



An Ghníomhaireacht um  
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach  
Child and Family Agency

# Quarterly Service Performance and Activity Report

QUARTER 1 2019



Quality Assurance Directorate

# CONTENTS

<b>CONTENTS .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1.0 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.0 CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES.....</b>	<b>9</b>
2.1 Referrals (Child Welfare And Child Abuse/Neglect) .....	9
2.2 Social Work Activity Data (Child Protection & Welfare) .....	23
2.3 Child Protection Notification System .....	29
2.4 National Out Of Hours Service .....	33
<b>3.0 ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES .....</b>	<b>35</b>
3.1 Children in Care (Foster Care / Residential Care) .....	35
3.2 Aftercare .....	45
3.3 Adoption Services .....	51
3.4 Foster Carers .....	54
3.5 Hiqa Inspections.....	60
<b>4.0 REGULATORY FUNCTIONS .....</b>	<b>61</b>
4.1 Early Years Inspectorate .....	61
4.2 Alternative Education Regulation .....	64
4.3 Non Statutory Alternative Care Services.....	68
<b>5.0 EDUCATIONAL WELFARE SERVICES.....</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>6.0 FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES.....</b>	<b>73</b>
6.1 Family Support Services .....	73
6.2 Meitheal.....	79
<b>7.0 HUMAN RESOURCES .....</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>8.0 FINANCE .....</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>APPENDIX I.....</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>APPENDIX II – Hiqa Inspections Main Findings .....</b>	<b>98</b>

**30 July 2019**

## 1.0 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

This report provides an update on the performance and activity of Tusla services at the end of Q1 2019. It is structured around key performance and activity measures included in the Agency's 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 Q1 2019 position regarding activity and performance.

### CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

#### Referrals

**As areas have recently transitioned to the National Child Care Information System and are in the early stages of implementation of the *Signs of Safety* practice model the data for all quarters of 2018 should be interpreted with care. Data for a number of areas are under-going validation including all data for 2018 for Louth/Meath.**

- 13,823 referrals in Q4 2018, 197 (1%) more than Q3 2018 (13,626) and 458 (3%) more than Q4 2017 (13,365).
- Total of 55,136 referrals in 2018, 1,381 (3%) more than 2017 and the third consecutive increase. Referrals are up 26% (11,540) on 2015.
- 51% (n=7,109) of referrals for Q4 2018 were child welfare concerns, fourth consecutive decrease and the fewest number since Q1 2016 (6,754).
- 49% (n=6,714) of referrals for child abuse concerns, highest number for all quarters Q1 2014 – Q4 2018.
- 91% (n=12,590) of referrals for Q4 2018 had a preliminary enquiry carried out, down two percentage points on Q3 2018 (93%; 12,659) *(based on data for 16/17 areas)*
- 28% (3,509) of preliminary enquiries were done within 5 days, down four percentage points on Q3 2018 (32%; 4,025) *(based on data for 16/17 areas)*.
- 18% (n=1,752) of referrals that had a preliminary enquiry required an initial assessment, down from 21% (n=2,151 revised figure) in Q3 2018 *(data for Q3 and Q4 based on data for 14 areas)*
- 14% (247/1,752) of initial assessments were done within 40 days; no change from Q3 2018 (302/2,151) *(data for Q3 and Q4 based on data for 14 areas)*.

#### Social Work Activity Data

- 25,293 cases open to social work at the end of Q1 2019; 1,140 (4%) fewer than Q4 2018 and first decrease after three consecutive increases.
- 77% (n=19,354) of open cases allocated to named social worker; up one percentage point from Q4
- 5,939 cases were awaiting allocation; 493 (8%) fewer than Q4 2018.
- 928 (16%) of the cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2019 were categorised as 'high priority'; 75 (7%) fewer than Q4 2018 and 194 (26%) more than Q1 2018 (734)
- 51% (n=3,023) of all cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2019 were waiting less than 3 months.

### **Child Protection Notification System**

- 913 children listed as 'active' on the CPNS at the end of Q1 2019; 116 (11%) fewer than Q4 2018 and 337 (27%) fewer than Q1 2018. Fewest number for all quarters Q1 2017 – Q1 2019
- 85% (780) of children listed as "active" were listed for no longer than 18 months
- All children listed as "active" at the end of Q1 2019 had an allocated social worker.

### **National Out of Hours Service**

- 589 referrals to the National Out of Hours Service in Q1 2019; 154 (35%) more than Q1 2018 (435 combined figure for Crisis Intervention Service and Emergency Out of Hours Service including service in Cork) and the highest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q1 2019.
- 182 children were placed by the National Out of Hours Service in Q1 2019; 23 more than Q1 2018

### **Children in Care**

- 6,005 children in care at the end of Q1 2019; 24 fewer than Q4 2018 (6,029) and 148 (2%) fewer than Q1 2018 (6,153).
- 646 children in private placements; seven fewer than Q4 2018 and 24 more than Q1 2018.
- 89% (n=5,336) of children in care had an allocated social worker (against a target of 100%), down two percentage points from Q4 2018 (91%).
- 669 children were awaiting allocation of a social worker; 152 more than Q4 2018. Highest number in the Midwest (n=134 up 73 from Q4 2018) followed by CW/KK/ST (n=127 up 20 from Q4 2018), DSW/K/WW (117 up 13 from Q4 2018) and Midlands (79 up 19 from Q4 2018).
- At least 82% (n=4,942) of children in care had an up to date care plan (against a target of 90%). Percentage based on data for 16 area and SWTSCSA – data for Cork outstanding
- DSW/K/WW has the highest number of children in care awaiting an up-to-date care plan (64/406; 16%) followed by Dublin North City (48/496; 10%), Dublin South Central (38/356; 11%) and Dublin North (34/333; 10%).

### **Aftercare**

**Data from Cork not available at the time of writing. Data for Q1 2019 includes data from the Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum (SWTSCSA)**

- At least 2,282 young persons/adults in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q1 2019
- 67% (1,221/1,825) of those 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service were in education/accredited training
- 83% (1,891) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services had an aftercare plan. Nine areas along with the SWTSCSA reported a percentage equal to or above the national average. Rates reported by CW/KK/ST (55%), DSW/K/WW (62%) Donegal (64%) and Dublin South Central (65%) lower than all other areas.
- 89% (1,625) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker (1,831) had an aftercare worker. Rates reported by CW/KK/ST (48%), DSW/K/WW (60%), Dublin South Central (66%) and GY/RN (76%) lower than all other areas.

### Adoption

- 699 new enquiries regarding information and tracing received in Q1 2019, 443 (173%) more than Q4 2018 and the highest number for all quarters Q1 2017 – Q1 2019.
- 803 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q1 2019; 23 (3%) more than Q4 2018 and 154 (24%) more than Q1 2018
- 45 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received during Q1 2019, five fewer than Q4 2018 and 16 fewer than Q1 2018.
- 35 new children were referred for adoption in Q1 2019; 14 fewer than Q4 2018 and six more than Q1 2018.
- 28 completed assessments (all types) were presented to Local Adoption Committees during Q1 2019, 18 fewer than Q4 2018 and 10 fewer than Q1 2018.

### Foster Carers

- 4,252 foster carers on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q1 2019; 72 (2%) fewer than Q4 2018
- 82% of relative foster carers approved against a target of 80%
- 89% (2,341) of general foster carers had an allocated link worker (target 90%); 278 awaiting a link work, eight more than Q4 2018. Highest number waiting reported by Midwest (71/288).
- 87% (n=976) of approved relative foster carers had an allocated link worker (target of 85%); 140 awaiting a link worker, 21 more than Q4 2018
- 250 unapproved relative foster carers; seven fewer than Q4 2018
- 221 (88%) of the unapproved relative foster carers had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks, 10 fewer than Q4 2018
- 22 unapproved carers were awaiting allocation of a link worker, 16 fewer than Q4 2018. These cases were reported by five areas (DSE/WW (1); DSW/K/WW (8); Midlands (7); WD/WX (2).

## REGULATORY FUNCTIONS

### Early Years Services

- 4,405 EYS on the register nationally at the end of Q1 2019; down 30 on Q4 2018 and the fewest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q1 2019
- 636 EYS inspections (all types) carried out during Q1 2019; 63 (11%) more than Q4 2018 and 72 (10%) fewer than Q1 2018.
- 110 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q1 2019; highest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q1 2019
- 138 unsolicited information submissions<sup>1</sup> received by the Inspectorate during Q1 2019; highest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q1 2019

## **Alternative Education Regulation**

### **Home Education**

- 1,454 children on the register for home education at the end of Q1 2019; highest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q1 2019
- 175 applications received for home education during Q1 2019
- 510 children awaiting assessment for registration at the end of Q1 2019 (*not comparable with previous quarters due to a change in the metric*).
- 503 registered children awaiting a review at the end of Q1 2019, the fewest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q1 2019.

### **Independent Schools**

- 5,134 children attending 45 assessed schools at the end of Q1 2019
- 135 new children's applications for education in independent schools received in Q1 2019
- 30 schools awaiting a review at the end of Q1 2019

## **Non-Statutory Alternative Care Services**

- 125 non-statutory residential centres at the end of Q1 2019; five more than Q4 2018
- 37 inspections (all types and onsite) conducted in Q1 2019; nine fewer than Q4 2018 and 12 more than Q1 2018

## **EDUCATIONAL WELFARE SERVICES**

### **Educational Welfare Services**

- 2,403 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers Q1 2019. Brings to 3,839 the number of referrals screened for the period Sep-18 - Mar-19, 238 (7%) more than Sep-17 – Mar-18 (3,601).
- 2,275 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of Q1 2019; 756 (50%) more Q4 2018 (1,519). Highest number for all months Sep-17 – Mar-19.
- 1,070 new individual children worked with in Q1 2019; bringing the total for the period Sep-18 – Mar-19 to 2,299; some 449 (24%) more than Sep-17 – Mar-18 (1,850).
- 217 school attendance notices (SANs) issued in Q1 2019 in respect of 149 children. Brings to 446 the number of attendance notices issued for the period Sep-18 - Mar-19; 30 fewer than Sep-17 – Mar-18 (476).
- 65 summonses issued in Q1 2019 in respect of 53 children. Brings to 106 the number of summonses issued for the period Sep-18 – Mar-19; no change from Sep-17 – Mar-18.
- 109 Section 24 meetings convened by EWOs between in Q1 2019. This brings to 236 the number of Section 24 meetings convened for the period Sep-18 – Mar-19; some 59 (33%) more than Sep-17 – Mar-18 (177)

### **Family Support Services (data reported bi-annually, Q2 and Q4)**

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

- At least 19,016 children in receipt of family support services at the end of Q4 2018 (based on 89% response rate); at least 21,526 in receipt at the end of Q4 2017 (based on 84% response rate)
- At least 17,177 children referred to family support services Q3 – Q4 2018, bringing the total number for 2018 to 33,270
- At least 72% (12,286) of children referred to family support services in Q3 – Q4 2018 received a service, while 73% (24,211) of all children referred in 2018 received a service, no change from 2017.

### **Meitheal (data reported bi-annually, Q2 and Q4)**

- 932 Meitheal processes requested in Q3 – Q4 2018; 130 (16%) more than the Q1-Q2 2018. This brings to 1,734 the total number of requests for 2018; 325 (23%) more than 2017 (n=1,409).
- 74% (1,291) of requests for 2018 requested through Direct Access, 14% (236) requested through Social Work Diversion and 12% (207) Social Work Step Down
- 67% (1,164) of Meitheal processes requested in 2018 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage)
- 854 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 in 2018; 72% (614) of these proceeded to Stage 3 (Delivery)
- 1,057 Meitheal processes were closed in 2018; 50% (526) were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form; 16% (170) closed following completion of Stage 2; 13% (134) closed following commencement of Stage 3 and 21% (227) closed post- delivery.
- 106 Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) operating at the end of 2018, with a further 22 planned.

### **Human Resources**

- 3,955 (WTE) employed by the Agency at the end of Q1 2019; 62 (2%) more than Q4 2018 and 236 (6%) more than Q1 2018
- 153 new staff came on to the Agency's payroll in Q1 2019
- 92 staff left (incl. retirements) the Agency in Q1 2019
- 175 staff on maternity leave at the end of February 2019
- 5.94% absence rate (Feb 2019); 1.16 percentage points lower than Q4 2018 (7.10%) and 0.38 percentage points higher than February 2016 (5.56%).
- 109 class-room based courses run by Workforce Learning & Development during Q1 2019 at which 1,762 persons attended. Online training targeted at Tusla staff was completed by 684 people in Q1

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

### Finance

- The financial outturn for the year to date (March 2019) is an over-spend of €1.578 million
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €2,155 million
- Non pay costs are over-spent against budget by €3,552 million
- Key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €5,794 million over budget
- 48% (€3,574 million) of legal expenditure (€7,440 million) was 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

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

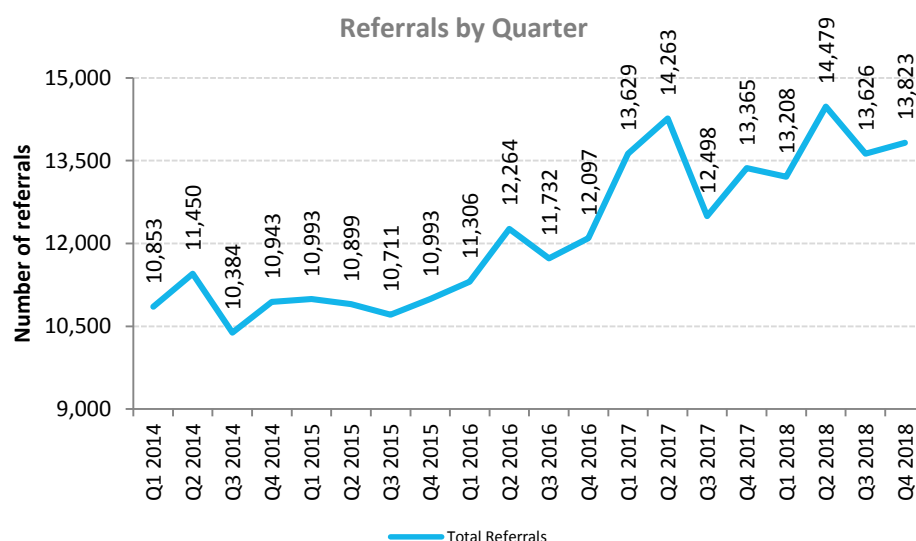
#### Key Facts

**As areas have recently transitioned to the National Child Care Information System and are in the early stages of implementation of the *Signs of Safety* practice model the data for all quarters of 2018 should be interpreted with care. Data for a number of areas are under-going validation including all data for 2018 for Louth/Meath.**

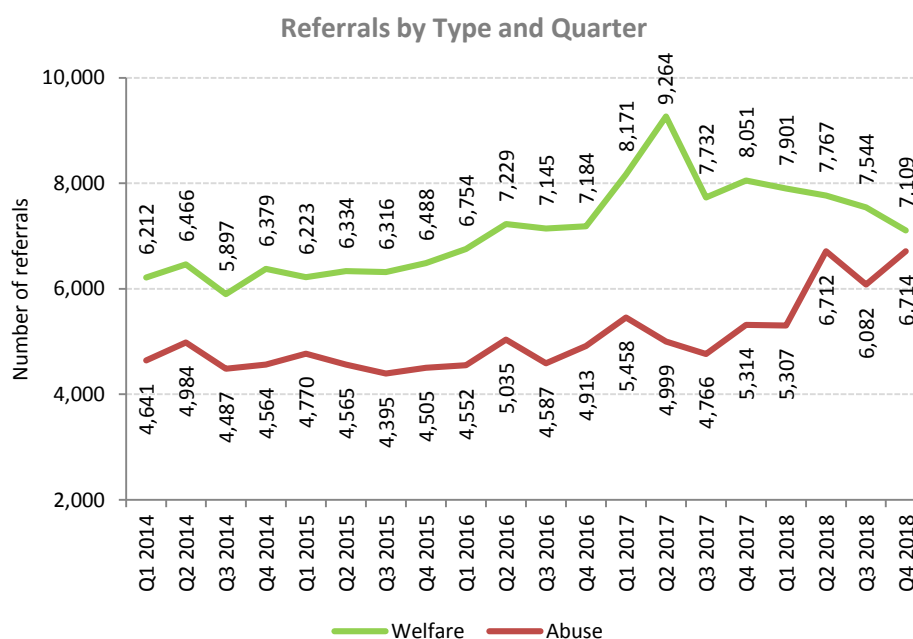
- 13,823 referrals in Q4 2018, 197 (1%) more than Q3 2018 (13,626) and 458 (3%) more than Q4 2017 (13,365).
- Total of 55,136 referrals in 2018, 1,381 (3%) more than 2017 and the third consecutive increase. Referrals are up 26% (11,540) on 2015.
- 51% (n=7,109) of referrals for Q4 2018 were child welfare concerns, fourth consecutive decrease and the fewest number since Q1 2016 (6,754).
- 49% (n=6,714) of referrals for child abuse concerns, highest number for all quarters Q1 2014 – Q4 2018.
- 91% (n=12,590) of referrals for Q4 2018 had a preliminary enquiry carried out, down two percentage points on Q3 2018 (93%; 12,659) (*data for Q4 based on 16 areas*)
- 28% (3,509) of preliminary enquiries were done within 5 days, down four percentage points on Q3 2018 (32%; 4,025) (*data for Q4 based on 16 areas*).
- 18% (n=1,752) of referrals that had a preliminary enquiry required an initial assessment, down from 21% (n=2,151 revised figure) in Q3 2018 (*data for Q3 and Q4 based on data for 14 areas*)
- 14% (247/1,752) of initial assessments were done within 40 days; no change from Q3 2018 (302/2,151) (*data for Q3 and Q4 based on data for 14 areas*).

## Number of Referrals Q4 2018

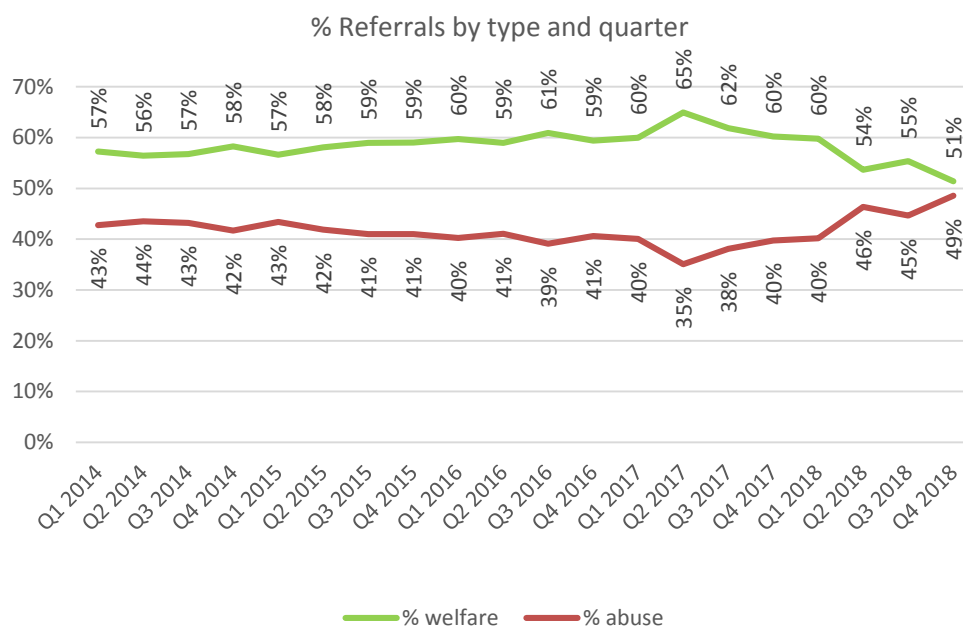
- 13,823 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Service during Q4 2018<sup>1</sup>; 197 (1%) more than Q3 2018 (13,626) and 458 (3%) more than Q4 2017 (13,365).



- 51% (7,109) of referrals were for welfare concerns, fourth consecutive decrease and the fewest number since Q1 2016 (6,754).
- 49% (6,714) of referrals were for abuse/neglect concerns, 1,400 (26%) more than Q4 2017 and the highest number for all quarters Q1 2014 – Q4 2018.
- From Q2 2018 the data shows a narrowing of the differential between the percentage of abuse/neglect and welfare referrals, with the percentage of abuse increasing and welfare decreasing.



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



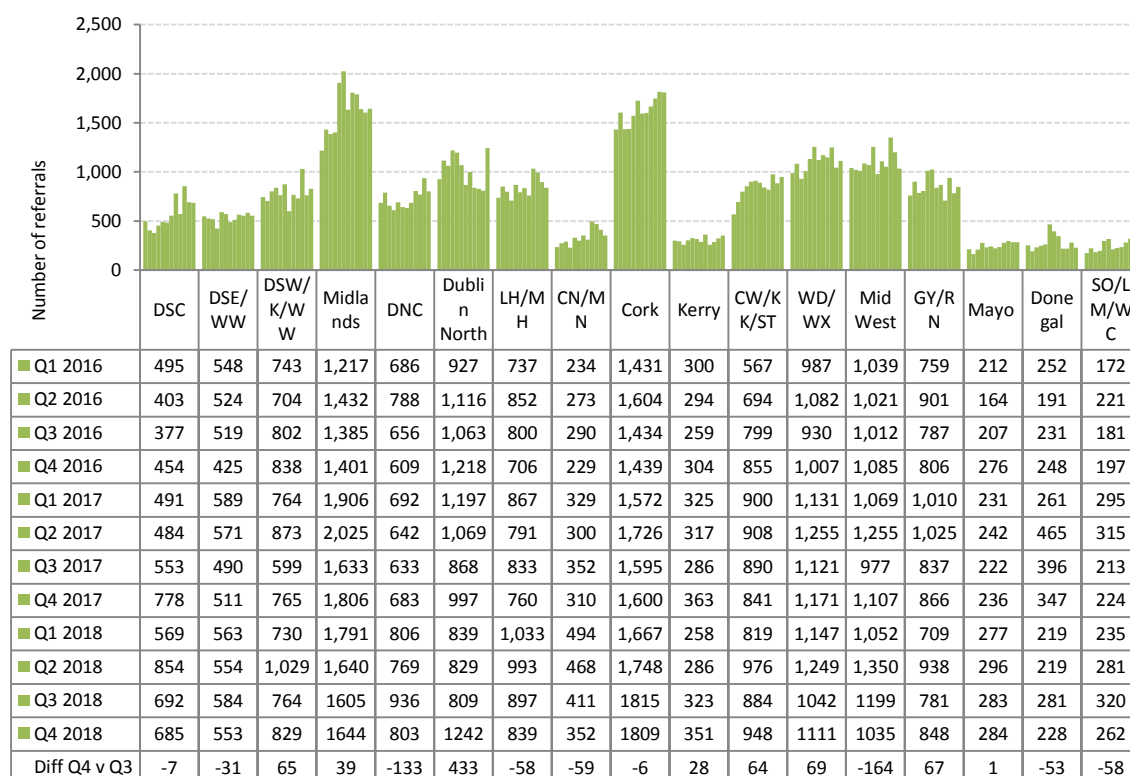
### Referrals by Area Q4 2018

- 8/17 areas reported an increase in referrals from Q4 2017. The highest increase was reported by Dublin North (up 433) followed by WD/WX (up 69), GY/RN (up 67), DSW/K/WW (up 65) and CW/KK/ST (up 64).
- 9/17 areas reported a decrease. The largest decrease was reported by Midwest (down 164) followed by Dublin North City (down 133).
- Kerry reported three consecutive increases from Q1 2018 while two areas (LH/MH and CN/MN) reported three consecutive decreases from Q1 2018.

Area	# Q4 2017	# Q1 2018	# Q2 2018	# Q3 2018	# Q4 2018	Δ+/- Q4 v Q3
DSC	778	569	854 <sup>#</sup>	692	685	-7
DSE/WW	511	563	554	584	553	-31
DSW/K/WW	765	730	1,029	764	829	65
Midlands	1,806	1,791	1,640	1,605	1644	39
DNC	683	806	769	936	803	-133
Dublin North	997	839	829	809	1242	433
LH/MH	760	1,033	993	897	839	-58
CN/MN	310	494	468	411	352	-59
Cork	1,600	1,667	1,748	1,815	1809	-6
Kerry	363	258	286	323	351	28
CW/KK/ST	841	819	976	884	948	64
WD/WX	1,171	1,147 (partial)	1,249*	1,042	1111	69
MidWest	1,107	1,052	1,350	1,199	1035	-164
GY/RN	866	709	938	781	848	67
Mayo	236	277	296	283	284	1
Donegal	347	219	219	281	228	-53
SLWC	224	235	281	320	262	-58
<b>National</b>	<b>13,365</b>	<b>13,208</b>	<b>14,479</b>	<b>13,626</b>	<b>13,823</b>	<b>197</b>

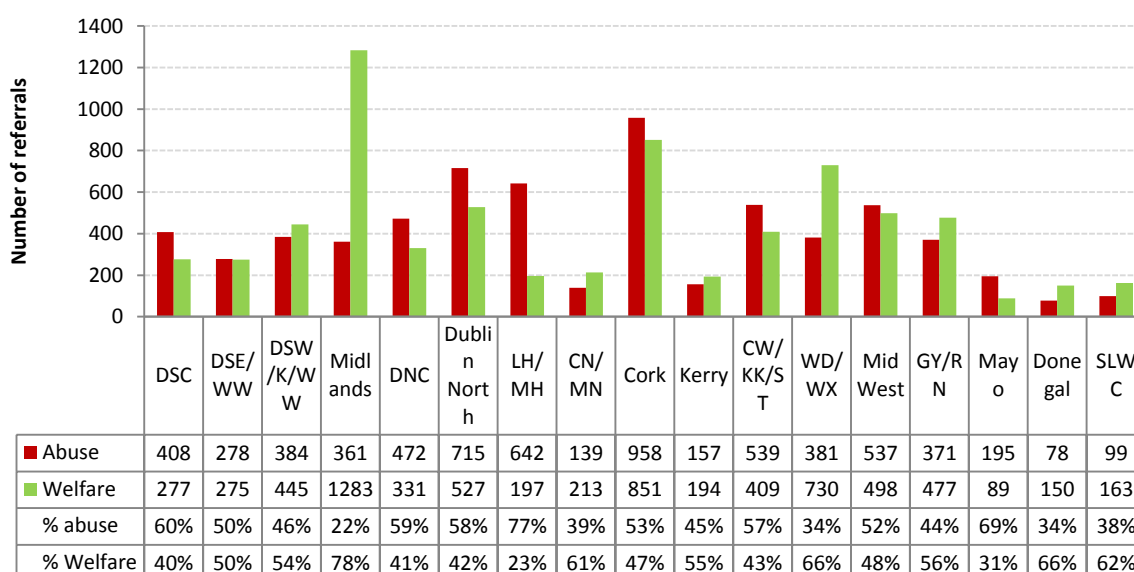
\* Q2 2018 data for WD/WX are undergoing validation

<sup>#</sup> Dublin South Central, figure for Q2 2018 (854) revised from previously reported (449)



## Referrals by Area and Type Q4 2018

- An area breakdown of referrals by type (abuse / welfare) for Q4 2018 is presented in the chart below.
- Nationally, there was 49:51 split between referrals of abuse/neglect and welfare. This varied across the areas and ranged from a 77:23 split for LH/MH to a 22:78 split for the Midlands. Eight areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 49% for abuse (Dublin South Central, Dublin South East/Wicklow, Dublin North City, Dublin North, LH/MH, Cork, CW/KK/ST, Midwest and Mayo).



## **Preliminary Enquiry and Initial Assessment**

Tusla introduced a new national approach to practice (Signs of Safety) on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018. This new approach introduced some new changes to the preliminary enquiry and initial assessment steps of the referral process.

The purpose of the **Preliminary Enquiry** as defined under the new approach is: -

- To gather and consider relevant information regarding a reported concern about child.
- To consider the immediate safety of a child and to take necessary immediate protective action, if required.
- To examine all information held by Tusla and determine whether the report meets the threshold for harm for child protection and welfare social work services and to divert cases where this threshold is not met.
- To decide the primary report type and priority status of accepted reports and to respond to these accepted reports in a proportionate and timely manner.

The outcome of this step will be either:

1. An Initial Assessment is required
2. The case can be appropriately diverted for an alternative response through the Child and Family Support Networks.
3. The case will be closed with no further action.

Timeline for the preliminary enquiry is 5 days.

The purpose of the **Initial Assessment** is to determine:

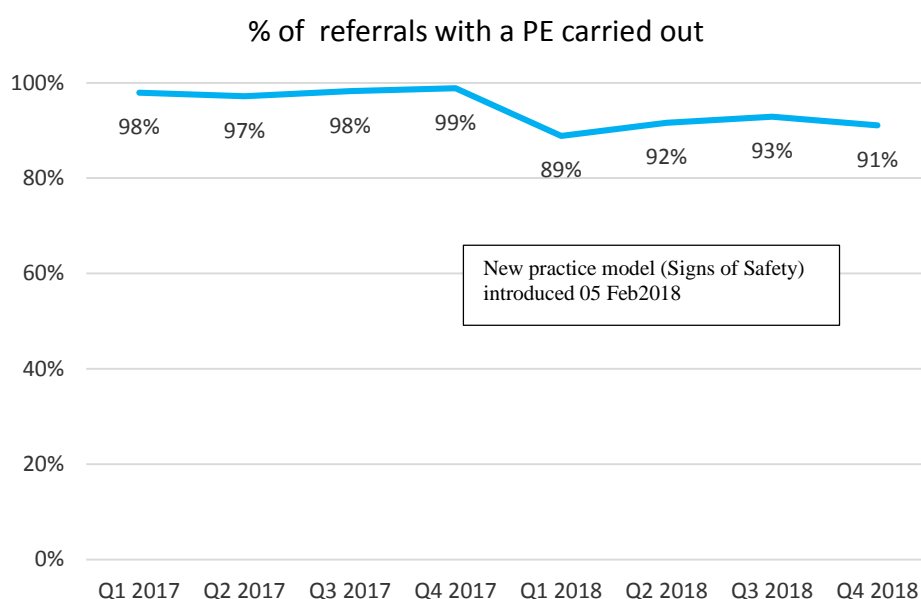
- If the referral is a child protection or serious child welfare matter than requires either a Child Welfare Safety Plan; a Child Protection Safety Plan or whether the harm to the child is at a level where the children should be removed from the care of their parents until such time as a safety plan can be established.
- If the referral can be closed or diverted to an early intervention response that doesn't require Tusla Social Work intervention and can be diverted to a needs led approach like Meitheal.

The timeline for the Initial Assessment is 40 days from receipt of the referral.

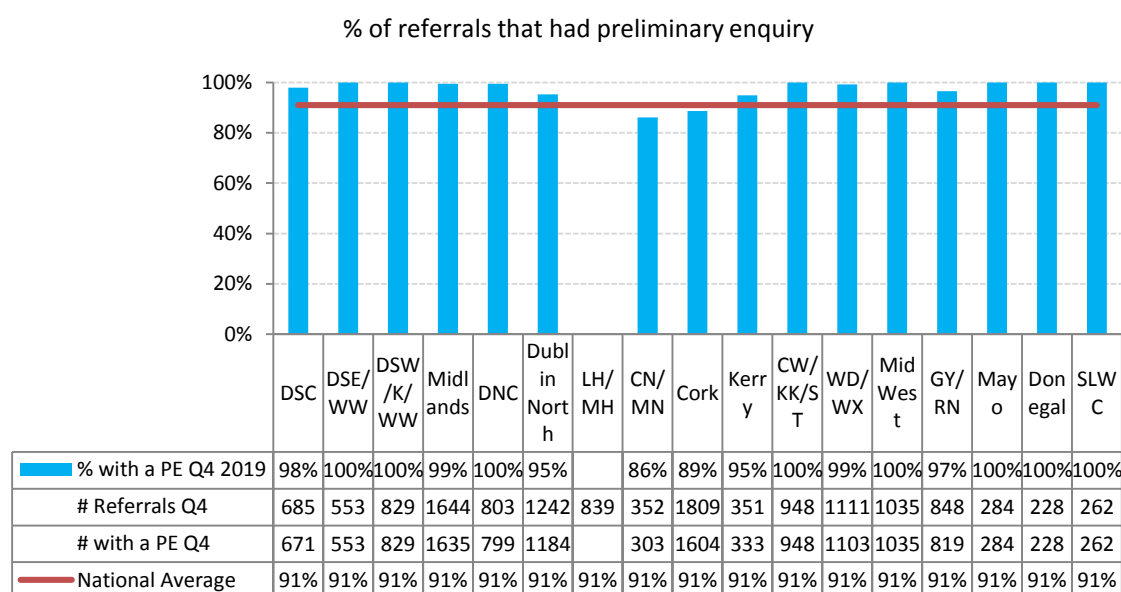
**Due to these changes the data presented below are not directly comparable with data previously reported.**

As areas have recently transitioned to the National Child Care Information System and are in the early stages of implementation of the *Signs of Safety* practice model the data for all quarters of 2018 should be interpreted with care. Data under-going validation in a number of areas.

- 91% (n=12,590) of referrals for Q4 2018 had a preliminary enquiry carried out, down two percentage points on Q3 2018 (revised data). *Data for all quarters 2018 based on data for 16/17 areas, data for Louth/Meath under-going validation. Although data for Q1 – Q3 was previously published for this area (Louth/Meath), all data for 2018 is now under-going validation and has been removed from analyses for 2018.*

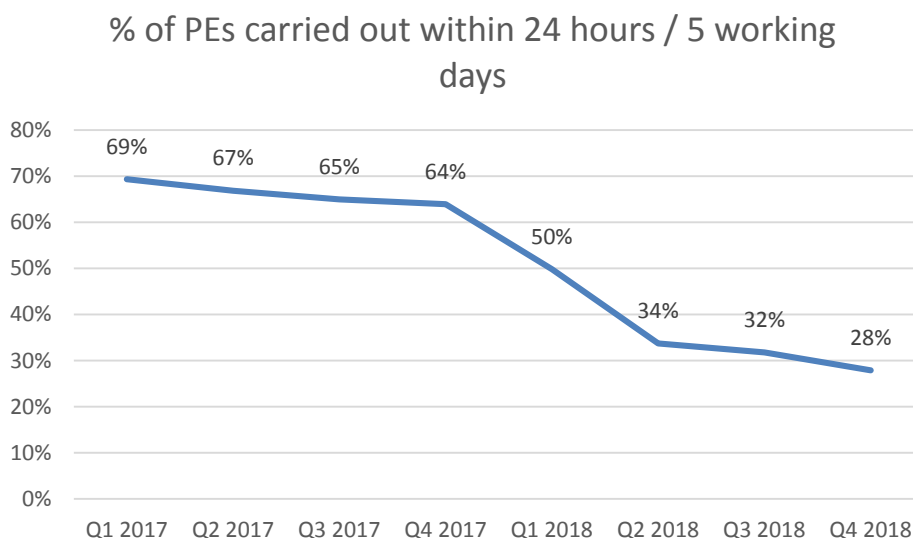


- A preliminary enquiry was carried out on all referrals (Q4 2018) in 7/16 areas where data was provided. The lowest percentage (86%; 303/352) was reported by Cavan/Monaghan

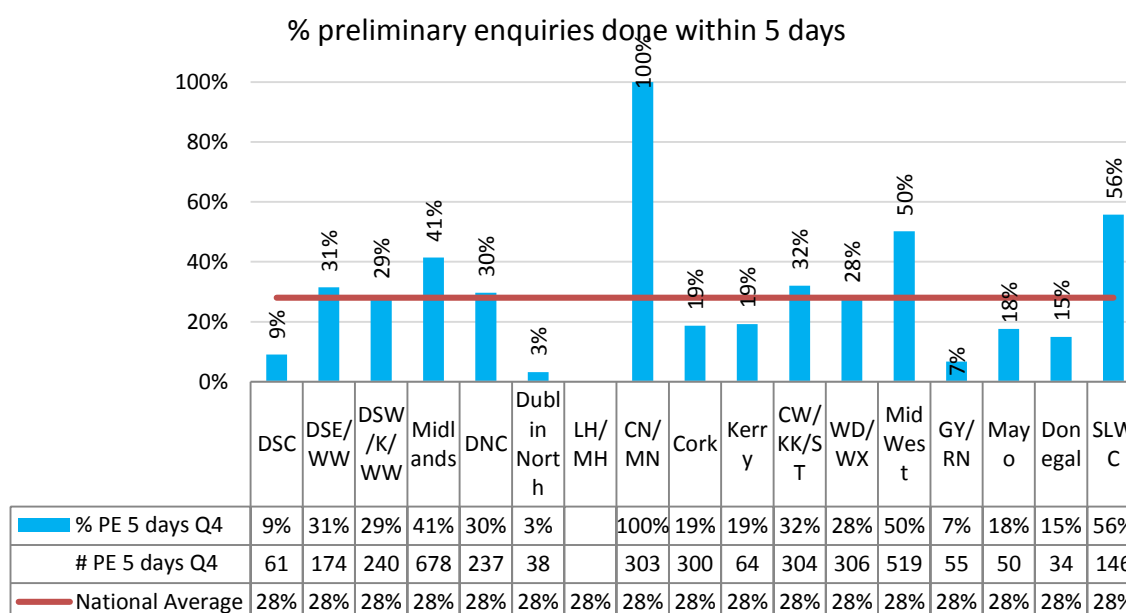


Dublin North City showing 100% above due to rounding. Data for LH/MH undergoing validation

- 28% (3,509) of preliminary enquiries were done within 5 days, down four percentage points on Q3 2018 (32%; 4,025 revised figure). *Percentage for Q1 based on data for 10 areas, percentage for Q2 is based on data for 15 areas (DNC and LH/MH not available), percentage for Q3 and Q4 2018 based on data from 16 areas - data for Louth/Meath under-going validation.*



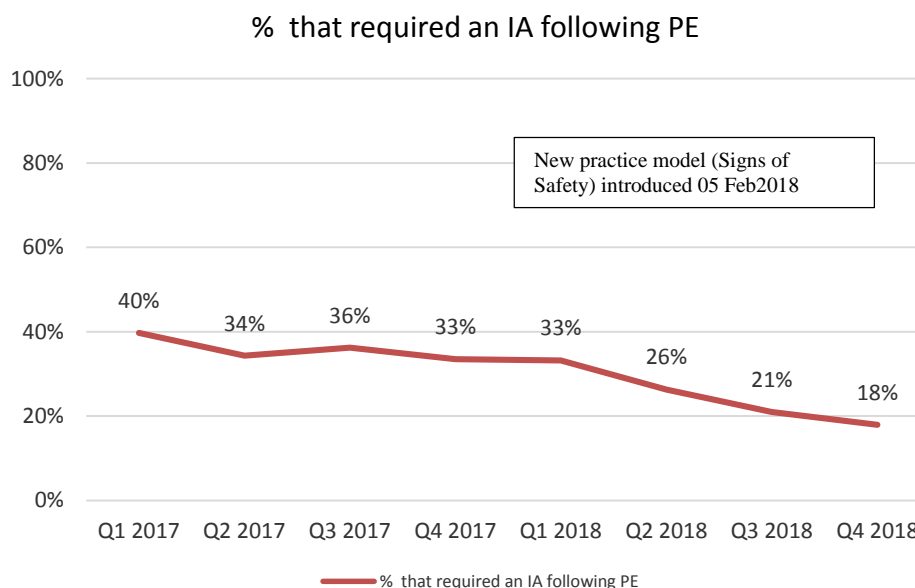
- The percentage of preliminary enquiries done within 5 days ranged from 100% in Cavan/Monaghan to 3% in Dublin North (38/1,184). Seven areas reported a percentage lower than the national average of 28%.



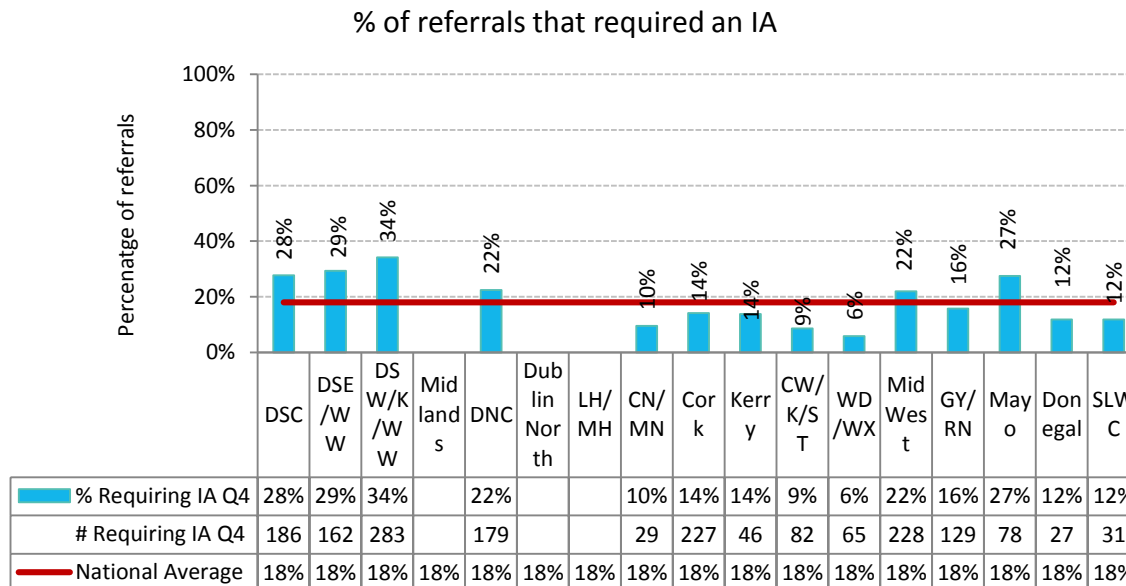
Data for LH/MH undergoing validation

- 18% (n=1,752/9,771) of referrals that had a preliminary enquiry required an initial assessment, down three percentage points on Q3 2018 (21%; 2,151/10,260 revised figure). *Percentage for Q1 based on data for 16 areas (data for LH/MH under-going*

validation), percentage for Q2 based on data for 15 areas (data for LH/MH and Midlands under-going validation), percentage for Q3 and Q4 based on data from 14/17 areas – data for Dublin North, Midlands and Louth/Meath under-going validation.



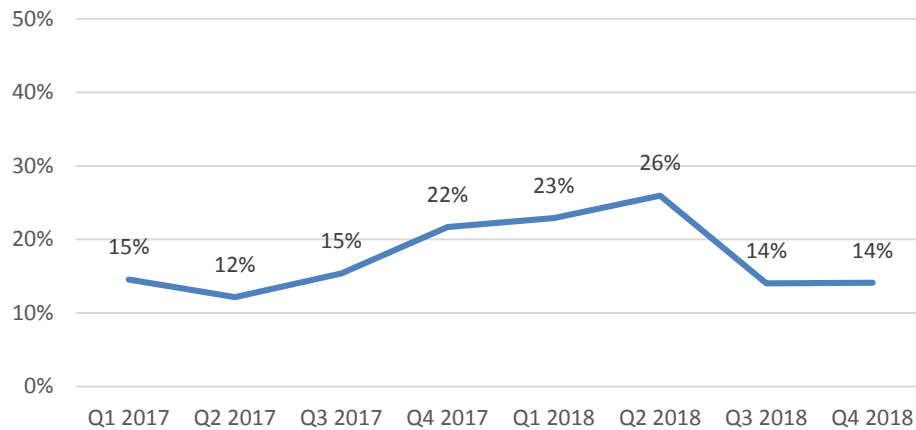
- The percentage of referrals requiring an initial assessment following a preliminary enquiry ranged from 6% (65/1,103) WD/WX to 34% (283/829) in DSW/K/WW. Six areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 18%.



- 14% (247/1,752) of initial assessments were done within 40 days; no change from Q3 revised figure). Percentage for Q1 based on data for 10 areas, percentage for Q2 is based on data for 14 areas (Midlands, DNC and LH/MH not available), percentage for Q3 and Q4 2018 based on data from 14 areas - data for Dublin North, Midlands and Louth/Meath under-going validation.

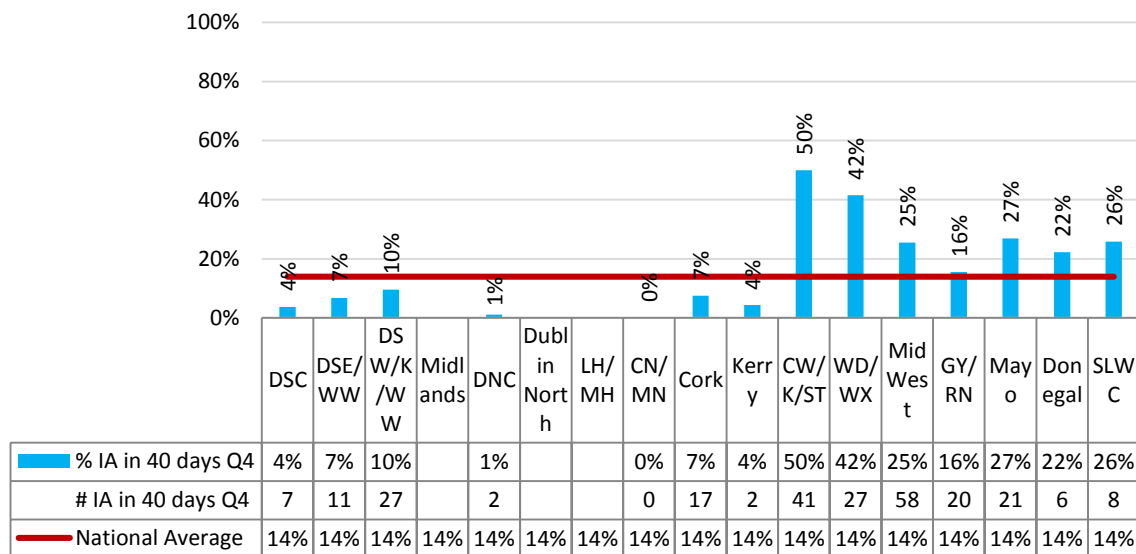


% of IAs completed within 21 days / 40 days  
(from 5 Feb 2018)



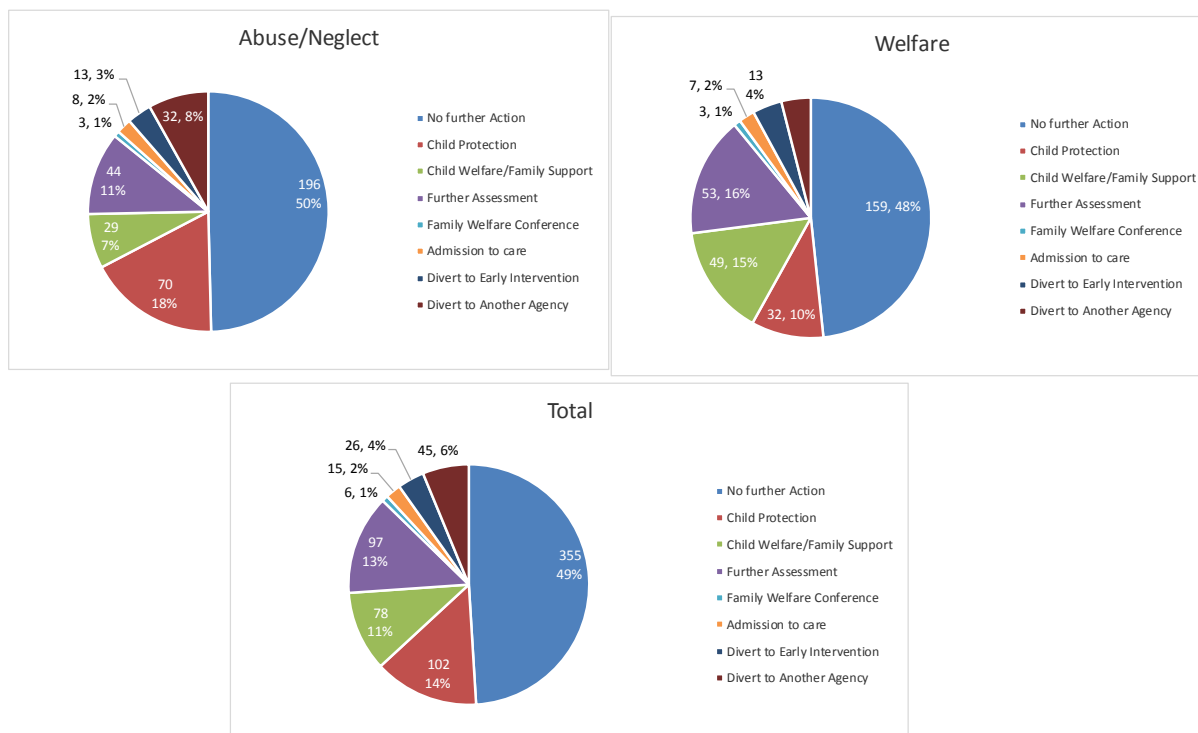
- The percentage of initial assessments done within 40 days ranged from 50% (41/82) in CW/KK/ST to none in Cavan/Monaghan. Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or above the national average of 14%.

% of IA done within 40 days



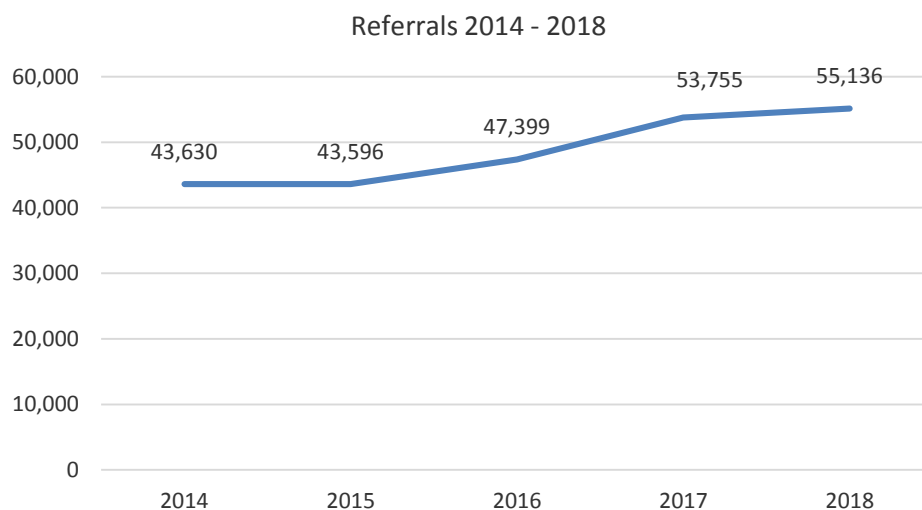
- The outcome of initial assessment was recorded for 724 referrals (Q4 2018).
- ‘No further action’ was recorded in 49% (355/724) of cases.
- “Child protection” was recorded for 14% (102) while 15 (2%) children required admission to care.
- Some 4% (26) cases were diverted for an early intervention response.

## Breakdown of actions recorded following initial assessment

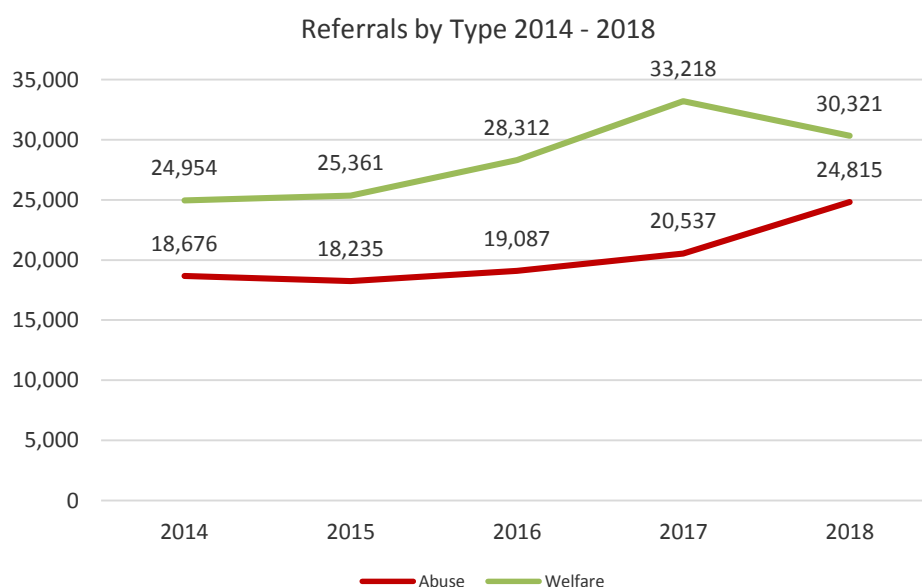


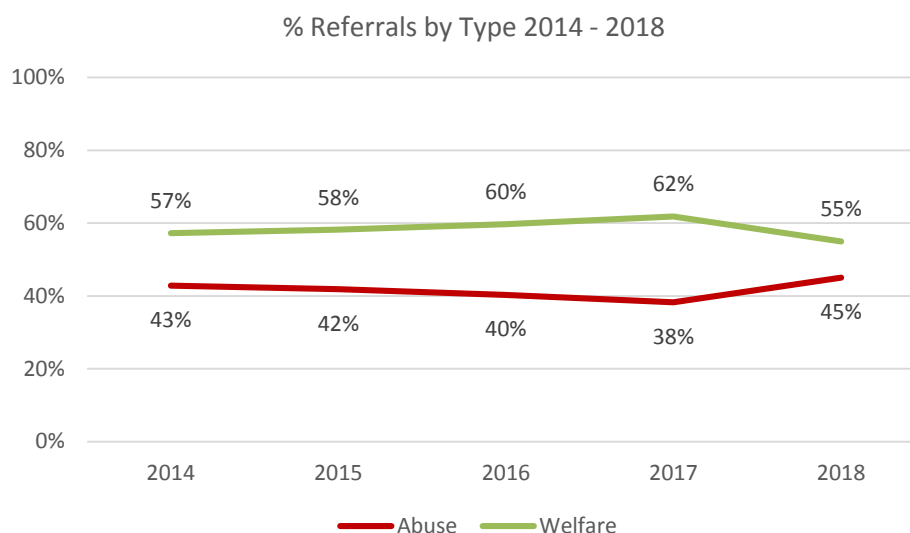
## Number of Referrals 2018

- 55,136 referrals in 2018, 1,381 (3%) more than 2017 and the third consecutive increase. Referrals are up 26% (11,540) on 2015



- 55% (n=30,321) of referrals were for child welfare concerns, 2,897 (9%) fewer than 2017 and the first decrease after three consecutive increases.
- The remaining 45% (n=24,815) were for child abuse/neglect concerns, 4,278 (21%) more than 2017 and highest number for the period 2014 – 2018.
- Proportion of abuse/neglect referrals up from 38% in 2017 to 45% in 2018, the highest percentage for all years 2014 – 2018.
- 51% (12,610) of abuse referrals for 2018 were mandated reports. *Mandated reporting commenced in December 2017.*





## Rate of Referrals 2018

- 55,136 referrals equates to about 46 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 and Dublin North City reported the highest rates of referrals for 2018 at 83/1,000 children and 74/1,000 children respectively. The lowest rates were reported by Donegal (22/1,000) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (26/1,000).
- 8 areas (Midlands, Dublin North City, CN/MN, Cork, CW/KK/ST, WD/WX, Midwest and SLWC) reported a rate higher than the national rate of 46/1,000 population under 18 years.
- Highest number of referrals reported by Cork (7,039), followed by Midlands (6,680), Midwest (4,636) and WD/WX (4,549). Fewest number reported by Donegal (947) and SLWC (1,098).
- 11 areas reported an increase from 2017 ranging from 51 (SLWC) to 664 (Dublin North City)
- 6 areas reported a decrease from 2017 ranging from 129 (WD/WX) to 690 (Midlands)

Area	Total 2017	Total 2018	Δ 2018 v 2017	Population	Rate 2018
DSC	2,306	2,800	494	65,564	43
DSE/WW	2,161	2,254	93	86,810	26
DSW/K/WW	3,001	3,352	351	108,186	31
Midlands	7,370	6,680	-690	80,193	83
DNC	2,650	3,314	664	44,927	74
Dublin North	4,131	3,719	-412	100,654	37
LH/MH	3,251	3,762	511	93,093	40
CN/MN	1,291	1,725	434	36,446	47
Cork	6,493	7,039	546	134,015	53

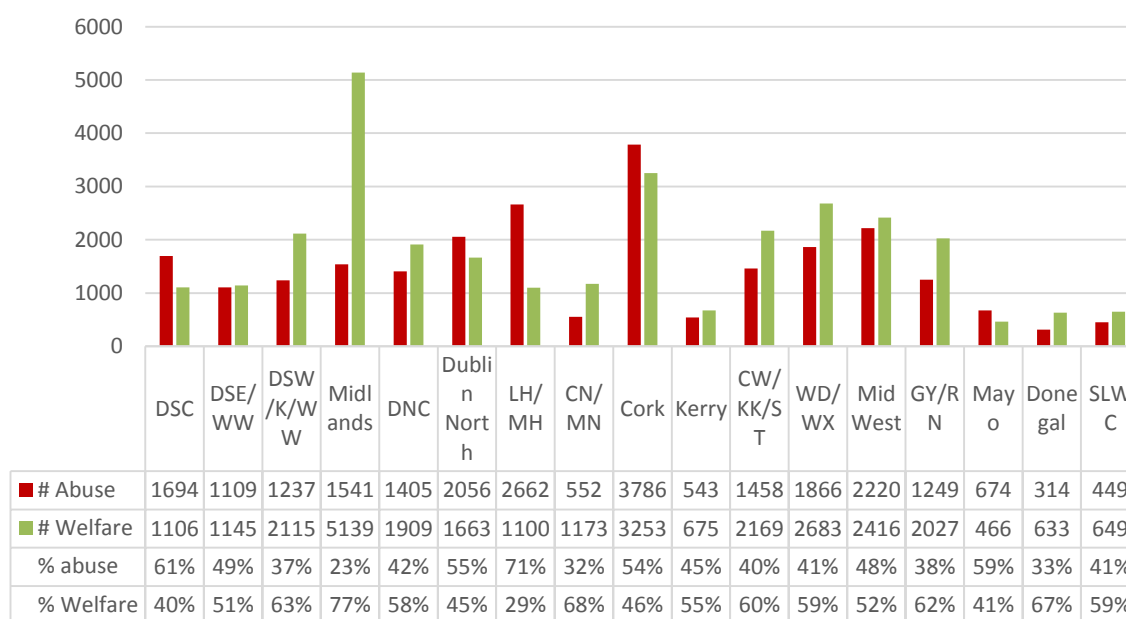
<b>Kerry</b>	1,291	1,218	-73	34,527	35
<b>CW/KK/ST</b>	3,539	3,627	88	63,009	58
<b>WD/WX</b>	4,678	4,549	-129	68,513	66
<b>MidWest</b>	4,408	4,636	228	96,266	48
<b>GY/RN</b>	3,738	3,276	-462	79,912	41
<b>Mayo</b>	931	1,140	209	31,968	36
<b>Donegal</b>	1,469	947	-522	42,865	22
<b>SLWC</b>	1,047	1,098	51	23,554	47
<b>National</b>	<b>53,755</b>	<b>55,136</b>	<b>1,381</b>	<b>1,190,502</b>	<b>46</b>

0-17 years population – CSO 2016

## Referrals by Area and Type

- An area breakdown of referrals by type (abuse / welfare) for 2018 is presented in the chart below.
- Nationally, there was 45:55 split between referrals of abuse/neglect and welfare. This varied across the areas and ranged from a 71:29 split for LH/MH to a 23:77 split for the Midlands. Eight areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 45% for abuse (Dublin South Central, Dublin South East/Wicklow, Dublin North, LH/MH, Cork, Kerry, Midwest and Mayo).

Breakdown of Referrals by Type and Area 2018



## Summary Table Q4 2018

	# Referrals	# With PE	% with PE	# within 5 days	% within 5 days	# requiring IA	% requiring IA	# within 40 days	% within 40 days
DSC	685	671	98%	61	9%	186	28%	7	4%
DSE/WW	553	553	100%	174	31%	162	29%	11	7%
DSW/K/WW	829	829	100%	240	29%	283	34%	27	10%
Midlands*	1644	1635	99%	678	41%				
DNC	803	799	99%	237	30%	179	22%	2	1%
Dublin North*	1242	1184	95%	38	3%				
LH/MH	839								
CN/MN	352	303	86%	303	100%	29	10%	0	0%
Cork	1809	1604	89%	300	19%	227	14%	17	7%
Kerry	351	333	95%	64	19%	46	14%	2	4%
CW/K/ST	948	948	100%	304	32%	82	9%	41	50%
WD/WX	1111	1103	99%	306	28%	65	6%	27	42%
Mid West	1035	1035	100%	519	50%	228	22%	58	25%
GY/RN	848	819	97%	55	7%	129	16%	20	16%
Mayo	284	284	100%	50	18%	78	27%	21	27%
Donegal	228	228	100%	34	15%	27	12%	6	22%
SLWC	262	262	100%	146	56%	31	12%	8	26%
<b>National</b>	<b>13823</b>	<b>12,590</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>3,509</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>1752</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>14%</b>

\*Q4 2018 data for Dublin North, Midlands and Louth/Meath not available - under-going validation.

## Summary Table 2018

	# Referrals	# With PE	% with PE	# within 24 hrs 5 days	% within 24 hrs / 5 days	# requiring IA	% requiring IA	# within 21 days / 40 days	% within 21 days / 40 days
DSC	2,800	2,786	99%	509	18%	745	27%	74	10%
DSE/WW	2,254	2,211	98%	845	38%	556	25%	81	15%
DSW/K/WW	3,352	3,352	100%	1,065	32%	1,523	45%	576	38%
Midlands*	6,680	6,586	99%	3,391	51%	571	33%	451	79%
DNC	3,314	3,310	99%	344	10%	1,227	37%	3	0.2%
Dublin North*	3,719	3,661	98%	1,274	35%	917	55%	148	16%
LH/MH	3,762								
CN/MN	1,725	1,465	85%	1,465	100%	96	7%	0	0%
Cork	7,039	6,833	97%	929	14%	1,767	26%	86	5%
Kerry	1,218	1,197	98%	124	10%	196	16%	6	3%
CW/K/ST	3,627	3,348	92%	570	17%	380	11%	64	17%
WD/WX	4,549	4,481	99%	2,060	46%	344	8%	162	47%
Mid West	4,636	4,636	100%	3,373	73%	1,076	23%	376	35%
GY/RN	3,276	3,229	99%	939	29%	728	23%	113	16%
Mayo	1,140	1,117	98%	411	37%	308	28%	51	17%
Donegal	947	942	99%	126	13%	201	21%	18	9%
SLWC	1,098	1,097	99%	430	39%	222	20%	27	12%
<b>National</b>	<b>55,136</b>	<b>50,251</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>17,855</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>10,857</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>2,236</b>	<b>21%</b>

Midlands - data for initial assessments refers to Q1 only. Data for Q2 –Q4 undergoing validation

Dublin North - data for initial assessments refers to Q1 and Q2 only. Data for Q3–Q4 undergoing validation

Dublin North City – data for timeline metrics (5 days and 40 days) refers to Q3 and Q4 only

Cork, Kerry, CW/KK/ST, Mayo and Donegal – timeline metrics refer to Q2 – Q4 inclusive

Louth/Meath – data for all quarters not available - under-going validation. **Although data for Q1 – Q3 was previously published for this area (Louth/Meath), all data for 2018 is now under-going validation and has been removed from analyses for 2018.**

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

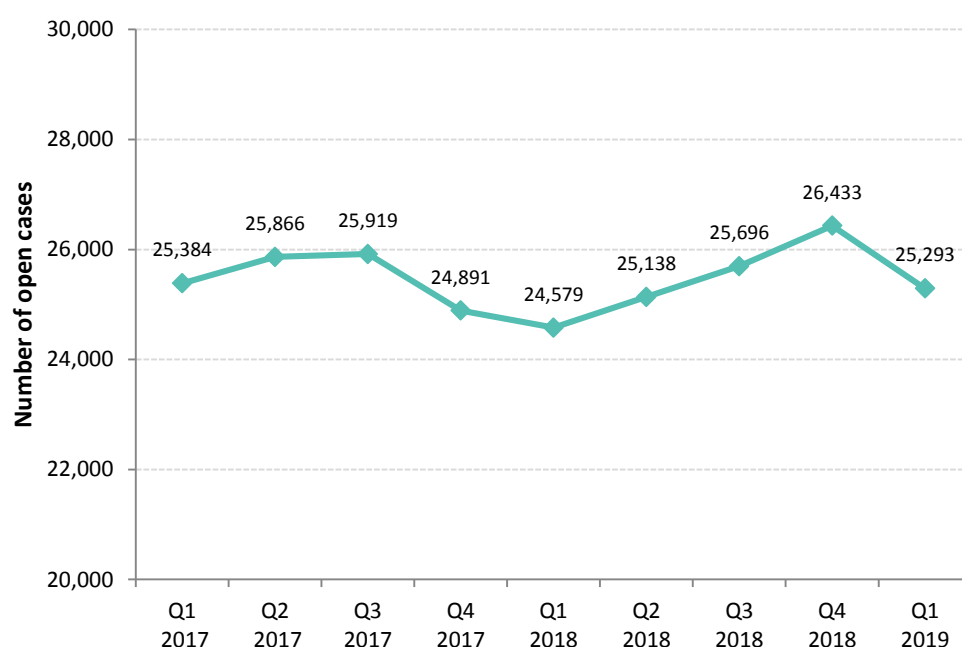
### Key Facts

- 25,293 cases open to social work at the end of Q1 2019; 1,140 (4%) fewer than Q4 2018 and first decrease after three consecutive increases.
- 77% (n=19,354) of open cases allocated to named social worker; up one percentage point from Q4 2018
- 5,939 cases were awaiting allocation; 493 (8%) fewer than Q4 2018.
- 928 (16%) of the cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2019 were categorised as 'high priority'; 75 (7%) fewer than Q4 2018 and 194 (26%) more than Q1 2018 (734)
- 51% (n=3,023) of all cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2019 were waiting less than 3 months.

### 2.2.1 Open Cases

- 25,293 cases open<sup>2</sup> to social work nationally at the end of Q1 2019; 1,140 (4%) fewer than Q4 2018 and first decrease after three consecutive increases.

Number of open cases by quarter

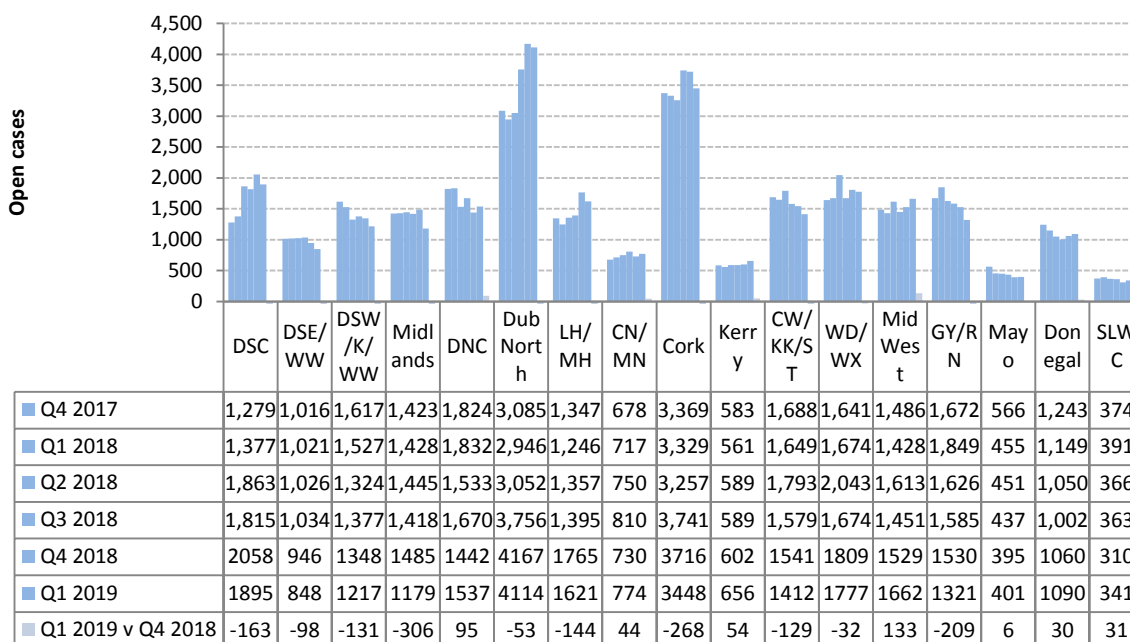


\*Note: data for Q1 2018 based on complete returns from 16/17 areas and a partial return from the remaining area (Waterford/Wexford)

<sup>2</sup> Open cases include cases held on intake, allocated, unallocated child welfare and protection and children in care cases.

- The number of open cases ranged from 4,114 (16%) in Dublin North to 341 (1%) in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan with an average of 1,489 per area. Ten of the 17 areas had between 1,000 and 2,000 cases; five areas had fewer than 1,000 cases while the remaining two areas (Dublin North and Cork) had in excess of 2,000 cases.
- Seven areas reported an increase in open cases from Q1 2019. The highest increase was reported by Midwest (up 133) followed by Dublin North City (up 95).
- Midlands reported the largest decrease (down 306) followed by Cork (down 268)

**Number of open cases by area**



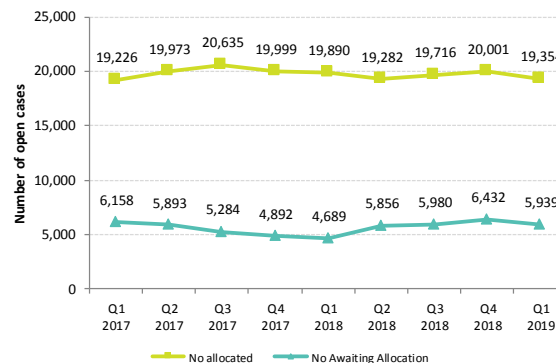
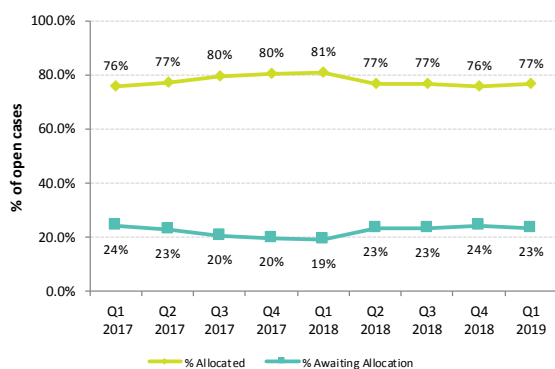
## 2.2.2 Open Cases Allocated / Awaiting Allocation

- 77% (n=19,354/25,293) of open cases were allocated to a named social worker at the end of Q1 2019; up one percentage point from Q4 2019.
- 5,939 (23%) cases were awaiting allocation; 493 (8%) fewer than Q4 2018. At least 28% (n=1,648) of cases awaiting allocation were “active” on a duty system<sup>3</sup>. *Figure based on returns from 13 areas*

<sup>3</sup> A case awaiting allocation may be “active” on a “duty” system. This means that there are actions being undertaken by a dedicated duty team or rotating social workers on a duty roster to progress the protection and welfare of the child. Examples of actions being undertaken include telephone calls relating to the concern, visits to see children, completing initial assessments and child in care reviews or care plans. The actions undertaken must have occurred within the monthly MTP reporting period. There must be evidence of actions progressing the protection and welfare of the child and not simply a management review of a file. These cases will form a separate category on the MTP returns template under cases awaiting allocation.



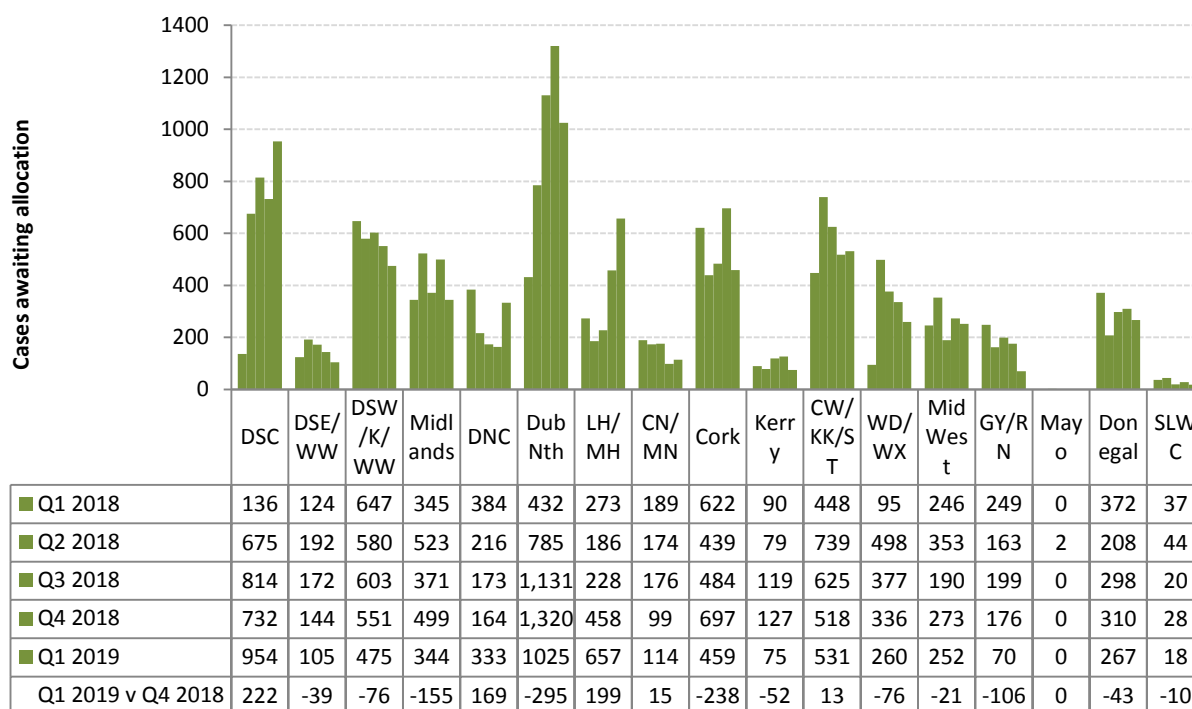
## Cases allocated/awaiting allocation



Data for Q1 2018 are incomplete

- Dublin North reported the highest number of cases awaiting allocation (n=1025) followed by Dublin South Central (954), LH/MH (657), CW/KK/ST (531), DSW/K/WW (475) and Cork (459). 69% (4,101) of cases awaiting allocation reported by these six areas.
- Eleven areas reported a decrease from Q4 2018 in the number of cases awaiting allocation. Dublin North reported the largest decrease (down 295; 22%) followed by Cork (down 238; 34%), Midlands (down 155; 31%) and GY/RN (down 106; 60%).
- Five areas reported an increase from Q4 2018. The highest increase was reported by Dublin South Central (up 222; 30%) followed by LH/MH (up 199; 30%) and Dublin North City (up 169, 103%).

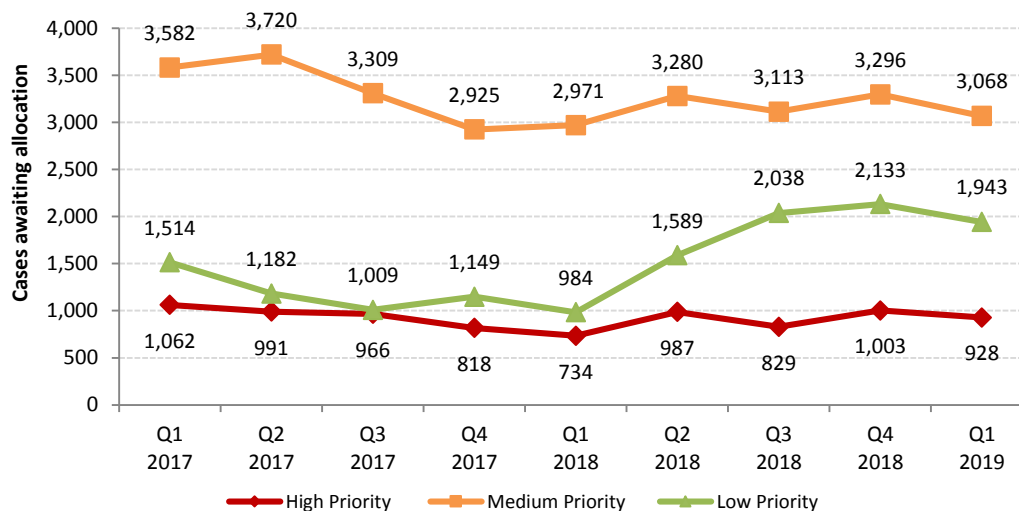
## Number of open cases awaiting allocation by area



## 2.2.3 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Priority Level<sup>4</sup>

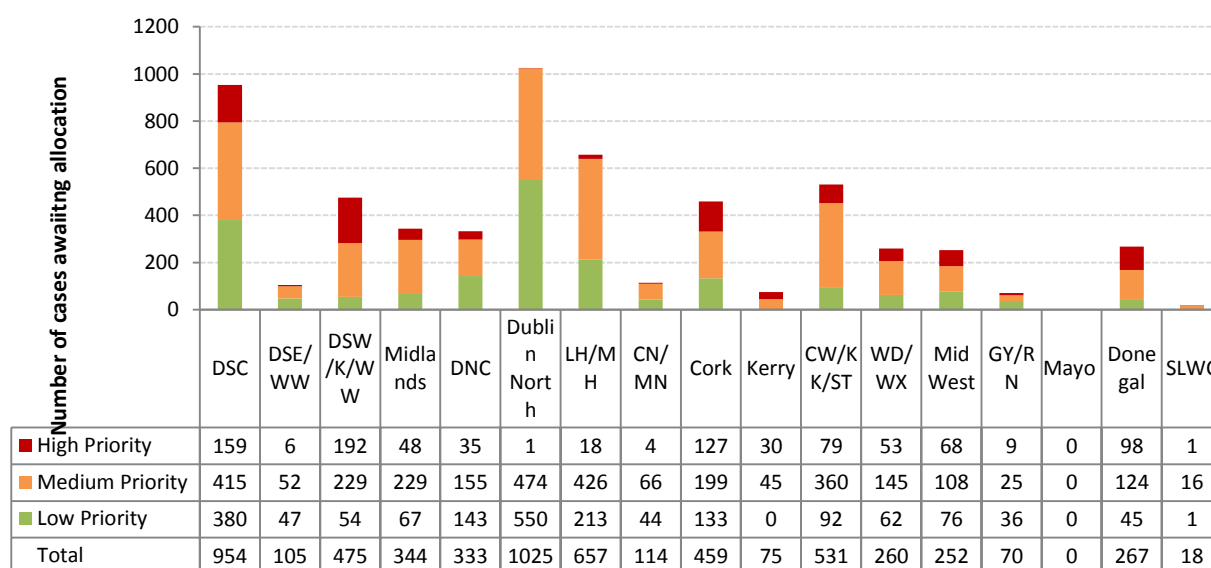
- 928 (16%) of the cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2019 were categorised as 'high priority'; 75 (7%) fewer than Q4 2018 and 194 (26%) more than Q1 2018 (734)
- 52% of cases (3,068 awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2018 were categorised as 'medium priority' while the remaining 33% (n=1,943) were categorised as 'low priority'.

Cases awaiting allocation by priority level



- Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow reported the highest number (n=192) of 'high priority' cases awaiting allocation, followed by Dublin South Central (n= 159), Cork (n=127), and Donegal (n=98). 62% (576) of high priority cases reported by four areas.

Area breakdown of cases awaiting allocation by priority level, Q1 2019



<sup>4</sup> The priority level as per the guidance outlined in 'Measuring the Pressure' V2. Note: The priority levels in this guidance are currently under national review to ensure that the priority levels identified equate with categorisation of risk. A recent national review highlighted cases being categorised in accordance with actual risk rather than the priority levels in the "Measuring the Pressure" V2.

## 2.2.4 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Waiting Time

- 55% (n=507/928) of cases categorised as ‘high priority’ awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2019 were waiting less than 3 months.
- 50% (n=1,541/3,068) of cases categorised as ‘medium priority’ were waiting less than 3 months at the end of Q1 2019.
- 50% (n=975/1,943) of cases categorised as ‘low priority’ were waiting less than 3 months at the end of Q1 2019.
- 51% (n=3,023) of all cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2019 were waiting less than 3 months.

**Breakdown of cases awaiting allocation by priority level and time waiting**

High Priority / Time Waiting	Q1 2018 Based on data from 14/17 areas	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019
<1 month	250	421	259	239	269
1-3 months	158	249	244	256	238
>3 months	274	317	326	508	421
<b>Total</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>928</b>
Medium Priority / Time Waiting	Q1 2018 Based on data from 14/17 areas	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019
<1 month	923	958	560	743	745
1-3 months	607	999	947	968	796
>3 months	1,126	1,323	1606	1,585	1,527
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,656</b>	<b>3,280</b>	<b>3,113</b>	<b>3,296</b>	<b>3,068</b>
Low Priority / Time Waiting	Q1 2018 Based on data from 14/17 areas	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019
<1 month	187	394	579	479	476
1-3 months	164	624	624	683	499
>3 months	496	571	835	971	968
<b>Total</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>1,589</b>	<b>2,038</b>	<b>2,133</b>	<b>1,943</b>

## Summary Table Q1 2019

	# Referrals Q4 2018	# Open cases	# Unallocated cases	% open cases unallocated	# high priority cases unallocated	% Unallocated cases high priority
<b>DML</b>	<b>3,711</b>	<b>5139</b>	<b>1878</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>22%</b>
DSC	685	1895	954	50%	159	17%
DSE/WW	553	848	105	12%	6	6%
DSW/K/WW	829	1217	475	39%	192	40%
Midlands	1,644	1179	344	29%	48	14%
<b>DNE</b>	<b>3,236</b>	<b>8046</b>	<b>2129</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>3%</b>
DNC	803	1537	333	22%	35	11%
Dublin North	1,242	4114	1025	25%	1	0%
LH/MH	839	1621	657	41%	18	3%
CN/MN	352	774	114	15%	4	4%
<b>South</b>	<b>4,219</b>	<b>7293</b>	<b>1325</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>22%</b>
Cork	1,809	3448	459	13%	127	28%
Kerry	351	656	75	11%	30	40%
CW/K/ST	948	1412	531	38%	79	15%
WD/WX	1,111	1777	260	15%	53	20%
<b>West</b>	<b>2,657</b>	<b>4815</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>29%</b>
Mid West	1,035	1662	252	15%	68	27%
GY/RN	848	1321	70	5%	9	13%
Mayo	284	401	0	0%	0	0%
Donegal	228	1090	267	24%	98	37%
SLWC	262	341	18	5%	1	6%
<b>National</b>	<b>13,823</b>	<b>25293</b>	<b>5939</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>16%</b>

Referrals are reported quarterly in arrears

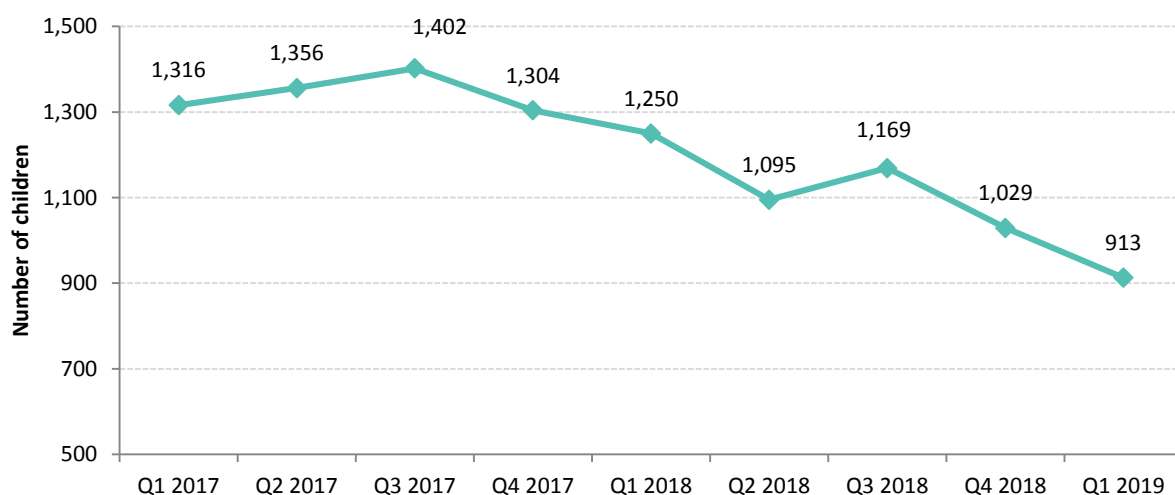
## 2.3 CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

### KEY FACTS

- 913 children listed as 'active' on the CPNS at the end of Q1 2019; 116 (11%) fewer than Q4 2018 and 337 (27%) fewer than Q1 2018. Fewest number for all quarters Q1 2017 – Q1 2019
- 85% (780) of children listed as "active" were listed for no longer than 18 months
- All children listed as "active" at the end of Q1 2019 had an allocated social worker.

- 913 children listed as 'active' on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)<sup>5</sup> at the end of Q1 2019; 116 (11%) fewer than Q4 2018 and 337 (27%) fewer than Q1 2018. Fewest number for all quarters Q1 2017 – Q1 2019.

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



- The number listed as "active" equates to about eight children per 10,000 population under 18 years and ranges from 3.6/10,000 population in Cavan/Monaghan to 12.8/10,000 in Mayo.
- Cork, DSW/K/WW and Dublin North with the higher proportions of the under 18 population reported rates below the national average.
- Mayo and SLWC with smaller proportions of the under 18 population reported rates above the national average.
- MidWest reported the highest number (n=104) of children "active", followed by Cork (n=87) and Dublin North (n=72). Cavan/Monaghan reported the fewest number (n=13).

<sup>5</sup> The CPNS, in accordance with the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, 2011, is a national record of all children who are the subject of a child protection plan agreed at a child protection conference. The CPNS is accessible to named professional groups subject to strict protocols.

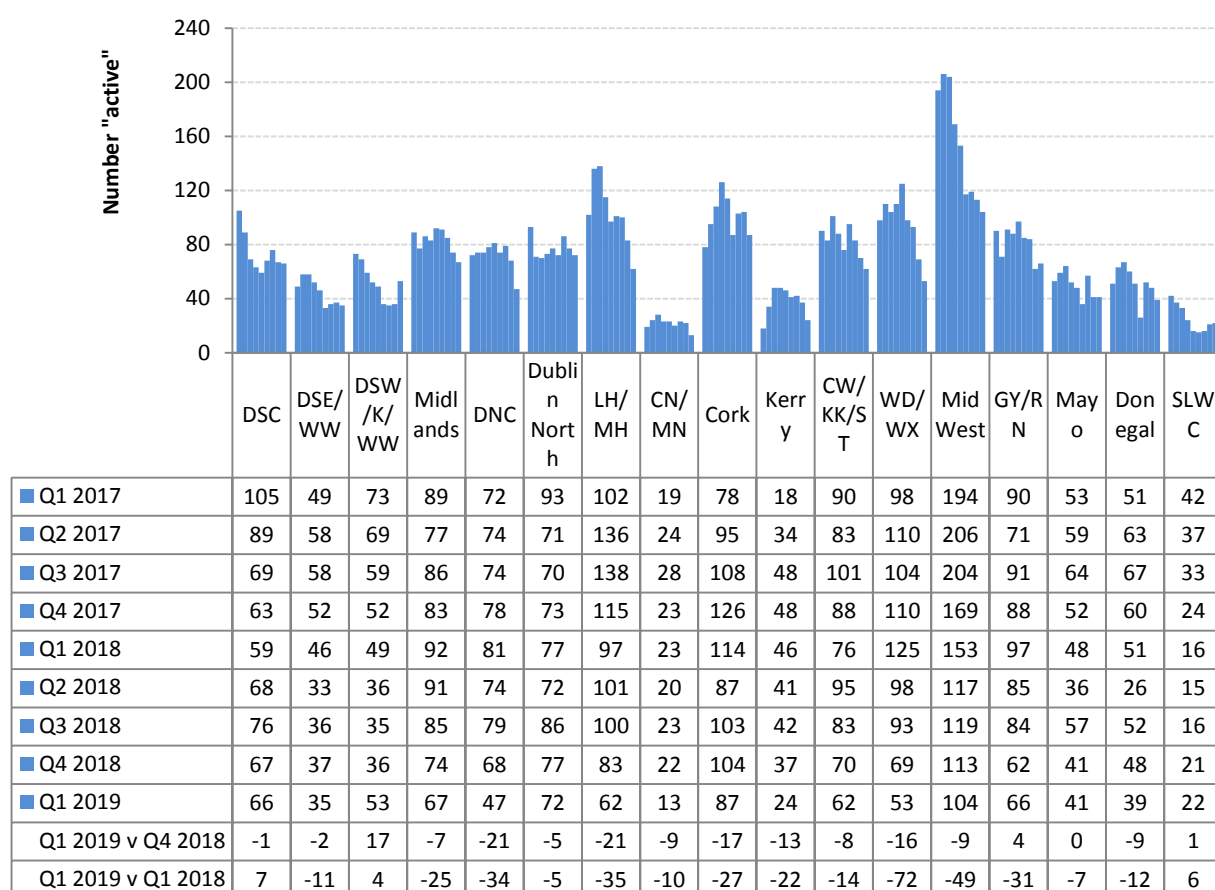
Children listed as 'active' on CPNS per 10,000 population 0-17 years

Area	# Q1 2019	Population 0-17 years	Rate / 10,000 pop
DSC	66	65,564	10.1
DSE/WW	35	86,810	4.0
DSW/K/WW	53	108,186	4.9
Midlands	67	80,193	8.4
Dublin North City	47	44,927	10.5
Dublin North	72	100,654	7.2
LH/MH	62	93,093	6.7
CN/MN	13	36,446	3.6
Cork	87	134,015	6.5
Kerry	24	34,527	7.0
CW/KK/ST	62	63,009	9.8
WD/WX	53	68,513	7.7
Mid West	104	96,266	10.8
GY/RN	66	79,912	8.3
Mayo	41	31,968	12.8
Donegal	39	42,865	9.1
SLWC	22	23,554	9.3
<b>National</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>1,190,502</b>	<b>7.7</b>

Population: Census 2016

- 13/17 areas reported a decrease from Q4 2018. The largest decrease was reported by Dublin North City and Louth/Meath (both down 21) followed by Cork (down 17) and WD/WX (down 16). The largest increase was reported by DSW/K/WW (up 17) followed by GY/RN (up 4). Mayo reported no change.
- All but three areas (Dublin South Central, DSW/K/WW and SLWC) had fewer cases active at the end of Q1 2019 than Q1 2018. Largest decrease reported by WD/WX (down 72) followed by MidWest (down 49), Louth/Meath (down 35) and Dublin North City (down 34).

Number of children listed as "active" by area, by quarter



- 46% (n=419) of children listed as “active” at the end of Q1 2019 were listed for 0-6 months; down seven percentage points on Q4 2018 (53%; 541)
- 8% (71) were listed for > 24 months, two more than Q4 2018 (n=69)
- Listed for >24 months: highest percentage (27%; n=6/22) reported by Sligo/Leitrim/Roscommon, no change from Q4 2018, followed by Dublin South Central (24%; 16/66), up two from Q4 2018. Four areas (Midlands, CN/MN, Kerry and Donegal) reported no child listed as active for >24 months.
- Listed for < 6 months: Highest percentage (77%; n=41/53) reported by DSW/K/WW followed by Midlands (69%; 46/67). Lowest percentage (8%) reported by CN/MN (n=1/13) followed by Dublin South East /Wicklow (23%; n=8/35). Nine areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 53%.

**Children listed as 'active' in each area at the end of Q1 2019, 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	18	27%	20	30%	10	15%	2	3%	16	24%	66
DSE/WW	8	23%	12	34%	10	29%	1	3%	4	11%	35
DSW/K/WW	41	77%	9	17%	0	0%	1	2%	2	4%	53
Midlands	46	69%	6	9%	8	12%	7	10%	0	0%	67
DNC	18	38%	11	23%	8	17%	3	6%	7	15%	47
Dublin North	29	40%	24	33%	10	14%	7	10%	2	3%	72
LH/MH	25	40%	18	29%	10	16%	2	3%	7	11%	62
CN/MN	1	8%	4	31%	6	46%	2	15%	0	0%	13
Cork	40	46%	29	33%	7	8%	7	8%	4	5%	87
Kerry	11	46%	8	33%	1	4%	4	17%	0	0%	24
CW/KK/ST	32	52%	18	29%	4	6%	2	3%	6	10%	62
WD/WX	28	53%	8	15%	8	15%	6	11%	3	6%	53
Mid West	46	44%	33	32%	11	11%	8	8%	6	6%	104
GY/RN	33	50%	20	30%	8	12%	0	0%	5	8%	66
Mayo	19	46%	11	27%	1	2%	7	17%	3	7%	41
Donegal	13	33%	22	56%	1	3%	3	8%	0	0%	39
SLWC	11	50%	3	14%	2	9%	0	0%	6	27%	22
<b>National</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>913</b>

- All children listed as “active” at the end of Q1 2019 had an allocated social worker.
- 14 children listed as active at the end of Q1 2019 were reactivated on the CPNS (i.e., their status changed from ‘inactive’ to ‘active’) during Q1 2019. Highest number reported by DSW/K/WW (n=5).

**Number children active at end of Q1 2019 whose status changed from inactive to active during the quarter**

Area	# Children whose status changed Q4 2018	# Children whose status changed Q1 2019
DSC	8	2
DSE/WW	0	0
DSW/K/WW	1	5
Midlands	0	0
Dublin North City	1	0
Dublin North	1	1
LH/MH	0	0
CN/MN	0	0
Cork	0	1
Kerry	0	0
CW/KK/ST	2	1
WD/WX	8	0
Mid West	1	0
GY/RN	0	1
Mayo	0	3
Donegal	2	0
SLWC	0	0
<b>National</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>14</b>



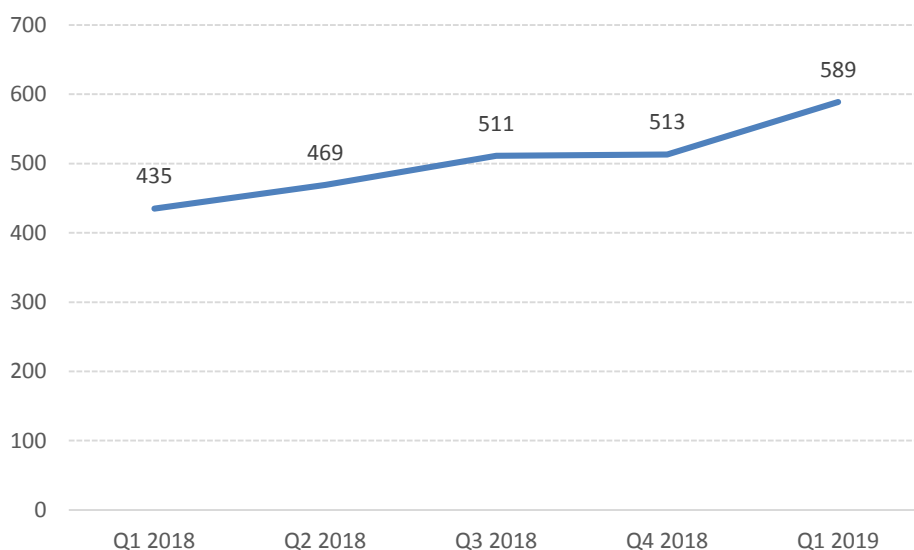
## 2.4 NATIONAL OUT OF HOURS SERVICE

### KEY FACTS

- 589 referrals to the National Out of Hours Service in Q1 2019; 154 (35%) more than Q1 2018 (435 combined figure for Crisis Intervention Service and Emergency Out of Hours Service including service in Cork) and the highest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q1 2019.
- 182 children were placed by the National Out of Hours Service in Q1 2019; 23 more than Q1 2018

*National Out of Hours Services includes all services providing out of hours services (previously reported separately as Crisis Intervention Service and Emergency Out of Hours Service including service in Cork).*

- 589 referrals to the National Out of Hours Service in Q1 2019; 154 (35%) more than Q1 2018 (435 combined figure for Crisis Intervention Service and Emergency Out of Hours Service including service in Cork) and the highest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q1 2019).



- The highest number of referrals was reported by Dublin North (79), followed by DSW/K/WW (61), Dublin North City (59) and Dublin South Central (51). Fewest number reported by Kerry, WD/WX and Mayo, all reporting 12 referrals.
- 182 children placed by the National Out of Hours Service in Q1 2019; 23 more than Q1 2018 (159 combined figure for Crisis Intervention Service and Emergency Out of Hours Service including service in Cork)
- 968 nights accommodation supplied by the National Out of Hours Service in Q1 2019

# Referrals to the National Out of Hours Service Q1 2019

Area	# Referrals Q1 2019	# Children Placed Q1 2019	# Nights' Accommodation supplied Q1 2019
Dublin South Central	51	14	124
DSE/WW	39	10	164
DSW/K/WW	61	23	144
Midlands	38	12	38
Dublin North City	59	17	126
Dublin North	79	21	77
Louth/Meath	30	4	12
Cavan/Monaghan	25	13	25
Cork	28	6	36
Kerry	12	4	7
CW/KK/ST	13	5	40
WD/WX	12	3	4
Midwest	41	5	13
GY/RN	24	9	20
Mayo	12	3	6
Donegal	19	15	16
SLWC	14	1	1
Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum	15	3	3
Other Referral Sources	17	14	112
<b>Total</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>968</b>

## 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

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

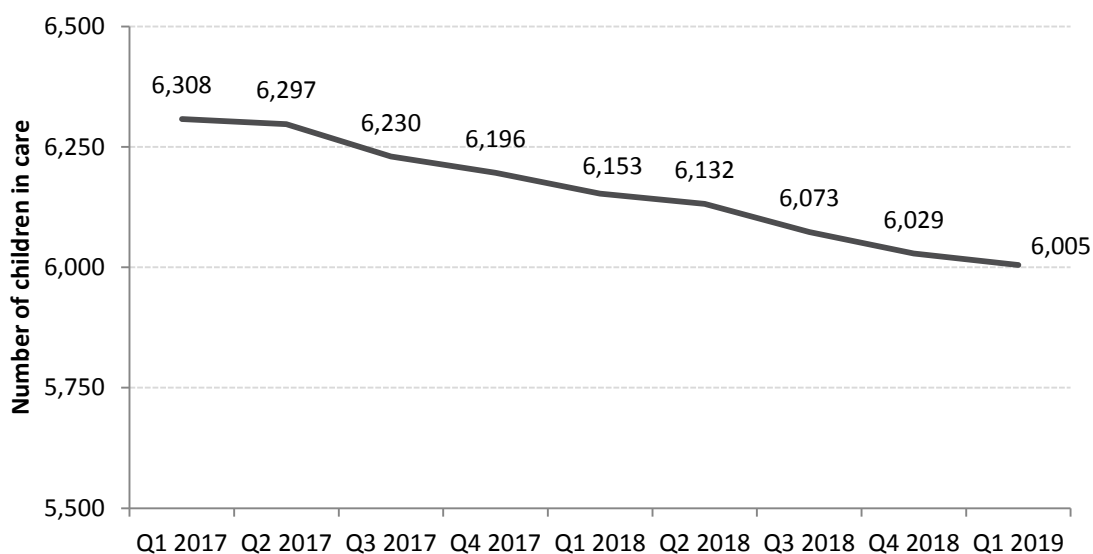
#### KEY FACTS

- 6,005 children in care at the end of Q1 2019; 24 fewer than Q4 2018 (6,029) and 148 (2%) fewer than Q1 2018 (6,153).
- 646 children in private placements; seven fewer than Q4 2018 and 24 more than Q1 2018.
- 89% (n=5,336) of children in care had an allocated social worker (against a target of 100%), down two percentage points from Q4 2018 (91%).
- 669 children were awaiting allocation of a social worker; 152 more than Q4 2018. Highest number in the Midwest (n=134 up 73 from Q4 2018) followed by CW/KK/ST (n=127 up 20 from Q4 2018), DSW/K/WW (117 up 13 from Q4 2018) and Midlands (79 up 19 from Q4 2018).
- At least 82% (n=4,942) of children in care had an up to date care plan (against a target of 90%). Percentage based on data for 16 area and SWTSCSA – data for Cork outstanding
- DSW/K/WW has the highest number of children in care awaiting an up-to-date care plan (64/406; 16%) followed by Dublin North City (48/496; 10%), Dublin South Central (38/356; 11%) and Dublin North (34/333; 10%).

#### 3.1.1 Number of Children in Care

- 6,005 children in care at the end of Q1 2019; 24 fewer than Q4 2018 (6,029) and 148 (2%) fewer than Q1 2018 (6,153).
- The number of children in care has dropped for all quarters Q1 2017 – Q1 2019
- This figure (6,005) includes 49 children under the Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum (SWTSCSA); 18 fewer than Q4 2018 (67) and 25 fewer than Q1 2018 (74).

### Number of children in care by quarter



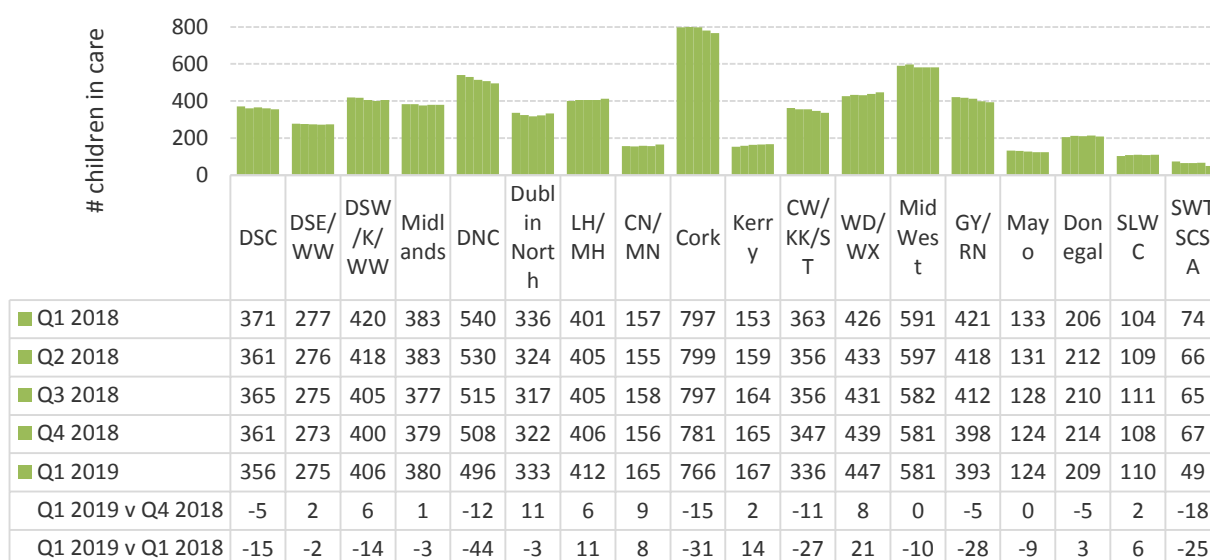
- Across the 17 areas the number of children in care ranged from 766 in Cork to 110 in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan.
- Dublin North City reported the highest rate of children in care per 1,000 population under 18 years (11/1,000), more than double the national rate, followed by WD/WX (6.5/1,000) and MidWest (6.0/1,000) while Dublin South East / Wicklow reported the lowest rate at 3.2/1,000 population followed by Dublin North (3.3/1,000).

### Number of children in care and rate per 1,000 population 0-17 years

Area	0-17 population (Census 2016)	No CIC Q1 2019	No of CIC/1,000 population 0-17
DSC	65,564	356	5.4
DSE/WW	86,810	275	3.2
DSW/K/WW	108,186	406	3.8
Midlands	80,193	380	4.7
DNC	44,927	496	11.0
Dublin North	100,654	333	3.3
LH/MH	93,093	412	4.4
CN/MN	36,446	165	4.5
Cork	134,015	766	5.7
Kerry	34,527	167	4.8
CW/KK/ST	63,009	336	5.3
WD/WX	68,513	447	6.5
Mid West	96,266	581	6.0
GY/RN	79,912	393	4.9
Mayo	31,968	124	3.9
Donegal	42,865	209	4.9
SLWC	23,554	110	4.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,190,502</b>	<b>6,005</b>	<b>5.0</b>

- 6 areas along with the SWTSCSA reported a decrease in children in care from Q4 2018. Largest decrease reported by the SWTSCSA (down 18) followed by Cork (down 15), Dublin North City (down 12) and CW/KK/ST (down 11).
- Nine areas reported an increase in children in care from Q4 2018. Largest increase was reported by Dublin North (up 11) followed by CN/MN (up 9) and WD/WX (up 8).
- 11 areas along with the SWTSCSA had fewer children in care at the end of Q1 2019 than Q1 2018. Largest decrease reported by Dublin North City (down 44), followed by Cork (down 31), GY/RN (down 28), CW/KK/ST (down 27) and SWTSCSA (down 25).
- Of the six areas that reported an increase, WD/WX reported the largest increase (up 21) followed by Kerry (up 14), LH/MH (up 11), CN/MN (up 8), SLWC (up 6) and Donegal (up 3).

#### Breakdown of the number of children in care in each area



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

- 92% (n=5,536) of children in care were in foster care (general and relative) at the end of Q1 2019 and 6% (n=359) were in a residential (general) placement.
- There were 129 fewer children in foster care (both general and relative) and 28 fewer children in “other” care placements at the end of Q1 2019 than Q1 2018, while there were nine more children in residential care (general and special care).

#### Breakdown of the number of children in care by care type and month, Q1 2017 – Q4 2018

	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
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
Q3 2017	4,053	-53	1,676	-19	351	-6	10	-1	140	+12	6,230	-67
Q4 2017	4,042	-11	1,667	-9	346	-5	12	+2	129	-11	6,196	-34
Q1 2018	4,036	-4	1,629	-31	350	+5	13	+1	125	-8	6,153	-37
Q2 2018	4,057	+21	1,615	-14	349	-1	15	+2	96	-29	6,132	-21

<b>Q3 2018</b>	4,005	-52	1,595	-20	362	+13	13	-2	98	+2	6,073	-59
<b>Q4 2018</b>	<b>3,970</b>	-35	1,586	-9	365	+3	14	+1	94	-4	6,029	-44
<b>Q1 2019</b>	<b>3,958</b>	-12	<b>1,578</b>	-8	<b>358</b>	-7	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>+3</b>	<b>6,005</b>	<b>-24</b>

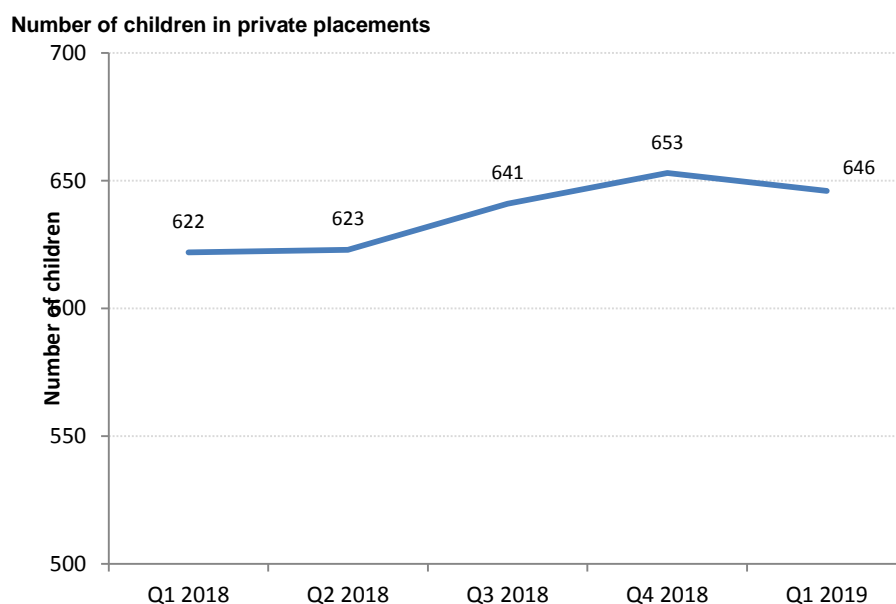
FC Gen = Foster Care General; FC Rel = Foster Care with Relatives; Res Care Gen = Residential Care General; Res Care Spec = Residential Care Special; CIC = Children in care

Figures for Q4 2017 revised from previously reported

- 19 (0.3%) children were in out of State placements at the end of Q1 2019; three fewer than Q4 2018 (22). *These children are included in the figures for the various care types set out in the table above.*
- Six children in residential care were in a single care placement at the end of Q1 2019; two more than Q4 2018
- 78 children were in respite care (from home) at the end of Q1 2019, 87 in respite care (from home) at the end of Q4 2018.

### 3.1.3 Children in Private Placements

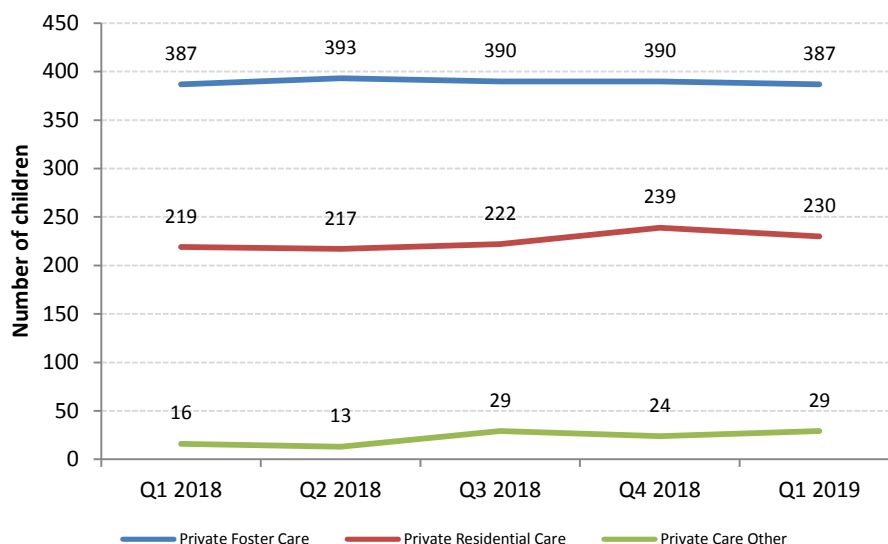
- 646 (11%) children in care at the end of Q1 2019 were in private placements<sup>6</sup>; seven fewer than Q4 2018 and 24 more than Q1 2018. This figure (646) includes 37 children in care under the SWTSCSA, eight fewer than Q4 2018 (45).



- 60% (n=387) of children in private placements were in private foster care and 36% (n=230) were in private residential placements.
- There has been little or no change in the number of children in private foster care for the period Q1 2018 – Q1 2019
- The number of children in private residential although down nine on Q4 2018, is up 11 on Q1 2018 (219).

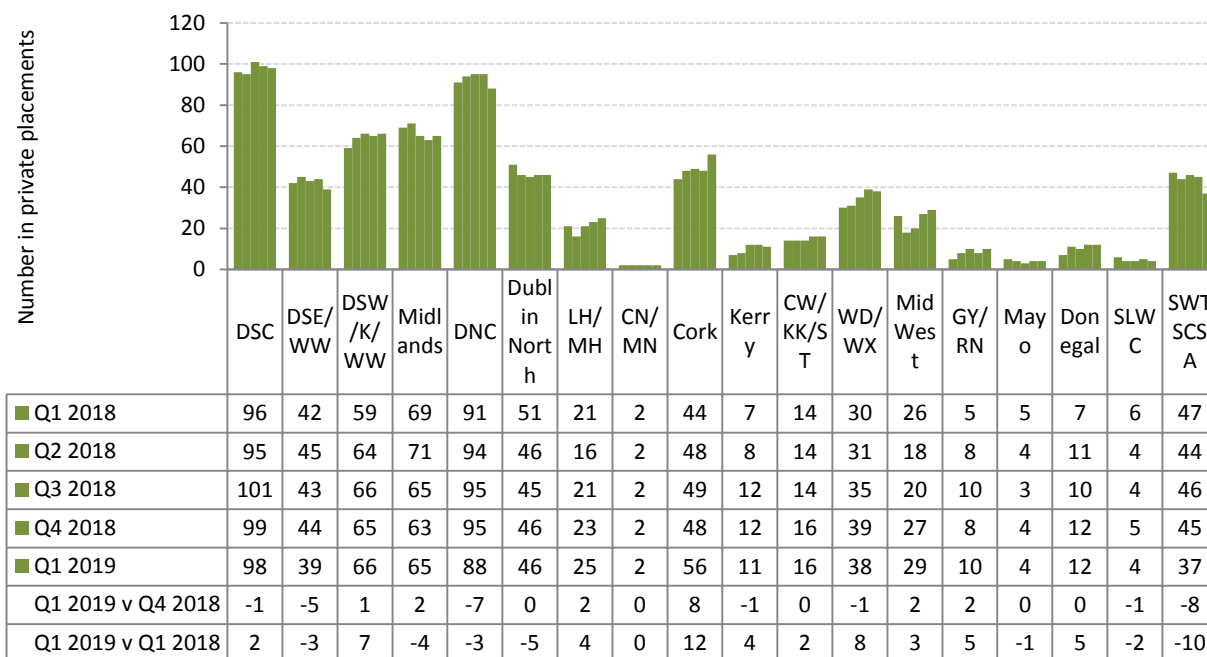
<sup>6</sup> The number of children in private placements is included in the children in care figures presented in sections 3.1.1 and 3.1.2

### Number of children in private placements by care type



- Dublin South Central (n=98) followed by Dublin North City (n=88), DSW/K/WW (n=66) and Midlands (n=65) reported the highest number of children in private placements in Q1 2019. Cavan/Monaghan reported the fewest number (n=2).
- Six areas reported an increase in private placements from Q4 2018. The highest increase was reported by the Cork (up 8). Largest decrease reported by the SWTSCSA (down 8) followed by Dublin North City (down 7).
- Ten areas had more children in private placements at the end of Q1 2019 than Q1 2018. The highest increases were reported by Cork (up 12), WD/WX (up 8) and DSW/K/WW (up 7).

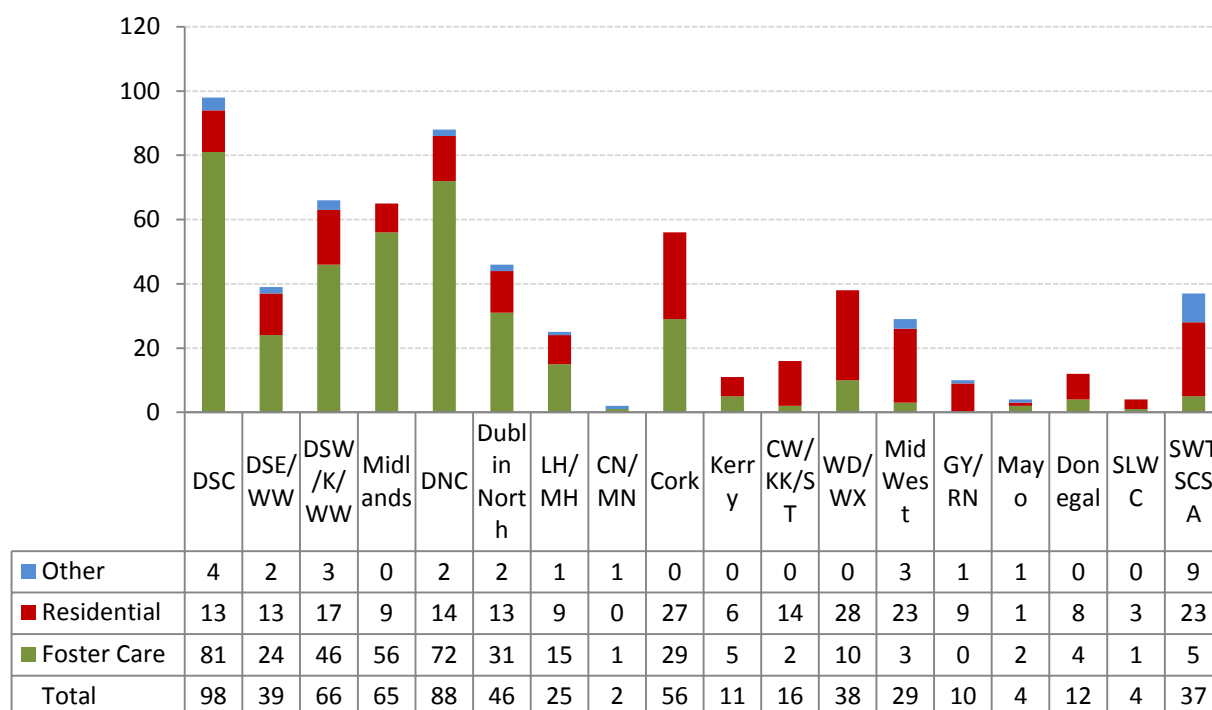
### Number of children in private placements by area



- The highest number of children in private residential placements was reported by WD/WX (28), followed by Cork (27), Midwest (23) and SWTSCSA (23). CN/MN reported none.

- Dublin South Central reported the highest number of children in private foster care placements (n=81) followed by Dublin North City (72), Midlands (56), DSW/K/WW (46) and Dublin North (31). Seventy-four percent (n=286/387) of children in private foster care placements are reported by these five areas. Galway/Roscommon reported no children in private foster care placements.

**Number of children in private placements by care type Q1 2019**



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

- 89% (n=5,336/6,005) of children in care nationally had an allocated social worker (against a target of 100%) at the end of Q1 2019; down two percentage points from Q4 2018.
- 669 children were awaiting allocation of a social worker; 152 more than Q4 2018 (517).

**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
	Q4 2018	Q4 2018	Q3 2018	Q1 2019	Q1 2019	Q1 2019
Foster Care (General)	3,970	3,668	92%	3,958	3,552	90%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,586	1,385	87%	1,578	1,337	85%
Residential Care (General)	365	355	97%	359	340	95%
Residential Special Care	14	14	100%	14	14	100%
Other Placements	94	90	96%	96	93	97%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,029</b>	<b>5,512</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>6,005</b>	<b>5,336</b>	<b>89%</b>

- 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 five areas



reported a percentage of 95% or higher. Six of the remaining eight areas reported a percentage below 90% with the poorest performing area (CW/KK/ST) reporting 62%.

- The area with the highest number of children awaiting an allocated social worker is Midwest (n=134 up 73 from Q4 2018) followed by CW/KK/ST (n=127 up 20 from Q4 2018), DSW/K/WW (117 up 13 from Q4 2018), Midlands (79 up 19 from Q4 2018), Dublin North City (47 up 10 from Q4 2018) and LH/MH (46 up 18 from Q4 2018).

#### Number of children in care with an allocated social worker

Area	No in Care Q4 2018	No with an allocated SW Q4 2018	% with an allocated SW Q4 2018	No in Care Q1 2019	No with an allocated SW Q1 2019	% with an allocated SW Q1 2019	+/- Q4 2018 v Q1 2019
DSE/WW	273	242	88.6%	275	244	89%	0%
DSW/K/WW	400	296	74.0%	406	289	71%	-3%
DSC	361	351	97.2%	356	338	95%	-2%
Midlands	379	319	84.2%	380	301	79%	-5%
DNC	508	471	92.7%	496	449	91%	-2%
Dublin North	322	303	94.1%	333	316	95%	1%
LH/MH	406	378	93.1%	412	366	89%	-4%
CN/MN	156	142	91.0%	165	164	99%	8%
Kerry	165	165	100.0%	167	167	100%	0%
Cork	781	779	99.7%	766	766	100%	0%
CW/KK/ST	347	240	69.2%	336	209	62%	-7%
WD/WX	439	397	90.4%	447	408	91%	1%
Donegal	214	213	99.5%	209	209	100%	1%
SLWC	108	108	100.0%	110	109	99%	-1%
Mayo	124	124	100.0%	124	124	100%	0%
GY/RN	398	397	99.7%	393	381	97%	-3%
Midwest	581	520	89.5%	581	447	77%	-13%
SWTSCSA	67	67	100.0%	49	49	100%	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,029</b>	<b>5,512</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>6,005</b>	<b>5,336</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>-2%</b>

### 3.1.5 Children in Care with a Care Plan

- 82% (n=4,942/6,005) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan against a target of 90%; (based on data from 16/17 areas and SWTSCSA – data not available from Cork).

*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.*

#### 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
	Q4 2018	Q4 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q1 2019	Q1 2019
Foster Care General	3,970	3,619	91%	3,958	3,244	82%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,586	1,466	92%	1,578	1,292	82%
Residential Care General	365	352	96%	359	314	87%
Residential Special Care	14	14	100%	14	14	100%
Other Placements	94	86	91%	96	78	81%
<b>National</b>	<b>6,029</b>	<b>5,537</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>6,005</b>	<b>4,942</b>	<b>82%</b>

Data for Q4 2018 based on complete data from 16 areas and SWTSCSA and an estimated figure for the remaining area (Cork)

Data for Q1 2019 based on complete data from 16 areas and SWTSCSA. Data for Cork outstanding

- 13 areas along with 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. The poorest performing areas was DSW/K/WW (84.2% up from 72.5% in Q4 2018) and SLWC (86.4% up from 73.1% in Q4 2019).
- DSW/K/WW has the highest number of children in care awaiting an up-to-date care plan (64/406; 16%) followed by Dublin North City (48/496; 10%), Dublin South Central (38/356; 11%) and Dublin North (34/333; 10%).
- Improvements reported by eight areas from Q4 2018 SLWC (up 13 percentage points) DSW/K/WW (up 12 percentage points), Donegal (up 11 percentage points), Dublin south Central (up 9 percentage points) Midlands and CW/KK/ST (up 7 percentage points), CN/MN (up 4 percentage points) and DSE/WW (up 3 percentage points). Performance down slightly in three areas (Dublin North City, Dublin North and LH/MH).

#### Breakdown of the number of children in care with an up to date care plan

Area	No in Care Q4 2018	No with a care plan Q4 2018	% with a care plan Q4 2018	No in Care Q1 2019	No with a care plan Q1 2019	% with a care plan Q1 2019	+/- Q1 2019 v Q4 2018
DSE/WW	273	241	88.3%	275	252	92%	3%
DSW/K/WW	400	290	72.5%	406	342	84.2%	12%
DSC	361	291	80.6%	356	318	89.3%	9%
Midlands	379	354	93.4%	380	380	100.0%	7%
DNC	508	482	94.9%	496	448	90.3%	-5%
Dublin North	322	297	92.2%	333	299	89.8%	-2%
LH/MH	406	395	97.3%	412	398	96.6%	-1%
CN/MN	156	140	89.7%	165	155	93.9%	4%
Kerry	165	160	97.0%	167	162	97.0%	0%
Cork	781	733*	93.9%	766	NA	NA	NA
CW/KK/ST	347	290	83.6%	336	305	90.8%	7%
WD/WX	439	439	100.0%	447	445	99.6%	0%
Donegal	214	178	83.2%	209	197	94.3%	11%
SLWC	108	79	73.1%	110	95	86.4%	13%
Mayo	124	124	100.0%	124	124	100.0%	0%

GY/RN	398	398	100.0%	393	393	100.0%	0%
Midwest	581	579	99.7%	581	580	99.8%	0%
SWTSCSA	67	67	100.0%	49	49	100.0%	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,029</b>	<b>5,537</b>	<b>91.8%</b>	<b>6,005</b>	<b>4,942</b>	<b>82%</b>	

Data for Q4 2018 based on complete data from 16 areas and SWTSCSA and an estimated figure for the remaining area (Cork)

Data for Q1 2019 based on complete data from 16 areas and SWTSCSA. Data for Cork outstanding

### 3.1.6 Children in Care in Education

- 96% (n=3,690/3,835) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education at the end of Q1 2019. *Note: this figure does not include children in care under the care of Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum.*
- All areas with the exception of Midlands reporting 90% or higher with two areas (GY/RN and SLWC) reporting 100%.
- 91% (n=914/1,001) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of Q1 2019. *Note: this figure does not include children in care under the care of Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum.*
- All but one area (Dublin South Central (77%)) reporting above 80%.

#### Children in care, 6 -15 years, in full time education, Q4 2018 – Q1 2019

Area	No of CIC 6-15 years Q4 2018	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q4 2018	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q4 2018	No of CIC 6-15 years Q1 2019	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q1 2019	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q1 2019	+/- Q1 2019 v Q4 2018
DSC	239	220	92.1%	237	216	91.14%	-0.96%
DSE/WW	178	177	99.4%	177	176	99.44%	0.04%
DSW/K/WW	249	245	98.4%	262	256	97.71%	-0.69%
Midlands	229	225	98.3%	224	182	81.25%	-17.05%
DNC	343	339	98.8%	334	330	98.80%	0.00%
Dublin North	204	200	98.0%	207	199	96.14%	-1.86%
LH/MH	250	239	95.6%	251	239	95.22%	-0.38%
CN/MN	97	96	99.0%	101	100	99.01%	0.01%
Cork	532	518	97.4%	544	522	95.96%	-1.44%
Kerry	109	108	99.1%	110	109	99.09%	-0.01%
CW/KK/ST	212	210*	99.1%	210	198	94.29%	-4.81%
WD/WX	281	277	98.6%	288	286	99.31%	0.71%
Mid West	369	367	99.5%	368	366	99.46%	-0.04%
GY/RN	260	259	99.6%	260	260	100.00%	0.40%
Mayo	72	72	100.0%	48	45	93.75%	-6.25%
Donegal	142	141	99.3%	141	133	94.33%	-4.97%
SLWC	71	71	100.0%	73	73	100.00%	0.00%
<b>National</b>	<b>3,837</b>	<b>3,764</b>	<b>98.1%</b>	<b>3,835</b>	<b>3,690</b>	<b>96.22%</b>	<b>-1.88%</b>

\*Estimated figure for CW/KK/ST

**Children in care, 16 and 17 years, in full time education, Q4 2018 – Q1 2019**

Area	No of CIC 16-17 yrs Q4 2018	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q4 2018	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q4 2018	No of CIC 16-17 yrs Q1 2019	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q1 2019	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q1 2019	+/- Q1 2019 v Q4 2018
DSC	69	62	89.9%	66	51	77.27%	-12.63%
DSE/WW	52	49	94.2%	55	52	94.55%	0.35%
DSW/K/WW	86	82	95.3%	86	84	97.67%	2.37%
Midlands	47	44	93.6%	54	45	83.33%	-10.27%
DNC	93	88	94.6%	97	91	93.81%	-0.79%
Dublin North	61	52	85.2%	65	58	89.23%	4.03%
LH/MH	63	57	90.3%	55	50	90.91%	0.61%
CN/MN	26	26	100.0%	25	24	96.00%	-4.00%
Cork	142	131	92.3%	138	128	92.75%	0.45%
Kerry	28	27	96.4%	29	28	96.55%	0.15%
CW/KK/ST	71	70*	98.6%	57	50	87.72%	-10.88%
WD/WX	65	58	89.2%	68	62	91.18%	1.98%
Mid West	101	91	90.1%	63	61	96.83%	6.73%
GY/RN	73	69	94.5%	76	68	89.47%	-5.03%
Mayo	29	27	93.1%	24	23	95.83%	2.73%
Donegal	27	24	88.9%	28	26	92.86%	3.96%
SLWC	14	13	92.9%	15	13	86.67%	-6.23%
<b>National</b>	<b>1,047</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>92.6%</b>	<b>1,001</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>91.31%</b>	<b>-1.29%</b>

\*Estimated figure for CW/KK/ST

## 3.2 AFTERCARE

### KEY FACTS

**Data from Cork not available at the time of writing. Data for Q1 2019 includes data from the Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum (SWTSCSA)**

- At least 2,282 young persons/adults in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q1 2019
- 67% (1,221/1,825) of those 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service were in education/accredited training
- 83% (1,891) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services had an aftercare plan. Nine areas along with the SWTSCSA reported a percentage equal to or above the national average. Rates reported by CW/KK/ST (55%), DSW/K/WW (62%) Donegal (64%) and Dublin South Central (65%) lower than all other areas.
- 89% (1,625) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker (1,831) had an aftercare worker. Rates reported by CW/KK/ST (48%), DSW/K/WW (60%), Dublin South Central (66%) and GY/RN (76%) lower than all other areas.

**Data from Cork not available at the time of writing. Data for Q1 2019 includes data from the Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum (SWTSCSA)**

### 3.2.1 Referrals for an aftercare service received in the quarter

- 154 referrals in Q1 2019. Highest number reported by Dublin North City (n=21) followed by CW/KK/ST (n=20).
- All but two (152) of the referrals for Q1 2019 were eligible for an assessment of need.
- Of those eligible for an assessment of need in Q1 2019, 96% (146) were < 18 years and in care, two young people were <18 years and not in care and four were 18-20 years.
- A total of 126 assessments were completed in Q1 2019

Area	# Referrals Q4 2018	# Referrals Q1 2019
DSC	7	10
DSE/WW	5	3
DSW/K/WW	9	9
Midlands	5	9
DNC	17	21
Dublin North	9	8
LH/MH	14	6
CN/MN	2	11
Cork	20	
Kerry	2 (revised from previously reported)	
CW/KK/ST	7	20
WD/WX	9	11
Mid West	11	13
GY/RN	5	7
Mayo	9	2
Donegal	5	3
SLWC	0	4
SWTSCSA		4
<b>Total</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>154</b>

### 3.2.2 Young Persons / Adults in receipt of an aftercare service

- At least 2,282 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q1 2019. *Figure includes young persons < 18 years and those 18-22 years inclusive.*

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q4 2018	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q1 2019
DSC	138	142
DSE/WW	148	146
DSW/K/WW	225	247
Midlands	103	108
DNC	301	320
Dublin North	107	99
LH/MH	150	154
CN/MN	75	68
Cork	313	
Kerry	53	58
CW/KK/ST	186	166
WD/WX	169	182
Mid West	207	194
GY/RN	143	138
Mayo	60	48
Donegal	71	67
SLWC	47	50
SWTSCSA		95
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,496</b>	<b>2,282</b>

### 3.2.3 Young adults 18-20 years (inclusive) in receipt of an aftercare service

- 59% (1,356) of those in receipt of an aftercare service were 18 – 20 years inclusive and of these 70% (945/1,356) were in education/accredited training.
- Eleven areas along with the SWTSCSA reported at least seven out of 10 (18-20 years) in education/accredited training. Highest percentages reported by CN/MN (100%), Mayo (100%), SWTSCSA (89%), Midwest (81%) and DSE/WW (79%). Rates reported by Dublin North City (47%), Dublin south Central (52%) and DSW/K/WW (61%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# 18-20 years Q4 2018	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 18-20 years Q1 2019	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
DSC	88	35	40%	88	46	52%
DSE/WW	73	61	84%	72	57	79%
DSW/K/WW	132	70	53%	136	83	61%
Midlands	60	59	98%	56	41	73%
DNC	174	74	43%	174	81	47%
Dublin North	85	59	69%	81	58	72%
LH/MH	106	72	68%	105	73	70%
CN/MN	40	40	100%	39	39	100%

Cork	193	144	75%			
Kerry	31	25	81%	33	25	76%
CW/KK/ST	100	72	72%	97	67	69%
WD/WX	95	58	61%	98	67	68%
Mid West	121	90	74%	109	88	81%
GY/RN	98	65	66%	101	79	78%
Mayo	26	24	92%	23	23	100%
Donegal	36	25	69%	38	27	71%
SLWC	33	26	79%	31	24	77%
SWTSCSA				75	67	89%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,491</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>1,356</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>70%</b>

- The highest number of those in education/accredited training were in second level education (300; 32%) followed by PLCs (223; 24%).

	# 18-20 years in education/accredited Training Q1 2019	%
Second Level	300	32%
Vocational Training	79	8%
PLCs	223	24%
Third Level College / University	189	20%
Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)	102	11%
Other	52	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 3.2.4 Young adults 21-22 years (inclusive) in receipt of aftercare services

- 21% (469) of those in receipt of an aftercare service were 21 – 22 years inclusive and of these 59% (276/449) were in education/accredited training.
- Eleven areas along with the SWTSCSA reported 70% or higher with three of these areas reporting 100% (CN/MN, Kerry and Mayo). Rates reported by Dublin North City (27%), Dublin South Central (37%), DSW/K/WW (42%) and WD/WX (50%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# 21-22 years Q4 2018	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 21-22 years Q1 2019	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
DSC	36	13	36%	35	13	37%
DSE/WW	30	21	70%	29	21	72%
DSW/K/WW	53	18	34%	62	26	42%
Midlands	17	16	94%	23	20	87%
DNC	83	22	27%	94	25	27%
Dublin North	21	13	62%	17	12	71%
LH/MH	18	13	72%	20	15	75%
CN/MN	19	19	100%	13	13	100%
Cork	47	40	85%			

Kerry	9	8	89%	7	7	100%
CW/KK/ST	48	17	35%	21	16	76%
WD/WX	39	19	49%	44	22	50%
Mid West	35	24	69%	35	26	74%
GY/RN	40	28	70%	31	27	87%
Mayo	17	10	59%	12	12	100%
Donegal	11	5	45%	6	5	83%
SLWC	3	2	67%	7	4	57%
SWTSCSA				13	12	92%
<b>Total</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>59%</b>

- Almost half (46%; 128) of those in education/accredited training were in Third Level College / with a further 26% (72) in PLCs.

	# 21-22 years in education/accredited Training Q1 2019	%
Second Level	8	3%
Vocational Training	19	7%
PLCs	72	26%
Third Level College / University	128	46%
Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)	42	15%
Other	7	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 3.2.5 Young adults 18-22 years (inclusive) in receipt of an aftercare service – accommodation

- Almost half (47%; 856) of young people 18 – 22 years in receipt of aftercare had remained living with their carers. A further 10% (175) had returned home to parents/family. One in five (22%; 407) was in independent living.

	# 18-22 placement type Q1 2019	%
Residential Care Placement	96	5%
Remained with Carers	856	47%
Independent Living	407	22%
Designated Care Leavers Accommodation	50*	3%
At home	175	10%
Supported Lodgings	62	3%
Other	179	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,825</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Figure for Designated Care Leavers Accommodation needs to be interpreted with care due to issues regarding the interpretation of the definition

### 3.2.6 Young Persons / Adults in receipt of aftercare services with an Aftercare Plan

- 83% (1,891) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services had an aftercare plan at the end of Q1 2019.
- Nine areas along with the SWTSCSA reported a percentage equal to or above the national average of 83%. Highest rates reported by DNC (100%), Mayo (100%), SWTSCSA (98%),



Midwest (95%). GY/RN (93%) and Dublin North (90%). Rates reported by CW/KK/ST (55%), DSW/K/WW (62%) Donegal (64%) and Dublin South Central (65%) lower than all other areas.

- 92% (1,670/1,825) of those 18-22 years in receipt of an aftercare service had a plan.

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q4 2018	# with an Aftercare Plan Q4 2018	% with an Aftercare Plan Q4 2018	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q1 2019	# with an Aftercare Plan Q1 2019	% with an Aftercare Plan Q1 2019
DSC	138	52	38%	142	92	65%
DSE/WW	148	123	83%	146	118	81%
DSW/K/WW	225	107	48%	247	153	62%
Midlands	103	90	87%	108	96	89%
DNC	301	301	100%	320	320	100%
Dublin North	107	92	86%	99	89	90%
LH/MH	150	139	93%	154	136	88%
CN/MN	75	69	92%	68	58	85%
Cork	313	255	81%			
Kerry	53	43	81%	58	42	72%
CW/KK/ST	186	112	60%	166	91	55%
WD/WX	169	147	87%	182	160	88%
Mid West	207	147	71%	194	185	95%
GY/RN	143	123	86%	138	129	93%
Mayo	60	52	87%	48	48	100%
Donegal	71	47	66%	67	43	64%
SLWC	47	36	77%	50	38	76%
				95	93	98%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,496</b>	<b>1,935</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>2,282</b>	<b>1,891</b>	<b>83%</b>

### 3.2.7 Young Persons / Adults in receipt of aftercare services with an Aftercare Worker

- 97% (1,831) of those with an aftercare plan were assessed as needing an aftercare worker. 13 areas along with the SWTSCSA reported greater than 90% with 11 of these areas along with the SWTSCSA reporting 100%.
- 89% (1,625/1,831) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2019.
- Nine areas along with the SWTSCSA reported 100% with a further two areas reporting 90% or higher. Rates reported by CW/KK/ST (48%), DSW/K/WW (60%), Dublin South Central (66%) and GY/RN (76%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service with a Plan Q1 2019	# with Plan Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q1 2019	% with Plan Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q1 2019	# with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q1 2019	% with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q1 2019	% with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q4 2018
DSC	92	92	100%	61	66%	95%
DSE/WW	118	118	100%	115	97%	95%
DSW/K/WW	153	134	88%	81	60%	65%
Midlands	96	96	100%	96	100%	100%
DNC	320	320	100%	274	86%	94%
Dublin North	89	89	100%	89	100%	100%
LH/MH	136	136	100%	135	99%	80%
CN/MN	58	50	86%	50	100%	100%
Cork						98%
Kerry	42	42	100%	42	100%	100%
CW/KK/ST	91	90	99%	43	48%	57%
WD/WX	160	152	95%	152	100%	100%
Mid West	185	185	100%	185	100%	100%
GY/RN	129	105	81%	80	76%	91%
Mayo	48	48	100%	48	100%	100%
Donegal	43	43	100%	43	100%	100%
SLWC	38	38	100%	38	100%	100%
SWTSCSA	93	93	100%	93	100%	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,891</b>	<b>1,831</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>1,625</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>92%</b>

### 3.2.8 Drop-in Service

- All but two areas (GY/RN and Mayo) along with the SWTSCSA reported having a drop-in service.

### 3.2.9 Interagency Aftercare Steering Committee

- All areas with the exception of Mayo and the SWTSCSA reported having an interagency aftercare steering committee.

### 3.3 ADOPTION SERVICES

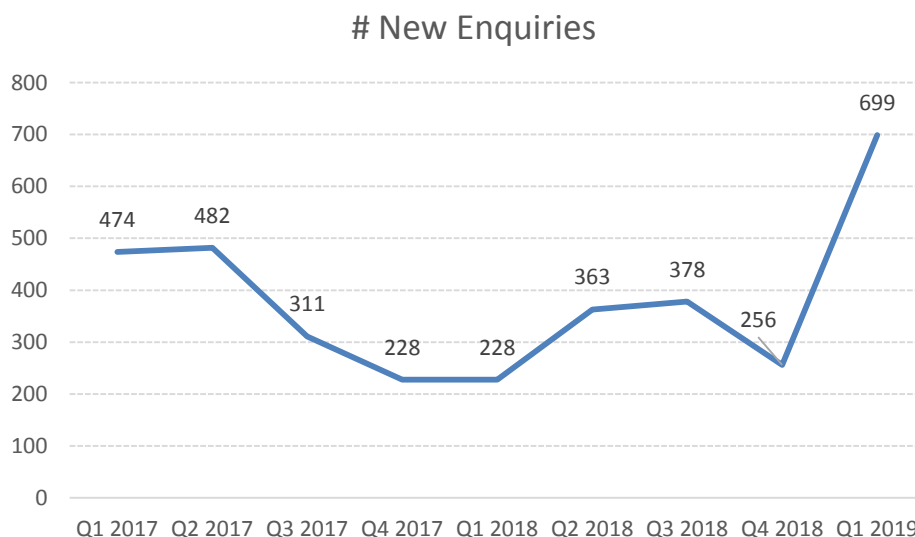
#### KEY FACTS

- 699 new enquiries regarding information and tracing received in Q1 2019, 443 (173%) more than Q4 2018 and the highest number for all quarters Q1 2017 – Q1 2019.
- 803 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q1 2019; 23 (3%) more than Q4 2018 and 154 (24%) more than Q1 2018
- 45 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received during Q1 2019, five fewer than Q4 2018 and 16 fewer than Q1 2018.
- 35 new children were referred for adoption in Q1 2019; 14 fewer than Q4 2018 and six more than Q1 2018.
- 28 completed assessments (all types) were presented to Local Adoption Committees during Q1 2019, 18 fewer than Q4 2018 and 10 fewer than Q1 2018.

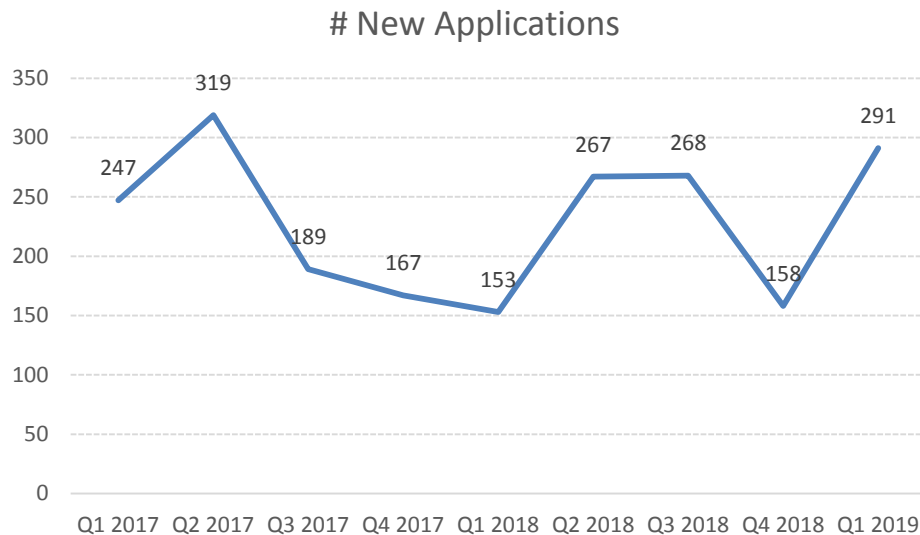
#### 3.3.1 Information and Tracing Service

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 assists each of these categories of person with their information and tracing enquiries.

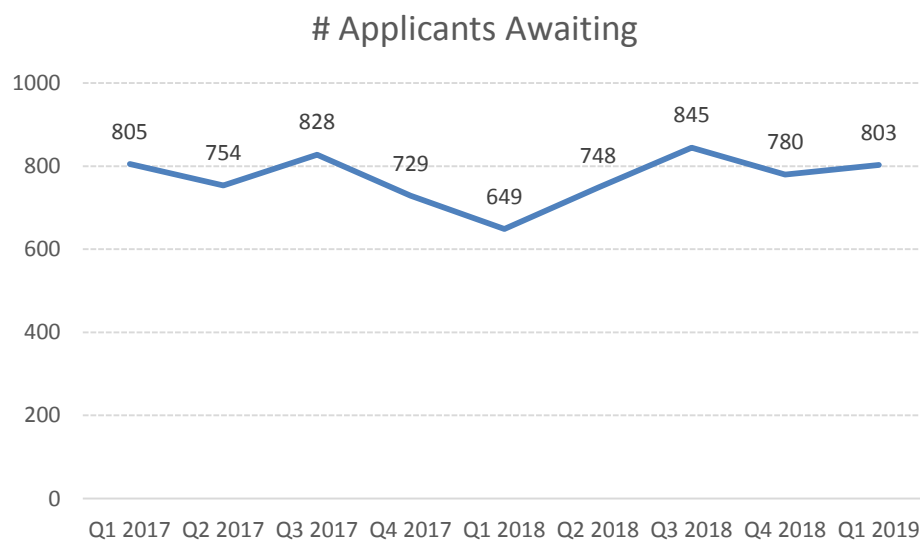
- 699 new enquiries regarding information and tracing received in Q1 2019; 443 (173%) more than Q4 2018 and the highest number for all quarters Q1 2017 – Q1 2019.



- 291 new applications to commence tracing of a searched person received in Q1 2018; 133 (84%) more than Q4 2018 and the second highest number (after Q2 2017) for the period Q1 2017 – Q1 2019.



- 803 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q1 2019; 23 (3%) more than Q4 2018 and 154 (24%) more than Q1 2018



- At the end of Q1 2019, the length of time from application (production of ID) to the provision of personal information in line with GDPR legislation ranged from 6 weeks to 24 weeks against a target of 8 weeks.
- The length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for priority 1 applications ranged from 0 months to 14 months against a target of 3 months or less.
- The length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for priority 2 applications ranged from 6 weeks to 24 months against a target of 6 months or less.
- The length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for all other applications ranged from 3 months to 40 months against a target of 12 months or less.

### 3.3.2 Adoption Assessments

- 45 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received during Q1 2019, five fewer than Q4 2018 and 16 fewer than Q1 2018.

#### Number of receipted completed adoption application packs received in the quarter

Area	# Q1 2018	# Q2 2018	# Q3 2018	# Q4 2018	# Q1 2019
Fostering to Adoption	9	8	3	7	4
Inter-Country Adoption	29	21	14	12	15
Domestic Adoption	17	6	10	8	8
Step-parent adoption	6	21	18	23	18
Total	61	56	45	50	45

- 35 new children were referred for adoption in Q1 2019; 14 fewer than Q4 2018 and six more than Q1 2018. Referrals for step-parent adoption account for 80% (28/35) of new children referred in Q1 2019.

#### Number of new children referred for adoption in the quarter

Area	# Q1 2018	# Q2 2018	# Q3 2018	# Q4 2018	# Q1 2019
Fostering to Adoption	16	13	6	10	6
Domestic Adoption	3	7	5	1	1
Step-parent adoption	10	52	36	38	28
Total	29	72	47	49	35

- 28 completed assessments (all types) were presented to Local Adoption Committees during Q1 2019, 18 fewer than Q4 2018 and 10 fewer than Q1 2018.

#### Completed assessments presented to Local Adoption Committees, by type

Area	# Q1 2018	# Q2 2018	# Q3 2018	# Q4 2018	# Q1 2019
Fostering to Adoption	3	8	10	11	5
Inter-Country Adoption	22	8	7	15	8
Domestic Adoption	3	12	1	6	4
Step-parent adoption	10	15	6	14	11
Total	38	43	24	46	28

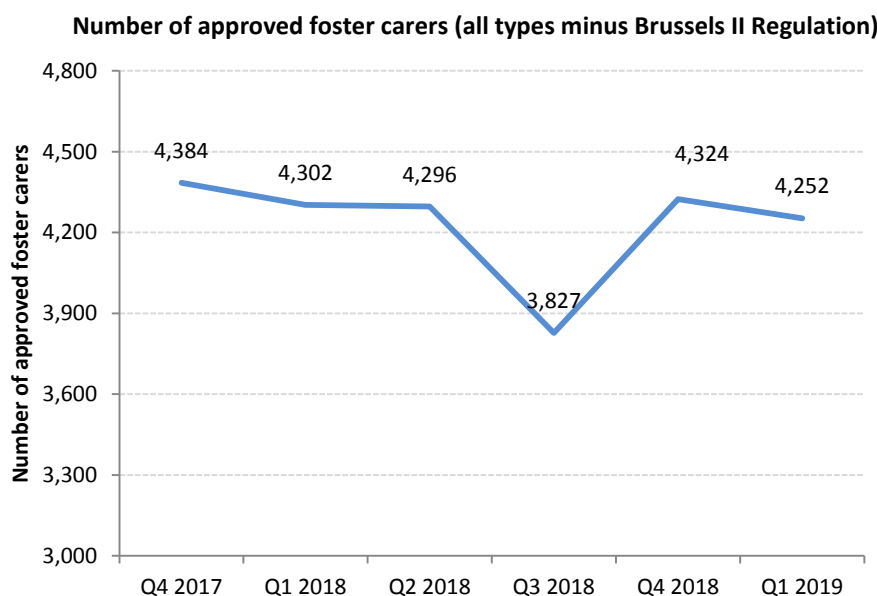
## 3.4 FOSTER CARERS

### KEY FACTS

- 4,252 foster carers on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q1 2019; 72 (2%) fewer than Q4 2018
- 82% of relative foster carers approved against a target of 80%
- 89% (2,341) of general foster carers had an allocated link worker (target 90%); 278 awaiting a link work, eight more than Q4 2018. Highest number waiting reported by Midwest (71/288).
- 87% (n=976) of approved relative foster carers had an allocated link worker (target of 85%); 140 awaiting a link worker, 21 more than Q4 2018
- 250 unapproved relative foster carers; seven fewer than Q4 2018
- 221 (88%) of the unapproved relative foster carers had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks, 10 fewer than Q4 2018
- 22 unapproved carers were awaiting allocation of a link worker, 16 fewer than Q4 2018. These cases were reported by five areas (DSE/WW (1); DSW/K/WW (8); Midlands (7); WD/WX (2). Midwest (4)

### 3.4.1 Number of foster carers

- 4,252 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q1 2019; 72 (2%) fewer than Q4 2018
- 250 unapproved relative foster carers of which 88% (221) had a child placed for >12 weeks. Eighty-two percent of relative foster carers are approved against a target of 80%.



\* Figure for Q3 2018 based on data from 16 areas (data for Cork outstanding)

- 62% (2,619) of all approved foster carers are general foster carers. Relative foster carers (approved) account for a further 26% (1,116) while private foster carers account for the remaining 12% (517).

### Breakdown of foster carers by type

				Δ (+/-)
Foster Carers	Q1 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q1 2019 v Q4 2018
General (Approved)	2,703	2,675	2,619	-56
Relative (Approved)	1,124	1,146	1,116	-30
Private (Approved)	475	503	517	+14
Total Approved	4,302	4,324	4,252	-72
Relative (Unapproved)	301	257	250	-7

### 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 488 in Cork to 87 in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan at the end of Q1 2019.

#### Foster carers approved by type and area on the panel of approved foster carers, Q1 2019

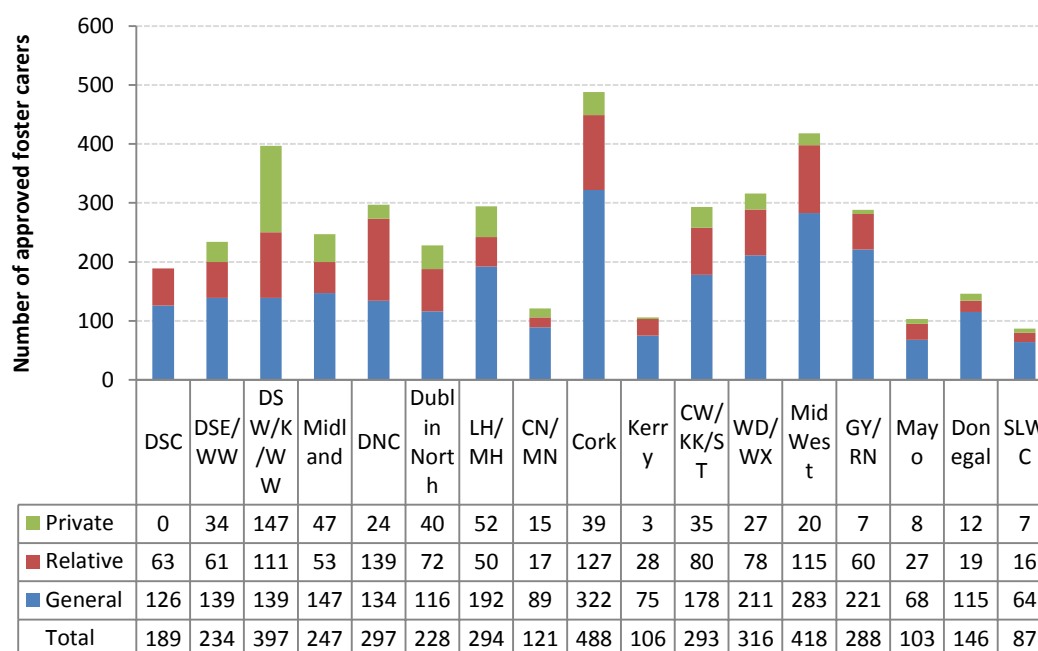


Figure for private carers provided by DSW/KWW includes private carers for Dublin South Central.

Number of general foster carers reported by Cork undergoing validation

- Six areas reported an increase from Q4 2018 in the number of foster carers approved and on the panel. The highest increase was reported by Louth/Meath (up 10) followed by DSE/WW (up 7).
- Ten areas reported a decrease from Q4 2018. The largest decreases were reported by Dublin South Central (down 26), followed by Dublin North, Dublin North City and CN/MN (all down 13).

#### Area breakdown of approved foster carers (all types)

Area	Q1 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Δ (+/-) Q1 2019 v Q4 2018
DSC	205	215	189	-26
DSE/WW	231	227	234	7
DSW/K/WW	390	401	397	-4
Midland	246	244	247	3
DNC	326	310	297	-13
Dublin North	230	241	228	-13
LH/MH	296	284	294	10
CN/MN	125	134	121	-13
Cork	500	496	488	-8
Kerry	102	105	106	1
CW/KK/ST	315	294	293	-1
WD/WX	327	318	316	-2
MidWest	412	426	418	-8
GY/RN	272	300	288	-12
Mayo	94	102	103	1
Donegal	148	140	146	6
SLWC	83	87	87	0
<b>National</b>	<b>4,302</b>	<b>4,324</b>	<b>4,252</b>	<b>-72</b>

- 89% (n=2,341) of general foster carers approved and on the Panel had an allocated link (social) worker against a target of 90% at the end of Q1 2019, down one percentage point from Q4 2018
- 278 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker; eight more than Q4 2018
- Nine areas reported a percentage of 90% or higher with four of these areas reporting 100%. Poorest performing areas DSW/K/WW (68%), Midwest (75%) and LH/MH (78%).
- Eight areas reported a decrease in general foster carers awaiting an allocated link worker from Q4 2018. The largest decrease was reported by WD/WX (down 28) followed by Dublin South Central (down 27) and Mayo (down 17).
- Midwest reported the highest increase (up 46), followed by DSW/K/WW and LH/MH (both up 21). Midwest has the highest number of foster carers awaiting link worker (n=71) followed by DSW/K/WW (n=44) and LH/MH (n=42).

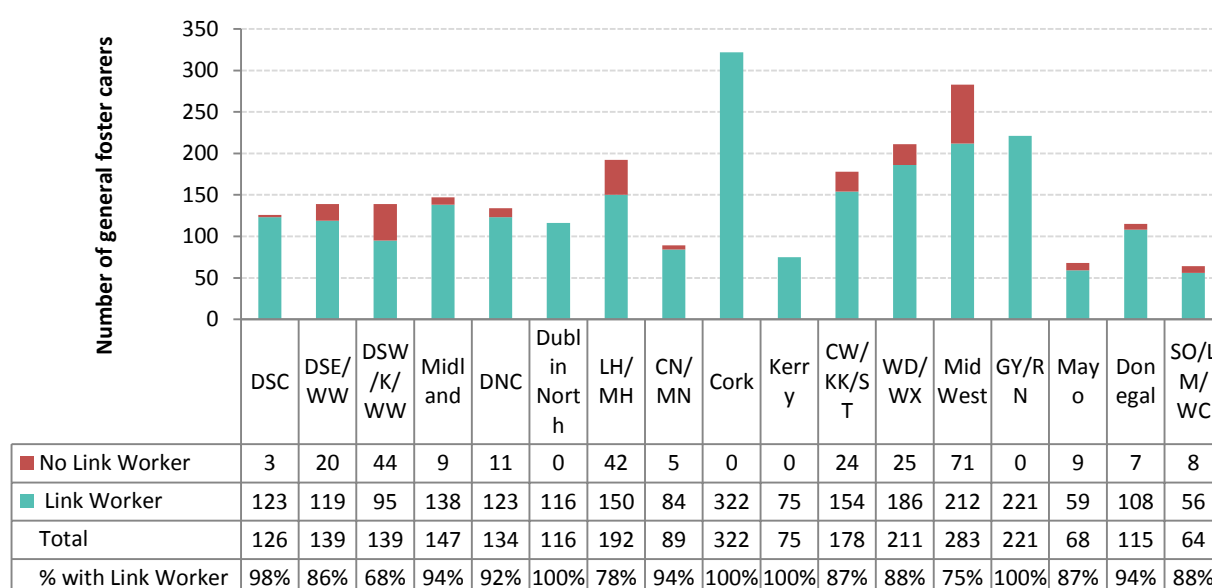


### General foster carers (approved) with/awaiting link social worker, Q4 2018 – Q1 2019

Area	With Link Worker Q4 2018	Awaiting Link Worker Q4 2018	% With Link Worker Q4 2018	With Link Worker Q1 2019	Awaiting Link Worker Q1 2019	% With Link Worker Q1 2019	Δ +/- No. Awaiting Link Worker Q1 2019 v Q4 2018
DSC	117	30	80%	123	3	98%	-27
DSE/WW	113	24	82%	119	20	86%	-4
DSW/K/WW	119	23	84%	95	44	68%	21
Midland	124	23	84%	138	9	94%	-14
DNC	137	8	94%	123	11	92%	3
Dub North	126	0	100%	116	0	100%	0
LH/MH	168	21	89%	150	42	78%	21
CN/MN	88	13	87%	84	5	94%	-8
Cork	324	3	99%	322*	0	100%	-3
Kerry	73	0	100%	75	0	100%	0
CW/KK/ST	162	20	89%	154	24	87%	4
WD/WX	155	53	75%	186	25	88%	-28
MidWest	263	25	91%	212	71	75%	46
GY/RN	219	1	100%	221	0	100%	-1
Mayo	42	26	62%	59	9	87%	-17
Donegal	111	0	100%	108	7	94%	7
S/L/WC	64	0	100%	56	8	88%	8
<b>National</b>	<b>2,405</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>2,341</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>-7</b>

\*Figure for Cork undergoing validation

### General foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting a link (social worker), Q1 2019



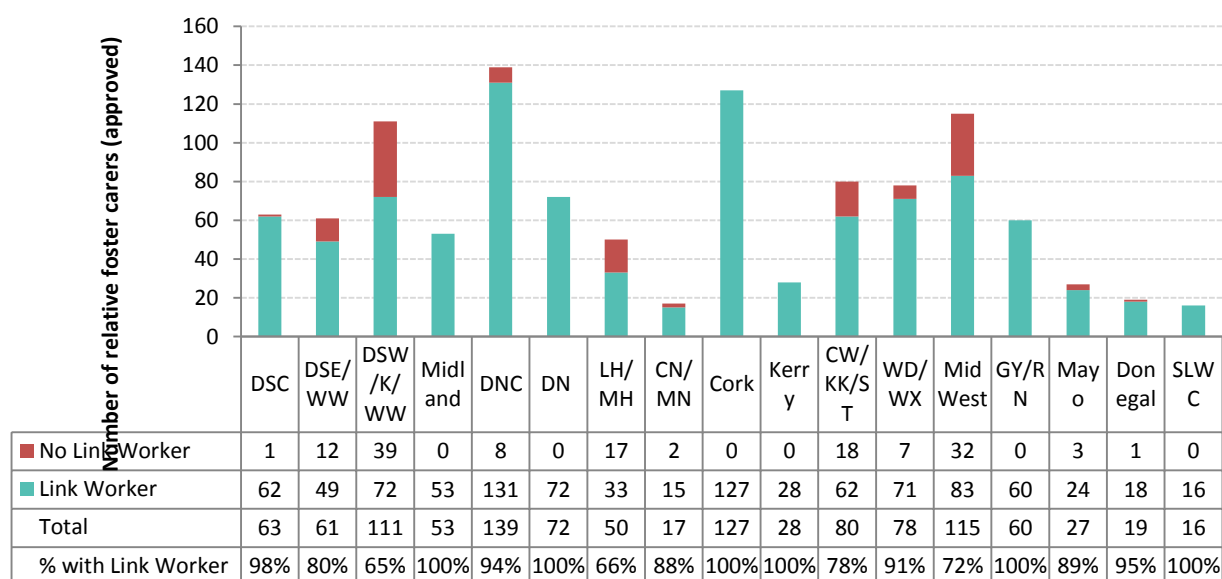
- 87% (n=976) of relative foster carers approved and on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q1 2019 against a target of 85%; down three percentage points on Q4 2019

- 140 were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q1 2019; 21 more than Q4 2018
- 12 areas reported a percentage of 85% (target) or higher with six of these areas reporting 100%. Poorest performing areas DSW/K/WW (65%), LH/MH (66%)
- Five areas reported a decrease in the number awaiting from Q4 2018, DSC (down 8), Mayo (down 7) and DNC (down 4), WD/WX (down 3), DSE/WW (down 2). Midwest reported the highest increase (up 18) followed by DSW/K/WW (up 11).

#### Relative foster carers (approved) with/awaiting link social worker, Q4 2018 – Q1 2019

Area	With Link Worker Q4 2018	Awaiting Link Worker Q4 2018	% With Link Worker Q4 2018	With Link Worker Q1 2019	Awaiting Link Worker Q1 2019	% With Link Worker Q1 2019	Δ +/- No. Awaiting Link Worker Q1 2019 v Q4 2018
DSC	59	9	87%	62	1	98%	-8
DSE/WW	48	14	77%	49	12	80%	-2
DSW/K/WW	84	28	75%	72	39	65%	11
Midland	52	0	100%	53	0	100%	0
DNC	129	12	91%	131	8	94%	-4
Dublin North	75	0	100%	72	0	100%	0
LH/MH	40	9	82%	33	17	66%	8
CN/MN	18	0	100%	15	2	88%	2
Cork	130	0	100%	127	0	100%	0
Kerry	29	0	100%	28	0	100%	0
CW/KK/ST	65	13	83%	62	18	78%	5
WD/WX	69	10	87%	71	7	91%	-3
MidWest	101	14	88%	83	32	72%	18
GY/RN	73	0	100%	60	0	100%	0
Mayo	22	10	69%	24	3	89%	-7
Donegal	17	0	100%	18	1	95%	1
S/L/WC	16	0	100%	16	0	100%	0
<b>National</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>21</b>

#### Relative foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting allocated link Q1 2019



### 3.4.3 Foster carers (relative) unapproved

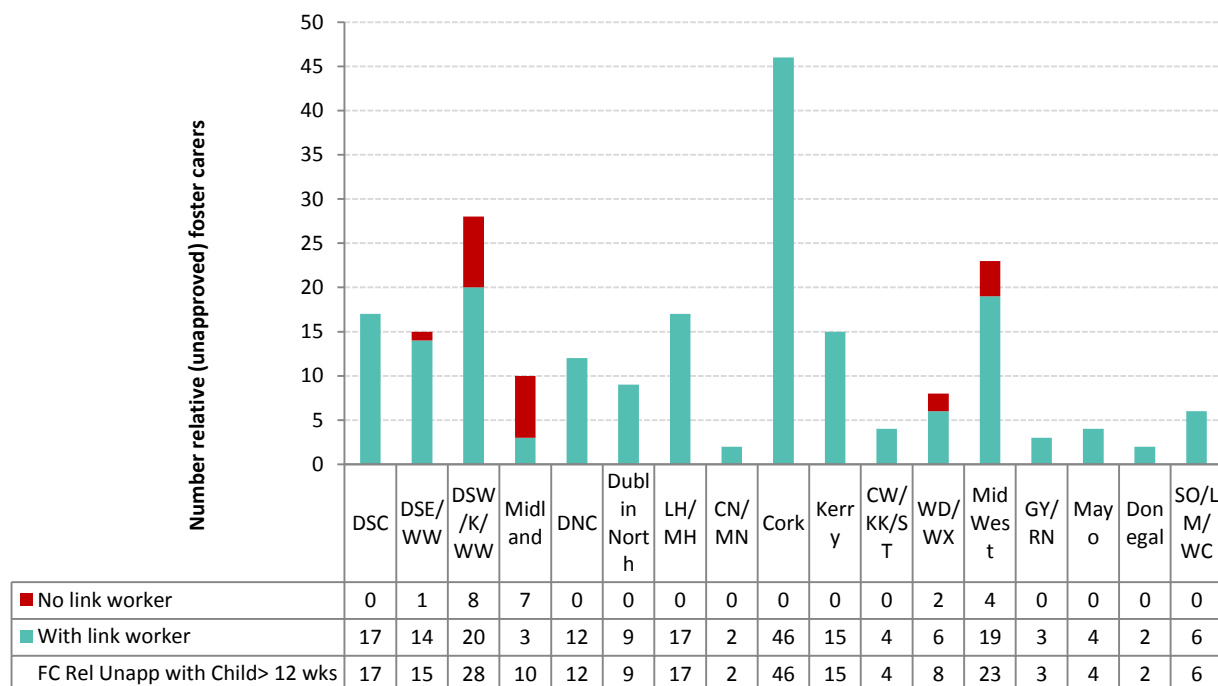
- 250 relative foster carers unapproved at the end of Q1 2019; seven fewer than Q4 2018
- Of these 221 (88%) had a child placed with them for longer than 12 week; 10 fewer than Q4 2018
- Of the 221 foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks, 90% (n=199) had an allocated link (social).
- 22 unapproved carers were awaiting allocation of a link worker; 16 fewer than Q4 2018. These cases were reported by five areas (DSE/WW (1); DSW/K/WW (8); Midlands (7) and WD/WX (2) and Midwest (4)

#### Breakdown of foster carers not approved

Unapproved Relative Foster Carers	Q1 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Δ (+/-) Q1 2019 v Q4 2018
No. unapproved	301	257	250	-7
No (%) with a child > 12 weeks	245 81%	231 (90%)	221 (88%)	-10
Child > 12 weeks and have a Link Worker	204 83%	193 84%	199 (90%)	+6
Child > 12 weeks AWAITING Link Worker	41	38	22	-16

\*Data for Q3 includes data for Cork

#### Relative foster carers UNAPPROVED with a child > 12 weeks, with/awaiting a link worker, Q1 2019



### **3.5 HIQA INSPECTIONS**

The summary of judgments and a summary of main findings published by Hiqa in Q1 2019 can be found in Appendix II.

## 4.0 REGULATORY FUNCTIONS

### KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

#### 4.1 Early Years Inspectorate

#### 4.2 Alternative Education Regulation

#### 4.3 Non-Statutory Alternative Care Services

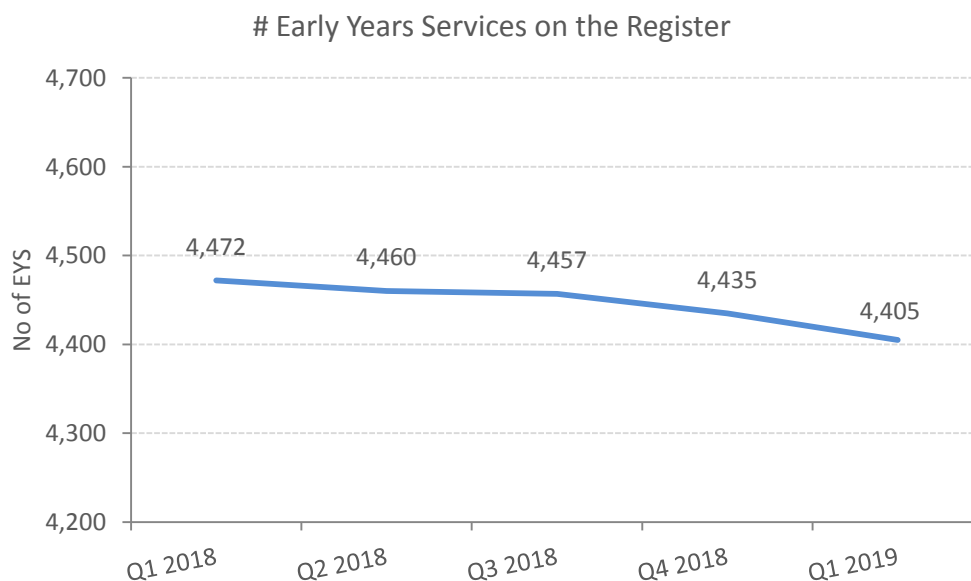
### 4.1 EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

#### KEY FACTS

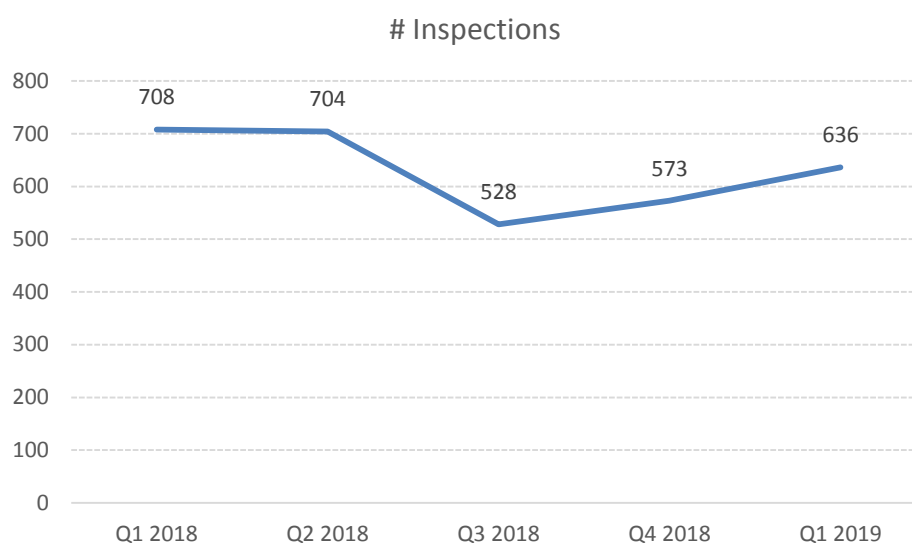
- 4,405 EYS on the register nationally at the end of Q1 2019; down 30 on Q4 2018 and the fewest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q1 2019
- 636 EYS inspections (all types) carried out during Q1 2019; 63 (11%) more than Q4 2018 and 72 (10%) fewer than Q1 2018.
- 110 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q1 2019; highest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q1 2019
- 138 unsolicited information submissions<sup>1</sup> received by the Inspectorate during Q1 2019; highest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q1 2019

#### 4.1.1 Activity Data

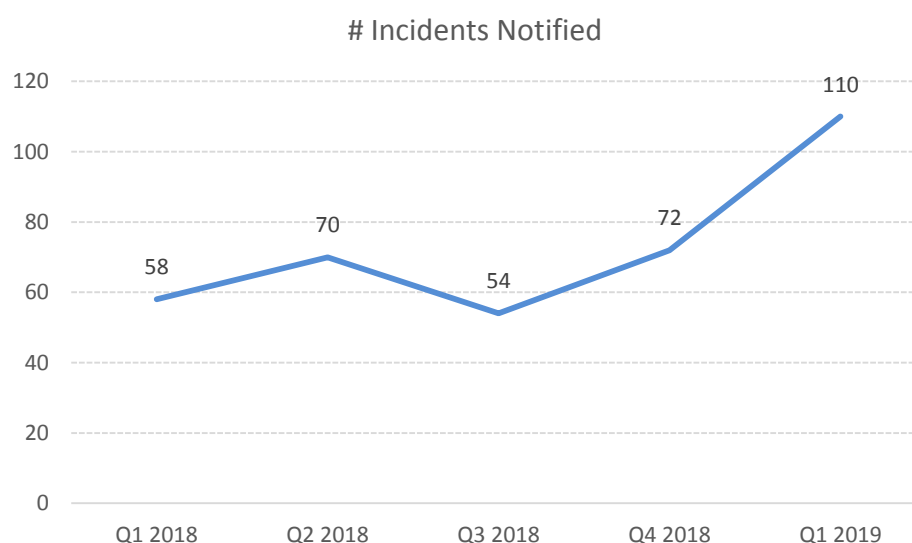
- 4,405 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q1 2019; 30 fewer than Q4 2018 and 67 fewer than Q1 2018; fewest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q1 2019



- 636 inspections (all types<sup>7</sup>) carried out in Q1 2019; 63 (11%) more than Q4 2018 and 72 (10%) fewer than Q1 2018.



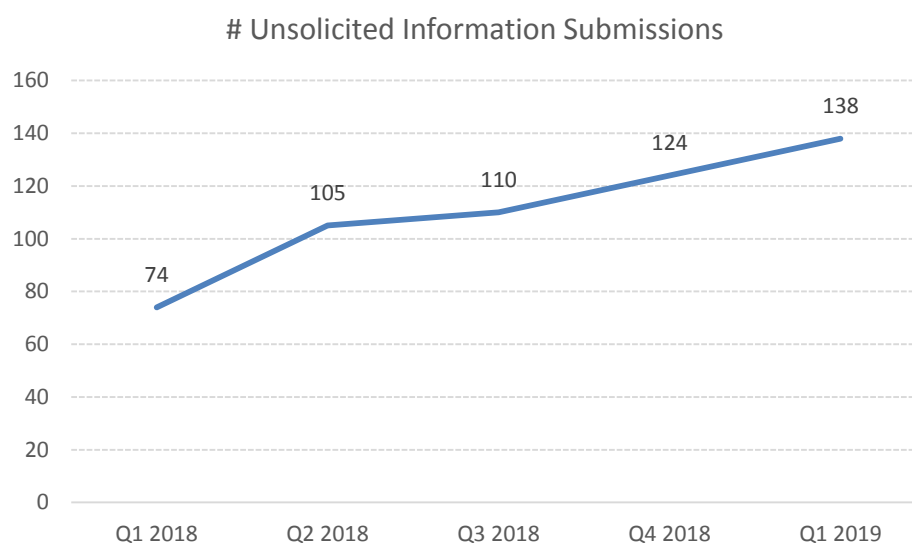
- 17 new applications to become a registered provider received by the Inspectorate in Q1 2019, 10 more than Q4 2018 (n=7) and six fewer than Q1 2018 (n=23).
- 12 new applications approved by the Inspectorate in Q1 2019, five fewer than Q4 2018 (n=17) and two more than Q1 2018 (n=2).
- No applications to become an EYS refused registration by the Inspectorate in Q1 2019
- 319 “change in circumstances” requests received by the Inspectorate in Q1 2019, down 61 on Q4 2018 (n=380) and up 20 on Q1 2018 (n=299).
- 110 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q1 2019, 38 more than Q4 2018 (n=72) the highest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q1 2019.



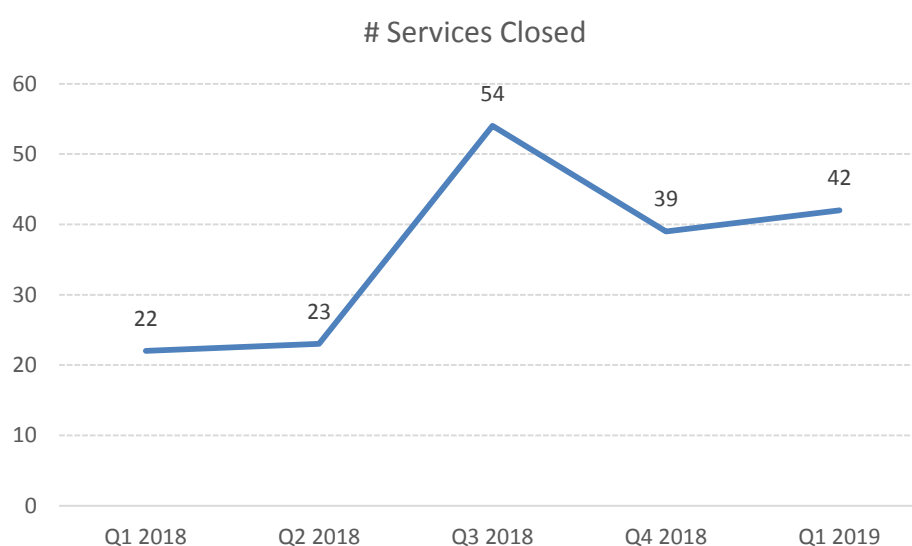
<sup>7</sup> Includes initial, follow up, complaints, focused inspections or fit for purpose inspections

\*Data for Q1 2018 and Q3 2018 revised from previously published.

- 138 unsolicited information submissions<sup>8</sup> received by the Inspectorate during Q1 2019, 14 more than Q4 2018 (n=124) and the highest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q1 2019.



- No prosecution of EYS taken by Tusla during in Q1 2019.
- 42 services were found to have closed in Q1 2019, three more than Q4 2018



- Three services de-registered by Tusla in Q1 2019.

<sup>8</sup> Unsolicited information is defined as any piece of information that relates to the operation of an Early Years Service that has been brought to the attention of the Inspectorate but has not been sought or requested or invited. Information received in the form of a complaint shall be processed as unsolicited information.

## 4.2 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION REGULATION

### Key Facts

#### Home Education

- 1,454 children on the register for home education at the end of Q1 2019; highest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q1 2019
- 175 applications received for home education during Q1 2019
- 510 children awaiting assessment for registration at the end of Q1 2019 (*not comparable with previous quarters due to a change in the metric*).
- 503 registered children awaiting a review at the end of Q1 2019, the fewest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q1 2019.

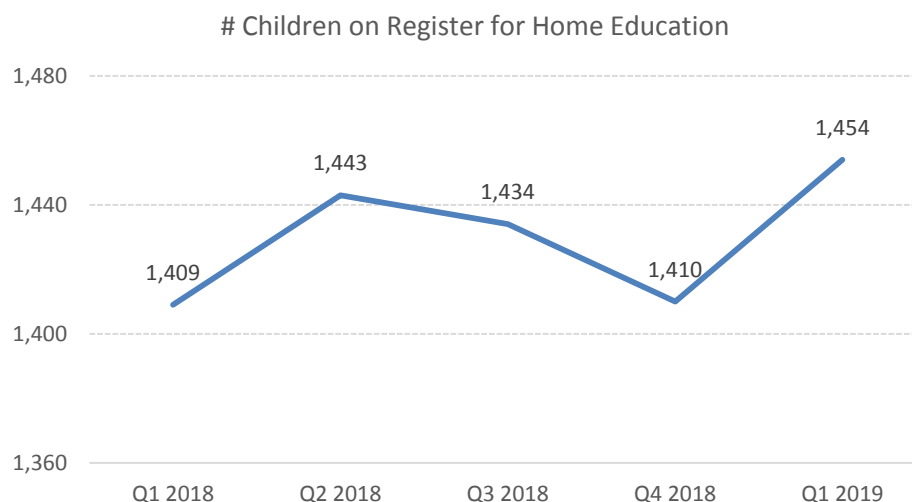
#### Independent Schools

- 5,134 children attending 45 assessed schools at the end of Q1 2019
- 135 new children's applications for education in independent schools received in Q1 2019
- 30 schools awaiting a review at the end of Q1 2019

Under Section 14 of the Education (Welfare)<sup>9</sup> Act 2000

#### Home Education

- 1,454 children on the register for home education at the end of Q1 2019; 44 more than Q4 2018 and the highest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q1 2019.

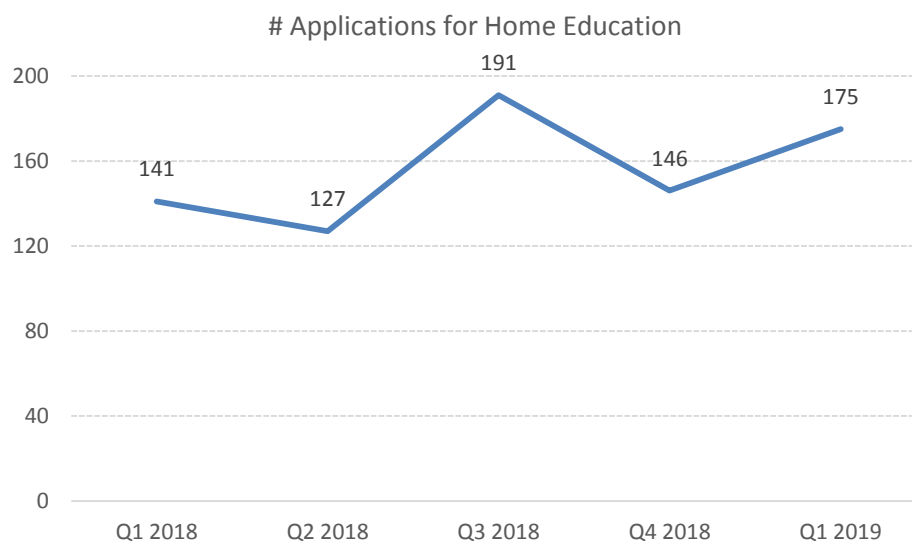


<sup>9</sup> Section 14 Education (Welfare) Act 2000 14.—(1) The Board shall, on the commencement of this section, cause to be established and maintained a register of all children in receipt of education in a place other than a recognised school (hereafter in this section referred to as “the register”). (2) Subject to subsection (3), where a parent chooses to educate, or have educated, his or her child in a place other than a recognised school he or she shall, in accordance with this section, apply to the Board to have the child concerned registered in the register.

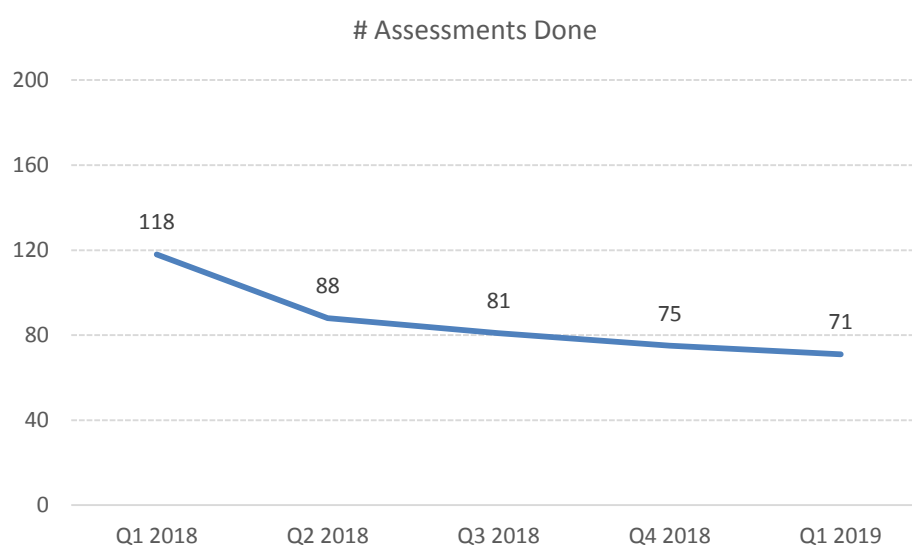
(5) As soon as practicable after an application under this section is received by the Board, the Board shall, for the purpose of determining whether the child is receiving a certain minimum education, cause an authorised person to carry out, in consultation with the parent who made the application, an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



- 18% (n=268) of children on the register have special educational needs; 21 more than Q4 2018
- 175 applications received for home education during Q1 2019. Twenty-eight per cent (n=49) of all applications for Q1 2019 were for children with special educational needs.

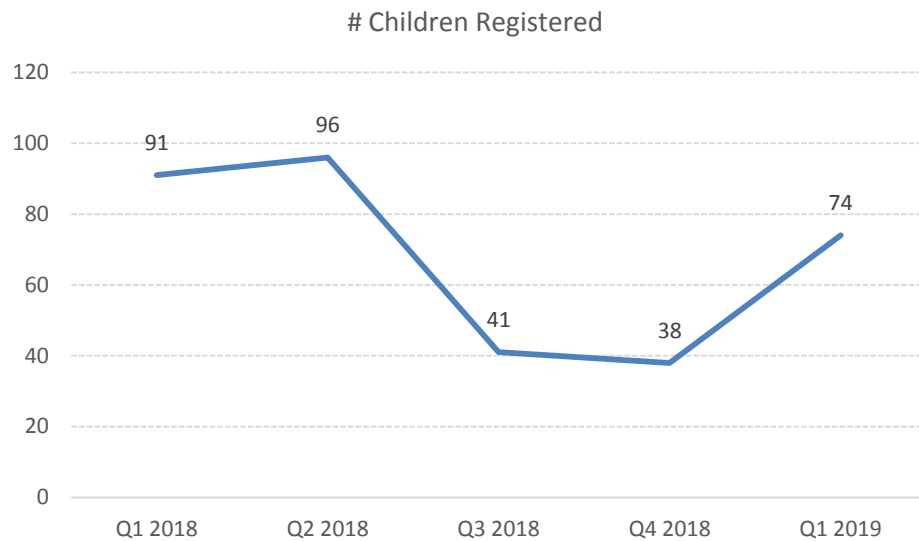


- 71 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q1 2019, the fewest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q1 2019.

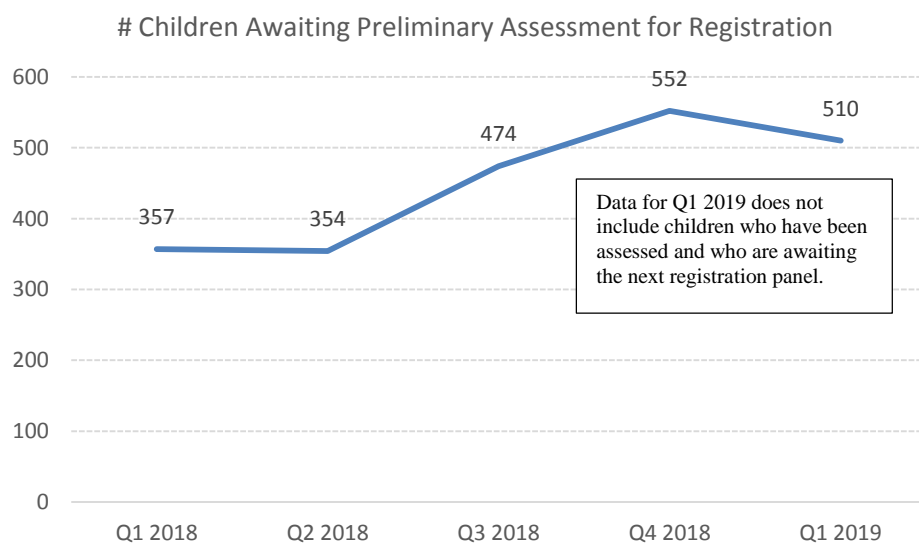


- 74 children registered for home education<sup>10</sup> in Q1 2019; 36 more than Q4 2018.

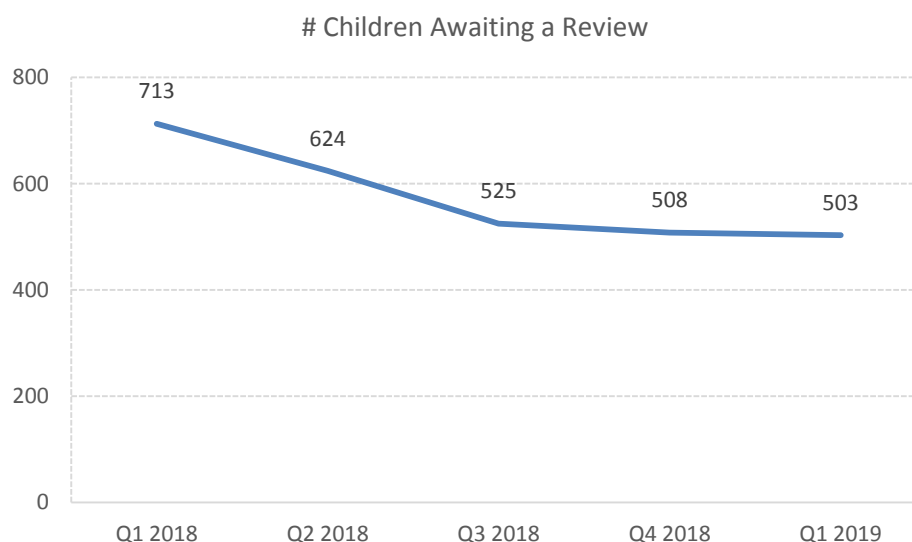
<sup>10</sup> Number registered in a quarter does not reflect the number of assessments carried out in the previous quarter – reports are written, reviewed and approved internally before registration



- 510 children awaiting a preliminary assessment for registration at the end of Q1 2019. Unlike previous quarters, this figure (510) does not include children who have been assessed and are awaiting the next registration panel.



- 503 registered children awaiting a review at the end of Q1 2019; fewest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q1 2019. Of these (503), 70 have been allocated to an assessor for review, while the remaining 433 are unallocated.



- Two children were refused registration for home education in Q1 2019. There were no appeal made against a decision not to register.
- 30 children removed from the register in Q1 2019. Breakdown of the 30 is as follows: 20 turned 18 years; 8 returned to school and 2 de-registered.

### **Independent Schools**

- 5,134 children attending 45 assessed schools at the end of Q1 2019
- 135 new children's applications for education in independent schools received in Q1 2019
- 47 children registered<sup>11</sup> during Q1 2019
- No child refused registration in Q1 2019
- 1,094 children awaiting registration at the end of Q1 2019, 26 fewer than Q4 2018 – *due to issues relating to internal capacity or where information is awaited from the parents e.g., birth certs, signed application form*
- 533 children removed from the register during Q1 2019– *children are automatically removed from the register when they reach 18 years. No capacity to follow-up children who move to a new school.*
- 30 schools awaiting a review at the end of Q1 2019

<sup>11</sup> 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

- 125 non-statutory residential centres at the end of Q1 2019; five more than Q4 2018
- 37 inspections (all types and onsite) conducted in Q1 2019; nine fewer than Q4 2018 and 12 more than Q1 2018

#### Non Statutory Children's Residential Centres

- 125 non-statutory residential centres at the end of Q1 2019; five more than Q4 2018
- 37 inspections (all types and onsite) conducted in Q1 2019; nine fewer than Q4 2018 and 12 more than Q1 2018.

#### Inspections of Non Statutory Residential Services

Inspections by Type	Q1 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019
Thematic Inspection (announced)	15	20	13
Thematic Inspection (unannounced)	9	11	16
Lead Inspector Agency Visit	0	11	4
New Registration Inspection Visit	1	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>37</b>

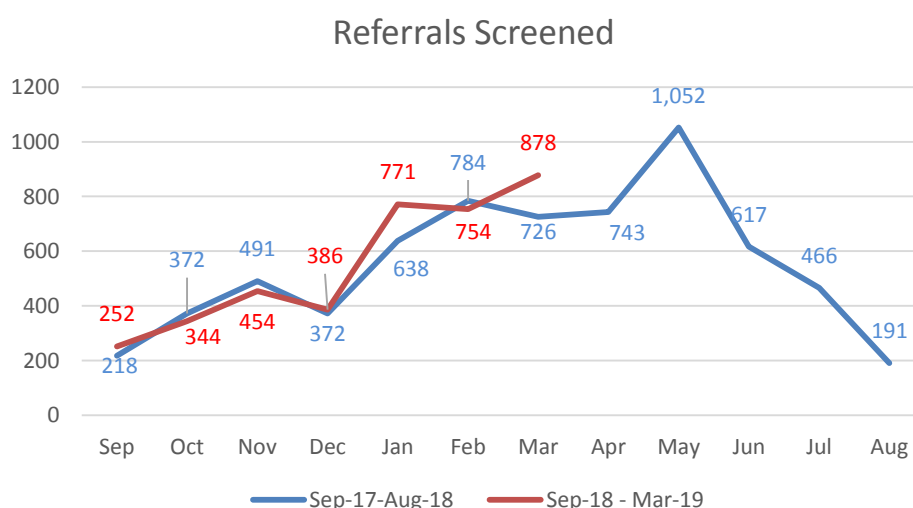
## 5.0 EDUCATIONAL WELFARE SERVICES

### KEY FACTS

- 2,403 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers Q1 2019. Brings to 3,839 the number of referrals screened for the period Sep-18 - Mar-19, 238 (7%) more than Sep-17 - Mar-18 (3,601).
- 2,275 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of Q1 2019; 756 (50%) more Q4 2018 (1,519). Highest number for all months Sep-17 - Mar-19.
- 1,070 new individual children worked with in Q1 2019; bringing the total for the period Sep-18 - Mar-19 to 2,299; some 449 (24%) more than Sep-17 - Mar-18 (1,850).
- 217 school attendance notices (SANs) issued in Q1 2019 in respect of 149 children. Brings to 446 the number of attendance notices issued for the period Sep-18 - Mar-19; 30 fewer than Sep-17 - Mar-18 (476).
- 65 summonses issued in Q1 2019 in respect of 53 children. Brings to 106 the number of summonses issued for the period Sep-18 - Mar-19; no change from Sep-17 - Mar-18.
- 109 Section 24 meetings convened by EWOs between in Q1 2019. This brings to 236 the number of Section 24 meetings convened for the period Sep-18 - Mar-19; some 59 (33%) more than Sep-17 - Mar-18 (177)

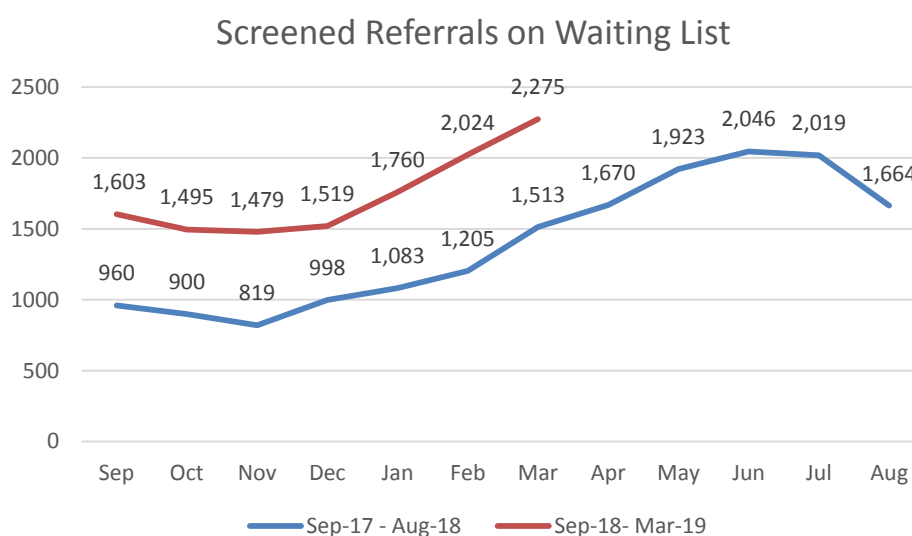
### Referrals<sup>12</sup>

- 2,403 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers in Q1 2019; 255 (12%) more than Q1 2018 (2,148). This brings to 3,839 the number of referrals screened for the period Sep-18 - Mar-19, 238 (7%) more than Sep-17 - Mar-18 (3,601).



<sup>12</sup> A referral is a written notification of concern to EWS from a school, a parent, agency or concerned citizen in relation to the educational welfare of a named child. Referrals are then screened against a set of criteria by the Senior Educational Welfare Officer and a decision is made as to whether to proceed and open a case in relation this named child, or placed on a waiting list if there is an EWS capacity issue.

- 1,129 referrals allocated to educational welfare officers (EWOs) in Q1 2019; 197 (21%) more than Q1 2018 (932). This brings to 2,389 the number of referrals allocated for the period Sep-18 - Mar-19, 486 (26%) more than Sep-17 – Mar-18 (1,903).
- 446 referrals screened out / required no further action in Q1 2019; 115 (20%) fewer than Q1 2018 (561). This brings to 818 the number of referrals screened out for the period Sep-18 - Mar-19, 39 (5%) fewer than Sep-17 - Mar-18 (857).
- 2,275 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of Q1 2019; 756 (50%) more Q4 2018 (1,519) and 762 (50%) more than Q1 2018 (1,513). Highest number for all months Sep-17 – Mar-19.



## Open Cases / Cases Worked

- 1,070 new individual children worked with in Q1 2018, bringing the total for the period Sep-18 – Mar-19 to 2,299; some 449 (24%) more than Sep-17 – Mar-18 (1,850).
- 5,454 individual children worked with Sep-18 – Mar-19; some 491 (10%) more than Sep-17 – Mar-18 (4,963).
- 1,287 new cases assigned to EWOs in Q1 2019, bringing the total for the period Sep-18 – Mar-19 to 2,961; some 488 (20%) more than Sep-17 – Mar-18 (2,473).
- 1,074 cases closed in Q1 2019, bringing the total for the period Sep-18 – Mar-19 to 2,819; some 672 (31%) more than Sep-17 – Mar-18 (2,147).

	Sept 2017 – Mar 2018	Sep 2018 – Mar 2019	Δ
# New individual children worked with	1,850	2,299	+449
# Individual children worked with	4,963	5,454	+491
# cases assigned	2,473	2,961	+488
# cases closed	2,147	2,819	+672

## School Attendance Notices and Summonses under Section 25

- 217 school attendance notices (SANs) issued by EWS under Section 25 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000<sup>13</sup>, in Q1 2019. This brings to 446 the number of attendance notices issued for the period Sep-18 - Mar-19; 30 fewer than Sep-17 – Mar-18 (476). The notices issued were in respect of 294 individual children i.e., more than one notice was issued in respect of some children.
- 65 summonses issued by EWS under Section 25 of the Education (Welfare Act) 2000, in Q1 2019. This brings to 106 the number of summonses issued for the period Sep-18 – Mar-19; no change from Sep-17 – Mar-18. The summonses issued were in respect of 82 individual children i.e., more than one summons was issued in respect some children.
- EWOs attended 168 court cases in relation to their own cases in Q1 2019. This brings to 441 the number of court cases attended from Sep-18 – Mar-19; some 172 (64%) more than Sep-17 – Mar-18 (269).
- 44 child protection conferences (CPC) attended by EWOs in Q1 2019. This brings to 110 the number of conferences attended for the period Sep-18 – Mar-19; some 46 (29%) fewer than Sep-17 – Mar-18 (156).
- 109 Section 24<sup>14</sup> meetings convened by EWOs between in Q1 2019. This brings to 236 the number of Section 24 meetings convened for the period Sep-18 – Mar-19; some 59 (33%) more than Sep-17 – Mar-18 (177)
- 44 official child protection and welfare referrals made by EWOs in Q1 2019. This brings to 101 the number of referrals made for the period Sep-18 – Mar-19; some 25 (20%) fewer than Sep-17 – Mar-18 (126)

---

<sup>13</sup> Section 25 Education (Welfare) Act 2000—(1) Subject to section 17(2), the Board shall, if of opinion that a parent is failing or neglecting to cause his or her child to attend a recognised school in accordance with this Act, serve a notice (hereafter in this section referred to as a “school attendance notice”) on such parent—(a) requiring him or her on the expiration of such period as is specified in the notice, to cause his or her child named in the notice to attend such recognised school as is specified in the notice, and there to attend on each school day that the notice is in force, and (b) informing him or her that if he or she fails to comply with a requirement under paragraph (a) he or she shall be guilty of an offence.

<sup>14</sup> Section 24 Education Welfare Act 2000: Where the board of management of a recognised school or a person acting on its behalf is of the opinion that a student should be expelled from that school it shall, before so expelling the student, notify the educational welfare officer to whom functions under this Act have been assigned, in writing, of its opinion and the reasons therefor. The educational welfare officer concerned shall, as soon as may be after receiving a notification under *subsection (1)*, make all reasonable efforts to ensure that provision is made for the continued education of the student to whom the notification relates.

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

	<b>Sept 2017 – Mar 2018</b>	<b>Sep 2018 – Mar 2019</b>	<b>Δ</b>
<b>School Attendance Notices Issues</b>	476	446	-30
<b>SANs - individual children involved</b>	323	294	-29
<b>Summonses Issued</b>	106	106	0
<b>Summonses – individual children involved</b>	77	82	+5
<b>Court cases attended in relation to own cases</b>	269	441	+172
<b>Child protection conferences attended</b>	156	110	-46
<b>Section 24 meetings convened</b>	177	236	+59
<b>Child protection referrals made</b>	126	101	-25



## FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

### KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

#### 5.1 Family Support Services

#### 5.2 Meitheal and Child & Family Support Networks

### 6.1 FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES<sup>15</sup>

#### KEY FACTS

- At least 19,016 children in receipt of family support services at the end of Q4 2018 (based on 89% response rate); at least 21,526 in receipt at the end of Q4 2017 (based on 84% response rate)
- At least 17,177 children referred to family support services Q3 – Q4 2018, bringing the total number for 2018 to 33,270
- At least 72% (12,286) of children referred to family support services in Q3 – Q4 2018 received a service, while 73% (24,211) of all children referred in 2018 received a service, no change from 2017.

#### 6.1.1 Family Support Providers

- 386 family support providers commissioned for Q3 – Q4 2018.
- 89% (n=344) of services provided data for Q3 – Q4 2018. Nine areas reported 100%.

The data presented in the following sections of the report need to be interpreted in the context of missing data for areas concerned.

Family Support Services Commissioned by Area, Q3 – Q4 2018

Area	# Family Support Providers Commissioned Q3 – Q4 2018	# External to Tusla	# Internal to Tusla	# of services that provided data for Q3 – Q4 2018	% that provided data for Q3 – Q4 2018
DSC	26	24	2	26	100%
DSE/WW	12	3	9	12	100%
DSW/K/WW	28	2	26	27	96%
Midlands	14	13	1	14	100%
DNC	49	37	12	31	63%
Dublin North	24	23	1	23	96%
LH/MH	19	16	3	18	95%
CN/MN	17	12	5	17	100%
Cork	8	7	1	8	100%
Kerry	5	4	1	5	100%
CW/KK/ST	34	26	8	29	85%
WD/WX	37	33	4	31	84%
MidWest	35	35	0	31	89%
GY/RN	26	18	8	20	77%
Mayo	16	12	4	16	100%

<sup>15</sup> 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.

Donegal	16	16	0	16	100%
SLWC	20	20	0	20	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>89%</b>

### 6.1.2 Children in Receipt of Family Support Services

- At least 19,016 children in receipt of family support services at the end of Q4 2018. Highest number reported by Donegal (n=2,100) followed by Dublin North (n=2,067) and Dublin North City (n=1,887). Fewest number reported by Kerry (n=274) followed by Cork (n=288) and Mayo (n=411).

#### Children in receipt of Family Support Services

Area	Total number of children in receipt of a FSS at the end of Q4 2017	Total number of children in receipt of a FSS at the end of Q2 2018	Total number of children in receipt of a FSS at the end of Q4 2018
DSC	1,155	920	1,252
DSE/WW	451	586	835
DSW/K/WW	1,358	1,541	1,384
Midlands	654	776	865
DNC	1,300	1,986*	1,887
Dublin North	1,643	1,761	2,067
LH/MH	738	891*	849
CN/MN	284	465	469
Cork	348	264	288
Kerry	216	235	274
CW/KK/ST	755	1,057	1,034
WD/WX	938	806	1,039
MidWest	5,297	1,345	1,426
GY/RN	1,330	1,131	1,328
Mayo	511	419	411
Donegal	2,525	2,185	2,100
SLWC	2,023	1,401	1,508
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,526</b>	<b>17,769*</b>	<b>19,016</b>

\*Figures revised from previously published

### 6.1.3 Children Referred to Family Support Services

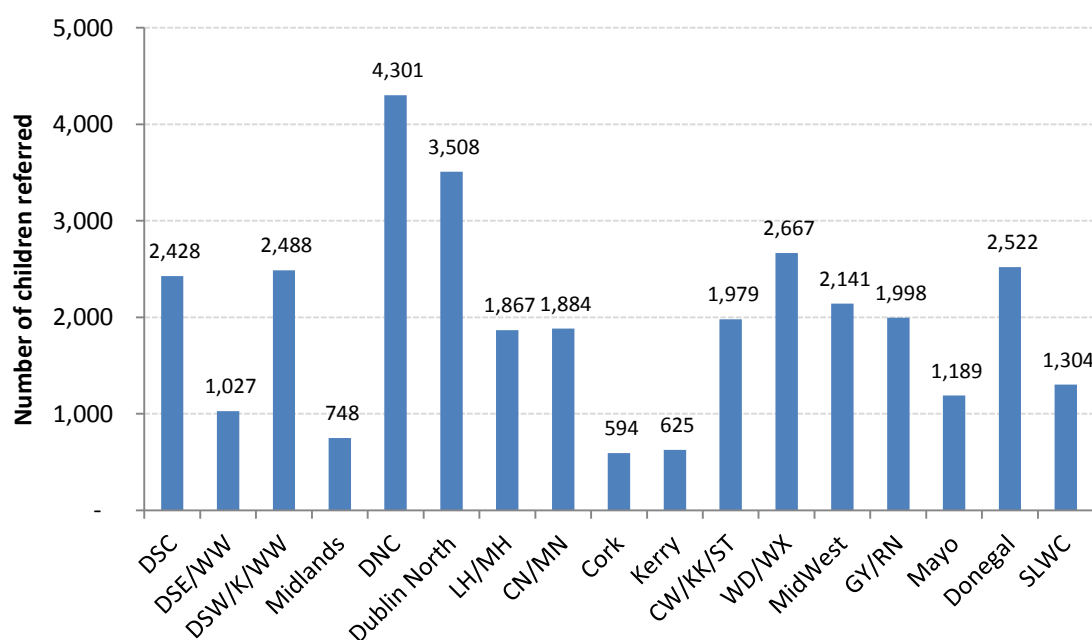
- At least 17,177 children referred to family support services in Q3 – Q4 2018, bringing the total number referred for 2018 to 33,270. The highest number of children referred in 2018 was reported by Dublin North City (n=4,301; 13%) followed by Dublin North (n=3,508; 11%) and WD/WX (n=2,667; 8%). Fewest number reported by Cork (n=594) followed by Kerry (n=625) and Midlands (748).

### Children referred to Family Support Services by area

Area	Total number of children referred to FSS, 2017	Total number of children referred to FSS, Q1-Q2 2018	Total number of children referred to FSS, Q3 – Q4 2018	Total number of children referred to FSS, 2018
DSC	2,012	1,085	1,343	2,428
DSE/WW	1,078	493	534	1,027
DSW/K/WW	1,839	1,358	1,130	2,488
Midlands	1,107	399	349	748
DNC	3,864	2,470*	1,831	4,301
Dublin North	2,455	1,364	2,144	3,508
LH/MH	1,985	879*	988	1,867
CN/MN	634	973	911	1,884
Cork	805	298	296	594
Kerry	595	307	318	625
CW/KK/ST	1,278	869	1,110	1,979
WD/WX	2,026	1,305	1,362	2,667
MidWest	9,454	1,083	1,058	2,141
GY/RN	2,271	907	1,091	1,998
Mayo	1,148	609	580	1,189
Donegal	4,328	1,146	1,376	2,522
SLWC	2,186	548	756	1,304
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,065</b>	<b>16,093*</b>	<b>17,177</b>	<b>33,270</b>

\*Figures revised from previously published

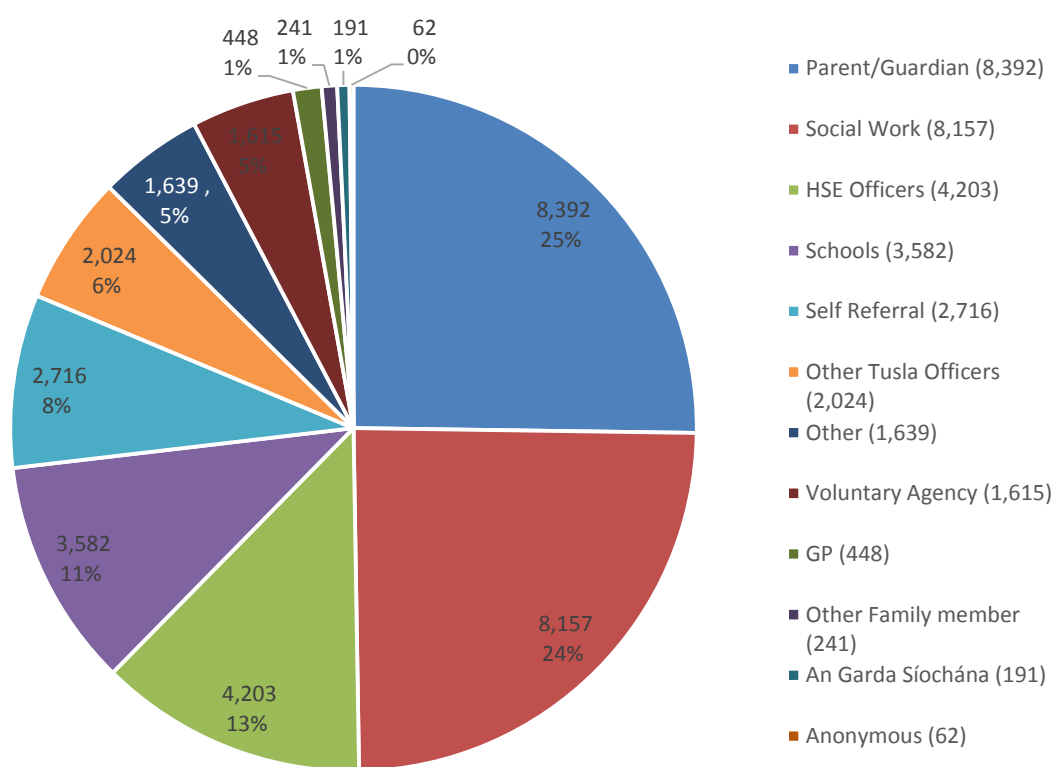
### Children referred to Family Support Services by area, 2018



- The most common source of referral in 2018 was Parent/Guardian, accounting for one in four referrals (n=8,392; 25%) followed closely by Tusla Social Workers (n=8,157; 24%) and to a

lesser extent HSE Officers (n=4,203; 13%) and Schools (3,582; 11%). An Garda Síochána made 191 referrals, the highest number (n=55) of which were reported by Cavan/Monaghan.

**Children referred to Family Support Services by source of referral, 2018**



**Breakdown of source of referrals by area, 2018**

	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	451	120	390	2	113	612	22	14	115	0	179	410	2,428
DSE/WW	286	22	121	6	5	348	4	24	57	0	119	35	1,027
DSW/K/WW	683	200	168	5	292	569	23	53	220	9	143	123	2,488
Midlands	285	53	128	4	125	43	0	0	34	0	71	5	748
DNC	1,007	240	762	7	180	1,469	33	40	173	0	241	149	4,301
Dublin North	816	128	389	1	180	1,309	19	47	153	30	378	58	3,508
LH/MH	799	81	250	6	42	504	4	15	24	2	85	55	1,867
CN/MN	870	217	131	55	109	136	12	36	80	11	102	125	1,884
Cork	305	40	30	14	90	46	0	3	29	0	19	18	594
Kerry	114	65	30	22	11	190	5	29	35	0	65	59	625
CW/KK/ST	324	188	133	5	254	717	25	26	104	2	123	78	1,979
WD/WX	381	168	46	18	415	894	8	23	25	0	600	89	2,667
MidWest	666	127	238	0	224	312	11	35	177	1	283	67	2,141
GY/RN	423	164	313	33	93	453	4	36	90	0	194	195	1,998
Mayo	93	103	104	4	169	311	22	6	102	0	204	71	1,189
Donegal	299	70	696	9	358	321	48	35	98	0	493	95	2,522
SLWC	355	38	274	0	56	158	1	26	99	7	283	7	1,304
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,157</b>	<b>2,024</b>	<b>4,203</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>2,716</b>	<b>8,392</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>1,615</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>3,582</b>	<b>1,639</b>	<b>33,207</b>

- 72% (12,286) of children referred to family support services in Q3 – Q4 2018 received a service, down two percentage points on Q1 – Q2 2018 (74%; 11,925, revised from previously published). The percentage who received a service ranged from 41% (n=460/1,130) in DSW/K/WW to 96% in the Midlands (n=335/349). In 11 of the 17 areas at least seven out of ten children referred received a service.
- Of the children referred to family support services who received a service 5% (n=665) were subject of a Child in Care Plan; 8% (n=926) were subject of a Tusla Social Work Child Protection Plan; 8% (n=997) were subject of a Tusla Social Work Family Support Plan; 5% (n=619) were subject of a Meitheal Support Plan while 38% (n=4,648) were subject of a Single Agency Family Support Plan.

**Number of children referred to Family Support Services (Q3 – Q4 2018) who received a service**

				Of the total number of children referred to FSS (Q3-Q4 2018) 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	1,343	621	46%	32	75	86	34	243
DSE/WW	534	407	76%	12	55	29	26	137
DSW/K/WW	1,130	460	41%	75	56	56	44	86
Midlands	349	335	96%	11	23	46	13	181
DNC	1,831	1,557	85%	104	109	114	34	125
Dublin North	2,144	1,824	85%	37	53	89	43	1,594
LH/MH	988	713	72%	34	86	57	42	231
CN/MN	911	460	50%	43	22	49	86	137
Cork	296	143	48%	59	55	15	0	15
Kerry	318	238	75%	5	30	1	7	7
CW/KK/ST	1,110	731	66%	51	64	48	73	101
WD/WX	1,362	1,021	75%	17	49	35	48	128
MidWest	1,058	773	73%	98	68	73	46	386
GY/RN	1,091	782	72%	14	26	42	54	463
Mayo	580	398	69%	7	16	16	16	112
Donegal	1,376	1,277	93%	31	79	75	40	642
SLWC	756	546	72%	35	60	166	13	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,177</b>	<b>12,286</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>997</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>4,648</b>

- 73% (24,211) of all children referred to family support services in 2018 received a service, no change from 2017 (73%; 28,562).

## 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

- 932 Meitheal processes requested in Q3 – Q4 2018; 130 (16%) more than the Q1-Q2 2018. This brings to 1,734 the total number of requests for 2018; 325 (23%) more than 2017 (n=1,409).
- 74% (1,291) of requests for 2018 requested through Direct Access, 14% (236) requested through Social Work Diversion and 12% (207) Social Work Step Down
- 67% (1,164) of Meitheal processes requested in 2018 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage)
- 854 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 in 2018; 72% (614) of these proceeded to Stage 3 (Delivery)
- 1,057 Meitheal processes were closed in 2018; 50% (526) were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form; 16% (170) closed following completion of Stage 2; 13% (134) closed following commencement of Stage 3 and 21% (227) closed post- delivery.
- 106 Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) operating at the end of 2018, with a further 22 planned.

### 6.2.1 Meitheal Activity Data

- 932 Meitheal processes requested in Q3 – Q4 2018; 130 (16%) more than the Q1-Q2 2018. This brings to 1,734 the total number of requests for 2018; 325 (23%) more than 2017.
- In 2018, the highest number of requests was reported by Dublin North (480) followed by GY/RN (312). These two areas account for nearly half (46%; 792) of all requests.
- The fewest number was reported by Dublin South Central (18) followed by SLWC (20).
- Seven areas reported fewer than 50 requests, six areas reported 50-100 requests with the remaining four areas reporting more than 100 requests.

#### Meitheal processes requested

Area	Total Meitheal processes Requested 2017	Total Meitheal processes Requested Q1 – Q2 2018	Total Meitheal processes Requested Q3 – Q4 2018	Total Meitheal processes Requested 2018
DSC	35	12	6	18
DSE/WW	66	31	24	55
DSW/K/WW	74	58	21	79
Midlands	36	22	17	39
DNC	79	62	36	98
Dublin North	135	64	416	480
LH/MH	31	37	19	56
CN/MN	28	16	14	30
Cork	18	31	7	38
Kerry	25	20	27	47
CW/KK/ST	433	103	67	170
WD/WX	178	64	49	113
MidWest	53	49	39	88
GY/RN	96	170	142	312
Mayo	56	22	17	39
Donegal	21	31	21	52
SLWC	45	10	10	20
National	1,409	802	932	1,734

- For all requests received in 2018, the most common pathway was Direct Access accounting for 74% (n=1,291) of requests.
- Social Work Diversion accounted for a further 14% (n=236) of requests. Almost 70% (162; 69%) of these requests were reported by four areas (Dublin North, CW/KK/ST, WD/WX and Dublin North City). Ten areas reported 10 or fewer of these requests.
- Social Work Step-Down accounted for 12% (207) with more than half (56%; 117) of these requests reported by Dublin North. Twelve areas reported 10 or fewer of these request with CN/MN and SLWC reporting none.



## Access Pathway for Meitheal Requests 2018

Area	Total Meitheal processes Requested 2018	Of the total number of Meitheal requests for 2018 the number (%) where the access pathway was:					
		Direct Access	% Direct Access	Social Work Diversion	% SW Diversion	Social Work Step-Down	% Step-Down
DSC	18	12	67%	4	22%	2	11%
DSE/WW	55	42	76%	12	22%	1	2%
DSW/K/WW	79	61	77%	10	13%	8	10%
Midlands	39	35	90%	2	5%	2	5%
DNC	98	64	65%	32	33%	2	2%
Dublin North	480	311	65%	52	11%	117	24%
LH/MH	56	52	93%	4	7%	0	0%
CN/MN	30	28	93%	0	0%	2	7%
Cork	38	18	47%	14	37%	6	16%
Kerry	47	38	81%	6	13%	3	6%
CW/KK/ST	170	110	65%	43	25%	17	10%
WD/WX	113	60	53%	35	31%	18	16%
MidWest	88	70	80%	3	3%	15	17%
GY/RN	312	300	96%	1	0%	11	4%
Mayo	39	21	54%	17	44%	1	3%
Donegal	52	49	94%	1	2%	2	4%
SLWC	20	20	100%	0	0%	0	0%
<b>National</b>	<b>1,734</b>	<b>1,291</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>12%</b>

- 54% (n=499) of the Meitheal requests received in Q3 – Q4 2018 proceeded to Stage Two (Discussion Stage), down from 83% (665/802) for Q1 - Q2 2018.
- The percentage of requests proceeding to Stage 2 ranged from 10% (n=1/10) in SLWC to 100% in Louth/Meath (19/19), Cork (7/7) and Mayo (17/17). Fourteen areas reported 80% or higher.

## Number of Meitheal requests received proceeding to Stage Two (Discussion Stage)

Area	Total Meitheal processes requested Q1 – Q2 2018	Of the total number of requests received the number that Proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage Two)	% that Proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage Two)	Total Meitheal processes requested Q3 – Q4 2018	Of the total number of requests received the number that Proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage Two)	% that Proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage Two)
DSC	12	9	75%	6	5	83%
DSE/WW	31	29	94%	24	22	92%
DSW/K/WW	58	55	95%	21	19	90%
Midlands	22	18	82%	17	15	88%
DNC	62	57	92%	36	31	86%
Dublin North	64	27	42%	416	48	12%
LH/MH	37	35	95%	19	19	100%

CN/MN	16	15	94%	14	13	93%
Cork	31	27	87%	7	7	100%
Kerry	20	20	100%	27	25	93%
CW/KK/ST	103	76	74%	67	55	82%
WD/WX	64	53	83%	49	36	73%
MidWest	49	48	98%	39	36	92%
GY/RN	170	145	85%	142	131	92%
Mayo	22	20	91%	17	17	100%
Donegal	31	25	81%	21	19	90%
SLWC	10	6	60%	10	1	10%
<b>National</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>54%</b>

- 67% (1,164) of all requests received for 2018 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage). Percentage proceeding to Stage 2 ranged from 16% (75/480) for Dublin North to 96% (54/56) for Louth/Meath and Kerry (45/47). Twelve areas reported 80% or higher.

**Number of Meitheal requests received proceeding to Stage Two (Discussion Stage) 2018**

Area	Total Meitheal processes requested 2018	Of the total number of requests received the number that Proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage Two)	% that Proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage Two)
DSC	18	14	78%
DSE/WW	55	51	93%
DSW/K/WW	79	74	94%
Midlands	39	33	85%
DNC	98	88	90%
Dublin North	480	75	16%
LH/MH	56	54	96%
CN/MN	30	28	93%
Cork	38	34	89%
Kerry	47	45	96%
CW/KK/ST	170	131	77%
WD/WX	113	89	79%
MidWest	88	84	95%
GY/RN	312	276	88%
Mayo	39	37	95%
Donegal	52	44	85%
SLWC	20	7	35%
<b>National</b>	<b>1,734</b>	<b>1,164</b>	<b>67%</b>

- 382 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage Two in Q3 – Q4 2018. Highest number reported by GY/RN (n=88) followed by Dublin North (n=58). The fewest number was reported by Dublin South Central (n=1) followed by SLWC (n=2).
- 68% (n=258) of processes reaching completion of Stage Two, proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting). The percentage of processes that proceeded to delivery ranged

from 0% (0/21) in WD/WX to 100% in Dublin South Central (1/1), Midlands (13/13) and Kerry (28/28). Twelve areas reported a percentage above the national average of 68%.

- 15% (n=59) were referred for a Single Agency Response – majority of these were reported by Dublin North (n=33) and WD/WX (n=15).
- Twelve (3%) processes were referred to social work (stepped – up).

#### Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two Q-Q4 2018

Area	Number of Meitheal Processes Reaching Completion of Stage Two, Q3-Q4 2018	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>%</i>	<i>Referred to Social Work (Stepped Up)</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Referred to a Single Agency Response</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Closed</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Categorised as Other</i>	<i>%</i>
DSC	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
DSE/WW	17	15	88%	0	0%	0	0%	2	12%	0	0%
DSW/K/WW	16	14	88%	0	0%	0	0%	2	13%	0	0%
Midlands	13	13	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
DNC	16	8	50%	0	0%	0	0%	1	6%	7	44%
Dublin North	58	15	26%	1	2%	33	57%	6	10%	3	5%
LH/MH	9	5	56%	0	0%	0	0%	3	33%	1	11%
CN/MN	10	7	70%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3	30%
Cork	13	10	77%	0	0%	3	23%	0	0%	0	0%
Kerry	28	28	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
CW/KK/ST	41	33	80%	1	2%	6	15%	1	2%	0	0%
WD/WX	21	0	0%	2	10%	15	71%	4	19%	0	0%
MidWest	23	22	96%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	4%
GY/RN	88	63	72%	8	9%	2	2%	15	17%	0	0%
Mayo	15	13	87%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2	13%
Donegal	11	10	91%	0	0%	0	0%	1	9%	0	0%
SLWC	2	1	50%	0	0%	0	0%	1	50%	0	0%
National	382	258	68%	12	3%	59	15%	36	9%	17	4%

- For 2018, 854 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage Two
- 72% (n=614) of processes reaching completion of Stage Two, proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting). The percentage of processes that proceeded to delivery ranged from 13% (7/54) in WD/WX to 96% (45/47) in Kerry. Eleven areas reported a percentage equal to or above the national average of 72%.

#### Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two, 2018

Area	Number of Meitheal Processes Reaching Completion of Stage Two 2018	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	13	10	77%	1	8%	0	0%	2	15%	0	0%
DSE/WW	45	42	93%	0	0%	0	0%	3	7%	0	0%
DSW/K/WW	62	57	92%	1	2%	1	2%	3	5%	0	0%
Midlands	24	22	92%	0	0%	0	0%	1	4%	1	4%
DNC	62	44	71%	4	6%	0	0%	4	6%	10	16%
Dublin North	80	28	35%	1	1%	33	41%	6	8%	12	15%
LH/MH	16	10	63%	0	0%	1	6%	4	25%	1	6%
CN/MN	26	22	85%	0	0%	1	4%	0	0%	3	12%
Cork	22	18	82%	0	0%	4	18%	0	0%	0	0%
Kerry	47	45	96%	1	2%	0	0%	1	2%	0	0%
CW/KK/ST	95	62	65%	2	2%	19	20%	8	8%	4	4%
WD/WX	54	7	13%	4	7%	35	65%	6	11%	2	4%
MidWest	66	61	92%	0	0%	3	5%	0	0%	2	3%
GY/RN	162	117	72%	9	6%	11	7%	24	15%	1	1%
Mayo	34	31	91%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3	9%
Donegal	38	33	87%	0	0%	0	0%	4	11%	1	3%
SLWC	8	5	63%	0	0%	0	0%	1	13%	2	25%
National	854	614	72%	23	3%	108	13%	67	8%	42	5%

- 692 Meitheals closed in Q3 – Q4 2018; 327 (90%) more than Q1-Q2 2018 (365). The highest number of closures was reported by Dublin North (n=253; 37%). The majority (12) of areas reported 30 or fewer closures.
- 56% (n=385) of Meitheals were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1) and of these 62% (n=237/385) were reported by Dublin North. Ninety-four percent (237/253) of Meitheals closed in Dublin North were closed following submission of the Meitheal request form.
- 15% (n=105) were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2). More than half (51%; 54/105) of those closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form were reported by three areas, GY/RN (n=24), WD/WX (n=18) and CW/KK/ST (n=12). All other areas reported fewer than 10.
- 11% (n=73) were closed following commencement of Meitheal Support Meetings (Stage 3). Highest number of these (n=31/73; 42%) was reported by GY/RN. Five areas reported none.
- 19% (n=129) were closed post-delivery. Highest number of these was reported by Midwest (n=32; 25%) followed by Cork (n=14; 11%) and DSE/WW (n=12; 9%).

#### Number of Meitheals closed Q3 – Q4 2018

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)	%	Commencement of Meitheal Support meetings (Delivery Stage)	%	Post delivery	%
DSC	7	0	0%	3	43%	4	57%	0	0%
DSE/WW	30	7	23%	5	17%	6	20%	12	40%
DSW/K/WW	17	0	0%	4	24%	6	35%	7	41%
Midlands	24	10	42%	3	13%	2	8%	9	38%
DNC	23	10	43%	5	22%	1	4%	7	30%
Dublin North	253	237	94%	9	4%	0	0%	7	3%
LH/MH	12	1	8%	2	17%	7	58%	2	17%
CN/MN	10	0	0%	1	10%	1	10%	8	80%
Cork	38	15	39%	9	24%	0	0%	14	37%
Kerry	10	0	0%	3	30%	0	0%	7	70%
CW/KK/ST	77	48	62%	12	16%	9	12%	8	10%
WD/WX	30	9	30%	18	60%	0	0%	3	10%
MidWest	53	13	25%	4	8%	4	8%	32	60%
GY/RN	89	26	29%	24	27%	31	35%	8	9%
Mayo	8	2	25%	0	0%	1	13%	5	63%
Donegal	5	3	60%	2	40%	0	0%	0	0%
SLWC	6	4	67%	1	17%	1	17%	0	0%
National	692	385	56%	105	15%	73	11%	129	19%

- A total of 1,057 Meitheals were closed in 2018; 263 (33%) more than 2017 (n=794). The highest number of closures was reported by Dublin North (n=255; 24%), followed by CW/KK/ST (n=200) and GY/RN (n=106). The majority (12) of areas reported 50 or fewer closures. Ninety-three percent of Meitheals closed in Dublin North were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form.
- 50% (n=526) of Meitheals were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1) and of these 45% (n=237/526) were reported by Dublin North.
- 16% (n=170) were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2). More than half (54%; 91/170) of those closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form were reported by three areas, WD/WX (n=34), CW/KK/ST (n=31) and GY/RN (n=26). All other areas reported fewer than 10.
- 13% (n=134) were closed following commencement of Meitheal Support Meetings (Stage 3). Highest number of these (n=35/134; 26%) was reported by GY/RN.
- 21% (n=227) were closed post-delivery. Highest number of these was reported by Midwest (n=38; 17%) followed by DSE/WW (n=25; 11%) and CW/KK/ST (n=24; 11%).

## Number of Meitheals closed 2018

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)	%	Commencement of Meitheal Support meetings (Delivery Stage)	%	Post delivery	%
DSC	13	0	0%	4	31%	4	31%	5	38%
DSE/WW	49	10	20%	5	10%	9	18%	25	51%
DSW/K/WW	25	0	0%	6	24%	8	32%	11	44%
Midlands	40	14	35%	7	18%	4	10%	15	38%
DNC	44	16	36%	9	20%	5	11%	14	32%
Dublin North	255	237	93%	9	4%	2	1%	7	3%
LH/MH	19	3	16%	5	26%	9	47%	2	11%
CN/MN	18	0	0%	3	17%	5	28%	10	56%
Cork	44	21	48%	9	20%	0	0%	14	32%
Kerry	26	0	0%	5	19%	6	23%	15	58%
CW/KK/ST	200	128	64%	31	16%	17	9%	24	12%
WD/WX	70	29	41%	34	49%	3	4%	4	6%
MidWest	73	19	26%	9	12%	7	10%	38	52%
GY/RN	106	35	33%	26	25%	35	33%	10	9%
Mayo	32	3	9%	1	3%	6	19%	22	69%
Donegal	15	5	33%	5	33%	3	20%	2	13%
SLWC	28	6	21%	2	7%	11	39%	9	32%
National	1057	526	50%	170	16%	134	13%	227	21%

### 6.2.2 Child and Family Support Networks

- 106 Child and Family Support Networks<sup>16</sup> (CFSN) operating at the end of Q4 2018; three more than at the end of Q2 2018 and seven more than at the end of 2017. A further 22 CFSNs are planned.
- Galway/Roscommon reported the highest number of networks operating (n=12). MidWest (n=2) and SLWC (n=3) reported the fewest.

#### Child and Family Support Networks operating and planned

Area	CFSNs Operating Dec 2017	CFSNs Operating June 2018	CFSNs Operating Dec 2018	CFSNs Planned Dec 2018
DSC	5	5	5	2
DSE/Wicklow	7	7	7	2
DSW/K/WW	5	6	6	3
Midlands	7	7	7	0

<sup>16</sup> 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

Dublin North City	6	6	6	0
Dublin North	4	4	4	0
Louth/Meath	5	5	5	0
Cavan/Monaghan	7	8	8	2
Cork	8	10	10	6
Kerry	8	8	8	0
CW/KK/ST	7	7	7	1
WD/WX	8	8	8	0
MidWest	2	2	2	5
GY/RN	12	12	12	0
Mayo	3	4	4	0
Donegal	2	3	4	1
SLWC	3	1	3	0
National	99	103	106	22

## 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

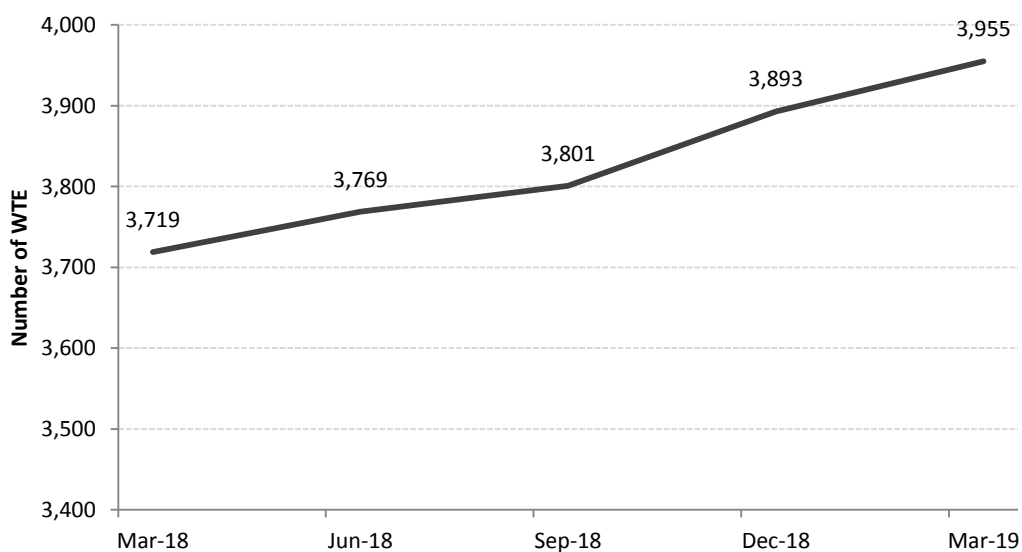
#### KEY FACTS

- 3,955 (WTE) employed by the Agency at the end of Q1 2019; 62 (2%) more than Q4 2018 and 236 (6%) more than Q1 2018
- 153 new staff came on to the Agency's payroll in Q1 2019
- 92 staff left (incl. retirements) the Agency in Q1 2019
- 175 staff on maternity leave at the end of February 2019
- 5.94% absence rate (Feb 2019); 1.16 percentage points lower than Q4 2018 (7.10%) and 0.38 percentage points higher than February 2016 (5.56%).
- 109 class-room based courses run by Workforce Learning & Development during Q1 2019 at which 1,762 persons attended. Online training targeted at Tusla staff was completed by 684 people in Q1

### 7.1 Workforce Position

- 3,955 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q1 2019; 62 (2%) more than Q4 2018 and 236 (6%) more than Q1 2018.

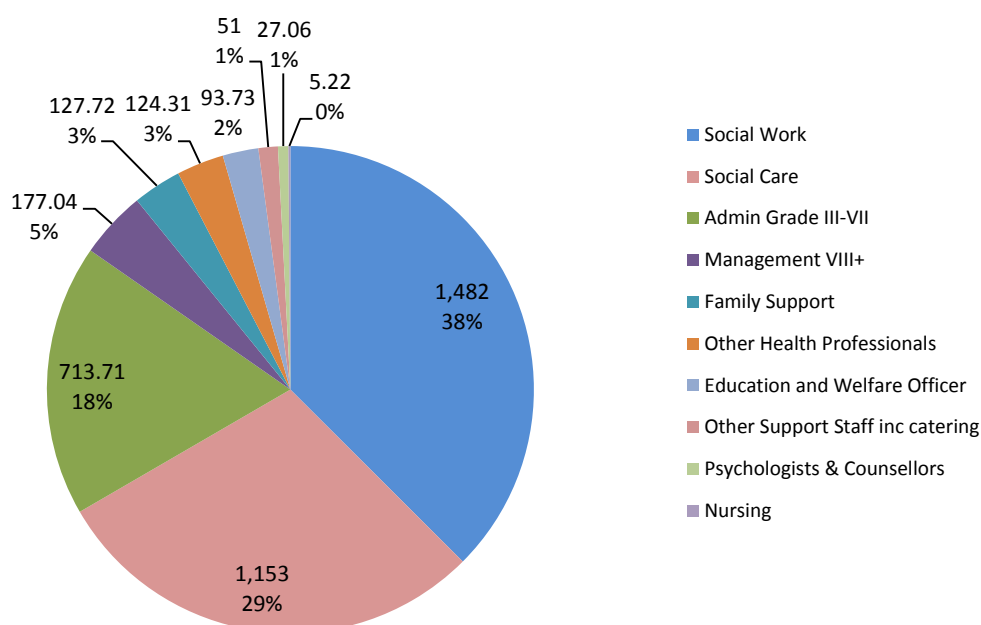
Total Staff Employed (WTE), by quarter





- Social workers are the largest category of staff employed by the Agency, accounting for 38% (n=1,482) of total staff (WTE) employed at the end of Q1 2019, followed by social care staff accounting for a further 29% (n=1,153). Management (Grade VIII+) account for 5% (177.04) of the workforce.

**Breakdown of staff category (WTE), Q1 2019**



- Increase/decrease in WTEs by staff category from Q4 2018 to Q1 2019 is presented in the table below. Admin Grade III- VII experienced the highest increase in staff (up 30.14) followed by social work (up 29.60).

**Breakdown of staff (WTE) by category and year and quarter**

Staffing by Category	Q1 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Δ Q1 2019 v Q4 2018
<b>Social Work</b>	1,462.86	1,452.72	1,482.32	29.60
<b>Social Care</b>	1,107.5	1,149.55	1,152.84	3.29
<b>Admin Grade III-VII</b>	596.93	683.57	713.71	30.14
<b>Family Support</b>	149.11	131.94	127.72	-4.22
<b>Management VIII+</b>	147.9	178.55	177.04	-1.51
<b>Educational and Welfare Officer</b>	91.32	97.51	93.73	-3.78
<b>Other Support Staff inc catering</b>	56.85	53.43	51	-2.43
<b>Nursing</b>	48.3	6.22	5.22	-1.00
<b>Psychologists &amp; Counsellors</b>	19.86	28.59	27.06	-1.53
<b>Other Health Professionals</b>	38.28	111.02	124.31	13.29
<b>Total Staffing</b>	<b>3,719</b>	<b>3,893</b>	<b>3,955</b>	<b>62</b>

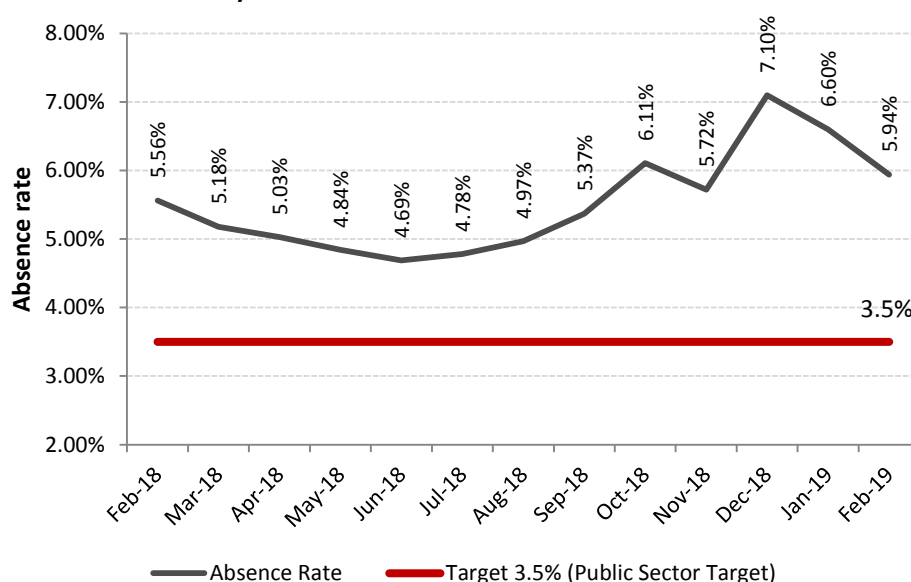
- 153 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in Q1 2019
- 78 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in Q1 2019
- 14 staff retired in Q1 2019

- 175 staff were on maternity leave at the end of February 2019.

## 7.2 Absence Rate

- At the end of February 2019<sup>17</sup> the overall absence rate for the Agency was 5.94% against a target of 3.5% (target for public sector), 1.16 percentage points lower than Q4 2018 (7.1%), and 0.38 percentage points higher than February 2018 (5.56%).

Overall staff absence rate by month



- The highest absence rate was reported for social care staff (8.98%), down 0.48 percentage points on February 2018 (9.46%). The rate for Residential Services was 10.35% (data not shown), 1.13 percentage points lower than February 2018 (11.48%) and 4.41 percentage points higher than the overall rate of 5.94%.

Absence rate by staff grade

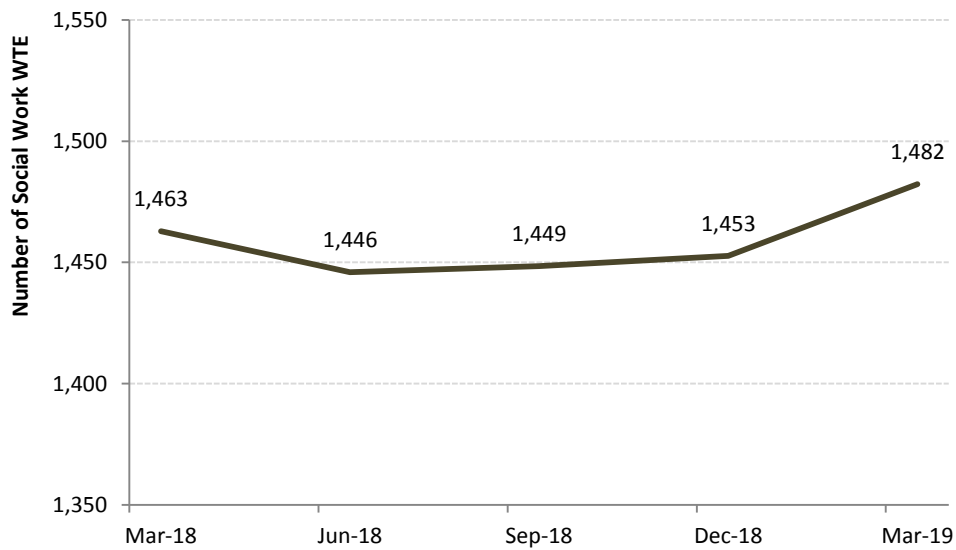
Staff Grade	Absence Rate February 2018	Absence Rate February 2019
Social Work	4.52	4.55
Social Care	9.46	8.98
All other grades	3.82	4.81

## 7.3 Social Work Staff (WTE)

- 1,482 whole time equivalent (WTE) social work staff (all grades and excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q1 2019; 29 more than Q4 2018, and 19.46 more than March 2018.

<sup>17</sup> Absence rates are reported monthly in arrears

**Number of social workers (WTE) by month**



- 79 social workers joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in Q1 2019
- 35 social workers left (i.e., resigned, career breaks excluding retirements) in Q1 2019
- 5 social workers retired in Q1 2019
- 101 social workers were on maternity leave at the end of February 2019
- A breakdown of the number of social workers (all grades) employed at the end of each quarter Q1 2018 – Q1 2019 by area is presented in the table below.

**Breakdown of social work staff (WTE) by area Q1 2018 – Q1 2019**

	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)
Area	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019
DSC	73.3	70.14	66.46	66.23	71.61
DSE/WW	95.8	94.11	92.05	90.1	87.54
DSW/K/WW	101.54	92.6	84.91	82.54	81.78
Midlands	79.35	76.89	74.07	68.68	75.86
Regional Services DML	21.69	20.58	23.07	22.88	22.37
<b>DML Total</b>	<b>371.68</b>	<b>354.32</b>	<b>340.56</b>	<b>330.43</b>	<b>339.16</b>
CN/MN	32.93	35.81	34.75	35.71	38.71
DNC	94.7	89.56	89.34	92.66	84.96
LH/MH	78.14	76.1	77.4	81.29	80.2
Dublin North	70.63	71.43	72.66	74.25	69.67
Regional Services DNE	27.62	27.33	28.08	28.52	32.68
<b>DNE Total</b>	<b>304.02</b>	<b>300.23</b>	<b>302.33</b>	<b>312.43</b>	<b>306.22</b>
CW/KK/ST	59.86	60.34	66.27	64.06	68.33
Cork	153.13	162.44	155.17	155.98	163.93
Kerry	35.81	34.33	35.96	38.98	43.81
WD/WX	82.41	81.17	82.31	83.72	85.24
Regional Services South	5	5	5	5	4
<b>South Total</b>	<b>336.21</b>	<b>343.28</b>	<b>344.71</b>	<b>346.74</b>	<b>365.31</b>
Donegal	62.6	62.24	63.61	68.57	66.17
GY/RN	93.77	90.26	95.73	92.84	96.45
Mayo	37.89	36.62	35.78	36.85	35.36
Mid West	104.77	105.48	111.82	107.01	106.54
SLWC	35.71	36.96	35	37.06	40.02
Regional Services West		0	0.9	0.8	0.85
<b>West Total</b>	<b>334.74</b>	<b>331.56</b>	<b>342.84</b>	<b>343.13</b>	<b>345.39</b>
Residential DML	1.87	1.8	1	1	1
Residential DNE	2.89	1.89	1.89	1.89	3.78
Residential West					
Residential South	3.6	3.47	3.6	3.8	4.72
<b>Residential Services</b>	<b>8.36</b>	<b>7.16</b>	<b>6.49</b>	<b>6.69</b>	<b>9.5</b>
Corporate	101.66	102.52	104.24	106.4	108.86
Early Years Inspectorate	6.19	6.85	7.43	6.9	7.88
<b>Corporate</b>	<b>107.85</b>	<b>109.37</b>	<b>111.67</b>	<b>113.3</b>	<b>116.74</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,462.86</b>	<b>1,445.92</b>	<b>1,448.5</b>	<b>1,452.72</b>	<b>1,482.32</b>

## **7.4 Workforce Learning and Development**

- Workforce Learning and Development (WLD) ran a total of 109 classroom based courses in Q1, 2019 at which a total of 1,762 persons attended. A breakdown of the courses run and attendees by type is presented in the table below.
- During Q1, 2019 the most frequently run course was Child and Youth Participation (call back day), training with 19 courses. This was followed by NCCIS training with 14 sessions run.
- The training with the highest number of attendees in Q1 was Signs of Safety Practice Leader Call Back Days with 354 staff attending 8 workshops.
- There were 6 courses that were categorised as ‘Other’ courses. These courses which constitute 5.5% 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 working with young people who have experienced trauma, domestic violence etc.
- Online training targeted at Tusla staff was completed by 684 people in Q1. Of completed programmes in this period, Introduction to Children First had most completions with 223, followed by Implementing Children First with 203.

### **Other Developments in Q1**

- Results of the 2018 agency wide Training Needs Analysis were compiled and analysed for appropriate responses.
- WLD 2019 Business Plan was drafted with reference to TNA, Tusla Corporate Plan (2019-21) and Tusla Business Plan 2019.
- Tusla’s Learning Management System (iLearn@Tusla) was further standardised to manage the enrolments for and attendance at all WLD classroom based training.
- A Train the Trainer programme to support delivery of ‘Person Brain’ training (A model of Trauma based work developed by Dr Paul Baker) was facilitated and attended by WLD Training personnel.
- WLD staff supported a HSE conference on Working with Trauma in Cork (Dr. Karen Treisman)
- Work has continued in developing Learning & Development Plans in a number of practice areas such as Commissioning and joint working with An Garda Siochana.

Table 1: Breakdown of courses run by Workforce Learning and Development and attendees by type, Q1, 2019

Classroom Based Training Module	Total Courses	Total Attendees
Attachment Theory-Linking to Practice	3	41
Caseload Management - Core Training	7	67
Caseload Management - Update	2	18
Child and Youth Participation Training Day 1 of 2 (PPFS)	19	204
Child and Youth Participation Training Day 2 of 2 (PPFS)	9	145
Children who have sexually harmed : Considerations and Safety Planning	4	59
Corporate Induction National Workshop	2	49
Direct Work with Children - Engaging Children and Young People	1	13
Diversity In Modern Ireland	1	10
Domestic Sexual and Gender Based Violence-Awareness & Response	4	38
Drug and Alcohol Workshop: Approaches to Supporting those affected.	1	5
Introduction to Minute Taking	1	17
Introduction to Trauma Informed Care	1	16
Legal Training Programme 2019	3	82
Making the Most Of Supervision for Supervisees	1	10
National Child Care Information System (NCCIS) Fundamentals Training	14	107
National Childcare Information System (NCCIS) Secondary Workers' Training	2	9
Practice Development for Newly Appointed Social Workers (Getting started/Resiliency Building)	2	14
Practice Development for Newly Appointed Social Workers (Conducting the Home Visit & the Role of the Social Worker)	1	6
Practice Development for Newly Appointed Social Workers (Multi-disciplinary/Interdisciplinary Working)	1	5
Preparing for Success: Tusla First Time Managers' Training	3	38
Reflective Recording and Report Writing	2	23
Response Ability Pathways	1	11
Staff Supervision Skills Training	1	14
Therapeutic Crisis Intervention Refresher Training	6	62
SOS - 2 Day training	3	212
SOS - Practice Leader Call Back	8	354
Other	6	133
<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>1762</b>

Table 22: Breakdown of online training completed by Tusla staff, Q1, 2019

Online Training Module	Total Completions
Introduction to PPFS	82
Health and Safety Awareness for Tusla Staff * ( <i>only launched to staff in Q2 2019</i> )	12
Introduction to Children First	223
CF in Action	164
Implementing Children First	203
<b>Total</b>	<b>684</b>

## 8.0 FINANCE

### KEY FACTS

- The financial outturn for the year to date (March 2019) is an over-spend of €1.578 million
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €2,155 million
- Non pay costs are over-spent against budget by €3,552 million
- Key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €5,794 million over budget
- 48% (€3,574 million) of legal expenditure (€7,440 million) was on guardians ad litem (GALs), including GAL's solicitors and counsel.

### Financial Performance

- The outturn for the year to date (March 2019) is an over-spend of €1.578 million.
- The net expenditure for the period year to date is €187.762 million against a budget allocation of €186.184 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €2.155 million.

#### Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	March 2019 YTD			% Variance
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Act vs Budget
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Pay costs	72,064	74,218	(2,155)	(3%)

- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget by €3,552 million.

#### Non Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	March 2019 YTD			% Variance
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Act vs Budget
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Non pay costs	122,355	118,803	3,552	3%

- A key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €5,794 million (22%) over-spend. Placement of children in private residential and foster care services is strictly controlled through a national placement process.

#### Private Residential and Foster Care Costs

Child and Family Agency	March 2019 YTD			% Variance Act vs Budget
	Actual	Budget	Variance	
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Private Residential & Foster Care	31,648	25,854	5,794	22%

- Legal costs incurred by the Agency account for a significant portion of the overall budget of the Agency. The financial position shows a spend of €7,440 million against a budget of €7,076 million.
- A breakdown of legal expenditure by type is presented in the table below.
- 48% (€3,574 million) of the legal spend was 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.

#### Legal Expenditure

Type	March 2019 €'000s
3rd Party Counsel Fees	226
3rd Party Solicitors Fees	457
Contracted Legal Services	2,591
Counsel fees - Tusla	400
Guardian ad Litem Costs	2,115
Guardian ad Litem Counsel fees	216
Guardian ad Litem Solicitors fees	1,243
General Legal Fees	87
Court Settlements	0
Other	105
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>7,440</b>



## APPENDIX I

### ABBREVIATIONS

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

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

## APPENDIX II – Hiqa Inspections Main Findings

This section provides a summary of the main findings from inspection reports published by Hiqa in Q4 2018. Areas/Services have drawn up action plans to address deficits identified and implementation of these actions is underway.

### GENERAL RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Centre ID	Type of inspection	Compliant	Substantially Compliant	Non Compliant - Major	Non Compliant - Moderate
OSV-5764	Unannounced / Full	1	3	0	0
OSV-4189	Unannounced / Full	2	3	0	5
OSV-4176	Unannounced / Full	4	4	0	2
OSV -4175	Unannounced / Full	1	2	0	3
OSV-4166	Unannounced / Full	2	1	0	7
OSV-4181	Unannounced / Follow-up	1	0	1	2
OSV-4180	Unannounced / Themed	1	3	0	0
OSV-4167	Unannounced / Full	1	3	0	0
OSV-4159	Unannounced / Full	6	0	0	4
OSV-4177	Unannounced / Full	4	2	0	4
OSV-4170	Unannounced / Full	4	6	0	0
OSV-4165	Unannounced / Themed	1	3	0	1

### OSV-5764 (West)

The centre provided a respite and support service for children and young people who were in foster care or living at home, and aged between eight and 17 years of age. The service primarily worked with children and young people who would benefit from initiatives designed to provide alternatives to state care.

- An outcomes framework was in place but it was new and as a result, on-going review and support was being provided by an external social work consultant on its implementation.
- Each child availing of the service had an allocated social worker and children who were in the care of the State had statutory care plans in place.
- Care records were well organised and accessible, and contained a significant amount of information to inform placement plans. However, these were in the early stages of development.
- The centre was well managed by a competent and experienced manager and there was an effective governance and management structure in place to support overall service delivery.
- A number of systems were in place to ensure good communication, leadership and accountability. Systems of monitoring and auditing were at an early stage of development.
- Staffing levels were adequate to fulfil the centre's statement of purpose.

- There were gaps in the provision of supervision for a small number of staff and in the provision of mandatory training.

### **OSV-4189 (South)**

The centre provided medium to long term care for four male children up to the age of 17 years.

- Children understood their rights, could participate in decisions that affected their lives and had access to advocacy.
- Children were cared for by a staff team who knew them well and who skilfully de-escalated situations where children were heightened.
- Children had access to specialist psychological services and the staff team acted on recommendations in the best interest of children. As a result, children benefited from stable placements where positive outcomes were possible.
- Despite the outcomes for children being good and considerable improvements to the premises, the governance in the centre was inadequate.
- Centre records were not easy to access and had not been well organised to support the delivery of care. Centre managers told inspectors that due to the temporary re-location of the centre to facilitate the refurbishment and inadequate information technology arrangements, records were saved on computers that staff did not have access to. Documents on the computer in question were not well managed.
- Inspectors found that there was a poor system in place to record and store information including direct work with children, placement planning and team meetings. As a result, inspectors found that the systems in place could not assure the centre managers that children were being provided with the appropriate intervention in a timely way.
- Systems to identify and manage risk and to monitor and oversee the quality of service delivery were not adequately developed.
- Governance reporting systems were not effective at identifying deficiencies which needed to be addressed.
- While the staff team was very experienced and maintained a stable environment within which children's needs could be met, staffing resources were not managed in an effective or efficient way. Previous inspections highlighted the lack of night staff in the centre, yet no effective action had been taken to address this issue.

### **OSV-4176 (DNE)**

- The young people in the centre received good quality care provided by an experienced staff team. Young people told inspectors that staff were caring towards them.
- Children's rights were promoted by staff and young people told inspectors they felt that the staff listened to them. The centre had sought feedback from young people and made efforts to support them to participate in the decisions made about the day-to-day running of the centre.
- Inspectors found that systems in place in relation to the use of restrictive practices needed improvement as there was no rationale for the use of some restrictive practices in use in the centre.
- There were adequate managerial systems in place to monitor practice and promote ongoing improvements. However improvements were required in relation to managing risk.
- Child protection concerns were managed appropriately by the centre and young people told inspectors they felt safe.

## **OSV-4175 (DNE)**

The centre provided respite care to both children living at home and in a foster care placement. The centre was providing a service to eight children however, on the day of inspection there were no children resident in the centre and one child had been discharged before inspectors arrived.

- Children reported through questionnaires that they felt safe living in the centre, enjoyed their respite breaks and had staff to talk to during their stay.
- The staff team engaged with the children in a creative way to obtain their views and ensure they participated in the running of the centre.
- Children's files were well maintained but some of the statutory requirements were not present.
- Respite agreements between the children's parents, Tusla and the centre were in place but these were not always up to date or accurate.
- Admissions were planned in advance with time allocated for a phased introduction to the centre, and information about the centre was shared with the children. The staff team completed risk assessments on the mix of children having respite breaks together to ensure they were safe and their needs could be met.
- The centre was maintained to a high standard and was clean, homely and welcoming.
- Risks in the centre were well managed. However, there was insufficient ventilation in the centre and this posed a fire safety risk. The alternative care manager provided inspectors with a plan to manage this risk and rectify the problem.
- The centre was managed by a competent management team and there was a committed staff team that were dedicated to providing good quality care.
- There were some good management systems in place to ensure effective oversight and monitoring of service. However, responses to identified gaps in children records needed improvement.

## **OSV-4166 (DML)**

The service provided medium to long term care to five young people who were aged 13 to 17 years of age on admission.

- Children in the centre received good quality care provided by an experienced and committed staff team.
- Children's views were sought and valued and the centre had won an award for investing in children in 2017.
- From a review of medication records, inspectors found that improvements were required to ensure the safe and timely administration of medication to children.
- Some children told inspectors that they did not like living in residential care in general because they were sharing their home with professional staff.
- Three children told inspectors that they had good relationships with staff and they were aware of the ways in which they could raise a concern or complaint.
- Some children told inspectors that it was sometimes hard to live in the centre due to the behaviour of others.
- Statutory requirements in relation to children in care were on files reviewed by inspectors. Inspectors found good quality placement plans and placement support plans for children in the centre.

- Safeguarding measures were in place in the centre but the children did not always feel safe. Inspectors sought assurances from the centre manager during the inspection that immediate steps would be taken to appropriately safeguard all children.
- Some restrictive practices were utilised in the centre. However, inspectors identified gaps in the review and recording of risk and restrictive practice. This meant that the response to risk was not always timely. Furthermore, systems to ensure that restrictive measures were appropriate, proportionate and for the shortest duration possible, were not in place.
- Aftercare services were inadequate and children were concerned for their future. At the time of inspection, inspectors found that none of the children who were eligible for aftercare services were actively engaged in this service. This was impacting negatively on the children who were unsure of where they would live and who would support them when they approached 18 years. This also impacted on the staff team's ability to plan and prepare the children for their transition from care.
- The service was led by a centre manager and deputy manager who were experienced and qualified. The management structure and lines of accountability were embedded.
- Effective systems of communication were in place. Staff were supported individually to develop the knowledge and skills needed to meet the needs of the children in their care. However, not all staff had completed mandatory training.
- Systems of audit and monitoring were in place but these required development.

### **OSV-4181 (South)**

The written purpose and function provided to the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) described the centre as providing mainstream care for up to four male children.

At the time of the last inspection, improvement was required for nine standards of which two were judged to be major non-compliances and six were judged as moderate non-compliances. The major non compliances related to the premises which, at the time of the July 2018 inspection were institutional in nature, unkempt in places and in urgent need of refurbishment. Additionally care practices required a change in approach to ensure they were effective and consistent across the entire staff team.

- Two children had been appropriately discharged since that last inspection with one child remaining.
- Inspectors found that some of the responses to the failings of the previous inspection were implemented while others had yet to be.
- New referrals were not being placed into the centre until work with the premises was finished.
- Inspectors found that a significant level of work had been undertaken with the interior of the premises. This was almost finished and inspectors saw building contractors completing various works throughout the centre. The refurbishments resulted in the centre looking much better.
- Specific institutional practices identified at the time of the last inspection had ceased.
- Training had been provided to the entire staff team to support them to address overall deficiencies in care practices. However, it was too early to assess whether the staff team and centre practices had benefited from this training.

## **OSV-4180 (DNE)**

The centre was a leaving and aftercare service which provided residential care for up to four children, male and female, aged 17 years upwards. The centre also provided an outreach service to support young adults who had been discharged from the centre.

- The centre was homely, clean and welcoming and provided a pleasant environment for the children and young adults living there.
- Children told inspectors they felt safe in the centre and that they were settling in to their new placements and getting to know the staff team. They said it was good living there and they knew they were there to prepare for independent living.
- Each child had an allocated aftercare worker and they had participated in their leaving and aftercare plans.
- The children had keyworkers in the centre and some individual work had been completed with them. However, one child did not have an allocated social worker at the time of this inspection.
- Admissions of children were effectively managed and children were being prepared and supported for leaving care in line with the centre's statement of purpose and function.
- Children maintained positive relationships with their families, and the staff team were committed to providing good quality care.
- Staff were proactive in keeping children safe and there were good safeguarding measures in place.
- The day-to-day activities of the centre reflected the centre's purpose and function but the statement of purpose and function required further detail.
- The staff team were well informed about the individual needs of the children and there were good management systems in place, but elements of the staff supervision process required improvement.

## **OSV-4167 (DML)**

The centre provided medium to long term care for up to five young people of mixed gender, between the ages of 13 and 17 years on admission.

- Young people, who had been long term residents in the centre, were supported to maintain their placements beyond their 18th birthday for the purpose of completing their second level education and/or their transition to third level education.
- The mix of children and young adults in the centre was given due consideration and well managed.
- Admissions and discharges to and from the centre were well managed and planned.
- Interactions between staff members and young people were relaxed and appropriate.
- Records demonstrated a high level of commitment by staff to understand what was going on in the lives of the young people and their attempts to gain insight into their behaviours.
- The staff team were focused on the identification of required and sometimes creative solutions to engage young people when issues arose.
- Young people were supported and encouraged to maintain relationships with their family members, friends and significant others.
- All children had an allocated social worker but not all had up-to-date statutory care plans on file.
- Social workers and aftercare workers spoke highly of staff in the centre and their commitment to the young people.

- There were effective systems in place for reporting child protection concerns and significant events and while the social work response to staff requests for written details of follow up action taken was often delayed, concerns were addressed promptly and follow up action or interventions implemented as required within the unit.
- Statutory child in care reviews were held as required and were well attended.
- The centre had an experienced and effective management team and a more than adequate number of staff to deliver a safe, quality service.
- However, the procedure for ensuring that garda vetting for all staff was updated as required, was not strong enough.
- Mechanisms for oversight and monitoring by the management team of care practices, reports and implementation of procedures were in place, and they ensured gaps or errors were promptly identified and rectified. It was clear that managers were held to account for their practice.
- There were appropriate systems in place which ensured consistent communication and support across the staff team, but staff supervision was not being completed in line with Tusla policy.
- Risks were appropriately managed within the centre and procedures for reporting risks related to children and young people were familiar to staff and embedded in their day-to-day practice.

## **OSV-4159 (DML)**

The centre provided medium to long term care for up to five boys and girls aged between 13-17 years on admission.

- Children were safe in the centre and safeguarding measures in place, including practice in relation to safeguarding and child protection was good.
- Staff had warm and respectful relationships with the children and provided good quality care to them.
- Children who spoke to the inspector knew their rights and were familiar with the complaints policy.
- Children's child in care reviews did not always take place in the timeframes required by the regulations, and not all children had an up-to-date care plan.
- Not all children had an allocated child in care social worker.
- The maintenance of the premises required improvement.
- The governance and management systems in place were good. The management team was experienced and competent.
- The systems of communication in the centre were effective and inspectors found that the staff team were sufficiently aware of the children's day-to-day needs.
- There was good oversight of the centre which ensured that good quality care was provided to the children.
- The inspector found that managers had effective systems in place to record and review all aspects of children's care. There was a well-established staff team working at the centre and the majority of staff were qualified and had up-to-date training.

## **OSV-4177 (DNE)**

The centre provided medium to long term care for four children from the ages of 10 to 18 years.

- Admissions to the centre were not always managed in line with the Tusla policy.
- Children had a good quality of life in the centre and the staff team were supportive of them and sensitive to their needs.
- Children told inspectors that they were happy living in the centre.
- Education was valued in the centre and all children had educational placements. Although school attendance could be better, the centre was liaising with the schools and children's social workers to ensure this improved.
- Safeguarding practices were effective in keeping the children safe. All child protection referrals were reported by the centre in line with Children First: National Guidance for Protection and Welfare of Children (Children First 2017).
- The staff team responded well to risks to children.
- Planning for children required improvement.
- All children had an allocated social worker who visited the children regularly. However, one child required a child-in-care review in line with the regulations and care plans were not always provided to the centre or children in a timely way.
- There were adequate management systems in place and the centre manager provided good leadership to the staff team.
- Some systems required further development and improvement, such as monitoring and oversight of centre practice. There was a stable and experienced staff team working in the centre.
- Social workers told inspectors that they were satisfied that the staff team were committed to the children.

## **OSV-4170 (DNE)**

The centre provided medium- to long-term residential care for up to four young people aged between 12 and 18 years of age.

- Children told inspectors that they were well cared for in the centre.
- Children received good quality care in the centre.
- All children had allocated social workers who met with them in line with regulations.
- Care plan reviews were held within the required timeframes and care plans were of good quality. However, it was not clear in the records if all children had attended their child in care review meeting.
- Young people were supported to develop independent living skills in preparation for leaving care and were at the centre of their aftercare planning.
- Sanctions and restrictive practices were used in the centre and they were found to be proportionate.
- Education was valued by the centre staff and children were encouraged to reach their educational potential.
- Children's health needs were assessed and children had access to health and specialist services as required.



- Children living in the centre were kept safe. Child protection concerns were appropriately notified and escalated to relevant parties. The majority of child protection concerns in the centre had been closed by the time of this inspection but some remained open for significant periods of time due to Garda involvement. The centre was in the process of addressing this issue.
- There was a high number of significant events in the 12 months prior to inspection. These were appropriately recorded, reported and reviewed.
- The centre was well managed on a day-to-day basis by a centre manager with the support of a deputy centre manager. The management structure in place provided clear lines of responsibility and accountability. There were recent changes to the staff team and there was currently a good mix of skill and experience which supported the team to respond to the identified needs of children. The team was supplemented by the use of agency staff. The centre endeavored to ensure that the same agency staff members were consistently used in order to provide stability for the children.

### **OSV-4165 (DML)**

The centre provided medium to long term care for up to four children aged between 12-17 years old on admission.

- Statutory requirements in relation to children in care were in place in the centre. All children had an allocated social worker and aftercare services were being provided to children where appropriate.
- Admissions and discharges to the centre were well managed and in line with policy and procedure. However, inspectors found at the time of inspection, that the referral system which determined the allocation of placements to children in the area was resource led. This narrowed the scope of the assessment and planning required to determine the suitability of placement for one child in the centre.
- One child who spoke to inspectors spoke positively of the centre and told inspectors that she could speak to the staff team if she had any concerns.
- Most safeguarding measures in the centre were effective. Children were safe in the centre. However, the systems to support staff in the notification of child protection and welfare concerns were not strong enough. Not all staff had access to Tulsa's National web portal where they were required to submit child protection and welfare report forms.
- Not all staff were aware of the protected disclosure policy.
- The governance and management systems in place were good. The management team was experienced and competent.
- The systems of communication in the centre were effective and inspectors found that the staff team were sufficiently aware of the children's day-to-day needs.
- There was good oversight and monitoring of the centre which ensured that good quality care was provided to the children. There was a commitment to the development of quality improvement.
- The centralised recording of risk required updating.
- The statement of purpose and function did not fully reflect the day-to-day operation of the centre.

## CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

### Dublin South Central (Inspection Sept 2018)

6 standards assessed – 5 non-compliant (major), 1 substantially compliant.

<b><i>National Standards for the Protection and Welfare of Children</i></b>	
<b>Theme 2: Safe and Effective Services</b>	<b>Judgment</b>
<b>Standard 2:2</b> All concerns in relation to children are screened and directed to the appropriate service.	<b>Non-compliant - Major</b>
<b>Standard 2:3</b> Timely and effective actions are taken to protect children.	<b>Non-compliant - Major</b>
<b>Standard 2:4</b> Children and families have timely access to child protection and welfare services that support the family and protect the child.	<b>Non-compliant - Major</b>
<b>Standard 2:5</b> All reports of child protection concerns are assessed in line with Children First (2011) and best available evidence.	<b>Non-compliant - Major</b>
<b>Standard 2:9</b> Interagency and inter-professional co-operation supports and promotes the protection and welfare of children.	<b>Substantially Compliant</b>
<b>Standard 2:10</b> Child protection and welfare case planning is managed and monitored to improve practice and outcomes for children.	<b>Non-compliant - Major</b>

This inspection found that this area did not have the capacity or capability to ensure a timely and safe service for all children in receipt of its services. The majority of findings did not come as a surprise to the management team of Dublin South Central child protection and welfare service. They had identified deficits in practice prior to the inspection and had put a service improvement plan in place since September 2017. Despite this, the inspection found that the management team was unable to successfully implement timely changes to provide a safe and effective service and this placed children at risk.

- Significant failings in the provision of a quality service existed at the screening and preliminary enquiry stage of the CPW management process.
- No effective system in place for reviewing cases awaiting allocation at any stage of the process resulting in continued inaction and long delays in responding to concerns about children. There was no clear plan to address backlogs of referrals awaiting social work intervention.
- Children who were allocated a social worker received a varied service.

- In some cases inspectors evidenced, through file review sampling, inadequate analysis of home situations, indicating that the children were not always appropriately safeguarded.
- Evidence of poor social work practice and lack of effective oversight by management.
- The system in place for ensuring that all allegations of suspected abuse were notified by social workers to An Garda Síochána was not robust.
- Good formal systems for liaison between the Child and Family Agency and An Garda Síochána in regard to cases where garda notifications were made or received.
- The process of agreeing safety plans with children's family members was not routinely implemented in practice.
- The governance, monitoring and oversight of the management of child protection and welfare cases in DSC was of a poor quality: