About this release

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

Figures are presented as headcount (actual numbers of staff) and whole time equivalent (WTE) which adjusts the figures to take account of part-time working.

Main Points

- Since this data collection began in 2006, there has been a 50.2% increase in the CAMHS workforce from 653.7 WTE (741 headcount) to 981.8 WTE (1,147 headcount) as at 30 September 2016.

- Over the last year, there has been a 0.3% WTE increase in the overall CAMHS workforce and a 1.1% increase in the headcount.
• Nationally, there is an average staffing level of 18.3 WTE clinical workers per 100,000 of the population of Scotland at 30 September 2016. An additional 93.2 WTE clinical workers is required to reach the overall target of 20 WTE clinical workers per 100,000 of the total population, which was set by the Scottish Government in 2006.

• At 30 September 2016, 47.8 WTE (4.6%) posts were vacant and in the process of being advertised. Including these posts, the CAMHS workforce would be 1029.6 WTE, equivalent to a staffing level of 19.2 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 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 have been reported since 2006.

CAMHS 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 March 2017.