

Unpaid carers receiving assessment of carer's needs census 2026-27

Background

The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 [Section 3](#) defines a carer as:

- *a person who provides or intends to provide care for an adult or disabled child.*

The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, **Part 2** Code of Practice ([General Functions](#)), para. 300 (p64) state that the provision of advice and assistance [*requires*] *staff to undertake a proportionate assessment through discussion and analysis of the five elements of the National Assessment and Eligibility Tool.*

The Unpaid Carers receiving assessment census is based on the definition of eligible unpaid carers, i.e. adults (aged 18 or over) and young people (under the age of 18), **who have had a carer's needs assessment or reassessment in the collection year** and whose caring responsibilities are not part of paid employment.

The Carer's Needs Assessment should consist of any assessments of carers' support needs, including those that incorporate detailed or comprehensive assessments within the process of assessment, and those that incorporate specialist carer's assessments. This also includes any assessments of carers' support needs which are incorporated into wider or joint assessments, where the carer has had an assessment of their needs as a carer at the same time as their own or others' care and support needs. If an individual has had multiple assessments in a year, only include the most recent assessment. Include individuals who had an assessment in a previous year and are being assessed again this year; this includes people who are being reassessed as they are already receiving support.

Do not include individuals who are only having their existing support plan reviewed (i.e. not a full assessment). Only include those people who are receiving a full Carer's Needs Assessment, even if that assessment was initiated because of a review.

Data should be submitted to the Welsh Government annually and reflect a financial years' worth of data. This year will detail carers receiving an assessment in the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027.

The Unpaid Carers receiving assessment census was developed with local authorities and other key stakeholders in 2024.

Guidance Notes for completion and submission

The Unpaid Carers receiving assessment census form should be used to record individual data for all carers who have received a carers' support needs assessment in the collection year. The data provided should be accurate to the last interaction the local authority had with the unpaid carer.

This return should be uploaded, validated, and submitted on Objective Connect. Please contact the Data Collection team regarding any queries: stats.pss@gov.wales

Data requirements

Local authorities are required to submit data for unpaid carers who met the eligibility criteria above at any point during the collection year (2026-27), regardless of the date within that year the unpaid carer had an assessment or reassessment.

An individual return is required for each unpaid carer who had a carer's support needs assessment or reassessment in the collection year, regardless as to whether that individual has an active support plan on 31 March. If an individual had multiple assessments in a year, only include the most recent assessment or reassessment.

True / False fields: There are a number of items within the Carers receiving assessment census that can be either true or false. The format for the Carers receiving assessment census is 1 for the true state, and 0 for the false state. However, users of management information systems may be presented with a number of ways of recording this such as with check boxes or a suitable drop-down list. The export functionality for any system will therefore have to convert these fields accordingly. Blank items will be assumed to indicate that data is not available.

Questions about whether the unpaid carer "has" or "had" specified attributes, e.g. health or disability problems, should be answered with reference to the point at which the unpaid carer's assessment was undertaken. This means that the attribute is current *according to the information available or at the point the unpaid carer's assessment was undertaken*.

A full list of data items is in Annex A. The following pages give further detailed guidance for specific sections.

The questions below are to be completed for all unpaid carers who received a carer's needs assessment at any point in the collection year.

Local authority code

512 Isle of Anglesey
514 Gwynedd
516 Conwy
518 Denbighshire
520 Flintshire
522 Wrexham
524 Powys
526 Ceredigion
528 Pembrokeshire
530 Carmarthenshire
532 Swansea
534 Neath Port Talbot
536 Bridgend
538 Vale of Glamorgan
540 Rhondda Cynon Taf
542 Merthyr Tydfil
544 Caerphilly
545 Blaenau Gwent
546 Torfaen
548 Monmouthshire
550 Newport
552 Cardiff

Local authority identifier

This must be a unique ID for each unpaid carer, and it should be retained from year to year. The local authority ID can only contain alphabetic or numeric characters. It must be the same ID that is used for other purposes e.g. Children Receiving Care and Support or Adult Receiving Care and Support censuses.

If you are planning to change the local authority ID, either for a single individual or for a whole group of individuals, it will prevent the Welsh Government from analysing across different census years. For this reason, any proposal to change IDs should be discussed with Welsh Government at an early stage and in advance of any changes.

If the identifier is being provided by a commissioned service, prefix the identifier TP. This will indicate that the identifier is being provided by the third-party organisation.

Unique Pupil Number (UPN)

Young carers in education may have a Unique Pupil Number (UPN). The UPN is automatically allocated to each child in maintained schools and nurseries in England and Wales. It is an identifier only for use in an educational context during a child's school career and is subject to Data Protection restrictions.

The UPN must be 13 characters in the format Annnnnnnnnnnnn or AnnnnnnnnnnnnA (for a temporary UPN) where A is a character and n is numeric. Temporary UPNs may only be issued as an interim measure until the permanent UPN is obtained.

Every attempt must be made by the local authority to track down a child's UPN. If a child has not been assigned a UPN by a maintained school, then they may have been assigned one by the Education Department within the local authority, which has the ability to assign a UPN for those in, for example, alternative provision. Only where it is impossible to discover the UPN should the item be left blank.

Note that maintained Nursery Schools also allocate UPNs, so children may have a UPN from the age of 2 or 3 years onwards.

Surname

The unpaid carer's last known surname should be provided, as currently recorded.

First name(s)

The unpaid carer's last known first name should be provided, as currently recorded. If the individual has multiple first names, please provide all names with a space between the names.

Home postcode

The latest known postcode of the address where the unpaid carer was living. Enter the home postcode of the unpaid carer in the following format e.g. CF10 4SD.

If the unpaid carer is living in a residential care home or any kind of supported accommodation, and this is their main residence, please provide the postcode of the care home.

Where a carer is also a child looked after by the local authority, the home postcode is not required for children looked after where the child was in an adoption placement. Where a child has no fixed abode, please use the most recent postcode available. Where a child has a postcode, but it cannot be given due to safeguarding, UASC requirements, or other similar circumstances, enter YYYY YYY. Leave home postcode field blank only if no postcode has ever been recorded for the child.

Date of birth

The date of birth should be provided in the format DD/MM/YYYY.

If the exact date of birth is not known, record an approximate date of birth based on the unpaid carer's estimated age at date of assessment.

Gender

Gender is how the individual identifies themselves. Their gender identity may not be the same as the sex on their birth certificate. Individuals can refuse to provide this information.

- 1 Male
- 2 Female
- 3 Other
- 4 Not disclosed or unknown

Ethnicity

Ethnicity should be determined by first asking the unpaid carer about their ethnic identity, as part of their carer's support needs assessment.

WTE1 - Gypsy or Irish Traveller

WTE2 - Roma

WTE3 - Any other White background (including English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British)

MIXD1 - White and Black Caribbean

MIXD2 - White and Black African

MIXD3 - White and Asian

MIXD4 - Any other mixed background / multiple ethnic background

ASAB1 - Indian

ASAB2 - Pakistani

ASAB3 - Bangladeshi

ASAB4 - Chinese

ASAB5 - Any other Asian background

BBAC1 - Caribbean

BBAC2 - African

BBAC3 - Any other Black background

OOTH1 - Arab

OOTH2 - Any other ethnic group

UNKN1 – Unknown

Disability

For the purposes of this data item, the definition of disabled follows that of Section 6 of the Equality Act 2010, which states that:

“A person (P) has a disability if -

(a) P has a physical or mental impairment, and

(b) The impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on P's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.”

Does the unpaid carer have a disability?

- Yes
- No
- Unknown

If No or Unknown is selected then no other entries should be made in this section.

If Yes is selected, then select each of the specified impairment types that apply; enter 1 if the carer had an impairment of this type when the carer's needs assessment was completed.

Enter 0 if the unpaid carer did not have an impairment of this type when the carer's needs assessment was completed.

Categories of impairment:

- Sight
- Hearing
- Physical (e.g. gross motor, manual dexterity, or mobility)
- Mental illness (not dementia or neurodevelopmental condition)
- Dementia
- Neurodevelopmental condition (e.g. Autistic Spectrum Condition, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Tourette's syndrome, or learning disability)
- Other (not listed)
- Not known

Unpaid carers may have multiple impairments, in which case more than one category can be entered as true. There may be a small number of individuals who are disabled, but do not have any of the specified impairments. For these unpaid carers, please enter 1 for Other (not listed) and provide the disability in the box provided.

If it is unknown what impairment the carer has (e.g. the data is not recorded), please enter 1 for Not known.

Language

Record the unpaid carer's preferred language; this is the language the unpaid carer prefers to use to communicate with others. If there are differences between the preferred written or spoken language, use the language in which the assessment was provided. Typically, this will be the preferred spoken or face-to-face language. See Annex B – Code List Language.

Record the language preference when the carer's needs assessment was completed.

Date carer's needs assessment completed

A statutory carer's needs assessment is defined by [Part 3, section 24 of the Social Services and Wellbeing \(Wales\) Act 2014](#).

An assessment or reassessment is considered complete, when it has been authorised by a practice manager or a person acting on that person's behalf (e.g. allocated social worker). This should be when the outcome of the assessment has been decided and agreed.

This applies only to (re)assessments completed in the collection year. This field records the date of the most recent (re)assessment in the collection year.

- Where a carer was assessed for the first and only time in the collection year, record this date.
- Where a carer already had a carer's support plan, and was reassessed in the collection year, record the date of the reassessment.
- Where a carer was assessed more than once in the collection year, record the date of the most recent (re)assessment.

This should be recorded as DD/MM/YYYY.

An assessment may also have multiple elements, record only when these elements have all been completed.

Outcome of carer's needs assessment

At the point of completion of a carer's needs assessment, the outcome should be one of the following:

1. Eligible needs could be met with a carer's support plan or care and support plan. This is when the local authority is providing, or planning to provide, any support/provisions through a support plan. The plan might belong to the unpaid carer, or alternatively it might belong to the individual the carer cares for, providing joint support for both the cared-for individual and the unpaid carer.
2. Eligible needs were able to be met by any other means. For example, support made available through preventative services or a third party.
3. There were no eligible needs to meet.

The results of assessment contained in the national assessment and eligibility tool should be mapped to the appropriate subcategory listed above. The assessment process should be counted as a whole and an outcome recorded **once the process has completed in its entirety**. An outcome should be recorded **for every completed assessment**.

Types of services

Where the outcome of the carer's assessment is that the carer's identified needs can only be met with the provision of a support plan or a care and support plan, (i.e. if 1 is selected under Outcome of carer's needs assessment) **record the types of services the carer requires**. This support is for the purpose of enabling the unpaid carer to continue in their caring role and/or for the unpaid carer to receive respite time for caring responsibilities. This support is **funded by the LA and offered to the unpaid carer** as a result of their carer's needs assessment.

Only include support that is made available to unpaid carers who have received a carer's assessment.

For each type of service, enter 1 if this is required by the unpaid carer. An individual may require more than one type of service, please select **all types** that the individual requires. Enter 0 if the unpaid carer does not **require** this type of service

Types of service:

- Care replacement or relief or respite
- Funded activities
- Domestic assistance
- Direct payments – type of service purchased by direct payment does not need to be known
- Other

Care Replacement/Relief/Respite – Support provided by the local authority to provide relief to the unpaid carer and/or person being cared for. This may be either:

- where the individual who receives care and support is temporarily accommodated away from their home or usual place of residence, e.g. in a residential home setting.
- where a paid carer provides support in the person's home or usual place of residence.

The period of care should cover one or more hours but not exceed 3 months. Do not include temporary care home accommodation for those individuals awaiting a long-term package.

Funded activities – Activities which the local authority provides or funds, which is to support the carers' wellbeing. These can include leisure, social, cultural or educational needs of the carer. This may include peer support groups, counselling, and exercise classes. There should be a cost to these activities which is met by the local authority.

Domestic assistance – Additional support to the carer in providing their caring role. This may be helping with cleaning, cooking or providing care to the 'cared for' person. This may be the local authority providing staff time to assist the unpaid carer or paying for a service for the same purpose.

Direct payments – Monetary payments made by local authorities directly to the unpaid carer for the purchase of care and support services. Choose this option regardless of whether you know what kind(s) of services(s) are purchased using direct payments.

Care and support needs

An unpaid carer may also have their own care and support needs, in addition to providing care to a disabled adult or child. These needs might or might not be eligible for support from the local authority through a care and support plan but regardless might also affect their ability to carry out their caring role.

These care and support needs may be identified by offering a separate assessment or undertaking a joint carer's needs and care and support needs assessment.

At the most recent carer's support needs assessments, was the unpaid carer identified as having their own care and support needs?

1. Yes – carer has a plan with local authority for their own care needs
2. Yes – but carer does not have a care and support plan with the local authority (either because they have not been assessed, or their needs are not eligible for care and support plan)
3. No care and support needs.
4. Not known

Annex A – List of data items

Local authority code
Local authority identifier
UPN
Surname
First name(s)
Home postcode
Date of birth
Gender
Ethnicity
Disability
Impairment – Sight
Impairment – Hearing
Impairment – Physical
Impairment – Mental illness
Impairment – Dementia
Impairment – Neurodevelopmental condition
Impairment – Other (not listed)
Impairment – Not known
Language
Date carer's needs assessment completed
Outcome of carer's needs assessment
Types of services - Care replacement/relief
Types of services - Funded activities
Types of services - Domestic assistance
Types of services - Direct payments
Types of services – Other
Care and support needs

Annex B - Code List Language

Code	Language
ENG	English
CYM	Welsh/Cymraeg
ACL	Acholi
ADA	Adangme
AFA	Afar-Saho
AFK	Afrikaans
AKA	Akan/Twi-Fante
ALB	Albanian/Shqip
ALU	Alur
AMR	Amharic
ARA	Arabic
ARM	Armenian
ASM	Assamese
ASR	Assyrian/Aramaic
AYB	Anyi-Baule
AYM	Aymara
AZE	Azeri
BAI	Bamileke (Any)
BAL	Balochi
BEJ	Beja/Bedawi
BEL	Belarusian
BEM	Bemba
BHO	Bhojpuri
BIK	Bikol
BIS	Bislama
BLT	Balti Tibetan
BMA	Burmese/Myanma
BNG	Bengali
BSL	British Sign Language
BSQ	Basque/Euskara
BUL	Bulgarian
CAM	Cambodian/Khmer
CAT	Catalan
CCE	Caribbean Creole English
CF	Caribbean Creole French
CGA	Chaga
CGR	Chattisgarhi/Khatahi
CHE	Chechen
CHI	Chinese
CKW	Chokwe
CRN	Cornish
CTR	Chitrالي/Khowar
CWA	Chichewa/Nyanja
CZE	Czech
DAN	Danish
DGA	Dagaare
DGB	Dagbane
DIN	Dinka/Jieng
DUT	Dutch/Flemish
DZO	Dzongkha/Bhutanese
EBI	Ebira
EDO	Edo/Bini
EFI	Efik-Ibibio
ESA	Esan/Ishan

Code	Language
EST	Estonian
EWE	Ewe
EWO	Ewondo
FAN	Fang
FIJ	Fijian
FIN	Finnish
FON	Fon
FRN	French
FUL	Fula/Fulfulde-Pulaar
GAA	Ga
GAE	Gaelic/Irish
GAL	Gaelic (Scotland)
GEO	Georgian
GER	German
GGO	Gogo/Chigogo
GKY	Kikuyu/Gikuyu
GLG	Galician/Galego
GRE	Greek
GRN	Guarani
GUJ	Gujarati
GUN	Gurenne/Frafra
GUR	Gurma
HAU	Hausa
HDK	Hindko
HEB	Hebrew
HER	Herero
HGR	Hungarian
HIN	Hindi
IBA	Iban
IDM	Idoma
IGA	Igala
IGB	Igbo
IJO	Ijo (Any)
ILO	Ilokano
ISK	Itsekiri
ISL	Icelandic
ITA	Italian
JAV	Javanese
JIN	Jinghpaw/Kachin
JPN	Japanese
KAM	Kikamba
KAN	Kannada
KAR	Karen (Any)
KAS	Kashmiri
KAU	Kanuri
KAZ	Kazakh
KCH	Katchi
KGZ	Kirghiz/Kyrgyz
KHA	Khasi
KHY	Kihaya/Luziba
KIN	Kinyarwanda
KIR	Kirundi
KIS	Kisi (West Africa)
KLN	Kalenjin
KMB	Kimbundu
KME	Kimeru
KNK	Konkani

Code	Language
KNY	Kinyakyusa-Ngonde
KON	Kikongo
KOR	Korean
KPE	Kpelle
KRI	Krio
KRU	Kru (Any)
KSI	Kisii/Ekegusii (Kenya)
KSU	Kisukuma
KUR	Kurdish
LAO	Lao
LBA	Luba
LGA	Luganda
LGB	Lugbara
LGS	Lugisu/Lumasaba
LIN	Lingala
LIT	Lithuanian
LNG	Lango (Uganda)
LOZ	Lozi/Silozi
LSO	Lusoga
LTV	Latvian
LTZ	Luxemburgish
LUE	Luvale/Luena
LUN	Lunda
LUO	Luo (Kenya/Tanzania)
LUY	Luhya (Any)
MAG	Magahi
MAI	Maithili
MAK	Makua
MAN	Manding/Mandekan
MAO	Maori
MAR	Marathi
MAS	Maasai
MDV	Maldivian/Dhivehi
MEN	Mende
MKD	Macedonian
MLG	Malagasy
MLM	Malayalam
MLT	Maltese
MLY	Malay/Indonesian
MNA	Magindanao-Maranao
MNG	Mongolian (Khalkha)
MNX	Manx Gaelic
MOR	Moore/Mossi
MSC	Mauritian/Seychelles Creole
MUN	Munda (Any)
MYA	Maya (Any)
NAH	Nahuatl/Mexicano
NAM	Nama/Damara
NBN	Nubian (Any)
NDB	Ndebele
NEP	Nepali
NOR	Norwegian
NUE	Nuer/Naadh
NUP	Nupe
NWA	Newari
NZM	Nzema
OAM	Ambo/Oshiwambo

Code	Language
OGN	Ogoni (Any)
ORI	Oriya
ORM	Oromo
OTL	Other Language / Unknown / Unable to communicate
PAG	Pangasinan
PAM	Pampangan
PAT	Pashto/Pakhto
PHA	Pahari/Himachali (India)
PHR	Pahari (Pakistan)
PNJ	Panjabi
POL	Polish
POR	Portuguese
PRS	Persian/Farsi
QUE	Quechua
RAJ	Rajasthani/Marwari
RME	Romany/English Romanes
RMI	Romani (International)
RMN	Romanian
RMS	Romansch
RNY	Runyakitara
RUS	Russian
SAM	Samoan
SCB	Serbian/Croatian/Bosnian
SCO	Scots
SHL	Shilluk/Cholo
HO	Shona
SID	Sidamo
SIO	Sign Language (Other)
SLO	Slovak
SLV	Slovenian
SND	Sindhi
SNG	Sango
SNH	Sinhala
SOM	Somali
SPA	Spanish
SRD	Sardinian
SRK	Siraiki
SSO	Sotho/Sesotho
SSW	Swazi/Siswati
STS	Tswana/Setswana
SWA	Swahili/Kiswahili
SWE	Swedish
TAM	Tamil
TEL	Telugu
TEM	Temne
TES	Teso/Ateso
TGE	Tigre
TGL	Tagalog/Filipino
TGR	Tigrinya
THA	Thai
TIB	Tibetan
TIV	Tiv
TMZ	Berber/Tamazight
TNG	Tonga/Chitonga (Zambia)
TON	Tongan (Oceania)
TPI	Tok Pisin
TRI	Traveller Irish/Shelta

Code	Language
TSO	Tsonga
TUK	Turkmen
TUL	Tulu
TUM	Tumbuka
TUR	Turkish
UKR	Ukrainian
UMB	Umbundu
URD	Urdu
URH	Urhobo-Isoko
UYG	Uyghur
UZB	Uzbek
VEN	Venda
VIE	Vietnamese
VSY	Visayan/Bisaya
WAP	Wa-Paraok (South-East Asia)
WCP	West-African Creole Portuguese
WOL	Wolof
WPE	West-African Pidgin English
XHO	Xhosa
YAO	Yao/Chiyao (East Africa)
YDI	Yiddish
YOR	Yoruba
ZND	Zande
ZUL	Zulu
ZZX	Refused

Annex C – Change Log

Change Log 2026-27 Version 0.1

- Dates rolled forwards from previous collection year.
- Formatting improved for accessibility.
- Disability wording revised.
- Provisions data item removed.
- Care and support needs and care and support plans data items combined.
- Additional guidance where an individual has multiple assessments in year.
- Further guidance given for Home Postcode.