Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in Scotland: Waiting Times, Service Demand, and Workforce
Quarter ending 30 September 2018
A National Statistics publication for Scotland
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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 September 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 July to September 2018:

- 4,239 children and young people started their treatment at CAMH services in Scotland, which is a decrease from 4,694 in the previous quarter.
- Over two thirds (69.0%) of children and young people were seen within 18 weeks, which compares with 67.5% in the previous quarter. Half of the children and young people seen, started their treatment within 12 weeks.
- Four NHS Boards (NHS Ayrshire & Arran, NHS Orkney, NHS Shetland and NHS Western Isles) met the standard, where 90% of children and young people should start treatment within 18 weeks of referral.

At 30 September 2018:

- The WTE of staff in post within CAMH services was 1030.3 WTE, an increase of 37.6 WTE (3.8%) compared to the number recorded at 30 September 2017. This includes an 18.5 WTE (1.8%) increase in the last quarter, since June 2018.
- The majority of this increase in staff over the last year has been within Nursing staff, with an increase of 24.7 WTE (6.0%) since September 2017, including an increase of 16.4 WTE (3.9%) in the last quarter.
- The number of CAMHS staff working part-time continues to increase, with 42.4% working part-time, compared with 31.0% at September 2008 when this data was first recorded.
- The age distribution of CAMHS staff has shifted over time with the proportion of staff aged 50 and over increasing from 18.6% at September 2006 to 24.9% at September 2018.
- There were 44.4 WTE vacancies reported at September 2018, a vacancy rate of 4.1%. This is below the average of 49.5 WTE posts (5.0% vacancy rate) recorded as vacant for September census dates since data collection began.
WTE of CAMHS staff in post by professional group at 30 September 2018.

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.

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.

Contact

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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 March 2019.

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.