Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
Waiting Times in NHSScotland

Quarter ending 31 March 2017
Publication Date – 6 June 2017

About this release
This publication by Information Services Division (ISD) summarises how long children and young people waited to start treatment for mental health services provided by NHSScotland for the quarter ending March 2017.

Main Points

- 4,333 children and young people started treatment at Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Scotland which is similar to the previous quarter (4,331) but a decrease from quarter ending March 2016 (4,496).
- Over eight out of 10 (83.6%) children and young people were seen within 18 weeks and half started their treatment within ten weeks. This compares with 82.5% in the previous quarter and 84.4% for the quarter ending March 2016.
- The 18 week standard was met by ten NHS Boards (NHS Ayrshire & Arran, NHS Borders, NHS Dumfries & Galloway, NHS Forth Valley, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, NHS Highland, NHS Orkney, NHS Shetland, NHS Tayside and NHS Western Isles).
- Across Scotland, over one in nine (11.8%) patients referred to CAMHS did not attend their first appointment, this compares with 11.9% in the previous quarter and 12.1% in the quarter ending March 2016.
Background

The main function of CAMHS 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 CAMHS 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. 90% of children and young people should start treatment within 18 weeks of referral.

Scottish Government asked Healthcare Improvement Scotland to lead a programme of work to improve access to CAMHS. ISD are a partner in this programme of work providing data, analytical and intelligence support working closely with NHS Boards.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the CAMHs Waiting Times in NHSScotland report or on the CAMHs pages of the ISD website or you may be interested in our other Mental Health and Waiting Times publications. Workforce information is also released today and can be found here. CAMHS Workforce publication

The next release of this publication will be 5 September 2017.

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.