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 September 2017.

NHS Tayside has not been able to provide waiting times data following the implementation of a new patient management system. They have provided data for patients who Did Not Attend and the number of referrals received during the quarter.

Main Points

Based on the available data for the quarter ending September 2017:

- 3,410 children and young people started treatment at Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in 13 NHS Boards.
- Half of children and young people start their treatment within 12 weeks. Approximately three quarters of children and young people (73.3%) were seen within 18 weeks.

Note:
1. The y-axis range has been adjusted in order to display the trend in more detail.
2. The dotted line for the last quarter indicates data completeness issues with NHS Tayside, which may impact on the total NHSScotland figures, therefore caution should be taken when comparing quarter ending September 2017 with previous quarters.
The standard of 90% of patients to start treatment in 18 weeks from referral was met by six NHS Boards (NHS Ayrshire & Arran, NHS Borders, NHS Dumfries & Galloway, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, NHS Orkney and NHS Western Isles).

Across Scotland, around one in nine patients referred to CAMHS did not attend their first appointment.

**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 will be in March 2018. Consultation regarding a joint CAMHS Workforce & Waiting Times publication has been extended until 5th January 2018 and feedback is invited from all stakeholders. Further information will be provided here.

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**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.