



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Quarterly Service Performance and Activity Report

QUARTER 1 2021



Quality Assurance Directorate

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1.0 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

This report provides an update on the performance and activity of Tusla services at the end of Q1 2021. 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 2021 position regarding activity and performance.

CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

REFERRALS

- 17,485 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q4 2020; 264 fewer than Q3 2020 (17,749). This brings to 69,712 the number of referrals for 2020. The number of referrals for 2020 is not comparable with data for 2019 (56,561)¹.
- 49% (8,529) of referrals for Q4 2020 were for welfare concerns, 35% (6,125) were for abuse/neglect, while the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining 16% (2,831) of referrals. For the full year 2020, 45% (31,024) of referrals were for welfare concerns, 32% (22,050) were for abuse/neglect while the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining 24% (16,638) of referrals.
- 52% (9,078/17,485) of referrals for Q4 2020 had a preliminary enquiry carried out. For the full year 2020, 62% (43,295/69,712) of referrals had a preliminary enquiry.
- 19% (1,757/9,078) of the preliminary enquiries were done within 5 working days of receipt of the referral.
- Of the referrals for Q4 2020, that had a preliminary enquiry, 26% (2,335/9,078) required an initial assessment. Of all the referrals received in 2020, that had a preliminary enquiry, 23% (9,997/43,295) required an initial assessment.
- 19% (448/2,335) of initial assessments were done within 40 working days of receipt if the referral.

¹**Note: the number of referrals for 2020 is the result of a new and improved methodology of capturing all of the need which is referred to us. For previous years, a different methodology was used and focused on the number of referrals requiring a social work response only. We are now capturing referrals which may not require a child protection response but do require consideration including in our remit for family support services. This current figure includes referrals of welfare concerns as well as a child protection concerns and is part of our continuous improvement to inform our decisions on resources and ways of working. The counting now provides an even greater account of activity and demand on child protection and welfare services.**

Data for Q1 – Q3 2020 (inclusive) presented in this report has been updated from data previously published, following validation of the data.

- Of the 9,997 referrals for 2020 that required an initial assessment, 27% (2,660) required no further action/close following completion of the initial assessment; 13% (1,263) required a safety planning response with a further 8% (831) requiring a child protection (child protection conference / safety planning) response; 2% (215) required admission to care.

SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITY DATA

- 19,632 cases open to social work nationally at the end of Q1 2021, 1,511 (7%) fewer than Q4 2020 (21,143) and the fewest number for the period Q1 2019 to Q1 2021.
- 83% (16,266/19632) of open cases were allocated to a named social worker at the end of Q1 2020; up three percentage points from Q4 2020.
- 3,366 (17%) cases were awaiting allocation, 873 (21%) fewer than Q4 2020 (4,239). Cases awaiting allocation are down 28% (1,299) on the same period in 2020 when 4,665 cases were reported. At least 68% (2,302) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2021 were “active” on a duty system.
- 73% (2,469/3,366) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2020 were waiting less than 3 months and of these 65% (1,602) were waiting less than one month.
- 86% (303/353) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2021 were waiting less than 3 months and of these 68% (239) were waiting less than one month.

CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

- 923 children listed as ‘active’ on the CPNS at the end of Q1 2021, 16 fewer than Q4 2020 (939) and the third consecutive decrease.
- 96 (12%) more children ‘active’ at the end of Q1 2021 than at the end of Q1 2020 (827).

The number of children listed as "active" for 2020 needs to be interpreted with caution, due to some review child protection conferences (where decisions are made to remove children listed as "active") being deferred due to Covid-19 restrictions. Guidance issued by Tusla on foot of the COVID-19 restrictions in March 2020 advised that following discussion and evaluation of safety plans, review conferences may be deferred for a maximum of 3 months.

- 80% (734) of children listed as “active” were listed for no longer than 12 months. 3% (31) were listed as “active” for longer than 24 months.
- All children listed as “active” at the end of Q1 2021 had an allocated social worker.

NATIONAL OUT OF HOURS SERVICE

- 481 referrals to the National Out of Hours Service in Q1 2021, 102 (17%) fewer than Q4 2020 (583) and 108 (18%) fewer than Q1 2020 (589)
- 140 children were placed by the National Out of Hours Service in Q1 2021, three more than Q4 2020 (137) and 10 fewer than Q1 2020 (150).

ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

CHILDREN IN CARE

- 5,884 children in care at the end of Q1 2021, two more than Q4 2020 (5,882). The number of children in care is down 90 (2%) on Q1 2020 (5,974).
- 745 (13%) children in care at the end of Q1 2021 were in placements with private providers¹; 16 more than Q4 2020 (729) and 39 (6%) more than Q1 2020 (706).
- 92% (5,390/5,884) of children in care nationally had an allocated social worker (against a target of 100%) at the end of Q1 2021; down one percentage point from Q4 2020.
- 494 children were awaiting allocation of a social worker; 95 (24%) more than at the end of Q4 2020 (399).
- 96% (5,657/5,884) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan, down one percentage points from Q4 2020 (97%).
- 227 children did not have an up-to-date care plan, 27 more than Q4 2020 (200).

AFTERCARE

- 157 referrals in Q1 2021, eight fewer than Q1 2020 (165)
- 2,967 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q1 2021, 24 more than Q4 2020 (2,943) and 185 (7%) more than Q1 2020 (2,782).
- 76% (1,740/2,278) of those 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service were in education/accredited training.
- 84% (2,501) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q1 2021 had an aftercare plan, up two percentage points from Q4 2020. A total of 466 were awaiting a plan, 56 (11%) fewer than Q4 2020 (522).
- 89% (2,078/2,340) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2021, down three percentage points from Q4 2020 (92%). A total of 262 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2021, 75 (40%) more than Q4 2020 (187).

ADOPTION SERVICES

- 353 new applications to commence tracing of a searched person received in Q1 2021, 158 (81%) more than Q4 2020 (195) and 226 (178%) more than Q1 2020 (127).
- 804 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q1 2021, 250 (45%) increase on Q4 2020 (554) and the highest number for all quarters Q1 2019 – Q1 2021.
- At the end of Q1 2021, the length of time from application (production of ID) to the provision of personal information in line with GDPR legislation ranged from 8 weeks to 16 weeks against a target of 8 weeks.

- 50 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received during Q1 2021, 13 more than Q4 2020 (37) and nine more than Q1 2020 (41).
- 69 new children were referred for adoption in Q1 2021, 15 more than Q4 2020 (54) and 16 more than Q1 2020 (53).
- 37 completed assessments (all types) were presented to local adoption committees during Q1 2021, 27 fewer than Q4 2020 (64) and 10 more than Q1 2020 (27).

FOSTER CARERS

- 4,054 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q1 2021, 19 more than Q4 2020 (4,035) and 49 (1%) fewer than Q1 2020 (4,103).
- 83% (1,083/1,304) of relative foster carers are approved.
- 92% (2,259) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q1 2021, up one percentage point from Q4 2020.
- 201 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker; 28 fewer than Q4 2020 (229)
- 89% (966) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q1 2021, down four percentage points from Q4 2020 (93%)
- 117 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q1 2021; 39 (50%) more than Q4 2020 (78)
- 221 relative foster carers unapproved at the end of Q1 2021; 7 (3%) fewer than Q4 2020 (228) and 28 (11%) fewer than Q1 2021 (249).
- Of these, 189 (86%) had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks; down 17 from Q4 2020 (206). All but three had an allocated link (social) worker.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

- 4,195 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q1 2021, 15 fewer than Q4 2020 (4,210) and 122 (3%) fewer than Q1 2020 (4,317).
- 396 inspections (all types) carried out in Q1 2021. A total of 1,812 inspections carried out in 2020. Inspections since March 2020 impacted due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- 397 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q1 2021, 120 (23%) fewer than Q4 2020 (517) and 310 (356%) more than Q1 2020 (87). A total of 774 incidents notified in 2020.
- 62 unsolicited information submissions received by the Inspectorate during Q1 2021. A total of 253 unsolicited information submissions received in 2020.
- 22 services were found to have closed in Q1 2021. A total of 197 services were found to have closed on 2020.

NON-STATUTORY ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

- 142 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q1 2021; two more than Q4 2020 (140).
- A total of 43 inspections (all types) were conducted in Q1 2021, 11 more than the same period in 2020.
- 6 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q1 2021; no change from Q4 2020
- 1 service was visited during Q1 2021 and one monitoring visits was conducted during the same period.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION

Home Education

- 1,772 children on the register for home education at the end of Q1 2021; 124 (8%) more than Q4 2020 (1,648) and 265 (18%) more than Q1 2020 (1,507).
- 325 applications received for home education during Q1 2021, 244 (43%) fewer than Q4 2020 (569) and 187 (136%) more than Q1 2020 (138). This sharp increase in applications has been linked to the Covid-19 pandemic with more parents/guardians opting to home educate their children.
- 191 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q1 2021, 71 (59%) more than Q4 2020 (120) and 18 (10%) more than Q1 2020 (173).
- 182 children registered for home education¹ in Q1 2021, the highest number for all quarters Q1 2020 – Q1 2021. A total of 337 children registered in 2020.
- 1,477 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q1 2021, 42 (3%) more than Q4 2020 (1,435). It should be noted that the figure from Q4 2020 inclusive includes children allocated and unallocated for assessment. Data prior to Q4 2020 included only those who were unallocated.

Independent Schools

- 48 assessed independent schools on the register at the end of Q1 2021, two more than at the end of Q4 2020
- 6,431 children in assessed independent schools at the end of Q1 2021 with 6,024 of these children on the register.

TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2020 – August 2021

Activity impacted due to the closure of schools (Covid-19 pandemic)

- 3,306 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) for the seven months September – March 2021, 406 (11%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (3,712).

- 1,872 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of March 2021, 463 fewer than March 2020 (2,335).
- 1,776 new individual children worked with for the seven months September – March 2020, 286 (14%) fewer than the same period during the previous academic year (2,062).
- 37 school attendance notices (SANs) issued for the seven months September – March 2020, 283 (88%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (320).
- No summonses issued for the seven months September – March 2020, 78 fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (78).
- 54 Section 24 meetings convened by EWOs for the seven months September – March 2020, 104 (66%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (158).

PREVENTION, PARTNERSHIP & FAMILY SUPPORT

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 17,516 children in receipt of family support services at the end of 2020 (based on 81% response rate). At least 18,343 in receipt at the end of 2019 (response rate about 88%).
- 15,409 children referred to family support services during the last six months of 2020, 449 (3%) fewer than the first half of 2020 (15,858). This brings to 31,267 the number of children referred for 2020. The number of children referred (31,267) is down 16% (5,757) on 2019 (37,024).
- 71% (10,870) of children referred to family support services in the last six months of 2020 received a service, down one percentage point from the first half of the year (11,486; 72%). This brings to 72% (22,356) the number of children referred to family support services in 2020 who received a service.

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

- 1,212 Meitheal processes requested in the last six months of 2020; 137 (12%) more than the first six months (1,075). This brings to 2,287 the number of requests for 2020, 43 (2%) fewer than 2019 (2,330).
- 65% (1,494) of requests were requested through Direct Access, 24% (556) requested through Social Work Diversion and 10% (237) Social Work Step Down
- 81% (1,857) of Meitheal requests received in 2020 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage).
- 1,537 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage Two in 2020
- 49% (754) of processes reaching completion of Stage Two in 2020, proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting).

- 1,366 Meitheals closed in 2020; 27% (371) closed following submission of request form, 39% (533) closed following completion of discussion stage (Stage 2), 12% (161) closed following commencement of delivery stage and 22% (301) closed post-delivery
- 121 Child and Family Support Networks¹ (CFSN) operating at the end 2020 and a further 19 planned.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- 4,620 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q1 2021, 22 more than Q4 2020 (4,598) and 235 (5%) more than Q1 2020 (4,384).
- 117 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in Q1 2021
- 74 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in Q1 2021
- 17 staff retired in Q1 2021
- 148 (3%) staff were on maternity leave at the end of February 2021 (latest data)
- At the end of February 2021 the overall absence rate for the Agency was 4.75%, 0.83 percentage points lower than February 2020 (5.58%).
- Government restrictions introduced to curtail the spread of Covid-19 resulted in the cancellation of all classroom training activity.
- e-learning activity: 4,437 completions were achieved in Q1 2021
- Virtual classroom training: 1,722 completions (100 sessions).

FINANCE

- The outturn for the year to date (March 2021) is an under-spend of €7.8 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget for the year to date by €2.5 million, but are forecast to breakeven for the full year, due to additional staff to be recruited as the year progresses.
- Non-pay costs are under-spent against budget year to date by €5.3 million
- A key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €0.636 million over budget year to date. Placement of children in private residential and foster care services is strictly controlled through a national placement process.

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

- 17,485 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q4 2020; 264 fewer than Q3 2020 (17,749). This brings to 69,712 the number of referrals for 2020. The number of referrals for 2020 is not comparable with data for 2019 (56,561).
- 49% (8,529) of referrals for Q4 2020 were for welfare concerns, 35% (6,125) were for abuse/neglect, while the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining 16% (2,831) of referrals. For the full year 2020, 45% (31,024) of referrals were for welfare concerns, 32% (22,050) were for abuse/neglect while the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining 24% (16,638) of referrals.
- 52% (9,078/17,485) of referrals for Q4 2020 had a preliminary enquiry carried out. For the full year 2020, 62% (43,295/69,712) of referrals had a preliminary enquiry.
- 19% (1,757/9,078) of the preliminary enquiries were done within 5 working days of receipt of the referral.
- Of the referrals for Q4 2020, that had a preliminary enquiry, 26% (2,335/9,078) required an initial assessment. Of all the referrals received in 2020, that had a preliminary enquiry, 23% (9,997/43,295) required an initial assessment.
- 19% (448/2,335) of initial assessments were done within 40 working days of receipt of the referral.
- Of the 9,997 referrals for 2020 that required an initial assessment, 27% (2,660) required no further action/close following completion of the initial assessment; 13% (1,263) required a safety planning response with a further 8% (831) requiring a child protection (child protection conference / safety planning) response; 2% (215) required admission to care.

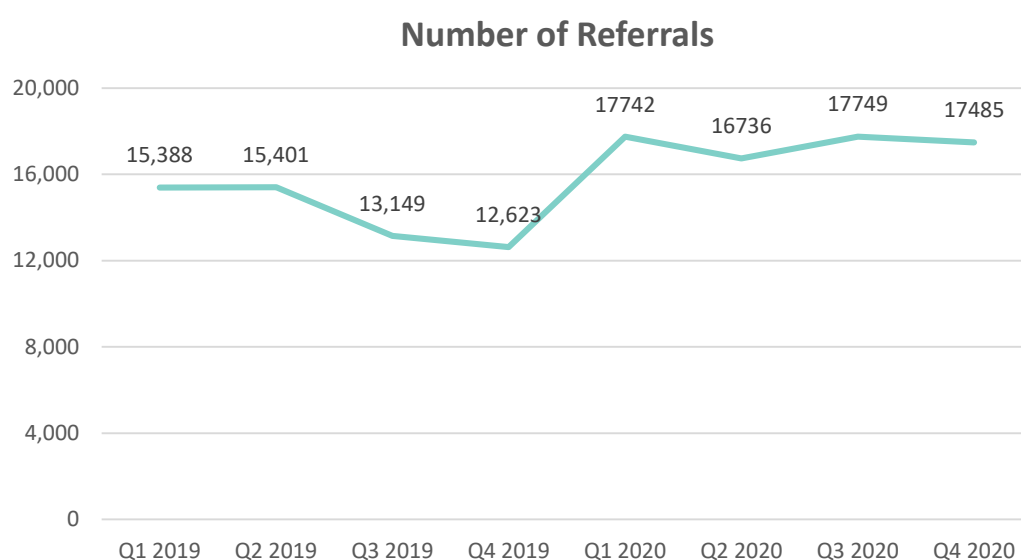
Note: The number of referrals for 2020 is the result of a new and improved methodology of capturing all of the need which is referred to us. For previous years, a different methodology was used and focused on the number of referrals requiring a social work response only. We are now capturing referrals which may not require a child protection response but do require consideration including in

our remit for family support services. This current figure includes referrals of welfare concerns as well as a child protection concerns and is part of our continuous improvement to inform our decisions on resources and ways of working. The counting now provides an even greater account of activity and demand on child protection and welfare services.

Data for Q1 – Q3 2020 (inclusive) presented below has been updated from data previously published, following validation of the data.

Number of Referrals

- 17,485 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q4 2020²; 264 fewer than Q3 2020 (17,749). This brings to 69,712 the number of referrals for 2020. The number of referrals for 2020 is not comparable with data for 2019 (56,561) (see explanation above).



- 49% (8,529) of referrals for Q4 2020 were for welfare concerns, 35% (6,125) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining 16% (2,831) of referrals (Tables 1 and 2).
- For the full year 2020, 45% (31,024) of referrals were for welfare concerns, 32% (22,050) were for abuse/neglect while the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining 24% (16,638) of referrals (Tables 1 and 2).

Table 1: Percentage of referrals by primary report type

Primary Report Type	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Total 2020
Welfare	42%	40%	47%	49%	45%
Emotional abuse	12%	13%	15%	14%	14%
Neglect	5%	5%	5%	4%	5%
Physical abuse	8%	5%	8%	10%	8%
Sexual abuse	5%	4%	6%	6%	5%
Not recorded	28%	33%	19%	16%	24%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

² Data on referrals are reported quarterly in arrears.

Table 2: Number of referrals by primary report type

Primary Report Type	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Total
Welfare	7387	6686	8422	8529	31024
Emotional abuse	2108	2239	2674	2525	9546
Neglect	917	813	890	720	3340
Physical abuse	1479	852	1372	1808	5511
Sexual abuse	887	694	1000	1072	3653
Not recorded	4964	5452	3391	2831	16638
Total	17742	16736	17749	17485	69712

Referrals by Area

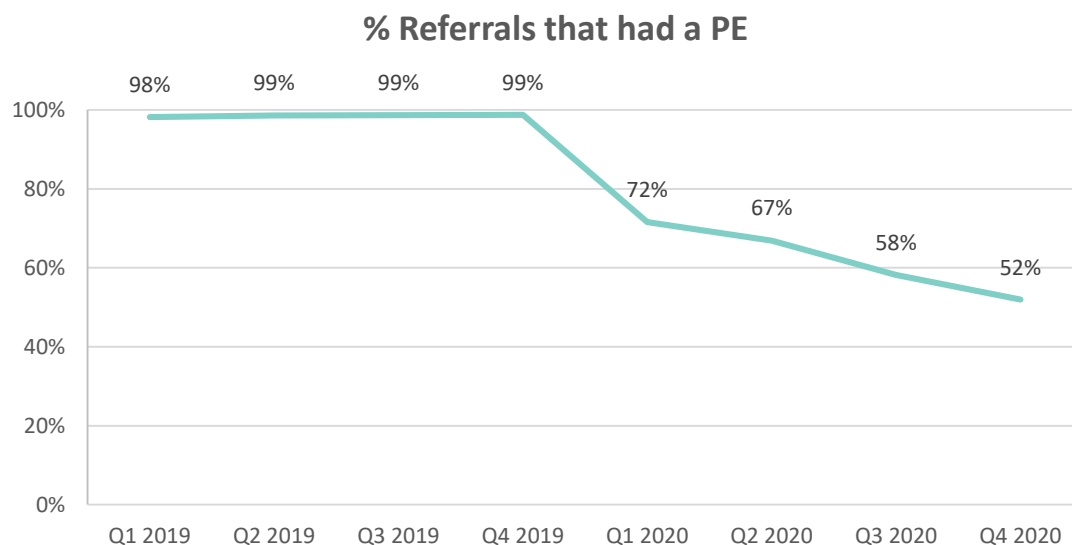
- The number of referrals for 2020 (69,712) equates to about 59 referrals per 1,000 population under 18 years. The rate of referrals ranged from 36 per 1,000 (Dublin South East/Wicklow) to 97 per 1,000 (Dublin North City). Seven areas reported a rate equal to or higher than the national average of 59/1,000.
- Breakdown of referrals by area, quarter and full year 2020 is presented in Table 3 below. The areas reporting the highest numbers of referrals were Cork (6,736), Midlands (6,661), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (6,502) and Dublin North (6,473). The fewest number was reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (1,204) followed by Mayo (1,393), Donegal (1,772) and Kerry (1,819).

Table 3: Breakdown of referrals by area

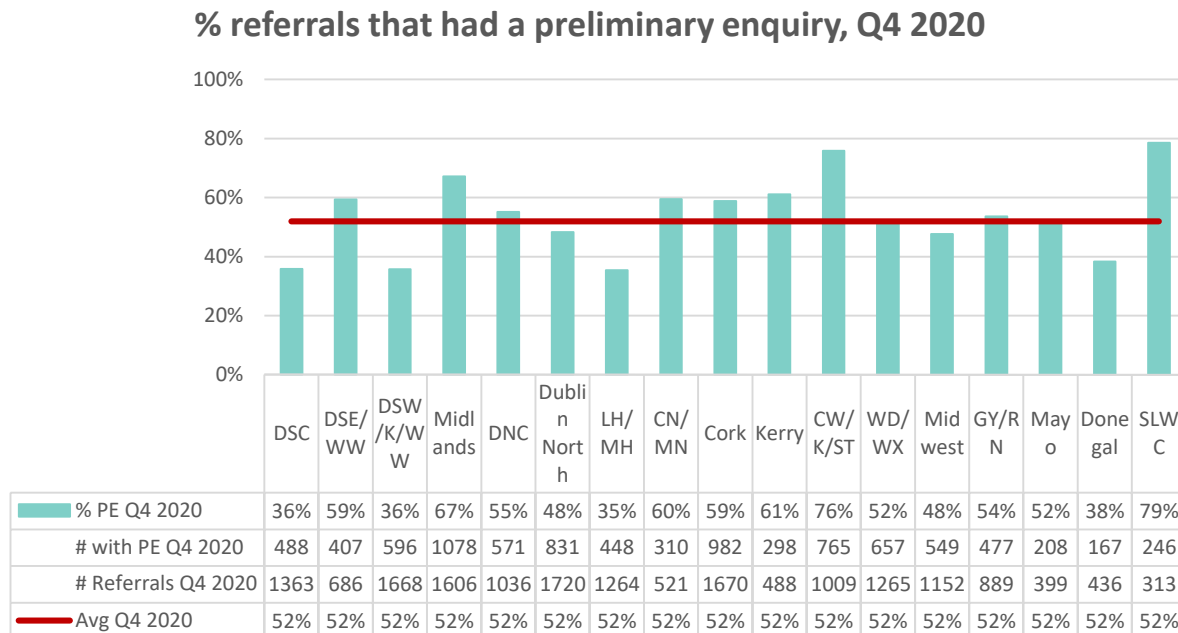
Area	# Q1 2020	# Q2 2020	# Q3 2020	# Q4 2020	Total 2020	Population 0-17 years	Rate /1,000 pop
DSC	1334	1301	1358	1363	5356	65,564	81.7
DSE/WW	809	817	811	686	3123	86,810	36.0
DSW/KWW	1523	1644	1667	1668	6502	108,186	60.1
Midlands	1875	1636	1544	1606	6661	80,193	83.1
DNC	1156	1104	1065	1036	4361	44,927	97.1
Dublin North	1657	1401	1695	1720	6473	100,654	64.3
LH/MH	1284	1138	1184	1264	4870	93,093	52.3
CN/MN	564	413	547	521	2045	36,446	56.1
Cork	1794	1604	1668	1670	6736	134,015	50.3
Kerry	389	413	529	488	1819	34,527	52.7
CW/KK/ST	925	924	1009	1009	3867	63,009	61.4
WD/WX	1202	1079	1445	1265	4991	68,513	72.8
MidWest	1235	1243	1210	1152	4840	96,266	50.3
GY/RN	994	1009	807	889	3699	79,912	46.3
Mayo	298	311	385	399	1393	31,968	43.6
Donegal	436	410	490	436	1772	42,865	41.3
SLWC	267	289	335	313	1204	23,554	51.1
National	17742	16736	17749	17485	69712	1,190,502	58.6

- 52% (9,078/17,485) of referrals for Q4 2020 had a preliminary enquiry carried out, down from 58% in Q3 2020 and the lowest percentage of the four quarters 2020. For the full year 2020, 62% (43,295/69,712) of referrals had a preliminary enquiry. The lower

percentages in 2020 reflect the fact that the count of referrals for 2020 includes all referrals received and not just those that required a social work response following screening, which was the case in 2019 and previous years.

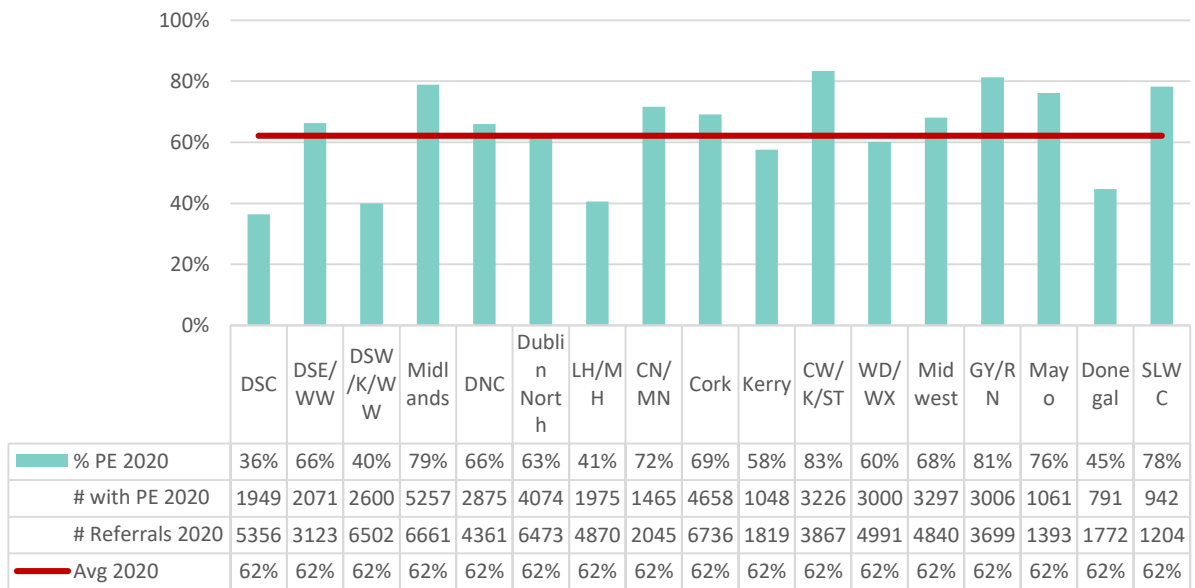


- The percentage of referrals for Q4 2020 that had a preliminary enquiry ranged from 35% (448/1,264) (Louth/Meath) to 79% (246/313) (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan). Eleven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 52%.



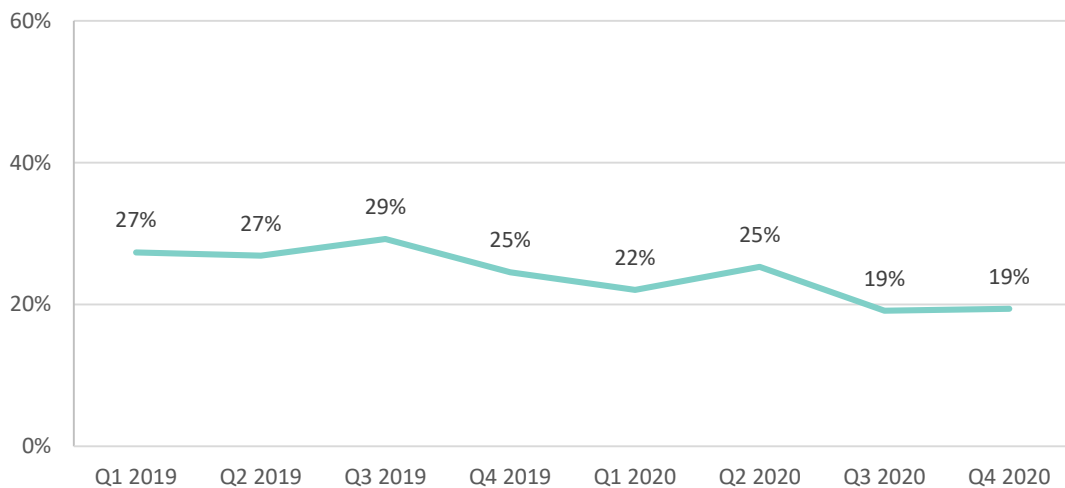
- The percentage of referrals for the full year 2020 that had a preliminary enquiry ranged from 36% (1,949/5,356) (Dublin South Central) to 83% (3,226/3,867) (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary). Eleven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 62%.

% referrals that had a preliminary enquiry, 2020



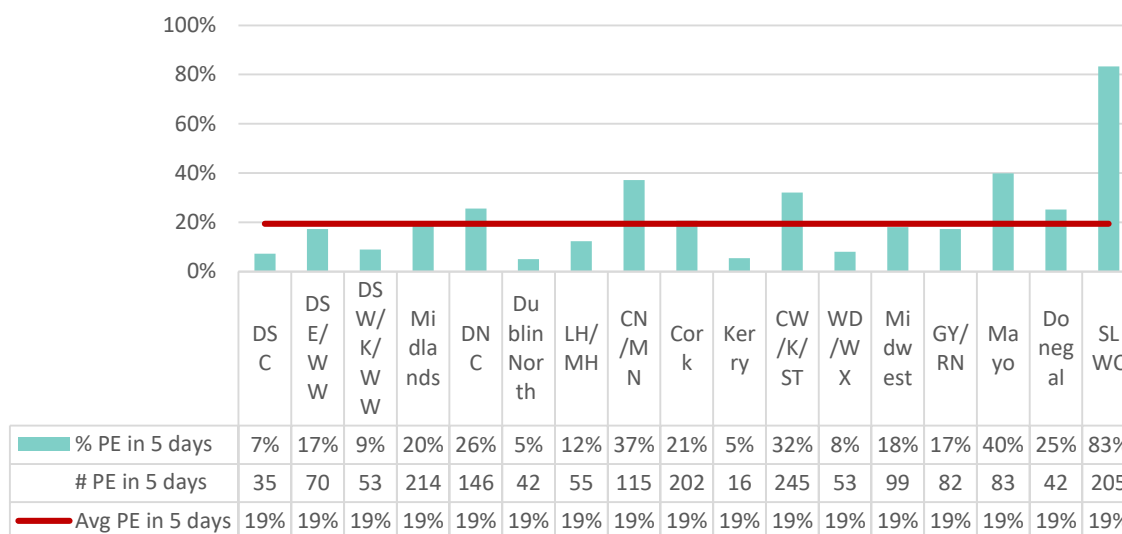
- Of the referrals for Q4 2020 that had a preliminary enquiry, 19% (1,757/9,078) of the preliminary enquiries were done within 5 working days of receipt of the referral.
- Of all the referrals received in 2020 that had a preliminary enquiry, 22% (9,362/43,295) of preliminary enquiries were done within 5 working days.

% PEs completed within 5 days



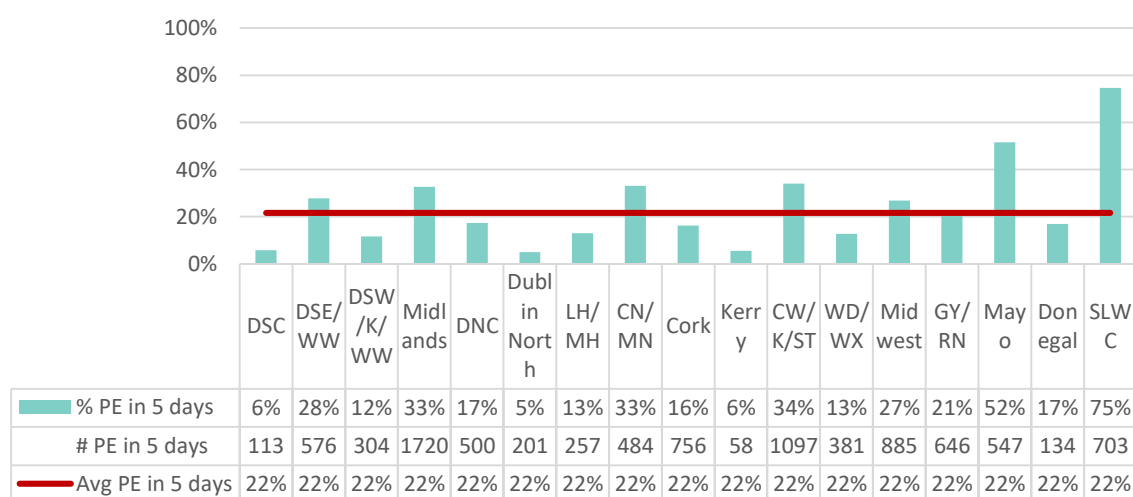
- Of the referrals for Q4 2020 that had a preliminary enquiry, the percentage of preliminary enquiries done within 5 working days of receipt of the referral ranged from 5% (Dublin North and Kerry) to 83% (SLWC). Eight areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 19%.

% preliminary enquiries completed within 5 working days, Q4 2020

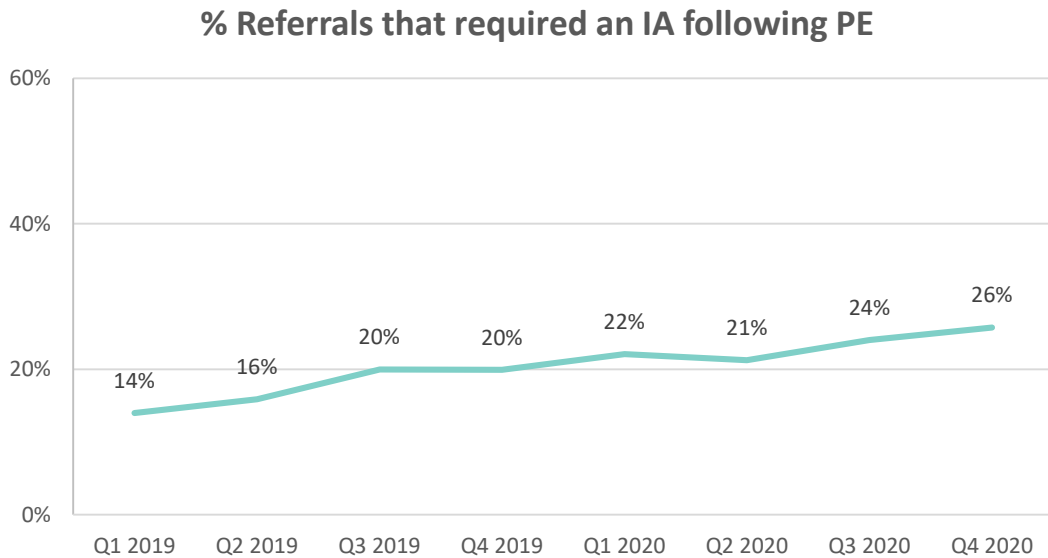


- For all referrals received in 2020 that had a preliminary enquiry, the percentage of preliminary enquiries done within 5 working days of receipt of the referral ranged from 5% (Dublin North) to 75% (SLWC). Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 22%.

% preliminary enquiries completed within 5 working days, 2020

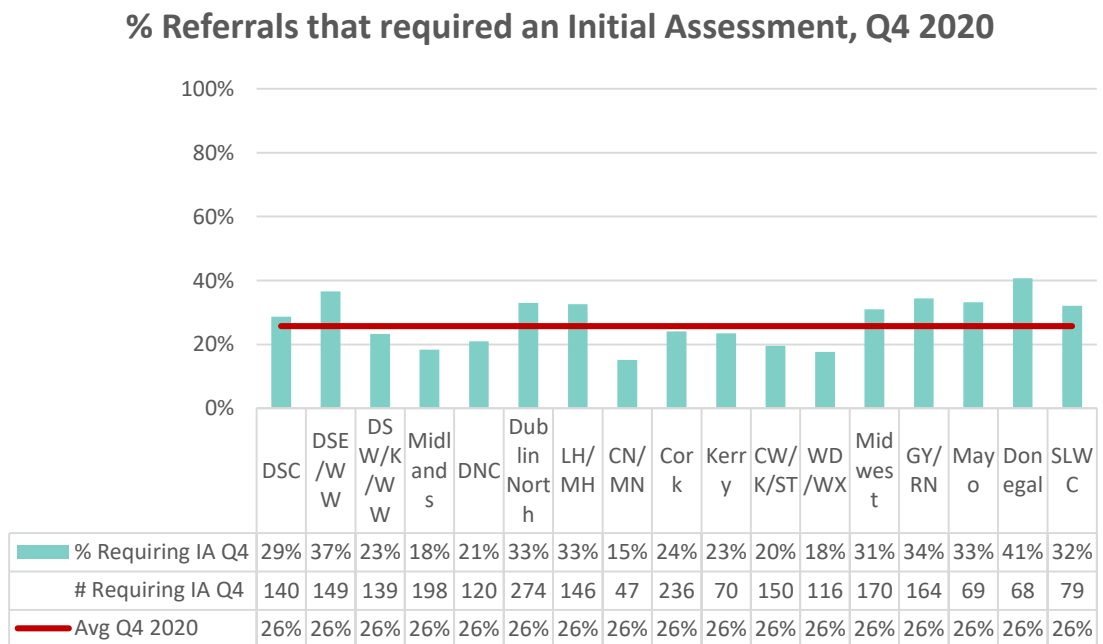


- Of the referrals for Q4 2020, that had a preliminary enquiry, 26% (2,335/9,078) required an initial assessment, the highest percentage for all quarters Q1 2020 – Q4 2020.
- Of all the referrals received in 2020, that had a preliminary enquiry, 23% (9,997/43,295) required an initial assessment.



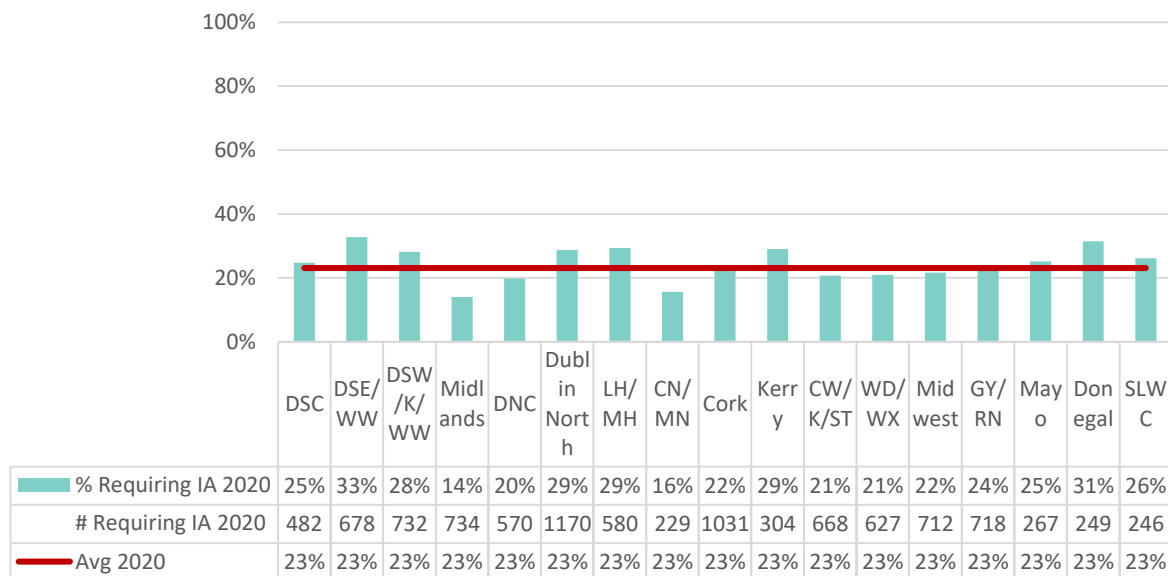
Q2 2019 based on data for 16 areas; Q1 2019 – based on data for 15 areas

- Of the referrals of Q4 2020, that had a preliminary enquiry, the percentage requiring an initial assessment ranged from 15% (Cavan/Monaghan) to 41% (Donegal). Nine areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 26%.



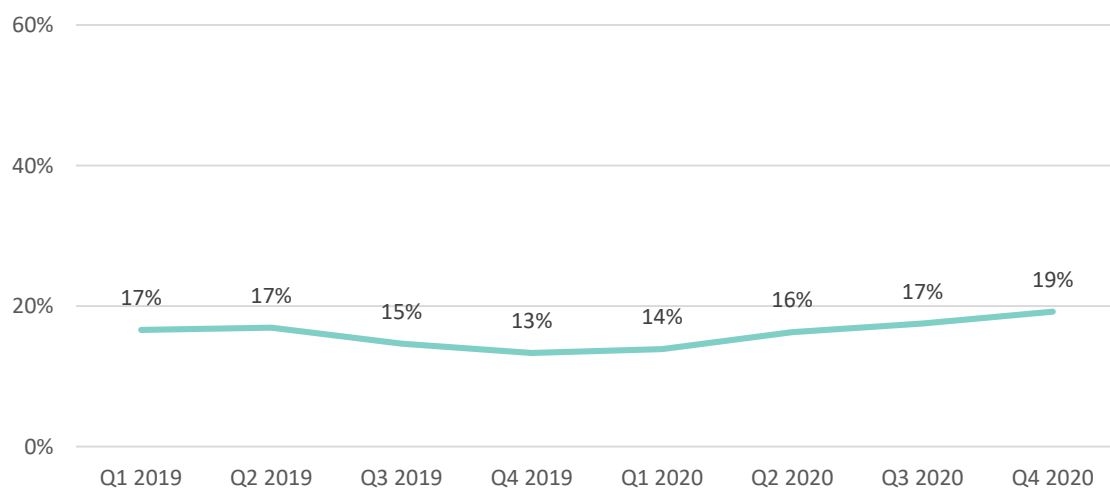
- Of all the referrals received in 2020, that had a preliminary enquiry, the percentage requiring an initial assessment ranged from 14% (Midlands) to 33% (Dublin South East/ Wicklow). Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 23%.

% Referrals that required an Initial Assessment, 2020



- Of the referrals received in Q4 2020, that required an initial assessment following a preliminary enquiry, 19% (448/2,335) of initial assessments were done within 40 working days of receipt of the referral. This is the highest percentage for all quarters Q1 2020 – Q4 2020.
- Of all the referrals received in 2020, that required an initial assessment following a preliminary enquiry, 17% (1,658/9,997) of initial assessments were done within 40 working days of receipt of the referral.

% Initial assessments completed within 40 working days

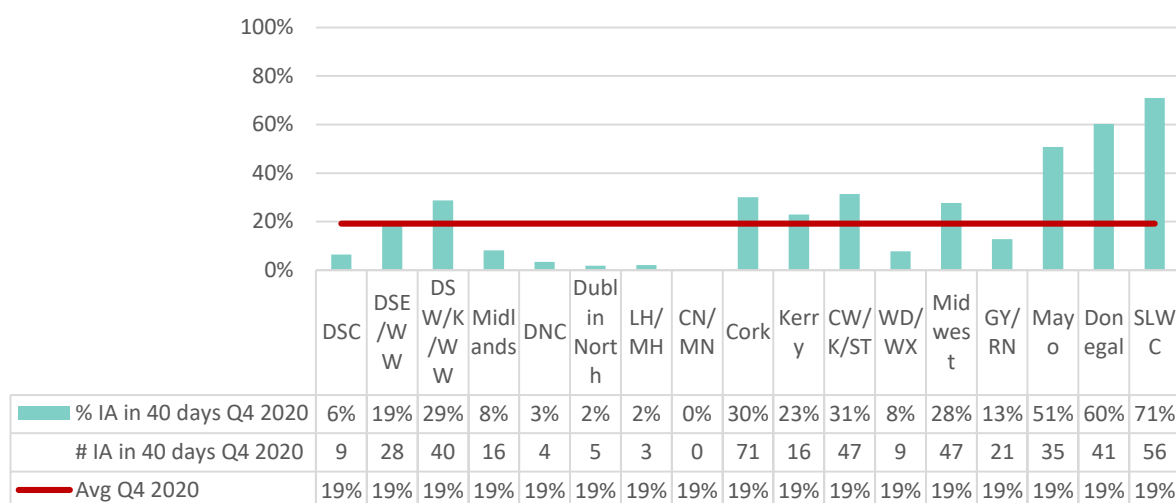


Q2 2019 based on data for 16 areas. Q1 2019 – based on data for 15 areas

- Of the referrals received in Q4 2020, that required an initial assessment following a preliminary enquiry, the percentage of initial assessments done within 40 days ranged

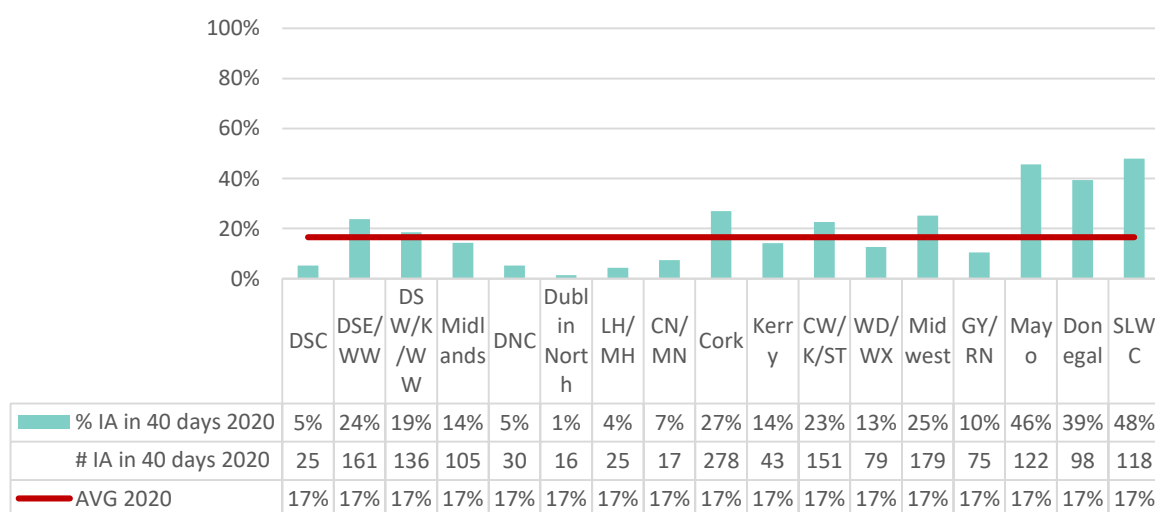
from 0% (Cavan/Monaghan) to 71% (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan). Nine areas reported a percentage equal to or above the national average of 19%.

% initial assessments completed within 40 working days, Q4 2020



- Of the referrals received in 2020, that required an initial assessment following a preliminary enquiry, the percentage of initial assessments done within 40 days ranged from 1% (Dublin North) to 48% (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan). Eight areas reported a percentage equal to or above the national average of 17%.

% initial assessments completed within 40 working days, 2020



- Of the 9,997 referrals for 2020 that required an initial assessment, 27% (2,660) required no further action/close following completion of the initial assessment.
- 13% (1,263) required a safety planning response with a further 8% (831) requiring a child protection (child protection conference / safety planning) response.

- 2% (215) required admission to care
- The outcome of the initial assessment was not recorded for 30% (3,016) of referrals. These assessments were either ongoing or not started at the time the data was extracted for reporting.

Outcome of IA for referrals that required IA (%)	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4	Total
Admission to Care	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Child Protection / CPC Safety Planning	8%	11%	9%	6%	8%
Child Welfare - Family Support Plan	8%	5%	0%	0%	3%
Divert to Another Agency - Close	8%	5%	7%	6%	7%
Divert to PPFS - Close	3%	7%	5%	4%	5%
Family Welfare Conference	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Further Assessment	6%	3%	0%	0%	2%
No Further Action (NFA) - Close	29%	27%	29%	21%	27%
No Further Action (NFA) - Close - Assessment/Safety Planning ongoing	1%	2%	3%	3%	2%
Safety Planning	5%	11%	19%	16%	13%
Not recorded	28%	27%	27%	40%	30%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Outcome of IA for referrals that required IA (#)	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4	Total
Admission to Care	82	39	39	55	215
Child Protection / CPC Safety Planning	217	253	213	148	831
Child Welfare - Family Support Plan	212	112		1	325
Divert to Another Agency - Close	236	118	164	133	651
Divert to PPFS - Close	92	170	127	104	493
Family Welfare Conference	13	31	14	14	72
Further Assessment	171	78			249
No Further Action (NFA) - Close	813	633	718	496	2660
No Further Action (NFA) - Close - Assessment/Safety Planning ongoing	34	44	71	73	222
Safety Planning	153	266	474	370	1263
Not recorded	781	633	661	941	3016
Total	2804	2377	2481	2335	9997

Summary Table 2020

	# Referrals	# With PE	% with PE	# within 5 days	% within 5 days	# requiring IA	% requiring IA	# within 40 days	% within 40 days
DSC	5356	1949	36%	113	6%	482	25%	25	5%
DSE/WW	3123	2071	66%	576	28%	678	33%	161	24%
DSW/K/WW	6502	2600	40%	304	12%	732	28%	136	19%
Midlands	6661	5257	79%	1720	33%	734	14%	105	14%
DNC	4361	2875	66%	500	17%	570	20%	30	5%
Dublin North	6473	4074	63%	201	5%	1170	29%	16	1%
LH/MH	4870	1975	41%	257	13%	580	29%	25	4%
CN/MN	2045	1465	72%	484	33%	229	16%	17	7%
Cork	6736	4658	69%	756	16%	1031	22%	278	27%
Kerry	1819	1048	58%	58	6%	304	29%	43	14%
CW/K/ST	3867	3226	83%	1097	34%	668	21%	151	23%
WD/WX	4991	3000	60%	381	13%	627	21%	79	13%
Mid West	4840	3297	68%	885	27%	712	22%	179	25%
GY/RN	3699	3006	81%	646	21%	718	24%	75	10%
Mayo	1393	1061	76%	547	52%	267	25%	122	46%
Donegal	1772	791	45%	134	17%	249	31%	98	39%
SLWC	1204	942	78%	703	75%	246	26%	118	48%
National	69712	43295	62%	9362	22%	9997	23%	1658	17%

Summary Table Q1 2020

	# Referrals	# With PE	% with PE	# within 5 days	% within 5 days	# requiring IA	% requiring IA	# within 40 days	% within 40 days
DSC	1334	448	34%	27	6%	96	21%	5	5%
DSE/WW	809	592	73%	209	35%	173	29%	57	33%
DSW/K/WW	1523	828	54%	113	14%	252	30%	12	5%
Midlands	1875	1713	91%	660	39%	190	11%	24	13%
DNC	1156	853	74%	82	10%	150	18%	9	6%
Dublin North	1657	1263	76%	52	4%	320	25%	7	2%
LH/MH	1284	554	43%	75	14%	167	30%	5	3%
CN/MN	564	407	72%	109	27%	80	20%	13	16%
Cork	1794	1347	75%	130	10%	315	23%	67	21%
Kerry	389	189	49%	19	10%	60	32%	16	27%
CW/K/ST	925	771	83%	285	37%	184	24%	31	17%
WD/WX	1202	904	75%	154	17%	215	24%	34	16%
Mid West	1235	1131	92%	383	34%	185	16%	35	19%
GY/RN	994	988	99%	233	24%	245	25%	25	10%
Mayo	298	297	100%	178	60%	55	19%	29	53%
Donegal	436	199	46%	10	5%	49	25%	7	14%
SLWC	267	213	80%	81	38%	68	32%	13	19%
National	17742	12697	72%	2800	22%	2804	22%	389	14%

Summary Table Q2 2020

	# Referrals	# With PE	% with PE	# within 5 days	% within 5 days	# requiring IA	% requiring IA	# within 40 days	% within 40 days
DSC	1301	481	37%	24	5%	103	21%	5	5%
DSE/WW	817	551	67%	163	30%	159	29%	42	26%
DSW/K/WW	1644	602	37%	94	16%	176	29%	40	23%
Midlands	1636	1319	81%	507	38%	160	12%	34	21%
DNC	1104	785	71%	148	19%	153	19%	7	5%
Dublin North	1401	973	69%	56	6%	279	29%	1	0%
LH/MH	1138	501	44%	77	15%	129	26%	15	12%
CN/MN	413	321	78%	108	34%	44	14%	4	9%
Cork	1604	1232	77%	263	21%	256	21%	76	30%
Kerry	413	222	54%	15	7%	79	36%	4	5%
CW/K/ST	924	816	88%	312	38%	183	22%	44	24%
WD/WX	1079	669	62%	87	13%	122	18%	12	10%
Mid West	1243	960	77%	282	29%	187	19%	44	24%
GY/RN	1009	979	97%	247	25%	173	18%	13	8%
Mayo	311	311	100%	187	60%	56	18%	11	20%
Donegal	410	229	56%	46	20%	77	34%	23	30%
SLWC	289	243	84%	216	89%	41	17%	12	29%
National	16736	11194	67%	2832	25%	2377	21%	387	16%

Summary Table Q3 2020

	# Referrals	# With PE	% with PE	# within 5 days	% within 5 days	# requiring IA	% requiring IA	# within 40 days	% within 40 days
DSC	1358	532	39%	27	5%	143	27%	6	4%
DSE/WW	811	521	64%	134	26%	197	38%	34	17%
DSW/K/WW	1667	574	34%	44	8%	165	29%	44	27%
Midlands	1544	1147	74%	339	30%	186	16%	31	17%
DNC	1065	666	63%	124	19%	147	22%	10	7%
Dublin North	1695	1007	59%	51	5%	297	29%	3	1%
LH/MH	1184	472	40%	50	11%	138	29%	2	1%
CN/MN	547	427	78%	152	36%	58	14%	0	0%
Cork	1668	1097	66%	161	15%	224	20%	64	29%
Kerry	529	339	64%	8	2%	95	28%	7	7%
CW/K/ST	1009	874	87%	255	29%	151	17%	29	19%
WD/WX	1445	770	53%	87	11%	174	23%	24	14%
Mid West	1210	657	54%	121	18%	170	26%	53	31%
GY/RN	807	562	70%	84	15%	136	24%	16	12%
Mayo	385	245	64%	99	40%	87	36%	47	54%
Donegal	490	196	40%	36	18%	55	28%	27	49%
SLWC	335	240	72%	201	84%	58	24%	37	64%
National	17749	10326	58%	1973	19%	2481	24%	434	17%

Summary Table Q4 2020

	# Referrals	# With PE	% with PE	# within 5 days	% within 5 days	# requiring IA	% requiring IA	# within 40 days	% within 40 days
DSC	1363	488	36%	35	7%	140	29%	9	6%
DSE/WW	686	407	59%	70	17%	149	37%	28	19%
DSW/K/WW	1668	596	36%	53	9%	139	23%	40	29%
Midlands	1606	1078	67%	214	20%	198	18%	16	8%
DNC	1036	571	55%	146	26%	120	21%	4	3%
Dublin North	1720	831	48%	42	5%	274	33%	5	2%
LH/MH	1264	448	35%	55	12%	146	33%	3	2%
CN/MN	521	310	60%	115	37%	47	15%	0	0%
Cork	1670	982	59%	202	21%	236	24%	71	30%
Kerry	488	298	61%	16	5%	70	23%	16	23%
CW/K/ST	1009	765	76%	245	32%	150	20%	47	31%
WD/WX	1265	657	52%	53	8%	116	18%	9	8%
Mid West	1152	549	48%	99	18%	170	31%	47	28%
GY/RN	889	477	54%	82	17%	164	34%	21	13%
Mayo	399	208	52%	83	40%	69	33%	35	51%
Donegal	436	167	38%	42	25%	68	41%	41	60%
SLWC	313	246	79%	205	83%	79	32%	56	71%
National	17485	9078	52%	1757	19%	2335	26%	448	19%

2.2 SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITY DATA (Child Protection & Welfare)

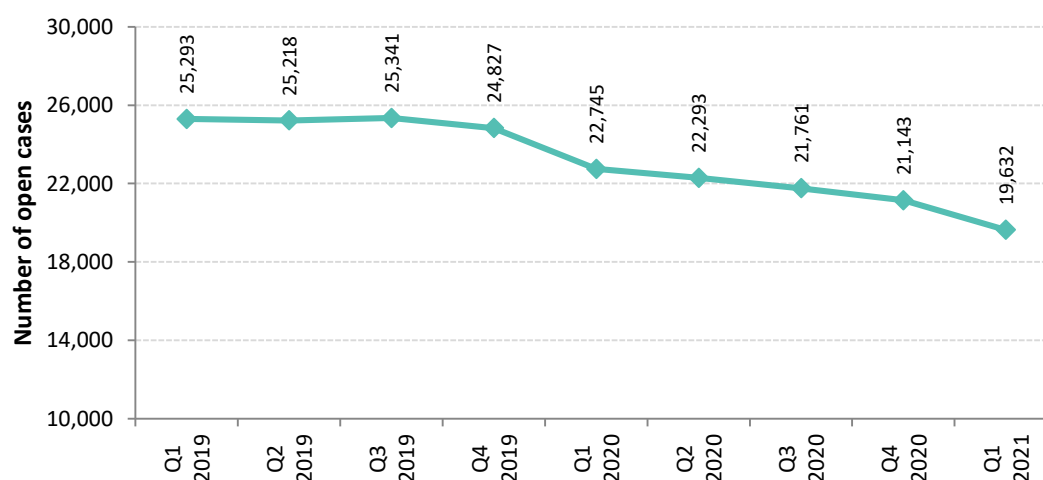
Key Facts

- 19,632 cases open to social work nationally at the end of Q1 2021, 1,511 (7%) fewer than Q4 2020 (21,143) and the fewest number for the period Q1 2019 to Q1 2021.
- 83% (16,266/19,632) of open cases were allocated to a named social worker at the end of Q1 2021; up three percentage points from Q4 2020.
- 3,366 (17%) cases were awaiting allocation, 873 (21%) fewer than Q4 2020 (4,239). Cases awaiting allocation are down 28% (1,299) on the same period in 2020 when 4,665 cases were reported. At least 68% (2,302) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2021 were “active” on a duty system.
- 73% (2,469/3,366) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2021 were waiting less than 3 months and of these 65% (1,602) were waiting less than one month.
- 86% (303/353) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2021 were waiting less than 3 months and of these 68% (239) were waiting less than one month.

2.2.1 Open Cases

- 19,632 cases open³ to social work nationally at the end of Q1 2021, 1,511 (7%) fewer than Q4 2020 (21,143) and the fewest number for the period Q1 2019 to Q1 2021.

Number of open cases by year

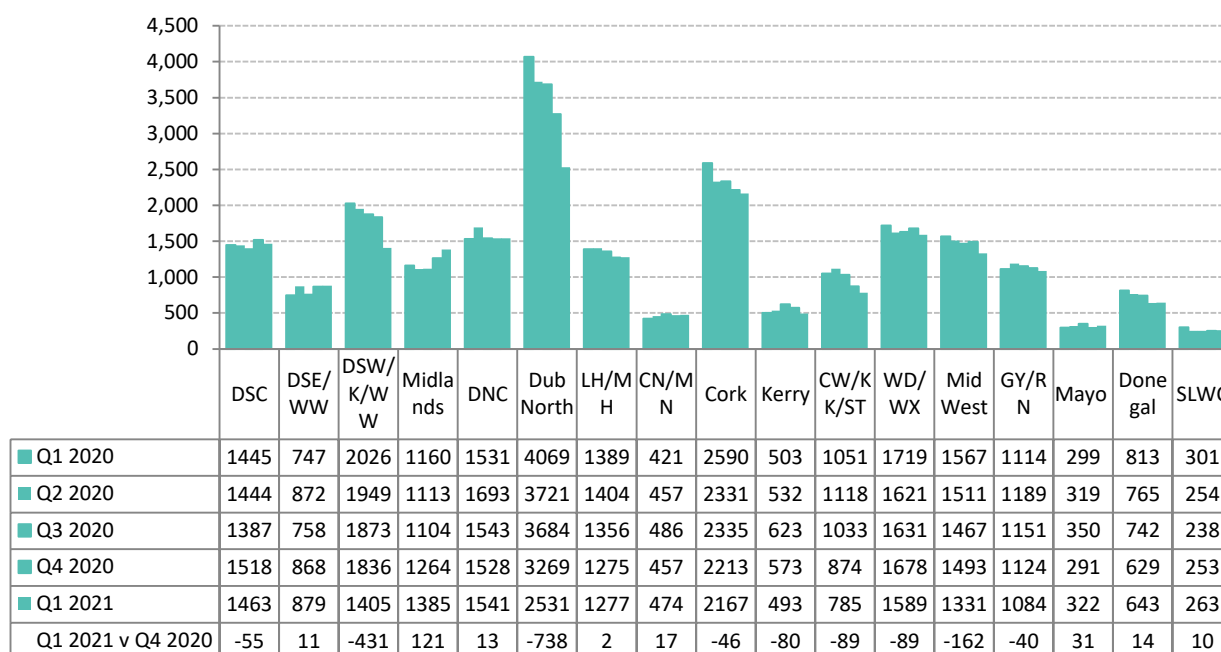


- The number of open cases ranged from 2,531 (13%) in Dublin North to 263 (1%) in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan. Eight of the 17 areas had between 1,000 and 2,000 cases; seven areas had fewer than 1,000 cases while the remaining two areas (Dublin North and Cork) had in excess of 2,000 cases.
- 9 areas reported a decrease in open cases from Q4 2020. The largest decrease was reported by Dublin North (down 738) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (down 431) and Midwest (down 162)

³ Open cases include cases held on intake, allocated, unallocated child welfare and protection and children in care cases.

- Of the eight areas that reported an increase, the largest increase was reported by Midlands (up 121) followed to a lesser extent by Mayo (up 31), Cavan/Monaghan (up 17) and Donegal (up 14).

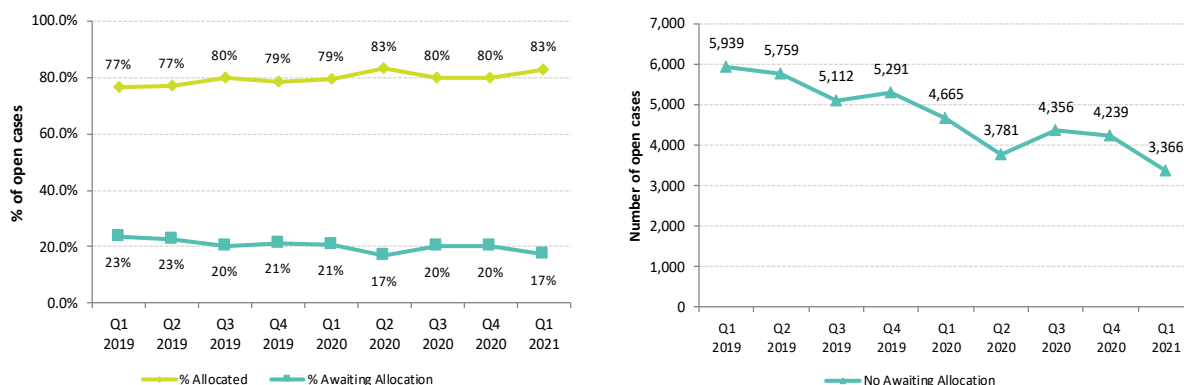
Number of open cases by area



2.2.2 Open Cases Allocated / Awaiting Allocation

- 83% (16,266/19,632) of open cases were allocated to a named social worker at the end of Q1 2020; up three percentage points from Q4 2020.
- 3,366 (17%) cases were awaiting allocation, 873 (21%) fewer than Q4 2020 (4,239). Cases awaiting allocation are down 28% (1,299) on the same period in 2020 when 4,665 cases were reported. At least 68% (2,302) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2021 were “active” on a duty system⁴.

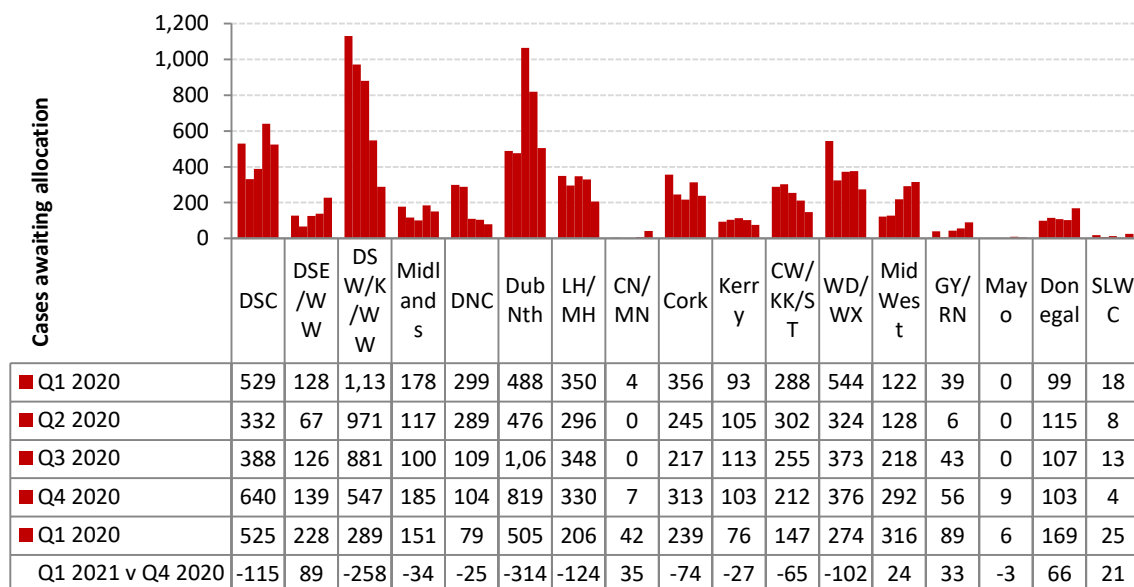
Cases allocated/awaiting allocation



⁴ A case awaiting allocation may be “active” on a “duty” system. This means that there are actions being undertaken by a dedicated duty team or rotating social workers on a duty roster to progress the protection and welfare of the child. Examples of actions being undertaken include telephone calls relating to the concern, visits to see children, completing initial assessments and child in care reviews or care plans. The actions undertaken must have occurred within the monthly MTP reporting period. There must be evidence of actions progressing the protection and welfare of the child and not simply a management review of a file. These cases will form a separate category on the MTP returns template under cases awaiting allocation.

- Dublin South Central reported the highest number of cases awaiting allocation (525; 16%) followed by Dublin North (505; 15%), Midwest (316; 9%), DSW/K/WW (289; 9%), WD/WX (274; 8%) and Cork (239; 7%). These six areas account for 64% (2,148) of cases awaiting allocation.
- 11 areas reported a decrease in cases awaiting allocation from Q4 2020. The largest decrease was reported by Dublin North (down 314) followed by DSW/K/WW (down 258), Louth/Meath (down 124), Dublin South Central (down 115) and Waterford/Wexford (down 102).
- 6 areas reported an increase with the largest increase reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (up 89), Donegal (up 66), Cavan/Monaghan (up 35), Galway/Roscommon (up 33), Midwest (up 24) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (up 21),

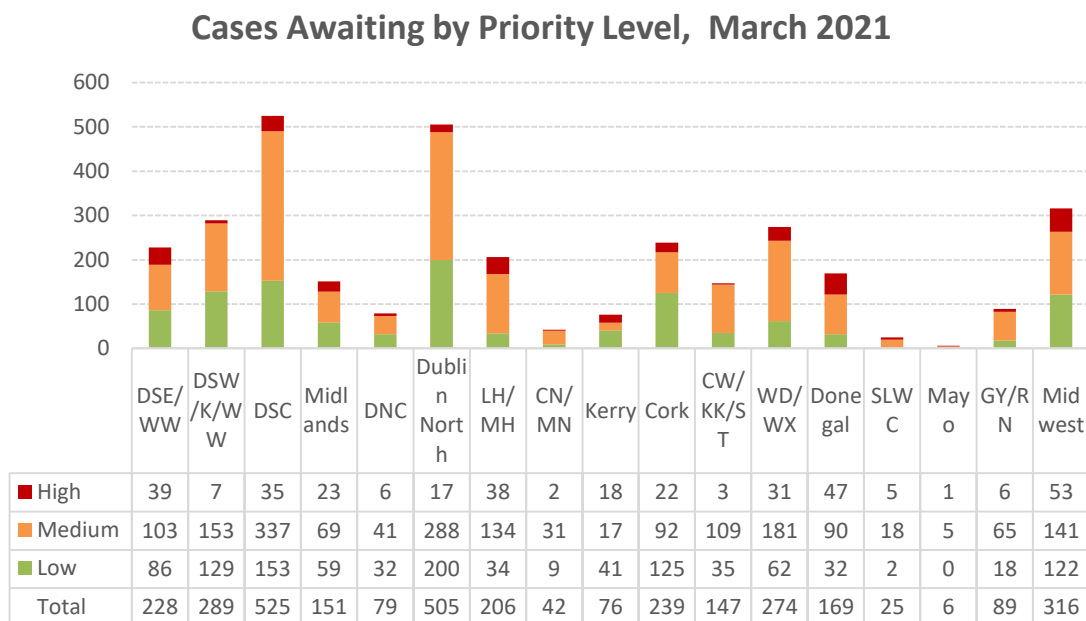
Number of open cases awaiting allocation by area



2.2.3 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Priority Level

- 10% (353) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2021 were categorised as high priority.
- 56% (1,874) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority while the remaining 34% (1,139) were low priority.
- The highest number of high priority cases was reported by Midwest (53) followed by Donegal (47), Dublin South East/Wicklow (39), Louth/Meath (38), Dublin South Central (35) and Waterford/Wexford (31). These six areas account for 69% (243) of high priority cases.

Number of open cases awaiting allocation by area and priority level



2.2.4 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Waiting Time

- 73% (2,469/3,366) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2020 were waiting less than 3 months and of these 65% (1,602) were waiting less than one month.
- 86% (303/353) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2021 were waiting less than 3 months and of these 68% (239) were waiting less than one month.

Breakdown of cases awaiting allocation by priority level and time waiting

Time Waiting	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021
<1 month	1,478 (32%)	1,087 (29%)	1,734 (40%)	1,669 (39%)	1,602 (48%)
1-3 months	1,488 (32%)	861 (23%)	1,218 (28%)	1,481 (35%)	867 (26%)
>3 months	1,699 (36%)	1,833 (48%)	1,404 (32%)	1,089 (26%)	897 (27%)
Total	4,665 (100%)	3,781 (100%)	4,356 (100%)	4,239 (100%)	3,366 (100%)

Summary Table Q1 2021

	# Open cases	# Unallocated cases	% open cases unallocated
DML	5,132	1,193	23%
DSC	1,463	525	36%
DSE/WW	879	228	26%
DSW/K/WW	1,405	289	21%
Midlands	1,385	151	11%
DNE	5,823	832	14%
DNC	1,541	79	5%
Dublin North	2,531	505	20%
LH/MH	1,277	206	16%
CN/MN	474	42	9%
South	5,034	736	15%
Cork	2,167	239	11%
Kerry	493	76	15%
CW/K/ST	785	147	19%
WD/WX	1,589	274	17%
West	3,643	605	17%
Mid West	1,331	316	24%
GY/RN	1,084	89	8%
Mayo	322	6	2%
Donegal	643	169	26%
SLWC	263	25	10%
National	19,632	3,366	17%

2.3 CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

KEY FACTS

- 923 children listed as 'active' on the CPNS at the end of Q1 2021, 16 fewer than Q4 2020 (939) and the third consecutive decrease.
- 96 (12%) more children 'active' at the end of Q1 2021 than at the end of Q1 2020 (827).

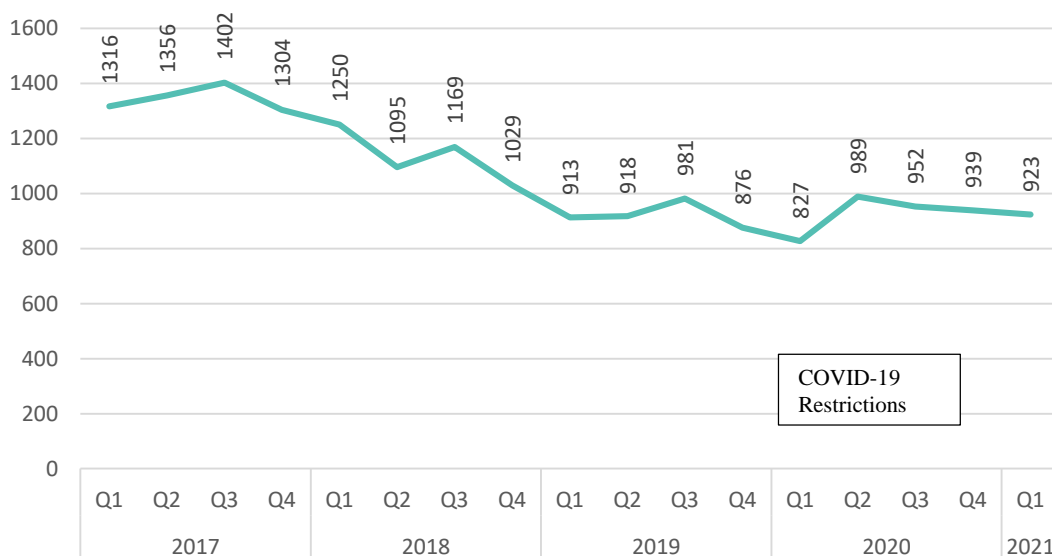
The number of children listed as "active" for 2020 needs to be interpreted with caution, due to some review child protection conferences (where decisions are made to remove children listed as "active") being deferred due to Covid-19 restrictions. Guidance issued by Tusla on foot of the COVID-19 restrictions in March 2020 advised that following discussion and evaluation of safety plans, review conferences may be deferred for a maximum of 3 months.

- 80% (734) of children listed as "active" were listed for no longer than 12 months. 3% (31) were listed as "active" for longer than 24 months.
- All children listed as "active" at the end of Q1 2021 had an allocated social worker.

- 923 children listed as 'active' on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)⁵ at the end of Q1 2021, 16 fewer than Q4 2020 (939) and the third consecutive decrease.
- 96 (12%) more children 'active' at the end of Q1 2021 than at the end of Q1 2020 (827).

The number of children listed as "active" for 2020 needs to be interpreted with caution, due to some review child protection conferences (where decisions are made to remove children listed as "active") being deferred due to Covid-19 restrictions. Guidance issued by Tusla on foot of the COVID-19 restrictions in March 2020 advised that following discussion and evaluation of safety plans, review conferences may be deferred for a maximum of 3 months.

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



⁵ 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.

- The number listed as “active” equates to about eight children per 10,000 under 18 years and ranges from 1.9/10,000 in Louth/Meath to 16.7/10,000 in Dublin North City, more than double the national average.
- Cork, Dublin North and DSW/K/WW with higher proportions of the under 18 population report rates below the national average.
- Midwest reported the highest number (87) of children “active”, followed by CW/K/ST (85), DSW/K/WW (81) and Cork (81). Sligo/Leitrim/West/Cavan reported the fewest number (11) followed by Louth/Meath (18) and Cavan/Monaghan (18).

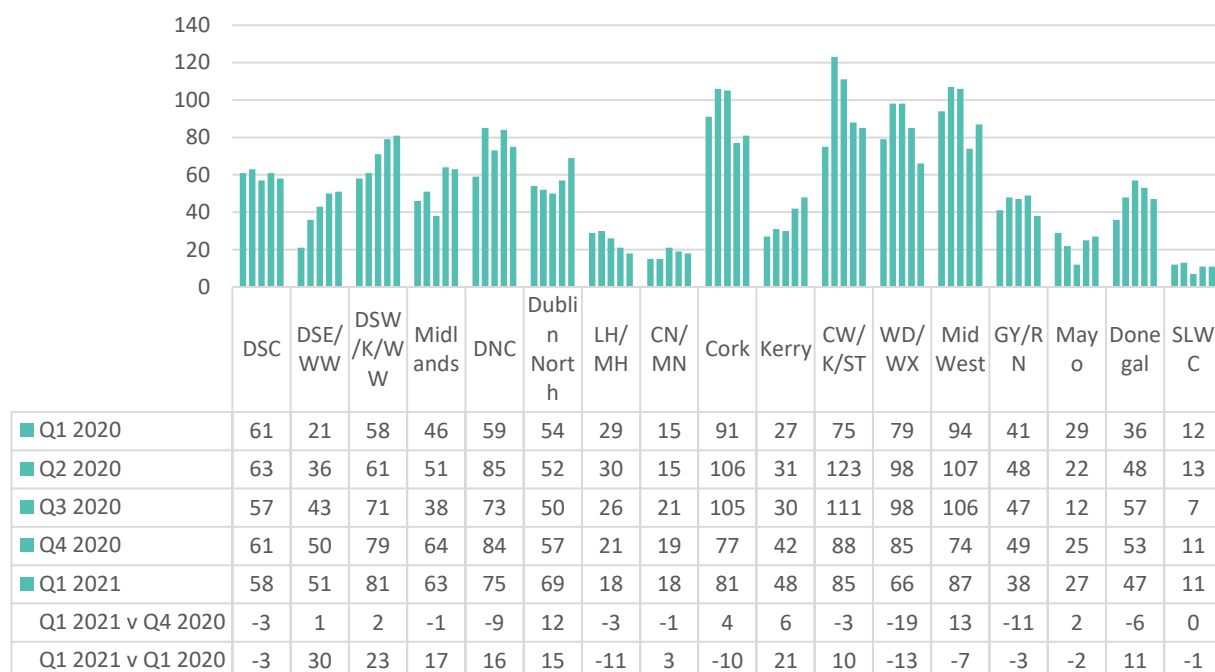
Children listed as 'active' on CPNS per 10,000 population 0-17 years

Area	# Q1 2021	Population 0-17 years	Rate / 10,000 pop
Dublin North City	75	44927	16.7
Kerry	48	34527	13.9
CW/K/ST	85	63009	13.5
Donegal	47	42865	11.0
Waterford / Wexford	66	68513	9.6
Mid West	87	96266	9.0
Dublin South Central	58	65564	8.8
Mayo	27	31968	8.4
Midlands	63	80193	7.9
DSW/K/WW	81	108186	7.5
Dublin North	69	100654	6.9
Cork	81	134015	6.0
DSE/WW	51	86810	5.9
Cavan / Monaghan	18	36446	4.9
Galway / Roscommon	38	79912	4.8
SLWC	11	23554	4.7
Louth / Meath	18	93093	1.9
Total	923	1190502	7.8

Population: Census 2016

- 9/17 areas reported a decrease in the number “active” from Q4 2020. The largest decrease was reported by Waterford/Wexford (down 19) followed by Galway/Roscommon (down 11), Dublin North City (down 9) and Donegal (6).
- 7/17 reported an increase in the number “active” from Q4 2020. The largest increase was reported by Midwest (up 13), Dublin North (up 12), Kerry (up 6) and Cork (up 4).
- 8/17 areas had fewer children “active” at the end of Q1 2021 than Q1 2020. Largest decreases reported by Waterford/Wexford (down 13), Louth/Meath (down 11) and Cork (down 10).
- 9 areas had more children “active” at the end of Q1 2021 than Q1 2020. Largest increases reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (up 30), DSW/K/WW (up 23), Kerry (up 21), Midlands (up 17) and Dublin North City (up 16).

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



- 54% (500) of children listed as “active” at the end of Q1 2021 were listed for 0-6 months; up slightly from 52% (485/939) at the end of Q4 2020.
- 80% (734) of children were listed as “active for no longer than 12 months.
- 3% (31) were listed as “active” for > 24 months, down one percentage point from Q4 2020 (4%; 41)
- Listed for >24 months: highest percentage (15%; 4/27) reported by Mayo followed by Waterford/Wexford (9%; 6/66) and Dublin South Central (9%; 5/58). Six areas (DSE/WW, Midlands, CN/MN, Kerry, Galway/Roscommon and SLWC) reported no child active for >24 months.
- Two areas (CN/MN and SLWC) had no child “active” for longer than 12 months.
- Listed for < 6 months: highest percentage (87%) reported by Midlands (55/63) followed by Kerry (75%; 36/48) and Cavan/Monaghan (72%; 13/18).
- Lowest percentage listed for < 6 months reported by Waterford/Wexford (24%; 16/66), Louth/Meath (28%; 5/18) and CW/K/ST (39%; 33/85). Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 54%.

Children listed as 'active' in each area at the end of Q1 2021, 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	23	40%	9	16%	11	19%	10	17%	5	9%	58
DSE/WW	22	43%	19	37%	10	20%	0	0%	0	0%	51
DSW/K/WW	47	58%	26	32%	1	1%	6	7%	1	1%	81
Midlands	55	87%	3	5%	2	3%	3	5%	0	0%	63
DNC	39	52%	18	24%	15	20%	2	3%	1	1%	75
Dublin North	44	64%	13	19%	6	9%	4	6%	2	3%	69
LH/MH	5	28%	4	22%	1	6%	7	39%	1	6%	18
CN/MN	13	72%	5	28%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	18
Cork	46	57%	29	36%	4	5%	0	0%	2	2%	81
Kerry	36	75%	9	19%	0	0%	3	6%	0	0%	48
CW/KK/ST	33	39%	36	42%	8	9%	5	6%	3	4%	85
WD/WX	16	24%	20	30%	13	20%	11	17%	6	9%	66
Mid West	47	54%	17	20%	14	16%	5	6%	4	5%	87
GY/RN	19	50%	12	32%	1	3%	6	16%	0	0%	38
Mayo	18	67%	2	7%	2	7%	1	4%	4	15%	27
Donegal	31	66%	7	15%	3	6%	4	9%	2	4%	47
SLWC	6	55%	5	45%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	11
National	500	54%	234	25%	91	10%	67	7%	31	3%	923

- All children listed as “active” at the end of Q1 2021 had an allocated social worker.

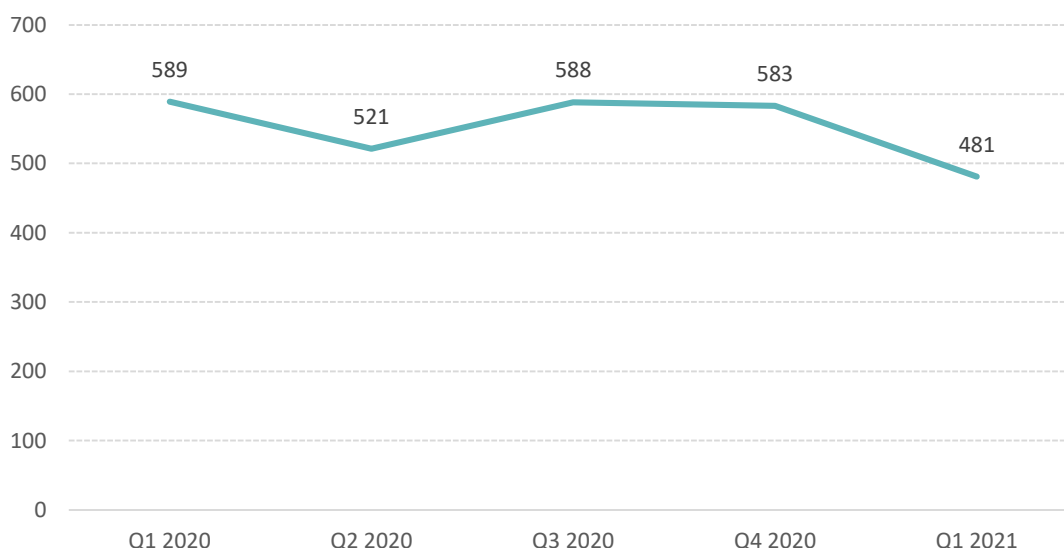
2.4 NATIONAL OUT OF HOURS SERVICE

KEY FACTS

- 481 referrals to the National Out of Hours Service in Q1 2021, 102 (17%) fewer than Q4 2020 (583) and 108 (18%) fewer than Q1 2020 (589)
- 140 children were placed by the National Out of Hours Service in Q1 2021, three more than Q4 2020 (137) and 10 fewer than Q1 2020 (150).

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).

- 481 referrals to the National Out of Hours Service in Q1 2021, 102 (17%) fewer than Q4 2020 (583) and 108 (18%) fewer than Q1 2020 (589)



- 140 children were placed by the National Out of Hours Service in Q1 2021, three more than Q4 2020 (137) and 10 fewer than Q1 2020 (150).
- 1,077 nights' accommodation supplied by the National Out of Hours Service in Q1 2021, 237 (18%) fewer than Q4 2020 (1,314) and 217 (17%) fewer than Q1 2020 (1,294).

Referrals to the National Out of Hours Service

Area	# Referrals 2020	# Children Placed 2020	# Nights' Accommoda tion supplied 2020	# Referrals Q1 2021	# Children Placed Q1 2021	# Nights' Accommoda tion supplied Q1 2021
Dublin South Central	228	55	734	51	22	201
DSE/WW	131	26	541	13	0	0
DSW/K/WW	245	65	1,054	58	17	106
Midlands	121	24	142	31	9	57
Dublin North City	284	66	926	55	15	212
Dublin North	236	46	502	65	19	182
Louth/Meath	195	55	377	34	15	118
Cavan/Monaghan	45	5	14	6	1	2
Cork	147	36	253	23	8	23
Kerry	44	13	29	9	4	6
CW/KK/ST	75	15	42	7	2	10
WD/WX	118	29	123	37	6	18
Midwest	138	26	56	30	3	28
GY/RN	112	15	129	31	10	96
Mayo	20	4	4	5	0	0
Donegal	52	15	89	16	6	10
SLWC	52	8	77	8	3	8
SWTSCSA	28	14	19	1	0	0
Other Referral Sources	10	8	165	1	0	0
Total	2,281	525	5,276	481	140	1,077

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)

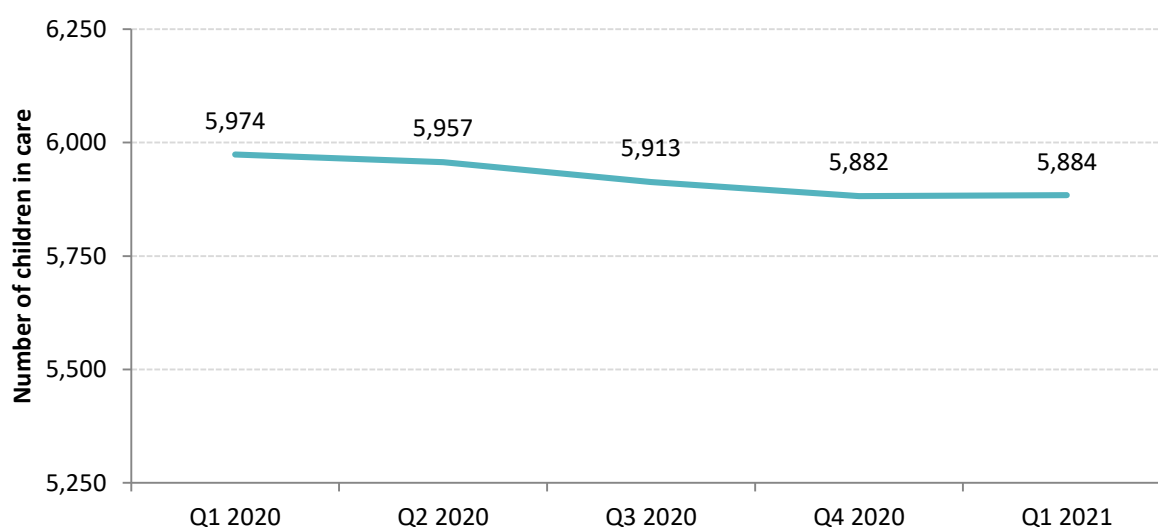
KEY FACTS

- 5,884 children in care at the end of Q1 2021, two more than Q4 2020 (5,882). The number of children in care is down 90 (2%) on Q1 2020 (5,974).
- 745 (13%) children in care at the end of Q1 2021 were in placements with private providers¹; 16 more than Q4 2020 (729) and 39 (6%) more than Q1 2020 (706).
- 92% (5,390/5,884) of children in care nationally had an allocated social worker (against a target of 100%) at the end of Q1 2021; down one percentage point from Q4 2020.
- 494 children were awaiting allocation of a social worker; 95 (24%) more than at the end of Q4 2020 (399).
- 96% (5,657/5,884) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan, down one percentage points from Q4 2020 (97%).
- 227 children did not have an up-to-date care plan, 27 more than Q4 2020 (200).

3.1.1 Number of Children in Care

- 5,884 children in care at the end of Q1 2021, two more than Q4 2020 (5,882). The number of children in care is down 90 (2%) on Q1 2020 (5,974).

Number of children in care by quarter



- Across the 17 areas the number of children in care ranged from 762 in Cork to 113 in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan.
- Dublin North City reported the highest rate of children in care per 1,000 population under 18 years (10.6/1,000), more than double the national rate, followed by Waterford/Wexford (6.2/1,000) and MidWest (6.0/1,000) while Dublin South East/Wicklow reported the lowest rate at 2.6/1,000 population followed by Dublin North (3.4/1,000).

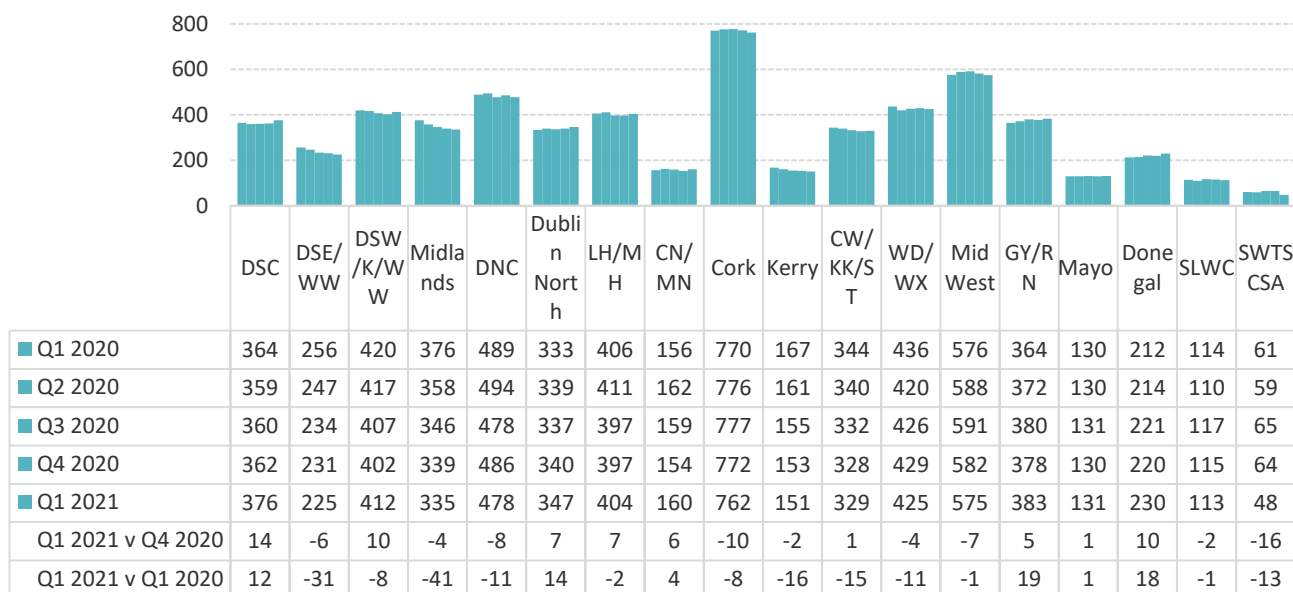
Number of children in care and rate per 1,000 population 0-17 years

Area	0-17 population (Census 2016)	No CIC Q1 2021	No of CIC/1,000 population 0-17
DSC	65,564	376	5.7
DSE/WW	86,810	225	2.6
DSW/K/WW	108,186	412	3.8
Midlands	80,193	335	4.2
DNC	44,927	478	10.6
Dublin North	100,654	347	3.4
LH/MH	93,093	404	4.3
CN/MN	36,446	160	4.4
Cork	134,015	762	5.7
Kerry	34,527	151	4.4
CW/KK/ST	63,009	329	5.2
WD/WX	68,513	425	6.2
Mid West	96,266	575	6.0
GY/RN	79,912	383	4.8
Mayo	31,968	131	4.1
Donegal	42,865	230	5.4
SLWC	23,554	113	4.8
Total	1,190,502	5,836	4.9

*Children under the SWTSCSA are not included above.

- 8 areas along with the SWTSCSA reported a decrease in children in care from Q4 2020. Largest decrease reported by the SWTSCSA (down 16) followed by Cork (down 10) and Dublin North City (down 8).
- 9 areas reported an increase in children in care from Q4 2020, with the largest increases reported by Dublin South Central (up 14) followed by Dublin South West Kildare/West Wicklow and Donegal, both up 10.
- 11 areas along with the SWTSCSA had fewer children in care at the end of Q1 2021 than Q1 2020. Largest decrease reported by Midlands (down 41) followed by Dublin South East/Wicklow (down 31), Kerry (down 16) and CW/K/ST (down 15).
- Of the six areas that reported an increase from Q1 2020, Galway/Roscommon reported the largest increase (up 19) followed by Donegal (up 18), Dublin North (up 14) and Dublin south Central (up 12).

Breakdown of the number of children in care in each area



Number of Children in Care by Care Type

- 91% (5,338) of children in care were in foster care (general and relative) at the end of Q1 2021 and 7% (425) were in a residential (general and special care) placement.

Breakdown of the number of children in care by care type and quarter

	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 2020	3,889	-18	1,556	+5	402	+7	13	-1	114	-2	5,974	-9
Q2 2020	3,885	-4	1,565	+9	390	-12	16	+3	101	-13	5,957	-17
Q3 2020	3,849	-36	1,540	-25	391	+1	13	-1	120	+19	5,913	-44
Q4 2020	3,829	-20	1,517	-23	403	+12	18	+5	115	-5	5,882	-31
Q1 2021	3,821	-8	1,517	0	409	+6	16	-2	121	+6	5,884	+2

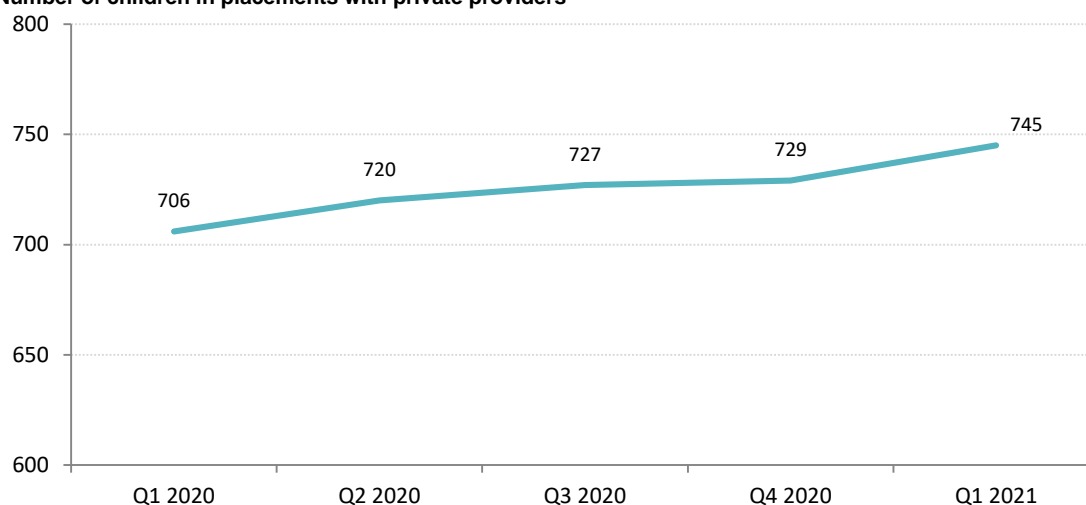
FC Gen = Foster Care General; FC Rel = Foster Care with Relatives; Res Care Gen = Residential Care General; Res Care Spec = Residential Care Special; CIC = Children in care

- 17 (0.3%) children were in out of State placements at the end of Q1 2021; one more than Q4 2020 (16). These children are included in the figures for the various care types set out in the table above.
- 8 children in residential care were in a single care placement at the end of Q1 2021
- 52 children were in respite care (from home) at the end of Q1 2021

3.1.2 Children in Placements with Private Providers

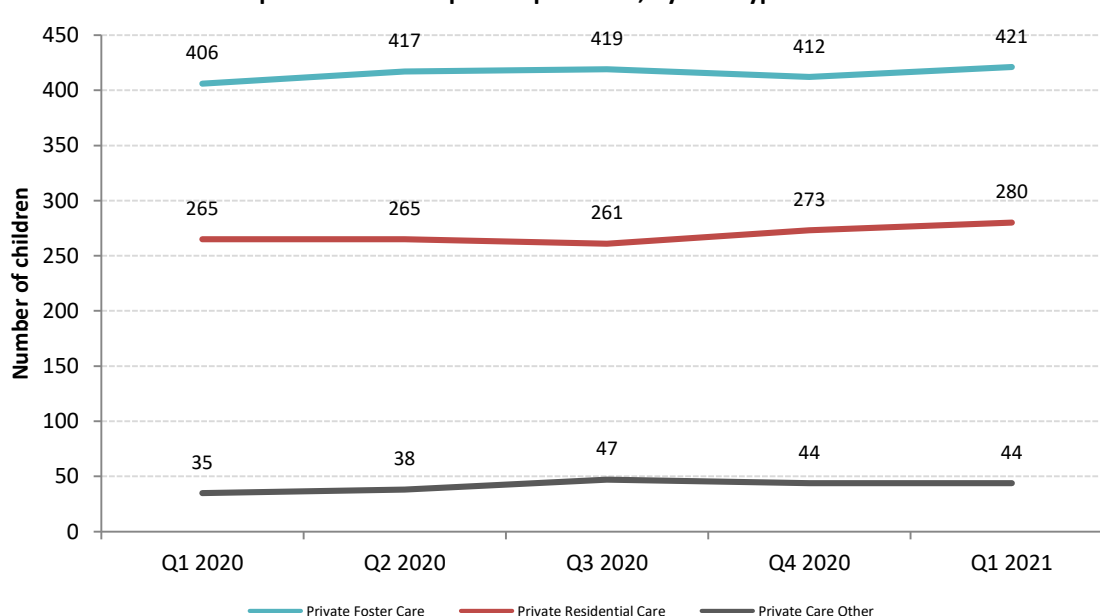
- 745 (13%) children in care at the end of Q1 2021 were in placements with private providers⁶; 16 more than Q4 2020 (729) and 39 (6%) more than Q1 2020 (706).

Number of children in placements with private providers



- 57% (421) of children in placements with private providers were in foster care and 38% (280) were in residential placements.
- The number of children in foster care placements with private providers (421) is up nine from Q4 2020 (412) and up 15 from Q1 2020 (406).
- 280 children in residential care with private providers, seven more than Q4 2020 (273) and 15 more than Q1 2020 (265)

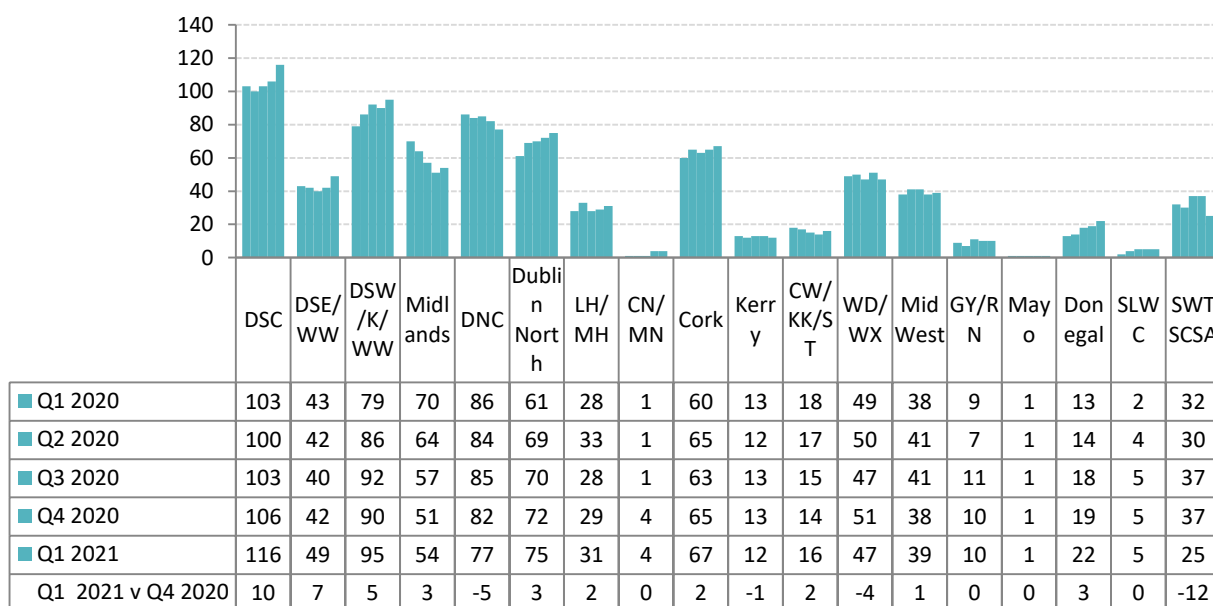
Number of children in placements with private providers, by care type



⁶ 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

- Dublin South Central (116) followed by DSW/K/WW (95), Dublin North City (77), Dublin North (75) and Cork (67) reported the highest numbers of children in placements with private providers in Q4 2020. These five areas account for 58% (430/745) of all children in private placements.
- 10 of the 17 areas had more children in private placements at the end of Q1 2021 than at the end of Q4 2020. The largest increase was reported by Dublin South Central (up 10) followed by Dublin South East/Wicklow (up 7) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 5).

Number of children in placements with private providers, by area



3.1.3 Children in Care with an Allocated Social Worker

- 92% (5,390/5,884) of children in care nationally had an allocated social worker (against a target of 100%) at the end of Q1 2021; down one percentage point from Q4 2020.
- 494 children were awaiting allocation of a social worker; 95 (24%) more than at the end of Q4 2020 (399).

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 2020	Q4 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q1 2021	Q1 2021
Foster Care (General)	3,829	3,584	94%	3,821	3,520	92%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,517	1,379	91%	1,517	1,335	88%
Residential Care (General)	403	392	97%	409	402	98%
Residential Special Care	18	18	100%	16	16	100%
Other Placements	115	110	96%	121	117	97%
Total	5,882	5,483	93%	5,884	5,390	92%

- Three areas (Dublin South East/Wicklow, Mayo, Donegal) 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. Eleven areas reported 90% or higher.

- The area with the highest number of children awaiting an allocated social worker is Midwest (100) followed by Louth/Meath (64), Midlands (63), Waterford/Wexford (49) and Dublin North (48) These five areas account for 66% (324) of cases awaiting allocation.

Number of children in care with an allocated social worker

Area	No in Care Q4 2020	No with an allocated SW Q4 2020	% with an allocated SW Q4 2020	No in Care Q1 2021	No with an allocated SW Q1 2021	% with an allocated SW Q1 2021	# awaiting SW
DSC	362	326	90%	376	342	91%	34
DSE/WW	231	229	99%	225	225	100%	0
DSW/K/WW	402	373	93%	412	389	94%	23
Midlands	339	279	82%	335	272	81%	63
DNC	486	482	99%	478	450	94%	28
Dublin North	340	293	86%	347	299	86%	48
LH/MH	397	322	81%	404	340	84%	64
CN/MN	154	149	97%	160	154	96%	6
Cork	772	731	95%	762	758	99%	4
Kerry	153	142	93%	151	149	99%	2
CW/KK/ST	328	303	92%	329	293	89%	36
WD/WX	429	400	93%	425	376	88%	49
Mid West	582	549	94%	575	475	83%	100
GY/RN	378	378	100%	383	354	92%	29
Mayo	130	130	100%	131	131	100%	0
Donegal	220	220	100%	230	230	100%	0
SLWC	115	113	98%	113	105	93%	8
SWTSCSA	64	64	100%	48	48	100%	0
Total	5,882	5,483	93%	5,884	5390	92%	494

3.1.4 Children in Care with a Care Plan

- 96% (5,657/5,884) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan, down one percentage points from Q4 2020 (97%).
- 227 children did not have an up-to-date care plan, 27 more than Q4 2020 (200).

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 2020	Q4 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q1 2021	Q1 2021
Foster Care General	3,829	3,703	97%	3,821	3,670	96%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,517	1,469	97%	1,517	1,463	96%
Residential Care General	403	383	95%	409	399	98%
Residential Special Care	18	18	100%	16	16	100%
Other Placements	115	109	96%	121	109	90%
National	5,882	5,682	97%	5,884	5,657	96%

- All but two areas (Dublin North and Dublin North City) along with Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum reporting 90% or higher.
- Dublin North City has the highest number of children in care awaiting an up-to-date care plan (56) followed by Dublin North City (39), Louth/Meath (24), Dublin South Central (21) and Cork (20).

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

Area	No in Care Q4 2020	No with a care plan Q4 2020	% with a care plan Q4 2020	No in Care Q1 2021	No with a care plan Q1 2021	% with a care plan Q1 2021	# with no UTD plan
DSC	362	348	96.1%	376	355	94%	21
DSE/WW	231	229	99.1%	225	225	100%	0
DSW/K/WW	402	391	97.3%	412	396	96%	16
Midlands	339	337	99.4%	335	329	98%	6
DNC	486	454	93.4%	478	422	88%	56
Dublin North	340	313	92.1%	347	308	89%	39
LH/MH	397	373	94.0%	404	380	94%	24
CN/MN	154	152	98.7%	160	155	97%	5
Cork	772	734	95.1%	762	742	97%	20
Kerry	153	150	98.0%	151	150	99%	1
CW/KK/ST	328	323	98.5%	329	329	100%	0
WD/WX	429	427	99.5%	425	422	99%	3
Mid West	582	565	97.1%	575	567	99%	8
GY/RN	378	367	97.1%	383	371	97%	12
Mayo	130	130	100.0%	131	130	99%	1
Donegal	220	213	96.8%	230	217	94%	13
SLWC	115	112	97.4%	113	111	98%	2
SWTSCSA	64	64	100.0%	48	48	100%	0
TOTAL	5,882	5,682	97%	5,884	5,657	96%	227

3.1.5 Children in Care in Education

- 97% (3,759/3,881) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education at the end of Q1 2021, up one percentage point from Q4 2020. *Note: this figure does not include children in care under the care of Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum.*
- 14/17 areas reporting 95% or higher with two of these areas (Kerry, Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) reporting 100%. Lowest percentage reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (91%) followed by Dublin North City (93%) and Cavan/Monaghan (94%).
- 95% (956/1,007) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of Q1 2021, no change from Q4 2020. *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, but one (Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow) reporting 90% or higher with three of these areas (Kerry, Midwest and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) reporting 100%. Remaining area (Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow) reported 81%.

Children in care, 6 -15 years, in full time education

Area	No of CIC 6-15 years Q4 2020	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q4 2020	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q4 2020	No of CIC 6-15 years Q1 2021	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q1 2021	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q1 2021
DSC	235	218	92.8%	251	238	94.8%
DSE/WW	158	158	100.0%	154	153	99.4%
DSW/K/WW	277	244	88.1%	278	252	90.6%
Midlands	223	220	98.7%	223	219	98.2%
DNC	305	285	93.4%	305	285	93.4%
Dublin North	229	222	96.9%	233	225	96.6%
LH/MH	242	236	97.5%	246	243	98.8%
CN/MN	97	95	97.9%	106	100	94.3%
Cork	520	498	95.8%	527	506	96.0%
Kerry	102	102	100.0%	99	99	100.0%
CW/KK/ST	226	221	97.8%	221	220	99.5%
WD/WX	289	284	98.3%	298	293	98.3%
Mid West	380	374	98.4%	380	370	97.4%
GY/RN	259	232	89.6%	264	262	99.2%
Mayo	77	76	98.7%	77	76	98.7%
Donegal	141	141	100.0%	145	144	99.3%
SLWC	77	77	100.0%	74	74	100.0%
National	3837	3683	96.0%	3,881	3,759	96.9%

Children in care, 16 and 17 years, in full time education

Area	No of CIC 16-17 yrs Q4 2020	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q4 2020	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q4 2020	No of CIC 16-17 yrs Q1 2021	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q1 2021	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q1 2021
DSC	75	68	90.7%	71	65	91.5%
DSE/WW	47	43	91.5%	49	45	91.8%
DSW/K/WW	66	62	93.9%	70	57	81.4%
Midlands	43	41	95.3%	46	43	93.5%
DNC	108	104	96.3%	97	95	97.9%
Dublin North	58	54	93.1%	62	56	90.3%
LH/MH	69	67	97.1%	67	64	95.5%
CN/MN	30	28	93.3%	31	28	90.3%
Cork	127	123	96.9%	121	119	98.3%
Kerry	26	26	100.0%	25	25	100.0%
CW/KK/ST	47	46	97.9%	55	54	98.2%
WD/WX	70	66	94.3%	71	68	95.8%
Mid West	81	77	95.1%	96	96	100.0%
GY/RN	72	64	88.9%	69	66	95.7%
Mayo	24	23	95.8%	25	24	96.0%
Donegal	37	37	100.0%	37	36	97.3%
SLWC	14	14	100.0%	15	15	100.0%
National	994	943	94.9%	1,007	956	94.9%

3.2 AFTERCARE

KEY FACTS

- 157 referrals in Q1 2021, eight fewer than Q1 2020 (165)
- 2,967 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q1 2021, 24 more than Q4 2020 (2,943) and 185 (7%) more than Q1 2020 (2,782).
- 76% (1,740/2,278) of those 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service were in education/accredited training.
- 84% (2,501) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q1 2021 had an aftercare plan, up two percentage points from Q4 2020. A total of 466 were awaiting a plan, 56 (11%) fewer than Q4 2020 (522).
- 89% (2,078/2,340) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2021, down three percentage points from Q4 2020 (92%). A total of 262 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2021, 75 (40%) more than Q4 2020 (187).

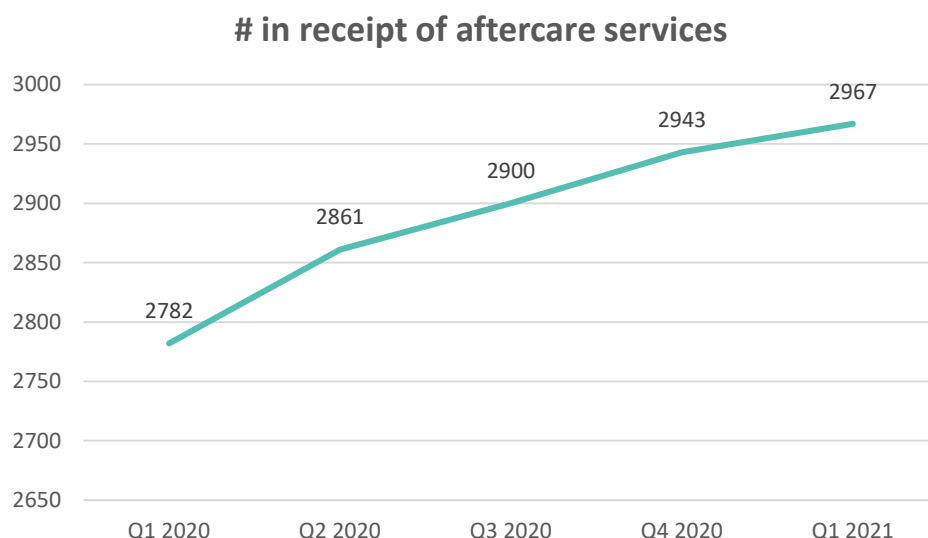
3.2.1 Referrals for an aftercare service received in the quarter

- 157 referrals in Q1 2021, eight fewer than Q1 2020 (165)
- 96% (150) of referrals for Q1 2021 were eligible for an assessment of need.
- Of those eligible for an assessment of need, 97% (145) were < 18 years and in care.
- 127 assessments of need were completed in Q1 2021

Area	Q1 2020	2020 Total	Q1 2021
DSC	15	59	3
DSE/WW	6	18	10
DSW/K/WW	11	53	5
Midlands	7	24	11
DNC	12	61	12
Dublin North	8	42	10
LH/MH	9	24	9
CN/MN	2	13	10
Cork	19	86	19
Kerry	4	14	3
CW/KK/ST	4	29	6
WD/WX	15	32	11
Mid West	21	74	15
GY/RN	4	48	8
Mayo	10	24	1
Donegal	7	19	12
SLWC	1	9	3
SWTSCSA	10	31	9
Total	165	660	157

3.2.2 Young Persons / Adults in receipt of an aftercare service

- 2,967 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q1 2021, 24 more than Q4 2020 (2,943) and 185 (7%) more than Q1 2020 (2,782). Quarter on quarter increase. *Figure includes young persons < 18 years and those 18-22 years inclusive.*



- Highest number in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q1 2021 reported by Cork (344) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (275), Dublin North City (275) and Midwest (236). Fewest number reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (51).

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q1 2020	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q4 2020	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q1 2021
DSC	163	199	204
DSE/WW	145	147	145
DSW/K/WW	271	281	275
Midlands	150	147	143
DNC	270	293	275
Dublin North	142	158	168
LH/MH	158	161	153
CN/MN	70	72	77
Cork	339	338	344
Kerry	70	70	74
CW/KK/ST	181	178	182
WD/WX	202	176	178
Mid West	187	239	236
GY/RN	150	180	190
Mayo	57	63	71
Donegal	80	80	90
SLWC	51	53	51
SWTSCSA	96	108	111
Total	2,782	2,943	2,967

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

- 54% (1,617) of those in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q1 2021 (2,967) were 18 – 20 years inclusive and of these 78% (1,269) were in education/accredited training, up one percentage points from Q4 2020 (77%) (table below).
- 14 areas along with the SWTSCSA reported at least seven out of 10 (18-20 years) in education/accredited training. Rates reported by Dublin North (57%), Louth/Meath (65%) and DSW/K/WW (69%) lower than all other areas. One area (SLWC) reported 100%.

Area	# 18-20 years Q4 2020	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 18-20 years Q1 2021	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
DSC	101	79	78%	100	79	79%
DSE/WW	75	60	80%	75	64	85%
DSW/K/WW	132	87	66%	124	85	69%
Midlands	78	67	86%	85	75	88%
DNC	160	120	75%	154	116	75%
Dublin North	95	56	59%	94	54	57%
LH/MH	100	69	69%	95	62	65%
CN/MN	39	33	85%	40	34	85%
Cork	179	142	79%	187	151	81%
Kerry	38	29	76%	37	30	81%
CW/KK/ST	100	85	85%	101	87	86%
WD/WX	90	64	71%	92	65	71%
Mid West	137	100	73%	139	106	76%
GY/RN	109	88	81%	110	89	81%
Mayo	35	34	97%	36	34	94%
Donegal	35	28	80%	39	31	79%
SLWC	28	28	100%	27	27	100%
SWTSCSA	82	76	93%	82	80	98%
Total	1,613	1,245	77%	1,617	1,269	78%

- The highest number of those in education/accredited training were in second level (404; 32%) followed by Third Level College /University (266; 21%) and PLCs (258; 20%).

	# 18-20 years in education/accredited Training Q1 2021	%
Second Level	404	32%
Vocational Training	151	12%
PLCs	258	20%
Third Level College / University	266	21%
Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)	136	11%
Other	54	4%
Total	1,269	100%

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

- 22% (661) of those in receipt of an aftercare service were 21 – 22 years inclusive and of these 71% (471) were in education/accredited training, down one percentage point from Q4 2020 (table below).
- 11 areas along with the SWTSCSA reported 70% or higher. Rates reported by Dublin South Central (52%), Galway/Roscommon (55%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (60%), Dublin North City (63%), Dublin North (68%) and Waterford/Wexford (69%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# 21-22 years Q4 2020	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 21-22 years Q1 2021	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
DSC	45	23	51%	52	27	52%
DSE/WW	37	32	86%	36	31	86%
DSW/K/WW	90	51	57%	94	56	60%
Midlands	38	32	84%	38	30	79%
DNC	65	39	60%	78	49	63%
Dublin North	24	17	71%	31	21	68%
LH/MH	24	21	88%	20	17	85%
CN/MN	10	8	80%	10	8	80%
Cork	71	57	80%	67	57	85%
Kerry	11	10	91%	13	11	85%
CW/KK/ST	34	22	65%	34	24	71%
WD/WX	35	22	63%	39	27	69%
Mid West	55	46	84%	49	39	80%
GY/RN	40	25	63%	49	27	55%
Mayo	14	13	93%	7	7	100%
Donegal	12	11	92%	11	10	91%
SLWC	14	14	100%	10	10	100%
SWTSCSA	11	9	82%	23	20	87%
Total	630	452	72%	661	471	71%

- Half (225) of those in education/accredited training were in Third Level College / with a further 20% (94) in PLCs.

	# 21-22 years in education/accredited Training Q1 2021	%
Second Level	5	1%
Vocational Training	53	11%
PLCs	94	20%
Third Level College / University	225	48%
Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)	71	15%
Other	23	5%
Total	471	100%

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

- Almost half (47%; 1,065) of young people 18 – 22 years (2,278) in receipt of aftercare had remained living with their carers. A further 9% (205) had returned home to parents/family. One in four (26%; 599) was in independent living.

	# 18-22 placement type Q1 2021	%
Residential Care Placement	133	5%
Remained with Carers	1,065	47%
Independent Living	599	26%
Designated Care Leavers Accommodation	46	2%
At home	205	9%
Supported Lodgings	42	2%
Other	188	8%
Total	2,278	100%

*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

- 84% (2,501) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q1 2021 had an aftercare plan, up two percentage points from Q4 2020. A total of 466 were awaiting a plan, 56 (11%) fewer than Q4 2020 (522).
- 8 areas along with the SWTSCSA reported a percentage equal to or higher the national average of 84%. Rates reported by Mayo (61%), Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (76%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (77%) and Kerry (77%) lower than all other areas.
- 97% (2,199/2,278) of those 18-22 years in receipt of an aftercare service had a plan. 44% (302/689) of those <18 years had a plan.

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q4 2020	# with an Aftercare Plan Q4 2020	% with an Aftercare Plan Q4 2020	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q1 2021	# with an Aftercare Plan Q1 2021	% with an Aftercare Plan Q1 2021
DSC	199	161	81%	204	164	80%
DSE/WW	147	130	88%	145	140	97%
DSW/K/WW	281	209	74%	275	211	77%
Midlands	147	135	92%	143	132	92%
DNC	293	224	76%	275	222	81%
Dublin North	158	127	80%	168	142	85%
LH/MH	161	138	86%	153	131	86%
CN/MN	72	62	86%	77	63	82%
Cork	338	277	82%	344	275	80%
Kerry	70	58	83%	74	57	77%
CW/KK/ST	178	141	79%	182	145	80%
WD/WX	176	136	77%	178	178	100%
Mid West	239	206	86%	236	216	92%
GY/RN	180	153	85%	190	160	84%
Mayo	63	48	76%	71	43	61%
Donegal	80	74	93%	90	77	86%
SLWC	53	43	81%	51	39	76%
SWTSCSA	108	99	92%	111	106	95%
Total	2943	2421	82%	2,967	2,501	84%

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

- 94% (2,340/2,501) of those with an aftercare plan were assessed as needing an aftercare worker. Fourteen areas along with the SWTSCSA reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 94% with nine of them reporting 100%.
- Percentage reported by Midlands (52%), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (80%) and Cork (85%) lower than all other areas. *Midlands area advised that a number of young persons/adults who are settled and doing well were been moved to the drop-in service (i.e., assessed as not needing an allocated social worker). With a reduction in staff this allows the service to prioritise those with greatest need for allocation to a social worker.*
- 89% (2,078/2,340) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2021, down three percentage points from Q4 2020 (92%). A total of 262 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2021, 75 (40%) more than Q4 2020 (187)
- Thirteen areas along with the SWTSCSA reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 89% with 11 of them reporting 100%. Rates reported by DSW/K/WW (45%), CW/K/ST (71%), Dublin South Central (71%) and Galway/Roscommon (89%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service with a Plan Q1 2021	# with Plan Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q1 2021	% with Plan Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q1 2021	# with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q1 2021	% with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q1 2021	% with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q1 2020
DSC	164	164	100%	116	71%	93%
DSE/WW	140	140	100%	135	96%	93%
DSW/K/WW	211	211	100%	95	45%	49%
Midlands	132	68	52%	68	100%	100%
DNC	222	222	100%	222	100%	100%
Dublin North	142	142	100%	100	70%	100%
LH/MH	131	130	99%	130	100%	98%
CN/MN	63	60	95%	60	100%	100%
Cork	275	235	85%	235	100%	90%
Kerry	57	57	100%	57	100%	100%
CW/KK/ST	145	116	80%	82	71%	72%
WD/WX	178	170	96%	170	100%	100%
Mid West	216	205	95%	205	100%	100%
GY/RN	160	155	97%	138	89%	100%
Mayo	43	43	100%	43	100%	100%
Donegal	77	77	100%	77	100%	99%
SLWC	39	39	100%	39	100%	100%
SWTSCSA	106	106	100%	106	100%	99%
Total	2,501	2,340	94%	2,078	89%	92%

3.2.8 Drop-in Service

- All areas reported having a drop-in service.

3.2.9 Interagency Aftercare Steering Committee

- All areas reported having an interagency aftercare steering committee.

3.3 ADOPTION SERVICES

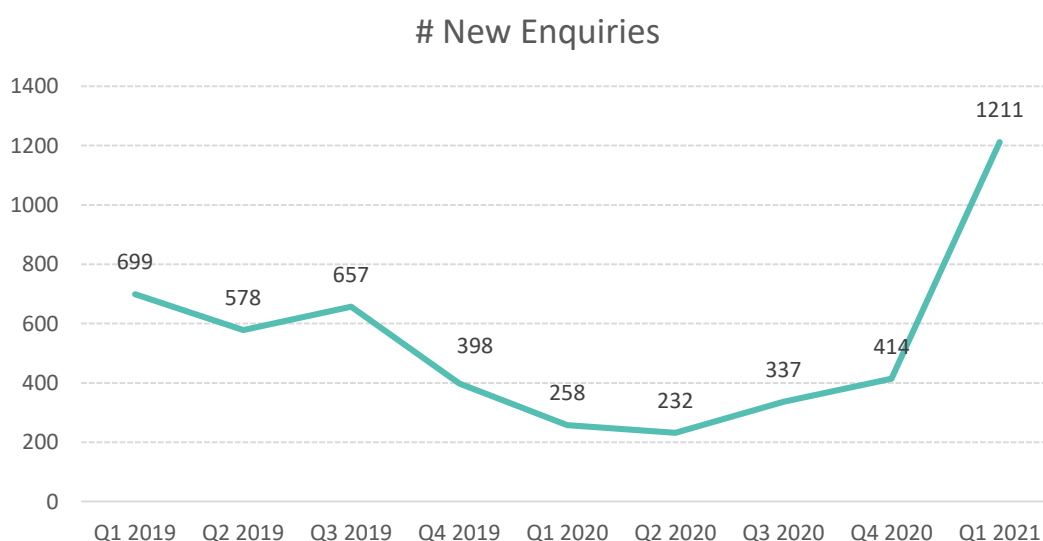
KEY FACTS

- 353 new applications to commence tracing of a searched person received in Q1 2021, 158 (81%) more than Q4 2020 (195) and 226 (178%) more than Q1 2020 (127).
- 804 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q1 2021, 250 (45%) increase on Q4 2020 (554) and the highest number for all quarters Q1 2019 – Q1 2021.
- At the end of Q1 2021, the length of time from application (production of ID) to the provision of personal information in line with GDPR legislation ranged from 8 weeks to 16 weeks against a target of 8 weeks.
- 50 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received during Q1 2021, 13 more than Q4 2020 (37) and nine more than Q1 2020 (41).
- 69 new children were referred for adoption in Q1 2021, 15 more than Q4 2020 (54) and 16 more than Q1 2020 (53).
- 37 completed assessments (all types) were presented to local adoption committees during Q1 2021, 27 fewer than Q4 2020 (64) and 10 more than Q1 2020 (27).

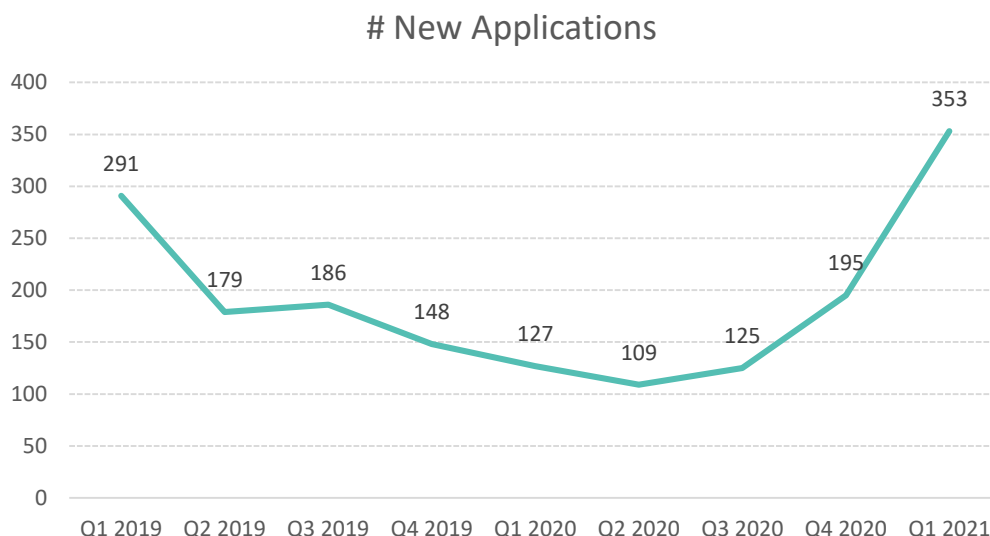
3.3.1 Information and Tracing Service

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.

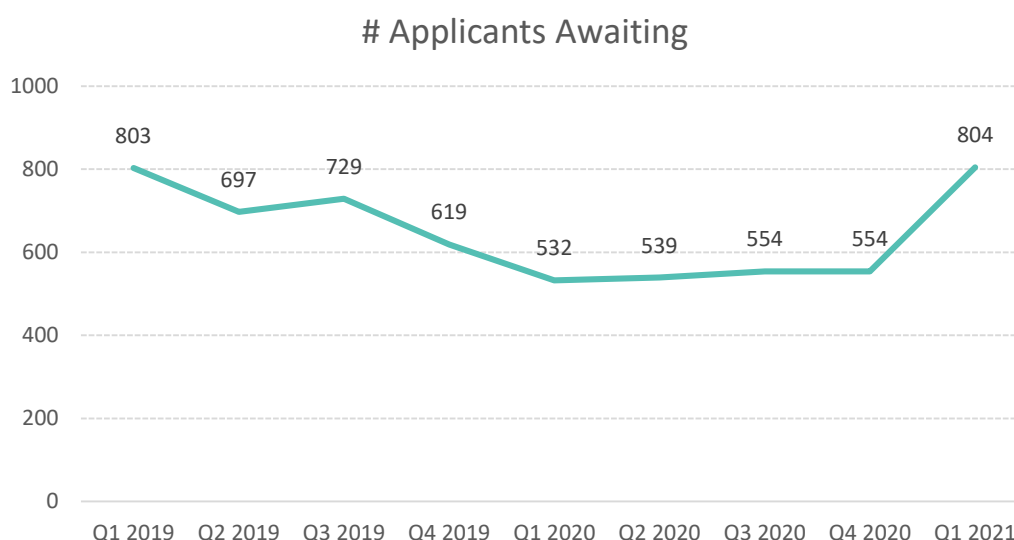
- 1,211 new enquiries regarding information and tracing received in Q1 2021, highest number for all quarters Q1 2019 – Q1 2021, and almost the same at the total number of enquiries received in 2020 (1,241).



- 353 new applications to commence tracing of a searched person received in Q1 2021, 158 (81%) more than Q4 2020 (195) and 226 (178%) more than Q1 2020 (127).



- 804 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q1 2021, 250 (45%) increase on Q4 2020 (554) and the highest number for all quarters Q1 2019 – Q1 2021.



- At the end of Q1 2021, the length of time from application (production of ID) to the provision of personal information in line with GDPR legislation ranged from 8 weeks to 16 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 6 months to 24 months against a target of 3 months or less, up 4 months from 20 months at the end of Q4 2020.
- The length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for priority 2 applications ranged 0 months to 20 months against a target of 6 months or less, up 11 months from 9 months at the end of Q4 2020.

- The length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for all other applications ranged from 14 months to 30 months against a target of 12 months or less, down 3 months from 33 months at the end of Q4 2020.

3.3.2 Adoption Assessments

- 50 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received during Q1 2021, 13 more than Q4 2020 (37) and nine more than Q1 2020 (41). The most common application was for step-parent adoption accounting for 36% (18) of applications.

Number of receipted completed adoption application packs received

Area	# Q1 2020	Total 2020	# Q1 2021
Fostering to Adoption	10	51	10
Inter-Country Adoption	6	34	13
Domestic Adoption	5	25	9
Step-parent adoption	20	48	18
Total	41	158	50

- 69 new children were referred for adoption in Q1 2021, 15 more than Q4 2020 (54) and 16 more than Q1 2020 (53). The largest number of children referred in Q1 2021 (37; 54%) were referred for step-parent adoption, followed by fostering to adoption (27; 39%).

Number of new children referred for adoption in the quarter

Area	# Q1 2020	Total 2020	# Q1 2021
Fostering to Adoption	21	76	27
Domestic Adoption	3	22	5
Step-parent adoption	29	98	37
Total	53	196	69

- 37 completed assessments (all types) were presented to local adoption committees during Q1 2021, 27 fewer than Q4 2020 (64) and 10 more than Q1 2020 (27). The largest number of assessments presented in Q1 2021 were for inter-country adoption (13; 35%), followed closely by step-parent (12; 32%) and fostering to adoption (10; 27%).

Completed assessments presented to Local Adoption Committees, by type

Area	# Q1 2020	Total 2020	# Q1 2021
Fostering to Adoption	6	30	10
Inter-Country Adoption	7	37	13
Domestic Adoption	5	22	2
Step-parent adoption	9	66	12
Total	27	155	37

3.4 FOSTER CARERS

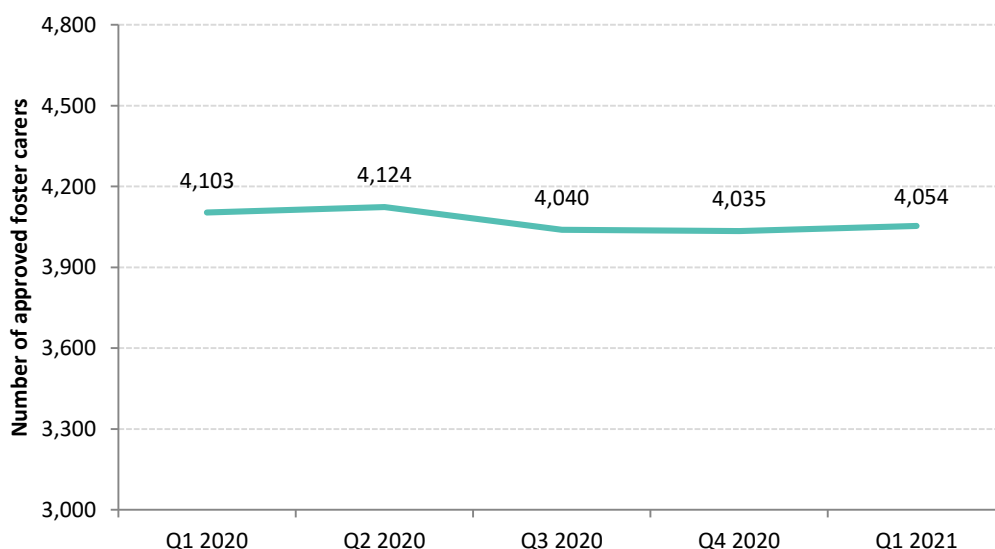
KEY FACTS

- 4,054 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q1 2021, 19 more than Q4 2020 (4,035) and 49 (1%) fewer than Q1 2020 (4,103).
- 83% (1,083/1,304) of relative foster carers are approved.
- 92% (2,259) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q1 2021, up one percentage point from Q4 2020.
- 201 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker; 28 fewer than Q4 2020 (229)
- 89% (966) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q1 2021, down four percentage points from Q4 2020 (93%)
- 117 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q1 2021; 39 (50%) more than Q4 2020 (78)
- 221 relative foster carers unapproved at the end of Q1 2021; 7 (3%) fewer than Q4 2020 (228) and 28 (11%) fewer than Q1 2021 (249).
- Of these, 189 (86%) had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks; down 17 from Q4 2020 (206). All but three had an allocated link (social) worker.

3.4.1 Number of foster carers

- 4,054 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q1 2021, 19 more than Q4 2020 (4,035) and 49 (1%) fewer than Q1 2020 (4,103).
- 221 unapproved relative foster carers of which 86% (189) had a child placed for >12 weeks. 83% (1,083/1,304) of relative foster carers are approved.

Number of approved foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation)



- 61% (2,460) of all approved foster carers are general foster carers. Relative foster carers (approved) account for a further 27% (1,083) while private foster carers account for the remaining 13% (511).

- General foster carers are down 16 from Q4 2020 and 83 (3%) from Q1 2020. Relative foster carers (approved) are up 27 from Q4 2020 and down three from Q1 2020. Private foster carers are up eight from Q4 2020 and 37 (8%) from Q1 2020.

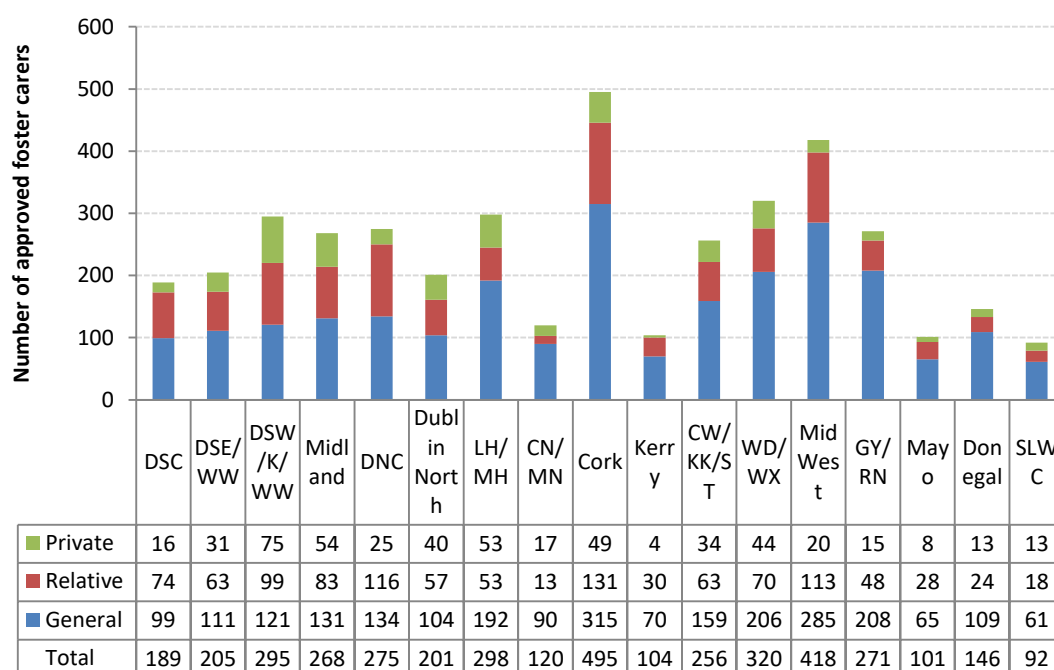
Breakdown of foster carers by type

				Δ (+/-)
Foster Carers	Q1 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q1 2021 v Q4 2020
General (Approved)	2,543	2,476	2,460	-16
Relative (Approved)	1,086	1,056	1,083	+27
Private (Approved)	474	503	511	+8
Total Approved	4,103	4,035	4,054	+19
Relative (Unapproved)	249	228	221	-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 495 in Cork to 92 in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan at the end of Q1 2021.

Foster carers approved by type and area on the panel of approved foster carers, Q1 2021



- 8 areas reported an increase from Q4 2020 in the number of foster carers on the panel. The largest increase was reported Midlands (up 24) followed to a lesser extent by Cork (up 9).
- 6 areas reported a decrease from Q4 2020. The largest decrease was reported by Dublin North City (down 20) followed to a lesser extent by Dublin South East/Wicklow (down 6).
- The remaining two areas (Dublin North and Galway/Roscommon) reported no change from Q4 2020.

Area breakdown of approved foster carers (all types)

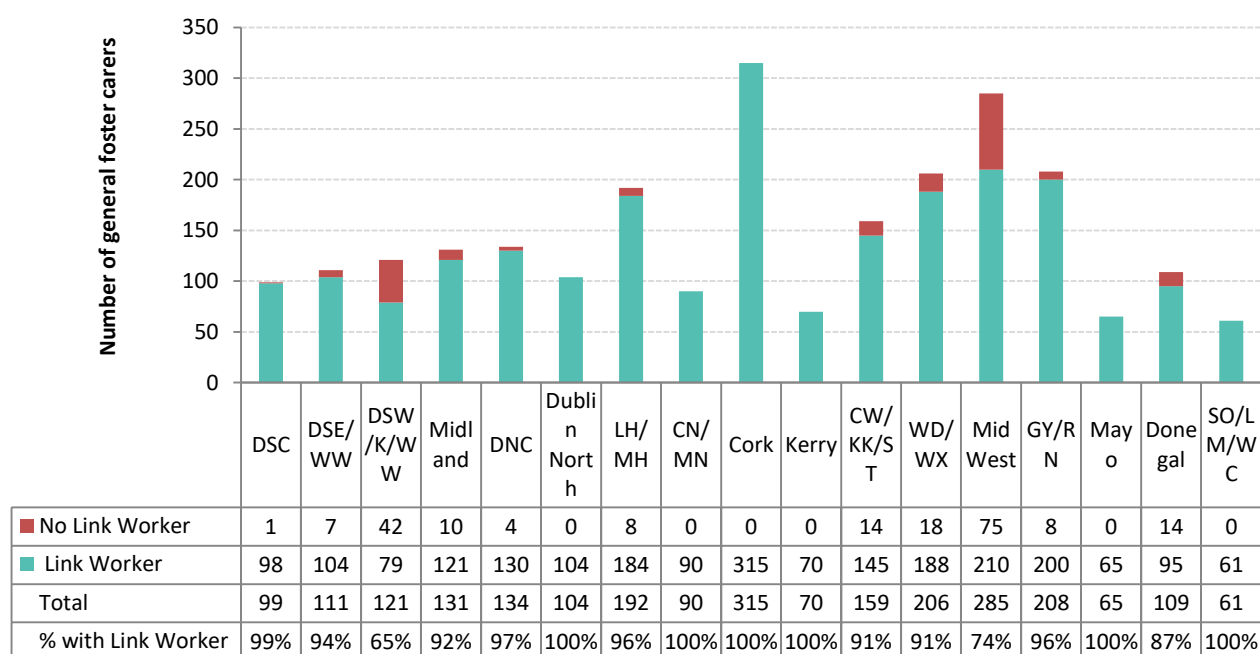
Area	Q1 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Δ (+/-) Q1 2021 v Q4 2020
DSC	186	183	189	6
DSE/WW	227	211	205	-6
DSW/K/WW	309	293	295	2
Midland	249	244	268	24
DNC	296	295	275	-20
Dublin North	218	201	201	0
LH/MH	290	299	298	-1
CN/MN	118	123	120	-3
Cork	483	486	495	9
Kerry	100	107	104	-3
CW/KK/ST	268	255	256	1
WD/WX	307	321	320	-1
MidWest	413	413	418	5
GY/RN	307	271	271	0
Mayo	100	98	101	3
Donegal	144	143	146	3
SLWC	88	92	92	0
National	4,103	4,035	4,054	19

- 92% (2,259) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q1 2021, up one percentage point from Q4 2020.
- 201 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker; 28 fewer than Q4 2020 (229)
- 14 areas reported a percentage of 90% or higher with six of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (65%), Midwest (74%), Louth/Meath (86%) and Donegal (87%) lower than all other areas.
- Midwest has the highest number of foster carers awaiting and allocated link worker (75) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (42).

General foster carers (approved) with/awaiting link social worker

Area	With Link Worker Q4 2020	Awaiting Link Worker Q4 2020	% With Link Worker Q4 2020	With Link Worker Q1 2021	Awaiting Link Worker Q1 2021	% With Link Worker Q1 2021	Δ +/- No. Awaiting Link Worker Q1 2021 v Q4 2020
DSC	98	1	99%	98	1	99%	0
DSE/WW	118	4	97%	104	7	94%	3
DSW/K/WW	99	21	83%	79	42	65%	21
Midland	123	10	92%	121	10	92%	0
DNC	134	8	94%	130	4	97%	-4
Dub North	104	0	100%	104	0	100%	0
LH/MH	159	35	82%	184	8	96%	-27
CN/MN	90	0	100%	90	0	100%	0
Cork	287	26	92%	315	0	100%	-26
Kerry	69	0	100%	70	0	100%	0
CW/KK/ST	117	42	74%	145	14	91%	-28
WD/WX	188	21	90%	188	18	91%	-3
MidWest	241	40	86%	210	75	74%	35
GY/RN	201	7	97%	200	8	96%	1
Mayo	65	0	100%	65	0	100%	0
Donegal	93	14	87%	95	14	87%	0
SLWC	61	0	100%	61	0	100%	0
National	2247	229	91%	2,259	201	92%	-28

General foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting a link (social worker), Q1 2021



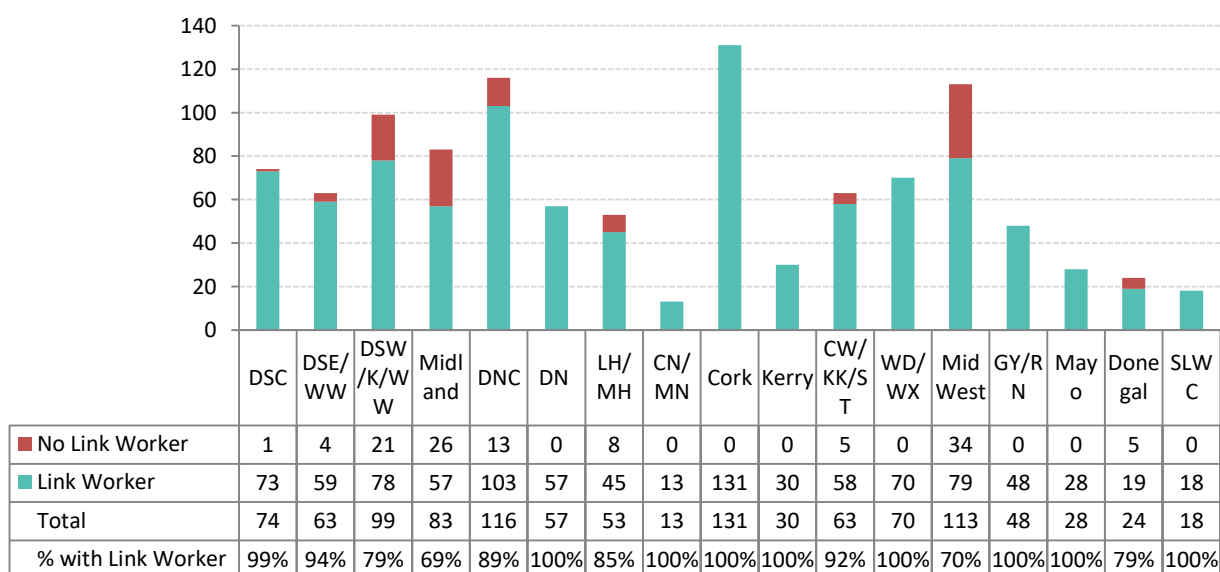
- 89% (966) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q1 2021, down four percentage points from Q4 2020 (93%)
- 117 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q1 2021; 39 (50%) more than Q4 2020 (78)

- 11 areas reported a percentage of 90% or higher with eight of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by Midlands (69%), Midwest (70%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (79%), Donegal (79%), Louth/Meath (85%) and Dublin North City (89%) lower than all other areas.
- Midwest reported the highest number of relative foster carers on the panel awaiting a link (social) worker (34) followed by Midlands (26), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (21) and Dublin North City (13).

Relative foster carers (approved) with/awaiting link social worker

Area	With Link Worker Q4 2020	Awaiting Link Worker Q4 2020	% With Link Worker Q4 2020	With Link Worker Q1 2021	Awaiting Link Worker Q1 2021	% With Link Worker Q1 2021	Δ +/- No. Awaiting Link Worker Q1 2021 v Q4 2020
DSC	71	1	99%	73	1	99%	0
DSE/WW	59	0	100%	59	4	94%	4
DSW/K/WW	80	19	81%	78	21	79%	2
Midlands	53	5	91%	57	26	69%	21
DNC	123	5	96%	103	13	89%	8
Dublin North	57	0	100%	57	0	100%	0
LH/MH	43	9	83%	45	8	85%	-1
CN/MN	15	0	100%	13	0	100%	0
Cork	120	5	96%	131	0	100%	-5
Kerry	34	0	100%	30	0	100%	0
CW/KK/ST	52	9	85%	58	5	92%	-4
WD/WX	69	2	97%	70	0	100%	-2
MidWest	94	18	84%	79	34	70%	16
GY/RN	47	0	100%	48	0	100%	0
Mayo	25	0	100%	28	0	100%	0
Donegal	18	5	78%	19	5	79%	0
SLWC	18	0	100%	18	0	100%	0
National	978	78	93%	974	117	90%	39

Relative foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting allocated link Q1 2021



3.4.3 Foster carers (relative) unapproved

- 221 relative foster carers unapproved at the end of Q1 2021; 7 (3%) fewer than Q4 2020 (228) and 28 (11%) fewer than Q1 2021 (249).
- Of these, 189 (86%) had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks; down 17 from Q4 2020 (206)
- Of the 189 foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks, all but three had an allocated link social worker.

Breakdown of foster carers not approved

Unapproved Relative Foster Carers	Q1 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Δ (+/-) Q1 2021 v Q4 2020
No. unapproved	249	228	221	-7
No (%) with a child > 12 weeks	200	206	189	-17
	(80%)	(90%)	86%	
Child > 12 weeks and have a Link Worker	186	205	186	-19
	(93%)	99%	98%	
Child > 12 weeks AWAITING Link Worker	14	1	3	+2

4.0 CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

4.1 Early Years Inspectorate

4.2 Alternative Education Regulation

4.3 Non-Statutory Alternative Care Services

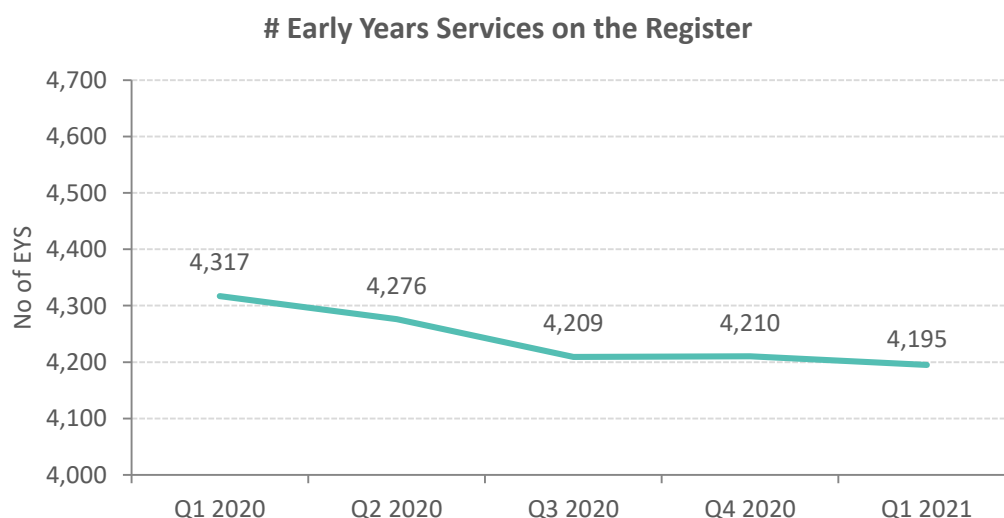
4.1 EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

KEY FACTS

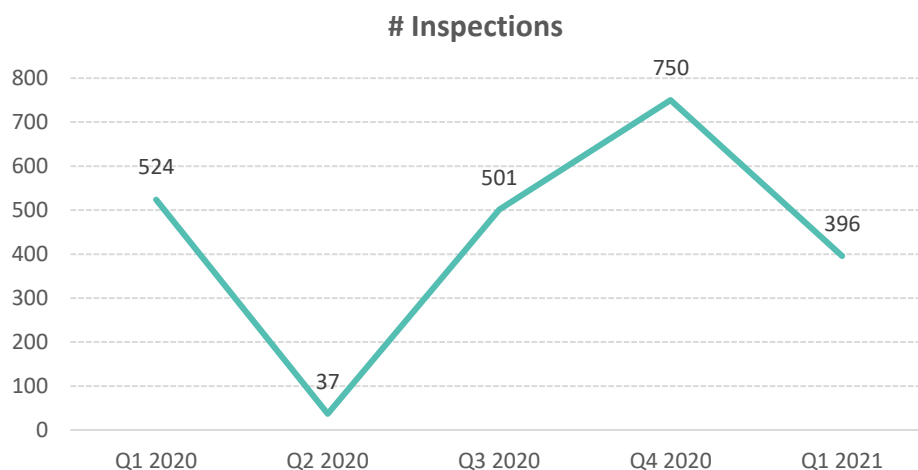
- 4,195 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q1 2021, 15 fewer than Q4 2020 (4,210) and 122 (3%) fewer than Q1 2020 (4,317).
- 396 inspections (all types) carried out in Q1 2021. A total of 1,812 inspections carried out in 2020. Inspections since March 2020 impacted due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- 397 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q1 2021, 120 (23%) fewer than Q4 2020 (517) and 310 (356%) more than Q1 2020 (87). A total of 774 incidents notified in 2020.
- 62 unsolicited information submissions received by the Inspectorate during Q1 2021. A total of 253 unsolicited information submissions received in 2020.
- 22 services were found to have closed in Q1 2021. A total of 197 services were found to have closed on 2020.

4.1.1 Activity Data

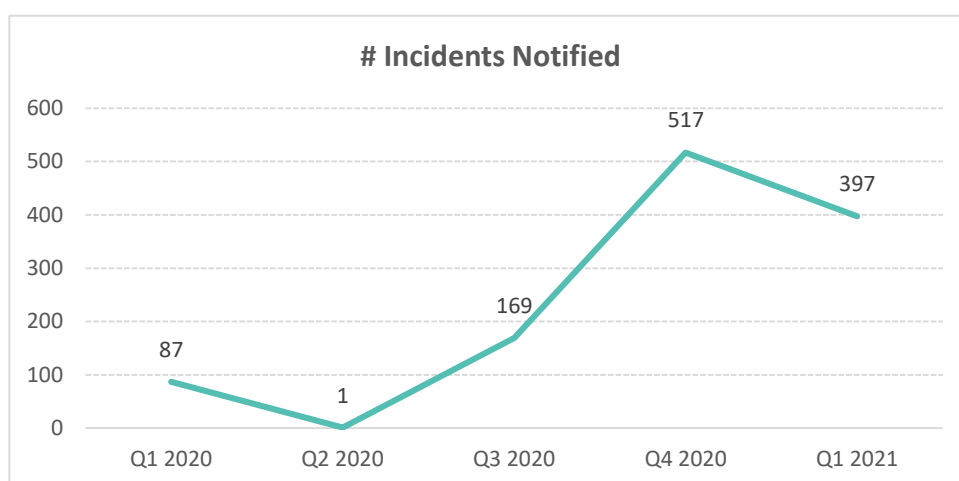
- 4,195 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q1 2021, 15 fewer than Q4 2020 (4,210) and 122 (3%) fewer than Q1 2020 (4,317).



- 396 inspections (all types⁷) carried out in Q1 2021. Inspections since March 2020 impacted due to Covid-19 restrictions.

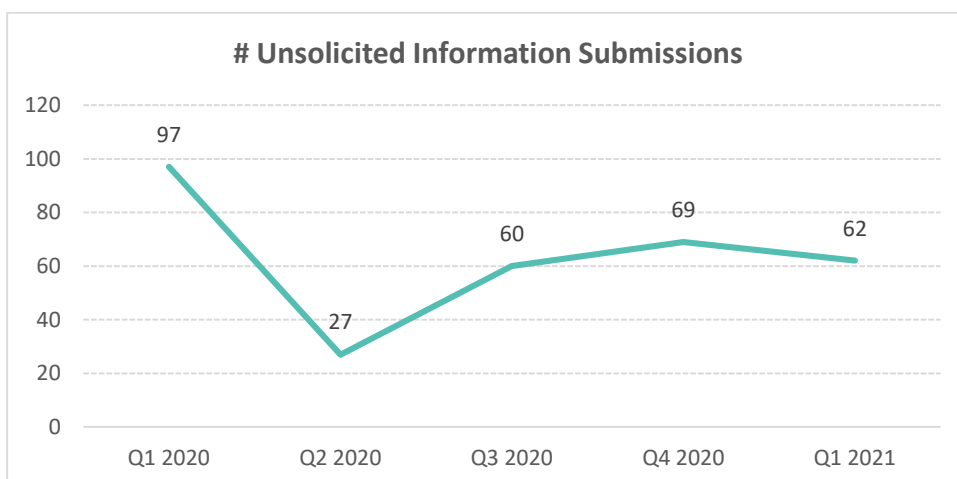


- 14 new applications to become a registered provider received by the Inspectorate in Q1 2021. A total of 107 applications were received in 2020.
- 8 new registration applications approved by the Inspectorate in Q1 2021. A total of 91 applications were approved by the Inspectorate in 2020.
- No applications to become an EYS refused registration by the Inspectorate in Q1 2020.
- 387 “change in circumstances” requests received by the Inspectorate in Q1 2021. A total of 1,342 “change in circumstances” requests received by the Inspectorate in 2020.
- 397 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q1 2021, 120 (23%) fewer than Q4 2020 (517) and 310 (356%) more than Q1 2020 (87). A total of 774 incidents notified in 2020.



⁷ Includes initial, follow up, complaints, focused inspections or fit for purpose inspections

- 62 unsolicited information submissions⁸ received by the Inspectorate during Q1 2021. A total of 253 unsolicited information submissions received in 2020.



- No EYS prosecuted in Q1 2021, by Tusla for breach of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Service) Regulations 2016.
- No service removed from the register by the Inspectorate in Q1 2021.
- 22 services were found to have closed in Q1 2021. A total of 197 services were found to have closed on 2020.

⁸ 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 ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION

Key Facts

Home Education

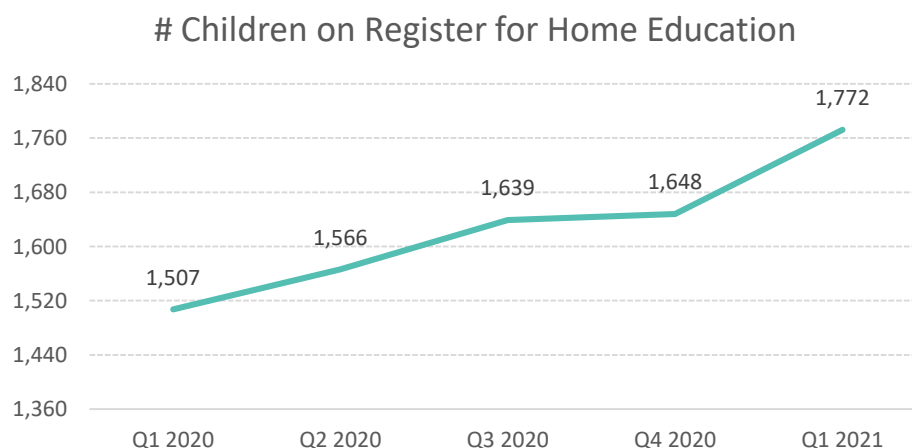
- 1,772 children on the register for home education at the end of Q1 2021; 124 (8%) more than Q4 2020 (1,648) and 265 (18%) more than Q1 2020 (1,507).
- 325 applications received for home education during Q1 2021, 244 (43%) fewer than Q4 2020 (569) and 187 (136%) more than Q1 2020 (138). This sharp increase in applications has been linked to the Covid-19 pandemic with more parents/guardians opting to home educate their children.
- 191 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q1 2021, 71 (59%) more than Q4 2020 (120) and 18 (10%) more than Q1 2020 (173).
- 182 children registered for home education¹ in Q1 2021, the highest number for all quarters Q1 2020 – Q1 2021. A total of 337 children registered in 2020.
- 1,477 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q1 2021, 42 (3%) more than Q4 2020 (1,435). It should be noted that the figure from Q4 2020 inclusive includes children allocated and unallocated for assessment. Data prior to Q4 2020 included only those who were unallocated.

Independent Schools

- 48 assessed independent schools on the register at the end of Q1 2021, two more than at the end of Q4 2020
- 6,431 children in assessed independent schools at the end of Q1 2021 with 6,024 of these children on the register.

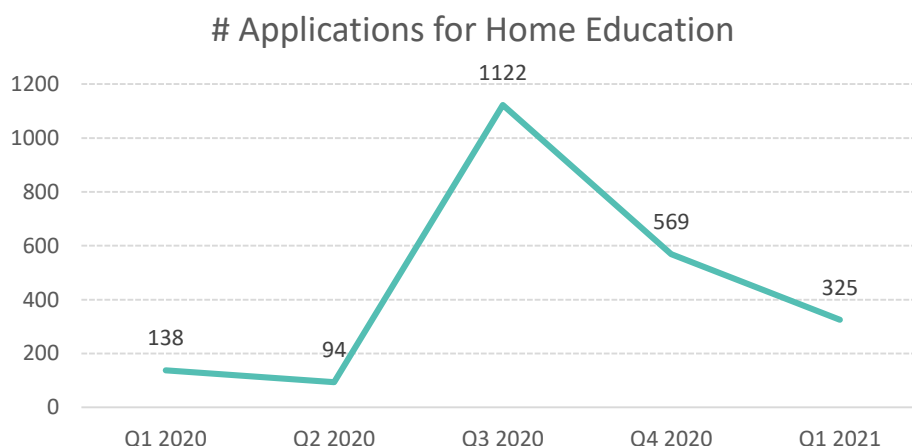
Home Education

- 1,772 children on the register for home education at the end of Q1 2021; 124 (8%) more than Q4 2020 (1,648) and 265 (18%) more than Q1 2020 (1,507).

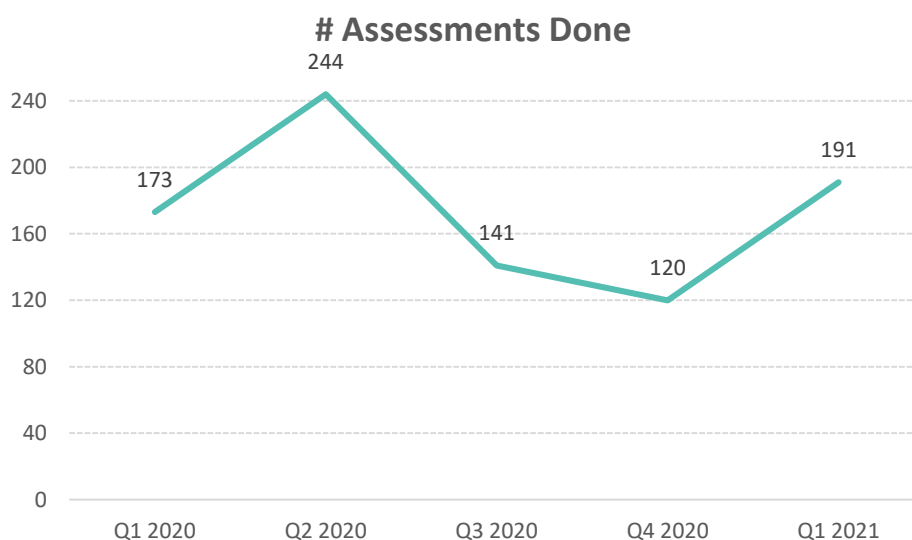


- 19% (344) of children on the register at the end of Q1 2021 have special educational needs.

- 325 applications received for home education during Q1 2021, 244 (43%) fewer than Q4 2020 (569) and 187 (136%) more than Q1 2020 (138). This sharp increase in applications has been linked to the Covid-19 pandemic with more parents/guardians opting to home educate their children.

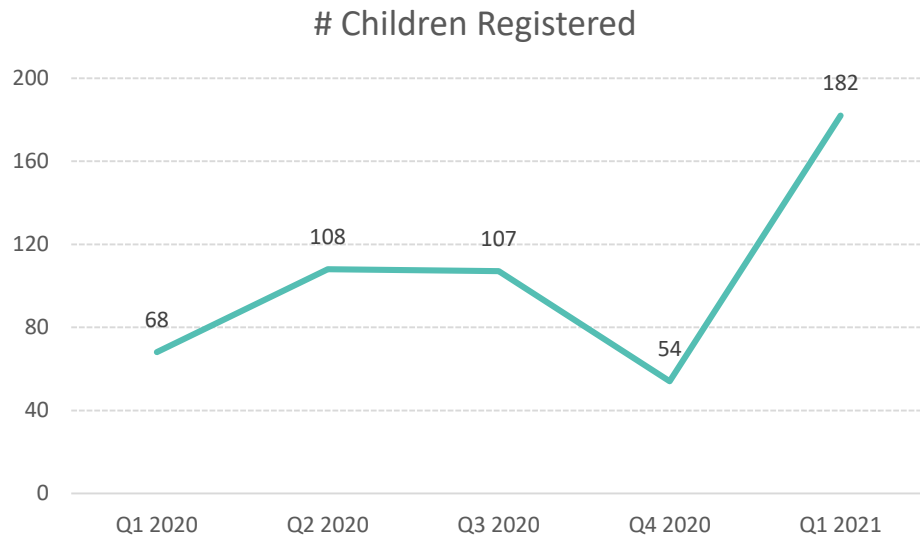


- 191 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q1 2021, 71 (59%) more than Q4 2020 (120) and 18 (10%) more than Q1 2020 (173).

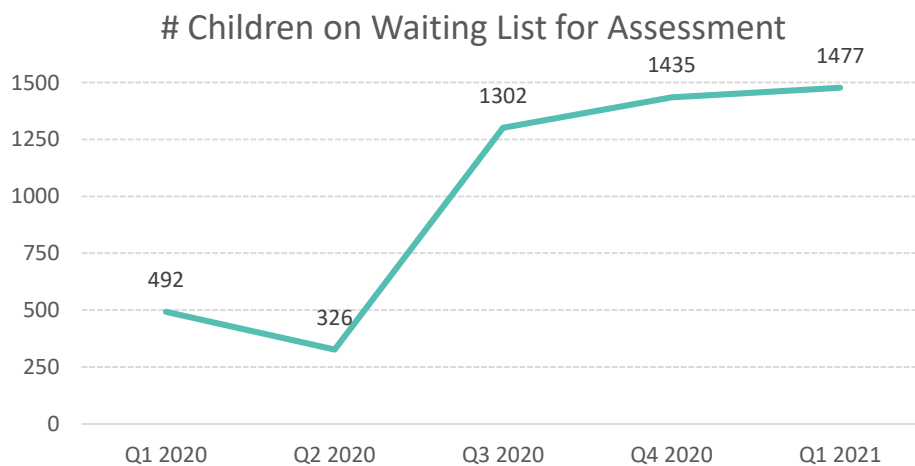


- 182 children registered for home education⁹ in Q1 2021, the highest number for all quarters Q1 2020 – Q1 2021. A total of 337 children registered in 2020.

⁹ 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



- 1,477 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q1 2021, 42 (3%) more than Q4 2020 (1,435). *It should be noted that the figure from Q4 2020 inclusive includes children allocated and unallocated for assessment. Data prior to Q4 2020 included only those who were unallocated.*



- 58 children removed from the register in Q1 2021. Of these, 30 turned 18 years, 22 returned to school. The remaining six were removed for other reasons (e.g., left jurisdiction, deregistered)

Independent Schools

- 48 assessed independent schools on the register at the end of Q1 2021, two more than at the end of Q4 2020
- 6,431 children in assessed independent schools at the end of Q1 2021 with 6,024 of these children on the register.

4.3 NON STATUTORY ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

Key Facts

- 142 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q1 2021; two more than Q4 2020 (140).
- A total of 43 inspections (all types) were conducted in Q1 2021, 11 more than the same period in 2020.
- 6 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q1 2021; no change from Q4 2020
- 1 service was visited during Q1 2021 and one monitoring visits was conducted during the same period.

Non Statutory Children's Residential Centres

- 142 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q1 2021; two more than Q4 2020 (140).
- A total of 43 inspections (all types) were conducted in Q1 2021, 11 more than the same period in 2020.

Inspections of Non Statutory Residential Services

Inspections by Type	Q1 2020	Total 2020	Q1 2021
Thematic Inspection (announced)	31	101	38
Thematic Inspection (unannounced)	0	0	0
New Registration Inspection Visit	1	11	5
Total	32	112	43

Non Statutory Foster Care Services

- 6 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q1 2021; no change from Q4 2020
- 1 service was visited during Q1 2021 and one monitoring visits was conducted during the same period.

5.0 TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

KEY FACTS

Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2020 – August 2021

Activity impacted due to the closure of schools (Covid-19 pandemic)

- 3,306 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) for the seven months September – March 2021, 406 (11%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (3,712).
- 1,872 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of March 2021, 463 fewer than March 2020 (2,335).
- 1,776 new individual children worked with for the seven months September – March 2020, 286 (14%) fewer than the same period during the previous academic year (2,062).
- 37 school attendance notices (SANs) issued for the seven months September – March 2020, 283 (88%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (320).
- No summonses issued for the seven months September – March 2020, 78 fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (78).
- 54 Section 24 meetings convened by EWOs for the seven months September – March 2020, 104 (66%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (158).

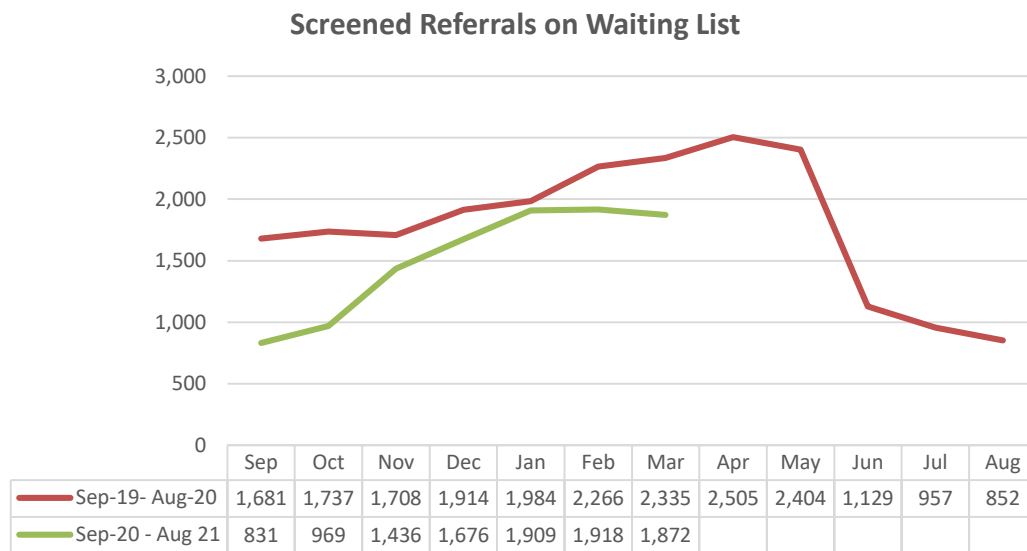
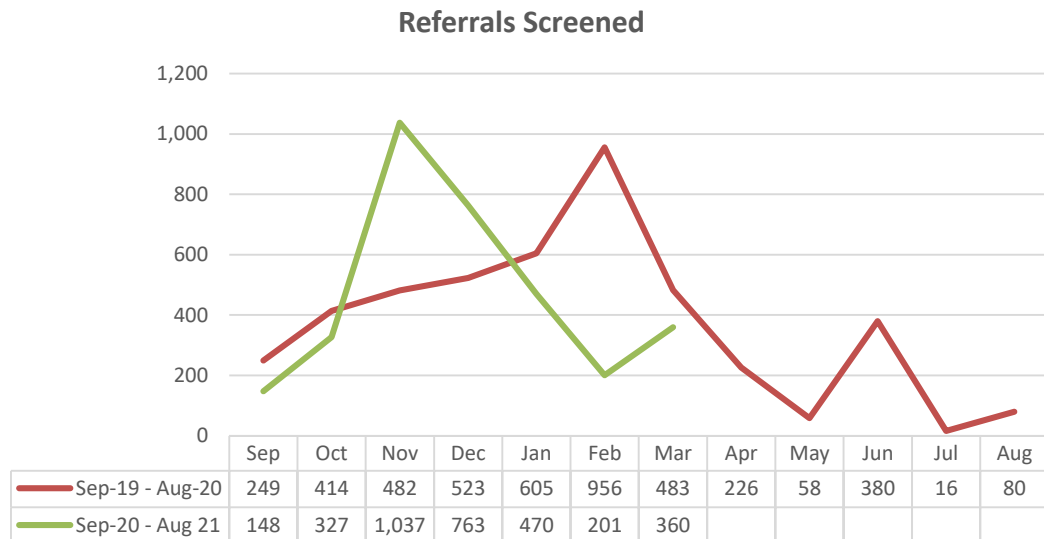
Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2020 – August 2021

Activity from March 2020 impacted due to Covid-19 pandemic

- 3,306 referrals¹⁰ screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) for the seven months September – March 2021, 406 (11%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (3,712).
- 1,577 referrals allocated to educational welfare officers for the seven months September – March 2020, 551 (26%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (2,128).
- 481 referrals screened out / required no further action for the seven months September – March 2020, 459 (49%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (940).
- 1,872 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of March 2021, 463 (20%) fewer than March 2020 (2,335).

	Sept 2019- Mar 2020	Sept 2020 - Mar 2021	Δ
# Referrals screened	3,712	3,306	-406 (11%)
# Referrals allocated	2,128	1,577	-551 (26%)
# Referrals screened out	940	481	-459 (49%)
# Referrals on waiting list (March)	2,335	1,872	-463 (20%)

¹⁰ A referral is a written notification of concern to EWS from a school, a parent, agency or concerned citizen in relation to the educational welfare of a named child. Referrals are then screened against a set of criteria by the Senior Educational Welfare Officer and a decision is made as to whether to proceed and open a case in relation this named child, or placed on a waiting list if there is an EWS capacity issue.



- 2,193 new cases assigned to EWOs for the seven months September – March 2020, 583 (21%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (2,776).
- 1,968 cases closed for the seven months September – March 2020, 441 (18%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (2,409).
- 1,776 new individual children worked with for the seven months September – March 2020, 286 (14%) fewer than the same period during the previous academic year (2,062).
- 4,620 individual children worked with for the seven months September – March 2020, 428 (8%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (5,048).

	Sept 2019-Mar 2020	Sept 2020 - Mar 2021	Δ
# cases assigned	2,776	2,193	-583 (21%)
# cases closed	2,409	1,968	-441 (18%)
# New individual children worked with	2,062	1,776	-286 (14%)
# Individual children worked with (to end Mar)	5,048	4,620	-428 (8%)

- 37 school attendance notices (SANs) issued for the seven months September – March 2020, 283 (88%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (320). The SANs issued were in respect of 23 individual children, 201 (90%) fewer than the previous year (224).
- No summonses issued for the seven months September – March 2020, 78 fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (78).
- EWOs attended 30 court cases in relation to their own cases for the seven months September – March 2020, 208 (87%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic period (238).
- 93 child protection conferences (CPC) attended by EWOs for the seven months September – March 2020, three more than the same period in the previous academic year (90).
- 54 Section 24¹¹ meetings convened by EWOs for the seven months September – March 2020, 104 (66%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (158).

	Sept 2019- Mar 2020	Sept 2020 – Mar 2021	Δ
School Attendance Notices Issues	320	37	-283 (88%)
SANs - individual children involved	224	23	-201 (90%)
Summonses Issued	78	0	-78 (100%)
Summonses – individual children involved	65	0	-65 (100%)
Court cases attended in relation to own cases	238	30	-208 (87%)
Child protection conferences attended	90	93	3 (3%)
Section 24 meetings convened	158	54	-104 (66%)
Child protection referrals made	68	40	-28 (41%)

¹¹ Section 24 Education Welfare Act 2000: Where the board of management of a recognised school or a person acting on its behalf is of the opinion that a student should be expelled from that school it shall, before so expelling the student, notify the educational welfare officer to whom functions under this Act have been assigned, in writing, of its opinion and the reasons therefor. The educational welfare officer concerned shall, as soon as may be after receiving a notification under *subsection (1)*, make all reasonable efforts to ensure that provision is made for the continued education of the student to whom the notification relates.

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

6.0 PREVENTION, PARTNERSHIP & FAMILY SUPPORT

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

6.1 Family Support Services

6.2 Meitheal and Child & Family Support Networks

6.1 FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES¹²

KEY FACTS

- At least 17,516 children in receipt of family support services at the end of 2020 (based on 81% response rate). At least 18,343 in receipt at the end of 2019 (response rate about 88%).
- 15,409 children referred to family support services during the last six months of 2020, 449 (3%) fewer than the first half of 2020 (15,858). This brings to 31,267 the number of children referred for 2020. The number of children referred (31,267) is down 16% (5,757) on 2019 (37,024).
- 71% (10,870) of children referred to family support services in the last six months of 2020 received a service, down one percentage point from the first half of the year (11,486; 72%). This brings to 72% (22,356) the number of children referred to family support services in 2020 who received a service.

6.1.1 Family Support Providers

- 331 family support providers commissioned for Q3/ Q4 2020.
- 81% (269) of services provided data for Q3 – Q4 2019, ranging from 47% (Midwest) to 100% in eight areas (Dublin South Central, Midlands, Louth/Meath, Cork, Kerry, Donegal, Mayo and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan).

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

Family Support Services Commissioned by Area

Area	# Family Support Providers Commissioned Q3 – Q4 2020	# External to Tusla	# Internal to Tusla	# of services that provided data for Q3 – Q4 2020	% that provided data for Q3 – Q4 2020
DSC	23	20	3	23	100%
DSE/WW	12	9	3	9	75%
DSW/K/WW	29	24	5	26	90%
Midlands	8	8	0	8	100%
DNC	32	25	7	21	66%
Dublin North	20	19	1	19	95%
LH/MH	21	16	5	21	100%
CN/MN	16	16	0	13	81%

¹² 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.

Cork	8	7	1	8	100%
Kerry	5	4	1	5	100%
CW/KK/ST	29	28	1	24	83%
WD/WX	23	20	3	20	87%
MidWest	43	38	5	20	47%
GY/RN	22	16	6	12	55%
Mayo	11	11	0	11	100%
Donegal	11	11	0	11	100%
SLWC	18	18	0	18	100%
Total	331	290	41	269	81%

6.1.2 Children in Receipt of Family Support Services

- 17,516 children were in receipt of family support services at the end 2020. Highest number reported by DSW/K/WW (1,971; 11%) followed by Dublin North (1,902; 11%), Donegal (1,662; 9%), Midwest (1,509; 9%) and CW/K/ST (1,413; 8%). Fewest number reported by Mayo (216; 1%) followed by Midlands (244; 1%) and Kerry (258; 1%).

Children in receipt of Family Support Services

Area	Total number of children in receipt of a FSS at the end Q4 2019	Total number of children in receipt of a FSS at the end Q2 2020	Total number of children in receipt of a FSS at the end Q4 2020	% Total 2020
DSC	807	880	1,043	6%
DSE/WW	824	887	846	5%
DSW/K/WW	2,096	2,202	1,971	11%
Midlands	633	658	244	1%
DNC	1,649	1,416	1,269	7%
Dublin North	1,965	1,632	1,902	11%
LH/MH	767	882	840	5%
CN/MN	684	919	731	4%
Cork	318	385	355	2%
Kerry	244	244	258	1%
CW/KK/ST	1,533	868	1,413	8%
WD/WX	901	943	847	5%
MidWest	1,611	1,498	1,509	9%
GY/RN	793	843	1,116	6%
Mayo	322	283	216	1%
Donegal	1,838	1,810	1,662	9%
SLWC	1,358	1,230	1,294	7%
Total	18,343	17,580	17,516	100%

6.1.3 Children Referred to Family Support Services

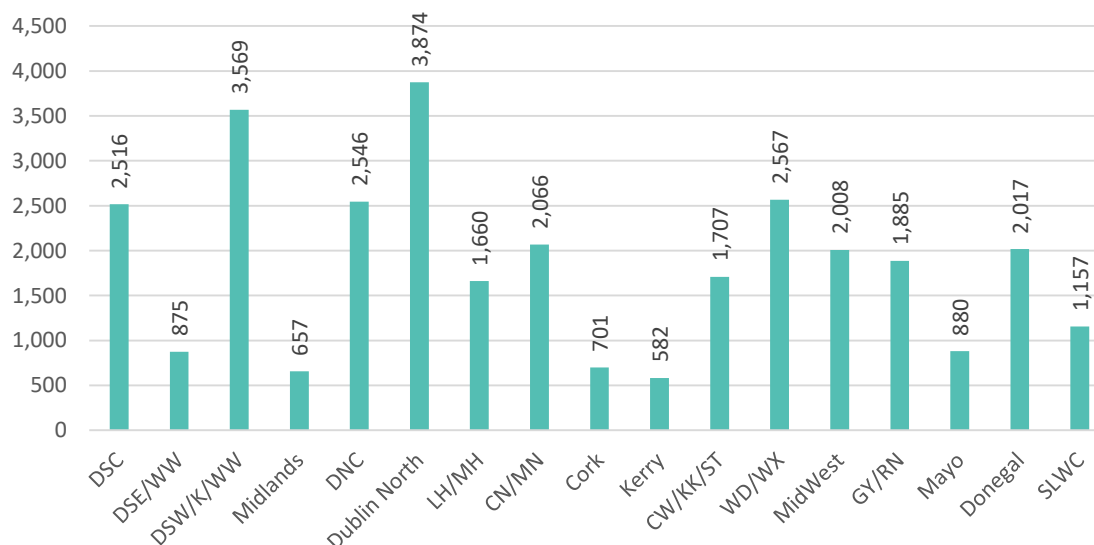
- 15,409 children referred to family support services during the last six months of 2020, 449 (3%) fewer than the first half of 2020 (15,858). This brings to 31,267 the number of children referred for 2020. The number of children referred (31,267) is down 16% (5,757) on 2019 (37,024).

- The highest number of children referred for 2020 was reported by Dublin North (3,874; 12%) followed by DSW/K/WW (3,569; 11%), Waterford/Wexford (2,567; 8%), Dublin North City (2,546; 8%) and Dublin South Central (2,516; 8%). Fewest number reported by Kerry (582; 2%), Midlands (657; 2%) and Cork (701; 2%).

Children referred to Family Support Services by area

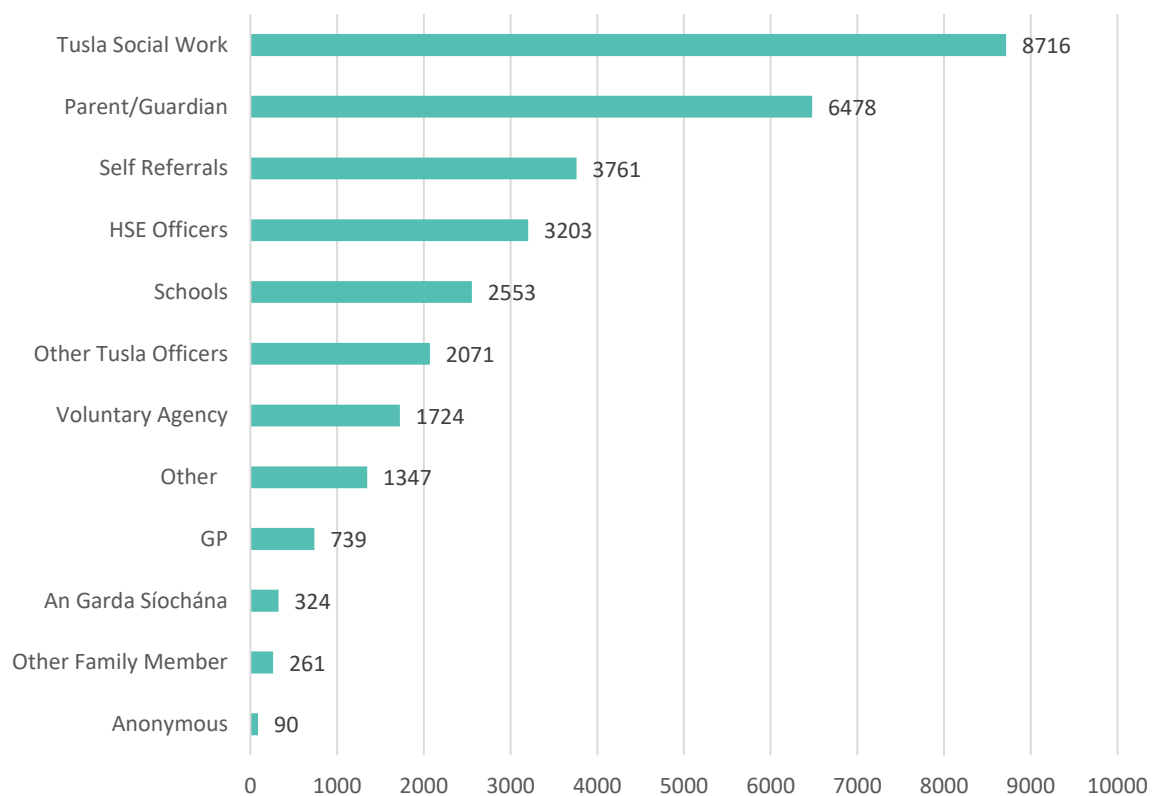
Area	Total number of children referred to FSS, 2019	Total number of children referred to FSS, Q1/Q2 2020	Total number of children referred to FSS, Q3/Q4 2020	Total number of children referred to FSS, 2020	% Total Referred 2020
DSC	2,085	1,164	1,352	2,516	8%
DSE/WW	1,157	421	454	875	3%
DSW/K/WW	3,690	2,068	1,501	3,569	11%
Midlands	911	366	291	657	2%
DNC	3,601	1,188	1,358	2,546	8%
Dublin North	4,593	2,298	1,576	3,874	12%
LH/MH	1,717	716	944	1,660	5%
CN/MN	2,292	1,243	823	2,066	7%
Cork	768	321	380	701	2%
Kerry	616	288	294	582	2%
CW/KK/ST	2,360	901	806	1,707	5%
WD/WX	3,148	1,302	1,265	2,567	8%
MidWest	2,074	875	1,133	2,008	6%
GY/RN	1,447	586	1,299	1,885	6%
Mayo	1,378	569	311	880	3%
Donegal	3,440	970	1,047	2,017	6%
SLWC	1,747	582	575	1,157	4%
Total	37,024	15,858	15,409	31,267	100%

Children referred to Family Support Services by area, 2020



- The most common source of referral for 2020 was Tusla Social Work, accounting for more than one in four referrals (8,716; 28%) followed by Parents/Guardians (6,478; 21%) and Self - Referrals (3,761; 12%).

Children referred to Family Support Services by source of referral, 2020



Breakdown of source of referrals by area, 2020

	Social Work	Other Tusla Officers	HSE Officers	An Garda Síochána	Self - Referral	Parent/Guardian	Other Family member	GP	Voluntary Agency	Anonymous	Schools	Other	Total
DSC	561	157	274	4	22	505	34	31	426	17	163	322	2516
DSE/WW	227	41	147	0	20	238	1	24	59	0	93	25	875
DSW/K/WW	1621	233	308	26	251	392	22	338	183	0	106	89	3569
Midlands	454	69	26	44	14	7	0	2	18	0	15	8	657
DNC	581	122	434	10	58	615	32	21	203	22	270	178	2546
Dublin North	1148	78	258	1	1008	960	12	43	92	0	229	45	3874
LH/MH	626	176	154	6	49	473	4	25	44	1	70	32	1660
CN/MN	425	261	126	148	684	43	35	26	59	40	106	113	2066
Cork	387	25	44	14	54	78	0	3	35	0	6	55	701
Kerry	105	93	21	24	12	198	5	34	21	0	61	8	582
CW/KK/ST	220	199	64	7	210	746	17	66	26	1	100	51	1707
WD/WX	498	197	58	11	759	414	36	21	36	2	479	56	2567
MidWest	685	75	274	11	199	310	27	25	181	0	172	49	2008
GY/RN	261	96	359	5	18	774	8	47	88	0	172	57	1885
Mayo	139	100	70	1	153	178	15	1	52	0	115	56	880
Donegal	397	79	397	9	155	376	8	23	90	1	294	188	2017
SLWC	381	70	189	3	95	171	5	9	111	6	102	15	1157
Total	8716	2071	3203	324	3761	6478	261	739	1724	90	2553	1347	31267
% of Total	28%	7%	10%	1%	12%	21%	1%	2%	6%	0%	8%	4%	100%

- 71% (10,870) of children referred to family support services in the last six months of 2020 received a service, down one percentage point from the first half of the year (11,486; 72%). This brings to 72% (22,356) the number of children referred to family support services in 2020 who received a service. The percentage who received a service in 2020 ranged from 35% (Dublin South Central) to 91% (Cavan/Monaghan). Nine areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 72%.
- Of the children referred to family support services who received a service 5% (1,109) were subject of a Child in Care Plan; 6.6% (1,491) were subject of a Tusla Social Work Child Protection Plan; 7.5% (1,670) were subject of a Tusla Social Work Family Support Plan; 6% (1,406) were subject of a Meitheal Support Plan while 46% (10,266) were subject of a Single Agency Family Support Plan.

children referred to Family Support Services (2020) who received a service during the reporting period

				Of the total number of children referred to FSS (2020) and received a service the number who were subject of a:				
Area	Number referred 2020	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	2516	888	35%	76	79	97	71	204
DSE/WW	875	607	69%	22	27	60	38	240
DSW/K/WW	3569	2,192	61%	110	105	130	147	1,261
Midlands	657	388	59%	16	25	62	30	121
DNC	2546	1,469	58%	63	102	199	92	286
Dublin North	3874	3,300	85%	49	104	115	44	2,129
LH/MH	1660	964	58%	44	33	111	115	383
CN/MN	2066	1,882	91%	20	44	107	151	1,626
Cork	701	426	61%	112	191	93	8	137
Kerry	582	445	76%	43	42	49	54	138
CW/KK/ST	1707	1,373	80%	42	76	68	161	253
WD/WX	2567	2,283	89%	167	131	49	167	272
MidWest	2008	1,475	73%	130	169	165	70	786
GY/RN	1885	1,514	80%	31	67	98	84	915
Mayo	880	552	63%	26	20	24	37	316
Donegal	2017	1,671	83%	42	161	131	97	935
SLWC	1157	927	80%	116	115	112	40	244
Total	31267	22,356	72%	1,109	1,491	1,670	1,406	10,246

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

- 1,212 Meitheal processes requested in the last six months of 2020; 137 (12%) more than the first six months (1,075). This brings to 2,287 the number of requests for 2020, 43 (2%) fewer than 2019 (2,330).
- 65% (1,494) of requests were requested through Direct Access, 24% (556) requested through Social Work Diversion and 10% (237) Social Work Step Down
- 81% (1,857) of Meitheal requests received in 2020 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage).
- 1,537 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage Two in 2020
- 49% (754) of processes reaching completion of Stage Two in 2020, proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting).
- 1,366 Meitheals closed in 2020; 27% (371) closed following submission of request form, 39% (533) closed following completion of discussion stage (Stage 2), 12% (161) closed following commencement of delivery stage and 22% (301) closed post-delivery
- 121 Child and Family Support Networks¹ (CFSN) operating at the end 2020 and a further 19 planned.

6.2.1 Meitheal Activity Data

- 1,212 Meitheal processes requested in the last six months of 2020; 137 (12%) more than the first six months (1,075). This brings to 2,287 the number of requests for 2020, 43 (2%) fewer than 2019 (2,330).
- Highest number of requests for 2020 reported by Dublin North (330; 14%) followed by Kerry (262; 11%), Waterford/Wexford (232; 10%), Cavan/Monaghan (214; 9%) and CW/K/ST (204; 9%).
- The fewest number was reported by Louth/Meath (37; 2%) followed by Donegal (39; 2%).

Meitheal processes requested

Area	Total Meitheal processes Requested 2019	Total Meitheal processes Requested Q1/Q2 2020	Total Meitheal processes Requested Q3/Q4 2020	Total Meitheal processes Requested 2020	% Total 2020
DSC	43	40	36	76	3%
DSE/WW	73	23	35	58	3%
DSW/K/WW	134	53	69	122	5%
Midlands	84	40	53	93	4%
DNC	104	28	71	99	4%
Dublin North	565	157	173	330	14%
LH/MH	77	21	16	37	2%
CN/MN	111	129	85	214	9%
Cork	289	95	103	198	9%
Kerry	89	132	130	262	11%
CW/KK/ST	153	82	122	204	9%
WD/WX	179	101	131	232	10%
MidWest	92	43	68	111	5%
GY/RN	147	56	50	106	5%
Mayo	54	25	29	54	2%
Donegal	94	20	19	39	2%
SLWC	42	30	22	52	2%
National	2,330	1,075	1,212	2,287	100%

- For requests received in 2020, the most common pathway was Direct Access accounting for 65% (1,494/2,287).
- Social Work Diversion accounted for a further 24% (556) of requests.
- Social Work Step-Down accounted for the remaining 10% (237) of requests.
- The percentage of direct access requests ranged from 49% (100/204) in Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary to 94% (100/106) in Galway/Roscommon. Nine areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 65%.
- The percentage of requests diverted from social work ranged from 3% (3/106) in Galway/Roscommon to 37% (75/204) in Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary. Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 24%.
- The percentage of requests stepped down from social work ranged from 2% (4/232) in Waterford/Wexford to 19% (40/214) in the Cavan/Monaghan. Eight areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average 10%.

Access Pathway for Meitheal Requests

Area	Total Meitheal processes Requested 2020	Of the total number of Meitheal requests, the number (%) where the access pathway was:					
		Direct Access	% Direct Access	Social Work Diversion	% SW Diversion	Social Work Step-Down	% Step-Down
DSC	76	43	57%	23	30%	10	13%
DSE/WW	58	39	67%	16	28%	3	5%
DSW/K/WW	122	76	62%	39	32%	7	6%
Midlands	93	72	77%	17	18%	4	4%
DNC	99	75	76%	16	16%	8	8%
Dublin North	330	226	68%	74	22%	30	9%
LH/MH	37	21	57%	11	30%	5	14%
CN/MN	214	116	54%	58	27%	40	19%
Cork	198	150	76%	28	14%	20	10%
Kerry	262	132	50%	82	31%	48	18%
CW/KK/ST	204	100	49%	75	37%	29	14%
WD/WX	232	159	69%	69	30%	4	2%
MidWest	111	88	79%	12	11%	11	10%
GY/RN	106	100	94%	3	3%	3	3%
Mayo	54	30	56%	14	26%	10	19%
Donegal	39	36	92%	2	5%	1	3%
SLWC	52	29	56%	17	33%	4	8%
National	2,287	1,494	65%	556	24%	237	10%

*Pathway not provided for one record for Louth/Meath

- 87% (1,054/1,212) of Meitheal requests received in the last six months of 2020 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage). Some 81% (1,857) of Meitheal requests received in 2020 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage).
- The percentage of requests for 2020 proceeding to Stage 2 ranged from 36% (78/214) in CN/MN to 96% in Dublin North (318/330). Twelve areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average (81%).

Meitheal requests received proceeding to Stage Two (Discussion Stage)

Area	Total Meitheal processes requested 2020	Of the total number of requests received the number that Proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage Two)	% that Proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage Two)
DSC	76	66	87%
DSE/WW	58	35	60%
DSW/K/WW	122	115	94%
Midlands	93	88	95%
DNC	99	94	95%
Dublin North	330	318	96%
LH/MH	37	29	78%
CN/MN	214	78	36%
Cork	198	173	87%
Kerry	262	201	77%
CW/KK/ST	204	182	89%
WD/WX	232	156	67%
MidWest	111	104	94%
GY/RN	106	89	84%
Mayo	54	46	85%
Donegal	39	34	87%
SLWC	52	49	94%
National	2,287	1,857	81%

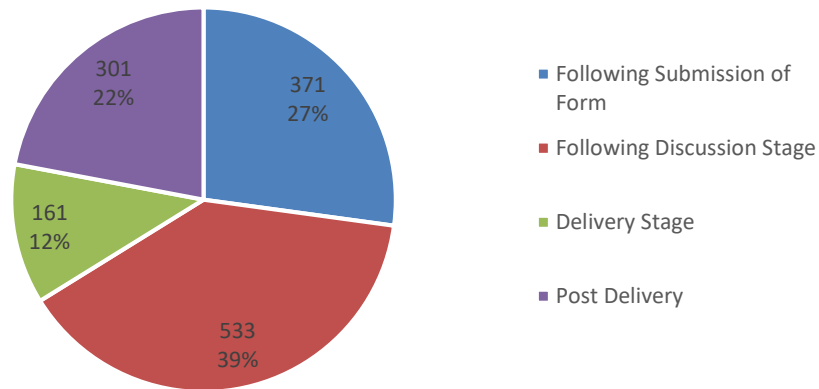
- 818 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage Two in the last six months of 2020, bringing the number for 2020 to 1,537.
- 49% (754) of processes reaching completion of Stage Two in 2020, proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting). The percentage of processes that proceeded to delivery ranged from 7% (22/326) in Dublin North to 94% in Donegal (32/34). Thirteen areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 49%.
- 34% (524) were referred for a Single Agency Response – majority (58%; 302) of these were reported by one area (Dublin North). The percentage of processes referred to a single agency response ranged from 0% in four areas (Dublin South East/Wicklow, SLWC, DSW/K/WW and Donegal) to 93% (302/326) in Dublin North. Four areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 34%.
- 2% (36) of processes were referred to social work (stepped – up). These processes were reported across 10 areas. Seven areas reported none.
- 10% (151) of processes were closed. The percentage of processes ranged from 0% in Dublin North to 35% (49/139) in Cork. Eight areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 10%.

Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two

Area	Number of Meitheal Processes Reaching Completion of Stage Two, 2020	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	27	14	52%	0	0%	1	4%	4	15%	8	30%
DSE/WW	36	21	58%	0	0%	0	0%	1	3%	14	39%
DSW/K/WW	90	77	86%	4	4%	0	0%	6	7%	3	3%
Midlands	88	69	78%	5	6%	3	3%	7	8%	4	5%
DNC	63	41	65%	5	8%	2	3%	2	3%	13	21%
Dublin North	326	22	7%	0	0%	302	93%	0	0%	2	1%
LH/MH	22	15	68%	0	0%	1	5%	5	23%	1	5%
CN/MN	163	54	33%	8	5%	82	50%	19	12%	0	0%
Cork	139	75	54%	1	1%	8	6%	49	35%	6	4%
Kerry	136	108	79%	4	3%	13	10%	11	8%	0	0%
CW/KK/ST	135	61	45%	4	3%	60	44%	8	6%	2	1%
WD/WX	85	24	28%	3	4%	31	36%	10	12%	17	20%
MidWest	68	48	71%	1	1%	12	18%	6	9%	1	1%
GY/RN	75	52	69%	1	1%	8	11%	14	19%	0	0%
Mayo	34	28	82%	0	0%	1	3%	5	15%	0	0%
Donegal	34	32	94%	0	0%	0	0%	2	6%	0	0%
SLWC	16	13	81%	0	0%	0	0%	2	13%	1	6%
National	1,537	754	49%	36	2%	524	34%	151	10%	72	5%

- 725 Meitheals were closed in the last six months of 2020, bringing to 1,366 the number of Meitheals closed in 2020.
- 27% (371/1,366) of Meitheals for 2020 were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1). The percentage of Meitheals closed following submission of a Meitheal request form ranged from 6% (19/341) in Dublin North to 73% (11/15) in Mayo. Nine areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 27%.
- 39% (533) were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2 Discussion Stage). The percentage of Meitheals closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form ranged from 0% in Mayo and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan to 85% (291/341) in Dublin North. Two areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average (39%). Fifty-five (291/533) percent of Meitheals closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage) were reported by Dublin North.
- 12% (161) were closed following commencement of Meitheal Support Meetings (Stage 3). The percentage of Meitheals closed following commencement of Meitheal Support Meetings ranged from 0% in the Midlands area to 33% (1/3) in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan. Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 12%.
- 22% (301) were closed post-delivery. The percentage of Meitheals closed post-delivery ranged from 0% in two areas (Mayo and SLWC) to 47% (30/64) in Galway/Roscommon. Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 22%.

Meitheals Closed by Stage



Number of Meitheals closed

Area	Total number of Meitheals closed 2020	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	24	7	29%	8	33%	4	17%	5	21%
DSE/WW	39	3	8%	7	18%	12	31%	17	44%
DSW/K/WW	97	11	11%	23	24%	26	27%	37	38%
Midlands	27	11	41%	4	15%	0	0%	12	44%
DNC	38	10	26%	6	16%	11	29%	11	29%
Dublin North	341	19	6%	291	85%	2	1%	29	9%
LH/MH	11	1	9%	4	36%	1	9%	5	45%
CN/MN	42	11	26%	12	29%	1	2%	18	43%
Cork	176	74	42%	32	18%	32	18%	38	22%
Kerry	117	67	57%	15	13%	10	9%	25	21%
CW/KK/ST	157	49	31%	72	46%	18	11%	18	11%
WD/WX	112	53	47%	31	28%	9	8%	19	17%
MidWest	68	17	25%	14	21%	12	18%	25	37%
GY/RN	64	19	30%	7	11%	8	13%	30	47%
Mayo	15	11	73%	0	0%	4	27%	0	0%
Donegal	35	6	17%	7	20%	10	29%	12	34%
SLWC	3	2	67%	0	0%	1	33%	0	0%
National	1366	371	27%	533	39%	161	12%	301	22%

6.2.2 Child and Family Support Networks

- 121 Child and Family Support Networks¹³ (CFSN) operating at the end of 2020; six more than 2019. A further 19 CFSNs are planned/pre planning stage.

Child and Family Support Networks operating and planned

Area	CFSNs Operating Dec 2019	CFSNs Operating Dec 2020	CFSNs Planned
DSC	5	7	9
DSE/Wicklow	7	7	2
DSW/K/WW	9	9	1
Midlands	7	4	0
Dublin North City	6	6	0
Dublin North	4	4	1
Louth/Meath	5	5	0
Cavan/Monaghan	8	8	0
Cork	15	14	2
Kerry	8	8	0
CW/KK/ST	7	7	2
WD/WX	8	8	0
MidWest	2	10	2
GY/RN	12	12	0
Mayo	4	4	0
Donegal	5	5	0
SLWC	3	3	0
National	115	121	19

¹³ Child and Family Support Networks: Collaborative networks of community, voluntary and statutory providers intended to improve access to support services for children and their families⁸

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

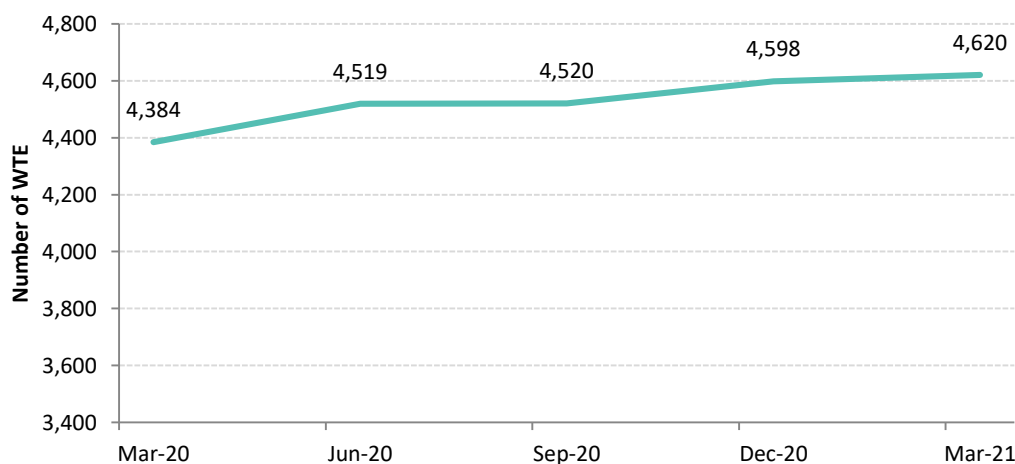
KEY FACTS

- 4,620 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q1 2021, 22 more than Q4 2020 (4,598) and 235 (5%) more than Q1 2020 (4,384).
- 117 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in Q1 2021
- 74 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in Q1 2021
- 17 staff retired in Q1 2021
- 148 (3%) staff were on maternity leave at the end of February 2021 (latest data)
- At the end of February 2021 the overall absence rate for the Agency was 4.75%, 0.83 percentage points lower than February 2020 (5.58%).
- Government restrictions introduced to curtail the spread of Covid-19 resulted in the cancellation of all classroom training activity.
- e-learning activity: 4,437 completions were achieved in Q1 2021
- Virtual classroom training: 1,722 completions (100 sessions).

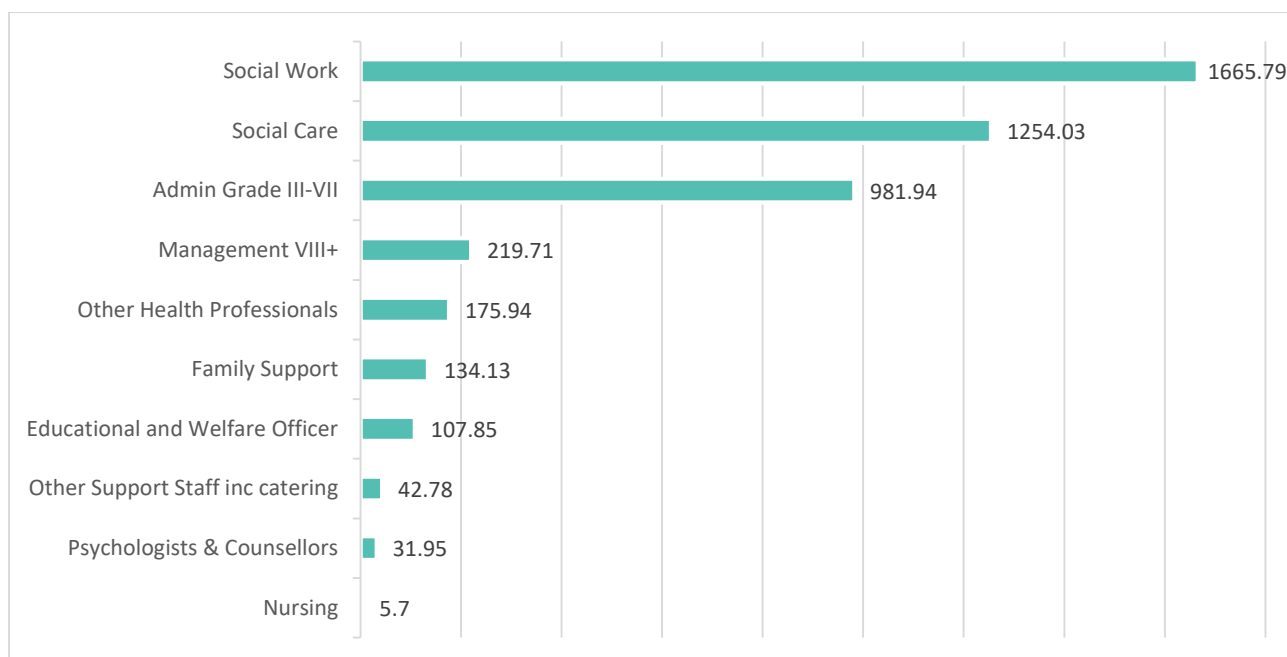
7.1 Workforce Position

- 4,620 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q1 2021, 22 more than Q4 2020 (4,598) and 235 (5%) more than Q1 2020 (4,384)

Total Staff Employed (WTE), by quarter



- Social workers are the largest category of staff employed by the Agency, accounting for 36% (1,665.79) of total staff (WTE) employed at the end of Q1 2021, followed by social care staff accounting for a further 27% (1,254.03). Management (Grade VIII+) account for less than 5% (219.71) of the workforce.



- Increase/decrease in WTEs by staff category from Q1 2020 and Q4 2002 to Q1 2021 is presented in the table below. All staff categories with the exception of “Other Support Staff” are showing an increase from Q1 2020.

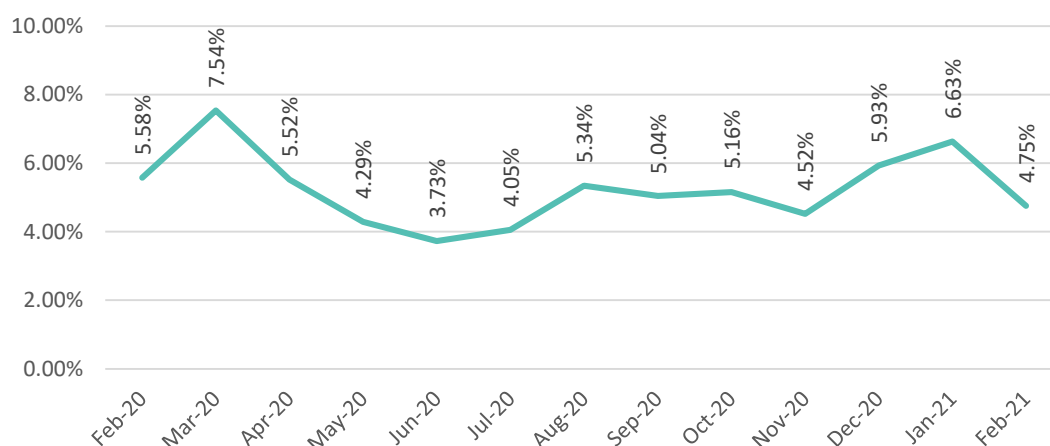
Breakdown of staff (WTE) by category

Staffing by Category	Q1 2021	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q1 2021 v Q4 2020	Q1 2021 v Q1 2020
Social Work	1,595.98	1,669.42	1,665.79	-3.63	69.81
Social Care	1,195.44	1,256.4	1,254.03	-2.37	58.59
Admin Grade III-VII	908.49	954.75	981.94	27.19	73.45
Family Support	127.2	133.36	134.13	0.77	6.93
Management VIII+	206.1	217.9	219.71	1.81	13.61
Educational and Welfare Officer	102.83	109.91	107.85	-2.06	5.02
Other Support Staff inc catering	47.69	44.16	42.78	-1.38	-4.91
Nursing	5.67	5.66	5.7	0.04	0.03
Psychologists & Counsellors	31.53	33.06	31.95	-1.11	0.42
Other Health Professionals	163.48	173.13	175.94	2.81	12.46
Total Staffing	4,384	4,598	4,620	22	235.41

- 117 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla’s payroll) in Q1 2021
- 74 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in Q1 2021
- 17 staff retired in Q1 2021
- 148 (3%) staff were on maternity leave at the end of February 2021 (latest data)

7.2 Absence Rate

- At the end of February 2021¹⁴ the overall absence rate for the Agency was 4.75%, 1.18 percentage points lower than Q4 2020 (5.93%) and 0.83 percentage points lower than February 2020 (5.58%). Overall staff absence rate by month is presented in the chart below.



- The highest absence rate was reported for social care staff (7.67%). The rate for Residential Services was 10.01% (data not shown), is five percentage points higher than the overall rate of 4.75%. The overall absence rate excluding Residential Services is 4.27%.

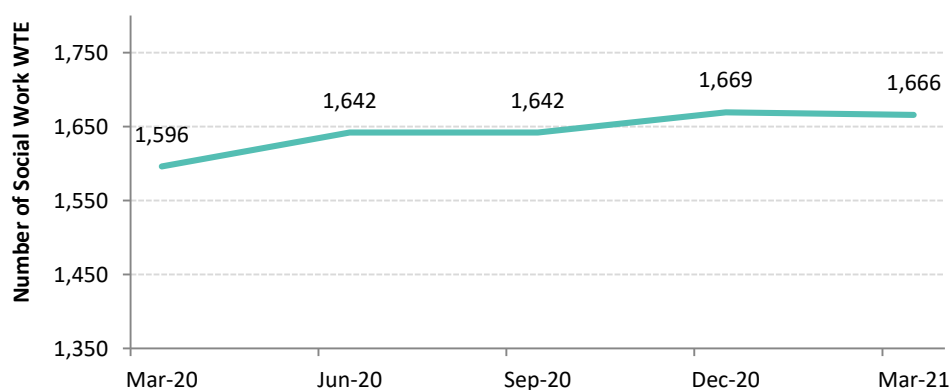
Absence rate by staff grade

Staff Grade	Absence Rate February 2021
Social Work	3.75%
Social Care	7.67%
All other grades	3.56%

7.3 Social Work Staff (WTE)

- 1,665.79 whole time equivalent (WTE) social work staff (all grades and excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q1 2021; 3.63 fewer than Q4 2020 (1,669.42) and 69.81 (4%) more than Q1 2020 (1,595.98)

Number of social workers (WTE) by quarter



¹⁴ Absence rates are reported monthly in arrears

- 28 social workers joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in Q1 2021
- 34 social workers left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks excluding retirements) in Q1 2021
- 4 social workers retired in Q1 2021
- 78 (5%) social workers were on maternity leave at the end February 2021 (latest data)
- A breakdown of the number of social workers (all grades) employed at the end of each quarter Q1 2020 to Q1 2021 by area is presented in the table below. *Note increase in figures for Corporate and decrease in figures for DNE in Q1 2020 mainly due to a realignment of services*

Breakdown of social work staff (WTE) by area Q3 2019 – Q3 2020

	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)
Area	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021
DSC	76.15	86.54	88.31	99.49	101.77
DSE/WW	94.37	95.44	97.71	96.72	98.18
DSW/K/WW	92.51	99.41	103.94	114.52	110.42
Midlands	85.59	91.32	92.78	96.04	97.15
Regional Services DML	8.86	8.45	13.16	12.71	13.75
DML Total	357.48	381.16	395.9	419.48	421.27
CN/MN	42.19	43.84	41.66	43.55	40.98
DNC	98.41	107.12	101	105.44	107.02
LH/MH	87.26	86.64	86.66	85.43	84.65
Dublin North	71.42	79.33	80.57	90.58	92.62
Regional Services DNE	11.76	11.76	12.3	14.26	13.4
DNE Total	311.04	328.69	322.19	339.26	338.67
CW/KK/ST	71.64	74.65	71.84	64.81	63.05
Cork	175.5	173.27	179.16	180.06	178.37
Kerry	44.15	46.64	46.95	46.86	46.29
WD/WX	83.73	87	85.38	85.89	89.76
Regional Services South	2	1.8			
South Total	377.02	383.36	383.33	377.62	377.47
Donegal	69.96	71.1	69.3	68.34	66.16
GY/RN	97.35	103.34	104	103.92	98.4
Mayo	40.38	39.08	41.84	36.39	36.73
Mid West	126.62	133.97	122.41	118.88	120.63
SLWC	45.02	41.28	38.49	40.695	40.59
Regional Services West	2.81	1.86	2.96	2.81	2.86
West Total	382.14	390.63	379	370.99	365.37
Residential DML	1	1	1	1	0.96
Residential DNE	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	2
Residential West					
Residential South	3.8	3	1	1	1

Special Care			1	1	1
Residential Services	6.76	5.96	4.96	4.96	4.96
Corporate	154.58	151.99	156.36	157.11	158.05
Early Years Inspectorate	6.96	6.96	6.96		
Corporate	161.54	151.99	156.36	157.11	158.05
Total	1,595.98	1,641.79	1,641.74	1,669.42	1,665.79

7.4 Workforce Learning and Development

- Government restrictions introduced to curtail the spread of Covid 19 resulted in the cancellation of all classroom training activity.
- Table 1 shows E-learning activity for the months January, February and March 2021.
- The most popular E-learning module was 'An Introduction to Children First' with 732 completions. This was followed by the 'Tusla Employee Health and Safety' module with 615 completions.
- Table 2 shows virtual classroom learning for January, February and March 2021.
- 1,233 staff were trained over 45 online sessions on the newly developed GDPR+ module 'Sharing Personal Data Safely: Making Good Decisions About Sharing Personal Data Safely'

Other Developments in Q1 2021

- Increased offering of virtual classroom training, by means of MS Teams was designed and implemented in Q1. This included: NCCIS Fundamentals, Sharing Personal Data Safely, Child and Youth Participation, TCI Refresher Training.
- Planning was conducted with UCC and the Office of Chief Social Worker, for a major web conference on research into Voluntary Admission to Care to take place in April.
- There was ongoing engagement with SLT and various service managers to identify the L&D supports required by them to deliver on Corporate Plan and Business Plan commitments.
- New online training modules were published on: Child Sexual Exploitation Procedure, Critical Incident Stress Management, Child and Youth Participation.
- WLD contributed to the development of the Healthy Sexuality and Relationship Development: Education and Support Needs of Children and Young People in Care' toolkit.

Table 1: E-Learning Q1 2021

Name of Module	Total Completions
An Introduction to CF	732
An Introduction to Tusla's Approach to Commissioning	140
Caseload Management Refresher	15
Caseload Module	77
CF in Action	343
Child Sexual Exploitation	609
Complaints Handling in Tusla Module1	299
Complaints Handling in Tusla Module2	108
Complaints Investigations in Tusla	30
Critical Incident Stress Management	265
EIPP Workshop	10
Health and Safety Management: Introduction for Line Managers	52
Hidden Harm	104
Implementing CF	491
Induction to Childrens Residential Services in Tusla	25
Infant Mental Health Workshop	16
Parental Participation in Practice	32
Return to Workplace Training during Covid-19	260
Revised Standard Business Process (NCCIS)	109
Signs of Safety Introduction	105
Tusla Employee Health & Safety	615
Total Q1 2021	4,437

Table 2: Virtual Classroom Q4 2020

Name of Module	Number of Sessions	Total Completions
Child & Youth Participation Virtual Classroom	5	21
NUIG/Tusla Joint Training Events	1	84
Sharing Personal Data	45	1,233
Therapeutic Crisis Intervention Refresher Programme	10	152
NCCIS Virtual Classroom on fundamentals for Students	30	143
NCCIS Children in Care Module Training VC	9	89
Total Q1 2021	100	1,722

8 FINANCE

KEY FACTS

- The outturn for the year to date (March 2021) is an under-spend of €7.8 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget for the year to date by €2.5 million, but are forecast to breakeven for the full year, due to additional staff to be recruited as the year progresses.
- Non-pay costs are under-spent against budget year to date by €5.3 million
- A key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €0.636 million over budget year to date. Placement of children in private residential and foster care services is strictly controlled through a national placement process.

Financial Performance

- The outturn for the year to date (March 2021) is an under-spend of €7.8 million.
- The net expenditure for the year to date is €205.2 million against a budget allocation (including of €213.0 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget for the year to date by €2.5 million, but are forecast to breakeven for the full year, due to additional staff to be recruited as the year progresses.

Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	March 2021 YTD			% Variance
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Act vs Budget
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Pay costs	79,735	82,247	(2,512)	(3%)

- Non-pay costs are under-spent against budget year to date by €5.3 million

Non-Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	March 2021 YTD			% Variance
	Actual	Original Budget	Variance	Act vs Budget
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Non pay costs	132,087	137,352	(5,265)	(4%)

- A key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €0.6 million over budget year to date. Placement of children in private residential and foster care services is strictly controlled through a national placement process.
- 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 €7.714 million against a budget of €7.499 million.
- A breakdown of legal expenditure by type is presented in the table below.

- 46% (€3,549 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 2021 YTD €'000s
3rd Party Counsel Fees	207
3rd Party Solicitors Fees	395
Contracted Legal Services	2,957
Counsel fees - Tusla	488
Guardian ad Litem Costs	1,984
Guardian ad Litem Counsel fees	241
Guardian ad Litem Solicitors fees	1,324
General Legal Fees	38
Other	81
Net Expenditure	7,714

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