Publication Summary

Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services in NHS Scotland

Workforce Information as at 31st March 2013

28th May 2013

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 on staff in post as at 31st March 2013. 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 1081 clinical staff (921.7 wte) were working in CAMHS in Scotland as at 31st March 2013; this is an increase of 2.6% in staff in post wte since 31st December 2012 (2.5% for headcount). From 31st March 2012 it is an increase of 6.1% wte (5.6% headcount).
- Nationally, this represents a staffing level of 17.5 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. See Table 2 in the full publication report for details.
- From 1st April 2012 NHS Dumfries & Galloway CAMHS substance misuse mental health workers (headcount =5) sit within a separate subteam; 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.
- From March 2013 a joint decision has been reached between CAMHS and Combined Child Health Services that 5 Health Psychologists who were previously managed within NHS Grampian CAMHS are now to be managed by NHS Grampian Combined Child Health services. They will therefore not now appear on the CAMHS database.
- As at 31st March 2013, an additional 34.5 wte posts throughout NHS Scotland CAMHS were between being advertised and being filled. A further 22.1 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