



An Ghníomhaireacht um  
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach  
Child and Family Agency

# Integrated Performance and Activity Report

QUARTER 1 2017



Quality Assurance Directorate

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## 1.0 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

This report provides an update on the performance and activity of Tusla services at the end of Q1 2017. It is structured around key performance and activity measures included in the Agency's 2016 Business Plan. The data presented was provided by services and refers to the latest performance and activity information available at this time.

The summary by service type set out below provides an overview of the Q1 2017 position regarding activity and performance.

### CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

#### Referrals

- 12,097 referrals for Q4 2016; 365 (3%) more than Q3 2016 and the second highest number (after Q2 2016) for the period Q1 2014 – Q4 2016
- 59% (n=7,184) child welfare concerns; 41% (n=4,913) child abuse concerns, 326 more than Q3 2016
- 68% (n=8,036) of preliminary enquiries completed within 24 hrs of receipt of the referral
- 43% (n=5,061) of referrals required an initial assessment
- 15% (n=753) of initial assessments completed within the 21 day target
- Total of 47,399 referrals for 2016; 3,803 more than 2015 (n=43,596)
- 28,312 (60%) for welfare concerns; 2,951 (12%) more than 2015 (n=25,361)
- 19,087 (40%) were for abuse/neglect concerns; 852 (55) more than 2015 (18,235)

#### Social Work Activity Data

- 25,384 cases open to social work at the end of Q1 2017; 350 more than Q4 2016
- 76% (n=19,226) of open cases allocated to named social worker; down from 78% at the end of Q4 2016
- 6,158 cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2017; 745 (14%) more than Q4 2017; over one-third (n=2,200) "active" on a duty system i.e., actions being taken to progress the case
- 1,062 (17%) cases awaiting allocation were categorised as 'high priority'; 261 (33%) more than Q4 2016
- 59% (n=626) of 'high priority' cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2017 were waiting less than 3 months.

### **Child Protection Notification System**

- 1,318 children listed as ‘active’ on the CPNS at the end of Q1 2017; 46 more than Q4 2016. Highest number for the period Q1 2016 – Q1 2017. *Figure includes two children from another jurisdiction who were listed temporarily*
- All children listed as “active” at the end of Q1 2017 had an allocated social worker (*children from other jurisdiction listed temporarily not included – social worker provided by their own jurisdiction*)

### **Emergency Out of Hours Social Work Service / Crisis Intervention Service**

- 238 referrals to the Crisis Intervention Service (CIS)<sup>1</sup> during Q1 2017; 12 fewer than Q4 2016
- 67 children were placed with the CIS during Q1 2017; eight more than Q4 2017
- 195 referrals to the Emergency Out of Hours Social Work Service (EOHS) (includes service operating in Cork) during Q1 2017; 43 more than Q4 2016 and the highest number for the period Q1 2016 – Q1 2017.
- 79 children were placed during Q1 2017, 19 more than Q4 2016 and the highest number for the period Q1 2016 – Q1 2017

## **ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES**

### **Children in Care**

- 6,308 children in care at the end of Q1 2017; not comparable with data for previous quarters due to the inclusion of separated children seeking asylum in care, from Jan 2017
- 613 children in private placements; figure includes 48 separated children seeking asylum who were not included in this figure previously
- 94% (n=5,938) of children in care had an allocated social worker (against a target of 100%); up one percentage point from Q4 2016
- 370 children awaiting allocation of a social worker; 83 fewer than Q4 2016
- 92% (n=5,782) of children in care had a written care plan (against a target of 90%); down two percentage point from Q4 2016
- A total of 526 children did not have a written care plan, 122 more than Q4 2016

### Aftercare

- 1,940 young adults (all ages) in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q1 2017; 60 more than Q4 2016 and the highest number for the period Q1 2016 – Q1 2017
- 86% (n=1,598/1,853) of young adults 18-22 in receipt of aftercare services had an allocated aftercare worker; up one percentage point on Q4 2016
- 85% (n=1,574/1,853) of young adults 18-22 in receipt of aftercare services had an aftercare plan; down one percentage point on Q4 2016
- 29% (n=314/1,081) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years had a preparation for leaving care and aftercare plan; down four percentage points on Q4 2016
- 41% (n=440/1,081) of children in care 16 and 17 years had an allocated aftercare worker; no change on Q4 2016
- 113 young adults were discharged from care by reason of reaching 18 years; 81% (n=92/113) had an allocated aftercare worker.
- 90% (n=95/105) of those eligible for an aftercare service were availing of a service.

### Adoption

- 247 new applications to commence tracing for a searched person in Q1 2017
- 805 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q1 2017; up 115 on Q4 2016
- All services meeting the target of eight weeks or less from time of application to provision of non-identifying information
- 47 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received in Q1 2017
- 49 new children were referred for adoption in Q1 2017
- 32 completed adoption assessments presented to Local Adoption Committees in Q1 2017

### Foster Carers

- 4,488 approved foster carers on panel the end of Q1 2017; 49 fewer than Q4 2016
- 78% (n=1,196) of relative foster carers approved against a target of 80%; 77% in Q4 2016
- 87% (n=2,439) of general foster carers had an allocated link worker against a target of 90%; up from 82% in Q4 2016. Some 386 awaiting allocation; 132 fewer than Q4 2016
- 79% (n=939) of approved relative foster carers had an allocated link worker against a target of 85%; down from 80% in Q4 2016. Total of 257 awaiting allocation; 17 more than Q4 2016
- 328 unapproved relative foster carers; 28 fewer than Q4 2016
- 276 (84%) of the unapproved relative foster carers had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks;
- 70% (n=193) of unapproved relative foster carers with a child placed > 12 weeks had an allocated link (social) worker; up from 69% in Q4 2016. Some 83 awaiting allocation; 14 fewer than Q4 2016

## REGULATION & SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

### Early Years Services

- 4,484 EYS on the register nationally at the end of Q1 2017
- 380 EYS inspections (all types) carried out during Q1 2017
- 88 complaints received in respect of EYS during Q1 2017

### Alternative Education Regulation

- 1,352 children on the register for home education at the end of March 2017
- 4,715 children (approx) attending 44 independent schools at the end of March 2017
- 358 applications received for home education Sept 2016 – March 2017; 1,142 applications for education in independent schools
- 406 assessments for home education carried out Sept 2016 – March 2017
- 259 children registered for home education between Sept 2016 – March 2017
- 184 children awaiting registration<sup>13</sup> for home education at the end of March 2017
- Six children were refused registration for home education, Sept – March 2017 There was appeal made against decisions not to register.

### Statutory / Non-Statutory Alternative Care Services

- 37 statutory residential services Q1 2017
- 19 monitoring visits to statutory residential services in Q1 2017
- 9 monitoring visits to Special Care Units in Q1 2017; Ballydowd (n=3); Coovagh (n=2) and Gleann Alainn (n=4)
- 83 private residential centres registered with the Agency at the end of Q1 2017; 21 inspections done in Q1 2017
- 28 voluntary residential centres registered with the Agency at the end of Q1 2017; 2 inspections done
- 7 non-statutory foster care services at the end of Q1 2017

## EDUCATIONAL WELFARE SERVICES

### Educational Welfare Services

- 2,358 new individual children worked with between Sept 2016 and March 2017; an average of 337 children a month
- 423 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of March 2017; highest number for period Sept 2016 – March 2017
- 419 school attendance notices (SANs) issued in respect of 295 children under Section 25 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000<sup>1</sup>, Sept 2016 and March 2017
- 105 summonses issued in respect of 74 children under Section 25 of the Act, Sept 2016 and March 2017
- 139 Section 24 meetings convened by EWOs, Sept 2016 and March 2017 (*new metric*)

## HUMAN RESOURCES OVERVIEW

### Human Resources

- 3,664 (WTE) employed by the Agency at the end of Q1 2017; 67 more than Q4 2016 and 85 more than Q1 2016
- 104 new staff came on to the Agency's payroll (January and February 2017)
- 48 staff left (incl. retirements) the Agency (January and February 2017)
- 140 staff on maternity leave at the end of February 2017
- 305 agency staff employed by Tusla at the end of February 2017
- 4.69% absence rate (February 2017); 0.8 percentage points lower than Q4 2016
- 172 courses run by Workforce Learning and Development in Q1 2017; 2,460 attendees

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

### Finance

- The financial outturn for the year to date (March 2017) is an under-spend of €1.456 million
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €1.354 million
- Non pay costs are under-spent against budget by €0.394 million
- Key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €0.725 million over budget
- 39% (€2.744 million) of legal expenditure year to date on guardians ad litem (GALs), including GAL's solicitors and counsel.

## 2.0 CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

### KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

- 2.1 Referrals (child welfare and child abuse)
- 2.2 Social Work Activity Data
- 2.3 Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)
- 2.4 Crisis Intervention Service / Out of Hours Service
- 2.5 Hiqa Inspections – Child Protection and Welfare Services

### 2.1 REFERRALS (CHILD WELFARE AND CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT)

#### Key Facts

- 12,097 referrals for Q4 2016; 365 (3%) more than Q3 2016 and the second highest number (after Q2 2016) for the period Q1 2014 – Q4 2016
- 59% (n=7,184) child welfare concerns; 41% (n=4,913) child abuse concerns, 326 more than Q3 2016
- 68% (n=8,036) of preliminary enquiries completed within 24 hrs of receipt of the referral
- 43% (n=5,061) of referrals required an initial assessment
- 15% (n=753) of initial assessments completed within the 21 day target
- Total of 47,399 referrals for 2016; 3,803 more than 2015 (n=43,596)
- 28,312 (60%) for welfare concerns; 2,951 (12%) more than 2015 (n=25,361)
- 19,087 (40%) were for abuse/neglect concerns; 852 (5%) more than 2015 (18,235)

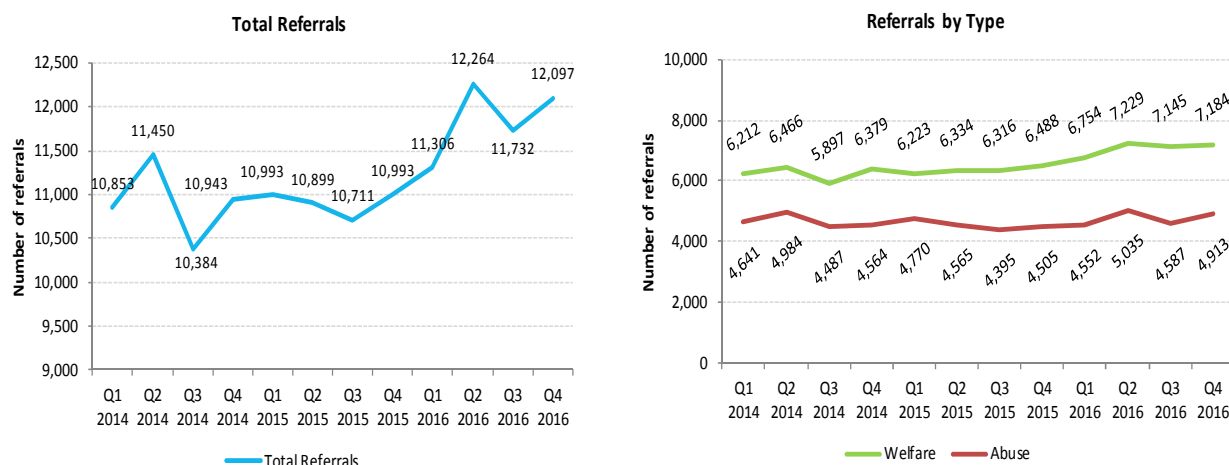
#### Number of Referrals

- 12,097 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Service during Q4 2016<sup>1</sup>; 365 (3%) more than Q3 2016 and the second highest number (after Q2 2016) for the period Q1 2014 – Q4 2016 (Figure 1).
- 59% (n=7,184) of referrals for Q4 2016 were for child welfare concerns; 39 more than Q3 2016 and 696 (11%) more than Q4 2015. The remaining 41% (n=4,913) were for child abuse/neglect concerns; 326 (7%) more than Q3 2016 and 408 (9%) more than Q4 2015.
- This brings to 47,399 the number of referrals for 2016; 3,803 (9%) more than 2015 (n=43,596)
- 28,312 (60%) were for welfare concerns; 2,951 (12%) more than 2015 (n=25,361)
- 19,087 (40%) were for abuse/neglect concerns; 852 (5%) more than 2015 (n=18,235)

<sup>1</sup> Data on referrals are reported quarterly in arrears.



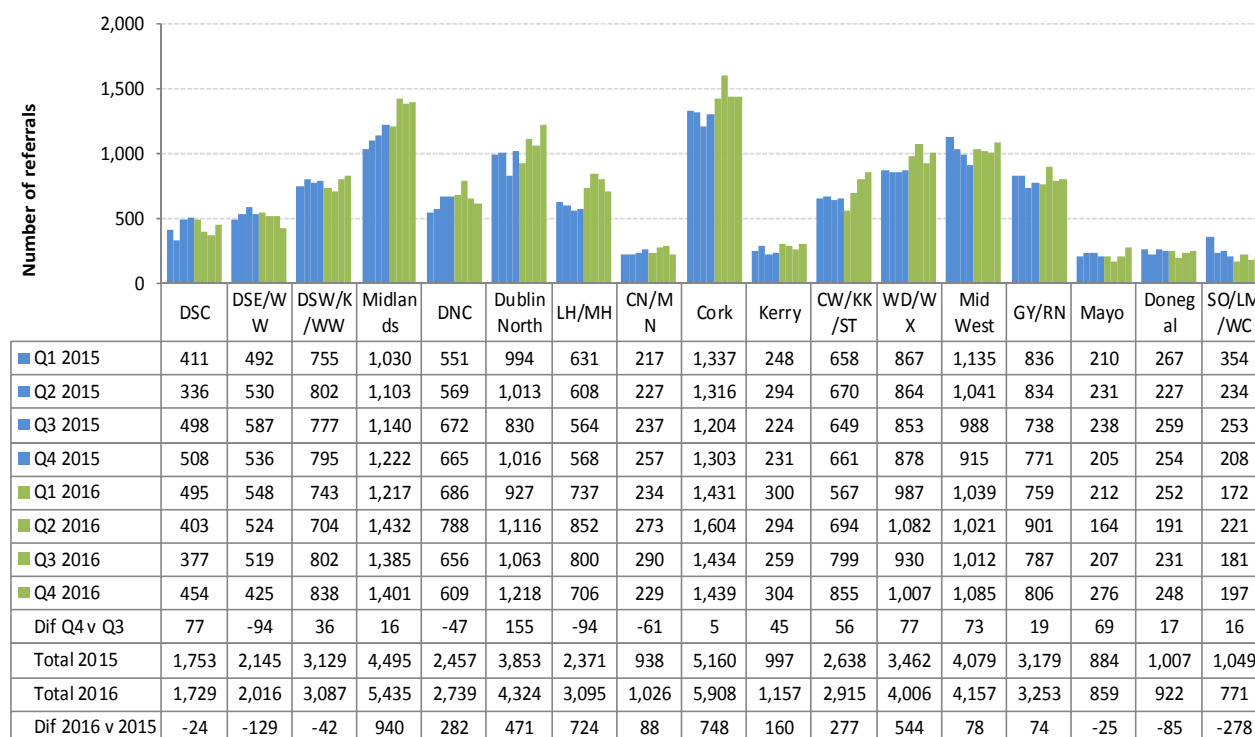
**Figure 1: Number of referrals (child welfare and abuse/neglect) by quarter Q1 2014 – Q4 2016**



## Referrals by Area

- Five areas (Midlands, Dublin North, Cork, Waterford/Wexford and MidWest) reported in excess of 1,000 referrals in Q4 2016 with a further five areas reporting between 500 and 1,000 referrals (Figure 2).
- 13/17 areas reported an increase in referrals from Q3 2016, ranging from 155 (Dublin North) to five (Cork).
- 4/17 areas reported a decrease (DSE/WW; n=94); (LH/MH; n=94); (CN/MN; n=61) and (DNC; n= 47).
- 11/17 areas reported an increase in referrals from 2015. Highest increase was reported by the Midlands (n=940) followed by Cork (n=748); LH/MH (n=724); WD/WX (n=544) and Dublin North (n=471).

**Figure 2: Referrals by area Q1 2015 – Q4 2016 and Total for 2015 and 2016**



## Rate of Referrals 2016

- 47,399 referrals equates to 41 referrals per 1,000 population under 18 years; up from 38 referrals per 1,000 population in 2015. *It should be noted that more than one referral can be received in relation to a child (i.e., for separate incidents) and as a result the number of children involved is likely to be fewer than the number of referrals.*
- Midlands area reported the highest rate of referrals at 70/1,000 children; 1.7 times the national rate, followed by DNC (64/1,000) (Table 1). The lowest rate was reported by Donegal (21/1,000 children).
- Eight areas (Midlands, Dublin North City, Dublin North, Cork, CW/KK/ST, WD/WX, MidWest and GY/RN) reported a rate higher than the national rate of 41/1,000 population under 18 years.

**Table 1: Rate of referrals, 2016**

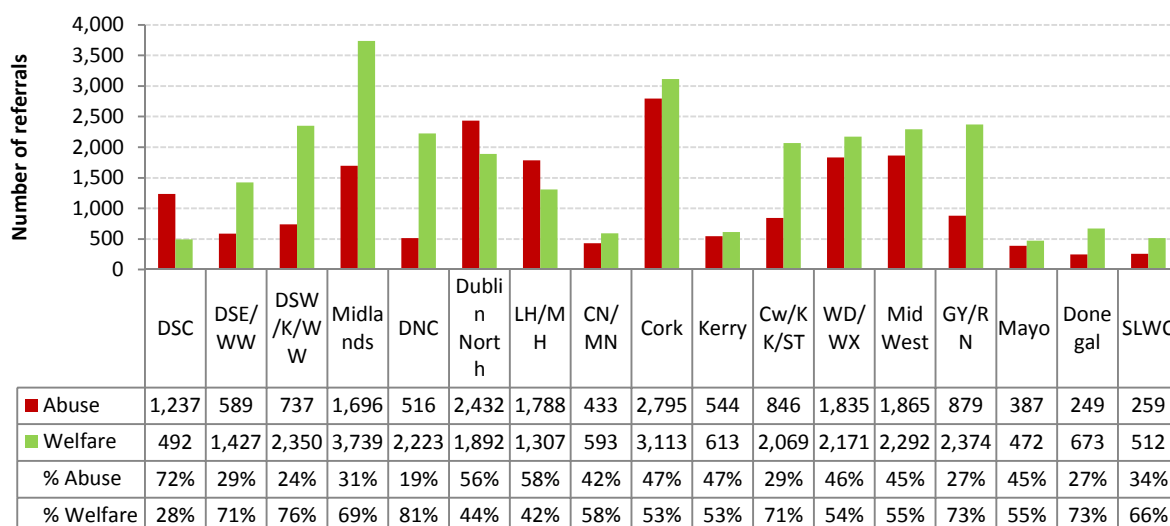
Area	Total Referrals 2016	Population 0-17 years*	Rate / 1,000 population 0 – 17 years
DSC	1,729	62,438	28
DSE/WW	2,016	81,991	25
DSW/K/WW	3,087	102,800	30
<b>Midlands</b>	<b>5,435</b>	<b>77,726</b>	<b>70</b>
DNC	2,739	42,971	64
Dublin North	4,324	92,951	47
LH/MH	3,095	87,562	35
CN/MN	1,026	35,085	29
Cork	5,908	128,448	46
Kerry	1,157	34,940	33
CW/KK/ST	2,915	57,800	50
WD/WX	4,006	71,608	56
MidWest	4,157	94,989	44
GY/RN	3,253	77,270	42
Mayo	859	32,514	26
<b>Donegal</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>44,534</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>SLWC</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>23,060</b>	<b>33</b>
National	<b>47,399</b>	<b>1,148,687</b>	<b>41</b>

\*CSO Census 2011

## Referrals by Area and Type, 2016

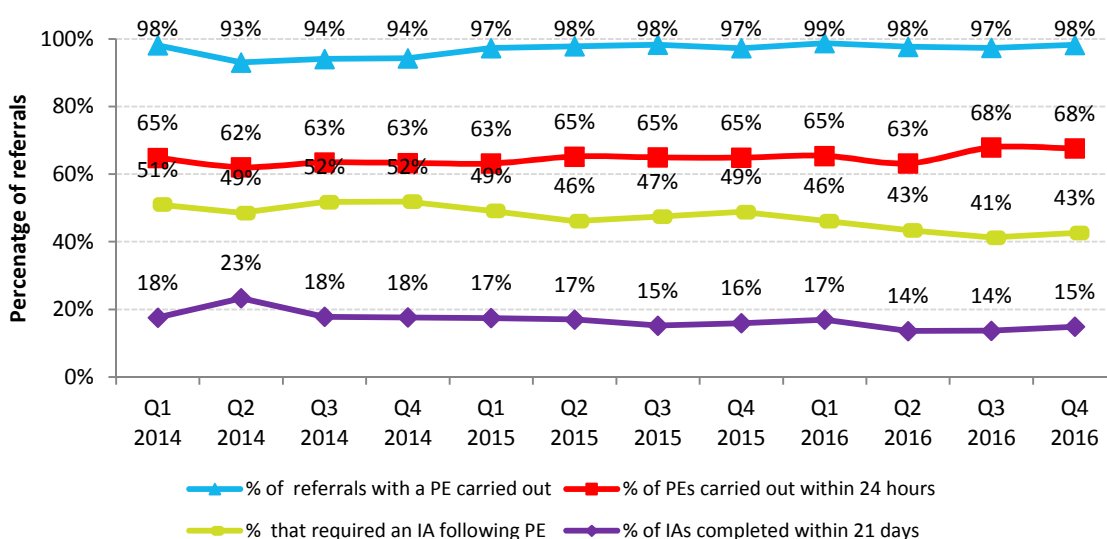
- An area breakdown of referrals by type (abuse / welfare) for 2016 is presented in the chart below (Figure 3).
- Nationally, there was 40:60 per cent split between referrals of abuse/neglect and welfare. This varied across the areas and ranged from a 72:28 per cent split for Dublin South Central to a 19:81 per cent split for Dublin North City. Nine of the 17 areas reported a percentage higher than the national average of 40% for abuse.

**Figure 3: Breakdown of referrals by type and area, 2016**



- 98% (n=11,883) of referrals for Q4 2016 had a preliminary enquiry<sup>2</sup> carried out; up one percentage point from Q3 2016 (Figure 4).
- 68% (n=8,036) of preliminary enquiries were completed within the 24 hour target of receipt of the referral; no change from Q3 2016.
- 43% (n=5,061) of referrals that had a preliminary enquiry required an initial assessment<sup>3</sup>; up two percentage points on Q3 2016.
- 15% (n=753) of the initial assessments were completed within the 21 day target of receipt of the referral; up one percentage point from Q3 2016.

**Figure 4: Percentage of preliminary enquiries and initial assessments carried out**

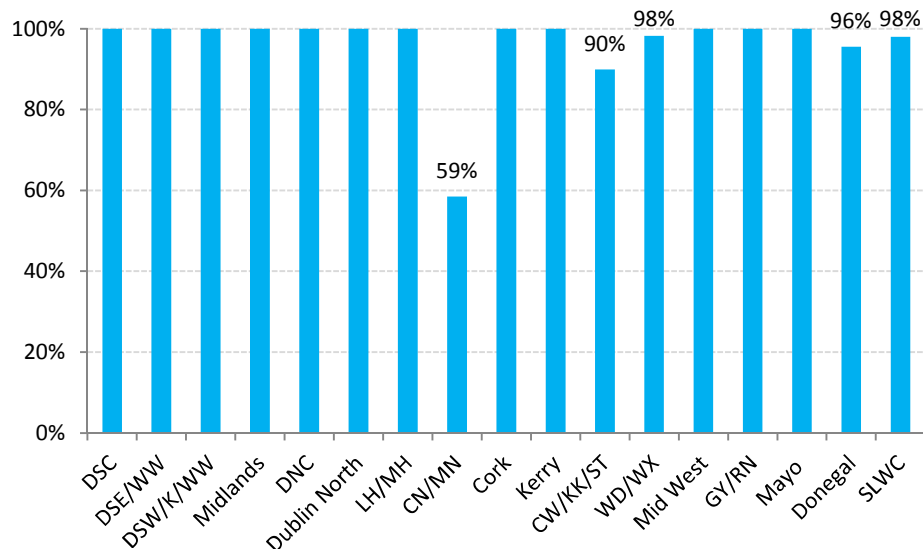


<sup>2</sup> The preliminary enquiries step is concerned with substantiating the details provided by the reporter e.g. verify reporters phone number, child's address, concern, check if the child is already known to the service, other network checks etc. A preliminary enquiry is not an assessment. The aim of the preliminary enquiry process is to support and help the user (the social worker) to make a decision on the action to take in response to the information reported, that will result in the best outcome for the child who is the subject of the referral. Preliminary enquiries should normally be completed within 24 hours.

<sup>3</sup> Initial assessment is a time-limited process to allow the gathering of sufficient information on the needs and risks within a case so that informed decisions and recommendations can be made and actions that will result in better outcomes for children taken. Initial Assessments should normally be completed in 21 days or less.

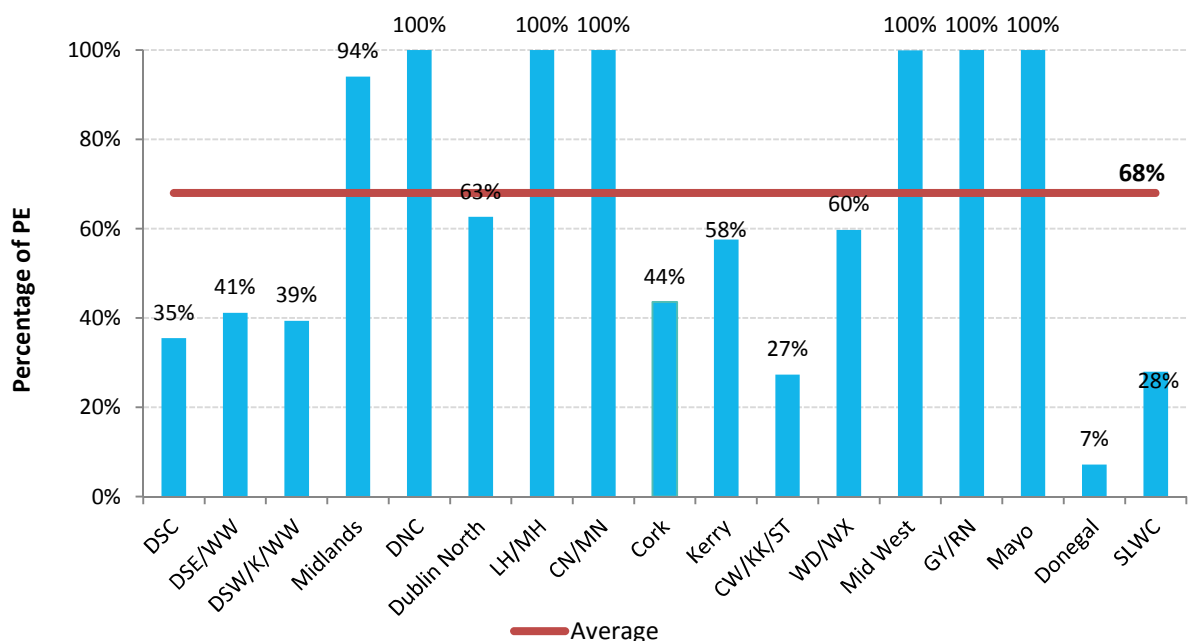
- A preliminary enquiry was carried out on all referrals (Q4 2016) in 12/17 areas and for at least 90% of referrals for four of the five remaining areas (Figure 5).

**Figure 5: Percentage of referrals that had a preliminary enquiry, by area Q4 2016**



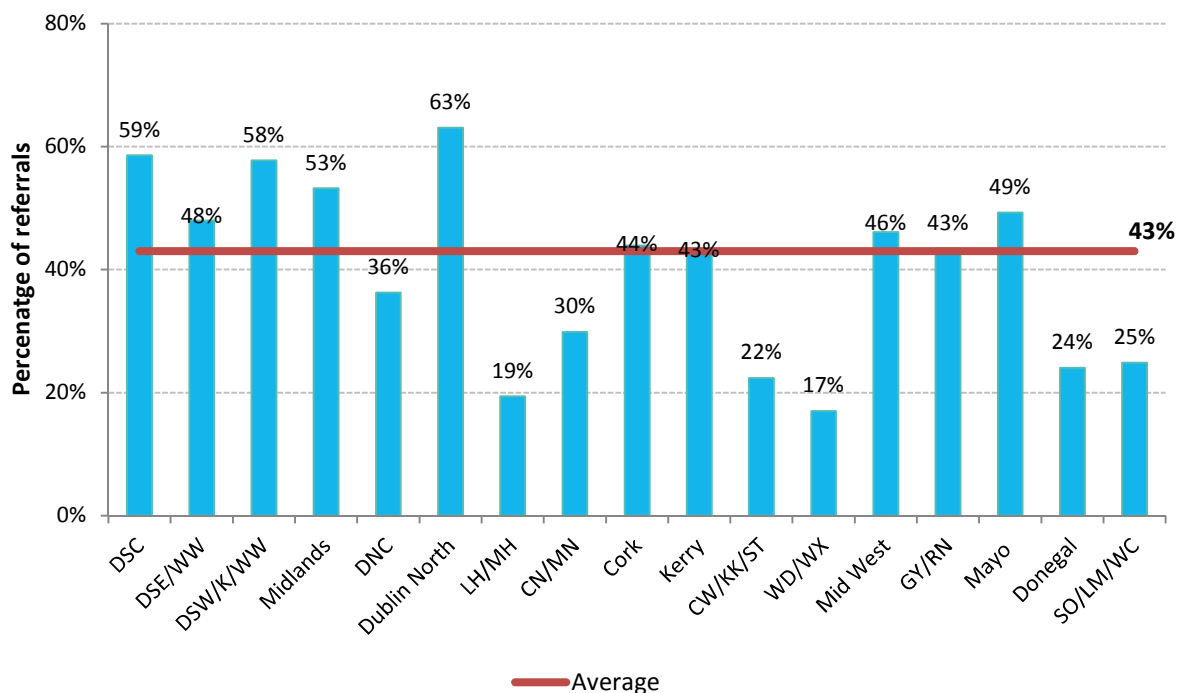
- The percentage of preliminary enquiries carried out within 24 hours of receipt of the referral ranged from 100% in six areas (Dublin North City; Louth/Meath; Cavan/Monaghan; MidWest; Galway/Roscommon and Mayo) to 7% in Donegal (Figure 6). Seven areas reported a percentage above the national average of 68%.

**Figure 6: Percentage of PEs completed within 24 hours of receipt of referral by area, Q4 2016**



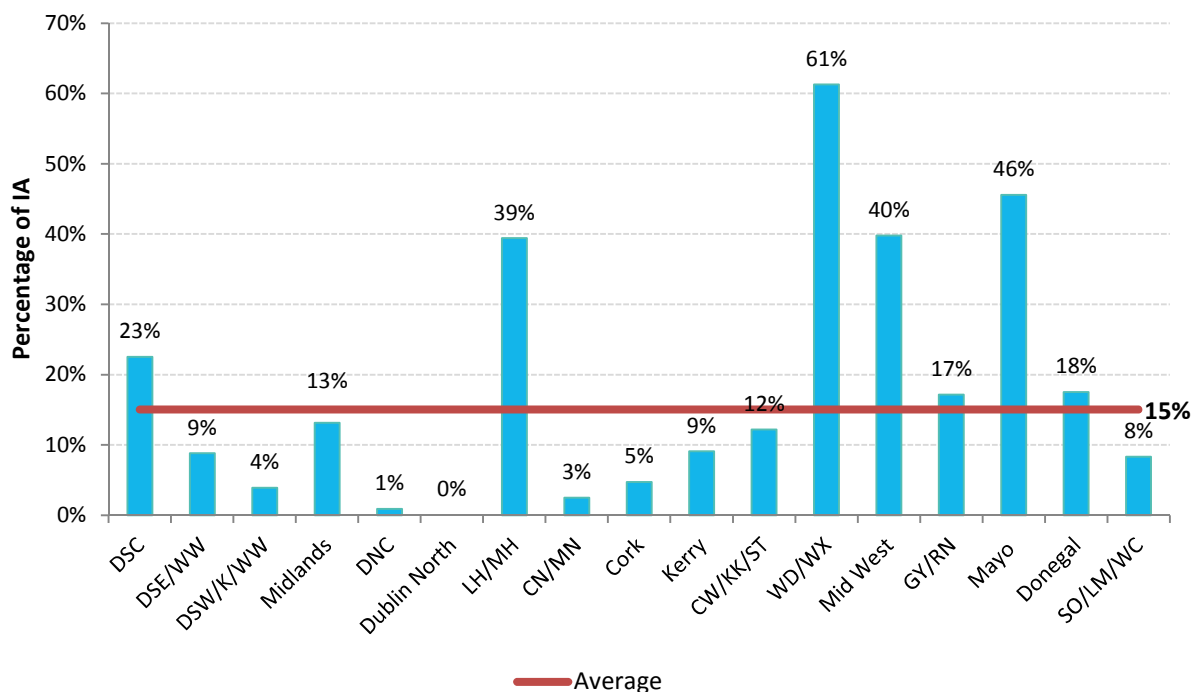
- The percentage of referrals requiring an initial assessment following a preliminary enquiry ranged from 63% in Dublin North to 17% in Waterford/Wexford (Figure 7). Ten areas reported a percentage on or above the national average of 43%.

**Figure 7: Percentage of referrals requiring an IA following a preliminary enquiry, by area, Q4 2016**



- The percentage of initial assessments completed within the 21 day target ranged from 61% in WD/WX to 0% in Dublin North (Figure 8). Seven areas reported a percentage above the national average of 15%.

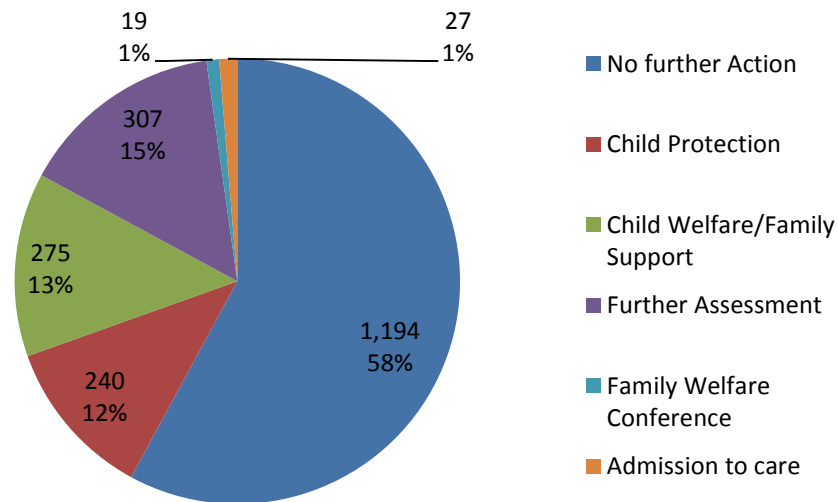
**Figure 8: Percentage of initial assessments completed within 21 day target, by area Q4 2016**



- The outcome of initial assessment was recorded for 2,062 referrals (Q4 2016) (Figure 9)
- 'No further action' was recorded in the majority (58%; n=1,194) of cases.

- Admission to care was recorded for 1% (n=27) cases and ‘child protection<sup>4</sup>’ was recorded for 12% (n=240) cases.

**Figure 9: Breakdown of actions recorded following initial assessment, Q4 2016**



<sup>4</sup> A child protection conference is requested for child(ren) who require a child protection response, as they have been assessed as being at ongoing risk of significant harm. A child protection plan is developed at the conference to safeguard the child(ren) identified as being at risk. Whereas children may suffer harm for a range of reasons, for the purpose of the child protection conference and the CPNS, the threshold of ongoing risk of significant harm is confined to abuse, including neglect, attributable to inappropriate or inadequate care from parent/s.

## 2.2 SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITY DATA (Child Protection & Welfare)

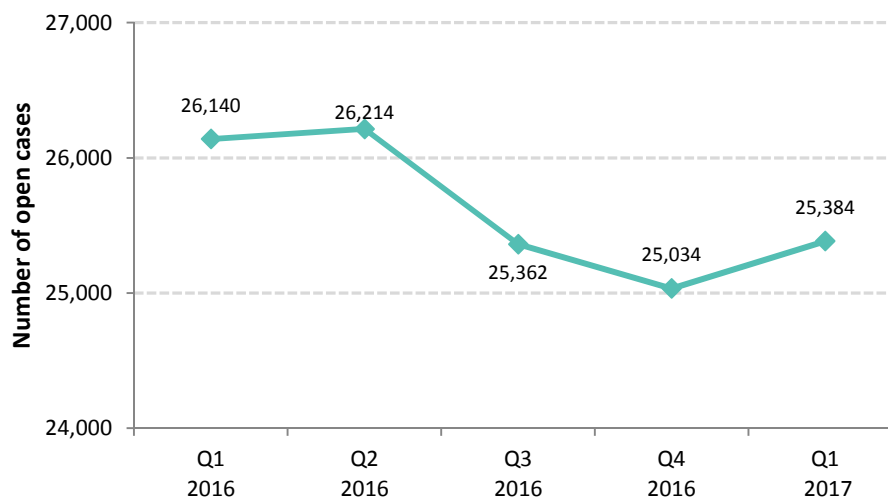
### Key Facts

- 25,384 cases open to social work at the end of Q1 2017; 350 more than Q4 2016
- 76% (n=19,226) of open cases allocated to named social worker; down from 78% at the end of Q4 2016
- 6,158 cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2017; 745 (14%) more than Q4 2016; over one-third (n=2,200) “active” on a duty system i.e., actions being taken to progress the case
- 1,062 (17%) cases awaiting allocation were categorised as ‘high priority’; 261 (33%) more than Q4 2016
- 59% (n=626) of ‘high priority’ cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2017 were waiting less than 3 months.

### 2.2.1 Open Cases

- 25,384 cases open<sup>5</sup> to social work nationally at the end of Q1 2017; 350 more than Q4 2016 (Figure 10).

Figure 10: Number of open cases by quarter

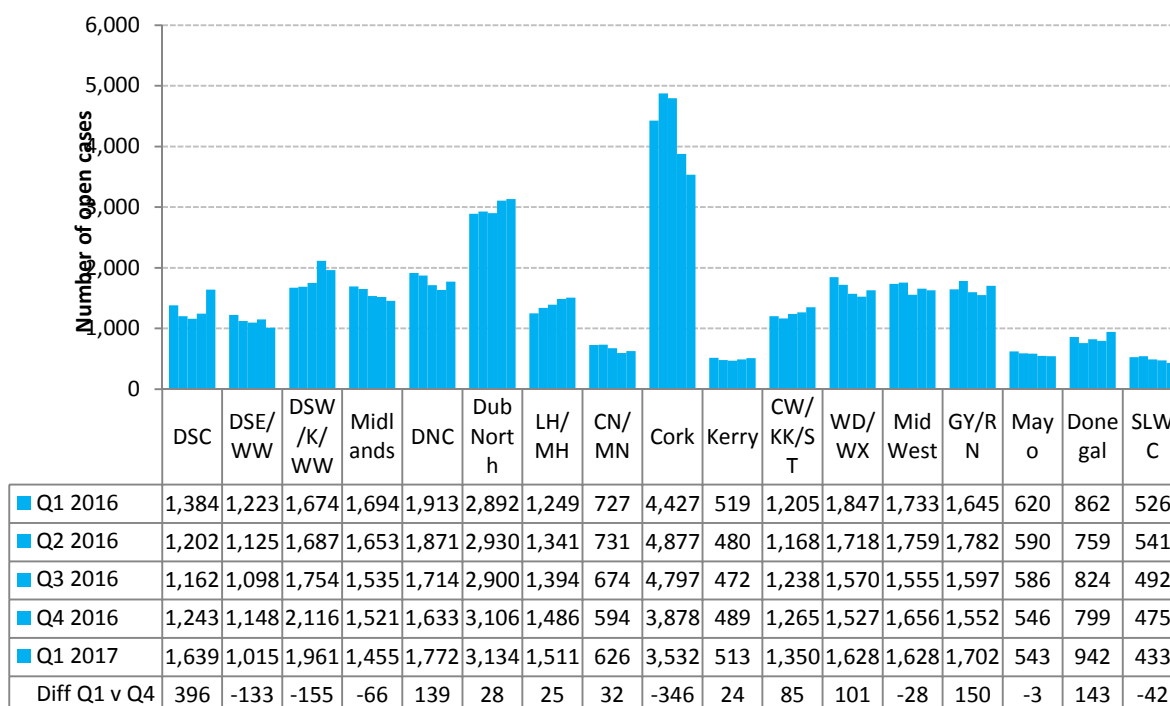


- The number of open cases ranged from 3,532 (14%) in Cork to 433 (2%) in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (Figure 11). Ten of the 17 areas had between 1,000 and 2,000 cases; five areas have fewer than 1,000 cases while the remaining two areas (Cork and Dublin North) had in excess of 3,000 cases.
- Ten areas reported an increase in open cases from Q4 2016. The highest increase was reported DSC (n=396), followed by GY/RN (n=150), Donegal (n=143) and Dublin North City (n=139).

<sup>5</sup> Open cases include cases held on intake, allocated, unallocated child welfare and protection and children in care cases.

- Cork reported the highest decrease (n=346) followed by DSW/K/WW (n=155) and DSE/WW (n= 133).

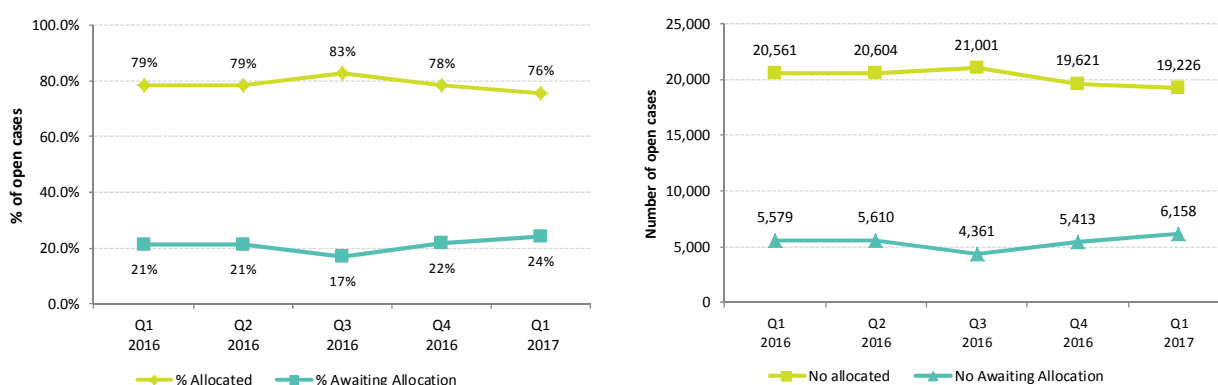
**Figure 11: Number of open cases by area, Q1 2016– Q1 2017**



## 2.2.2 Open Cases Allocated / Awaiting Allocation

- 76% (n=19,226/25,384) of open cases were allocated to a named social worker at the end of Q1 2017; down two percentage points from Q4 2016 (Figure 12).
- 6,158 (24%) cases were awaiting allocation; 745 (14%) more than Q4 2016 (n=5,413). Over one-third (36%; n=2,200) of cases awaiting were “active” on a duty system<sup>6</sup>.

**Figure 12: Cases allocated/awaiting allocation, Q1 2016 – Q1 2017**

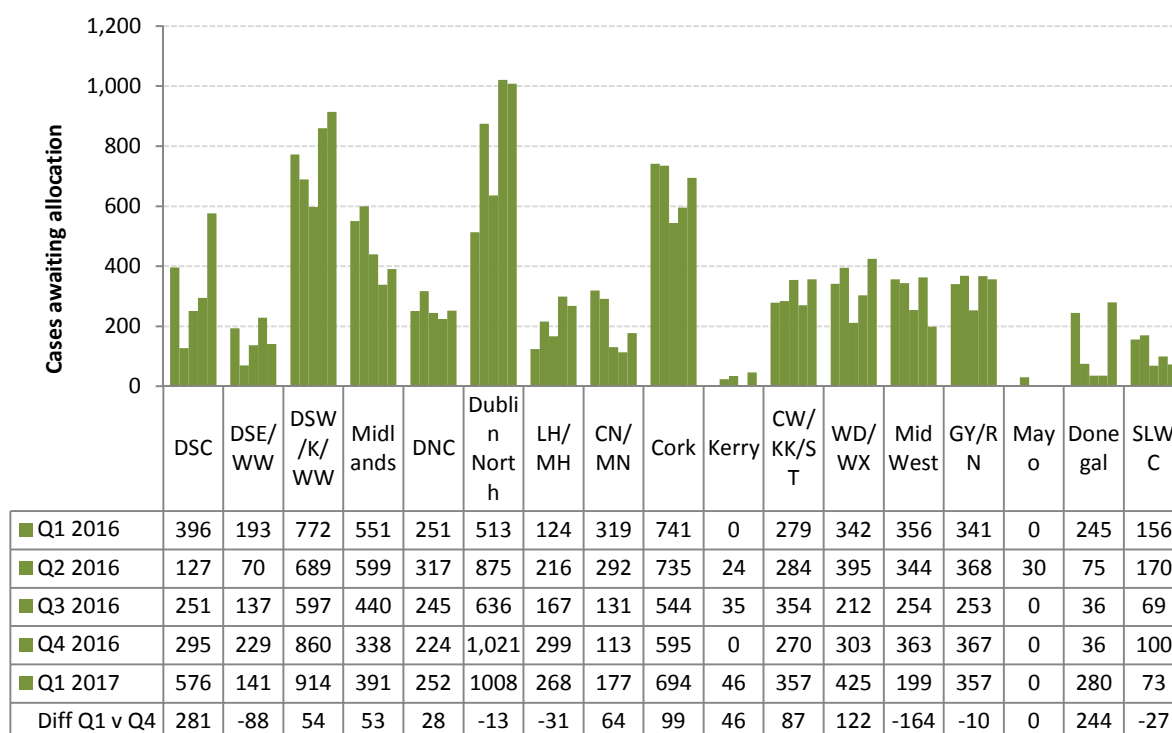


<sup>6</sup> A case awaiting allocation may be “active” on a “duty” system. This means that there are actions being undertaken by a dedicated duty team or rotating social workers on a duty roster to progress the protection and welfare of the child. Examples of actions being undertaken include telephone calls relating to the concern, visits to see children, completing initial assessments and child in care reviews or care plans. The actions undertaken must have occurred within the monthly MTP reporting period. There must be evidence of actions progressing the protection and welfare of the child and not simply a management review of a file. These cases will form a separate category on the MTP returns template under cases awaiting allocation.



- Dublin North (n=1,008) had the highest number of cases awaiting allocation followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (n=914); Cork (n=694) and Dublin South Central (n=576) (Figure 13).
- Six areas reported a decrease from Q4 2016 in the number of cases awaiting allocation (Figure 13). MidWest reported the highest decrease (n=164) followed by DSE/WW (n=88); LH/MH (n=31); SLWC (n=27); Dublin North (n=13); and GY/RN (n=10).
- Ten areas reported an increase from Q4 2016. The highest increase was reported by Dublin South Central (n=281) followed by Donegal (n=244); WD/WX (n=122) and Cork (n=99).

**Figure 13: Number of open cases awaiting allocation by area, Q1 2016 – Q1 2017**

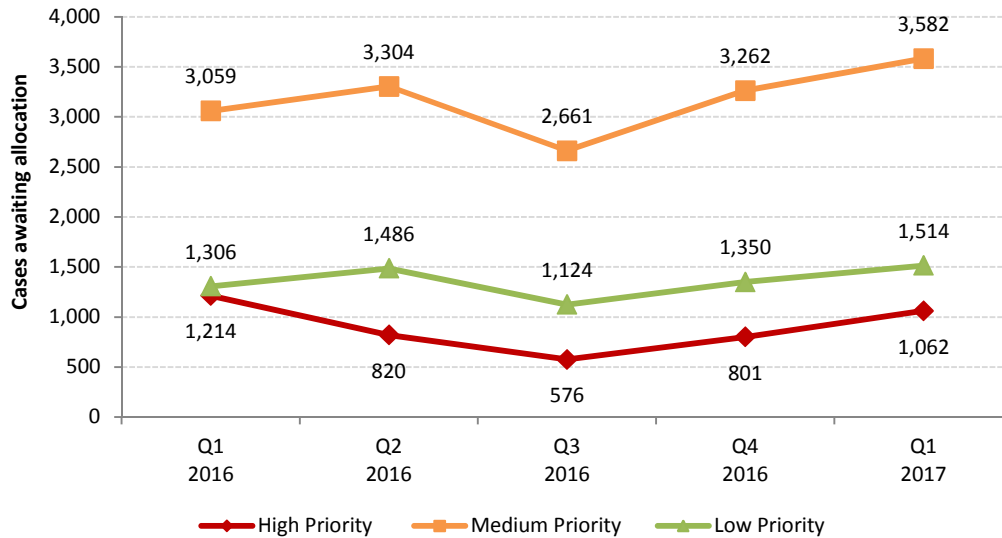


### 2.2.3 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Priority Level<sup>7</sup>

- 17% (n=1,062) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2017 were categorised as ‘high priority’; up 261 (33%) from Q4 2016 (Figure 14).
- 58% of cases (n=3,582) awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2017 were categorised as ‘medium priority’, up 320 (10%) on Q4 2016 while the remaining 25% (n=1,514) were categorised as ‘low priority’; up 164(12%) on Q4 2016.

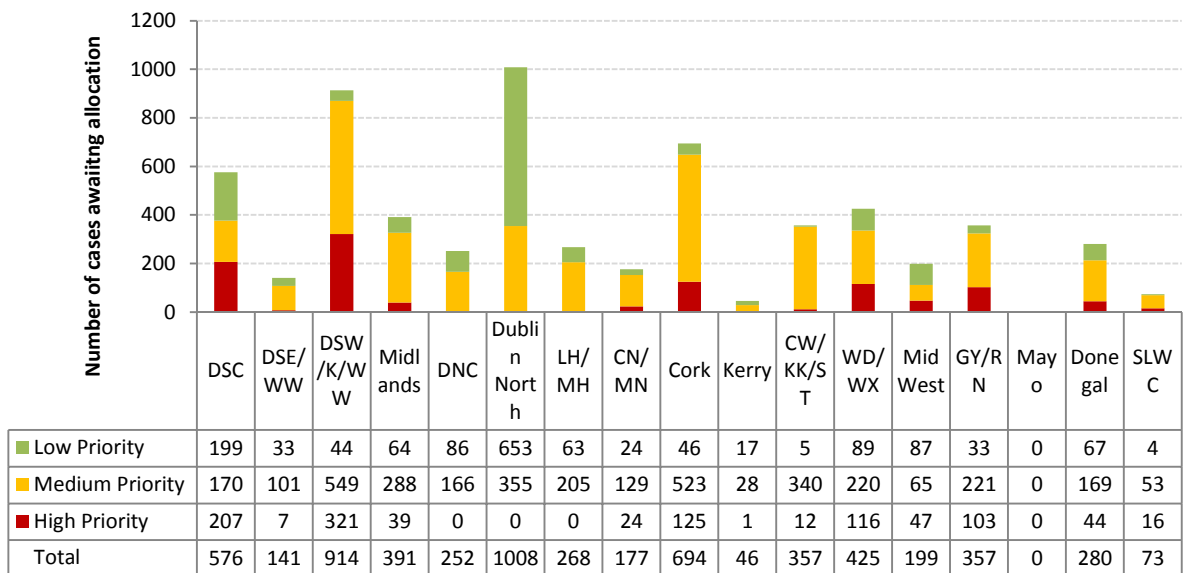
<sup>7</sup> The priority level as per the guidance outlined in ‘Measuring the Pressure’ V2. Note: The priority levels in this guidance are currently under national review to ensure that the priority levels identified equate with categorisation of risk. A recent national review highlighted cases being categorised in accordance with actual risk rather than the priority levels in the “Measuring the Pressure” V2.

**Figure 14: Cases awaiting allocation by priority level, Q1 2016 – Q1 2017**



- Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow reported the highest number (n=321) of ‘high priority’ cases awaiting allocation, followed by DSC (n=207); Cork (n=125); WD/WX (n=116) and Galway/Roscommon. Three areas with cases awaiting allocation reported no “high priority cases” awaiting (Figure 15).
- Dublin North with highest number of cases awaiting allocation (n=1,008) has no high priority cases awaiting allocation.

**Figure 15: Area breakdown of cases awaiting allocation by priority level, Q1 2017**



## 2.2.4 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Waiting Time

- 59% (n=626) of cases categorised as ‘high priority’ awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2017 were waiting less than 3 months (Table 2). The number of ‘high priority’ cases waiting over 3 months (n=436) increased by 152 between Q4 2016 and Q1 2017.

- 59% (n=2,103) of cases categorised as ‘medium priority’ were waiting less than 3 months at the end of Q1 2017. The number of ‘medium priority’ cases waiting over 3 months for allocation increased by 329 between Q4 2016 and Q1 2017 (Table 2).

**Table 2: Breakdown of cases awaiting allocation by priority level and time waiting, Q1 2016 – Q1 2017**

<b>High Priority / Time Waiting</b>	<b>Q1 2016</b>	<b>Q2 2016</b>	<b>Q3 2016</b>	<b>Q4 2016</b>	<b>Q1 2017</b>	<b>Δ (+/-) Q1 2017 v Q4 2016</b>
<b>1 week</b>	185	112	71	79	<b>54</b>	-25
<b>1-2 weeks</b>	101	136	41	79	<b>96</b>	+17
<b>2-3 weeks</b>	251	54	25	80	<b>97</b>	+17
<b>3-4 weeks</b>	112	43	43	69	<b>124</b>	+55
<b>1-2 months</b>	123	99	104	116	<b>160</b>	+44
<b>2-3 months</b>	99	67	78	94	<b>95</b>	+1
<b>&gt;3 months</b>	343	309	214	284	<b>436</b>	+152
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,214</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>1,062</b>	<b>+261</b>
<b>Medium Priority / Time Waiting</b>	<b>Q1 2016</b>	<b>Q2 2016</b>	<b>Q3 2016</b>	<b>Q4 2016</b>	<b>Q1 2017</b>	<b>Δ (+/-) Q1 2017 v Q4 2016</b>
<b>1 week</b>	87	175	403	247	<b>342</b>	+95
<b>1-2 weeks</b>	151	216	226	350	<b>290</b>	-60
<b>2-3 weeks</b>	190	205	227	232	<b>284</b>	+52
<b>3-4 weeks</b>	190	151	113	275	<b>283</b>	+8
<b>1-2 months</b>	516	549	290	574	<b>619</b>	+45
<b>2-3 months</b>	391	474	192	434	<b>285</b>	-149
<b>&gt;3 months</b>	1,534	1,534	1,210	1,150	<b>1,479</b>	+329
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,059</b>	<b>3,304</b>	<b>2,661</b>	<b>3,262</b>	<b>3,582</b>	<b>320</b>
<b>Low Priority / Time Waiting</b>	<b>Q1 2016</b>	<b>Q2 2016</b>	<b>Q3 2016</b>	<b>Q4 2016</b>	<b>Q1 2017</b>	<b>Δ (+/-) Q1 2017 v Q4 2016</b>
<b>1 week</b>	20	78	161	<b>65</b>	<b>49</b>	-16
<b>1-2 weeks</b>	74	107	58	<b>91</b>	<b>80</b>	-11
<b>2-3 weeks</b>	112	67	82	<b>48</b>	<b>146</b>	+98
<b>3-4 weeks</b>	58	98	81	<b>90</b>	<b>133</b>	+43
<b>1-2 months</b>	193	320	126	<b>249</b>	<b>227</b>	-22
<b>2-3 months</b>	184	224	107	<b>178</b>	<b>283</b>	+105
<b>&gt;3 months</b>	665	592	509	<b>629</b>	<b>596</b>	-33
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,306</b>	<b>1,486</b>	<b>1,124</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>1,514</b>	<b>+164</b>

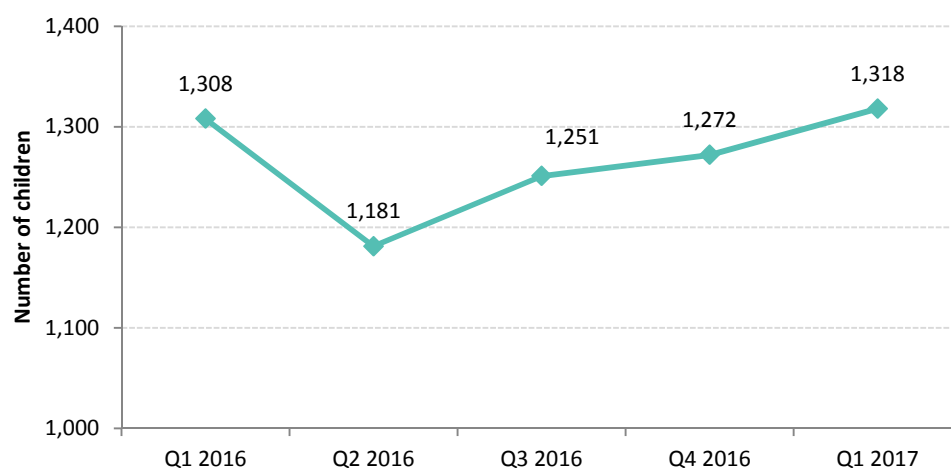
## 2.3 CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

### KEY FACTS

- 1,318 children listed as 'active' on the CPNS at the end of Q1 2017; 46 more than Q4 2016. Highest number for the period Q1 2016 – Q1 2017. *Figure includes two children from another jurisdiction who were listed temporarily*
- All children listed as "active" at the end of Q1 2017 had an allocated social worker (*children from other jurisdiction listed temporarily not included – social worker provided by their own jurisdiction*)

- 1,318 children listed as 'active' on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)<sup>8</sup> at the end of Q1 2017; 46 more than Q4 2016 and the highest number for the period Q1 2016 – Q1 2017 (Figure 16). This figure includes two children from another jurisdiction who were listed temporarily.

Figure 16: Number of children listed as 'Active' on the CPNS, by quarter



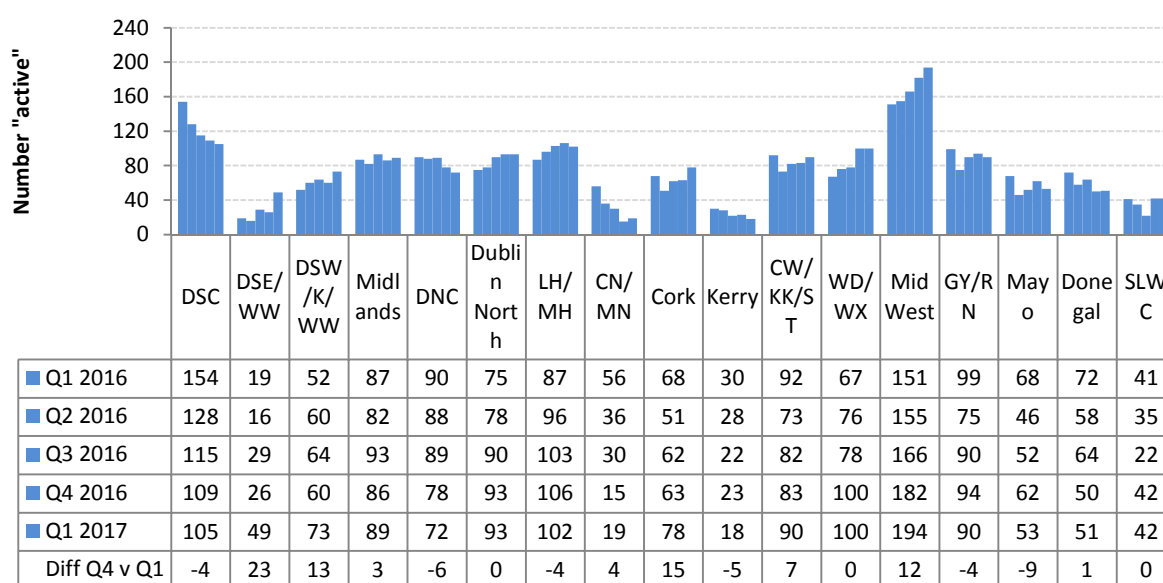
- The number listed as "active" equates to 11 children per 10,000 population under 18 years and ranges from 5/10,000 population in Kerry and Cavan/Monaghan to 20/10,000 in the Midwest area (almost twice the national rate) (Table 3).
- Cork and DSW/K/WW with the highest proportions of the under 18 population reported the fourth and fifth lowest rates at 6/10,000 and 7/10,000 population respectively.
- SLWC with the smallest proportion of the under 18 population reported the second highest rate at 18/10,000 population.

<sup>8</sup> The CPNS, in accordance with the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, 2011, is a national record of all children who are the subject of a child protection plan agreed at a child protection conference. The CPNS is accessible to named professional groups subject to strict protocols.

**Table 3: Children listed as 'active' on CPNS per 10,000 population 0-17 years**

Area	Q1 2017	Population 0-17 years	Rate / 10,000 population 0 – 17 years
DSC	105	62,438	17
DSE/WW	49	81,991	6
DSW/K/WW	73	102,800	7
Midlands	89	77,726	11
Dublin North City	72	42,971	17
Dublin North	93	92,951	10
LH/MH	102	87,562	12
CN/MN	19	35,085	5
Cork	78	128,448	6
Kerry	18	34,940	5
CW/KK/ST	90	57,800	16
WD/WX	100	71,608	14
Mid West	194	94,989	20
GY/RN	90	77,270	12
Mayo	53	32,514	16
Donegal	51	44,534	11
SLWC	42	23,060	18
<b>National</b>	<b>1,318</b>	<b>1,148,687</b>	<b>11</b>

- Eight areas reported an increase from Q4 2016. The highest increase was reported by DSE/WW (n=23) followed by Cork (n=15); DSW/KK/WW (n=13) and Midwest (n=12). Midwest has reported four consecutive increases from Q1 2016: 43 more cases listed as active than Q1 2016 (Figure 17).
- Six areas reported a decrease from Q4 2016. The highest decrease was reported by Mayo (n=9), followed by Dublin North City (n=6) and Kerry (n=5). Dublin South Central has reported four consecutive decreases from Q1 2016: 49 fewer cases listed as active than from Q1 2016.

**Figure 17: Number of children listed as "active" by area, by quarter**

- 52% (n=690) of children listed as “active” were listed for 0-6 months; 24% (n=318) were listed for 7-12 months; 13% (n=167) were listed for 12-18 months while the remaining 11% (n=143) were listed for longer than 18 months (Table 4).
- Listed for > 18months: Highest percentage (40%) reported by Dublin South Central. Seven areas reported a percentage higher than the national average of 11% (DSC 40%; DNC 18%; Dublin North 12%; Cork 13%; GY/RN 14%; Mayo 15% and SLWC 14%). CN/MN reported no child listed as active for > 18 months.
- Listed for < 6 months: Highest percentage (83%) reported by Kerry followed by DSE/WW (80%). Lowest percentage (19%) reported by Dublin South Central. Ten areas reported a percentage higher than the national average of 52%.

**Table 4: Children listed as 'active' in each area at the end of Q1 2017, by length of time 'active'**

	Number 0-6 mths	% 0-6 mths	Number 7-12 mths	% 7-12 mths	Number 12-18 mths	% 12-18 mths	Number > 18 mths	% > 18 mths	Total
DSC	20	19%	30	29%	13	12%	42	40%	105
DSE/WW	39	80%	6	12%	1	2%	3	6%	49
DSW/K/WW	47	64%	22	30%	3	4%	1	1%	73
Midlands	55	62%	18	20%	15	17%	1	1%	89
DNC	27	38%	13	18%	19	26%	13	18%	72
Dublin North	37	40%	27	29%	18	19%	11	12%	93
LH/MH	47	46%	27	26%	18	18%	10	10%	102
CN/MN	10	53%	7	37%	2	11%	0	0%	19
Cork	46	59%	18	23%	4	5%	10	13%	78
Kerry	15	83%	1	6%	0	0%	2	11%	18
CW/KK/ST	61	68%	13	14%	14	16%	2	2%	90
WD/WX	69	69%	21	21%	5	5%	5	5%	100
Mid West	118	61%	42	22%	22	11%	12	6%	194
GY/RN	41	46%	25	28%	11	12%	13	14%	90
Mayo	17	32%	22	42%	6	11%	8	15%	53
Donegal	16	31%	22	43%	9	18%	4	8%	51
SLWC	25	60%	4	10%	7	17%	6	14%	42
<b>National</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>1,318</b>

- All children listed as “active” at the end of Q1 2017 had an allocated social worker (*children from other jurisdiction listed temporarily not included – social worker provided by their own jurisdiction*)
- 26 children were reactivated on the CPNS (i.e., their status changed from ‘inactive’ to ‘active’) during Q1 2016.

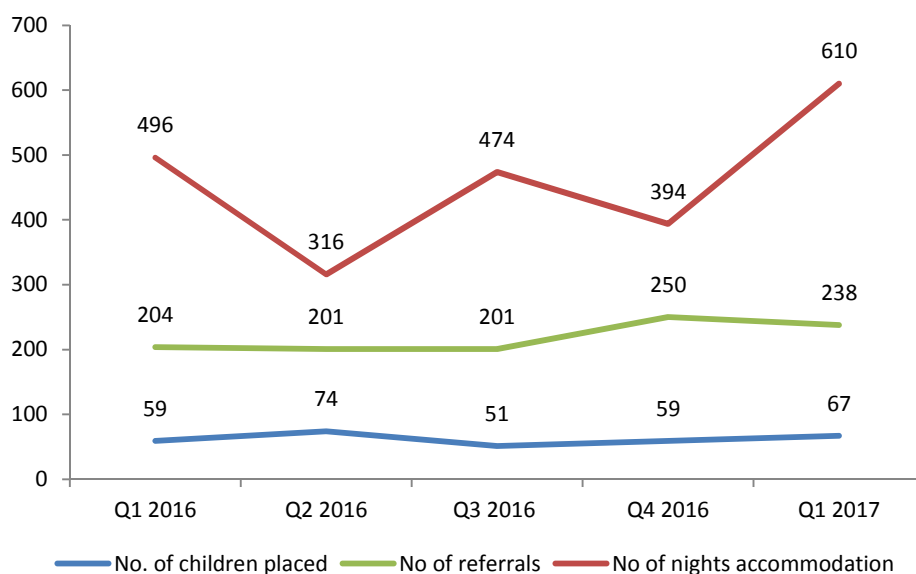
## 2.4 EMERGENCY OUT OF HOURS SOCIAL WORK SERVICE / CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICE

### KEY FACTS

- 238 referrals to the Crisis Intervention Service (CIS)<sup>1</sup> during Q1 2017; 12 fewer than Q4 2016
- 67 children were placed with the CIS during Q1 2017; eight more than Q4 2016
- 195 referrals to the Emergency Out of Hours Social Work Service (EOHS) (includes service operating in Cork) during Q1 2017; 43 more than Q4 2016 and the highest number for the period Q1 2016 – Q1 2017.
- 79 children were placed during Q1 2017, 19 more than Q4 2016 and the highest number for the period Q1 2016 – Q1 2017

- 238 referrals to the Crisis Intervention Service (CIS)<sup>9</sup> during Q1 2017; 12 fewer than Q4 2016 (Figure 18).
- 67 children were placed with the CIS during Q1 2017; eight more than Q4 2016.
- 610 nights' accommodation was supplied by the CIS during Q1 2016; 216 more than Q4 2016 and the highest number for the period Q 2016 – Q1 2017

**Figure 18: Referrals to the Crisis Intervention Service, by quarter Q1 2016 – Q1 2017**

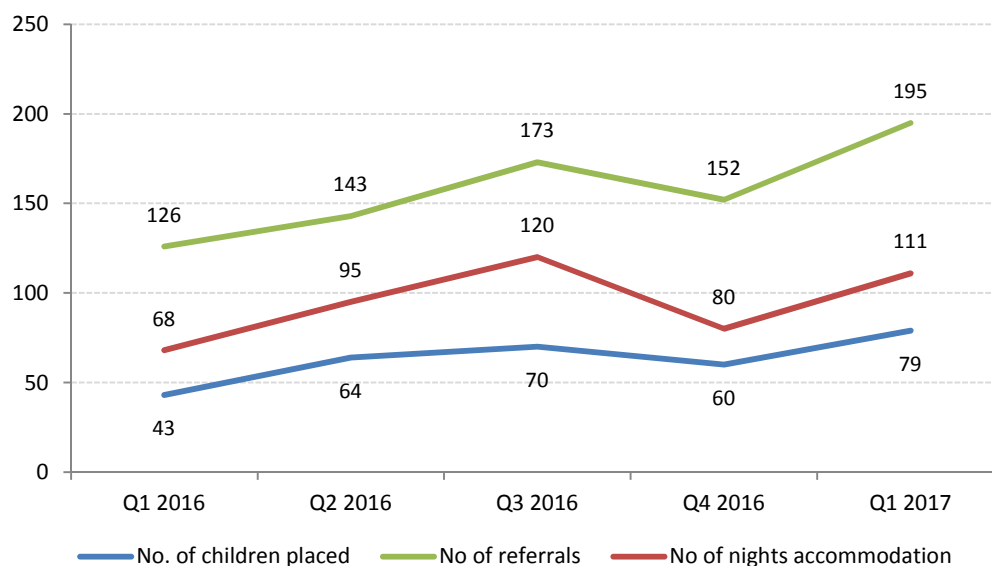


- 195 referrals to the Emergency Out of Hours Social Work Service (EOHS)<sup>10</sup> (includes service operating in Cork) <sup>11</sup> during Q1 2016; 43 more than Q4 2016 and the highest number for the period Q1 2016 – Q1 2017 (Figure 19).

<sup>9</sup> The CIS provides an out-of-hours emergency social work service to young people aged under 18 years who are in crisis. The service operates across the greater Dublin area (Counties Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow). Referrals are made by service providers outside of normal working hours i.e. Gardaí, hospital and ambulance service personnel

- 79 children were placed during Q1 2017, 19 more than Q4 2016 and the highest number for the period Q1 2016 – Q1 2017
- 111 nights' accommodation were supplied during Q1 2017; 31 more than Q4 2016 and the highest number for the period Q1 2016 – Q1 2017

**Figure 19: Referrals to the Emergency Out of Hours Social Work Service, by quarter Q1 2016 – Q1 2017**



<sup>10</sup> Emergency Out-of-Hours Social Work Service (EOHS) operates outside of Dublin, Wicklow and Kildare. This service builds on the placement only service (referred to as the Emergency place of Safety Service) that was previously in place. The service is available Monday to Sunday between 6 pm and 7 am and each Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday from 9 am to 5 pm. The EOHS was set up to co-operate with and support An Garda Síochána in the execution of their duties and responsibilities under section 12(3) of the Child Care Act 1991<sup>10</sup> and referrals made under section 8(5) of the Refugee Act 1996.

<sup>11</sup> The HSE established emergency out of hours social work pilot projects in Cork and Donegal in 2011. The Cork pilot service continues to operate.



## 3.0 ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

### KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

- 3.1 Children in Care (Foster Care / Residential Care)
- 3.2 Aftercare
- 3.3 Adoption
- 3.4 Foster Carers
- 3.5 Hiqa Inspections – Children’s Residential Services

### 3.1 CHILDREN IN CARE (FOSTER CARE / RESIDENTIAL CARE)

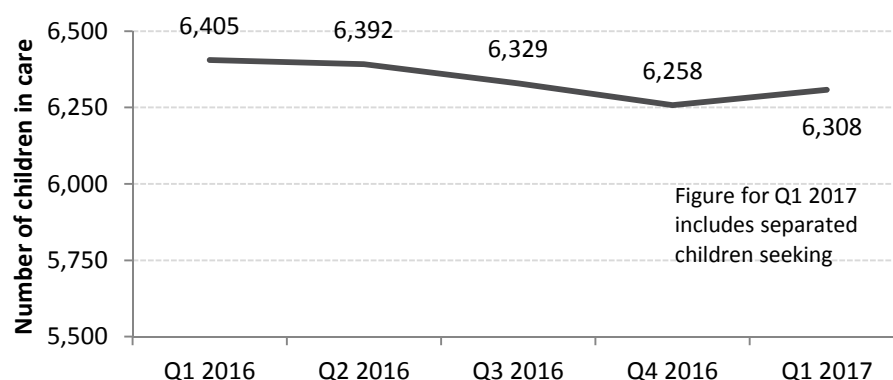
#### KEY FACTS

- 6,308 children in care at the end of Q1 2017; not comparable with data for previous quarters due to the inclusion of separated children seeking asylum in care, from Jan 2017
- 613 children in private placements; figure includes 48 separated children seeking asylum who were not included in this figure previously
- 94% (n=5,938) of children in care had an allocated social worker (against a target of 100%); up one percentage point from Q4 2016
- 370 children awaiting allocation of a social worker; 83 fewer than Q4 2016
- 92% (n=5,782) of children in care had a written care plan (against a target of 90%); down two percentage point from Q4 2016
- A total of 526 children did not have a written care plan, 122 more than Q4 2016

#### 3.1.1 Number of Children in Care

- 6,308 children in care at the end of Q1 2017. These data are not comparable with data for previous quarters due to the inclusion of separated children seeking asylum (SCSA) in care; these data were not included previously (Figure 20). This equates to about 5.5 children per 1,000 population 0-17 years.

Figure 20: Number of children in care by quarter, Q1 2016 – Q1 2017



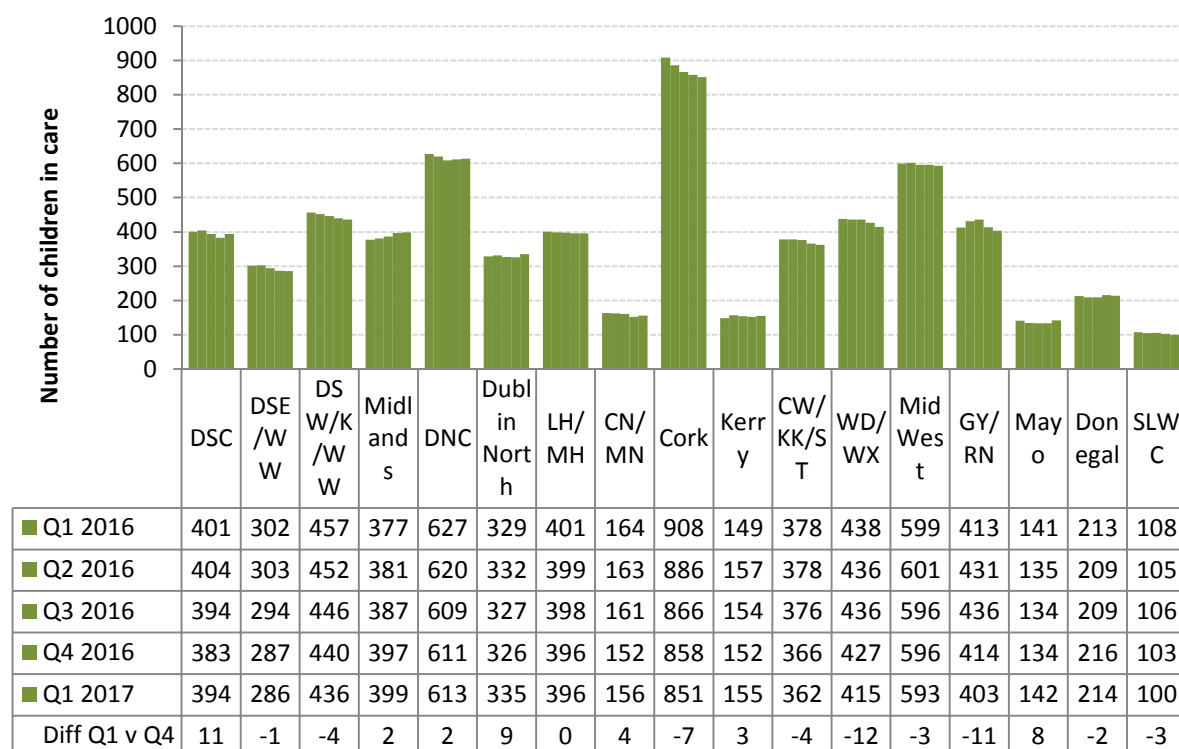
- The number of children in care ranged from 851 in Cork to 100 in SLWC (Table 5).
- Dublin North City reported the highest rate of children in care per 1,000 population under 18 years at 2.6 times (14.3/1,000) the national rate. Dublin South East/Wicklow reported the lowest rate at 3.5/1,000 population. Six areas reported a rate higher than the national rate.

**Table 5: Number of children in care and rate per 1,000 population 0-17 years, Q4 2016**

Area	0-17 population	No CIC Q1 2017	No of CIC/1,000 population 0-17 years
DSC	62,438	394	6.3
DSE/WW	81,991	286	3.5
DSW/K/WW	102,800	436	4.2
Midlands	77,726	399	5.1
DNC	42,971	613	14.3
Dublin North	92,951	335	3.6
LH/MH	87,562	396	4.5
CN/MN	35,085	156	4.4
Cork	128,448	851	6.6
Kerry	34,940	155	4.4
CW/KK/ST	57,800	362	6.3
WD/WX	71,608	415	5.8
Mid West	94,989	593	6.2
GY/RN	77,270	403	5.2
Mayo	32,514	142	4.4
Donegal	44,534	214	4.8
SLWC	23,060	100	4.3
SCSA		58	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,148,687</b>	<b>6,308</b>	<b>5.5</b>

- Seven areas reported an increase in children in care from Q4 2016; the highest increase was reported by Dublin South Central (n=11), followed by Dublin North (n=9) and Mayo (n=8) (Figure 21).
- Waterford/Wexford reported the highest decrease (n=12), followed by GY/RN (n=11) and Cork (n=7). The remaining 11 areas reported a decrease of five or fewer with one area reporting no change. The number of children in care in Cork is down 57 on Q1 2016 the highest decrease of all areas. In contrast the Midlands area has 22 more children in care than Q1 2016, the highest increase of all areas.

**Figure 21: Breakdown of the number of children in care in each area, Q1 2016– Q1 2017**



### 3.1.2 Number of Children in Care by Care Type

- 92% (n=5,819) of children in care were in foster care (general and relative) and 5.6% (n=352) were in a residential (general) placement (Table 6). Comparison with previous quarters not meaningful due to the inclusion of data on separated children seeking asylum in care in Q1 2017.

**Table 6: Breakdown of the number of children in care by care type and month, Q1 2016 – Q1 2017**

	FC Gen	Δ+/- prev Q	FC Rel	Δ+/- prev Q	Res Care Gen	Δ+/- prev Q	Res Care Spec	Δ+/- prev Q	Other Care <sup>12</sup>	Δ+/- prev Q	Total	Δ+/- prev Q
<b>Q1 2016</b>	4,162	62	1,790	-42	334	3	14	-2	105	-4	6,405	17
<b>Q2 2016</b>	4,159	-3	1,794	4	326	-8	11	-3	102	-3	6,392	-13
<b>Q3 2016</b>	4,133	-26	1,772	-22	312	-14	9	-2	103	+1	6,329	-63
<b>Q4 2016</b>	4,102	-31	1,715	-57	304	-8	12	+3	125	+22	6,258	-71
<b>Q1 2017</b>	<b>4,133</b>		<b>1,686</b>		<b>352</b>		<b>10</b>		<b>127</b>		<b>6,308</b>	

FC Gen = Foster Care General; FC Rel = Foster Care with Relatives; Res Care Gen = Residential Care General; Res Care Spec = Residential Care Special; CIC = Children in care

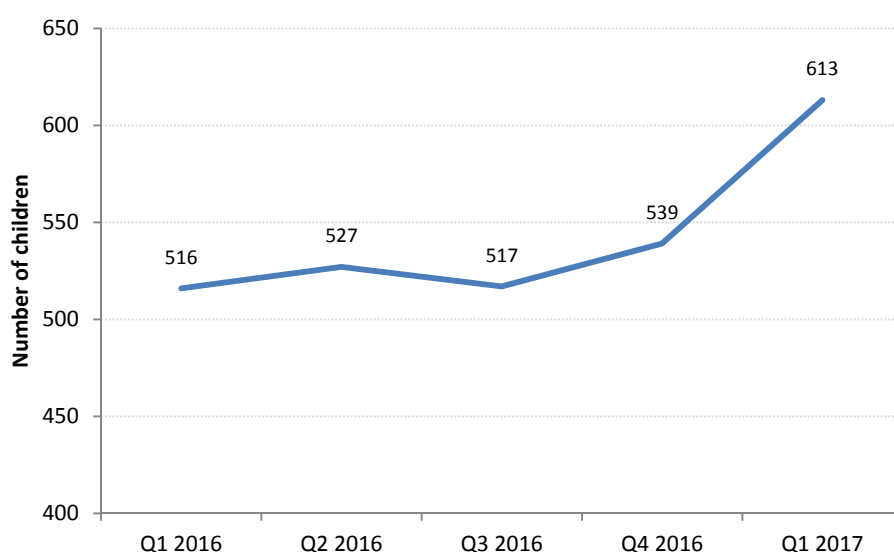
- 16 (0.25%) children were in out of state placements at the end of Q1 2017; down one from Q4 2016. *These children are included in the figures for the various care types set out in Table 6.*
- Five children in residential care were in a single care placement at the end of Q1 2017; no change from Q4 2016.
- 180 children were in respite care (from home) at the end of Q1 2017.

<sup>12</sup> Other includes supported lodgings; at home under a care order; detention centre/prison; youth homeless facility; other residential centre (therapeutic; disability; residential assessment; mother & baby home)

### 3.1.3 Children in Private Placements

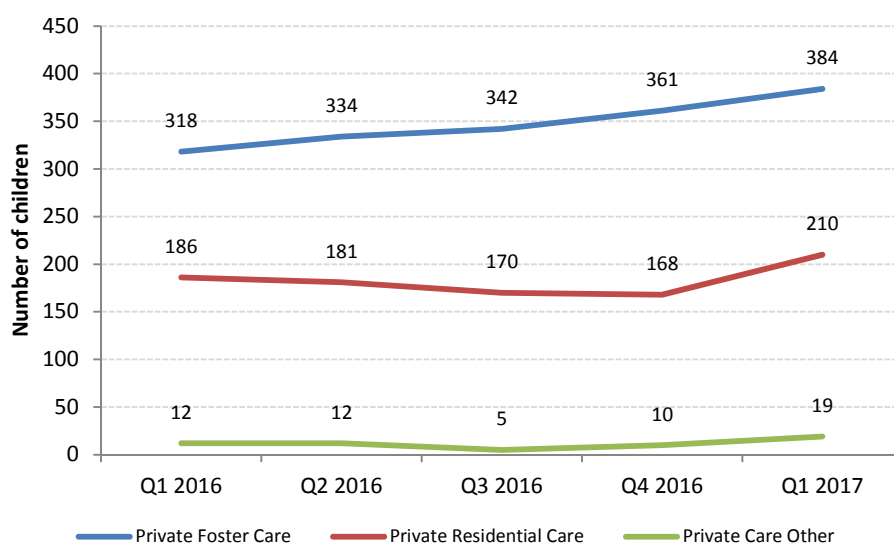
- 613 (10%) children in care at the end of Q1 2017 were in private placements<sup>13</sup> (Figure 22). This figure includes 48 separated children seeking asylum in care.

**Figure 22: Number of children in private placements, Q1 2016 – Q1 2017**



- 63% (n=384) of children in private placements were in private foster care; 34% (n=210) were in private residential placements (Figure 23).

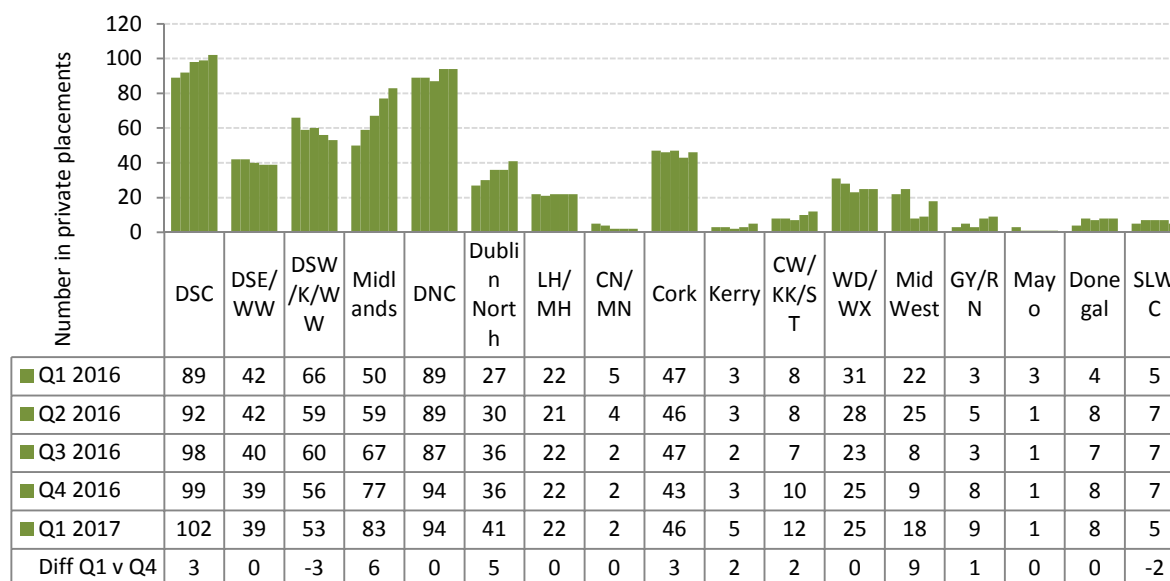
**Figure 23: Number of children in private placements by care type, Q1 2016 – Q1 2017**



- Dublin South Central (n=102) followed by Dublin North City (n=94) reported the highest number of children in private placements. Mayo (n=1) and Cavan/Monaghan (n=2) reported the fewest number (Figure 24).
- Eight areas reported an increase in private placements from Q4 2016. The highest increase was reported by Midwest area (n=9) followed by Midlands area (n=6) and Dublin North (n=5). Midlands area has 33 more children in private placements than Q1 2016, the highest increase of all areas, followed by Dublin North (n=14) and Dublin South Central (n=13).

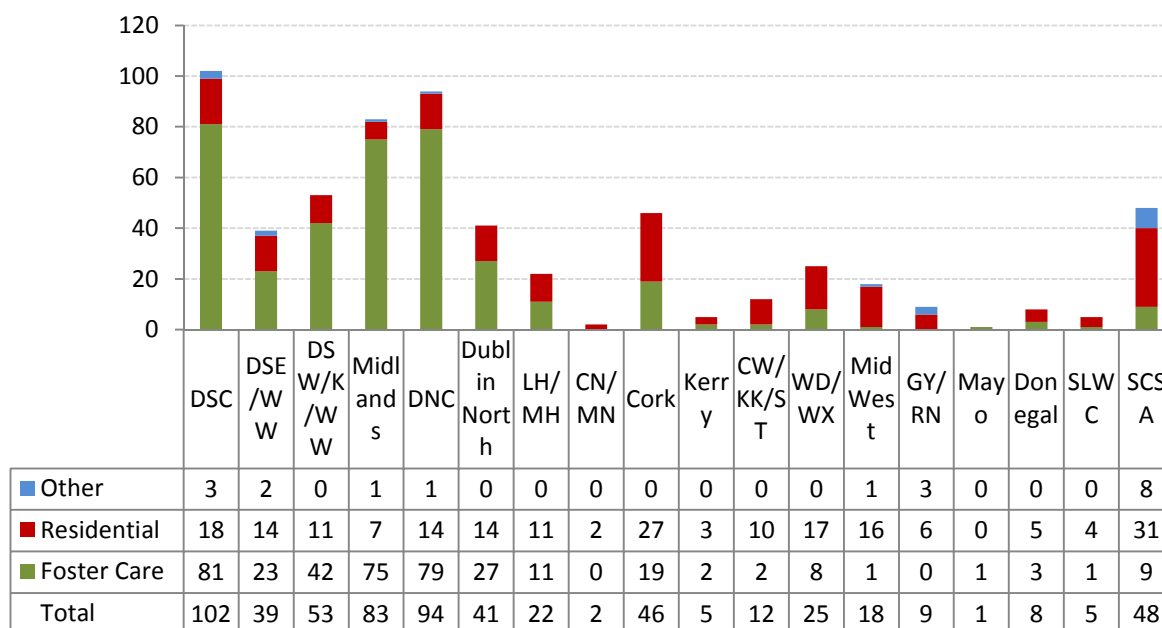
<sup>13</sup> The number of children in private placements is included in the children in care figures presented in sections 3.1.1 and 3.1.2

**Figure 24: Number of children in private placements by and area, Q1 2016 – Q1 2017**



- The SCSA Service reported the highest number of children in private residential placements (n=31) followed by Cork (n=27) (Figure 25).
- Dublin South Central reported the highest number of children in private foster care placements (n=81), followed by Dublin North City (n=79) and Midlands (n=75) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (n=42). Almost 70% (n=277/400) of children in private foster care placements are reported by these four areas.
- Two areas (Cavan/Monaghan and Galway/Roscommon) reported no children in private foster care placements while Mayo reported no child in a private residential placement.

**Figure 25: Number of children in private placements by care type Q1 2017**



### 3.1.4 Children in Care with an Allocated Social Worker

- 94% (n=5,938/6,308) of children in care nationally had an allocated social worker (against a target of 100%) at the end of Q1 2017; up one percentage point from Q4 2016 (Table 7).
- A total of 370 children were awaiting allocation of a social worker; 83 fewer than Q4 2016 (n=453).

**Table 7: Children in care (CIC) with an allocated social worker (SW) by care type**

Care Type	CIC Q4 2016	No with SW Q4 2016	% with SW Q4 2016	CIC Q1 2017	No with SW Q1 2017	% with SW Q1 2017
Foster Care (General)	4,102	3,805	93%	4,133	3,904	94%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,715	1,569	91%	1,686	1,554	92%
Residential Care (General)	304	302	99%	352	347	99%
Residential Special Care	12	12	100%	10	10	100%
Other Placements	125	117	94%	127	123	97%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,258</b>	<b>5,805</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>6,308</b>	<b>5,938</b>	<b>94%</b>

- Three areas along with the SCSA Service met the target of 100% of children in care with an allocated social worker. A further six areas reported a percentage of 95% or higher. Three areas reported a percentage less than 90% with the poorest performing area (CN/MN) reporting 83% (Table 8).
- Seven areas reported an increase in percentage performance from Q4 2016; the most notable being LH/MH up nine percentage points to 93%.
- The area with the highest number of children awaiting an allocated social worker is DSW/K/WW (n=60, up 24 from Q4 2016) followed by MidWest (n=57, down 52 on Q4 2016) and Galway/Roscommon (n=46, down 11 from Q4 2016).

**Table 8: Number of children in care with an allocated social worker**

Area	No in Care Q4 2016	No with an allocated SW Q4 2016	% with an allocated SW Q4 2016	No in Care Q1 2017	No with an allocated SW Q1 2017	% with an allocated SW Q1 2017	+/- Q1 v Q4 2016
Mayo	134	134	100%	142	142	100%	0%
Donegal	216	216	100%	214	214	100%	0%
SLWC	103	103	100%	100	100	100%	0%
SCSA	-	-	-	58	58	100%	-
Kerry	152	151	99%	155	154	99%	0%
DSC	383	383	100%	394	386	98%	-2%
DNC	611	587	96%	613	600	98%	2%
Cork	858	834	97%	851	826	97%	0%
Dublin North	326	303	93%	335	325	97%	4%
DSE/WW	287	277	97%	286	274	96%	-1%
CW/KK/ST	366	332	91%	362	340	94%	3%
Midlands	397	355	89%	399	370	93%	4%
LH/MH	396	332	84%	396	369	93%	9%
WD/WX	427	406	95%	415	381	92%	-3%
Mid West	596	487	82%	593	536	90%	8%
GY/RN	414	357	86%	403	357	89%	3%

DSW/K/WW	440	404	92%	436	376	86%	-6%
CN/MN	152	144	95%	156	130	83%	-12%
<b>National</b>	<b>6,258</b>	<b>5,805</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>6,308</b>	<b>5,938</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>1%</b>

### 3.1.5 Children in Care with a Written Care Plan<sup>14</sup>

- 92% (n=5,784/6,310) of children in care had a written care plan; down two percentage point from Q4 2016 (Table 9).
- A total of 526 children did not have a written care plan, 122 more than Q4 2016.

*However, it should be noted that variances have been identified in how data on this metric are being reported by areas. In some areas care plans that have fallen due for review and not updated are included.*

**Table 9: Number of children in care (CIC) with a written care by care type**

Care Type	CIC Q4 2016	No with CP Q4 2016	% with CP Q4 2016	CIC Q1 2017	No with CP Q1 2017	% with CP Q1 2017
Foster Care General	4,102	3,844	94%	4,133	3,786	92%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,715	1,595	93%	1,686	1,548	92%
Residential Care General	304	296	97%	352	326	93%
Residential Special Care	12	12	100%	10	10	100%
Other Placements	125	107	86%	127	112	88%
<b>National</b>	<b>6,258</b>	<b>5,854</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>6,308</b>	<b>5,782</b>	<b>92%</b>

- 14 areas along with the SCSA Service met the target of 90% of children in care with a written care plan (Table 10).
- Five areas reported an increased percentage from Q4 2016, the most notable being that for CN/MN up from 89% to 94%.
- Dublin South Central, Dublin North and DSW/K/WW are the three poorest performing areas with 158, 92 and 76 children respectively with no care written care plan. *However, it should be noted that data for Dublin South Central are under-going validation and should be interpreted with caution.*

**Table 10: Breakdown of the number of children in care with a written care plan**

Area	No in Care Q4 2016	No with a care plan Q4 2016	% with a care plan Q4 2016	No in Care Q1 2017	No with a care plan Q1 2017	% with a care plan Q1 2017	+/- Q1 v Q4 2016
Mayo	134	134	100%	142	142	100%	0%
Mid West	596	594	100%	593	592	100%	0%
Donegal	216	215	100%	214	214	100%	0%
SLWC	103	102	99%	100	100	100%	1%
SCSA	-	-	-	58	58	100%	-
WD/WX	427	424	99%	415	411	99%	0%
GY/RN	414	410	99%	403	397	99%	0%
Kerry	152	152	100%	155	151	97%	-3%

<sup>14</sup> A written care plan should only be counted if it has been updated as per the last statutory child in care review

CW/KK/ST	366	345	94%	362	350	97%	3%
Cork	858	795	93%	851	812	95%	2%
Midlands	397	364	92%	399	379	95%	3%
CN/MN	152	135	89%	156	146	94%	5%
Louth/Meath	396	377	95%	396	367	93%	-2%
DNC	611	596	98%	613	563	92%	-6%
DSE/WW	287	261	91%	286	261	91%	0%
DSW/K/WW	440	388	88%	436	360	83%	-5%
Dublin North	326	302	93%	335	243	73%	-20%
DSC	383	260	68%	394	236	60%	-8%
<b>National</b>	<b>6,258</b>	<b>5,854</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>6,308</b>	<b>5,782</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>-2%</b>

### 3.1.6 Children in Care in Education

- 97% (n=3,927/4,033) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education at the end of Q1 2017; no change from Q4 2016 (Table 11). *Note: figures do not include separated children seeking asylum in care.*
- Three areas reported 100% with a further 12 reporting 95% or higher.
- 92% (n=997/1,081) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of Q1 2016; down one percentage point on Q4 2016 (Table 12). *Note: figures do not include separated children seeking asylum in care.*
- Ten areas reported 90% or higher. The lowest rate was reported by GY/RN (83%; n=59/71) down 12 percentage points on Q4 2016.

**Table 11: Children in care, 6 -15 years, in full time education, Q4 2016 – Q1 2017**

Area	No of CIC 6-15 years Q4 2016	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q4 2016	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q4 2016	No of CIC 6-15 years Q1 2017	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q1 2017	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q1 2017	Δ %(+/-) Q1 2017 v Q4 2016
DSC	254	232	91%	250	227	91%	0%
DSE/WW	190	188	99%	190	188	99%	0%
DSW/K/WW	273	260	95%	266	257	97%	2%
Midlands	226	216	96%	225	211	94%	-2%
DNC	390	380	97%	385	374	97%	0%
Dublin North	200	200	100%	206	195	95%	-5%
LH/MH	249	239	96%	251	247	98%	2%
CN/MN	97	97	100%	99	99	100%	0%
Cork	545	525	96%	532	523	98%	2%
Kerry	106	106	100%	108	108	100%	0%
CW/KK/ST	218	203	93%	220	218	99%	6%
WD/WX	329	327	99%	378	373	99%	0%
Mid West	386	379	98%	391	379	97%	-1%
GY/RN	245	245	100%	255	253	99%	-1%
Mayo	83	83	100%	78	78	100%	0%
Donegal	142	142	100%	141	140	99%	-1%
SLWC	59	59	100%	58	57	98%	-2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,992</b>	<b>3,881</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>4,033</b>	<b>3,927</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>0%</b>



**Table 12: Children in care, 16 and 17 years, in full time education, Q4 2016 – Q1 2017**

<b>Area</b>	<b>No of CIC 16-17 years Q4 2016</b>	<b>No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q4 2016</b>	<b>% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q4 2016</b>	<b>No of CIC 16-17 years Q1 2017</b>	<b>No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q1 2017</b>	<b>% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q1 2017</b>	<b>Δ(+/-) Q1 v Q4 2016</b>
DSC	62	54	87%	70	61	87%	0%
DSE/WW	48	46	96%	46	44	96%	0%
DSW/K/WW	91	83	91%	91	81	89%	-2%
Midlands	63	52	83%	59	47	80%	-3%
DNC	121	111	92%	125	118	94%	2%
Dublin North	56	55	98%	55	53	96%	-2%
LH/MH	70	67	96%	66	61	92%	-4%
CN/MN	19	16	84%	20	17	85%	1%
Cork	143	136	95%	151	146	97%	2%
Kerry	24	24	100%	24	23	96%	-4%
CW/KK/ST	70	69	99%	65	64	98%	-1%
WD/WX	59	57	97%	60	59	98%	1%
Mid West	95	89	94%	95	90	95%	1%
GY/RN	63	60	95%	71	59	83%	-12%
Mayo	20	20	100%	31	29	94%	-6%
Donegal	29	26	90%	31	27	87%	-3%
SO/LM/WC	22	20	91%	21	18	86%	-5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,055</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>1,081</b>	<b>997</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>-1%</b>

## 3.2 AFTERCARE

### KEY FACTS

- 1,940 young adults (all ages) in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q1 2017; 60 more than Q4 2016 and the highest number for the period Q1 2016 – Q1 2017
- 86% (n=1,598/1,853) of young adults 18-22 in receipt of aftercare services had an allocated aftercare worker; up one percentage point on Q4 2016
- 85% (n=1,574/1,853) of young adults 18-22 in receipt of aftercare services had an aftercare plan; down one percentage point on Q4 2016
- 29% (n=314/1,081) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years had a preparation for leaving care and aftercare plan; down four percentage points on Q4 2016
- 41% (n=440/1,081) of children in care 16 and 17 years had an allocated aftercare worker; no change on Q4 2016
- 113 young adults were discharged from care by reason of reaching 18 years; 81% (n=92/113) had an allocated aftercare worker.
- 90% (n=95/105) of those eligible for an aftercare service were availing of a service.

### 3.2.1 Young adults in receipt of aftercare services

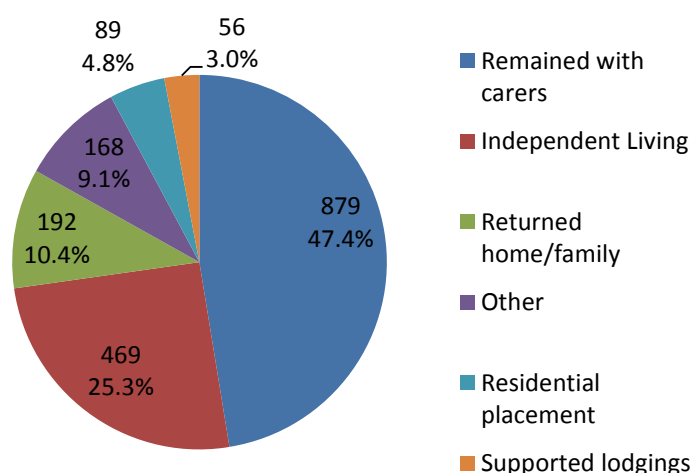
- 1,940 young adults (all ages i.e., 18 years and upwards and inclusive of those 25 or older) in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q1 2017 (Table 13); 60 more than Q4 2016 and the highest number for the period Q1 2016 – Q1 2017.
- 1,853 (96%) young adults in receipt of aftercare services were aged 18-22 years (inclusive).
- 1,107 (60%) of this cohort (18-22 years) were in full-time education (Table 13).
- 1,475 (n=80%) of the 18-22 years cohort were 18-20 years.
- 875 (59%) of those 18-20 years were in full-time education.

**Table 13: Young adults in receipt of aftercare services and in fulltime education Q1 2016 – Q1 2017**

	Total no. of young adults in receipt of aftercare services (all ages)	No of 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of aftercare service	% 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of aftercare in full time education	No. of 18-20 years inclusive in receipt of aftercare service	% 18-20 years inclusive in receipt of aftercare in full time education
<b>Q1 2017</b>	1,940	1,853	1,107 (60%)	1,475	875 (59%)
<b>Q4 2016</b>	1,880	1,806	1,040 (58%)	1,389	803 (58%)
<b>Q3 2016</b>	1,920	1,841	1,001 (54%)	1,429	810 (57%)
<b>Q2 2016</b>	1,897	1,790	1,050 (59%)	1,405	810 (58%)
<b>Q1 2016</b>	1,858	1,754	1,001 (57%)	1,319	772 (59%)

- In terms of living arrangements, 47% (n=879) of the 18-22 year olds remained with their carers, 10% (n=192) returned home, 25% (n=469) were in independent living arrangements and 5% (n=89) were in a residential placement (Figure 26).

**Figure 26: Living arrangements of young adults (18-22 years) in receipt of aftercare services, Q1 2017**



- 86% (n=1,598) of the 18-22 years in receipt of aftercare had an allocated aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2017; up one percentage point on Q4 2016. Seven areas reported 100% with a further five areas reporting 90% or higher. The lowest percentage was reported by Dublin South Central (38%; n=60/156) followed by CW/KK/ST (64%; n=69/108) (Table 14).
- Five areas reported an increased percentage from Q4 2016; highest increase reported by LH/MH, up from 74% to 93% followed by WD/WX up from 89% to 97%.

**Table 14: Young adults 18-22 years in receipt of an aftercare service with an allocated aftercare worker**

Area	No 18-22 years in aftercare Q4 2016	No with an allocated worker Q4 2016	% with an allocated worker Q4 2016	No 18-22 years in aftercare Q1 2017	No with an allocated worker Q1 2017	% with an allocated worker Q1 2017	Δ (=/-) Q1 2017 v Q4 2016
DSC	150	57	38%	156	60	38%	0%
DSE/WW	112	103	92%	106	98	92%	0%
DSW/K/WW	131	103	79%	146	108	74%	-5%
Midlands	101	101	100%	114	114	100%	0%
DNC	157	129	82%	143	125	87%	5%
Dublin North	69	69	100%	71	66	93%	-7%
LH/MH	110	81	74%	119	111	93%	19%
CN/MN	68	68	100%	71	71	100%	0%
Cork	255	223	87%	251	216	86%	-1%
Kerry	34	33	97%	35	35	100%	3%
CW/KK/ST	93	56	60%	108	69	64%	4%
WD/WX	129	115	89%	137	133	97%	8%
Mid West	141	141	100%	155	155	100%	0%
GY/RN	142	138	97%	133	129	97%	0%
Mayo	48	48	100%	42	42	100%	0%
Donegal	41	41	100%	42	42	100%	0%
SLWC	25	25	100%	24	24	100%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,806</b>	<b>1,531</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>1,853</b>	<b>1,598</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>1%</b>

- 85% (n= 1,574) of the same cohort had an aftercare plan; down one percentage point on Q4 2016. Five areas reported 100% with a further six areas reporting 90% or higher. The lowest percentage was reported by Dublin South Central (43%; n=67/156) followed by DSW/K/WW (52%; n=76/146) (Table 15).

**Table 15: Young adults 18-22 years in receipt of an aftercare service with an aftercare plan**

Area	No 18-22 years in aftercare Q4 2016	No with an aftercare plan Q4 2016	% with an aftercare plan Q4 2016	No 18-22 years in aftercare Q1 2017	No with an aftercare plan Q1 2017	% with an aftercare plan Q1 2017	Δ (=/-) Q1 2017 v Q4 2016
DSC	150	63	42%	156	67	43%	+1%
DSE/WW	112	104	93%	106	101	95%	2%
DSW/K/WW	131	69	53%	146	76	52%	-1%
Midlands	101	97	96%	114	109	96%	0%
DNC	157	142	90%	143	126	88%	-2%
Dublin North	69	64	93%	71	63	89%	-4%
LH/MH	110	106	96%	119	111	93%	-3%
CN/MN	68	68	100%	71	70	99%	-1%
Cork	255	255	100%	251	250	100%	0%
Kerry	34	34	100%	35	35	100%	0%
CW/KK/ST	93	56	60%	108	68	63%	3%
WD/WX	129	123	95%	137	134	98%	3%
Mid West	141	133	94%	155	147	95%	1%
GY/RN	142	119	84%	133	109	82%	-2%
Mayo	48	48	100%	42	42	100%	0%
Donegal	41	41	100%	42	42	100%	0%
SLWC	25	25	100%	24	24	100%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,806</b>	<b>1,547</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>1,853</b>	<b>1,574</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>-1%</b>

### 3.2.2 Children in care with an aftercare plan / allocated aftercare worker

- 29% (n=314/1,081) of 16 and 17 year olds in care had a preparation for leaving care and aftercare plan at the end of Q1 2017; down four percentage points on Q4 2016. A total of 767 did not have plans; 64 more than Q4 2016 (Table 16).
- The percentage of children with plans at the end of Q1 2017 ranged from 0% (n=0/121) in Dublin North City to 100% in Kerry (n=24/24). Eleven areas reported a percentage of 50% or less. Dublin North City has the highest number of children with no plan (n=125) followed by Cork (n=107); MidWest (n=69); GY/RN (n=68) and Midlands (n=64).
- Six areas reported an increase in percentage with plans from Q4 2016. The highest percentage increase was reported by DSE/WW (up from 56% to 76% followed by WD/WX (up from 34% to 53%). In contrast, MidWest dropped from 60% in Q4 2016 to 27% in Q1 2017.

**Table 16: Children in care 16 & 17 years with a preparation for leaving care & aftercare plan**

Area	No of CIC aged 16 & 17 years Q4 2016	No with plan Q4 2016	% with plan Q4 2016	No of CIC aged 16 & 17 years Q1 2017	No with plan Q1 2017	% with plan Q1 2017	Δ (=/-) Q1 2017 v Q4 2016
DSC	62	7	11%	70	9	13%	+2%
DSE/WW	48	27	56%	46	35	76%	20%
DSW/K/WW	91	62	68%	91	54	59%	-9%
Midlands	63	7	11%	59	5	8%	-3%
DNC	121	0	0%	125	0	0%	0%
Dublin North	56	12	21%	55	14	25%	4%
LH/MH	70	27	39%	66	13	20%	-19%

CN/MN	19	10	53%	20	11	55%	2%
Cork	143	46	32%	151	44	29%	-3%
Kerry	24	24	100%	24	24	100%	0%
CW/KK/ST	70	2	3%	65	6	9%	6%
WD/WX	59	20	34%	60	32	53%	19%
Mid West	95	57	60%	95	26	27%	-33%
GY/RN	63	10	16%	71	3	4%	-12%
Mayo	20	16	80%	31	15	48%	-32%
Donegal	29	15	52%	31	16	52%	0%
SLWC	22	10	45%	21	7	33%	-12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,055</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>1,081</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>-4%</b>

- 41% (n=440/1,081) of children in care 16 and 17 years had an allocated aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2017; no change Q4 2016. A total of 641 did not have an allocated aftercare worker; 18 more than Q4 2016 (Table 17).
- The percentage with an allocated aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2017 ranged from 11% in Dublin South Central (n=8/70) to 95% in SLWC (n=20/21). Eight areas reported a percentage of less than 50%.
- Cork has the highest number with no allocated worker (n=102) followed by Dublin North City (n=101); MidWest (n=63) Dublin South Central (n=62); DSW/K/WW (n=61 and GY/RN (n=61).
- Eight areas reported an increase in percentage with an allocated worker from Q4 2016.

**Table 17: Children 16 and 17 years with an allocated aftercare worker, Q4 2016 – Q1 2017**

Area	No of 16 & 17 years in care Q4 2016	No with allocated aftercare worker Q4 2016	% with allocated aftercare worker Q4 2016	No of 16 & 17 years in care Q1 2017	No with allocated aftercare worker Q1 2017	% with allocated aftercare worker Q1 2017	Δ (+/-) Q1 2017 v Q4 2016
DSC	62	8	13%	70	8	11%	-2%
DSE/WW	48	33	69%	46	35	76%	7%
DSW/K/WW	91	31	34%	91	30	33%	-1%
Midlands	63	49	78%	59	37	63%	-15%
DNC	121	26	21%	125	24	19%	-2%
Dublin North	56	27	48%	55	28	51%	3%
LH/MH	70	39	56%	66	26	39%	-17%
CN/MN	19	10	53%	20	11	55%	2%
Cork	143	52	36%	151	49	32%	-4%
Kerry	24	17	71%	24	20	83%	12%
CW/KK/ST	70	6	9%	65	40	62%	53%
WD/WX	59	20	34%	60	32	53%	19%
Mid West	95	29	31%	95	32	34%	3%
GY/RN	63	24	38%	71	10	14%	-24%
Mayo	20	20	100%	31	15	48%	-52%
Donegal	29	19	66%	31	23	74%	8%
SLWC	22	22	100%	21	20	95%	-5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,055</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>1,081</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>+0%</b>

### 3.2.3 Young adults discharged from care by reason of reaching 18 years

- 113 young adults were discharged from care by reason of reaching 18 years during Q1 2017 (Table 18).
- 93% (n=105/113) were eligible for an aftercare service and of these 90% (n=95/105) were availing of the service.
- 81% (n=92/113) of those discharged had an allocated aftercare worker.

**Table 18: Number discharged, eligible for aftercare service and allocated aftercare worker, Q4 2016 – Q1 2017**

Area	No discharged Q4 2016	No discharged eligible for aftercare Q4 2016	No availing of an aftercare service Q4 2016	No with allocated aftercare worker Q4 2016	% with allocated aftercare worker Q4 2016	No discharged Q1 2017	No discharged eligible for aftercare Q1 2017	No availing of an aftercare service Q1 2017	No with allocated aftercare worker Q1 2017	% with allocated aftercare worker Q1 2017
DSC	12	12	7	7	58%	6	6	4	4	67%
DSE/WW	4	4	4	3	75%	3	3	3	3	100%
DSW/K/WW	13	13	9	10	77%	8	8	4	5	63%
Midlands	4	4	4	4	100%	16	10	9	9	56%
DNC	4	4	3	3	75%	2	2	2	2	100%
Dublin North	3	3	3	3	100%	5	5	4	4	80%
LH/MH	9	9	9	9	100%	11	10	10	10	91%
CN/MN	4	4	4	4	100%	4	4	3	4	100%
Cork	22	22	22	20	91%	16	16	16	10	63%
Kerry	2	2	2	2	100%	2	2	2	2	100%
CW/KK/ST	6	6	6	6	100%	11	11	11	11	100%
WD/WX	7	7	7	7	100%	8	8	8	8	100%
Mid West	11	11	11	11	100%	13	12	11	12	92%
GY/RN	29	19	17	19	66%	4	4	4	4	100%
Mayo	1	1	1	1	100%	0	0	0	0	
Donegal	3	2	2	2	67%	2	2	2	2	100%
SLWC	4	4	2	2	50%	2	2	2	2	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>81%</b>

### 3.3 ADOPTION SERVICES

#### KEY FACTS

- 247 new applications to commence tracing for a searched person in Q1 2017
- 805 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q1 2017; up 115 on Q4 2016
- All services meeting the target of eight weeks or less from time of application to provision of non-identifying information
- 47 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received in Q1 2017
- 49 new children were referred for adoption in Q1 2017
- 32 completed adoption assessments presented to Local Adoption Committees in Q1 2017

#### 3.3.1 Information and Tracing Service

The Agency's Adoption Information and Tracing Service oversees a broad spectrum of enquiries from a wide range of people, including adopted people, birth parents, adoptive parents, siblings of adopted people and other birth relatives and people raised in long-term foster care. The service operates on a non-statutory basis within the wider legal framework of the Adoption Acts and assists each of these categories of person with their information and tracing enquiries.

- 474 new enquiries regarding information and tracing received in Q1 2017
- 247 new applications to commence tracing of a searched person received in Q1 2017
- 805 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q1 2017; up 115 (17%) on Q4 2016 (Table 19).
- Highest number of applicants (n=335; 42%) were awaiting a service in the Cork/Kerry area. This is due to the majority of files being held in this area.
- Six of the seven areas reported an increase in applicants awaiting from Q4 2016. The highest increase was reported by Dublin Mid Leinster / Dublin North East (n=56) followed by the Cork/Kerry area (n=31).

**Table 19: Number of applicants awaiting an information and tracing service**

Service Area	No waiting Q1 2016	No waiting Q2 2016	No waiting Q3 2016	No waiting Q4 2016	No waiting Q1 2017	Δ (+/-) Q1 v Q4
Dublin Mid Leinster Dublin North East <i>These two services are combined for applications waiting</i>	98	324	148	221	277	56
Cork/Kerry	330	287	304	304	335	31
CW/KK/ST/WD/WX	94	93	79	62	63	1
Midwest	78	60	38	14	23	9
Galway/Roscommon	28	27	23	33	44	11
Mayo	6	8	7	7	0	-7
Donegal/SLWC	12	19	21	49	63	14
<b>National</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>115</b>

- At the end of Q1 2017, all eight services were meeting the target of eight weeks or less for the length of time from application (production of ID) to the provision of non-identifying (Table 20).

**Table 20: Length of time (weeks) from application to the provision of non-identifying information**

Area	Length of Time (weeks) Q1 2016	Length of Time (weeks) Q2 2016	Length of Time (weeks) Q3 2016	Length of Time (weeks) Q4 2016	Length of Time (weeks) Q1 2017
Dublin Mid Leinster	1	3	4	10	7
Dublin North East	3	4	4	4	4
Cork/Kerry	4	6	6	4	6
CW/KK/ST/WD/WX	8	8	8	6	6
Midwest	20	20	8	8	8
Galway/Roscommon	36	8	8	8	6
Mayo	1	1	1	1	1
Donegal/SLWC	8	8	8	8	8

- At the end of Q1 2017:
  - the length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for priority 1 applications ranged from 1 month to 9 months against a target of 3 months or less (Table 21). All services, but two (Cork/Kerry and CW/KK/ST/WD/WX) are meeting the target.
  - the length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for priority 2 applications ranged from 6 weeks to 10 months against a target of 6 months or less. All services, but one are meeting this target (Table 21). Dublin North East reported 10 months, a decrease of 8 months on Q4 2016.
  - the length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for all other applications ranged from 3 months to 30 months against a target of 12 months or less. All services, but two (Dublin North East and Cork/Kerry) are currently meeting this target (Table 21).

**Table 21: Length of time (months) from application to allocation of a social worker, by priority type**

Area	Priority 1 Applications Waiting time (mths)	Priority 2 Applications Waiting time (mths)	All other Applications (mths)
Dublin Mid Leinster	2	2	3
Dublin North East	6	10	24
Cork/Kerry	9	6 weeks	30
CW/KK/ST/WD/WX	9	3	12
Midwest	1	3	12
Galway/Roscommon	2	2	12
Mayo	1	1	3
Donegal/Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	3	5	5



### 3.3.2 Adoption Assessments

- 47 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received during Q1 2017. The highest number were for inter-country adoption (n= 22) (Table 22).

**Table 22: Number of receipted completed adoption application packs received in the quarter**

Area	No receipted completed applications for adoption received Q1 2017
Fostering to Adoption	5
Inter-Country Adoption	22
Domestic Adoption	10
Step-parent adoption	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>

- 49 new children were referred for adoption in Q1 2017 (Table 23). The highest number (n=23) were for step-adoption.

**Table 23: Number of new children referred for adoption in the quarter**

Area	New children referred going forward for adoption Q1 2017
Fostering to Adoption	14
Domestic Adoption	12
Step-parent adoption	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>

- 32 completed assessments (all types) were presented to Local Adoption Committees during Q1 2017. Highest number were for inter-country adoption (n=13) followed by step-parent adoption (n=9) (Table 24).

**Table 24: Completed assessments presented to Local Adoption Committees, by type**

Area	No of completed assessments presented to LAC Q1 2017
<b>Fostering to Adoption</b>	3
<b>Inter-Country Adoption</b>	13
<b>Domestic Adoption</b>	7
<b>Step-parent adoption</b>	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>

## 3.4 FOSTER CARERS

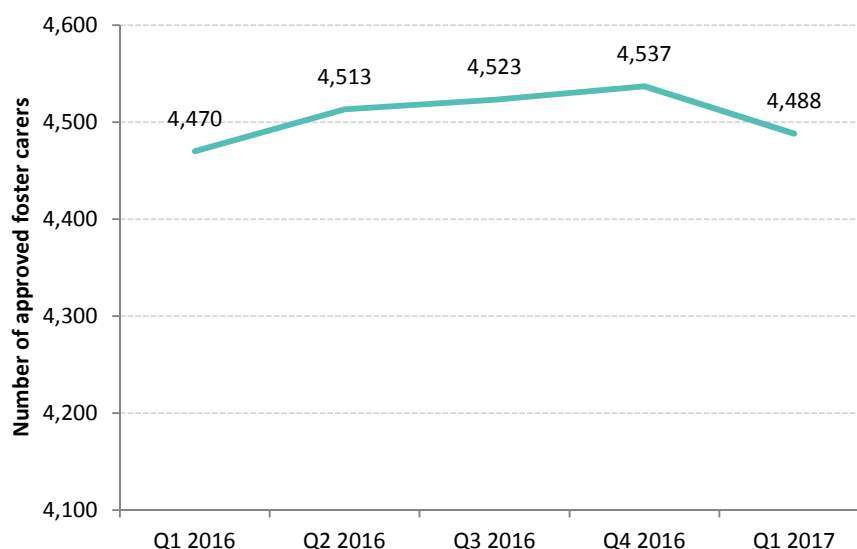
### KEY FACTS

- 4,488 approved foster carers on panel of approved carers at the end of Q1 2017; 49 fewer than Q4 2016
- 78% (n=1,196) of relative foster carers approved against a target of 80%; 77% in Q4 2016
- 87% (n=2,439) of general foster carers had an allocated link worker against a target of 90%; up from 82% in Q4 2016. Some 386 awaiting allocation; 132 fewer than Q4 2016
- 79% (n=939) of approved relative foster carers had an allocated link worker against a target of 85%; down from 80% in Q4 2016. Total of 257 awaiting allocation; 17 more than Q4 2016
- 328 unapproved relative foster carers; 28 fewer than Q4 2016
- 276 (84%) of the unapproved relative foster carers had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks;
- 70% (n=193) of unapproved relative foster carers with a child placed > 12 weeks had an allocated link (social) worker; up from 69% in Q4 2016. Some 83 awaiting allocation; 14 fewer than Q4 2016

### 3.4.1 Number of foster carers

- 4,488 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q1 2017; 49 fewer than Q4 2016 (Figure 27). There were 328 unapproved relative foster carers; 28 fewer than Q4 2016 (n=356).

Figure 27: Number of approved foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) Q1 2016 – Q1 2017



\*Figures for Q1 and Q2 2016 revised since publication of Q2 2016 Integrated Performance and Activity report

- 64% (n=2,879) of all approved foster carers are general foster carers. Relative foster carers (approved) account for a further 27% (n=1,196) while private foster carers account for the remaining 9% (n=413) (Table 25).
- 78% (n=1,196/1,524) of relative foster carers were approved and on the Panel against a target of 80%; up one percentage point from Q4 2016 (77% ; n=1,221/1,577)

**Table 25: Breakdown of foster carers by type Q1 2015 – Q4 2016**

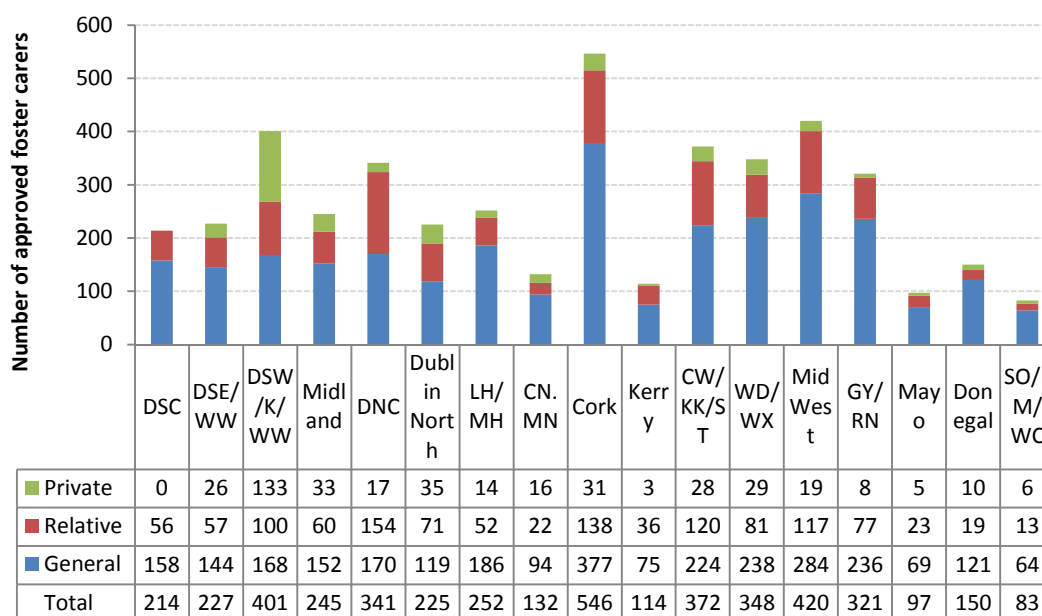
Foster Carers	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Δ (+/-) Q1 v Q4
General (Approved)	2,942	2,942	2,956	2,913	2,879	-34
Relative (Approved)	1,188	1,204	1,204	1,221	1,196	-25
Private (Approved)	340 <sup>#</sup>	367 <sup>#</sup>	363	403	413	+10
Relative (Unapproved)	389	382	348	356	328	-28

# Figures revised since publication of Q2 2016 Integrated Performance and Activity Report

### Foster carers approved and on the Panel of Approved Foster Carers

- The number of foster carers approved (all types) and on the panel ranged from 546 in Cork to 83 in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan at the end of Q1 2017 (Figure 28).

**Figure 28: Foster carers approved by type and area on the panel of approved foster carers, Q1 2017**



*Note: the number of private foster carers reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (n=133) includes those for Dublin South Central*

- Nine areas reported an increase from Q4 2016 in the number of foster carers approved and on the panel. The highest increase was reported by DSW/K/WW (n=5), followed by GY/RN (n=4) (Table 26).
- Of the seven areas that reported a decrease, WD/WX reported the highest decrease (n=22) followed by Dublin North (n=15) and DSC (n=10).

**Table 26: Area breakdown of approved foster carers (all types), Q1 2016 – Q1 2017**

Area	Total Q1 2016	Total Q2 2016	Total Q3 2016	Total Q4 2016	Total Q1 2017	Δ (+/-) Q1 v Q4
DSC	241	222	226	224	214	-10
DSE/Wicklow	239	238	224	232	227	-5
DSW/K/WW	359	393	391	396	401	5
Midland	240	241	240	243	245	2
DNC	349	349	347	347	341	-6
Dublin North	228	233	238	240	225	-15
LH/MH	247	247	256	256	252	-4
CN/MN	141	144	147	139	132	-7
Cork	545	548	540	544	546	2
Kerry	108	116	116	114	114	0
CW/KK/ST	365	370	376	371	372	1
WD/WX	361	369	358	370	348	-22
MidWest	410	410	401	419	420	1
GY/RN	300	305	329	317	321	4
Mayo	101	97	103	95	97	2
Donegal	154	151	150	149	150	1
SLWC	82	80	81	81	83	2
<b>National</b>	<b>4,470*</b>	<b>4,513*</b>	<b>4,523</b>	<b>4,537</b>	<b>4,488</b>	<b>-49</b>

\*Figures revised since publication of the Q2 2016 Integrated performance and Activity Report

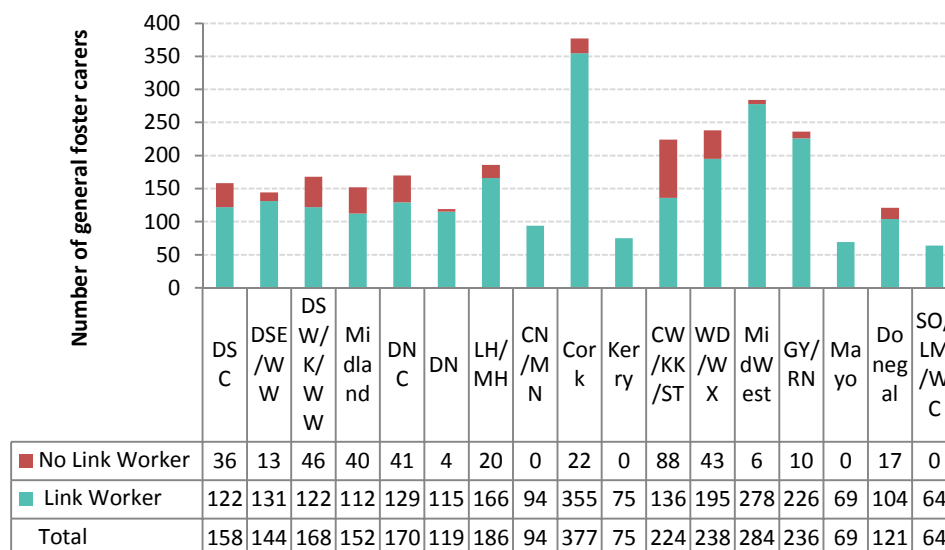
#Figure for private foster carers for Dublin South Central is included with figure for Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow

- 87% (n=2,493/2,879) of general foster carers approved and on the Panel had an allocated link (social) worker against a target of 90% at the end of Q1 2017; up five percentage points on Q4 2016. A total of 386 carers were awaiting an allocated worker; 132 fewer than Q4 2016. Nine areas reported a percentage of 90% or higher with four of these areas reporting 100% (Table 27).
- CW/KK/ST reported the highest number awaiting an allocated link worker (n=88 down 10 on Q4 2016) followed by DSW/K/WW (n=46 up 7 on Q4 2016).
- Six areas reported a decrease in carers awaiting an allocated link worker; the highest decrease was reported by LH/MH (n=108) followed by Midwest (n=24) and CN/MN (n=19).
- Five areas reported an increase in the number of foster carers awaiting an allocated link worker from Q4 2016; the highest increase was reported by Cork (n=18) followed by GY/RN (n=10).

**Table 27: General foster carers (approved) with/awaiting link social worker, Q4 2016 – Q1 2017**

Area	With Link Worker Q4 2016	Awaiting Link Worker Q4 2016	% With Link Worker Q4 2016	With Link Worker Q1 2017	Awaiting Link Worker Q1 2017	% With Link Worker Q1 2017	Δ +/- No. Awaiting Link Worker Q1 v Q4
DSC	131	31	81%	122	36	77%	5
DSE/WW	129	17	88%	131	13	91%	-4
DSW/K/WW	127	39	77%	122	46	73%	7
Midland	112	40	74%	112	40	74%	0
DNC	137	39	78%	129	41	76%	2
Dublin North	116	13	90%	115	4	97%	-9
LH/MH	62	128	33%	166	20	89%	-108
CN/MN	82	19	81%	94	0	100%	-19
Cork	372	4	99%	355	22	94%	18
Kerry	75	0	100%	75	0	100%	0
CW/KK/ST	124	98	56%	136	88	61%	-10
WD/WX	207	43	83%	195	43	82%	0
MidWest	257	30	90%	278	6	98%	-24
GY/RN	227	0	100%	226	10	96%	10
Mayo	68	0	100%	69	0	100%	0
Donegal	104	17	86%	104	17	86%	0
SO/LM/WC	65	0	100%	64	0	100%	0
<b>National</b>	<b>2,395</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>2,493</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>-132</b>

**Figure 29: General foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting a link (social worker), Q1 2017**



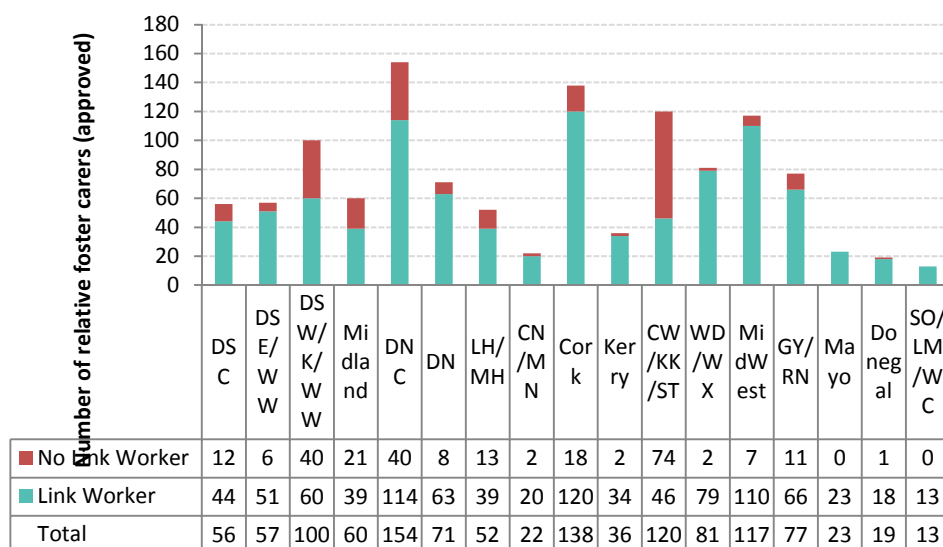
- 79% (n=939/1,196) of relative foster carers approved and on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q1 2017 against a target of 85% ; down one percentage point on Q4 2016 (80%; n=981/1,221).
- A total of 257 carers were awaiting an allocated link worker, 17 more than Q4 2016. Eleven areas reported a percentage of 85% (target) or higher with two of these areas reporting 100% (Table 28).

- Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary reported the highest number awaiting an allocated link worker (n=74 down 6 on Q4 2016) followed by DSW/KK/WW (n=40 up 2 on Q4 2016) and Dublin North City (n=40 up 4 on Q4 2016).
- Seven areas reported an increase in carers awaiting an allocated link worker from Q4 2016; highest increase was reported by Cork (n=12).
- Five areas reported a decrease in the number of foster carers awaiting an allocated link worker from Q4 2016; the highest decrease was reported by CW/KK/ST (n=6).

**Table 28: Relative foster cares (approved) with/awaiting an allocated link worker Q4 2016 – Q1 2017**

Area	With Link Worker Q4 2016	Awaiting Link Worker Q4 2016	% With Link Worker Q4 2016	With Link Worker Q1 2017	Awaiting Link Worker Q1 2017	% With Link Worker Q1 2017	Δ +/- Number Awaiting Link Worker Q4 v Q3
DSC	48	14	77%	44	12	79%	-2
DSE/WW	52	6	90%	51	6	89%	0
DSW/K/WW	62	38	62%	60	40	60%	2
Midland	39	21	65%	39	21	65%	0
DNC	118	36	77%	114	40	74%	4
Dublin North	67	10	87%	63	8	89%	-2
LH/MH	41	13	76%	39	13	75%	0
CN/MN	19	4	83%	20	2	91%	-2
Cork	133	6	96%	120	18	87%	12
Kerry	30	6	83%	34	2	94%	-4
CW/KK/ST	40	80	33%	46	74	38%	-6
WD/WX	92	0	100%	79	2	98%	2
MidWest	107	6	95%	110	7	94%	1
GY/RN	83	0	100%	66	11	86%	11
Mayo	22	0	100%	23	0	100%	0
Donegal	18	0	100%	18	1	95%	1
SO/LM/WC	10	0	100%	13	0	100%	0
<b>National</b>	<b>981</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>+17</b>

**Figure 30: Relative foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting allocated link Q1 2017**



### 3.4.2 Foster carers (relative) unapproved

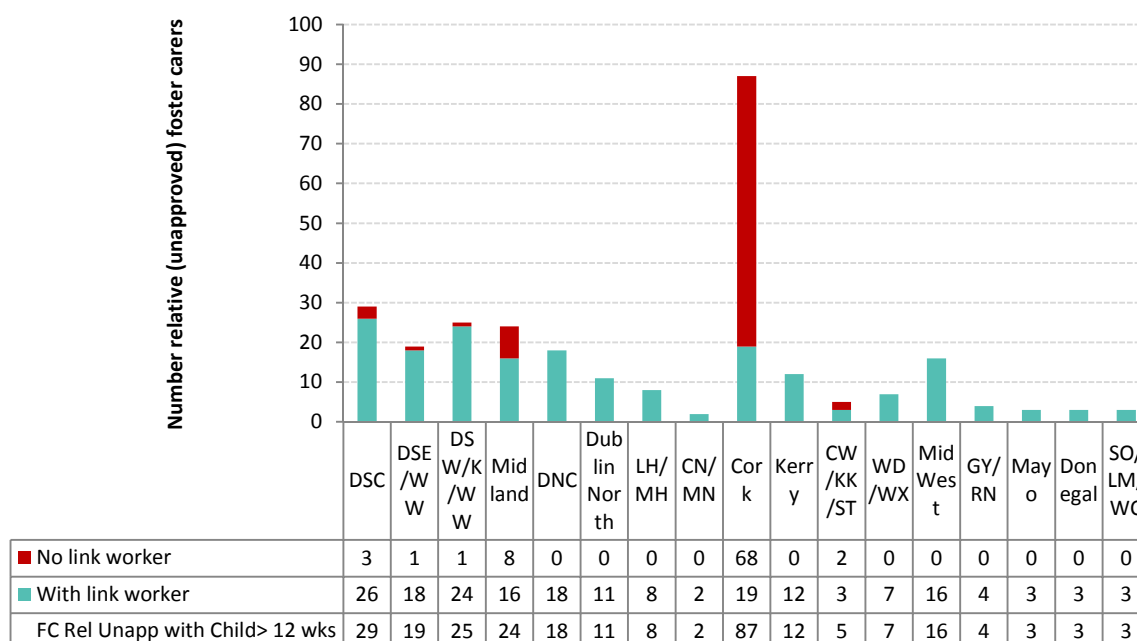
- 328 relative foster carers unapproved at the end of Q1 2017; 28 fewer than Q4 2016 (Table 29)
- Of these 276 (84%) had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks; 32 fewer than Q4 2016
- Of the 276 foster carers that had a child placed with them for >12 weeks, 70% (n=193) had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q1 2017; up one percentage point on Q4 2016. A total of 83 carers were awaiting allocation of a link worker; 14 fewer than Q4 2016.

**Table 29: Breakdown of foster carers not approved, Q1 2016 – Q1 2017**

Unapproved Relative Foster Carers	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Δ (+/-) Q1 v Q4
No. unapproved	389	382	348	356	328	-28
No (%) with a child > 12 weeks	315 (81%)	306 (80%)	300 (87%)	308 (87%)	276 (84%)	-32
Child > 12 weeks and have a Link Worker	218 (69%)	192 (63%)	209 (70%)	211 (69%)	193 (70%)	-18
Child > 12 weeks AWAITING Link Worker	97	114	91	97	83	-14

- Cork had the highest number (n=87) of relative foster carers unapproved with a child placed for longer than 12 weeks, at the end of Q1 2017; CN/MN had the fewest (n=2) (Figure 31).
- In eleven areas all unapproved relative foster carers with a child for >12 weeks had a link work (Figure 31).
- Of the remaining six areas, Cork had the highest number (n=68; down 7 on Q4 2016) of unapproved relative foster carers awaiting a link worker. The other areas with the exception of the Midlands (with eight) had three or fewer carers awaiting a link worker.

**Figure 31: Relative foster carers UNAPPROVED with a child > 12 weeks, with/awaiting a link worker, Q1 2017**



## 3.5 HIQA INSPECTIONS

### FOSTER CARE

The Health Information and Quality Authority (Hiqa) published two inspection reports in Q1 2017. The summary of judgments is set out in Table 30 and a summary of findings can be found in Appendix I.

**Table 30: Foster Care Inspections - Summary Judgments**

Foster Care					
Section 69 of the Child Care Act, 1991 as amended by Section 26 of the Child Care (Amendment) Act 2011 and the National Standards for Foster Care (2003).					
Centre Inspected	Summary of Judgments				
	No of Standards Assessed	Exceeds Standard	Meets Standard	Requires Improvement	Significant Risk Identified
DSW/K/WW	26 (Announced/Full)	1	9	14	2
Donegal	26 (Announced/Full)	2	7	16	1

### CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Hiqa published four inspection reports in Q1 2017. The summary of judgments is set out in Table 31 and a summary of findings for each centre inspected can be found in Appendix I.

**Table 31: Residential Centres Inspections- Summary Judgments**

Residential Care Centre					
SI No. 259 /1995 – Child Care (Placement of Children in Residential Care) Regulations 1995 and the National Standards for Residential Care (2001). Section 69 (2) of the Child Care Act 1991 as amended by the Child Care Act (Amendment) 2011					
Centre Inspected	Summary of Judgments				
	No of Standards Assessed	Exceeds Standard	Meets Standard	Requires Improvement	Significant Risk Identified
OSV 0004201	10 (Unannounced/Full)	1	7	2	0
OSV 0004171	10 (Unannounced / Full)	0	7	3	0
OSV 0004174	6 (Unannounced/Follow-up)	0	4	2	0
OSV 0004180	10 (Unannounced/Full)	0	6	4	0



## 4.0 REGULATION AND SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

### KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

#### 4.1 Early Years Services

#### 4.2 Alternative Education Regulation

#### 4.3 Statutory / Non-Statutory Alternative Care Services

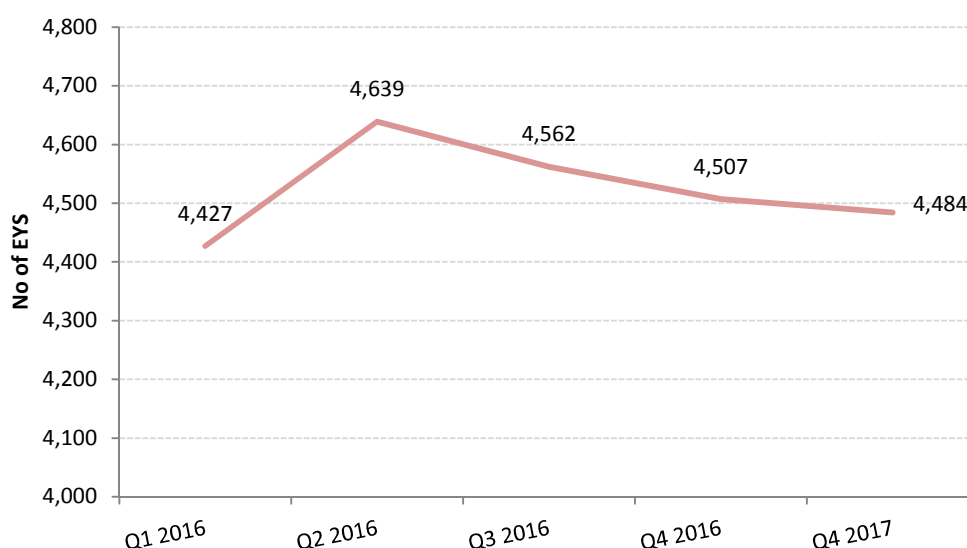
### 4.1 EARLY YEARS SERVICES

#### KEY FACTS

- 4,484 EYS on the register nationally at the end of Q1 2017
- 380 EYS inspections (all types) carried out during Q1 2017
- 88 complaints received in respect of EYS during Q1 2017

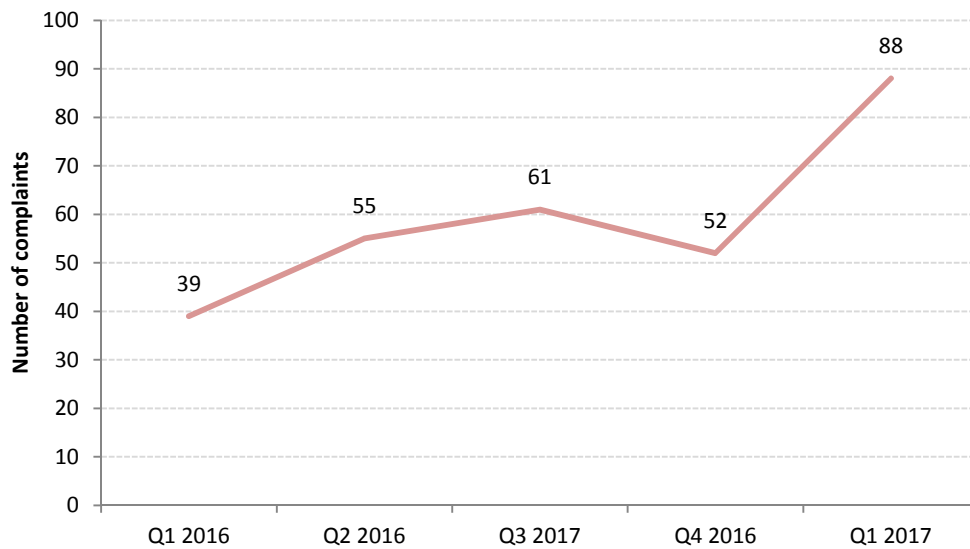
#### 4.1.1 Activity Data

- 4,484 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q1 2017; 23 fewer than Q4 2016 but 57 more than Q1 2016



- 16 new applications to become a registered provider received by the Inspectorate in Q1 2017 (*new metric for 2017*)
- 6 new applications approved by the Inspectorate in Q1 2017 (*new metric for 2017*)
- 356 “change in circumstances” notifications received by the Inspectorate in Q1 2017 (*new metric for 2017*)

- 31 services found to have closed in Q1 2017
- 380 inspections (all types<sup>15</sup>) carried out in Q1 2017 (*new metric for 2017*)
- 88 complaints relating to EYS received by the Inspectorate during Q1 2017; 36 more than Q4 2016 and 49 more than Q1 2016



- 78 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q1 2017 (*new metric for 2017*)
- No service de-registered by Tusla in Q1 2017
- No prosecutions of EYS taken by Tusla in Q1 2017

<sup>15</sup> Includes initial, follow up, complaints, focused inspections or fit for purpose inspections

## 4.2 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION REGULATION

### Key Facts

#### School Year 2015/2016

- 1,352 children on the register for home education at the end of March 2017
- 4,715 children (approx) attending 44 independent schools at the end of March 2017
- 358 applications received for home education Sept 2016 – March 2017; 1,142 applications for education in independent schools
- 406 assessments for home education carried out Sept 2016 – March 2017
- 259 children registered for home education between Sept 2016 – March 2017
- 184 children awaiting registration<sup>13</sup> for home education at the end of March 2017
- Six children were refused registration for home education, Sept – March 2017 There was appeal made against decisions not to register.

Under Section 14 of the Education (Welfare)<sup>16</sup> Act 2000 there were:

#### Period Sept 2016 – March 2017 inclusive

##### *Home Education*

- 1,352 children on the register for home education at the end of March 2017
- 358 applications made under Section 14 of the Education (Welfare)<sup>1</sup> for home education, Sept 2016 – March 2017
- 406 assessments for home education carried out, Sept 2016 – March 2017
- 259 children registered for home education, Sept 2016 – March 2017
- 6 children were refused registration for home education, Sept 2016 – March 2017. There was one appeal made against decisions not to register
- 184 children awaiting registration<sup>17</sup> for home education at the end of March 2017

##### *Independent Schools*

- 4,715 children (approx) attending 44 independent schools at the end of March 2017
- 1,142 applications for education in independent schools, Sept 2016 – March 2017
- 1 school awaiting assessment at the end of March 2017.

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<sup>16</sup> Section 14 Education (Welfare) Act 2000 14.—(1) The Board shall, on the commencement of this section, cause to be established and maintained a register of all children in receipt of education in a place other than a recognised school (hereafter in this section referred to as “the register”). (2) Subject to subsection (3), where a parent chooses to educate, or have educated, his or her child in a place other than a recognised school he or she shall, in accordance with this section, apply to the Board to have the child concerned registered in the register.

(5) As soon as practicable after an application under this section is received by the Board, the Board shall, for the purpose of determining whether the child is receiving a certain minimum education, cause an authorised person to carry out, in consultation with the parent who made the application, an assessment of—...

<sup>17</sup> Includes children waiting to be assessed and children for whom assessment has commenced

## 4.3 STATUTORY / NON-STATUTORY ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

### Key Facts

- 37 statutory residential services Q1 2017
- 19 monitoring visits to statutory residential services in Q1 2017
- 9 monitoring visits to Special Care Units in Q1 2017; Ballydowd (n=3); Coovagh (n=2) and Gleann Alainn (n=4)
- 83 private residential centres registered with the Agency at the end of Q1 2017; 21 inspections done in Q1 2017
- 28 voluntary residential centres registered with the Agency at the end of Q1 2017; 2 inspections done
- 7 non-statutory foster care services at the end of Q1 2017

### Statutory Residential Centres (excluding Special Care Units)

- 37 statutory residential services Q1 2017
- 19 monitoring visits to statutory residential services in Q1 2017
- 16 individual services received a monitoring visit during Q1 2017

### Special Care Units

- 9 monitoring visits to Special Care Units in Q1 2017; Ballydowd (n=3); Coovagh (n=2) and Gleann Alainn (n=4)

### Private Residential Centres

- 83 private centres registered with the Agency at the end of Q1 2017
- 21 inspections done in Q1 2017.

### Voluntary Residential Centres

- 28 voluntary centres registered with the Agency at the end of Q1 2017
- 2 inspections carried out in Q1 2017

### Non-statutory Foster Care Services

- 7 non-statutory foster care services nationally at the end of Q1 2017

## 5.0 EDUCATIONAL WELFARE SERVICES

### KEY FACTS

- 2,358 new individual children worked with between Sept 2016 and March 2017; an average of 337 children a month
- 423 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of March 2017; highest number for period Sept 2016 – March 2017
- 419 school attendance notices (SANs) issued in respect of 295 children under Section 25 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000<sup>1</sup>, Sept 2016 and March 2017
- 105 summonses issued in respect of 74 children under Section 25 of the Act, Sept 2016 and March 2017
- 139 Section 24 meetings convened by EWOs, Sept 2016 and March 2017 (*new metric*)

### Referrals<sup>18</sup> (*new metrics for academic year 2016/2017*)

- 3,426 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers, Sept 2016 – March 2017 (Table 32).
- 2,402 referrals allocated to educational welfare officers (EWOs), Sept 2016 – March 2017
- 559 referrals screened out / require no further action, Sept 2016 – March 2017
- 423 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of March 2017, highest number of the seven month period.

**Table 32: Referrals activity data by month, Sept 2016 – March 2017**

	Referrals Screened	Referrals Allocated	Referrals Screened Out	Screened Referrals on Waiting List (month end)
Sept 2016	368	234	100	208
Oct 2016	304	207	37	260
Nov 2016	392	289	67	259
Dec 2016	443	296	74	282
Jan 2017	512	393	78	231
Feb 2017	641	477	100	317
Mar 2017	766	506	103	423
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,426</b>	<b>2,402</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>-</b>

### Open Cases / Cases Worked

- 2,358 new individual children worked with, Sept 2016 – March 2017. This equates to approximately 337 new individual children a month.
- 3,059 new cases assigned to EWOs between Sept 2016 – March 2017 (Table 33)

<sup>18</sup> A referral is a written notification of concern to EWS from a school, a parent, agency or concerned citizen in relation to the educational welfare of a named child. Referrals are then screened against a set of criteria by the Senior Educational Welfare Officer and a decision is made as to whether to proceed and open a case in relation this named child, or placed on a waiting list if there is an EWS capacity issue.

- 2,426 cases closed between Sept 2016 – March 2016 (Table 33).

**Table 33: Cases open, assigned and closed by month, Sept 2016 – March 2017**

	Open Cases on hand/brought forward	New Cases Assigned	Cases Closed
Sept 2016	2,593	374	364
Oct 2016	2,603	334	353
Nov 2016	2,584	450	425
Dec 2016	2,609	347	285
Jan 2017	2,671	389	300
Feb 2017	2,760	567	404
Mar 2017	2,923	598	295
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,059</b>	<b>2,426</b>

### **School Attendance Notices and Summonses under Section 25**

- 419 school attendance notices (SANs) issued by EWS under Section 25 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000<sup>19</sup>, Sept 2016 – March 2017. The notices issued were in respect of 295 individual children i.e., more than one notice was issued in respect of some children.
- 105 summonses issued by EWS under Section 25 of the Education (Welfare Act) 2000, Sept 2016 – March 2017. The summonses issued were in respect of 74 individual children i.e., more than one summons was issued in respect some children.
- EWOs attended 276 court cases pertaining to their own cases between Sept 2016 – March 2017 and an additional 15 court cases in a supporting capacity (e.g., at the request of social work services).
- 153 child protection conferences (CPC) attended by EWOs between Sept 2016 – March 2017.

### *New Metrics for 2016/2017 academic year*

- 139 Section 24<sup>20</sup> meetings convened by EWOs, Sept 2016 – March 2017
- 124 official child protection and welfare referrals made by EWOs Sept 2016 – March 2017.

<sup>19</sup> Section 25 Education (Welfare) Act 2000—(1) Subject to section 17(2), the Board shall, if of opinion that a parent is failing or neglecting to cause his or her child to attend a recognised school in accordance with this Act, serve a notice (hereafter in this section referred to as a ‘school attendance notice’) on such parent—(a) requiring him or her on the expiration of such period as is specified in the notice, to cause his or her child named in the notice to attend such recognised school as is specified in the notice, and there to attend on each school day that the notice is in force, and (b) informing him or her that if he or she fails to comply with a requirement under paragraph (a) he or she shall be guilty of an offence.

<sup>20</sup> Section 24 Education Welfare Act 2000: Where the board of management of a recognised school or a person acting on its behalf is of the opinion that a student should be expelled from that school it shall, before so expelling the student, notify the educational welfare officer to whom functions under this Act have been assigned, in writing, of its opinion and the reasons therefor. The educational welfare officer concerned shall, as soon as may be after receiving a notification under *subsection (1)*, make all reasonable efforts to ensure that provision is made for the continued education of the student to whom the notification relates.

- (2) For the purposes of *subsection (2)*, the educational welfare officer concerned shall, as soon as may be after receiving the said notification—
- (a) make all reasonable efforts to consult with the principal of the school concerned or a person nominated by him or her, the student concerned and his or her parents, and such other persons as the educational welfare officer considers appropriate, and
  - (b) convene a meeting attended by him or her of such of those persons as agree to attend such meeting.

## 6.0 HUMAN RESOURCES

### KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

- 7.1 Workforce Position
- 7.2 Absence Rate
- 7.3 Social Work Staff
- 7.4 Residential Services
- 7.5 Workforce Learning and Development

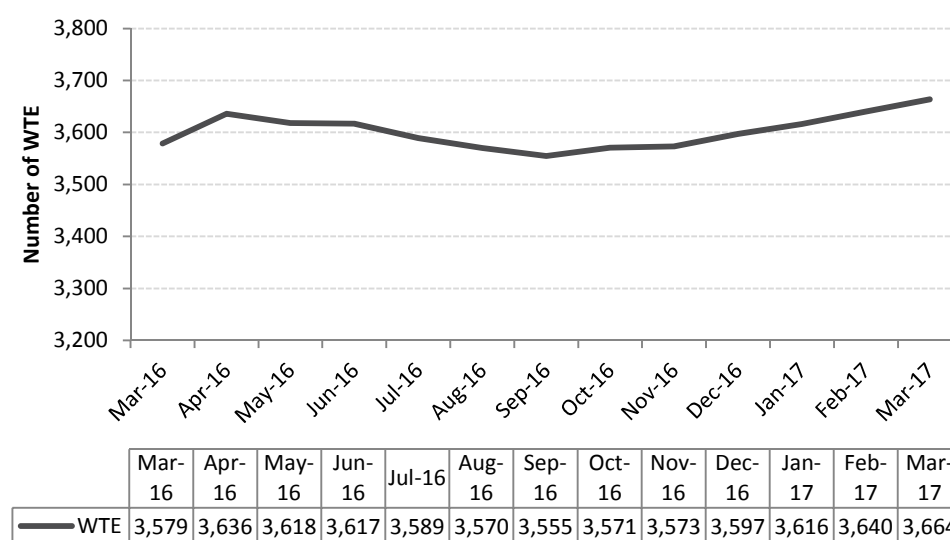
#### KEY FACTS

- 3,664 (WTE) employed by the Agency at the end of Q1 2017; 67 more than Q4 2016 and 85 more than Q1 2016
- 104 new staff came on to the Agency's payroll (January and February 2017)
- 48 staff left (incl. retirements) the Agency (January and February 2017)
- 140 staff on maternity leave at the end of February 2017
- 305 agency staff employed by Tusla at the end of February 2017
- 4.69% absence rate (February 2017); 0.8 percentage points lower than Q4 2016
- 172 courses run by Workforce Learning and Development in Q1 2017; 2,460 attendees

### 6.1 Workforce Position

- 3,664 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q1 2017; 67 more than Q4 2016 and 85 (2%) more than Q1 2016 (Figure 32).

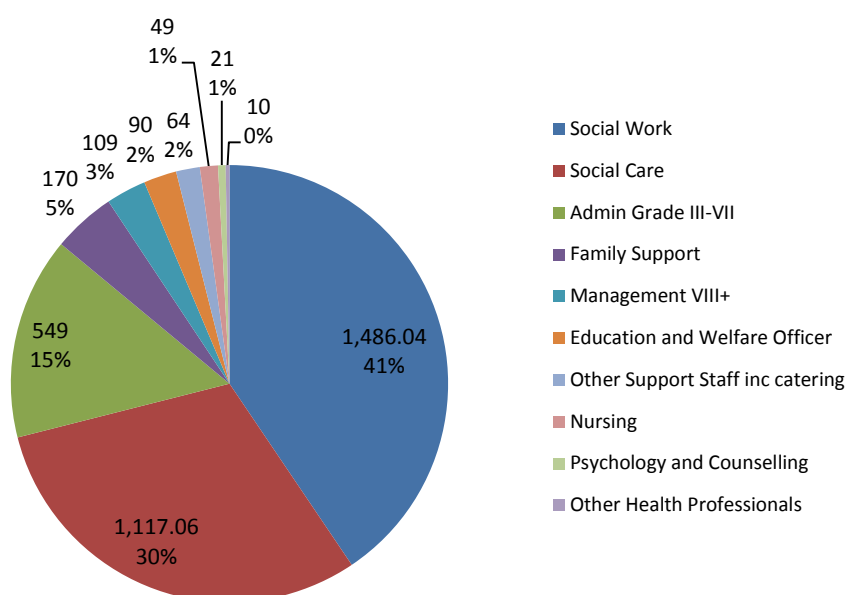
**Figure 32: Total Staff Employed (WTE), by month Mar 2016– Mar 2017**



- Social workers are the largest category of staff employed by the Agency accounting for 41% (n=1,486) of total staff (WTE) employed at the end of Q1 2017, followed by social care staff

accounting for a further 30% (n=1,117) of total WTE. Management (i.e., grade VIII and above) accounts for 3% (n=109) of the workforce (Figure 33).

**Figure 33: Breakdown of staff category (WTE), Q1 2017**



- All categories of staff, with the exception of social care, nursing and psychology and counselling, experienced an increase in WTEs between Q4 2016 and Q1 2017 (Table 34). The highest increase was observed across the Admin Grade III-VII category (n=31) followed closely by social work (n=28).

**Table 34: Breakdown of staff (WTE) by category and quarter**

Staffing by Category	March 2016	Dec 2016	March 2017	Δ+/- Q4 2016 v Q4 2015
Social Work	1,504	1,458	1,486	28
Social Care	1,119	1,119	1,117	-2
Admin Grade III-VII	465	517	549	31
Family Support	173	163	170	7
Management VIII+	100	108	109	1
Education and Welfare Officer	74	86	90	4
Other Support Staff inc catering	64	63	64	1
Nursing	47	51	49	-1
Psychology and Counselling	23	23	21	-3
Other Health Professionals	10	10	10	0
<b>Total Staffing</b>	<b>3,579</b>	<b>3,597</b>	<b>3,664</b>	<b>67</b>

- 104 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in January and February 2017 (latest data available)
- 37 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks) in January and February 2017
- 11 staff retired in January and February 2017

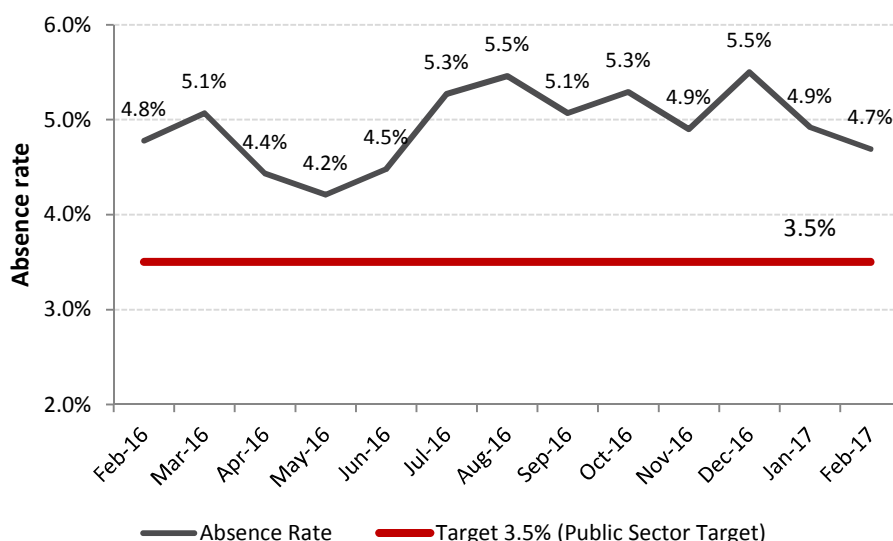


- 140 staff were on maternity leave at the end of February 2017 of which 78% (n=109) were on paid maternity leave
- 305 agency staff employed by Tusla at the end of February 2017.

## 6.2 Absence Rate

- At the end of February 2017<sup>21</sup> the overall absence rate for the Agency was 4.69% against a target of 3.5% (target for public sector); 0.8 percentage points lower than December 2016 and 0.09 percentage points lower than February 2016 (Figure 34).

**Figure 34: Overall staff absence rate by month**



- The highest absence rate was reported for social care staff (7.06%) (Table 35). The rate for Residential Services was 8.42% (data not shown), 3.73 percentage points higher than the overall rate of 4.69%.

**Table 35: Absence rate by staff grade**

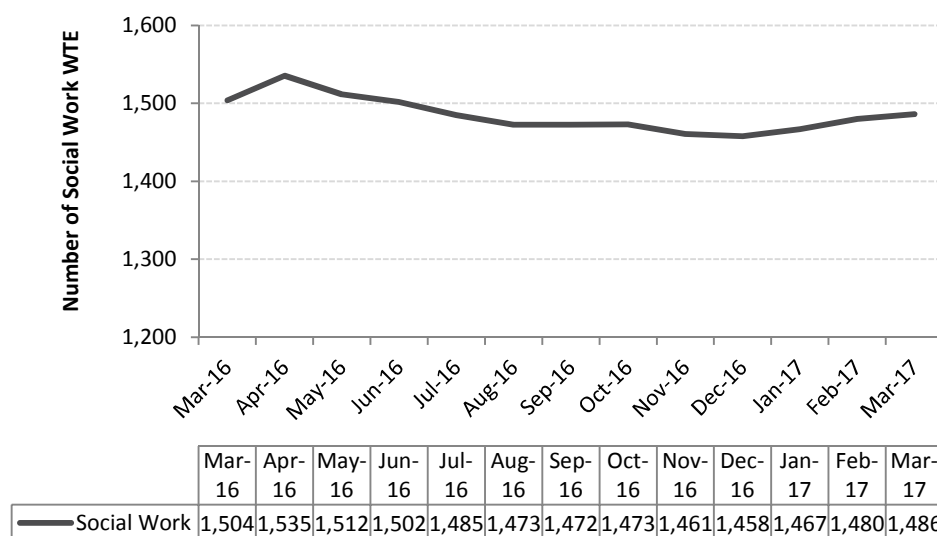
Staff Grade	Absence Rate February 2017
Social Work	3.56%
Social Care	7.06%
All other grades	4.04%

## 6.3 Social Work Staff (WTE)

- 1,486.04 whole time equivalent (WTE) social work staff (all grades and excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q1 2017; 28 more than Q4 2016 but 18 fewer than Q1 2016. Since December 2016, the number of social workers (WTEs) has increased month on month (Figure 35).

<sup>21</sup> Absence rates are reported monthly in arrears

Figure 35: Number of social workers (WTE) by month



- 56 social workers joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in January and February 2017 (latest data available)
- 22 social workers left (i.e., resigned, career breaks) Tusla in January and February 2017
- 5 social workers retired in January and February 2017
- 77 social workers were on maternity leave at the end of February 2017
- 97 agency social workers were employed at the end of February 2017
- At the end of February 2017<sup>22</sup> the absence rate for social workers was running at 3.56%, 1.13 percentage points lower than the overall rate (4.69%) and just above the public sector target of 3.5%
- A breakdown of the number of social workers (all grades) employed at the end of each quarter Q1 2016 – Q1 2017 by area is presented in Table 36.

Table 36: Breakdown of social work staff (WTE) by area Q1 2016 – Q1 2017

Area	Social Work (WTE) Q1 2016	Social Work (WTE) Q2 2016	Social Work (WTE) Q3 2016	Social Work (WTE) Q4 2016	Social Work (WTE) Q1 2017
DSC	75.42	81.06	74.61	78.84	80.6
DSE/WW	107.01	108.31	103.01	97.96	107.15
DSW/K/WW	85.53	84.82	84.39	85.26	90.28
Midlands	81.96	82.8	81.4	74.86	77.97
Regional Services DML	18.33	16.39	17.52	18.02	19.78
<b>DML Total</b>	<b>368.25</b>	<b>373.38</b>	<b>360.93</b>	<b>350.94</b>	<b>375.78</b>
CN/MN	34.06	35.84	30.61	30.22	35.42
DNC	122.74	113.63	100.9	99.56	98.91
LH/MH	83	79.67	77.85	77.48	76.99

<sup>22</sup> Absence data is reported a month in arrears

Dublin North	72.27	72.73	70.51	72.06	71.33
Regional Services DNE	31.17	32.12	33.87	32.83	33.78
<b>DNE Total</b>	<b>343.24</b>	<b>333.99</b>	<b>313.74</b>	<b>312.15</b>	<b>316.13</b>
CW/KK/ST	64.4	63.93	62.17	66.27	66.32
Cork*	158.85	152.36	156.04	159.19	158.25
Kerry*	41.22	41.44	43.14	41.27	39.59
WD/WX	89.24	88.42	86.18	83.11	85.64
Regional Services South	11.16	11.16	4.9	3.87	3.98
<b>South Total</b>	<b>364.87</b>	<b>357.31</b>	<b>352.43</b>	<b>353.71</b>	<b>353.78</b>
Donegal	51.21	54.07	59.85	61.17	60.99
GY/RN	89.27	90.7	92.22	89.9	92.08
Mayo	35.38	36.3	35.76	38.52	38.52
Mid West	120.18	123.41	123.84	117.73	116.23
SO/LM/WC	39.24	39.55	38.65	38.98	37.57
Regional Services West	2	2	1	2	4
<b>West Total</b>	<b>337.28</b>	<b>346.03</b>	<b>351.32</b>	<b>348.3</b>	<b>349.39</b>
Residential DML	3.76	3.83	3.8	3.87	3
Residential DNE	4.46	4.99	4.49	4.37	2.61
Residential West					
Residential South	5.9	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4
<b>Residential Services</b>	<b>14.12</b>	<b>13.22</b>	<b>12.69</b>	<b>12.64</b>	<b>10.01</b>
Corporate	72.91	74.81	78.33	76.93	76.95
Early Years Service	3	3	3	3	4
<b>Corporate</b>	<b>75.91</b>	<b>77.81</b>	<b>81.33</b>	<b>79.93</b>	<b>80.95</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1503.67</b>	<b>1501.74</b>	<b>1,472.44</b>	<b>1,457.67</b>	<b>1,486.04</b>

## 6.4 Workforce Learning and Development

- Workforce Learning and Development (WLD) ran a total of 172 courses during Q1, 2017 at which a total of 2,460 persons attended. A breakdown of the courses run and attendees by type is presented in Table 37.
- During Q1, 2017 the most frequently run course was Meitheal Standardised Training Course with 19 courses run. This was followed by Child and Youth Participation Training and Children First Training (2011) for Tusla Staff, each with 13 courses nationally.
- Thirty-three percent (n=57/172) of the total number of courses run in Q1 were PP&FS courses.
- A total of 789 personnel external to Tusla attended training in Q1, 2017
- A total of 1,671 Tusla staff attended training during Q1, 2017 and of these 51% (n = 859) were social workers.
- There were 46 courses that were categorised as 'Other' courses. These courses which constitute 27% of all the courses, refer to a range of locally delivered courses that are developed in response to particular needs and requests in areas such as Neglect, Administration; addressing HIQA recommendations etc.

**Table 37: Breakdown of courses run by Workforce Learning and Development and attendees by type, Q1 2017**

<b>WLD National Training Activity - Q1 2017</b>	<b>No. COURSES RUN</b>	<b>NO. TUSLA SOCIAL WORKERS</b>	<b>NO. TUSLA OTHER STAFF</b>	<b>NO. HSE STAFF</b>	<b>NO. OTHER EXT STAFF</b>	<b>TOTAL NO. ATTENDEES</b>
Assessment & Analysis	1	10	4	0	0	14
Attachment Theory into Practice	7	68	31	1	12	112
Case Load Management	2	12	0	0	0	12
Children First Training 2011 for Tusla Staff	13	50	192	0	19	261
Core Court Room Skills	3	25	21	0	3	49
CPD Strategy Briefings	1	0	10	0	0	10
Direct Work with Children	4	44	19	0	5	68
Diversity in Modern Ireland	1	5	7	0	0	12
Domestic Sexual and Gender Based Violence	2	0	4	8	17	29
Grade III & IV Admin Development Programme	1	0	20	0	0	20
Introduction to Court Skills	3	15	24	0	5	44
Legal Briefing Seminar	4	28	45	0	5	78
Making the Most of Supervision for Supervisees	3	11	31	0	1	43
Practice Development for New Social Workers	2	14	0	0	5	19
Reflective Recording & Report Writing	6	46	22	0	13	81
SAOR	3	36	4	0	4	44
Staff Supervision Skills for Supervisors	3	10	10	3	1	24
Suicide Prevention - SafeTALK	2	20	12	0	10	42

Therapeutic Crisis Intervention - Core	2	0	9	0	10	19
Therapeutic Crisis Intervention - Six Monthly Refresher	5	0	35	0	36	71
TUSLA PMLF	1	3	5	0	0	8
Other	46	389	128	2	123	642
Child and Youth Participation Training	13	50	79	0	20	149
Meitheal Briefing	12	6	0	2	110	118
Meitheal Facilitators Chairs Meeting	3	0	14	5	19	38
Meitheal Standardised Refresher Course	1	0	5	0	8	13
Meitheal Standardised Train the Trainer	1	1	6	0	4	11
Meitheal Standardised Training Course	19	13	22	23	226	284
Parenting Support Champion Training - Attachment	2	1	20	2	21	44
PPFS /Meitheal Other	6	2	33	6	60	101
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>2,460</b>

## 7.0 FINANCE

### KEY FACTS

- The financial outturn for the year to date (March 2017) is an under-spend of €1.456 million
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €1.354 million
- Non pay costs are under-spent against budget by €0.394 million
- Key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €0.725 million over budget
- 39% (€2.744 million) of legal expenditure year to date on guardians ad litem (GALs), including GAL's solicitors and counsel.

### Financial Performance

- The outturn for the year to date (March 2017) is an underspend of €1.456 million.
- The net expenditure for the period is €161.594 million against a budget allocation of €163.050 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €1.354 million for the YTD (Table 40). This is due to time related savings arising from leaver numbers and lower than anticipated recruitment in 2016.

**Table 38: Pay Costs**

Child and Family Agency	March 2017 Year To date			% Variance Act vs Budget
	Actual	Budget	Variance	
	€'000	€'000	€'000	
Pay costs	60,750	62,104	(1,354)	(2%)

- Non-pay costs are under-spent against budget by €0.394 million for the YTD (Table 41).

**Table 39: Non Pay Costs**

Child and Family Agency	March 2017 Year To date			% Variance Act vs Budget
	Actual	Budget	Variance	
	€'000	€'000	€'000	
Non pay costs	105,429	105,823	(394)	0%

- A key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €0.725 million over-spend YTD (Table 42). This over-spend is due to an increased number of children in private placements. Placement of children in private residential and foster care services is strictly controlled through a national placement process.

**Table 40: Private Residential and Foster Care Costs**

Child and Family Agency	March 2017 Year To date			% Variance Act vs Budget
	Actual	Budget	Variance	
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
• Private Residential & Foster Care	24,121	23,396	725	3%

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al costs incurred by the Agency account for a significant portion of the overall budget of the Agency. The financial position at the end of March 2017 shows a year to date spend of €7,123 million against a budget of €7,076 million (i.e., €0.047 million over-spend).

- A breakdown of legal expenditure by type is presented in Table 43.
- 39% (n=€2.744 million) of the legal spend year to date has been on guardians ad litem (GALs) including GALs solicitors and counsel.
- In terms of forecasting these data should be interpreted with caution as they are based on the individual billing pattern of persons concerned.

**Table 41: Legal Expenditure**

Type	March YTD €'000s
3rd Party Counsel Fees	205
3rd Party Solicitors Fees	545
Contracted Legal Services	3,216
Counsel fees - Tusla	274
Guardian ad Litem Costs	1,586
Guardian ad Litem Counsel fees	169
Guardian ad Litem Solicitors fees	989
General Legal Fees	19
Other	121
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>7,123</b>

## APPENDIX I

### ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations have been used for Tusla Service Areas in charts and tables presented in this report.

Service Area	Abbreviation
Dublin South Central	DSC
Dublin South East / Wicklow	DSE/WW
Dublin South West / Kildare / West Wicklow	DSW/K/WW
Midlands	Midlands
Dublin North City	DNC
Dublin North	DN
Louth / Meath	LH/MH
Cavan / Monaghan	CN/MN
Cork	Cork
Kerry	Kerry
Carlow Kilkenny / South Tipperary	CW/KK/ST
Waterford / Wexford	WD/WX
Mid West	Mid West
Galway / Roscommon	GY/RN
Mayo	Mayo
Donegal	Donegal
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	SO/LM/WC



## **APPENDIX I – Hiqa Inspections**

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOSTERING REPORTS PUBLISHED Q1 2017**

#### **Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow - inspection took place in Oct 2016**

Overall the service was child-centred, children's rights were respected and there was good practice in relation to diversity. There was respectful communication with children and families and children were able to maintain relationships with their family members. Complaints received were managed appropriately but some improvements were required. A number of elements of this service were delivered in an effective manner. Children were cared for with affection and their welfare promoted. Systems were in place for care planning and statutory child in care reviews. Children with complex needs received appropriate services. However, not all children had an allocated social worker and the system in place to ensure unallocated children received statutory visits was not sufficient. Not all young people were receiving an aftercare service in line with Tusla policy. Relative assessments were not completed in a timely manner and there were insufficient supports provided to all foster carers. Reviews of foster carers did not occur routinely. The area took immediate action when necessary to protect children but a number of improvements were required regarding measures in place to safeguard and protect children from abuse. While health records required improvement, children's healthcare needs were met. The high priority placed on the education of children in foster care had impacted positively on children's educational opportunities. This was a well-managed service that had clear lines of accountability. The management systems that were in place ensured that the service was delivered in a planned manner. There were formal systems in place to manage risk but a number of risks remained, in particular regarding unallocated children and foster carers, timely assessment of relative carers and reviews of foster carers. Inspectors sought a number of assurances regarding individual children from principal social workers and were satisfied with the responses received. Foster carers were recruited in a timely manner but there was an insufficient range of carers to meet children's diverse needs. External monitoring of the service by a Tusla monitor had not taken place and quality assurance was not sufficiently robust. The governance arrangements of the foster care committee to ensure their oversight of all allegations, unplanned endings and foster carer reviews required improvement. The service was provided by a skilled staff team who were well supported by regular supervision and training opportunities, which were informed by a workforce learning and development plan. There were insufficient staff in place to deliver a safe and effective service; however, additional posts had been approved and recruitment was underway.

#### **Donegal - inspection took place in September 2016**

This was a good service in which sound practice was evident in a number of areas. Children presented as secure, well cared for and content. They spoke confidently to inspectors, and were aware of their rights and the fact that they had choices. The service demonstrated a child-centred approach at every level. There were some measures in place to protect children and keep them safe but vetting of staff was not in line with Children First (2011). Children received good quality day-to-day care from their foster carers. Their rights were promoted and they were given opportunities to express their views and preferences on decisions that affected their lives. Children's needs in relation to diversity and disability were met. Children maintained positive relationships with family and friends although some parents would have liked more contact with their children. Complaints were investigated but not all complaints were

captured in the complaints recording system. All children had an allocated social worker. This represented significant improvement in relation to this statutory requirement since quarter one of 2016. While not all children had an up-to-date care plan, the management team was working on addressing this deficit. Difficulties in placements were well managed and proactive parallel planning took place to mitigate the effects of these difficulties on the children involved. Education was valued and promoted in the service and foster carers and staff were ambitious for children and expressed pride in their achievements. Care leavers were well supported to continue with education and training programmes so that they had opportunities similar to their peers. For children-in-care, leaving care can be particularly overwhelming. This service provided an excellent leaving and aftercare service. The staff team was proactive and creative in securing various supports for young people. Referrals to the team were timely, facilitating the development of strong working relationships between staff and young people. Young people were encouraged to be responsible and independent while at the same time having access to support and advice in times of crisis. There was an insufficient number of foster carers and the area were not actively recruiting for potential applicants. Foster care resources were used to ensure the best matches were made between children's needs and the capacity of foster carers to meet them but the area did not have sufficient foster care resources to provide a wide range of choice of placement for all children. The recording of the matching process required improvement. Securing relative foster care placements for children coming into care was appropriately prioritised. Fostering assessments were comprehensive and thorough, although not always timely. All foster carers had an allocated link worker and there were various mechanisms in place to support and retain foster carers. However, reviews of foster carers were not carried out in line with the standards. The provision of training for foster carers was good. The foster care committee worked well and carried out most of its functions under the standards. However, improvements were required in relation to presentation of reviews and disruption reports. The service was planned and managed by confident, experienced managers. Resources were directed to prioritised service areas and the area was developing quality improvement mechanisms to ensure good quality services were delivered into the future. However, risk management required improvement as not all risks had been identified, for example, the absence of garda vetting for all staff, and an insufficient number of foster carers on the panel. Recruitment practices were not robust. There was no system in place to ensure that all staff had been appropriately vetted. Inspectors escalated these safeguarding concerns to the Area Manager and subsequently to the Service Director of the service who responded, setting out the steps he was taking to ensure all staff were appropriately vetted and the safeguarding measures he would implement if vetting was required for any frontline staff member. The staff team was enthusiastic and competent and was committed to ensuring the best interests of children were served. Staff felt supported but supervision required improvement. The provision of training was good but not all staff had attended mandatory training.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

### REPORTS PUBLISHED Q1 2017

#### **Centre ID OSV – 0004201 (West)**

Overall, the children received good quality care that was delivered by an experienced staff team and manager. There was good quality communication and interaction between children and staff. The centre was homely and well-maintained. Children's rights were promoted. They had good access to advocacy both internally from staff and also by their court appointed Guardian ad Litem. Children's complaints were listened to and were acted on in a timely manner by the centre manager. Children were safe and there was good quality safeguarding systems in place in the centre. The emotional, behavioural, health and educational needs of children were promoted and facilitated by staff. The centre manager and staff team had implemented the majority of action plan from the last inspection. New placement planning processes were in the early stages of implementation. Children's care plans were reviewed regularly, but there were delays in their onward placement planning. There were some gaps in staff training and staff files were not available within the centre.

#### **Centre ID OSV – 0004171 (DNE)**

Young people had a good quality of life. The centre offered a safe environment for the young mothers and their babies. Young people were assisted in the development of parenting and life skills. Staff offered mentoring and individually tailored programs in order to meet the young people's needs. Complaints made were well managed and responded to in a timely way. There were good relationships formed between staff and young people. Young people told inspectors that they were happy in the centre and that the staff team supported them. Inspectors observed staff acting as positive role models to the young people by offering them advice and assurance in relation to positive parenting. Staff advocated for young people and also respected their views and rights both as young people and as parents. Young people were consulted with regard to their care planning and matters affecting their lives. However, there were delays in young people receiving aftercare services. Safeguarding practices were effective in keeping young people safe. All young people had an allocated social worker. The staff team responded appropriately to ensure young people and their babies were safeguarded. Staff were proactive in ensuring that risk assessments were completed in a timely way in response to incidents involving young people which occurred both within and outside of the centre. The staff team liaised closely with all relevant professionals when required and safety plans were in place to reduce any risks to young people. Governance and management systems required improvement. While there were some good management systems in place, monitoring and oversight of the quality and safety of care was not always effective. For example, there were some gaps in centre records which had not been identified. There was a well established and experienced staff team. The majority of staff were qualified. However, there were gaps in staff training. Not all staff had up-to-date mandatory training. Additional training needs had been recommended for this staff team in order to meet the needs of the current cohort of young people placed in the centre; however, this training had not been provided to date.

#### **Centre ID OSV – 0004174 (DNE)**

The purpose of this inspection was to review the actions undertaken as a result of a full inspection of the service (Mon:17154) carried out on 22 to 23 March 2016. At the previous inspection, four standards were met and six standards required improvement. Some areas that required

improvement included records of individual work with children, the complaints process, education, and medication management. This inspection found that children continued to receive good quality care in the centre and that their rights were well respected and promoted. While several actions were implemented by the centre, some actions remained outstanding such as medication management and some quality assurance systems.

#### **Centre ID OSV – 0004180 (DNE)**

The Inspector found that improvements had been made in a number of areas since the last inspection. These included management of behaviour, fire safety and provision of staff training. The centre provided a good leaving and aftercare service for young people and staff were committed to supporting them with the transition to independent living. The care provided by the staff team was in line with the statement of purpose and function and was reflected in day-to-day practice. The centre was well managed and there was some oversight by the external manager to ensure good quality care was provided. The management team provided good leadership to an experienced, competent and stable staff team. Young people were safe and had a good quality of life. Young people told the inspector they liked it in the centre and that it had taken time to settle in. Whilst the two young people under 18 years had only lived in the centre for a number of weeks they had settled in well and presented as relaxed and happy in their surroundings. They were also in the process of integrating into the local community. The staff team were child-centred in their approach and the rights of young people were respected and promoted. The inspector met staff who were knowledgeable about the needs of the young people and sensitive to the requirement for a period of transition and adaptation by the young people who had come from other placements including residential and foster care. Young people were consulted about decisions concerning their care and were encouraged and supported to make complaints. They maintained relationships with family members and friends as appropriate to them. The quality of care and support was good. The young people's education and health needs were met and medication management practices were good. Improvements were required in the area of training in child protection, premises and safety, risk identification and recording, staff qualifications and recording of supervision.