



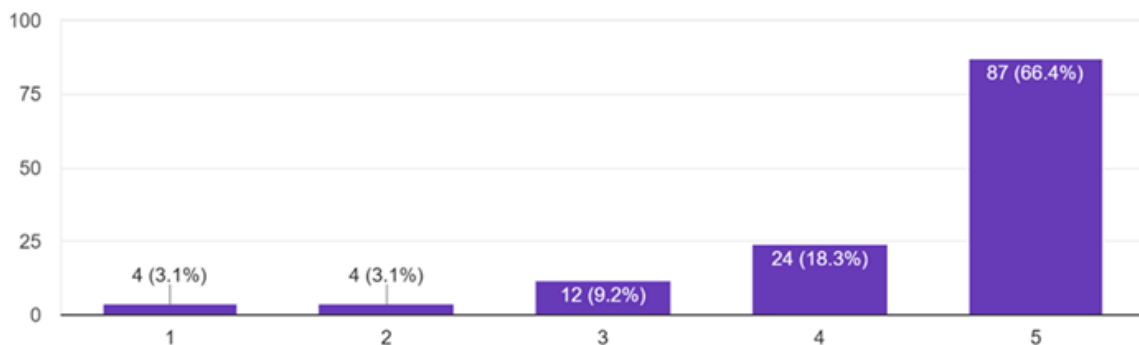
SoHPS REGISTRATION: Registrant Survey 2024

In July 2024, SoHPS' Registration Standards Committee issued a survey questionnaire to all 634 registered HPS listed on the public register at that time. The Committee decided to use the interval whilst the website was undergoing maintenance as an opportunity to investigate attitudes to HPS registration and to the process of re-registering. 132 (21%) of those surveyed, responded to the questionnaire within the allocated timeframe and, whilst this was a lower response rate than we might have wished for, the Committee were aware that it was peak holiday time and that many people would have had other priorities during the school holidays.

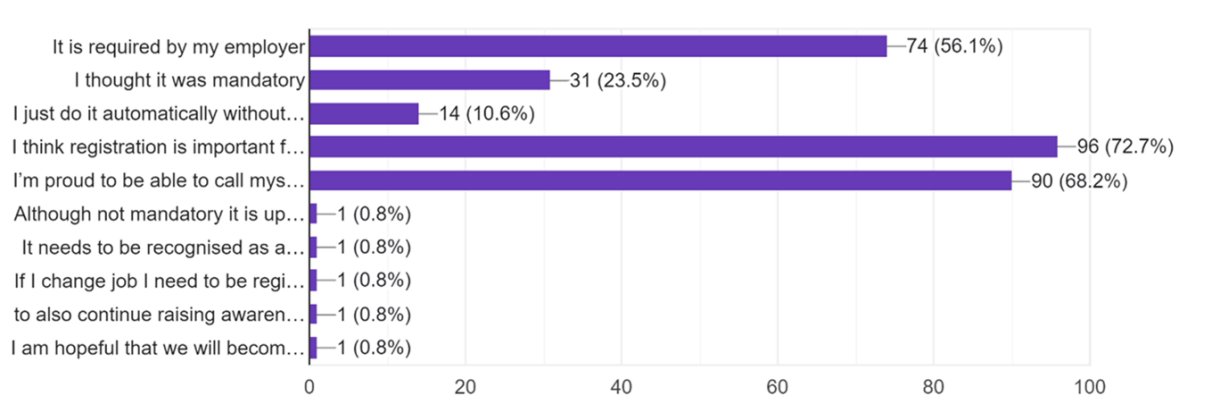
The Registration Standards Committee would like to thank all those who participated in the survey as well as those who have shared their views in other ways. The survey feedback, which is summarised below, suggests a registrant body who are proud to call themselves Registered HPS, who value their professional status, and who look hopefully towards the future of Health Play in the UK. The CPD Profile continues to present challenges for a number of registrants, and we will be monitoring how these are impacted by recent changes to the CPD requirements and audit process, whilst continuing to explore how we can develop and improve the support we offer in this regard.

Survey results

✚ We asked about the value placed on registration, and the majority of respondents (94%) think it is important, with two thirds reporting that their registration is 'very important' to them.



Most (72.7%) respondents choose to maintain their HPS registration because they think it is important for raising the status of the profession in the MDT, and because they feel proud to call themselves a 'Registered HPS' (68.2%).



The main reasons for HPS choosing to re-register were 3-fold:

- To raise the status of the profession
- 'Proud to be called a Registered HPS'
- To meet contractual requirements

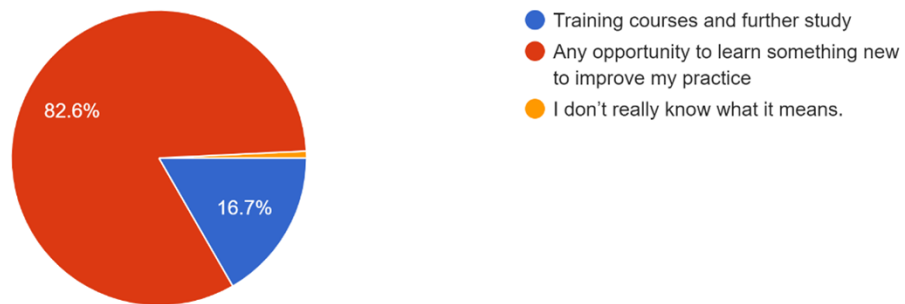


Almost 73% of survey respondents think HPS registration should be mandatory:

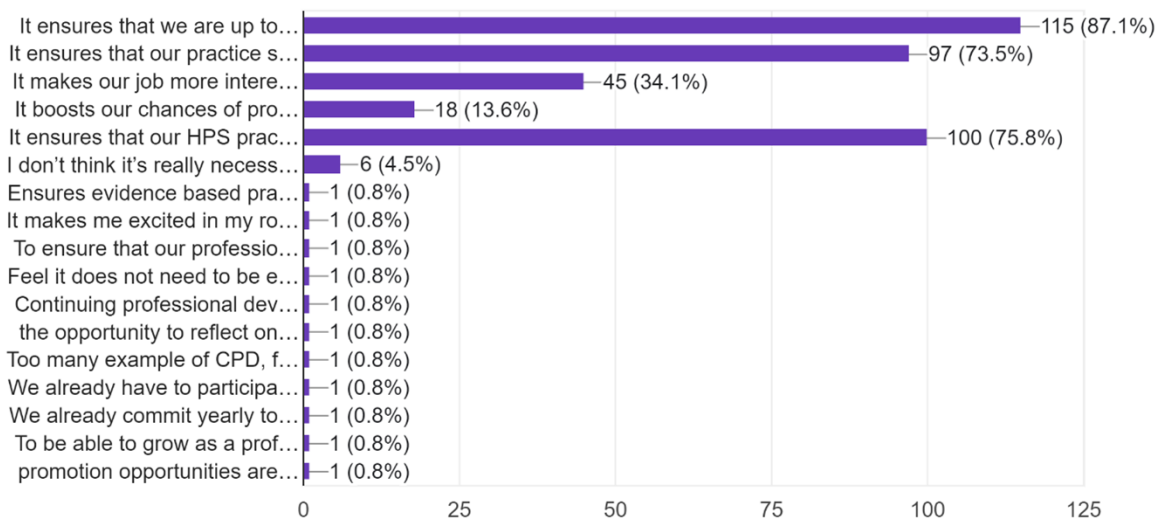


82.6% of those who responded to the survey understand that CPD refers to any opportunity to learn something new. However, 16.7% believe that only formal training counts as CPD and a few registrants are still unsure about what constitutes Continuing Professional Development

As of 1st April 2025, all registered HPS are required to undertake 12 hours of CPD annually, this has been reduced from 15 hours annually. What do you...y the term Continuing Professional Development?
132 responses



The majority of HPS who responded to the survey recognise the value of CPD for staying up to date with developments in the profession (87%) and for ensuring that their practice remains safe and effective (76%):

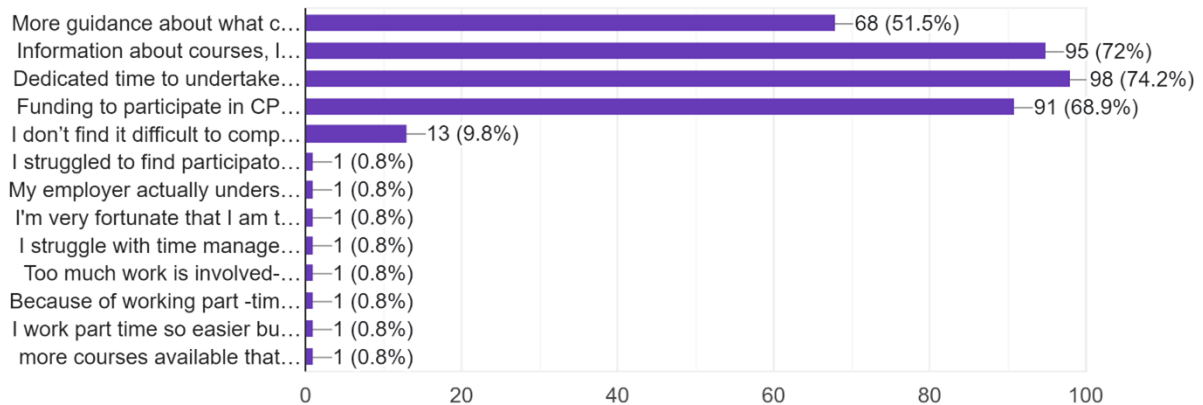


✚ However, there are 3 common challenges to accessing CPD opportunities:

- Time
- Funding
- Access and Guidance

What would make it easier for you to complete the required hours of CPD?

132 responses



✚ Many of the respondents who had submitted their CPD Profile for audit (n=120) since 2021 found the process difficult – largely due to the time taken to complete the process (55%) or because they were unsure what to do (15%)

If you found the process difficult, what was the main reason for this:

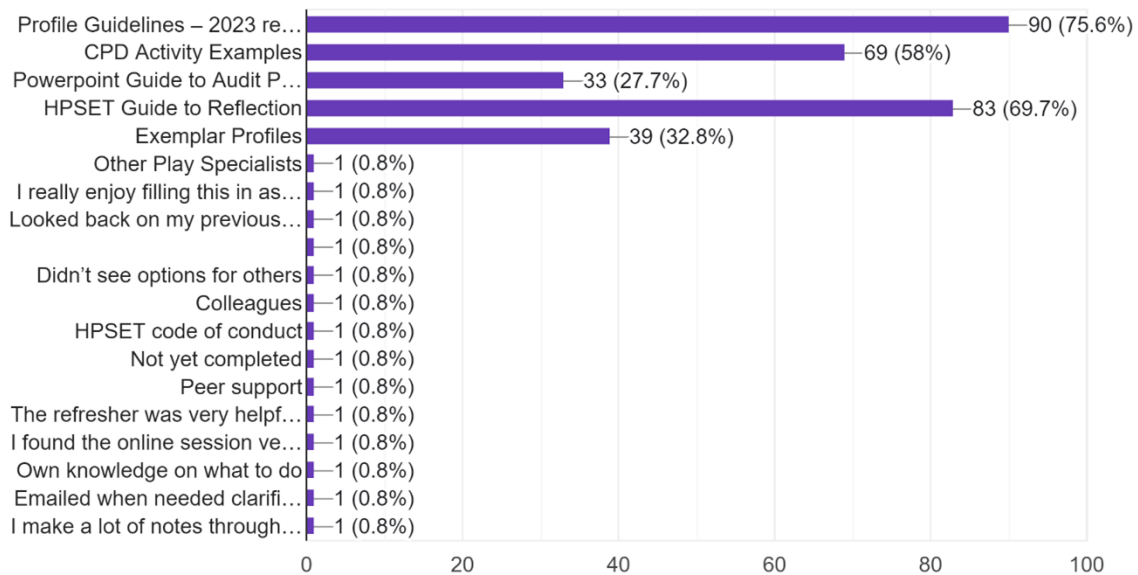
120 responses



- The most widely accessed sources of help with the CPD Profile are the Profile Guidelines (75.6%), the Guide to Reflection (69.7%), and CPD Activity Examples:

Which of the following resources did you use to help you complete your CPD Profile? (tick all that apply)

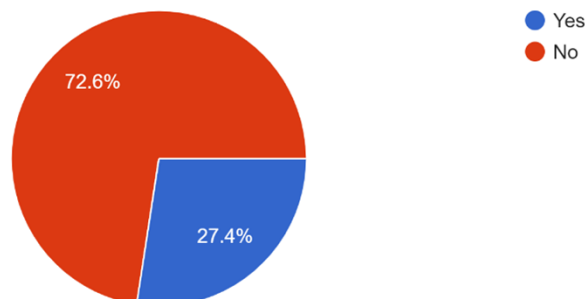
119 responses



- 27.4% of those who submitted their CPD Profile for audit contacted the registration coordinator for help or advice.

Did you need to contact the registration coordinator for advice, help or support with completing or submitting the Profile Form?

124 responses



83% of those who contacted the registration coordinator found this support helpful:



You said, we're listening

The registrant survey also invited respondents to add comments of their own at the end of the questionnaire, and these have been sorted into common themes, to which we have added responses:

The CPD Profile is too time-consuming

Many registrants feel that completing their CPD profile takes a lot of time, that it is difficult to juggle the audit process with busy work and personal lives and that they don't get any time allocated from their workplace to complete it.

'I am very proud to be a registered HPS. I do find the process quite repetitive about what we have to write about. Last years CPD took me 9 hours to fill it all in, yes I could have spread it out but it is still a lot of time to find in our already busy day.'

'I also think it would be less time consuming if we needed to complete the audit more regularly. So we don't leave it to do 3 years at once.'

- The Committee understands the stresses associated with completing the CPD Profile. However, it is very unusual for any profession to be allocated time to work on their professional registration/revalidation during their working hours – most have to do it in their own time.
- Registrants are strongly advised to update their CPD Profile annually and this is one of the criteria for re-registration. Updating the Profile Form on an ongoing basis greatly decreases the workload, as it spreads the task evenly across the 3-year period. By meeting with your line manager every year to review your Profile, it gives both of you an opportunity to celebrate your hard work, raising awareness and appreciation of the HPS role in the process.

HPS CPD demands are greater than those for nurses and MDT colleagues

'I find the reflective accounts particularly time consuming and always end up spending a great deal of my own time completing these. Can anything be done to make them shorter and simpler and less time consuming? I wonder if the requirements and amount of time and required to complete the portfolio puts people off re-registering. I personally find the requirements and process quite stressful and onerous.'

'I feel that having the word count is hard as i feel you can say what you need in less words & that having the word count makes it harder to complete & i feel that i start to 'Waffle'. Could the word count be removed?'

'One of my line managers has actually said he prefers our CPD profiles to the nurses one. He said it is much more user friendly.'

- Having listened to previous feedback from registrants, the Registration Committee have reduced certain elements of the CPD requirements, which now brings HPS registration directly in line with Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) processes.
- We have added a [Comparison Table](#) to the website, so that everyone can see how HPS registration compares with that of our MDT colleagues.
- Many people like to have a wordcount as a guide to what is expected of them. However, we have reduced the number of words required across the Profile Form.

Profile Assessment

The Registration Committee are aware that many registrants are unhappy that some CPD Profile submissions do not receive a full assessment.

'I enjoy writing up reflections but do agree the amount of work required is more than the nursing registration. You make it clear it takes time to mark each profile and from that not all profiles will be read. I always put 100% into my profile and the fact that it wasn't even looked at/auto-[approved] made me feel extremely disheartened. If it's only being marked once every six years, why do I have to put all that work in for something that's not read?'

- The main purpose of the CPD Profile is to encourage Health Play Specialists to maintain an ongoing record of CPD, to respond to patient/colleague feedback, and to reflect on their practice. The fact that CPD Profiles are audited is secondary to this primary purpose.
- By sharing your CPD Profile with your line manager annually, you have an opportunity to promote the HPS role and the importance of play in hospital.
- Aspects of the CPD Profile may serve as the basis for a submission to a professional journal.
- As a professional organisation, SoHPS has a responsibility to conduct a regular audit of registrants' CPD. This is a requirement of registration with the [Professional Standards Authority](#) (PSA), which is the next priority for SoHPS.
- Our assessors estimate that to do justice to the hard work put into a CPD Profile submission, it takes about 2 hours to complete a full Profile Assessment. Even with a full complement of assessors, it is just not feasible to fully assess every Profile

submitted each year. Priority is given to all first submissions, submissions from registrants who require special consideration, and applications from lapsed registrants. Other submissions are selected for assessment at random, so a registrant's Profile might be assessed over two consecutive submissions, or they might not receive a full assessment from one submission to the next.

- The committee guarantee to fully assess all CPD Profiles at least once every 6 years – a much higher rate of assessment than any other profession. This ensures that every registrant has the opportunity of being nominated for the Profile of the Year Award at least once every 6 years.

Website challenges

A small number of registrants report difficulty accessing the website or saving and submitting their CPD Profile for audit.

'I think the form should be cleared or reset after submission'

'I've never encountered difficulties in uploading and saving my profile. I follow the saving instructions. But the two actions to save progress could be confusing to people and be the issue with lost data??? Maybe?'

- During June and July 2024, SoHPS' webmaster has devoted countless hours to upgrading the website, with particular attention to functions related to completion and submission of the Profile Form.
- We have improved the instructions for completing and saving data to the Profile Form and revised all supporting information.
- We continue to recommend the use of Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge to access the website, whilst also continuing to identify and address any browser or content incompatibility issues as they come to our attention, to improve the experience for registrants.
- Registrants will receive a pop-up notification if any problematic content that might affect saving or submitting a Profile is automatically identified. This includes tables and images.
- Profile updates may now be saved at the bottom of each page of the form.
- From 2025, the Profile Form will be cleared of content after each submission.

The HPS role is still not recognized or appreciated by some NHS Trusts

'Having been a HPS for over 10yrs, I don't think my role is any more recognised now than it was 10yrs ago. HPSET put in time, and money into improving it but nothing changes or improves.'

'I feel like we are finally going in the right direction in becoming recognised registered professionals'

'Massive thank you to everyone for all the hard work you have been doing behind the scenes to continue to grow this amazing profession.'

- HPSET, NAHPS (now SoHPS) have always been aware that the experience of HPS varies widely across NHS Trusts and locations depending on a variety of factors, including the

respect and recognition given to the role. The proposed application to register with the Professional Standards Authority (PSA), supported by the work of the NHS England/Starlight Taskforce, should greatly help to even out these experiences.

- The merger of NAHPS and HPSET, a necessary precursor to PSA registration, has been our priority for the past 4+ years and we are proud to now be functioning as part of the newly formed Society of Health Play Specialists (SoHPS). With the merger now complete, SoHPS will be focusing efforts on preparing our application to register with the PSA. This will make annual registration a mandatory requirement and protect the title of 'Health Play Specialist'. Many in the profession feel hopeful that this is a vital step for raising the profile of our profession. It will take a substantial investment of time and financial resources to join the PSA register and SoHPS thanks you for your support and patience during this time.

Thank you again to all the registrants who took the time to complete our 2024 registrants survey. The Registration Standards Committee greatly value your feedback and look forward to continuing to work together as the newly formed Society of Health Play Specialists. Our registration coordinator, Julia, is always ready to receive your comments and feedback and to offer help where it's needed.