About this Release

This release is a collaborative piece of work between ISD and NHS Education for Scotland (NES), and presents Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) workforce information as at 31st December 2011. Data are staff in post as at 31st December 2011. The data are presented as figures in both Headcount numbers and Whole Time Equivalents (wte). Wte’s adjust headcount staff figures to take account of part-time staff.

Key Points

- Data show that a headcount of 984 clinical staff (842.4 wte) were working in CAMHS in Scotland as at 31st December 2011; this is an increase of 0.3% in staff in post since 30th September 2011 (both headcount and wte).
- Nationally, this represents a staffing level of 16.1 wte clinical workers per 100,000 of the population of Scotland.
- NHSScotland CAMHS vary in the age of population served. In some areas services are provided up to age 16 only; while others offer services up to 18 years. This has significant implications for workforce requirements. Please see Table 2 in the full publication report for details.
- As at 31st December 2011, an additional 38.0 wte posts were between being advertised and being filled. A further 14.3 wte posts were approved for recruitment but not yet advertised.

Background

The Scottish Needs Assessment Programme (SNAP) Report on Child and Adolescent Mental Health highlighted the importance of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and the need for development of these services within Scotland. In October 2005, the Scottish Executive (Government) published The Mental Health of Children and Young People: A Framework for Promotion, Prevention and Care which set the policy direction and a commitment to developing these services.
Delivery of good quality CAMH services depends on adequate numbers of well trained staff being available for career posts in services across NHSScotland. Data on the staff in post in NHSScotland CAMHS services have been reported since 2006.

CAMH Services vary across Scotland and the definition includes the following service types:
- Multi-disciplinary CAMHS, including clinical psychology
- Multi-disciplinary CAMHS, excluding clinical psychology
- Psychology services in Child Health/Paediatrics
- Island services – provided by two or three professionals

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the Full Publication Report or on the ISD website.