

Version 1 – published 25 May 2011

Version 2 – published 29 June 2011

Announcement of Changes to the Social Care Publications

The Social Care Statistics Team in the NHS Information Centre has completed a review of our disclosure rules which are designed to reduce the risk of people being identified.

This has resulted in a change to the rounding and suppression rules which are used when disseminating social care data activity, expenditure, staffing and register data.

Previously small numbers between 1 and 6 were suppressed, larger numbers were rounded to the nearest five and a zero was displayed as a zero.

Now, no numbers will be suppressed and all numbers will be rounded to the nearest 5. This means that small numbers previously suppressed will now be rounded to either 0 or 5, so a zero may now be a zero or a number less than 2.5.

The publication outputs this will affect are listed below:

- Personal Social Services: Expenditure and Unit Costs, England Provisional and Final Release [NS]
- Registered Blind and Partially Sighted People - Year ending 31 March [NS]
- Personal Social Services Staff of Social Services Departments England at 30 September [NS]
- Community Care Statistics: Social Services Activity, England Provisional and Final Release [NS]

[NS] denotes that the publication has National Statistics status.

As at 30 June 2011, the following text was added:

For the publications relating to 2009/10 data, no revisions were allowed to council figures previously published as final data. This was discussed and agreed with the Adult Review Group¹ and subsequently communicated to all councils.

This will also apply to publications of 2010/11 data and beyond.

¹ See paper 25/05 for meeting of Adult Review Group on 15 April 2010.