Annual Review on the Adequacy of Child Care and Family Support Services Available – 2019

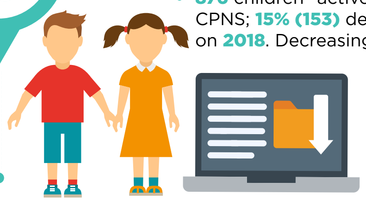
1 Referrals to Child Protection & Welfare Services

- **56,561** referrals; **3% (1,425)** more than **2018**. Increasing trend
- Most common concern reported was welfare, accounting for **55% (31,134)** of referrals; **45% (25,427)** were for child protection concerns
- **48/1,000** children living in Ireland
- Equates to about **155** referrals a day

2 Cases open to social work

- **24,827** open cases at the end of 2019; down **6% (1,606)** on **2018**
- Equates to **2.1%** of the child population being assessed or in receipt of a social work service
- **5,291** open cases awaiting allocation of a social worker at the end of **2019 (21% of open cases)**; **79%** allocated
- **18% (1,141)** decrease in cases awaiting allocation on **2018 (6,432)**. Decreasing trend

3 Children "active" on the CPNS



- **876** children "active" on the CPNS; **15% (153)** decrease on **2018**. Decreasing trend

4 National Out of Hours Service

2,186 referrals to the National Out of Hours Service in **2019**, **13% (258)** more than **2018**

5 First time admissions to care

- **670** children admitted to care for the first time in **2019**; **18 (3%)** more than **2018**
- Equates to **6/10,000** children under 18 years

(Excludes children in care under the Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum).

6 Total admissions to care

- **844** admissions to care in **2019**; **4% (34)** decrease on **2018**
- **54% (453)** of admissions were voluntary, where there was agreement with the parents/guardians
- **21% (176)** were emergency admissions

7 Children in care

- **5,951** children in care; down **23 (1%)** on **2018**. Decreasing trend. *(Excludes children in care under the Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum).*
- Equates to about **5/1,000** children under 18 years
- **92% (5,482)** of children in care were in foster care
- **91% (5,445)** children in care had and allocated social worker
- **96% (3,741)** of children **6-15** years and **93% (970)** of **16-17** year olds in care were in full-time education

8 Discharges from care

- **946** discharges from care in **2019**
- **47% (447)** of discharges were to home/extended family; **35% (335)** remained with their carers

(Excludes children in care under the Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum).

9 Foster carers

- **4,130** foster carers (approved) at the end of **2019**, **194 (4%)** fewer than **2018**. Decreasing trend
- More than **9** out of **10** foster carers had an allocated link (social worker)

10 Aftercare

- **2,676** young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services, at the end of 2019; **180 (7%)** more than **2018 (2,496)**. Increasing trend. *(Excludes young persons/adults under the Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum).*
- **75% (1,121)** of **18-20** year olds in receipt of aftercare services were in education/accredited training
- **81% (2,168)** of all young people in receipt of aftercare services had an aftercare plan and **90% (1,792)** of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker

11 Adoption Services

- **194** applications for assessment as adoptive parents in **2019**; **18 (8%)**
- Almost half **(48%; 94)** of applications were for step-parent adoption.
- **179** children referred for adoption in **2019**; **18 (10%)** fewer than **2018**

Family Support Services 12

- At least **37,024** children referred to family support services in **2019** with **18,343** children in receipt of family support services at the end of **2019**
- Equates to about **3%** of children under **18 years**
- **67% (24,828)** of children referred to family support service in **2019** received a service.
- **2,330** Meitheal processes requested in **2019**, **34% (596)** more than **2018** and **65% (921)** more than **2017**. Increasing trend

13 Service for Separated Children Seeking Asylum

- **184** referrals to Tusla's Service for Separated Children Seeking Asylum in **2019**, **55 (43%)** more than **2018** and the highest number since **2009**