

Psychology Services Workforce in NHSScotland

Quarter Ending 30 June 2016

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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/patients 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 i.e. 1.0 WTE.

Main points

- The total number of clinical staff employed in NHSScotland Psychology Services has increased from 408.0 WTE (468 Headcount) at September 2001 to the current level of 1,092.1 WTE (1,317 headcount) at 30 June 2016 an increase of 167%.
- The number of Clinical and Other Applied Psychologists has increased steadily since 2001. At 30 June 2016 there were 770.6 WTE (935 headcount) compared to 325.1 WTE (373 headcount) in 2001 – a 137% increase.
- Since 30 June 2015 the number of Clinical Psychologists has increased from 695.1 WTE (832 headcount) to the current level of 706.5 WTE (861 headcount) at 30 June 2016.
- At 30 June 2016, 71.0 WTE (6%) of clinical staff posts were vacant and in the process of being advertised. Since September 2012 observed rates on vacancies have fluctuated between 4 and 8 percent.

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.

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Find out more

Further information can be found in the [Psychology Services workforce report](#). A [workbook containing data for this report](#) can also be downloaded.

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

ISD and Official Stats

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