Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services
Workforce in NHSScotland
Quarter Ending 30 September 2017
Publication Date – 12 December 2017

About this release

This publication is produced collaboratively by 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 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

- Since this data collection began in 2006 there has been a 51.9% increase in the CAMHS workforce from 653.7 WTE (741 headcount) to 992.7 WTE (1,158 headcount) as at 30 September 2017. Growth has slowed in recent years, however there has been a 1.1% increase in the last year.

Headcount and WTE of CAMHS staff in NHSScotland from 30 September 2006 to 30 September 2017.
The average staffing level within NHSScotland CAMHS was 90.8 WTE staff per 100,000 population aged 0 - 18. There is significant variation in this rate across NHS Boards.

Since data collection began, the moving average for total vacancy rates has remained between 3.9% and 5.3%. However, the vacancy rate of 6.6% at 30 September 2017 is the highest rate that has been observed.

The 2017 intake saw 18 trainees accepted onto the MSc Applied Psychology for Children and Young People course. There have been 158 successful graduates since the course began in 2007, which is equal to a 97.5% success rate. The course was introduced to expand the professional skill mix working within CAMHS and other child 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](http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/03/1750)). The strategy highlights the need for capacity of care staff to effectively support children and adolescents living with mental health conditions. The strategy acknowledges that while access to CAMHS has improved, demand for this specialism is continuing to increase, and there is a need to look at the whole system, recognising the importance of specialist services, psychological therapies and early interventions at tiers 1 and 2 including provision of support for families through parenting programmes.

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**Further Information**

Further information can be found in the [Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services in NHSScotland Workforce Information report](http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/03/1750). A [workbook containing data for this report](http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/03/1750) can also be downloaded. You may also be interested in [CAMHS waiting times data](http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/03/1750), also published by ISD.

The next release will be in March 2018. [Consultation](http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/03/1750) regarding a joint CAMHS Workforce & Waiting Times publication has been extended until 5th January 2018 and feedback is invited from all stakeholders.

**ISD and Official Statistics**

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