Psychology Services Workforce in NHSScotland

Quarter Ending 31 March 2017

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About this release

This publication is produced collaboratively by the Information Services Division (ISD) and NHS Education for Scotland (NES). It presents Psychology Services workforce information at 31 March 2017.

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 31 March 2017, 1,097.3 WTE (1,315 headcount) clinical staff were in post within psychology services in NHSScotland. This is an increase of around 169% since data collection began in 2001. However growth has slowed over the last two years, increasing by 2.8% over this period. (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: WTE of all Clinical Staff in NHSScotland Psychology Services 2001-2017.
• Clinical psychologists remain the largest staff group within this workforce with 727.0 WTE in post at this census compared to 311.0 WTE at 30 September 2001 – an increase of 133.8%. However, growth has slowed over the last two years, with the WTE of this staff group increasing by 2.2% (see Figure 1).

• At 31 March 2017, 82.2 WTE posts were in the process of being advertised, equating to a 7.0% vacancy rate. This rate declined from September 2011 to September 2014 and has remained steady since then.

• Since 2001, there have been 719 successful graduates of the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, of which 69.8% are currently employed within NHSScotland Psychology Services.

Background

The Scottish Government 10 year Mental Health Strategy 2017-2027 was published in March 2017 (http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/03/1750). The strategy highlights the need to increase the supply of the workforce and to ensure the skill mix across a wide range of services meets in the needs of the population.


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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 September 2017.

ISD and Official Stats

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