Psychology Services Workforce in NHSScotland
Quarter ending 31 March 2019
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 2019. 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 2019:

- There were a total of 1,176.3 WTE (1,431 headcount) clinical staff in post. This is 1.7% (19.6 WTE) higher than reported 12 months previously. Since the last quarterly census the WTE has increased by 1.3% (15.6 WTE).

WTE of all Clinical Staff in NHSScotland Psychology Services from 30 September 2002 to 31 March 2019

1. As at 31 March 2019 there were 53.1 WTE (4.5%) staff on maternity leave and 9.5 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 in this workforce, accounting for 66.6% (783.6 WTE) of clinical staff in post. Since March 2018, this staff group has grown by 11.9 WTE (1.5%) which accounts for around two thirds (60.7%) of the growth seen across Psychology Services in the past 12 months.

There are currently 102.7 WTE vacancies being advertised for recruitment, of which 67.1 WTE (65.3%) are for Clinical Psychology positions. New posts account for 34.8% (35.7 WTE) of the total vacancies. Compared with previous census years, the current vacancy rate of 8.0% across Psychology Services is the highest vacancy rate observed in the month of March since 2012 when March data was first available.

There are 248 individuals training for various post-graduate qualifications in applied psychology, including 184 on the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, who will be fully qualified to become Clinical Psychologists upon course completion. The intake of students into the MSc in Applied Psychology for Children and Young People has increased by over 50% since the last intake, from 19 in 2018 to 30 in 2019.

**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.

As of 1 April 2019, ownership and responsibility for collecting workforce data and producing national statistics transferred from ISD to NHS Education for Scotland (NES), ahead of the creation of a new health body, Public Health Scotland (PHS). The publications will be co-produced by ISD and NHS Education for Scotland until 30th September 2019, with full responsibility for the publication production passing to NHS Education for Scotland from 1st October 2019.

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**Further Information**

Find out more in the full report. The data from this publication are 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 September 2019.

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**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.