

Psychology Services Workforce in NHSScotland

Quarter Ending 31 March 2016



Publication Date – 07 June 2016

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 profile 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). WTEs is a calculation that takes account of part-time staff, for example, two part time staff each working 'half time' are working hours equivalent to one full time member of staff ie 1.0 WTE.

Main points

- Since 31 March 2015 the number of Clinical Psychologists has increased from 850 headcount to the current level of 862 headcount at 31 March 2016, however the WTE has decreased in this time period from 711.3 WTE to the current level of 705.0 WTE.
- The number of Clinical and Other Applied Psychologists, has increased by 25% over the last 7 years, from 614.2 WTE (692 headcount) in 2009 to the current level of 767.6 WTE (935 headcount).
- This represents a staffing level of 14.3 WTE Applied Psychologists per 100,000 of the population of Scotland. This rate varies across NHS Health Board areas. For instance, in respect of mainland boards, the rate for NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (17.7 WTE per 100,000) is over double the rate for NHS Highland (8.7 WTE per 100,000).
- At 31 March 2016 52.9 WTE posts were vacant and in the process of being advertised with a further 5.6 WTE posts being approved for recruitment but not yet advertised.

Background

Within NHSScotland, recent years have seen an unparalleled demand for increased access to Applied Psychologists and Psychological Therapies. Contemporary Healthcare Policy recognises the importance of Psychological and Psychosocial factors for physical and mental health and well being across the life span.

NHS Education for Scotland has two major areas of responsibility for psychology in NHSScotland; training of psychologists for NHSScotland, and upskilling the existing multi-professional workforce in psychological care. The impact of expansion and modernisation of psychology training is accruing as successive cohorts of those who have completed the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, and the new Masters programmes in Psychological Therapy in Primary Care, and in Applied Psychology of Children&Young People enter the workforce.

Contact

Claire Howitt
Information Analyst
claire.howitt@nhs.net
0131 275 6303

Heather Graveson
Information analyst
heather.graveson@nhs.net
0131 275 7626

Liz Jamieson
Principal Information Analyst
lizjamieson@nhs.net
0131 275 6422

Find out more

The Information Services Division publishes a range of workforce-related information. You can find all our information on the [workforce section of the ISD website](#).

Corresponding information on training programmes can be found on the [training section of the NES website](#).

Further information can be found in the [Psychology Services workforce report](#).

The next update of this publication will be in September 2016.

ISD and Official Stats

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. [Find out more about our statistics](#).