Psychology Services Workforce in NHSScotland

Quarter ending 30 June 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 30 June 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 30 June 2018:

- There were a total of 1172.3 WTE (1415 headcount) clinical staff in posts within Psychology Services across NHSScotland. The total workforce in post grew by 4.8% (53.8 WTE) in the previous 12 months and by 1.3% (15.5 WTE) since the previous census at 31 March 2018.

WTE of all Clinical Staff in NHSScotland Psychology Services from 30 September 2002 to 30 June 2018 1, 2, 3.

1. At 30 June 2018 there were 62.7 WTE (5.3%) staff on maternity leave and 9.0 WTE (0.8%) 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.
• Clinical psychologists remain the largest staff group, contributing 65.7% (769.6 WTE) of the psychology workforce. Since June 2017, the clinical psychologist workforce has grown by 34.0 WTE (4.6%).

• There are currently 98.6 WTE vacancies being advertised for recruitment, of which 72.8 WTE (73.8%) are for Clinical Psychology positions. New posts account for 34.5% (34.0 WTE) of the total vacancies, which is the highest number of new posts observed since this data was first collected.

• There are 226 individuals training for various post-graduate qualifications in applied psychology, including 169 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.

**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 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.

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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 December 2018.

**ISD and Official Statistics**

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of ‘Official Statistics’. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Further information about our statistics.