

Workforce Retention

Practical approaches making a difference in social care

September 2025











DAVE BEESLEY
Social Care Talent Director
Cohesion

ANNA POSSEE



Social Care Workforce Retentions Lead Cohesion



DAMIEN WILKINS

Head of Product Development Care Character

NIKKI AYLIFF

Nikki Ayliff Care Consultancy



The Project...





Where are we now?

24.7%

Adult Social Care Turnover (Skills for Care)

10%

60%





Themes



PAY & BENEFITS



FLEXIBILITY & WORKING PATTERNS



RECRUITMENT & ONBOARDING



COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT



DEVELOPMENT &
CAREER
PATHWAYS



CULTURE & LEADERSHIP







Theme One: Pay & Benefits

Meals during shift

Attendance bonuses

On-Demand Pay Long Service Awards

Plant a tree for birthdays

Occupational Sick Pay

Loans

Food

Petrol

London Living Wage

24/7 GP Access

Cost of living support

Annual Review of Benefits

Retention bonuses

Recognition Vouchers

Real Living Wage



Theme Two: Flexibility & Working Patterns

Shorter shifts

School Parents

"I can make it work"

Hybrid working for central teams

Retirees
Creative alternatives to pay

Service Manager Level
Shift planning technology



Theme Three: Recruitment & Onboarding





Theme Four: Communication & Engagement

Employee Interviews

Improved people processes Social events Difficult Conversations

Thank you from CEO "We Miss You"

Town Halls
Leaver Interventions

Exec Team Visibility

Generational differences

Values-linked events & awards

Co-produced policies & care

"This is Me" Service milestones

Self-serve systems

Recognition Cards



Theme Five: Development & Career Pathways

Champions

Clear pathways Service bespoke L&D

PDPs

Peer Support & Networks

Training reviews

Succession planning Neurodivergence

Accessible training

Alternative progression routes

Specialist roles



Theme Six: Culture & Leadership

Values representation

Appraisals & Behaviours

Accidental Managers

Culture Surveys Tackling negativity

EDI focus

Values statements
Culture Scores **Expectations of Managers**

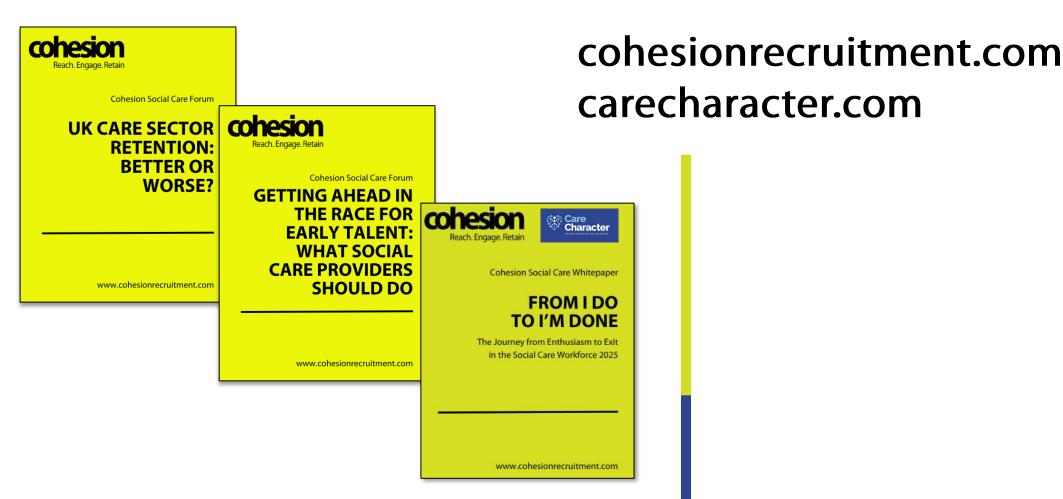
Recognition Structured training & support Psychological safety

What's next?

dave.beesley@cohesionrecruitment.com anna.possee@cohesionrecruitment.com damien.wilkins@carecharacter.co.uk







https://cohesionrecruitment.com/whitepapers/

