Psychology Services Workforce in NHSScotland
Quarter Ending 30 June 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 30 June 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 30 June 2017, 1,118.5 WTE (1,346 headcount) clinical staff were in post within Psychology Services in NHSScotland. This is an increase of around 174% since data collection began in 2001. The rate of growth in the workforce had slowed between 2014 and 2016 but has increased in the last three quarters, showing an increase of 5.6% overall since 30 September 2016 (see Figure 1).

- Clinical psychologists remained the largest staff group within this workforce with 735.6 WTE in post at this census compared to 311.0 WTE at 30 September 2001 an increase of 136.5%. The rate of growth in this staff group had also slowed in recent years but has increased since 30 September 2016 (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: WTE of all Clinical Staff in NHSScotland Psychology Services 2001-2017.
At 30 June 2017, 92.3 WTE posts were in the process of being advertised, equating to a 7.6% vacancy rate. The vacancy rate for all professional groups has increased slightly over the last 3 quarters.

Since 2001, there have been 726 successful graduates of the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, of which 70.4% 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 December 2017.

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