

Publication Summary



Psychology Services Workforce in NHSScotland

Workforce Information at 30 September 2015

24 November 2015



About this Release

This quarterly publication is collaboration between Information Services Division and NHS Education for Scotland (NES), and presents Psychology Services workforce information on staff in post, skill mix, vacancies and trainees. It also includes information on the age of clients seen and specialism within Psychology Services.

This report presents information on headcount, which is the number of staff employed, and Whole Time Equivalents (WTEs).

Key Points

- The total number of clinical staff employed in Psychology Services continues to rise annually, with 1049.0 WTE (1257 headcount) including 743.8 WTE (901 headcount) Clinical and Other Applied Psychologists in post at 30 September 2015.
- This total of 743.8 WTE (901 headcount) equates to 686.0 WTE (834 headcount) Clinical Psychologists plus 57.8 WTE (67 headcount) Other Applied Psychologists.
- This represents a substantial increase in Clinical and Other Applied Psychologists employed in Psychology Services workforce over the last 12 years, from 371.0 WTE (426 headcount) in 2003.
- This represents a staffing level of 13.9 WTE Applied Psychologists per 100,000 of the population of Scotland.
- The total of 1049.0 WTE also includes Graduates of the MSc in Psychological Therapies in Primary Care (67.2 WTE), Graduates of the MSc in the Applied Psychology of Children and Young People (40.4 WTE), Cognitive Behavioural Therapists (56.3 WTE), Counsellors (24.8 WTE), other therapists (15.2 WTE), and other clinical staff (27.9 WTE).
- An additional 73.7 WTE posts were in the process of being advertised at 30 September 2015. A further 7.8 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.

NHS Education for Scotland (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 NHSScotland please see: [NHS Education for Scotland Psychology Education and Training](#).

ISD and 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.

Further information [about our statistics](#).