

Migrant care workers and home care provision across variable physical and virtual 'places'

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Overview

- Home care as a place of living *and* receiving care
- Home of older people as a place of *work*
 - Relationships and home/work boundaries
- The interplay between care, place and migration
 - Virtual and physical places
 - Subjective wellbeing

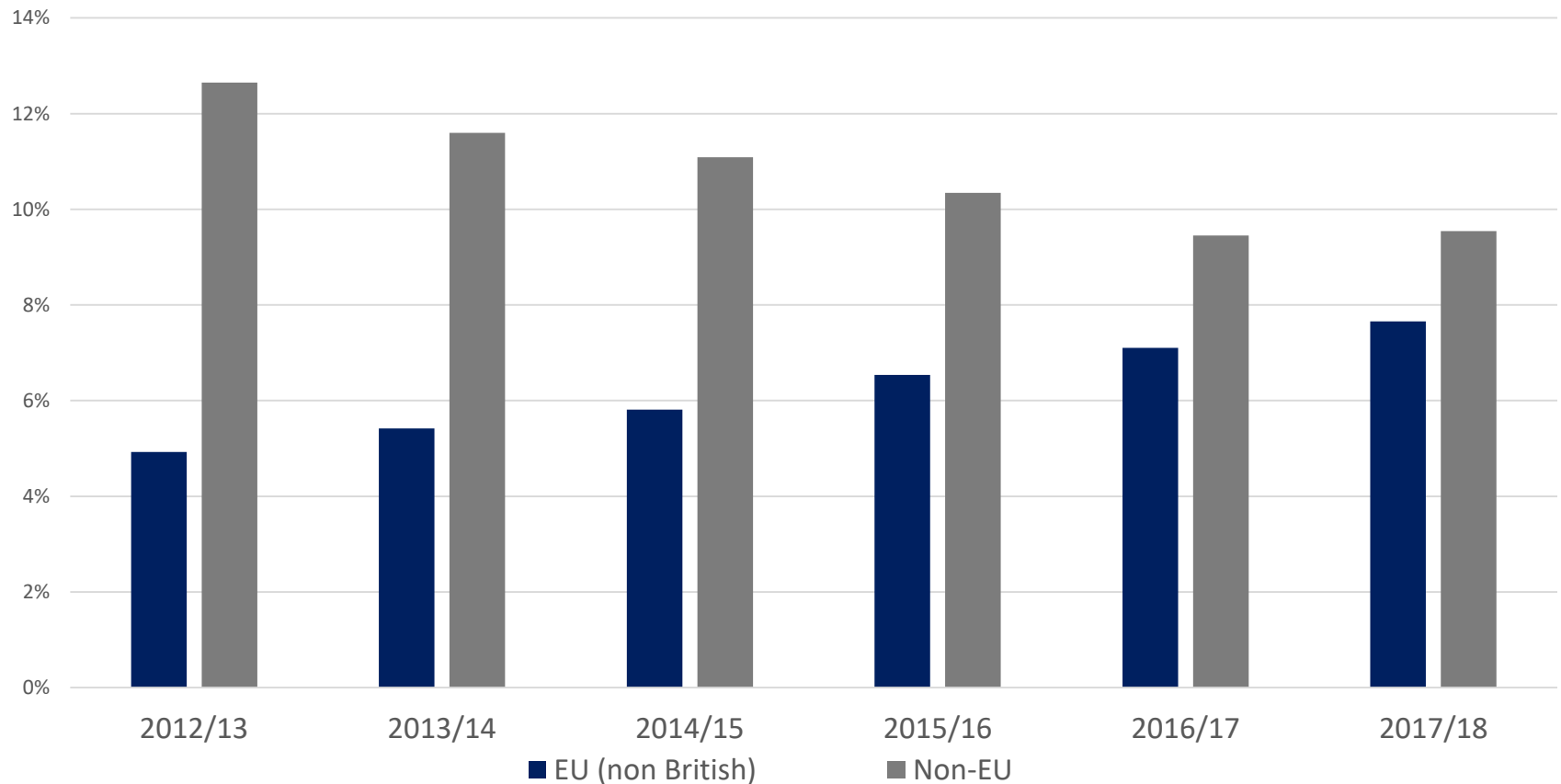
A Word of Caution

- On-going work
 - Early stages of conceptualization
- Part of a theme of research on the experience, wellbeing and sustainability of migrant care workers in the British home care sector
 - An element of a wider research project 'Sustainable Care'
- Specifically considering current uncertainties and change
- Focusing on 'place' from the perspective of the migrant care worker

Migrant care workers' contribution to home care

- Significant historical contribution in most more developed countries
- In the UK constitute an important part of the documented and undocumented home care workers
- Their profile is changing over the years
- Uncertainties and potential future changes
- Not much is known about undocumented, informal contribution

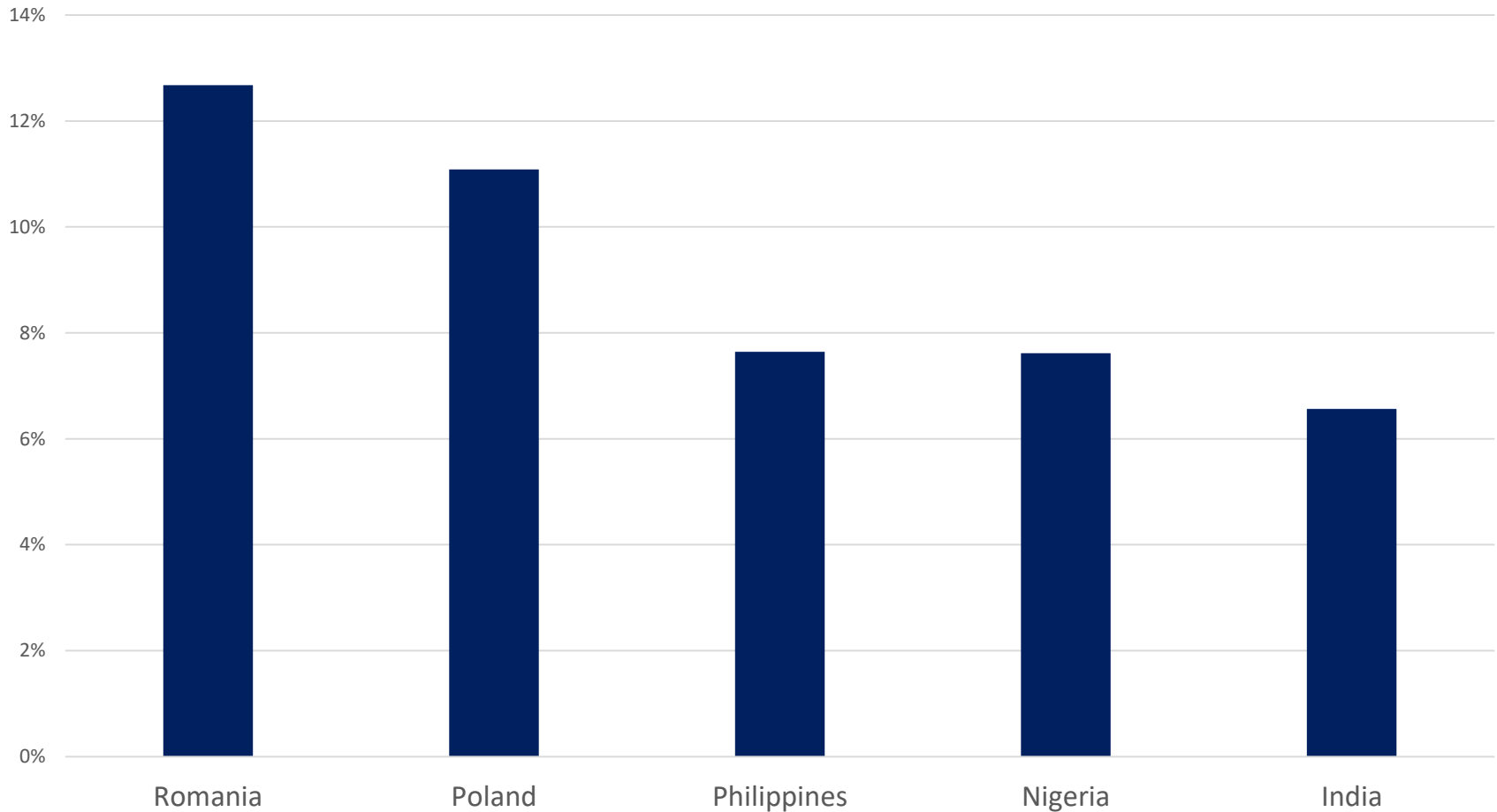
Non-UK nationals in the social care workforce in England*



Source: Skills for Care Workforce Estimates 2018

* All sectors and job roles

Top 5 nationalities* (as % of non-UK nationals)



Source: Skills for Care Workforce Estimates 2018

* All sectors and job roles

Care work and Place

- The embodied nature of care labour
 - Both emotionally and physically
 - Particularly home care and live in care
 - Gender as a key discourse
- Inter-relational aspects; multiple boundaries
 - Formal and informal care ... paid worker and family member
 - Caring (worker) and cared for (employer, a person in need, 'place owner?')

Cross-Border Care Provisions: Physical and virtual places

- Distance and Proximity
- Migrant care workers have parents (and children) too
 - The role (and actual forms) of inter-generational relations and care exchange
- Communications, presence and technology

Place, Proximity and Vulnerability

- Older People
 - Boundaries
 - Authority and power
 - Risk of abuse
- Migrant workers
 - (Lack of) Social support at work
 - Work/personal boundaries
 - Authority and power
 - Professionalism, exploitation

Domestic and work spaces

My first live-in care job it was. And I stayed there nearly three years in one place. I found it very very good therefore, because I didn't need to care about what I'm going to eat, to do shopping for myself, all the money what I earnt I could save.

I don't want to live in England or rent any place because I have my own property at home.

(MCW, Eastern Europe)

Place as a construct of wellbeing

- Work environment is an important factor in relation to wellbeing
- How does blurred boundaries between domestic and work spaces impact wellbeing
- Vast interest in the balance/interface of work-family time control and its relationship with wellbeing
- For care work it is more complicated

The dilemma of wellbeing among migrant care workers

- Migrant care workers (usually women) search for better wellbeing (for them and their families)
- Having a 'home' as an essential element of ones' wellbeing
 - Home care work (esp. live in) achieves this goal?
 - Yet, it is a quasi-home – segregated, compromised privacy, dependency and vulnerability
- Furthermore, wellbeing, as an aspiration, could be externalised onto 'others' – family left behind rather than self (Boccagni, 2016)

Considerations

- Home care work brings interesting sociological, organisational and policy research questions
 - Especially among migrant workers and intersectionality with gender
 - In relation to wellbeing
- How could we define and capture ‘wellbeing’ and how this is impacted by place of work, and also place of care (across-borders)
 - Displacement of wellbeing
 - Positive and negative impact of live-in care: belonging and safety vs. temporality, expectations and dependency

Conclusion

- Completed a scoping review on wellbeing among migrant care workers (Turnpenny and Hussein, forthcoming)
 - Migrant home care workers combine the risks and vulnerabilities of migrant status and the social care sector
 - Many ‘wellbeing failures’ (McGregor 2018) identified for migrant care workers but there are also positive wellbeing outcomes
- We need to further identify the characteristics/domains of wellbeing among ‘home care’ migrant workers, and
- The role of ‘place’ as part of home care working in relation to wellbeing
 - And differentiate experiences
- Need to consider the ‘virtual’ place and its impact too
 - caring at a distance

Acknowledgments

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Contact us:

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