

Care staff shortage worse than before pandemic, study shows (BBC News Website: October 21)



Care sector bosses in England are struggling to recruit staff, with more jobs unfilled than before the pandemic, says a leading industry body.

The number of unfilled jobs fell at the start of the pandemic but rose this year as the economy opened up, suggests analysis by Skills for Care.

Employers are also finding it harder to keep existing staff, the report finds.

The researchers calculate that employers were failing to fill 8% of posts before the pandemic.

This amounts to more than 100,000 posts with no-one to fill them, says Skills for Care.

Many staff are exhausted, sickness rates are high and better rates of pay are on offer elsewhere.

A GP who worked in a hospital discharge ward at the height of the pandemic, worries about the knock-on effect of the care worker shortage on the NHS, with patients who are medically fit to go home being unable to do so.

"For us to be in this position before the winter, before the Christmas period, is terrifying," he said.