Annual Education Workforce Statistics for Wales 2026

Cyngor y Gweithlu Addysg
Education Workforce Council

Section 5: Qualified youth sector

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

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Section 5: Qualified youth sector

Qualified youth workers and qualified youth support workers

Regulations stipulate that any paid qualified youth worker who holds one of the recognised qualifications, or qualified 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 qualified 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 qualified 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 between 11 and 25 years old, and which promote:
  - the development of the skills or knowledge of such persons
  - 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, removing Level 2 Youth Support qualifications from the list of eligible qualifications for registration. As a result, individuals holding only a Level 2 qualification are no longer eligible to register with the EWC.

Practitioners who were previously registered with the EWC on the basis of a Level 2 qualification were required to achieve, or be working towards a relevant Level 3 qualification by May 2025 in order to maintain their eligibility. The 27 practitioners identified in table 2.10 as holding a Level 2 qualification were registered with the EWC as at 1 April 2025 and were therefore included in this year's data extract.

1.1 Number registered

Table 1.1: Annual registered total of qualified youth workers.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Number of qualified youth workers	383	411	429	433	425	447	423	468	440

March 2026 figures – 366 are registered as a qualified youth worker only, 74 in multiple categories. Of the multiples, 51 registrants are registered in 2 categories, 17 are registered in 3 categories, 2 are registered in 4 categories and, 4 are registered in 5 categories.

1.2 Gender

Table 1.2: Number of registered qualified youth workers by gender.

	2022		2023		2024		2025		2026	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Female	286	67.3	311	69.6	298	70.4	331	70.7	304	69.1
Male	139	32.7	136	30.4	125	29.6	136	29.1	135	30.7
Not specified	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2	1	0.2
Total	**425**	**100**	**447**	**100**	**423**	**100**	**468**	**100**	**440**	**100**

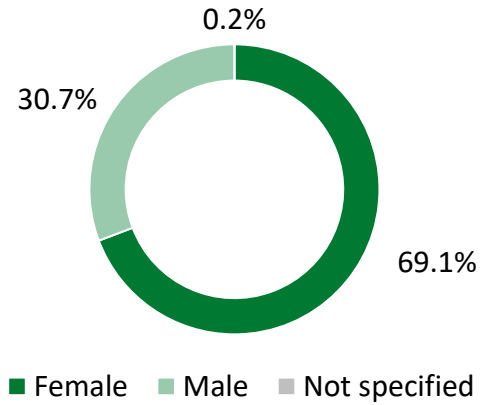

Chart 1: Gender of qualified youth workers in 2026.

1.3 Age

Table 1.3: Number of registered qualified youth workers by age.

	2022		2023		2024		2025		2026	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Under 25	7	1.6	7	1.6	8	1.9	15	3.2	10	2.3
25 to 29	48	11.3	51	11.4	37	8.7	48	10.3	40	9.1
30 to 34	60	14.1	58	13.0	57	13.5	58	12.4	58	13.2
35 to 39	58	13.6	61	13.6	72	17.0	75	16.0	65	14.8
40 to 44	77	18.1	81	18.1	61	14.4	70	15.0	64	14.5
45 to 49	61	14.4	58	13.0	64	15.1	66	14.1	65	14.8
50 to 54	62	14.6	67	15.0	45	10.6	46	9.8	52	11.8
55 to 59	34	8.0	37	8.3	50	11.8	57	12.2	53	12.0
60 to 64	15	3.5	21	4.7	23	5.4	25	5.3	22	5.0
65 +	3	0.7	6	1.3	6	1.4	8	1.7	11	2.5
Total	**425**	**100**	**447**	**100**	**423**	**100**	**468**	**100**	**440**	**100**

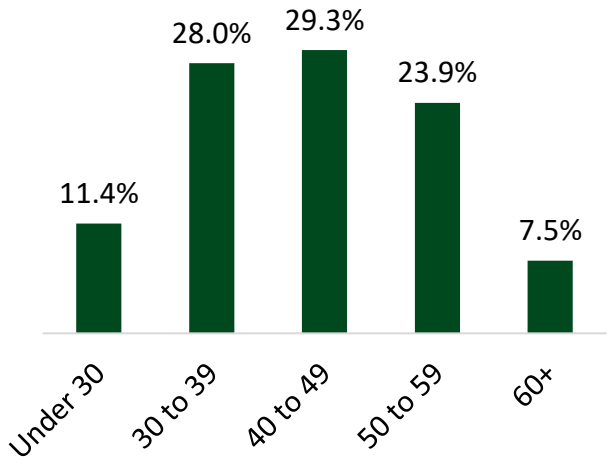

Chart 2: Age of qualified youth workers in 2026.

1.4 Ethnic group

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

	2022		2023		2024		2025		2026	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
White	294	69.2	327	73.2	311	73.5	375	80.1	365	83.0
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	5	1.2	5	1.1	5	1.2	6	1.3	6	1.4
Asian or Asian British	4	0.9	4	0.9	5	1.2	5	1.1	5	1.1
Black, African, Caribbean, or Black British	6	1.4	5	1.1	6	1.4	6	1.3	7	1.6
Other ethnic group	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.2	1	0.2	1	0.2
Does not wish to record ethnic group	5	1.2	12	2.7	12	2.8	13	2.8	10	2.3
Unknown	110	25.9	94	21.0	83	19.6	62	13.2	46	10.5
Total	**425**	**100**	**447**	**100**	**423**	**100**	**468**	**100**	**440**	**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: Number of registered qualified youth workers by national identity.

	2022		2023		2024		2025		2026	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Welsh	190	44.7	222	49.7	210	49.6	252	53.8	249	56.6
British	91	21.4	89	19.9	87	20.6	105	22.4	110	25.0
English	21	4.9	22	4.9	20	4.7	22	4.7	16	3.6
Scottish, Irish, or Northern Irish	4	0.9	4	0.9	6	1.4	8	1.7	5	1.1
Other	2	0.5	2	0.4	2	0.5	2	0.4	2	0.5
Does not wish to record national identity	7	1.6	14	3.1	14	3.3	16	3.4	13	3.0
Unknown	110	25.9	94	21.0	84	19.9	63	13.5	45	10.2
Total	**425**	**100**	**447**	**100**	**423**	**100**	**468**	**100**	**440**	**100**

1.6 Disability

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

	2022		2023		2024		2025		2026	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	17	4.0	24	5.4	26	6.1	38	8.1	38	8.6
No	408	96.0	423	94.6	397	93.9	430	91.9	402	91.4
Total	**425**	**100**	**447**	**100**	**423**	**100**	**468**	**100**	**440**	**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.

	2022		2023		2024		2025		2026	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Local authority	347	81.6	363	81.2	331	78.3	363	77.6	336	76.4
Youth/voluntary organisation	27	6.4	42	9.4	40	9.5	46	9.8	72	16.4
Other	51	12.0	42	9.4	52	12.3	59	12.6	32	7.3
Total	**425**	**100**	**447**	**100**	**423**	**100**	**468**	**100**	**440**	**100**

Those that make up the other category total comprise of those employed in FE (7) in schools (2), on a supply basis (10), or where relevant employment information is not held (13).

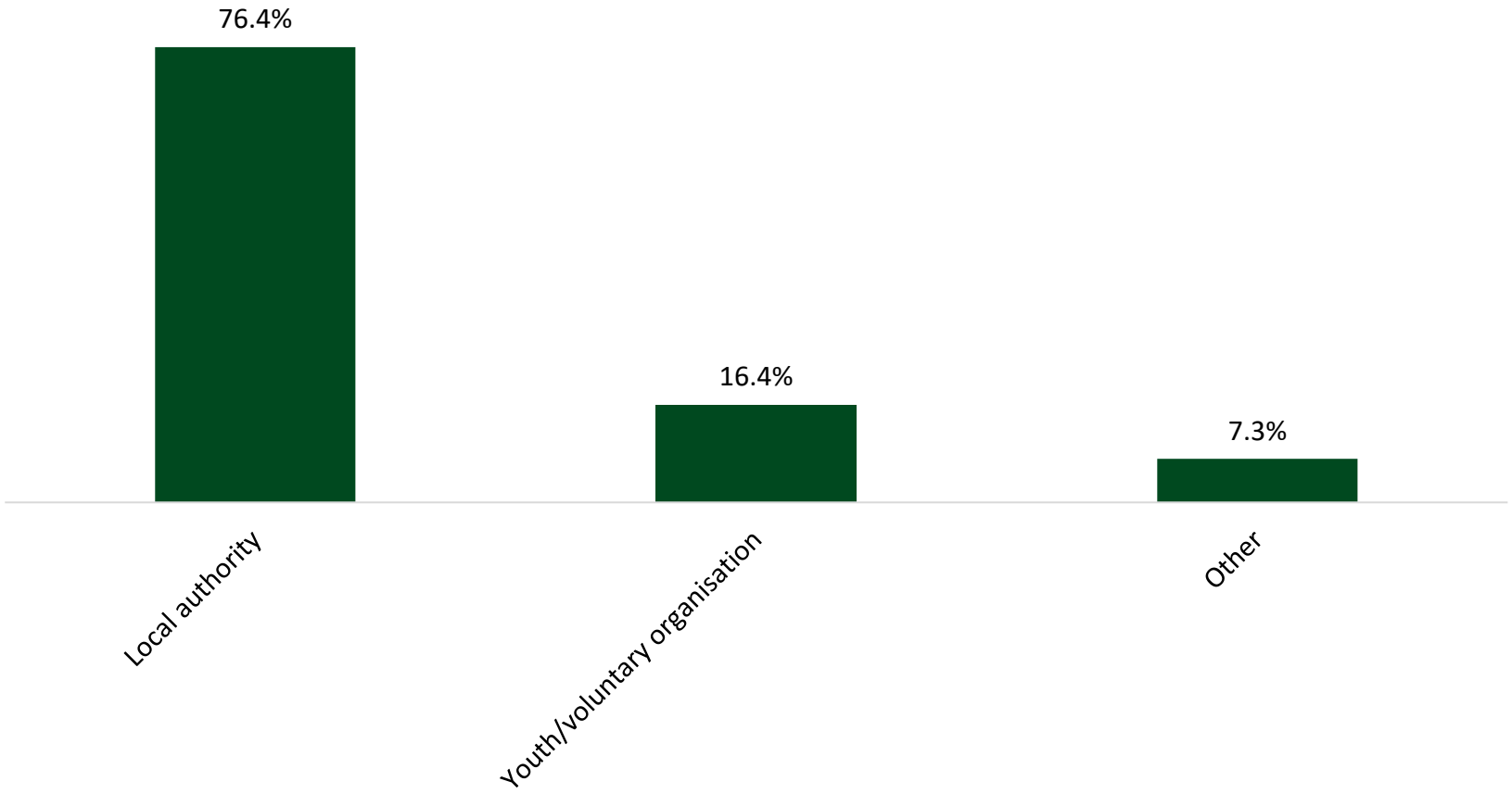

Chart 3: Percentage of registered qualified youth workers by employer in 2026.

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.

	2022		2023		2024		2025		2026	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	45	10.6	58	13.0	58	13.7	73	15.6	80	18.2
No	297	69.9	324	72.5	313	74.0	352	75.2	327	74.3
Unknown	83	19.5	65	14.5	52	12.3	43	9.2	33	7.5
Total	**425**	**100**	**447**	**100**	**423**	**100**	**468**	**100**	**440**	**100**

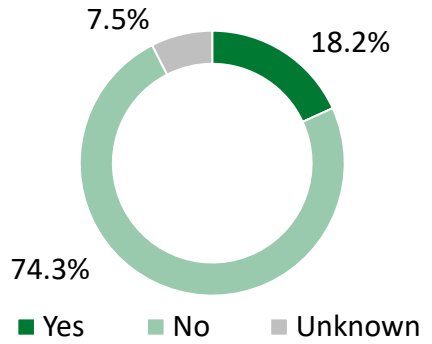

Chart 4: Qualified youth workers by ability to speak Welsh in 2026.

1.9 Ability to work through the medium of Welsh

Table 1.9: Number of registered qualified youth 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.

	2022		2023		2024		2025		2026	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	34	8.0	36	8.1	37	8.7	49	10.5	49	11.1
No	307	72.2	345	77.2	333	78.7	375	80.1	358	81.4
Unknown	84	19.8	66	14.8	53	12.5	44	9.4	33	7.5
Total	**425**	**100**	**447**	**100**	**423**	**100**	**468**	**100**	**440**	**100**

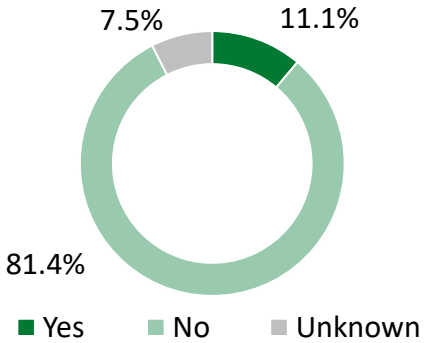

Chart 5: Qualified youth workers by ability to work through the medium of Welsh in 2026.

1.10 Highest level of qualification

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

	2022		2023		2024		2025		2026	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Level 8	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
Level 7	66	15.5	74	16.6	105	24.8	82	17.5	90	20.5
Level 6	298	70.1	317	70.9	251	59.3	299	63.9	269	61.1
Level 5	61	14.4	56	12.5	66	15.6	87	18.6	81	18.4
Total	**425**	**100**	**447**	**100**	**423**	**100**	**468**	**100**	**440**	**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. To be registered as a qualified youth worker, there is a minimum qualification requirement of Level 5.

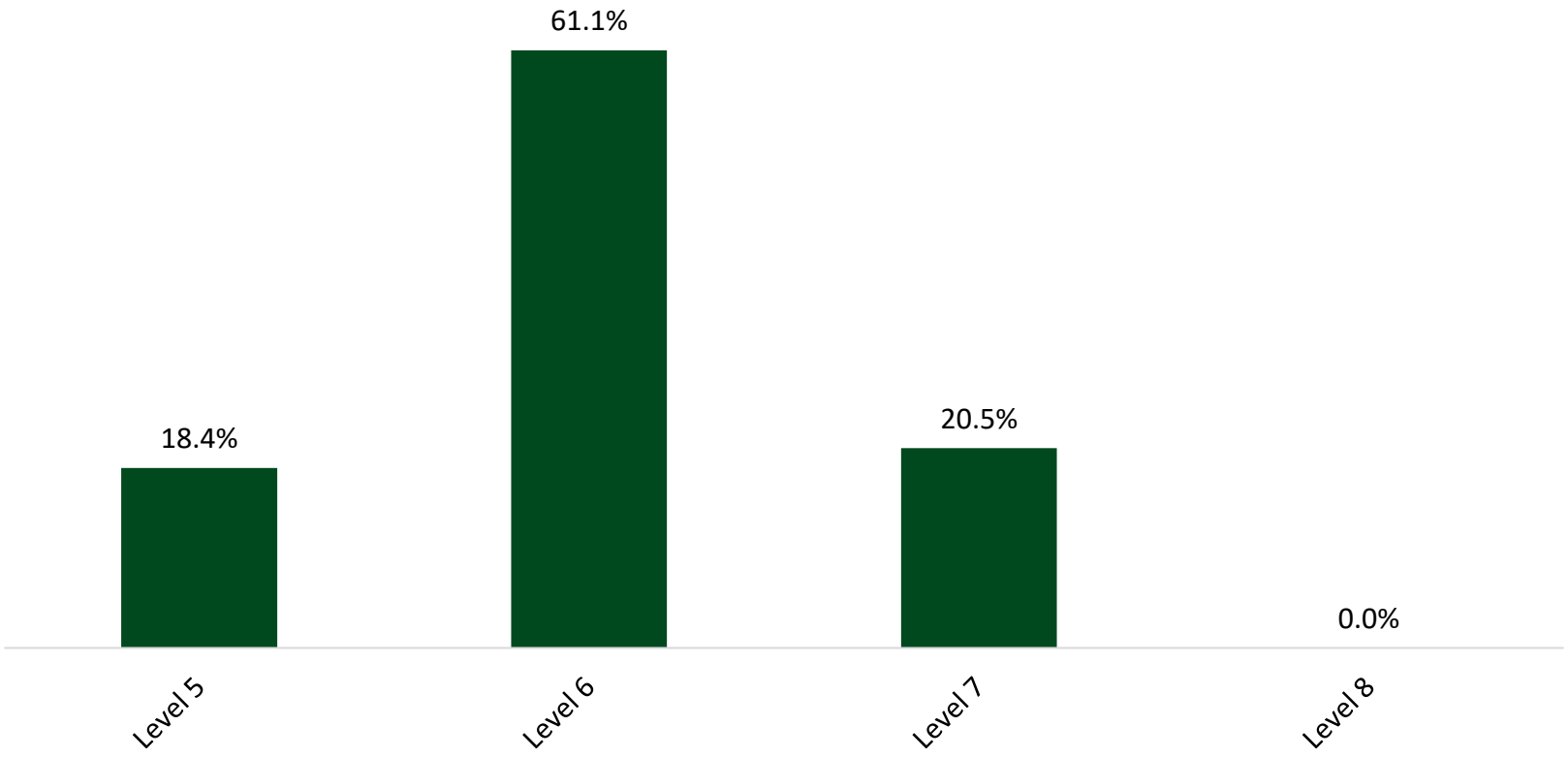

Chart 6: Percentage of qualified youth workers by highest level of qualification in 2026.

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 2021, there were 433 qualified youth workers registered with the EWC. On 1 March 2026, 55.7% of that cohort were still registered as qualified youth workers with the EWC.

	March 2021		March 2026	
	Number	%	Number	%
Registered as a qualified youth worker	433	100	241	55.7
Registered in another category	n/a	n/a	38	8.8
Not registered with the EWC	n/a	n/a	154	35.6
Total	**433**	**100**	**433**	**100**

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

	March 2022		March 2023		March 2024		March 2025		March 2026	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total registered[1]	425	100	447	100	423	100	468	100	440	100
Registrants de-registered since previous year[2]	59	13.6	58	13.6	80	18.9	67	15.8	85	18.2
New registrants since previous year[3]	51	11.8	80	18.8	74	17.5	112	26.5	57	12.2
Increase or decrease on previous year[4]	-8	-1.8	22	5.2	-6	-1.4	45	10.6	-28	-6.0

[1] Total number of registrants in the qualified youth worker category on 1 March in each given year.

[2] Number of qualified youth workers who were registered in the previous year but did not maintain their registration the following year.

[3] Number of new registrants who were admitted to the Register of Education Practitioners in each year.

[4] 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).

2.1 Number registered

Table 2.1: Annual total of registered qualified youth support workers.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Number of qualified youth support workers	689	696	689	704	676	687	699	699	668

March 2026 figures – 562 registered as qualified youth support workers only, 106 in multiple categories. Of the multiples, 91 registrants are registered in 2 categories, 10 are registered in 3 categories, and 5 are registered in 5 categories.

2.2 Gender

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

	2022		2023		2024		2025		2026	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Female	452	66.9	454	66.1	480	68.7	490	70.1	483	72.3
Male	224	33.1	231	33.6	218	31.2	208	29.8	185	27.7
Not specified	0	0.0	2	0.3	1	0.1	1	0.1	0	0.0
Total	**676**	**100**	**687**	**100**	**699**	**100**	**699**	**100**	**668**	**100**

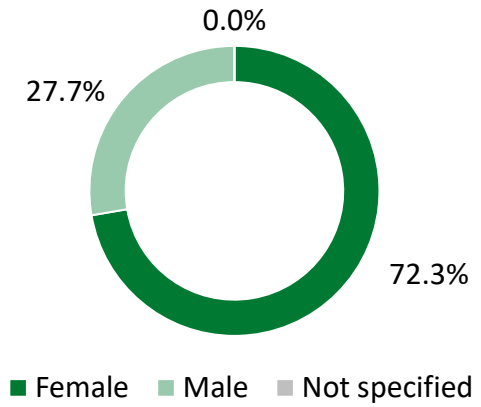

Chart 7: Gender of qualified youth support workers in 2026.

2.3 Age

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

	2022		2023		2024		2025		2026	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Under 25	47	7.0	39	5.7	37	5.3	46	6.6	40	6.0
25 to 29	93	13.8	100	14.6	95	13.6	120	17.2	120	18.0
30 to 34	107	15.8	101	14.7	99	14.2	97	13.9	101	15.1
35 to 39	108	16.0	122	17.8	131	18.7	109	15.6	110	16.5
40 to 44	96	14.2	99	14.4	94	13.4	94	13.4	82	12.3
45 to 49	67	9.9	69	10.0	76	10.9	80	11.4	75	11.2
50 to 54	63	9.3	64	9.3	69	9.9	61	8.7	59	8.8
55 to 59	57	8.4	56	8.2	53	7.6	47	6.7	40	6.0
60 to 64	23	3.4	22	3.2	27	3.9	28	4.0	29	4.3
65 +	15	2.2	15	2.2	18	2.6	17	2.4	12	1.8
Total	**676**	**100**	**687**	**100**	**699**	**100**	**699**	**100**	**668**	**100**

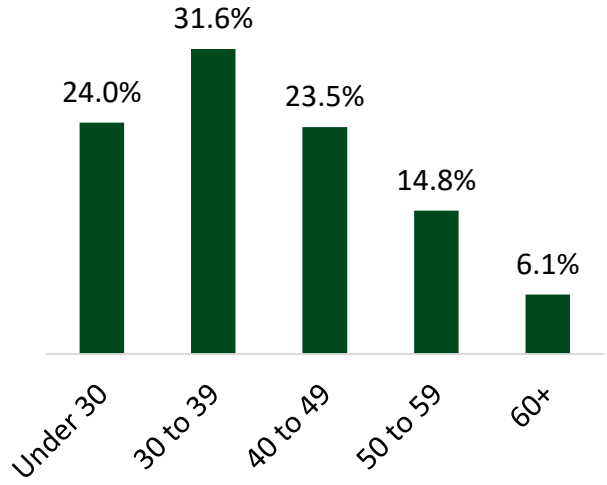

Chart 8: Age of qualified youth support workers in 2026.

2.4 Ethnic group

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

	2022		2023		2024		2025		2026	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
White	479	70.9	511	74.4	535	76.5	564	80.7	565	84.6
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	6	0.9	6	0.9	7	1.0	8	1.1	8	1.2
Asian or Asian British	5	0.7	6	0.9	5	0.7	6	0.9	8	1.2
Black, African, Caribbean, or Black British	3	0.4	4	0.6	6	0.9	4	0.6	5	0.7
Other ethnic group	2	0.3	2	0.3	2	0.3	2	0.3	1	0.1
Does not wish to record ethnic group	18	2.7	19	2.8	16	2.3	16	2.3	13	1.9
Unknown	163	24.1	139	20.2	128	18.3	99	14.2	68	10.2
Total	**676**	**100**	**687**	**100**	**699**	**100**	**699**	**100**	**668**	**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.

	2022		2023		2024		2025		2026	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Welsh	335	49.6	361	52.5	367	52.5	402	57.5	399	59.7
British	131	19.4	132	19.2	143	20.5	148	21.2	155	23.2
English	21	3.1	25	3.6	28	4.0	22	3.1	18	2.7
Scottish, Irish, or Northern Irish	5	0.7	4	0.6	6	0.9	7	1.0	7	1.0
Other	7	1.0	8	1.2	10	1.4	9	1.3	13	1.9
Does not wish to record national identity	13	1.9	17	2.5	14	2.0	12	1.7	8	1.2
Unknown	164	24.3	140	20.4	131	18.7	99	14.2	68	10.2
Total	**676**	**100**	**687**	**100**	**699**	**100**	**699**	**100**	**668**	**100**

2.6 Disability

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

	2022		2023		2024		2025		2026	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	40	5.9	43	6.3	43	6.2	54	7.7	53	7.9
No	636	94.1	644	93.7	656	93.8	645	92.3	615	92.1
Total	**676**	**100**	**687**	**100**	**699**	**100**	**699**	**100**	**668**	**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.

	2022		2023		2024		2025		2026	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Local authority	534	79.0	560	81.5	555	79.4	546	78.1	514	76.9
Youth/voluntary organisation	72	10.7	66	9.6	68	9.7	88	12.6	109	16.3
Other	70	10.4	61	8.9	76	10.9	65	9.3	45	6.7
Total	**676**	**100**	**687**	**100**	**699**	**100**	**699**	**100**	**668**	**100**

Those that make up the other category total comprise of those employed in WBL (2), in schools (1), on a supply basis (27), or where relevant employment information is not held (15).

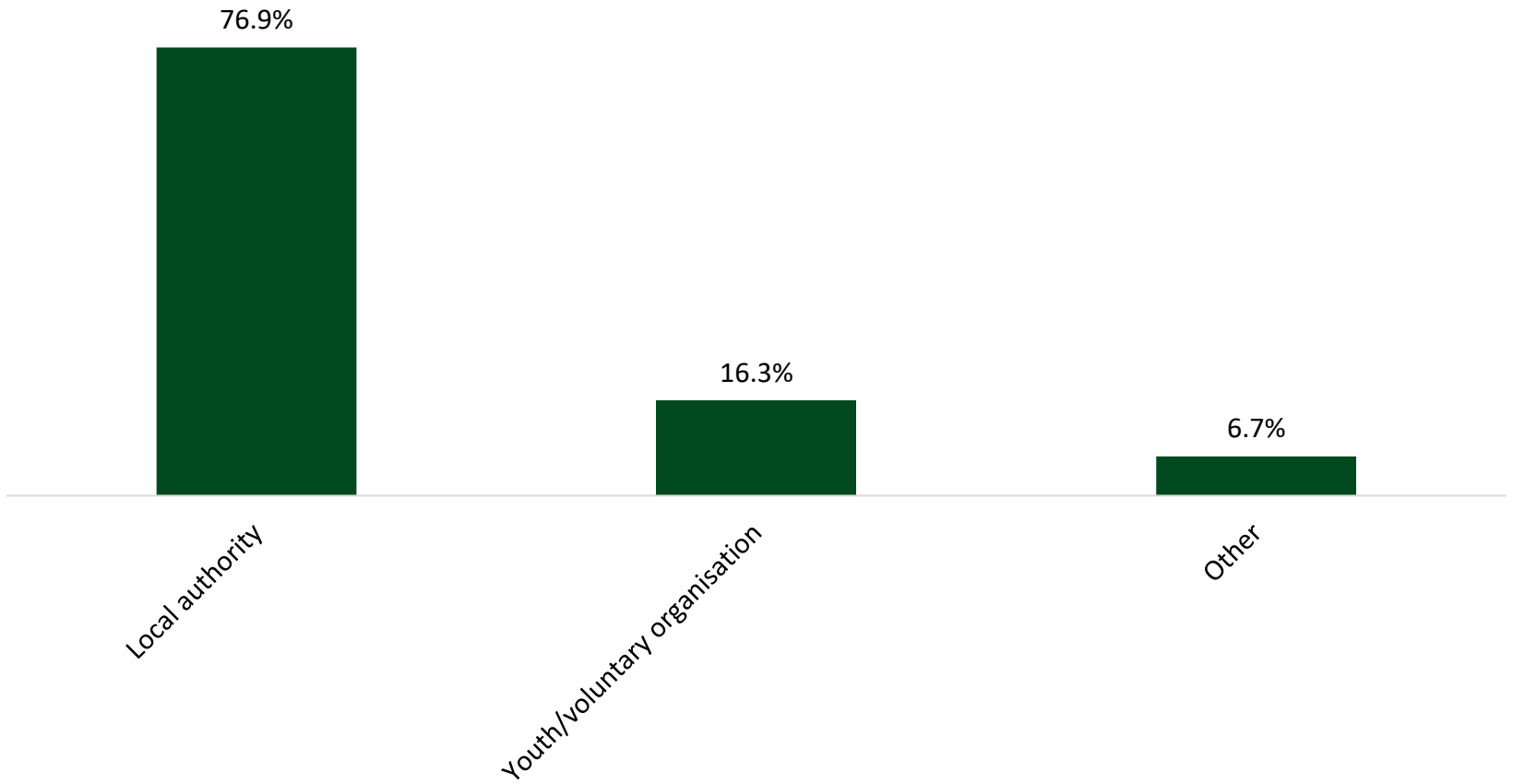

Chart 9: Percentage of registered qualified youth support workers by employer in 2026.

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.

	2022		2023		2024		2025		2026	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	105	15.5	124	18.0	121	17.3	132	18.9	136	20.4
No	429	63.5	447	65.1	484	69.2	499	71.4	481	72.0
Unknown	142	21.0	116	16.9	94	13.4	68	9.7	51	7.6
Total	**676**	**100**	**687**	**100**	**699**	**100**	**699**	**100**	**668**	**100**

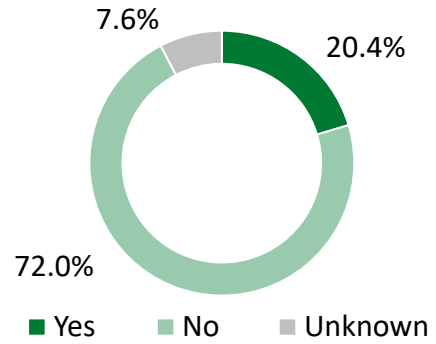

Chart 10: Qualified youth support workers by ability to speak Welsh in 2026.

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.

	2022		2023		2024		2025		2026	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	79	11.7	93	13.5	95	13.6	105	15.0	106	15.9
No	455	67.3	478	69.6	510	73.0	526	75.3	511	76.5
Unknown	142	21.0	116	16.9	94	13.4	68	9.7	51	7.6
Total	**676**	**100**	**687**	**100**	**699**	**100**	**699**	**100**	**668**	**100**

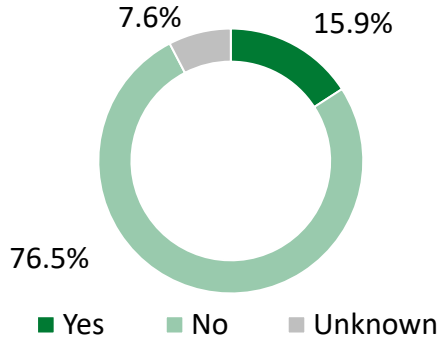

Chart 11: Qualified youth support workers by ability to work through the medium of Welsh in 2026.

2.10 Highest level of qualification

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

	2022		2023		2024		2025		2026	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Level 7	10	1.5	15	2.2	48	6.9	43	6.2	14	2.1
Level 6	78	11.5	99	14.4	124	17.7	97	13.9	64	9.6
Level 5	6	0.9	8	1.2	12	1.7	13	1.9	21	3.1
Level 4	54	8.0	44	6.4	52	7.4	43	6.2	30	4.5
Level 3	293	43.3	284	41.3	258	36.9	330	47.2	512	76.6
Level 2	235	34.8	237	34.5	205	29.3	173	24.7	27	4.0
Total	**676**	**100**	**687**	**100**	**699**	**100**	**699**	**100**	**668**	**100**

To be registered with the EWC, a qualified youth support 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.

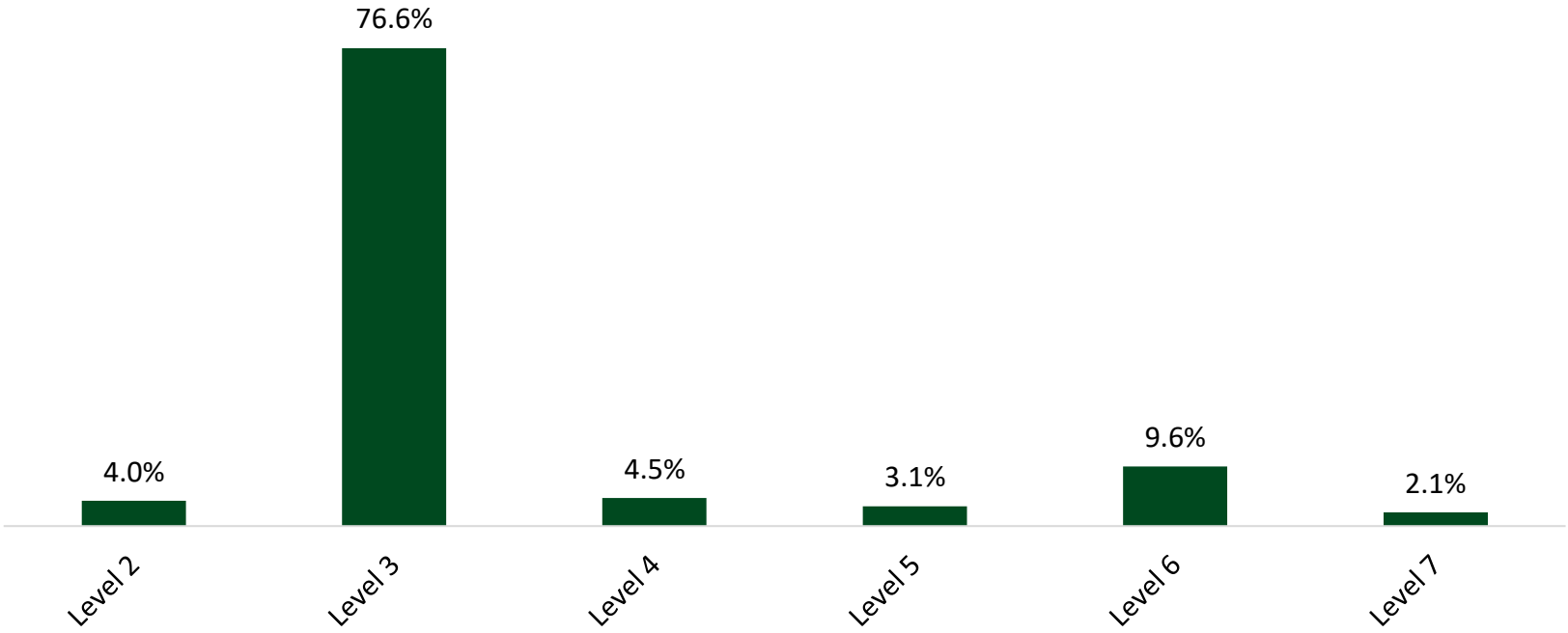

Chart 12: Percentage of qualified youth support workers by highest level of qualification in 2026.

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 2021, there were 704 qualified youth support workers registered with the EWC. On 1 March 2026, 39.9% of that cohort were still registered as qualified youth support workers with the EWC.

	March 2021		March 2026	
	Number	%	Number	%
Registered as a qualified youth support worker	704	100	281	39.9
Registered in another category	n/a	n/a	125	17.8
Not registered with the EWC	n/a	n/a	298	42.3
Total	**704**	**100**	**704**	**100**

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

	March 2022		March 2023		March 2024		March 2025		March 2026	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total registered[1]	676	100	687	100	699	100	699	100	668	100
Registrants de-registered since previous year[2]	102	14.5	101	14.9	76	10.9	192	27.5	176	25.2
New registrants since previous year[3]	74	10.5	112	16.6	88	12.6	192	27.5	145	20.7
Increase or decrease on previous year[4]	-28	-4.0	11	1.6	12	1.7	0	0.0	-31	4.4

[1] Total number of registrants in the qualified youth support worker category on 1 March in each given year.

[2] Number of qualified youth support workers who were registered in the previous year but did not maintain their registration the following year.

[3] Number of new registrants who were admitted to the Register of Education Practitioners in each year.

[4] 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).