

# Publication Summary



## Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Waiting Times in Scotland

Quarter ending 31 December 2012

Publication date – 26 February 2013

### About this Release

This publication contains information about how long children and young people waited for mental health services provided by the NHS in Scotland. It is the third time that this information has been published.

The systems for collecting data locally are still being developed and as a result some people who attended a CAMH service are not included in this publication. However the information in this publication does give a good indication of waiting times in most areas of Scotland.

### Key Points

- Waiting times information for CAMH services is still at an early stage of development. NHS Boards are working with ISD and the Scottish Government to improve the consistency and completeness of the information. The target is due for delivery from March 2013.
- To report on CAMHS waiting times, NHS Boards have had to develop, for the first time, systems to report on CAMHS waiting times.
- During the quarter ending December 2012, almost 3,200 children and young people started treatment at CAMH services in Scotland.
- The initial estimates from data at an early stage of development indicate that around 91% of people were seen within 26 weeks.

### Background

The Scottish Government has set a target for the NHS in Scotland to deliver a maximum 26 week waiting time from a patient's referral to treatment for specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) services from March 2013, reducing to 18 weeks from December 2014.

Following the conclusion of previously planned work on a tolerance level for CAMH service waiting times and engagement with NHS Boards and other stakeholders, the Scottish Government has determined that the CAMH services target should be delivered for at least 90% of patients.

The main function of CAMH services is to develop and deliver services for those children and young people who are experiencing the most serious mental health problems. They also have an important role in supporting the mental health capability of the wider network of children's services.

Delivery of good quality CAMH services depends on timely access to healthcare. Early action is more likely to result in full recovery and, in the case of children and young people, minimises the impact on other aspects of their development such as their education, so improving their wider social development outcomes.

## Contact

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## Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#)

### **About ISD**

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up. Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland - and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

### **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. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD.

Further information on ISD's statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the [ISD website](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/) [www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/)