About this release

This release by Information Services Division (ISD) in collaboration with NHS Education for Scotland (NES) presents Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) activity, waiting times and workforce information at 30 June 2018.

ISD and NES have brought together statistics on CAMHS waiting times, the clinical workforce within NHSScotland, and numbers of referrals and inpatient activity.

Main Points

During April to June 2018:

- 4,664 children and young people started treatment at Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Scotland which is an increase from the previous quarter (3,995) and from quarter ending June 2017 (4,092).

- Over two thirds (67.8%) children and young people were seen within 18 weeks and half started their treatment within thirteen weeks. This compares with 71.1% in the previous quarter and 80.7% for the quarter ending June 2017.

- Three NHS Boards (NHS Ayrshire & Arran, NHS Shetland and NHS Western Isles) met the 18 week standard, where 90% of children and young people should be seen within 18 weeks.

Headcount and WTE of CAMHS staff in NHSScotland from 30 September 2006 to 30 June 2018.
At 30 June 2018:

- The WTE of staff in post within CAMHS was 1011.9 WTE, an increase of 54.8% since 2006, when data collection on the CAMHS workforce began.
- The WTE of staff in post has increased by 7.8 WTE (0.8%) since 30 June 2017, although there has been a slight decrease by 2.5 WTE since the last census at 31 March 2018.
- 60 posts (52.7 WTE) within CAMHS were vacant and in the process of being advertised. Of these, 26.0% were for new posts as opposed to existing posts that had been vacated. Nursing posts made up 27.5% (14.5 WTE) of the total vacancies.

**Background**

The main function of CAMHS is to develop and deliver services for children and young people (and parents and carers) who are experiencing the most serious mental health problems. They also have an important role in supporting the mental health capacity of wider children’s services. Delivery of good quality CAMHS depends on timely access to health care and adequate numbers of well trained staff being recruited and retained across NHSScotland. Early action is more likely to result in full recovery and 90% of children and young people should start their treatment within 18 weeks of referral.

Note that the data for waiting times and workforce cover different time periods and the services included in each set of statistics may differ in some NHS Boards. Therefore, please exercise caution when making comparisons between the two.

Based on Waiting Times data submitted from July 2017 to May 2018, ISD estimates the missing data from NHS Borders to be around 26 children and young people. This would suggest that 4,690 children and young people started treatment in the quarter ending June 2018 and that 67.7% were seen within 18 weeks. More information is available in the main report and the Data Quality document.

Please see the [News and Updates section](#) of our website for more details.

**Contact**

For general queries email: NSS.childmentalhealth@nhs.net

**Michelle Kirkpatrick**
Principal Information Analyst,
CAMHS Waiting Times, Service Access
Phone: 0131 275 6458
michelle.kirkpatrick@nhs.net

**Liz Jamieson**
Project Manager, CAMHS Workforce, Resources
Phone: 0131 656 1390
lizjamieson@nhs.net

**Suzanne Hill**
Principal Information Analyst,
CAMHS Inpatient Activity, Service Access
Phone: 0131 314 1530
suzannehill@nhs.net

**Further Information**

Find out more in the full report. The data from this publication is available to download from our web page along with background information and glossary.

For more information on Waiting Times for Psychological Therapies see the Psychological Therapies section of our website. CAMHS Psychology Workforce information is also included in the main Psychology Workforce publication. For related topics, please see the Mental Health pages.

The next release of this publication will be December 2018.

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**ISD and Official Statistics**

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of ‘Official Statistics’. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Further information about our statistics.