

TÚSLA

An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Performance and Activity Report Quarter 1 2026

Quality & Regulation Directorate

29 May 2026

About this Report

This report provides an overview of service activity and performance across a number of key metrics for **Quarter 1 2026**.

In January 2026, Tusla commenced implementation of a major reform programme aimed at improving services delivered to children, young people and their families.

Previously, Tusla was set up to work across 17 geographical areas configured into six regions. These areas differed in size and staffing levels with the result that children, young people and families, did not always have the same level of access to services, or the same level of supports available.

To address this inequity, Tusla changed its structure to work across 30 networks in six regions. Each new network was indexed using Central Statistics Office demographic data, including population size, disadvantage and deprivation. The networks are more equal in size and staffing ensuring more equal access to services for everyone, no matter where they live.

This new configuration can be viewed on the map and table in Appendix 1 of this report.

The key metrics included in this report provide a snapshot of performance and activity across the following service areas, Safety & Welfare (previously referred to as Child Protection and Welfare), Alternative Care, Tusla Education Support Services (Tess) and Children's Services Regulation (CSR). National and regional breakdowns of the data are provided in the main body of the report. **Some network level data can be found in Appendix 3.**

Explanations of the terms and abbreviations used in this report can be found in Appendix 2.

Data can change from previously published data due to ongoing validation of data. Also, data for 2026 should be interpreted with caution due to work underway to align cases to new regions/networks.

Key Messages

SAFETY AND WELFARE SERVICES

Referrals

- 28,800 referrals for the first three months of 2026 (*data provisional*)
- 11% (2,944) increase in referrals year on year.

Open Cases (Safety & Welfare Cases Only)

- 19,356 cases open to social work (safety & welfare cases only) at the end of Q1 2026
- 10% (1,779) increase year on year
- 72% (14,029) of cases were allocated to case workers. Of these, 73% (10,229) were allocated to social workers and 27% (3,800) were allocated to other professionals.
- 5,327 (28%) cases were awaiting allocation, eight more than Q4 2025 (5,319).

Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)

- 1,169 children 'active' on the CPNS at the end of Q1 2026
- 7% (73) increase year on year
- 98.3% (1,149) of children were allocated to social workers; 20 children awaiting allocation. Thirteen of the 20 children were allocated to other professionals.

Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)

- 57 referrals assigned to CASP in Q1 2026
- 60% (87) decrease in referrals assigned year on year
- 312 assessments open under CASP at the end of Q1 2026
- 47% (280) decrease in open assessments year on year
- 89% (277) of open assessments were allocated to social workers, 35 (11%) assessments awaiting allocation.

National Out of Hours Service (NOHS)

- 352 referrals to the National Out of Hours Service in Q1 2026
- 17% (73) decrease in referrals year on year
- 191 placements by the National Out of Hours Service in Q1 2026.

ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

Children in Care

- 5,952 children in care (includes 130 unaccompanied minors) at the end of Q1 2026
- 3% (169) increase in children in care year on year
- 85.3% of all children in care (mainstream and unaccompanied minors) are in foster care; 87.0% of mainstream children are in care in foster care.
- 1,155 (19.4%) children in care are in placements with private providers
- 11% (117) increase in children in placements with private providers year on year
- 98% (5,820) of children in care are allocated to case workers. Of these 92% (5,339) are allocated to social workers and 8% (481) are allocated to other professionals.
- 132 children awaiting allocation
- 82% (4,908) of children in care have an up-to-date care plan.

Foster Carers

- 3,147 Tusla foster carers (2,125 general, 1,022 relative) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q1 2026. *Data on private foster carers on the panel is undergoing validation and is not available at this time.*
- 13 fewer than Q1 2025 (3,160), but 39 more than Q4 2025 (3,108)
- 3% (69) decrease in the number of general foster carers year on year; 6% (56) increase in the number of relative foster carers year on year.
- 58 foster carers (all types) approved in Q1 2026
- 83% (48) of foster carers approved were Tusla foster carers, general (24) and relative (24).
- 285 applicants to be foster carers (98 general and 187 relative) were going through assessment at the end of Q1 2026.
- 90% (1,913) of general foster carers and 89% (908) of relative foster carers had allocated link (social) workers at the end of Q1 2026; 212 general and 114 relative awaiting allocation.
- 93% (225) of 'unapproved' relative carers had a link (social) worker at the end of Q1 2026; 17 awaiting allocation.

Aftercare

- 3,029 young people (all ages) were in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q1 2026
- 2% (52) increase year on year
- 84% (1,936) of young people 18-22 years in receipt of aftercare services were in education / accredited training

- 78% (2,360) of all young people in receipt of aftercare services had an aftercare plan (90% for young people 18-20 years, 95% for young people 21-22 years and 35% for young people under 18 years).
- 95% (2,246) of young people with an aftercare plan were assessed as needing an aftercare worker.
- 86% (1,925) of young people assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2026; 321 awaiting.
- 88% of 18-20 year olds, 74% of 21-22 year olds and 99.6% of young people under 18 years had aftercare workers.

Adoption

- 73 applications for assessment of eligibility and suitability as adoptive parents received in Q1 2026
- 23% (22) decrease in applications year on year
- Applications for fostering to adoption accounted for more than half (52%; 38) of applications.
- 98 children referred for adoption in Q1 2026
- 7% (6) increase in children referred year on year.
- Majority (64%; 63) of children referred were referred for step-parent adoption.

TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

- 9,529 referrals received this school year to date
- 10,924 cases open to educational welfare officers at the end of Q1 2026
- 55% (5,972) of cases allocated; 4,952 (45%) cases on a waiting list for allocation
- Cases on the waiting list up 7% (325) year on year
- 367 school attendance notices and 79 summonses issued this school year to date.
- 364 Section 24 (Educational Welfare Act) meetings convened this school year to date to discuss the continued education of a child 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.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

Early Years Services

- 3,941 pre-school services, 3,032 school age services and 174 childminding services on the register at the end of Q1 2026
- 669 pre-school inspections, 21 school age inspections and 19 childminding pre-registration assessments carried out in Q1 2026.

- No early years' service prosecuted in Q1 2026.

Alternative Education Assessment & Registration Service (AEARS)

- 2,637 children on the register for home education at the end of Q1 2026
- 6% (138) increase in the number on the register year on year
- 460 assessments carried out in Q1 2026
- 366 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q1 2026
- Slight increasing trend in the number of children on the waiting list for assessment beginning to emerge, but 22% (104) decrease year on year.

Alternative Care Inspection & Monitoring Service (ACIMS)

- 252 non-statutory residential centres at the end of Q1 2026
- 22% (46) increase in the number of centres year on year
- 62 inspections of non-statutory residential centres in Q1 2026
- 5 non-statutory foster care services at the end of Q1 2026, no change from previous quarters.

Child Safeguarding Statement Compliance Unit (CSSCU)

- 86 services submitted child safeguarding statements in Q1 2026
- 86 child safeguarding statements for relevant services reviewed in Q1 2026.

PEOPLE AND CHANGE

- 5,636 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff employed by Tusla at the end of Q1 2026.
- 5% (275) increase in total WTEs year on year.
- 152 new staff commenced with Tusla in Q1 2026
- 135 staff left Tusla (incl. retirements) in Q1 2026
- 6.8% absence rate at the end of Q1 2026, down from 8.1% at the end of Q4 2025 and similar to that for Q1 2025.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

- The outturn for the year to date (31 March 2026) is an underspend of €1.97 million (1%).
- Net expenditure is €342.1 million against an initial revenue budget allocation of €344.1 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget year to date by €6.33 million (5%).
- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget year to date by €4.86 million (2%).

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SAFETY AND WELFARE SERVICES

SAFETY AND WELFARE SERVICES

Referrals – National

A referral or a report of concern is the first stage of the safety and welfare process. It is a request for services to be provided and can be made by anyone who has concerns about the safety or welfare of a child. A re-referral is defined as a referral on a child who was previously open to social work, but whose referral was closed within 12 months prior to receipt of the re-referral. The primary report type is that reported by the referrer and can change following review and assessment by social workers.

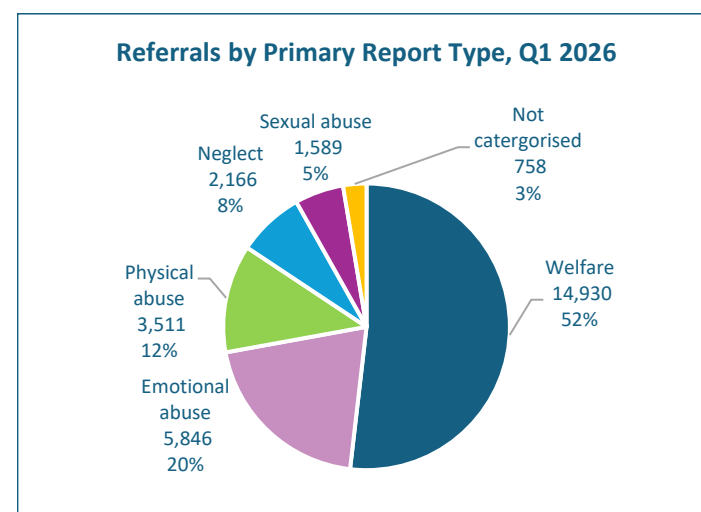
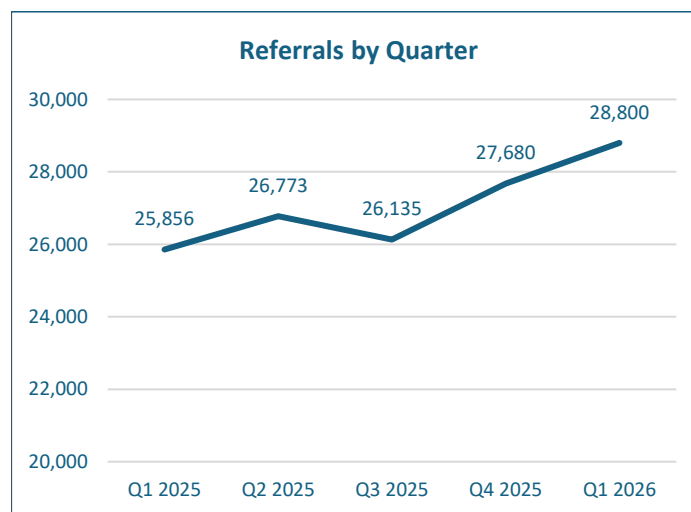
Metric	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	SPLY	Δ SPLY
Total Referrals	26,135	27,680	28,800	— ■ ■	25,856	+2,944 (11%)
<i>Welfare</i>	<i>14,362</i>	<i>14,586</i>	<i>14,930</i>	— ■ ■	<i>15,354</i>	<i>-424 (3%)</i>
<i>Emotional abuse</i>	<i>5,577</i>	<i>5,548</i>	<i>5,846</i>	— ■ ■	<i>4,846</i>	<i>+1,000 (21%)</i>
<i>Physical abuse</i>	<i>2,730</i>	<i>3,332</i>	<i>3,511</i>	— ■ ■	<i>2,652</i>	<i>+859 (32%)</i>
<i>Sexual abuse</i>	<i>1,572</i>	<i>1,536</i>	<i>1,589</i>	■ — ■	<i>1,429</i>	<i>+160 (11%)</i>
<i>Neglect</i>	<i>1,771</i>	<i>2,039</i>	<i>2,166</i>	— ■ ■	<i>1,487</i>	<i>+679 (46%)</i>
<i>Not categorised</i>	<i>123</i>	<i>639</i>	<i>758</i>	— ■ ■	<i>88</i>	<i>+670 (761%)</i>
% Re-referrals	19%	20%	19%	— ■ ■	19%	0

Note: Data for Q1 2026 provisional

Top 10 Sources Q1 2026	# Referrals	% Total
Member of An Garda Síochána	9,794	34.0%
Teacher	4,215	14.6%
Safeguarding officer	3,543	12.3%
Social worker	2,653	9.2%
Social care worker	1,604	5.6%
Medical practitioner	911	3.2%
Anonymous	738	2.6%
Not specified	729	2.5%
Nurse/midwife	696	2.4%
Parent / guardian	622	2.2%

Key Messages

- **28,800 referrals** in Q1 2026 (provisional figure).
- Highest number for all quarters Q1 2025 -Q1 2026.
- 11% (2,944) increase year on year.
- Majority (52%; 14,930) of referrals are for **welfare concerns**.
- An Garda Síochána is the most **common source of referrals** accounting for 34% (9,794) of referrals, followed by teachers accounting for a further 15% (4,215) of referrals for Q1 2026.



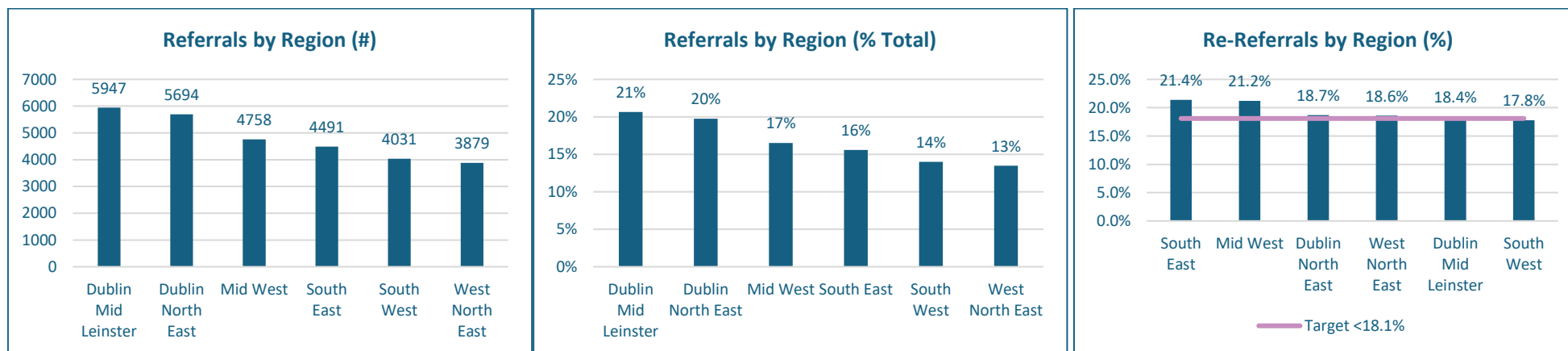
SAFETY AND WELFARE SERVICES

Referrals - Regions

Metric	DML	DNE	MW	SE	SW	WNE	Total
Referrals Q1 2026	5,947	5,694	4,758	4,491	4,031	3,879	28,800
% Total	21%	20%	17%	16%	14%	13%	100%
<i>Welfare</i>	3,108	2,444	2,793	2,027	2,405	2,153	14,930
<i>Emotional abuse</i>	1,109	1,501	765	1,201	562	708	5,846
<i>Physical abuse</i>	722	784	507	515	522	461	3,511
<i>Sexual abuse</i>	290	361	242	261	204	231	1,589
<i>Neglect</i>	542	471	297	290	291	275	2,166
<i>Not categorised</i>	176	133	154	197	47	51	758
% Referrals	18%	19%	21%	21%	18%	19%	19%

Key Messages

- Highest number of referrals YTD reported by Dublin Mid Leinster (5,947; 21%), fewest number reported by West North East (3,879; 13%).
- Highest rate of re-referrals reported by South East (21.4%), lowest rate reported by South West (17.8%).



SAFETY AND WELFARE SERVICES

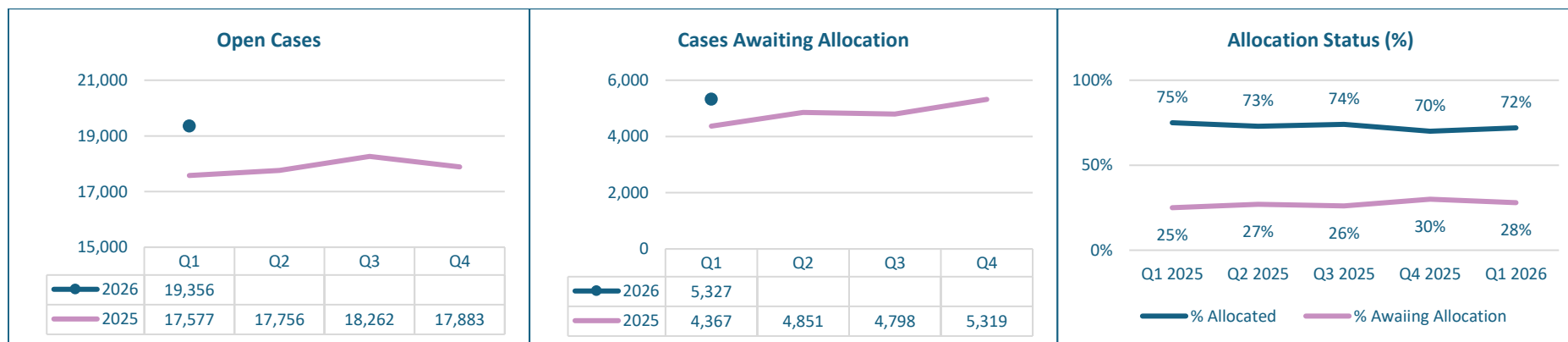
Safety and Welfare Cases Open to Social Work – National

Open cases include all safety and welfare cases going through assessment and safety planning. They do not include children in care.

Metric	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	SPLY	Δ SPLY
Open cases	18,262	17,883	19,356	▬ ▬ ▬	17,577	+1,779 (10%)
Allocated	13,464	12,564	14,029	▬ ▬ ▬	13,210	+819 (6%)
% Allocated	74%	70%	72%	▬ ▬ ▬	75%	-3 pp
% Allocated to Social Worker	79%	79%	73%	▬ ▬ ▬	76%	-3 pp
% Allocated to Other Professional	21%	21%	27%	▬ ▬ ▬	24%	+3 pp
Awaiting Allocation	4,798	5,319	5,327	▬ ▬ ▬	4,367	+960 (22%)
% Awaiting Allocation	26%	30%	28%	▬ ▬ ▬	25%	+3 pp
High Priority Awaiting	241	207	258	▬ ▬ ▬	219	+39 (18%)
Medium Priority Awaiting	3,078	3,694	3,608	▬ ▬ ▬	2,769	+839 (30%)
Low Priority Awaiting	1,287	1,345	1,295	▬ ▬ ▬	1,269	+26 (2%)
Awaiting Categorisation	192	73	166	▬ ▬ ▬	110	+56 (51%)

Key Messages

- **19,356 cases open** to social work at the end of Q1 2026
- 10% (1,779) increase in open cases year on year
- **72% (14,029) of open cases allocated** to a case worker
- 73% (10,229) of allocations to social workers and 27% (3,800) to other professionals.
- **5,327 (28%) cases awaiting allocation**; 8 (<1%) more than Q4 2025 (5,319)
- 22% (960) increase in cases awaiting allocation year on year
- **5% of cases** awaiting allocation are **high priority**



SAFETY AND WELFARE SERVICES

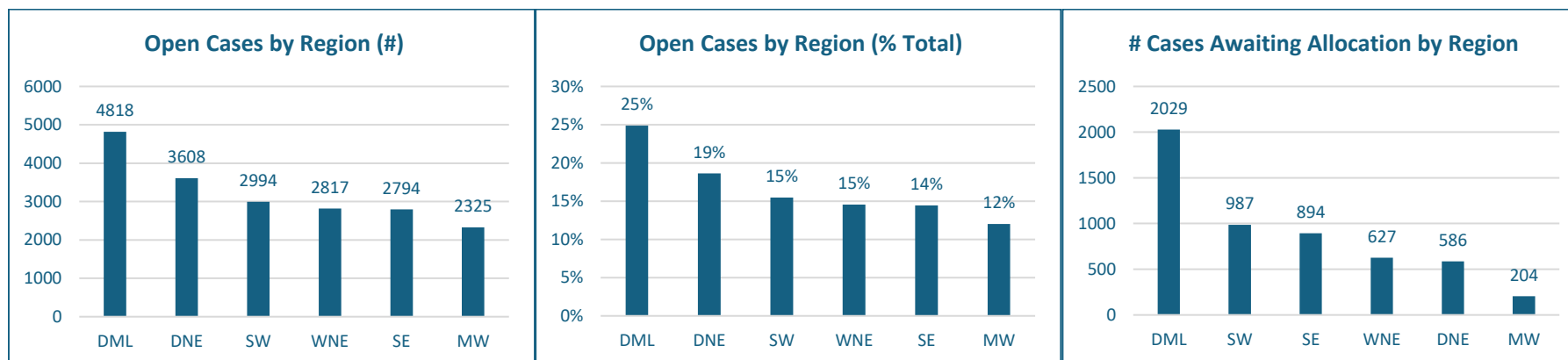
Safety and Welfare Cases Open to Social Work - Regions

Metric	DML	DNE	MW	SE	SW	WNE	Total
Open cases	4,818	3,608	2,325	2,794	2,994	2,817	19,356
Allocated	2,789	3,022	2,121	1,900	2,007	2,190	14,029
% Allocated	58%	84%	91%	68%	67%	78%	72%
% Allocated to Social Worker	63%	72%	82%	69%	76%	78%	73%
% Allocated to Other Professional	37%	28%	18%	31%	24%	22%	27%
Awaiting Allocation	2,029	586	204	894	987	627	5,327
% Awaiting Allocation	42%	16%	9%	32%	33%	22%	28%
High Priority Awaiting	100	29	17	42	23	47	258
Medium Priority Awaiting	1,414	309	134	559	758	434	3,608
Low Priority Awaiting	452	213	37	261	195	137	1,295
Awaiting Categorisation	63	35	16	32	11	9	166

Key Messages

Open cases include all safety and welfare cases going through assessment and safety planning. They do not include children in care.

- **Dublin Mid Leinster** – highest number of **open cases** (4,818; 25%); Mid West - fewest number (2,325; 12%).
- **% cases allocated** ranges from 58% (Dublin Mid Leinster) to 91% (Mid West).
- **Dublin Mid Leinster** – highest number of cases **awaiting allocation** (2,029; 38%); Mid West – fewest number (204; 4%).
- **Dublin Mid Leinster** – highest number of **high priority cases** awaiting allocation (100; 39%); Mid West – fewest number (17; 7%).



SAFETY AND WELFARE SERVICES

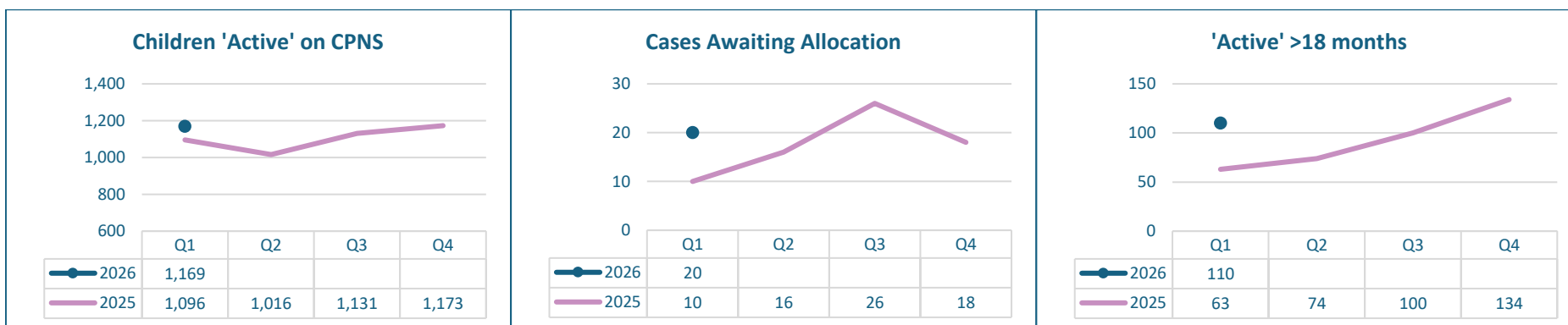
Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) – National

The Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) is a securely held national record of all children who are subject of a child protection plan agreed at a child protection conference. It exists to enable the effective sharing of information between professionals working with vulnerable children and families. A child will be listed as inactive on the system if it is established at a review conference that the child is no longer at on-going risk of significant harm.

Metric	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	SPLY	Δ SPLY
Children 'Active'	1,131	1,173	1,169	▬ ■ ■	1,096	+73 (7%)
Allocated to Social Worker	1,105	1,155	1,149	▬ ■ ■	1,086	+63 (6%)
% Allocated to Social Worker	98%	98%	98%	▬ ■ ■	99%	-1 pp
Awaiting Allocation	26	18	20	■ ▬ ▬	10	+10 (100%)
% Awaiting Allocation	2%	2%	2%	■ ▬ ▬	1%	+1 pp
Active 0-6 months	690	680	695	■ ▬ ■	659	+36 (5%)
Active 7-12 months	237	258	244	▬ ■ ▬	265	-21 (8%)
Active 13-18 months	104	101	120	▬ ▬ ■	109	+11 (10%)
Active >18 months	100	134	110	▬ ■ ▬	63	+47 (75%)
% Active >18 months	9%	11%	9%	▬ ■ ▬	6%	+3 pp

Key Messages

- **1,169 children 'active'** on the CPNS at the end of Q1 2026
- 7% (73) increase year on year
- **98% of children 'active' allocated** to a social worker; 20 awaiting
- 13 of the 20 children awaiting allocation were allocated to other professionals.
- 110 (9%) children 'active' for more than 18 months
- 75% (47) increase year on year in the number 'active' for more than 18 months



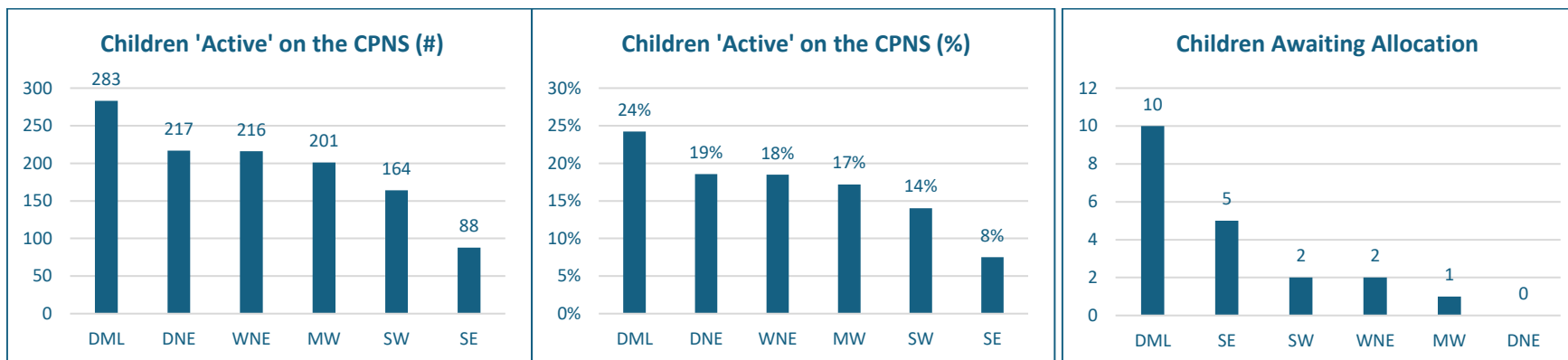
SAFETY AND WELFARE SERVICES

Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) - Regions

Metric	DML	DNE	MW	SE	SW	WNE	Total
Children 'Active'	283	217	201	88	164	216	1,169
Allocated to Social Worker	273	217	200	83	162	214	1,149
% Allocated to Social Worker	96%	100%	99.5%	94%	99%	99%	98%
Awaiting Allocation	10	0	1	5	2	2	20
% Awaiting Allocation	4%	0%	0.5%	6%	1%	1%	2%
Active 0-6 months	160	129	103	44	107	152	695
Active 7-12 months	61	37	49	23	29	45	244
Active 13-18 months	35	23	28	16	10	8	120
Active >18 months	27	28	21	5	18	11	110
% Active >18 months	10%	13%	10%	6%	11%	5%	9%

Key Messages

- **Dublin Mid Leinster** – highest number of children 'active' (283; 24%); South East - fewest number (88; 8%).
- **Dublin Mid Leinster** – highest number of children awaiting allocation to a social worker (10), accounting for half of all children waiting (20).
- Dublin North East – all children allocated to social workers.
- **Dublin North East** – highest number of children 'active' for more than 18 months (28), followed closely by Dublin Mid Leinster (27). South East – fewest number of children 'active' for more than 18 months (5).



SAFETY AND WELFARE SERVICES

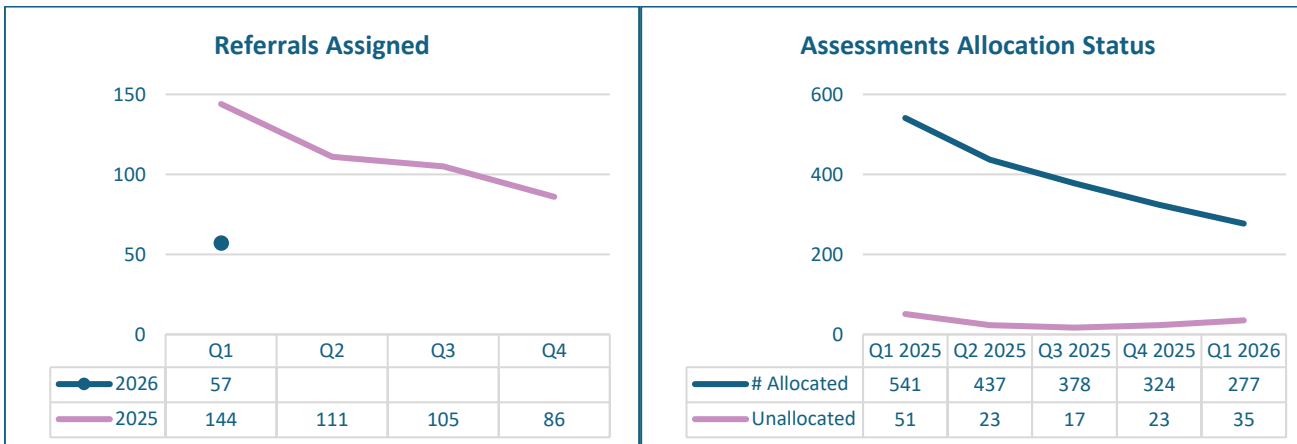
Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP) – National

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

Metric	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	YTD	SPLY YTD	Δ SPLY
Referrals Assigned	105	86	57	■ ■ —	57	144	-87 (60%)
Assessments Closed	173	133	87	■ ■ —	87	245	-158 (64%)
Open Assessments Quarter End	395	347	312	■ ■ —	312	592	-280 (47%)
Assessments Allocated	378	324	277	■ ■ —	277	541	-264 (49%)
% Allocated	96%	93%	89%	■ ■ —	89%	91%	-2 pp
Assessments Awaiting Allocation	17	23	35	— ■ ■	35	51	-16 (31%)
% Awaiting Allocation	4%	7%	11%	— ■ ■	11%	9%	+2 pp

Key Messages

- 57 referrals assigned in Q1 2026, fewest number for all quarters, Q1 2025 – Q1 2026.
- 60% (87) decrease in referrals assigned year on year.
- 312 open assessments at the end of Q1 2026, fewest number for all quarters, Q1 2025 – Q1 2026.
- 47% (280) decrease in open assessments year on year.
- 89% (277) of open assessments allocated to social workers, 35 (11%) assessments awaiting allocation
- Slight increase in assessments awaiting allocation in recent quarters.
- 31% (16) decrease in assessments awaiting allocation



SAFETY AND WELFARE SERVICES

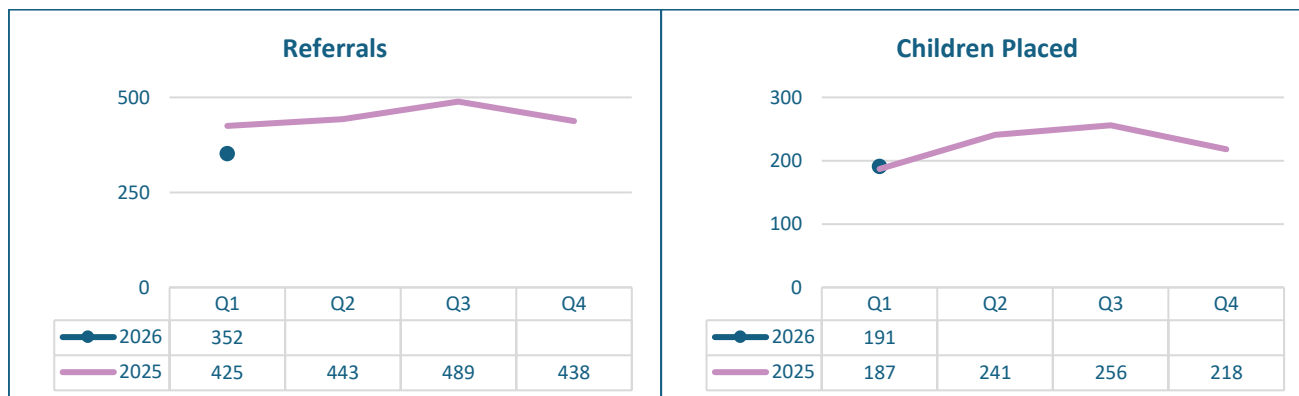
National Out of Hours Service (NOHS) – National

Tusla provides out-of-hours services to ensure the provision of an appropriate response and place of safety for children found to be at risk outside normal working hours. It primarily supports AGS in the execution of their duties and responsibilities to children and young persons under Section 12 of the Child Care Act 1991 and provides the following services: A National Call Centre providing social work consultation and advice to AGS, hospital staff and mandated reporters; Placements for children under Section 12 (3) of the Child Care Act 1991 provided on contract by an external contractor; Access for AGS and hospital staff to a National On-Call Local Social Worker; Access to an On-Call Principal Social Worker for consultation on escalated cases.

Metric	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	YTD	SPLY YTD	Δ SPLY
Referrals	489	438	352	■ ■ —	352	425	-73 (17%)
Children placed	256	218	191	■ ■ —	191	187	+4 (2%)

Key Messages

- 352 **referrals** to the National Out of Hours Service in Q1 2026
- Sharp decrease in **referrals** in Q1 2026, fewest number for all quarters Q1 2025 – Q1 2026
- 17% (73) decrease in referrals year on year
- **191 placements** by the National Out of Hours Service in Q1 2026, down on the previous three quarters, but up slightly on Q1 2025 (4; 2%)



ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

Children in Care (Placement Type) – National

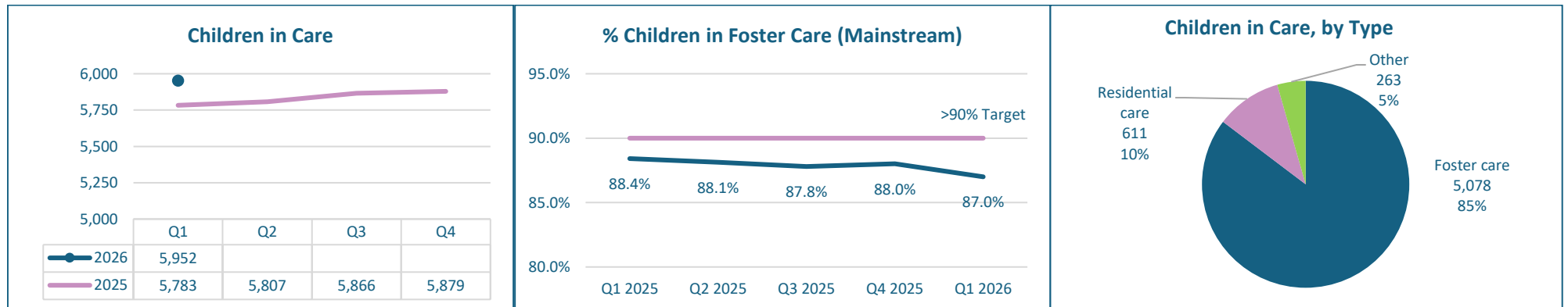
The data presented in this section of the report is based on children (0-17 years) in care at quarter end. It includes unaccompanied minors unless otherwise specified. It does not include any young person who may have turned 18 years and who maybe still residing in their placement at quarter end.

Metric	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	SPLY	Δ SPLY
Number of Children in Care (Total)	5866	5879	5952	— — ■	5783	+169 (3%)
Residential Care (General + Special Care)	598	609	611	— ■ ■	552	+59 (11%)
% Residential Care	10.2%	10.4%	10.3%	— ■ ■	9.5%	+0.8 pp
Foster Care	5046	5058	5078	— ■ ■	5041	+37 (1%)
% Foster Care	86.0%	86.0%	85.3%	■ ■ —	87.2%	-1.9 pp
Other Care Placements	222	212	263	— — ■	190	+73 (38%)
% Other Care Placements	3.8%	3.6%	4.4%	— — ■	3.3%	+1.1 pp
Foster care (Regions Only)	5028	5042	5064	— ■ ■	5021	+43 (1%)
% Foster care (Regions Only)	87.8%	88.0%	87.0%	■ ■ —	88.4%	-1.4 pp

Key Messages

- 5,952 **children in care** at the end of Q1 2026 (includes 130 unaccompanied minors).
- There were an additional 395 unaccompanied minors being accommodated and provided with services under Section 5 Children Care Act 1991 at the end of Q1 2026.
- **3% (169) increase in children in care** year on year
- Number of children in **all care types increasing**.
- **87.0% of mainstream children (regions only) in foster care** against a target of 90% or higher.

Other care placements include, disability centres, supported lodgings, at home under a care order, detention centres, hospital, mental health unit, drug & alcohol rehabilitation units, special emergency arrangements



ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

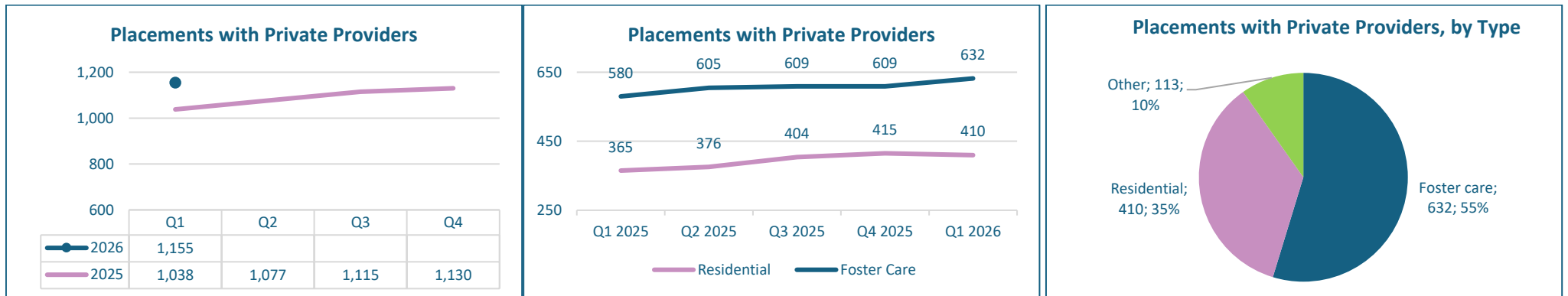
Children in Care (Private Providers) – National

Metric	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	SPLY	Δ SPLY
Children in Care (Total)	5866	5879	5952		5783	+169 (35%)
Children in Care (Total) with Private Providers	1115	1130	1155		1038	+117 (11%)
% Children in Care with Private Provider	19.0%	19.2%	19.4%		17.9%	+1.5 pp
Children in Residential Care - Private Providers	404	415	410		365	+45 (12%)
% Children in Residential Care - Private Providers	67.6%	68.1%	67.1%		66.1%	+1 pp
Children in Foster Care - Private Providers	609	609	632		580	+52 (9%)
% Children in Foster Care - Private Providers	12.1%	12.0%	12.4%		11.5%	+0.9 pp
Children in Other Placements - Private Providers	102	106	113		93	+20 (22%)
% Children in Other Placements - Private Providers	45.9%	50.0%	43.0%		48.9%	+5.9 pp

Other care placements include, disability centres, supported lodgings, at home under a care order, detention centres, hospital, mental health unit, drug & alcohol rehabilitation units, special emergency arrangements

Key Messages

- 1,155 (19%) children in care at the end of Q1 2026 were in placements with private providers.
- Increasing number of children in placements with private providers.
- **11% (117) increase year on year.**
- More than half (55%; 632) of children in placements with private providers are in foster care, while one in three (35%; 410) is in residential care. The remaining 10% (113) are in other care placements (mainly disability centres and special emergency arrangements).
- One in eight (12%) children in foster care are in placements with private providers, while over two-thirds (67%) of children in residential care are in placements with private providers.



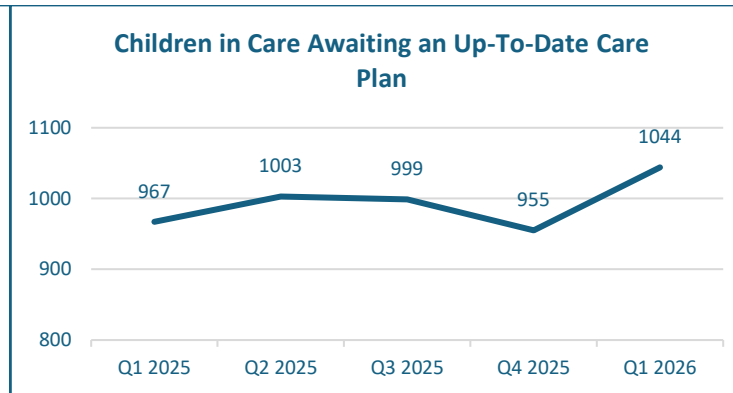
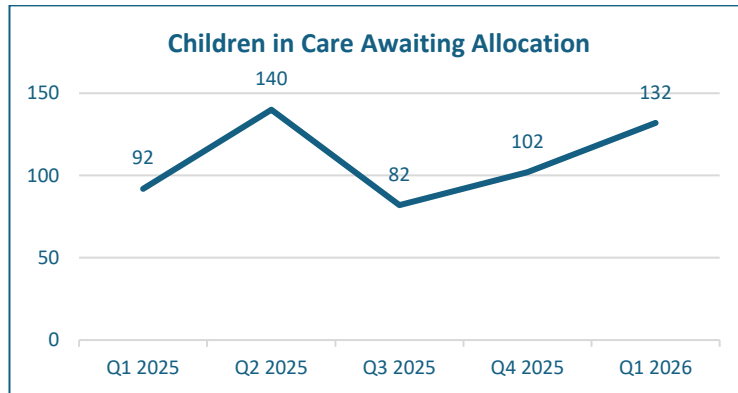
ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

Children in Care (Allocation Status and Care Plan) – National

Metric	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	SPLY	Δ SPLY
Children in Care (Total)	5866	5879	5952	▬ ▬ ▬	5783	-169 (3%)
Children allocated to a case worker	5784	5777	5820	▬ ▬ ▬	5691	+129 (2%)
% Children allocated to a case worker	99%	98%	98%	▬ ▬ ▬	98%	-
Of children allocated, % allocated to social worker	90%	89%	92%	▬ ▬ ▬	88%	+4 pp
Of children allocated, % allocated to other professional	10%	11%	8%	▬ ▬ ▬	12%	-4 pp
Children awaiting allocation	82	102	132	▬ ▬ ▬	92	+40 (43%)
% Children awaiting allocation	1%	2%	2%	▬ ▬ ▬	2%	-
Children with up-to-date care plan	4867	4924	4908	▬ ▬ ▬	4816	+92 (2%)
% Children with up-to-date care plan	83%	84%	82%	▬ ▬ ▬	83%	- 1pp
Children without an up-to-date care plan	999	955	1044	▬ ▬ ▬	967	+77 (8%)

Key Messages

- 98% (5,820) of children in care have an **allocated case worker, 132 awaiting**. High percentage maintained.
- Slight increase in the number of children awaiting allocation in recent quarters.
- 92% (5,339) of allocations are to social workers, the remaining 8% (481) are to other professionals, mainly social care workers.
- 82% of children in care have an **up-to-date care plan**.



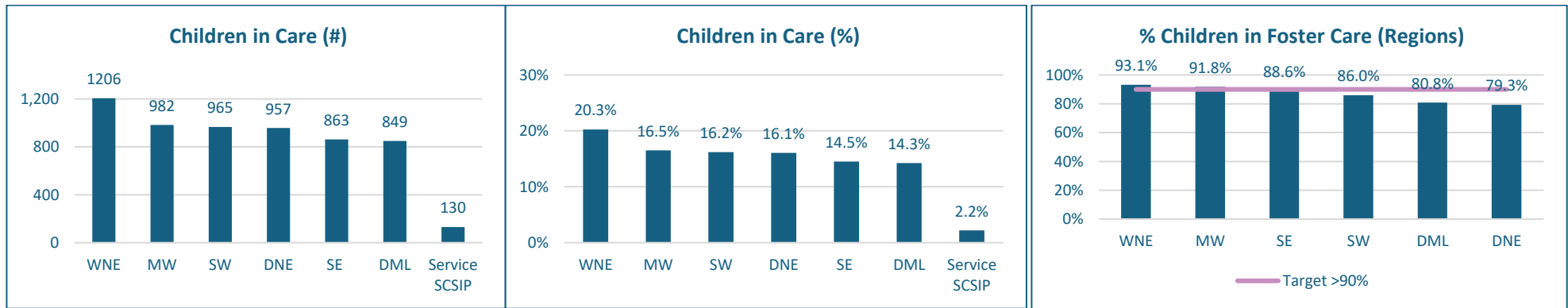
ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

Children in Care (Placement Type) – Regions / Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection

Metric	DML	DNE	MW	SE	SW	WNE	Service SCSIP	Total
Number of Children in Care (Total)	849	957	982	863	965	1,206	130	5,952
Residential Care (General + Special Care)	111	130	52	52	97	54	115	611
% Residential Care	13%	14%	5%	6%	10%	4%	88%	10%
Foster Care	686	759	901	765	830	1123	14	5078
% Foster Care	80.8%	79.3%	91.8%	88.6%	86.0%	93.1%	11%	85%
Other Care Placements	52	68	29	46	38	29	1	263
% Other Care Placements	6%	7%	3%	5%	4%	2%	1%	4%

Key Messages

- **Regions: West North East** – highest number of children in care (1,206; 21%); Dublin Mid Leinster fewest number (849; 15%).
- Two regions (West North East and Midwest) reporting >90% of children in care (target) in foster care.
- Percentage of children in foster care reported by the Service for SCSIP is significantly lower than the regions at 11%. The children placed by this service tend to be older (16 & 17 years) and the practice is to place these young people in residential settings. Younger children are placed in foster care.



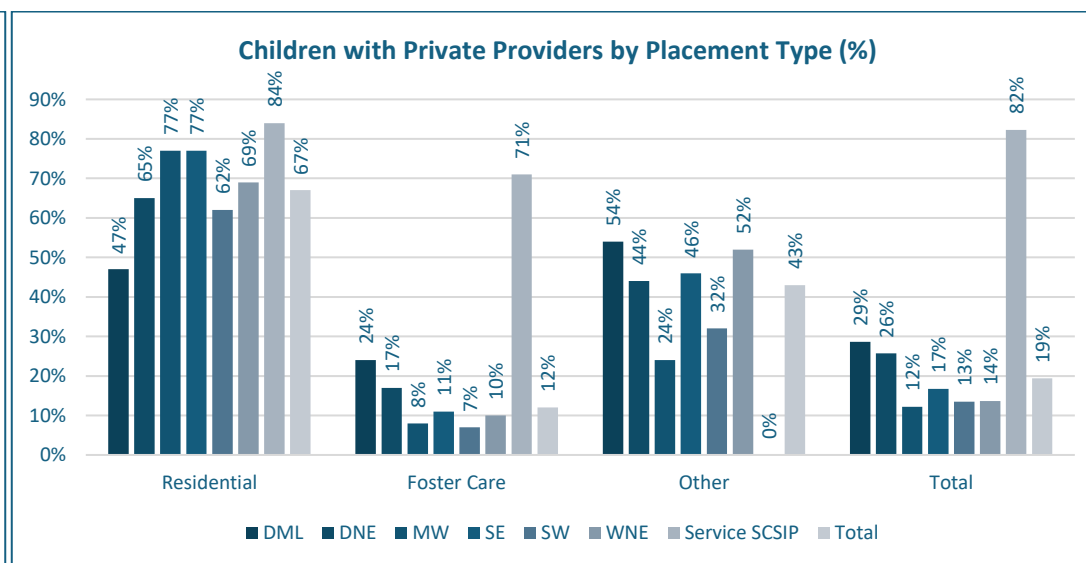
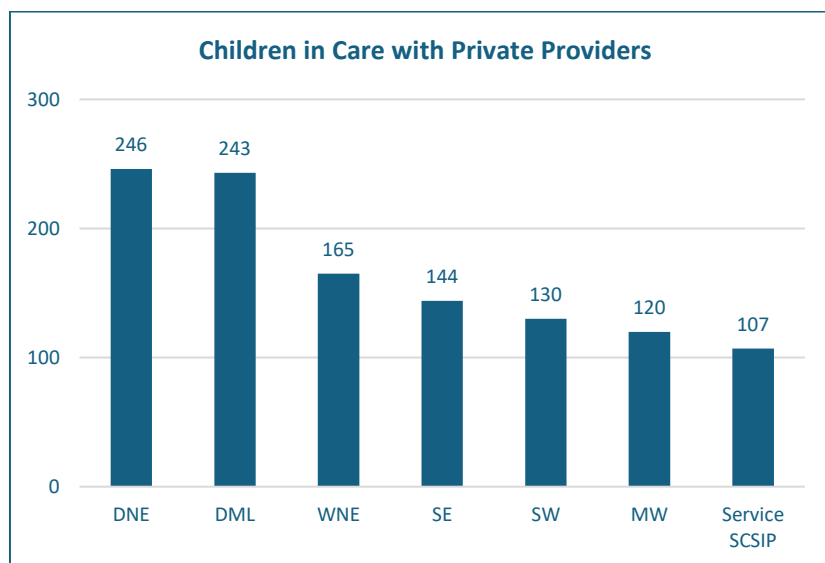
ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

Children in Care (Private Providers) – Regions / Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection

Metric	DML	DNE	MW	SE	SW	WNE	Service SCSIP	Total
Number of Children in Care (Total)	849	957	982	863	965	1,206	130	5,952
Children in Care (Total) with Private Providers	243	246	120	144	130	165	107	1,155
% Children in Care with Private Provider	29%	26%	12%	17%	13%	14%	82%	19%
Children in Residential Care - Private Providers	52	84	40	40	60	37	97	410
% Children in Residential Care - Private Providers	47%	65%	77%	77%	62%	69%	84%	67%
Children in Foster Care - Private Providers	163	132	73	83	58	113	10	632
% Children in Foster Care - Private Providers	24%	17%	8%	11%	7%	10%	71%	12%
Children in Other Placements - Private Providers	28	30	7	21	12	15	0	113
% Children in Other Placements - Private Providers	54%	44%	24%	46%	32%	52%	0%	43%

Key Messages

- Across the regions, the **percentage of children in placements with private providers** ranges from 29% (Dublin Mid Leinster) to 12% (Mid West)
- The majority (82%) of **unaccompanied minors** (Service for SCSIP) are in placements with private providers.
- Across the regions the percentage of children in residential care in placements with private providers ranges from 47% (Dublin Mid Leinster) to 77% (Mid West and South East).



ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

Children in Care (Allocation / Care Plan) – Regional / Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection

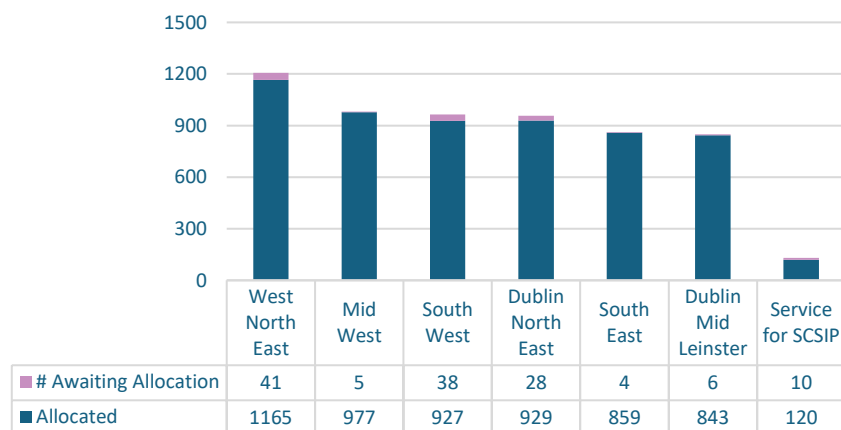
Metric	Service							Total
	DML	DNE	MW	SE	SW	WNE	SCSIP	
Children in Care (Total)	849	957	982	863	965	1,206	130	5,952
Children allocated to a case worker	843	929	977	859	927	1,165	120	5,820
% Children allocated to a case worker	99%	97%	99%	99.5%	96%	97%	92%	98%
Of children allocated, number allocated to social worker	786	889	865	740	875	1064	120	5339
Of children allocated, % allocated to social worker	93%	96%	89%	86%	94%	91%	100%	92%
Of children allocated, number allocated to other professional	57	40	112	119	52	101	0	481
Of children allocated, % allocated to other professional	7%	4%	11%	14%	6%	9%	0%	8%
Children awaiting allocation	6	28	5	4	38	41	10	132
% Children awaiting allocation	1%	3%	1%	0.5%	4%	3%	8%	2%
Children with up-to date care plan	674	739	869	762	769	997	98	4908
% Children with up-to-date care plan	79%	77%	88%	88%	80%	83%	75%	82%

Key Messages

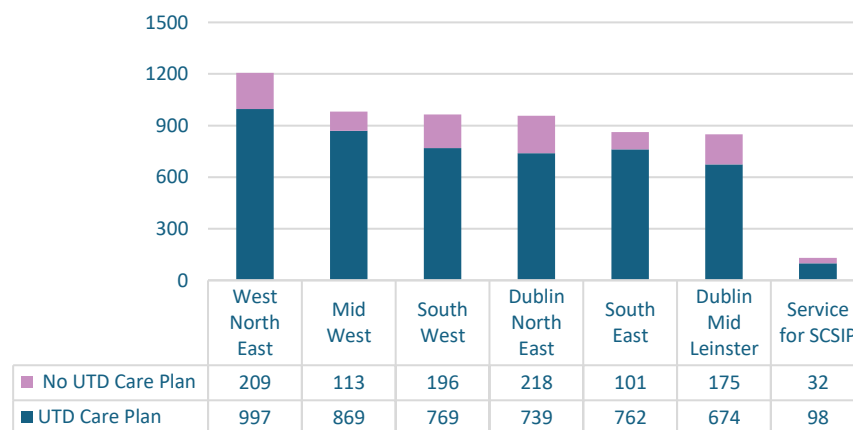
Regions

- At least 96% of children in care have an **allocated worker**.
- In four of the six regions **more than 90% of allocations are to social workers**. Rates reported by Mid West (89%) and South East (86%) slightly lower.
- The percentage of children with **up-to-date care plans** ranges from 77% (Dublin North East) to 88% (Mid West and South East).

Children in Care by Allocation Status



Children in Care - Up to Date Care Plan



FOSTER CARERS

Foster Carers on the Panel – National

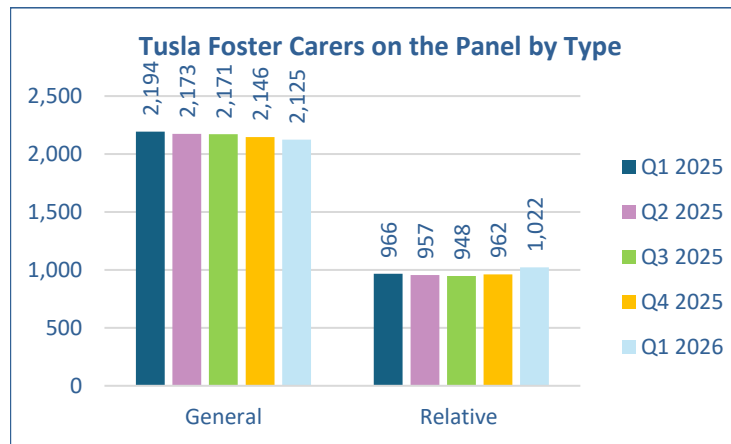
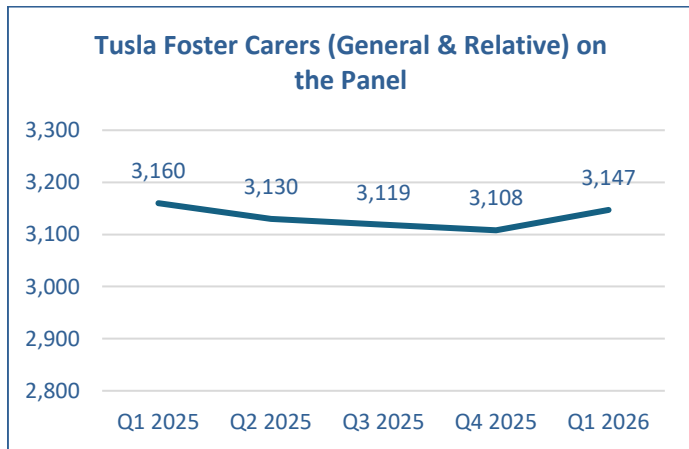
A Foster Carer is a person approved by Tusla, having completed a process of assessment, and placed on the panel of approved foster carers in accordance with the Child Care (Placement of Children in Foster Care) Regulations 1995. An 'Unapproved' Relative Carer is a person(s) who has a child or children placed with them under Section 36. 1(d) of the Child Care Act 1991, who is either, awaiting an assessment, in the process of assessment, or whose assessment has yet to go before a Tusla, foster care committee for approval. Foster care is provided by Tusla and in some cases by non-statutory private fostering agencies on behalf of Tusla. In terms of statutory provision, there are two main types of foster carer, a general foster carer and a relative foster carer.

Metric	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	SPLY	Δ SPLY
Tusla Foster carers (general, relative) on the panel	3119	3108	3147	— — █	3160	-13 (<1%)
General foster carers on the panel	2171	2146	2125	█ — —	2194	-69 (3%)
% General foster carers	70%	69%	68%	█ █ —	69%	-1 pp
Relative foster carers on the panel	948	962	1022	— — █	966	+56 (6%)
% Relative foster carers	30%	31%	32%	— █ █	31%	+1 pp
Unapproved' relative carers	268	280	299	— █ █	275	+24 (9%)
Unapproved' relative carers with child placed >12 weeks	210	224	242	— █ █	218	+24 (11%)
% 'Unapproved' relative carers with child placed >12 weeks	78%	80%	81%	— █ █	79%	+2 pp

Key Messages

- 3,147 Tusla foster carers on the panel at the end of Q1 2026
- 13 fewer than Q1 2025 (3,160), but 39 more than Q4 2025 (3,108)
- General foster carers account for 68% (2,125) of Tusla foster carers on the panel, relative foster carers account for 32% (1,022).
- 3% (69) decrease in the number of general foster carers year on year,
- 6% (56) increase in the number of relative foster carers year on year.
- 242 'unapproved' relative carers with a child placed for more than 12 weeks at the end of Q1 2026.
- 11% (24) increase year on year.

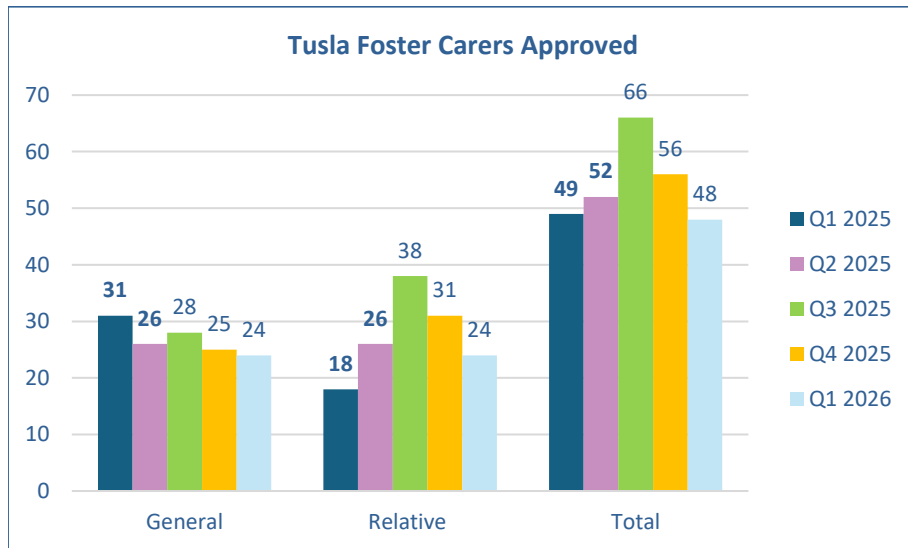
Note: Data on private foster carers on the panel is undergoing validation and is not available at this time



FOSTER CARERS

Foster Carers Approvals – National

Metric	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	SPLY	Δ SPLY
Foster carers (general, relative, private) approved	79	68	58	■ ▬ ▬	62	-4 (6%)
Tusla Foster Carers (general, relative) approved	66	56	48	■ ▬ ▬	49	-1 (2%)
General foster carers approved	28	25	24	■ ▬ ▬	31	-7 (23%)
Relative foster carers approved	38	31	24	■ ▬ ▬	18	+6 (33%)
Private foster carers approved	13	12	10	■ ▬ ▬	13	-3 (23%)



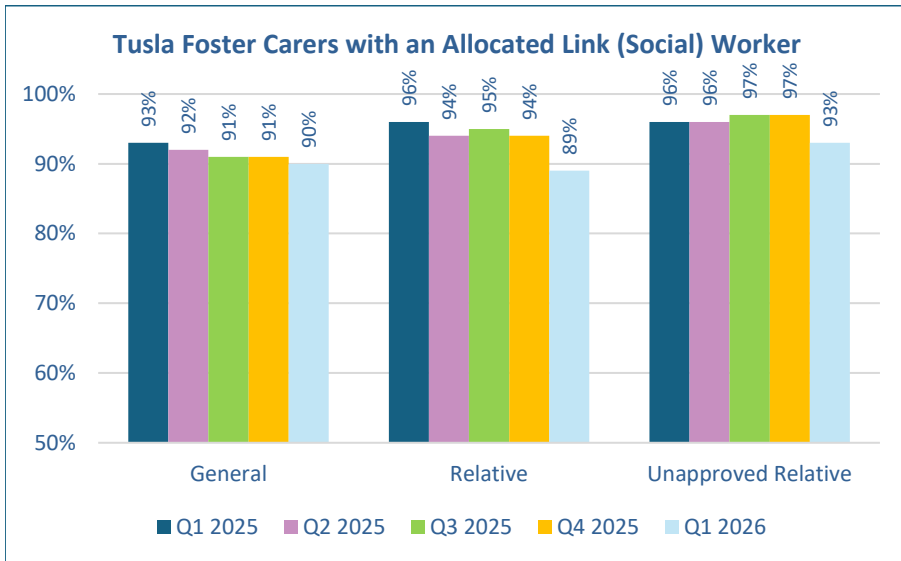
Key Messages

- 58 foster carers (all types) **approved** in Q1 2026
- 83% (48) of foster carers approved were **Tusla foster carers**, general (24) and relative (24).
- A further seven applicants to be general foster carers were **awaiting approval** by the foster care committee at the end of Q1 2026.
- 98 **applicants to be general foster carers** were undergoing assessment at the end of Q1 2026
- 187 **applicants to be relative foster carers** were undergoing assessment at the end of Q1 2026.

FOSTER CARERS

Foster Carers with Link (Social) Worker – National

Metric	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	SPLY	Δ SPLY
General foster carers on the panel	2171	2146	2125	■ ■ —	2194	-69 (3%)
General foster carers with an allocated link (social) worker	1967	1953	1913	■ ■ —	2039	-126 (6%)
% General foster carers with an allocated link (social) worker	91%	91%	90%	■ ■ —	93%	-3 pp
Relative foster carers on the panel	948	962	1022	— — ■	966	+56 (6%)
Relative foster carers with an allocated link (social) worker	901	909	908	— ■ ■	923	-15 (2%)
% Relative foster carers with an allocated link (social) worker	95%	94%	89%	■ ■ —	96%	-7 pp
Unapproved' relative carers with child placed >12 weeks	210	224	242	— ■ ■	218	+24 (11%)
Unapproved' relative carers wth allocated link (social) worker	204	218	225	— ■ ■	210	+15 (7%)
% 'Unapproved' relative carers wth allocated link (social) worker	97%	97%	93%	■ ■ —	96%	-3 pp



Key Messages

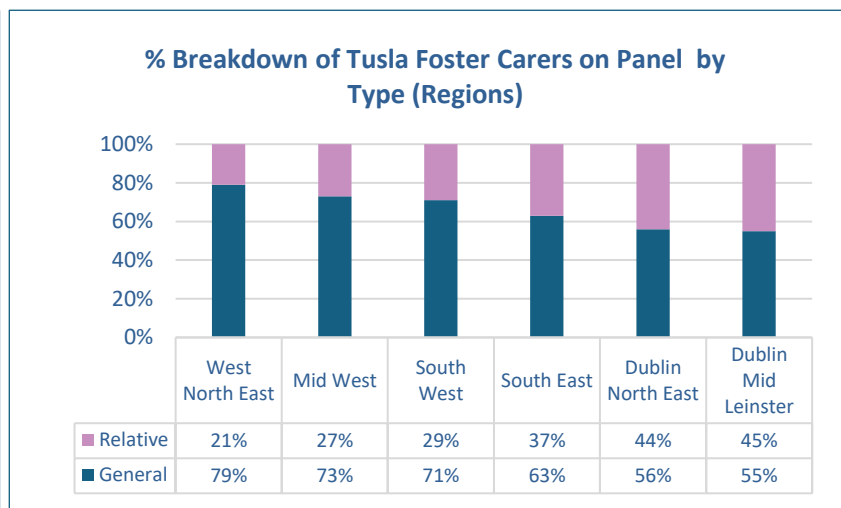
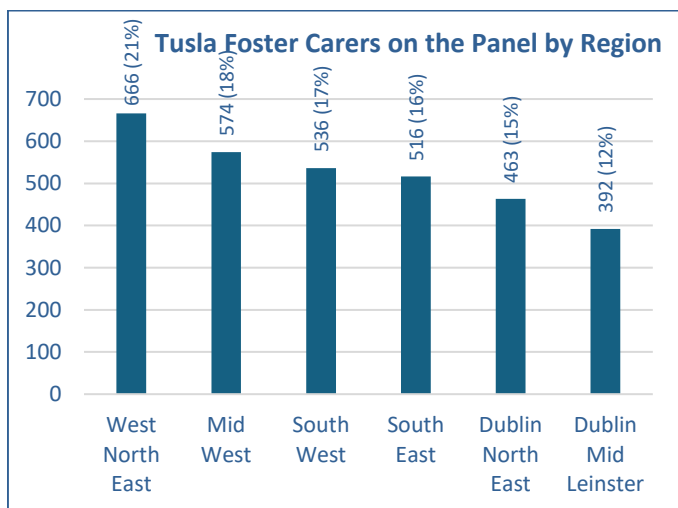
- 90% (1,913) of **general foster carers** had a link (social) worker at the end of Q1 2026; 212 awaiting, 19 (10%) more than Q4 2025 (193).
- 89% (908) of **relative foster carers** had a link (social) worker at the end of Q1 2026; 114 awaiting, 61 more than Q4 2025 (53).
- 93% (225) of **'unapproved' relative carers** had a link (social) worker at the end of Q1 2026; 17 awaiting, 11 more than Q4 2025 (6).
- Although there has been some slippage in the percentages allocated in Q1 2026, high percentages are maintained.

FOSTER CARERS

Foster Carers on the Panel – Regions

Metric	DML	DNE	MW	SE	SW	WNE	Total
Tusla foster carers (general, relative) on the panel	392	463	574	516	536	666	3147
General foster carers on the panel	216	260	418	323	379	529	2125
% General foster carers on the panel	55%	56%	73%	63%	71%	79%	68%
Relative foster carers on the panel	176	203	156	193	157	137	1022
% Relative foster carers on the panel	45%	44%	27%	37%	29%	21%	32%
Unapproved' relative carers	40	66	37	24	76	56	299
Unapproved' relative carers with child placed >12 weeks	25	59	29	24	66	39	242
% 'Unapproved' relative carers with child placed >12 weeks	63%	89%	78%	100%	87%	70%	81%

Note: Data on private foster carers on the panel is undergoing validation and is not available at this time



Key Messages

- **Number of Tusla foster carers** (general and relative) on the panel ranges from 666 (21%) in West North East to 392 (12%) in Dublin Mid Leinster.
- The **percentage of Tusla foster carers** on the panel in each region that are **general foster carers** ranges from 79% (West North East) to 55% (Dublin Mid Leinster)
- The **percentage of Tusla foster carers** on the panel in each region that are **relative foster carers** ranges from 45% (Dublin Mid Leinster) to 21% (West North East).
- South West reports the highest number of **'unapproved' relative carers** with a child placed for more than 12 weeks (66) followed by Dublin North East (59). South East reports the fewest number (24).

FOSTER CARERS

Foster Carers Approvals and Allocations – Regions

Metric	DML	DNE	MW	SE	SW	WNE	Total
Foster Carers (general, relative, private) approved	8	5	13	11	8	13	58
Tusla Foster Carers (general, relative) approved	7	5	12	9	6	9	48
General foster carers approved	0	2	9	6	1	6	24
Relative foster carers approved	7	3	3	3	5	3	24
Private foster carers approved	1	0	1	2	2	4	10

Metric	DML	DNE	MW	SE	SW	WNE	Total
General foster carers on the panel	216	260	418	323	379	529	2125
General foster carers with an allocated link (social) worker	197	233	367	279	362	475	1913
% General foster carers with an allocated link (social) worker	91%	90%	88%	86%	96%	90%	90%
Relative foster carers on the panel	176	203	156	193	157	137	1022
Relative foster carers with an allocated link (social) worker	170	180	123	172	143	120	908
% Relative foster carers with an allocated link (social) worker	97%	89%	79%	89%	91%	88%	89%
Unapproved' relative carers with child placed >12 weeks	25	59	29	24	66	39	242
Unapproved' relative carers wth allocated link (social) worker	24	59	29	24	50	39	225
% 'Unapproved' relative carers wth allocated link (social) worker	96%	100%	100%	100%	76%	100%	93%

Key Messages

- **There were new foster carers approved** in all regions in Q1 2026, ranging from 5 (Dublin North East) to 13 in Mid West and West North East.
- Highest number of **general foster carers** approved in Mid West (9), none approved in Dublin Mid Leinster.
- Highest number of **relative foster carers** approved in Dublin Mid Leinster (7)
- Highest number of **private foster carers** approved in West North East (4), none approved in Dublin North East.
- At least 90% of **general foster carers have an allocated link (social) worker** in four of the six regions. Rates reported by South East (86%) and Mid West (88%) slightly lower than average (90%).
- At least 89% of **relative foster carers have an allocated link (social) worker** in four of the six regions. Rates reported by Mid West 79% and to a lesser extent West North East (88%) lower than average (89%).
- All **'unapproved' relative carers** have an allocated link (social worker) in four of the six regions. Of the 17 carers awaiting allocation, 16 were reported by South West.

AFTERCARE

Aftercare (Referrals and Number in Receipt of Services) – National

Aftercare services are for all young people who are between 16-21 years old and have spent 12 months in the care of the state with Tusla, between the ages 13-18. Aftercare services are also available for people up to 23 years old if they are engaged in education or accredited training. Aftercare services include a key worker, an individual plan (assessment of need), an aftercare plan, a monthly allowance for young people engaging in education/accredited training, drop-in service clinics and an aftercare grant.

Metric	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	SPLY	Δ SPLY
Referrals for an aftercare service	161	171	180	— — ■	172	+8 (5%)
Referrals eligible for an assessment of need	158	159	165	— — ■	169	-4 (2%)
% referrals eligible for an assessment of need	98%	93%	92%	■ — —	98%	-6 pp
Assessments of need completed	95	79	117	■ — —	136	-19 (14%)
Total young people in receipt of aftercare services	2977	2985	3029	— — ■	2977	+52 (2%)
18-20 years in receipt of aftercare services	1648	1649	1704	— — ■	1605	+99 (6%)
21-22 years in receipt of aftercare services	586	565	603	■ — —	622	-19 (3%)
<18 years in receipt of aftercare services	743	771	722	■ ■ —	750	-28 (4%)
18-22 years in receipt of aftercare services	2234	2214	2307	— — ■	2227	+80 (4%)

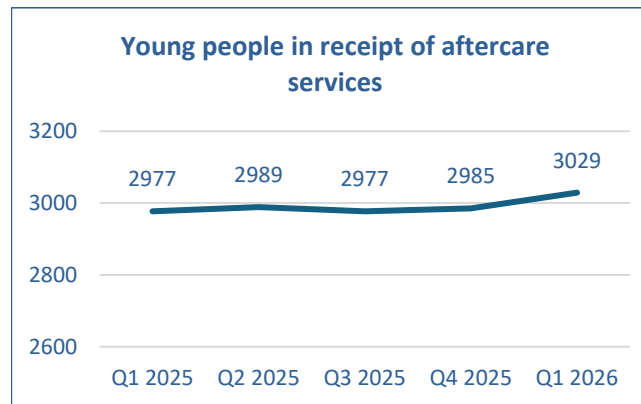
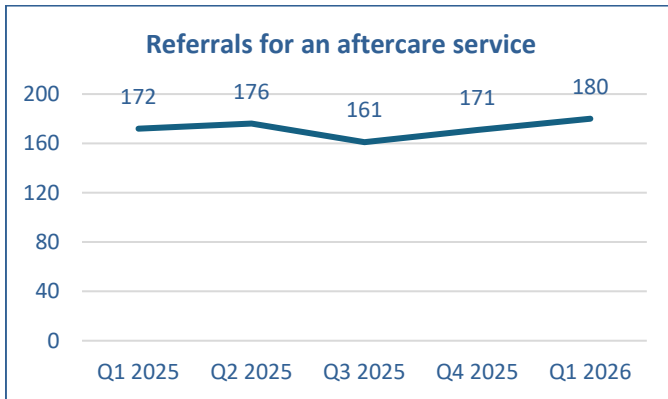
Key Messages

Referrals

- 180 **referrals** for an aftercare service in Q1 2026
- Highest number for all quarters Q1 2025 – Q1 2026.

Young People in Receipt of Aftercare Services

- 3,029 young people (all ages) **in receipt of aftercare services** at the end of Q1 2026
- 52 (2%) more than Q1 2025 (2,977).
- 76% (2,307) of young people in receipt of aftercare services were **18-22 years**.
- The remaining 24% (722) were **under 18 years**.
- 4% (80) increase from Q1 2025 in the number of **18-22 year olds** in receipt of aftercare services.
- 4% (28) decrease from Q1 2025 in the number of young people **under 18 years** in receipt of aftercare services.



AFTERCARE

Aftercare (Number in Education / Accredited Training and Accommodation) – National

Metric	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	SPLY	Δ SPLY
18-20 years in receipt of aftercare services	1648	1649	1704	— — ■	1605	+99 (6%)
18-20 years in education/accredited training	1304	1317	1423	— — ■	1264	+159 (13%)
% 18-20 years in education/accredited training	79%	80%	84%	— — ■	79%	+5 pp
21-22 years in receipt of aftercare services	586	565	603	■ — ■	622	-19 (3%)
21-22 years in education/accredited training	479	470	513	— — ■	481	+32 (7%)
% 21-22 years in education/accredited training	82%	83%	85%	— ■ ■	77%	+8 pp

Education Type	# 18-20 years	% Total	# 21-22 years	% Total
Second Level	423	30%	0	0%
Vocational training	251	18%	78	15%
PLC	237	17%	107	21%
Third level college / university	243	17%	206	40%
Accredited training	102	7%	92	18%
Other	167	12%	30	6%
Total	1423	100%	513	100%

Accommodation Type	# 18-22 Years	% Total
Remained with carers	969	42%
Independent living	528	23%
Residential care placement	190	8%
Other accommodatioun	185	8%
At Home	181	8%
Homeless	181	8%
Supported lodgings	44	2%
Designated care leavers accommodation	29	1%
Total	2307	100%

Key Messages

Education/Accredited Training

- **84% (1,423)** of young people **18-20 years** in receipt of aftercare services were in education/accredited training.
- Highest percentage of all quarters Q1 2025 – Q1 2026
- Highest proportion (30%; 423) of 18-20 year olds in education/accredited training were in second level education
- **85% (513)** of young people **21-22 years** in receipt of aftercare services were in education/accredited training.
- Highest percentage of all quarters Q1 2025 – Q1 2026
- Highest proportion (40%; 206) of 21-22 year olds in education/accredited training were in third level college /university

Accommodation

- **42% (969)** of young people 18-22 years in receipt of aftercare services has **remained living with their former carers**. A further 8% (181) had returned home.
- One in four (23%; 528) was in independent living.

Other includes student accommodation, transitional placement, hospital, HSE accommodation, prison etc.

AFTERCARE

Aftercare (Aftercare Plan and Aftercare Worker) – National

Metric - Aftercare Plan	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	SPLY	Δ SPLY
Number with an aftercare plan (All)	2329	2317	2360		2365	-5 (<1%)
% with aftercare plan (All)	78%	78%	78%		79%	-1 pp
18-20 year olds with an aftercare plan	1551	1537	1534		1516	+18 (1%)
% 18-20 year olds with an aftercare plan	94%	93%	90%		94%	-4 pp
21-22 years with an aftercare plan	581	556	573		613	-40 (7%)
% 21-22 years with an aftercare plan	99%	98%	95%		99%	-4 pp
<18 years with an aftercare plan	197	224	253		236	+17 (7%)
% <18 years with an aftercare plan	27%	29%	35%		31%	+4 pp

Metric - Assessed as Needing an Aftercare Worker	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	SPLY	Δ SPLY
Number with plan assessed as needing an aftercare worker (All)	2170	2147	2246		2245	+1 (<1%)
% with plan assessed as needing an aftercare worker (All)	93%	93%	95%		95%	0 pp
18-20 year olds with plan assessed as needing an aftercare worker	1450	1445	1467		1466	+1 (<1%)
% 18-20 year olds with plan assessed as needing an aftercare worker	93%	94%	96%		97%	-1 pp
21-22 year olds with plan assessed as needing an aftercare worker	531	508	535		572	-37 (6%)
% 21-22 year olds with plan assessed as needing an aftercare worker	91%	91%	93%		93%	-2 pp
<18 year olds with plan assessed as needing an aftercare worker	189	194	244		207	+37 (18%)
% <18 year olds with plan assessed as needing an aftercare worker	96%	87%	96%		88%	+8 pp

Metric - Aftercare Worker	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	SPLY	Δ SPLY
Number assessed as needing an aftercare worker with one (All)	1957	1946	1925		1904	+21 (1%)
% assessed as needing an aftercare worker with one (All)	90%	91%	86%		85%	+1 pp
18-20 year olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker with one	1334	1353	1286		1287	-1 (<1%)
% 18-20 year olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker with one	92%	94%	88%		88%	0 pp
21-22 year olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker with one	438	403	396		411	-15 (4%)
% 21-22 year olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker with one	82%	79%	74%		72%	+2 pp
<18 year olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker with one	185	190	243		206	+37 (18%)
% <18 year olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker with one	98%	98%	99.6%		99.5%	0 pp

Key Messages

Aftercare Plan

- **78% (2,360)** of all young people in receipt of aftercare services had an aftercare plan; similar percentage to previous quarters.
- 90% (1,534) of 18-20 years and 95% (573) of 21-22 year olds had an aftercare plan.
- Lower for young people <18 years (35%; 253).

Assessed as Needing an Aftercare Worker

- **95% (2,246)** of all young people with an aftercare plan were assessed as needing and aftercare worker, similar percentage to previous quarters.
- 96% (1,467) of 18-20 year olds, 93% (535) of 21-22 year olds and 96% of young people <18 years with a plan assessed as needing and aftercare worker.

Aftercare Worker

- **86% (1,925)** of all young people in receipt of aftercare services assessed as needing an aftercare worker had one
- 321 young people awaiting an aftercare worker, 120 (60%) more than Q4 2025 (201).
- 88% (1,286) of 18-20 year olds, 74% (396) of 21-22 year olds and 99.6% (243) of young people under 18 years had an aftercare worker.

AFTERCARE

Aftercare (Referrals and Number in Receipt of Services) – Regions / Service for SCSIP

Metric	DML	DNE	MW	SE	SW	WNE	SCSIP	Total
Referrals for an aftercare service	12	13	22	27	20	37	49	180
Referrals eligible for an assessment of need	12	13	22	21	16	32	49	165
% referrals eligible for an assessment of need	100%	100%	100%	78%	80%	86%	100%	92%
Assessments of need completed	7	14	26	21	24	13	12	117
Total young people in receipt of aftercare services	436	484	420	415	509	433	332	3029
18-20 years in receipt of aftercare services	241	235	242	242	250	232	262	1704
21-22 years in receipt of aftercare services	78	110	95	81	102	86	51	603
<18 years in receipt of aftercare services	117	139	83	92	157	115	19	722
18-22 years in receipt of aftercare services	319	345	337	323	352	318	313	2307

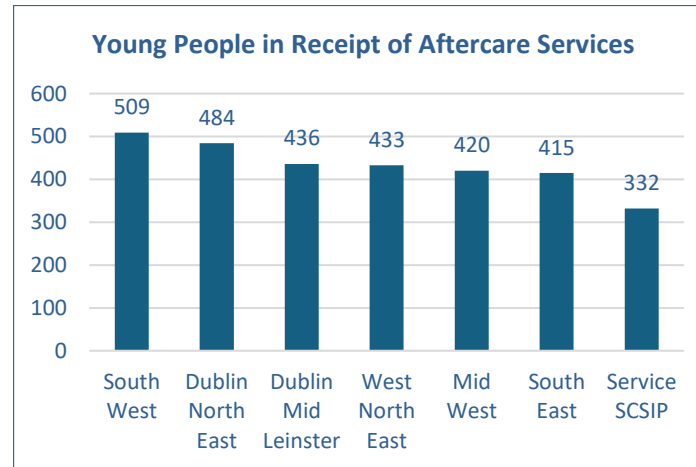
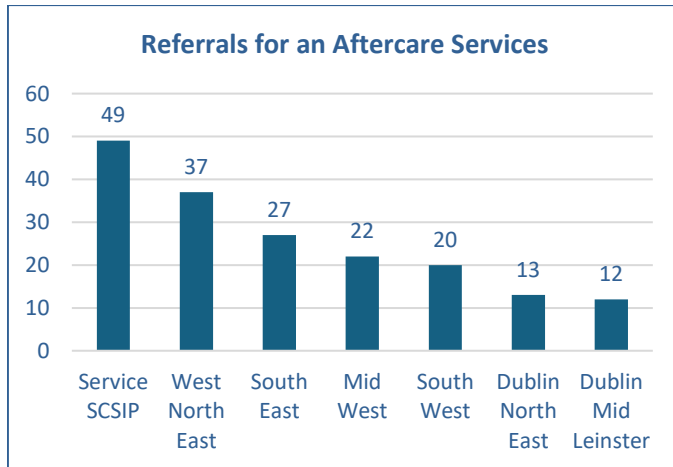
Key Messages

Referrals

- Service for Separated Children Seeking International protection (SCSIP) reported the highest number of referrals for an aftercare service (49) in Q1 2026.
- Across the regions, highest number (37) of referrals reported by West North East, fewest number (12) reported by Dublin Mid Leinster.

Number in Receipt of Aftercare Services

- Across the regions, South West reports the highest number (509; 19%) of young people in receipt of aftercare services, South East reports the fewest number (415; 15%).
- Numbers reported by the four regions, Dublin Mid Leinster (436), West North East (433), Mid West (420) and South East (415) similar.



AFTERCARE

Aftercare (Number in Education / Aftercare Plan) – Regions / Service for SCSIP

Metric - Education / Accredited Training	DML	DNE	MW	SE	SW	WNE	SCSIP	Total
18-20 years in receipt of aftercare services	241	235	242	242	250	232	262	1704
18-20 years in education/accredited training	174	160	219	205	220	183	262	1423
% 18-20 years in education/accredited training	72%	68%	90%	85%	88%	79%	100%	84%
21-22 years in receipt of aftercare services	78	110	95	81	102	86	51	603
21-22 years in education/accredited training	58	80	88	78	82	76	51	513
% 21-22 years in education/accredited training	74%	73%	93%	96%	80%	88%	100%	85%

Key Messages (Education / Accredited Training)

- Across the regions, the percentage of **18-20 year olds** in receipt of aftercare services in education / accredited training ranges from 90% (Mid West) to 68% (Dublin Mid Leinster).
- The percentage of **21-22 year olds** in receipt of aftercare services in education / accredited training ranges from 96% (South East) to 73% (Dublin North East).
- The Service for SCSIP reports all young people 18-22 years in education / accredited training.

Metric - Aftercare Plan	DML	DNE	MW	SE	SW	WNE	SCSIP	Total
Number with an aftercare plan (All)	340	375	365	358	371	380	171	2360
% with aftercare plan (All)	78%	77%	87%	86%	73%	88%	52%	78%
18-20 year olds with an aftercare plan	227	227	239	238	244	227	132	1534
% 18-20 year olds with an aftercare plan	94%	97%	99%	98%	98%	98%	50%	90%
21-22 years with an aftercare plan	72	107	95	80	101	84	34	573
% 21-22 years with an aftercare plan	92%	97%	100%	99%	99%	98%	67%	95%
<18 years with an aftercare plan	41	41	31	40	26	69	5	253
% <18 years with an aftercare plan	35%	29%	37%	43%	17%	60%	26%	35%

Key Messages (Aftercare Plan)

- Four of the six regions reported 78% or more of **young people (all ages) in receipt of aftercare services with an aftercare plan**. Rates reported by South West (73%) and Dublin North East (77%) lower than the national average.
- Over 90% of young people 18-22 years in all regions have an aftercare plan. With the exception of West North East (60%) fewer than half of young people under 18 years have an aftercare plan.
- Just over half (52%) of young people in receipt of aftercare services reported by the Service for SCSIP have an aftercare plan.

AFTERCARE

Aftercare (Aftercare Worker) – Regions / Service for SCSIP

Metric - Assessed as Needing an Aftercare Worker	DML	DNE	MW	SE	SW	WNE	SCSIP	Total
Number with plan assessed as needing an aftercare worker (All)	320	375	355	298	352	375	171	2246
% with plan assessed as needing an aftercare worker (All)	94%	100%	97%	83%	95%	99%	100%	95%
18-20 year olds with plan assessed as needing an aftercare worker	212	227	236	203	233	224	132	1467
% 18-20 year olds with plan assessed as needing an aftercare worker	93%	100%	99%	85%	95%	99%	100%	96%
21-22 year olds with plan assessed as needing an aftercare worker	67	107	89	60	96	82	34	535
% 21-22 year olds with plan assessed as needing an aftercare worker	93%	100%	94%	75%	95%	98%	100%	93%
<18 year olds with plan assessed as needing an aftercare worker	41	41	30	35	23	69	5	244
% <18 year olds with plan assessed as needing an aftercare worker	100%	100%	97%	88%	88%	100%	100%	96%

Metric - Aftercare Worker	DML	DNE	MW	SE	SW	WNE	SCSIP	Total
Number assessed as needing an aftercare worker with one (All)	210	337	308	275	324	366	105	1925
% assessed as needing an aftercare worker with one (All)	66%	90%	87%	92%	92%	98%	61%	86%
18-20 year olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker with one	152	206	206	193	217	216	96	1286
% 18-20 year olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker with one	72%	91%	87%	95%	93%	96%	73%	88%
21-22 year olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker with one	17	90	72	47	85	81	4	396
% 21-22 year olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker with one	25%	84%	81%	78%	89%	99%	12%	74%
<18 year olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker with one	41	41	30	35	22	69	5	243
% <18 year olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker with one	100%	100%	100%	100%	96%	100%	100%	99.6%

Key Messages

- Four of the six regions report more than 90% of young people assessed as needing an aftercare worker with one. Rate reported by Dublin Mid Leinster (66%) significantly lower than all other regions. Rate reported by the Service for SCSIP (61%) also significantly lower than the national average (86%).
- Almost all young people under 18 years (regions and Service for SCSIP) assessed as needing an aftercare worker have one.

In some regions young people who are settled and doing well are moved to the drop-in service (i.e., assessed as not needing an allocated aftercare worker). With a reduction in staff this allows the service to prioritise those with greatest need for allocation to an aftercare worker.

ADOPTION SERVICES

Adoption Services

Adoption is delivered through Tusla and is regulated by the Adoption Authority of Ireland. Adoption means the transfer of parental rights and duties for a child from birth parents to adoptive parent/s on a permanent basis. Adoption is therefore a permanent legal relationship between the adoptive parent/s and the child. The child has the same legal rights, as if they were born to the adoptive family. There are four types of domestic adoption (step-parent adoption, infant adoption, family adoption and adopting a child from foster care) and inter-country adoption.

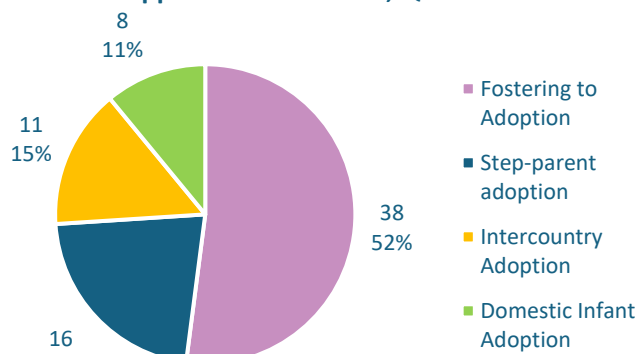
Number of Applications Received	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	SPLY	Δ SPLY
Domestic Infant Adoption	9	9	8	■ ■ _	11	-3 (27%)
Step-parent adoption	13	13	16	_ _ ■	12	+4 (33%)
Fostering to Adoption	35	57	38	_ ■ _	55	-17 (31%)
Inter-country Adoption	9	17	11	_ ■ _	17	-6 (35%)
Total	66	96	73	_ ■ _	95	-22 (23%)

Number of Children Referred	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	SPLY	Δ SPLY
Domestic Infant Adoption	7	5	6	■ _ ■	10	-4 (40%)
Step-parent adoption	15	25	63	_ _ ■	37	+26 (70%)
Fostering to Adoption	38	43	29	■ ■ _	44	-15 (34%)
Family Adoption	4	0	0	■	1	-1 (100%)
Total	64	73	98	_ _ ■	92	+6 (7%)

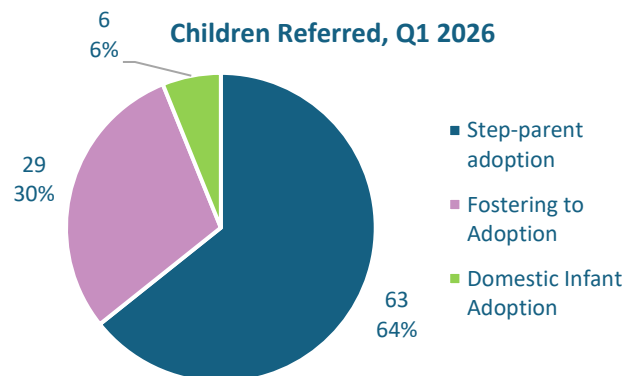
Key Messages

- 73 applications for assessment of eligibility and suitability as adoptive parents received in Q1 2026
- 23% (22) decrease in applications year on year
- Applications for fostering to adoption accounted for more than half (52%; 38) of applications.
- 98 children referred for adoption in Q1 2026
- 7% (6) increase in children referred year on year.
- Majority (64%; 63) of children referred were referred for step-parent adoption.

Applications Received, Q1 2026



Children Referred, Q1 2026



TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

Tusla Education Support Services (Tess) operates under the Education (Welfare) Act, 2000, a piece of legislation that emphasises the promotion of school attendance, participation and retention. TESS has three strands namely the Statutory Educational Welfare Service (EWS) and the two school support services the Home School Community Liaison Scheme (HSCL) and the School Completion Programme (SCP). The metrics presented below represent the activity for the statutory educational welfare service.

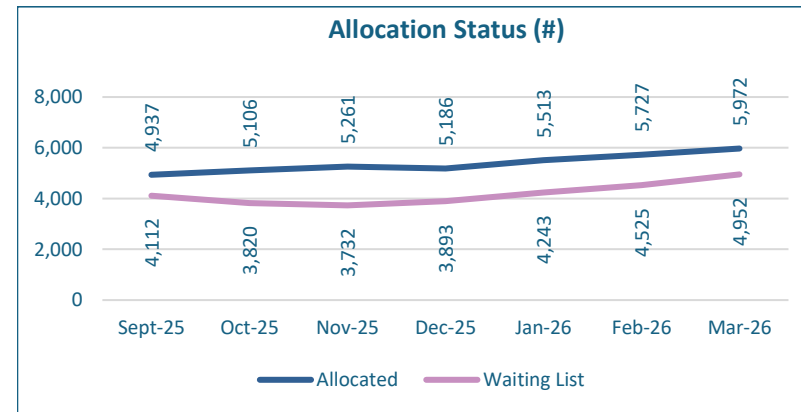
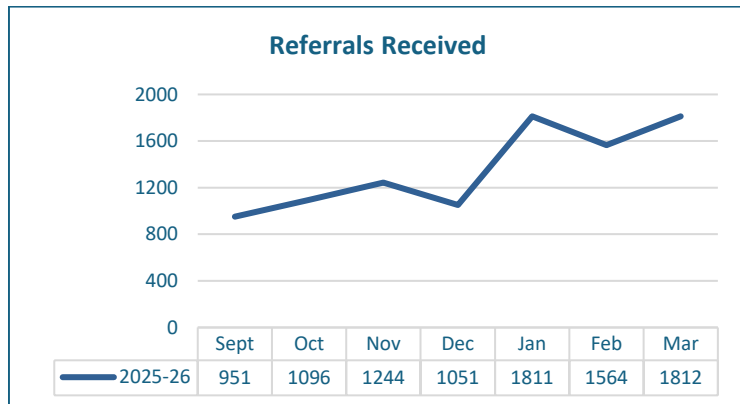
Metric	2024/25 Sept-Mar	2025/26 Sept-Mar
Referrals Received	6,265*	9,529
Cases Screened Out	1,462*	1,664
Cases Allocated	3,465*	6,939
Cases Closed	2,771*	7,157

* The data for the academic year 2025/26 is not comparable with the previous academic year due to a change in the definition of the count of referrals from referrals screened to referrals received. The Service also introduced a new team (Children Missing in Education Team) and launched a school attendance campaign in September 2025.

Metric	Dec-25	Mar-26	SPLY	Δ SPLY
Cases Open	-	10,924	-	-
Cases Allocated	-	5,972	-	-
% Case Allocated	-	55%	-	-
Cases on Waiting List	3,893	4,952	4,627	+325 (7%)
% Cases on Waiting List	-	45%	-	-
Cases on waiting list that received an intervention	-	196	-	-

Key Messages

- 9,529 referrals for an educational welfare service this school year to date.
- 10,924 open cases with 55% (5,972) allocated; 4,952 on a waiting list for allocation.
- Increasing number of cases on the waiting list, up 27% (1,059) from December 2025 and 7% (325) from March 2025.

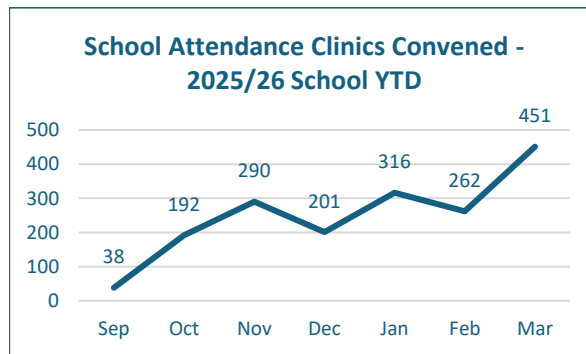
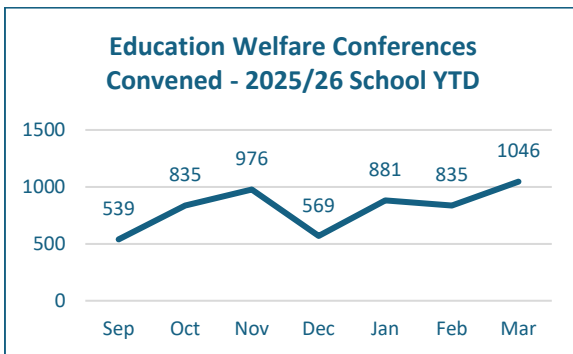
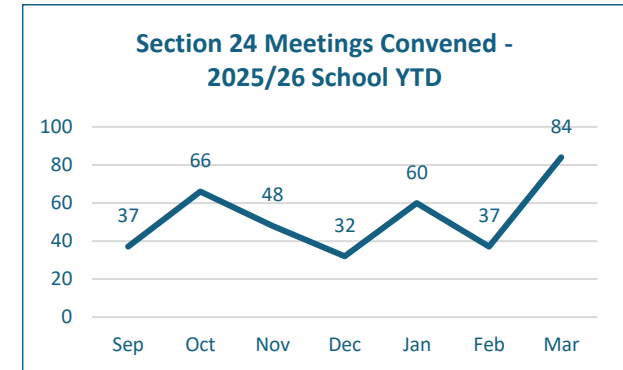
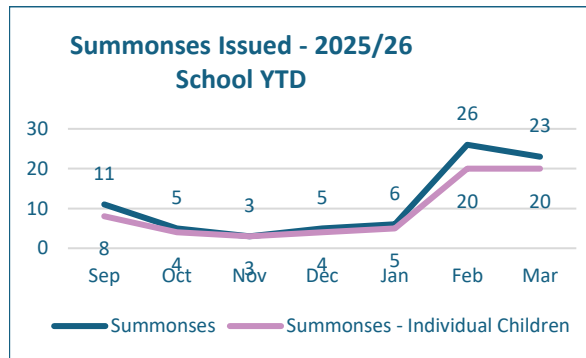
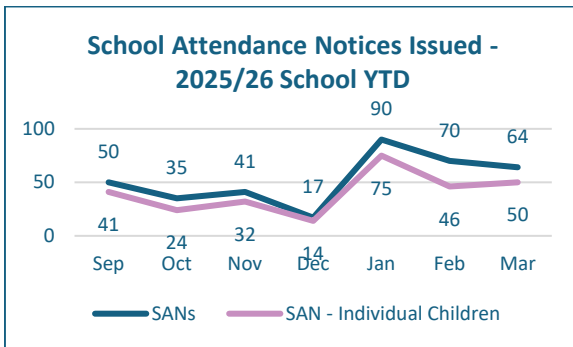


TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

Metric	2025/26 Sept-Mar	SPLY	Δ SPLY
School Attendance Notices (SAN) Issued	367	436	-69 (16%)
SAN - Individual Children Involved	282	313	-31 (10%)
Summonses Issued	79	92	-13 (14%)
Summonses - Individual Children Involved	64	68	-4 (6%)
Section 24 Meetings Convened	364	164	+200 (122%)
Education Welfare Conferences Convened	5,681	-	
School Attendance Clinics Convened	1,750	-	

Key Messages

- 367 **school attendance notices** and 79 **summons** issued this school year to date.
- Year on year decrease in the number of **school attendance notices** and **summons** issued.
- Sharp increase this school year to date in the number of **Section 24 (Education Welfare Act 2000) meetings convened**. *Meeting convened by educational welfare to discuss the continued education of a child 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*



CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

Early Years Inspectorate

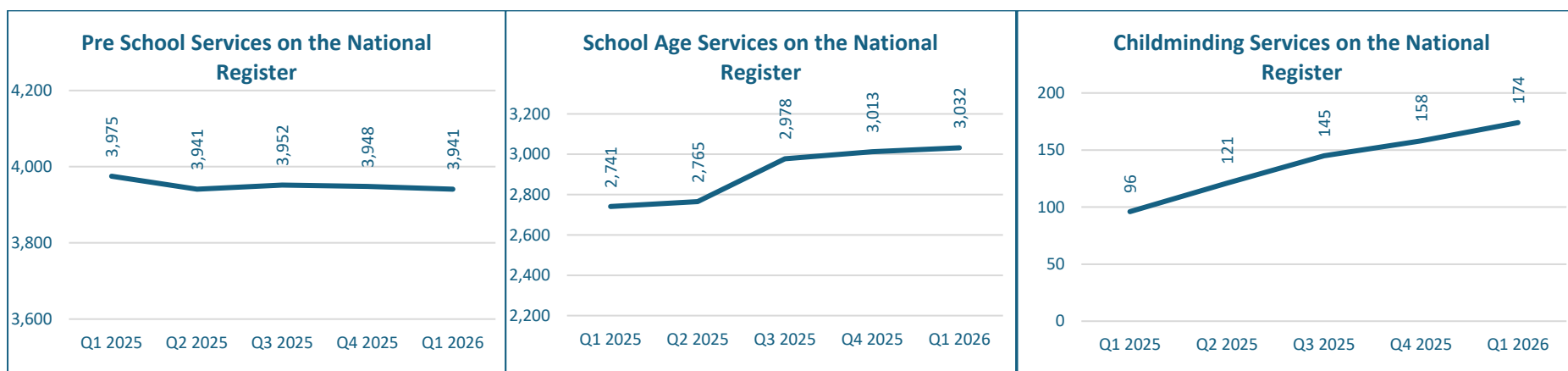
The Early Years Inspectorate (EYI) is the statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. Regulation includes registration, inspection and, where necessary, enforcement. Early years services (EYS) include pre-school services, school-age services and childminding services.

Early Years Services on the National Register	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	SPLY	Δ SPLY
Pre-School Services on the National Register	3,952	3,948	3,941	■ ■ —	3,975	-34 (1%)
School Age Services on the National Register	2,978	3,013	3,032	— ■ ■	2,741	291 (11%)
Childminding Services on the National Register	145	158	174	— ■ ■	96	78 (81%)
Total	7,075	7,119	7,147	— ■ ■	6,812	335 (5%)

Key Messages

- Slow but steady decline in the number of **pre-school services** on the national register
- Increasing number of **school age services** on the national register
- Increasing number of **childminding services** on the national register

Registration Renewal	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	YTD	SPLY YTD	Δ SPLY
EYS due to renew their registration during the quarter	382	3,596	265	— ■ —	265	85	+180 (212%)
EYS that successfully completed registration renewal in the quarter	356	3,443	243	— ■ —	243	78	+165 (212%)



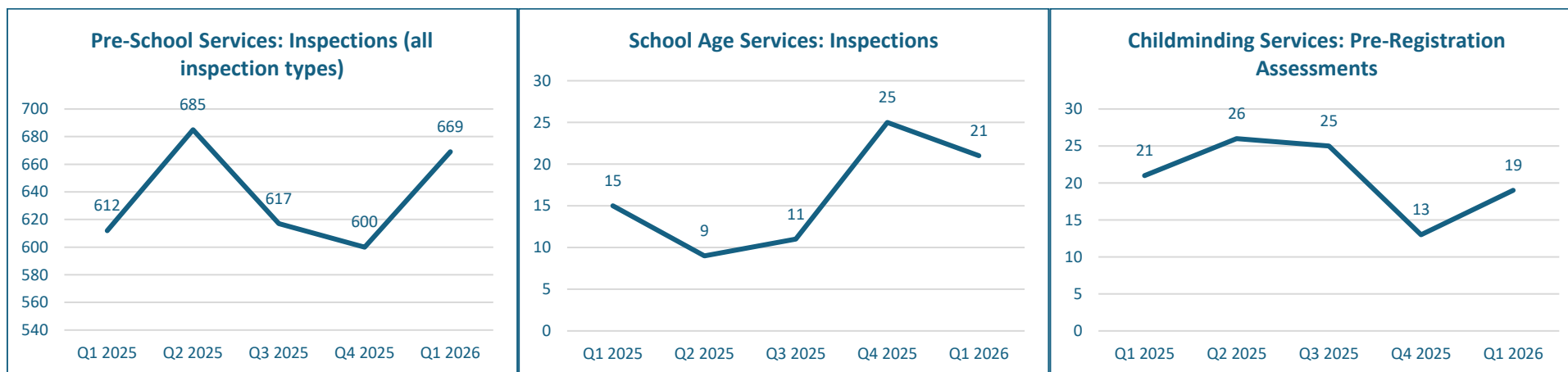
CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

Early Years Inspectorate

Inspections carried out by the EYI	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	YTD	SPLY YTD	Δ SPLY
Pre-School Services: Inspections (all inspection types)	617	600	669	— — ■	669	612	+57 (9%)
Pre-School Services: Pre-Registration Inspections in respect of proposed new services	41	11	5	■ — —	5	3	+2 (67%)
Pre-School Services: Fit for Purpose inspections in respect of proposed change in circumstances	100	33	24	■ — —	24	23	+1 (4%)
Pre-School Services: Inspections in relation to concerns received during the reporting period	33	35	39	— ■ ■	39	18	+21 (117%)
Pre-School Services: Initial Inspections (first inspection following registration)	6	36	19	— ■ ■	19	20	-1 (5%)
School Age Services: Inspections	11	25	21	— ■ ■	21	15	+6 (40%)
Childminding Services: Childminding Pre-Registration Assessments	25	13	19	■ — ■	19	21	-2 (-10%)

Key Messages

- 669 inspections of pre-schools in Q1 2026
- 9% (57) increase in pre-school inspections year on year.
- 21 inspections of school age services in Q1 2026
- 19 pre-registration assessments of childminding services in Q1 2026.



CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

Early Years Inspectorate

Registration / Change in Circumstances	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	YTD	SPLY YTD	Δ SPLY
Pre-School Services: Applications to become a new service	40	16	49	■ __ ■	49	16	+33 (206%)
School Age Services: Applications to become a new service	122	78	71	■ __ __	71	78	-7 (9%)
Childminding Service: Applications to become a new service	28	20	20	■ __ __	20	30	-10 (33%)
Pre-School Services: New registration applications approved	40	17	8	■ __ __	8	4	+4 (100%)
School Age Services: New registration applications approved	243	59	40	■ __ __	40	36	+4 (11%)
Childminding Service: New registration applications approved	26	14	19	■ __ ■	19	22	-3 (14%)
All Services: New applications to become an early years' service refused registration	0	1	0	■	0	0	0
All Services: Registration renewal applications refused registration			0		0		
Pre-School Services: Change in Circumstance notifications processed	868	555	462	■ __ __	462	509	-47 (9%)

Concerns / Prosecutions by the EYI	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	YTD	SPLY YTD	Δ SPLY
Unsolicited information submissions received by the EYI	213	171	160	■ __ __	160	118	+42 (36%)
EYS prosecuted for breach of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regs 2016	0	1	0	■	0	0	0
Incidents notified by services to the EYI within remit	115	205	185	__ ■ ■	185	143	+42 (29%)

Closures	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	YTD	SPLY YTD	Δ SPLY
Pre-School Services: Services closed during the reporting period	29	21	1	■ ■ __	1	13	-12 (92%)
School Age Services: Services closed during the reporting period	25	18	16	■ __ __	16	14	+2 (14%)
Childminding Services: Services closed during the reporting period	2	1	2	■ __ ■	2	2	0
All Services: Services removed from the National Register during the reporting period	0	0	0		0	0	0

Key Messages

- Sharp increase (33; 206%) in **applications to become a new pre-school service**, Q1 2026 (49) v Q1 2025 (16)
- Slight decreases in the numbers of **applications for school age and childminding services**, Q1 2026 v Q1 2025
- No applications to become an early years' **service refused registration** in Q1 2026.

- 36% (42) increase in **unsolicited information submissions**, Q1 2026 (160) v Q1 2025 (148).
- No **EYS prosecuted** in Q1 2026.
- 29% (42) increase in **incidents notified** to the EYI, Q1 2026 (185) v Q1 2025 (143).
- One **pre-school service closed** in Q1 2026, fewest number for all quarters Q1 2025 – Q1 2026

CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

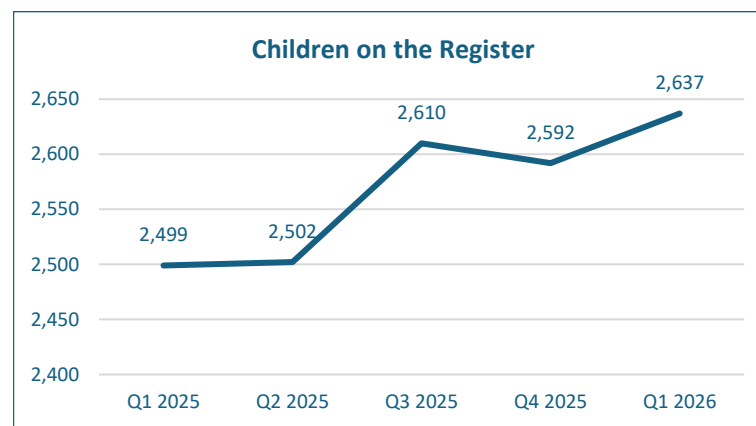
Alternative Education Assessment and Registration Service (AEARS)

Under Section 14 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, Tusla is responsible for maintaining a register of all children who are home educated or who attend a non-recognised school. A non-recognised / independent school is not directly overseen by the Department of Education and Youth. The Alternative Education Assessment and Registration Service (AEARS) is responsible for the regulation of provision for education in places other than recognised schools. Its function is to carry out an assessment of the educational provision for children, in order to determine if a child can be placed on the statutory register of children educated outside of a recognised school.

Children on the National Register	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	SPLY	Δ SPLY
Children on the home education register, end of reporting period	2,610	2,592	2,637	— — ■	2,499	+138 (6%)
Children with special educational needs on the register	422	428	452	— — ■	407	+45 (11%)

Key Messages

- Increasing number of children on the **register for home education**
- 6% (138) increase year on year
- 17% (452) of children on the register for home education have **special education needs**
- The number of children with special education needs on the register at the end of Q1 2026 was the highest number for all quarters, Q1 2025 – Q1 2026.



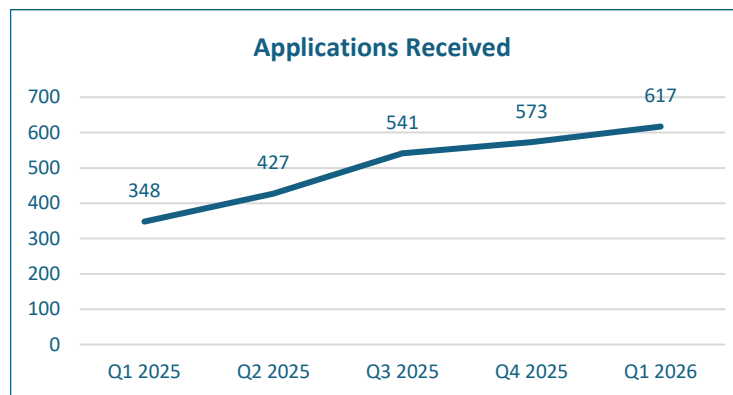
New Applications	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	YTD	SPLY YTD	Δ SPLY
Valid applications received, during the reporting period	234	285	272	— ■ ■	272	163	+109 (67%)
Invalid applications received, during the reporting period	307	288	345	— — ■	345	185	+160 (86%)
Total applications received, during the period period	541	573	617	— — ■	617	348	+269 (77%)
Applications received for children with special educational needs	58	83	80	— ■ ■	80	42	+38 (90%)

CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

Alternative Education Assessment and Registration Service (AEARS)

Key Messages

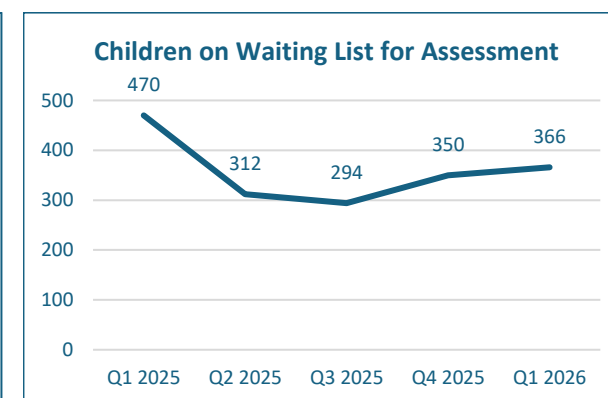
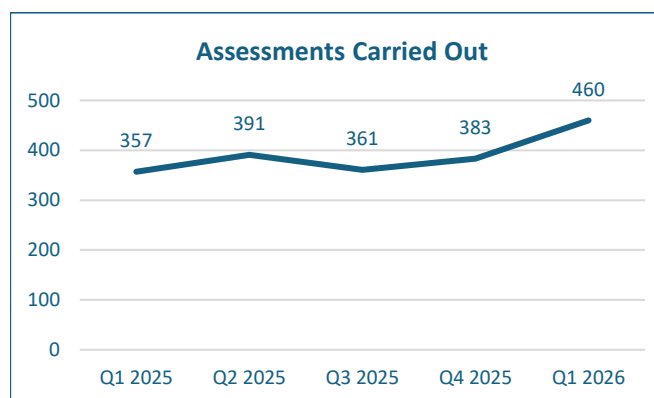
- Increasing number of **applications for home education** being received
- 77% (269) increase year on year



Assessments	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	YTD	SPLY YTD	Δ SPLY
Assessments allocated during the reporting period	424	640	550	— ■ ■	550	431	+119 (28%)
Assessments carried out during the reporting period	361	383	460	— — ■	460	357	+103 (29%)
Children on waiting list for assessments, end of reporting period	294	350	366	— ■ ■	366	470	-104 (22%)

Key Messages

- 460 **assessments carried out** in Q1 2026, highest number for all quarters, Q1 2025 – Q1 2026.
- 29% (103) increase Q1 2026 v Q1 2025
- Slight **increasing trend** in the number of children on the **waiting list for assessment** beginning to emerge.
- However, 22% (104) decrease in the number waiting, Q1 2026 v Q1 2025



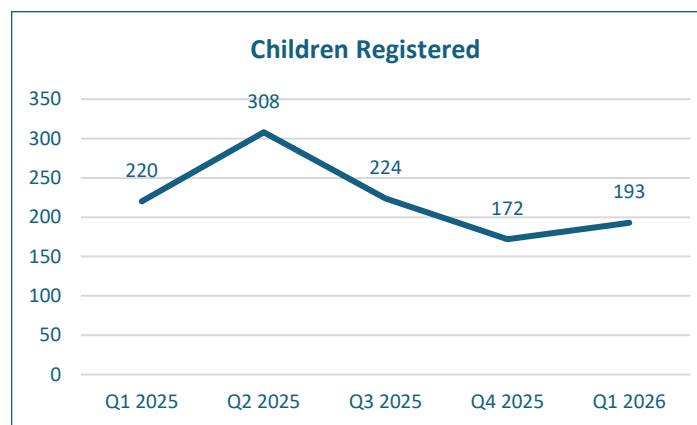
CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

Alternative Education Assessment and Registration Service (AEARS)

Action Taken	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	YTD	SPLY YTD	Δ SPLY
Children registered during the reporting period	224	172	193	■ _ ■	193	220	-27 (12%)
Children removed from the register during the reporting period	116	190	148	_ ■ ■	148	46	+102 (222%)
Reason for removal: Over 16	77	63	82	■ _ ■	82	3	+79
Reason for removal: Returned to School	31	101	46	_ ■ ■	46	35	+11
Reason for removal: Left Jurisdiction	5	23	18	_ ■ ■	18	3	+15
Reason for removal: Deregistered	3	3	2	■ ■ _	2	1	+1
Reason for removal: Other	0	0	0		0	4	-4

Key Messages

- 193 children registered during Q1 2026.
- 148 children removed from the register during Q1 2026
- Most common reason for children being removed from the register in Q1 2026 was turning 16 years (55%; 82), followed by returning to school (31%; 46).



Non-Recognised / Independent Schools	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	YTD	SPLY YTD	Δ SPLY
Number of assessed and approved independent schools	63	63	63	■ ■ ■	63	60	+3
Number of children enrolled in independent schools	6,291	6,381	6,352	_ ■ ■	6,352	6,451	-99
Number of assessments carried out	5	13	8	_ ■ ■	8	2	+6
Number of assessments due	0	0	7	■	7	1	+6

CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

Alternative Care Inspection and Monitoring Service (ACIMS)

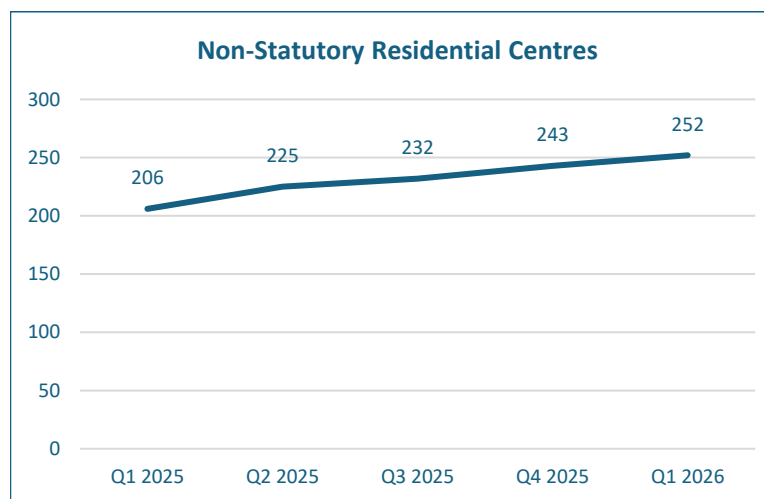
The Alternative Care Inspection and Monitoring Service (ACIMS) is one of the regulatory services within Children's Service Regulation. It has two distinct functions

- (1) The registration and inspection of non-statutory children's residential services
- (2) The monitoring of non-statutory foster care agencies.

Non-Statutory Residential Centres	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	YTD	SPLY YTD	Δ SPLY
Number of Non-Statutory Residential Centres	232	243	252	— ■ ■	252	206	+46 (22%)
Number of Regulatory Compliance Meetings (NEW 2026)			5	■	5		
Number of Immediate Action Notices issued by ACIMS (NEW 2026)			3	■	2		
Number of Non-Statutory Residential Services with conditions attached (NEW 2026)			1	■	1		

Key Messages

- **252 non-statutory residential centres** at the end of Q1 2026
- Increasing number of **non-statutory residential centres**
- 46 (22%) more centres at the end of Q1 2026 (252) v Q1 2025 (206)



CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

Alternative Care Inspection and Monitoring Service (ACIMS)

Non-Statutory Residential Centres - Inspections	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	YTD	SPLY YTD	Δ SPLY
Number of New Registration Inspection Visits (on site)	10	13	13	— ■ ■	13	10	+3
Number of Thematic Inspections announced (on site)	8	18	19	— ■ ■	19	18	+1
Number of Thematic Inspections unannounced (on site)	20	5	9	■ — —	9	16	-7
Number of Escalations and Unsolicited Information subject to Onsite Inspection	3	2	4	■ — ■	4	2	+2
Number of Escalations and Unsolicited Information subject to Desktop Review	25	25	17	■ ■ —	17	18	-1
Total number of inspections	66	63	62	■ — —	62	64	-2

Non-Statutory Foster Care Services	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	YTD	SPLY YTD	Δ SPLY
Number of Non-Statutory Foster Care Services	5	5	5	■ ■ ■	5	5	0
Total number of monitoring visits made to Non-Statutory Foster Care Services	2	0	1	■ — ■	1	1	0

Key Messages

- 62 inspections (all types) of non-statutory residential centres carried out in Q1 2026, a similar number to previous quarters
- 5 non-statutory foster care services at the end of Q1 2026, no change from previous quarters.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

Child Safeguarding Statement Compliance Unit (CSSCU)

The Child Safeguarding Statement Compliance Unit (CSSCU) is the dedicated Unit within Tusla set up to ensure that all providers' Child Safeguarding Statements (CSS) are compliant with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015. All providers of relevant services which are in operation for greater than three months are legally required to have a Child Safeguarding Statement in place. The unit was established in March 2018 to provide both compliance support and enforcement. The CSSCU is responsible for the enforcement of section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and maintaining the Public Register of Non-Compliance.

Metrics	Q1 2026
Number of services that submitted child safeguarding statements for review	86
Number of child safeguarding statements for relevant services reviewed by the CSSCU	86

Metrics	Q1 2026
Number of relevant services that submitted a CSS voluntarily that were compliant on first review	13
Number of relevant services that submitted a CSS voluntarily that were non-compliant on first review	34
Number of services referred to the National Registration Enforcement Panel (NREP)	0
Number of services in receipt of Proposed Advanced Notice of the agency's intention to put on the public register of services non-compliant	0

Key Messages

- 86 services submitted child safeguarding statements in Q1 2026
- Most common relevant service type was Early Learning Care / School Age Childcare (30; 35%), followed by Direct Provision Centres (20; 23%) and Training/Arts/Leisure Services (11; 13%). These three service types accounted for 71% (61) of relevant services.

Breakdown by Relevant Service Type	Q1 2026
Early Learning Care/ School Age Childcare - 1(a)	30
Education/Schools - 1(b)	5
Health Service - 1(c)	0
Residential Care - 1(d)	9
Residential Disability - 1(d)	1
Residential Special Care - 1(e)	0
Detention School - 1(f)	0
Direct Provision Centre - 1(g)	20
Asylum Accommodation - 1(g)	0
Homeless Services - 1(g)	2
Residential - Domestic Violence - 1(h)	0
Inspection Services - 2	0
Ombudsman For Children - 3	0
Therapy/Counselling Service - 4	0
Probation Service - 4	0
Youth - 5(a)	2
Training/Arts/Leisure - 5(a)	11
Family Resource Centres - 5(a)	3
Supervision of Children - 5(b)	0
Child Participation - 5(c)	0
Advice/Guidance Services - 6	2
Religious - 7	1
Driver/Transport - 8	0
An Garda Siochana - 9	0
Total	86

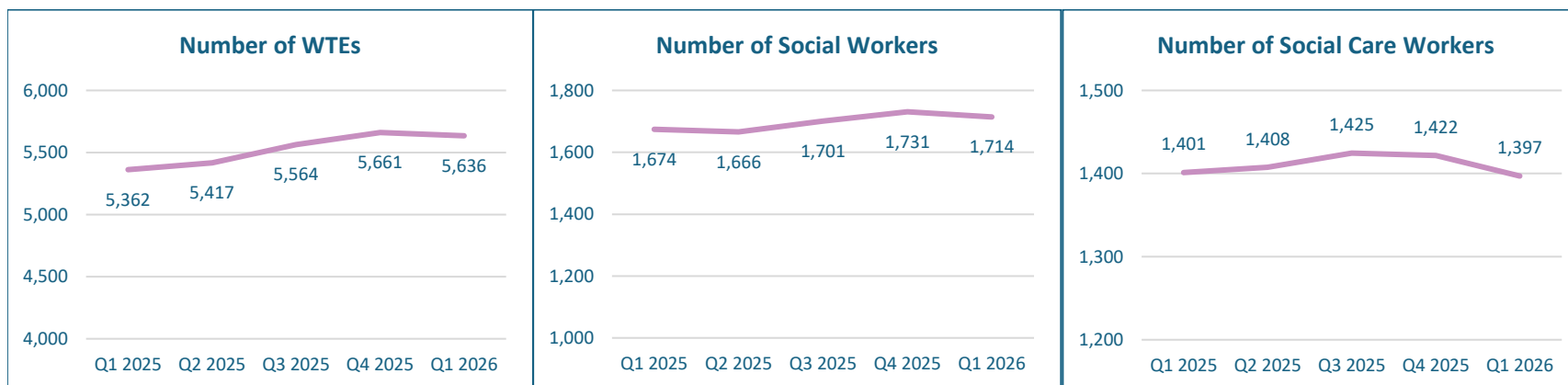
PEOPLE AND CHANGE

PEOPLE & CHANGE

Metric	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	SPLY	Δ SPLY	% Total Q1 2026
Number of WTE (Whole Time Equivalent)	5,564	5,661	5,636	— ■ ■	5,362	+275 (5%)	100%
<i>Social Work</i>	<i>1,701</i>	<i>1,731</i>	<i>1,714</i>	— ■ ■	<i>1,674</i>	<i>+40 (2%)</i>	<i>30%</i>
<i>Admin Grades III-VII</i>	<i>1,449</i>	<i>1,493</i>	<i>1,504</i>	— ■ ■	<i>1,350</i>	<i>+154 (11%)</i>	<i>27%</i>
<i>Social Care</i>	<i>1,425</i>	<i>1,422</i>	<i>1,397</i>	■ ■ —	<i>1,401</i>	<i>-4 (<1%)</i>	<i>25%</i>
<i>Management Grade VIII+</i>	<i>323</i>	<i>341</i>	<i>348</i>	— ■ ■	<i>305</i>	<i>+44 (14%)</i>	<i>6%</i>
<i>Other Health Professionals</i>	<i>239</i>	<i>246</i>	<i>248</i>	— ■ ■	<i>242</i>	<i>+6 (2%)</i>	<i>4%</i>
<i>Educational Welfare Officers</i>	<i>185</i>	<i>195</i>	<i>196</i>	— ■ ■	<i>161</i>	<i>+35 (22%)</i>	<i>3%</i>
<i>Family Support</i>	<i>178</i>	<i>167</i>	<i>162</i>	■ — —	<i>162</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3%</i>
<i>Other Support Staff inc Catering</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>35</i>	■ — —	<i>34</i>	<i>+1 (4%)</i>	<i>1%</i>
<i>Psychologists & Counsellors</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	— ■ ■	<i>30</i>	<i>-1 (4%)</i>	<i>1%</i>
<i>Nursing</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	— — ■	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0.1%</i>

Key Messages

- **5,636 whole time equivalent (WTE)** staff employed by Tusla at the end of Q1 2026.
- Slight decrease (25) in the total **number of WTEs**, Q1 2026 v Q4 2025.
- 5% (275) increase in **total WTEs** year on year.
- 2% (40) increase in **social workers** year on year.
- Slight decrease (4; 1%) in **social care workers** year on year.
- Social workers comprise the highest proportion of WTEs at 30%. Social workers and social care workers combined account for 55% (3,111) of all WTEs.



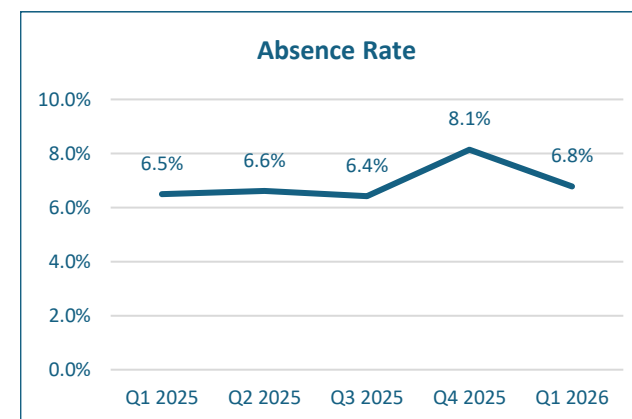
PEOPLE & CHANGE

Metric	Q1 2026	YTD	SPLY YTD	Δ SPLY
New starters (All Grades)	152	152	210	-58 (28%)
New starters (Social Workers)	38	38	52	-14 (27%)
New starters (Social Care Workers)	28	28	79	-51 (65%)
Leavers (All Grades)	114	114	112	+2 (2%)
Leavers (Social Workers)	50	50	48	+2 (4%)
Leavers (Social Care Workers)	35	35	24	+11 (46%)
Retirements (All Grades)	21	21	27	-6 (22%)

Key Messages

- 152 **new staff commenced** with Tusla in Q1 2026
- 135 **staff left** Tusla (incl. retirements) in Q1 2026
- Net gain of 17 staff in Q1 2026.
- 58 fewer staff commenced with Tusla in Q1 2026 when compared to Q1 2025. Sharp decrease in the number of social care workers who commenced in Q1 2026 (28) v Q1 2025 (79).
- Similar numbers of staff left Tusla in Q1 2025 and Q1 2026.
- 6.8% **absence rate** at the end of Q1 2026, down from 8.1% at the end of Q4 2025 and similar to that for Q1 2025.
- Highest absence rate (10.3%) for social care workers.
- Rate for residential services (10.43%) is 3.63 percentage points higher than the overall rate of 6.8%.

Metric	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Trend	SPLY	Δ SPLY
Absence Rate (All Grades)	6.4%	8.1%	6.8%	— ■ —	6.5%	+0.3pp
Absence Rate (All Grades excl Residential Services)	5.6%	7.4%	6.1%	— ■ ■	5.9%	+0.1pp
<i>Absence Rate (Social Work)</i>	5.8%	7.9%	5.4%	— ■ —	5.9%	-0.5pp
<i>Absence Rate (Social Care)</i>	9.6%	11.3%	10.3%	— ■ ■	8.7%	+1.6pp
<i>Absence Rate (Other)</i>	4.9%	6.2%	5.5%	— ■ ■	5.4%	+0.1pp



PEOPLE & CHANGE

Workforce Learning and Development

Key Messages

- **Classroom training:**
 - 1,971 completions in Q1 2026
 - Most attended classroom training was 'Tusla Manual Handling Training' with 349 completions

- **E-Learning training**
 - 7,853 completions in Q1 2026
 - Most popular e-learning module was 'Implementing Children First in Tusla' with 1,135 completions

Breakdown of the top 15 most popular classroom and e-learning modules:

Classroom Training (Top 20 Completions)	# Completions
Tusla Manual Handling Training	349
TCM for Family Support (Phase 2)	316
Therapeutic Crisis Intervention Refresher Training	316
Neurodiversity Awareness and Inclusion	169
Sharing Personal Data Safely	159
Being Trauma informed	124
Violence Harassment & Aggression (VHA)	117
TCM Training for Child Protection and Alternative Care Staff	86
Working with Domestic Violence, Abuse and Coercive Control	63
MECPATHS	53
First Aid REFRESHER Response Course (PHECC)	50
WellTree Refresher Training	50
Reflective Writing in Practice	47
Signs of Safety	47
Supervision Skills for Supervisors Module 2	41
Court Skills in Practice - Mock court session for educational welfare cases	38
Signs of Safety Planning	33
Cumulative Harm	31
Home Visiting	29
Ligature Knife & Ligature Audits Training - Tusla	27

E Learning Training (Top 20 Completions)	# Completions
Implementing Children First in Tusla	1135
Tusla Employee Health and Safety Awareness Training	877
Data Protection in Tusla	834
Complaint handling in Tusla. (Module 1)	802
Freedom of Information: An Introduction to the FOI Act	699
Incident Management - Tusla	688
Children First in Action - Tusla's Response to a Child Protection & Welfare Concern	587
Violence, Harassment and Aggression (VHA)	402
All about claiming Travel, Subsistence and other Staff Costs	387
Child Sexual Exploitation - Tusla	224
Tusla Case Management: Fundamentals of the TCM System Online	222
Medication Management in Children's Residential Services - Tusla	117
TCM for Child Protection, Welfare and Alternative Care (CPAC)	106
Complaint handling in Tusla. Understanding Complaint Investigations (Module 2)	90
Hidden Harm: The Impact of Parental Alcohol and other Drug Use	79
Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence - An Introduction - Tusla	72
Minute Taking: An Introduction - Tusla	64
Using NIMS for the Management of Complaints - Tusla (Module 3)	53
Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) - Tusla	52
Organisational Risk Management - Tusla	52

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Type of Expenditure	Actual	Budget	Variance	% Variance Actual v Budget
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€
Pay Costs	116,512	122,845	-6,333	5%
Non Pay Costs	231,402	226,545	4,857	2%
Income	5,817	5,327	490	9%
Total Expenditure	342,097	344,063	-1,966	-1%

Financial Performance

- The **outturn** for the year to date (31 March 2026) is an underspend of €1.97 million (1%).
- **Net expenditure** is €342.1 million against an initial revenue budget allocation of €344.1 million.
- **Pay costs** are under-spent against budget year to date by €6.33 million (5%).
- **Non-pay costs** are over-spent against budget year to date by €4.86 million (2%)

APPENDICES

<i>Tusla Regions</i>	<i>Tusla Networks</i>	<i>Tusla Regions</i>	<i>Tusla Networks</i>
<i>Dublin North East</i>	Dublin North West	<i>South West</i>	South Tipperary/North Cork
	Dublin North City		Cork East
	North Dublin		Cork North West
	North County Dublin		Cork South West
	Meath		Kerry/North Cork
<i>Dublin Mid Leinster</i>	Dublin South West	<i>Midwest</i>	Laois/Offaly
	Dublin South City		Galway North
	Kildare North/Dublin West		North Tipperary/Limerick South and East
	Kildare South		Limerick North and West
	Longford/Westmeath		Clare/South Galway
<i>South East</i>	Dublin South East	<i>West North East</i>	Sligo/Leitrim/Roscommon
	Wicklow		Mayo
	Carlow/Kilkenny		Louth
	Wexford		Donegal
	Waterford/South Kilkenny		Cavan/Monaghan

Appendix 2

Term	Explanation
SPLY	Performance / Activity for Same Period Last Year
Trend	Trend is based on the current month and two previous quarters
Δ% SPLY	Percentage change (+/-) current quarter v same period last year
YTD	Year to date
DML	Dublin Mid Leinster
DNE	Dublin North East
MW	Mid West
SE	South East
SW	South West
WNE	West North East
Safety and Welfare	Previously referred to as Child Protection and Welfare
Service for SCSIP	Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection

NETWORK TABLES

Note: Networks with equal values share the same rank. Hence rank numbers skip to account for equal values.

Region	Network	S&W Referrals YTD	Rank	Open Cases (S&W)	Rank	Open Cases (S&W) Unallocated	Rank	Active on CPNS	Rank	CASP Open Assessments	Rank
DML	Dublin South City	1299	3	1161	1	520	1	41	14	10	10
DML	Dublin South West	1288	4	1051	2	385	5	78	1	2	24
DML	Kildare North Dublin West	1067	9	1007	3	434	2	55	5	1	26
DML	Kildare South	913	16	628	16	279	7	54	8	1	26
DML	Longford Westmeath	1380	2	971	5	411	3	55	5	7	15
DNE	Dublin North City	1247	5	930	6	172	13	59	3	5	20
DNE	Dublin North West	1223	6	732	8	90	21	51	9	4	22
DNE	Meath	1047	11	602	18	107	17	20	25	9	12
DNE	North County Dublin	954	14	731	9	120	15	36	17	5	20
DNE	North Dublin	1223	6	613	17	97	20	51	9	1	26
MW	Clare and South Galway	861	18	461	24	48	26	20	25	17	5
MW	Galway North	858	19	597	19	3	29	49	11	28	4
MW	Laois Offaly	1511	1	542	20	62	24	43	13	1	26
MW	Limerick North and West	731	26	389	26	52	25	64	2	31	2
MW	North Tipp Limerick South and East	797	22	336	28	39	27	25	22	15	8
SE	Carlow Kilkenny	967	13	502	23	223	9	22	24	6	17
SE	Dublin South East	938	15	642	14	200	12	26	21	2	24
SE	Waterford South Kilkenny	835	21	357	27	86	22	18	27	10	10
SE	Wexford	1043	12	649	12	163	14	15	29	8	14
SE	Wicklow	708	27	644	13	222	10	7	30	0	30
SW	Cork East	678	28	672	11	245	8	41	14	9	12
SW	Cork North West	641	29	642	14	214	11	41	14	3	23
SW	Cork South West	794	23	832	7	354	6	35	18	11	9
SW	Kerry North Cork	847	20	329	29	71	23	18	27	7	15
SW	South Tipperary North Cork	1071	8	519	22	103	18	29	20	6	17
WNE	Cavan Monaghan	877	17	677	10	103	18	44	12	16	7
WNE	Donegal	794	23	529	21	119	16	34	19	43	1
WNE	Louth	1062	10	989	4	399	4	55	5	6	17
WNE	Mayo	412	30	200	30	0	30	24	23	31	2
WNE	Sligo Leitrim Roscommon	734	25	422	25	6	28	59	3	17	5
Total		28800		19365		5327		1169		312	

Region	Network	Children in Care	Rank	# Residential Care	Rank	# Foster Care	Rank	# Other	Rank	% Foster Care	Rank
DML	Dublin South City	176	21	28	7	131	25	17	2	74%	28
DML	Dublin South West	164	23	40	2	116	27	8	16	71%	30
DML	Kildare North Dublin West	157	24	16	10	130	26	11	9	83%	23
DML	Kildare South	197	16	12	21	176	14	9	12	89%	10
DML	Longford Westmeath	155	26	15	16	133	24	7	17	86%	22
DNE	Dublin North City	194	19	30	6	151	20	13	5	78%	27
DNE	Dublin North West	227	6	34	3	179	12	14	4	79%	26
DNE	Meath	211	9	17	9	182	9	12	7	86%	21
DNE	North County Dublin	124	29	15	16	102	28	7	17	82%	24
DNE	North Dublin	201	13	34	3	145	22	22	1	72%	29
MW	Clare and South Galway	154	27	11	22	137	23	6	21	89%	12
MW	Galway North	232	5	8	27	219	4	5	24	94%	4
MW	Laois Offaly	207	10	16	10	179	12	12	7	86%	19
MW	Limerick North and West	201	13	11	22	185	8	5	24	92%	7
MW	North Tipp Limerick South and East	188	20	6	29	181	10	1	30	96%	2
SE	Carlow Kilkenny	215	8	10	26	190	7	15	3	88%	13
SE	Dublin South East	105	30	3	30	96	29	6	21	91%	8
SE	Waterford South Kilkenny	207	10	13	20	181	10	13	5	87%	17
SE	Wexford	234	4	15	16	209	5	10	11	89%	11
SE	Wicklow	102	31	11	22	89	30	2	28	87%	18
SW	Cork East	197	16	16	10	174	16	7	17	88%	14
SW	Cork North West	170	22	16	10	147	21	7	17	86%	20
SW	Cork South West	199	15	18	8	175	15	6	21	88%	15
SW	Kerry North Cork	202	12	32	5	161	18	9	12	80%	25
SW	South Tipperary North Cork	197	16	15	16	173	17	9	12	88%	16
WNE	Cavan Monaghan	218	7	8	27	207	6	3	27	95%	3
WNE	Donegal	260	3	16	10	240	3	4	26	92%	6
WNE	Louth	293	1	16	10	266	1	11	9	91%	9
WNE	Mayo	157	24	3	30	152	19	2	28	97%	1
WNE	Sligo Leitrim Roscommon	278	2	11	22	258	2	9	12	93%	5
SCSIP	Service for SCSIP	130	28	115	1	14	31	1	30	11%	31
Total		5952		611		5078		263		85%	

Region	Network	# with Private Providers	Rank	% with Private Providers	Rank	# Allocated Worker	Rank	% Allocated Worker	Rank	% with UTD Care Plan	Rank
DML	Dublin South City	48	8	27%	7	176	21	100%	1	63%	31
DML	Dublin South West	44	9	27%	9	164	22	100%	1	83%	16
DML	Kildare North Dublin West	43	10	27%	6	156	25	99%	15	69%	29
DML	Kildare South	66	2	34%	2	192	15	97%	25	86%	10
DML	Longford Westmeath	42	11	27%	8	155	26	100%	1	96%	2
DNE	Dublin North City	59	5	30%	4	192	15	99%	19	75%	26
DNE	Dublin North West	63	3	28%	5	227	5	100%	1	68%	30
DNE	Meath	39	15	18%	14	189	18	90%	30	83%	14
DNE	North County Dublin	22	23	18%	15	124	28	100%	1	81%	20
DNE	North Dublin	63	3	31%	3	197	14	98%	24	81%	19
MW	Clare and South Galway	18	27	12%	24	152	27	99%	21	82%	18
MW	Galway North	20	25	9%	28	229	4	99%	20	88%	8
MW	Laois Offaly	55	6	27%	10	207	9	100%	1	96%	1
MW	Limerick North and West	15	29	7%	29	201	11	100%	1	91%	5
MW	North Tipp Limerick South and East	12	30	6%	31	188	19	100%	1	84%	12
SE	Carlow Kilkenny	23	21	11%	27	212	8	99%	22	83%	13
SE	Dublin South East	18	27	17%	16	105	30	100%	1	78%	24
SE	Waterford South Kilkenny	26	18	13%	21	207	9	100%	1	94%	3
SE	Wexford	52	7	22%	12	233	3	100%	14	93%	4
SE	Wicklow	25	19	25%	11	102	31	100%	1	88%	7
SW	Cork East	23	21	12%	25	180	20	91%	29	78%	23
SW	Cork North West	20	25	12%	23	160	23	94%	27	72%	28
SW	Cork South West	22	23	11%	26	199	12	100%	1	79%	22
SW	Kerry North Cork	41	14	20%	13	198	13	98%	23	80%	21
SW	South Tipperary North Cork	24	20	12%	22	190	17	96%	26	88%	9
WNE	Cavan Monaghan	32	17	15%	19	216	7	99%	18	85%	11
WNE	Donegal	42	11	16%	17	225	6	87%	31	90%	6
WNE	Louth	38	16	13%	20	291	1	99%	16	83%	15
WNE	Mayo	11	31	7%	30	157	24	100%	1	83%	17
WNE	Sligo Leitrim Roscommon	42	11	15%	18	276	2	99%	17	74%	27
SCSIP	Service for SCSIP	107	1	82%	1	120	29	92%	28	75%	25
Total		1155		19%		5820		98%		82%	

Region	Network	# Tusla Foster Carers on Panel (Gen + Rel)	# General Foster Carers	# Relative Foster Carers	% General with Link Worker	% Relative with Link Worker	# Unapproved carers child >12 weeks	% Unapproved carers with Link Worker
DML	Dublin South City	89	46	43	87%	93%	3	100%
DML	Dublin South West	78	26	52	92%	100%	6	83%
DML	Kildare North Dublin West	94	55	39	95%	100%	4	100%
DML	Kildare South	71	51	20	88%	90%	4	100%
DML	Longford Westmeath	60	38	22	95%	95%	8	100%
DNE	Dublin North City	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
DNE	Dublin North West	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
DNE	Meath	85	61	24	84%	79%	9	100%
DNE	North County Dublin	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
DNE	North Dublin	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
MW	Clare and South Galway	80	65	15	100%	100%	2	100%
MW	Galway North	142	119	23	94%	87%	9	100%
MW	Laois Offaly	93	65	28	100%	100%	5	100%
MW	Limerick North and West	137	92	45	87%	73%	0	-
MW	North Tipp Limerick South and East	122	77	45	58%	60%	13	100%
SE	Carlow Kilkenny	132	86	46	88%	100%	6	100%
SE	Dublin South East	52	31	21	100%	100%	6	100%
SE	Waterford South Kilkenny	152	104	48	92%	96%	5	100%
SE	Wexford	123	72	51	64%	63%	7	100%
SE	Wicklow	57	30	27	100%	100%	0	-
SW	Cork East	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
SW	Cork North West	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
SW	Cork South West	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
SW	Kerry North Cork	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
SW	South Tipperary North Cork	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
WNE	Cavan Monaghan	116	101	15	80%	73%	5	100%
WNE	Donegal	126	109	17	97%	94%	16	100%
WNE	Louth	158	120	38	79%	82%	11	100%
WNE	Mayo	92	68	24	97%	79%	1	100%
WNE	Sligo Leitrim Roscommon	174	131	43	97%	100%	6	100%
Total		3,147	2125	1022	90%	89%	242	93%

Network level data not available for 4 networks in Dublin North East and all networks in South West. Regional figures provided. Totals include regional figures provided.

Region	Network	# in Aftercare (All Ages)	# 18-20 years	# 21-22 years	# <18 years	% 18-20 years Education	% 21-22 years Education	% Aftercare Plan	% Aftercare Worker
DML	Dublin South City	109	68	19	22	68%	63%	88%	55%
DML	Dublin South West	112	64	19	29	75%	74%	77%	68%
DML	Kildare North Dublin West	64	34	11	19	74%	73%	58%	57%
DML	Kildare South	97	45	22	30	71%	77%	76%	63%
DML	Longford Westmeath	54	30	7	17	77%	100%	87%	100%
DNE	Dublin North City	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
DNE	Dublin North West	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
DNE	Meath	59	27	7	25	74%	100%	54%	100%
DNE	North County Dublin	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
DNE	North Dublin	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
MW	Clare and South Galway	63	36	15	12	100%	100%	92%	84%
MW	Galway North	125	73	37	15	78%	81%	95%	100%
MW	Laois Offaly	57	32	13	12	78%	100%	95%	100%
MW	Limerick North and West	93	50	13	30	100%	100%	70%	66%
MW	North Tipp Limerick South and East	82	51	17	14	100%	100%	84%	77%
SE	Carlow Kilkenny	88	46	19	23	100%	100%	77%	57%
SE	Dublin South East	78	42	22	14	100%	100%	87%	100%
SE	Waterford South Kilkenny	97	69	15	13	71%	80%	100%	100%
SE	Wexford	100	56	14	30	70%	100%	79%	100%
SE	Wicklow	52	29	11	12	100%	100%	88%	100%
SW	Cork East	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
SW	Cork North West	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
SW	Cork South West	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
SW	Kerry North Cork	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
SW	South Tipperary North Cork	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
WNE	Cavan Monaghan	73	43	11	19	79%	100%	95%	93%
WNE	Donegal	92	53	17	22	75%	82%	82%	100%
WNE	Louth	69	45	8	16	71%	75%	83%	100%
WNE	Mayo	76	31	23	22	100%	100%	100%	100%
WNE	Sligo Leitrim Roscommon	123	60	27	36	77%	81%	84%	96%
SCSIP	Service for SCSIP	332	262	51	19	100%	100%	52%	61%
Total		3029	1704	603	722	84%	85%	78%	86%

Network level data not available for 4 networks in Dublin North East and all networks in South West. Regional figures provided. Totals based on regional figures provided.

