Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in Scotland: Waiting Times and Inpatient Activity
Quarter ending 31 March 2019
A National Statistics publication for Scotland

From 4 June 2019, the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Scotland: Waiting Times, Service Demand, and Workforce publication will no longer be released as one joint report. Instead, it will be published as two separate reports – CAMHS Waiting Times and Inpatient Activity (published by NHS Information Services Division) and CAMHS Workforce in Scotland (produced by NHS Education for Scotland (NES)).

As of 1 April 2019, ownership and responsibility for collecting workforce data and producing national statistics transferred from ISD to NHS Education for Scotland (NES), ahead of the creation of a new health body, Public Health Scotland (PHS). The CAMHS Workforce publications will be co-produced by ISD and NHS Education for Scotland until 30 September 2019, with full responsibility for the publication production passing to NHS Education for Scotland from 1 October 2019.

Publication date: 4 June 2019

About this release
This release by Information Services Division (ISD) presents Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) waiting times at 31 March 2019 and psychiatric inpatient activity information for the financial year 2017/18. The Scottish Government standard states that 90% of children and young people should start treatment within 18 weeks of referral to CAMHS.

Main Points
- Over seven out of ten (73.6%) children and young people were seen within 18 weeks, which compares with 72.8% in the previous quarter and 71.1% for the quarter ending March 2018. Half of the children and young people seen started their treatment within 12 weeks.
- 4,237 children and young people started treatment at CAMHS in Scotland which is a decrease from the previous quarter (4,523) and an increase from the same quarter ending March 2018 (3,995).

Percentage (%) of patients seen by CAMHS within 18 weeks of referral, by quarter, NHSScotland

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.
• Across Scotland, around one in ten patients (9.8%) referred to CAMHS did not attend their first appointment which is similar to the previous quarter (9.7%) and a decrease from the same quarter ending March 2018 (11.5%).

• 9,748 children and young people were referred to CAMHS in Scotland which is an increase from the previous quarter (9,604) and the same quarter ending March 2018 (8,751).

Total Referrals by Quarter NHSScotland March 2015 - March 2019

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.

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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 3 September 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.