

Psychology Services Workforce in NHSScotland

Quarter Ending 31 December 2016



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About this release

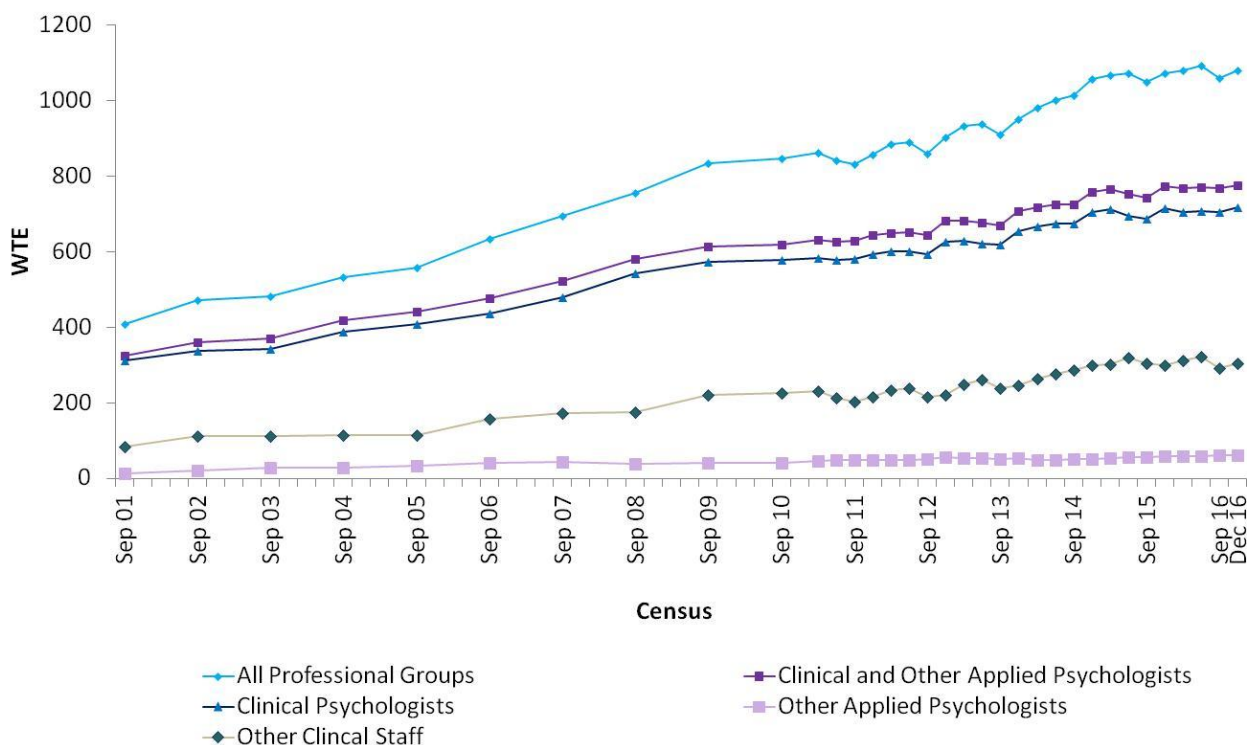
This publication is produced collaboratively by the Information Services Division (ISD) within National Services Scotland (NSS) and NHS Education for Scotland (NES). It presents Psychology Services workforce information at 31 December 2016.

Figures are presented as headcount (actual numbers of staff) and whole time equivalent (WTE) which adjusts the figures to take account of part-time working.

Main points

- At 31 December 2016, 1,080.3 WTE (1,305 headcount) clinical staff were in post within psychology services in NHSScotland. This is an increase of around 165% since data collection began in 2001. However there has been little change to the size of this workforce over the last two years. (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: WTE of all Clinical Staff in NHSScotland Psychology Services 2001-2016



- Clinical psychologists still remain the largest staff group within this workforce with 716.5 WTE in post at this census compared to 311.0 WTE at 30 September 2001 – an increase of 57%. However, there has also been little change to the size of this group over the last two years (see Figure 1).
- Since quarterly data collection began in September 2011, the WTE of posts reported as vacant has remained relatively stable (see Figure 7). At 31 December 2016, 69.7 WTE posts were in the process of being advertised, equating to a 6.1% vacancy rate.

Background

Within NHSScotland, recent years have seen an unparalleled demand for increased access to Applied Psychologists and Psychological Therapies. Contemporary Healthcare Policy recognises the importance of Psychological and Psychosocial factors for physical and mental health and well being across the life span.

NHS Education for Scotland has two major areas of responsibility for psychology in NHSScotland; training of psychologists for NHSScotland, and up-skilling the existing multi-professional workforce in psychological care. The impact of expansion and modernisation of psychology training has accrued as successive cohorts of those who have completed the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, and the new Masters programmes in Psychological Therapy in Primary Care, and in Applied Psychology of Children & Young People enter the workforce.

Contact

Jade Kavanagh
Senior Information Analyst
0141 282 2133

Lucy Dewhurst
Information Analyst
0131 275 6485

Liz Jamieson
Project Manager
lizjamieson@nhs.net
0131 275 6422

Lynne Jarvis
Principal Information Analyst
0131 275 6424

Email: nss.mentalhealthwf@nhs.net

Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Psychology Services workforce report](#). A [workbook containing data for this report](#) can also be downloaded.

The next update of this publication will be in June 2017.

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