	0.1241	
JB_SEEK	0.9095	0.1729	
JB_INFL	0.8820	0.2221	

## Feeling good at work

Variable	Factor1	Uniqueness
JB_CHEERFUL	0.7649	0.4149
JB_DEPRESSED	-0.7498	0.4379
JB_CALM	0.7432	0.4477
JB_TENSE	-0.7387	0.4543

### Job supports

Variable	Factor1	Uniqueness
JB_PERFORM	0.8976 0.8863	0.1944
JB_FAIK	0.8857	0.2155
JB_SUPPORT~E JB_RECOGN	0.8839 0.8722	0.2188 0.2392
JB_RESPECT JB_RELY	0.8709 0.8703	0.2416 0.2426
JB_TOGETHER JB_LEARNING	0.8642 0.8117	0.2531 0.3411

## Scales by subgroups – ethnicity & nationality



	White B	White NB	BAME
Job sat	0.639	0.606	0.670
Org com	0.568	0.527	0.658
Work feelings	0.492	0.482	0.560
Job sup	0.624	0.629	0.690

Significant differences at **1%**: job sat (White Non-British vs. BAME), org com (White Non-British vs. BAME; White British vs. BAME), work feelings (White Non-British vs. BAME; White British vs. BAME), job sup (White British vs. BAME) Significant differences at **5%**: job sat (White British

vs. BAME)

# Intention to quit

- Intention to leave/quit
  - current employer voluntarily in the next 12 months
  - social care altogether in the next 12 months
  - 4-point Likert-type scales [Very likely, Quite likely, Not very likely, Not at all likely]
- Long-standing issue of high turnover for care workers in England (SfC, 2021)
  - 28.5% (~410K people) over a year
  - $\downarrow$  in turnover rates during the pandemic; by 3.7 percentage points for care workers
  - Domino impact (vacancies): 8% pre-COVID; 6.2% Apr 20-July 21; 8.2% Aug 21
- COVID-19 era so far, a) emphasis on actual turnover; b) England
- <u>Contribution</u>: a) comprehensive work-related scales (job satisfaction, organisational commitment, feeling good at work, job supports); b) employee's perspective; c) UK
  - Longitudinal COVID-19 workforce survey; unbalanced panel (N=1,791)
  - Pooled and panel regression analysis

# Intention to quit – analysis in progress

- Outcome measures: 1. intention to quit current employer; 2. intention to quit the whole social care sector- in the next 12 months
- Independent variables:
  - Demographic & work characteristics: gender, age, nationality& ethnicity, tenure, main employer, job role, setting, contract type, union membership
  - An indicator of abuse severity in relation to COVID-19
  - Impact of COVID-19 on the individual
  - Job-related scales (explained earlier)
  - Local market characteristics: linking first half of postcode to local unemployment rate
  - Survey wave effect (dummy)
- Applying different models (with(out) random effects)

QUIT_EMP	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
	LPM/OLS	Logit	Probit	FE LPM	Probit RE	
	β	ME	ME	β	ME	
Male	0.063** (0.029)	0.088** (0.044)	0.086** (0.041)		0.078* (0.041)	
White Non-British	0.045 (0.045)	0.068 (0.068)	0.071 (0.064)		0.071 (0.065)	
BAME	0.141*** (0.035)	0.220*** (0.053)	0.202*** (0.049)		0.209*** (0.047)	
Under 35 years	-0.063** (0.030)	-0.096** (0.045)	-0.091** (0.042)	0.068 (0.293)	-0.091** (0.041)	
35-44 years	-0.052* (0.029)	-0.082* (0.045)	-0.074* (0.042)	0.109 (0.183)	-0.073* (0.041)	
55+	-0.053** (0.026)	-0.082** (0.040)	-0.078** (0.037)	0.181 (0.183)	-0.076** (0.037)	
Sector: Public	-0.049* (0.026)	-0.073* (0.039)	-0.066* (0.036)	-0.037 (0.105)	-0.067* (0.036)	
Sector: Charity	-0.053 (0.034)	-0.076 (0.050)	-0.061 (0.047)	0.184 (0.141)	-0.051 (0.047)	
Sector: Other	-0.009 (0.034)	-0.017 (0.054)	-0.011 (0.048)	0.070 (0.096)	-0.007 (0.049)	
Care setting: Residential	-0.007 (0.024)	-0.010 (0.037)	-0.014 (0.034)	-0.012 (0.129)	-0.018 (0.034)	
Service user: Older adults (incl. dementia)	0.017 (0.022)	0.024 (0.033)	0.024 (0.031)	0.093 (0.105)	0.031(0.031)	
ervice user: Adults with phy and/or sens disab	0.027 (0.029)	0.043 (0.045)	0.045 (0.042)	0.154* (0.087)	0.051 (0.042)	
ervice user: Adults with mental health needs	-0.027 (0.031)	-0.039 (0.047)	-0.034 (0.044)	0.064 (0.104)	-0.026 (0.044)	
Service user: Other (incl. children)	-0.010 (0.037)	-0.012 (0.054)	-0.012 (0.050)	-0.080 (0.095)	-0.021 (0.050)	
Role: Direct care	-0.036 (0.025)	-0.053 (0.038)	-0.045 (0.035)	-0.055 (0.107)	-0.040 (0.035)	
enure: <2 years	0.006 (0.032)	0.004 (0.051)	0.004 (0.047)	0.204 (0.263)	0.006 (0.047)	
enure: 2-5 years	-0.004 (0.028)	-0.006 (0.043)	-0.006 (0.040)	0.049 (0.193)	-0.011 (0.039)	
Fenure: 6-10 years	-0.043 (0.029)	-0.071 (0.043)	-0.064 (0.040)	-0.002 (0.123)	-0.067* (0.039)	
Contract type: Permanent	0.046* (0.024)	0.078** (0.038)	0.077** (0.035)	0.054 (0.091)	0.077** (0.035)	
Jnion member: Yes	0.005 (0.022)	0.009 (0.034)	0.013 (0.032)	0.098 (0.095)	0.016 (0.031)	
Abuse: Single	0.079*** (0.030)	0.118*** (0.044)	0.107*** (0.041)	-0.006 (0.072)	0.108*** (0.040)	
Abuse: Multiple	0.077** (0.037)	0.110* (0.057)	0.114** (0.051)	0.102 (0.086)	0.116** (0.050)	
Scale: Job satisfaction <sup>+</sup>	-0.130*** (0.017)	-0.146*** (0.020)	-0.141*** (0.019)	-0.159*** (0.039)	-0.139*** (0.019)	
Scale: Organisational commitment*	-0.024 (0.016)	-0.038* (0.021)	-0.037* (0.020)	-0.007 (0.037)	-0.036* (0.020)	
Scale: Feeling Good at work <sup>+</sup>	-0.128*** (0.014)	-0.174*** (0.018)	-0.166*** (0.017)	-0.066* (0.034)	-0.163*** (0.017)	
Scale: Job supports <sup>+</sup>	-0.070*** (0.016)	-0.093*** (0.020)	-0.087*** (0.019)	-0.107*** (0.035)	-0.090*** (0.018)	
Observations	1,791	1,791	1,791	1,791	1,791	
Significance level: *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1, *pseudo-continuous; robust standard errors in parentheses.						

QUIT_SC	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
	LPM/OLS	Logit	Probit	FE LPM	Probit RE	
	β	ME	ME	β	ME	
Male	0.074** (0.031)	0.087** (0.036)	0.083** (0.035)		0.078** (0.035)	
White Non-British	0.014 (0.052)	0.022 (0.057)	0.029 (0.058)		0.040 (0.059)	
ВАМЕ	0.065* (0.036)	0.085 (0.048)	0.088* (0.045)		0.089* (0.045)	
Under 35 years	-0.073** (0.030)	-0.077** (0.034)	-0.077** (0.034)	0.263 (0.296)	-0.078** (0.034)	
35-44 years	-0.044 (0.030)	-0.048 (0.035)	-0.042 (0.035)	0.001 (0.184)	-0.042 (0.034)	
55+	0.007 (0.027)	0.008 (0.033)	0.010 (0.032)	-0.036 (0.184)	0.007 (0.032)	
Sector: Public	-0.026 (0.026)	-0.031 (0.031)	-0.029 (0.031)	-0.016 (0.106)	-0.030 (0.030)	
Sector: Charity	-0.049 (0.035)	-0.053 (0.037)	-0.046 (0.038)	0.226 (0.142)	-0.041 (0.038)	
Sector: Other	-0.013 (0.033)	-0.020 (0.040)	-0.014 (0.040)	0.038 (0.096)	-0.012 (0.041)	
Care setting: Residential	0.008 (0.025)	0.008 (0.028)	0.005 (0.029)	-0.035 (0.130)	0.005 (0.029)	
Service user: Older adults (incl. dementia)	-0.026 (0.023)	-0.033 (0.027)	-0.028 (0.026)	-0.066 (0.106)	-0.028 (0.026)	
Service user: Adults with phy and/or sens disab	0.038 (0.031)	0.043 (0.037)	0.049 (0.037)	-0.093 (0.088)	0.038 (0.037)	
Service user: Adults with mental health needs	-0.042 (0.032)	-0.049 (0.038)	-0.049 (0.038)	0.077 (0.105)	-0.042 (0.038)	
Service user: Other (incl. children)	-0.032 (0.035)	-0.033 (0.040)	-0.031 (0.040)	0.045 (0.095)	-0.026 (0.041)	
Role: Direct care	-0.013 (0.026)	-0.011 (0.030)	-0.012 (0.030)	-0.124 (0.108)	-0.011 (0.030)	
Γenure: <2 years	-0.009 (0.035)	-0.019 (0.042)	-0.021 (0.041)	0.542** (0.262)	-0.016 (0.041)	
Tenure: 2-5 years	-0.043 (0.029)	-0.051 (0.033)	-0.052 (0.033)	0.182 (0.194)	-0.056* (0.033)	
Tenure: 6-10 years	-0.028 (0.029)	-0.039 (0.033)	-0.036 (0.033)	-0.026 (0.124)	-0.036 (0.033)	
Contract type: Permanent	0.061** (0.025)	0.080** (0.032)	0.078** (0.031)	0.145 (0.091)	0.079** (0.031)	
Union member: Yes	0.021 (0.024)	0.027 (0.028)	0.030 (0.028)	0.149 (0.095)	0.035 (0.027)	
Abuse: Single	0.128*** (0.032)	0.142*** (0.037)	0.144*** (0.036)	0.074 (0.073)	0.142*** (0.035)	
Abuse: Multiple	0.106*** (0.040)	0.101** (0.042)	0.109*** (0.042)	0.154* (0.086)	0.110*** (0.041)	
Scale: Job satisfaction <sup>+</sup>	-0.087*** (0.016)	-0.090*** (0.017)	-0.090*** (0.017)	-0.062 (0.039)	-0.090*** (0.017)	
Scale: Organisational commitment <sup>+</sup>	-0.022 (0.015)	-0.028 (0.017)	-0.027 (0.017)	-0.010 (0.038)	-0.025 (0.017)	
Scale: Feeling good at work <sup>+</sup>	-0.120*** (0.014)	-0.135*** (0.015)	-0.136*** (0.015)	-0.014 (0.034)	-0.127*** (0.015)	
Scale: Job supports⁺	-0.009 (0.015)	-0.012 (0.016)	-0.126 (0.016)	-0.050 (0.035)	-0.015 (0.016)	
Observations	1,791	1,791	1,791	1,791	1,791	
Significance level: *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1, *pseudo-continuous; robust standard errors in parentheses.						

# Early findings: Intention to quit

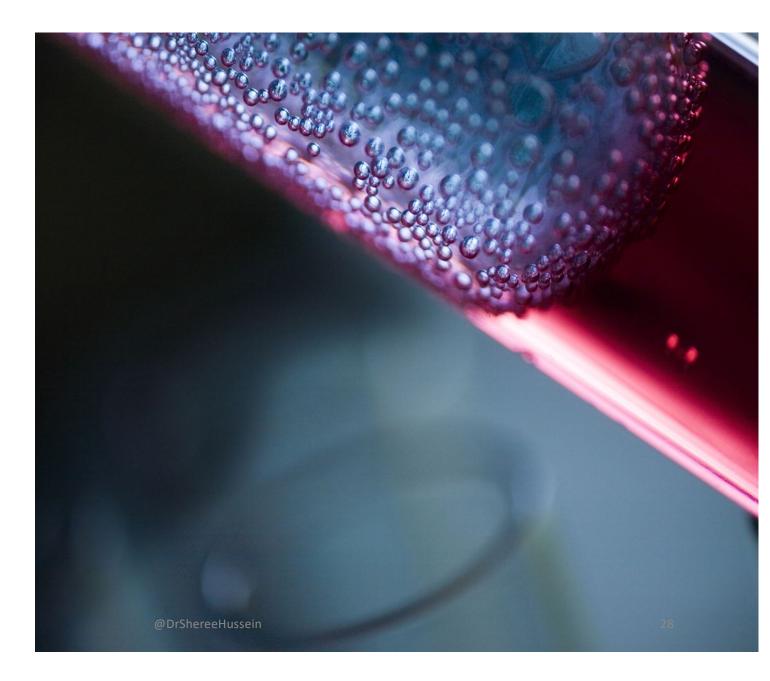
## **Current employer**

- Gender
- Ethnicity/nationality
- Contract type
- Abuse severity
- Job satisfaction
- Job support
- Psychological wellbeing
- Org commitment

## Social care sector

- Gender
- Contract type
- Abuse severity
- Job satisfaction
- Psychological wellbeing
- Ethnicity/nationality

# Summary and Conclusion



## Implications

# Care workers feel neglected and undervalued

- Workload; job satisfaction; sense of responsibility
- Wellbeing: physical, mental and financial
- Further retention issues

## Brexit & COVID-19

- The nature and structure of **social care provision**?
- Live-in care
- Migrant workers: who will fill the gaps?

## Sector-wide changes

- + Better **pay** & better jobs
- + Funding & reforms
- + Pool of recruits
- + Sector wide support mechanisms
- Geographical disparities

Wellbeing?

- Impact on users and their informal carers

# Where to find more

## **RESSCW** website

- 'Pulse' survey findings [report] can be found here: <u>https://www.pssru.ac.uk/resscw/files/2020/12/COVID19-and-the-UK-Care-Workers\_FINAL\_01dec20.pdf]</u>
- Implications and impact of COVID-19 on the sustainability and retention of the social care workforce (hosted by the National Care Forum) [slides can be found here: <u>https://www.pssru.ac.uk/resscw/files/2021/10/RESSCW-NCF-Webinar-FINAL.pdf</u>]

## Academic papers:

- Saloniki, E.-C.; Turnpenny, A.; Collins, G.; Marchand, C.; Towers, A.-M.; Hussein, S. Abuse and Wellbeing of Long-Term Care Workers in the COVID-19 Era: Evidence from the UK. Sustainability 2022, 14, 9620. https://doi.org/10.3390/su14159620
- More in progress

## Video summary: Published on the MENARAH website and YouTube Channel

 https://www.menarah.org/research-activities/international\_learning/the-impact-of-the-covid-19pandemic-on-the-long-term-care-workforce-evidence-from-the-united-kingdom/ Thank you for listening Happy to respond to questions

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