Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in Scotland: Waiting Times, Service Demand, and Workforce

Quarter ending 31 December 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 31 December 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 October to December 2018:

- 4,523 children and young people started treatment at Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Scotland which is an increase from the previous quarter (4,239) and the same quarter ending December 2017 (4,027).
- Over seven out of ten (72.8%) children and young people were seen within 18 weeks, which compares with 69.0% in the previous quarter and 71.1% for the quarter ending December 2017. Half of the children and young people seen, started their treatment within 11 weeks.
- Five NHS Boards (NHS Ayrshire & Arran, NHS Dumfries & Galloway, 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.
- 9,604 children and young people were referred to CAMHS in Scotland which is an increase from the previous quarter (7,509) and the same quarter ending December 2017 (9,050).

At 31 December 2018:

- The WTE of staff in posts within CAMHS services was 1043.6 WTE, an increase of 29.7 WTE (2.9%) compared to 31 December 2017. This includes a 13.3 WTE (1.3%) increase in the last quarter, since September 2018.
- The majority of this increase in staff over the last year has been within Nursing staff, with an increase of 21.4 WTE (5.0%) since December 2017, including an increase of 8.6 WTE (2.0%) in the last quarter.
- There were 61.3 WTE vacancies reported at December 2018, a vacancy rate of 5.5%. This compares with an average vacancy rate of 4.7% for December census dates since this data collection began.
Notes:

1. The points for quarter ending September 2017 and December 2017 indicate data completeness issues. This is due to NHS Tayside not submitting data between 22 June 2017 to 31 October 2017.

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 on 4 June 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.