



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Quarterly Service Performance and Activity Report

QUARTER 2 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 Q2 2017. It is structured around key performance and activity measures included in the Agency's 2017 Business Plan. The data presented was provided by services and refers to the latest performance and activity information available at this time. These data can change from data previously published due to the ongoing validation of data.

The summary by service type set out below provides an overview of the Q2 2017 position regarding activity and performance.

CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

Referrals

- 13,629 referrals for Q1 2017; 1,532 (13%) more than Q4 2016 and the highest number for the period Q1 2014 – Q1 2017
- 60% (n=8,171) child welfare concerns; 40% (n=5,458) child abuse concerns, 545 (11%) more than Q4 2016
- 40% (n=5,304) of referrals required an initial assessment

Social Work Activity Data

- 25,866 cases open to social work at the end of Q2 2017; 482 more than Q1 2017
- 77% (n=19,973) of open cases allocated to named social worker; up from 76% (19,226) at the end of Q1 2017
- 5,893 cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2017; 265 (4%) fewer than Q1 2017; over one-third (n=2,072) "active" on a duty system i.e., actions being taken to progress the case
- 17% (n=991) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2017 were categorised as 'high priority'; down 71 (7%) from Q1 2017
- 57% (n=565) of 'high priority' cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2017 were waiting less than 3 months.

Child Protection Notification System

- 1,356 children listed as 'active' on the CPNS at the end of Q2 2017; 38 more than Q1 2017. Highest number for the period Q2 2016 – Q2 2017.
- All but four children listed as "active" at the end of Q2 2017 had an allocated social worker.

Emergency Out of Hours Social Work Service / Crisis Intervention Service

- 211 referrals to the Crisis Intervention Service (CIS)¹ during Q2 2017; 27 fewer than Q1 2017
- 63 children were placed with the CIS during Q2 2017; four fewer than Q1 2017
- 242 referrals to the Emergency Out of Hours Social Work Service (EOHS) (includes service operating in Cork) during Q2 2017; 47 more than Q1 2017 and the highest number for the period Q2 2016 – Q2 2017.
- 92 children were placed during Q2 2017, 13 more than Q1 2017 and the highest number for the period Q2 2016 – Q2 2017

ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

Children in Care

- 6,297 children in care at the end of Q2 2017, down 11 from Q1 2017
- 616 children in private placements, up 3 from Q1 2017
- 95% (n=6,004) of children in care had an allocated social worker (against a target of 100%); up one percentage point from Q1 2017
- 293 children awaiting allocation of a social worker; 77 fewer than Q1 2017
- 94% (n=5,915) of children in care had an up to date care plan (against a target of 90%); up two percentage point from Q1 2017
- A total of 382 children were awaiting a review of their care plan, 144 fewer than Q1 2017

Aftercare

- 1,996 young adults (all ages) in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q2 2017; 56 more than Q1 and the highest number for the period Q2 2016 – Q2 2017
- 86% (n=1,630/1,902) of young adults 18-22 in receipt of aftercare services had an allocated aftercare worker; no change from Q1 2017
- 82% (n=1,562/1,902) of young adults 18-22 in receipt of aftercare services had an aftercare plan; down three percentage points on Q1 2017
- 113 young adults were discharged from care by reason of reaching 18 years; 84% (n=99/113) had an allocated aftercare worker, up three percentage points on Q1 2017
- 97% (n=110/113) of those eligible for an aftercare service were availing of a service.

Adoption

- 319 new applications to commence tracing for a searched person in Q2 2017; 566 received 2017 YTD
- 754 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q2 2017
- All services meeting the target of eight weeks or less from time of application to provision of non-identifying information
- 50 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received in Q2 2017; 97 received 2017 YTD
- 44 new children were referred for adoption in Q2 2017; 93 referred 2017 YTD
- 43 completed adoption assessments presented to Local Adoption Committees in Q2 2017 ; 75 presented 2017 YTD

Foster Carers

- 4,435 approved foster carers on panel of approved carers at the end of Q2 2017; 53 fewer than Q1 2017 and the fewest number for the period Q2 2016 – Q2 2017
- 79 % (n=1,179) of relative foster carers approved against a target of 80%; 78% in Q1 2017
- 90% (n=2,513) of general foster carers had an allocated link, up 3 percentage points from Q1 2017; target of 90%. Total 294 awaiting; 92 fewer than Q1 2017
- 87% (n=1,020) of approved relative foster carers had an allocated link worker against a target of 85%; up from 79% in Q1 2017. Total of 159 awaiting allocation; 98 fewer than Q1 2017
- 311 unapproved relative foster carers; 17 fewer than Q1 2017
- 271 (87%) of the unapproved relative foster carers had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks;
- 70% (n=190) of unapproved relative foster carers with a child placed > 12 weeks had an

REGULATION & SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Early Years Services

- 4,468 EYS on the register nationally at the end of Q2 2017; 16 fewer than Q1 2017 and the fewest number for the period Q2 2016 – Q2 2017
- 471 EYS inspections (all types) carried out during Q2 2017; 91 (24%) more than Q1 2017
- 98 complaints received in respect of EYS during Q2 2017; 10 more than Q1 2017 and the highest number for the period Q2 2016 – Q2 2017

Alternative Education Regulation

Home Education

- 1,383 children on the register for home education at the end of Q2 2017
- 109 applications for home education during Q2 2017 bringing the total for 2017 to 246
- 160 children awaiting assessment for registration at the end of Q2 2017; 24 fewer than Q1
- 787 registered children awaiting a review at the end of Q2 2017; 51 fewer than Q1 2017

Independent Schools

- 4,815 children attending 42 assessed schools at the end of Q2 2017
- 172 children's applications for education in independent schools received in Q2 2017 bringing the total for 2017 to 283.
- 963 children awaiting 2017 registration at the end of Q2 2017, 55 fewer than Q1 2017. All schools awaiting a review.

Non-Statutory Alternative Care Services

- 114 non-statutory residential centres at the end of Q2 2017
- 29 inspections (all types & onsite) conducted in Q2 2017 bringing the total for 2017 YTD to 51
- 6 non-statutory foster care services at the end of Q2 2017

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Family Support Services (data provisional)

- At least 21,575 children in receipt of family support services at the end of June 2017
- At least 17,580 children referred to family support services between January and June 2017
- 72% (12,708) of children referred to family support services (Jan – Jun 2017) received a service

Meitheal and Child & Family Support Networks

- 804 Meitheal processes requested January – June 2017
- 46% (369) requested through Direct Access and 45% (362) requested through Social Work Diversion
- 53% (423) of Meitheal processes requested January – June 2017 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage)
- 380 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 between January – June 2017; 72% (272) of these proceeded to Stage 3 (Delivery)
- 473 Meitheal processes were closed January to June 2017; 54% (253) were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form; 18% (87) closed following completion of Stage 2; 9% (41) closed following commencement of Stage 3 and 19% (92) closed post- delivery.
- 88 Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) operating at the end of June 2017, with a further 53 planned.

EDUCATIONAL WELFARE SERVICES

Educational Welfare Services

- 3,268 new individual children worked with (Sept 2016 and June 2017)
- 1,273 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of June 2017; highest number for period Sept 2016 – June 2017
- 603 school attendance notices (SANs) issued in respect of 417 children under Section 25 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000¹, Sept 2016 and June 2017
- 133 summonses issued in respect of 96 children under Section 25 of the Act, Sept 2016 and June 2017
- 205 Section 24 meetings convened by EWOs, Sept 2016 and June 2017

HUMAN RESOURCES OVERVIEW

Human Resources

- 3,637 (WTE) employed by the Agency at the end of Q2 2017; 27 fewer than Q1 2017 and 19 more than Q2 2016
- 161 new staff came on to the Agency's payroll (January - May 2017)
- 135 staff left (incl. retirements) the Agency (January and May 2017)
- 129 staff on maternity leave (incl. 39 unpaid) at the end of May 2017
- 362 agency staff employed by Tusla at the end of May 2017
- 4.28% absence rate (May 2017); 0.41 percentage points lower than Q1 2017
- 153 courses run by Workforce Learning and Development in Q2 2017; 2,282 attendees

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Finance

- The financial outturn for the year to date (June 2017) is an over-spend of €2.245 million
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €1.436 million
- Non pay costs are over-spent against budget by €3.309 million
- Key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €3.184 million over budget
- 40% (€6.026 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)

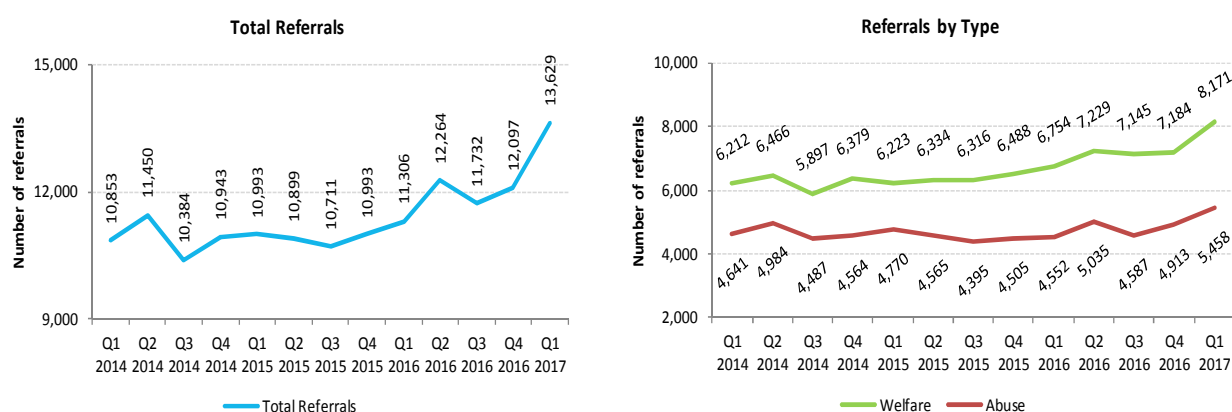
Key Facts

- 13,629 referrals for Q1 2017; 1,532 (13%) more than Q4 2016 and the highest number for the period Q1 2014 – Q1 2017
- 60% (n=8,171) child welfare concerns; 40% (n=5,458) child abuse concerns, 545 (11%) more than Q4 2016
- 40% (n=5,304) of referrals required an initial assessment

Number of Referrals

- 13,629 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Service during Q1 2017¹; 1,532 (13%) more than Q4 2016 and the highest number for the period Q1 2014 – Q1 2017 (Figure 1).
- 60% (n=8,171) of referrals for Q1 2017 were for child welfare concerns; 987 (14%) more than Q4 2016 and the highest number for the period Q1 2014 – Q1 2017. The remaining 40% (n=5,458) were for child abuse/neglect concerns; 545 (11%) more than Q4 2016 and the highest number for the period Q1 2014 – Q1 2017.

Figure 1: Number of referrals (child welfare and abuse/neglect) by quarter Q1 2014 – Q1 2017

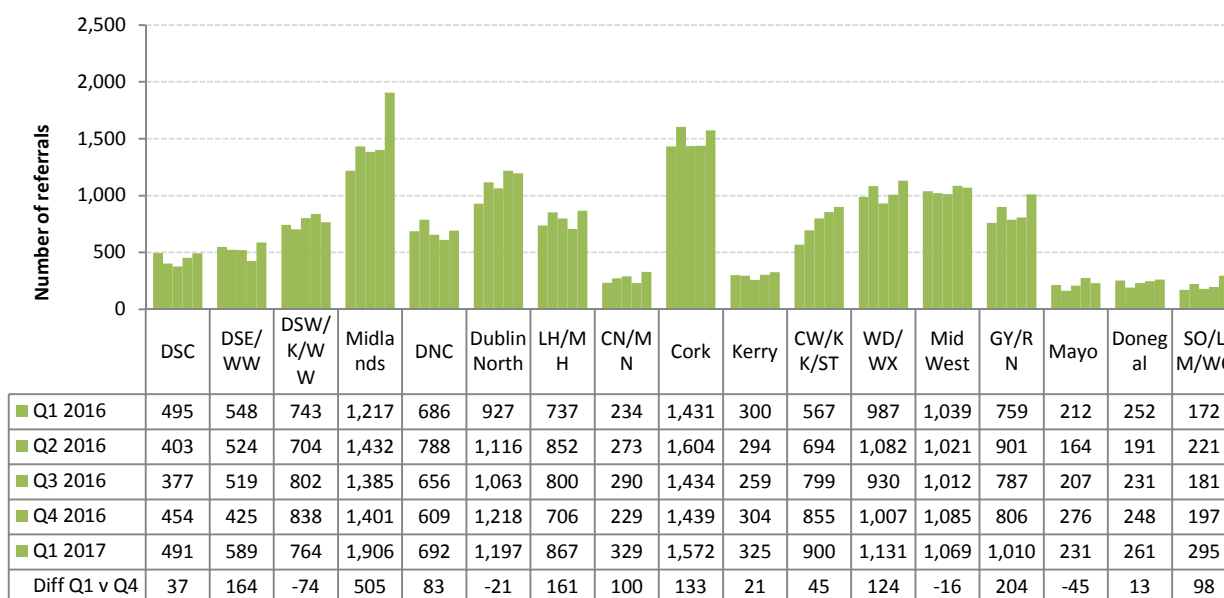


¹ Data on referrals are reported quarterly in arrears.

Referrals by Area

- Six areas (Midlands, Dublin North, Cork, Waterford/Wexford, MidWest and Galway/Roscommon) reported in excess of 1,000 referrals in Q1 2017 with a further five areas reporting between 500 and 1,000 referrals (Figure 2).
- 13/17 areas reported an increase in referrals from Q4 2017, ranging from 505 (Midlands) to 13 (Donegal).
- 4/17 areas reported a decrease (DSW/K/WW; n=74); (Dublin North; n=21); (MidWest; n=16) and (Mayo; n= 45).

Figure 2: Referrals by area Q1 2016 – Q1 2017



Rate of Referrals Q1 2017

- 13,629 referrals equates to about 12 referrals per 1,000 population under 18 years. *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 24.5/1,000 children, more than double the national rate, followed by DNC (16.1/1,000) (Table 1). The lowest rate was reported by Donegal (5.9/1,000 children).
- Nine areas (Midlands, Dublin North City, Dublin North, Cork, CW/KK/ST, WD/WX, MidWest, GY/RN and SLWC) reported a rate higher than the national rate of 11.9/1,000 population under 18 years.

Table 1: Rate of referrals

Area	Referrals Q1 2017	Population 0-17 years*	Rate / 1,000 population 0 – 17 years
DSC	491	62,438	7.9
DSE/WW	589	81,991	7.2
DSW/K/WW	764	102,800	7.4

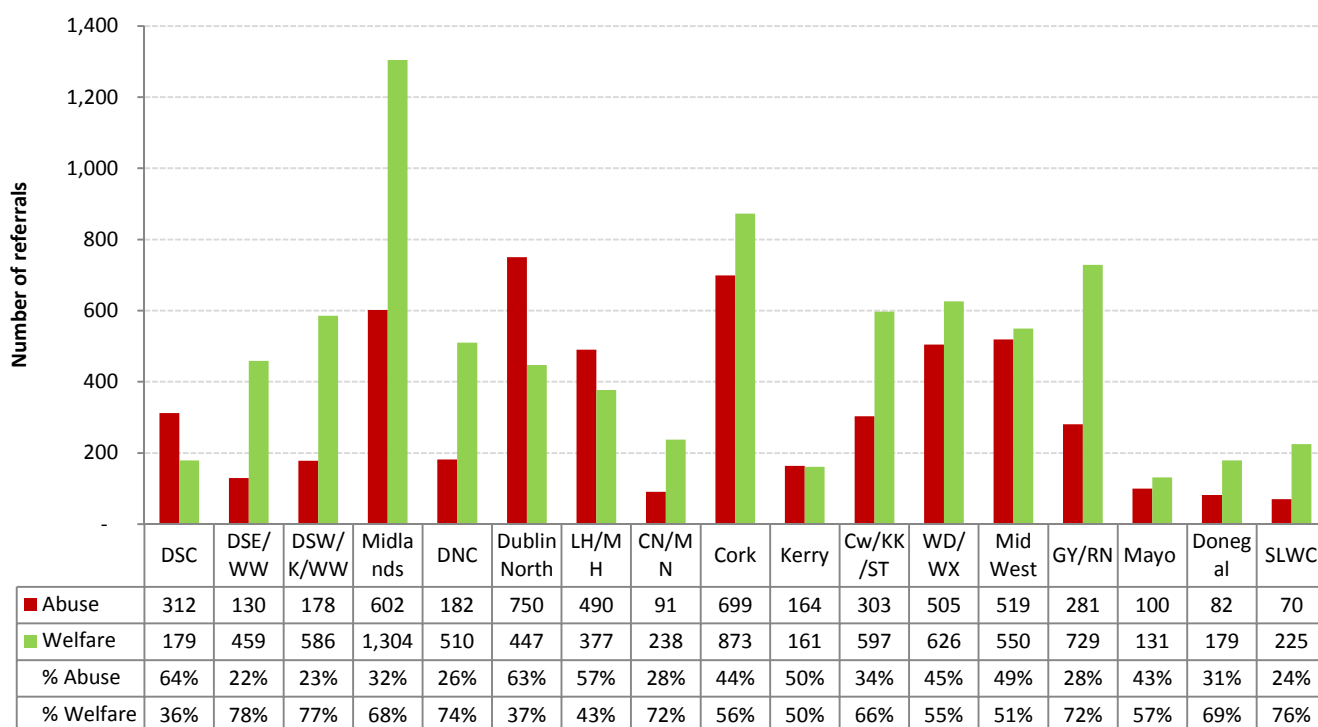
Midlands	1,906	77,726	24.5
DNC	692	42,971	16.1
Dublin North	1,197	92,951	12.9
LH/MH	867	87,562	9.9
CN/MN	329	35,085	9.4
Cork	1,572	128,448	12.2
Kerry	325	34,940	9.3
CW/KK/ST	900	57,800	15.6
WD/WX	1,131	71,608	15.8
MidWest	1,069	94,989	11.3
GY/RN	1,010	77,270	13.1
Mayo	231	32,514	7.1
Donegal	261	44,534	5.9
SLWC	295	23,060	12.8
National	13,629	1,148,687	11.9

*CSO Census 2011

Referrals by Area and Type, Q1 2017

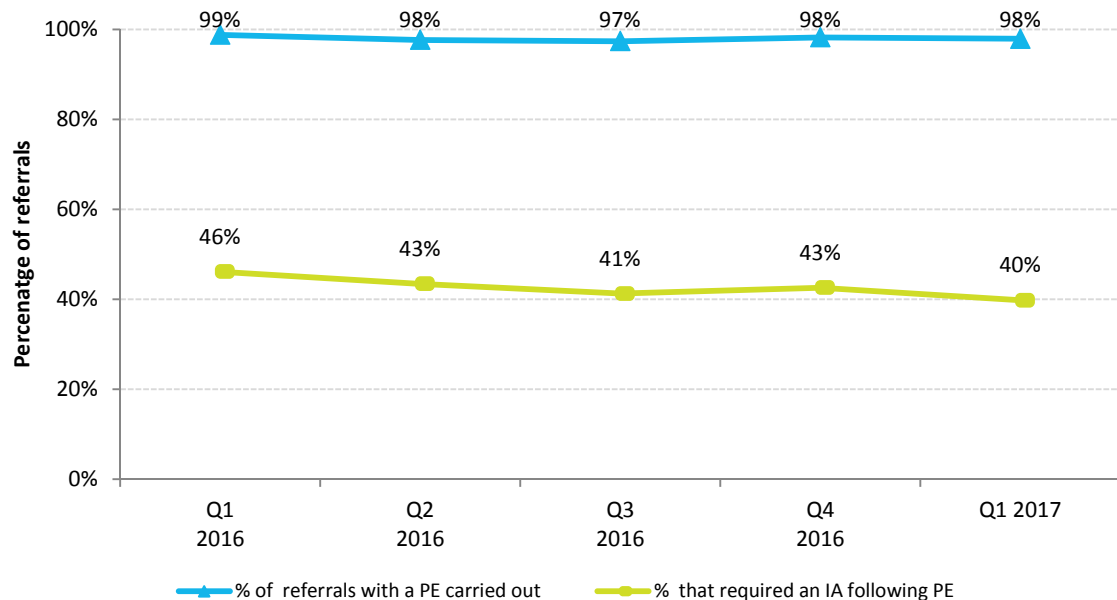
- An area breakdown of referrals by type (abuse / welfare) for Q1 2017 is presented in the chart below (Figure 3).
- Nationally, there was 40:60 per cent split between referrals of abuse/neglect and welfare. This varied across the areas and ranged from a 64:36 per cent split for Dublin South Central to a 22:78 per cent split for Dublin South East/Wicklow. Eight 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



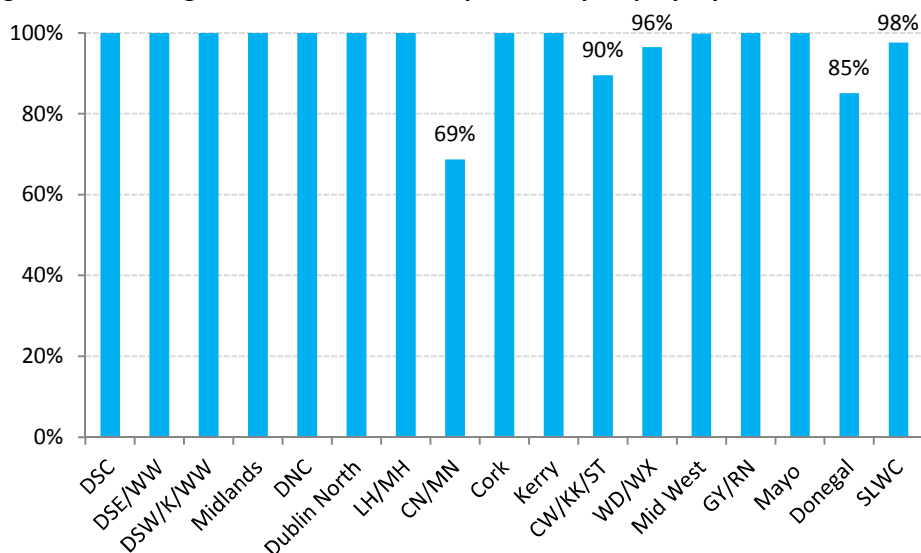
- 98% (n=13,344) of referrals for Q1 2017 had a preliminary enquiry² carried out; no change from Q4 2016 (Figure 4).
- 40% (n=5,304) of referrals that had a preliminary enquiry required an initial assessment³; down three percentage points from Q4 2016 and the lowest percentage for the period Q1 2016 – Q1 2017.

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



- A preliminary enquiry was carried out on all referrals (Q1 2017) in 12/17 areas and for at least 90% of referrals for three of the five remaining areas (Figure 5).

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

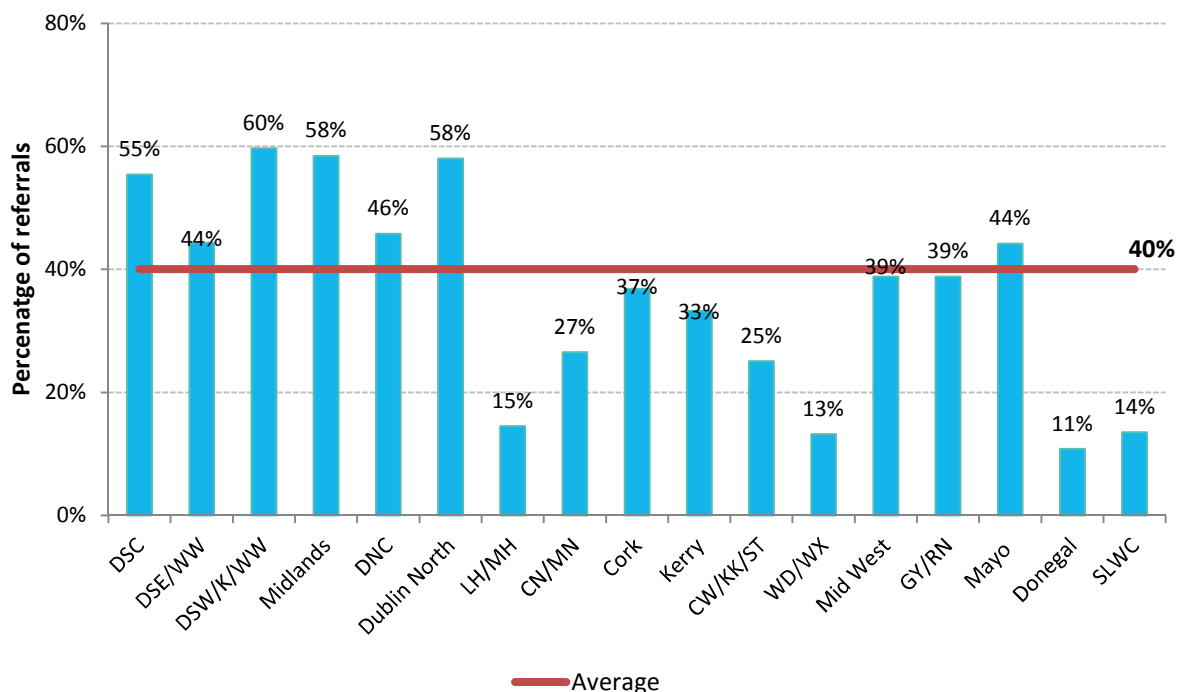


² The preliminary enquiries step is concerned with substantiating the details provided by the reporter e.g. verify reporters phone number, child's address, concern, check if the child is already known to the service, other network checks etc. A preliminary enquiry is not an assessment. The aim of the 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.

³ 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.

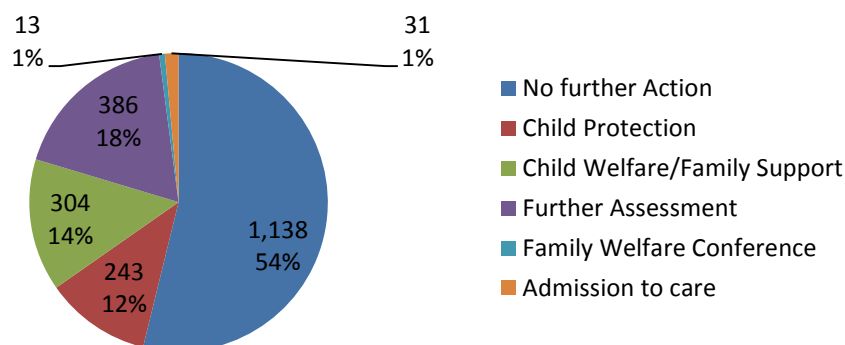
- The percentage of referrals requiring an initial assessment following a preliminary enquiry ranged from 60% in DSW/K/WW to 11% in Donegal (Figure 6). Ten areas reported a percentage below the national average of 40%.

Figure 6: Percentage of referrals requiring an IA following a preliminary enquiry



- The outcome of initial assessment was recorded for 2,115 referrals (Q1 2017) (Figure 7)
- ‘No further action’ was recorded in the majority (54%; n=1,138) of cases.
- Admission to care was recorded for 1% (n=31) of cases and ‘child protection⁴’ was recorded for 11.5% (n=243) cases.

Figure 7: Breakdown of actions recorded following initial assessment



⁴ 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)

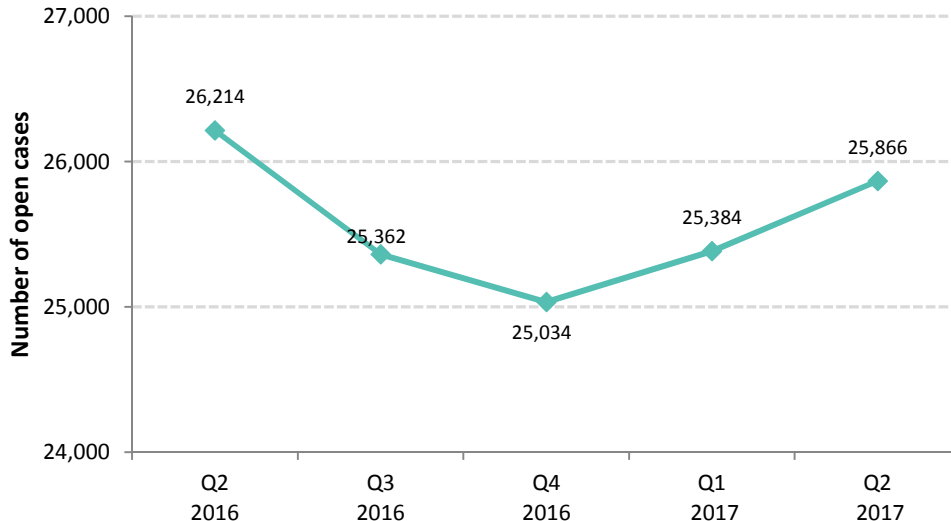
Key Facts

- 25,866 cases open to social work at the end of Q2 2017; 482 more than Q1 2017
- 77% (n=19,973) of open cases allocated to named social worker; up from 76% (19,226) at the end of Q1 2017
- 5,893 cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2017; 265 (4%) fewer than Q1 2017; over one-third (n=2,072) “active” on a duty system i.e., actions being taken to progress the case
- 17% (n=991) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2017 were categorised as ‘high priority’; down 71 (7%) from Q1 2017
- 57% (n=565) of ‘high priority’ cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2017 were waiting less than 3 months.

2.2.1 Open Cases

- 25,866 cases open⁵ to social work nationally at the end of Q2 2017; 482 more than Q1 2017 (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Number of open cases by quarter

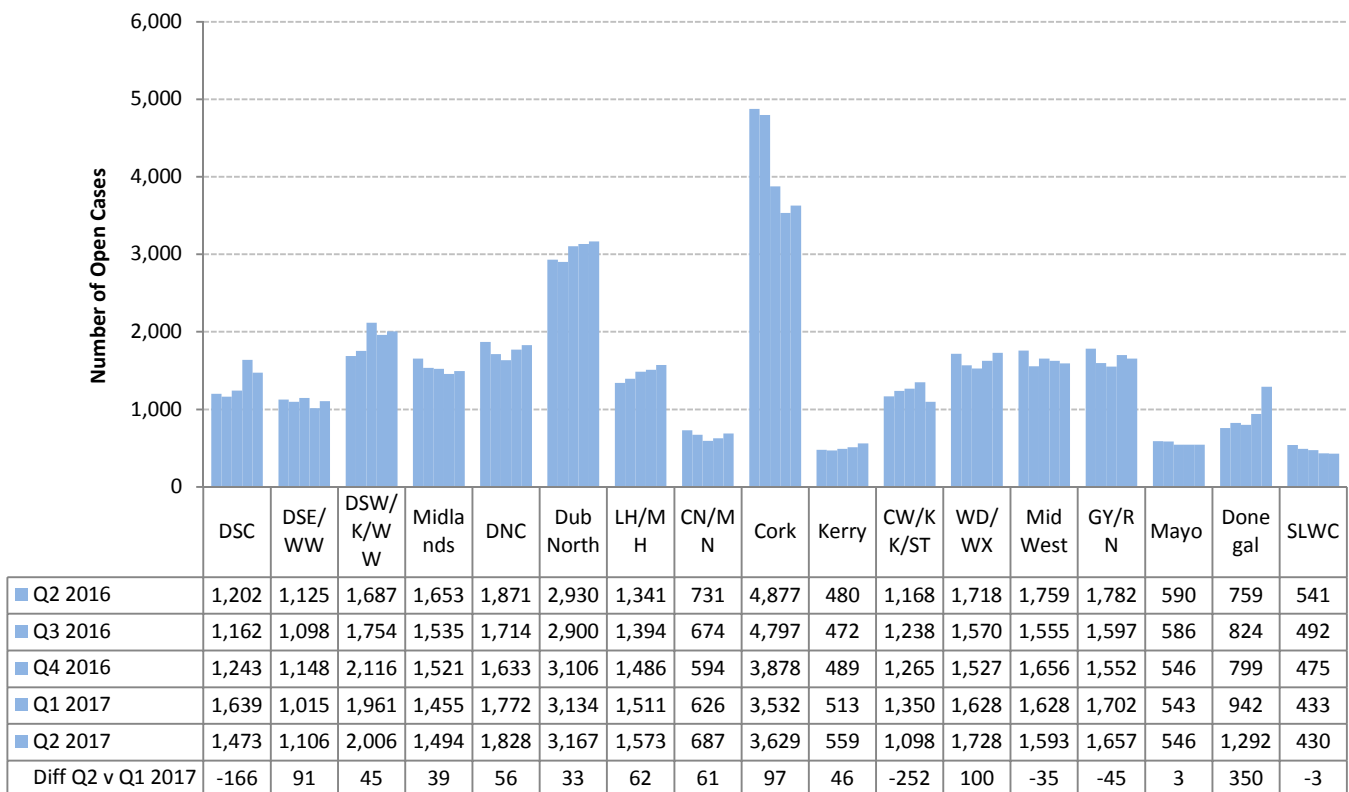


- The number of open cases ranged from 3,629 (14%) in Cork to 430 (less than 2%) in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (Figure 9) with an average of 1,522 per area. Eleven of the 17 areas had between 1,000 and 2,000 cases; four areas have fewer than 1,000 cases while the remaining two areas (Cork and Dublin North) had in excess of 3,000 cases.
- Twelve areas reported an increase in open cases from Q1 2017. The highest increase was reported by Donegal (n=350), followed by WD/WX (n=100), Cork (n=97) and DSE/WW (n=91).

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

- CW/KK/ST reported the highest decrease (n=252) followed by DSC (n=166) and GY/RN (n= 45).

Figure 9: Number of open cases by area, Q2 2016– Q2 2017

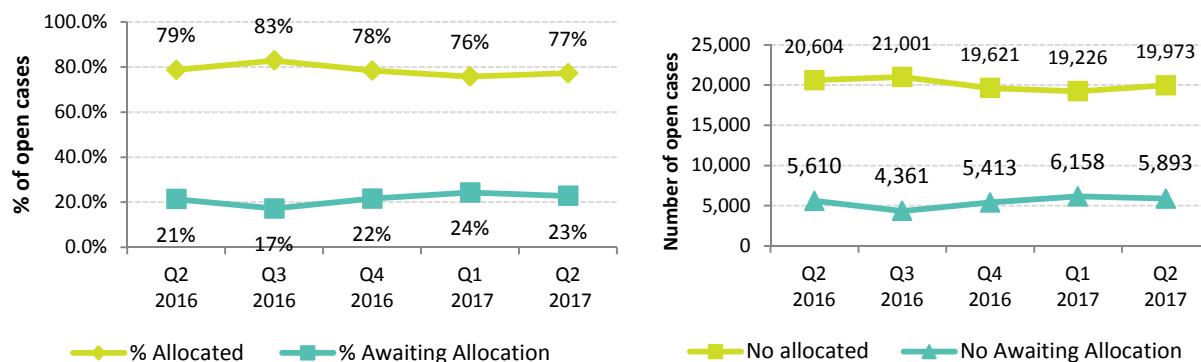


2.2.2 Open Cases Allocated / Awaiting Allocation

- 77% (n=19,973/25,866) of open cases were allocated to a named social worker at the end of Q2 2017; up one percentage point from Q1 2017 (Figure 10).
- 5,893 (23%) cases were awaiting allocation; 265 (4%) fewer than Q1 2017 (n=6,158). Over one-third (35%; n=2,072) of cases awaiting were “active” on a duty system⁶.

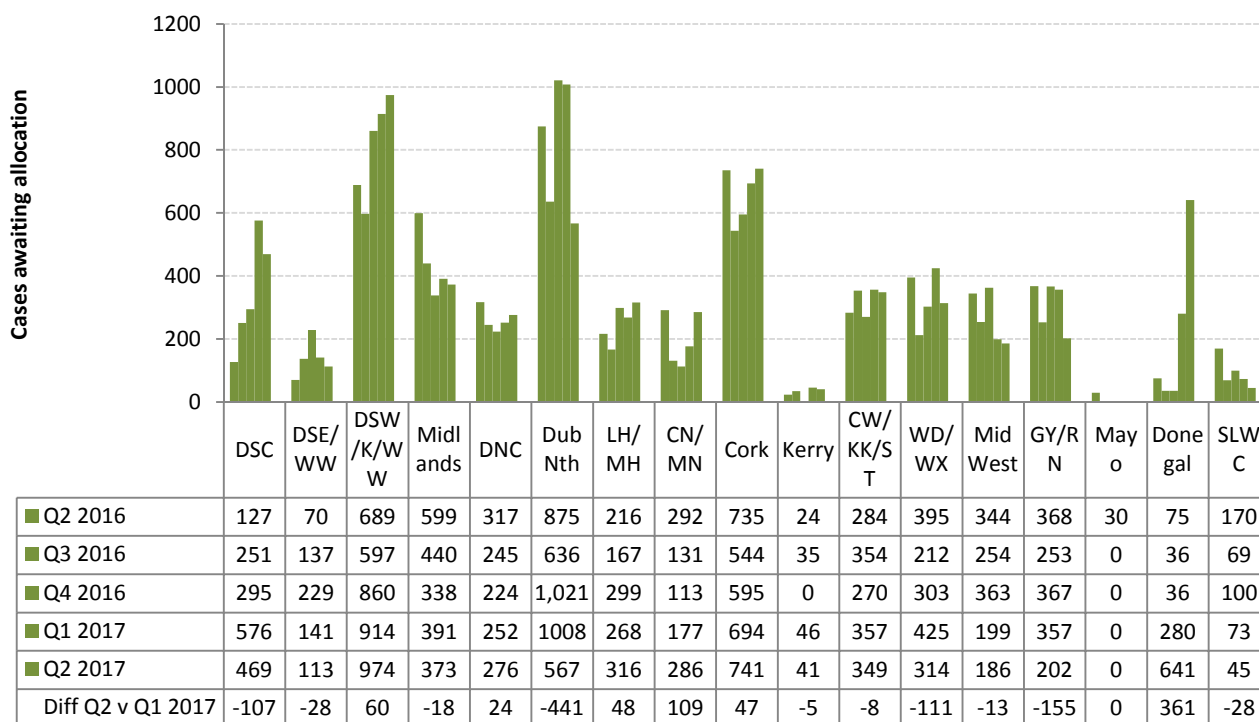
⁶ A case awaiting allocation may be “active” on a “duty” system. This means that there are actions being undertaken by a dedicated duty team or rotating social workers on a duty roster to progress the protection and welfare of the child. Examples of actions being undertaken include telephone calls relating 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.

Figure 10: Cases allocated/awaiting allocation, Q1 2017 – Q2 2017



- DSW/K/WW (n=974) had the highest number of cases awaiting allocation followed by Cork (n=741); Donegal (n=641); and Dublin North (n=567) (Figure 11).
- Ten areas reported a decrease from Q1 2017 in the number of cases awaiting allocation (Figure 11). Dublin North reported the highest decrease (n=441; 44%) followed by GY/RN (n=155; 43%); WD/XD (n=111; 26%); and DSC (n=107; 19%);
- Six areas reported an increase from Q1 2017. The highest increase was reported by Donegal (n=361) followed by CN/MN (n=109); DSW/K/WW (n=60); LH/MH (n=48); Cork (n=47) and Dublin North City (n=24)
- Mayo reported no case awaiting allocation for the fourth consecutive quarter.

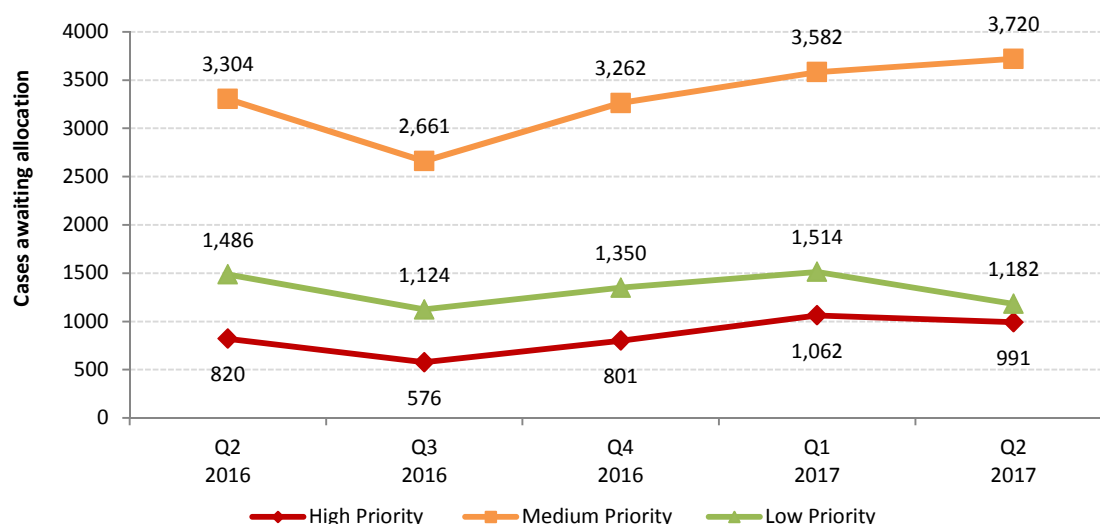
Figure 11: Number of open cases awaiting allocation by area, Q2 2016 – Q2 2017



2.2.3 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Priority Level⁷

- 17% (n=991) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2017 were categorised as ‘high priority’; down 71 (7%) from Q1 2017 (Figure 12).
- 63% of cases (n=3,720) awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2017 were categorised as ‘medium priority’, up 138 (4%) on Q1 2017 while the remaining 20% (n=1,182) were categorised as ‘low priority’; down 332 (22%) on Q1 2017.

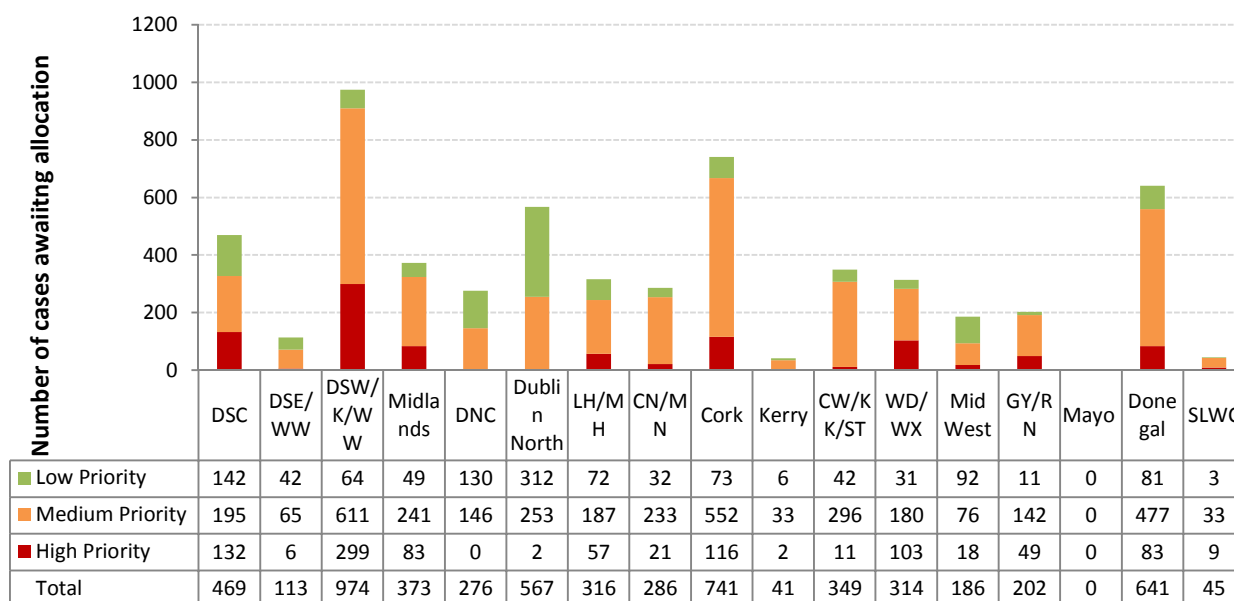
Figure 12: Cases awaiting allocation by priority level, Q2 2016 – Q2 2017



- Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow reported the highest number (n=299) of ‘high priority’ cases awaiting allocation, followed by DSC (n=132); Cork (n=116); and WD/WX (n=103) (Figure 13).
- Dublin North City reported no ‘high priority’ cases awaiting allocation while Mayo reported no cases awaiting allocation.
- More than 30% of the cases awaiting allocation in DSW/K/WW (31%) and WD/XD (33%) are categorised as ‘high priority’ cases.

⁷ 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 13: Area breakdown of cases awaiting allocation by priority level, Q2 2017



2.2.4 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Waiting Time

- 57% (n=565) of cases categorised as 'high priority' awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2017 were waiting less than 3 months (Table 2). The number of 'high priority' cases waiting over 3 months (n=426) decreased by 10 between Q1 2017 and Q2 2017.
- 55% (n=2,061) of cases categorised as 'medium priority' were waiting less than 3 months at the end of Q2 2017. The number of 'medium priority' cases waiting over 3 months for allocation increased by 180 between Q1 2017 and Q2 2017 (Table 2).
- 53% (n=629) of cases categorised as 'low priority' were waiting less than 3 months at the end of Q2 2017. The number of 'low priority' cases waiting over 3 months for allocation decreased by 43 between Q1 2017 and Q2 2017 (Table 2).
- Majority (55%; n=3,255) of all cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2017 were waiting less than 3 months.

Table 2: Breakdown of cases awaiting allocation by priority level and time waiting, Q2 2016 – Q2 2017

High Priority / Time Waiting	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q2 2017 Cumulative %	Δ (+/-) Q2 2017 v Q1 2017
1 week	112	71	79	54	137	14%	83
1-2 weeks	136	41	79	96	20	16%	-76
2-3 weeks	54	25	80	97	64	22%	-33
3-4 weeks	43	43	69	124	93	32%	-31
1-2 months	99	104	116	160	152	47%	-8
2-3 months	67	78	94	95	99	57%	4
>3 months	309	214	284	436	426	100%	-10
Total	820	576	801	1,062	991		-71
Medium Priority / Time Waiting	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q2 2017 Cumulative %	Δ (+/-) Q2 2017 v Q1 2017
1 week	175	403	247	342	208	6%	-134
1-2 weeks	216	226	350	290	249	12%	-41
2-3 weeks	205	227	232	284	250	19%	-34
3-4 weeks	151	113	275	283	218	25%	-65
1-2 months	549	290	574	619	682	43%	63
2-3 months	474	192	434	285	454	55%	169
>3 months	1,534	1,210	1,150	1,479	1,659	100%	180
Total	3,304	2,661	3,262	3,582	3,720		138
Low Priority / Time Waiting	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q2 2017 Cumulative %	Δ (+/-) Q2 2017 v Q1 2017
1 week	78	161	65	49	75	6%	26
1-2 weeks	107	58	91	80	54	11%	-26
2-3 weeks	67	82	48	146	44	15%	-102
3-4 weeks	98	81	90	133	71	21%	-62
1-2 months	320	126	249	227	204	38%	-23
2-3 months	224	107	178	283	181	53%	-102
>3 months	592	509	629	596	553	100%	-43
Total	1,486	1,124	1,350	1,514	1,182		-332

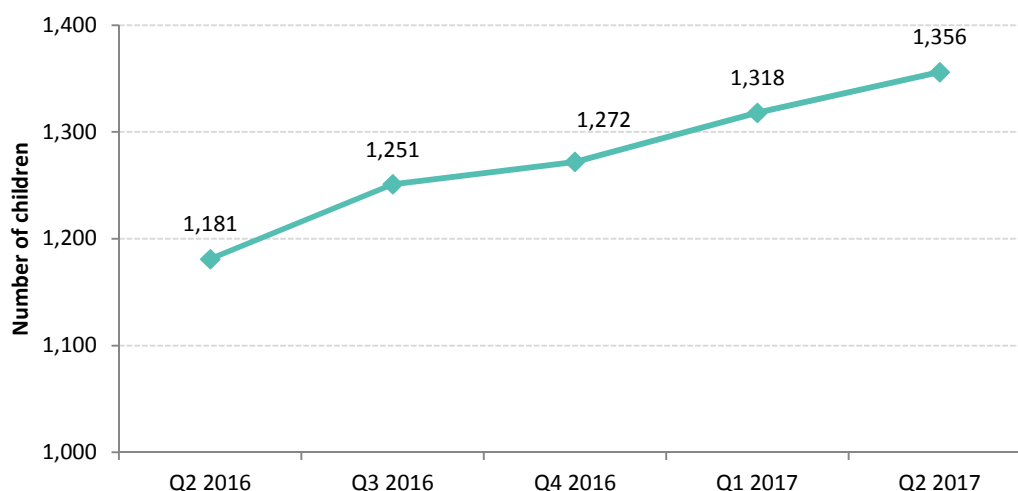
2.3 CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

KEY FACTS

- 1,356 children listed as 'active' on the CPNS at the end of Q2 2017; 38 more than Q1 2017. Highest number for the period Q2 2016 – Q2 2017.
- All but four children listed as "active" at the end of Q2 2017 had an allocated social worker.

- 1,356 children listed as 'active' on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)⁸ at the end of Q2 2017; 38 more than Q1 2017 and the highest number for the period Q2 2016 – Q2 2017 (Figure 14).

Figure 14: Number of children listed as 'Active' on the CPNS, by quarter



Note: Figure for Q1 2017 (1,318) includes two children from another jurisdiction who were listed at the request of their country of origin for the duration of their stay in this jurisdiction.

- The number listed as "active" equates to about 12 children per 10,000 population under 18 years and ranges from 7/10,000 population in four areas (DSE/WW; DSW/K/WW; CN/MN; Cork) to 22/10,000 in the Midwest area (Table 3).
- Cork and DSW/K/WW with the highest proportions of the under 18 population reported both 7/10,000 population (the lowest rate) according to Table 3.
- SLWC with the smallest proportion of the under 18 population reported the third highest rate at 16/10,000 population.

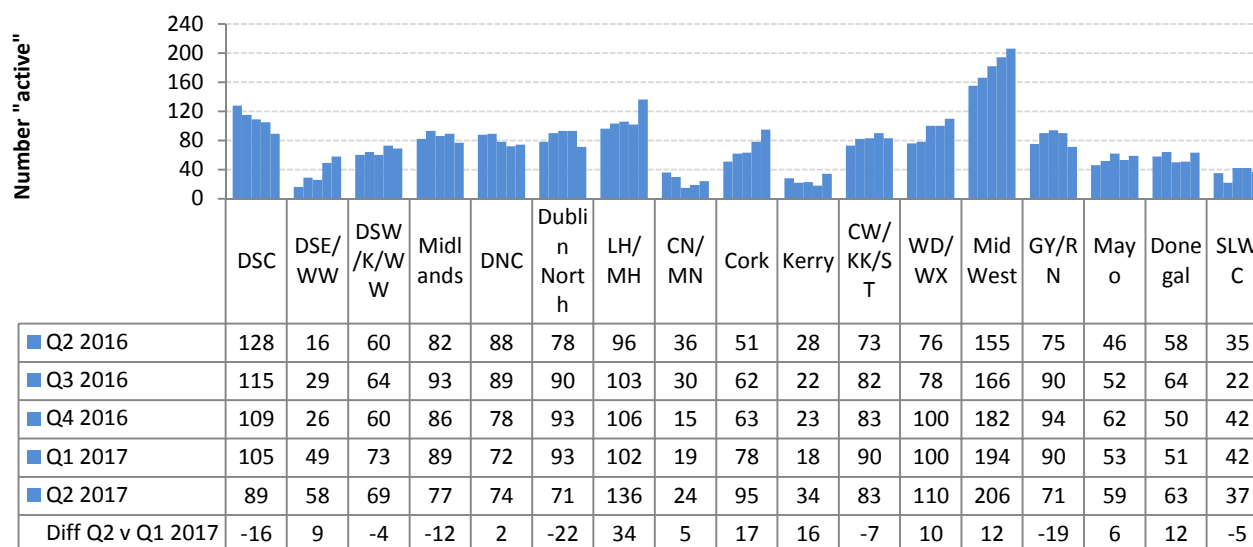
⁸ The CPNS, in accordance with the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, 2011, is a national record of all children who are the subject of a child protection plan agreed at a child protection conference. The CPNS is accessible to named professional groups subject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

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

Area	Q2 2017	Population years 0-17	Rate / 10,000 population 0 – 17 years 2017
DSC	89	62,438	14
DSE/WW	58	81,991	7
DSW/K/WW	69	102,800	7
Midlands	77	77,726	10
Dublin North City	74	42,971	17
Dublin North	71	92,951	8
LH/MH	136	87,562	16
CN/MN	24	35,085	7
Cork	95	128,448	7
Kerry	34	34,940	10
CW/KK/ST	83	57,800	14
WD/WX*	110	71,608	15
Mid West	206	94,989	22
GY/RN	71	77,270	9
Mayo	59	32,514	18
Donegal	63	44,534	14
SLWC	37	23,060	16
National	1,356	1,148,687	12

- 10 areas reported an increase from Q1 2017 (Figure 15). The highest increase in number was reported by LH/MH (n=34) followed by Cork (n=17) and Kerry (n=16). Midwest and Cork have reported four consecutive increases from Q2 2016: Midwest up 51 on Q2 2016 and Cork up 44 on Q2 2016 (Figure 15).
- Seven areas reported a decrease from Q1 2017. The highest decrease was reported by Dublin North (n=22), followed by Galway/Roscommon (n=19) and Dublin South Central (n=16). Dublin South Central has reported four consecutive decreases from Q2 2016: 39 fewer cases listed as “active” than in Q2 2016.

Figure 15: Number of children listed as "active" by area, by quarter



- 51% (n=688) of children listed as “active” in Q2 2017 were listed for 0-6 months; 29% (n=391) were listed for 7-12 months; 10% (n=130) were listed for 12-18 months; 5% (n=71) were listed for 18-24 months while the remaining 6% (n=76) were listed for longer than 24 months (Table 4).
- Listed for > 24 months: Highest percentage (21%; n=19/89) reported by Dublin South Central. Five areas reported a percentage higher than the national average of 6% (DSC 21%; Dublin North City 15%; Dublin North 11%; GY/RN 17% and Mayo 10%). Four areas (DSE/WW; Midlands; CN/MN and CW/KK/ST) reported no child listed as active for >24 months. Cavan/Monaghan had no child listed as “active” for longer than 18 months.
- Listed for < 6 months: Highest percentage (82%; n=63/77) reported by Midlands followed by DSE/WW (71%; n=41/58). Lowest percentage (19%; n=17/89) reported by Dublin South Central. Eight areas reported a percentage higher than the national average of 51%.

Table 4: Children listed as 'active' in each area at the end of Q2 2017, by length of time 'active'

	0-6	% 0-6	7-12	% 7-12	12-18	% 12-18	18-24	% 18-24	>24	% >24	Total
DSC	17	19%	24	27%	14	16%	15	17%	19	21%	89
DSE/WW	41	71%	16	28%	0	0%	1	2%	0	0%	58
DSW/K/WW	34	49%	22	32%	11	16%	1	1%	1	1%	69
Midlands	63	82%	9	12%	3	4%	2	3%	0	0%	77
DNC	27	36%	21	28%	10	14%	5	7%	11	15%	74
Dublin North	21	30%	27	38%	11	15%	4	6%	8	11%	71
LH/MH	65	48%	36	26%	22	16%	5	4%	8	6%	136
CN/MN	15	63%	7	29%	2	8%	0	0%	0	0%	24
Cork	61	64%	28	29%	3	3%	0	0%	3	3%	95
Kerry	20	59%	12	35%	0	0%	0	0%	2	6%	34
CW/KK/ST	43	52%	28	34%	5	6%	7	8%	0	0%	83
WD/WX	70	64%	32	29%	4	4%	1	1%	3	3%	110

Mid West	126	61%	55	27%	16	8%	8	4%	1	0%	206
GY/RN	32	45%	13	18%	10	14%	4	6%	12	17%	71
Mayo	19	32%	23	39%	5	8%	6	10%	6	10%	59
Donegal	23	37%	22	35%	11	17%	6	10%	1	2%	63
SLWC	11	30%	16	43%	3	8%	6	16%	1	3%	37
National	688	51%	391	29%	130	10%	71	5%	76	6%	1,356

- All but four children listed as “active” at the end of Q2 2017 had an allocated social worker. These four children were reported by Louth/Meath.
- 36 children were reactivated on the CPNS (i.e., their status changed from ‘inactive’ to ‘active’) during Q2 2017 bringing the total number re-activated for the first six months of 2017 to 62.

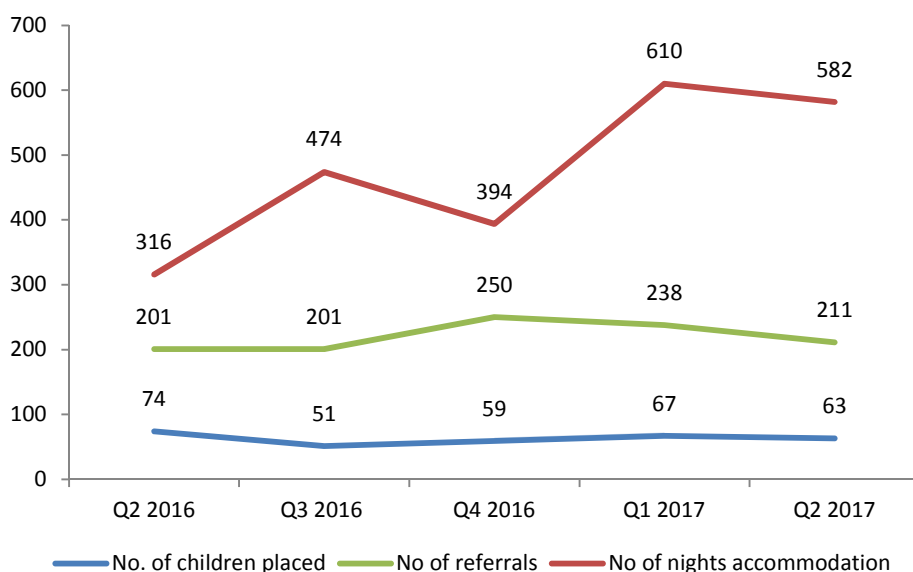
2.4 EMERGENCY OUT OF HOURS SOCIAL WORK SERVICE / CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICE

KEY FACTS

- 211 referrals to the Crisis Intervention Service (CIS)¹ during Q2 2017; 27 fewer than Q1 2017
- 63 children were placed with the CIS during Q2 2017; four fewer than Q1 2017
- 242 referrals to the Emergency Out of Hours Social Work Service (EOHS) (includes service operating in Cork) during Q2 2017; 47 more than Q1 2017 and the highest number for the period Q2 2016 – Q2 2017.
- 92 children were placed during Q2 2017, 13 more than Q1 2017 and the highest number for the period Q2 2016 – Q2 2017

- 211 referrals to the Crisis Intervention Service (CIS)⁹ during Q2 2017; 27 fewer than Q1 2017. This brings to 449 the number of referrals for the first six months of 2017 (Figure 16).
- 63 children were placed with the CIS during Q2 2017; four fewer than Q1 2017. This brings to 130 the number of children placed for the first six months of 2017.
- 582 nights' accommodation was supplied by the CIS during Q2 2017; 28 fewer than Q1 2017. This brings to 1,192 the number of nights' accommodation supplied for the first six months of 2017.

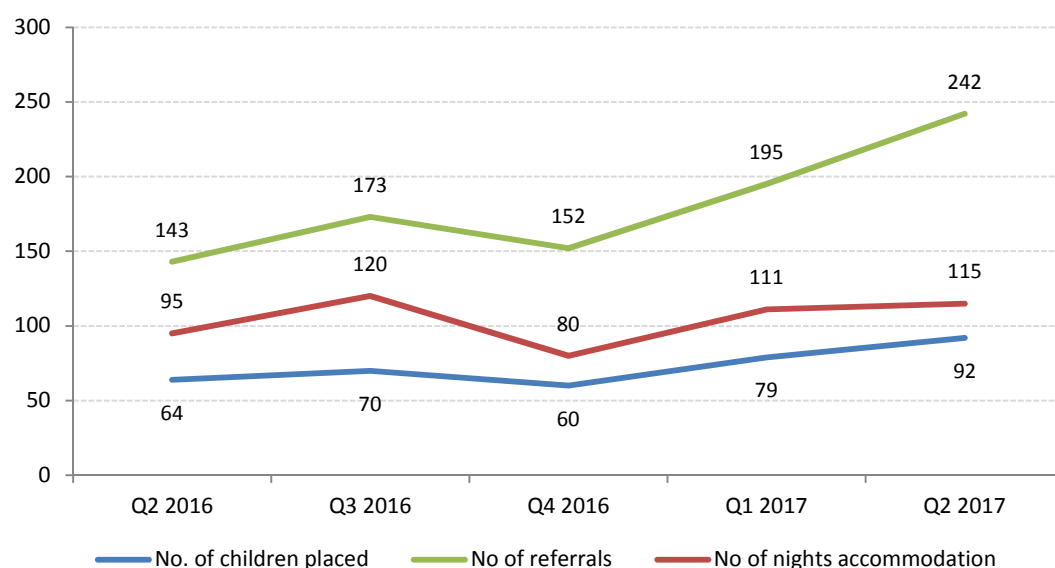
Figure 16: Referrals to the Crisis Intervention Service, by quarter Q2 2016 – Q2 2017



⁹ 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

- 242 referrals to the Emergency Out of Hours Social Work Service (EOHS)¹⁰ (includes service operating in Cork)¹¹ during Q2 2017; 47 more than Q1 2017 and the highest number for the period Q2 2016 – Q2 2017. This brings to 437 the number of referrals for the first six months of 2017 (Figure 17).
- 92 children were placed during Q2 2017, 13 more than Q1 2017 and the highest number for the period Q2 2016 – Q2 2017. This brings to 171 the number of children placed for the first six months of 2017.
- 115 nights' accommodation were supplied during Q2 2017; four more than Q1 2017 and the highest number for the period Q2 2016 – Q2 2017. This brings to 226 the number of nights' accommodation supplied for the first six months of 2017.

Figure 17: Referrals to the Emergency Out of Hours Social Work Service, by quarter Q2 2016 – Q2 2017



¹⁰ 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 1991¹⁰ and referrals made under section 8(5) of the Refugee Act 1996.

¹¹ 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)

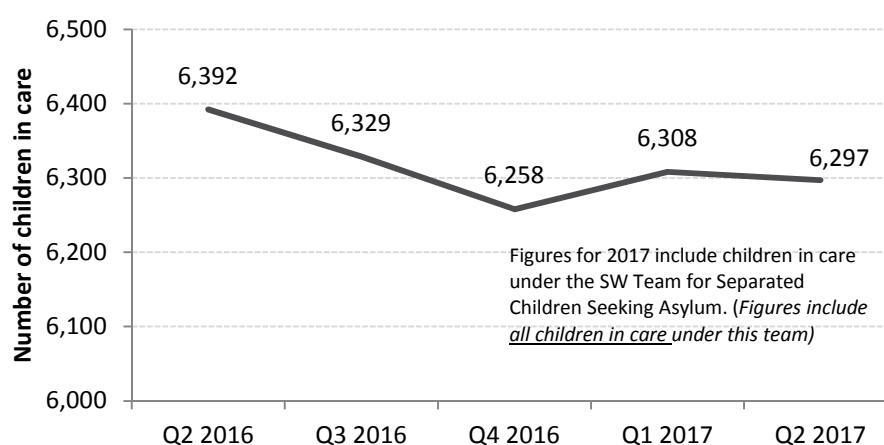
KEY FACTS

- 6,297 children in care at the end of Q2 2017, down 11 from Q1 2017
- 616 children in private placements, up 3 from Q1 2017
- 95% (n=6,004) of children in care had an allocated social worker (against a target of 100%); up one percentage point from Q1 2017
- 293 children awaiting allocation of a social worker; 77 fewer than Q1 2017
- 94% (n=5,915) of children in care had an up to date care plan (against a target of 90%); up two percentage point from Q1 2017
- A total of 382 children were awaiting a review of their care plan, 144 fewer than Q1 2017

3.1.1 Number of Children in Care

- 6,297 children in care at the end of Q2 2017, down 11 from Q1 2017. This equates to about 5.5 children per 1,000 population 0-17 years.

Figure 18: Number of children in care by quarter, Q2 2016 – Q2 2017



- The number of children in care ranged from 852 in Cork to 107 in SLWC (Table 5).
- Dublin North City reported the highest rate of children in care per 1,000 population under 18 years at 2.5 times (14/1,000) the national rate. Dublin South East/Wicklow reported the lowest rate at 3.4/1,000 population. Six areas reported a rate higher than the national rate.

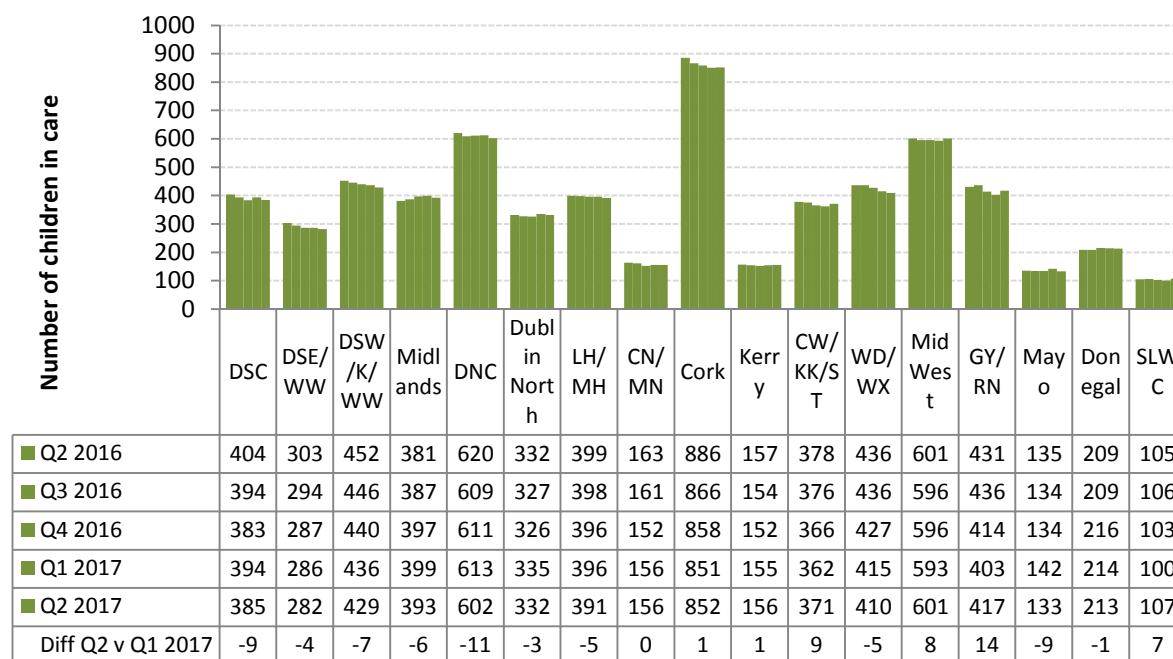
Table 5: Number of children in care and rate per 1,000 population 0-17 years, Q2 2017

Area	0-17 population (Census 2011)	No CIC Q2 2017	No of CIC/1,000 population 0-17
DSC	62,438	385	6.2
DSE/WW	81,991	282	3.4
DSW/K/WW	102,800	429	4.2
Midlands	77,726	393	5.1
DNC	42,971	602	14.0
Dublin North	92,951	332	3.6
LH/MH	87,562	391	4.5
CN/MN	35,085	156	4.4
Cork	128,448	852	6.6
Kerry	34,940	156	4.5
CW/KK/ST	57,800	371	6.4
WD/WX	71,608	410	5.7
Mid West	94,989	601	6.3
GY/RN	77,270	417	5.4
Mayo	32,514	133	4.1
Donegal	44,534	213	4.8
SLWC	23,060	107	4.6
SWTSCSA ¹²	-	67	-
Total	1,148,687	6,297	5.5

- Six areas reported an increase in children in care from Q1 2017; the highest increase was reported by Galway/Roscommon (n=14), followed by CW/KK/ST (n=9) and MidWest (n=8).
- DNC reported the highest decrease (n=11), followed by both Mayo and DSC (n=9).
- Three areas (Midlands (n=12), Donegal (n=4) and SLWC (n=2)) had more children in care at the end of Q2 2017 than Q2 2016. Twelve of the remaining areas had fewer children in care with Cork reporting the highest decrease (n=34) followed by WD/WX (n=26); DSW/K/WW (n=23) and DSE/WW (n=21). The remaining two areas (MidWest and Dublin North) reported no change.

¹²SWTSCSA: Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum. Figures reported include all children in care under this team

Figure 19: Breakdown of the number of children in care in each area, Q2 2016– Q2 2017



3.1.2 Number of Children in Care by Care Type

- 92% (n=5,801) of children in care were in foster care (general and relative) at the end of Q2 2017, down 18 on Q1 2017 and 5.7% (n=357) were in a residential (general) placement, up 5 on Q1 2017 (Table 6).

Table 6: Breakdown of the number of children in care by care type and month, Q2 2016 – Q2 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 12	Δ+/- prev Q	Total	Δ+/- prev Q
Q2 2016	4,159	-3	1,794	4	326	-8	11	-3	102	-3	6,392	-13
Q3 2016	4,133	-26	1,772	-22	312	-14	9	-2	103	1	6,329	-63
Q4 2016	4,102	-31	1,715	-57	304	-8	12	3	125	22	6,258	-71
Q1 2017	4,133	31	1,686	-29	352	48	10	-2	127	2	6,308	50
Q2 2017	4,106	-27	1,695	9	357	5	11	1	128	1	6,297	-11

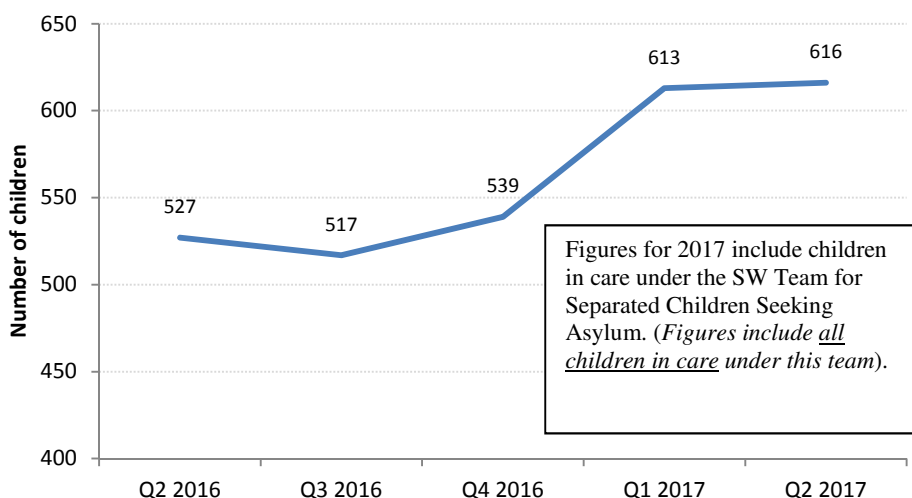
FC Gen = Foster Care General; FC Rel = Foster Care with Relatives; Res Care Gen = Residential Care General; Res Care Spec = Residential Care Special; CIC = Children in care

- 17 (0.27%) children were in out of State placements at the end of Q2 2017; up one from Q1 2017. *These children are included in the figures for the various care types set out in Table 6.*
- Seven children in residential care were in a single care placement at the end of Q1 2017; up two from Q1 2017.
- 177 children were in respite care (from home) at the end of Q2 2017, down 3 on Q1 2017.

3.1.3 Children in Private Placements

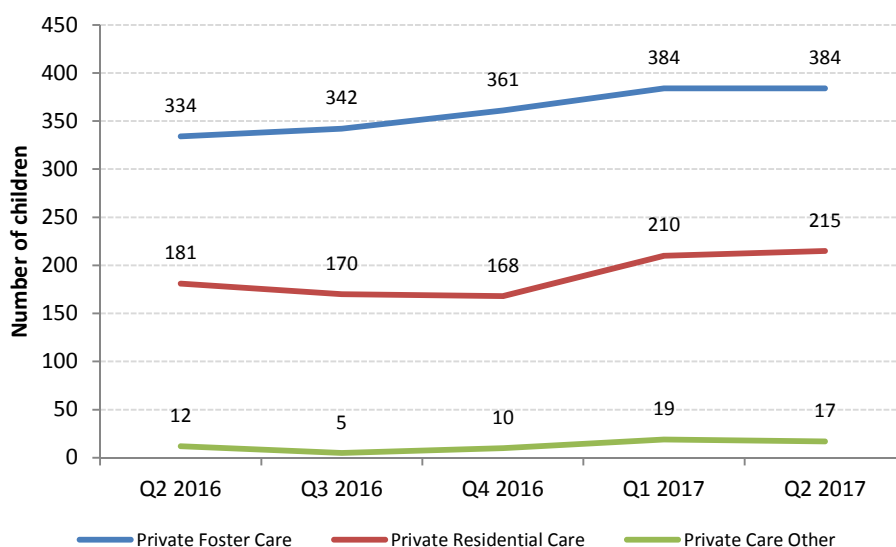
- 616 (10%) children in care at the end of Q2 2017 were in private placements¹³ (Figure 20). This figure includes 45 unaccompanied minors.

Figure 20: Number of children in private placements, Q2 2016 – Q2 2017



- 62% (n=384) of children in private placements were in private foster care; 35% (n=215) were in private residential placements (Figure 21).

Figure 21: Number of children in private placements by care type, Q2 2016 – Q2 2017

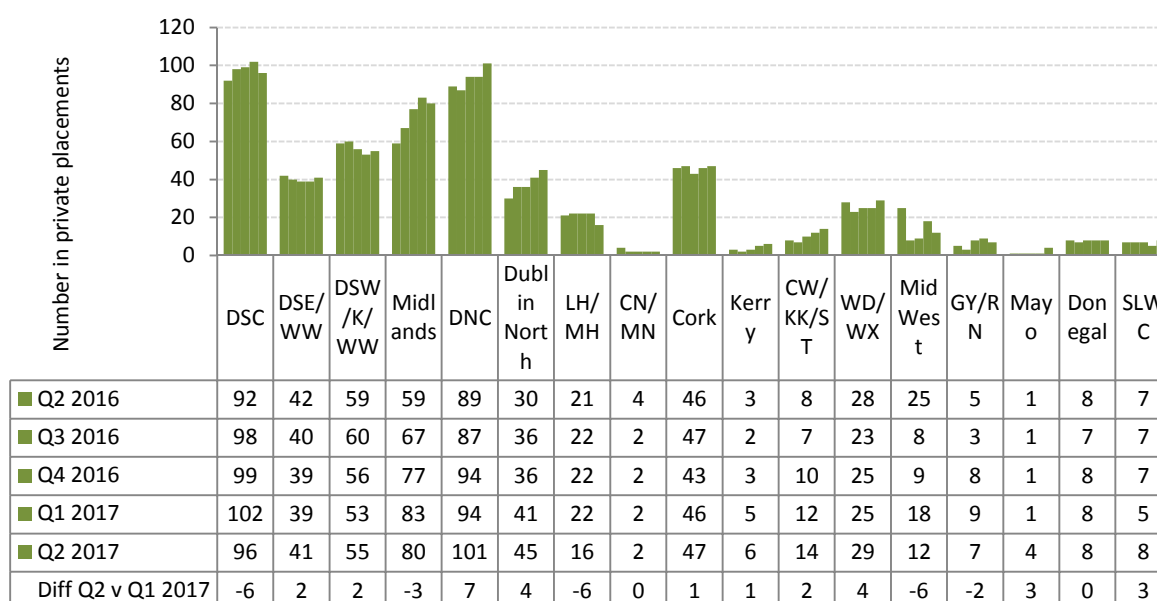


- Dublin North City (n=101) followed by Dublin South Central (n=96) reported the highest number of children in private placements in Q2 2017. Cavan/Monaghan (n=2) and Mayo (n=4) reported the fewest number (Figure 22).
- Ten areas reported an increase in private placements from Q1 2017. The highest increase was reported by Dublin North City area (n=7) followed by Dublin North and Waterford/Wexford area (both n=4).

¹³ 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

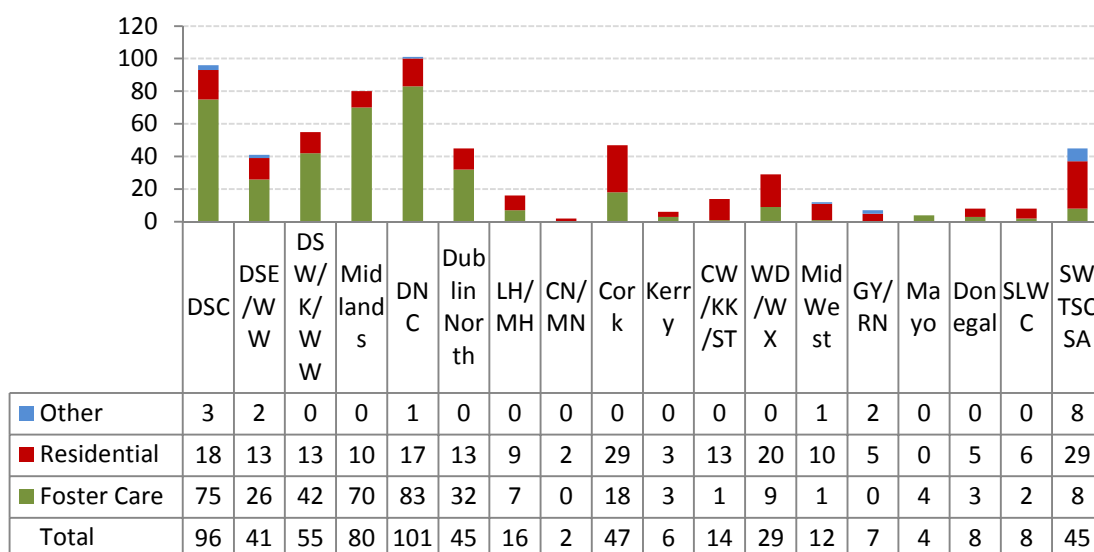
- Midlands reported the highest increase (n=21) between Q2 2016 and Q2 2017 followed by Dublin North (n=15) and Dublin North City (n=12). MidWest reported the highest decrease (n=13) over the same period, followed by LH/MN (n=5).

Figure 22: Number of children in private placements by area, Q2 2016 – Q2 2017



- Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum and Cork reported the highest number of children in private residential placements (both n=29) followed by Waterford/Wexford (n=20) (Figure 23).
- Dublin North City reported the highest number of children in private foster care placements (n=83), followed by Dublin South Central (n=75) and Midlands (n=70). Almost 60% (n=228/384) of children in private foster care placements are reported by these three 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 23: Number of children in private placements by care type Q2 2017



3.1.4 Children in Care with an Allocated Social Worker

- 95% (n=6,004/6,297) of children in care nationally had an allocated social worker (against a target of 100%) at the end of Q2 2017; up one percentage point from Q1 2017 (Table 7).
- A total of 293 children were awaiting allocation of a social worker; 77 fewer than Q1 2017 (n=370).

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

Care Type	CIC	No with SW	% with SW	CIC	No with SW	% with SW
	Q1 2017	Q1 2017	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q2 2017	Q2 2017
Foster Care (General)	4,133	3,904	94%	4,106	3,940	96%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,686	1,554	92%	1,695	1,574	93%
Residential Care (General)	352	347	99%	357	353	99%
Residential Special Care	10	10	100%	11	11	100%
Other Placements	127	123	97%	128	126	98%
Total	6,308	5,938	94%	6,297	6,004	95%

- Four areas along with Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum met the target of 100% of children in care with an allocated social worker. A further seven 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 Q1 2017; the most notable being Galway/ Roscommon, up 11 percentage points to almost 100%.
- The area with the highest number of children awaiting an allocated social worker is DSW/K/WW (n=69) followed by CW/KK/ST (n=42) and Midlands (n=34)

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

	No in Care	No with an allocated SW	% with an allocated SW	No in Care	No with an allocated SW	% with an allocated SW	+/-
Area	Q1 2017	Q1 2017	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q2 2017	Q2 2017	Q2 v Q1 2017
Donegal	214	214	100%	213	213	100%	0%
Kerry	155	154	99%	156	156	100%	1%
Mayo	142	142	100%	133	133	100%	0%
SWTSCSA	58	58	100%	67	67	100%	0%
SLWC	100	100	100%	107	107	100%	0%
GY/RN	403	357	89%	417	416	99.8%	11%
WD/WX	415	381	92%	410	407	99%	7%
DSC	394	386	98%	385	382	99%	1%
DSE/WW	286	274	96%	282	277	98%	2%
DNC	613	600	98%	602	589	98%	0%
Cork	851	826	97%	852	828	97%	0%
MidWest	593	536	90%	601	577	96%	6%
LH/MH	396	369	93%	391	369	94%	1%

Dublin North	335	325	97%	332	305	92%	-5%
Midlands	399	370	93%	393	359	91%	-1%
CW/KK/ST	362	340	94%	371	329	89%	-5%
DSW/K/WW	436	376	86%	429	360	84%	-2%
CN/MN	156	130	83%	156	130	83%	0%
National	6,308	5,938	94%	6,297	6,004	95%	1%

3.1.5 Children in Care with a Care Plan

- 94% (n=5,915/6,297) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan; up two percentage points from Q1 2017 (Table 9).
- A total of 382 children were awaiting a review of their plan care plan, 144 fewer than Q1 2017 (n=526).

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. Also, it should be noted that where a care plan is not up-to-date, the care plan in place (albeit that it is awaiting review) is used to support the care of the child.

Table 9: Number of children in care (CIC) with an up-to-date care plan by care type

Care Type	CIC	No with CP	% with CP	CIC	No with CP	% with CP
	Q1 2017	Q1 2017	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q2 2017	Q2 2017
Foster Care General	4,133	3,786	92%	4,106	3,860	94%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,686	1,548	92%	1,695	1,575	93%
Residential Care General	352	326	93%	357	351	98%
Residential Special Care	10	10	100%	11	11	100%
Other Placements	127	112	88%	128	118	92%
National	6,308	5,782	92%	6,297	5,915	94%

- 14 areas including Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum met the target of 90% of children in care with an up-to-date care plan (Table 10).
- Six areas reported an increased percentage from Q1 2017, the most notable being that for DSC up from 60% to 89%.
- DSW/K/WW and Dublin North are the two poorest performing areas with 92 and 69 children respectively with no up to date care plan.

Table 10: Breakdown of the number of children in care with an up to date care plan

Area	No in Care	No with a care plan	% with a care plan	No in Care	No with a care plan	% with a care plan	+/-
	Q1 2017	Q1 2017	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q2 2017	Q2 2017	Q2 v Q1 2017
Mayo	142	142	100%	133	133	100%	0%
MidWest	593	592	100%	601	601	100%	0%

SWTSCSA	58	58	100%	67	67	100%	0%
GY/RN	403	397	99%	417	416	99.8%	1%
Donegal	214	214	100%	213	212	99.5%	0%
WD/WX	415	411	99%	410	408	99.5%	0%
DNC	613	563	92%	602	584	97%	5%
Kerry	155	151	97%	156	151	97%	-1%
DSE/WW	286	261	91%	282	271	96%	5%
Midlands	399	379	95%	393	373	95%	0%
CW/KK/ST	362	350	97%	371	352	95%	-2%
LH/MH	396	367	93%	391	370	95%	2%
Cork	851	812	95%	852	797	94%	-2%
SLWC	100	100	100%	107	97	91%	-9%
DSC	394	236	60%	385	344	89%	29%
CN/MN	156	146	94%	156	139	89%	-4%
Dublin North	335	243	73%	332	263	79%	7%
DSW/K/WW	436	360	83%	429	337	79%	-4%
National	6,308	5,782	92%	6,297	5,915	94%	2%

3.1.6 Children in Care in Education

- 98% (n=3,782/3,860) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education at the end of Q2 2017, up 0.6 percentage points from Q1 2017 (Table 11). *Note: figures do not include children in care under the care of Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum.*
- Three areas reported 100% with only one area (Dublin North) reporting less than 95% of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) in full time education.
- 88.4 % (n=926/1,048) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of Q2 2017; down nearly four percentage points on Q1 2017 (Table 12). *Note: figures do not include children in care under the care of Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum.*
- Ten areas reported 90% or higher. The lowest rate was reported by Mid West (66.3%) down 28.4 percentage points on Q1 2017 followed by CW/KK/ST (76.2%) down 22.3 percentage points on Q1 2017.

Table 11: Children in care, 6 -15 years, in full time education, Q1 2017 – Q2 2017

	No of CIC 6-15 years	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education	No of CIC 6-15 years	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education	+/-
Area	Q1 2017	Q1 2017	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q2 2017	Q2 2017	Q2 v Q1 2017
DSC	250	227	90.8%	245	237	96.7%	5.9%
DSE/WW	190	188	98.9%	184	180	97.8%	-1.1%
DSW/K/WW	266	257	96.6%	257	245	95.3%	-1.3%
Midlands	225	211	93.8%	222	216	97.3%	3.5%

DNC	385	374	97.1%	378	370	97.9%	0.7%
Dublin North	206	195	94.7%	200	189	94.5%	-0.2%
LH/MH	251	247	98.4%	241	240	99.6%	1.2%
CN/MN	99	99	100.0%	96	95	99.0%	-1.0%
Cork	532	523	98.3%	540	528	97.8%	-0.5%
Kerry	108	108	100.0%	112	111	99.1%	-0.9%
CW/KK/ST	220	218	99.1%	175	175	100.0%	0.9%
WD/WX	355	350	98.6%	286	282	98.6%	0.0%
Mid West	391	379	96.9%	373	365	97.9%	0.9%
GY/RN	255	253	99.2%	258	258	100.0%	0.8%
Mayo	78	78	100.0%	81	80	98.8%	-1.2%
Donegal	141	140	99.3%	145	145	100.0%	0.7%
SLWC	58	57	98.3%	67	66	98.5%	0.2%
National	4,010	3,904	97.4%	3,860	3,782	98.0%	0.6%

Table 12: Children in care, 16 and 17 years, in full time education, Q1 2017 – Q2 2017

	No of CIC 16-17 yrs	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education	No of CIC 16-17 yrs	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education	+/-
Area	Q1 2017	Q1 2017	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q2 2017	Q2 2017	Q2 v Q1 2017
DSC	70	61	87.1%	63	50	79.4%	-7.7%
DSE/WW	46	44	95.7%	47	46	97.9%	2.2%
DSW/K/WW	91	81	89.0%	90	78	86.7%	-2.3%
Midlands	59	47	79.7%	59	50	84.8%	5.0%
DNC	125	118	94.4%	123	116	94.3%	-0.1%
Dublin North	55	53	96.4%	57	53	93.0%	-3.4%
LH/MH	66	61	92.4%	70	67	95.7%	3.3%
CN/MN	20	17	85.0%	22	20	90.9%	5.9%
Cork	151	146	96.7%	151	144	95.4%	-1.3%
Kerry	24	23	95.8%	25	24	96.0%	0.2%
CW/KK/ST	65	64	98.5%	63	48	76.2%	-22.3%
WD/WX	60	59	98.3%	61	57	93.4%	-4.9%
Mid West	95	90	94.7%	95	63	66.3%	-28.4%
GY/RN	71	59	83.1%	61	57	93.4%	10.3%
Mayo	31	29	93.5%	18	17	94.4%	0.9%
Donegal	31	27	87.1%	26	22	84.6%	-2.5%
SLWC	21	18	85.7%	17	14	82.4%	-3.3%
National	1,081	997	92.2%	1048	926	88.4%	-3.8%

3.2 AFTERCARE

KEY FACTS

- 1,996 young adults (all ages) in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q2 2017; 56 more than Q1 and the highest number for the period Q2 2016 – Q2 2017
- 86% (n=1,630/1,902) of young adults 18-22 in receipt of aftercare services had an allocated aftercare worker; no change from Q1 2017
- 82% (n=1,562/1,902) of young adults 18-22 in receipt of aftercare services had an aftercare plan; down three percentage points on Q1 2017
- 113 young adults were discharged from care by reason of reaching 18 years; 84% (n=99/113) had an allocated aftercare worker, up three percentage points on Q1 2017
- 97% (n=110/113) of those eligible for an aftercare service were availing of a service.

3.2.1 Young adults in receipt of aftercare services

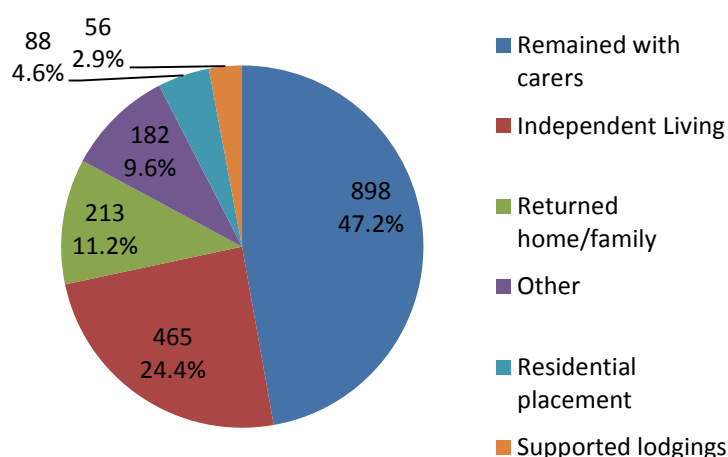
- 1,996 young adults (all ages i.e., 18 years and upwards and inclusive of those 25 or older) in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q2 2017; 56 more than Q1 2017 and the highest number for the period Q2 2016 – Q2 2017 (Table 13)
- 1,902 (95%) young adults in receipt of aftercare services were aged 18-22 years (inclusive)
- 1,116 (59%) of this cohort (18-22 years) were in full-time education (Table 13)
- 1,481 (n=79%) of the 18-22 years cohort were 18-20 years
- 887 (60%) of those 18-20 years were in full-time education

Table 13: Young adults in receipt of aftercare services and in fulltime education Q2 2016 – Q2 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
Q2 2017	1,996	1,902	1,116 (59%)	1,481	887 (60%)
Q1 2017	1,940	1,853	1,107 (60%)	1,475	875 (59%)
Q4 2016	1,880	1,806	1,040 (58%)	1,389	803 (58%)
Q3 2016	1,920	1,841	1,001 (54%)	1,429	810 (57%)
Q2 2016	1,897	1,790	1,050 (59%)	1,405	810 (58%)

- In terms of living arrangements, 47% (n=898) of the 18-22 year olds remained with their carers, 11% (n=213) returned home, 24% (n=465) were in independent living arrangements and 5% (n=88) were in a residential placement (Figure 24).

Figure 24: Living arrangements of young adults (18-22 years) in receipt of aftercare services, Q2 2017



- 86% (n=1,630) of the 18-22 years in receipt of aftercare had an allocated aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2017; no change from Q1 2017
- Seven areas reported 100% with a further five areas reporting 90% or higher. The lowest percentage was reported by Dublin South Central (48%; n=80/165) followed by CW/KK/ST (62%; n=71/114) and DSW/K/WW (63%; 97/153) (Table 14).
- Five areas reported an increased percentage from Q1 2017; highest increase reported by DSC, up from 38% to 48% followed by Dublin North up from 93% to 100%.

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	No with an allocated worker	% with an allocated worker	No 18-22 years in aftercare	No with an allocated worker	% with an allocated worker	Δ (=/-)
	Q1 2017	Q1 2017	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q2 2017	Q2 2017	Q2 2017 v Q1 2017
DSC	156	60	38%	165	80	48%	10%
DSE/WW	106	98	92%	109	103	94%	2%
DSW/K/WW	146	108	74%	153	97	63%	-11%
Midlands	114	114	100%	114	114	100%	0%
DNC	143	125	87%	143	118	83%	-5%
Dublin North	71	66	93%	75	75	100%	7%
LH/MH	119	111	93%	116	106	91%	-2%
CN/MN	71	71	100%	62	62	100%	0%
Cork	251	216	86%	253	221	87%	1%
Kerry	35	35	100%	37	37	100%	0%
CW/KK/ST	108	69	64%	114	71	62%	-2%
WD/WX	137	133	97%	143	131	92%	-5%
Mid West	155	155	100%	154	154	100%	0%
GY/RN	133	129	97%	148	147	99%	2%
Mayo	42	42	100%	43	41	95%	-5%
Donegal	42	42	100%	45	45	100%	0%
SLWC	24	24	100%	28	28	100%	0%
Total	1,853	1,598	86%	1,902	1,630	86%	0%

- 82% (n= 1,562) of the same cohort had an aftercare plan at the end of Q2 2017; down three percentage points on Q1 2017
- Five areas reported 100% with a further seven areas reporting 90% or higher. The lowest percentage was reported by Dublin South Central (44%; n=73/165) followed by DSW/K/WW (50%; n=77/153) and GY/RN (51%; 75/148) (Table 15).
- Five areas reported an increased percentage from Q1 2017; highest increase reported by Dublin North, up from 89% to 100%. The highest decrease was reported by GY/RN, down from 82% to 51% (n=75/148)

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

Area	No 18-22 years in aftercare	No with an aftercare plan	% with an aftercare plan	No 18-22 years in aftercare	No with an aftercare plan	% with an aftercare plan	Δ (=/-)
	Q1 2017	Q1 2017	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q2 2017	Q2 2017	Q2 2017 v Q1 2017
DSC	156	67	43%	165	73	44%	1%
DSE/WW	106	101	95%	109	97	89%	-6%
DSW/K/WW	146	76	52%	153	77	50%	-2%
Midlands	114	109	96%	114	109	96%	0%
DNC	143	126	88%	143	129	90%	2%
Dublin North	71	63	89%	75	75	100%	11%
LH/MH	119	111	93%	116	106	91%	-2%
CN/MN	71	70	99%	62	61	98%	-1%
Cork	251	250	100%	253	251	99%	-1%
Kerry	35	35	100%	37	37	100%	0%
CW/KK/ST	108	68	63%	114	65	57%	-6%
WD/WX	137	134	98%	143	143	100%	2%
Mid West	155	147	95%	154	150	97%	2%
GY/RN	133	109	82%	148	75	51%	-31%
Mayo	42	42	100%	43	41	95%	-5%
Donegal	42	42	100%	45	45	100%	0%
SLWC	24	24	100%	28	28	100%	0%
Total	1,853	1,574	85%	1,902	1,562	82%	-3%

3.2.2 Young adults discharged from care by reason of reaching 18 years

- 118 young adults were discharged from care by reason of reaching 18 years during Q2 2017; five more than Q1 2017 (Table 16).
- 96% (n=113/118) were eligible for an aftercare service and of these 97% (n=110/113) were availing of the service.

- 84% (n=99) of those discharged had an allocated aftercare worker; up three percentage points on Q1 2017. Nine areas reported 100%. The lowest percentage was reported by DSC (44%).

Table 16: Number discharged, eligible for aftercare service and allocated aftercare worker, Q1 2017 – Q2 2017

Area	No discharged	No discharged eligible for aftercare	No availing of an aftercare service	No with allocated aftercare worker	% with allocated aftercare worker	No discharged	No discharged eligible for aftercare	No availing of an aftercare service	No with allocated aftercare worker	% with allocated aftercare worker
	Q1 2017	Q1 2017	Q1 2017	Q1 2017	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q2 2017	Q2 2017	Q1 2017	Q1 2017
DSC	6	6	4	4	67%	9	9	9	4	44%
DSE/WW	3	3	3	3	100%	9	9	9	8	89%
DSW/K/WW	8	8	4	5	63%	11	11	9	7	64%
Midlands	16	10	9	9	56%	10	7	7	7	70%
DNC	2	2	2	2	100%	11	11	10	8	73%
Dublin North	5	5	4	4	80%	6	6	6	6	100%
LH/MH	11	10	10	10	91%	6	5	5	5	83%
CN/MN	4	4	3	4	100%	2	2	2	2	100%
Cork	16	16	16	10	63%	15	15	15	15	100%
Kerry	2	2	2	2	100%	4	4	4	4	100%
CW/KK/ST	11	11	11	11	100%	6	5	5	5	83%
WD/WX	8	8	8	8	100%	10	10	10	9	90%
Mid West	13	12	11	12	92%	6	6	6	6	100%
GY/RN	4	4	4	4	100%	1	1	1	1	100%
Mayo	0	0	0	0		2	2	2	2	100%
Donegal	2	2	2	2	100%	7	7	7	7	100%
SLWC	2	2	2	2	100%	3	3	3	3	100%
Total	113	105	95	92	81%	118	113	110	99	84%

3.3 ADOPTION SERVICES

KEY FACTS

- 319 new applications to commence tracing for a searched person in Q2 2017; 566 received 2017 YTD
- 754 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q2 2017
- All services meeting the target of eight weeks or less from time of application to provision of non-identifying information
- 50 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received in Q2 2017; 97 received 2017 YTD
- 44 new children were referred for adoption in Q2 2017; 93 referred 2017 YTD
- 43 completed adoption assessments presented to Local Adoption Committees in Q2 2017 ; 75 presented 2017 YTD

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.

- 482 new enquiries regarding information and tracing received in Q2 2017 bringing the total number of enquiries for the first six months of 2017 to 956 (474 received in Q1 2017)
- 319 new applications to commence tracing of a searched person received in Q2 2017 bringing the total number of new applications for the first six months of 2017 to 566 (247 received in Q1 2017)
- 754 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q2 2017; 51 (7%) fewer than Q1 2017 (Table 17).
- Highest number of applicants (n=351; 47%) were awaiting a service in the Cork/Kerry area. This is due to the majority of files being held in this area.
- Three services reported an increase in applicants awaiting from Q1 2017. The highest increase was reported by Cork/Kerry (n=16).

Table 17: Number of applicants awaiting an information and tracing service

Service Area	No waiting Q2 2016	No waiting Q3 2016	No waiting Q4 2016	No waiting Q1 2017	No waiting Q2 2017	Δ (+/-) Q1 v Q4
Dublin Mid Leinster Dublin North East <i>These two services are combined for applications waiting</i>	324	148	221	277	216	-61
Cork/Kerry	287	304	304	335	351	+16
CW/KK/ST/WD/WX	93	79	62	63	60	-3
Midwest	60	38	14	23	26	+3
Galway/Roscommon	27	23	33	44	37	-7
Mayo	8	7	7	0	4	+4
Donegal/SLWC	19	21	49	63	60	-3
National	818	620	690	805	754	-51

- At the end of Q2 2017, all 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 18).

Table 18: Length of time (weeks) from application to the provision of non-identifying information

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

- At the end of Q2 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 12 months against a target of 3 months or less (Table 19). All but two services (Cork/Kerry and CW/KK/ST/WD/WX) are meeting the target. Cork/Kerry reported an increase of 3 months from Q1 2017 while CW/KK/ST reported a decrease of 3 months.
 - the length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for priority 2 applications ranged from 6 weeks to 8 months against a target of 6 months or less. All services but one (Dublin North East) are meeting this target (Table 19). Dublin North East reported 8 months, a decrease of 2 months on Q1 2017.
 - 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. Five of the eight services are meeting this target (Table 19).

Table 19: 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	2	8	24
Cork/Kerry	12	1.5	30
CW/KK/ST/WD/WX	6	6	14
Midwest	1	3	9
Galway/Roscommon	1	1	12
Mayo	1	1	3
Donegal/Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	2	2	12

3.3.2 Adoption Assessments

- 50 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received during Q2 2017; three more than Q1 2017 bringing the total for 2017 YTD to 97. The highest number were for inter-country adoption (n= 25) (Table 20).

Table 20: Number of receipted completed adoption application packs received in the quarter

Area	No receipted completed applications for adoption received Q1 2017	No receipted completed applications for adoption received Q2 2017
Fostering to Adoption	5	4
Inter-Country Adoption	22	25
Domestic Adoption	10	9
Step-parent adoption	10	12
Total	47	50

- 44 new children were referred for adoption in Q2 2017 (Table 21); five fewer than Q1 2017 bringing the total for 2017 YTD to 93. The highest number (n=31) were for step-adoption.

Table 21: Number of new children referred for adoption in the quarter

Area	New children referred going forward for adoption Q1 2017	New children referred going forward for adoption Q2 2017
Fostering to Adoption	14	8
Domestic Adoption	12	5
Step-parent adoption	23	31
Total	49	44

- 43 completed assessments (all types) were presented to Local Adoption Committees during Q2 2017, 11 more than Q1 2017 bringing the total for 2017 YTD to 75. Highest number were for inter-country adoption (n=22) followed by fostering to adoption (n=8) (Table 22).

Table 22: Completed assessments presented to Local Adoption Committees, by type

Area	No of completed assessments presented to LAC Q1 2017	No of completed assessments presented to LAC Q2 2017
Fostering to Adoption	3	8
Inter-Country Adoption	13	22
Domestic Adoption	7	3
Step-parent adoption	9	10
Total	32	43

3.4 FOSTER CARERS

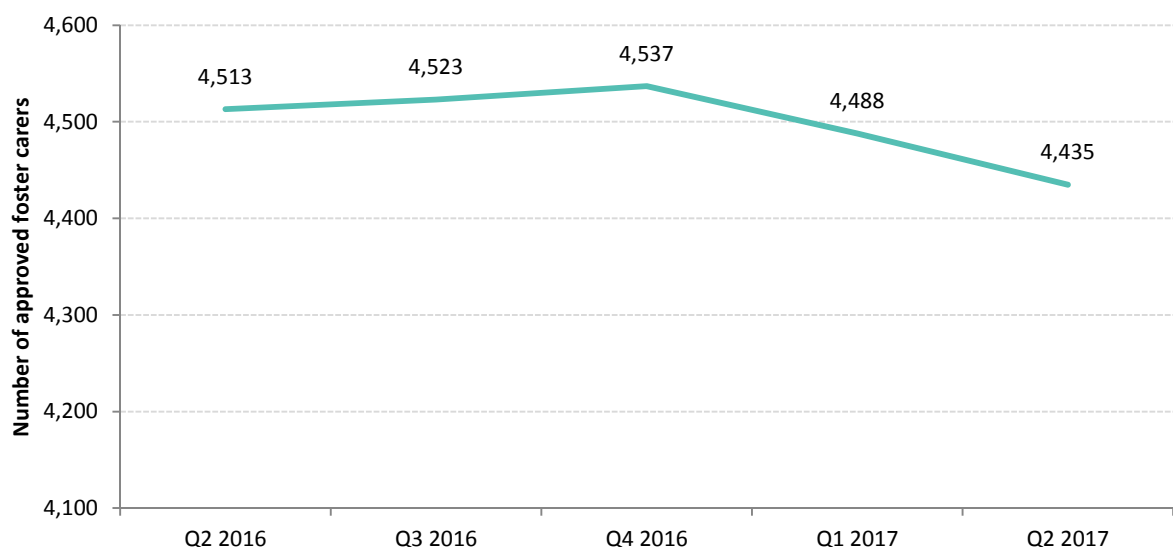
KEY FACTS

- 4,435 approved foster carers on panel of approved carers at the end of Q2 2017; 53 fewer than Q1 2017 and the fewest number for the period Q2 2016 – Q2 2017
- 79 % (n=1,179) of relative foster carers approved against a target of 80%; 78% in Q1 2017
- 90% (n=2,513) of general foster carers had an allocated link, up 3 percentage points from Q1 2017; target of 90%. Total 294 awaiting; 92 fewer than Q1 2017
- 87% (n=1,020) of approved relative foster carers had an allocated link worker against a target of 85%; up from 79% in Q1 2017. Total of 159 awaiting allocation; 98 fewer than Q1 2017
- 311 unapproved relative foster carers; 17 fewer than Q1 2017
- 271 (87%) of the unapproved relative foster carers had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks;
- 70% (n=190) of unapproved relative foster carers with a child placed > 12 weeks had an allocated link (social) worker; no percentage change from Q1 2017. Some 81 awaiting allocation; 2 fewer than Q1 2017

3.4.1 Number of foster carers

- 4,435 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q2 2017; 53 fewer than Q1 2017 and the fewest number for the period Q2 2016 – Q2 2017 (Figure 25). There were 311 unapproved relative foster carers; 17 fewer than Q1 2017 and the fewest number for the period Q2 2016 – Q2 2017 .

Figure 25: Number of approved foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) Q2 2016 – Q2 2017



- 63% (n=2,807) of all approved foster carers are general foster carers. Relative foster carers (approved) account for a further 27% (n=1,179) while private foster carers account for the remaining 10% (n=449) (Table 23).

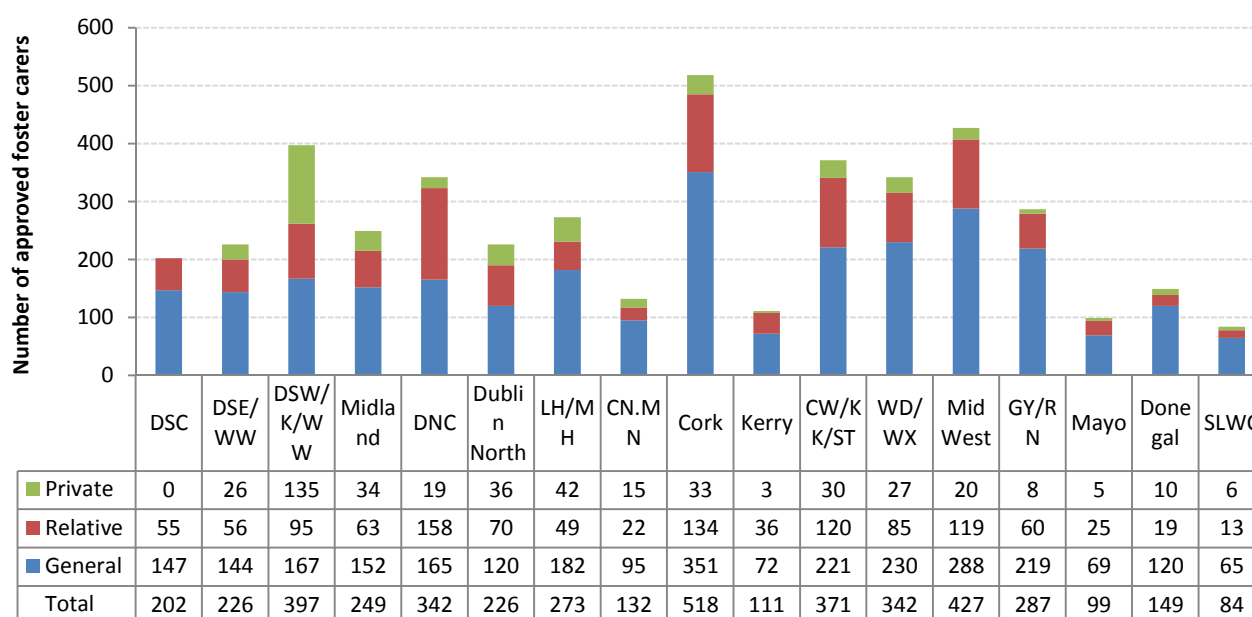
Table 23: Breakdown of foster carers by type Q2 2016 – Q2 2017

Foster Carers	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	$\Delta (+/-)$
						Q2 v Q1 2017
General (Approved)	2,942	2,956	2,913	2,879	2,807	-72
Relative (Approved)	1,204	1,204	1,221	1,196	1,179	-17
Private (Approved)	367	363	403	413	449	36
Total Approved	4,513	4,523	4,537	4,488	4,435	-53
Relative (Unapproved)	382	348	356	328	311	-17

3.4.2 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 518 in Cork to 84 in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan at the end of Q2 2017 (Figure 26).

Figure 26: Foster carers approved by type and area on the panel of approved foster carers, Q2 2017



- Seven areas reported an increase from Q1 2017 in the number of foster carers approved and on the panel. The highest increase was reported by LH/MH (n=21), followed by MidWest (n=7) (Table 24).
- Nine reported a decrease, GY/RN reported the highest decrease (n=34) followed by Cork (n=28) and DSC (n=12). The overall number of approved foster carers decreased by 53 on Q1 2017.

Table 24: Area breakdown of approved foster carers (all types), Q2 2016 – Q2 2017

Area	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Δ (+/-) Q2 v Q1 2017
DSC	222	226	224	214	202	-12
DSE/WW	238	224	232	227	226	-1
DSW/K/WW	393	391	396	401	397	-4
Midland	241	240	243	245	249	4
DNC	349	347	347	341	342	1
Dublin North	233	238	240	225	226	1
LH/MH	247	256	256	252	273	21
CN/MN	144	147	139	132	132	0
Cork	548	540	544	546	518	-28
Kerry	116	116	114	114	111	-3
CW/KK/ST	370	376	371	372	371	-1
WD/WX	369	358	370	348	342	-6
MidWest	410	401	419	420	427	7
GY/RN	305	329	317	321	287	-34
Mayo	97	103	95	97	99	2
Donegal	151	150	149	150	149	-1
SLWC	80	81	81	83	84	1
National	4,513*	4,523	4,537	4,488	4,435	-53

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

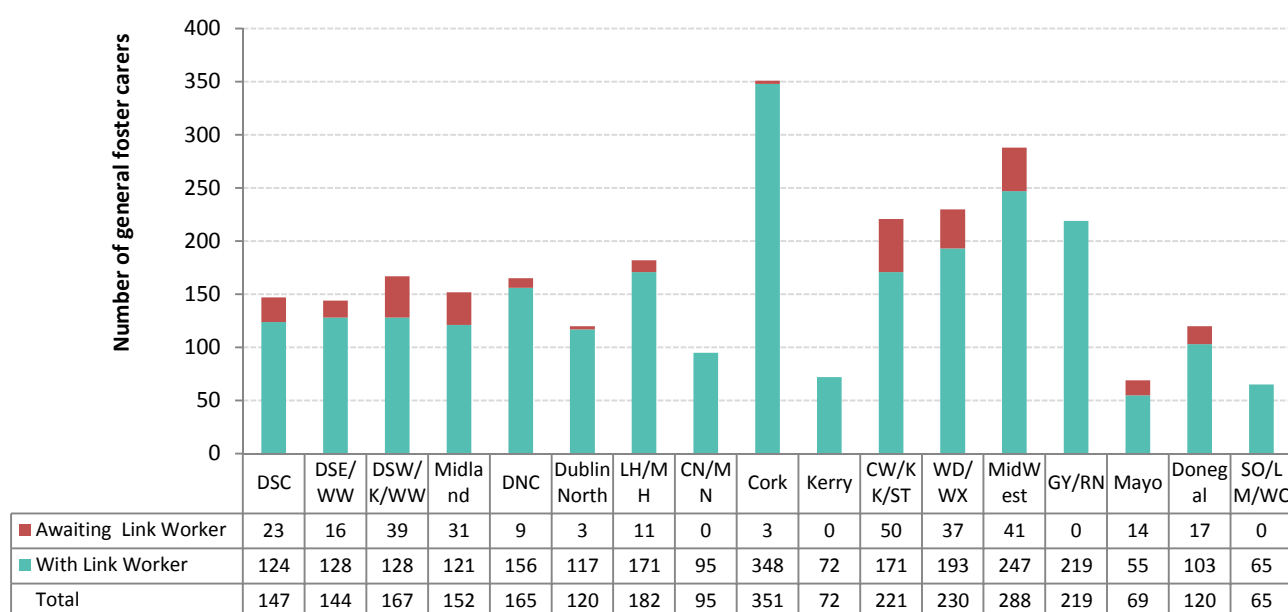
- 90% (n=2,513) of general foster carers approved and on the Panel had an allocated link (social) worker against a target of 90% at the end of Q2 2017; up three percentage points on Q1 2017. A total of 294 carers were awaiting an allocated worker; 92 fewer than Q1 2017. Eight areas reported a percentage of 90% or higher with four of these areas reporting 100% (Table 25).
- CW/KK/ST reported the highest number awaiting an allocated link worker (n=50 down 38 on Q1 2017) followed by MidWest (n= 41 up 35 on Q1 2017).
- Ten areas reported a decrease in carers awaiting an allocated link worker; the highest decrease was reported by CW/KK/ST (n=38) followed by DNC (n=32) and Cork (n=19).
- Three areas reported an increase in the number of foster carers awaiting an allocated link worker from Q1 2017; the highest increase was reported by MidWest (n=35) followed by Mayo (n=14).

Table 25: General foster carers (approved) with/awaiting link social worker, Q1 2017 – Q2 2017

Area	With Link Worker Q1 2017	Awaiting Link Worker Q1 2017	% With Link Worker Q1 2017	With Link Worker Q2 2017	Awaiting Link Worker Q2 2017	% With Link Worker Q2 2017	Δ +/- No. Awaiting Link Worker Q2 v Q1 2017
DSC	122	36	77%	124	23	84%	-13
DSE/WW	131	13	91%	128	16	89%	3
DSW/K/WW	122	46	73%	128	39	77%	-7
Midland	112	40	74%	121	31	80%	-9

DNC	129	41	76%	156	9	95%	-32
Dublin North	115	4	97%	117	3	98%	-1
LH/MH	166	20	89%	171	11	94%	-9
CN/MN	94	0	100%	95	0	100%	0
Cork	355	22	94%	348	3	99%	-19
Kerry	75	0	100%	72	0	100%	0
CW/KK/ST	136	88	61%	171	50	77%	-38
WD/WX	195	43	82%	193	37	84%	-6
MidWest	278	6	98%	247	41	86%	35
GY/RN	226	10	96%	219	0	100%	-10
Mayo	69	0	100%	55	14	80%	14
Donegal	104	17	86%	103	17	86%	0
SO/LM/WC	64	0	100%	65	0	100%	0
National	2,493	386	87%	2,513	294	90%	-92

Figure 27: General foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting a link (social worker), Q2 2017



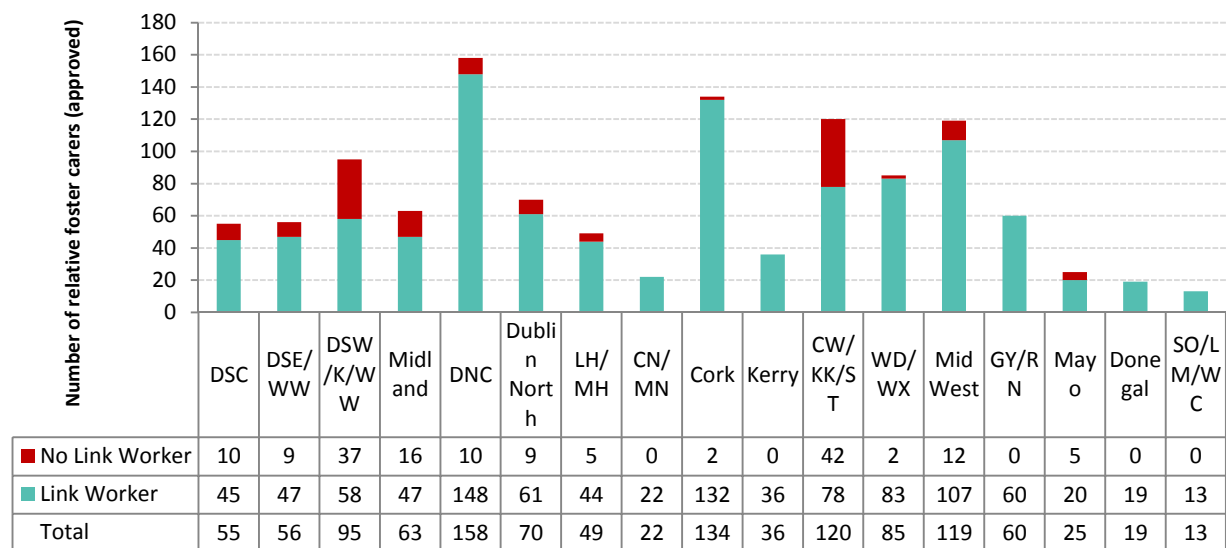
- 87% (n=1,020) of relative foster carers approved and on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q2 2017 against a target of 85% ; up eight percentage points on Q1 2017.
- A total of 159 carers were awaiting an allocated link worker, 98 fewer than Q1 2017. Eleven areas reported a percentage of 85% (target) or higher with five of these areas reporting 100% (Table 26).
- CW/KK/ST reported the highest number (n=42 down 32 on Q1 2017) awaiting a link worker, followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (n=37 down 3 on Q1 2017).
- Eleven areas reported a decrease in the number awaiting from Q1 2017; highest decrease reported by CW/KK/ST (n=32) followed by Dublin North City (n=30) and Cork (n=16).

Table 26: Relative foster carers (approved) with/awaiting link social worker, Q1 2017 – Q2 2017

	With Link Worker	Awaiting Link Worker	% With Link Worker	With Link Worker	Awaiting Link Worker	% With Link Worker	Δ +/- Number Awaiting Link Worker Q1 v Q2 2017
Area	Q1 2017	Q1 2017	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q2 2017	Q2 2017	
DSC	44	12	79%	45	10	82%	-2
DSE/WW	51	6	89%	47	9	84%	3
DSW/K/WW	60	40	60%	58	37	61%	-3
Midland	39	21	65%	47	16	75%	-5
DNC	114	40	74%	148	10	94%	-30
Dublin North	63	8	89%	61	9	87%	1
LH/MH	39	13	75%	44	5	90%	-8
CN/MN	20	2	91%	22	0	100%	-2
Cork	120	18	87%	132	2	99%	-16
Kerry	34	2	94%	36	0	100%	-2
CW/KK/ST	46	74	38%	78	42	65%	-32
WD/WX	79	2	98%	83	2	98%	0
MidWest	110	7	94%	107	12	90%	5
GY/RN	66	11	86%	60	0	100%	-11
Mayo	23	0	100%	20	5	80%	5
Donegal	18	1	95%	19	0	100%	-1
SO/LM/WC	13	0	100%	13	0	100%	0
National	939	257	79%	1,020	159	87%	-98

- Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary reported the highest number awaiting an allocated link worker (n=42 down 32 on Q1 2017) followed by DSW/KK/WW (n=37 down 3 on Q1 2017) and Midlands (n=16 down 5 on Q1 2017).
- Four areas reported an increase in carers awaiting an allocated link worker from Q1 2017; highest increase was reported by both Mayo and MidWest (n=5).
- Eleven areas reported a decrease in the number of foster carers awaiting an allocated link worker from Q1 2017; the highest decrease was reported by CW/KK/ST (n=32), followed by DNC (n=30)

Figure 28: Relative foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting allocated link Q2 2017



3.4.3 Foster carers (relative) unapproved

- 311 relative foster carers unapproved at the end of Q2 2017; 17 fewer than Q1 2017 (Table 27)
- Of these 271 (87%) had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks; 5 fewer than Q1 2017
- Of the 271 foster carers that had a child placed with them for >12 weeks, 70% (n=190) had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q2 2017; no percentage change on Q1 2017. A total of 81 carers were awaiting allocation of a link worker; 2 fewer than Q1 2017.

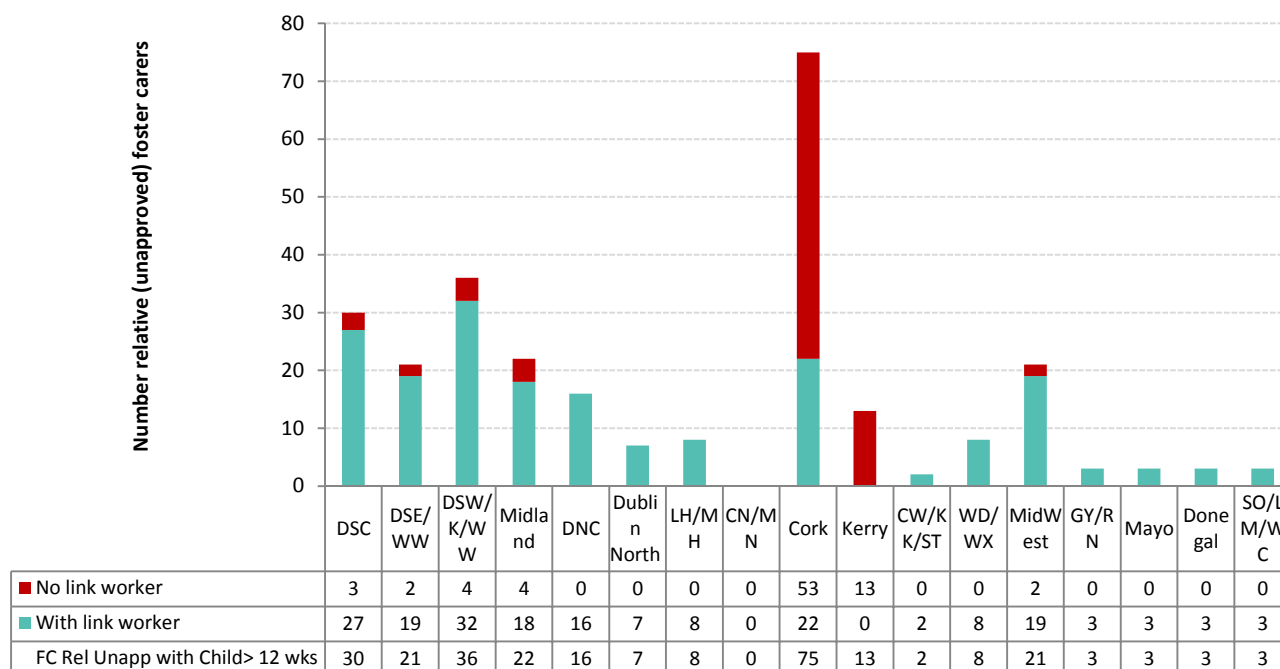
Table 27: Breakdown of foster carers not approved, Q2 2016 – Q2 2017

Unapproved Relative Foster Carers	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Δ (+/-) Q2 v Q1 2017
No. unapproved	382	348	356	328	311	-17
No (%) with a child > 12 weeks	306 80%	300 87%	308 87%	276 84%	271 87%	-5
Child > 12 weeks and have a Link Worker	192 63%	209 70%	211 69%	193 70%	190 70%	-3
Child > 12 weeks AWAITING Link Worker	114	91	97	83	81	-2

- Cork had the highest number (n=75) of unapproved relative foster carers with a child placed for longer than 12 weeks, at the end of Q2 2017 (Figure 29). CN/MN reported no unapproved relative foster carer longer than 12 weeks.
- In nine areas all unapproved relative foster carers with a child for >12 weeks had a link work (Figure 29).

- Cork accounted for 65% (n=53) of unapproved relative foster carers awaiting a link worker for longer than 12 weeks at the end of Q2 2017. All unapproved foster carers reported by Kerry (n=13) were awaiting a link worker

Figure 29: Relative foster carers UNAPPROVED with a child > 12 weeks, with/awaiting a link worker, Q2 2017



3.5 HIQA INSPECTIONS

FOSTER CARE

The Health Information and Quality Authority (Hiqa) published three inspection reports in Q2 2017. The summary of judgments is set out in Tables 28 /29 and a summary of findings can be found in Appendix I.

Table 28: 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
Dublin South Central	26 (Announced/Full)	0	1	20	5

Table 29: Foster Care Inspections - Summary Judgments (New Judgment Framework)

Centre Inspected	Summary of Judgments				
	No of Standards Assessed	Compliant	Substantially Compliant	Non Compliant - Major	Non Compliant - Moderate
Louth/Meath	8 (Themed)	1	6	1	0
Dublin South East/Wicklow	8 (Themed)	1	1	1	5

CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Hiqa published 11 inspection reports in Q2 2017. The summary of judgments is set out in Tables 30 / 31 and a summary of findings for each centre inspected can be found in Appendix I.

Table 30: 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 0004650	8 Unannounced / Follow-up)	0	1	5	1
OSV 0004186	10 (Unannounced / Full)	0	2	8	0
OSV 0004159	9 Unannounced / Follow-up)	0	2	7	0

Table 31: Residential Centres Inspection - Summary Judgments (New Judgment Framework)

Centre Inspected	Summary of Judgments				
	No of Standards Assessed	Compliant	Substantially Compliant	Non Compliant - Major	Non Compliant - Moderate
OSV 0005119	10 (Unannounced/Full)	4	1	0	5
OSV 0004170	10 (Unannounced/Full)	3	1	0	6
OSV 0004166	10 (Unannounced/Full)	5	0	0	5
OSV 0004163	10 (Unannounced/Full)	4	4	0	2
OSV 0004167	10 (Unannounced/Full)	5	2	0	3
OSV 0004189	10 (Unannounced/Full)	5	1	0	4
OSV 0004175	10 (Unannounced/Full)	4	4	0	2
OSV 0004145	10 (Unannounced/Full)	5	3	0	2

4.0 REGULATION AND SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

4.1 Early Years Inspectorate

4.2 Alternative Education Regulation

4.3 Statutory / Non-Statutory Alternative Care Services

4.1 EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

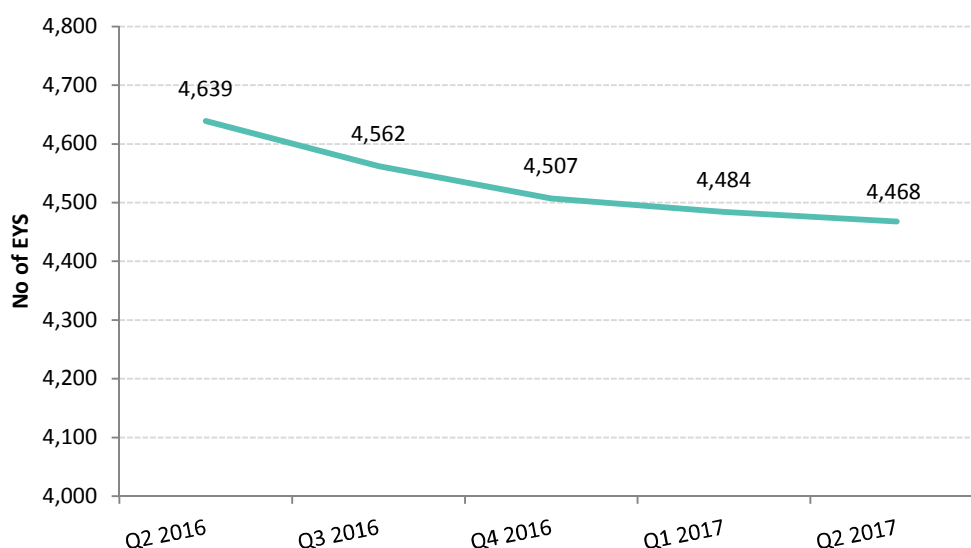
KEY FACTS

- 4,468 EYS on the register nationally at the end of Q2 2017; 16 fewer than Q1 2017 and the fewest number for the period Q2 2016 – Q2 2017
- 471 EYS inspections (all types) carried out during Q2 2017; 91 (24%) more than Q1 2017
- 98 complaints received in respect of EYS during Q2 2017; 10 more than Q1 2017 and the highest number for the period Q2 2016 – Q2 2017

4.1.1 Activity Data

- 4,468 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q2 2017; 16 fewer than Q1 2017 and the fewest number for the period Q2 2016 and Q2 2017.

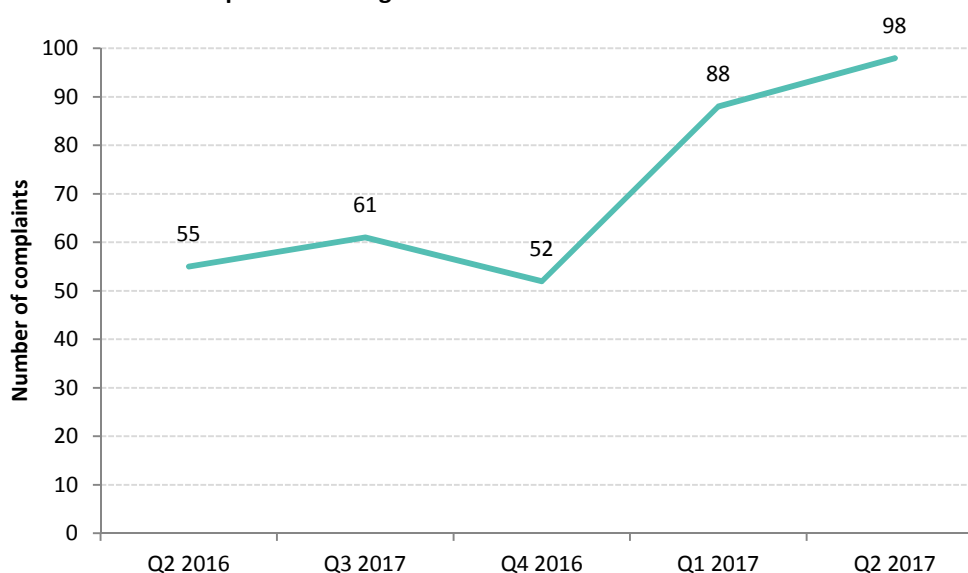
Figure 30: Number of Early Years Services on the Early Years Inspectorate Register



- 31 new applications to become a registered provider received by the Inspectorate in Q2 2017, 15 more than Q1 2017. This brings to 47 the total number received for the first six months of 2017

- 5 new applications approved by the Inspectorate in Q2 2017, bringing the total number approved for the first six months of 2017 to 11
- 420 “change in circumstances” notifications received by the Inspectorate in Q2 2017, bringing the total for the first six months of 2017 to 776
- 21 services were found to have closed in Q2 2017, bringing the total number for the first six months of 2017 to 52
- 471 inspections (all types¹⁴) carried out in Q2 2017, 91 (24%) more than Q1 2017. This brings to 851 the total number of inspections carried out for the first six months of 2017
- 98 complaints relating to EYS received by the Inspectorate during Q2 2017; ten more than Q1 2017 and the highest number for the period Q2 2016 – Q2 2017. This brings to 186 the number of complaints for the first six months of 2017

Figure 31: Number of complaints relating to EYS received



- 34 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q2 2017, 44 fewer than Q1 2017. This brings to 112 the number of incidents notified for the first six months of 2017
- No service de-registered by Tusla during the first six months of 2017
- No prosecutions of EYS taken by Tusla during the first six months of 2017

¹⁴ Includes initial, follow up, complaints, focused inspections or fit for purpose inspections

4.2 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION REGULATION

Key Facts

Home Education

- 1,383 children on the register for home education at the end of Q2 2017
- 109 applications for home education during Q2 2017 bringing the total for 2017 to 246
- 160 children awaiting assessment for registration at the end of Q2 2017; 24 fewer than Q1 2017
- 787 registered children awaiting a review at the end of Q2 2017; 51 fewer than Q1 2017

Independent Schools

- 4,815 children attending 42 assessed schools at the end of Q2 2017
- 172 children's applications for education in independent schools received in Q2 2017 bringing the total for 2017 to 283.
- 534 children registered during Q2 2017 bringing the total for 2017 to 1,034
- 963 children awaiting 2017 registration at the end of Q2 2017, 55 fewer than Q1 2017

Under Section 14 of the Education (Welfare)¹⁵ Act 2000

Home Education

- 1,383 children on the register for home education at the end of Q2 2017; 31 more than Q1 2017
- 15% (n=207) of children on the register have special educational needs
- 109 applications received for home education during Q2 2017 bringing the total for the first 6 months of 2017 to 246. Almost one in four (24%; 60/246) applications were for children with special educational needs
- 140 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q2 2017 bringing the total for the first six months of 2017 to 298
- 99 children registered for home education¹⁶ in Q2 2017 bringing the total for the first six months of 2017 to 175

¹⁵ 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—...

- 160 children awaiting assessment for registration at the end of Q2 2017; 24 fewer than Q1 2017. Of these 135 are awaiting a preliminary¹⁷ assessment and 25 are awaiting a comprehensive assessment.
- 787 registered children awaiting a review at the end of Q2 2017; 51 fewer than Q1 2017
- Five children were refused registration for home education in Q2 2017 bringing the total number refused for the first six months of 2017 to nine. Two appeals made against decisions not to register
- 68 children removed from the register in Q2 2017 bringing the total number for the first six months of 2017 to 114. Breakdown of the 114 is as follows: 60 (53%) turned 18 years; 31 (27%) returned to school; 11 (10%) left Ireland; 10 were referred to Educational Welfare Services¹⁸ ; 1 was Deregistered and 1 Other reason.

Independent Schools

- 4,815 children attending 42 assessed schools at the end of Q2 2017
- 172 new children's applications for education in independent schools received in Q2 2017 bringing the total for the first six months of 2017 to 283.
- 534 children registered¹⁹ during Q2 2017 bringing the total for the first six months of 2017 to 1,034
- No children refused registration in the first six months of 2017
- 963 children awaiting registration at the end of Q2 2017, 55 fewer than Q1 2017 – *due to issues relating to internal capacity or where information is awaited from the parents e.g., birth certs, signed application form*
- 430 children removed from the register during Q2 2017 bringing the total number for the first six months of 2017 to 632 – *children are automatically removed from the register when they reach 18 years. No capacity to follow-up children who move to a new school.*
- All schools (n=42) awaiting a review at the end of Q2 2017.

¹⁶ Number registered in a quarter does not reflect the number of assessments carried out in the previous quarter – reports are written, reviewed and approved internally before registration

¹⁷ This figure includes children currently going through the assessment process where the assessment is complete but the report has not been signed off

¹⁸ Children who cannot be located are referred to Educational Welfare Services

¹⁹ Number of children registered includes the processing of applications forms received in previous months. Once a school has been assessed children are registered automatically once parents have supplied all required documentation

4.3 NON STATUTORY ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

Key Facts

- 114 non-statutory residential centres at the end of Q2 2017
- 29 inspections (all types and onsite) conducted in Q2 2017 bringing the total for 2017 YTD to 51
- 6 non statutory foster care services at the end of Q2 2017

Non Statutory Children's Residential Centres

- 114 non-statutory residential centres at the end of Q2 2017
- 29 inspections (all types and onsite) conducted in Q2 2017 bringing the total for 2017 YTD to 51.

Table 32: Inspections of Non Statutory Residential Services

Inspections by Type	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Total
Thematic Inspection (announced)	14	19	33
Thematic Inspection (unannounced)	8	3	11
Lead Inspector Agency Visit	0	3	3
New Registration Inspection Visit	0	4	4
Total	22	29	51

Non Statutory Foster Care Services

- 6 non-statutory foster care services at the end of Q2 2017

5.0 EDUCATIONAL WELFARE SERVICES

KEY FACTS

- 3,268 new individual children worked with (Sept 2016 and June 2017)
- 1,273 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of June 2017; highest number for period Sept 2016 – June 2017
- 603 school attendance notices (SANs) issued in respect of 417 children under Section 25 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000¹, Sept 2016 and June 2017
- 133 summonses issued in respect of 96 children under Section 25 of the Act, Sept 2016 and June 2017
- 205 Section 24 meetings convened by EWOs, Sept 2016 and June 2017

Referrals²⁰ (*new metrics for academic year 2016/2017*)

- 5,440 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers, Sept 2016 – June 2017 (Table 33).
- 3,189 referrals allocated to educational welfare officers (EWOs), Sept 2016 – June 2017
- 859 referrals screened out / required no further action, Sept 2016 – June 2017
- 1,273 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of June 2017, the highest number of the ten month period.

Table 33: Referrals activity data by month, Sept 2016 – June 2017

	Referrals Screened	Referrals Allocated	Referrals Screened Out	Screened Referrals on Waiting List (month end)
Sep-16	368	234	100	208
Oct-16	304	207	37	260
Nov-16	392	289	67	259
Dec-16	443	296	74	282
Jan-17	512	393	78	231
Feb-17	641	477	100	317
Mar-17	766	506	103	423
Apr-17	594	303	75	588
May-17	741	269	158	880
Jun-17	679	215	67	1,273
Total	5,440	3,189	859	-

²⁰ 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.

Open Cases / Cases Worked

- 3,268 new individual children worked with, Sept 2016 – June 2017
- 4,081 new cases assigned to EWOs between Sept 2016 – June 2017 (Table 34)
- 3,540 cases closed between Sept 2016 and June 2017 (Table 34).

Table 34: Cases open, assigned and closed by month, Sept 2016 – June 2017

	Open Cases on hand/brought forward	New Cases Assigned	Cases Closed
Sep-16	2,593	374	364
Oct-16	2,603	334	353
Nov-16	2,584	450	425
Dec-16	2,609	347	285
Jan-17	2,671	389	300
Feb-17	2,760	567	404
Mar-17	2,923	598	295
Apr-17	3,226	352	194
May-17	3,384	405	383
Jun-17	3,406	265	537
Total	-	4,081	3,540

School Attendance Notices and Summonses under Section 25

- 603 school attendance notices (SANs) issued by EWS under Section 25 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000²¹, Sept 2016 – June 2017. The notices issued were in respect of 417 individual children i.e., more than one notice was issued in respect of some children.
- 133 summonses issued by EWS under Section 25 of the Education (Welfare Act) 2000, Sept 2016 – June 2017. The summonses issued were in respect of 96 individual children i.e., more than one summons was issued in respect some children.
- EWOs attended 398 court cases pertaining to their own cases between Sept 2016 – June 2017 and an additional 21 court cases in a supporting capacity (e.g., at the request of social work services).
- 218 child protection conferences (CPC) attended by EWOs between Sept 2016 – June 2017.

New Metrics for 2016/2017 academic year

- 205 Section 24²² meetings convened by EWOs, Sept 2016 – Jun 2017

²¹ 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.

²² 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

- 184 official child protection and welfare referrals made by EWOs Sept 2016 – June 2017.

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.

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

5.1 Family Support Services

5.2 Meitheal and Child & Family Support Networks

6.1 FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES²³

KEY FACTS

Data based on incomplete returns and should be considered provisional

- At least 21,575 children in receipt of family support services at the end of June 2017
- At least 17,580 children referred to family support services between January and June 2017
- 72% (12,708) of children referred to family support services (Jan – Jun 2017) received a service

6.1.1 Family Support Providers

Data provisional – data for CW/KK/ST outstanding at the time of writing and partial data available from LH/M and Dublin North City.

- At least 254 family support providers commissioned for 2017; the majority (85%; n=215) of which are external to Tusla (Table 35).
- 67% (n=169) of services provided data for Q1 – Q2 2017. Six areas reported 100%. The lowest percentage was reported by GY/RN (36%; n=10/28) followed by MidWest (44%; n=15/34). The data presented below needs to be interpreted in the context of missing data for areas concerned.

Table 35: Family Support Services Commissioned by Area, 2017

Area	Number of Family Support Providers Commissioned for 2017	Number that are External to Tusla providers	Number that are Internal Tusla providers	Of the total number commissioned, the number that provided data for Jan- Jun 2017	% that provided data for Jan- Jun 2017
DSC	21	19	2	16	76%
DSE/WW	17	11	6	17	100%
DSW/K/WW	15	13	2	12	80%
Midlands	14	12	2	13	93%
DNC	24	20			
Dublin North	19	18	1	15	79%
LH/MH					
CN/MN	4	3	1	4	100%
Cork	7	7	0	7	100%
Kerry	5	4	1	5	100%

²³ Family Support Services includes those services funded through a Service Arrangement with the Child and Family Agency and those internally funded and delivered through the Child and Family Agency

CW/KK/ST					
WD/WX	27	24	3	17	63%
MidWest	34	31	3	15	44%
GY/RN	28	18	10	10	36%
Mayo	10	6	4	10	100%
Donegal	17	17	0	17	100%
SLWC	12	12	0	11	92%
Total	254	215	35	169	67%

6.1.2 Children in Receipt of Family Support Services

- At least 21,575 children in receipt of family support services at the end of June 2017. Highest number reported by MidWest (n=6,493; accounts for 30% of children in receipt of services) albeit that fewer than half of the services in this area provided data, followed by Donegal (n=2,735); Dublin North City and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan both reporting 1,740 children. Fewest number reported by Cork (n=286) followed by Kerry (n=301) and Cavan/Monaghan (n=352) (Table 36).

Table 36: Children in receipt of Family Support Services, end of June 2017

Area	Total number of children in receipt of a FSS at the end of Dec 2016	Total number of children in receipt of a FSS at the end of June 2017
DSC	1,216	826
DSE/WW	651	615
DSW/K/WW	799	1,309
Midlands	775	525
DNC	1,487	1,740
Dublin North	1,544	1,355
LH/MH	1,374	673
CN/MN	236	352
Cork	310	286
Kerry	269	301
CW/KK/ST	905	
WD/WX	1,145	956
MidWest	6,373	6,493
GY/RN	1,187	1,232
Mayo	971	437
Donegal	2,394	2,735
SLWC	2,581	1,740
Total	24,217	21,575

6.1.3 Children Referred to Family Support Services

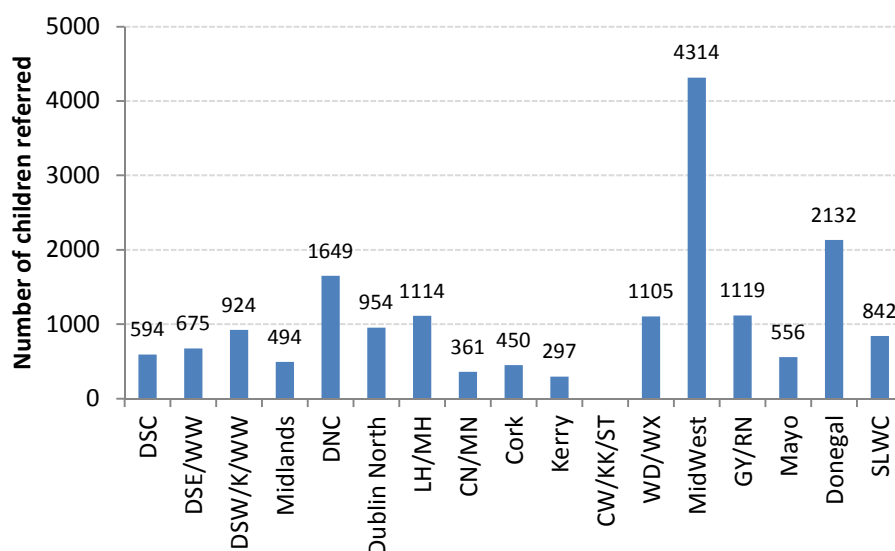
- 17,580 children referred to family support services between January and June 2017 (Table 37 and Figure 32). Highest number referred in the MidWest (n=4,314; 25% of all children referred) followed by Donegal (n=2,132) and Dublin North City (n=1,649). Fewest number

reported by Kerry (n=297) followed by CN/MN (n=361); Cork (n=450) and Midlands (n=494)

Table 37: Children referred to Family Support Services by area

Area	Total number of children referred to FSS, Jul-Dec 2016	Total number of children referred to FSS, Jan – Jun 2017
DSC	984	594
DSE/WW	679	675
DSW/K/WW	640	924
Midlands	477	494
DNC	1,716	1,649
Dublin North	1,815	954
LH/MH	940	1,114
CN/MN	334	361
Cork	304	450
Kerry	235	297
CW/KK/ST	404	
WD/WX	733	1,105
MidWest	3,233	4,314
GY/RN	1,234	1,119
Mayo	513	556
Donegal	984	2,132
SLWC	1,134	842
Total	16,359	17,580

Figure 32: Children referred to Family Support Services by area



- The most common source of referral was Parent/Guardian accounting for almost one in four referrals (n=4,179; 24%) followed by Tusla Social Work (n=3,842; 22%) and Schools (n=2,595; 15%). An Garda Síochána made 100 referrals, the highest number (n=35) of which were reported by Louth/Meath. Over half of the referrals from Schools (52%; n=1,350) were reported by the MidWest (Figure 33 and Table 38).

Figure 33: Children referred to Family Support Services by source of referral, Jan - Jun 2017

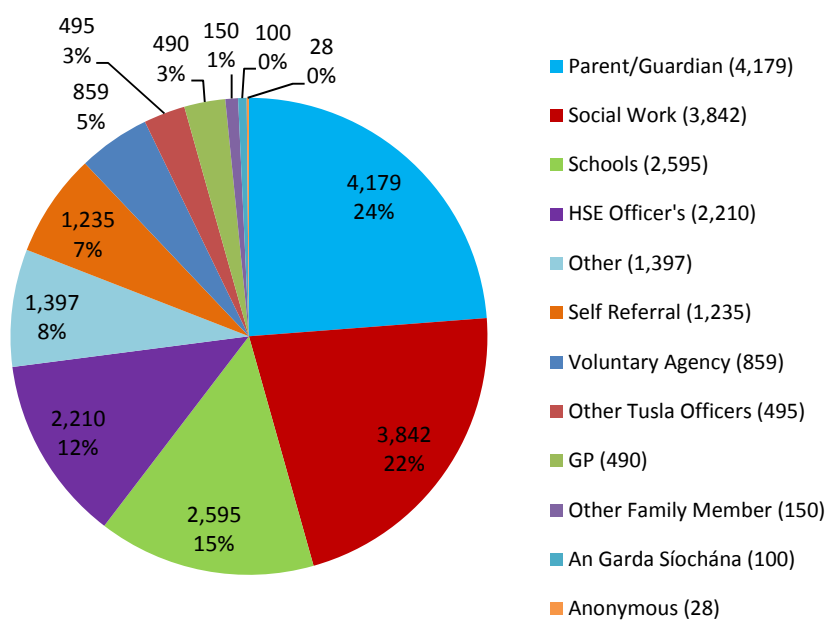


Table 38: Breakdown of source of referrals by area, Jan - Jun 2017

	Social Work	Other Tusla Officers	HSE Officers	An Garda Síochána	Self - Referral	Parent/G uardian	Other Family member	GP	Voluntar y Agency	Anonym ous	Schools	Other	Total
DSC	137	14	193	0	48	194	3	5	0	0	0	0	594
DSE/WW	193	7	99	2	6	209	7	26	49	0	61	16	675
DSW/K/WW	248	44	160	0	35	223	17	15	51	0	112	19	924
Midlands	165	36	66	0	49	52	5	2	23	0	80	16	494
DNC	534	30	203	5	32	526	2	22	48	0	215	32	1,649
Dublin North	357	28	134	0	44	144	2	21	86	0	54	84	954
LH/MH	243	31	152	35	5	387	32	20	77	1	60	71	1,114
CN/MN	185	3	46	3	3	9	2	11	25	0	41	33	361
Cork	185	19	29	0	113	60	10	0	6	0	18	10	450
Kerry	37	3	21	7	5	110	1	23	20	0	34	36	297
CW/KK/ST													
WD/WX*	479	0	6	0	0	15	0	0	4	0	3	598	1,105
MidWest	458	81	323	11	425	1,145	22	38	256	1	1,350	204	4,314
GY/RN	276	53	216	17	40	270	2	23	55	0	100	67	1,119
Mayo	34	51	40	2	16	212	2	4	46	0	89	60	556
Donegal	135	83	398	16	325	336	42	273	92	17	274	141	2,132
SLWC	176	12	124	2	89	287	1	7	21	9	104	10	842
Total	3,842	495	2,210	100	1,235	4,179	150	490	859	28	2,595	1,397	17,580

*A breakdown of all external sources (non Tusla) is only available from Waterford; Wexford has included all external sources under "Other"

- 72% (12,708) of children referred to family support services during the first six months of 2017 received a service (Table 39). The percentage who received a service ranged from 95% (n=2,021/2,132) in Donegal to 37% in Dublin South East/Wicklow (n=247/675). In ten of the 15 areas that provided data more than seven out of ten children referred received a service.
- Of the total number of children referred to family support services (Jan – Jun 2017) who received a service 4% (n=467) were subject of a Child in Care Plan; 5% (n=606) were subject of a Tusla Social Work Child Protection Plan; 6% (n=797) were subject of a Tusla Social Work Family Support Plan; 2% (n=264) were subject of a Meitheal Support Plan while one in four (n=3,231) was subject of a Single Agency Family Support Plan.

Table 39: Number of children referred to Family Support Services (Jan – Jun 2017) who received a service

				Of the total number of children referred to FSS (Jan – Jun 2017) and received a service the number who were subject of a:				
Area	Number referred	Of number referred, number who received a service	% who rec'd a service	Child in Care Plan	Tusla Social Work Child Protection Plan	Tusla Social Work led Family Support Plan	Meitheal Support Plan	Single Agency Family Support Plan
DSC	594	483	81%	18	22	31	9	147
DSE/WW	675	247	37%	11	27	42	22	98
DSW/K/WW	924	571	62%	8	31	40	39	96
Midlands	494	296	60%	23	37	41	8	113
DNC	1,649	1,197	73%	44	27	65	22	23
Dublin North	954	726	76%	16	28	19	12	432
LH/MH	1,114	463	42%	25	58	38	19	112
CN/MN	361	332	92%	23	39	44	17	60
Cork	450	269	60%	19	35	83	0	58
Kerry	297	243	82%	1	1	70	2	109
CW/KK/ST								
WD/WX	1,105							
MidWest	4,314	3,914	91%	144	108	112	41	838
GY/RN	1,119	801	72%	16	79	67	16	388
Mayo	556	403	72%	50	3	19	21	99
Donegal	2,132	2,021	95%	40	51	55	16	460
SLWC	842	742	88%	29	60	71	20	198
Total	17,580	12,708	72%	467 (4%)	606 (5%)	797 (6%)	264 (2%)	3,231 (25%)

6.2 MEITHEAL

A key component of Tusla's Prevention, Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) programme of work is the roll-out of **Meitheal** - a national practice model (common approach to practice) for all agencies working with children, young people and their families. This model is designed to ensure that the needs and strengths of children and their families are effectively identified and understood and responded to in a timely way so that children and families get the help and support needed to improve children's outcomes and realise their rights. It is an early intervention response tailored to the needs of an individual child or young person and is used where more than one agency involvement is needed. There are three stages of the Meitheal process; preparation, discussion and delivery.

KEY FACTS

- 804 Meitheal processes requested January – June 2017
- 46% (369) requested through Direct Access and 45% (362) requested through Social Work Diversion
- 53% (423) of Meitheal processes requested January – June 2017 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage)
- 380 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 between January – June 2017; 72% (272) of these proceeded to Stage 3 (Delivery)
- 473 Meitheal processes were closed January to June 2017; 54% (253) were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form; 18% (87) closed following completion of Stage 2; 9% (41) closed following commencement of Stage 3 and 19% (92) closed post-delivery.
- 88 Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) operating at the end of June 2017, with a further 53 planned.

6.2.1 Meitheal Activity Data

Metrics reported below are new for 2017.

- 804 Meitheal processes requested in the first six months of 2017. Highest number reported by CW/KK/ST (n=290; 36%) followed by Waterford/Wexford (n=100; 12%) and Galway/Roscommon (n=63; 8%). None reported by Cork. All other areas reported fewer than 50 requests with Donegal and Kerry reporting fewer than 10 (Table 40).
- Over 90% of requests were either through Direct Access or Social Work Diversion, with little or no difference in the actual number of each; 369 (46%) and 362 (45%) respectively. Fewer than one in 10 (9%; n=73) was from Social Work Step-Down.

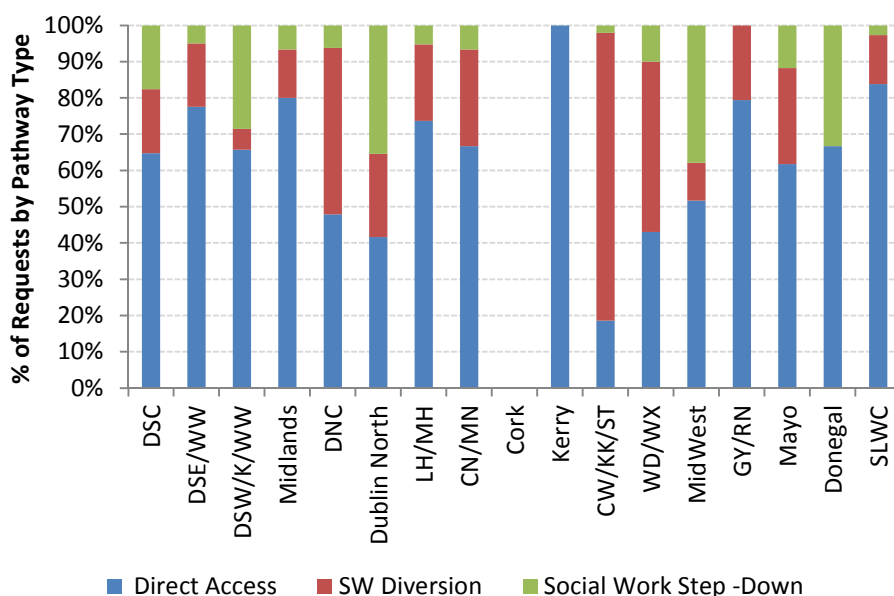
- The percentage of requests from Direct Access ranged from 100% (n=5/5) in Kerry to 19% (n=54/290) for CW/KK/ST, the area with the highest number of requests overall. In twelve areas more than half of the requests were received through Direct Access (Figure 34).
- The percentage of requests from Social Work Diversion ranged from 79% (n=230/290) in CW/KK/ST to 0% in Kerry (n=0/5) and Donegal (n=0/9). Thirteen areas reported a percentage below the national average of 45% (Figure 34).
- The percentage of requests from Social Work Step-Down²⁴ ranged from 43% (n=10/23) in the MidWest (partial data) to 0% in Kerry (n=0/5) and GY/RN (n=0/63). With the exception of MidWest, Dublin North (35%; 17/48), Donegal (33%; n=3/9) and DSW/K/WW (29%; n=10/35) all areas reported a percentage of 20% or lower (Figure 34).

Table 40: Meitheal processes requested, January – June 2017

Area	Total Meitheal processes Requested Q1 – Q2 2017	Of the total number of Meitheal requests for Q1 – Q2 2017 the number (%) where the access pathway was:					
		Direct Access	% Direct Access	Social Work Diversion	% SW Diversion	Social Work Step-Down	% Step-Down
DSC	17	11	65%	3	18%	3	18%
DSE/WW	40	31	78%	7	18%	2	5%
DSW/K/WW	35	23	66%	2	6%	10	29%
Midlands	15	12	80%	2	13%	1	7%
DNC	48	23	48%	22	46%	3	6%
Dublin North	48	20	42%	11	23%	17	35%
LH/MH	19	14	74%	4	21%	1	6%
CN/MN	15	10	67%	4	27%	1	7%
Cork	0						
Kerry	5	5	100%	0	0%	0	0%
CW/KK/ST	290	54	19%	230	79%	6	2%
WD/WX	100	43	43%	47	47%	10	10%
MidWest	29	15	52%	3	13%	11	38%
GY/RN	63	50	79%	13	21%	0	0%
Mayo	34	21	62%	9	26%	4	12%
Donegal	9	6	67%	0	0%	3	33%
SLWC	37	31	84%	5	14%	1	3%
National	804	369	46%	362	45%	73	9%

²⁴ Social Work Stepdown: where a Meitheal process is initiated when a referral is accepted to the Child and Family Agency Social Work Department, assessed by the Social Work Department and is deemed suitable for closure either after assessment or after a period of intervention but has outstanding unmet need, that requires child and family support services, and is stepped down, with the consent of the parent, via the Child and Family Support Network Coordinator for a Local Area Pathways Response and this results in a Meitheal process being initiated.

Figure 34: Meitheal requests by access pathway



- 53% (n=423) of the Meitheal requests received between January – June 2017 proceeded to Stage Two (Discussion Stage) (Table 41).
- The percentage of requests that proceeded to Stage Two ranged from 16% (n=45/290) in CW/KK/ST to 100% in Dublin South Central (n=17/17), Kerry (n=5/5) and Cavan/Monaghan (n=15/15)
- Ten areas reported a percentage above 70%. With the exception of Kerry and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan all of the areas were in Dublin Mid Leinster and Dublin North East.

Table 41: Number of Meitheal requests received (Jan-Jun 2017) proceeding to Stage Two (Discussion Stage)

Area	Total Meitheal processes requested Q1 – Q2 2017	Of the total number of requests received the number that Proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage Two)	% that Proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage Two)
DSC	17	17	100%
DSE/WW	40	37	93%
DSW/K/WW	35	33	94%
Midlands	15	11	73%
DNC	48	44	92%
Dublin North	48	38	79%
LH/MH	19	16	84%
CN/MN	15	15	100%
Cork	0		
Kerry	5	5	100%
CW/KK/ST	290	45	16%
WD/WX	100	49	49%
MidWest	29	13	45%
GY/RN	63	40	63%
Mayo	34	23	68%
Donegal	9	6	67%

SLWC	37	31	84%
National	804	423	53%

- 380 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage Two between January – June 2017. Highest number reported by GY/RN (n=58) followed by DSW/K/WW (n=50). The fewest number was reported by Kerry (n=5) followed by Donegal (n=6) and MidWest (n=8). (Table 42).
- Of these, 72% (n=272) proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting). Eleven areas reported a percentage above 70%. The lowest percentage was reported by WD/WX (30%; 9/30) followed by GY/RN (55%; n=32/58).
- 12% (n=46/380) of processes were closed at the end of Stage 2. The highest percentage was reported by GY/RN (36%; n=21/58). No processes were closed in six areas.
- 10% (n=37/380) of processes were referred for a single agency response. The highest percentage was reported by WD/WX (63%; n=19/30) followed by Dublin North (19%; 7/36). No processes were referred for a single agency response in nine areas.
- 5% (n=18/380) of processes were referred to social work (stepped-up). The highest number was reported by DSW/K/WW (n=5) followed by GY/RN (n=4). The majority of areas reported none.

Table 42: Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two, Jan - Jun 2017

Area	Number of Meitheal Processes Reaching Completion of Stage Two, Jan-Jun 2017	Of the total number of Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two (Discussion Stage) the number and percentage that									
		<i>Proceeded to Delivery (Meitheal Support Meeting)</i>	%	<i>Referred to Social Work (Stepped Up)</i>	%	<i>Referred to a Single Agency Response</i>	%	<i>Closed</i>	%	<i>Categorised as Other</i>	%
DSC	17	16	94%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	6%
DSE/WW	31	27	87%	0	0%	0	0%	4	13%	0	0%
DSW/K/WW	50	38	76%	5	10%	0	0%	7	14%	0	0%
Midlands	11	9	82%	1	9%	1	9%	0	0%	0	0%
DNC	37	32	86%	3	8%	0	0%	1	3%	1	3%
Dublin North	36	23	64%	0	0%	7	19%	5	14%	1	3%
LH/MH	11	8	73%	0	0%	3	27%	0	0%	0	0%
CN/MN	12	10	83%	0	0%	0	0%	2	17%	0	0%
Cork	0										
Kerry	5	3	60%	2	40%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
CW/KK/ST	26	18	69%	2	8%	4	15%	2	8%	0	0%
WD/WX	30	9	30%	1	3%	19	63%	1	3%	0	0%
MidWest	8	8	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
GY/RN	58	32	55%	4	7%	1	2%	21	36%	0	0%
Mayo	23	17	74%	0	0%	2	9%	2	9%	2	9%
Donegal	6	5	83%	0	0%	0	0%	1	17%	0	0%
SLWC	19	17	89%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2	11%
National	380	272	72%	18	5%	37	10%	46	12%	7	2%

- 473 Meitheals closed during the first six months of 2017. 37% (n=174) of those closed were reported by CW/KK/ST. Fourteen areas reported fewer than 25 Meitheal closed (Table 43).
- Almost half (54%; n=253) were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1). The percentage closed following submission of a Meitheal request form ranged from 0% in CN/MN (n=0/20); Kerry (n=0/7) and MidWest (n=0/4) to 88% (n=153/174) in CW/KK/ST followed by 69% (n=49/71) in WD/WX.
- Almost one in five (18%; n=87) was closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2) and ranged from 0% in DSW/K/WW (n=0/21), Kerry (n=0/7) and MidWest (n=0/4) to 54% (n=22/41) in GY/RN.
- Fewer than one in 10 (9%; n=41) was closed following commencement of Meitheal Support Meetings (Stage 3). The percentage reported ranged from 100% in MidWest (n=4/4) to 0% in four areas (DSE/WW; Midlands; WD/WX and Mayo). Eleven areas reported a percentage below 20%.
- Almost one in five (19%; n=92) was closed post-delivery and ranged from 0% in MidWest (n=0/4) and WD/WX (n=0/71) to 80% (n=16/20) in CN/MN.

Table 43: Number of Meitheals closed, January - June 2017

Area	Total number of Meitheals closed	Of the total number of Meitheals closed the number and % that were closed following:							
		Submission of a Meitheal Request Form	%	Completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Discussion Stage)	%	Commence ment of Meitheal Support meetings (Delivery Stage)	%	Post delivery	%
DSC	4	1	25%	1	25%	1	25%	1	25%
DSE/WW	9	3	33%	4	44%	0	0%	2	22%
DSW/K/WW	21	4	19%	0	0%	4	19%	13	62%
Midlands	21	3	14%	5	24%	0	0%	13	62%
DNC	14	4	29%	2	14%	2	14%	6	43%
Dublin North	24	6	25%	9	38%	3	13%	6	25%
LH/MH	20	7	37%	1	5%	1	5%	11	53%
CN/MN	20	0	0%	2	10%	2	10%	16	80%
Cork	0								
Kerry	7	0	0%	0	0%	2	29%	5	71%
CW/KK/ST	174	153	88%	12	7%	1	1%	8	5%
WD/WX	71	49	69%	22	31%	0	0%	0	0%
MidWest	4	0	0%	0	0%	4	100%	0	0%
GY/RN	41	5	12%	22	54%	12	29%	2	5%
Mayo	6	1	17%	3	50%	0	0%	2	33%
Donegal	14	4	29%	1	7%	5	36%	4	29%
SLWC	23	13	57%	3	13%	4	17%	3	13%
National	473	253	53%	87	18%	41	9%	92	19%

Between January and June 2017, 1,224 people attended Meitheal training as follows:

- 479 Tusla staff
- 75 HSE staff
- 185 Other Agency staff
- 453 NGO staff
- 32 Volunteers and Students

6.2.2 Child and Family Support Networks

- 88 Child and Family Support Networks²⁵ (CFSN) operating at the end of June 2017 with a further 53 CFSNs planned (Table 44).
- Galway/Roscommon reported the highest number of networks operating (n=12) followed by Waterford/Wexford (n=8) and Kerry (n=8). One area (LH/MH) reported none operating but is planning five.

Table 44: Child and Family Support Networks operating and planned June 2016

Area	CFSNs Operating June 2017	CFSNs Planned June 2017
DSC	5	2
DSE/Wicklow	7	2
DSW/K/WW	5	9
Midlands	7	0
Dublin North City	5	1
Dublin North	4	0
Louth/Meath	0	5
Cavan/Monaghan	7	7
Cork	6	7
Kerry	8	8
CW/KK/ST	7	0
WD/WX	8	0
MidWest	2	5
GY/RN	12	0
Mayo	2	2
Donegal	2	3
SLWC	1	2
National	88	53

²⁵ Child and Family Support Networks: Collaborative networks of community, voluntary and statutory providers intended to improve access to support services for children and their families

7.0 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

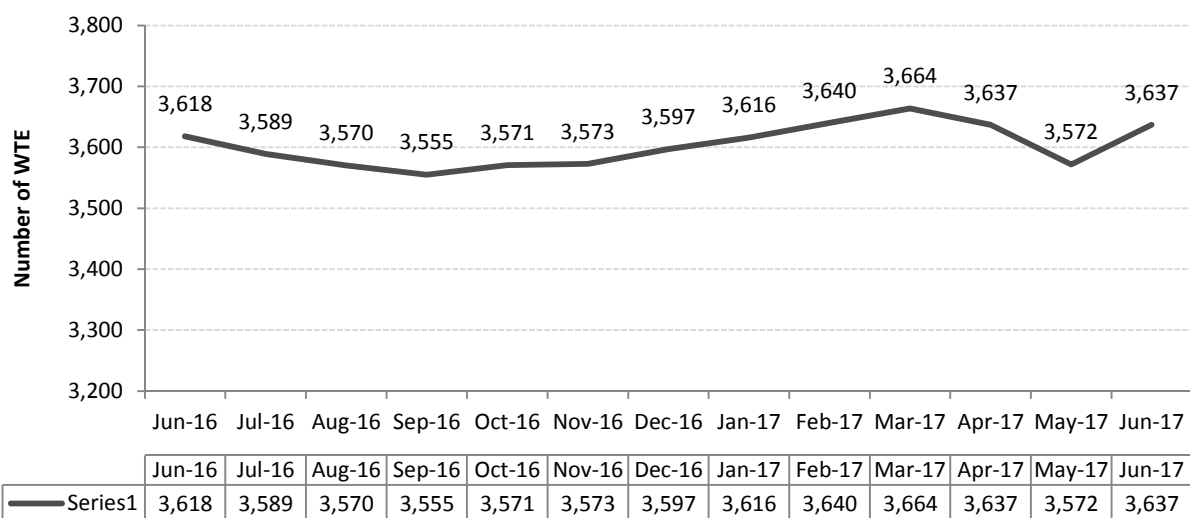
KEY FACTS

- 3,637 (WTE) employed by the Agency at the end of Q2 2017; 27 fewer than Q1 2017 and 19 more than Q2 2016
- 161 new staff came on to the Agency's payroll (January - May 2017)
- 135 staff left (incl. retirements) the Agency (January and May 2017)
- 129 staff on maternity leave (incl. 39 unpaid) at the end of May 2017
- 362 agency staff employed by Tusla at the end of May 2017
- 4.28% absence rate (May 2017); 0.41 percentage points lower than Q1 2017
- 153 courses run by Workforce Learning and Development in Q2 2017; 2,282 attendees

7.1 Workforce Position

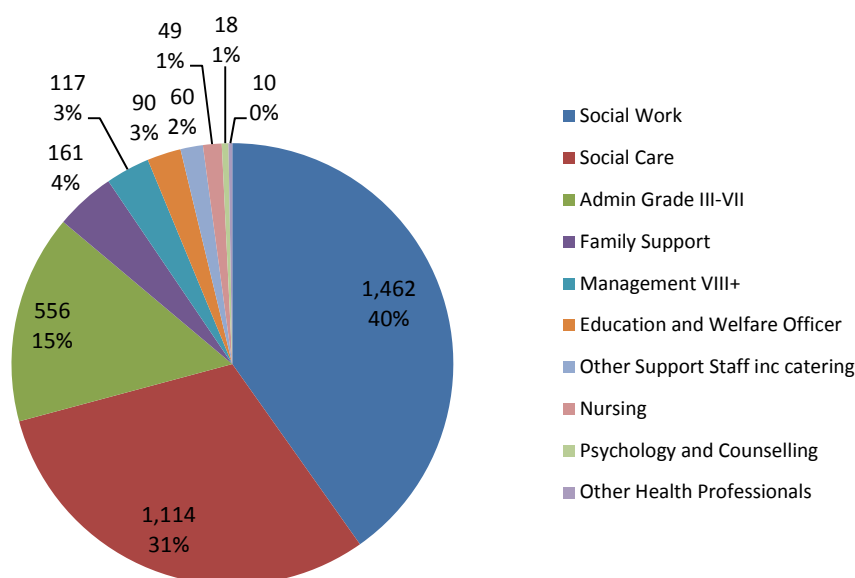
- 3,637 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q2 2017; 27 fewer than Q1 2017 and 19 more than Q2 2016 (Figure 35).

Figure 35: Total Staff Employed (WTE), by month June 2016– June 2017



- Social workers are the largest category of staff employed by the Agency accounting for 40% (n=1,462) of total staff (WTE) employed at the end of Q2 2017, followed by social care staff accounting for a further 31% (n=1,114). Management (Grade VIII+) account for 3% (117.44) of the workforce (Figure 36).

Figure 36: Breakdown of staff category (WTE), Q2 2017



- Management VIII+ and admin grade III-VII staff experienced an increase in WTEs between Q1 2017 and Q2 2017 of 8 and 7 more WTEs respectively (Table 45). All other categories experienced either no change or a decrease.
- The highest decrease was observed across the Social Work category (n=24) followed by Family Support (n=9).

Table 45: Breakdown of staff (WTE) by category and year and quarter

Staffing by Category	Jun-16	Mar-17	Jun-17	Δ+/- Q1 2017 v Q2 2017
Social Work	1,502	1,486	1,462	-24
Social Care	1,126	1,117	1,114	-3
Admin Grade III-VII	487.48	548.95	556	7
Family Support	171.34	169.83	161	-9
Management VIII+	103.13	108.64	117	8
Education and Welfare Officer	81.46	90.02	90	0
Other Support Staff inc catering	64.74	63.71	60	-4
Nursing	50.16	49.36	49	0
Psychology and Counselling	20.97	20.69	18	-3
Other Health Professionals	9.97	9.84	10	0
Total Staffing	3,618	3,664	3,637	-27

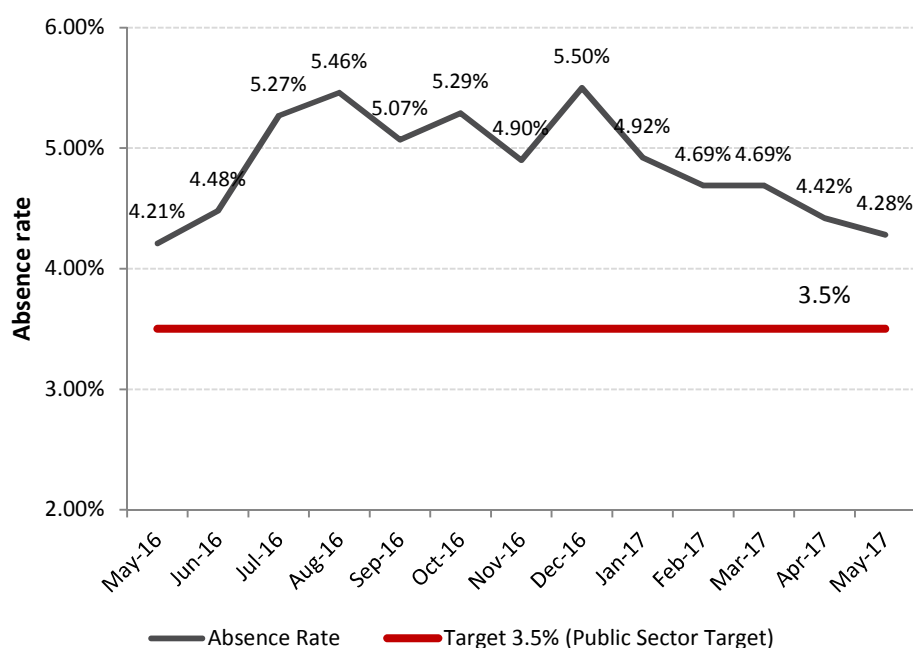
- 161 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) between January - May 2017 (latest data available)

- 107 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, retirement) between January and May 2017
- 28 staff retired between January and May 2017
- 129 staff were on maternity leave at the end of May 2017 of which 70% (n=90) were on paid maternity leave
- 362 agency staff employed by Tusla at the end of May 2017.

7.2 Absence Rate

- At the end of May 2017²⁶ the overall absence rate for the Agency was 4.28% against a target of 3.5% (target for public sector); 0.41 percentage point lower than March 2017 and 0.07 percentage point higher than May 2016 (Figure 37).

Figure 37: Overall staff absence rate by month



- The highest absence rate was reported for social care staff (6.39%) (Table 46). The rate for Residential Services was 7.47% (data not shown), 3.19 percentage points higher than the overall rate of 4.28%.

Table 46: Absence rate by staff grade

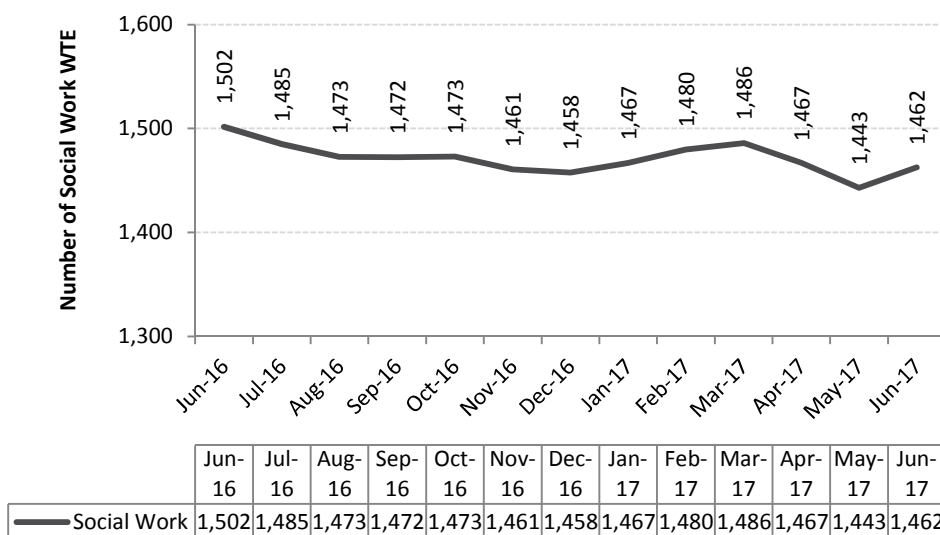
Staff Grade	Absence Rate May 2017
Social Work	3.96%
Social Care	6.39%
All other grades	2.98%

²⁶ Absence rates are reported monthly in arrears

7.3 Social Work Staff (WTE)

- 1,462 whole time equivalent (WTE) social work staff (all grades and excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q2 2017; 24 fewer than Q1 2017 and 40 fewer than Q2 2016. (Figure 38).

Figure 38: Number of social workers (WTE) by month



- 85 social workers joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) between January and May 2017 (latest data available)
- 69 social workers left (i.e., resigned, career breaks) Tusla between January and May 2017
- 8 social workers retired between January and May 2017
- 74 social workers (incl. 27 unpaid) were on maternity leave at the end of May 2017
- 123 agency social workers were employed at the end of May 2017
- At the end of May 2017²⁷ the absence rate for social workers was running at 3.96%, 0.32 percentage points lower than the overall rate (4.28%) and 0.46 percentage points higher than the public sector target of 3.5%
- A breakdown of the number of social workers (all grades) employed at the end of each quarter Q2 2016 – Q2 2017 by area is presented in Table 47.

²⁷ Absence data is reported a month in arrears

Table 47: Breakdown of social work staff (WTE) by area Q2 2016 – Q2 2017

	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)
Area	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017
DSC	81.06	74.61	78.84	80.6	78.23
DSE/WW	108.31	103.01	97.96	107.15	101.17
DSW/K/WW	84.82	84.39	85.26	90.28	84.75
Midlands	82.8	81.4	74.86	77.97	75.62
Regional Services DML	16.39	17.52	18.02	19.78	22.63
DML Total	373.38	360.93	350.94	375.78	362.4
CN/MN	35.84	30.61	30.22	35.42	33.45
DNC	113.63	100.9	99.56	98.91	96.21
LH/MH	79.67	77.85	77.48	76.99	75.08
Dublin North	72.73	70.51	72.06	71.33	63.83
Regional Services DNE	32.12	33.87	32.83	33.78	33.4
DNE Total	333.99	313.74	312.15	316.13	301.97
CW/KK/ST	63.93	62.17	66.27	66.32	66.68
Cork	152.36	156.04	159.19	158.25	159.93
Kerry	41.44	43.14	41.27	39.59	39.31
WD/WX	88.42	86.18	83.11	85.64	85.75
Regional Services South	11.16	4.9	3.87	3.98	3.98
South Total	357.31	352.43	353.71	353.78	355.65
Donegal	54.07	59.85	61.17	60.99	62.76
GY/RN	90.7	92.22	89.9	92.08	90.4
Mayo	36.3	35.76	38.52	38.52	39.23
Mid West	123.41	123.84	117.73	116.23	115.44
SLWC	39.55	38.65	38.98	37.57	36.02
Regional Services West	2	1	2	4	1
West Total	346.03	351.32	348.3	349.39	344.85
Residential DML	3.83	3.8	3.87	3	3
Residential DNE	4.99	4.49	4.37	2.61	2.84
Residential West					
Residential South	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4
Residential Services	13.22	12.69	12.64	10.01	10.24
Corporate	74.81	78.33	76.93	76.95	84.19
Early Years Service	3	3	3	4	3.17
Corporate	77.81	81.33	79.93	80.95	85.55
Total	1501.74	1,472.44	1,457.67	1,486.04	1,462.47

7.4 Workforce Learning and Development

- Workforce Learning and Development (WLD) ran a total of 153 courses during Q2, 2017 at which a total of 2,282 persons attended. A breakdown of the courses run and attendees by type is presented in Table 48.
- During Q2, 2017 the most frequently run course was Therapeutic Crisis Intervention, six monthly refresher with 15 courses run. This was followed by Child and Youth Participation Training with 12 courses.
- A total of 1,737 Tusla staff attended training during Q2, 2017 and of these 54% (1,737) were social workers.
- A total of 545 external staff attended training in Q2, 2017; the highest number (78%: 424) of whom received Partnership, Prevention and Family Support training (e.g. Meitheal Standardised Training, Meitheal Train the Trainer courses, Meitheal Standardised Briefings, Participation of Young People Standard Briefings and Parenting Strategy Briefings).
- There were 31 courses that were categorised as ‘Other’ courses. These courses which constitute 20% 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, Child Development; addressing HIQA Recommendations etc.

7.5 Other Developments Q2 2017

- A bespoke training solution to respond to the ICT learning and development needs of Tusla administrative grades was commenced through a mixture of online and classroom based interventions. 320 eligible staff applied for training, with 93 opting for the online version.
- Two National Conferences were supported by PPFS Training and Development Officers (TDOs) – the Child and Youth Participation Conference (‘On Our Way’) in April and the Parenting Conference (“Working Together towards Positive Parenting”) in May.
- Phase 1 of a Coach Development Programme (PPFS and Atlantic Philanthropies funded) ended in May. This training was to provide 15 TDOs and one manager with core coaching skills to enable implementation of learning after training intervention. TDOs are NOT trained as accredited coaches but this could be a stepping stone to further training and skills development.
- A Leadership Development Programme for senior managers in Tusla Corporate and Educational Welfare Services concluded in May.
- Support was provided for the delivery of workshops on the Signs of Safety approach to practice. Approx. 450 staff have attended an introduction to Signs of Safety, with a further 300 staff attending Practice Leader Training. Four TDOs (with a practice mentor role) were appointed during Q2 and will take up posts in August.
- A project plan was developed for the implementation of an online learning and development system for Tusla (iLearn@Tusla) which will enable the delivery of Children First online training to Tusla staff.

- A ‘training of trainers’ was provided in June, to support Tusla’s Domestic Sexual and Gender Based Violence Training Programme (Awareness and Response). This was attended by a significant number of staff from Tusla partner agencies who will now co-deliver training on the programme to Tusla staff.

Table 48: Breakdown of courses run by Workforce Learning and Development and attendees by type, Q2 2017

	NO. COURSES RUN	NO. TUSLA SOCIAL WORKERS	NO. TUSLA OTHER STAFF	NO. HSE STAFF	NO. OTHER EXT STAFF	TOTAL NO. ATTENDEES
WLD National Training Activity - Apr to June 2017						
Assessment & Analysis	1	17	0	0	0	17
Attachment Theory into Practice	8	73	35	0	1	109
Case Load Management	1	13	0	0	0	13
Children First Training 2011 for Tusla Staff	9	34	89	0	0	123
Core Court Room Skills	2	21	1	0	3	25
Corporate Induction	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corporate Induction (Regional)	0	0	0	0	0	0
CPD Strategy Briefings	8	24	69	0	2	95
Direct Work with Children	5	22	20	0	3	45
Diversity in Modern Ireland	3	21	20	0	0	41
Domestic Sexual and Gender Based Violence	2	4	12	0	3	19
Evidence Informed Practitioned Programme	0	0	0	0	0	0
First Time Managers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grade III & IV Admin Development Programme	0	0	0	0	0	0
Introduction to Court Skills	1	8	2	0	0	10
Leadership Development Programme	0	0	0	0	0	0
Legal Briefing Seminar	1	37	6	0	0	43
Making the Most of Supervision for Supervisees	4	31	11	0	0	42
Marte Meo Communication Skills Training -	2	4	15	0	0	19
NCCIS User Training	6	22	18	0	0	40
Practice Development for New Social Workers	3	45	0	0	0	45
Procurement Workshop - Tusla Finance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reflective Recording & Report Writing	2	19	17	0	0	36
Response Ability Pathways	1	7	5	0	9	21
SAOR	4	18	19	0	0	37
Signs of Safety - Practice Leader	1	37	7	0	0	44
Signs of Safety (2 Day)	2	132	72	0	2	206
Staff Supervision Skills for Supervisors	1	3	10	0	0	13
Suicide Prevention - SafeTALK	2	12	8	5	1	26
TCI (de-escalation) - for Family Care Providers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Therapeutic Crisis Intervention - Core	1	0	0	0	9	9
Therapeutic Crisis Intervention - Six Monthly Refresher	15	0	93	0	122	215
Therapeutic Use of Daily Life Events	1	0	25	0	0	25
TUSLA PMLF	0	0	0	0	0	0
Understanding Juveniles - exhibit SHB	2	16	7	0	0	23
Other	31	271	120	14	112	517
Child and Youth Participation Training	12	47	76	0	8	131
Commissioning Standardised Briefing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meitheal Briefing	7	1	2	37	73	113
Meitheal Facilitators Chairs Meeting	3	1	6	0	19	26
Meitheal Record Keeper Training	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meitheal Standardised Refresher Course	1	0	3	0	14	17
Meitheal Standardised Train the Trainer	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meitheal Standardised Training Course	10	11	12	3	104	130
Parenting Support Champion Training - Attachment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parenting Support Champion Training - Diversity	0	0	0	0	0	0
PPFS /Meitheal Other	1	0	6	0	1	7
TOTAL	153	951	786	59	486	2282

8.0 FINANCE

KEY FACTS

- The financial outturn for the year to date (June 2017) is an over-spend of €2.245 million
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €1.436 million
- Non pay costs are over-spent against budget by €3.309 million
- Key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €3.184 million over budget
- 40% (€6.026 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 (June 2017) is an overspend of €2.245 million.
- The net expenditure for the period is €330.183 million against a budget allocation of €327.938 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €1.436 million for the YTD (Table 49). This is due to time related savings arising from leaver numbers and recruitment in terms of net increase in WTE is behind the forecast schedule in year to date 2017.

Table 49: Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	June 2017 Year To date			% Variance
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Act vs Budget
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Pay costs	123,463	124,898	(1,436)	(1%)

- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget by €3.309 million for the YTD (Table 50).

Table 50: Non Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	June 2017 Year To date			% Variance
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Act vs Budget
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Non pay costs	216,103	212,793	3,309	2%

- A key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €3.184 million over-spend YTD (Table 51). 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 51: Private Residential and Foster Care Costs

Child and Family Agency	June 2017 Year To date			% Variance Act vs Budget
	Actual	Budget	Variance	
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Private Residential & Foster Care	50,246	47,062	3,184	7%

- Legal costs incurred by the Agency account for a significant portion of the overall budget of the Agency. The financial position at the end of June 2017 shows a year to date spend of €14,926 million against a budget of €14,152 million (i.e., €0.774 million over-spend).
- A breakdown of legal expenditure by type is presented in Table 52.
- 40% (n=€6.026 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 52: Legal Expenditure

Type	June YTD €'000s
3rd Party Counsel Fees	417
3rd Party Solicitors Fees	1,091
Contracted Legal Services	6,164
Counsel fees - Tusla	720
Guardian ad Litem Costs	3,712
Guardian ad Litem Counsel fees	320
Guardian ad Litem Solicitors fees	1,994
General Legal Fees	37
Court Settlements	86
Other	385
Net Expenditure	14,926

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 Q2 2017

Dublin South Central- inspection took place in November 2016

Overall, there was a lack of placements in the area and social workers sought placements within children's families and communities. However, a lot of children's placements were crisis led. Inspectors identified a number of serious risks over the course of the inspection, and the following risks were escalated at the end of the fieldwork:

- long delays in the commencement and completion of Section 36 assessments, and in achieving a decision from the foster care committee — some children have been placed since as far back as 2012 without a decision being reached.
- decisions to repeat Section 36 assessments of carers in cases where, while the children remained in their care, completed comprehensive assessments had already concluded that the applicants were unsuitable and or the assessment had indicated serious concerns for the potential long-term safety and well-being of the child.
- decisions to extend Section 36 assessments for prolonged periods for relative foster care applicants who had not appropriately engaged in the assessment process where potential and or known risks existed.
- records did not reflect that the system in place to manage allegations against foster carers ensured adherence to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2011) and that investigations were completed in a timely manner with appropriate safeguards in place for children.
- there was no system in place to ensure all staff were vetted in line with Children First (2011) and Tusla's own recruitment policy.

Overall, on a day-to-day basis, social workers promoted and respected children's rights and children were supported to maintain good relationships with their families. There was respectful communication with children and families. The vast majority of children had warm relationships with their foster families and were involved in a range of hobbies and extra-curricular activities similar to their peers. All of the children had an allocated social worker. Some children had experienced a number of changes in social worker over a short period of time which impacted on their relationship with them. The area had prioritised children having an up-to-date care plan in 2016. At the time of inspection 40 children (13%) did not have an up-to-date care plan, which was an improvement from 50% who did not have an up-to-date care plan at the start of the year. However, the quality of care plans varied from excellent to poor. The aftercare service was under-resourced and preparation for leaving care and aftercare plans were of poor quality. Due to the limited number of placements, matching children to foster carers was not always possible and 98 children were placed outside of the local area at the time of inspection. In addition, the lack of culturally appropriate placements impacted on the services ability to meet the needs of children. The assessments of general foster carers were generally of good quality but were not completed within the timelines identified in the National Standards. There was a regional initiative in place to process new general fostering applications. There was also an ineffective system in place to conduct reviews as reviews did not occur on a consistent basis in response to unplanned endings or where allegations had been made. The support received by foster carers varied, and supervision of carers required improvement. The service was not managed effectively. While there was a clear

management structure and lines of accountability, the service was crisis led rather than delivered in a planned manner. The service had significant challenges in completing assessments of relative carers, ensuring children had up-to-date care plans, ensuring foster carers had timely reviews, allocating link social workers and ensuring all allegations were managed in line with policy and Children First (2011). The foster care committee was not operating in line with Tusla policy. The committee was not receiving all appropriate information, including disruption reports, allegations of abuse and foster carer reviews. Use of resources required improvement. There were a number of unfilled posts within the service. In addition, placements of children outside of the area and social workers continuing to support young people over the age of 18 meant that social workers spent a considerable amount of time travelling to and from foster placements to meet with children and supporting young people who would have been more appropriately supported by an aftercare service, respectively. Furthermore, training opportunities for staff had improved but supervision required improvement.

Louth / Meath- thematic inspection took place in March 2017

The report reflects the findings of a thematic inspection, relating to the recruitment, assessment, approval, supervision and review of foster carers.

Allegations and complaints were classified appropriately. In addition, allegations were managed in a way that prioritised the safety of children. While appropriate actions were taken to safeguard children, all allegations had not been investigated by an independent social worker. This was contrary to regional policy and inspectors found that a new process had been implemented to rectify the issue. The area manager told inspectors that this process would be implemented for all further allegations in the area. Systems were in place to formally notify the foster care committee of allegations but these were not consistently implemented in a timely way. The foster care committee had recently begun tracking notifications, which would enable them to improve oversight in relation to appropriate follow up of allegations. Where carers had an allocated social worker, they were well supported and supervised. Six per cent of foster carers had no allocated social worker and inspectors found that adequate arrangements were not in place to support and supervise these carers. The area had a range of services and resources in place to support carers looking after children with complex needs but in two cases reviewed by inspectors, these supports were not put in place in a timely way. In the year prior to inspection, the area had offered a range of training to carers. However, due to a lack of administrative resources, the area had not compiled overall s in relation to training attended, and managers had not conducted an analysis of the training needs for the area. Safe practices and processes were in place in relation to the assessment and approval of both relative and general foster carers. While assessments were not always completed within the 16 week timeframe set out in the standards, inspectors found that assessments were of good quality. A regional team supported the area in relation to recruitment and assessment of general foster carers, but in the year prior to inspection, the local area had taken responsibility for assessing the majority of prospective carers identified through local recruitment campaigns. Over half of foster carers in the area had not had a foster carer review in over three years. Inspectors sampled a number of foster carer reviews that had taken place in the months prior to inspection and found they were comprehensive, included an update of relevant checks and considered relevant issues such as health, performance and training. However, recommendations had not always been followed up in a timely way. While the area had a schedule in place for the remaining foster carer reviews, inspectors were provided with written assurances that all reviews would be updated by March 2018. In January 2017, the area manager took over the role of chairperson for the two foster care committees in the area. In the same month, the chairperson completed a review of both committees that

identified the strengths of each committee, but also found that they had not been functioning in line with national policy. Inspectors found that while the committees were not yet functioning in line with national policy, progress was underway to address the deficits identified. The area had been proactive in recruiting foster carers in the year prior to inspection. However, managers and staff continued to identify that they did not have a sufficient range of foster carers to meet the demands of the service. Plans were in place to manage this while further recruitment of foster carers was ongoing. Inspectors found that the area retained its foster carers well, and carers who left the panel were doing so because they had reached a natural end, such as children aging out of care.

Dublin South East / Wicklow- thematic inspection took place in February 2017

This report reflects the findings of the thematic inspection, relating to the recruitment, assessment, approval, supervision and review of foster carers.

Complaints and allegations were responded to appropriately and action was taken to safeguard children when concerns were expressed. The safety of children was the main priority for the area. Allegations were investigated appropriately, home visits were undertaken and children were interviewed on their own to establish whether or not they felt safe. Action was taken to ensure children's safety when required. There was a system for formally notifying allegations to the foster care committee. However, this was not followed in all cases and there was no system for tracking investigations. There were also delays in notifying allegations and in presenting reports to the foster care committee. There were no records to show that all foster carers were trained in line with Children First: National Guidance on the Protection and Welfare of Children (Children First) (2011). Assessments of prospective foster carers were comprehensive and the reports were of good quality. A regional team carried out assessments of prospective general foster carers and systems were in place to ensure that they were carried out in line with the regulations and Standards. However, there were sometimes long delays in completing the assessments of relative foster carers. There was evidence of good practice in relation to the support provided to foster carers. All foster care households where children were currently placed had an allocated link worker. Link workers provided a high level of support through frequent visits and telephone calls and this was supplemented by supports in the community and specific services funded by the area. Supervision of foster carers took place although it was not recorded on supervision templates. There were some support groups available which were provided by a national voluntary organisation. However, there was no programme of regular support groups provided by the area and the out-of-hours service did not meet the needs of some foster carers. Inspectors escalated three cases where foster carers were unallocated, had not had children placed with them for a number of years but still remained on the foster care panel. Inspectors requested that an audit be carried out to determine how many of the 24 unallocated foster carers were in this category and how the area intended to address any risks that this situation may present. Inspectors received an assurance from the area manager that an audit of the remaining cases was carried out and one further case was identified of a foster carer who was unallocated, had not had children placed with them for some time, had not been visited in the previous six months but still remained on the foster care panel. The area manager assured inspectors that no children would be placed with this foster carer until a foster carer review had been carried out. Foster carers received foundational training before their approval as foster carers and some foster carers undertook relevant training on a regular basis following their approval. Foster carers were informed of training events or courses that may be of relevance to them and the area also provided training events on a range of subjects. However, some foster carers attended little or no training following their approval as foster carers. The area did not maintain overall training records and the

training that was undertaken by foster carers was not clearly recorded in their files. Therefore, it was difficult for managers and staff to know whether or not all foster carers participated in regular training and to ensure that they equipped themselves to meet the needs of the children in their care. When reviews were carried out they were of good quality but the lack of reviews meant that there was little or no learning derived from reviews to assist in the identification of gaps in the foster care service. There was no system in place to ensure that reviews were carried out in line with the Standards. 84% of foster carers had not had a review in over three years and some foster carers had never had a review since their approval many years previously. An action plan to address this deficit was provided by the principal social worker to inspectors during the inspection. Inspectors sought and received an assurance from the area manager that the area's action plan on foster carer reviews had commenced and that quarterly progress reports would be submitted to HIQA in relation to the achievement of the targets set out in the plan, beginning in May 2017 and continuing until all reviews were completed. The foster care committee was guided by but was not fully compliant with the Standards and national policy, procedure and best practice guidance. The committee comprised a range of members who were experienced in childcare and they met frequently. The work of the committee was effective and they made clear decisions. However, there was no training programme for foster care committee members, no annual report had been produced at the time of inspection and there was no formal system by which learning from the foster care committee contributed to the development of the service. There was no system for tracking the progress of investigations of allegations. Members of the foster care committee were not Garda Síochána (police) vetted in relation to their specific roles as members of the foster care committee and their Garda vetting status was presumed as each member of the committee was required to have Garda vetting for their professional role or, in one case, their role as foster carer. The chairperson of the foster care committee told inspectors that Garda vetting for some committee members needed to be updated. Inspectors sought an assurance from the interim regional director of services that Garda vetting had been received for all foster care committee members and that a system would be put in place to ensure that Garda vetting would be updated when required. The lack of effective recruitment and retention strategies meant that there were insufficient foster carers to meet the needs of the service and more foster carers were leaving the service than were being recruited. There was no evidence that the foster carer panel was reviewed periodically to ensure there was an appropriate number and range of foster carers to meet the needs of children in the area.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS - RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

REPORTS PUBLISHED Q2 2017

Centre ID OSV – 0005119 (South)

The centre was last inspected by HIQA in May 2016. Since that time, inspectors found that improvements had been made in the areas of guidance for staff to work with children with specific behavioural issues and up-to-date training in relation to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2011). On this inspection, inspectors found that the centre had a pleasant atmosphere which created a homely and welcoming environment for children. Children spoken to during the inspection said that they were happy to live in the centre and got on with the staff team. There was a consistent staffing arrangement in place and staff were facilitated and encouraged to attend training. Staff absenteeism rate was low at 1% and as a result morale in the centre was high. The staff team met the physical and emotional needs of children. There were appropriate systems in place to keep children safe. The systems in place for recording and monitoring of significant events was good. Each child in the centre had an allocated Social Worker. Social work visits were carried out in a timely manner. Statutory care reviews did not take place in a timely manner for one child and care plans had not been fully updated for another. Inspectors contacted the relevant child's Social Worker during the inspection who gave assurances, before the inspection was finished, that these issues would be followed up and rectified. From a review of records, inspectors found that a child protection notification made to the social work department (SWD) in relation to one child had not been followed up and investigated in line with Children First (2011). Inspectors escalated this issue to the relevant Principal Social Worker and subsequently received a satisfactory response that indicated the matter was being appropriately investigated. Other issues identified on previous inspections had not been addressed at the time of this inspection. These included securing a long term lease for the premises which at the time of this inspection did not guarantee a permanent location in the long term and had the potential to impact on the needs of individual children if further temporary moves are undertaken. One child in the centre was not in full time education and inspectors found the centre's routine management plan for this child was ineffective at engaging this child in healthy routines. Management structures identified clear lines of authority and accountability for all staff and provided good oversight of the service. Inspectors found that the recording of supervision of staff was of poor quality.

Centre ID OSV – 0004650 (South)

The centre was last inspected in August 2016 and this was a follow up to that inspection. For the purposes of this inspection, inspectors reviewed the actions that Tusla committed to undertake following the inspection in August 2016. At that time, significant failings were found in relation to the care of young people, safeguarding, premises and safety and management and staffing. In total, improvements were required for seven standards. The management team undertook implementation of a large number of tasks to improve service delivery in the centre following the last inspection in August 2016. Some progress has been made in relation to some of these tasks. For example, improvements had been made in the reporting of significant events and child protection concerns. Inspectors found progress in others tasks has been slow. A comprehensive review of practice had not been conducted and the workforce was not receiving training in behaviour management. Improvements were not evident in how staff responded to children's risk taking behaviour. Staff

expressed concerns that they didn't have the tools to manage behaviours. Four children had been engaged in risk behaviours similar to those behaviours found on the last inspection in August 2016. Following the inspection, these most recent concerns relating in particular to two young people, were escalated to the centre management and a plan to respond to the needs of these two children was received. In relation to the governance and management of the centre, there had been insufficient progress in a number of areas including supervision, team meetings and quality assurance. Overall inspectors were not confident that Tusla had made sufficient progress to ensure that deficits identified in relation to the culture of care and associated care practices in the centre, including management of behaviour, safeguarding, child protection and institutional practices were being addressed as a matter of urgency. The lack of timely progress was escalated to Tusla management. A comprehensive response was subsequently received from Tusla outlining the measures that would be taken to address the deficits. This outlined the establishment of an oversight group to co-ordinate the response to action plans and ensure progress was made. In addition, the scope of the work of an external consultant was expanded to include a full strategic review of the service. In the interim, no further admissions to the centre will take place until this work has been completed.

Centre ID OSV – 0004186 (South)

Some improvements had been made since the previous inspection which took place in December 2015. The premises had been re-painted, re-decorated and improved in a number of ways. Children's rights had been enhanced by ceasing night-time supervision unless it was required and risk assessed, and by allowing children access to mobile phones and the internet. The health and safety statement and associated risk assessments had been reviewed. A range of policies and procedures had been reviewed and updated. A new system of placement plans and placement support plans had also been introduced. A number of significant events had occurred in the months leading up to this inspection. The purpose and function of the centre was changed to allow for the admission of girls and an admission took place of a child transferred from another centre. The admission of the child was not adequately prepared for. Incidents that took place during the placement had a major impact on the staff group, seven of whom went on leave because of injuries they sustained. The child was subsequently discharged approximately four weeks later as the centre could not safely meet the child's needs and the centre was closed to admissions for three weeks to allow for a review of the placement and the de-briefing of staff. The centre was later closed for three weeks in November 2016 to facilitate improvement works on the building and the children were re-located to another premises for the duration of this work. Inspectors found that children had their needs assessed and, in general, those needs were met. Care was provided by an experienced staff team who were respectful and caring of the children. Each child had an allocated social worker and they were provided with support, encouragement and opportunities for growth and development. Good working relationships existed between centre staff and a range of other professionals involved in the children's care. Four new admissions had taken place in the months prior to the inspection. However, inspectors found that the atmosphere in the centre was quite negative. Managers felt overburdened by administration. Some staff felt unsupported by their managers. Some children told inspectors that they did not want to be in the centre. Staff were finding it difficult to manage behaviours that challenge and this was impacting on all the children, none of whom attended school during the two days of inspection. The building is institutional in character and it will continue to be difficult to create a homely atmosphere there. The use of two different referral pathways for admission could increase the risk of unsuitable admissions as evidenced by one admission that took place in 2016. The lack of administrative support impacted on the quality of record keeping.

Communications from senior managers needed to be improved and staff were not receiving the level of formal or informal supervision that was required. Further improvements were also required in the areas of children's rights, statutory requirements, managing behaviour that challenges, medication management, education, risk management and mandatory training.

Centre ID OSV – 0004170 (DNE)

This centre was well managed and responded to children's needs and behaviours that challenged. External professionals spoken to as part of the inspection described the centre as open, said they worked to a high standard and listened to children in their care. The majority of children told inspectors that they were happy living in the centre, and some described the staff team as being like family. Most children identified having lots of contact with families and friends, but one child felt that they could have more contact with their friends. The rights of children were promoted by staff and external professionals. Children were involved in decisions about their care and told inspectors that they knew how to make a complaint. Overall, children received good quality care and had good access to specialist services if required. Young people were supported to develop independent living skills, in preparation for leaving care and were at the centre of aftercare planning. Sourcing an appropriate aftercare placement was a challenge facing the centre at the time of inspection. The centre was managed by a competent and qualified centre manager and deputy centre manager. There were clear lines of accountability in place but systems in place to monitor the quality of the service needed to be developed further. The staff team demonstrated a good understanding of children's needs and worked well with external professionals in order to meet children's needs. Although some records were not up to date, inspectors found that the quality of care provided to children was good. Staff regularly met with children individually to support them around difficult issues in their lives, and to talk about their behaviour that challenged.

Centre ID OSV – 0004159 (DML)

The centre was last inspected in July 2016 and this was a follow up to that inspection. Inspectors reviewed the actions that Tusla committed to put in place following the last inspection to make improvements in relation to planning for children, care of young people, safeguarding, education, health, premises and safety, management and staffing, care of children, planning for children and children's rights. Inspectors found that while the staff team had implemented many of the actions of the last action plan, there remained some outstanding actions which needed to be addressed. Children had a good quality of life. Staff acted as positive role models to children and inspectors observed warm and respectful interactions between children and staff. There were improvements in relation to the management of complaints and children were aware of their rights. A significant amount of work had been completed in relation to the maintenance of the centre to ensure it was warm and welcoming. Further work was underway at the time of the inspection. Children were happy that this maintenance work had been completed. Safeguarding practices were effective in keeping young people safe. All children had an allocated social worker. The staff team responded appropriately to ensure that children were safeguarded. The staff team worked closely with all relevant professionals when required and safety plans were in place to reduce any risks to young people. Not all children were attending education programmes and there were inadequate plans in place to ensure children reached their academic potential in circumstances where children were not attending their educational placements. Not all fire precautions were effective. Some fire doors were not operating effectively in order to protect young people against the risk of fire. This posed a risk to all children and inspectors escalated this concern to the Centre Manager. In response, the Centre

Manager provided inspectors with assurances that appropriate measures were in place in order to manage this risk while awaiting for the completion of the required maintenance work. Subsequent to the inspection, the Centre Manager provided HIQA with assurances that this work had been completed to address this matter. In relation to the governance and management of the centre, there were a number of areas in which deficits had not been fully addressed. Further improvements were required in quality assurance, communication systems, supervision, training and team meetings.

Centre ID OSV – 0004166 (DML)

Overall, the staff team provided good quality care to the young people. The staff team promoted young people's attendance and attainment in their educational placements. Children's needs were regularly assessed, reviewed and updated. Child protection concerns were appropriately dealt with and notified to social work departments. Children's health needs were assessed and they had access to health and specialist services. However, improvements were required in relation to the management of medication and staff training in this. Children told inspectors that they felt safe and were well cared for in the centre. Children said they were aware of their rights and knew how to make a complaint if they wished to do so. All children had allocated social workers and they told inspectors that they had sufficient contact with their social workers. Children were clear about the plans for their care and participated in the development of these plans. The provision of appropriate aftercare for children was not adequate. A young adult lived in the centre and there was no plan in place for the young person to transition to aftercare services. The centre was well managed on a day-to-day basis and the management structure in place provided lines of responsibility and accountability. There was a full complement of experienced staff who had been working at the centre for some time. This provided a stable and consistent living environment for children. Risks in the centre were well managed. However, there was no risk register in place at the time of this inspection. The quality of supervision in the centre was mixed and it was not held in a timely way. There were some monitoring mechanisms in place but there was room for their further development in order to be comprehensive.

Centre ID OSV – 0004163 (DML)

All children resident at the time of inspection and a previous resident of the centre spoke very highly of the quality of care they received and said they were very happy in the centre. They were encouraged to pursue their hobbies and interests and achievements and significant events were acknowledged and celebrated. Overall, the children received good quality care. There was good quality communication and interaction between children and staff. The centre was homely and welcoming. Children were aware of their rights, were treated with respect and were consulted about decisions. Children's complaints were listened to and were acted on in a timely manner. Children were appropriately admitted and their physical and emotional needs were met by staff in the centre. Children had school or alternative education placements and were supported to complete state exams. They were facilitated to maintain good contact with their families and friends. Safe care practices had improved since the previous inspection and children felt safe living in the centre. The staff team provided a child-friendly environment. Children's care plans were reviewed regularly, but there were delays in preparation for leaving care plans for some children. Each child had an allocated social worker who visited regularly. Care plans and placement plans were up-to-date and the children's goals were reviewed regularly. There was good communication between the staff of the centre, other professionals and parents/carers, where appropriate. There was a sufficient staff team with the relevant experience to meet the needs of the children. They were supported by the centre

manager who provided good leadership. A number of systems were in place to ensure good governance and while improvements were evident, a number of areas identified during the previous inspection of the centre had not been fully addressed at the time of this inspection. There was good communication and accountability relating to significant events. However, the systems for recording of significant events and child protection concerns required improvements to ensure it was effective and in compliance with national standards. Deficits in mandatory training had not been fully addressed and the centre's risk register was not fully implemented. In addition improvements were required in the following areas; full and complete medical histories for all children, on call / out of hour's supports, external management supports, supervision, training and structural and decorative works on the premises, details of which are outlined further in the report and in the action plan published separately.

Centre ID OSV – 0004167 (DML)

The last inspection of this centre took place in March 2016 when significant risks were identified in relation to planning for children young people (see www.hiqa.ie Children's Residential Centre 4167). Other areas requiring improvement included the recording of responses to requests by young people, responses to child protection concerns and the development of effective governance and quality monitoring systems. On this inspection planning for children showed some improvement though not all children had up-to-date care plans on file that reflected their current circumstances. Children told inspectors they liked living in the centre and there was nothing about it they would choose to change. They said they liked the staff team and got on well with them. Children said they felt safe and that there were staff members they could go to if they needed to discuss anything. Children knew their views were valued because they were asked their opinions and were confident they would be listened to and acted upon. Children were well cared for in the centre. They received the emotional and physical care they required in a relaxed and caring atmosphere created by the staff team. Children's rights were respected and promoted and they were treated with respect by the staff. Children's emotional wellbeing was given particular attention and the staff spent time with the children discussing matters of importance to them. Children were safe in the centre although the local environment posed some risks. There were a number of safeguarding measures in place to ensure children's safety and practice in relation to safeguarding and child protection was good. The staff team were experienced and committed. They were well informed about the individual needs and interests of each of the children and provided good quality care to the children. The staff team were positive and respectful in their interactions with the young people and encouraged them to pursue their individual interests and to reach their full potential. Governance systems were continuing to improve. The centre manager, supported by the deputy manager, provided clear leadership and guidance to the staff team. External oversight of the quality of care provision had improved through the interim service manager systems checks and observations of practice. Further improvement was required. Not all children had up-to-date care plans on file that reflected their current circumstances and whilst this did not impact on their care it is a requirement of the regulations. Medication management and staff supervision practice required improvement. The register of children did not contain all the information required by regulation and files did not all contain full medical records for the children.

Centre ID OSV – 0004189 (South)

The centre was last inspected by in June 2016. At that time there had been considerable disruption to established management structures which had been on going since November 2015 and interim

measures were in place to manage this disruption. Since the last inspection, inspectors found that management of the centre had stabilised and improvements made in many areas such as senior management oversight, children's rights, staffing numbers, training and the premises. Children were appropriately admitted to the centre and facilitated to pursue their hobbies and interests and provided with emotional support. Constructive and warm relationships between children and staff promoted positive behaviour. Every child had a social worker and measures were in place to safeguard and protect children but improvements were required in meeting all of the statutory requirements. Children were aware of their rights, treated with respect and consulted about decisions. A number of improvements to the premises made it more suitable for its stated purpose. Although not all refurbishments had been completed, overall it was more homely and better maintained. The centre had sufficient information regarding the health and educational needs of the children. Staff and social workers ensured that the necessary supports and resources were in place to meet the children's needs in these areas. Medicine management practices had improved but routine audits to ensure safe practice were not carried out.

Centre ID OSV – 0004175 (DNE)

Whilst there were only two children staying in the centre on the night prior to the inspection, two children were visiting the centre on day two of the inspection as part of their transition plan. There were four children in the process of being admitted to the centre. The transition plan involved the children and their parents or carers visiting the centre, the children staying for extended periods of time, and information gathering prior to the children being formally admitted for an overnight stay. The staff team in the centre provided good quality, safe care to children who required regular, short breaks from either their own homes or their foster homes. This respite care supported foster care placements and maintained children in their own homes. Children presented as relaxed and happy in the centre. Children were safe and well cared for by the staff team. Inspectors observed that the staff team maintained contact with the families of all the children using the centre and not just those currently being cared for. Children told inspectors that they liked coming to stay in the centre. They said that it was fun and that staff were kind and nice. Children told inspectors that they felt safe and they were given a say in important decisions about their lives. In addition, they said their opinions were listened to and they were aware of their rights. None could think of anything about the centre they would like to change. Children knew that records were held on them and how to access them. Some children had read their files. Children all had keyworkers allocated to them. They described their keyworker's role as making sure they were okay, helping them if they needed it and representing them. Families were satisfied with the care their children received in the centre. The staff team were experienced and committed to the children and their families. Inspectors observed the staff in their duties and found they worked well together in the best interests of the children. The centre manager provided good leadership to the staff team and was supported by a deputy. However, whilst there was some good external oversight of the management of the centre it required further development and attention to detail.

Centre ID OSV – 0004165 (DML)

The staff team provided good quality care to children. Children's attendance and engagement in their educational placements was supported and encouraged by staff. Children's health needs were appropriately assessed and they had access to health and specialist services. Children who spoke to inspectors said they were treated well by staff and that they felt that their voice was heard. All children had allocated social workers and met with them in line with requirements. Children

participated in the development of their care plans. However, child-in-care review minutes and care plans were not on all children's files at the time of inspection. Child protection concerns were appropriately dealt with and notified to social work departments. There were some issues of bullying among children in the centre and this was being addressed and well managed by staff in order to keep children safe. Risks in the centre were well managed and regularly risk rated and reviewed. The centre was well managed on a day-to-day basis and the management structure in place provided lines of responsibility and accountability. There was a full complement of experienced staff, the majority of whom had been working at the centre for some time. This provided a stable and consistent living environment for children. However, there was no formal on-call system in place.