About this release

This release is a collaboration between Information Services Division and NHS Education for Scotland and presents information on the Child & Adolescent Mental Health services (CAMHS) workforce staff in post as at 30 June 2016.

Information is presented by headcount, which is the number of staff employed, and Whole Time Equivalents (WTE). 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 i.e. 1.0 WTE.

Main Points

- Since this data collection began in 2006 there has been a 49% increase in the CAMHS workforce from 653.7 WTE (741 headcount) to 976.1 WTE (1136 headcount) as at 30 June 2016.

- Since June 2015 there has been a 0.3% WTE decrease in the overall CAMHS workforce and a 0.2% increase in the headcount. This is due to more staff working part time hours than previously.

- Nationally, there is an average staffing level of 18.2 WTE clinical workers per 100,000 of the population of Scotland at 30 June 2016. By the end of 2016, the Scottish Government’s NHSScotland workforce target is to reach 20 WTE per 100,000 of the whole population.
As at 30 June 2016, 51.7 WTE (5.0%) posts were vacant and in the process of being advertised. Including these posts, the CAMHS workforce would be 1027.8 WTE, equivalent to a staffing level of 19.1 WTE clinical workers per 100,000 of Scotland’s population.

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. Data on the staff in post in NHSScotland CAMHS services have been reported since 2006.

CAMHS 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 Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services in NHSScotland Workforce Information report. A workbook containing data for this report can also be downloaded.

You may also be interested in CAMHS waiting times data, also published by ISD.

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