

Psychology Services Workforce in NHSScotland

Quarter Ending 30 September 2016

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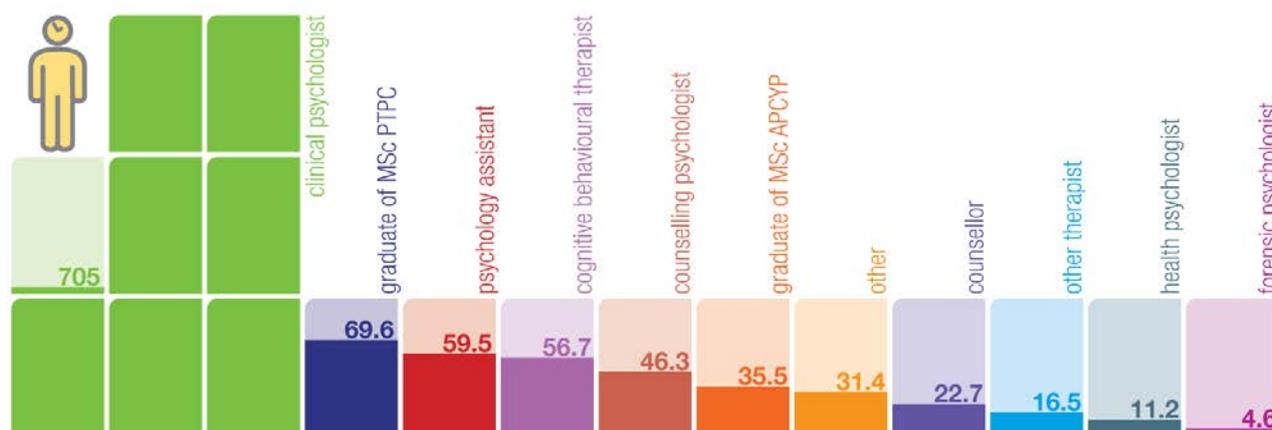
About this release

This quarterly publication is a collaboration between Information Services Division and NHS Education for Scotland (NES). It summarises 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. 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

- At 30 September 2016, 1,058.7 WTE (1,279 headcount) clinical staff were working across psychology services in NHSScotland. This is an increase of around 160% since data collection began in 2001.

WTE of Professional Groups in Psychology Services across NHSScotland at 30 September 2016.



PTPC – Psychology Therapy in Primary Care
APCYP – Applied Psychology for Children and Young People

- Clinical psychologists still remains the largest staff group. However this majority has decreased in proportion from 76.2% in 2001 of all clinical staff to 66.6% in 2016. This is predominantly due to the introduction of NHS Education for Scotland commissioned training programmes such as Psychological Therapy in Primary Care and the Applied Psychology for Children and Young people course which have increased the number of other types of clinical staff that are supporting these services.

- Since data collection began in September 2011, the WTE of vacancies at each census point has remained relatively stable although within-year variation does occur. At 30 September 2016, 62.4 WTE (74 headcount) posts were in the process of being advertised and this is close to average number over recent years. This equates to a 5.6% vacancy rate of all clinical posts in psychology services.

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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Further Information

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 March 2017.

ISD and Official Stats

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