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 December 2017.

NHS Tayside’s data are incomplete for this quarter. Following the implementation of a new patient management system. They were unable to provide data to ISD from 22 June to 31 October 2017.

NHS Borders has not been able to provide waiting times data for December 2017 following the implementation of a new patient management system, they anticipate being able to submit this data for the next publication.

Main Points

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

- 4,015 children and young people started treatment at Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in 14 NHS Boards.
- Seven out of ten children and young people (71.1%) were seen within 18 weeks. Half of children and young people started their treatment within 10 weeks.

The 18 week standard was met by four NHS Boards (NHS Ayrshire & Arran, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, NHS Shetland and NHS Western Isles).

Note:

1. The y-axis range has been adjusted in order to display the trend in more detail.
2. The points for quarter ending September 2017 and December 2017 indicates data completeness issues. This is due to NHS Tayside and NHS Borders impacting on the total numbers for NHSScotland. Caution should be taken when comparing quarter ending September 2017 and December 2017 with previous quarters.
• Across Scotland, around one in eight patients (11.8%) referred to CAMHS did not attend their first appointment.

Estimation due to data completeness
ISD estimate the missing data from NHS Tayside and NHS Borders would be around 172 children and young people. This estimate would suggest that 4,187 children and young people started treatment in the quarter and that 72.2% were seen within 18 weeks. More information is available in the report.

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 June 2018. A consultation regarding a joint CAMHS Workforce & Waiting Times publication has now closed. The consultation findings can be found here.