



Annual Education Workforce Statistics for Wales 2025

Section 5: Qualified youth sector



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Section 5: Qualified youth sector

Qualified youth and youth support workers

Regulations stipulate that any paid youth worker who holds one of the recognised qualifications, or youth support worker who holds one of the recognised qualifications, or is working towards one of the qualifications, is registered with the EWC before they start work for, or on behalf of, a relevant body.

A relevant body means:

- a local authority in Wales
- a governing body of a school
- a further education institution in Wales
- a voluntary body, to the extent that the youth development services provided for or on behalf of the voluntary body are provided to people in Wales

A youth worker is a person who provides (or wishes to provide) youth development services, and who possesses at least one of the qualifications specified as youth worker.

A youth support worker is a person who provides (or wishes to provide) youth development services, and who possesses at least one of the qualifications specified as youth support worker.

Youth development services are defined as services:

- provided mainly to persons who are aged no younger than 11 and no older than 25, and which promote:
 - i. the development of the skills or knowledge of such persons
 - ii. the intellectual, emotional, or social development of such persons

Practitioners wanting to register with the EWC as a qualified youth worker, or as a qualified youth support worker, must evidence they have one of the mandatory qualifications when they apply to register.

Practitioners working toward one of the qualifications listed can apply for provisional registration with the EWC whilst they work towards their qualification.

Please note, Welsh Government amended the regulations in May 2023, which removed level 2 youth support qualifications from the list of eligible qualifications. Subsequently, those qualified to level 2 are no longer eligible to register with the EWC. Those historically registered with the EWC with a level 2 qualification will need to achieve the level 3 qualification before May 2025. Those who do not achieve level 3 will be removed from the register in May 2025.

1 Qualified youth workers

1.1 Number registered

Table 1.1: The annual registered total of qualified youth workers.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of qualified youth workers	383	411	429	433	425	447	423	468

March 2025 figures – 367 are registered as a qualified youth worker only, 101 in multiple categories. Of the multiples, 72 registrants are registered in 2 categories, 23 are registered in 3 categories, 2 are registered in 4 categories and 4 are registered in 5 categories.

1.2 Gender

Table 1.2: The number of registered qualified youth workers by gender.

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Female	291	67.2	286	67.3	311	69.6	298	70.4	331	70.7
Male	142	32.8	139	32.7	136	30.4	125	29.6	136	29.1
Not specified	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2
Total	433	100	425	100	447	100	423	100	468	100

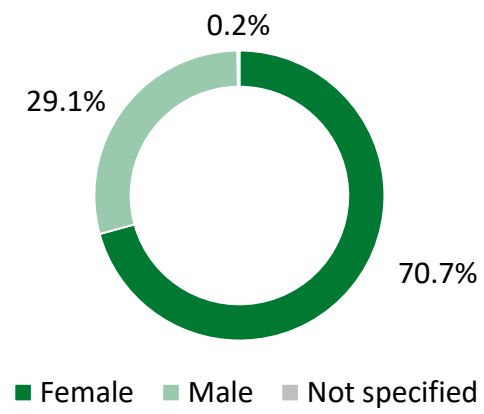


Chart 1: The gender of qualified youth workers in 2025.

1.3 Age

Table 1.3: The number of registered qualified youth workers by age.

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Under 25	15	3.5	7	1.6	7	1.6	8	1.9	15	3.2
25 to 29	50	11.5	48	11.3	51	11.4	37	8.7	48	10.3
30 to 34	64	14.8	60	14.1	58	13.0	57	13.5	58	12.4
35 to 39	68	15.7	58	13.6	61	13.6	72	17.0	75	16.0
40 to 44	69	15.9	77	18.1	81	18.1	61	14.4	70	15.0
45 to 49	62	14.3	61	14.4	58	13.0	64	15.1	66	14.1
50 to 54	60	13.9	62	14.6	67	15.0	45	10.6	46	9.8
55 to 59	33	7.6	34	8.0	37	8.3	50	11.8	57	12.2
60 to 64	9	2.1	15	3.5	21	4.7	23	5.4	25	5.3
65 +	3	0.7	3	0.7	6	1.3	6	1.4	8	1.7
Total	433	100	425	100	447	100	423	100	468	100

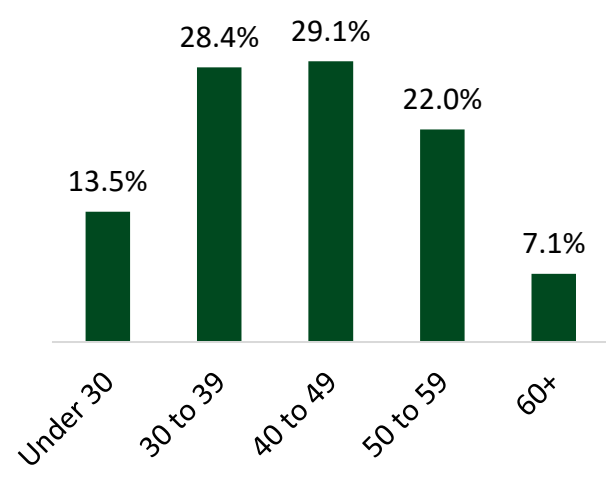


Chart 2: The age of qualified youth workers in 2025.

1.4 Ethnic group

Table 1.4: The number of registered qualified youth workers by ethnic group.

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
White	294	67.9	294	69.2	327	73.2	311	73.5	375	80.1
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	5	1.2	5	1.2	5	1.1	5	1.2	6	1.3
Asian or Asian British	2	0.5	4	0.9	4	0.9	5	1.2	5	1.1
Black, African, Caribbean or Black British	5	1.2	6	1.4	5	1.1	6	1.4	6	1.3
Other ethnic group	1	0.2	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.2	1	0.2
Does not wish to record ethnic group	6	1.4	5	1.2	12	2.7	12	2.8	13	2.8
Unknown	120	27.7	110	25.9	94	21.0	83	19.6	62	13.2
Total	433	100	425	100	447	100	423	100	468	100

The above data is provided in an aggregate format to prevent the disclosure of registrants. The ethnic group options as detailed on the Register of Education Practitioners can be found on the [Government Analysis function website](#). The ethnic groups that make up the aggregate format above can also be found there.

1.5 National identity

Table 1.5: The number of registered qualified youth workers by national identity.

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Welsh	192	44.3	190	44.7	222	49.7	210	49.6	252	53.8
British	86	19.9	91	21.4	89	19.9	87	20.6	105	22.4
English	19	4.4	21	4.9	22	4.9	20	4.7	22	4.7
Scottish, Irish or Northern Irish	4	0.9	4	0.9	4	0.9	6	1.4	8	1.7
Other	2	0.5	2	0.5	2	0.4	2	0.5	2	0.4
Does not wish to record national identity	10	2.3	7	1.6	14	3.1	14	3.3	16	3.4
Unknown	120	27.7	110	25.9	94	21.0	84	19.9	63	13.5
Total	433	100	425	100	447	100	423	100	468	100

1.6 Disability

Table 1.6: Number of registered qualified youth workers who have made a declaration regarding their disability.

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	20	4.6	17	4.0	24	5.4	26	6.1	38	8.1
No	413	95.4	408	96.0	423	94.6	397	93.9	430	91.9
Total	433	100	425	100	447	100	423	100	468	100

For the purposes of this release, a person is considered to have a disability if they have a self-reported long-standing illness, condition, or impairment that causes difficulty with day-to-day activities. This definition is consistent with the [Equality Act 2010](#) and the [Government Statistical Service's \(GSS's\) harmonised definition](#).

1.7 Employment

Table 1.7: Number of registered qualified youth workers by employer.

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Local authority	357	82.4	347	81.6	363	81.2	331	78.3	363	77.6
Youth/voluntary organisation	31	7.2	27	6.4	42	9.4	40	9.5	46	9.8
Other	45	10.4	51	12.0	42	9.4	52	12.3	59	12.6
Total	433	100	425	100	447	100	423	100	468	100

Those that make up the 'other' category total comprise of those employed in FE (15), WBL (3), on a supply basis (11) or where relevant employment information is not held (30).

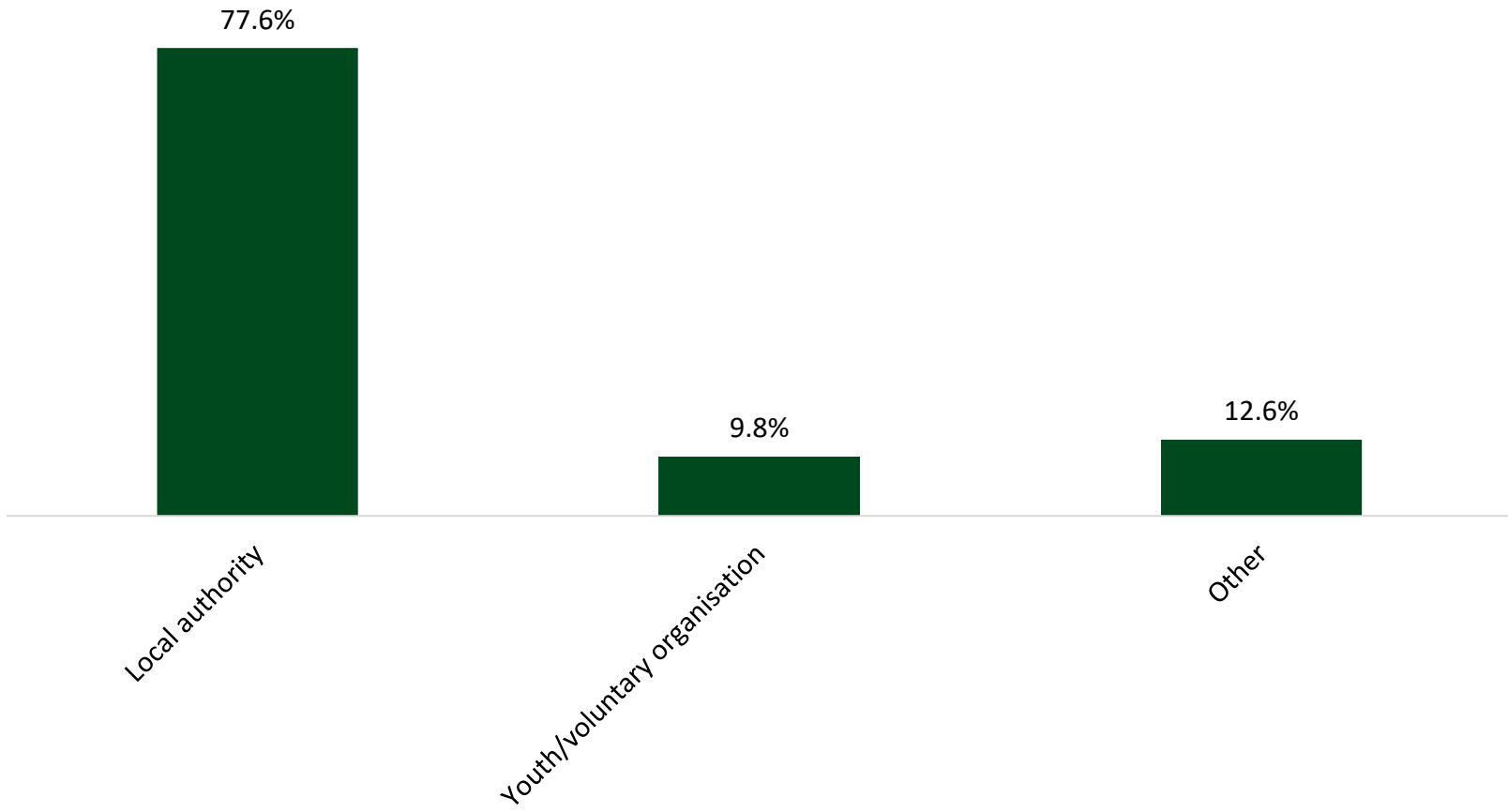


Chart 3: Percentage of qualified youth workers by employer in 2025.

1.8 Ability to speak Welsh

Table 1.8: Number of registered qualified youth workers by ability to speak Welsh.

The below is based on those registrants who have declared whether they are fluent or fairly fluent, in the Welsh language.

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	46	10.6	45	10.6	58	13.0	58	13.7	73	15.6
No	274	63.3	297	69.9	324	72.5	313	74.0	352	75.2
Unknown	113	26.1	83	19.5	65	14.5	52	12.3	43	9.2
Total	433	100	425	100	447	100	423	100	468	100

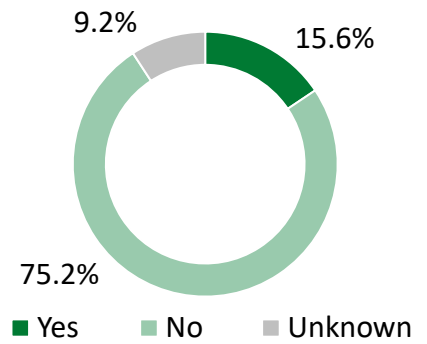


Chart 4: Qualified youth workers by ability to speak Welsh in 2025.

1.9 Ability to work through the medium of Welsh

Table 1.9: Number of registered qualified youth support workers by ability to work through the medium of Welsh.

The below information is based on those registrants who have declared whether they were either trained to work, currently work, or have ever worked through the medium of Welsh or feel confident to do so.

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	32	7.4	34	8.0	36	8.1	37	8.7	49	10.5
No	286	66.1	307	72.2	345	77.2	333	78.7	375	80.1
Unknown	115	26.6	84	19.8	66	14.8	53	12.5	44	9.4
Total	433	100	425	100	447	100	423	100	468	100

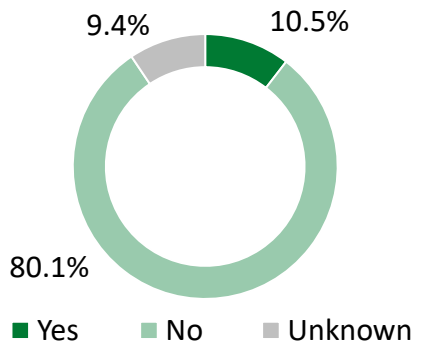


Chart 5: Qualified youth workers by ability to work through the medium of Welsh in 2025.

1.10 Highest level of qualification

Table 1.10: Number of registered qualified youth workers by highest level of youth work qualification.

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Level 8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2	0	0.0
Level 7	72	16.6	66	15.5	74	16.6	105	24.8	82	17.5
Level 6	299	69.1	298	70.1	317	70.9	251	59.3	299	63.9
Level 5	62	14.3	61	14.4	56	12.5	66	15.6	87	18.6
Total	433	100	425	100	447	100	423	100	468	100

To be registered with the EWC, a qualified youth worker must carry out youth development services, meet the [mandatory qualification requirements](#), and work or intend to work in a local authority or voluntary sector setting. These requirements are set out in Welsh Government legislation. Levels based on the Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW). To be registered as a qualified youth worker, there is a minimum qualification requirement of Level 5.

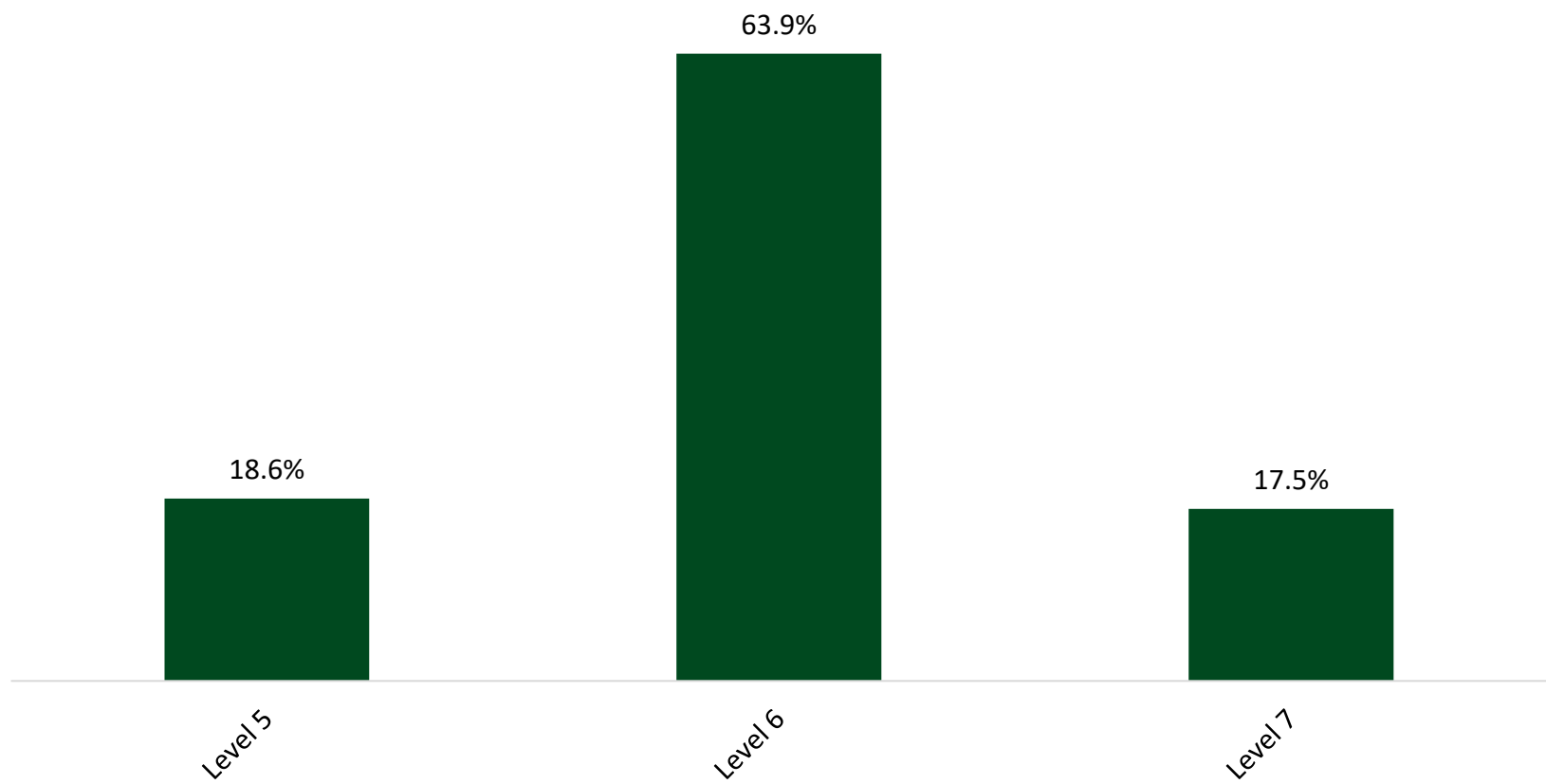


Chart 6: Percentage of qualified youth workers by highest level of qualification in 2025.

1.11 Retention

Table 1.11: Five year change in registered qualified youth worker numbers.

The following table reviews the retention of a specific cohort of registrants. On 1 March 2020, there were 429 qualified youth workers registered with the EWC. On 1 March 2025, 61.5% of that cohort were still registered as qualified youth workers with the EWC.

	March 2025	
	Number	%
Registered as a qualified youth worker	264	61.5
Registered in another category	26	6.1
Not registered with the EWC	139	32.4
Total	429	100

Table 1.12: The year-on-year change in registered qualified youth worker numbers.

	March 2021		March 2022		March 2023		March 2024		March 2025	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total registered ¹	433	100	425	100	447	100	423	100	468	100
Registrants de-registered since previous year ²	47	11.0	59	13.6	58	13.6	80	18.9	67	15.8
New registrants since previous year ³	51	11.9	51	11.8	80	18.8	74	17.5	112	26.5
Increase or decrease on previous year ⁴	4	0.9	-8	-1.8	22	5.2	-6	-1.4	45	10.6

¹ 'Total registered' - this is the total number of registrants in the qualified youth worker category on 1 March in each given year.

² 'Registrants de-registered since previous year' - this is the number of qualified youth workers who were registered in the previous year but did not maintain their registration the following year.

³ 'New registrants since previous year' - this is the number of new registrants who were admitted to the Register of Education Practitioners in each year.

⁴ This number reflects either a net increase or decrease in registrant numbers on the 1 March in each year compared to the previous year, taking into account the number of registrants who did not retain their registration (footnote 2) and those admitted to the Register (footnote 3).

2. Qualified youth support workers

2.1 Number registered

Table 2.1: The annual total of registered qualified youth support workers.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of qualified youth support workers	689	696	689	704	676	687	699	699

March 2025 figures – 555 registered as qualified youth support workers only, 144 in multiple categories. Of the multiples, 114 registrants are registered in 2 categories, 18 are registered in 3 categories, 6 are registered in 4 categories, and 6 are registered in 5 categories.

2.2 Gender

Table 2.2: Number of registered qualified youth support workers by gender.

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Female	465	66.1	452	66.9	454	66.1	480	68.7	490	70.1
Male	239	33.9	224	33.1	231	33.6	218	31.2	208	29.8
Not specified	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.3	1	0.1	1	0.1
Total	704	100	676	100	687	100	699	100	699	100

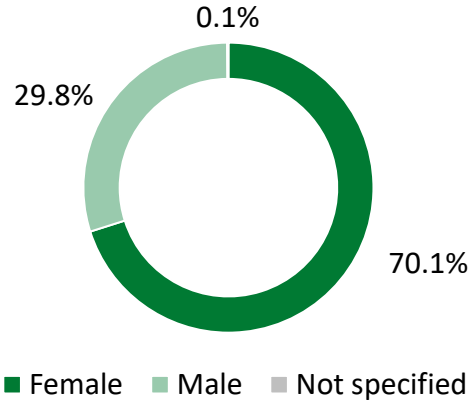


Chart 7: The gender of qualified youth support workers in 2025.

2.3 Age

Table 2.3: Number of registered qualified youth support workers by age.

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Under 25	60	8.5	47	7.0	39	5.7	37	5.3	46	6.6
25 to 29	106	15.1	93	13.8	100	14.6	95	13.6	120	17.2
30 to 34	116	16.5	107	15.8	101	14.7	99	14.2	97	13.9
35 to 39	108	15.3	108	16.0	122	17.8	131	18.7	109	15.6
40 to 44	87	12.4	96	14.2	99	14.4	94	13.4	94	13.4
45 to 49	75	10.7	67	9.9	69	10.0	76	10.9	80	11.4
50 to 54	68	9.7	63	9.3	64	9.3	69	9.9	61	8.7
55 to 59	50	7.1	57	8.4	56	8.2	53	7.6	47	6.7
60 to 64	22	3.1	23	3.4	22	3.2	27	3.9	28	4.0
65 +	12	1.7	15	2.2	15	2.2	18	2.6	17	2.4
Total	704	100	676	100	687	100	699	100	699	100

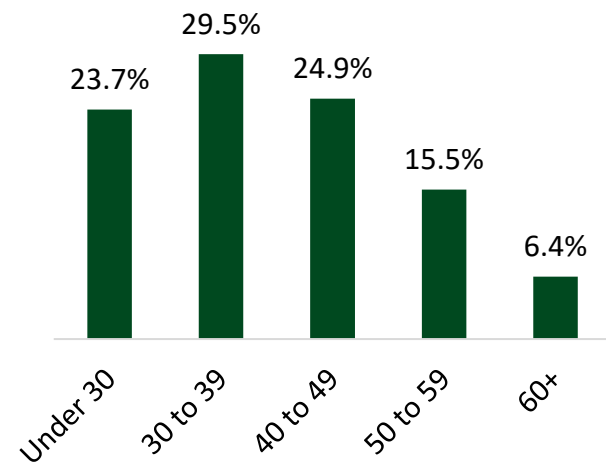


Chart 8: The age of qualified youth support workers in 2025.

2.4 Ethnic group

Table 2.4: Number of registered qualified youth support workers by ethnic group.

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
White	482	68.5	479	70.9	511	74.4	535	76.5	564	80.7
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	8	1.1	6	0.9	6	0.9	7	1.0	8	1.1
Asian or Asian British	5	0.7	5	0.7	6	0.9	5	0.7	6	0.9
Black, African, Caribbean or Black British	2	0.3	3	0.4	4	0.6	6	0.9	4	0.6
Other ethnic group	2	0.3	2	0.3	2	0.3	2	0.3	2	0.3
Does not wish to record ethnic group	15	2.1	18	2.7	19	2.8	16	2.3	16	2.3
Unknown	190	27.0	163	24.1	139	20.2	128	18.3	99	14.2
Total	704	100	676	100	687	100	699	100	699	100

The above data is provided in an aggregate format to prevent the disclosure of registrants. The ethnic group options as detailed on the Register of Education Practitioners can be found on the [Government Analysis function website](#). The ethnic groups that make up the aggregate format above can also be found there.

2.5 National identity

Table 2.5: Number of registered qualified youth support workers by national identity.

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Welsh	350	49.7	335	49.6	361	52.5	367	52.5	402	57.5
British	116	16.5	131	19.4	132	19.2	143	20.5	148	21.2
English	24	3.4	21	3.1	25	3.6	28	4.0	22	3.1
Scottish, Irish or Northern Irish	5	0.7	5	0.7	4	0.6	6	0.9	7	1.0
Other	7	1.0	7	1.0	8	1.2	10	1.4	9	1.3
Does not wish to record national identity	12	1.7	13	1.9	17	2.5	14	2.0	12	1.7
Unknown	190	27.0	164	24.3	140	20.4	131	18.7	99	14.2
Total	704	100	676	100	687	100	699	100	699	100

2.6 Disability

Table 2.6: Number of registered qualified youth support workers who have made a declaration regarding their disability.

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	43	6.1	40	5.9	43	6.3	43	6.2	54	7.7
No	661	93.9	636	94.1	644	93.7	656	93.8	645	92.3
Total	704	100	676	100	687	100	699	100	699	100

For the purposes of this release, a person is considered to have a disability if they have a self-reported long-standing illness, condition, or impairment that causes difficulty with day-to-day activities. This definition is consistent with the [Equality Act 2010](#) and the [Government Statistical Service's \(GSS's\) harmonised definition](#).

2.7 Employment

Table 2.7: Number of registered qualified youth support workers by employer.

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Local authority	559	79.4	534	79.0	560	81.5	555	79.4	546	78.1
Youth/voluntary organisation	90	12.8	72	10.7	66	9.6	68	9.7	88	12.6
Other	55	7.8	70	10.4	61	8.9	76	10.9	65	9.3
Total	704	100	676	100	687	100	699	100	699	100

Those that make up the 'other' category total comprise of those employed in FE (8),WBL (2), in schools or on a supply basis (27) or where relevant employment information is not held (28).

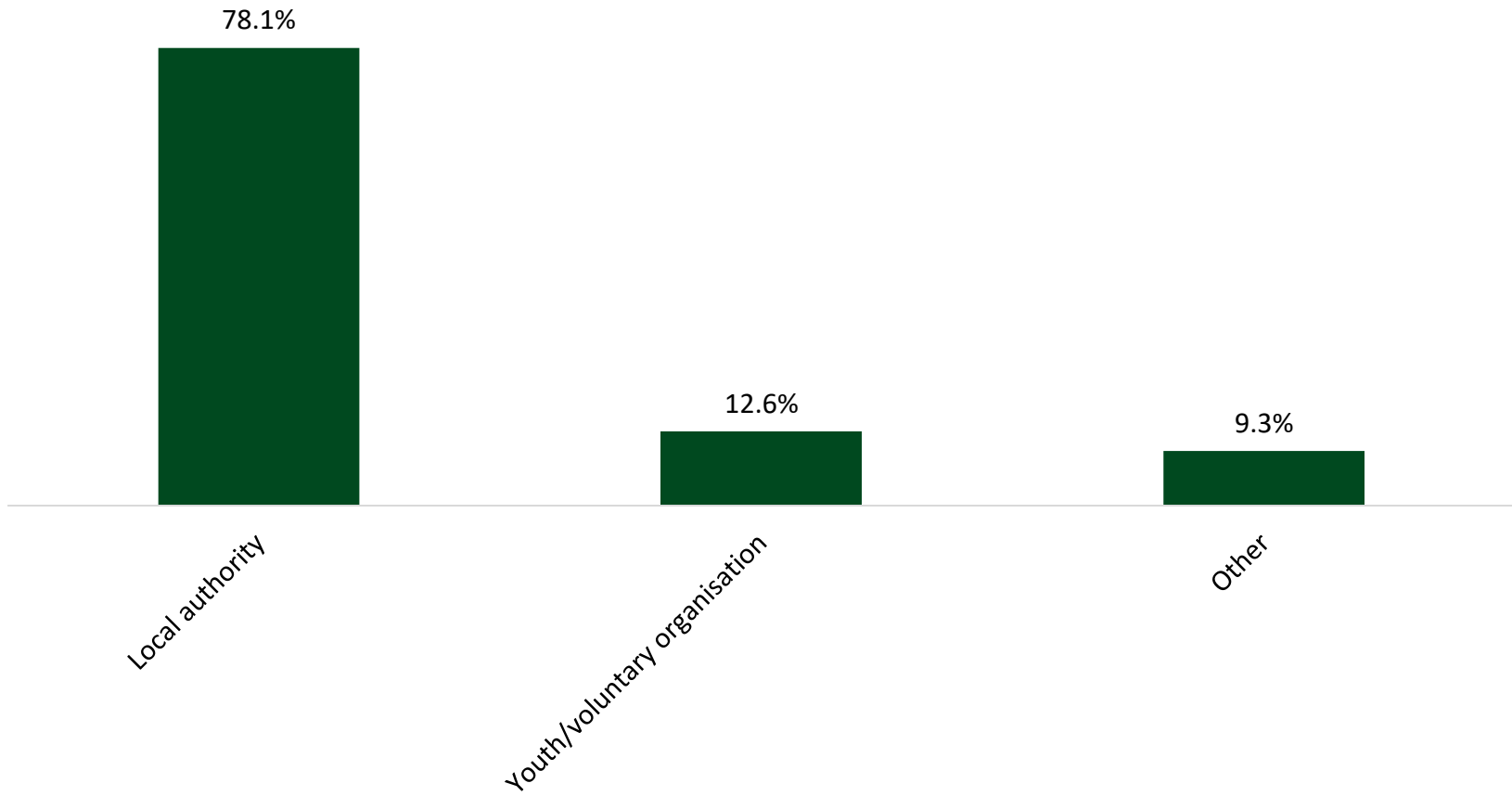


Chart 9: Percentage of registered qualified youth support workers by employer in 2025.

2.8 Ability to speak Welsh

Table 2.8: Number of registered qualified youth support workers by ability to speak Welsh.

The below is based on those registrants who have declared whether they are fluent or fairly fluent, in the Welsh language.

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	115	16.3	105	15.5	124	18.0	121	17.3	132	18.9
No	397	56.4	429	63.5	447	65.1	484	69.2	499	71.4
Unknown	192	27.3	142	21.0	116	16.9	94	13.4	68	9.7
Total	704	100	676	100	687	100	699	100	699	100

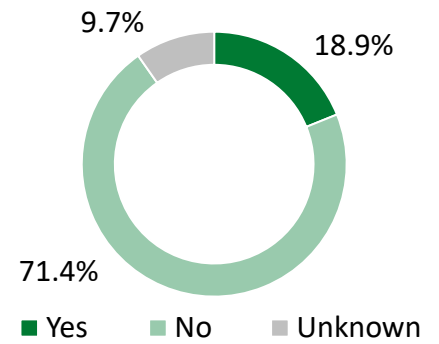


Chart 10: Qualified youth support by workers ability to speak Welsh in 2025.

2.9 Ability to work through the medium of Welsh

Table 2.9: Number of registered qualified youth support workers by ability to work through the medium of Welsh.

The below information is based on those registrants who have declared whether they were either trained to work, currently work, or have ever worked through the medium of Welsh or feel confident to do so.

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	87	12.4	79	11.7	93	13.5	95	13.6	105	15.0
No	424	60.2	455	67.3	478	69.6	510	73.0	526	75.3
Unknown	193	27.4	142	21.0	116	16.9	94	13.4	68	9.7
Total	704	100	676	100	687	100	699	100	699	100

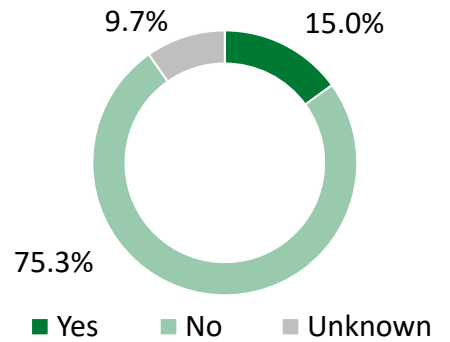


Chart 11: Qualified youth support workers by ability to work through the medium of Welsh in 2025.

2.10 Highest level of qualification

Table 2.10: Number of registered qualified youth support workers by highest level of youth work qualification.

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Level 7	13	1.8	10	1.5	15	2.2	48	6.9	43	6.2
Level 6	83	11.8	78	11.5	99	14.4	124	17.7	97	13.9
Level 5	5	0.7	6	0.9	8	1.2	12	1.7	13	1.9
Level 4	60	8.5	54	8.0	44	6.4	52	7.4	43	6.2
Level 3	316	44.9	293	43.3	284	41.3	258	36.9	330	47.2
Level 2	227	32.2	235	34.8	237	34.5	205	29.3	173	24.7
Total	704	100	676	100	687	100	699	100	699	100

To be registered with the EWC, a qualified youth worker must carry out youth development services, meet the [mandatory qualification requirements](#), and work or intend to work in a local authority or voluntary sector setting. These requirements are set out in Welsh Government legislation. Levels based on the Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW).

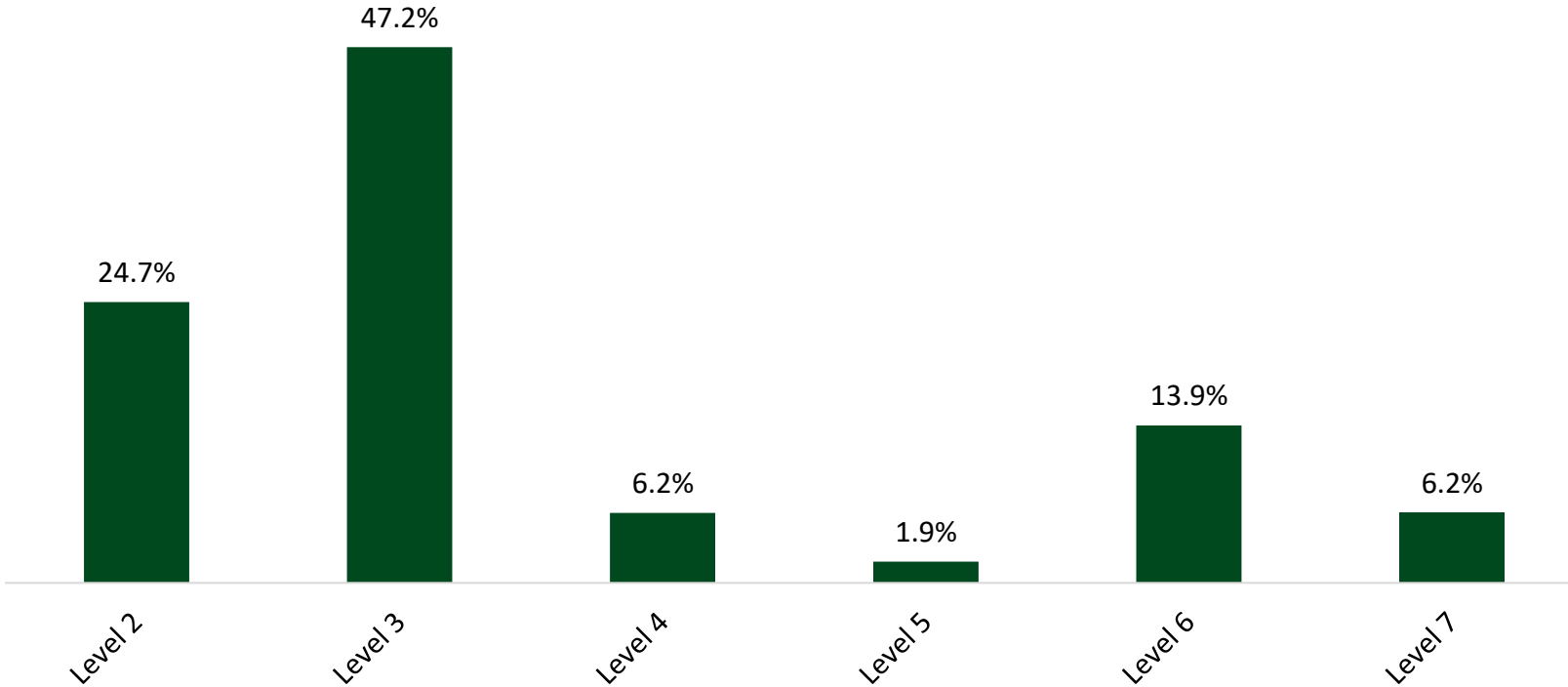


Chart 12: Percentage of qualified youth support workers by highest level of qualification in 2025.

2.11 Retention

Table 2.11: Five year change in registered qualified youth support worker numbers.

The table below reviews the retention of a specific cohort of registrants. On 1 March 2020, there were 689 qualified youth support workers registered with the EWC. On 1 March 2025, 48.3% of that cohort were still registered as qualified youth support workers with the EWC.

	March 2025	
	Number	%
Registered as a qualified youth support worker	333	48.3
Registered in another category	93	13.5
Not registered with the EWC	263	38.2
Total	689	100

Table 2.12: The year-on-year change in registered qualified youth support worker numbers over the last five years.

	March 2021		March 2022		March 2023		March 2024		March 2025	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total registered ¹	704	100	676	100	687	100	699	100	699	100
Registrants de-registered since previous year ²	97	14.1	102	14.5	101	14.9	76	10.9	192	27.5
New registrants since previous year ³	112	16.3	74	10.5	112	16.6	88	12.6	192	27.5
Increase or decrease on previous year ⁴	15	2.2	-28	-4.0	11	1.6	12	1.7	0	0.0

¹'Total registered' - this is the total number of registrants in the qualified youth support worker category on 1 March in each given year.

²'Registrants de-registered since previous year' - this is the number of qualified youth support workers who were registered in the previous year but did not maintain their registration the following year.

³'New registrants since previous year' - this is the number of new registrants who were admitted to the Register of Education Practitioners in each year.

⁴This number reflects either a net increase or decrease in registrant numbers on the 1 March in each year compared to the previous year, taking into account the number of registrants who did not retain their registration (footnote 2) and those admitted to the Register (footnote 3).