



An Gníomhaireacht um  
Leanáí agus an Teaghlaigh  
Child and Family Agency

## MONTHLY SERVICE PERFORMANCE AND ACTIVITY REPORT

### NOVEMBER 2025

20 January 2026

Version 1.0

**Note: Data presented are latest available and can change from data previously published due to ongoing validation**

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# Headline Data – November 2025

## Child Protection & Welfare

- **9,317 referrals** in November 2025, 900 (9%) fewer than October 2025 (10,217) and 553 (6%) more than November 2024 (8,764). Brings to 98,122 the number of referrals for the first eleven months of 2025, 9,235 (10%) more than the same period in 2024 (88,887).
- **24,167 cases open to social work** at the end of November 2025, 46 (<1%) fewer than October 2025 (24,213) and 1,740 (8%) more than November 2024 (22,427). *Open cases include child protection and welfare cases and children in care.*
- **80% (19,259) of cases** open to social work at the end of November 2025 had an **allocated case worker**. Of these, 81% (15,626) were allocated to a social worker and 19% (3,634) were allocated to another professional. (Ref to note on Page 4).
- **4,908 cases awaiting allocation** at the end of November 2025, 105 (2%) more than October 2025 (4,803) and 256 (5%) fewer than November 2024 (5,164). *Data needs to be interpreted in the context of the change to the reporting of allocated cases.*
- Five areas account for 70% (3,419) of all cases awaiting allocation: Cork (1,013), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (877), Dublin South Central (840), Midlands (370) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (319).
- **5% (225) of cases awaiting allocation** at the end of November 2025 were categorised as **high priority**, 24 (10%) fewer than October 2025 (249) and 217 (49%) fewer than November 2024 (442).

## Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)

- **32 referrals assigned** to CASP Teams in November 2025. Brings to 427 the number of referrals assigned for the first 11 months of 2025, 216 (34%) fewer than the same period in 2024 (643).
- **94% (345/368) of assessments open at the end of November 2025** were allocated to a social worker, down one percentage point from October 2025 (95%) and up 17 percentage points from November 2024 (77%).
- 144 (86%) fewer assessments awaiting allocation at the end of November 2025 (23) than at the end of November 2024 (167).

## Children in Care

- **5,868 children (0-17 years) in care at the end of November 2025, two more than October 2025 (5,866)** and 73 (1%) more than November 2024 (5,795). *Figure includes 147 children under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP).*
- 85.8% (5,034) of all children in care (17 Areas and SCSIP) are in foster care (3,535 general foster care, and 1,499 relative foster), 10.2% (599) are in residential care (584 general residential care and 15 special care) and 4.0% (235) are in “other” care placements.
- Across Tusla’s 17 areas **87.7% (5,017/5,721) of children in care are in foster care.**

## Children in Care (contd.)

- **1,116 (19%) children in care at the end of November 2025 were in placements with private providers**, one more than October 2025 (1,115) and 116 (12%) more than November 2024 (1,000).
- **98% (5,779) of children in care at the end of November 2025 had an allocated case worker.** Of the 5,779 children allocated, 89% (5,147) were allocated to a social worker and 11% (632) were allocated to another professional.
- A total of 89 (2%) children were awaiting allocation, eight more than October 2025 (81).

## Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)

- **1,140 children listed as ‘active’** on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of November 2025, seven more than October 2025 (1,133) and the fifth consecutive increase.
- There were 110 (11%) more children ‘active’ at the end of November 2025 than at the end November 2024 (1,030).

*It should be noted that a small number of large sibling groups can have a significant effect on numbers reported.*

- 98% (1,122) of children ‘active’ had an allocated social worker, 18 children were awaiting allocation to a social worker. Thirteen of the 18 children were subsequently allocated to a social worker. The remaining five cases are allocated to another professional.

## Children’s Services Regulation

- **3,957 early years services (pre-schools) on the register at the end of November 2025**, no change from October 2025 and 85 (2%) fewer than November 2024 (4,042).
- **226 inspections** of early years services (pre-schools) in November 2025. Brings to 2,379 the number of inspections for the first 11 months of 2025, 180 (8%) more than the same period in 2024 (2,199).
- **2,585 children on the register** for home education at the end of November 2025, 35 (1%) fewer than October 2025 (2,620), but 260 (11%) more than December 2024 (2,325).
- **339 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of November 2025**, 23 (7%) more than October 2025 (316), third consecutive increase after 12 consecutive decreases. There were 317 (48%) fewer children awaiting at the end of November 2025 than at the end of November 2024 (656).

## Tusla Education Support Services

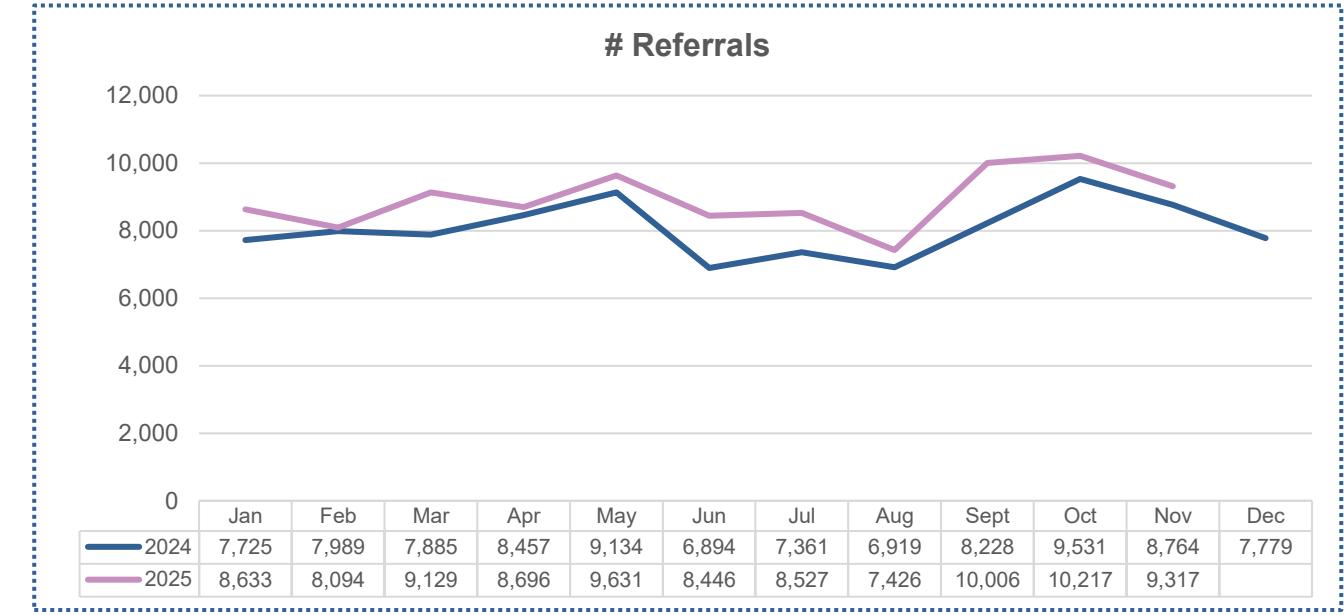
- **1,244 referrals** for an educational welfare service in November 2025. Brings to 3,291 the number of referrals for the first three months of the academic year 2025/26.
- **8,993 cases open** to educational welfare services at the end of November 2025, 67 (1%) more than October 2025 (8,926).
- **41% (3,732) of open cases were on a waiting list for allocation**, down from 43% (3,820) at the end of October 2025.

# Child Protection and Welfare

## Referrals<sup>1</sup>

- **9,317 referrals** in November 2025, 900 (9%) fewer than October 2025 (10,217) and 553 (6%) more than November 2024 (8,764).
- This brings to 98,122 the number of referrals for the first eleven months of 2025, 9,235 (10%) more than the same period in 2024 (88,887).

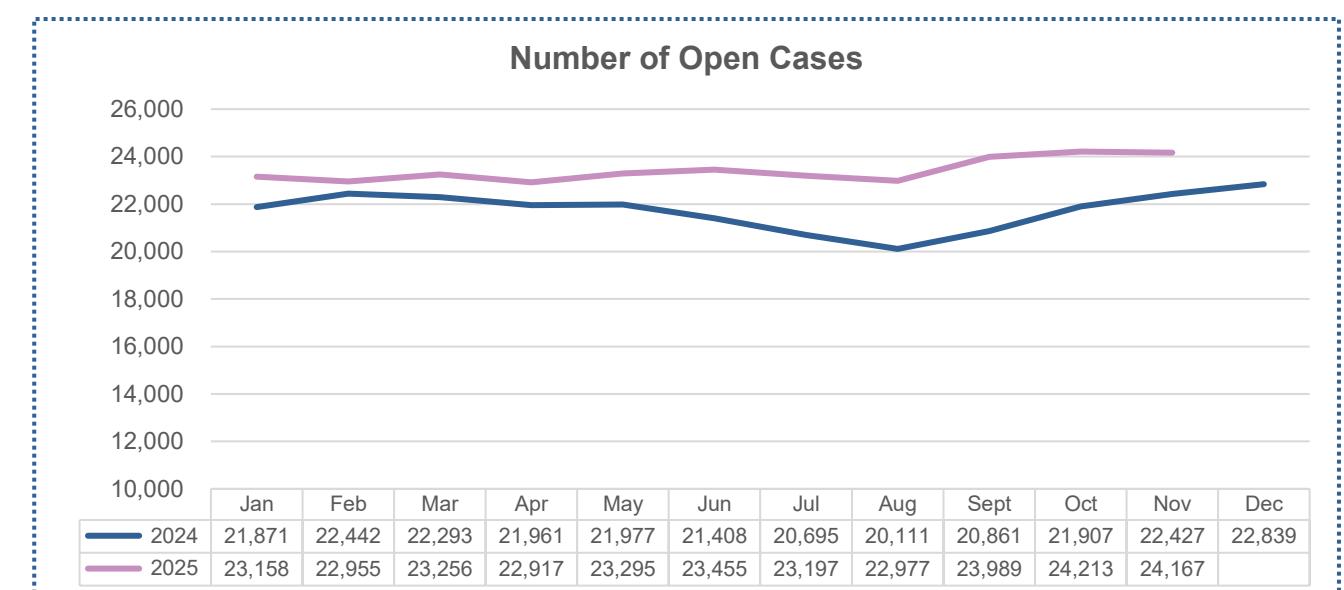
*It should be noted that the data presented for first six months of 2025 has been updated to reflect final validated figures for this period. Data for the remaining months is based on referrals logged on the Tusla Case Management (TCM) system at the time the data was extracted for reporting. Referrals logged after the date the data was extracted are not included, nor are figures updated until quarterly validation is complete.*



## Open Cases

- **24,167 cases open to social work** at the end of November 2025, 46 (<1%) fewer than October 2025 (24,213) and 1,740 (8%) more than November 2024 (22,427).

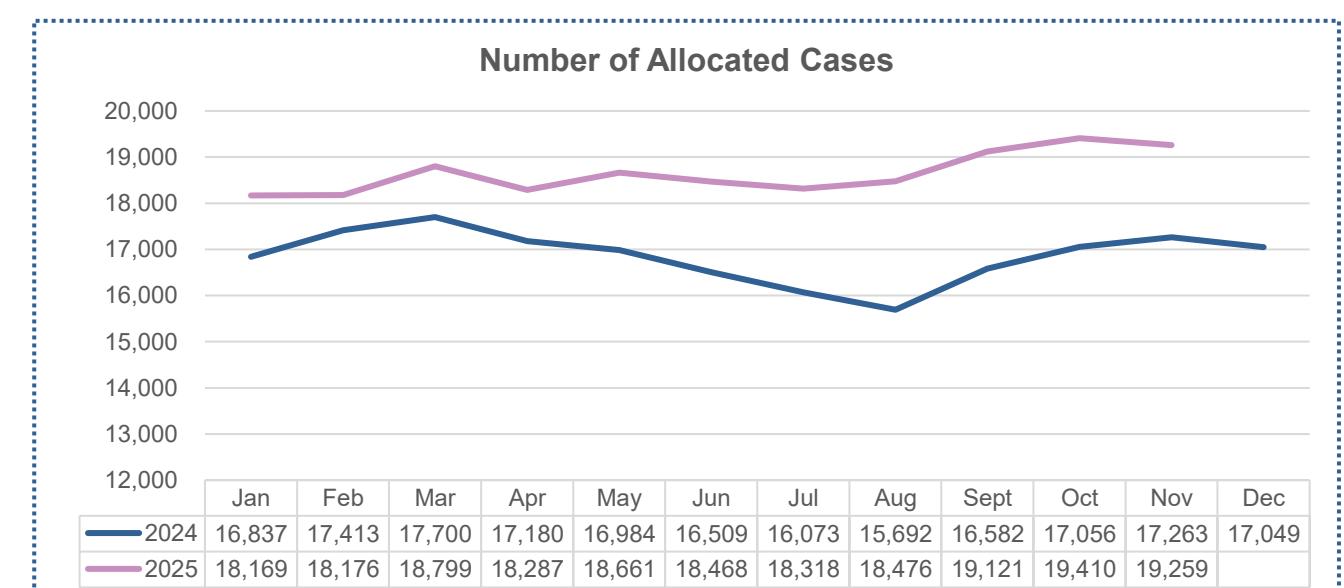
- 1) Open cases include, all cases held on duty, allocated and unallocated child protection and welfare cases including children in care.
- 2) The data presented on cases is based on the status of cases on the TCM at month end.



## Allocated Cases

- **19,259 open cases were allocated** to a case worker at the end of November 2025, 151 (<1%) fewer than October 2025 (19,410) and 1,996 (12%) more than November 2024 (17,263).
- Allocated cases account for 80% of open cases, no change from October 2025.

*Reflecting an ongoing changing environment and significant social work vacancies, Tusla has moved to a more multi-disciplinary way of working with children now allocated to social workers and other professional grades where necessary and appropriate to ensure they have the support of a key worker. All children continue to be overseen by social work management.*



<sup>1</sup> Referrals include referrals meeting the eligibility criteria for child protection and welfare services, multiple reports of the same concern and referrals not meeting the eligibility criteria for child protection and welfare services. Referrals not meeting the eligibility criteria for child protection and welfare include: a request for diversion to another agency; a report in which there are no reasonable grounds for concern or no harm identified to a child indicated; a report that does not warrant a Tusla child protection and welfare led intervention (these could be children who need additional supports to stop problems or difficulties worsening but social work led intervention is not required and diversion to Prevention Partnership and Family Support is considered).

# Child Protection and Welfare

## Allocated Cases

To improve transparency and ensure the data reported reflects our practice change, reports (from January 2025) now reflect where a child is allocated a social worker and where they are allocated to another professional. Other professionals include professionally qualified social care leaders, social care workers, family support workers, therapists etc..

- Of the cases allocated (19,259) at the end of November 2025, 81% (15,626) were allocated to a social worker and 19% (3,634) were allocated to another professional.

Breakdown of cases allocated by area and role of worker, November 2025

Area	Allocated Social Worker	Allocated Other Professional	Total
Dublin South East/Wicklow	810	195	1,005
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	979	523	1,502
Dublin South Central	1,000	327	1,327
Midlands	1,108	238	1,346
Dublin North City	1,259	258	1,517
Dublin North	1,475	239	1,714
Louth/Meath	1,218	351	1,569
Cavan/Monaghan	501	188	689
Kerry	352	76	428
Cork	1,963	233	2,196
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	427	243	670
Waterford/Wexford	925	260	1,185
Donegal	535	87	622
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	406	10	416
Mayo	292	21	313
Galway/Roscommon	1,265	64	1,329
Midwest	1,110	321	1,431
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,625</b>	<b>3,634</b>	<b>19,259</b>

Percentage breakdown of cases allocated by area and role of worker, November 2025

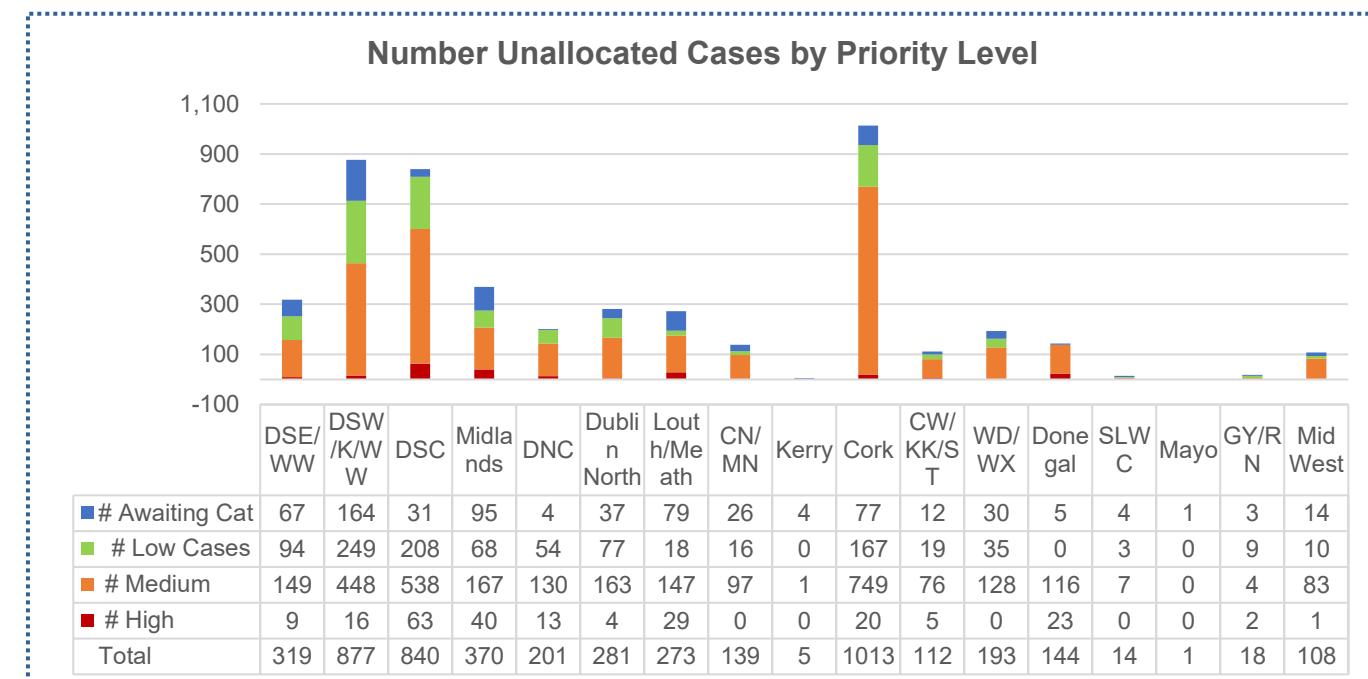
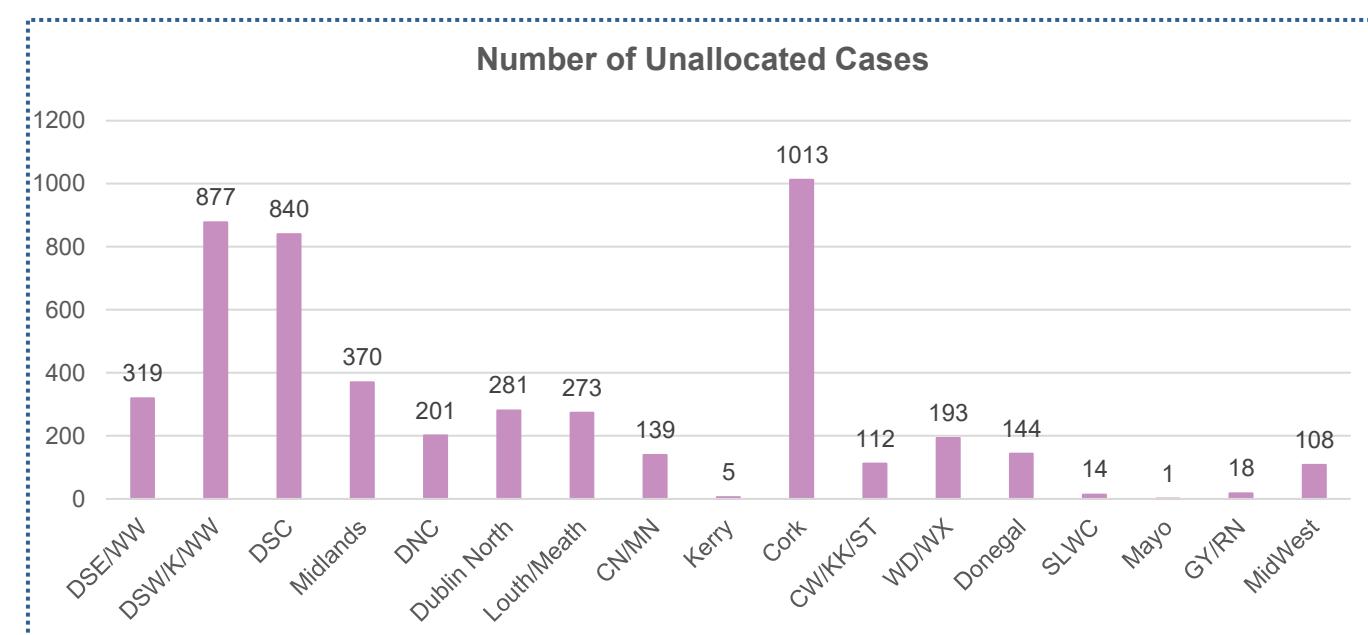
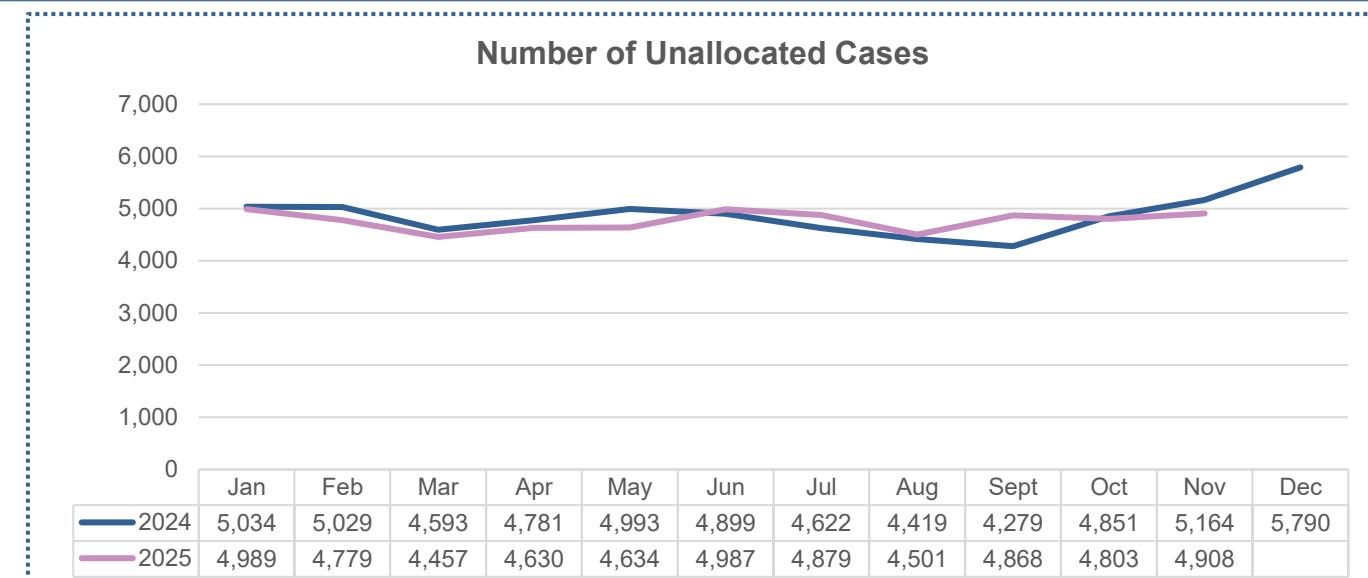
Area	% Allocated Social Worker	% Allocated Other Professional	Total
Dublin South East/Wicklow	81%	19%	100%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	65%	35%	100%
Dublin South Central	75%	25%	100%
Midlands	82%	18%	100%
Dublin North City	83%	17%	100%
Dublin North	86%	14%	100%
Louth/Meath	78%	22%	100%
Cavan/Monaghan	73%	27%	100%
Kerry	82%	18%	100%
Cork	89%	11%	100%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	64%	36%	100%
Waterford/Wexford	78%	22%	100%
Donegal	86%	14%	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	98%	2%	100%
Mayo	93%	7%	100%
Galway/Roscommon	95%	5%	100%
Midwest	78%	22%	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>100%</b>

# Child Protection & Welfare

## Cases Awaiting Allocation

Cases awaiting allocation include cases held on duty, unallocated child protection and welfare cases including children in care

- **4,908 cases awaiting allocation** at the end of November 2025, 105 (2%) more than October 2025 (4,803) and 256 (5%) fewer than November 2024 (5,164). *Data needs to be interpreted in the context of the change to the reporting of allocated cases introduced in January 2025.*
- Cases awaiting allocation account for 20% of open cases (24,167), no change from October 2025.
- **46% (2,278) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of November 2025 were “active on duty”.** This means that actions were undertaken by dedicated duty teams or rotating social workers on a duty roster to progress the protection and welfare of the cases. Examples of actions undertaken include telephone calls relating to the concern, visits to see children, completing initial assessments and child in care reviews or care plans.
- Highest number of cases awaiting allocation reported by Cork (1,013) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (877), Dublin South Central (840), Midlands (370) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (319). These five areas account for 70% (3,419) of all cases awaiting allocation.
- **225 cases awaiting allocation at the end of November 2025 were categorised as high priority**, 24 (10%) fewer than October 2025 (249) and 217 (49%) fewer than November 2024 (442).
- High priority cases account for 5% of cases awaiting allocation.
- 61% (3,003) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 21% (1,027) were low priority while the remaining 13% (653) were awaiting categorisation.
- Highest number of high priority cases reported by Dublin South Central (63), Midlands (40), Louth/Meath (29), Donegal (23) and Cork (20). These five areas account for 78% (175) of all high priority cases awaiting.

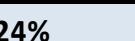
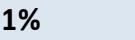


# Child Protection & Welfare

## Cases Awaiting Allocation

- 9 of the 17 areas reported an increase in cases awaiting allocation from October 2025.
- Largest increase reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 58) followed by Dublin North (47) and Louth/Meath (27).
- 6 of the 17 areas reported a decrease in cases awaiting allocation from October 2025.
- Largest decrease reported by Dublin South Central (down 35) followed by Midlands (down 15) and Cork (down 11).
- The remaining two areas (Dublin North City and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) reported no change.

- Nationally 20% of open cases were awaiting allocation at the end of November 2025. Five areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 20%. Highest percentages reported by Dublin South Central (39%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (37%), Cork (32%), Dublin South East/Wicklow (24%) and Midlands (22%).
- 7 of the 17 areas had more cases awaiting allocation at the end of November 2025 than at the end of November 2024. Largest increases reported by Cork (up 433), Dublin North (up 135) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (up 109). *Data needs to be interpreted in the context of the change to the reporting of allocated cases introduced in January 2025.*
- 10 of the 17 areas had fewer cases awaiting allocation at the end of November 2025 than at the end of November 2024. Largest decreases reported by Midlands (down 304), Dublin South Central (down 190), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 154) and Louth/Meath (down 147).

Area	Nov-24	Nov-24	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Nov-25	Sep-Nov	Nov-25 v	Nov-25 v		
	# Unallocated	% Unallocated	# Unallocated	# Unallocated	# Unallocated	% Unallocated	Nov-24	% Δ	Oct-25	% Δ1	
DSE/WW	210	21%	302	302	319	24%		109	52%	17	6%
DSW/K/WW	780	40%	812	819	877	37%		97	12%	58	7%
DSC	1,030	45%	809	875	840	39%		-190	-18%	-35	-4%
Midlands	674	35%	485	385	370	22%		-304	-45%	-15	-4%
DNC	262	15%	212	201	201	12%		-61	-23%	0	0%
Dublin North	146	8%	260	234	281	14%		135	92%	47	20%
Louth/Meath	420	25%	226	246	273	15%		-147	-35%	27	11%
CN/MN	114	15%	156	122	139	17%		25	22%	17	14%
Kerry	18	4%	14	15	5	1%		-13	-72%	-10	-67%
Cork	580	23%	999	1024	1013	32%		433	75%	-11	-1%
CW/KK/ST	266	33%	151	111	112	14%		-154	-58%	1	1%
WD/WX	288	21%	196	196	193	14%		-95	-33%	-3	-2%
Donegal	78	10%	101	141	144	19%		66	85%	3	2%
SLWC	20	7%	9	14	14	3%		-6	-30%	0	0%
Mayo	0	0%	4	3	1	0%		1		-2	-67%
GY/RN	31	3%	24	17	18	1%		-13	-42%	1	6%
MidWest	247	18%	108	98	108	7%		-139	-56%	10	10%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5164</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>4868</b>	<b>4803</b>	<b>4908</b>	<b>20%</b>		<b>-256</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>2%</b>

Cases awaiting allocation include cases held on duty, unallocated child protection and welfare cases including children in care

# Child Protection & Welfare

## Summary Tables

Area	Referrals			Open Cases	Open Cases	Allocated Cases	Allocated Cases	Unallocated Cases	Unallocated Cases			
	Oct-25	Referrals Nov-25	Δ							Oct-25	Nov-25	Δ4
DSE/WW	450	425	-25	1,386	1,324	-62	1,084	1,005	-79	302	319	17
DSW/K/WW	1053	879	-174	2,279	2,379	100	1,460	1,502	42	819	877	58
DSC	738	626	-112	2,112	2,167	55	1,237	1,327	90	875	840	-35
Midlands	947	903	-44	1,727	1,716	-11	1,342	1,346	4	385	370	-15
DNC	647	558	-89	1,697	1,718	21	1,496	1,517	21	201	201	0
Dublin North	1035	861	-174	2,161	1,995	-166	1,927	1,714	-213	234	281	47
Louth/Meath	739	765	26	1,754	1,842	88	1,508	1,569	61	246	273	27
CN/MN	255	354	99	820	828	8	698	689	-9	122	139	17
Kerry	221	204	-17	444	433	-11	429	428	-1	15	5	-10
Cork	913	865	-48	3,228	3,209	-19	2,204	2,196	-8	1024	1013	-11
CW/KK/ST	518	467	-51	786	782	-4	675	670	-5	111	112	1
WD/WX	685	657	-28	1,418	1,378	-40	1,222	1,185	-37	196	193	-3
Donegal	350	334	-16	756	766	10	615	622	7	141	144	3
SLWC	209	140	-69	470	430	-40	456	416	-40	14	14	0
Mayo	127	127	0	353	314	-39	350	313	-37	3	1	-2
GY/RN	508	425	-83	1,377	1,347	-30	1,360	1,329	-31	17	18	1
MidWest	822	727	-95	1,445	1,539	94	1,347	1,431	84	98	108	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,217</b>	<b>9,317</b>	<b>-900</b>	<b>24,213</b>	<b>24,167</b>	<b>-46</b>	<b>19,410</b>	<b>19,259</b>	<b>-151</b>	<b>4,803</b>	<b>4,908</b>	<b>105</b>

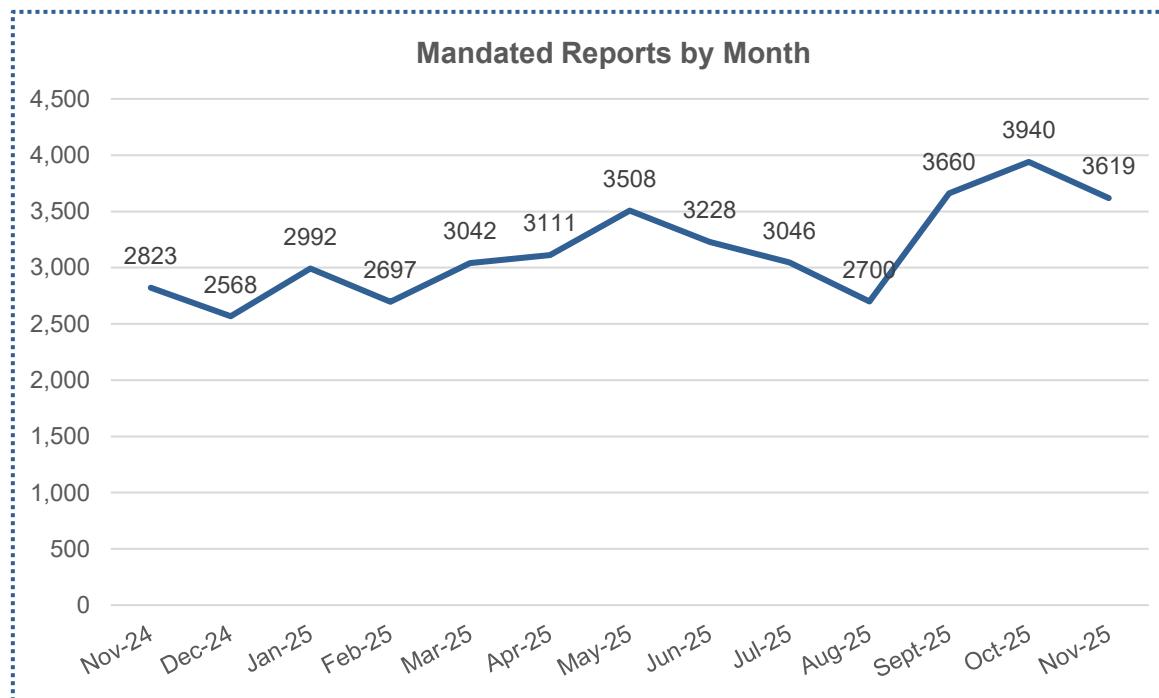
Area	High Priority			Medium Priority			Low Priority			Awaiting Categorisation		
	Awaiting Oct-25	Awaiting Nov-25	Δ	Awaiting Oct-25	Awaiting Nov-25	Δ 2	Awaiting Oct-25	Awaiting Nov-25	Δ 3	Oct-25	Nov-25	Δ 4
DSE/WW	3	9	6	178	149	-29	116	94	-22	5	67	62
DSW/K/WW	8	16	8	480	448	-32	304	249	-55	27	164	137
DSC	58	63	5	531	538	7	270	208	-62	16	31	15
Midlands	52	40	-12	230	167	-63	98	68	-30	5	95	90
DNC	11	13	2	134	130	-4	55	54	-1	1	4	3
Dublin North	4	4	0	145	163	18	72	77	5	13	37	24
Louth/Meath	15	29	14	165	147	-18	59	18	-41	7	79	72
CN/MN	0	0	0	105	97	-8	17	16	-1	0	26	26
Kerry	0	0	0	9	1	-8	6	0	-6	0	4	4
Cork	31	20	-11	787	749	-38	197	167	-30	9	77	68
CW/KK/ST	23	5	-18	60	76	16	21	19	-2	7	12	5
WD/WX	4	0	-4	150	128	-22	40	35	-5	2	30	28
Donegal	38	23	-15	103	116	13	0	0	0	0	5	5
SLWC	0	0	0	10	7	-3	3	3	0	1	4	3
Mayo	0	0	0	3	0	-3	0	0	0	0	1	1
GY/RN	2	2	0	14	4	-10	0	9	9	1	3	2
MidWest	0	1	1	76	83	7	18	10	-8	4	14	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>-24</b>	<b>3,180</b>	<b>3,003</b>	<b>-177</b>	<b>1,276</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>-249</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>555</b>

# Mandated Reports<sup>1</sup> – Child Protection & Welfare

- 3,619 mandated reports of abuse received in November 2025. This brings to 35,543 the number of reports for the first 11 months of 2025, 7,471 (27%) more than the same period in 2024 (28,072).

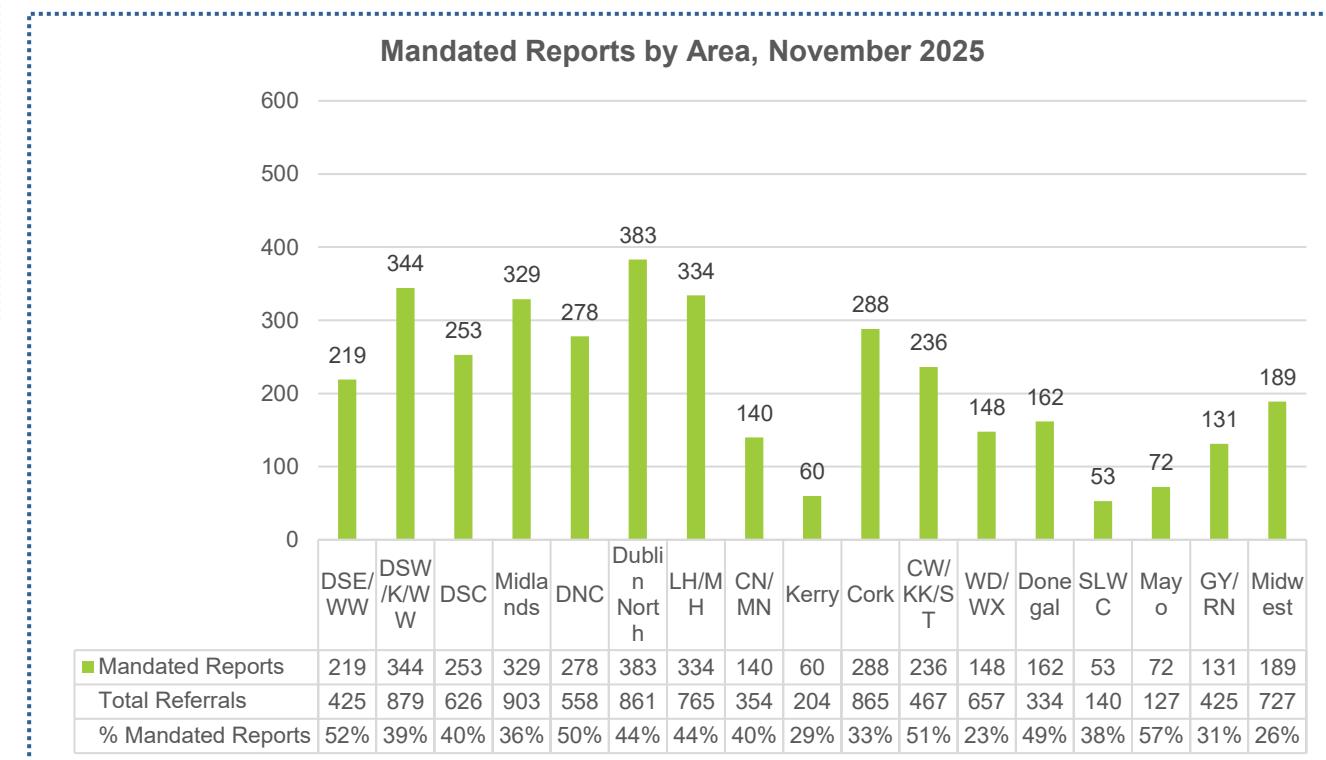
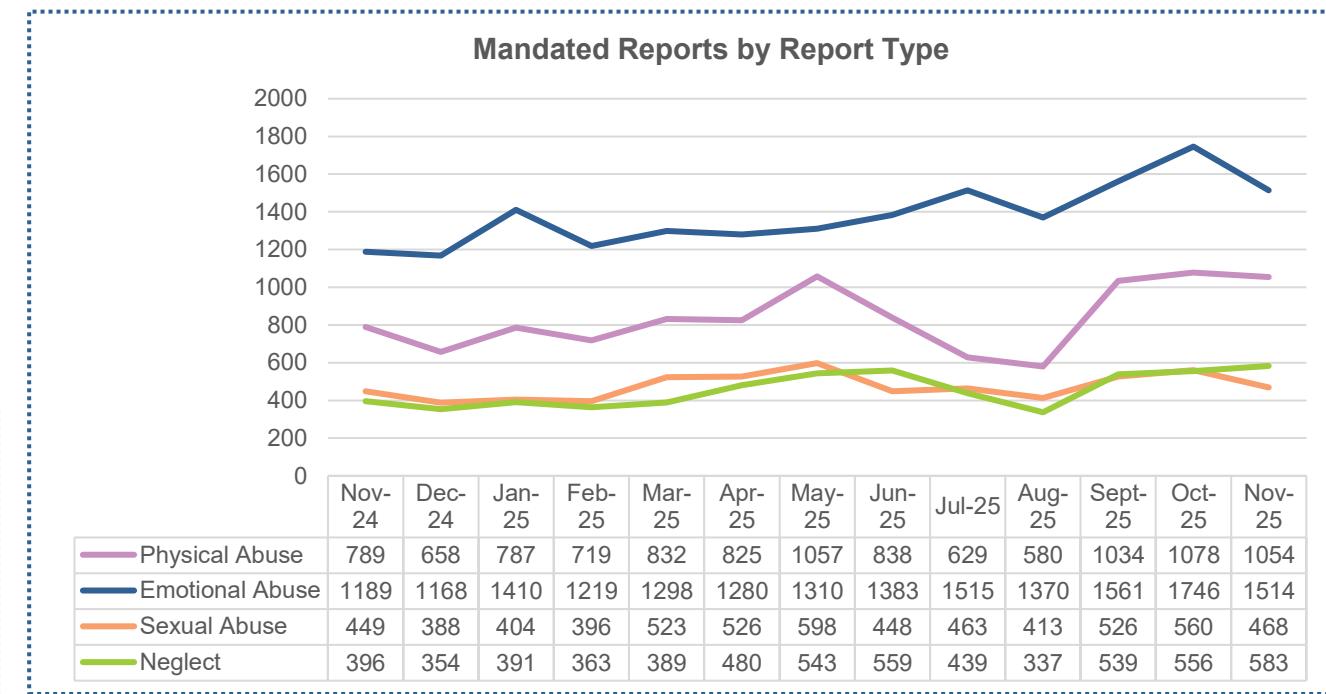
*It should be noted that the data presented for the first six months of 2025 has been updated to reflect final validated figures for this period. Data for the remaining months is based on referrals logged on the Tusla Case Management (TCM) system at the time the data was extracted for reporting. Referrals logged after the date the data was extracted are not included, nor are figures updated until quarterly validation is complete.*

- Mandated reports accounted for 39% (3,619) of all referrals received (9,317) in November 2025.



- The number of mandated reports for November 2025, by area ranged from 53 (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) to 383 (Dublin North).
- As a percentage of referrals, the highest percentage (57%; 72/127) was reported by Mayo.
- The lowest percentage (23%; 148/657) was reported by Waterford/Wexford

- Highest number of reports for November 2025 were for emotional abuse (1,514; 42%) followed by physical abuse (1,054; 29%), neglect (583; 16%) and sexual abuse (468; 13%).



<sup>1</sup> Mandated reports are included in the data on referrals (slide 4)

# Mandated Reports – Child Protection & Welfare

## Source of Reports

- Highest number of reports for November 2025 from An Garda Síochána (1,357; 38%) followed teachers (801; 22%), safeguarding officer (403; 11%), social workers (266; 7%), and social care workers (128; 4%). These five sources account for 82% (2,955) of reports for November 2025.
- Highest number of reports for 2025 YTD from An Garda Síochána (13,969; 39%) followed teachers (5,111; 14%), safeguarding officer (4,445; 13%); social workers (3,381; 10%) and social care workers (1,850; 5%). These five sources account for 81% (28,756) of reports for received for the first 11 months of 2025.

Source (Schedule 2 Children First 2015)	# Nov-25	% Total	# 2025 YTD	% Total
An Garda Síochána	1,357	37.5%	13,969	39.3%
Teacher	801	22.1%	5,111	14.4%
Safeguarding officer, child protection officer	403	11.1%	4,445	12.5%
Social worker	266	7.4%	3,381	9.5%
Social care worker	128	3.5%	1,850	5.2%
Medical practitioner	111	3.1%	1,091	3.1%
Domestic violence shelter manager	84	2.3%	979	2.8%
Psychologist	99	2.7%	878	2.5%
Psychotherapist or a person providing counselling	67	1.9%	860	2.4%
Nurse or registered midwife	79	2.2%	749	2.1%
Youth worker holds a professional qualification..	54	1.5%	605	1.7%
Homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility manager	28	0.8%	303	0.9%
Asylum seeker accommodation (direct provision) centre manager	27	0.7%	197	0.6%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	15	0.4%	146	0.4%
Youth work service - person responsible for the care	7	0.2%	136	0.4%
Speech & language therapist	13	0.4%	111	0.3%
Occupational therapist	16	0.4%	103	0.3%
Probation officer	8	0.2%	103	0.3%
Guardian ad litem	5	0.1%	97	0.3%
Pre-school service within the meaning of Part VIIA of the Child Care Act 1991.	8	0.2%	89	0.3%
Physiotherapist	6	0.2%	86	0.2%
Addiction counsellor	10	0.3%	62	0.2%
Foster carer registered with the Agency.	*	*	58	0.2%
EMT, paramedic and advanced paramedic	12	0.3%	54	0.2%
Not specified	5	0.1%	46	0.1%
Language school or other recreational school where children reside	*	*	11	0.0%
Institution where a child is detained by an order of a court (Director)	*	*	11	0.0%
Clergy member	0	0.0%	*	*
Dentist	0	0.0%	*	*
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,619</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>35,543</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

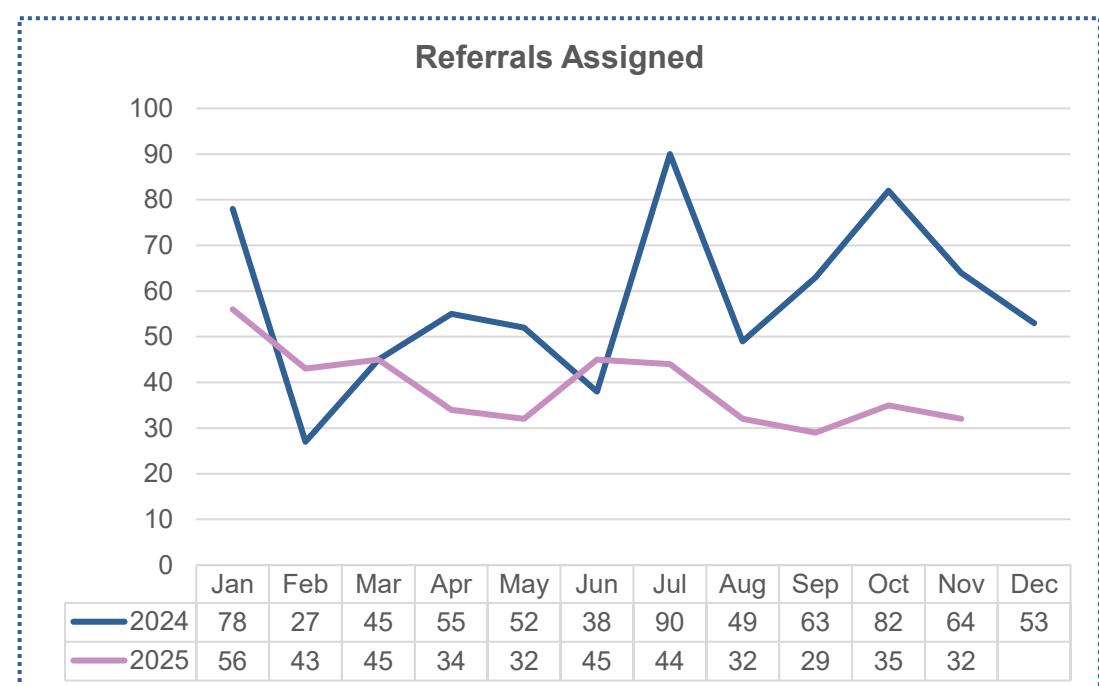
\*Values suppressed for confidentiality reasons.

# Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)

It is Tusla's statutory obligation and responsibility to promote the welfare of children under Section 3 of the Child Care Act 1991 and under Section 8 (1)(b) of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013. In meeting this obligation and responsibility, where there is a need to share information with a relevant third party to protect an identified child or yet to be identified child or children from harm, Tusla must carry out an assessment of allegations of child abuse in line with fair procedures. This is called a 'substantiation assessment' – an assessment that examines and weighs up all the evidence and decides if the allegation is founded or unfounded on the balance of probabilities. If the allegation is founded a determination is made that the person who is the subject of the abuse allegations poses a potential risk to a child or children. Tusla calls this process the CASP – Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure.

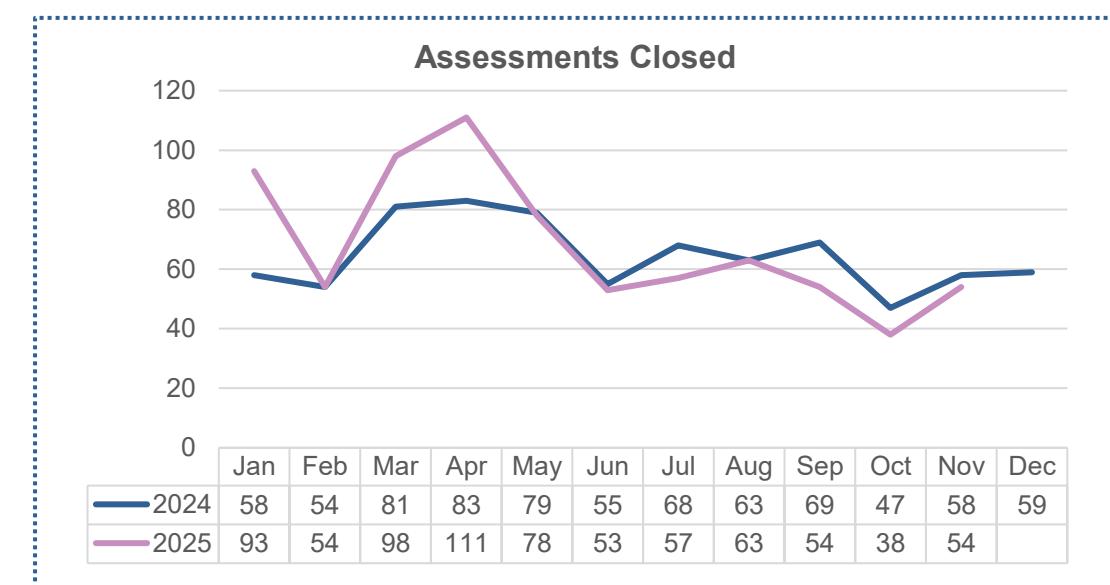
## Referrals

- **32 referrals assigned** to CASP Teams in November 2025.
- This brings to 427 the number of referrals assigned for the first 11 months of 2025, 216 (34%) fewer than the same period in 2024 (643).



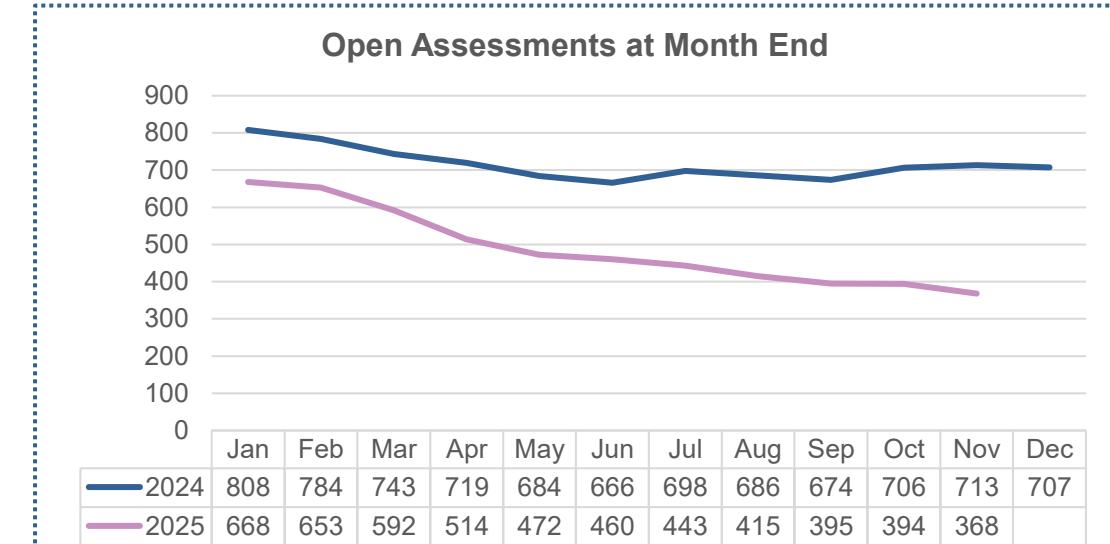
## Assessments Closed

- **54 assessments closed** in November 2025.
- This brings to 753 the number of assessments closed for the first 11 months of 2025, 38 (5%) more than the same period in 2024 (715).



## Open Assessments

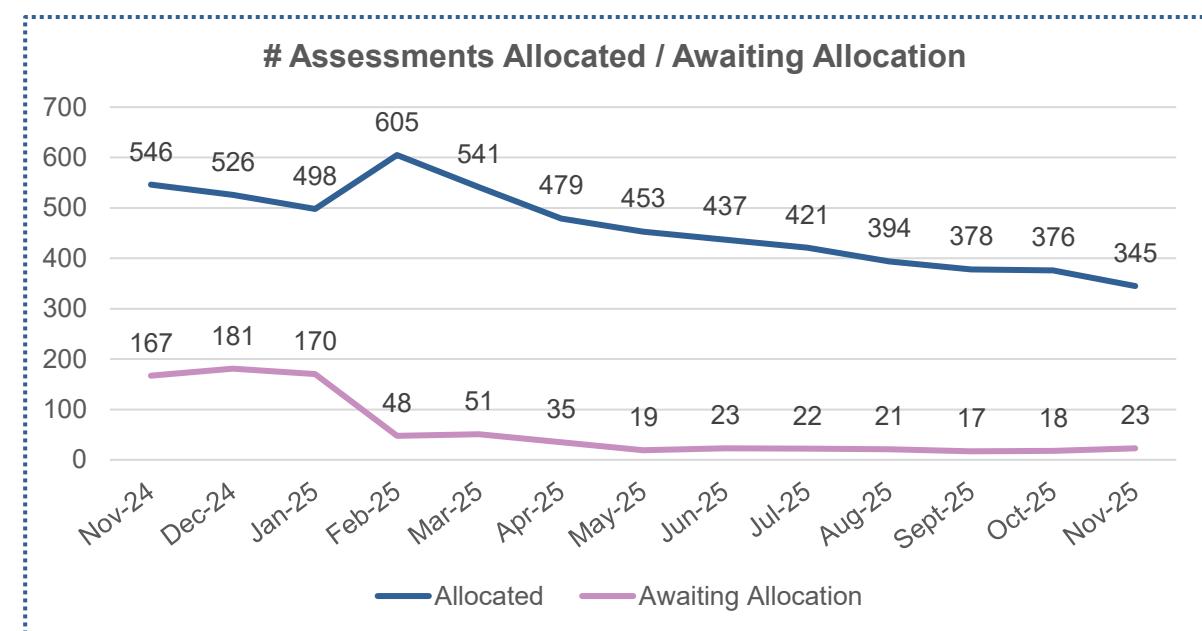
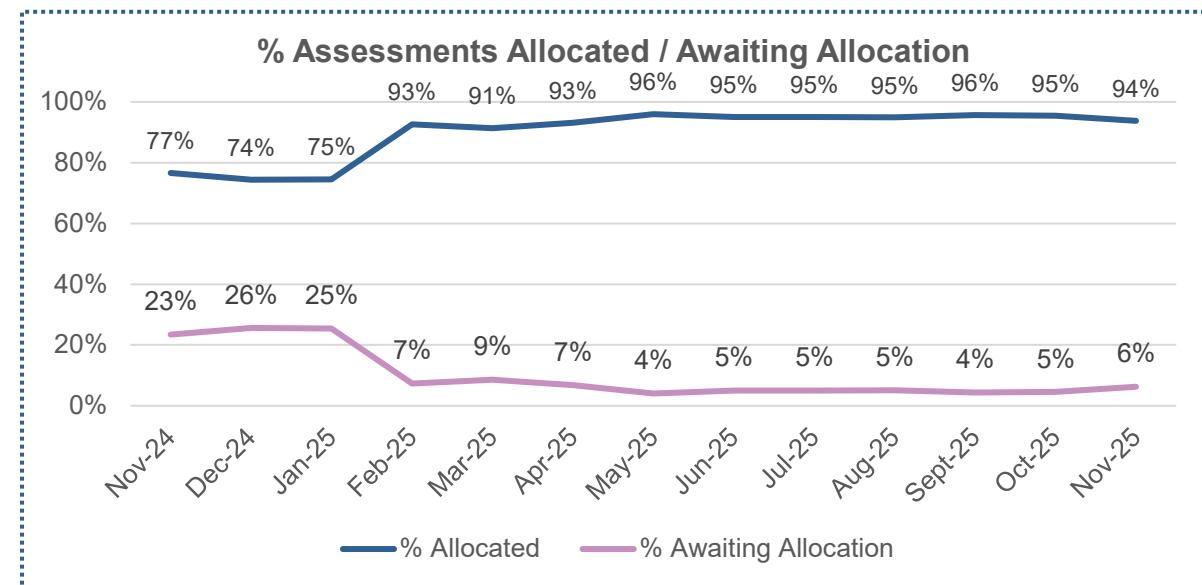
- **368 assessments open at the end of November 2025**, 26 (7%) fewer than October 2025 (394) and the fewest number for the period January 2024 – November 2025.
- There were 345 (48%) fewer assessments open at the end of November 2025 (368) than at the end of November 2024 (713).



# Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)

## Allocation Status of Open Assessments

- 94% (345/368) of assessments open at the end of November 2025 were allocated to a social worker, down one percentage point from October 2025 (95%) and up 17 percentage points from November 2024 (77%).
- The remaining 6% (23) were awaiting allocation with five more assessments awaiting allocation at the end of November 2025 than at the end of October 2025 (18).
- 144 (86%) fewer assessments awaiting allocation at the end of November 2025 (23) than at the end of November 2024 (167).



# Children in Care

- 5,868 children (0-17 years) in care at the end of November 2025, two more than October 2025 (5,866) and 73 (1%) more than November 2024 (5,795). Figure includes 147 children under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP)<sup>1</sup>.

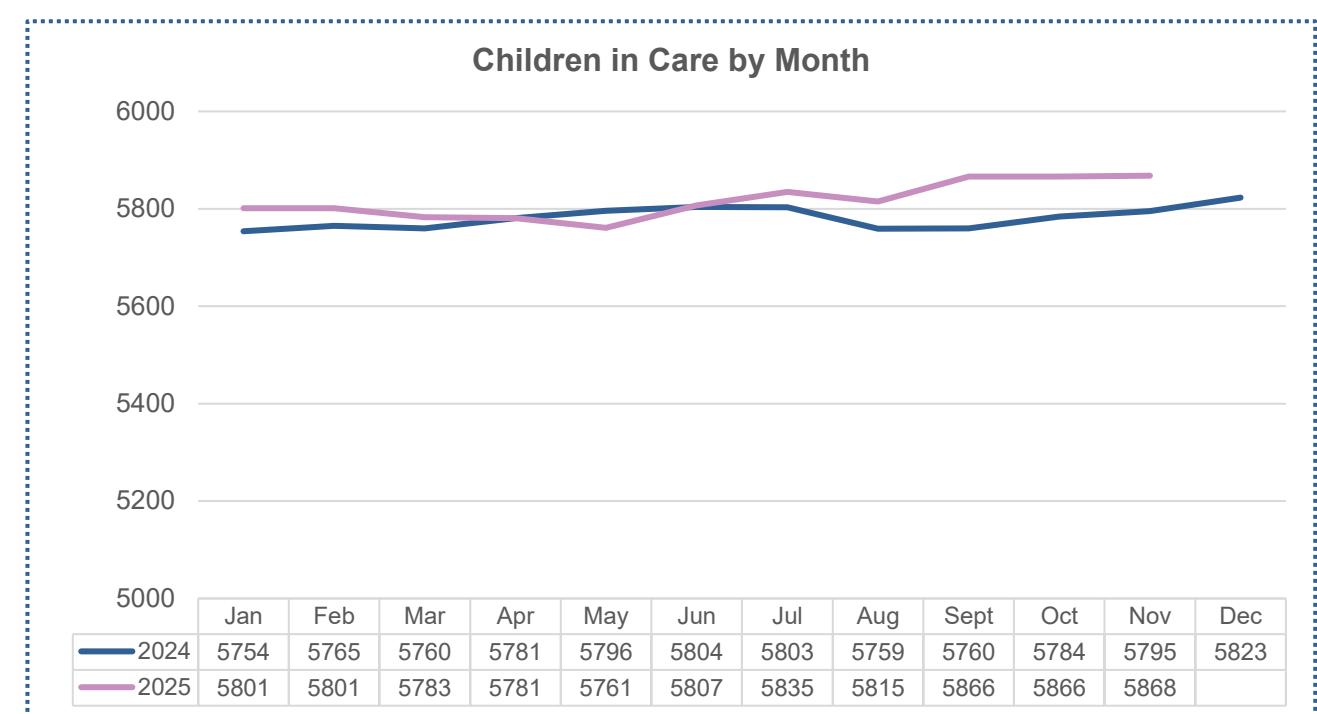
- Breakdown of children in care by Tusla's 17 areas and SCSIP as follows:

	Nov-24	Oct-25	Nov-25	Nov 25 v Nov 24	Nov-25 v Oct-25
17 Tusla Areas	5,677	5,724	5,721	+44	-3
SCSIP	118	142	147	+29	+5
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,795</b>	<b>5,866</b>	<b>5,868</b>	<b>+73</b>	<b>+2</b>

- Breakdown of children in care by placement type as follows (Nov-25):

Placement Type	17 areas	SCSIP	Total
Residential Care	481 (8.4%)	118 (80.3%)	599 (10.2%)
Foster Care	5,017 (87.7%)	17 (11.6%)	5,034 (85.8%)
Other*	223 (3.9%)	12 (8.2%)	235 (4.0%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,721 (100%)</b>	<b>147 (100%)</b>	<b>5,868 (100.0%)</b>

- Residential care (599) includes 15 children in special care and 584 in general residential care. Of the children in foster care (5,034), 70% (3,535) were in general foster care and 30% (1,499) were in relative foster care.
- Highest number of children in care reported by Cork (666) followed by Dublin North City (507) and Midwest (502).
- Fewest number reported Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (118) followed by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (147) and Mayo (149).
- Across the 17 Areas the highest rate of children in care per 1,000 children was reported by Dublin North City (10.4) followed by Donegal (5.8) and Waterford/Wexford (5.5).
- Lowest rate reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (2.1) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (3.7).
- 11 areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 4.7/1,000 children.



Rate of children in care / 1,000 child population 0-17 years (ranked by rate/1,000)

Area	Nov-24	Oct-25	Nov-25	Nov-25 v Nov-24	Nov-25 v Oct-25	Population	Rate/1,000
Dublin North City	463	500	507	44	7	48,909	10.4
Donegal	237	248	244	7	-4	42,144	5.8
Waterford/Wexford	434	383	383	-51	0	69,239	5.5
Midwest	493	505	502	9	-3	96,764	5.2
CW/KK/ST	310	315	319	9	4	62,366	5.1
Cork	660	663	666	6	3	136,786	4.9
Kerry	172	171	170	-2	-1	34,994	4.9
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	120	118	118	-2	0	24,312	4.9
Cavan/Monaghan	164	178	176	12	-2	37,336	4.7
Dublin South Central	327	327	330	3	3	70,259	4.7
Mayo	145	147	149	4	2	31,911	4.7
Galway/Roscommon	344	367	366	22	-1	81,799	4.5
Louth/Meath	418	429	426	8	-3	96,531	4.4
Midlands	344	352	349	5	-3	80,962	4.3
Dublin North	417	420	421	4	1	104,281	4.0
DSW/KWW	419	402	405	-14	3	108,927	3.7
Dublin South East/Wicklow	210	199	190	-20	-9	91,047	2.1
<b>Total Areas</b>	<b>5,677</b>	<b>5,724</b>	<b>5,721</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>1,218,567</b>	<b>4.7</b>
SCSIP	118	142	147	29	5		
<b>Total National</b>	<b>5,795</b>	<b>5,866</b>	<b>5,868</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>2</b>		

Population: CSO Census 2022

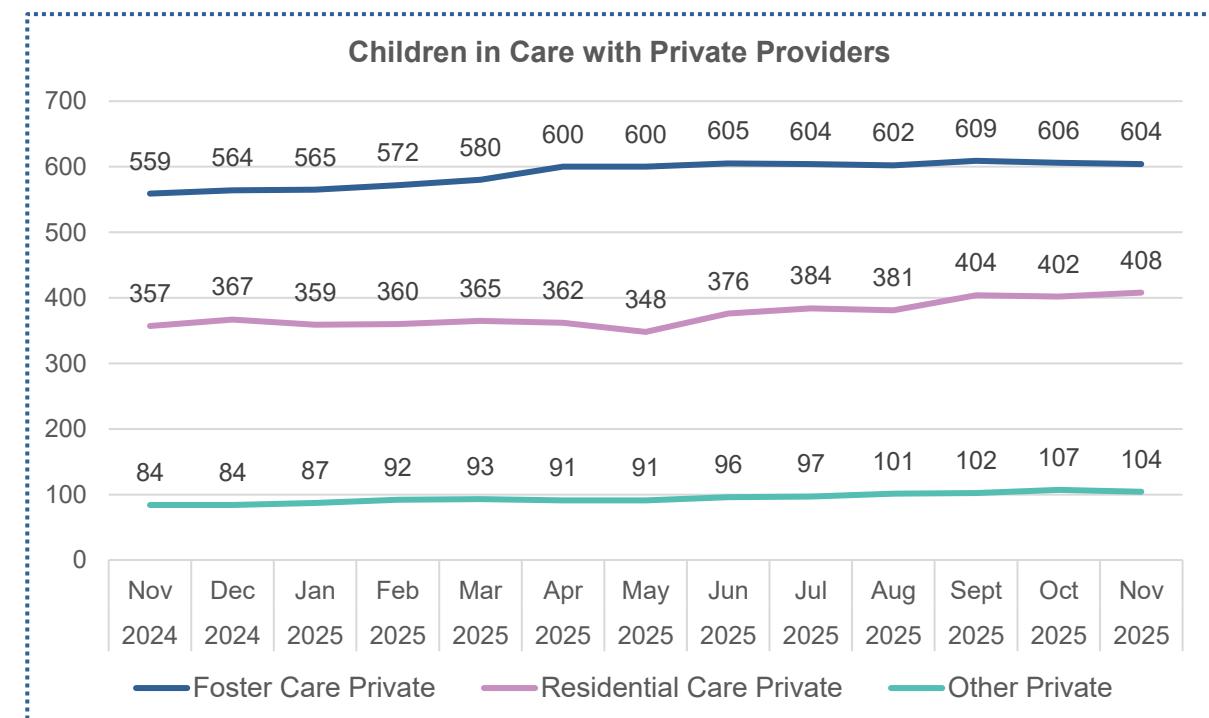
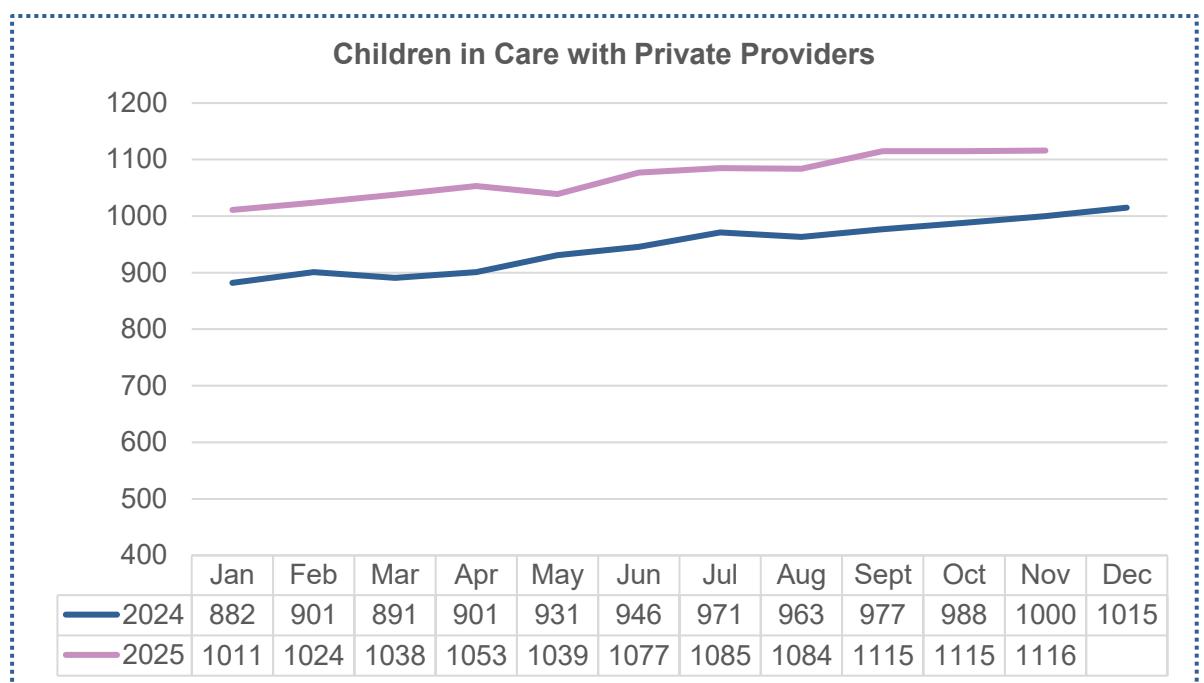
## Notes:

- The Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection has an additional 464 children accommodated under Section 5 Child Care Act 1991.
- \*Other care placements includes children at home under a care order, in a detention centre, disability unit, mental health unit, drugs/alcohol rehabilitation unit, hospital, special emergency arrangement, supported lodgings etc.

# Children in Care

## Private Providers

- 1,116 (19%) children in care at the end of November 2025 were in placements with private providers, one more than October 2025 (1,115) and 116 (12%) more than November 2024 (1,000).



- 604 (54%) children in placements with private providers were in **foster care**, two fewer than October 2025 (606) and 45 (8%) more than November 2024 (559).
- 408 (37%) children were in **residential care**, 6 (1%) more than October 2025 (402) and 51 (14%) more than November 2024 (357).
- The remaining 104 (9%) children were in “**Other**” care placements, three fewer than October 2025 (107) and 20 (24%) more than November 2024 (84). “**Other**” care placements include, *disability units, mental health units, drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres etc.*
- Highest number of children in placements with private providers reported by Dublin North City (163), Dublin North (123), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (120), Dublin South Central (116) and SCSIP (111). These five account for 57% (633) of children in placements with private providers.

## Children in Care with Private Providers

Children in Care (Private)	Nov-24	Oct-25	Nov-25	Nov-25 v Nov-24	Nov-25 v Oct-25
Dublin North City	127	157	163	36	6
Dublin North	118	123	123	5	0
DSW/KWW	116	121	120	4	-1
Dublin South Central	114	117	116	2	-1
SCSIP	66	105	111	45	6
Midlands	86	104	105	19	1
Cork	57	67	68	11	1
Louth/Meath	54	54	50	-4	-4
Waterford/Wexford	51	48	46	-5	-2
Dublin South East/Wicklow	54	45	44	-10	-1
Midwest	40	44	43	3	-1
Kerry	32	35	35	3	0
Donegal	22	29	26	4	-3
CW/KK/ST	23	23	24	1	1
Galway/Roscommon	17	18	17	0	-1
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	14	13	12	-2	-1
Cavan/Monaghan	8	9	9	1	0
Mayo	1	3	4	3	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,115</b>	<b>1,116</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>1</b>

# Children in Care

## Allocated Cases

Reflecting an ongoing changing environment and significant social work vacancies, Tusla has moved to a more multi-disciplinary way of working with children now allocated to social workers and other professional grades where necessary and appropriate to ensure they have the support of a key worker. All children continue to be overseen by social work management.

To improve transparency and ensure the data reported reflects our practice change, reports (from January 2025) now reflect where a child is allocated a social worker and where they are allocated to another professional. Other professionals include professionally qualified social care leaders, social care workers, family support workers, therapists etc.

- **98% (5,779) of children in care at the end of November 2025 had an allocated case worker.**
- Of the 5,779 children allocated, 89% (5,147) were allocated to a social worker and 11% (632) were allocated to another professional.
- A total of 89 (2%) children were awaiting allocation, eight more than October 2025 (81).
- 10 of the 17 areas report no cases awaiting allocation with a further four areas reporting fewer than 10 cases awaiting allocation.
- Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow reports the highest number of children awaiting allocation (34) followed by Louth/Meath (19) and Dublin South Central (10).

### Breakdown of allocation status by area and role of worker, November 2025. Ranked by % Allocated

Area	Allocated SW	% Allocated SW	Allocated OP	% Allocated OP	Total Allocated	% Allocated to Case Worker	Awaiting Allocation	% Awaiting Allocation	Total in Care
Dublin South East/Wicklow	183	96%	7	4%	190	100%	0	0%	190
Midlands	321	92%	28	8%	349	100%	0	0%	349
Dublin North City	462	91%	45	9%	507	100%	0	0%	507
Cavan/Monaghan	171	97%	5	3%	176	100%	0	0%	176
Kerry	159	94%	11	6%	170	100%	0	0%	170
Cork	664	100%	2	0%	666	100%	0	0%	666
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	175	55%	144	45%	319	100%	0	0%	319
Waterford/Wexford	336	88%	47	12%	383	100%	0	0%	383
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	118	100%	0	0%	118	100%	0	0%	118
Mayo	149	100%	0	0%	149	100%	0	0%	149
Donegal	223	92%	20	8%	243	99.6%	1	<1%	244
Mid West	359	72%	139	28%	498	99%	4	1%	502
Galway/Roscommon	357	98%	6	2%	363	99%	3	1%	366
Dublin North	377	91%	38	9%	415	99%	6	1%	421
Dublin South Central	304	95%	16	5%	320	97%	10	3%	330
Louth/Meath	349	86%	58	14%	407	96%	19	4%	426
SCSIP	135	100%	0	0%	135	92%	12	8%	147
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	305	82%	66	18%	371	92%	34	8%	405
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,147</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>5,779</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>5,868</b>

# Children in Care

## Care Plan

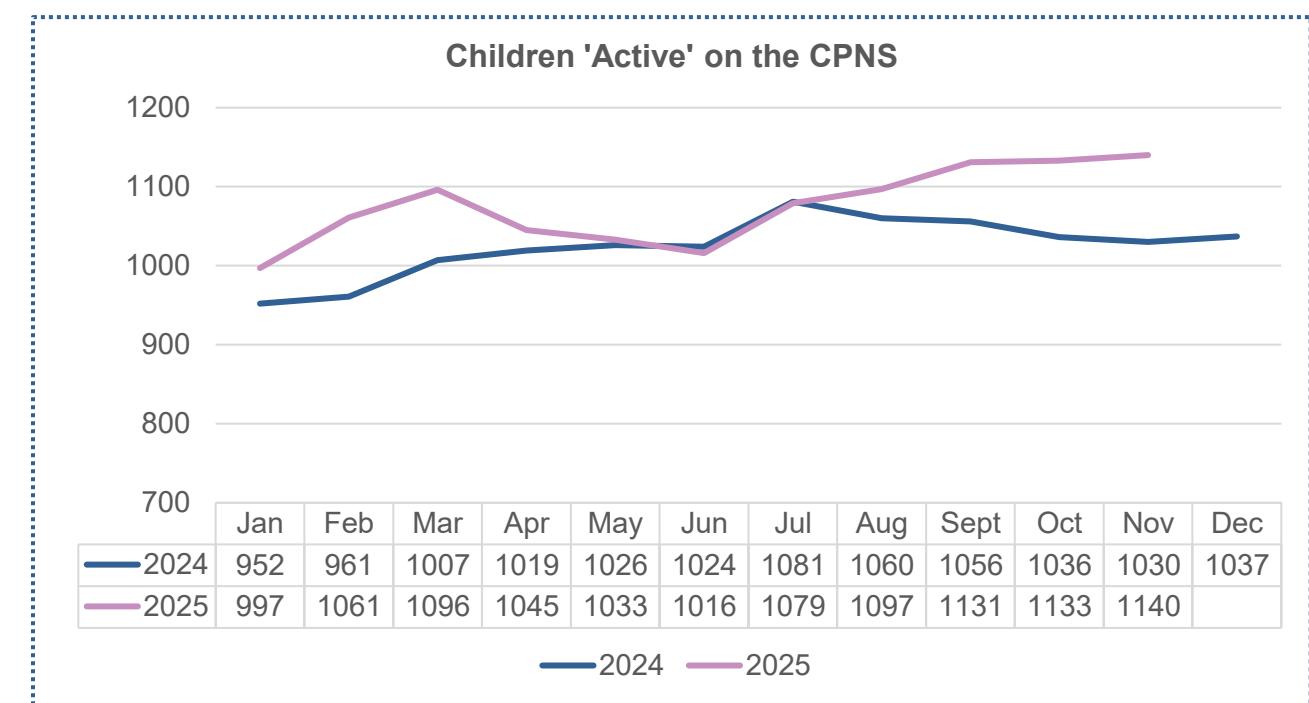
- **85% (4,998) of children in care at the end of November 2025 had an up-to-date care plan**, up one percentage point from October 2025 (84%).
- A total of 870 (15%) children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 43 (5%) fewer than October 2025 (913).
- Highest numbers awaiting an up-to-date care plan reported by Dublin North City (107; 21%); Cork (91; 14%), Midwest (89; 18%), Dublin North (77; 18%) and Dublin South Central (77; 23%).

### Area breakdown of children in care with an up-to-date care plan – November 2025

Area	UTD Care Plan	Awaiting UTD Care Plan	Total	% UTD Care Plan
Midlands	338	11	349	97%
Donegal	231	13	244	95%
Waterford/Wexford	360	23	383	94%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	292	27	319	92%
Mayo	135	14	149	91%
Louth/Meath	373	53	426	88%
Cork	575	91	666	86%
Cavan/Monaghan	151	25	176	86%
Kerry	143	27	170	84%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	339	66	405	84%
Galway/Roscommon	304	62	366	83%
Mid West	413	89	502	82%
Dublin North	344	77	421	82%
SCSIP	116	31	147	79%
Dublin North City	400	107	507	79%
Dublin South Central	253	77	330	77%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	143	47	190	75%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	88	30	118	75%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,998</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>5,868</b>	<b>85%</b>

# Child Protection Notification System

- 1,140 children listed as 'active' on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of November 2025, seven more than October 2025 (1,133) and the fifth consecutive increase.
- There were 110 (11%) more children 'active' at the end of November 2025 than at the end November 2024 (1,030).
- *It should be noted that a small number of large sibling groups can have a significant effect on numbers reported.*
- 98% (1,122) of children 'active' had an allocated social worker, 18 children were awaiting allocation to a social worker. Thirteen of the 18 children were subsequently allocated to a social worker. The remaining five cases are allocated to another professional.



- Highest numbers of children listed as 'active' at the end of November 2025, reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (148), Cork (123), Midlands (104), Dublin North City (102) and Dublin North (100).
- Fewest numbers reported by Kerry (21), Donegal (24), Cavan/Monaghan (25), and Mayo (25).
- The number of children 'active' equates to 9 children per 10,000 under 18 years.
- Highest rates reported by Dublin North City (20.9), Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (14.0) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (13.6).
- Lowest rates reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (3.8), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (5.6) and Waterford/Wexford (5.6).
- 6 of the 17 areas had more children listed as 'active' at the end of November 2025 than at the end of October 2025. Largest increases reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 14), Louth/Meath (up 11) and Midwest (up 9).
- 8 of the 17 areas reported fewer children 'active' with the largest decreases reported by Cork (down 13) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (down 12).
- The remaining three areas (Galway/Roscommon, Dublin North and Dublin South East/Wicklow) reported no change.
- 10 of the 17 areas had more children 'active' at the end of November 2025 than at the end of November 2024. Largest increases reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 42), Dublin North (up 38) and Cork (up 35).
- 7 of the 17 areas reported a decrease. Largest decreases reported by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 23), Midlands (down 14) and Dublin North City (down 11).

**Number and rate of children 'active' on the CPNS, by area (ranked by rate)**

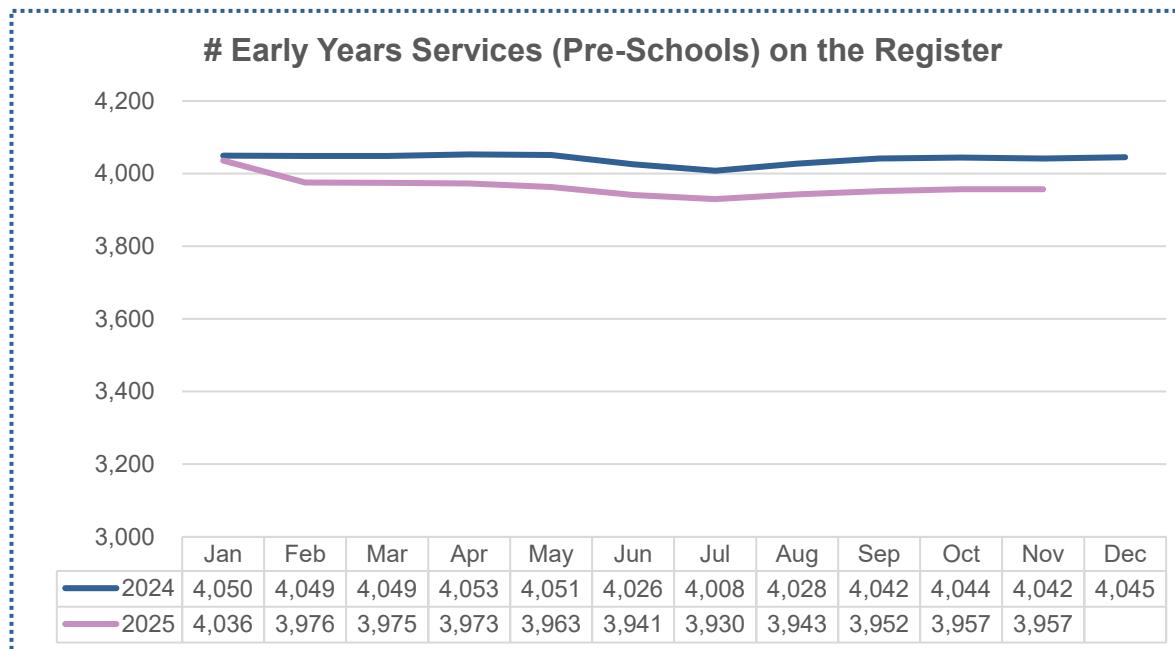
Area	Nov-24	Oct-25	Nov-25	Nov-25 v Nov-24	Nov-25 v Oct-25	Population	Rate/10,000
Dublin North City	113	104	102	-11	-2	48,909	20.9
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	27	46	34	7	-12	24,312	14.0
DSW/KWW	106	134	148	42	14	108,927	13.6
Midlands	118	96	104	-14	8	80,962	12.8
Dublin South Central	91	76	81	-10	5	70,259	11.5
Galway / Roscommon	55	82	82	27	0	81,799	10.0
Mid West	97	84	93	-4	9	96,764	9.6
Dublin North	62	100	100	38	0	104,281	9.6
Cork	88	136	123	35	-13	136,786	9.0
Mayo	20	27	25	5	-2	31,911	7.8
Louth / Meath	59	58	69	10	11	96,531	7.1
Cavan / Monaghan	15	27	25	10	-2	37,336	6.7
Kerry	24	26	21	-3	-5	34,994	6.0
Donegal	33	23	24	-9	1	42,144	5.7
Waterford / Wexford	31	43	39	8	-4	69,239	5.6
CW/K/ST	58	36	35	-23	-1	62,366	5.6
Dublin South East / Wicklow	33	35	35	2	0	91,047	3.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,030</b>	<b>1,133</b>	<b>1,140</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1,218,567</b>	<b>9.4</b>

Population 0-17 years – source CSO Census 2022

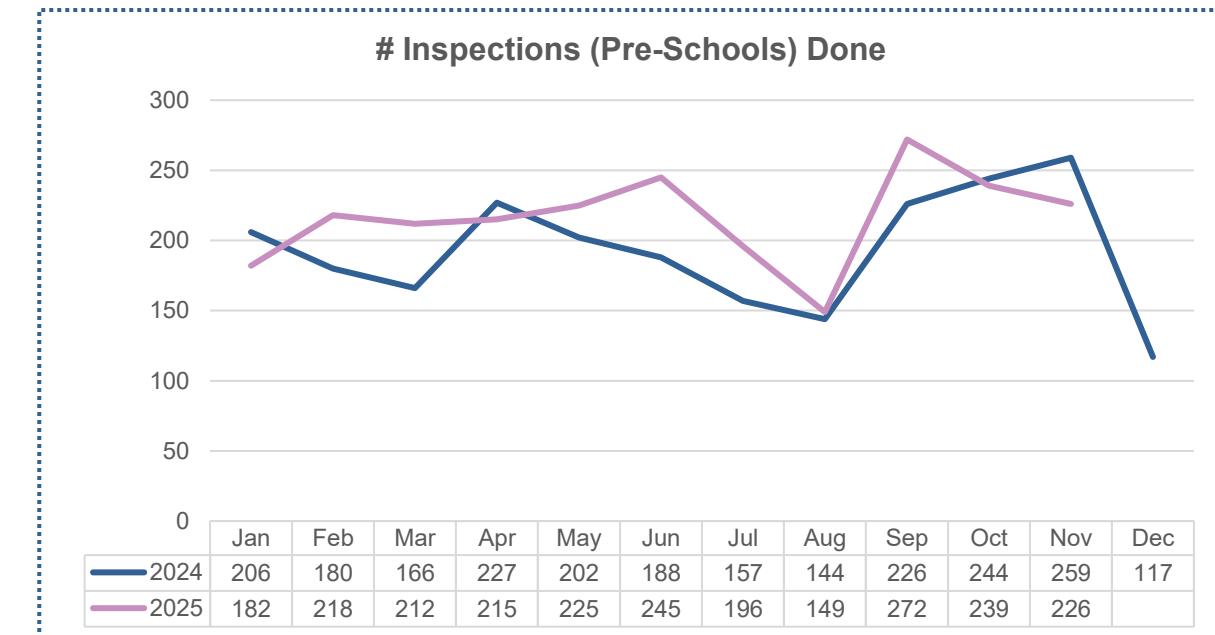
# Children's Services Regulation

## EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

- **3,957 early years services (pre-schools) on the register at the end of November 2025**, no change from October 2025 and 85 (2%) fewer than November 2024 (4,042). The reduction between January and February 2025 is partly explained by the transfer of a number of registered childminders from the Pre-School Register to the new Childminder Register of Services.

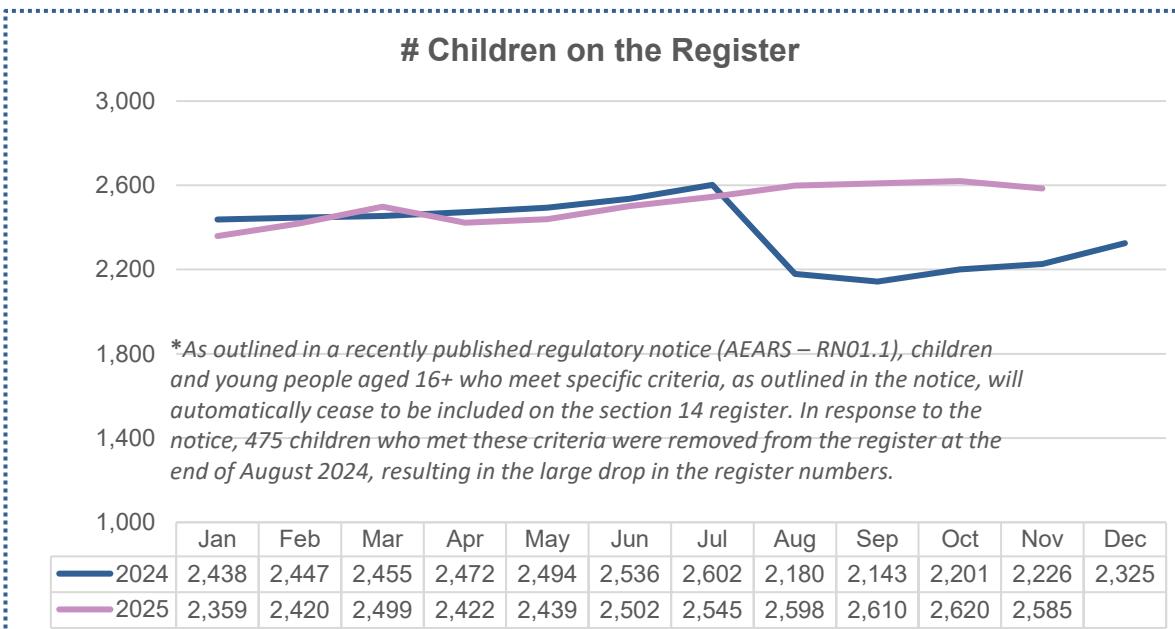


- **226 inspections of early years services (pre-schools) in November 2025**.
- This brings to 2,379 the number of inspections for the first 11 months of 2025, 180 (8%) more than the same period in 2024 (2,199).

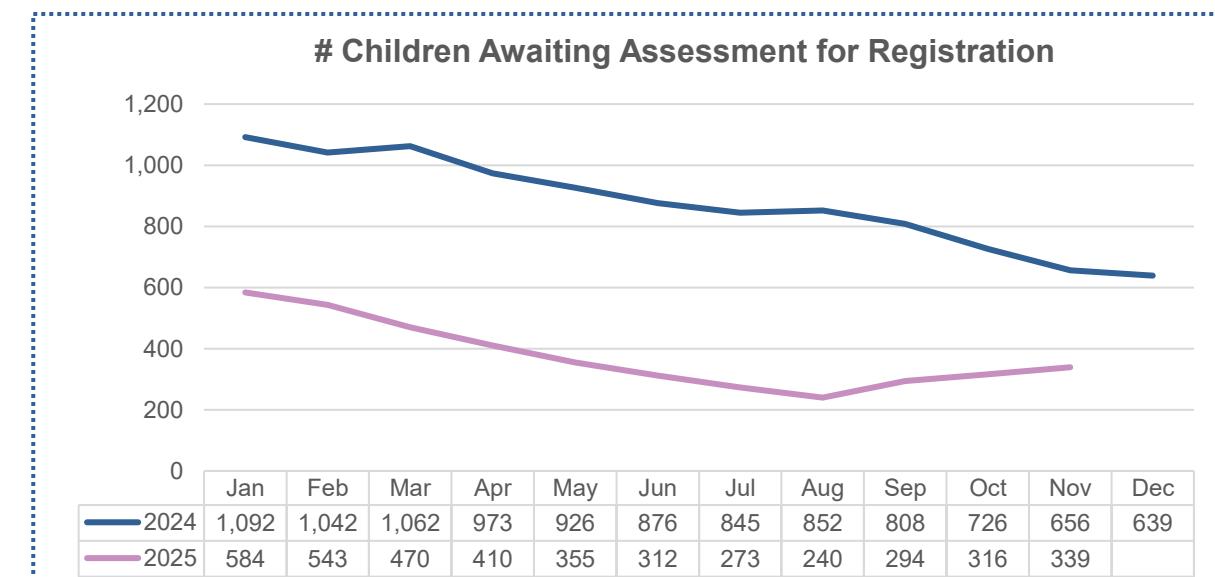


## ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION SERVICE

- **2,585 children on the register** for home education at the end of November 2025, 35 (1%) fewer than October 2025 (2,620), but 260 (11%) more than December 2024 (2,325). First decrease after six consecutive monthly increases.



- **339 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of November 2025**, 23 (7%) more than October 2025 (316), third consecutive increase after 12 consecutive decreases. There were 317 (48%) fewer children awaiting at the end of November 2025 than at the end of November 2024 (656).



# Tusla Education Support Services

- **1,244 referrals** for an educational welfare service in November 2025.
- This brings to 3,291 the number of referrals for the first three months of the academic year 2025/26.

*Note: the number of referrals for the academic year 2025/26 is not comparable with previous academic years due to the following: (1) change in metric definition from referrals screened to all referrals received; (2) introduction of a new team ('Children Missing in Education Team') and (3) launch of the Tusla Attendance Campaign in September 2025.*

- **8,993 cases open** to educational welfare services at the end of November 2025, 67 (1%) more than October 2025 (8,926).
- **59% (5,261) of open cases were allocated**, up from 57% (5,106) at the end of October 2025.
- **41% (3,732) of open cases were on a waiting list for allocation**, down from 43% (3,820) at the end of October 2025.
- 88 (2%) fewer cases on the waiting list at the end of November 2025 than at the end of October 2025 (3,820), but 432 (13%) more than November 2024 (3,300).

