

## Introduction

'Social work during the Covid-19 pandemic: Initial Findings' reports the results of a survey by conducted by The British Association of Social Work (BASW), between 30 November and 31 December 2020 across the four nations of the UK.

1119 social workers, in a range of roles, took part. We are grateful to the participants for giving the time to complete the survey.

This report sets out the key messages, background and objectives, the methodology and the results of the survey.

## Key Findings

1. **51.2%** of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they were able to carry out their role with the confidence and support they needed; 30.7% disagreed or strongly disagreed.
2. **77.7%** agreed or strongly agreed that their experience of working under lockdown restrictions had increased their concerns about the capacity to safeguard/protect adults and children.
3. **67.6%** of respondents who worked in children's services agreed or strongly agreed that they had seen an increase in the number of referrals and/or their caseload since the return to schools and colleges for autumn 2020.
4. **63.5%** of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their access to PPE and risk management advice had improved since March 2020; 15.6% disagreed or strongly disagreed.
5. **59.3%** agreed or strongly agreed that their employer had supported them in their assessment around the risks of carrying out home and other visits; 17.8% disagreed or strongly disagreed.
6. **69.2%** of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their employer had taken reasonable steps to ensure that they could work safely; 14.4% disagreed or strongly disagreed.
7. **78%** agreed or strongly agreed that their employer had taken reasonable steps to ensure that they were able to work from home where appropriate; 9.3% disagreed or strongly disagreed.
8. **22.3%** of respondents who were shielding or at high risk during the first lockdown disagreed or strongly disagreed that their employer had accommodated this fact.
9. **30.7%** agreed or strongly agreed that they had felt under pressure to work while unwell.
10. **71.5%** of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the Covid-19 crisis had adversely impacted workplace morale in their place of employment.
11. **75.2%** said they had not sought, or did not intend to seek, advice from a trade union or employment service; 12.4% indicated that they had done so or would do so.
12. **58.8%** agreed or strongly agreed that working during the Covid-19 crisis had negatively impacted upon their own mental health.

13. **68.3%** of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that working from home during the Covid-19 crisis had made it more difficult for them to switch off from work.
14. **63.5%** of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they had encountered more ethical and moral dilemmas since the introduction of lockdown restrictions.
15. **38.7%** of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they had encountered discrimination, equalities or rights' breaches affecting service users which related to the Covid-19 crisis; 32.7% disagreed.
16. **78.7%** agreed or strongly agreed that they had encountered more difficulties in accessing essential support services for the people with whom they worked.
17. **69.7%** agreed that they had encountered more difficulties in communicating with service users because of the digital exclusion experienced by the latter.
18. **51.5%** of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they had encountered more difficulties in monitoring safeguarding access/carrying out safe and effective adult and child protection visits because of limited face-to-face access.
19. **81.1%** of respondents agreed that BASW should support Amnesty's campaign for an urgent public inquiry into deaths in care homes during the pandemic.

## Background and objectives

During 2020, social workers were operating in new circumstances resulting from the global spread of the Covid-19 virus. The pandemic, and the restrictions implemented to control it, impacted on every area of our lives. As part of its response, BASW conducted two surveys exploring the impact of working during the pandemic for social workers. This report presents the initial findings from the second of these two surveys.

This second survey picked up themes that had been identified during the earlier survey. It examined whether the working situation for social workers had improved over the course of the year and the challenges and areas of concern social workers had confronted operating on the front-line during that time. In addition, the survey looked at the impact working in these circumstances was having upon social workers themselves.

The initial findings of this survey will be used to inform BASW's discussions with policy makers at UK, devolved and local authority level, highlighting key areas of concern that need to be addressed. Further analysis of the results from this survey will look at experiences in different areas of practice for issues like access to care settings and increases in referral rates and/or caseload. Findings will also be used to identify key areas that require further investigation.

## Methodology

The survey was conducted on-line through the BASW website. It opened on 30th November 2020 and closed on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. Although hosted on the BASW website, it was open to non-member social workers to respond. Most of the questions used Likert scale responses, which are commonly used in questionnaires. The Likert scale is used as a way of establishing respondents' attitudes on an issue as they indicate whether they strongly disagree, disagree, neither agree nor disagree, agree or strongly agree with a statement. In this instance, an option to indicate that the statement did not apply to their situation was also included.

Statements covered issues such as access to PPE, employer support, the impact of working during the pandemic on the social worker themselves and ethical and rights concerns. Respondents did not receive any incentive for completing this survey.

As an on-line survey, there are caveats that should be noted. Respondents represent a self-selecting sample, being those social workers who felt motivated to respond. Consequently this may result in bias if those with particular types of experiences were more likely to respond.

In total, the survey received 1119 responses from across the UK. Descriptive statistics have been produced from the results. Not all respondents replied to all questions, but descriptive statistics have been calculated here based upon the total sample size, unless otherwise specified. In the following results, percentages have been calculated to one decimal place. Percentages may not total 100% due to non-responses and the rounding process.

## Results

The survey was open to social workers from across the UK and at all stages of their working career. 90% of those who responded to the survey were existing members of BASW as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Are you currently a member of BASW?

<b>BASW Membership</b>	<b>No. of responses</b>	<b>% of respondents</b>
Yes	1011	90.3%
No	108	9.7%
	1119	

### *Working during the pandemic*

Survey respondents were asked about their field of practice and their primary role. The results to these questions can be found in Appendix A. Responses to these questions led to a sub-set of conditional questions, the results of which will be analysed in a subsequent report.

After the conditional questions, respondents returned to the main survey questions. The first of these related to how confident and supported they felt carrying out their role at this stage of the pandemic (approximately eight months after the introduction of the first round of lockdown restrictions on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020). Whilst just over one half of respondents (51.2%) agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, it is noticeable that just under one-third of respondents (30.7%) disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement.

Table 2: I can carry out my role with confidence and the support I need at this stage of the pandemic.

<b>Response</b>	<b>No of responses</b>	<b>% of overall sample (1119)</b>
Strongly disagree	89	8%
Disagree	254	22.7%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	192	17.2%
Agree	462	41.3%
Strongly agree	111	9.9%
Not applicable	5	0.4%
	1113	

**Key finding 1: 51.2% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they were able to carry out their role with the confidence and support they needed; 30.7% disagreed or strongly disagreed.**

Respondents were then asked whether or not they agreed with a statement about increased concerns with regard to the capacity to safeguard/protect adults and children. As demonstrated in Table 3, more than three-quarters of respondents (77.7%) agreed or strongly agreed that their concerns about this capacity had increased<sup>1</sup>.

Table 3: Based upon my experience of working under lockdown restrictions, my concerns about the capacity to safeguard/protect adults and children<sup>2</sup> have increased since March 2020.

Response	No of responses	% of overall sample (1119)
Strongly disagree	35	3.1%
Disagree	71	6.3%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	122	10.9%
Agree	537	48%
Strongly agree	332	29.7%
Not applicable	14	1.3%
	1111	

**Key finding 2: 77.7% agreed or strongly agreed that their experience of working under lockdown restrictions had increased their concerns about the capacity to safeguard/protect adults and children.**

The survey went on to ask whether respondents felt that their access to personal protective equipment (PPE) and risk management advice had improved since the UK went into the first set of lockdown restrictions on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 when widespread issues regarding the lack of PPE were being reported. Just under two-thirds of respondents (63.5%) reported that the situation had improved<sup>3</sup>. However, this should not be interpreted as an indication that these respondents have access to all the PPE and risk management advice they require. Furthermore 15% of respondents

<sup>1</sup> Due to a problem in the survey build, this question was asked twice. The second set of responses almost exactly reflected this finding with 75% agreeing or strongly agreeing that their concerns had increased. The split between Agree and Strongly Agree was slightly different with 50.2% agreeing and 24.8% strongly agreeing. Slightly fewer people responded to the question the second time it was asked – 1095.

<sup>2</sup> The wording of this question reflects the fact that the relevant terminology differs across the UK.

<sup>3</sup> Due to a problem in the survey build, this question was asked twice. The second set of responses almost exactly reflected this finding with 63.8% agreeing or strongly agreeing that access had improved. The split of responses between Agree and Strongly agree was somewhat different in the second set of responses, with 50.2% agreeing and 13.6% strongly agreeing. Slightly fewer respondents (1092) responded to the repeat of the question.

disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement that their access to PPE and risk management advice had improved, indicating that there are still problems of access.

Table 4: Since the first UK-wide lockdown began on 23 March 2020, my access to Personal Protective Equipment and risk management advice has improved.

<b>Response</b>	<b>No of responses</b>	<b>% of overall sample (1119)</b>
Strongly disagree	63	5.6%
Disagree	112	10%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	148	13.2%
Agree	508	45.4%
Strongly agree	203	18.1%
Not applicable	76	6.8%
	1110	

**Key finding 3: 67.6% of respondents who worked in children’s services agreed or strongly agreed that they had seen an increase in the number of referrals and/or their caseload since the return to schools and colleges for autumn 2020.**

As part of the survey, respondents were asked to identify their field of social work. 518 respondents said that they worked with children and families. One of the questions this group was asked related to increases in caseload and/or referrals after the return of children and young people to schools and colleges in autumn 2020. In response to this question, more than two-thirds (67.6%) of those working with children and families agreed or strongly agreed that they had seen such an increase.

Table 5: I have seen an increase in the number of referrals and/or my caseload since the return of children and young people to schools and colleges in September 2020.

<b>Response</b>	<b>No of responses</b>	<b>% of overall sample (518)</b>
Strongly disagree	8	1.5%
Disagree	33	6.4%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	83	16%
Agree	173	33.4%
Strongly agree	177	34.2%
Not applicable	38	7.3%
	512	

**Key finding 4: 63.5% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their access to PPE and risk management advice had improved since March 2020; 15.6% disagreed or strongly disagreed.**

The survey then moved on to ask questions specifically relating to how respondents felt about support from their employers in various respects. The number of respondents returning ‘not applicable’ increases here due to independent social workers and students not having a direct employer.

The next statement, shown in Table 6, explored the issue of how supportive employers had been with regard to the question of assessing the risks for home visits and visits to other settings by social workers. Almost 3 in 5 social workers (59.3%) agreed or strongly agreed that their employer had supported them in this respect. However, a clear minority (17.8%) of respondents felt that they had not been supported.

Table 6: My employer has supported me in my assessment around the risks of carrying out visits to people’s homes or other settings.

<b>Response</b>	<b>No of responses</b>	<b>% of overall sample (1119)</b>
Strongly disagree	63	5.6%
Disagree	136	12.2%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	145	13%
Agree	464	41.5%
Strongly agree	199	17.8%
Not applicable	95	8.5%
	1102	

**Key finding 5: 59.3% agreed or strongly agreed that their employer had supported them in their assessment around the risks of carrying out home and other visits; 17.8% disagreed or strongly disagreed.**

Table 7 shows the results for the question of whether respondents felt their employer had taken reasonable steps to ensure that they could work safely, with more than two-thirds (69.2%) agreeing or strongly agreeing that this was the case. It was left to the respondent to determine what they considered to be ‘reasonable’ on the part of their employer. Once again, however, almost 15% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement.

Table 7: My employer has taken reasonable steps to ensure that I can work safely.

<b>Response</b>	<b>No of responses</b>	<b>% of overall sample (1119)</b>
Strongly disagree	52	4.6%
Disagree	110	9.8%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	123	11%
Agree	530	47.4%
Strongly agree	244	21.8%
Not applicable	38	3.4%
	1097	

**Key finding 6: 69.2% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their employer had taken reasonable steps to ensure that they could work safely; 14.4% disagreed or strongly disagreed**

During the course of the pandemic, the working population were prompted to work from home wherever possible and this included many social workers who would normally be office-based when not conducting visits. The next question developed upon the preceding question and asked whether respondents considered employers had taken reasonable steps to ensure that they were able to work from home where appropriate. Again, a clear majority of respondents (78%) agreed or strongly agreed with the statement. Just under 10% (9.3%) disagreed or strongly disagreed.

Table 8: My employer has taken reasonable steps to ensure that I am able to work from home where it is appropriate to do so.

<b>Response</b>	<b>No of responses</b>	<b>% of overall sample (1119)</b>
Strongly disagree	43	3.8%
Disagree	62	5.5%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	62	5.5%
Agree	435	38.9%
Strongly agree	437	39.1%
Not applicable	49	4.4%
	1088	

**Key finding 7: 78% agreed or strongly agreed that their employer had taken reasonable steps to ensure that they were able to work from home where appropriate; 9.3% disagreed or strongly disagreed.**

The survey then looked at the experience of a specific sub-set of the sample by asking about employers accommodating those who were placed in the shielding group during the first lockdown or who are considered to be at high risk if they caught Covid-19.

More than half of those who responded declared that this question did not apply to them. Of those who were affected, just over 1 in 5 (21.8%) of the total sample agreed or strongly agreed with the statement.

However, if we exclude those who replied that the question did not apply to them i.e., they were not shielding or at high risk, the picture looks somewhat different. Whilst more than half agreed or strongly agreed with statement (55.7%), at least 1 in 5 (22.3%) of those affected disagreed or strongly disagreed.

Table 9: My employer has accommodated the fact that I am at high risk and/or was in the shielding group during the first UK-wide lockdown.

<b>Response</b>	<b>No of responses</b>	<b>% of overall sample (1119)</b>	<b>% of respondents excluding 'not applicable' and non-responses (440)</b>
Strongly disagree	46	4.1%	10.5%
Disagree	52	4.6%	11.8%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	97	8.7%	22%
Agree	146	13%	33.2%
Strongly agree	99	8.8%	22.5%
Not applicable	634	56.7%	
	1074		

**Key finding 8: 22.3% of respondents who were shielding or at high risk during the first lockdown disagreed or strongly disagreed that their employer had accommodated this fact**

The next question considered whether respondents had felt under pressure to work during the Covid-19 crisis when they reported feeling unwell. It is important to note that the question did not ask the respondent whether or not they were unwell with diagnosed or suspected Covid-19. It also did not specify the source of the pressure. It can be seen from Table 10 that there was whilst just under half disagreed or

strongly disagreed (46.9%) with this statement, 3 out of every 10 respondents had felt under pressure to work when feeling unwell (30.7%)

Table 10: I have felt under pressure to work when feeling unwell during the Covid-19 crisis.

<b>Response</b>	<b>No of responses</b>	<b>% of overall sample (1119)</b>
Strongly disagree	209	18.7%
Disagree	316	28.2%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	106	9.5%
Agree	236	21.1%
Strongly agree	107	9.6%
Not applicable	120	10.7%
	1094	

**Key finding 9: 30.7% agreed or strongly agreed that they had felt under pressure to work while unwell.**

The survey also asked about workplace morale during the pandemic, with more than 7 in 10 respondents (71.5%) agreeing or strongly agreeing with the statement that workplace morale in their place of employment had been adversely affected by the crisis.

Table 11: The Covid-19 crisis has adversely affected workplace morale in my place of employment

<b>Response</b>	<b>No of responses</b>	<b>% of overall sample (1119)</b>
Strongly disagree	28	2.5%
Disagree	89	8%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	133	11.9%
Agree	377	33.7%
Strongly agree	423	37.8%
Not applicable	46	4.1%
	1096	

**Key finding 10: 71.5% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the Covid-19 crisis had adversely impacted workplace morale in their place of employment.**

With existing pressures on social workers heightened by the experience of operating during the pandemic, the survey also asked whether respondents had sought advice from a trade union or other employment service or intended to do so. Whilst three-quarters of respondents (75.2%) replied in the negative, 1 in 8 respondents (12.4%) replied that they had done so or intended to do so.

Table 12: Have you sought, or do you intend to seek advice from a trade union or other employment service because of difficulties or stresses at work related to the pandemic situation?

Response	No of responses	% of overall sample (1119)
Yes	139	12.4%
No	841	75.2%
Don't know	117	10.5%
	1097	

**Key finding 11: 75.2% said they had not sought, or did not intend to seek, advice from a trade union or employment service; 12.4% indicated that they had done so or would do so.**

The survey then moved on to consider the impact that working during the pandemic was having directly upon social workers. Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement that working during the pandemic had negatively impacted upon their own mental health, with almost 3 in 5 (58.8%) agreeing or strongly agreeing that it had done so and just over 1 in 5 responding that they did not feel it had done so (21.9%).

Table 13: Working during the Covid-19 increase [sic] has impacted negatively upon my own mental health.

Response	No of responses	% of overall sample (1119)
Strongly disagree	61	5.5%
Disagree	184	16.4%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	192	17.2%
Agree	420	37.5%
Strongly agree	238	21.3%
Not applicable	5	0.4%
	1100	

**Key finding 12: 58.8% agreed or strongly agreed that working during the Covid-19 crisis had negatively impacted upon their own mental health.**

The question on mental health impact was followed up by a question on the impact of working from home, as the pandemic brought work into the personal space for many people, reducing the time to reflect upon cases and developments and/or discuss them with colleagues. More than two-thirds of respondents (68.3%) agreed or strongly agreed that they were finding it harder to switch off now that they were working from home more.

Table 14: The Covid-19 crisis has made it more difficult for me to switch off from work because I am now working from home more.

<b>Response</b>	<b>No of responses</b>	<b>% of overall sample (1119)</b>
Strongly disagree	52	4.6%
Disagree	136	12.2%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	88	7.9%
Agree	346	30.9%
Strongly agree	418	37.4%
Not applicable	53	4.7%
	1093	

**Key finding 13: 68.3% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that working from home during the Covid-19 crisis had made it more difficult for them to switch off from work.**

Having looked at issues relating to how the pandemic had affected working life, the survey then moved on to explore how the pandemic and associated lockdown restrictions had impacted upon practise. This included key areas of concern that had emerged during the first BASW Covid-19 survey in spring 2020 relating to ethical and moral dilemmas and discrimination, equalities and/or rights' breaches.

The impact of lockdown restrictions, including concerns around the safety of home visits and the restriction of access to care settings, were expected to see more ethical and moral questions being raised for social workers in their daily practice. The response to this statement covered in Table 15 bears this out, with almost two-thirds of respondents (63.5%) agreeing or strongly agreeing that they had encountered more ethical and moral dilemmas since restrictions were introduced.

Table 15: Since the beginning of Covid-19 related restrictions in March 2020, I have encountered more ethical and moral dilemmas.

Response	No of responses	% of overall sample (1119)
Strongly disagree	17	1.5%
Disagree	136	12.2%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	233	20.8%
Agree	527	47.1%
Strongly agree	183	16.4%
Not applicable	14	1.3%
	1110	

**Key finding 14: 63.5% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they had encountered more ethical and moral dilemmas since the introduction of lockdown restrictions.**

It has been demonstrated that lockdown restrictions have had human rights implications, especially under Article 8, the right to family and private life<sup>4</sup>. When asked whether they had encountered discrimination, equalities or rights' breaches which related to the Covid-19 crisis, there was a fairly even split between those who agreed/strongly agreed (38.7%) and those who disagreed or strongly disagreed (32.7%), with almost a quarter of respondents (23.9%) neither agreeing nor disagreeing with the statement.

Table 16: I have encountered discrimination, equalities or rights' breaches affecting service users which are related to the Covid-19 crisis.

Response	No of responses	% of overall sample (1119)
Strongly disagree	55	4.9%
Disagree	311	27.8%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	267	23.9%
Agree	304	27.2%
Strongly agree	129	11.5%
Not applicable	31	2.8%
	1097	

<sup>4</sup> House of Commons/House of Lords Joint Committee on Human Rights: [The government's response to Covid19: Human rights Implications](#), Seventh Report of Session 2019-21, HC 265/HL Paper 125, Published on 21 September 2020

**Key finding 15: 38.7% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they had encountered discrimination, equalities or rights' breaches affecting service users which related to the Covid-19 crisis; 32.7% disagreed.**

Another area of concern arising from the spring survey, and also evident in media reporting, was the impact of lockdown restrictions upon the provision of what would normally be face-to-face services to which people could be referred for support. When asked about access to essential support services for the people with whom they were working, nearly 4 out of every 5 respondents (78.7%) agreed or strongly agreed that they had experienced more difficulties (Table 17).

Table 17: Since the beginning of Covid-19 related restrictions, I have encountered more difficulties in accessing essential support services for people with whom I work.

Response	No of responses	% of overall sample (1119)
Strongly disagree	26	2.3%
Disagree	57	5.1%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	82	7.3%
Agree	410	36.6%
Strongly agree	471	42.1%
Not applicable	58	5.2%
	1104	

**Key finding 16: 78.7% agreed or strongly agreed that they had encountered more difficulties in accessing essential support services for the people with whom they worked.**

Another feature of working under lockdown restrictions has been increased reliance upon digital technology to communicate with people instead of face-to-face contact. Whilst this can work well in some instances, it can also be problematic if the individuals and families involved are affected by digital exclusion, for whatever reason. When asked about this issue, more than two-thirds of respondents (69.7%) agreed that they had encountered more difficulties in communicating with the people with whom they were working as a consequence of their digital exclusion.

Table 18: Since the beginning of Covid-19 related restrictions, I have encountered more difficulties in communicating with service users because of their digital exclusion (e.g. lack of online access; lack of knowledge or capacity to use the technology)

<b>Response</b>	<b>No of responses</b>	<b>% of overall sample (1119)</b>
Strongly disagree	23	2.1%
Disagree	141	12.6%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	114	10.2%
Agree	444	39.7%
Strongly agree	336	30%
Not applicable	46	4.1%
	1104	

**Key finding 17: 69.7% agreed that they had encountered more difficulties in communicating with service users because of the digital exclusion experienced by the latter.**

In addition to an earlier question about whether or not their concerns relating to safeguarding/protection visits had increased, respondents were also asked whether they had encountered more difficulties in this respect as a result of face-to-face contact being limited. More than half of respondents (51.5%) agreed or strongly agreed that this had been the case, with a further 18.1% saying that this did not apply to their situation. If the 'not applicable' responses are removed, almost two-thirds (64.4%) of respondents to whom this statement applied are found to be in agreement with it.

Table 19: Since the beginning of Covid-19 related restrictions, I have encountered more difficulties in monitoring safeguarding access/carrying out safe and effective adult and child protection visits (Scotland) because of limited face-to-face access.

<b>Response</b>	<b>No of responses</b>	<b>% of overall sample (1119)</b>	<b>% of respondents excluding 'not applicable' and non-responses (895)</b>
Strongly disagree	34	3%	3.8%
Disagree	139	12.4%	15.5%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	146	13%	16.3%
Agree	366	32.7%	40.9%
Strongly agree	210	18.8%	23.5%
Not applicable	203	18.1%	
	1098		

**Key finding 18: 51.5% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they had encountered more difficulties in monitoring safeguarding access/carrying out safe and effective adult and child protection visits because of limited face-to-face access.**

Finally, respondents were asked specifically whether BASW should support the Amnesty campaign for an urgent independent public inquiry into deaths in care homes during the Covid-19 pandemic. More than four-fifths of respondents (81.1%) agreed that BASW should support this campaign.

Table 20: Amnesty are campaigning for an urgent independent public inquiry into deaths in care homes during the Covid-19 pandemic. Do you agree that BASW should support this campaign?

<b>Response</b>	<b>No of responses</b>	<b>% of overall sample (1119)</b>
Yes	908	81.1%
No	41	3.7%
Don't Know	155	13.9%
	1104	

**Key finding 19: 81.1% of respondents agreed that BASW should support Amnesty's campaign for an urgent public inquiry into deaths in care homes during the pandemic.**

## Appendix A: Breakdown of respondents by field of social work and by primary role (self-identified)

**What is your field of social work?** (Respondents were offered a selection from a drop-down menu and an opportunity to specify their role if they replied 'Other').

Field of Social Work	No. of responses	% of respondents
Adult	321	28.7%
Children and Families	518	46.3%
Mental Health	134	12%
Justice	13	1.2%
Student	46	4.1%
Educator	19	1.7%
Other	68	6.1%
<i>n = 1119</i>		

**Please tell us what best describes your primary role.** (Respondents were offered a selection from a drop-down menu and an opportunity to specify their role if they replied 'Other').

Primary role	No. of responses	% of respondents	Comments
Student Social Worker	65	5.8%	More people reported themselves as student social workers in response to this question than as students when asked field of social work
Newly qualified	79	7.1%	
Experienced	582	52%	
Supervisor	59	5.3%	
Manager	190	17%	
Educator	26	2.3%	More people reported themselves as educators in response to this question than as educators when asked field of social work
Independent	79	7.1%	
Other	39	3.5%	
<i>n = 1119</i>			

# **BASW**

**The professional association for  
social work and social workers**

**Cite as: BASW (2021) *Social work during the Covid-19 pandemic: Initial Findings Jan 2021*. BASW: Birmingham**

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