

Publication Summary



NHSScotland Psychology Services

Workforce Information as at 31st December 2011

27th March 2012



About this Release

This release is a collaborative piece of work between ISD and NHS Education for Scotland (NES), and presents data on staff in post in NHSScotland psychology services as at 31st December 2011. Data is available by target age of clients seen, area of work, NHS Board, and gender, age and contract type. The tables present 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

- In total there were 766 (643.1 wte) Clinical & Other Applied Psychologists employed in NHSScotland as at 31st December 2011. This is an increase of 3% headcount (+22hc), and an increase of 2.1%wte (+13.3 wte) from 30th September 2011.
- This total of 766 (643.1 wte) equates to 710 (594.3 wte) Clinical Psychologists plus 56 (48.8 wte) Other Applied Psychologists. This represents a national staffing level of 1 wte Applied Psychologist per 8,120 of the general population of Scotland.
- Psychology services increasingly employ a skill-mix of staff. Graduates of the MSc in Psychological Therapies in Primary Care (49.0 wte), Graduates of the MSc in the Applied Psychology of Children and Young People (21.5 wte), assistant psychologists (55.3 wte), cognitive behavioural therapists (33.9 wte), counsellors (30.2 wte), other therapists (10.8 wte), and other clinical staff (14.1 wte), were employed in NHSScotland psychology services as at 31st December 2011.

Background

Within NHSScotland, recent years have seen an increased demand for access to Applied Psychologists and Psychological Therapies. Healthcare policy has endorsed this shift towards a greater emphasis on psychologically based approaches e.g. Better Health, Better Care; Delivering for Mental Health; Towards a Mentally Flourishing Scotland. Psychology offers a scientific basis for understanding, and practical skills for influencing, how people think, feel and behave, with specific reference to physical health and mental well being. There is a strong evidence base, recognised in Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) and National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE)

guidelines for the effectiveness of psychological interventions in delivering positive health change for a wide range of clinical conditions.

NES helps to provide better patient care by providing educational solutions for workforce development. NES has responsibility for the pre-registration training of Clinical Psychologists for NHSScotland i.e. the main source of psychology workforce supply. Since its inception in 2004 NES has worked in collaboration with ISD and heads of psychology services across NHSScotland to develop a live national psychology workforce database to collect and analyse data about the psychology workforce to inform training numbers and psychology service planning. The impact of the modernisation of psychology training is accruing as successive cohorts of those who have completed new Masters programmes, or the expanded training programme in Clinical Psychology, enter the workforce.

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Further Information

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