Psychology Services Workforce in NHSScotland
Quarter ending 31 March 2018
A National Statistics publication for Scotland

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About this release
This release by Information Services Division, in collaboration with NHS Education for Scotland, presents Psychology Services workforce information at 31 March 2018.

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
Within Psychology Services in NHSScotland at 31 March 2018:

- The WTE is almost three times higher than reported at the first data collection in 2001. Since December 2014, rate of growth has been consistent. The workforce has grown by 9.4% (99.5 WTE) since December 2014 and in the past 12 months there has been an increase of 5.4% (59.4 WTE).

- Clinical Psychologists remain the largest professional group, contributing 66.7% (771.7 WTE) of the psychology workforce. Since data collection began, the percentage of other clinical staff, (including Clinical Associates in Applied Psychology, Counsellors and Assistant Psychologists) has increased from 20% to 27.8% of all clinical staff.

- There are currently 68.0 WTE vacancies, of which 49.8 WTE (73.2%) are for Clinical Psychologist positions. New posts make up 28.8% (19.6 WTE) of the total vacancies.

- There are 236 individuals training for various post-graduate qualifications in applied psychology, including 183 on the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, who will be fully qualified to become Clinical Psychologists upon course completion. On average, ten years after graduating, 70.9% of graduates are still employed in NHSScotland Psychology Services.
WTE of all Clinical Staff in NHSScotland Psychology Services from 30 September 2001 to 31 March 2018

1. At 31st March 2018 there were 68.1 WTE (5.9%) staff on maternity leave and 6.6 WTE (0.6%) on long term sick leave.
2. Quarterly data collection began from March 2011. Prior to this there was only an annual census at 30 September.

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 the needs of the population.

NHS Education for Scotland has two major areas of responsibility for psychology in NHSScotland: training of psychologists and up-skilling the existing multi-professional workforce. The Psychological Therapies 'Matrix' is a guide to planning and delivering evidence-based Psychological Therapies within NHS Boards in Scotland.

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Further Information
Find out more in the full report. The data from this publication is available to download from our web page. For more information on Psychology Workforce see the Psychology Workforce section of our website. For related topics, please see the Mental Health pages.

The next release of this publication will be 4 September 2018.

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