

Publication Summary



Psychology Services Workforce in NHSScotland

Workforce Information as at 31st December 2013

25th February 2014



About this Release

This release presents data on staff in post in NHSScotland Psychology Services as at 31st December 2013. Data are available at NHS Board and Scotland level for numbers of staff (headcount) and whole time equivalents (wte) to take account of part-time staff. The data presented includes information on staff in post, skill mix, vacancies and trainees. It also includes information on the age of clients seen and area of work.

Key Points

The group 'Clinical Psychologists' is composed of staff whose professional group is Clinical Psychology. This is the largest staff group within NHSScotland Psychology Services. 'Other Applied Psychologists' comprises staff from professional groups Counselling Psychology, Health Psychology, Forensic Psychology and Neuropsychology. 'All Applied Psychologists' refers to the total of Clinical Psychologists plus Other Applied Psychologists.

As at 31st December 2013:

- There has been a significant increase over time in the number of Clinical & Other Applied Psychologists employed in NHSScotland from 426 (371wte) in 2003 to the current level of 838 (706.3 wte) as at 31st December 2013.
- Whilst the wte of Clinical and Applied Psychologists employed in older adult services has increased between 31st December 2012 (49hc and 36.9wte) and 31st December 2013 (47hc and 37.4wte), it should be noted that there is no consistent improvement across the country and some services have seen a reduction in wte over this period. There remains the urgent need for an increase in availability of psychological services to older people across NHSScotland.
- This total of 838 (706.3wte) equates to 777 (653.5wte) Clinical Psychologists plus 61 (52.7wte) Other Applied Psychologists. This represents a national staffing level of 1 wte Applied Psychologist per 7,523 of the general population of Scotland.
- In addition to Clinical and Other Applied Psychologists, Psychology Services increasingly employ a skill-mix of staff.

- This skill mix includes graduates of the MSc in Psychological Therapies in Primary Care (57wte), Graduates of the MSc in the Applied Psychology of Children and Young People (31.1wte), cognitive behavioural therapists (38.4wte), counsellors (27.1wte), other therapists (11.9wte), and other clinical staff (19.6wte).
- As at 31st December 2013, an additional 41.3wte posts throughout NHSScotland Psychology Services were between being advertised and being filled with start dates commencing in January 2014. A further 10.2wte posts were approved for recruitment but not yet advertised.

Background

There is a strong evidence base for the effectiveness of psychological interventions in delivering positive health change for a wide range of clinical conditions. Healthcare policy in Scotland has endorsed a shift towards a greater emphasis on psychologically based approaches. These offer 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.

This release is collaboration between NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and the Information Services Division (ISD). NES has responsibility for the pre-registration training of Clinical Psychologists for NHSScotland which is the main source of psychology workforce supply. NES also has responsibility for commissioning two masters level training courses aimed at enhancing the skill mix; MSc Psychological Therapy in Primary Care and MSc Applied Psychology in Children and Young People.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#). For further information on training programmes within applied psychology in NHS Scotland please see: [NHS Education for Scotland Psychology Education and Training](#).

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 NHSScotland and the Scottish Government Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

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.

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](#) www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/