



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Quarterly Service Performance and Activity Report

QUARTER 1 2025



Quality & Regulation Directorate

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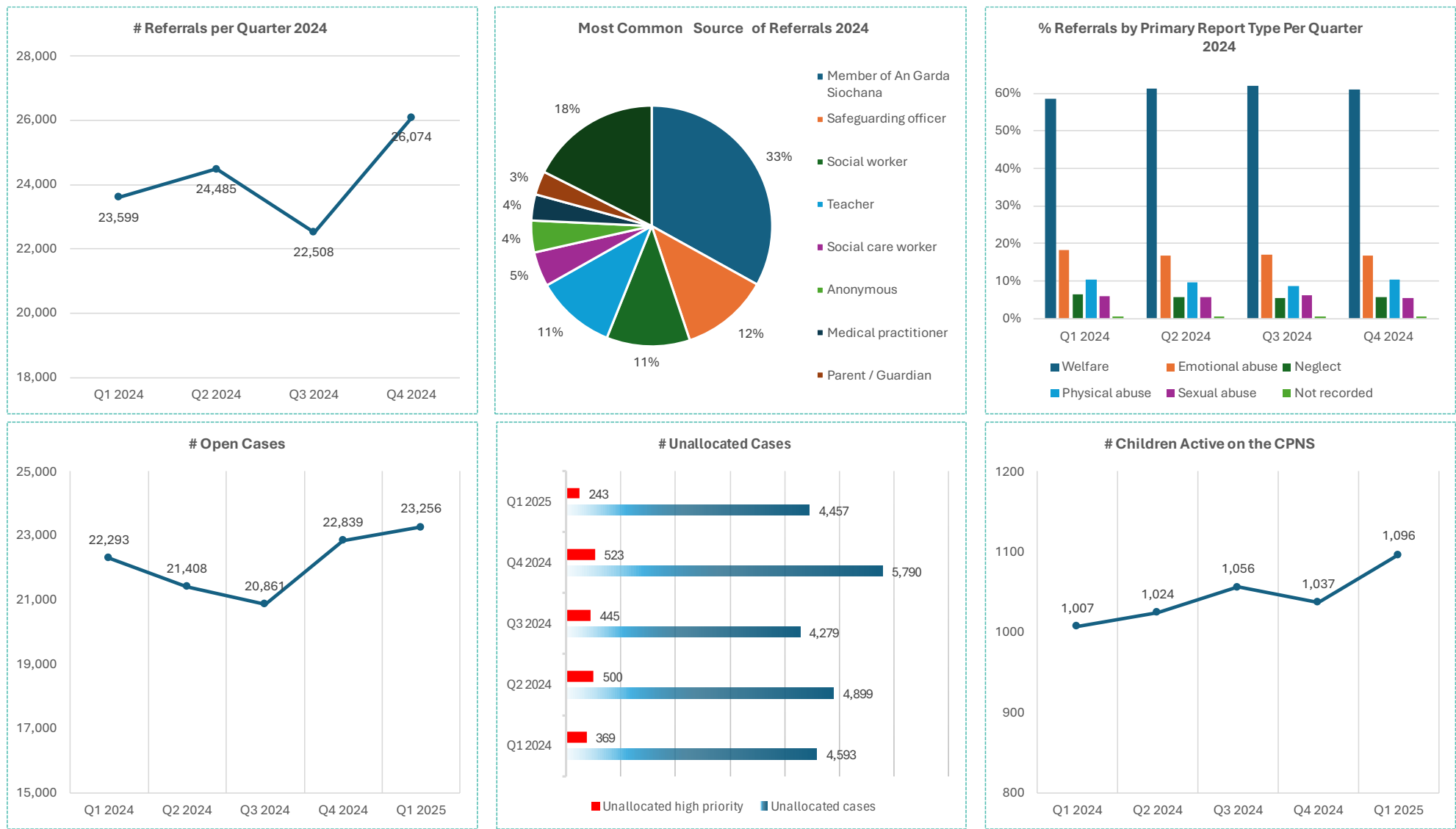
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1.0 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

This report provides an update on the performance and activity of Tusla services at the end of Q1 2025. 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 2025 position regarding activity and performance.

CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES



REFERRALS (data on referrals reported quarterly in arrears)

- **26,074 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q4 2024**, 3,566 (16%) more than Q3 2024 (22,508) and 3,322 (15%) more than Q4 2023 (22,752). This **brings to 96,666 the number of referrals for 2024**, 4,742 (5%) more than 2023 (91,924).
- 61% (58,695) of referrals for 2024 were for welfare concerns, 39% (37,427) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining <1% (544) of referrals
- **Most common source** of referrals for 2024 was members of **An Garda Síochána accounting for 33% (32,009)** of referrals, followed to a lesser extent by safeguarding officers (11.8%; 11,433), social workers (11.2%; 10,841) and teachers (10.7%; 10,384). Mandated persons accounted for 90% (86,668) of all sources.
- 55% (14,324/26,074) of referrals for Q4 2024 were closed following screening. Some **27% (6,923/26,074) of referrals for Q4 2024 progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage**. The remaining referrals (19%; 4,827) were either at the screening stage, awaiting closure following screening, or another process stage, when the data was extracted for reporting.
- 53% (7,629) of referrals for Q4 2024 were closed following screening, as assessment / safety planning was already ongoing, while a further 36% (5,086) were closed to social work with no further action required, 7% (944) were diverted to Tusla's Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) services and 2% (357) were diverted to another agency.
- At the time the data for Q4 2024 was extracted for reporting, 98% (6,806/6,923) of preliminary enquiries were completed.
- Of the preliminary enquiries completed, 45% (3,037) required no further action; **35% (2,392) required an initial assessment**, while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 4% (273) of cases. Some 9% (645) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS
- At the time the Q4 2024 data was extracted for reporting, 53% (1,263/2,392) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were completed.
- 54% (677) of referrals that required an initial assessment following the preliminary enquiry were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. Of these 59% (399) required no further action, 21% (140) were diverted to another agency for a service, 14% (96) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service, while the remaining 6% (42) were closed as assessment/safety planning already ongoing.
- 30% (374) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 13% (165) required a children protection response / child protection conference and 4% (47) required admission to care.

NATIONAL OUT OF HOURS SERVICE

- Tusla National Out of Hours Service (NOHS) received **425 new referrals in Q1 2025**.
- The NOHS **placed 187 children** in Q1 2025. *Figure includes children who may have been placed more than once in the quarter.*

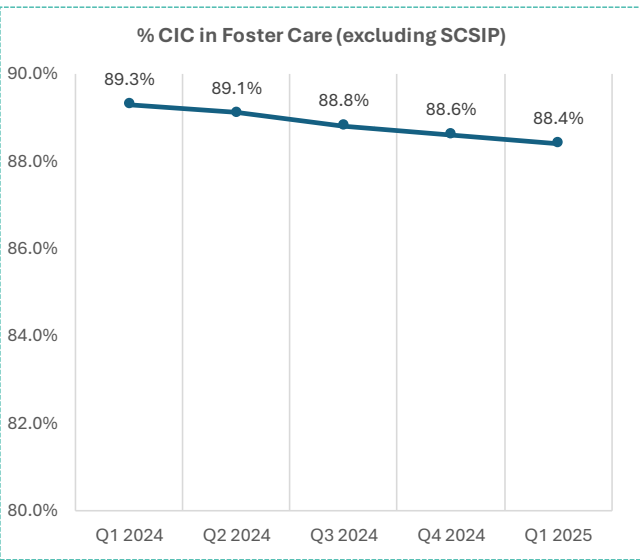
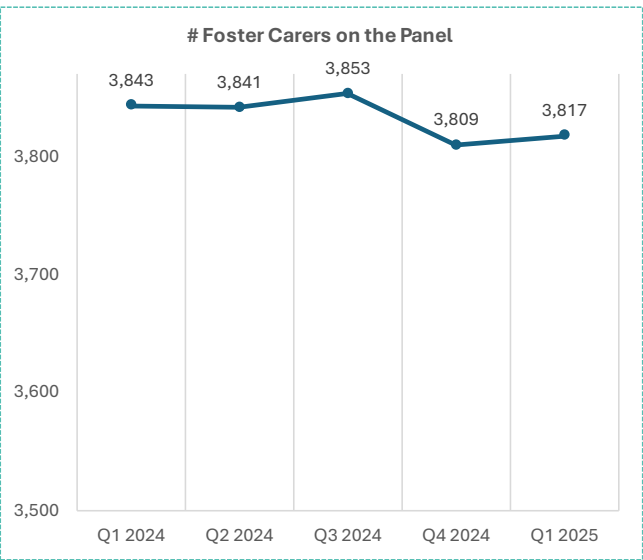
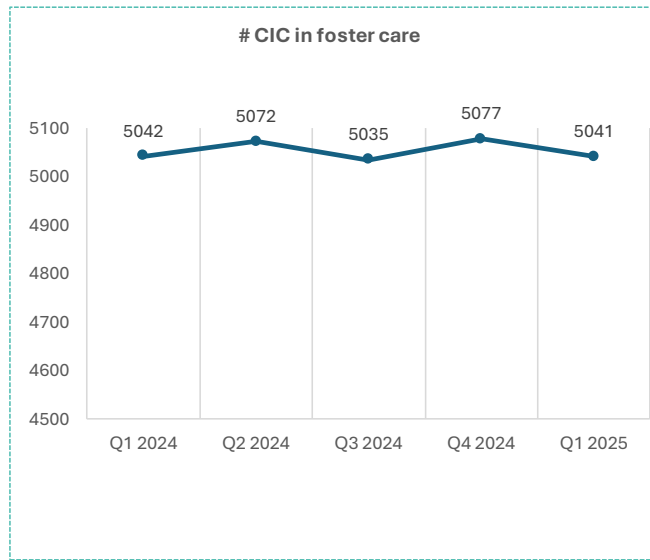
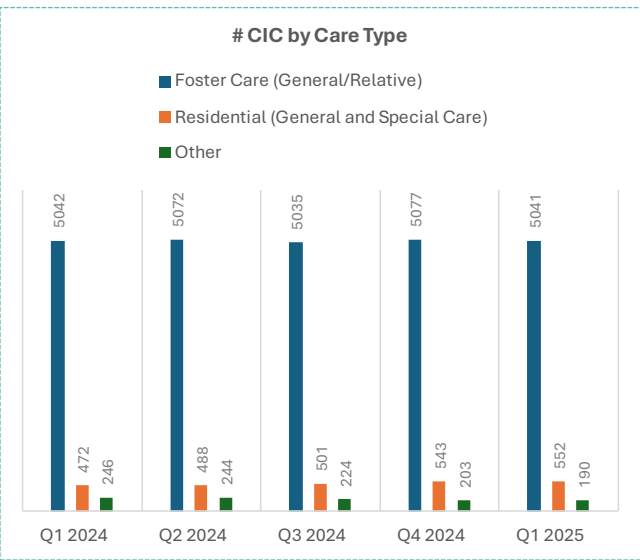
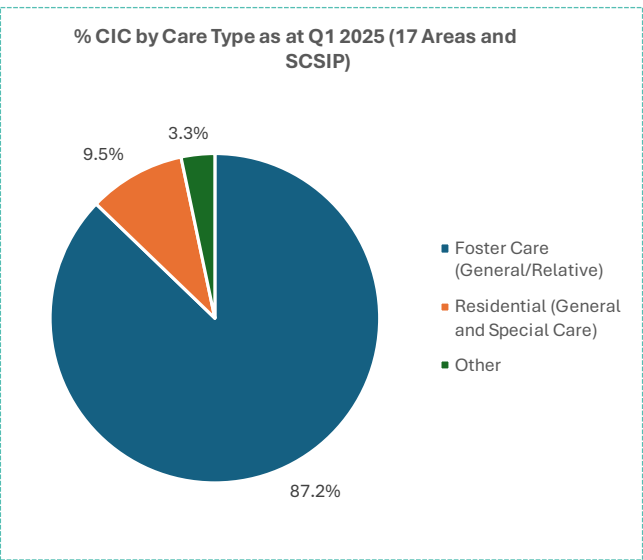
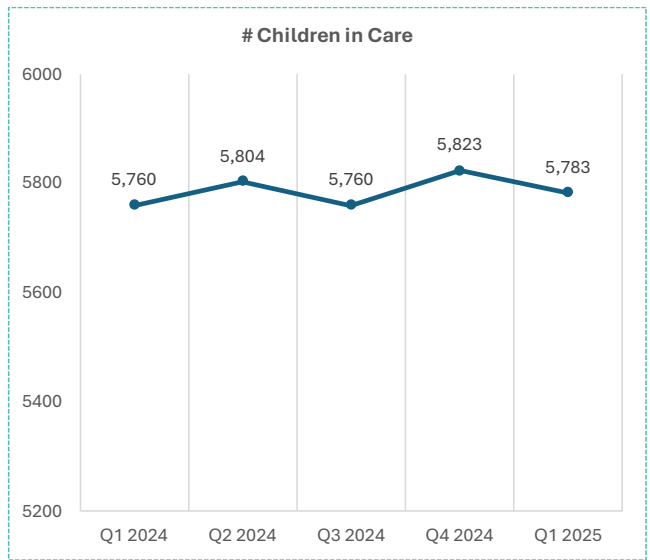
SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITY DATA

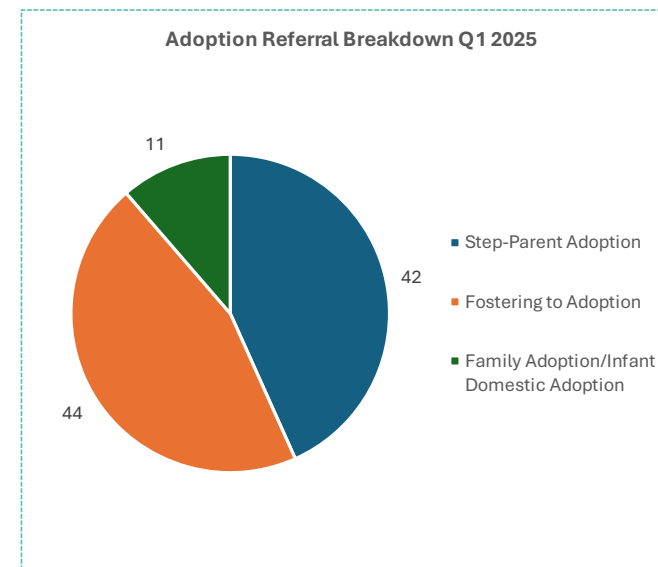
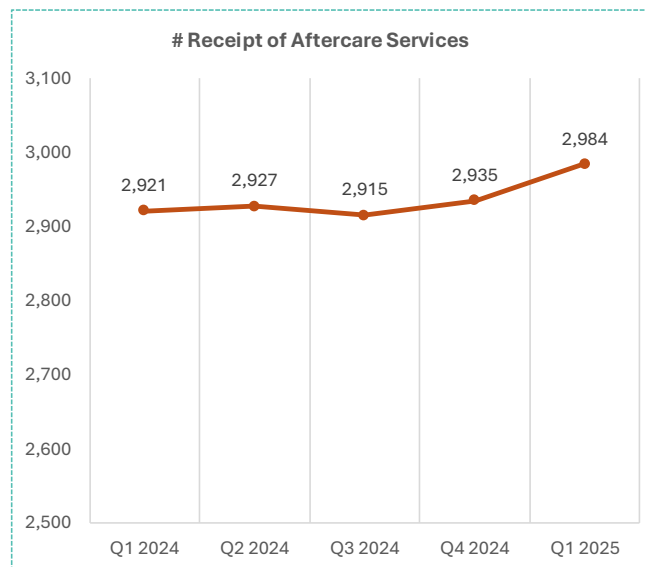
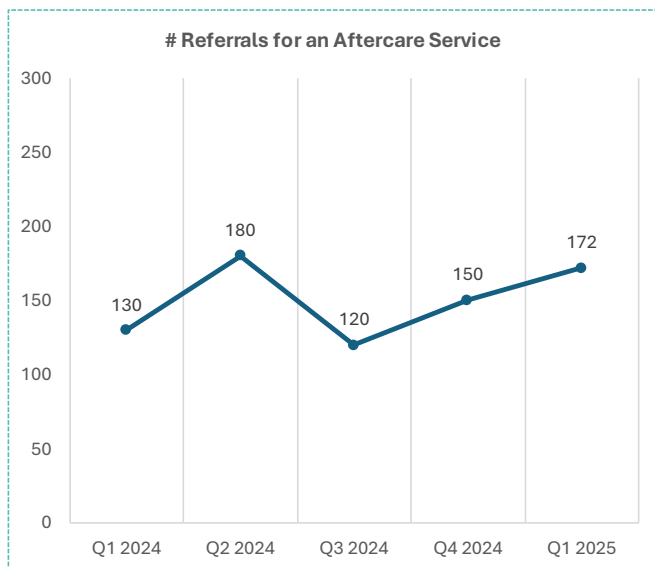
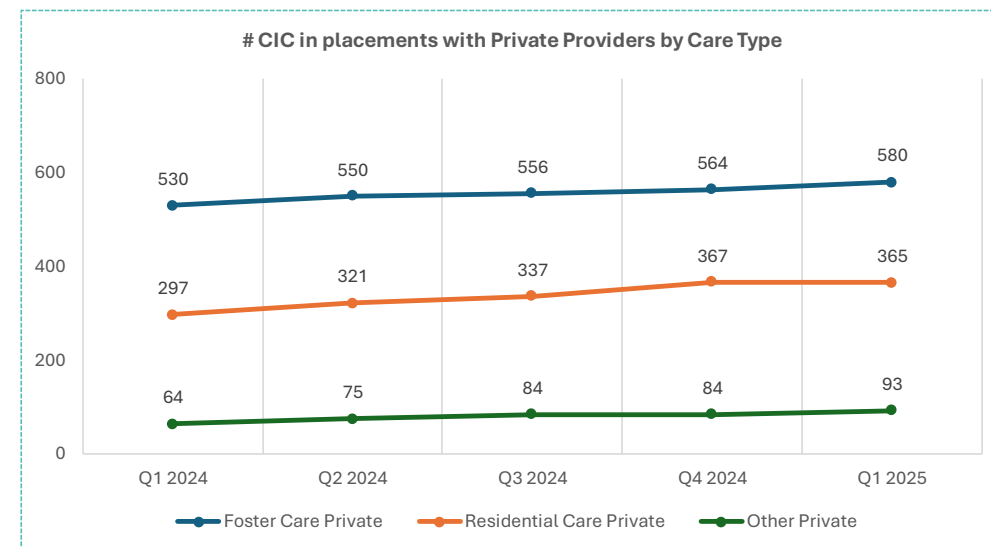
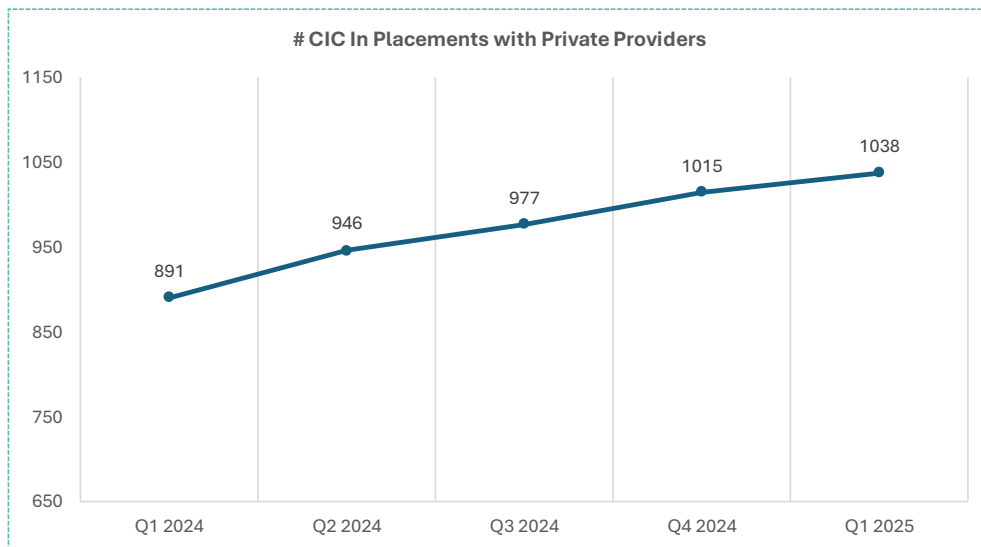
- **23,256 cases open to social work nationally** at the end of Q1 2025, 417 (2%) more than Q4 2024 (22,839) and 963 (4%) more than Q1 2024 (22,293).
- **81% (18,799) of open cases were allocated** to a worker at the end of Q1 2025, up six percentage points from Q4 2024 (75%).
- **4,457 (19%) cases were awaiting allocation**, 1,333 (23%) fewer than Q4 2024 (5,790) and 136 (3%) fewer than Q1 2024 (4,593).
- Five areas account for 71% (3,161) of cases awaiting allocation, Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (881), Dublin South Central (601), Louth/Meath (562), Cork (562) and Midlands (555).
- 59% (2,640) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2025 were “active” on a duty system.
- **5% (243) of cases awaiting allocation** at the end of Q1 2025 were categorised as **high priority**, 280 (54%) fewer than Q4 2024 (523) and 126 (34%) fewer than Q1 2024 (369).
- 63% (2,791) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 29% (1,297) were low priority while the remaining 3% (126) were awaiting categorisation.
- **77% (3,436/4,457) of cases awaiting allocation** at the end of Q1 2025 were **waiting three months or less** and of these 54% (1,841) were waiting less than one month.
- 71% (172/243) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2024 were waiting 3 months or less and of these 77% (133) were waiting less than one month.

CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (CPNS)

- **1,096 children listed as ‘active’ on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)** at the end of Q1 2025, 59 (6%) more than Q4 2024 (1,037) and 89 (9%) more than Q1 2024 (1,007).
- 84% (924/1,096) of children were listed as ‘active’ for no longer than 12 months, up slightly from 83% (864/1,037) at the end of Q4 2024.
- 6% (63/1,096) of children were listed as ‘active’ for > 18 months, no change from Q4 2024 (6%; 65/1,037).
- **99% (1,086) of all children listed as ‘active’** at the end of Q1 2025 had an **allocated social worker**. Ten children were awaiting allocation to a social worker, of which eight were subsequently allocated and two had another professional allocated.

ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES





CHILDREN IN CARE

- **5,783 children in care** at the end of Q1 2025, 40 (<1%) fewer than Q4 2024 (5,823) and 23 (<1%) more than Q1 2024 (5,760). This figure (5,783) includes 104 children reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.
- 87.2% (5,041) of children in care (17 Areas + SCSIP) were in foster care (general, relative) at the end of Q1 2025 and 9.5% (552) were in a residential care (general and special care) placement. The remaining 3.3% (190) of children were in “Other” care placements. *“Other” includes at home under a care order, supported lodgings, detention centre, disability unit, hospital, special emergency arrangement, not specified etc.*
- **Across the 17 Areas, 88.4% (5,021/5,679) of children were in foster care**, 8.3% (474) were in residential care and the remaining 3.2% (184) were in “other” care placements.
- **1,038 (18%) children in care** at the end of Q1 2025 were in **placements with private providers**, 23 (2%) more than Q4 2024 (1,015) and 147 (16%) more than Q1 2024 (891).
- **98% (5,691) of children in care** at the end of Q1 2025 had an **allocated social worker / other professional**. Some 92 children were awaiting allocation of worker at the end of Q1 2025. *Refer to context on page 35.*
- **83% (4,817) of children in care** had an **up-to-date care plan**, no change from Q4 2024. Some 966 (17%) of children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 13 (1%) fewer than Q4 2024 (979)
- **97% (3,598/3,710) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education** at the end of Q1 2025, up one percentage point from Q4 2024 (96%).
- 93% (923/991) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of Q1 2025, no change from Q4 2024.

AFTERCARE

- **172 referrals for an aftercare service** in Q1 2025, 42 (32%) more than Q1 2024 (130).
- **2,984 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services** at the end of Q1 2025, 49 (2%) more than Q4 2024 (2,935) and 63 (2%) more than Q1 2024 (2,921). *Figures include young persons < 18 years and those 18-22 years inclusive.*
- **78% (1,745/2,231) of those 18-22 years** inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q1 2025 were in **education/ accredited training**.
- Almost half (46%; 1,018) of young people 18 – 22 years (2,231) in receipt of aftercare services had remained living with their carers. A further 9% (209) had returned home to parents/family. One in five (23%; 509) was in independent living arrangements.
- **78% (2,314) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services** at the end of Q1 2025 had an **aftercare plan**, down four percentage point from Q4 2024 (82%). A total of 670 were awaiting a plan, 129 (24%) more than Q4 2024 (541).
- **85% (1,904/2,245) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker** had an **aftercare worker** at the end of Q1 2025, down three percentage points from Q4 2024 (88%). A total of

341 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2025, 59 (21%) more than Q4 2024 (282).

- 99.5% (206/207) of young people < 18 years assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2025.
- 83% (1,698/2,038) of 18–22-year-olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2025.

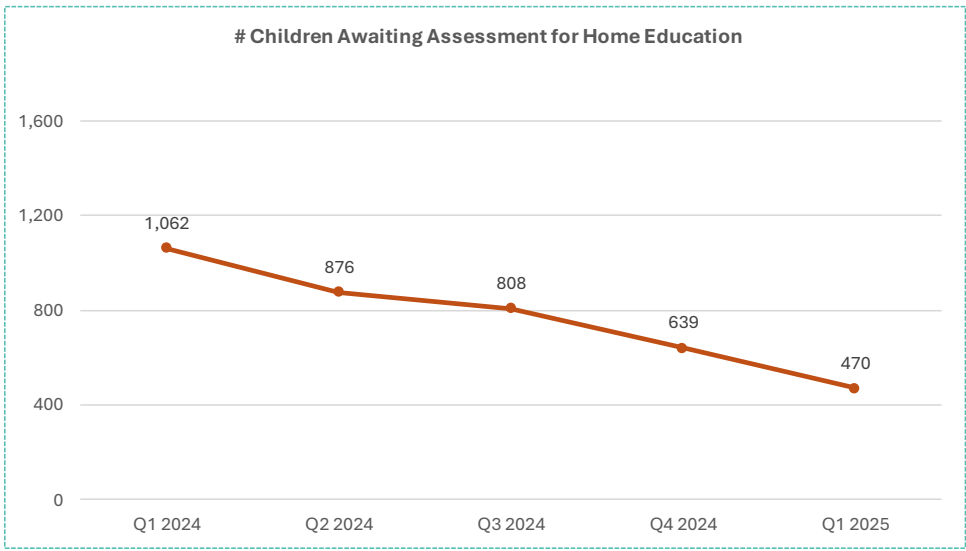
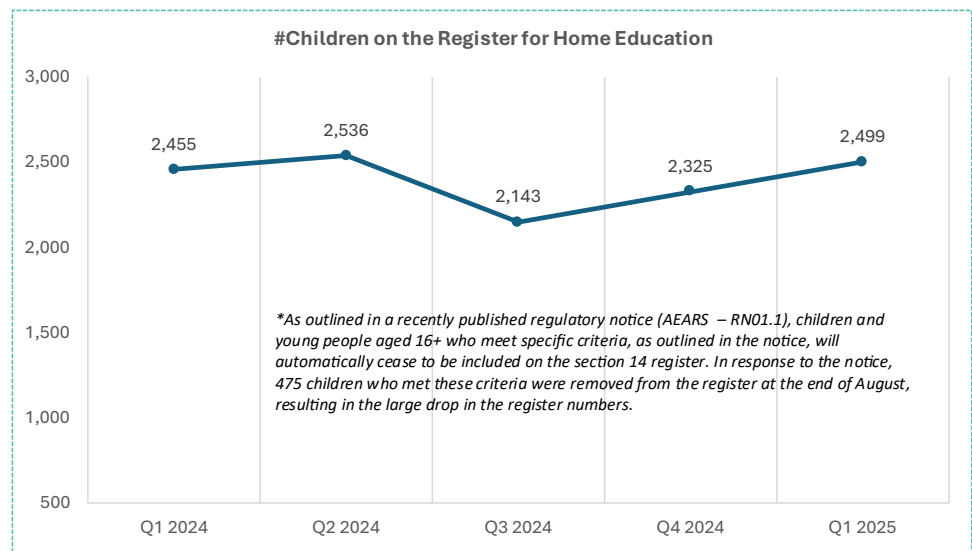
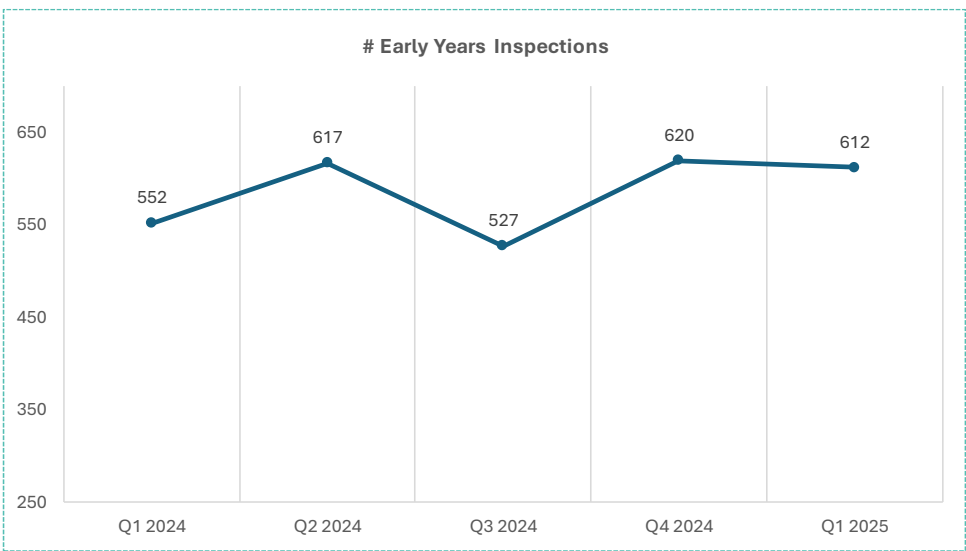
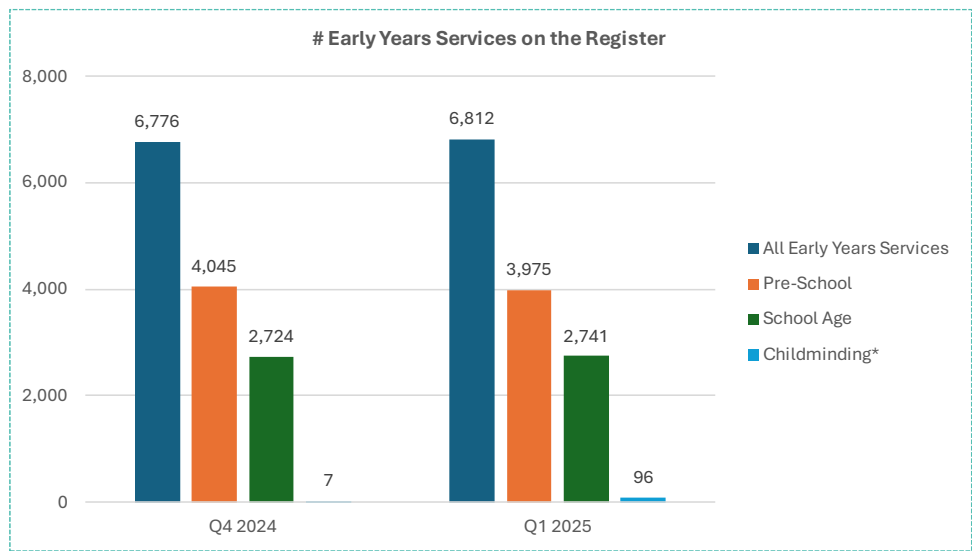
ADOPTION SERVICES

- **97 new children referred for adoption** during Q1 2025. Of the 97 children referred, 42 (43%) were referred for step-parent adoption, 44 (45%) were referred for fostering to adoption and the remaining 11 (11%) were referred for family adoption / infant domestic adoption. A total of 197 new children were referred for adoption in 2024.
- 39 completed initial assessments awaiting allocation to a social worker for full assessment at the end of Q1 2025. Of these, 21 (54%) were waiting for 0-8 weeks, 3 (8%) were waiting > 8 weeks to 16 weeks (inclusive) while the remaining 15 (38%) were waiting more than 16 weeks.

FOSTER CARERS

- **3,817 foster carers** (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) **on the panel of approved foster carers** at the end of Q1 2025, 8 (<1%) more than Q4 2024 (3,809) but 26 (<1%) fewer than Q1 2024 (3,843).
- **49 Tusla foster carers** (31 general & 18 relative) and **13 private foster carers approved** in Q1 2025.
- 75 applications for general foster care and 191 applications for relative foster care in progress at the end of Q1 2025.
- **93% (2,039) of general foster carers** on the panel had an **allocated link (social) worker** at the end of Q1 2025, up one percentage point from Q4 2024.
- 155 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker, 10 (6%) fewer than Q4 2024 (165).
- **96% (923) of relative foster carers** on the panel had an allocated **link (social) worker** at the end of Q1 2025, down one percentage point from Q4 2024 (97%).
- 43 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q1 2025, 11 (34%) more than Q4 2024 (32).
- **96% (210) of unapproved relative foster carers** who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks **had an allocated link (social) worker**. Eight carers were awaiting a link worker, one more than Q4 2024 (8). The eight carers were reported across four areas.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION



EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

Children Services Regulation (CSR) has reviewed their metrics and introduced a number of new metrics for the Early Years Inspectorate (EYI) for 2025. The metrics reported now pertain to the three types of service covered by the EYI: pre-school, school age and childminding.

- **6,812 early years services on the national register** at the end of Q1 2025, 36 (<1%) more than Q4 2024 (6,776). Breakdown of services for Q1 2025 as follows: pre-school (3,975; 58%); school age (2,741; 40%) and childminding (96; 1%).
- **612 inspections (all types) carried out** in Q1 2025. A total of 2,316 inspections carried out in 2024.
- **124 applications to register** as a new service received by the EYI in Q1 2025. A total of 560 applications received in 2024. Breakdown of applications for Q1 2025 as follows: pre-school (16; 13%); school age (78; 63%); child-minding (30; 24%).
- **62 applications to register** as a new service **approved** by the EYI in Q1 2025. A total of 430 applications approved in 2024. Breakdown of applications approved for Q1 2025 as follows: pre-school (4; 6%); school age (36; 58%); child-minding (22; 35%).
- No early years' service refused by the EYI in Q1 2025. One service refused in 2024.
- 509 change in circumstances notifications processed by the EYI in Q1 2025. A total of 1,912 change in circumstances notifications processed in 2024.
- **118 unsolicited information submissions** received by the EYI in Q1 2025. A total of 460 received in 2024.
- **No early years' service prosecuted** by the EYI in Q1 2025. One service prosecuted in 2024.
- **28 early years services closed** in Q1 2025. A total of 185 closed in 2024. A breakdown of services closed in Q1 2025 as follows: pre-school services (13; 46%); school age services (14; 50%); childminding (1; 3%).
- **No early years' service removed from the register** in Q1 2025. No service removed in 2024.

ALTERNATIVE CARE INSPECTION & MONITORING SERVICE

- **206 non-statutory residential centres** at the end Q1 2025; 10 (5%) more than Q4 2024 (196).
- **42 inspections (all types) conducted** in Q1 2025. A total of 218 inspections carried out in 2024.
- **5 non-statutory foster care services** at the end Q1 2025, no change from Q4 2024. One monitoring visit conducted in Q1 2025.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION SERVICE

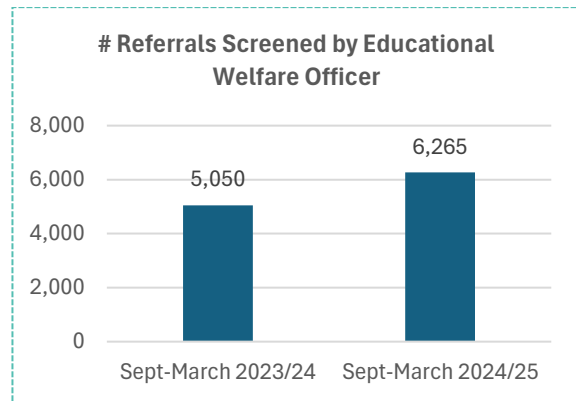
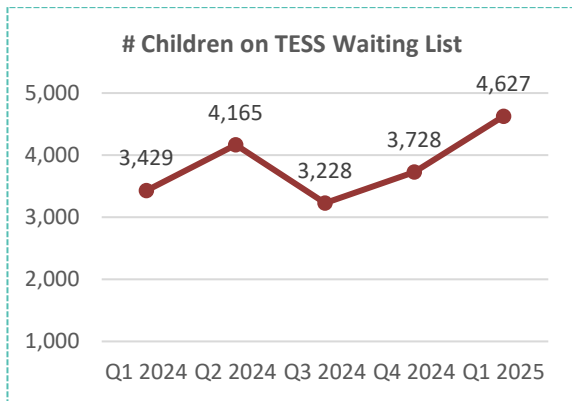
Home Education

- **2,499 children on the register for home education** at the end of Q1 2025, 174 (7%) more than Q4 2024 (2,325) and 356 (17%) more than Q3 2024 (2,143).
- **348 applications received** for home education during Q1 2025, 42 (11%) fewer than Q4 2024 (390), but 61 (21%) more than Q1 2024 (287).
- 357 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q1 2025, 11 (3%) fewer than Q4 2024, but 73 (26%) more than Q1 2024 (284).
- 220 children registered for home education in Q1 2025, 41 (16%) fewer than Q4 2024 (261), but 11 (5%) more than Q1 2024 (209).
- **470 children on a waiting list for assessment** at the end of Q1 2025, 169 (26%) fewer than Q4 2024 and 592 (56%) fewer than Q1 2024 (1,062).

Independent Schools

- **60 assessed and approved independent schools** at the end of Q1 2025, one more than Q4 2024 (59).
- 6,451 children enrolled in independent schools, of which 73% (4,690) were registered on the Section 14 register. The remaining 27% (1,761) were not registered. Reasons for these children not being registered include, application not submitted, consent not in place, certified documentation not provided.
- 340 applications received during Q1 2025. A total of 2,077 applications received in 2024.
- 2 school assessments carried out in Q1 2025. A total of 29 assessments carried out in 2024.
- One school assessment due at the end of Q1 2025.

TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES



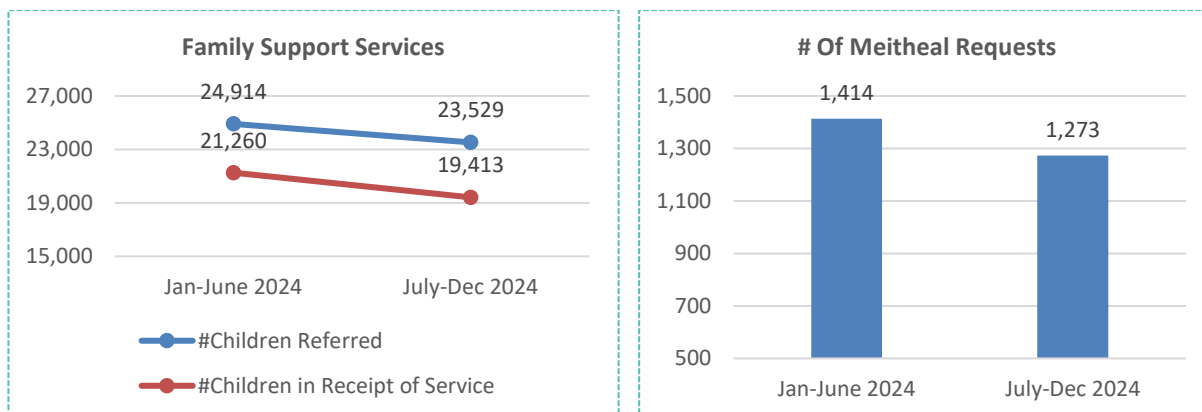
Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2024 – August 2025

- **6,265 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO)** during the first seven months of the academic year 2024-2025, 1,215 (24%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (5,050).
- **4,627 screened referrals on a waiting list** at the end of March 2025, 1,198 (35%) more than March 2024 (3,429).
- **2,761 new individual children worked with** during the first seven months of the academic year 2024-2025, 175 (7%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (2,586).
- **6,763 individual children worked with** during the first seven months of the academic year 2024-2025, 526 (8%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (6,237).
- **436 school attendance notices (SANs) issued** during the first seven months academic year 2024-2025, 55 (11%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (491). The SANs issued were in respect of 313 individual children, 35 (10%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (348).
- **92 summonses issued** during the first seven months of the academic year 2024-2025, 31 (51%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (61). The summonses were in respect of 68 individual children, 18 (36%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (50).
- **164 Section 24 meetings convened** by EWOs during the first seven months of the academic year 2024-2025, 29 (15%) fewer than the previous academic year (193).

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

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. Data needs to be interpreted in the context of varying response rates.



Data needs to be interpreted in the context of varying response rates across the areas.

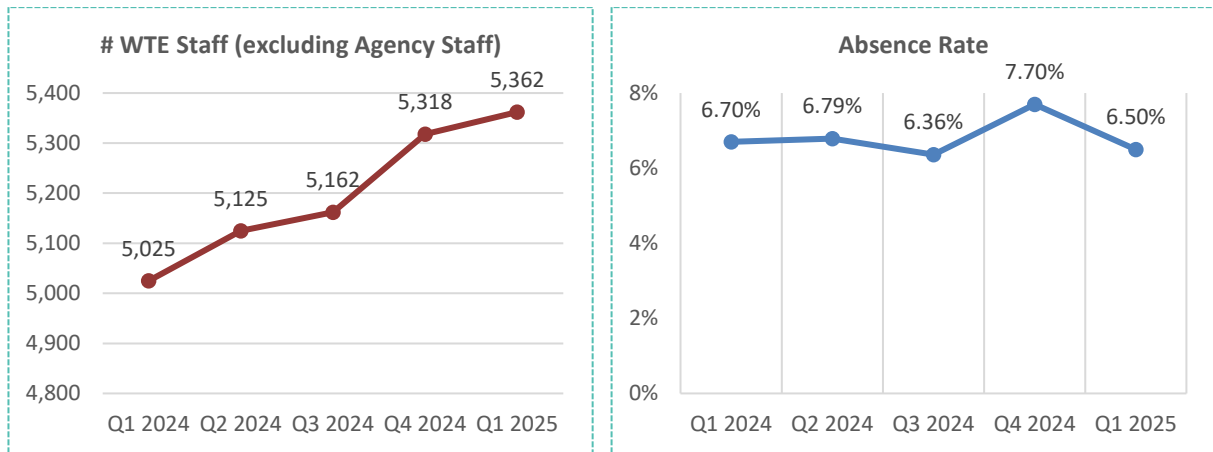
- **378 family support providers commissioned** (H2 2024)
- 93% (352) of services commissioned provided data for H2 2024.
- At least **19,413 children in receipt of family support services** at the end of H2 2024. This equates to almost 2% of children (0-17 years).
- At least 23,529 children referred to family support services in the last six months of 2024. This brings to **at least 48,443 the number of children referred in 2024** (average response rate of 89%). At least 47,260 children referred in 2023 (average response rate 86%).
- The **most common source of referrals for 2024 was parents/guardians**, accounting for 31% (14,909) of referrals followed by Tusla social workers (24%; 11,771), schools (11%; 5,364) and HSE Officers (9%; 4,589).
- **68% (32,989) of children referred in 2024 received a service in 2024**. The percentage who received a service ranged from 44% (Waterford/Wexford) to 89% (Kerry). Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 68%.

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

- 1,273 Meitheal processes requested during the last six months of 2024. This brings to **2,687 the number of requests received for 2024**, 195 (8%) more than 2023 (2,492).
- The most common pathway for all requests received in 2024 was “Direct Access” accounting for 67% (1,793) of requests. “Social Work Diversion” accounted for a further 25% (665) while “Social Work Step-Down” accounted for 9% (229) of requests.
- Of the requests where the pathway was ‘Direct Access’ 25% (350/1,378) were previously known to social work (based on data from 14/17 areas for H1 and 16/17 areas for H2).

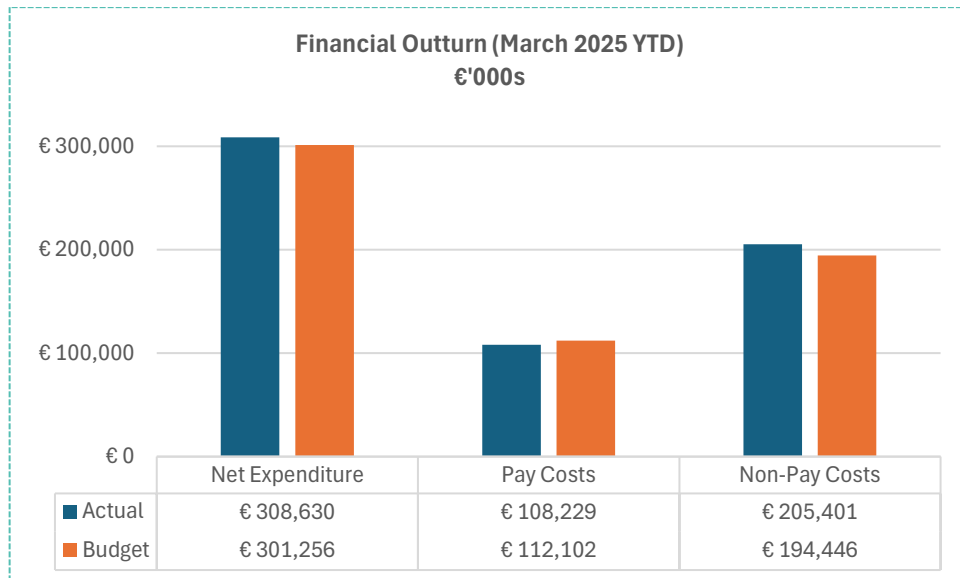
- **73% (1,974/2,687) of Meitheal requests** received during 2024 **proceeded to Stage 2** (Discussion Stage).
- 1,679 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 (Discussion Stage) in 2024.
- 53% (885) of processes reaching completion of Stage 2 proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting).
- 2,112 Meitheal processes were closed during 2024.
- 33% (692) of all Meitheal processes were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1); 25% (524) were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2 Discussion Stage); 11% (241) were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3); 31% (655) were closed post-delivery.
- 114 Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) operating at the end of 2024 with a further five planned in development.

PEOPLE & CHANGE



- **5,362 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff** (excluding agency staff) **employed by Tusla** at the end of Q1 2025, 44 (1%) more than Q4 2024 (5,318) and 337 (7%) more than Q1 2024 (5,025).
- **210 new staff joined Tusla** (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first three months of 2025, 41 (24%) more than the same period in 2024 (169).
- **109 staff left Tusla** (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in the first three months of 2025, 5 (5%) more than the same period in 2024 (104).
- At the end of Q1 2025, the overall **absence rate for the Agency was 6.5%**, down from a high of 7.7% at the end of Q4 2024 and also down slightly from the same period in 2024 (6.7%).
- e-learning training activity: 11,344 completions were achieved in Q1 2025
- Classroom training: 2,182 participants attended in Q1 2025

FINANCE



- The outturn for the year to date (March YTD) is an **overspend of €7.4 million (2%)**.
- Net expenditure is €308,630 million against an initial revenue budget allocation of €301,256 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €3.8 million.
- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget year to date by €10.9 million.

2.0 CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

Key Facts

- 26,074 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q4 2024, 3,566 (16%) more than Q3 2024 (22,508) and 3,322 (15%) more than Q4 2023 (22,752). This brings to 96,666 the number of referrals for 2024, 4,742 (5%) more than 2023 (91,924).
- 61% (58,695) of referrals for 2024 were for welfare concerns, 39% (37,427) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining <1% (544) of referrals
- Most common source of referrals for 2024 was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 33% (32,009) of referrals, followed to a lesser extent by safeguarding officers (11.8%; 11,433), social workers (11.2%; 10,841) and teachers (10.7%; 10,384). Mandated persons accounted for 90% (86,668) of all sources.
- 55% (14,324/26,074) of referrals for Q4 2024 were closed following screening. Some 27% (6,923/26,074) of referrals for Q4 2024 progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage. The remaining referrals (19%; 4,827) were either at the screening stage, awaiting closure following screening, or another process stage, when the data was extracted for reporting.
- 53% (7,629) of referrals for Q4 2024 were closed following screening, as assessment / safety planning was already ongoing, while a further 36% (5,086) were closed to social work with no further action required, 7% (944) were diverted to Tusla's Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) services and 2% (357) were diverted to another agency.
- At the time the data for Q4 2024 was extracted for reporting, 98% (6,806/6,923) of preliminary enquiries were completed.
- Of the preliminary enquiries completed, 45% (3,037) required no further action; 35% (2,392) required an initial assessment, while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 4% (273) of cases. Some 9% (645) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS
- At the time the Q4 2024 data was extracted for reporting, 53% (1,263/2,392) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were completed.
- 54% (677) of referrals that required an initial assessment following the preliminary enquiry were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. Of these 59% (399) required no further action, 21% (140) were diverted to another agency for a service, 14% (96) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service, while the remaining 6% (42) were closed as assessment/safety planning already ongoing.
- 30% (374) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 13% (165) required a children protection response / child protection conference and 4% (47) required admission to care.

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

2.1 Referrals (child welfare and child abuse)

2.2 Social Work Activity Data

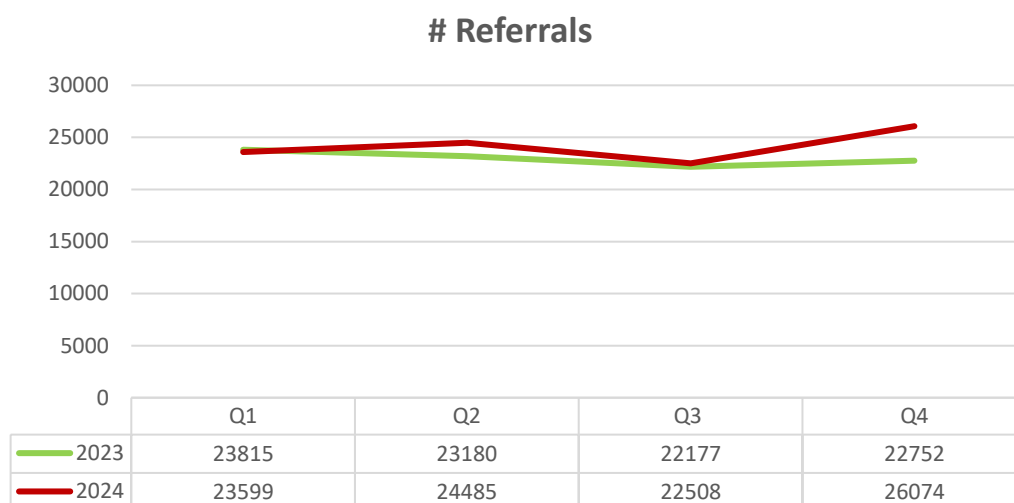
2.3 Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)

2.4 Crisis Intervention Service / Out of Hours Service

2.1 REFERRALS (CHILD WELFARE AND CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT)

Number of Referrals

- 26,074 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q4 2024¹, 3,566 (16%) more than Q3 2024 (22,508) and 3,322 (15%) more than Q4 2023 (22,752). This brings to 96,666 the number of referrals for 2024, 4,742 (5%) more than 2023 (91,924).



- 61% (58,695) of referrals for 2024 were for welfare concerns, 39% (37,427) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining <1% (544) of referrals (Tables 1 and 2).

Table 1: Percentage of referrals by primary report type

Primary Report Type	Total 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	2024 YTD
Welfare	59.5%	58.6%	61.3%	62.0%	61.0%	60.7%
Emotional abuse	17.3%	18.3%	16.9%	17.1%	16.9%	17.3%
Neglect	5.6%	6.4%	5.8%	5.6%	5.7%	5.9%
Physical abuse	9.1%	10.3%	9.7%	8.7%	10.4%	9.8%
Sexual abuse	5.9%	5.9%	5.7%	6.1%	5.5%	5.8%
Not recorded	2.5%	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%	0.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

¹ Data on referrals are reported quarterly in arrears.

Table 2: Number of referrals by primary report type

Primary Report Type	Total 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	2024 YTD
Welfare	54,721	13,833	14,998	13,949	15,915	58,695
Emotional abuse	15,908	4,319	4,148	3,846	4,401	16,714
Neglect	5,178	1,500	1,428	1,250	1,480	5,658
Physical abuse	8,375	2,426	2,364	1,956	2,706	9,452
Sexual abuse	5,467	1,396	1,406	1,363	1,438	5,603
Not recorded	2,275	125	141	144	134	544
Total	91,924	23,599	24,485	22,508	26,074	96,666

Referrals by Area

- The number of referrals for 2024 equates to about 79 referrals per 1,000 population under 18 years. *Note, the actual number of children referred is likely to be fewer as more than one referral can be received in relation to a child.* The rate of referrals ranges from about 41 per 1,000 (Dublin South East/Wicklow) to 122 per 1,000 (Midlands). Seven areas reported a rate equal to or higher than the national average of 79/1,000.
- The highest number of referrals for 2024 was reported by Midlands (9,879) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (9,442), Dublin North (9,308) and Cork (8,806). The fewest number was reported by Mayo (1,323) followed by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (1,566) and Kerry (2,544). A breakdown of referrals by area is presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Breakdown of referrals by area

Area	Total 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	2024 YTD	Pop	Rate / 1000
Dublin South Central	6,895	2,116	1,997	1,597	2,032	7,742	70,259	110.2
DSE/WW	3,627	921	956	820	1,075	3,772	91,047	41.4
DSW/K/WW	8,873	2,384	2,325	2,166	2,567	9,442	108,927	86.7
Midlands	8,889	2,328	2,528	2,409	2,614	9,879	80,962	122.0
Dublin North City	5,446	1,341	1,332	1,247	1,456	5,376	48,909	109.9
Dublin North	9,341	2,210	2,425	2,215	2,458	9,308	104,281	89.3
Louth / Meath	7,261	1,841	1,994	1,717	2,037	7,589	96,531	78.6
Cavan / Monaghan	2,719	796	724	669	845	3,034	37,336	81.3
Cork	8,333	2,209	2,224	1,970	2,403	8,806	136,786	64.4
Kerry	2,704	558	604	731	651	2,544	34,994	72.7
CW/K/ST	4,361	1,058	1,070	1,175	1,204	4,507	62,366	72.3
Waterford/Wexford	6,394	1,611	1,784	1,611	1,883	6,889	69,239	99.5
Mid West	7,120	1,777	1,786	1,596	1,980	7,139	96,764	73.8
Galway/Roscommon	4,552	1,011	1,207	1,153	1,277	4,648	81,799	56.8
Mayo	1,320	377	338	299	309	1,323	31,911	41.5
Donegal	2,572	697	784	770	851	3,102	42,144	73.6
SLWC	1,517	364	407	363	432	1,566	24,312	64.4
Total	91,924	23,599	24,485	22,508	26,074	96,666	1,218,567	79.3

Population (0-17 years) based on Census 2022

Source of Referrals

- The most common source of referrals for 2024 was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 33% (32,009) of referrals, followed to a lesser extent by safeguarding officers (11.8%; 11,433), social workers (11.2%; 10,841) and teachers (10.7%; 10,384). Mandated persons accounted for 90% (86,668) of all sources. The source of all referrals is presented in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Source of Referrals (ranked by # referrals 2024 YTD)

Source	Q4 2024	% Total	2024 YTD	% Total
Member of An Garda Síochána	8,084	31.00%	32,009	33.11%
Safeguarding officer,	3,126	11.99%	11,433	11.83%
Social worker	2,815	10.80%	10,841	11.21%
Teacher	3,673	14.09%	10,384	10.74%
Social care worker	1,241	4.76%	4,519	4.67%
Anonymous	892	3.42%	4,135	4.28%
Medical practitioner	915	3.51%	3,397	3.51%
Parent / Guardian	793	3.04%	3,085	3.19%
Registered nurse/midwife	830	3.18%	2,806	2.90%
Manager of domestic violence shelter	603	2.31%	2,221	2.30%
Psychologist	475	1.82%	1,737	1.80%
Psychotherapist	432	1.66%	1,598	1.65%
Youth worker	375	1.44%	1,556	1.61%
Manager of homeless provision / emergency accom	313	1.20%	1,313	1.36%
Other Family Member	238	0.91%	1,069	1.11%
Not specified	133	0.51%	544	0.56%
Courts (Child Care Act 1991 Section 20)	106	0.41%	459	0.47%
Manager of asylum seeker accommodation	144	0.55%	448	0.46%
Probation officer	115	0.44%	364	0.38%
Person responsible for youth work service	86	0.33%	350	0.36%
Member of the public	90	0.35%	308	0.32%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school	82	0.31%	304	0.31%
A person carrying on a pre-school service	85	0.33%	263	0.27%
Occupational therapist	57	0.22%	218	0.23%
Speech and Language therapist	66	0.25%	157	0.16%
Addiction counsellor	43	0.16%	153	0.16%
Physiotherapist	41	0.16%	147	0.15%
Self	35	0.13%	139	0.14%
Courts (Other Court Request)	41	0.16%	125	0.13%
Guardian Ad Litem	36	0.14%	121	0.13%
Other	13	0.05%	106	0.11%
Emergency medical technician	34	0.13%	101	0.10%
Foster carer registered with the Agency	30	0.12%	91	0.09%
Director of an institution where a child is detained	9	0.03%	58	0.06%
Manager of a language school or	8	0.03%	35	0.04%
Immigration Services	7	0.03%	28	0.03%

Member of the clergy	*	0.02%	25	0.03%
Dentist	*	0.01%	*	0.02%
Courts (Child Care Act 1991 Section 47)	*	0.01%	*	0.00%
Total	26,074	100%	96,666	100%

*Suppressed for confidentiality reasons. Suppressed figures included in totals.

Mandated Reports

- 32% (30,640/96,666) of referrals for 2024 were mandated reports.
- A breakdown of mandated reports by primary report type is presented in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Mandated reports by primary report type

Primary Report Type	Q4 2024	% Total	2024 YTD	% Total
Physical Abuse	2,416	29%	8,226	27%
Emotional Abuse	3,541	42%	13,078	43%
Sexual Abuse	1,289	15%	5,016	16%
Neglect	1,171	14%	4,320	14%
Total	8,417	100%	30,640	100%

- A breakdown of mandated reports by area is presented in Table 6 below. The number of mandated reports for 2024 ranges from 636 (2%) (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) to 3,758 (12%) (Dublin North).

Table 6: Mandated reports by area

Area	Q4 2024	% Total	2024 YTD	% Total
Dublin South Central	742	8.8%	2,661	8.7%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	388	4.6%	1,421	4.6%
DSW/K/WW	641	7.6%	2,164	7.1%
Midlands	813	9.7%	2,769	9.0%
Dublin North City	516	6.1%	1,616	5.3%
Dublin North	925	11.0%	3,758	12.3%
Louth/Meath	928	11.0%	3,513	11.5%
Cavan/Monaghan	239	2.8%	767	2.5%
Cork	702	8.3%	2,552	8.3%
Kerry	217	2.6%	908	3.0%
CW/K/ST	275	3.3%	1,045	3.4%
Waterford/Wexford	383	4.6%	1,433	4.7%
Mid West	553	6.6%	1,955	6.4%
Galway/Roscommon	503	6.0%	1,659	5.4%
Mayo	163	1.9%	784	2.6%
Donegal	249	3.0%	999	3.3%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	180	2.1%	636	2.1%
Total	8,417	100.0%	30640	100.0%

- A breakdown of source of mandated reports is presented in Table 7 below. The most common source of reports for 2024 was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 38%

(11,657) of all mandated reports, followed to a lesser extent by teachers (14%; 4,339), safeguarding officers (13%; 4,111) and social workers (11%; 3,357).

Table 7: Source of mandated reports (ranked by number of reports 2024 YTD)

Source	Q4 2024	% Total	2024 YTD	% Total
Member of An Garda Siochana	3,122	37.1%	11,657	38.0%
Teacher	1,427	17.0%	4,339	14.2%
Safeguarding officer,	1,177	14.0%	4,111	13.4%
Social worker	831	9.9%	3,357	11.0%
Social Care worker	405	4.8%	1,455	4.7%
Medical Practitioner	250	3.0%	1,032	3.4%
Manager of domestic violence shelter	200	2.4%	879	2.9%
Psychotherapist	206	2.4%	768	2.5%
Psychologist	163	1.9%	677	2.2%
Registered nurse/midwife	169	2.0%	630	2.1%
Youth worker	123	1.5%	532	1.7%
Manager of homeless provision or emergency accomm	75	0.9%	275	0.9%
Person responsible for youth work service	35	0.4%	123	0.4%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	25	0.3%	116	0.4%
A person carrying on a pre-school service	30	0.4%	103	0.3%
Manager of asylum seeker accommodation	29	0.3%	96	0.3%
Occupational therapist	21	0.2%	68	0.2%
Guardian Ad Litem	17	0.2%	64	0.2%
Speech and Language therapist	28	0.3%	62	0.2%
Physiotherapist	6	0.1%	54	0.2%
Probation Officer	19	0.2%	53	0.2%
Foster carer registered with the Agency	19	0.2%	51	0.2%
Addiction counsellor	16	0.2%	50	0.2%
Emergency medical technician	13	0.2%	32	0.1%
Director of any institution where a child is detained	*	0.0%	24	0.1%
Manager of a language school or other recreational school	*	0.1%	16	0.1%
Dentist	*	0.0%	*	0.0%
Member of the Clergy	*	0.0%	*	0.0%
Total	8,417	100.0%	30,640	100.0%

*Figure suppressed for data confidentiality reasons. Suppressed figures included in the totals.

Screening

- 55% (14,324/26,074) of referrals for Q4 2024 were closed following screening (Table 8).
- 27% (6,923/26,074) of referrals for Q4 2024 progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage. The remaining referrals (19%; 4,827) were either at the screening stage, awaiting closure following screening, or another process stage, when the data was extracted for reporting.

Table 8: Referrals closed following screening

Area	% Referrals closed Q4 2024
Dublin South Central	59%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	48%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	54%
Midlands	58%
Dublin North City	45%
Dublin North	63%
Louth/Meath	45%
Cavan/Monaghan	52%
Cork	52%
Kerry	37%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	63%
Waterford/Wexford	64%
Mid West	65%
Galway/Roscommon	37%
Mayo	53%
Donegal	68%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	42%
Total	55%

- A breakdown of the outcome of referrals closed following screening is presented below (Table 9).
- 53% (7,629) of referrals for Q4 2024 were closed following screening, as assessment / safety planning was already ongoing, while a further 36% (5,086) were closed to social work with no further action required, 7% (944) were diverted to Tusla's Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) services and 2% (357) were diverted to another agency.

Table 9: Outcome of referrals closed following screening

Outcome of referrals closed	Q4 2024	% Total
No further action - close	5,086	36%
No further action – close, assessment / safety planning ongoing	7,629	53%
Divert to another agency - close	308	2%
Divert to PPFS - close	944	7%
Other / Not recorded	357	2%
Total	14,324	100%

- The percentage breakdown of outcomes of referrals for Q4 2024 closed following screening, by area is presented in the table below (Table 10).

Table 10: Outcome of referrals closed following screening by area, Q4 2024

Area	No further action - close	No further action – close, assessment / safety planning ongoing	Divert to PPFS - close
Dublin South Central	15%	77%	4%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	31%	63%	4%
DSW/K/WW	27%	58%	12%
Midlands	33%	61%	3%
Dublin North City	25%	66%	4%
Dublin North	26%	52%	19%
Louth/Meath	27%	59%	6%
Cavan/Monaghan	17%	63%	8%
Cork	36%	54%	2%
Kerry	41%	55%	0%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	71%	25%	2%
Waterford/Wexford	50%	38%	9%
Mid West	46%	43%	1%
Galway/Roscommon	38%	58%	2%
Mayo	84%	13%	1%
Donegal	50%	34%	15%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	47%	52%	1%
Total	36%	53%	7%

Preliminary Enquiries

- At the time the data for Q4 2024 was extracted for reporting, 98% (6,806/6,923) of preliminary enquiries were completed. A breakdown of preliminary enquiries completed by area is presented in the table below (Table 11).
- 11% (751) of preliminary enquiries that were completed within 5 working days. A breakdown of preliminary enquiries by area is presented in the table below.

Table 11: Preliminary enquiries commenced and completed, Q4 2024

Area	# PEs commenced	# PEs completed	% PEs completed	% PEs completed 5 days
Dublin South Central	438	430	98.2%	10%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	367	361	98.4%	5%
DSW/K/WW	570	558	97.9%	8%
Midlands	366	361	98.6%	6%
Dublin North City	265	260	98.1%	8%
Dublin North	509	498	97.8%	5%
Louth/Meath	588	563	95.7%	1%
Cavan/Monaghan	243	224	92.2%	7%
Cork	782	769	98.3%	8%
Kerry	382	382	100.0%	39%
CW/K/ST	294	294	100.0%	14%
Waterford/Wexford	386	383	99.2%	10%

Mid West	486	477	98.1%	11%
Galway/Roscommon	674	673	99.9%	10%
Mayo	104	104	100.0%	6%
Donegal	234	234	100.0%	14%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	235	235	100.0%	45%
Total	6,923	6,806	98.3%	11%

- Of the preliminary enquiries completed, 45% (3,037) required no further action; 35% (2,392) required an initial assessment, while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 4% (273) of cases. Some 9% (645) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS (Table 12).

Table 12: Outcomes from preliminary enquiries

Outcomes from preliminary enquiry	Q4 2024	% Total
No Further Action (NFA) - Close	3,037	45%
No Further Action (NFA) - Close, Assessment/Safety Planning Ongoing	273	4%
Divert to PPFS - Close	645	9%
Divert to Another Agency - Close	459	7%
Initial Assessment	2,392	35%
Total	6,806	100%

- The percentage breakdown of the outcomes of preliminary enquiries completed, by area for Q4 2024 is presented in the table below (Table 13).

Table 13: Percentage breakdown of outcomes of preliminary enquiries, by area Q4 2024

Area	% Closed - No further Action	% Requiring IA	% Divert - PPFS	% Closed - Ongoing	% Closed - Divert to Another Agency
Dublin South Central	36%	40%	11%	3%	11%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	59%	25%	9%	2%	4%
DSW/K/WW	44%	34%	10%	2%	10%
Midlands	37%	34%	21%	5%	2%
Dublin North City	34%	49%	10%	4%	3%
Dublin North	35%	41%	20%	2%	2%
Louth/Meath	56%	21%	12%	2%	9%
Cavan/Monaghan	48%	39%	7%	6%	0%
Cork	45%	37%	3%	8%	7%
Kerry	51%	33%	3%	8%	5%
CW/K/ST	52%	23%	15%	9%	1%
Waterford/Wexford	42%	31%	14%	4%	9%
Mid West	41%	35%	1%	3%	21%
Galway/Roscommon	50%	38%	5%	2%	5%
Mayo	51%	27%	17%	2%	3%
Donegal	31%	45%	14%	6%	3%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	40%	54%	3%	1%	2%
Total	45%	35%	9%	4%	7%

Initial Assessments

- At the time the Q4 2024 data was extracted for reporting, 53% (1,263/2,392) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were completed (Table 14).
- 32% (406) of initial assessments completed were completed within 40 days of receipt of referral. A breakdown of initial assessments by area is presented in the table below.

Table 14: Breakdown of the status of Initial assessments, by area Q4 2024

Area	% IA Closed	% IAs closed 40 working days
Dublin South Central	47%	29%
DSE/WW	63%	40%
DSW/K/WW	56%	20%
Midlands	15%	17%
Dublin North City	29%	3%
Dublin North	16%	0%
Louth/Meath	32%	13%
Cavan/Monaghan	37%	13%
Cork	34%	28%
Kerry	86%	45%
CW/K/ST	75%	44%
Waterford/Wexford	59%	30%
Mid West	85%	33%
Galway/Roscommon	78%	38%
Mayo	96%	22%
Donegal	51%	9%
SLWC	90%	65%
Total	53%	32%

- 54% (677) of referrals that required an initial assessment following the preliminary enquiry were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. Of these 59% (399) required no further action, 21% (140) were diverted to another agency for a service, 14% (96) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service, while the remaining 6% (42) were closed as assessment/safety planning already ongoing.
- 30% (374) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 13% (165) required a children protection response / child protection conference and 4% (47) required admission to care.
- The outcome of the initial assessments completed is presented in the table below.

Table 15: Breakdown of the outcome of initial assessments, Q4 2024

Outcomes from initial assessments	Q4 2024	% Total
No Further Action (NFA) - Close	399	32%
No Further Action (NFA) - Close, Assessment/Safety Planning Ongoing	42	3%
Divert to Another Agency - Close	140	11%
Divert to PPFS - Close	96	8%
Child Protection / CPC Safety Planning	165	13%
Safety Planning	374	30%
Admission to Care	47	4%
Total	1,263	100%

2.2 NATIONAL OUT OF HOURS SERVICES

- Tusla National Out of Hours Service (NOHS) received 425 new referrals in Q1 2025.
- The NOHS placed 187 children in Q1 2025. *Figure includes children who may have been placed more than once in the quarter.*
- A breakdown of children placed for each Tusla area is presented in the table below. Included in the table is the number of children from Ukraine who were placed (22) by the NOHS and also the number of separated children seeking international protection who were placed (12).

	# Placements	% Total
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	24	13%
Dublin North	24	13%
Dublin North City	17	9%
Louth/Meath	12	6%
Dublin South Central	11	6%
Midlands	11	6%
Midwest	10	5%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	9	5%
Cork	8	4%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	7	4%
Kerry	6	3%
Galway/Roscommon	5	3%
Waterford/Wexford	4	2%
Donegal	3	2%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	2	1%
Cavan/Monaghan	0	0%
Mayo	0	0%
Ukraine	22	12%
Separated Children Seeking International Protection	12	6%
Total	187	100%

2.3 SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITY DATA (Child Protection & Welfare)

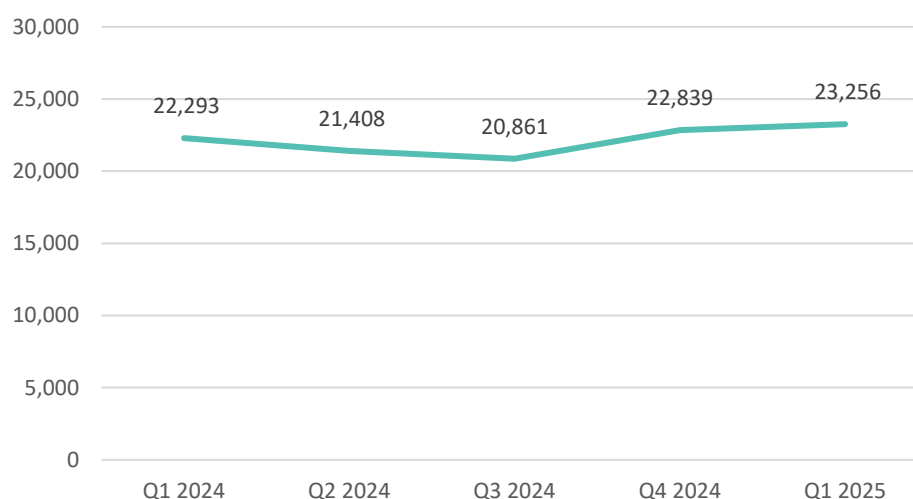
Key Facts

- 23,256 cases open to social work nationally at the end of Q1 2025, 417 (2%) more than Q4 2024 (22,839) and 963 (4%) more than Q1 2024 (22,293).
- 81% (18,799) of open cases were allocated to a worker at the end of Q1 2025, up six percentage points from Q4 2024 (75%).
- 4,457 (19%) cases were awaiting allocation, 1,333 (23%) fewer than Q4 2024 (5,790) and 136 (3%) fewer than Q1 2024 (4,593).
- Five areas account for 71% (3,161) of cases awaiting allocation, Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (881), Dublin South Central (601), Louth/Meath (562), Cork (562) and Midlands (555).
- 59% (2,640) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2025 were “active” on a duty system.
- 5% (243) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2025 were categorised as high priority, 280 (54%) fewer than Q4 2024 (523) and 126 (34%) fewer than Q1 2024 (369).
- 63% (2,791) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 29% (1,297) were low priority while the remaining 3% (126) were awaiting categorisation.
- 77% (3,436/4,457) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2025 were waiting three months or less and of these 54% (1,841) were waiting less than one month.
- 71% (172/243) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2025 were waiting 3 months or less and of these 77% (133) were waiting less than one month.

2.3.1 Open Cases

- 23,256 cases open² to social work nationally at the end of Q1 2025, 417 (2%) more than Q4 2024 (22,839) and 963 (4%) more than Q1 2024 (22,293).

Number of open cases by quarter



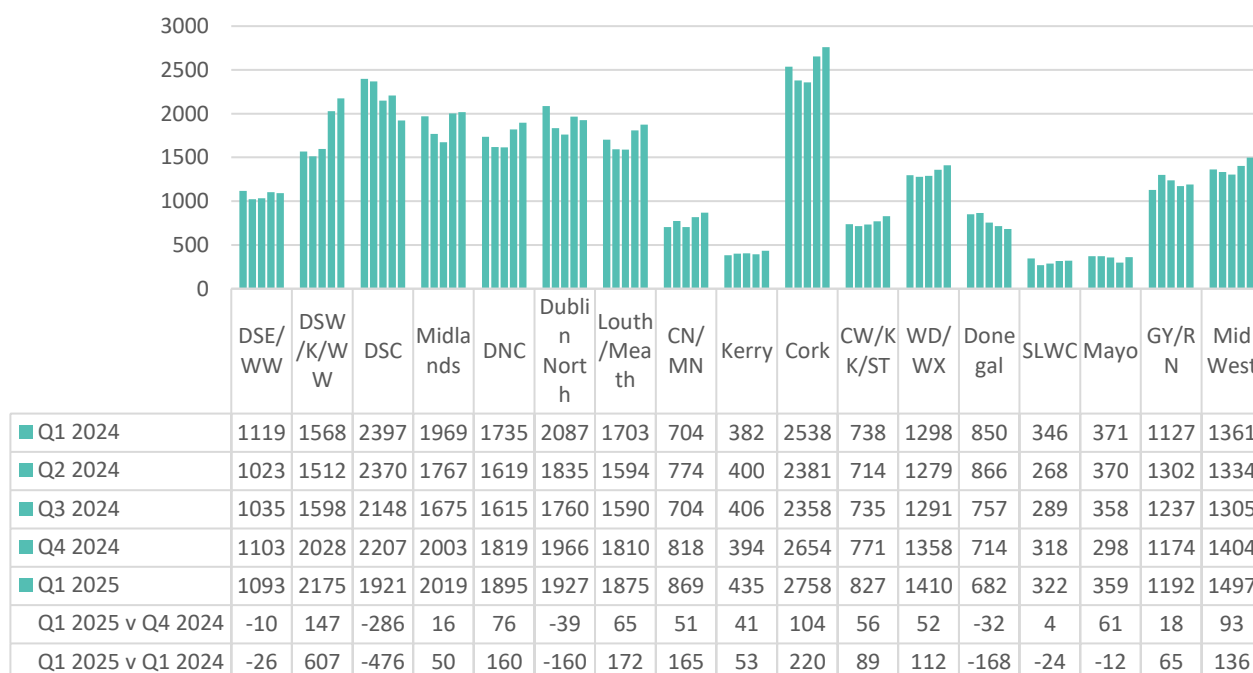
- The number of open cases ranged from 2,758 (12%) in Cork to 322 (1%) in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan. Eight of the 17 areas had between 1,000 and 2,000 cases; a

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

further six areas had fewer than 1,000 cases while the remaining three areas (Cork, Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow and Midlands) had in excess of 2,000 cases.

- 13 of the 17 areas reported an increase in open cases from Q4 2024. The largest increase was reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 147) followed by Cork (up 104) and Midwest (up 93).
- Of the four areas that reported a decrease, the largest decrease was reported by Dublin South Central (down 286) followed to a lesser extent by Dublin North (down 39) and Donegal (down 32).

Number of open cases by area



2.3.2 Open Cases Allocated / Awaiting Allocation

- 81% (18,799) of open cases were allocated to a worker at the end of Q1 2025, up six percentage points from Q4 2024 (75%).

Note: the number of allocated cases reflects a changing environment in Tusla where allocation of cases to a social worker has become more difficult with reduced availability of social workers nationally. Many cases are now allocated to other professionals also reflecting the changing nature of social work teams. In many instances where cases are unallocated to a social worker there is a social care worker or leader allocated to the case.

To improve transparency and ensure the data reported reflects our practice change, reports (from Q1 2025) now reflect where a child is allocated a social worker and where they are allocated to another professional. Other professionals include professionally qualified social care leaders, social care workers, family support workers, therapists etc.

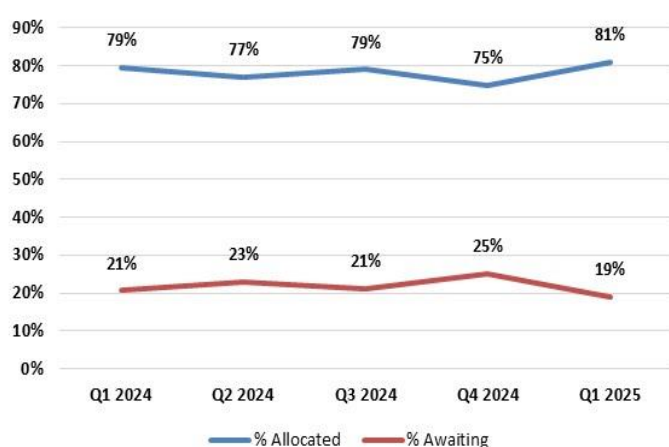
- Of the cases allocated (18,799) at the end of Q1 2025, 79% (14,904) were allocated to a social worker and 21% (3,895) were allocated to a another professional (see table below)

Breakdown of allocated cases by allocated to a social worker and allocated to another professional and area, Q1 2025

Area	Allocated Social Worker	Allocated Other Professional	Total	% Allocated Social Worker	% Allocated Other Professional	Total
Dublin South East/Wicklow	628	183	811	77%	23%	100%
DSW/K/WW	784	510	1294	61%	39%	100%
Dublin South Central	813	507	1320	62%	38%	100%
Midlands	1193	271	1464	81%	19%	100%
Dublin North City	1326	352	1678	79%	21%	100%
Dublin North	1485	271	1756	85%	15%	100%
Louth/Meath	927	386	1313	71%	29%	100%
Cavan/Monaghan	583	173	756	77%	23%	100%
Kerry	328	94	422	78%	22%	100%
Cork	2,011	185	2196	92%	8%	100%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	426	268	694	61%	39%	100%
Waterford/Wexford	904	307	1,211	75%	25%	100%
Donegal	579	54	633	91%	9%	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	285	20	305	93%	7%	100%
Mayo	322	36	358	90%	10%	100%
Galway/Roscommon	1,156	32	1,188	97%	3%	100%
Midwest	1,154	246	1,400	82%	18%	100%
Total	14904	3,895	18,799	79%	21%	100%

- 4,457 (19%) cases were awaiting allocation, 1,333 (23%) fewer than Q4 2024 (5,790) and 136 (3%) fewer than Q1 2024 (4,593).
- 59% (2,640) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2025 were “active” on a duty system³.

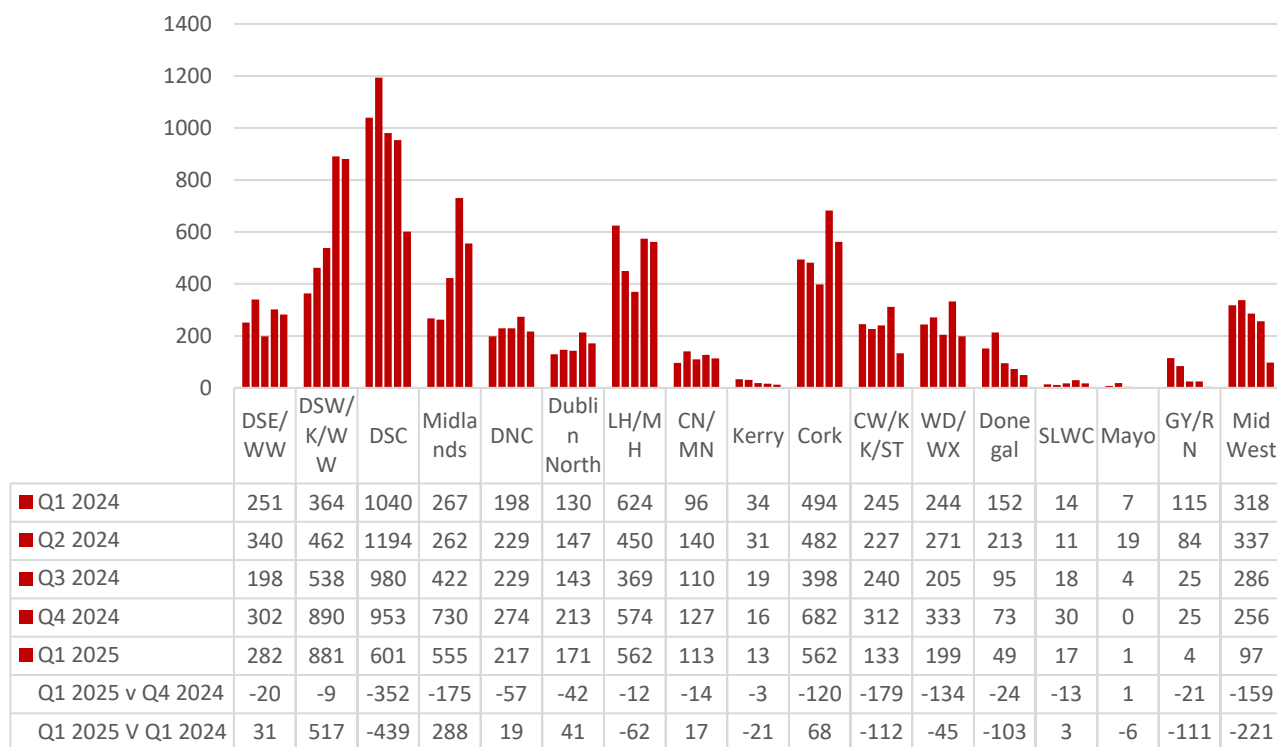
Cases allocated/awaiting allocation



³ 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.

- Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow reported the highest number of cases awaiting allocation (881; 20%) followed by Dublin South Central (601; 13%), Louth/Meath (562; 13%), Cork (562; 13%) and Midlands (555; 12%). These five areas account for 71% (3,161) of cases awaiting allocation.
- 16 of the 17 areas reported a decrease in cases awaiting allocation from Q4 2024 with the largest decreases reported by Dublin South Central (down 352), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 179) and Midlands (down 175).
- The remaining area (Mayo) reported an increase, from no case awaiting allocation in Q4 2024 to one at the end of Q1 2025.

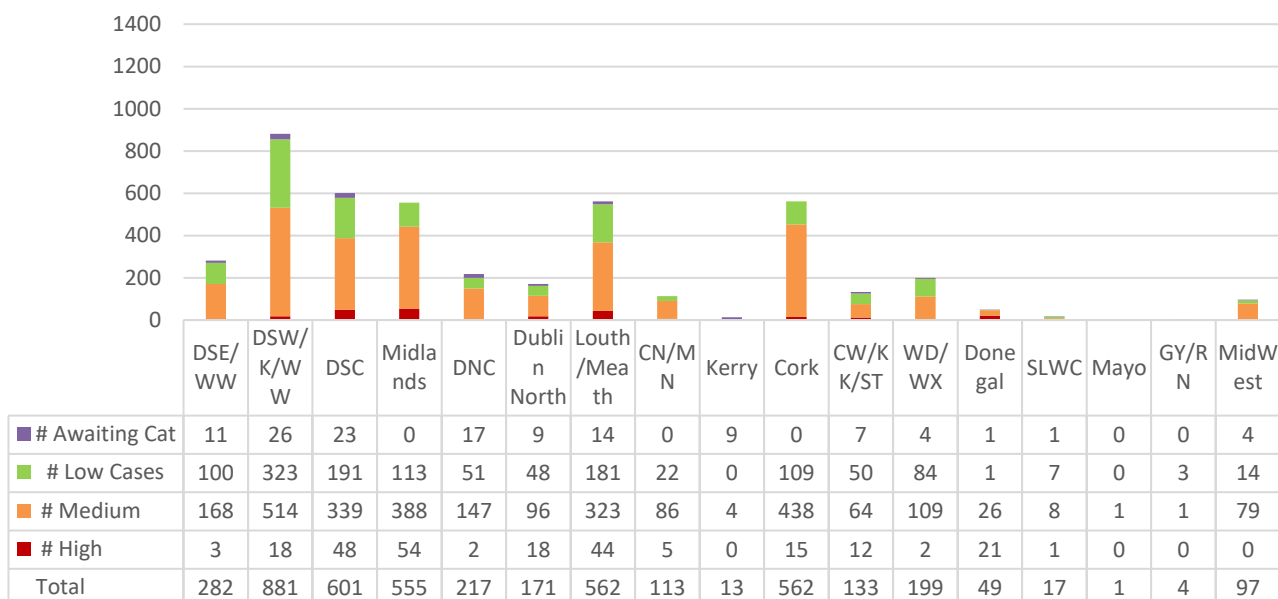
Number of open cases awaiting allocation by area



2.3.3 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Priority Level

- 5% (243) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2025 were categorised as high priority, 280 (54%) fewer than Q4 2024 (523) and 126 (34%) fewer than Q1 2024 (369).
- 63% (2,791) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 29% (1,297) were low priority while the remaining 3% (126) were awaiting categorisation.
- The highest number of high priority cases was reported by Midlands (54) followed by Dublin South Central (48), Louth/Meath (44) and Donegal (21). These four areas account for 69% (167) of all high priority cases awaiting.

Number Unallocated Cases by Priority Level



2.3.4 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Waiting Time

- 77% (3,436/4,457) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2025 were waiting three months or less and of these 54% (1,841) were waiting less than one month.
- 71% (172/243) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2025 were waiting 3 months or less and of these 77% (133) were waiting less than one month.

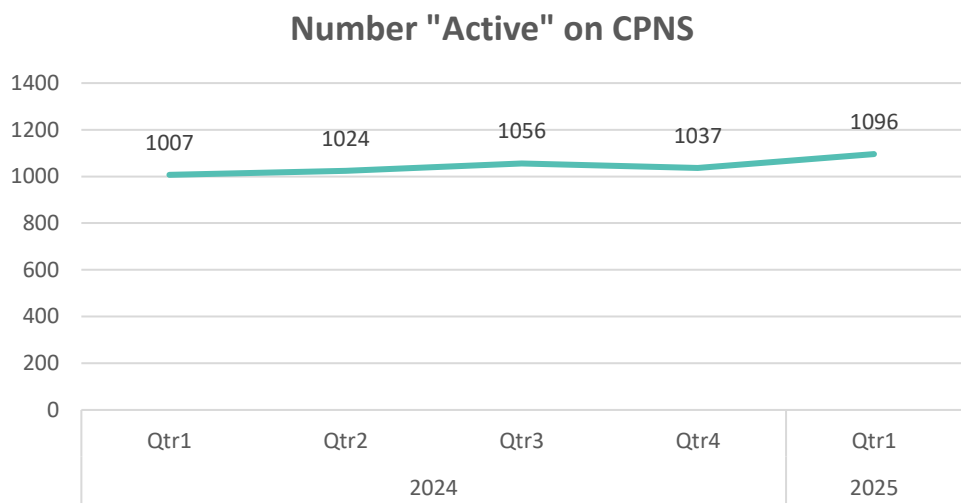
Breakdown of cases awaiting allocation by priority level and time waiting

Time Waiting	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025
<1 month	1,439 (31%)	1,366 (28%)	1,533 (36%)	1,922 (33%)	1,841 (41.3%)
1-3 months	1,301 (28%)	1,648 (34%)	885 (21%)	2,098 (36%)	1,595 (35.8%)
>3 months	1,853 (40%)	1,885 (38%)	1,861 (43%)	1,770 (31%)	1,021 (22.9%)
Total	4,593 (100%)	4,899 (100%)	4,279 (100%)	5,790 (100%)	4,457 (100%)

2.4 CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

KEY FACTS

- 1,096 children listed as ‘active’ on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of Q1 2025, 59 (6%) more than Q4 2024 (1,037) and 89 (9%) more than Q1 2024 (1,007).
 - 84% (924/1,096) of children were listed as ‘active’ for no longer than 12 months, up slightly from 83% (864/1,037) at the end of Q4 2024.
 - 6% (63/1,096) of children were listed as ‘active’ for > 18 months, no change from Q4 2024 (6%; 65/1,037).
 - 99% (1,086) of all children listed as ‘active’ at the end of Q1 2025 had an allocated social worker. Ten children were awaiting allocation to a social worker, of which eight were subsequently allocated and two had another professional allocated.
- 1,096 children listed as ‘active’ on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)⁴ at the end of Q1 2025, 59 (6%) more than Q4 2024 (1,037) and 89 (9%) more than Q1 2024 (1,007).



- The number listed as ‘active’ equates to about 9 children per 10,000 under 18 years and ranges from 3.7/10,000 in Dublin South East/Wicklow to 26.2/10,000 in Dublin North City, more than double the national average. Seven areas reported a rate equal to or higher than the national average.
- Dublin North City reported the highest number (128) of children ‘active’, followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (126), Cork (119) and Midlands (118).

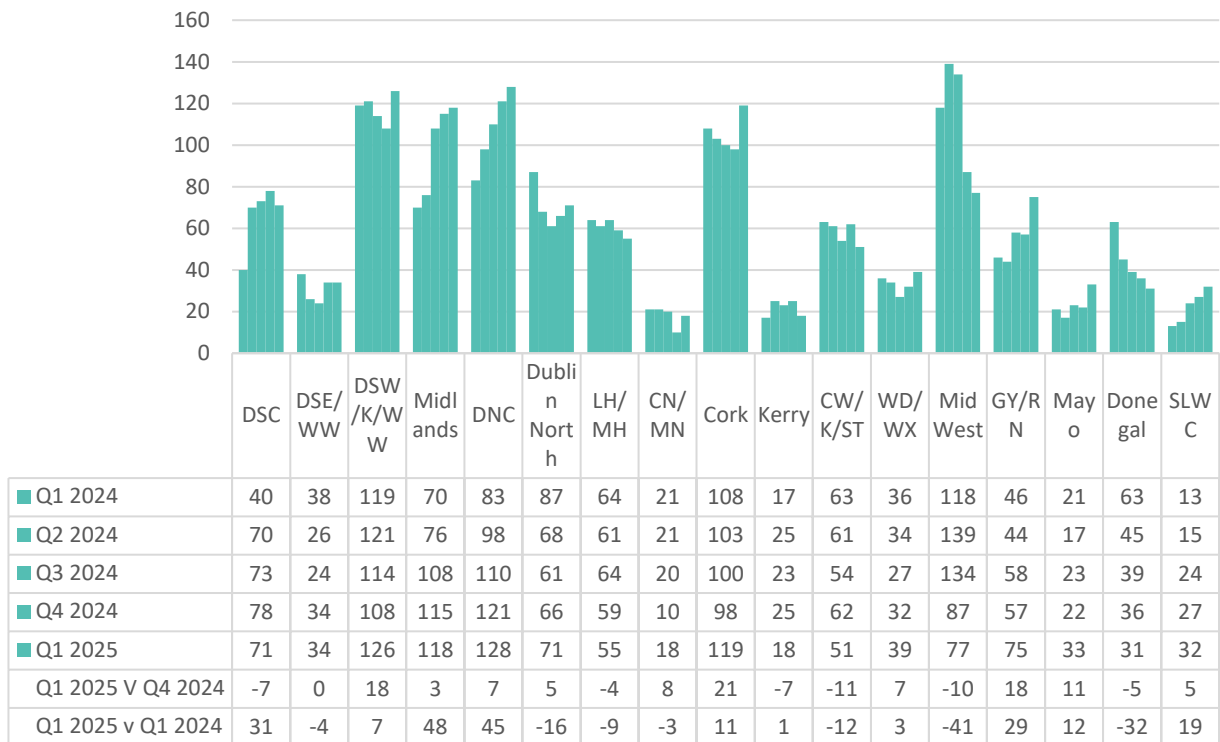
⁴ The CPNS, in accordance with the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, 2011, is a national record of all children who are the subject of a child protection plan agreed at a child protection conference. The CPNS is accessible to named professional groups subject to strict protocols.

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

Area	Q1 2025	Population	Rate/10,000
Dublin North City	128	48,909	26.2
Midlands	118	80,962	14.6
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	32	24,312	13.2
DSW/K/WW	126	108,927	11.6
Mayo	33	31,911	10.3
Dublin South Central	71	70,259	10.1
Galway / Roscommon	75	81,799	9.2
Cork	119	136,786	8.7
CW/K/ST	51	62,366	8.2
Mid West	77	96,764	8.0
Donegal	31	42,144	7.4
Dublin North	71	104,281	6.8
Louth / Meath	55	96,531	5.7
Waterford / Wexford	39	69,239	5.6
Kerry	18	34,994	5.1
Cavan / Monaghan	18	37,336	4.8
Dublin South East / Wicklow	34	91,047	3.7
Total	1,096	1,218,567	9.0

- 10/17 areas reported an increase in the number 'active' from Q4 2024. The largest increases were reported by Cork (up 21), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (18), Galway/Roscommon (18) and Mayo (11).
- 6/17 areas reported a decrease in the number 'active' from Q4 2024. The largest decreases were reported by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 11), Midwest (down 10), Kerry (down 7) and Dublin South Central (down 7). The remaining area Dublin South East/Wicklow reported no change.
- 10/17 areas had more children 'active' at the end of Q1 2025 than at the end of Q1 2024. Largest increases reported by Midlands (up 48), Dublin North City (up 45), Dublin South Central (up 31) and Galway/Roscommon (up 29).
- 7/17 areas had fewer children 'active' at the end of Q1 2025 than at the end of Q1 2024. Largest decreases reported by Midwest (down 41), Donegal (down 32), Dublin North (down 16) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 12).

#"Active" by Area



- 60% (659/1,096) of children listed as 'active' at the end of Q1 2025 were listed for 0-6 months, up from 54% (561/1,037) at the end of Q4 2024.
- 84% (924/1,096) of children were listed as 'active' for no longer than 12 months, up slightly from 83% (864/1,037) at the end of Q4 2024.
- 6% (63/1,096) of children were listed as 'active' for > 18 months, no change from Q4 2024 (6%; 65/1,037).
- 8 areas (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary, Cavan/Monaghan, Donegal, Dublin South Central, Dublin South East/Wicklow, Mayo, Midlands and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) had no child 'active' for longer than 18 months.
- The areas reporting the largest number of children 'active' for > 18 months were, Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (16), Dublin North (14) and Dublin North City (12).
- 99% (1,086) of all children listed as 'active' at the end of Q1 2025 had an allocated social worker. Ten children were awaiting allocation to a social worker, of which eight were subsequently allocated and two had an another professional allocated.

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

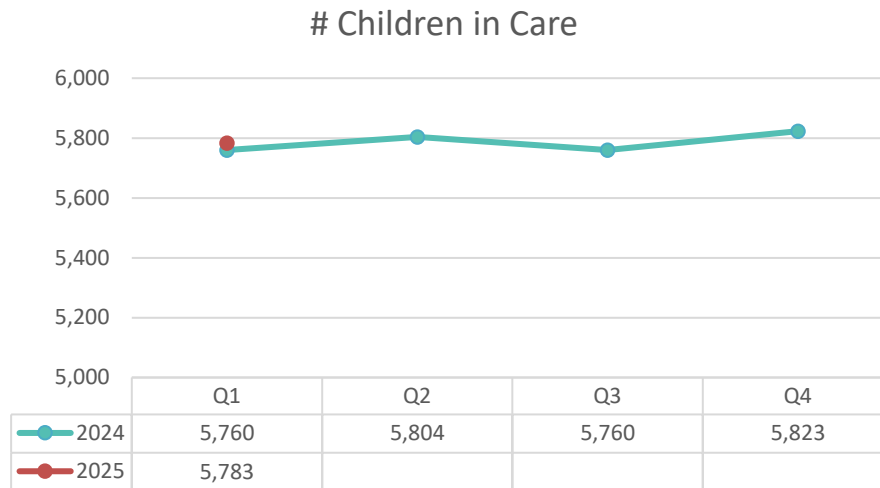
3.1 CHILDREN IN CARE (FOSTER CARE / RESIDENTIAL CARE)

KEY FACTS

- 5,783 children in care at the end of Q1 2025, 40 (<1%) fewer than Q4 2024 (5,823) and 23 (<1%) more than Q1 2024 (5,760). This figure (5,783) includes 104 children reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.
- 87.2% (5,041) of children in care (17 Areas + SCSIP) were in foster care (general, relative) at the end of Q1 2025 and 9.5% (552) were in a residential care (general and special care) placement. The remaining 3.3% (190) of children were in “Other” care placements. *“Other” includes at home under a care order, supported lodgings, detention centre, disability unit, hospital, special emergency arrangement, not specified etc.*
- Across the 17 Areas, 88.4% (5,021/5,679) of children were in foster care, 8.3% (474) were in residential care and the remaining 3.2% (184) were in “other” care placements.
- 1,038 (18%) children in care at the end of Q1 2025 were in placements with private providers, 23 (2%) more than Q4 2024 (1,015) and 147 (16%) more than Q1 2024 (891).
- 98% (5,691) of children in care at the end of Q1 2025 had an allocated social worker / other professional. Some 92 children were awaiting allocation of worker at the end of Q1 2025. *Refer to context on page 35.*
- 83% (4,817) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan, no change from Q4 2024. Some 966 (17%) of children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 13 (1%) fewer than Q4 2024 (979)
- 97% (3,598/3,710) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education at the end of Q1 2025, up one percentage point from Q4 2024 (96%).
- 93% (923/991) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of Q1 2025, no change from Q4 2024.

3.1.1 Number of Children in Care

- 5,783 children in care at the end of Q1 2025, 40 (<1%) fewer than Q4 2024 (5,823) and 23 (<1%) more than Q1 2024 (5,760). *This figure (5,783) includes 104 children reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.*



- Across the 17 areas the number of children in care ranged from 656 in Cork to 119 in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan.
- Dublin North City reported the highest rate of children in care per 1,000 population under 18 years (9.5), more than double the national rate 4.7, followed by Waterford/Wexford (6.0), and Donegal (5.8). Lowest rate reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (2.2) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (3.8) and Dublin North (4.0).

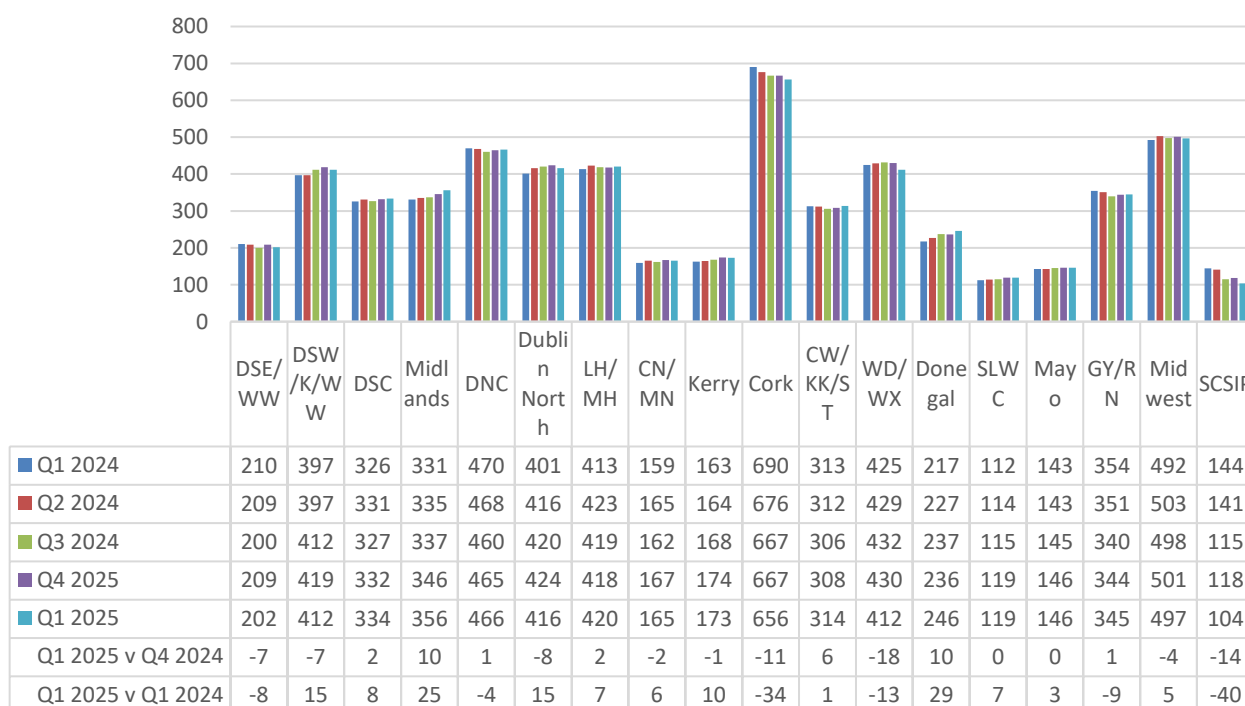
Number of children in care and rate per 1,000 population 0-17 years (ranked by rate)

Area	# Children in care Q1 2025	0-17 population (Census 2022)	No of CIC/1,000 population 0-17
Dublin North City	466	48,909	9.5
Waterford/Wexford	412	69,239	6.0
Donegal	246	42,144	5.8
Midwest	497	96,764	5.1
CW/KK/ST	314	62,366	5.0
Kerry	173	34,994	4.9
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	119	24,312	4.9
Cork	656	136,786	4.8
Dublin South Central	334	70,259	4.8
Mayo	146	31,911	4.6
Cavan/Monaghan	165	37,336	4.4
Midlands	356	80,962	4.4
Louth/Meath	420	96,531	4.4
Galway/Roscommon	345	81,799	4.2
Dublin North	416	104,281	4.0
DSW/K/WW	412	108,927	3.8
Dublin South East/Wicklow	202	91,047	2.2
Total Areas	5,679	1,218,567	4.7

- 7 areas reported an increase in children in care from Q4 2024. Largest increases reported by Midlands (up 10) and Donegal (up 10).

- 8 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported a decrease from Q4 2024, with the largest decrease reported by Waterford/Wexford (down 18), SCSIP (down 14) and Cork (down 11).
- The remaining two areas (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan and Mayo) reported no change.
- 12 areas had more children in care at the end of Q1 2025 than at the end of Q1 2024, largest increases reported by Donegal (up 29), Midlands (up 25), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (15) and Dublin North (15).
- 5 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported a decrease with the largest decreases reported by SCSIP (down 40), Cork (down 34) and Waterford/Wexford (down 13).

Breakdown of the number of children in care in each area



Number of Children in Care, by Care Type

- 87.2% (5,041) of children in care (17 Areas + SCSIP) were in foster care (general, relative) at the end of Q1 2025 and 9.5% (552) were in a residential care (general and special care) placement. The remaining 3.3% (190) of children were in “Other” care placements. “Other” includes at home under a care order, supported lodgings, detention centre, disability unit, hospital, special emergency arrangement, not specified etc.
- Across the 17 Areas, 88.4% (5,021/5,79) were in foster care, 8.3% (474) were in residential care and the remaining 3.2% (184) were in “other” care placements.

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

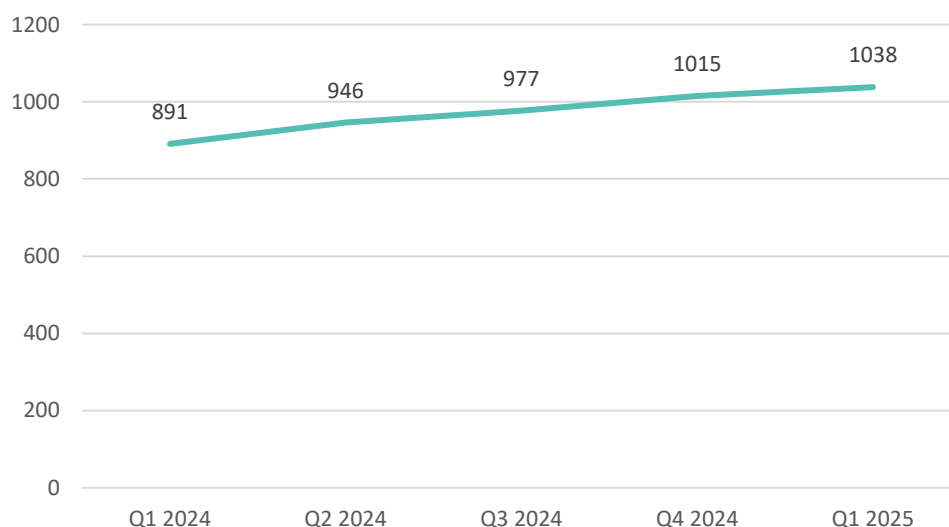
	Foster Care General	Δ+/- prev Q	Foster Care Relative	Δ+/- prev Q	Residential Care Gen	Δ+/- prev Q	Residential Special	Δ+/- prev Q	Other Care	Δ+/- prev Q	Total	Δ+/- prev Q
Q1 2024	3,571		1,471		457		15		246		5,760	
Q2 2024	3,599	+28	1,473	+2	473	+16	15	0	244	-2	5,804	+44
Q3 2024	3,581	-18	1,454	-19	486	+13	15	0	224	-20	5,760	-44
Q4 2024	3,581	0	1,496	+42	530	+44	13	-2	203	-21	5,823	+63
Q1 2025	3,543	-38	1,498	+2	538	+8	14	+1	190	-13	5,783	-40

- 18 (0.3%) children were in out of State placements at the end of Q1 2025, two more than Q4 2024 (16). These children are included in the figures for the various care types set out in the table above.

3.1.2 Children in Placements with Private Providers

- 1,038 (18%) children in care at the end of Q1 2025 were in placements with private providers⁵, 23 (2%) more than Q4 2024 (1,015) and 147 (16%) more than Q1 2024 (891).

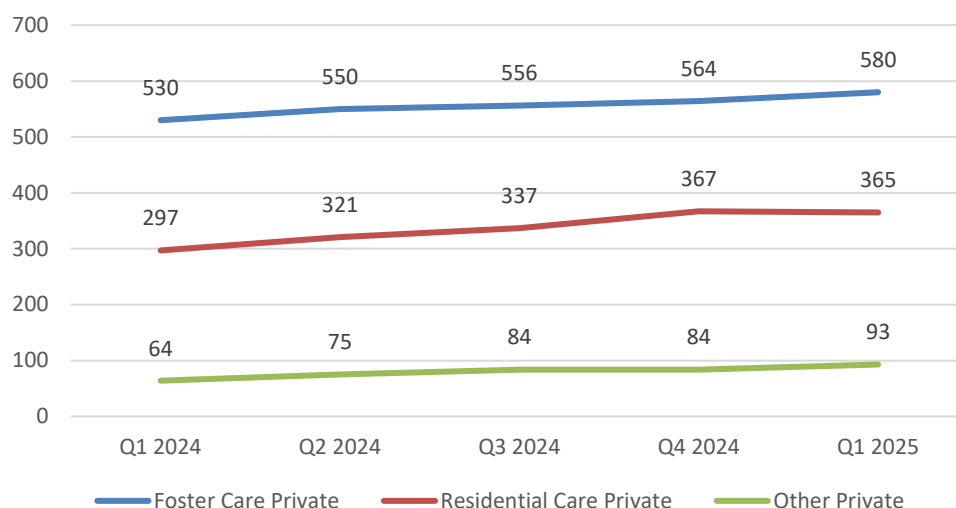
Number of children in placements with private providers



- 56% (580) of children in placements with private providers were in foster care, up 16 (3%) from Q4 2024 (564) and 50 (9%) from Q1 2024 (530).
- 35% (365) were in residential placements, two fewer than Q4 2024 (367) and 68 (23%) more than Q1 2024 (297).
- The remaining 9% (93) were in “Other” care placements, up 9 (11%) from Q4 2024 (84) and 29 (45%) from Q1 2024 (64). “Other” care placements include, disability units, mental health units, drugs and alcohol rehabilitation centres etc.

⁵ The number of children in private placements is included in the children in care figures presented in sections 3.1.1 / 3.1.2.

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



- The highest number of children in care in placements with private providers is reported by Dublin North City (138) followed by Dublin North (122), Dublin South Central (118), Dublin South West/Kildare West Wicklow (112), and Midlands (97). These five areas account for 57% (587) of all children in placements with private providers.
- 9 areas reported an increase from Q4 2024 in children in placements with private providers with the largest increases reported by Midlands (up 10) and Dublin North City (up 9). Seven areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported a decrease with the largest decreases reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (down 6) and Service for SCSIP (down 5). The remaining area (Dublin North) reported no change.

Number of children in placements with private providers, by area

Area	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q1 v Q4
Dublin North City	112	119	123	129	138	9
Dublin North	98	102	117	122	122	0
Dublin South Central	107	110	113	113	118	5
DSW/K/WW	107	109	113	118	112	-6
Midlands	70	80	83	87	97	10
SCSIP	55	71	63	72	67	-5
Cork	58	60	57	55	60	5
Louth/Meath	47	51	53	53	52	-1
Waterford/Wexford	47	46	51	53	51	-2
Dublin South East/Wicklow	52	51	50	52	50	-2
Midwest	34	39	41	41	40	-1
Kerry	32	33	32	33	32	-1
Donegal	21	18	20	22	28	6
CW/KK/ST	22	22	22	25	27	2
Galway/Roscommon	12	14	16	16	19	3
SLWC	11	12	12	14	15	1
Cavan/Monaghan	5	8	8	9	8	-1
Mayo	1	1	3	1	2	1
Total	891	946	977	1,015	1,038	23

3.1.3 Children in Care with an Allocated Worker⁶

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

To improve transparency and ensure the data reported reflects our practice change, reports (from Q1 2025) now reflect where a child is allocated a social worker and where they are allocated to another professional. Other professionals include professionally qualified social care leaders, social care workers, family support workers, therapists etc.

- 98% (5,691) of children in care at the end of Q1 2025 had an allocated social worker / other professional.
- 92 children were awaiting allocation of worker at the end of Q1 2025

Children in care (CIC) with an allocated worker by care type

Care Type	CIC Q1 2025	Allocated Q1 2025	% Allocated Q1 2025
Foster Care (General)	3,543	3,486	98%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,498	1,467	98%
Residential Care (General)	538	534	99%
Residential Special Care	14	14	100%
Other Placements	190	190	100%
Total	5,783	5,691	98%

- 88% (5,021) of children allocated were allocated to a social worker and 12% (670) were allocated to another professional. A breakdown of children allocated by role type and area is presented in the table below.

Area	Allocated SW	% Allocated SW	Allocated OP	% Allocated OP	Total Allocated
Midlands	347	98%	9	3%	356
Dublin North City	428	92%	38	8%	466
Dublin North	378	91%	38	9%	416
Cavan/Monaghan	163	99%	2	1%	165
Kerry	167	97%	6	4%	173
Cork	656	100%	0	0%	656
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	157	50%	157	50%	314
Donegal	246	100%	0	0%	246
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	114	96%	5	4%	119
Mayo	145	99%	1	1%	146
Galway/Roscommon	341	99%	4	1%	345
Dublin South East/Wicklow	196	98%	5	3%	201
Waterford/Wexford	346	85%	63	15%	409
Mid West	351	71%	142	29%	493
SCSIP	102	100%	0	0%	102
DSW/K/WW	292	74%	101	26%	393

Dublin South Central	243	79%	64	21%	307
Louth/Meath	349	91%	35	9%	384
Total	5,021	88%	670	12%	5,691

- 11 of the 17 areas report no cases awaiting allocation with a further three areas and the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection reporting fewer than 10 cases awaiting allocation.
- The remaining three areas account for 89% (82) of cases awaiting allocation, Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (19), Dublin South Central (27) and Louth/Meath (36).

Area	Total Allocated	% Allocated	Awaiting Allocation	% Awaiting Allocation	Total
Midlands	356	100%	0	0%	356
Dublin North City	466	100%	0	0%	466
Dublin North	416	100%	0	0%	416
Cavan/Monaghan	165	100%	0	0%	165
Kerry	173	100%	0	0%	173
Cork	656	100%	0	0%	656
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	314	100%	0	0%	314
Donegal	246	100%	0	0%	246
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	119	100%	0	0%	119
Mayo	146	100%	0	0%	146
Galway/Roscommon	345	100%	0	0%	345
Dublin South East/Wicklow	201	99.5%	1	0.5%	202
Waterford/Wexford	409	99%	3	1%	412
Mid West	493	99%	4	1%	497
SCSIP	102	98%	2	2%	104
DSW/K/WW	393	95%	19	5%	412
Dublin South Central	307	92%	27	8%	334
Louth/Meath	384	91%	36	9%	420
Total	5,691	98%	92	2%	5,783

Children in Care with an Up-To-Date Care Plan

- 83% (4,817) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan, no change from Q4 2024.
- A total of 966 (17%) of children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 13 (1%) fewer than Q4 2024 (979)

Number of children in care (CIC) with a care plan by care type

Care Type	CIC Q4 2024	No. with UTD CP Q4 2024	% with UTD CP Q4 2024	CIC Q1 2025	No. with UTD CP Q1 2025	% with UTD CP Q1 2025
Foster Care General	3,581	3,061	85%	3,543	3,023	85%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,496	1,258	84%	1,498	1,264	84%
Residential Care General	530	386	73%	538	394	73%
Residential Special Care	13	9	69%	14	11	79%
Other Placements	203	130	64%	190	125	66%
Total	5,823	4,844	83%	5,783	4,817	83%

- The percentage of children with an up-to-date care plan ranged from 98% (Midlands) to 62% (Dublin South Central).
- The areas with the highest numbers of children awaiting an up-to-date plan are Dublin South Central (128; 38%), Dublin North City (127; 27%), Midwest (112; 23%) and Louth/Meath (108; 26%).

Breakdown of the number of children in care with a care plan

Area	No in Care Q4 2024	No with a care plan Q4 2024	% with a care plan Q4 2024	No in Care Q1 2025	No with a care plan Q1 2025	% with a care plan Q1 2025	# Awaiting a Plan
DSE/WW	209	157	75%	202	154	76%	48
DSW/K/WW	419	328	78%	412	352	85%	60
DSC	332	213	64%	334	206	62%	128
Midlands	346	333	96%	356	350	98%	6
DNC	465	369	79%	466	339	73%	127
Dublin North	424	353	83%	416	344	83%	72
LH/MH	418	315	75%	420	312	74%	108
CN/MN	167	149	89%	165	136	82%	29
Kerry	174	133	76%	173	150	87%	23
Cork	667	603	90%	656	587	89%	69
CW/KK/ST	308	279	91%	314	296	94%	18
WD/WX	430	404	94%	412	380	92%	32
Donegal	236	224	95%	246	229	93%	17
SLWC	119	104	87%	119	100	84%	19
Mayo	146	134	92%	146	130	89%	16
GY/RN	344	293	85%	345	298	86%	47
Midwest	501	385	77%	497	385	77%	112
SCSIP Service	118	68	58%	104	69	66%	35
Total	5,823	4,844	83%	5,783	4,817	83%	966

3.1.4 Children in Care in Education

- 97% (3,598/3,710) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education at the end of Q1 2025, up one percentage point from Q4 2024 (96%).
- All but one area (Dublin South Central) reporting 90% or higher with two areas (Mayo and Midwest) reporting 100%.
- 68% (2,441) of children 6-15 years were in primary school, 26% (947) were in post primary school and 4% (137) were in special education. There were a further 73 (2%) spread across boarding school, education training facility, home tuition, pre-school and Other (not specified).
- 93% (923/991) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of Q1 2025, no change from Q4 2024.
- 14/17 reporting 90% or higher.
- 85% (788) of young people 16 & 17 years were in post primary school, 7% (67) were in special education and 4% (37) were attending an educational training facility. There were a further 31 (3%) spread across boarding school, home tuition and other (not specified).

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

Area	No of CIC 6-15 years Q4 2024	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q4 2024	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q4 2024	No of CIC 6-15 years Q1 2025	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q1 2025	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q1 2025
DSE/WW	128	124	97%	125	122	98%
DSW/K/WW	266	233	88%	259	234	90%
DSC	215	189	88%	213	189	89%
Midlands	243	233	96%	251	246	98%
Dublin North City	280	272	97%	278	271	97%
Dublin North	292	273	93%	292	286	98%
LH/MH	300	297	99%	293	291	99%
CN/MN	109	108	99%	110	109	99%
Kerry	107	105	98%	103	102	99%
Cork	446	437	98%	442	437	99%
CW/K/ST	203	202	99.9%	202	198	98%
WD/WX	256	250	98%	252	249	99%
Donegal	145	139	96%	152	142	93%
SLWC	80	75	94%	79	75	95%
Mayo	95	94	99%	96	96	100%
GY/RN	224	214	96%	226	214	95%
Mid West	338	337	99.9%	337	337	100%
Total	3,727	3,582	96%	3,710	3,598	97%

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

Area	No of CIC 16-17 yrs Q4 2024	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q4 2024	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q4 2024	No of CIC 16-17 yrs Q1 2025	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q1 2025	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q1 2025
DSE/WW	44	40	91%	40	36	90%
DSW/K/WW	78	67	86%	78	69	88%
DSC	55	48	87%	57	50	88%
Midlands	52	44	85%	52	47	90%
DNC	78	72	92%	76	70	92%
Dublin North	67	59	88%	67	61	91%
LH/MH	63	60	95%	71	68	96%
CN/MN	32	30	94%	30	29	97%
Kerry	31	30	97%	35	34	97%
Cork	129	124	96%	122	118	97%
CW/K/ST	52	52	100%	58	57	98%
WD/WX	86	78	91%	76	72	95%
Donegal	39	35	90%	41	37	90%
SLWC	21	20	95%	23	21	91%
Mayo	16	16	100%	17	16	94%
GY/RN	69	65	94%	71	62	87%
Mid West	81	80	99%	77	76	99%
Total	993	920	93%	991	923	93%

3.2 AFTERCARE

KEY FACTS

- 172 referrals for an aftercare service in Q1 2025, 42 (32%) more than Q1 2024 (130).
- 2,984 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q1 2025, 49 (2%) more than Q4 2024 (2,935) and 63 (2%) more than Q1 2024 (2,921). *Figures include young persons < 18 years and those 18-22 years inclusive.*
- 78% (1,745/2,231) of those 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q1 2025 were in education/accredited training.
- Almost half (46%; 1,018) of young people 18 – 22 years (2,231) in receipt of aftercare services had remained living with their carers. A further 9% (209) had returned home to parents/family. One in five (23%; 509) was in independent living arrangements.
- 78% (2,314) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q1 2025 had an aftercare plan, down four percentage point from Q4 2024 (82%). A total of 670 were awaiting a plan, 129 (24%) more than Q4 2024 (541).
- 85% (1,904/2,245) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2025, down three percentage points from Q4 2024 (88%). A total of 341 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2025, 59 (21%) more than Q4 2024 (282).
- 99.5% (206/207) of young people < 18 years assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2025.
- 83% (1,698/2,038) of 18–22-year-olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2025.

3.2.1 Referrals for an aftercare service received in the quarter

- 172 referrals for an aftercare service in Q1 2025, 42 (32%) more than Q1 2024 (130).
- 98% (169) of referrals for Q1 2025 were eligible for an assessment of need.
- Of those eligible for an assessment of need all were <18 years and in care.
- 134 assessments of need were completed in Q1 2025, 14 (12%) more than Q1 2024 (120).
- A breakdown of referrals by area is presented in the table below.

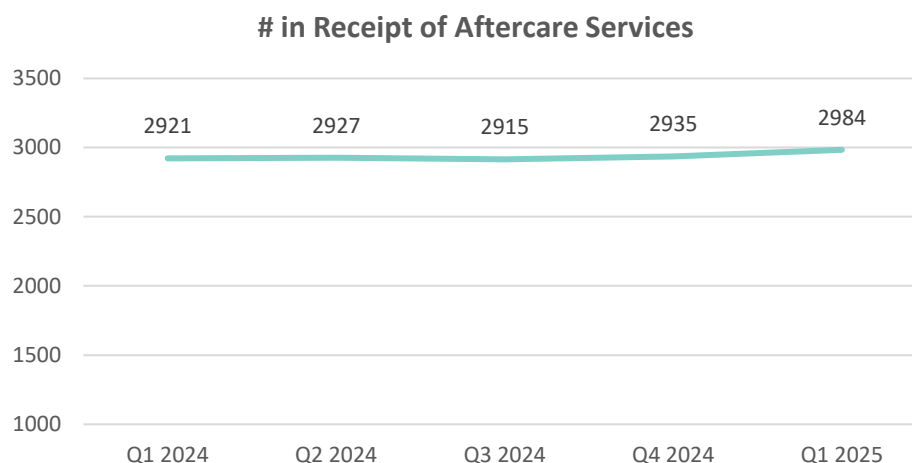
Table: Referrals for an Aftercare Service by Area

Area	2024	Q1 2025
Dublin South Central	30	7
Dublin South East/Wicklow	24	5
DSW/K/WW	47	8
Midlands	21	6
Dublin North City	45	21
Dublin North	25	4
Louth/Meath	30	1
Cavan/Monaghan	22	5
Cork	64	24
Kerry	17	9
CW/K/ST	36	6

Waterford/Wexford	40	18
Mid West	42	5
Galway/Roscommon	40	2
Mayo	8	4
Donegal	12	10
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	14	3
SCSIP Service	63	34
Total	580	172

3.2.2 Young Persons / Adults in receipt of an aftercare service

- 2,984 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q1 2025, 49 (2%) more than Q4 2024 (2,935) and 63 (2%) more than Q1 2024 (2,921). *Figures include young persons < 18 years and those 18-22 years inclusive.*



- Highest number of adults/young people in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q1 2025 reported by Cork (388) followed by Dublin North City (262) and Midwest (230). Fewest number reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (48) followed by Mayo (68) and Cavan/Monaghan (79).

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q4 2024	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q1 2025
Dublin South Central	209	213
DSE/WW	135	123
DSW/K/WW	215	216
Midlands	129	129
Dublin North City	249	262
Dublin North	182	184
Louth/Meath	153	134
Cavan/Monaghan	77	79
Cork	365	388
Kerry	87	93
CW/K/ST	164	158

Waterford/Wexford	161	200
Mid West	226	230
Galway/Roscommon	208	197
Mayo	67	68
Donegal	96	95
SLWC	50	48
SCSIP Service	162	167
Total	2,935	2,984

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

- 54% (1,605) of those in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q1 2025 (2,984) were 18 – 20 years inclusive and of these 79% (1,264) were in education/accredited training, down one percentage points from Q4 2024 (80%) (table below).
- 13 of the 17 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported at least seven out of 10 young people (18-20 years) in receipt of aftercare services in education/accredited training. Three areas (Cavan/Monaghan, Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary and Midwest) reported 100%.
- Rates reported by Dublin North (54%) and Dublin South Central (56%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# 18-20 years Q4 2024	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 18-20 years Q1 2025	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
Dublin South Central	111	60	54%	114	64	56%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	64	64	100%	66	56	85%
DSW/K/WW	114	76	67%	110	78	71%
Midlands	61	49	80%	61	49	80%
Dublin North City	131	98	75%	136	105	77%
Dublin North	79	44	56%	85	46	54%
Louth/Meath	93	63	68%	89	61	69%
Cavan/Monaghan	44	44	100%	43	43	100%
Cork	188	145	77%	191	156	82%
Kerry	44	34	77%	44	31	70%
CW/K/ST	75	75	100%	70	70	100%
Waterford/Wexford	95	66	69%	112	72	64%
Mid West	131	131	100%	141	141	100%
Galway/Roscommon	106	87	82%	104	74	71%
Mayo	37	31	84%	34	29	85%
Donegal	55	46	84%	56	48	86%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	29	24	83%	21	19	90%
SCSIP Service	122	120	98%	128	122	95%
Total	1,579	1,257	80%	1,605	1,264	79%

- The highest number of those in education/accredited training were in second level (336; 27%) followed by third level (241; 19%) and PLCs (227; 18%).

	# 18-20 years in education/accredited Training Q1 2025	%
Second Level	336	27%
Vocational Training	211	17%
PLCs	227	18%
Third Level College / University	241	19%
Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)	154	12%
Other	95	8%
Total	1,264	100%

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

- 21% (626) of those in receipt of an aftercare service (2,984) were 21 – 22 years inclusive and of these 77% (481) were in education/accredited training, up two percentage points from Q4 2024 (75%) (table below).
- 13 of the 17 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported 70% or higher with five of these areas (Midlands, Cavan/Monaghan, Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary, Midwest and Donegal) reporting 100%. Rates reported by Dublin South Central (44%), Galway/Roscommon (59%) and Cork (59%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# 21-22 years Q4 2024	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 21-22 years Q1 2025	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
Dublin South Central	51	23	45%	52	23	44%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	29	29	100%	28	24	86%
DSW/K/WW	42	30	71%	47	31	66%
Midlands	29	27	93%	28	28	100%
Dublin North City	69	44	64%	70	51	73%
Dublin North	35	31	89%	31	26	84%
Louth/Meath	20	16	80%	19	16	84%
Cavan/Monaghan	13	13	100%	13	13	100%
Cork	70	41	59%	74	44	59%
Kerry	17	14	82%	16	13	81%
CW/K/ST	39	39	100%	39	39	100%
Waterford/Wexford	23	17	74%	29	25	86%
Mid West	43	43	100%	41	41	100%
Galway/Roscommon	73	42	58%	66	39	59%
Mayo	18	15	83%	21	18	86%
Donegal	17	16	94%	17	17	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	8	7	88%	13	12	92%
SCSIP Service	21	17	81%	22	21	95%
Total	617	464	75%	626	481	77%

- 46% (223) of those in education/accredited training were in third level colleges with a further 16% (79) in PLCs, 16% (75) in accredited training and 14% (65) in vocational training.

	# 21-22 years in education/accredited Training Q1 2025	%
Second Level	3	1%
Vocational Training	65	14%
PLCs	79	16%
Third Level College / University	223	46%
Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)	75	16%
Other	36	7%
Total	481	100%

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

- Almost half (46%; 1,018) of young people 18 – 22 years (2,231) in receipt of aftercare services had remained living with their carers. A further 9% (209) had returned home to parents/family. One in five (23%; 509) was in independent living arrangements.

Accommodation	# 18-22 placement type Q1 2025	%
Residential Care Placement	188	8%
Remained with Carers	1,018	46%
Independent Living	509	23%
Designated Care Leavers Accommodation	34	2%
At home	209	9%
Supported Lodgings	38	2%
Other	235	11%
Total	2,231	100%

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

- 78% (2,314) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q1 2025 had an aftercare plan, down four percentage point from Q4 2024 (82%). A total of 670 were awaiting a plan, 129 (24%) more than Q4 2024 (541).
- 9 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported a percentage equal to or higher the national average of 78%. Rates reported by Waterford/Wexford (50%), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (68%) and Dublin North (68%) lower than all other areas.
- 94% (2,103/2,231) of those 18-22 years in receipt of an aftercare service had a plan. 28% (211/753) of those <18 years had a plan.

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q4 2024	# with an Aftercare Plan Q4 2024	% with an Aftercare Plan Q4 2024	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q1 2025	# with an Aftercare Plan Q1 2025	% with an Aftercare Plan Q1 2025
Dublin South Central	209	152	73%	213	151	71%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	135	123	91%	123	117	95%
DSW/K/WW	215	178	83%	216	175	81%
Midlands	129	117	91%	129	116	90%
Dublin North City	249	199	80%	262	193	74%
Dublin North	182	133	73%	184	125	68%
Louth/Meath	153	94	61%	134	100	75%
Cavan/Monaghan	77	72	94%	79	72	91%
Cork	365	290	79%	388	281	72%
Kerry	87	64	74%	93	70	75%
CW/K/ST	164	117	71%	158	108	68%
Waterford/Wexford	161	136	84%	200	99	50%
Mid West	226	211	93%	230	203	88%
Galway/Roscommon	208	165	79%	197	162	82%
Mayo	67	61	91%	68	58	85%
Donegal	96	96	100%	95	88	93%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	50	37	74%	48	40	83%
SCSIP Service	162	149	92%	167	156	93%
Total	2,935	2,394	82%	2,984	2,314	78%

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

- 97% (2,245/2,314) of those with an aftercare plan were assessed as needing an aftercare worker. Thirteen areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported 100%.
- Percentages reported by Midlands (76%) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (87%) lower than all other areas. *Some areas advised that young persons/adults who are settled and doing well are 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.*
- 85% (1,904/2,245) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2025, down three percentage points from Q4 2024 (88%). A total of 341 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2025, 59 (21%) more than Q4 2024 (282).
- 99.5% (206/207) of young people < 18 years assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2025.
- 83% (1,698/2,038) of 18–22-year-olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2025.

- 12 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 85% with 11 of them reporting 100%. Rates reported by Dublin South Central (40%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (51%), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (62%) and Midwest (67%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# with a Plan Q1 2025	# Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q1 2025	% Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q1 2025	# with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q1 2025	% with an Aftercare Worker Q1 2025	% with an Aftercare Worker Q4 2024
Dublin South Central	151	151	100%	61	40%	41%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	117	117	100%	117	100%	100%
DSW/K/WW	175	152	87%	78	51%	53%
Midlands	116	88	76%	88	100%	100%
Dublin North City	193	193	100%	193	100%	100%
Dublin North	125	125	100%	97	78%	100%
Louth/Meath	100	100	100%	100	100%	100%
Cavan/Monaghan	72	72	100%	72	100%	100%
Cork	281	270	96%	231	86%	89%
Kerry	70	70	100%	70	100%	100%
CW/K/ST	108	101	94%	63	62%	100%
Waterford/Wexford	99	99	100%	94	95%	85%
Mid West	203	203	100%	136	67%	69%
Galway/Roscommon	162	162	100%	162	100%	100%
Mayo	58	58	100%	58	100%	100%
Donegal	88	88	100%	88	100%	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	40	40	100%	40	100%	100%
SCSIP Service	156	156	100%	156	100%	100%
Total	2,314	2,245	97%	1,904	85%	88%

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

Adoption

- 97 new children referred for adoption during Q1 2025. Of the 97 children referred, 42 (43%) were referred for step-parent adoption, 44 (45%) were referred for fostering to adoption and the remaining 11 (11%) were referred for family adoption / infant domestic adoption. A total of 197 new children were referred for adoption in 2024.
- 39 completed initial assessments awaiting allocation to a social worker for full assessment at the end of Q1 2025. Of these, 21 (54%) were waiting for 0-8 weeks, 3 (8%) were waiting > 8 weeks to 16 weeks (inclusive) while the remaining 15 (38%) were waiting more than 16 weeks.

3.3.1 Adoption Assessments

- 97 new children referred for adoption during Q1 2025. Of the 97 children referred, 42 (43%) were referred for step-parent adoption, 44 (45%) were referred for fostering to adoption and the remaining 11 (11%) were referred for family adoption / infant domestic adoption. A total of 197 new children were referred for adoption in 2024.
- 39 completed initial assessments awaiting allocation to a social worker for full assessment at the end of Q1 2025. Of these, 21 (54%) were waiting for 0-8 weeks, 3 (8%) were waiting > 8 weeks to 16 weeks (inclusive) while the remaining 15 (38%) were waiting more than 16 weeks.

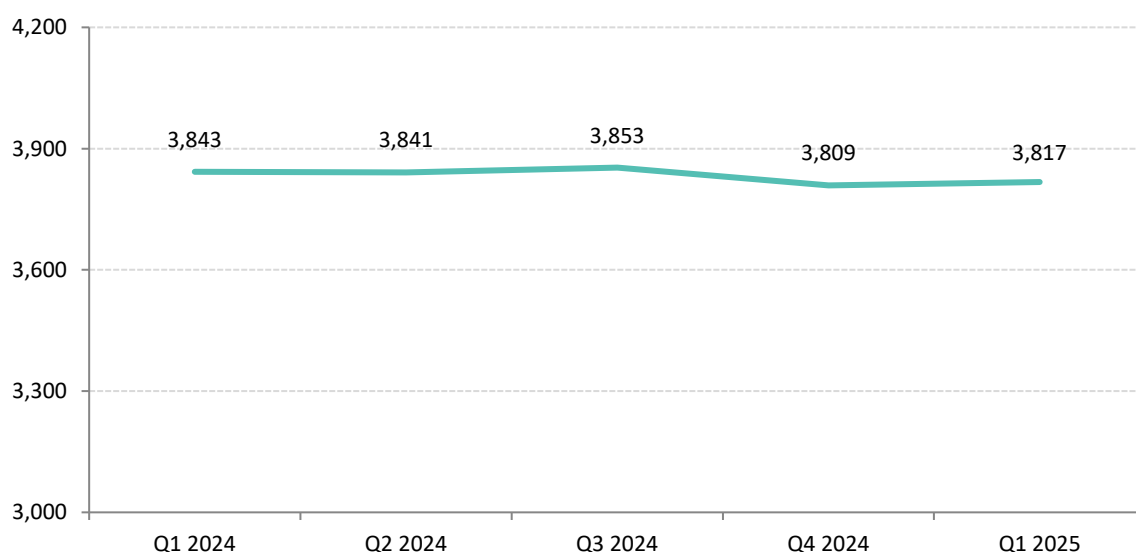
3.4 FOSTER CARERS

KEY FACTS

- 3,817 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q1 2025, 8 (<1%) more than Q4 2024 (3,809) but 26 (<1%) fewer than Q1 2024 (3,843).
- 49 Tusla foster carers (31 general & 18 relative) and 13 private foster carers approved in Q1 2025.
- 75 applications for general foster care and 191 applications for relative foster care in progress at the end of Q1 2025.
- 93% (2,039) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q1 2025, up one percentage point from Q4 2024.
- 155 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker, 10 (6%) fewer than Q4 2024 (165).
- 96% (923) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q1 2025, down one percentage point from Q4 2024 (97%).
- 43 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q1 2025, 11 (34%) more than Q4 2024 (32).
- 96% (210) of unapproved relative foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks had an allocated link (social) worker. Eight carers were awaiting a link worker, one more than Q4 2024 (7). The eight carers were reported across four areas.

3.4.1 Number of foster carers

- 3,817 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q1 2025, 8 (<1%) more than Q4 2024 (3,809) but 26 (<1%) fewer than Q1 2024 (3,843). *Increase between Q2 and Q3 2024 partly explained by validation of the foster carers register in one area.*



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

- 275 unapproved relative foster carers at the end of Q1 2025 of which 79% (218) had a child placed for >12 weeks. 78% (966/1,241) of relative foster carers are approved.

- 57% (2,194) of all approved foster carers are general foster carers. Relative foster carers (approved) account for a further 25% (966), while private foster carers account for the remaining 17% (657).
- The number of general foster carers (2,194) is up three from Q4 2024 (2,191) but down 22 (1%) from Q1 2024 (2,216), first increase after three consecutive decreases.
- Relative foster carers (966) also up three from Q4 2024 (963) and down 32 (3%) from Q1 2024 (998), first increase after three consecutive decreases.
- Private foster carers (657) also up two from Q4 2024 (655) and 28 (4%) from Q1 2024 (629).

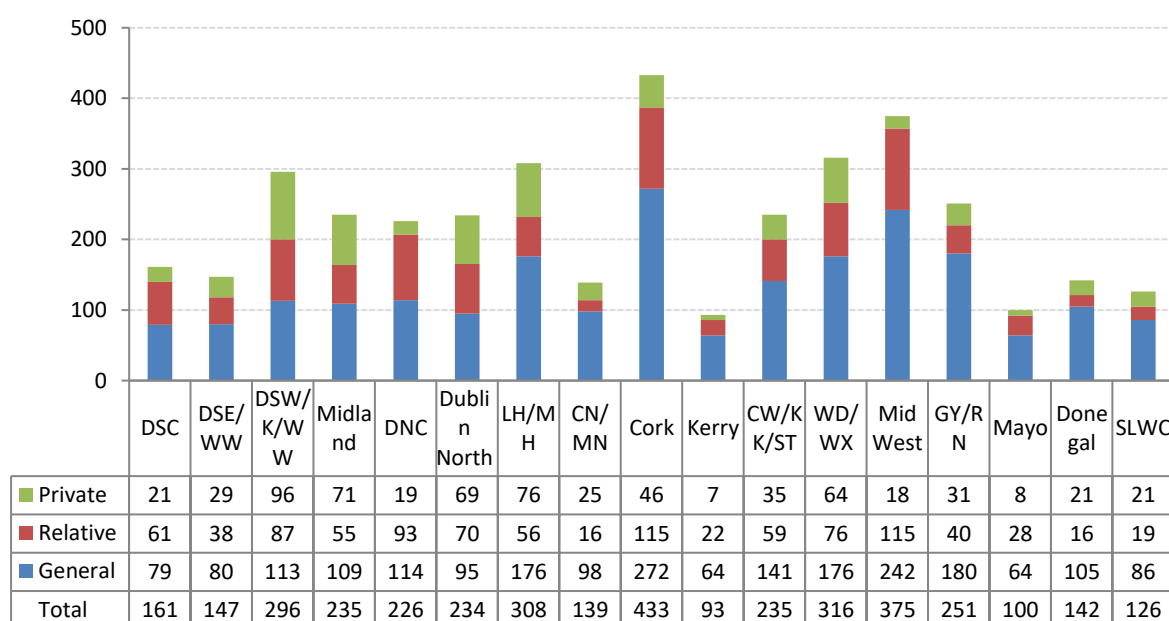
Breakdown of foster carers by type

Foster Carers	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Δ (+/-) Q1 v Q4
General (Approved)	2,216	2,215	2,210	2,191	2,194	+3
Relative (Approved)	998	993	987	963	966	+3
Private (Approved)	629	633	656	655	657	+2
Total Approved	3,843	3,841	3,853	3,809	3,817	+8
Relative (Unapproved)	224	222	230	244	275	+31

- 49 Tusla foster carers (31 general & 18 relative) and 13 private foster carers approved in Q1 2025.
- 75 applications for general foster care and 191 applications for relative foster care in progress at the end of Q1 2025.

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 at the end of Q1 2025, ranged from 433 in Cork to 93 in Kerry



Foster carers approved by type and area on the panel of approved foster carers, Q1 2025

- 8 areas reported an increase from Q4 2024 in the number of foster carers on the panel. Largest increase reported by Dublin North City (up 7) followed by Louth/Meath (up 6), and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (up 5).
- 6 areas reported a decrease from Q4 2024. The largest decrease was reported by Cork (down 11) followed to a lesser extent by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (3), Donegal (3) and Midwest (3). The remaining three areas (Dublin South Central, Dublin South East/Wicklow and Cavan/Monaghan) reported no change.

Area breakdown of approved foster carers (all types)

Area	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Δ (+/-) Q1 2025 v Q4 2024
Dublin South Central	168	169	162	161	161	0
Dublin South East/Wicklow	146	149	149	147	147	0
DSW/K/WW	288	283	290*	298	296	-2
Midlands	251	236	233	231	235	4
Dublin North City	223	224	223	219	226	7
Dublin North	218	224	227	232	234	2
Louth/Meath	289	304	310	302	308	6
Cavan/Monaghan	136	139	141	139	139	0
Cork	491	485	480	444	433	-11
Kerry	91	90	91	91	93	2
CW/K/ST	242	235	232	230	235	5
Waterford/Wexford	310	312	317	317	316	-1
Mid West	379	379	378	378	375	-3
Galway/Roscommon	253	249	250	247	251	4
Mayo	99	98	103	99	100	1
Donegal	145	147	145	145	142	-3
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	114	118	122	129	126	-3
Total	3,843	3,841	3,853	3,809	3,817	8

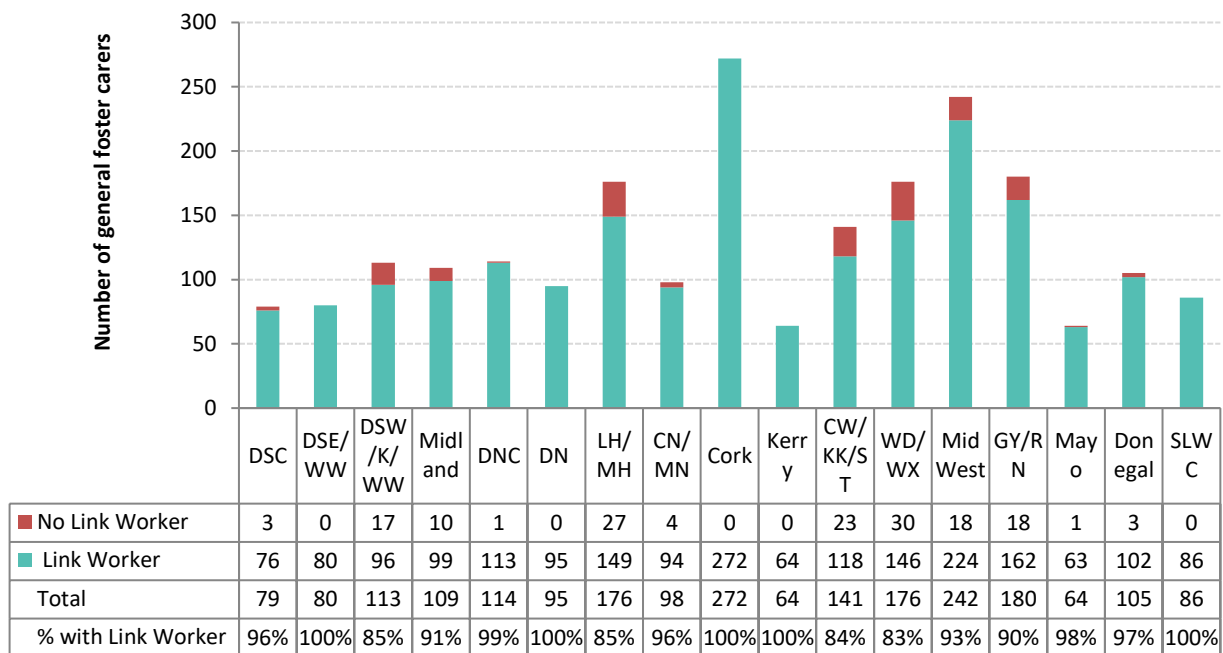
**Increase partly explained by validation of the foster carers register in this area*

- 93% (2,039) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q1 2025, up one percentage point from Q4 2024.
- 155 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker, 10 (6%) fewer than Q4 2024 (165).
- 13/17 areas reported 90% or higher with five of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by Waterford/Wexford (83%), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (84%), Louth/Meath (85%) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (85%) lower than all other areas.
- Waterford/Wexford has the highest number of general foster carers awaiting an allocated link worker (30) followed by Louth/Meath (27) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (23).

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

Area	With Link Worker Q4 2024	Awaiting Link Worker Q4 2024	% With Link Worker Q4 2024	With Link Worker Q1 2025	Awaiting Link Worker Q1 2025	% With Link Worker Q1 2025	Δ +/- No. Awaiting LW Q1 2025 v Q4 2024
Dublin South Central	78	2	98%	76	3	96%	1
Dublin South East/Wicklow	80	0	100%	80	0	100%	0
DSW/K/WW	88	28	76%	96	17	85%	-11
Midlands	91	16	85%	99	10	91%	-6
Dublin North City	104	5	95%	113	1	99%	-4
Dublin North	94	0	100%	95	0	100%	0
Louth/Meath	142	33	81%	149	27	85%	-6
Cavan/Monaghan	87	8	92%	94	4	96%	-4
Cork	276	0	100%	272	0	100%	0
Kerry	62	0	100%	64	0	100%	0
CW/K/ST	138	2	99%	118	23	84%	21
Waterford/Wexford	152	23	87%	146	30	83%	7
Mid West	223	23	91%	224	18	93%	-5
Galway/Roscommon	159	19	89%	162	18	90%	-1
Mayo	63	1	98%	63	1	98%	0
Donegal	104	4	96%	102	3	97%	-1
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	85	1	99%	86	0	100%	-1
Total	2,026	165	92%	2,039	155	93%	-10

General foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting a link (social worker), Q1 2025

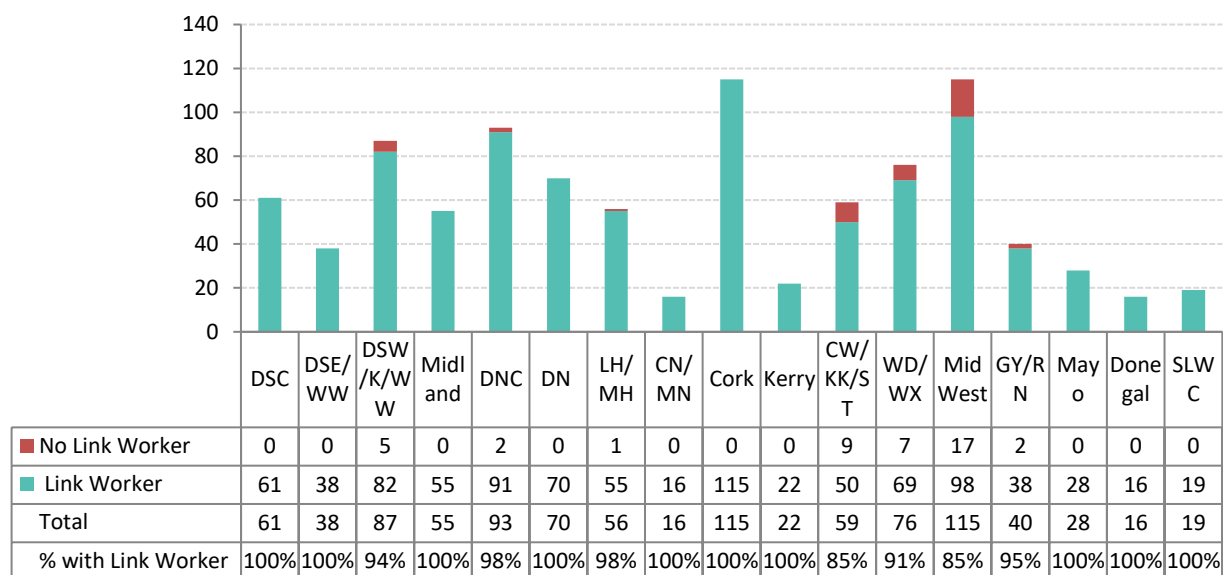


- 96% (923) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q1 2025, down one percentage point from Q4 2024 (97%).
- 43 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q1 2025, 11 (34%) more than Q4 2024 (32).
- 15/17 areas reported a percentage of 90% or higher with ten of these areas reporting 100%. Rate reported by Midwest (85%) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (85%) lower than all other areas.
- Midwest reported the highest number of relative foster carers on the panel awaiting a link (social) worker (17).

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

Area	With Link Worker Q4 2024	Awaiting Link Worker Q4 2024	% With Link Worker Q4 2024	With Link Worker Q1 2025	Awaiting Link Worker Q1 2025	% With Link Worker Q1 2025	Δ +/- No. Awaiting Link Worker Q1 2025 v Q4 2024
Dublin South Central	59	1	98%	61	0	100%	-1
Dublin South East/Wicklow	40	0	100%	38	0	100%	0
DSW/K/WW	77	5	94%	82	5	94%	0
Midlands	52	2	96%	55	0	100%	-2
Dublin North City	93	0	100%	91	2	98%	2
Dublin North	69	0	100%	70	0	100%	0
Louth/Meath	50	5	91%	55	1	98%	-4
Cavan/Monaghan	16	0	100%	16	0	100%	0
Cork	119	0	100%	115	0	100%	0
Kerry	22	0	100%	22	0	100%	0
CW/K/ST	55	0	100%	50	9	85%	9
Waterford/Wexford	70	5	93%	69	7	91%	2
Mid West	100	14	88%	98	17	85%	3
Galway/Roscommon	40	0	100%	38	2	95%	2
Mayo	27	0	100%	28	0	100%	0
Donegal	16	0	100%	16	0	100%	0
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	26	0	100%	19	0	100%	0
Total	931	32	97%	923	43	96%	11

Relative foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting allocated link Q1 2025



3.4.3 Foster carers (relative) unapproved

- 275 relative foster carers were unapproved at the end of Q1 2025, 31 (13%) more than Q4 2024 (244).
- Of these, 218 (79%) had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks; up 15 (7%) from Q4 2024 (203)
- 96% (210) of unapproved relative foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks had an allocated link (social) worker. Eight carers were awaiting a link worker, one more than Q4 2024 (7). The eight carers were reported across four areas.

Breakdown of relative foster carers not approved

Unapproved Relative Foster Carers	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Δ (+/-) Q1 2025 v Q4 2024
No. unapproved	224	222	230	244	275	+31
No (%) with a child > 12 weeks	190	174	196	203	218	+15
	85%	78%	85%	83%	79%	
Child > 12 weeks and have a Link Worker	180	167	194	196	210	+14
	95%	96%	99%	97%	96%	
Child > 12 weeks AWAITING Link Worker	10	7	2	7	8	1

4.0 CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

4.1 Early Years Inspectorate

4.2 Alternative Education Assessment & Registration Service

4.3 Alternative Care Inspection & Monitoring Service

4.1 EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

KEY FACTS

Children Services Regulation (CSR) has reviewed their metrics and introduced a number of new metrics for the Early Years Inspectorate (EYI) for 2025. The metrics reported now pertain to the three types of service covered by the EYI: pre-school, school age and childminding.

- 6,812 early years services on the national register at the end of Q1 2025, 36 (<1%) more than Q4 2024 (6,776). Breakdown of services for Q1 2025 as follows: pre-school (3,975; 58%); school age (2,741; 40%) and childminding (96; 1%).
- 612 inspections (all types) carried out in Q1 2025. A total of 2,316 inspections carried out in 2024.
- 124 applications to register as a new service received by the EYI in Q1 2025. A total of 560 applications received in 2024. Breakdown of applications for Q1 2025 as follows: pre-school (16; 13%); school age (78; 63%); child-minding (30; 24%).
- 62 applications to register as a new service approved by the EYI in Q1 2025. A total of 430 applications approved in 2024. Breakdown of applications approved for Q1 2025 as follows: pre-school (4; 6%); school age (36; 58%); child-minding (22; 35%).
- No early years' service refused by the EYI in Q1 2025. One service refused in 2024.
- 509 change in circumstances notifications processed by the EYI in Q1 2025. A total of 1,912 change in circumstances notifications processed in 2024.
- 118 unsolicited information submissions received by the EYI in Q1 2025. A total of 460 received in 2024.
- No early years' service prosecuted by the EYI in Q1 2025. One service prosecuted in 2024.
- 28 early years services closed in Q1 2025. A total of 185 closed in 2024. A breakdown of services closed in Q1 2025 as follows: pre-school services (13; 46%); school age services (14; 50%); childminding (1; 3%).
- No early years' service removed from the register in Q1 2025. No service removed in 2024.

4.1.1 Activity Data

CSR reviewed their metrics and introduced several new metrics for the EYI for 2025, pertaining to the three service types: pre-school, school age and childminding.

Early Years Services (EYS) on the EYI Register	Outturn 2024	Q1 2025	Q1 v Q4
Pre-school services recorded on the national register [Name Change]	4,045	3,975	-70 (2%)
School age services recorded on the national register [New for 2025]	2,724	2,741	17 (<1%)
Childminding services recorded on the national register [New for 2025]	7	96	89 (1,271%)
Total number of services on the national register	6,776	6,812	36 (<1%)
Registration Renewal	Outturn 2024	Q1 2025	Q1 v Q4
Number of EYS due to renew their registration in the reporting period [New for 2025]	1,306	85	-
Number of EYS that successfully completed registration renewal in the reporting period [New for 2025]	1,196	78	-
Inspections Carried Out	Outturn 2024	Q1 2025	Q1 v Q4
Number of inspections (all inspection types) carried out during the reporting period	2,316	612	-
Pre-registration inspections (PRI) carried out in respect of proposed new pre-school services during the reporting period [New for 2025]	98	3	-
Fit for purpose (FFP) inspections carried out in respect of proposed change in circumstances submitted by pre-school services during the reporting period [New for 2025]	196	23	-
Pre-school inspections carried out in relation to concerns received during the reporting period [New for 2025]	127	18	-
Initial inspections (first inspection following registration conducted with 3 months of operation) carried out in pre-school services during the reporting period [New for 2025]	83	20	-
School age inspections carried out during the reporting period [New for 2025]	157	15	-
Childminding pre-registration assessments (PRAs) carried out during the reporting period [New for 2025]	7	21	-
Number of notifications of incidents notified to the inspector within remit (for example where a child has been hurt in an Early Years' Service)	704	143	-
Registration/Change in Circumstances	Outturn 2024	Q1 2025	Q1 v Q4
Applications to become a new pre-school service [Name Change]	136	16	-

Applications to become a new school age service [New for 2025]	410	78	-
Applications to become a new childminding service [New for 2025]	14	30	-
Total applications received	560	124	
New registration applications approved to become a pre-school service [Name Change]	96	4	-
New registration applications approved to become a school age service [New for 2025]	327	36	-
New registration applications approved to become a childminding service [New for 2025]	7	22	-
Total number of applications approved	430	62	
Number of new applications to become an early years' service that have been refused registration by the EYI in the reporting period	1	0	-
Number of change in circumstance notifications processed by the EYI (for example where an early years' service increases the number of children they can cater for)	1,912	509	-
Concerns/Prosecutions	Outturn 2024	Q1 2025	Q1 v Q4
Number of unsolicited information submissions received by the EYI to identify commonalities and trends over a period of time	460	118	-
Number of EYS that have been prosecuted by the EYI for breach of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016	1	0	-
Closures	Outturn 2024	Q1 2025	Q1 v Q4
Number of pre-school services that have closed during the reporting period (<i>does not include services closed by Tusla under the de-registration process</i>) [Name Change]	95	13	-
Number of school age services that have closed during the reporting period (<i>does not include services closed by Tusla under the de-registration process</i>) [New for 2025]	90	14	-
Number of childminding services that have closed during the reporting period (<i>does not include services closed by Tusla under the de-registration process</i>) [New for 2025]	0	1	-
Total closures	185	28	-
Number of EYS removed from the National Register (de-registered) by the EYI during the reporting period	0	0	-

4.2 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT & REGISTRATION SERVICE

Key Facts

Home Education

- 2,499 children on the register for home education at the end of Q1 2025, 174 (7%) more than Q4 2024 (2,325) and 356 (17%) more than Q3 2024 (2,143).
- 348 applications received for home education during Q1 2025, 42 (11%) fewer than Q4 2024 (390), but 61 (21%) more than Q1 2024 (287).
- 357 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q1 2025, 11 (3%) fewer than Q4 2024, but 73 (26%) more than Q1 2024 (284).
- 220 children registered for home education in Q1 2025, 41 (16%) fewer than Q4 2024 (261), but 11 (5%) more than Q1 2024 (209).
- 470 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q1 2025, 169 (26%) fewer than Q4 2024 and 592 (56%) fewer than Q1 2024 (1,062).

Independent Schools

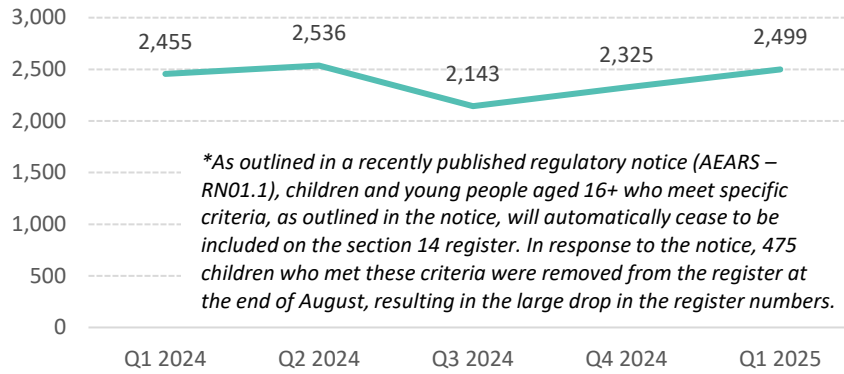
- 60 assessed and approved independent schools at the end of Q1 2025, one more than Q4 2024 (59).
- 6,451 children enrolled in independent schools, of which 73% (4,690) were registered on the Section 14 register. The remaining 27% (1,761) were not registered. Reasons for these children not being registered include, application not submitted, consent not in place, certified documentation not provided.
- 340 applications received during Q1 2025. A total of 2,077 applications received in 2024.
- 2 school assessments carried out in Q1 2025. A total of 29 assessments carried out in 2024.
- One school assessment due at the end of Q1 2025.

Home Education

- 2,499 children on the register for home education at the end of Q1 2025, 174 (7%) more than Q4 2024 (2,325) and 356 (17%) more than Q3 2024 (2,143)⁷.
- 16% (407) of children on the register at the end of Q1 2025 have special educational needs.

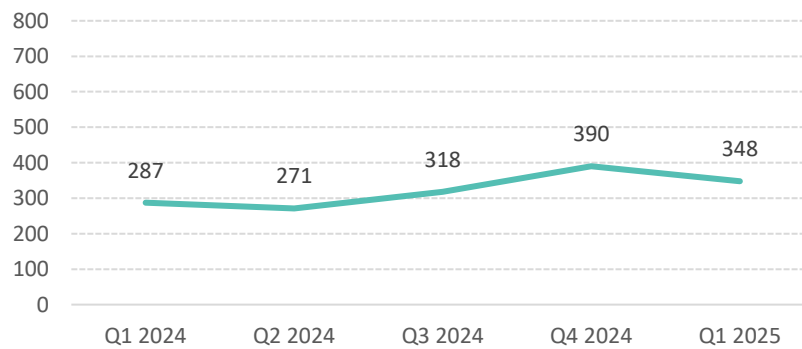
⁷ As outlined in a recently published regulatory notice (AEARS – RN01.1), children and young people aged 16+ who meet specific criteria, as outlined in the notice, will automatically cease to be included on the section 14 register. In response to the notice, 475 children who met these criteria were removed from the register at the end of August, resulting in the large drop in the register numbers for Q3 2024.

Children on Register for Home Education



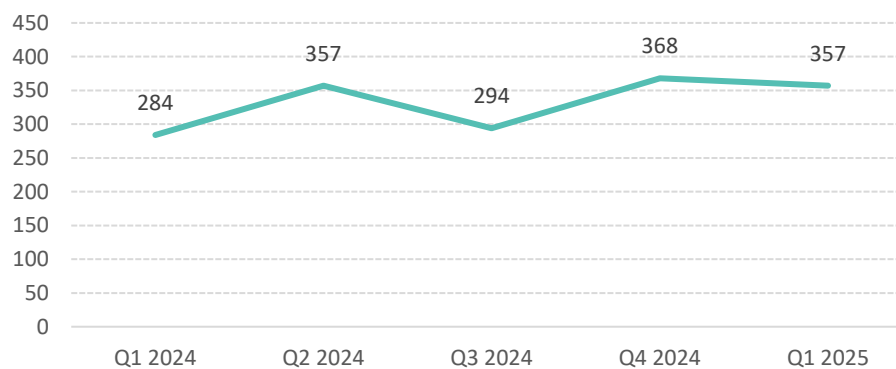
- 348 applications⁸ received for home education during Q1 2025, 42 (11%) fewer than Q4 2024 (390), but 61 (21%) more than Q1 2024 (287).

Applications for Home Education



- 357 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q1 2025, 11 (3%) fewer than Q4 2024, but 73 (26%) more than Q1 2024 (284).

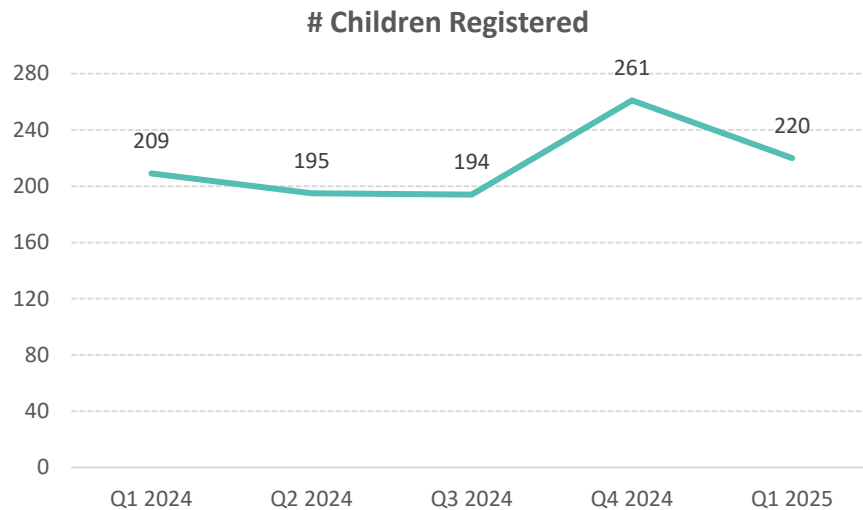
Assessments Done



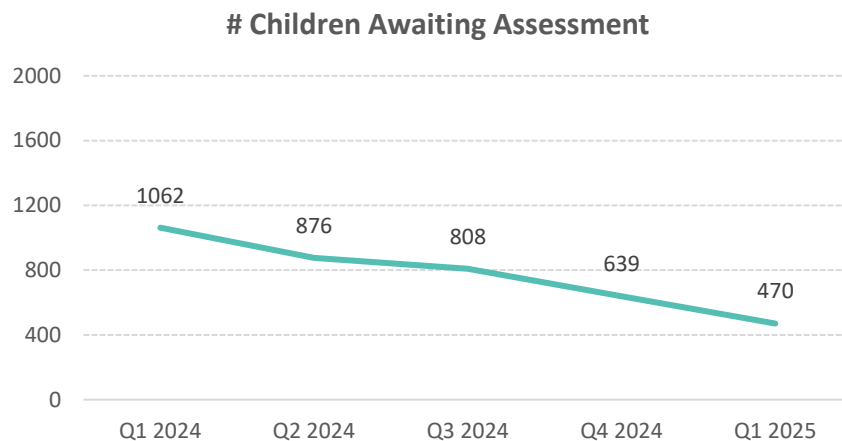
- 220 children registered for home education⁹ in Q1 2025, 41 (16%) fewer than Q4 2024 (261), but 11 (5%) more than Q1 2024 (209).

⁸ The figure for applications includes valid and invalid applications

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



- 470 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q1 2025, 169 (26%) fewer than Q4 2024 and 592 (56%) fewer than Q1 2024 (1,062).



- 46 children removed from the register in Q1 2025. Of the children removed from the register in Q1 2025, 35 (76%) returned to school, 3 (7%) turned 16 years, 3 (7%) left the jurisdiction while the remaining 5 (11%) left for other reasons.

Independent Schools

- 60 assessed and approved independent schools at the end of Q1 2025, one more than Q4 2024 (59).
- 6,451 children enrolled in independent schools, of which 73% (4,690) are registered on the Section 14 register. The remaining 27% (1,761) were not registered. Reasons for these children not being registered include, application not submitted, consent not in place, certified documentation not provided.
- 340 applications received during Q1 2025. A total of 2,077 applications received in 2024.
- 2 school assessments carried out in Q1 2025. A total of 29 assessments carried out in 2024.
- One school assessment due at the end of Q1 2025.

4.3 ALTERNATIVE CARE INSPECTION & MONITORING SERVICES

Key Facts

- 206 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q1 2025; 10 (5%) more than Q4 2024 (196).
- 42 inspections (all types) conducted in Q1 2025. A total of 218 inspections carried out in 2024.
- 5 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q1 2025, no change from Q4 2024. One monitoring visit conducted in Q1 2025.

Non-Statutory Children’s Residential Centres

- 206 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q1 2025; 10 (5%) more than Q4 2024 (196).
- 42 inspections (all types) conducted in Q1 2025. A total of 218 inspections carried out in 2024.

Inspections of Non-Statutory Residential Services

Inspections by Type	2024 Outturn	Q1 2025
New Registration Inspection Visit	41	10
Thematic Inspection (announced) on-site	111	14
Thematic Inspection (unannounced) on site	66	13
No of CAPA review Inspections of non-statutory Children's Residential Centres [New for 2025]	-	5
Total	218	42

CAPA: Corrective and Preventive Actions

Non-Statutory Foster Care Service

- 5 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q1 2025, no change from Q4 2024. One monitoring visit conducted in Q1 2025.

5.0 TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

KEY FACTS

Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2024 – August 2025

- 6,265 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) during the first seven months of the academic year 2024-2025, 1,215 (24%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (5,050).
- 4,627 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of March 2025, 1,198 (35%) more than March 2024 (3,429).
- 2,761 new individual children worked with during the first seven months of the academic year 2024-2025, 175 (7%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (2,586).
- 6,763 individual children worked with during the first seven months of the academic year 2024-2025, 526 (8%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (6,237).
- 436 school attendance notices (SANs) issued during the first seven months academic year 2024-2025, 55 (11%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (491). The SANs issued were in respect of 313 individual children, 35 (10%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (348).
- 92 summonses issued during the first seven months of the academic year 2024-2025, 31 (51%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (61). The summonses were in respect of 68 individual children, 18 (36%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (50).
- 164 Section 24 meetings convened by EWOs during the first seven months of the academic year 2024-2025, 29 (15%) fewer than the previous academic year (193).

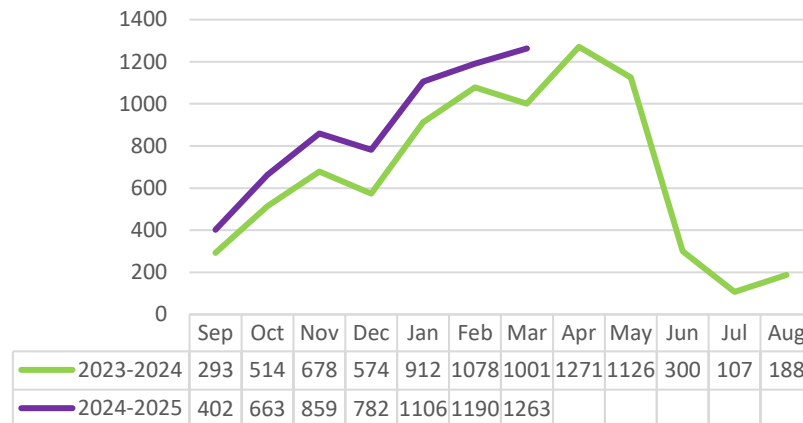
Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2024 – August 2025

- 6,265 referrals¹⁰ screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) during the first seven months of the academic year 2024-2025, 1,215 (24%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (5,050).
- 2,819 referrals allocated to educational welfare officers during the first seven months of the academic year 2024-2025, 214 (8%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (2,605).
- 1,462 referrals screened out / required no further action during the first seven months of the academic year 2024-2025, 313 (18%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (1,775).
- 4,627 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of March 2025, 1,198 (35%) more than March 2024 (3,429).

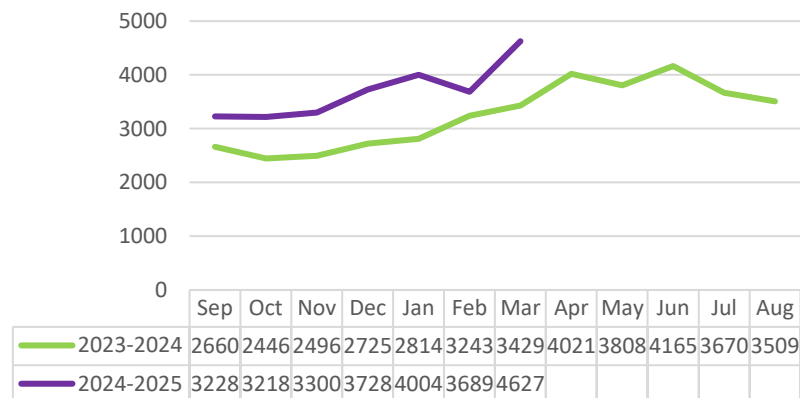
¹⁰ A referral is a written notification of concern to EWS from a school, a parent, agency or concerned citizen in relation to the educational welfare of a named child. Referrals are then screened against a set of criteria by the Senior Educational Welfare Officer and a decision is made as to whether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

	Sept 2023 – Mar 2024	Sept 2024 – Mar 2025	Δ
# Referrals screened	5,050	6,265	1,215 (24%)
# Referrals allocated	2,605	2,819	214 (8%)
# Referrals screened out	1,775	1,462	-313 (18%)
# Referrals on waiting list	3,429	4,627	1,198 (35%)

Referrals for Educational Welfare Service



Referrals on Waiting List at Month End



- 3,465 new cases assigned to EWOs during the first seven months of the academic year 2024-2025, 82 (2%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (3,547).
- 2,771 cases closed during the first seven months of the academic year 2024-2025, 327 (11%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (3,098).
- 2,761 new individual children worked with during the first seven months of the academic year 2024-2025, 175 (7%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (2,586).
- 6,763 individual children worked with during the first seven months of the academic year 2024-2025, 526 (8%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (6,237).

	Sept 2023 – Mar 2024	Sept 2024 – Mar-25	Δ
# cases assigned	3,547	3,465	-82 (2%)
# cases closed	3,098	2,771	-327 (11%)
# new individual children worked with	2,586	2,761	175 (7%)
# Individual children worked with	6,237	6,763	526 (8%)

- 436 school attendance notices (SANs) issued in the first seven months of academic year 2024-2025, 55 (11%) fewer than the same period the previous academic year (491). SANs were in respect of 313 children, 35 (10%) fewer than the same period the previous academic year (348).
- 92 summonses issued during the first seven months of the academic year 2024-2025, 31 (51%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (61). The summonses were in respect of 68 children, 18 (36%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (50).
- EWOs attended 255 court cases regarding their own cases in the first seven months of academic year 2024-2025, 113 (80%) more than the same period the previous academic year (142).
- 164 Section 24¹¹ meetings convened by EWOs during the first seven months of the academic year 2024-2025, 29 (15%) fewer than the previous academic year (193).
- 171 child protection and welfare referrals made by EWOs during the first seven months of the academic year 2024-2025, 57 (50%) more than the previous academic year (114).
- 94 child protection conferences (CPC) attended by EWOs during the first seven months of the academic year 2024-2025, two fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (96).

	Sept 2023 – Mar 24	Sept 2024 – Mar 25	Δ
School Attendance Notices Issues	491	436	-55 (11%)
SANs - individual children involved	348	313	-35 (10%)
Summonses Issued	61	92	31 (51%)
Summonses – individual children involved	50	68	18 (36%)
Court cases attended in relation to own cases	142	255	113 (80%)
Section 24 meetings convened	193	164	-29 (15%)
Child protection & welfare referrals made	114	171	57 (50%)
Child protection conferences attended	96	94	2 (2%)

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 FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

6.1 Family Support Services

6.2 Meitheal and Child & Family Support Networks

6.1 FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES¹²

KEY FACTS

Data needs to be interpreted in the context of varying response rates

- 378 family support providers commissioned (H2 2024)
- 93% (352) of services commissioned provided data for H2 2024.
- At least 19,413 children in receipt of family support services at the end of H2 2024. This equates to almost 2% of children (0-17 years).
- At least 23,529 children referred to family support services in the last six months of 2024. This brings to at least 48,443 the number of children referred in 2024 (average response rate of 89%). At least 47,260 children referred in 2023 (average response rate 86%).
- The most common source of referrals for 2024 was parents/guardians, accounting for 31% (14,909) of referrals followed by Tusla social workers (24%; 11,771), schools (11%; 5,364) and HSE Officers (9%; 4,589).
- 68% (32,989) of children referred in 2024 received a service in 2024. The percentage who received a service ranged from 44% (Waterford/Wexford) to 89% (Kerry). Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 68%.

The data presented below needs to be interpreted in the context of varying response rates.

6.1.1 Family Support Providers

- 378 family support providers commissioned (H2 2024).
- 93% (352) of services commissioned provided data for H2 2024.
- Response rates ranged from 72% to 100% in eight areas.

Family Support Services Commissioned by Areas

Area	# FSS Commissioned H2 2024	# External to Tusla	# Internal to Tusla	# that provided data	% that provided data
Dublin South Central	30	27	3	29	97%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	15	12	3	11	73%
DSW/K/WW	25	20	5	25*	100%
Midlands	6	6	0	5	83%
Dublin North City	48	41	7	46	96%
Dublin North	22	21	1	20	91%
Louth/Meath	23	18	5	23	100%

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.

Cavan/Monaghan	18	16	2	16	89%
Cork	31	29	2	31	100%
Kerry	20	20	0	19	95%
CW/K/ST	32	29	3	32	100%
Waterford/Wexford	25	22	3	18	72%
Mid West	32	30	2	26	81%
Galway/Roscommon	13	13	0	13	100%
Mayo	11	11	0	11	100%
Donegal	13	12	1	13	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	14	14	0	14	100%
Total	378	341	37	352	93%

*Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow - incomplete data reported due to staff vacancy

6.1.2 Children in Receipt of Family Support Services

- At least 19,413 children were in receipt of family support services at the end of H2 2024. This equates to almost 2% of children (0-17 years).
- Highest rates reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (4.6%) and Donegal (4.5%). Eight areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 1.6%.
- Highest numbers of children in receipt of family support services reported by Dublin North City (1,926), Donegal (1,905) and Midwest (1,720). Fewest number reported by Midlands (236), Mayo (486) and Cavan/Monaghan (560).

Children in receipt of Family Support Services

Area	Children in receipt of FSS end of H2 2023	Children in receipt of FSS end of H2 2024	% Total H2 2024	Population 0-17 years	Rate / 100 children
Dublin South Central	1,528	1,540	8%	70,259	2.2
Dublin South East/Wicklow	761	701	4%	91,047	0.8
DSW/K/WW	2,323	645*	3%	108,927	0.6
Midlands	311	236	1%	80,962	0.3
Dublin North City	1,384	1,926	10%	48,909	3.9
Dublin North	437	1,050	5%	104,281	1.0
Louth/Meath	1,004	1,232	6%	96,531	1.3
Cavan/Monaghan	529	560	3%	37,336	1.5
Cork	817	1,217	6%	136,786	0.9
Kerry	588	1,133	6%	34,994	3.2
CW/KK/ST	1,470	1,595	8%	62,366	2.6
Waterford/Wexford	1,028	747	4%	69,239	1.1
MidWest	1,936	1,720	9%	96,764	1.8
Galway/Roscommon	1,262	1,591	8%	81,799	1.9
Mayo	486	486	3%	31,911	1.5
Donegal	2,637	1,905	10%	42,144	4.5
SLWC	1,291	1,129	6%	24,312	4.6
Total	19,792	19,413	100%	1,218,567	1.6

*Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow - incomplete data reported due to staff vacancy

6.1.3 Children Referred to Family Support Services

- At least 23,529 children referred to family support services during the last six months of 2024. This brings to at least 48,443 the number of children referred in 2024 (average response rate of 89%). At least 47,260 children referred in 2023 (response rate 86%).
- The highest rate of referrals for 2024 was reported by Dublin North City (11.1%) followed by Donegal (10%) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (7.8%). The lowest rate was reported by Midlands (0.7%) followed by Dublin South East/Wicklow (2.0%) and Dublin North (2.4%).
- The highest number of children referred for 2024 was reported by Dublin North City (5,426) followed by Dublin South Central (4,263) and Donegal (4,224)

Children referred to Family Support Services by area

Area	Total Referrals 2023	Total Referrals H1 2024	Total Referrals H2 2024	Total Referrals 2024	% Total 2024	Population 0-17 years (Census 2016)	% children referred
Dublin South Central	3,945	2,120	2,143	4,263	8.8%	70,259	6.1%
DSE/WW	1,595	966	874	1,840	3.8%	91,047	2.0%
DSW/K/WW	4,170	2,328	930*	3,258	6.7%	108,927	3.0%
Midlands	921	229	340	569	1.2%	80,962	0.7%
Dublin North City	4,264	3,025	2,401	5,426	11.2%	48,909	11.1%
Dublin North	3,937	1,237	1,308	2,545	5.3%	104,281	2.4%
Louth/Meath	1,874	1,185	1,304	2,489	5.1%	96,531	2.6%
Cavan/Monaghan	1,215	998	720	1,718	3.5%	37,336	4.6%
Cork	2,784	1,781	2,084	3,865	8.0%	136,786	2.8%
Kerry	1,947	1,039	1,019	2,058	4.2%	34,994	5.9%
CW/K/ST	3,214	1,652	1,593	3,245	6.7%	62,366	5.2%
Waterford/Wexford	2,225	2,209	1,407	3,616	7.5%	69,239	5.2%
Mid West	2,674	1,472	1,764	3,236	6.7%	96,764	3.3%
Galway/Roscommon	2,927	1,341	1,664	3,005	6.2%	81,799	3.7%
Mayo	1,108	662	529	1,191	2.5%	31,911	3.7%
Donegal	4,327	1,736	2,488	4,224	8.7%	42,144	10.0%
SLWC	4,133	934	961	1,895	3.9%	24,312	7.8%
Total	47,260	24,914	23,529	48,443	100.0%	1,218,567	4.0%

*Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow – incomplete data reported due to staff vacancy

6.1.4 Source of Referrals

- The most common source of referrals for 2024 was parents/guardians, accounting for 31% (14,909) of referrals followed by Tusla social workers (24%; 11,771), schools (11%; 5,364) and HSE Officers (9%; 4,589).

Children referred to Family Support Services by source of referral

Source	Total Referrals 2023	% Total 2023	Total Referrals H1 2024	Total Referrals H2 2024	Total Referrals 2024	% Total 2024
Parent/Guardian	13,657	29%	7,295	7614	14,909	31%
Tusla Social Workers	11,118	24%	5,639	6132	11,771	24%
Schools	5,413	11%	2,997	2367	5,364	11%

HSE Officers	3,695	8%	2,495	2094	4,589	9%
Other	2,005	4%	2,061	1207	3,268	7%
Other Tulsa Officers	2,342	5%	1,437	1535	2,972	6%
Child/Young Person	5,118	11%	1,276	1017	2,293	5%
Voluntary Agency	2,415	5%	1,127	1006	2,133	4%
GP	555	1%	260	248	508	1%
Other Family Member	719	2%	251	217	468	1%
AGS	158	0.3%	76	92	168	0.3%
Anonymous	65	0.1%	0	-	0	0.0%
Total	47,260	100%	24,914	23,529	48,443	100%

6.1.5 Children who received a service

- 73% (17,280) of children referred to family support services during the last six months of 2024 received a service during that period. The percentage who received a service ranged from 53% (Dublin South East/Wicklow) to 91% (Kerry). Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 73%.
- 68% (32,989) of all children referred in 2024 received a service in 2024. The percentage who received a service ranged from 44% (Waterford/Wexford) to 89% (Kerry). Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 68%.

Children referred to Family Support Services who received a service during the reporting period, H2 2024

Area	Referrals H2 2024	Of number referred, number who received a service	% who rec'd a service	Total Referrals 2024	Of number referred, number who received a service	% who rec'd a service
Dublin South Central	2,143	1,537	72%	4,263	2,763	65%
DSE/WW	874	463	53%	1,840	881	48%
DSW/K/WW	930	519	56%	3,258	1,665*	51%
Midlands	340	224	66%	569	338	59%
Dublin North City	2,401	1,759	73%	5,426	3,264	60%
Dublin North	1,308	876	67%	2,545	1,822	72%
Louth/Meath	1,304	920	71%	2,489	1,575	63%
Cavan/Monaghan	720	634	88%	1,718	1,278	74%
Cork	2,084	1,447	69%	3,865	2,665	69%
Kerry	1,019	930	91%	2,058	1,823	89%
CW/K/ST	1,593	1,142	72%	3,245	2,345	72%
Waterford/Wexford	1,407	843	60%	3,616	1,582	44%
Mid West	1,764	1,374	78%	3,236	2,527	78%
Galway/Roscommon	1,664	1,347	81%	3,005	2,298	76%
Mayo	529	413	78%	1,191	1,026	86%
Donegal	2,488	2,157	87%	4,224	3,552	84%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	961	695	72%	1,895	1,585	84%
Total	23,529	17,280	73%	48,443	32,989	68%

*Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow - incomplete data reported due to staff vacancy

- Of the 32,989 children referred to family support services in 2024 who received a service,
 - 5% (1,624) were subject of a child in care plan
 - 9% (2,978) were subject of a Tusla Child Protection & Welfare Safety Plan
 - 6% (1,808) were subject of a Meitheal Support Plan
 - 41% (13,413) were subject of a Single Agency Response.

6.1.6 Parenting Support Service

- 13,784 parents/guardians/care givers were referred to a parenting support service during the last six months of 2024; 28,697 referred in 2024
- 61% (8,390) of the parents/guardians/care givers referred during the last six months of 2024 received a service; 73% (20,846) received a service in 2024.
- 5,827 individual (one-to-one) parenting support services were commissioned internally during the last six months of 2024; 9,393 commissioned in 2024.
- 3,134 individual (one-to-one) parenting support services were commissioned externally during the last six months of 2024; 7,355 commissioned in 2024.
- 2,305 parenting support services that are group-based interventions were commissioned internally during the last six months of 2024: 4,469 commissioned in 2024.
- 3,369 parenting support services that are group-based interventions were commissioned externally during the last six months of 2024: 4,678 commissioned in 2024.

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

- 1,273 Meitheal processes requested during the last six months of 2024. This brings to 2,687 the number of requests received for 2024, 195 (8%) more than 2023 (2,492).
- The most common pathway for all requests received in 2024 was "Direct Access" accounting for 67% (1,793) of requests. "Social Work Diversion" accounted for a further 25% (665) while "Social Work Step-Down" accounted for 9% (229) of requests.
- Of the requests where the pathway was 'Direct Access' 25% (350/1,378) were previously known to social work (based on data from 14/17 areas for H1 and 16/17 areas for H2).
- 73% (1,974/2,687) of Meitheal requests received during 2024 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage).
- 1,679 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 (Discussion Stage) in 2024.
- 53% (885) of processes reaching completion of Stage 2 proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting).
- 2,112 Meitheal processes were closed during 2024.
- 33% (692) of all Meitheal processes were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1); 25% (524) were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2 Discussion Stage); 11% (241) were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3); 31% (655) were closed post-delivery.
- 114 Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) operating at the end of 2024 with a further five planned in development.

6.2.1 Meitheal Processes Requested

- 1,273 Meitheal processes requested during the last six months of 2024. This brings to 2,687 the number of requests received for 2024, 195 (8%) more than 2023 (2,492).
- The number of requests reported for the last six months of 2024 ranged from 16 (Mayo) to 312 (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary).
- The number of requests reported for the year 2024 ranged from 44 (Mayo) to 586 (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary).

Meitheal processes requested

Area	Total Requested 2023	Total Requested H1 2024	Total Requested H2 2024	Total Requested 2024	% Total 2024
Dublin South Central	86	29	31	60	2%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	91	61	45	106	4%
DSW/K/WW	167	83	68	151	6%
Midlands	107	54	58	112	4%
Dublin North City	103	26	23	49	2%
Dublin North	259	44	27	71	3%
Louth/Meath	162	61	61	122	5%
Cavan/Monaghan	128	131	109	240	9%
Cork	271	153	90	243	9%
Kerry	174	86	108	194	7%
CW/K/ST	194	274	312	586	22%
Waterford/Wexford	352	216	196	412	15%
Mid West	131	72	33	105	4%
Galway/Roscommon	111	41	41	82	3%
Mayo	38	28	16	44	2%
Donegal	75	33	23	56	2%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	43	22	32	54	2%
National	2,492	1,414	1,273	2,687	100%

- The most common pathway for requests received during the last six months of 2024 was “Direct Access” accounting for 67% (858) of requests. “Social Work Diversion” accounted for a further 25% (320) while “Social Work Step-Down” accounted for 7% (95) of requests.
- Of the requests where the pathway was ‘Direct Access’ 28% (194/702) were previously known to social work (based on data from 16/17 areas).
- A breakdown of request received during the last six months of 2024 by pathway is presented in the table below.

Access Pathway for Meitheal Requests H2 2024

Area	# Requested H2 2024	Of the total number of Meitheal requests:					
		Direct Access	% Direct Access	Social Work Diversion	% SW Diversion	Social Work Step - Down	% Step-Down
Dublin South Central	31	24	77%	5	16%	2	6%
DSE/WW	45	36	80%	5	11%	4	9%
DSW/K/WW	68	55	81%	12	18%	1	1%
Midlands	58	56	97%	2	3%	0	0%
Dublin North City	23	22	96%	1	4%	0	0%
Dublin North	27	22	81%	3	11%	2	7%
Louth/Meath	61	28	46%	32	52%	1	2%

Cavan/Monaghan	109	64	59%	13	12%	32	29%
Cork	90	62	69%	8	9%	20	22%
Kerry	108	56	52%	37	34%	15	14%
CW/K/ST	312	156	50%	152	49%	4	1%
Waterford/Wexford	196	147	75%	44	22%	5	3%
Mid West	33	27	82%	1	3%	5	15%
Galway/Roscommon	41	39	95%	1	2%	1	2%
Mayo	16	15	94%	0	0%	1	6%
Donegal	23	20	87%	3	13%	0	0%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	32	29	91%	1	3%	2	6%
Total	1,273	858	67%	320	25%	95	7%

- The most common pathway for all requests received in 2024 was “Direct Access” accounting for 67% (1,793) of requests. “Social Work Diversion” accounted for a further 25% (665) while “Social Work Step-Down” accounted for 9% (229) of requests.
- Of the requests where the pathway was ‘Direct Access’ 25% (350/1,378) were previously known to social work (based on data from 14/17 areas for H1 and 16/17 areas for H2).
- A breakdown of request received during 2024 by pathway is presented in the table below.

Access Pathway for Meitheal Requests 2024

Area	# Requested 2024	Of the total number of Meitheal requests:					
		Direct Access	% Direct Access	Social Work Diversion	% SW Diversion	Social Work Step - Down	% Step-Down
Dublin South Central	60	48	80%	6	10%	6	10%
DSE/WW	106	92	87%	6	6%	8	8%
DSW/K/WW	151	119	79%	29	19%	3	2%
Midlands	112	104	93%	6	5%	2	2%
Dublin North City	49	43	88%	3	6%	3	6%
Dublin North	71	64	90%	4	6%	3	4%
Louth/Meath	122	67	55%	47	39%	8	7%
Cavan/Monaghan	240	129	54%	54	23%	57	24%
Cork	243	136	56%	43	18%	64	26%
Kerry	194	100	52%	59	30%	35	18%
CW/K/ST	586	285	49%	292	50%	9	2%
Waterford/Wexford	412	311	75%	96	23%	5	1%
Mid West	105	89	85%	6	6%	10	10%
Galway/Roscommon	82	75	91%	5	6%	2	2%
Mayo	44	40	91%	1	2%	3	7%
Donegal	56	46	82%	3	5%	7	13%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	54	45	83%	5	9%	4	7%
Total	2,687	1,793	67%	665	25%	229	9%

6.2.2 Meitheal Processes Proceeding to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage)

- 66% (845/1,273) of Meitheal requests received during the last six months of 2024 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage).
- The percentage of requests proceeding to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage) ranged from 26% (Cavan/Monaghan) to 99% (Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow). Thirteen areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 66%.

Meitheal requests received proceeding to Stage Two (Discussion Stage) H2 2024

Area	# Requested H2 2024	# that proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage 2)	% that Proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage 2)
Dublin South Central	31	28	90%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	45	44	98%
DSW/K/WW	68	67	99%
Midlands	58	52	90%
Dublin North City	23	20	87%
Dublin North	27	23	85%
Louth/Meath	61	53	87%
Cavan/Monaghan	109	28	26%
Cork	90	82	91%
Kerry	108	80	74%
CW/K/ST	312	179	57%
Waterford/Wexford	196	73	37%
Mid West	33	29	88%
Galway/Roscommon	41	35	85%
Mayo	16	14	88%
Donegal	23	12	52%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	32	26	81%
Total	1,273	845	66%

- 73% (1,974/2,687) of Meitheal requests received during 2024 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage).
- The percentage of requests proceeding to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage) ranged from 26% (Cavan/Monaghan) to 99% (Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow). Fourteen areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 73%.

Meitheal requests received proceeding to Stage Two (Discussion Stage) 2024

Area	# Requested 2024	# that proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage 2)	% that Proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage 2)
Dublin South Central	60	49	82%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	106	104	98%
DSW/K/WW	151	150	99%
Midlands	112	93	83%
Dublin North City	49	43	88%
Dublin North	71	52	73%
Louth/Meath	122	112	92%

Cavan/Monaghan	240	63	26%
Cork	243	215	88%
Kerry	194	141	73%
CW/K/ST	586	369	63%
Waterford/Wexford	412	276	67%
Mid West	105	99	94%
Galway/Roscommon	82	75	91%
Mayo	44	42	95%
Donegal	56	43	77%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	54	48	89%
Total	2,687	1,974	73%

6.2.3 Meitheal Processes Reaching Completion of Stage 2 (Discussion Stage)

- 794 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 in the last six months of 2024.
- 52% (409) of processes reaching completion of Stage 2 proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting). The percentage of processes that proceeded to delivery ranged from 100% (31/31) Dublin south West/Kildare/West Wicklow to 14% (12/84) in Waterford/Wexford. Thirteen areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 52%.
- 35% (276) were referred for a single agency response. The percentage of processes referred for a single agency response ranged from 81% (86/106) in Cavan/Monaghan to 0% in four areas. Four areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 35%.
- 3% (25) of processes were referred to social work (stepped – up). The percentage of processes referred to social work ranged from 22% (5/23) in Dublin North City to 0% in six areas. Nine areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 3%.
- 11% (84) of processes were closed. The percentage of processes closed ranged from 27% (22/83) in Cork to none in five areas. Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average (11%).

Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two, H2 2024

Area	# Reaching Completion of Stage 2, H2 2024	Proceeded to Delivery	%	Referred to Social Work	%	Referred to a Single Agency Response	%	Closed	%
DSC	26	20	77%	0	0%	2	8%	4	15%
DSE/WW	38	37	97%	0	0%	0	0%	1	3%
DSW/K/WW	31	31	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Midlands	58	51	88%	1	2%	6	10%	0	0%
DNC	23	15	65%	5	22%	3	13%	0	0%
Dublin North	13	10	77%	1	8%	1	8%	1	8%
LH/MH	28	20	71%	2	7%	4	14%	2	7%
CN/MN	106	19	18%	0	0%	86	81%	1	1%
Cork	83	46	55%	6	7%	9	11%	22	27%
Kerry	59	20	34%	2	3%	25	42%	12	20%

CW/KK/ST	132	36	27%	1	1%	73	55%	22	17%
WD/WX	84	12	14%	3	4%	61	73%	8	10%
MidWest	27	25	93%	1	4%	1	4%	0	0%
GY/RN	36	29	81%	1	3%	0	0%	6	17%
Mayo	16	11	69%	0	0%	2	13%	3	19%
Donegal	15	12	80%	0	0%	3	20%	0	0%
SLWC	19	15	79%	2	11%	0	0%	2	11%
Total	794	409	52%	25	3%	276	35%	84	11%

- 1,679 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 (Discission Stage) in 2024.
- 53% (885) of processes reaching completion of Stage 2 proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting). The percentage of processes that proceeded to delivery ranged from 95% (84/88) Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow to 15% (35/235) in Cavan/Monaghan. Twelve areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 53%.
- 32% (529) were referred for a single agency response. The percentage of processes referred for a single agency response ranged from 75% (111/148) in Waterford/Wexford to 0% in four areas. Three areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 32%.
- 2% (39) of processes were referred to social work (stepped – up). The percentage of processes referred to social work ranged from 12% (5/41) in Dublin North City to 0% in three areas. Eleven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 2%.
- 13% (226) of processes were closed. The percentage of processes closed ranged from 23% (10/43) in Dublin North and Kerry (27/119) to none in one area (Donegal). Nine areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average (13%).

Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two, 2024

Area	# Reaching Completion of Stage 2, H2 2024	Proceeded to Delivery	%	Referred to Social Work	%	Referred to a Single Agency Response	%	Closed	%
DSC	55	39	71%	1	2%	3	5%	12	22%
DSE/WW	94	89	95%	0	0%	0	0%	5	5%
DSW/K/WW	88	84	95%	0	0%	0	0%	4	5%
Midlands	109	77	71%	1	1%	11	10%	20	18%
DNC	41	29	71%	5	12%	5	12%	2	5%
Dublin North	43	18	42%	2	5%	13	30%	10	23%
LH/MH	76	54	71%	3	4%	11	14%	8	11%
CN/MN	235	35	15%	4	2%	164	70%	32	14%
Cork	148	85	57%	8	5%	22	15%	33	22%
Kerry	119	60	50%	3	3%	29	24%	27	23%
CW/KK/ST	261	70	27%	1	<1%	153	59%	37	14%
WD/WX	148	26	18%	3	2%	111	75%	8	5%

MidWest	74	65	88%	1	1%	1	1%	7	9%
GY/RN	71	60	85%	4	6%	0	0%	7	10%
Mayo	44	33	75%	0	0%	3	7%	8	18%
Donegal	44	40	91%	1	2%	3	7%	0	0%
SLWC	29	21	72%	2	7%	0	0%	6	21%
Total	1,679	885	53%	39	2%	529	32%	226	13%

6.2.4 Meitheal Processes Closed

- 1,151 Meitheal processes were closed during the last six months of 2024. The number of processes closed ranged from 293 (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary) to 10 (Dublin South Central).
- 35% (402) of all Meitheal processes were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1). The percentage closed following submission of a Meitheal request form ranged from 56% (163/293) in Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary to none in two areas (Dublin North and Cavan/Monaghan). Three areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 35%.
- 23% (264) of Meitheal processes were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2 Discussion Stage). The percentage closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form ranged from 86% (55/64) in Cavan/Monaghan to none in one area (Dublin North). Three areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average (23%).
- 10% (116) of Meitheal processes were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3). The percentage closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings ranged from 48% (24/50) in Galway/Roscommon to none in two areas (Dublin South Central and Dublin North). Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 10%.
- 32% (369) of Meitheal processes were closed post-delivery. The percentage closed post-delivery ranged from 100% (27/27) in Dublin North area to 6% in Cavan/Monaghan (4/64) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (19/163). Twelve areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 32%.

Number of Meitheals closed H2 2024

Area	Total number of Meitheals closed H2 2024	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	10	3	30%	1	10%	0	0%	6	60%
DSE/WW	51	7	14%	4	8%	6	12%	34	67%
DSW/K/WW	47	9	19%	5	11%	5	11%	28	60%
Midlands	16	5	31%	2	13%	6	38%	3	19%
DNC	47	15	32%	5	11%	6	13%	21	45%
Dublin North	27	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	27	100%
LH/MH	40	9	23%	13	33%	2	5%	16	40%
CN/MN	64	0	0%	55	86%	5	8%	4	6%
Cork	137	75	55%	20	15%	14	10%	28	20%
Kerry	69	29	42%	8	12%	9	13%	23	33%
CW/KK/ST	293	163	56%	105	36%	6	2%	19	6%
WD/WX	166	43	26%	30	18%	2	1%	91	55%
MidWest	39	9	23%	2	5%	7	18%	21	54%
GY/RN	50	7	14%	3	6%	24	48%	16	32%
Mayo	26	8	31%	1	4%	1	4%	16	62%
Donegal	38	11	29%	7	18%	16	42%	4	11%
SLWC	31	9	29%	3	10%	7	23%	12	39%
National	1,151	402	35%	264	23%	116	10%	369	32%

- 2,112 Meitheal processes were closed during 2024. The number of processes closed ranged from 494 (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary) to 26 (Dublin South Central).
- 33% (692) of all Meitheal processes were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1). The percentage closed following submission of a Meitheal request form ranged from 52% (258/494) in Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary to none in one area (Cavan/Monaghan). Six areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 33%.
- 25% (524) of Meitheal processes were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2 Discussion Stage). The percentage closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form ranged 84% (157/188) in Cavan/Monaghan to none in one area (Dublin North). Three areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average (25%).
- 11% (241) of Meitheal processes were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3). The percentage closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings ranged from 38% (12/32) in Midlands to none in one area (Dublin North). Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 11%.

- 31% (655) of Meitheal processes were closed post-delivery. The percentage closed post-delivery ranged from 67% (60/89) in Dublin South East/Wicklow to 8% (39/494) in Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary. Eleven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 31%.

Number of Meitheals closed 2024

Area	Total number of Meitheals closed H2 2024	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	26	7	27%	1	4%	2	8%	16	62%
DSE/WW	89	7	8%	10	11%	12	13%	60	67%
DSW/K/WW	122	27	22%	9	7%	17	14%	69	57%
Midlands	32	10	31%	4	13%	12	38%	6	19%
DNC	103	37	36%	11	11%	15	15%	40	39%
Dublin North	41	14	34%	0	0%	0	0%	27	66%
LH/MH	61	20	33%	18	30%	2	3%	21	34%
CN/MN	188	0	0%	157	84%	13	7%	18	10%
Cork	254	124	49%	44	17%	25	10%	61	24%
Kerry	138	52	38%	16	12%	16	12%	54	39%
CW/KK/ST	494	258	52%	164	33%	33	7%	39	8%
WD/WX	208	60	29%	42	20%	3	1%	103	50%
MidWest	96	18	19%	13	14%	15	16%	50	52%
GY/RN	81	13	16%	8	10%	30	37%	30	37%
Mayo	47	13	28%	2	4%	5	11%	27	57%
Donegal	79	17	22%	16	20%	27	34%	19	24%
SLWC	53	15	28%	9	17%	14	26%	15	28%
National	2,112	692	33%	524	25%	241	11%	655	31%

6.2.5 Child and Family Support Networks

- 114 Child and Family Support Networks¹³ (CFSN) operating at the end of 2024 with a further five planned in development.

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 families

Child and Family Support Networks operating and planned

Area	CFSNs Operating H2 2023	CFSNs Operating H2 2024	CFSNs Planned H2 2024
Dublin South Central	8	6	1
Dublin South East/Wicklow	7	7	0
DSW/K/WW	10	10	0
Midlands	4	4	0
Dublin North City	6	6	0
Dublin North	4	4	0
Louth/Meath	5	5	0
Cavan/Monaghan	8	4	0
Cork	12	12	0
Kerry	3	3	0
CW/K/ST	8	8	0
Waterford/Wexford	8	8	0
Mid West	13	13	0
Galway/Roscommon	12	12	0
Mayo	4	4	4
Donegal	5	5	0
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	3	3	0
Total	120	114	5

7.0 PEOPLE & CHANGE

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

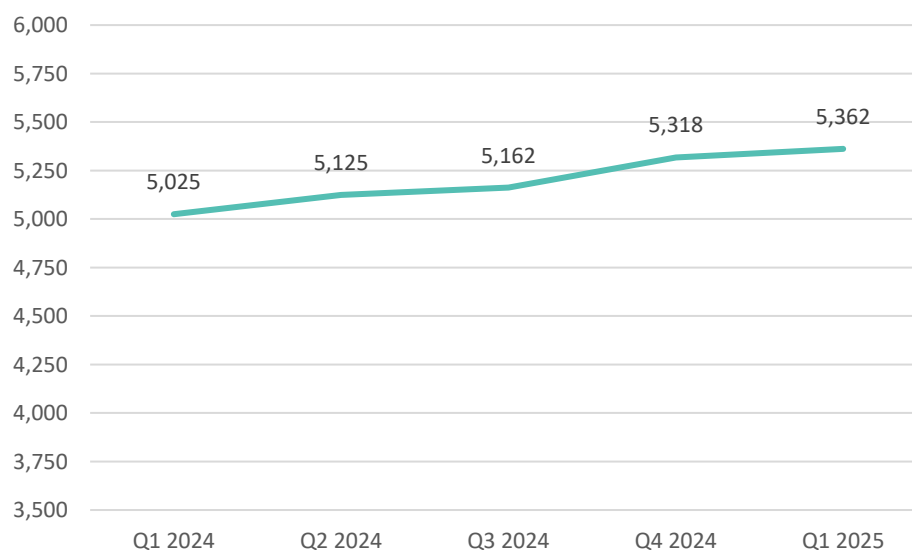
KEY FACTS

- 5,362 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q1 2025, 44 (1%) more than Q4 2024 (5,318) and 337 (7%) more than Q1 2024 (5,025).
- 210 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first three months of 2025, 41 (24%) more than the same period in 2024 (169).
- 109 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in the first three months of 2025, 5 (5%) more than the same period in 2024 (104).
- At the end of Q1 2025, the overall absence rate for the Agency was 6.5%, down from a high of 7.7% at the end of Q4 2024 and also down slightly from the same period in 2024 (6.7%).
- e-learning training activity: 11,344 completions were achieved in Q1 2025
- Classroom training: 2,182 participants attended in Q1 2025.

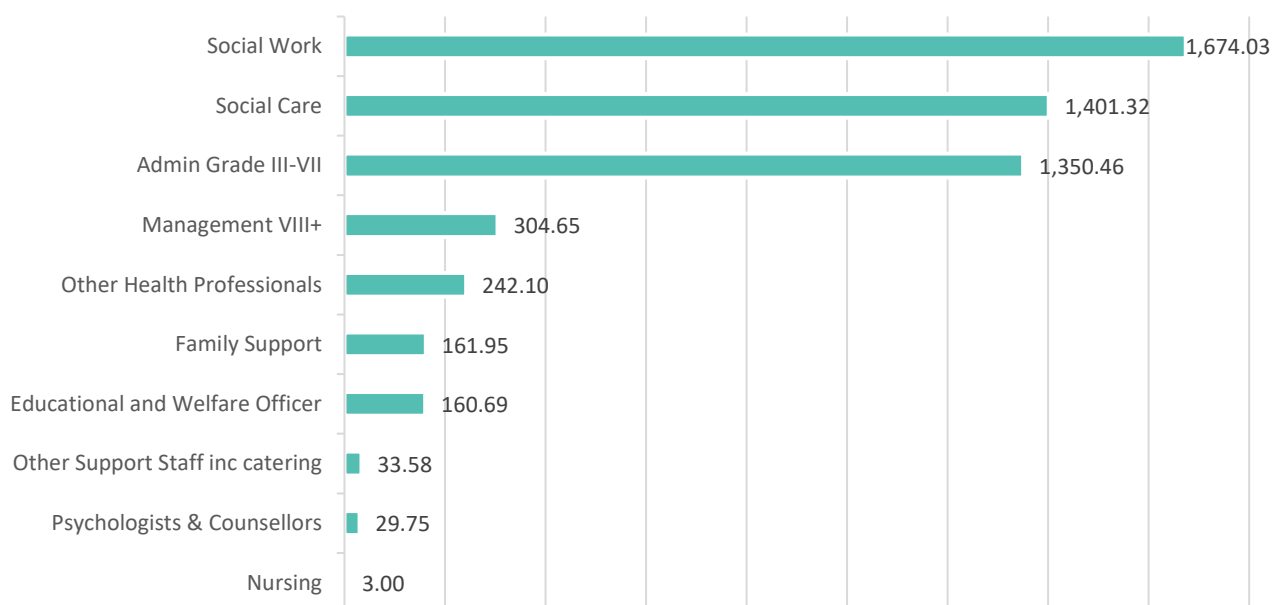
7.1 Workforce Position

- 5,362 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q1 2025, 44 (1%) more than Q4 2024 (5,318) and 337 (7%) more than Q1 2024 (5,025).

Total Staff Employed (WTE), by quarter



- Social workers are the largest category of staff employed by the Agency, accounting for 31% (1,674.03) of total staff (WTE) employed at the end of Q1 2025, followed by social care staff accounting for a further 26% (1,401.32). Management (Grade VIII+) account for 6% (304.65) of the workforce.



- Increase/decrease in WTEs by staff category is presented in the table below.

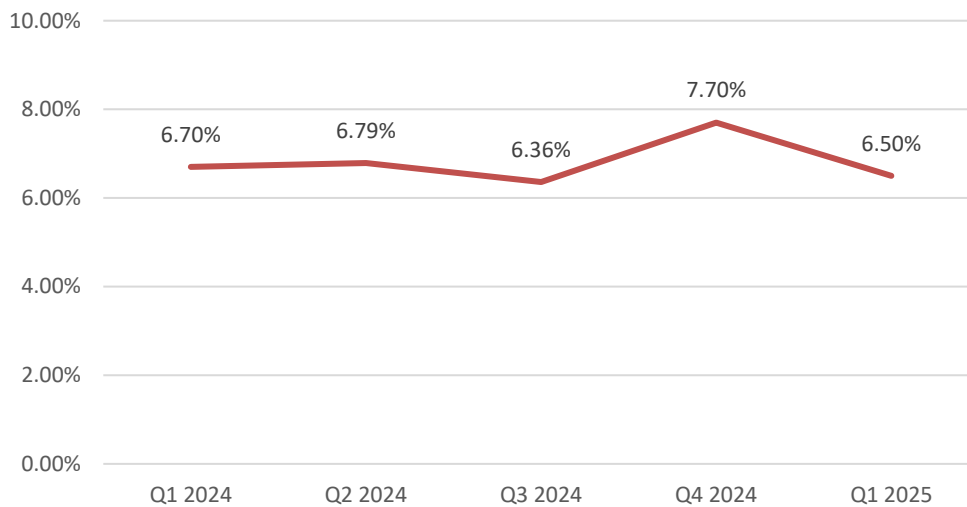
Breakdown of staff (WTE) by category

Staffing by Category	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q1 2025 v Q4 2024	Q1 2025 v Q1 2024
Social Work	1,595.45	1,588.02	1,593.36	1,678.50	1,674.03	-4.47	78.58
Social Care	1,315.23	1,334.16	1,331.37	1,355.03	1,401.32	46.29	86.09
Admin Grade III-VII	1,227.08	1,275.99	1,297.46	1,349.85	1,350.46	0.61	123.38
Family Support	160.72	194.49	199.51	173.85	161.95	-11.90	1.23
Management VIII+	293.96	298.07	298.27	306.66	304.65	-2.01	10.69
Educational & Welfare Officer	150.97	152.84	151.79	152.55	160.69	8.14	9.72
Other Support Staff	37.56	37.46	35.93	34.59	33.58	-1.01	-3.98
Nursing	5.40	3.52	2.95	3.58	3.00	-0.58	-2.40
Psychologists & Counsellors	25.92	25.85	28.31	28.38	29.75	1.37	3.83
Other Health Professionals	212.32	214.88	222.55	235.45	242.10	6.65	29.78
Total Staffing	5,025	5,125	5,162	5,318	5,362	44	337

- 210 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first three months of 2025, 41 (24%) more than the same period in 2024 (169).
- 109 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in the first three months of 2025, 5 (5%) more than the same period in 2024 (104).
- 24 staff retired in the first three months of 2025, 7 (23%) fewer than the same period in 2024 (31).
- 172 (3%) staff were on maternity leave (paid and unpaid) at the end of Q1 2025.

7.2 Absence Rate

- At the end of Q1 2025, the overall absence rate for the Agency was 6.5%, down from a high of 7.7% at the end of Q4 2024 and also down slightly from the same period in 2024 (6.7%).



- The highest absence rate was reported for social care staff at 8.69%. The rate for Residential Services (9.3%) (data not shown), is 2.8 percentage points higher than the overall rate of 6.5%. The overall absence rate excluding Residential Services is 5.93%.

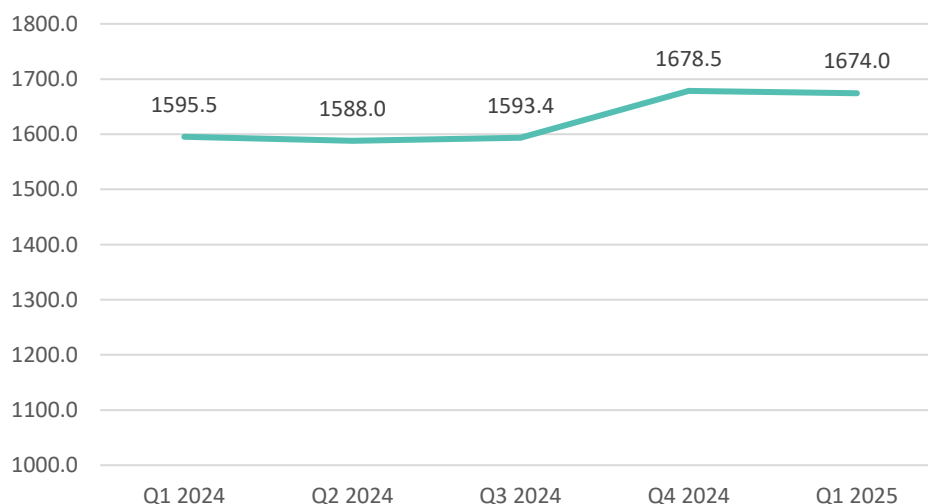
Absence rate by staff grade

Staff Grade	Absence Rate Q1 2024	Absence Rate Q2 2024	Absence Rate Q3 2024	Absence Rate Q4 2024	Absence Rate Q1 2025
Social Work	5.84%	6.14%	4.92%	6.64%	5.93%
Social Care	9.68%	9.74%	10.05%	10.94%	8.69%
All other grades	5.18%	5.2%	4.99%	6.15%	5.38%

7.3 Social Work Staff (WTE)

- 1,674 whole time equivalent (WTE) social work staff (all grades and excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q1 2025, 4.5 (<1%) more than at the end of Q4 2024 (1,678.5) and 78.6 (5%) more than Q1 2025 (1,595.5)

Number of social workers (WTE) by quarter



- 52 social workers joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first three months of 2025, 16 (44%) more than the same period in 2024 (36).
- 46 social workers left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks excluding retirements) in the first three months of 2025, three more than the same period in 2024 (43).
- 3 social workers retired in the first three months of 2025, 4 (57%) fewer than the same period in 2024 (7).
- 74 (4%) social workers were on maternity leave (paid and unpaid) at the end of Q1 2025.
- A breakdown of the number of social workers (all grades) employed at the end of each quarter Q1 2024 to Q1 2025 by area is presented in the table below.

Breakdown of social work staff (WTE) by area Q1 2024 – Q1 2025

	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)
Area	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025
DSC	70.5	70.52	76.56	81.51	78.31
DSE/WW	82.65	80.61	74	78.65	77.22
DSW/K/WW	100.16	97.16	100.63	100.23	103.61
Midlands	93.87	91.76	90.28	97.02	95.27
Regional Services DML	20.75	18.77	16.91	17.84	14.96
DML Total	367.93	358.82	358.38	375.25	369.37
CN/MN	48.62	49.02	45.06	50.41	49.41
DNC	76.9	79.75	78.73	81.6	83.35
LH/MH	81.4	85.76	90.47	95.83	95.11
Dublin North	91.56	92.9	89.53	88.19	95.89
Regional Services DNE	13.59	12.42	13.21	14.28	13.06
DNE Total	312.07	319.85	317	330.31	336.82
CW/KK/ST	64.82	62.31	62.28	65.85	60.81
Cork	189.31	187.68	181.17	194.97	192.9
Kerry	40.64	36.79	35.28	37.51	37.28
WD/WX	91.72	89.56	92.56	97.46	94.56
Regional Services South	5.87	6.77	7.47	6.79	7.22
South Total	392.36	383.11	378.56	402.58	392.77
Donegal	71.19	72.19	76.57	81.12	79.54
GY/RN	93.73	93.69	101.75	105.11	105.77
Mayo	36.41	35.04	36.62	39.69	37.93
Mid West	96.42	92.74	91.94	98.89	101.6
SLWC	40.46	44.52	42.03	43.08	42.32
Regional Services West	11.88	11.56	13.07	18.63	18.63
West Total	350.09	349.74	361.98	386.52	385.79
Residential DML					
Residential DNE	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6
Residential West					

Residential South	1	1	1	1	1
National residential	1	1	1	1	1
Residential Services	4.6	4.6	4.6	5	4.6
Corporate	168.4	171.9	172.64	179.24	184.68
Corporate	168.4	171.9	172.64	179.24	184.68
Total	1,595.45	1,588.02	1,593.36	1,678.5	1,674.03

7.4 Workforce Learning and Development (WLD)

- Table 1 shows classroom training attendance for Q1 2025
- Table 2 shows E-learning activity for Q1 2025
- The most attended classroom training was ‘Tusla Manual Handling’ with 372 completions followed by ‘Violence, Harassment & Aggression (VHA) training.
- The most popular E-learning module during Q1 2025 was ‘All about claiming Travel, Subsistence and other Staff Costs’ with 1,267 completions followed by ‘Data Protection in Tusla’ with 1,219 completions and Implementing Children First in Tusla with 1,123 completions.

Table 1: Classroom Training, Q1 2025

Name of Module	Total Completions
Tusla Manual Handling Training	372
Violence Harassment & Aggression (VHA) - Tusla (Classroom Training)	147
Ligature Knife & Ligature Audits Training - Tusla	129
Sharing Personal Data Safely	99
Therapeutic Crisis Intervention Refresher Training - Classroom (TCI) – Residential Staff	74
TCM (Classroom) Training for Child Protection and Alternative Care Staff - Tusla	67
MECPATHS Child Trafficking Workshop (Hidden in Plain Sight) Face to Face - Tusla	64
Child and Youth Participation: Modules 2 & 3 - Tusla	52
CASP V2 Full Day In Person Training 2025	51
Diversity in Modern Ireland Train the Trainer - Tusla	50
Resistance and Engaging with Families - Tusla	50
Reflective Writing in Practice - Face to Face - Tusla	49
Home Visiting	44
University of Galway/Tusla Joint Training Events	43
Microsoft Excel Intermediate	41
Management: An Introduction for First Time Managers - Virtual Classroom - Tusla	40
Welltree Module 6: Face to Face Classroom Training LEADERSHIP - Tusla	38
Children who have sexually harmed: Considerations and Safety Planning - Tusla	37
First Aid Response Course (PHECC) (3 Day) - Tusla	37
Resilience and Self Care Training - Tusla	37

Presentation and Facilitation Skills Module 1 - Tusla	35
Supervision Skills for Supervisors Module 2 - Tusla	35
Welltree Module 3: Face to Face Risk Informed Practice within residential childcare -	35
Office for Legal Services, Briefings 2025 - Classroom Based - Tusla	34
Welltree Module 4: Classroom training - Wellbeing informed practice within residential childcare	29
Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) - Core - Tusla	25
Welltree Module 1: Face to Face Introduction to Attachment/Trauma Informed Practice - Tusla	24
Welltree Module 5: Face to Face - Welltree Outcomes Framework within residential childcare	24
Cumulative Harm- Tusla	23
Fire Extinguisher Training	23
Fire Warden Training	23
Myers Briggs Type Indicator (*MBTI) - Team Development - Tusla	23
Welltree Module 2: Face to Face Intermediate Attachment/Trauma informed practice	23
Induction Day - Tusla	22
Applied Complaint Officer Training	21
Working with Domestic Violence, Abuse and Coercive Control	20
Professional Management of Challenging Behaviour	19
Welltree Refresher Training - Tusla	19
Court Skills in Practice - Mock court session for educational welfare cases - Tusla	16
Tusla Intake Eligibility Procedure for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP)	16
Everyday Personal Effectiveness Programme Values In Action - Tusla	15
CASP Data Protection Guidance for Applying CP to CASP VC	13
Understanding Self Harm - Tusla	13
Applied Training Complain Review Officer	12
First Aid REFRESHER Response Course (PHECC) - Tusla	12
Working Sexual Abuse and Harmful Sexual Behaviour Step 2 of 3 (Pilot)	12
Mediation Skills (Two-day training programme) - Tusla	12
ICT Workshop	11
Microsoft Excel Advanced	11
Anti racism and Intercultural Awareness	9
Attachment Step 2	9
Non-Violent Resistance Training (NVR) - Tusla	9
TUSLA COACHING SKILLS PROGRAMME In-Person	7
Sensory Workshop	6
Meitheal Chair/Facilitator Training Programme - Tusla	5
Microsoft Outlook	4
Microsoft Teams/Sharepoint/One Note	4
TCM Fostering Two Person Record Set - Tusla	4
Meitheal - Tusla Led Early Intervention Practice Model - Tusla	3
Microsoft Word Advanced	1
Total	2,182

Table 2: E-Learning Q1 2025

Name of Module	Total Completions
All about claiming Travel, Subsistence and other Staff Costs	1,267
Data Protection in Tusla	1,219
Implementing Children First in Tusla	1,123
Introduction to Children First	1,111
Tusla Employee Health and Safety Awareness Training	1,032
Complaint handling in Tusla. (Module 1)	857
Freedom of Information: An Introduction to the FOI Act	782
Children First in Action	660
Violence, Harassment and Aggression (VHA) Online - Tusla	649
Incident Management - Tusla	585
Tusla Case Management: Fundamentals of the TCM System	506
Child Sexual Exploitation	306
Medication Management in Children's Residential Services	211
TCM for Child Protection Alternative Care (CPAC)	155
Child and Youth Participation, An Introduction	116
Complaint handling in Tusla. Understanding Complaint Investigations (Module2)	81
DSGBV	76
Policies and Procedures for Children's Residential Services	75
Organisational Risk Management - Tusla	73
Hidden Harm: The Impact of Parental Alcohol and other Drug use	68
Critical Incident Stress Management	56
Health and Safety Management: Introduction for Line Managers	55
Barnahaus	54
Minute Taking: An Introduction - Tusla	48
Attachment in Tusla Practice	41
Meitheal Briefing - Tusla	39
An Introduction to Parental Participation for all staff	26
Induction to Children's Residential Services in Tusla	18
Module 3: Using NIMS for the Management of Complaints - Tusla	17
Parental Participation in Practice	16
An Introduction to Tusla's Approach to Commissioning	9
De-escalation Skills for Staff Redeployed to CRS	6
Revised Standard Business Processes on NCCIS - Tusla	6
CASP e-learning	1
Total	11,344

8 FINANCE

KEY FACTS

- The outturn for the year to date (March YTD) is an overspend of €7.4 million (2%).
- Net expenditure is €308,630 million against an initial revenue budget allocation of €301,256 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €3.8 million.
- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget year to date by €10.9 million.

Financial Performance

- The outturn for the year to date (March YTD) is an overspend of €7.4million (2%)
- Net expenditure is €308,630 million against an initial revenue budget allocation of €301,256 million
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €3.8 million.

Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	March 2025 YTD			% Variance Act vs Budget
	Actual	Budget	Variance	
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€
Pay costs	108,229	112,102	-3,872	(3%)

- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget year to date by €10.9 million.

Non-Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	March 2025 YTD			% Variance Act vs Budget
	Actual	Budget	Variance	
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€
Non pay costs	205,401	194,446	10,955	6%

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	SLWC
SCSIP	Separated Children Seeking International Protection