

# Publication Report



## Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services in NHS Scotland

Workforce Information as at 30th September 2012

27th November 2012



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## Introduction

This release is a collaborative piece of work between Information Services Division (ISD) and NHS Education for Scotland (NES), and presents NHS Scotland Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) workforce information as at 30th September 2012.

The data are sourced from the NES-ISD National CAMHS Workforce Information Database.

Information presented is:

- Data on staff in post in CAMHS including: Medical, Nursing, Psychology, Allied Health Professionals, Social Workers and Teachers.
- Data are available by staff group, NHS Board, age, gender, Band and contract type.

The information collected and presented are used by NES, the Scottish Government and NHS Boards to support local, regional and national workforce planning, to support educational training and planning, and to track the Scottish Government's recent investment in expansion of CAMHS workforce and training numbers.

The tables present figures in both Headcount numbers and Whole Time Equivalents (WTE). WTE adjusts headcount staff figures to take account of part-time staff.

Mental health problems in children and young people are increasingly common. The Public Health Institute for Scotland Needs Assessment Report on Child and Adolescent Mental Health (2003), often referred to as the SNAP report, states that about 10% of children and young people 'have mental health problems which are so substantial that they have difficulties with their thoughts, their feelings, their behaviour, their learning, their relationships, on a day-to-day basis'.

Specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) comprise multidisciplinary teams with expertise in the assessment, care and treatment of children and young people experiencing mental health problems. The wider multidisciplinary and multi-agency team around the child also has a key role in supporting children and young people with any mental health problems they may be experiencing.

The main function of CAMH services is to develop and deliver services for those children and young people (and their parents/carers) 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. CAMH services are usually delivered by teams including psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, social workers, and others.

## Results and Commentary

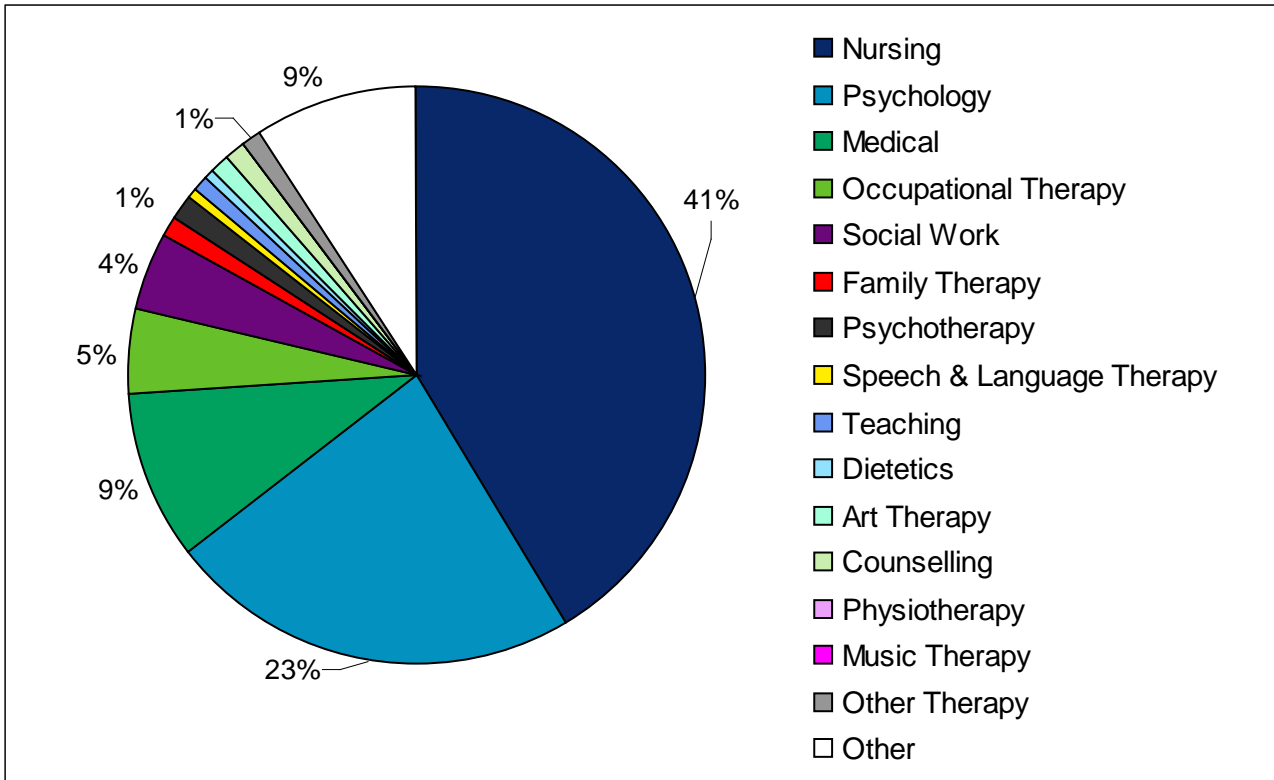
Data in this report are NHS Scotland CAMHS Workforce information.

### Overall trends

- It was reported that a headcount of 1042 clinical staff (885.4 wte) were working in CAMHS in Scotland as at 30th September 2012.
- This means the total staffing has increased by 5.5% since 30th September 2011 (for wte, 6.2% increase for headcount); an increase of 1.5% in wte since 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012 (1.4% for headcount also).
- As at 30th September 2012, a significant number of additional posts, 48.4 wte, throughout NHS Scotland CAMHS were between being advertised and being filled.
- Of these vacancies, 31.3 wte were in Psychology, 6.7 wte were in Medical and 6.8 wte were in Nursing.
- Nationally, this represents a staffing level of 16.9 wte clinical workers per 100,000 of the population of Scotland.
- From 1st April 2012 NHS Dumfries & Galloway CAMHS substance misuse mental health workers (headcount =5) sit within a separate sub team; Child and Adolescent substance service, CAS.
- From 1st April 2012, as part of the new Highland Lead Agency structure, CAMHS Primary Mental Health Workers are Highland Council employees, not NHS Scotland.
- As at 30th September 2012, NHS Lothian CAMHS teaching staff data are not complete. Full data will be available during 2013.
- Figure 1 illustrates the multidisciplinary skill mix within NHS Scotland CAMHS as at 30th September 2012.

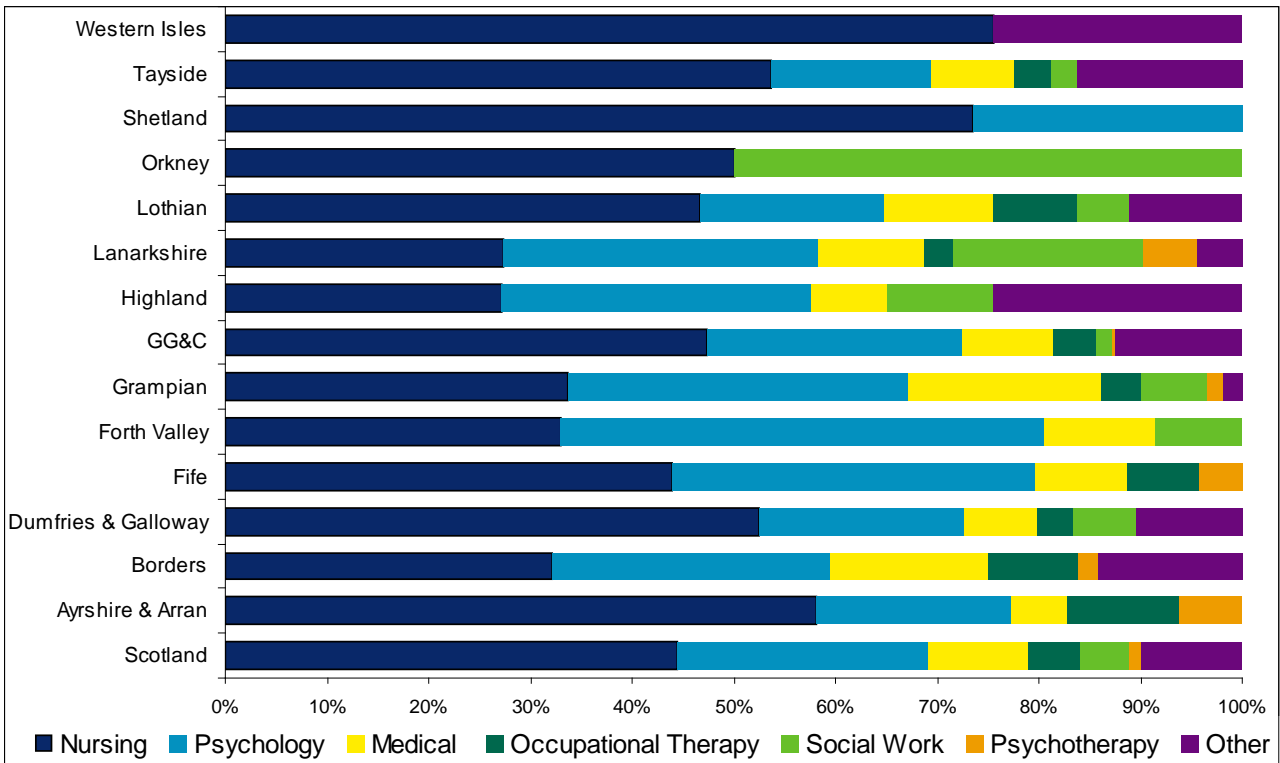
### Staff in post

**Figure 1: NHS Scotland CAMHS workforce as at 30th September 2012 by Professional Group. Expressed as a percentage of total 885.4 wte.**



\*Psychotherapy – this staff group are Child and Adolescent Analytical Psychotherapists.

**Figure 2: Distribution by percentage of the main Professional Groups within NHS Scotland CAMHS, by NHS Board.**



Of the changes in the CAMHS workforce between 30th September 2011 and 30th September 2012, Psychology has increased by 23.8 wte, and Nursing has increased by 5.7 wte as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1: NHS Scotland CAMHS workforce Trends by Professional Group, from September 2009 to September 2012 (WTE).**

Professional Group	Sept 2009	Sept 2010	Mar 2011	June 2011	Sept 2011	Dec 2011	Mar 2012	Jun 2012	Sept 2012	Annual Difference	% Annual Change
Nursing	320.4	342.4	363.6	361.9	361.2	353	361	360	366.8	5.7	1.6
Psychology	143.8	167.7	193.1	191	180	191	204	207	203.9	23.8	13.2
Medical	85.6	80.9	86.4	87.9	87.9	84.3	82.2	79	82.3	-5.7	-6.5
Occupational Therapy	35.4	37.4	40	39.6	39.8	40.7	40.7	40.2	42.6	2.8	6.9
Social Work	37.1	31.6	34.8	37.4	36.7	35.9	35.5	38.2	39.2	2.5	6.8
Psychotherapy	14.9	15.9	14.6	16	11.5	10.5	11.5	11	10.5	-1.0	-8.8
Family Therapy	7.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	11.9	12.3	11.3	10.4	11.4	-0.5	-4.0
Counselling	2	2.5	2.5	1	1	1	9.6	9.8	9.8	8.8	880.0
Speech & Language Therapy	6	4.5	4.6	4.6	6.3	6.8	6.8	7.1	6.9	0.6	9.7
Teaching	14.2	11.7	11.7	11.7	4.4	4.4	5.5	4.5	5.4	1.1	24.6
Art Therapy	7.4	7.3	5.2	5.2	4.4	4.4	7.1	8.8	9.5	5.1	116.7
Dietetics	3.9	5.3	6.4	6.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.8	5.5	0.1	2.0
Physiotherapy	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	1.4
Music Therapy	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.3	100.0
Educational Psychology	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0	0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0
Other Therapy	3.3	5.3	6.3	8.9	11.6	9.6	9.6	8.6	8.6	-2.9	-25.5
Other	82.6	88.8	79.4	73	76.9	82.6	78.8	80.8	81.5	4.6	6.0
<i>Healthcare Assistants</i>	<i>48.9</i>	<i>51.4</i>	<i>51.2</i>	<i>49.7</i>	<i>50.7</i>	<i>50.9</i>	<i>47.1</i>	<i>48.6</i>	<i>48.48</i>	<i>-2.2</i>	<i>-4.4</i>
<b>Total: All Groups</b>	<b>764.6</b>	<b>810.2</b>	<b>857.5</b>	<b>853.5</b>	<b>839.7</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>869</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>885.4</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>5.5</b>

*\*Psychotherapy – this staff group are Child and Adolescent Analytical Psychotherapists.*

- As at 30th September 2012, 33.58 wte (3.8%) of the 885.4 wte total staff in post were on maternity leave.
- Included in NHS Grampian data are SLA locum contracts between a) NHS Grampian and NHS Orkney: an NHS Grampian psychiatrist and a psychologist 2 days per quarter and b) NHS Grampian and NHS Shetland: 0.15 wte consultant psychiatrist. Included in NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde data is an SLA locum contract with NHS Western Isles for one consultant clinical psychologist 2 days per month (0.1 wte).

## Age of Service Provision

- NHS Scotland CAMHS vary in the age of population served. In some areas services are provided up to 16 only; while others offer services up to 18 years. This has significant implications for workforce requirements. Please see Table 2 below for details.

**Table 2: NHS Scotland CAMHS Service Age Provision as at 30th September 2012 by NHS Board.**

<b>NHS Board</b>	<b>Service Age Provision as at 30th September 2012</b>
Ayrshire & Arran	Up to 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday if still in full time education.
Borders	Up to 17 <sup>th</sup> birthday. Working towards implementing up to 18 years by 2013.
Dumfries & Galloway	Up to 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday, but occasionally beyond. Child Clinical Psychology Service- up to 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday provided in full-time secondary education (not tertiary i.e. not college), up to 16 if not in school.
Fife	Up to 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday.
Forth Valley	Core CAMHS is up to 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday, Learning Disabilities CAMHS is up to 16 <sup>th</sup> birthday.
Grampian	Up to 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday
Greater Glasgow & Clyde	Up to 18 <sup>th</sup> Birthday across all services.
Highland	Up to 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday if in full-time secondary education otherwise up to age 16years. LD CAMHS up to 19 <sup>th</sup> birthday provided still in full-time education
Lanarkshire	Tier 3 Child & Family Clinic Teams: up to 16 <sup>th</sup> birthday, up to 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday if referred before 16 <sup>th</sup> birthday or at a point before 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday when it is suitable to discharge them (currently under review). CAMHS LD, Primary Mental Health & CAMHS for Accommodated Young People (CAYP) Teams: up to 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday.
Lothian	Up to 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday across all areas.
Orkney	Up to the 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday.
Shetland	Up to 18 <sup>th</sup> Year if in full time education, and up to 16 <sup>th</sup> Year if not in full time education.
Tayside	Up to 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday provided in full-time secondary education (not tertiary i.e. not college). Learning Disability and Tier 4 services are up to 18 years
Western Isles	Up to the 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday.



### Vacancy Information

- As at 30th September 2012 an additional 48.35 wte posts were between being advertised and being filled. A further 13.6 wte posts were approved for recruitment but not yet advertised.

**Table 3: NHS Scotland CAMHS workforce Vacancies by Professional Group, as at 30th September 2012.**

Professional Group	WTE
Nursing	6.8
Psychology	31.3
Medical	6.7
Psychotherapy	0.0
Speech & Language Therapy	0.0
Dietetics	0.0
Other Therapy	0.0
Other	0.0
Unspecified Professional Group*	3.6
<b>Total: All Professional Groups</b>	<b>48.4</b>

\* wte unspecified professional group in NHS Lanarkshire and NHS Highland are Mental Health Clinician, Home Support Worker and CAMHS Clinician posts.

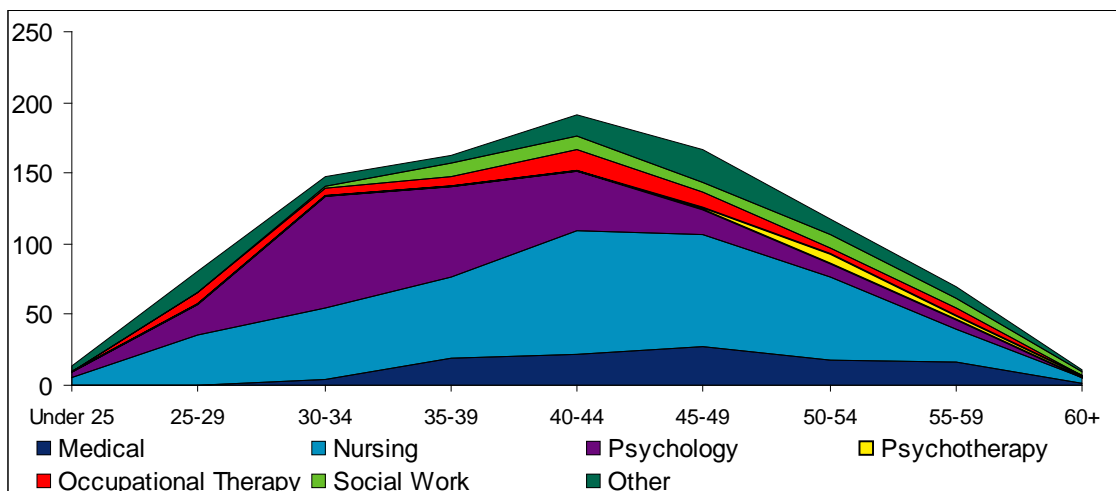
Notes: The following NHS Boards/ Services reported no posts were between advertised and being filled as at the 30<sup>th</sup> September: NHS Ayrshire and Arran, NHS Borders, NHS Dumfries and Galloway, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde: Inverclyde, West Glasgow, Forensic CAMH Service, Academic Team, Access Team, Eating Disorders, Enhanced Nursing, Scottish Centre for Autism, NHS Orkney, NHS Shetland and NHS Western Isles.

In practice many vacancies may arise as a result of the internal movement of staff within a service. This may result in there being no immediate net gain to the workforce in terms of numbers.

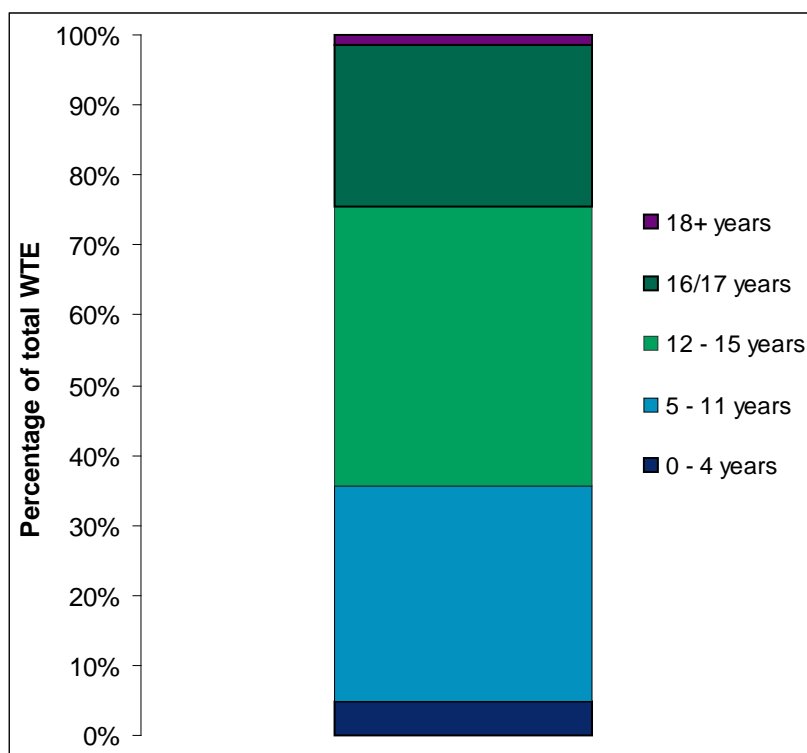
### Additional Information

The following charts illustrate the numerous break downs of CAMHS workforce data that are available from the Excel tables.

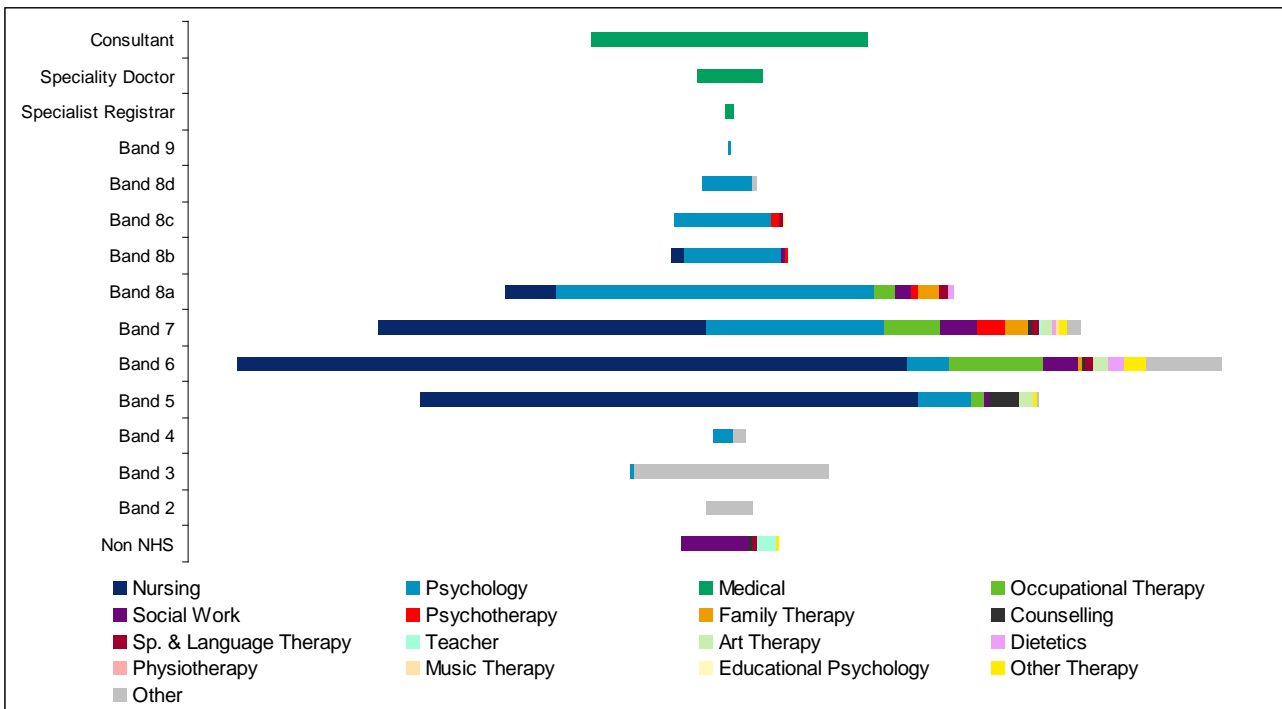
**Figure 3: Age Profile of the Main Professional Groups within NHS Scotland CAMHS.**



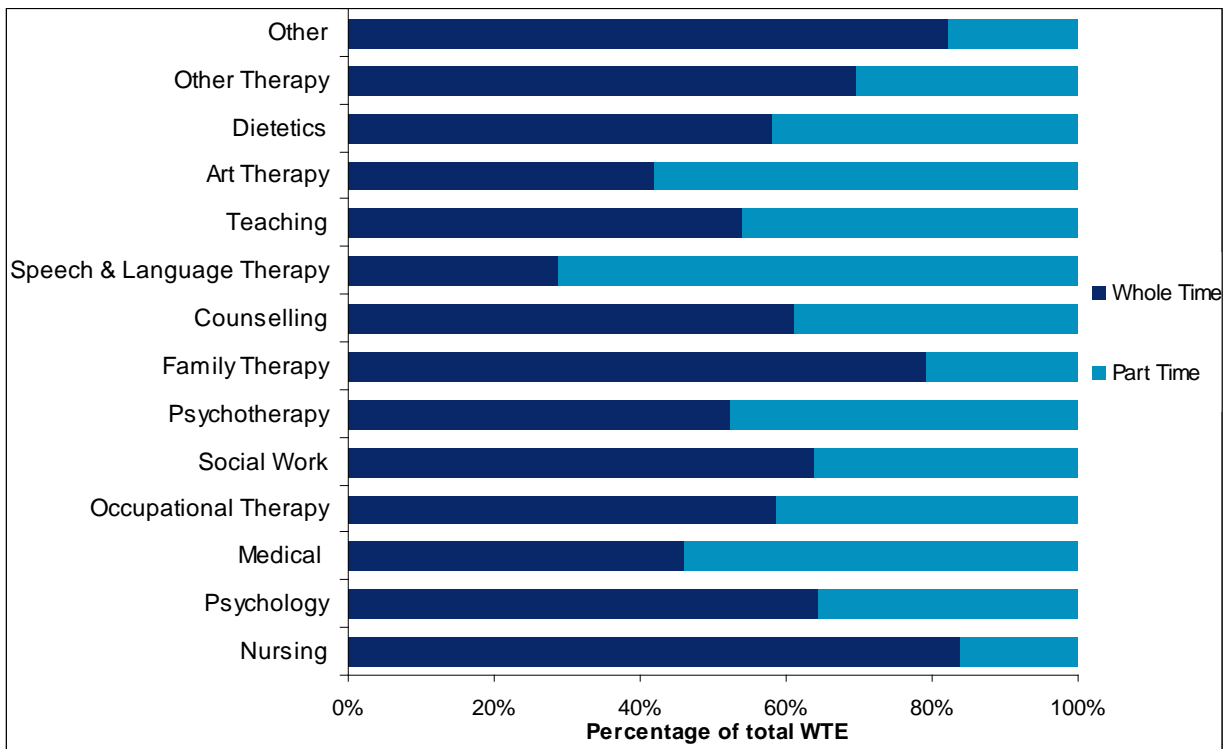
**Figure 4: Distribution of Target Age of Patients seen by staff within NHS Scotland CAMHS, as a percentage of total 885.4 wte.**



**Figure 5: Workforce Tree Plot of Staff within NHS Scotland CAMHS by pay band & professional group, as a percentage of total 885.4 wte.**

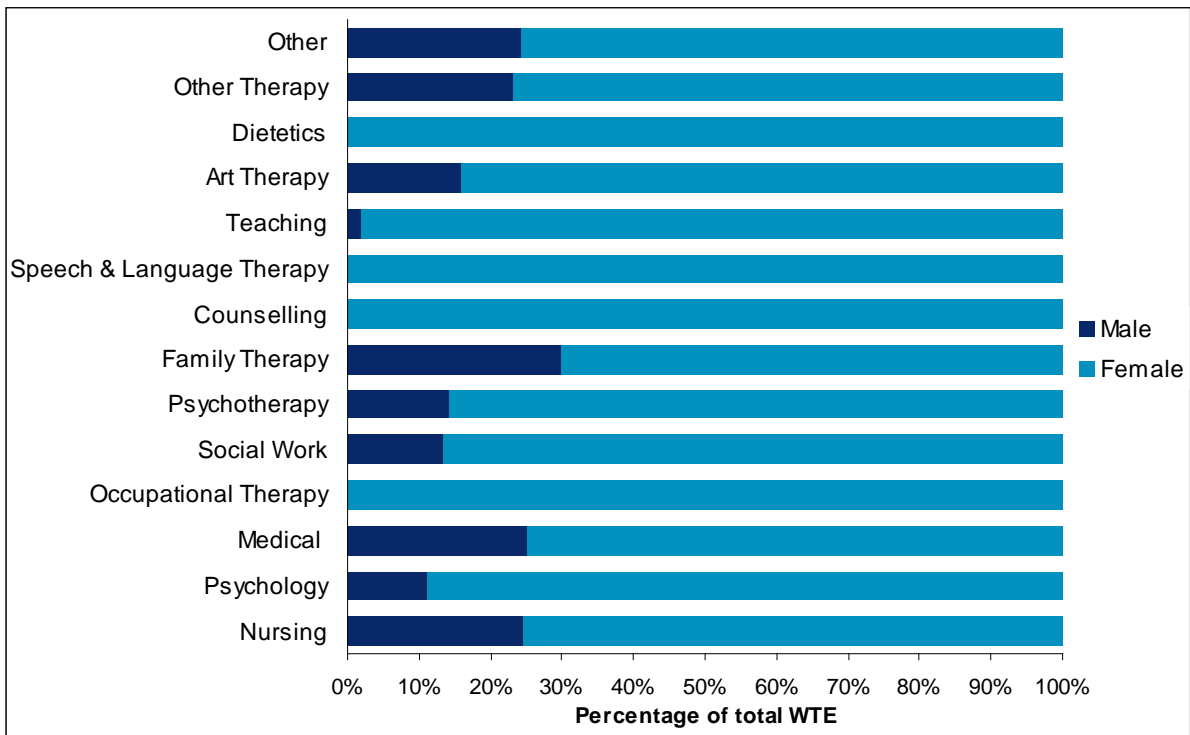


**Figure 6: Contract Type of CAMHS Staff within NHS Scotland, as a percentage of total 885.4 wte, by professional group.**



\*Physiotherapy, Music Therapy & Education Psychology excluded in the above chart due to being less than 1wte in total.

**Figure 7: Gender Profile of CAMHS Staff within NHS Scotland, as a percentage of total 885.4 wte, by professional group.**



*\*Physiotherapy, Music Therapy & Education Psychology excluded in the above chart due to being less than 1wte in total.*

## Glossary

Band	Agenda for Change pay band
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
NHS GG&C	NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
ISD	Information Service Division
NES	NHS Education for Scotland
SLA	Service Level Arrangement
WTE	Whole Time Equivalent; adjusts headcount staff to take account of part time staff

## List of Tables

Table No.	Name	Time period	File & size
1-10	<a href="#">CAMHS characteristics of the workforce as at 30th September 2012</a>	30th September 2012	Excel [3,642kb]
1	Clinical Staff Employed in Scotland CAMHS by Professional Group.	"	-
1B	Trend of Clinical Staff Employed in Scotland CAMHS	"	-
2	Age profile of Clinical Staff employed in Scotland CAMHS by Professional Group (Headcount)	"	-
3	Clinical Staff Employed in Scotland CAMHS by Professional Group, Gender & Contract Type.	"	-
4	Clinical Staff Employed in Scotland CAMHS by Professional Group & Contract Term.	"	-
5	Clinical Staff Employed in Scotland CAMHS by Professional Group & NHS Region & Board	"	-
6	Clinical Staff Employed in Scotland CAMHS by Professional Group & Grade.	"	-
7	Clinical Staff Employed in Scotland CAMHS by Professional Group and Area of Work	"	-
8	Clinical Staff Employed in Scotland CAMHS by Professional Group and Target Age	"	-
9	Clinical Staff Employed in Scotland CAMHS by Declared Ethnic Origin	"	-
10	Posts between being advertised and being filled in the CAMHS Workforce.	"	-

Please Note: in order to view the tables to full effect, your macro security settings will need to be set to medium. To change macro security settings using Tools, Macro, Security - set security level to Medium and re-open the report.

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## Further Information

Further information can be found on the [ISD website](#)

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## Appendix

### A1 – Background Information

It is estimated that around 10% of children and young people in Scotland have mental health problems that are so significant they impact on their daily lives. [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.

The main function of CAMH services is to develop and deliver services for those children and young people (and their parents/carers) 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. CAMH services are usually delivered by teams including psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, social workers, and others.

Delivery of good quality CAMH services depends on adequate numbers of well trained staff being available for career posts in services across NHS Scotland. In the context of the SNAP report and the emerging shape of the Framework, the Scottish Executive established a CAMH Workforce Group to identify ways in which to build capacity for promotion, prevention, care and treatment within CAMHS. Their report, [The Mental Health of Children and Young People in Scotland: Getting the Right Workforce, Getting the Workforce Right, A Strategic Review \(2005\)](#) considered the workforce implications of the Framework and provided a range of proposals about how these might be met.

The Group identified the need for accurate and up to date data about the CAMHS workforce in NHS Scotland, and a web based data collection system was launched in 2005 to capture this information.

The need for expansion and development of the CAMHS workforce has been driven by a series of reports and policy recommendations:

- **Scottish Needs Assessment Programme (SNAP) Report on Child and Adolescent Mental Health (2003)**

This report emphasised that all agencies and organisations have a role in supporting the mental health of children and young people. It highlighted the need to address the whole continuum of mental health - from mental health promotion, through preventing mental illness, to supporting, treating and caring for those children and young people experiencing mental health difficulties of all ranges of complexity and severity.

- **Getting the Workforce Right, Getting the Right Workforce – A Strategic Review of the CAMHS Workforce (2005)**

This work concluded that there is a “significant lack of capacity” in the CAMHS workforce and a need for a substantial expansion if it is to meet the agreed policy objectives. That needs to involve increasing workforce numbers through new



investment in posts and improved retention; increased efficiency through training and supervision, better infrastructure and improvements in health in the workplace.

- **The Mental Health of Children and Young People – A Framework for Promotion, Prevention and Care (2006)**

This set out recommendations for implementing the SNAP report. It was designed to be used by local agencies as a planning and audit tool to support their work in identifying goals and milestones for continuous improvement in the delivery of services. The Framework was produced by the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Development Group which was established in 2002 and drew on expertise from the NHS, education, social work and the voluntary sector.

The Framework stated that a phased investment into the CAMHS workforce was needed, with a doubling of the workforce within ten years.

- **CAMHS financial investment (2009)**

Commitment of additional central government funding for CAMHS workforce development (for Tier 4, and for psychology).

From May 2010 the UK Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The workforce data was collected and quality checked through engagement with the following organisations and groups: all NHS Scotland CAMHS lead clinicians, CAMHS Workforce Steering Group, Scottish Government CAMHS Core Group and NHS Education for Scotland.

The published staff in post information is used in the first instance by NHS Boards to support local, regional and national workforce planning and reporting. For other uses of the data, see: [Known uses of the CAMHS Workforce Data](#), Word (30KB)

## Links to Policy Information

The [Mental Health Strategy: 2012-2015](#) (2012) sets the policy direction for the next four years and includes a commitment to enhancing the delivery of specialist CAMHS in NHS Scotland.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/357051/0120639.pdf>

## Links to Related Publications

A HEAT target for CAMH services was set in April 2010. The target is that no child or young person will wait longer than 26 weeks from referral to treatment in a specialist CAMH service by April 2013, reducing to 18 weeks by December 2014.

Data on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Waiting Times in NHS Scotland are available at:

<http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Waiting-Times/Publications/2012-11-27/2012-11-27-WT-CAMHS-Report.pdf>

CAMHS Psychology information is also included in the main Psychology publication, available at the following link: <http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Workforce/Psychology/>

## A2 – Publication Metadata (including revisions details)

Metadata Indicator	Description
Publication title	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in NHS Scotland: Characteristics of the Workforce Supply as at 30th September 2012
Description	A detailed description of the nature and extent of current CAMHS provision in NHS Scotland as at the 30th September 2012.
Theme	Health and Social Care
Topic	Health Care Personnel, Finance and Performance
Format	Excel Format
Data source(s)	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Workforce Database
Date that data are acquired	Approximately 2 weeks after the census date
Release date	27 <sup>th</sup> November 2012
Frequency	From 2005-2010 publications were annual, data as at 30th September. From June 2011 the publication has been released quarterly.
Timeframe of data and timeliness	Data up to 30th September 2012, normal timeliness for this publication, no delay occurred. Reports data since 2005.
Continuity of data	Data prior to 2007 was presented using Whitley grades. From 2007 onwards, all non medical staff are reported under AfC. The table 'Contract Type & Gender' is a reworking of what was previously 2 separate tables; the data is now only available back to 2008 when previously under the 2 separate tables it was available to 2005.
Revisions statement	N/A
Revisions relevant to this publication	N/A
Concepts and definitions	Please see Welcome Page section of the Excel tables workbook for concepts and definitions
Relevance and key uses of the statistics	Information published is used to support local, regional and national workforce planning. See <a href="#">Known Uses of the CAMHS data</a> for further information. Workforce modelling used in extra funding decision. HEAT Targets: 2009/2010 "NHS Boards to deliver faster access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services", see: <a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/...servicespolicy/DFMH/childrenmentalhealth">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/...servicespolicy/DFMH/childrenmentalhealth</a>
Accuracy	100% sign off received from CAMHS lead clinicians
Completeness	100% of data returned
Comparability	CAMHS Psychologists can be compared to psychologists providing services to an age group of child and/or adolescent in the Psychology Workforce Planning Project: <a href="http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Workforce/Psychology">http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Workforce/Psychology</a>
Accessibility	It is the policy of ISD Scotland to make its web sites and products accessible according to <a href="#">published guidelines</a> .
Coherence and clarity	All CAMHS tables are accessible via the ISD website at <a href="http://www.isdscotland.org/HealthTopics/Workforce/CAMHS/">http://www.isdscotland.org/HealthTopics/Workforce/CAMHS/</a>  Data are presented by: Professional group; NHS Board; Ageband; Target Age, contract term,

	contract type, gender and Agenda for Change bands.
Value type and unit of measurement	Headcount & Whole Time Equivalent (WTE). Numeric.
Disclosure	The <a href="#">ISD protocol on Statistical Disclosure Protocol</a> is followed.
Official Statistics designation	National Statistics
UK Statistics Authority Assessment	Assessed by UK Statistics Authority <a href="#">assessment-report-39---statistics-on-nhs-scotland-workforce.pdf</a>
Last published	27 <sup>th</sup> November 2012
Next published	26 <sup>th</sup> February 2013
Date of first publication	2005
Help email	<a href="mailto:nss.isdwfinfo@nhs.net">nss.isdwfinfo@nhs.net</a>
Date form completed	05/11/2012

## **A3 – Early Access details (including Pre-Release Access)**

### **Pre-Release Access**

Under terms of the "Pre-Release Access to Official Statistics (Scotland) Order 2008", ISD are obliged to publish information on those receiving Pre-Release Access ("Pre-Release Access" refers to statistics in their final form prior to publication). The standard maximum Pre-Release Access is five working days. Shown below are details of those receiving standard Pre-Release Access and, separately, those receiving extended Pre-Release Access.

#### **Standard Pre-Release Access:**

Scottish Government Health Department  
NHS Board Chief Executives  
NHS Board Communication leads

#### **Extended Pre-Release Access**

Extended Pre-Release Access of 8 working days is given to a small number of named individuals in the Scottish Government Health Department (Analytical Services Division). This Pre-Release Access is for the sole purpose of enabling that department to gain an understanding of the statistics prior to briefing others in Scottish Government (during the period of standard Pre-Release Access).

Scottish Government Health Department (Analytical Services Division)

#### **Early Access for Management Information**

These statistics will also have been made available to those who needed access to 'management information', i.e. as part of the delivery of health and care:

#### **Early Access for Quality Assurance**

These statistics will also have been made available to those who needed access to help quality assure the publication:

## A4 – ISD and Official Statistics

### About ISD

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up.

Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHS Scotland and the Scottish Government and others, responsive to the needs of NHS Scotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

**Purpose:** To deliver effective national and specialist intelligence services to improve the health and wellbeing of people in Scotland.

**Mission:** Better Information, Better Decisions, Better Health

**Vision:** To be a valued partner in improving health and wellbeing in Scotland by providing a world class intelligence service.

### About NES

NES are a Special Health Board, responsible for supporting NHS services delivered to the people of Scotland by developing and delivering education and training for those who work in NHS Scotland.

NES helps to provide better patient care by providing educational solutions for workforce development. This is done by designing, commissioning, quality assuring and where appropriate providing education for NHS Scotland staff.

### 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. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD.

ISD's statistical publications are currently classified as one of the following:

- National Statistics (i.e. assessed by the UK Statistics Authority as complying with the Code of Practice)
- National Statistics (i.e. legacy, still to be assessed by the UK Statistics Authority)
- Official Statistics (i.e. still to be assessed by the UK Statistics Authority)
- other (not Official Statistics)

Further information on ISD's statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the [ISD website](#).

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and

signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.