About this Release

This release presents data on staff in post in NHSScotland Psychology Services as at 30th September 2014. 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 30th September 2014:

- The total number of clinical staff employed in NHSScotland Psychology Services continues to rise, with 1202 staff (1013.1 WTE) including 868 (726.1 WTE) Clinical and Other Applied Psychologists in post as at 30th September 2014.

- There has been a significant increase over time in the number of Clinical and Other Applied Psychologists employed in NHSScotland from 426 (371.0 WTE) in 2003 to the current level of 868 (726.1 WTE) as at 30th September 2014.

- This total of 868 (726.1 WTE) equates to 808 (674.1 WTE) Clinical Psychologists plus 60 (52.0 WTE) Other Applied Psychologists. This represents a national staffing level of 13.6 WTE Applied Psychologist per 100,000 of the general population of Scotland.

- The total of 1202 staff represents a staffing level of Graduates of the MSc in Psychological Therapies in Primary Care (62.6 WTE), Graduates of the MSc in the Applied Psychology of Children and Young People (35.0 WTE), cognitive
behavioural therapists (41.1 WTE), counsellors (25.9 WTE), other therapists (17.0 WTE), and other clinical staff (21.7 WTE).

- As at 30th September 2014, an additional 78.3WTE posts throughout NHSScotland Psychology Services were between being advertised and being filled with start dates commencing in October 2014. A further 12.3 WTE 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.