



An Ghníomhaireacht um  
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach  
Child and Family Agency

# Integrated Performance and Activity Report

QUARTER 2 2016



Quality Assurance Directorate

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## 1.0 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

This report provides an update on the performance and activity of Tusla services at the end of Q2 2016. It is structured around key performance and activity measures included in the Agency's 2016 Business Plan. The data presented was provided by services and refers to the latest performance and activity information available at this time.

The summary by service type set out below provides an overview of the Q2 2016 position regarding activity and performance.

### CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

#### Referrals

- 11,306 referrals for Q1 2016; 313 more than Q4 2015 and highest number since Q2 2014
- 60% (n=6,754) child welfare concerns; 40% (n=4,552) child abuse concerns
- 65% (n=7,304) of preliminary enquiries completed within 24 hours of receipt of the referral
- 46% (n=5,153) of referrals required an initial assessment
- 17% (n=873) of initial assessments completed within the 21 day target of receipt of the referral

#### Social Work Activity Data

- 26,214 cases open to social work at the end of Q2 2016; 74 more than Q1 2016
- 79% (n=20,604) of open cases allocated to a social worker at the end of Q2 2016; no change from Q1 2016
- 5,610 cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2016; 31 more than Q1 2016. Cases awaiting allocation down 21% (n=1,521) on Q2 2015 (n=7,131). Target 2,687 or fewer by year end.
- 820 (15%) cases awaiting allocation were categorised as 'high priority'; 394 (32%) fewer than Q1 2016 and 685 (46%) fewer than Q2 2015. Target 134 or fewer by year end.
- 62% (n=511/820) of 'high priority' awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2016 were waiting less than 3 months. The number of 'high priority' cases waiting over 3 months dropped by 34 between Q1 2016 and Q2 2016.

#### Child Protection Notification System

- 1,181 children listed as 'active' on the CPNS at the end of Q2 2016; 127 fewer than Q1 2016 and the fewest number Q1 2015 – Q2 2016. All children had an allocated social worker.

### **Crisis Intervention Service / Out of Hours Service**

- 201 referrals to the Crisis Intervention Service in Q2 2016; three fewer than Q1 2016 and the fewest number for the period Q2 2015 – Q2 2016.
- 143 referrals to the Emergency Place of Safety Service in Q2 2016; 17 more than Q1 2016 and highest number for period Q2 2015 – Q2 2016

## **ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES**

### **Children in Care**

- 6,392 children in care at the end of Q2 2016; 13 fewer than Q1 2016
- 94% (n=6,018) of children in care had an allocated social worker (against a target of 100%); up one percentage point on Q1 2016
- 374 children awaiting allocation of a social worker; down 90 on Q1 2016
- 91% (n=5,832) of children in care had a written care plan (against a target of 90%); no change from Q1 2016
- 93% (n=983/1,057) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years in full time education

### **Aftercare**

- 1,897 young adults (all ages) in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q2 2016; 39 more than Q1 2016;
- 33% (n=346/1,056) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years had a preparation for leaving care and aftercare plan;
- 34% (n=360/1,056) of children in care 16 and 17 years had an allocated aftercare worker;
- 194 young adults were discharged from care by reason of reaching 18 years; 74% (n=144/194) had an allocated aftercare worker.
- 91% (n=174/191) of those eligible for an aftercare service were availing of an aftercare service.

### **Adoption**

- 818 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service; up 172 (27%) on Q1 2016 due to the transfer of records (incl. a waiting list of 240 applicants) from St. Patrick's Guild
- 1 – 20 weeks wait from time of application to provision of non identifying information against a target of 8 weeks or less. All but one service is meeting this target
- 74 adoption assessments (domestic, inter-country, fostering to adoption) completed during Q2 2016; 41 more than Q1 2016

### **Foster Carers**

- 4,476 approved foster carers on panel at the end of Q2 2016; 57 more than Q1 2016
- 76% (n=1,204) of relative foster carers approved against a target of 80%; up from 75% Q1
- 85% (n=2,496) of general foster carers (approved) had an allocated link (social) worker against a target of 90%; no change from Q1 2016
- 77% (n=929) of relative foster carers (approved) had an allocated link (social worker) against a target of 85%; down from 83% (987) Q1 2016
- 382 unapproved relative foster carers; down seven on Q1 2016
- 306 (80%) of the unapproved relative foster carers had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks; down nine on Q1 2016 (n=315)
- 63% (n=192) of unapproved relative foster carers with a child placed > 12 weeks had an allocated link (social) worker; down from 69% (n=218) Q1 2016

## **REGULATION & SUPERVISION OF EXTERNAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

### **Early Years Services**

- 4,639 EYS nationally at the end of Q2 2016; 212 more than Q1 2016 due to new regulations and changes to the ECCE programme introduced in Budget 2016
- 620 (13%) of EYS inspected during Q2 2016; 1,297 EYS inspected January – June 2016
- 55 complaints received in respect of EYS during Q2 2016
- 0 prosecutions of EYS taken by the Agency January – June 2016

### **Children Educated In Places Other than Recognised Schools**

- 76 applications made under Section 14 of the Education (Welfare)<sup>1</sup> Act 2000 for home education during Q2 2016; 70 applications for education in non-recognised schools
- 110 assessments for home education carried out under Section 14 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 during Q2 2016; no assessments for non-recognised schools carried out
- 93 children registered for home education during Q2 2016; 258 children registered for education in non recognised schools

### **Non Statutory Children's Residential / Foster Care Services**

- 91 private residential centres registered with the Agency at the end of Q2 2016; seven more than Q1 2016
- 9 centres were due an inspection; all received their inspection
- 28 voluntary residential centres registered with the Agency at the end of Q2 2016; no change from Q1 2016
- One centre was due an inspection and received its inspection
- 7 non-statutory foster care services; all received a monitoring visit during Q2 2016

## FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

### Referrals to Family Support Services

- 14,621 children and 10,702 families referred to family support services, Jan – Jun 2016
- 20,039 children and 13,641 families in receipt of family support services at the end of June 2016

### Meitheal and Child & Family Support Networks

- 572 Meitheal processes initiated between January and June 2016
- Tusla is working to establish Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) - collaborative networks of community, voluntary and statutory providers intended to improve access to support services for children and their families, at local level across all 17 Area Management Areas.
- 62 Child and Family Support Networks (CFSNs) operating at the end of June 2016 and 49 CFSNs planned

## EDUCATIONAL WELFARE SERVICES

### Educational Welfare Services

- 1,105 new individual children worked with during Q2 2016; 3,507 worked with between September 2015 and June 2016
- 166 school attendance notices (SANs) issued in respect of 112 children under Section 25 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000<sup>1</sup> during Q2 2016; 495 SANs (343 children) issued between September 2015 and June 2016.
- 24 summonses issued in respect of 21 children under Section 25 of the Act<sup>1</sup> during Q2 2016; 121 summonses (91 children) were issued between September 2015 and June 2016.

## HUMAN RESOURCES OVERVIEW

### Human Resources

- 3,617 (WTE) employed by the Agency, Q2 2016; up 38 on Q1 2016
- 251 new staff came on to the Agency's payroll (January and May 2016)
- 136 staff left (incl. retirements) the Agency (January and May 2016)
- 146 staff on maternity leave at the end of May 2016
- 196 agency staff employed by Tusla at the end of May 2016
- 4.21% absence rate (May 2016); lowest rate recorded for period May 2015 – May 2016
- 239 courses run by Workforce Learning and Development in Q2 2016; 3,321 attendees

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

### Finance

- The financial outturn for the year to date (June 2016) is an over-spend of €2.098 million
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €1.522 million
- Non pay costs are over-spent against budget by €2.869 million
- Key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €1.237 million over budget
- 45% (€6,623 million) of legal expenditure year to date on guardians ad litem (GALs), including GAL's solicitors and counsel.

## 2.0 CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

### KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

- 2.1 Referrals (child welfare and child abuse)
- 2.2 Social Work Activity Data
- 2.3 Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)
- 2.4 Crisis Intervention Service / Out of Hours Service
- 2.5 Hiqa Inspections – Child Protection and Welfare Services

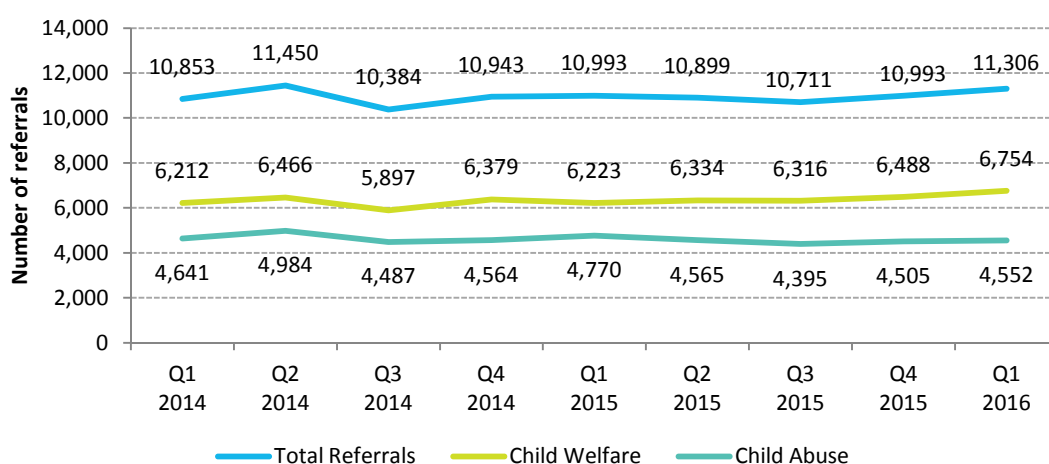
### 2.1 REFERRALS (CHILD WELFARE AND CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT)

#### Key Facts

- 11,306 referrals for Q1 2016; 313 more than Q4 2015 and highest number since Q2 2014
- 60% (n=6,754) child welfare concerns; 40% (n=4,552) child abuse concerns
- 65% (n=7,304) of preliminary enquiries completed within 24 hours of receipt of the referral
- 46% (n=5,153) of referrals required an initial assessment
- 17% (n=873) of initial assessments completed within the 21 day target of receipt of the referral

- 11,306 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Service during Q1 2016<sup>1</sup>; 313 more than Q4 2015 and the highest number since Q2 2014 (Figure 1).
- 60% (n=6,754) of referrals for were for child welfare concerns; 266 more than Q4 2015 and the highest number for the period Q1 2014 – Q1 2016. The remaining 40% (n=4,552) were for child abuse/neglect concerns; 47 more than Q4 2015 (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Number of referrals (child welfare and abuse), by quarter Q1 2014 – Q1 2016

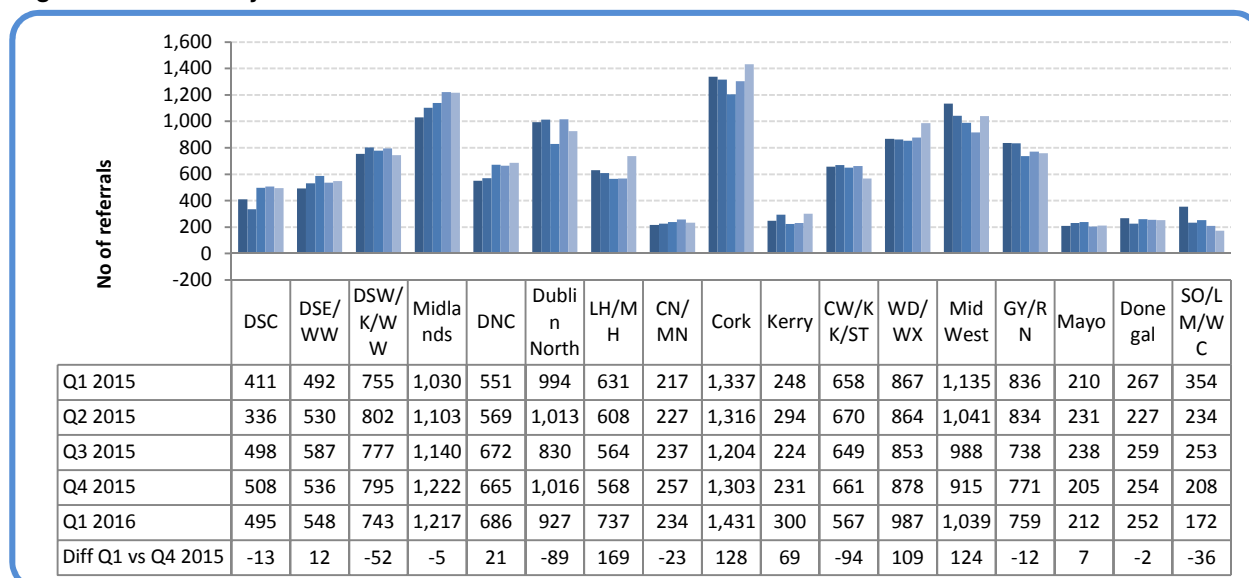


<sup>1</sup> Data on referrals are reported quarterly in arrears.



- Three areas (Cork, Midlands and MidWest) reported in excess of 1,000 referrals with a further eight areas reporting between 500 and 1,000 referrals (Figure 2).
- Eight areas reported an increase in referrals from Q4 2015, ranging from 169 (Louth/Meath) to seven (Mayo).
- The highest decrease was reported by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (n=94), followed by Dublin North (n=89) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (n=52).

**Figure 2: Referrals by area Q1 2015 – Q1 2016**

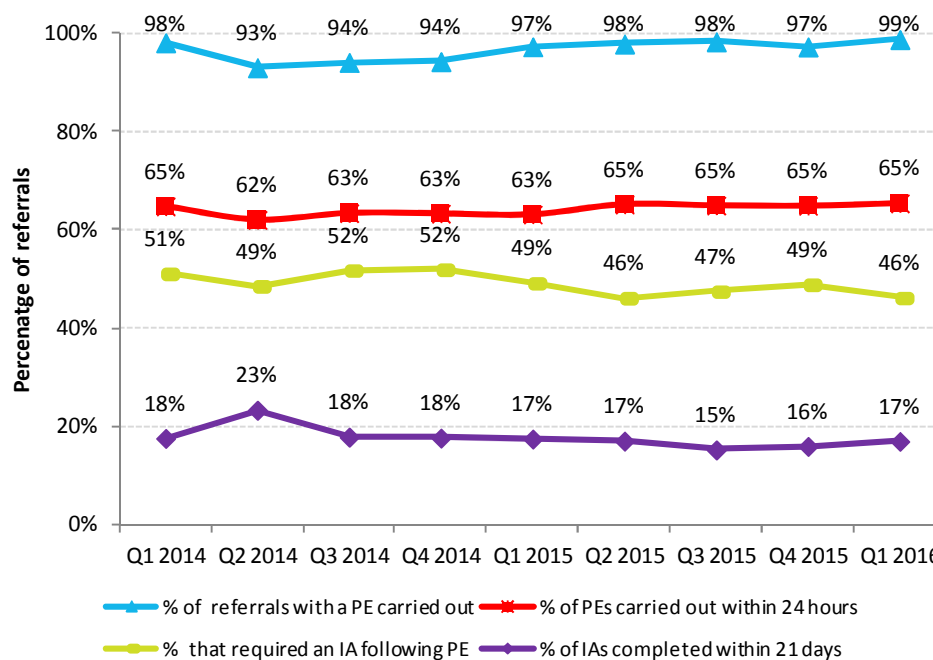


- 99% (n=11,167) of referrals (Q1 2016) had a preliminary enquiry<sup>2</sup> carried out (Figure 3).
- 65% (n=7,304) of preliminary enquiries were completed within the 24 hour target of receipt of the referral; no change from Q4 2015.
- 46% (n=5,153) of referrals that had a preliminary enquiry required an initial assessment<sup>3</sup>.
- 17% (n=873) of the initial assessments were completed within the 21 day target of receipt of the referral; up 1% from Q4 2015.

<sup>2</sup> The preliminary enquiries step is concerned with substantiating the details provided by the reporter e.g. verify reporters phone number, child's address, concern, check if the child is already known to the service, other network checks etc. A preliminary enquiry is not an assessment. The aim of the preliminary enquiry process is to support and help the user (the social worker) to make a decision on the action to take in response to the information reported, that will result in the best outcome for the child who is the subject of the referral. Preliminary enquiries should normally be completed within 24 hours.

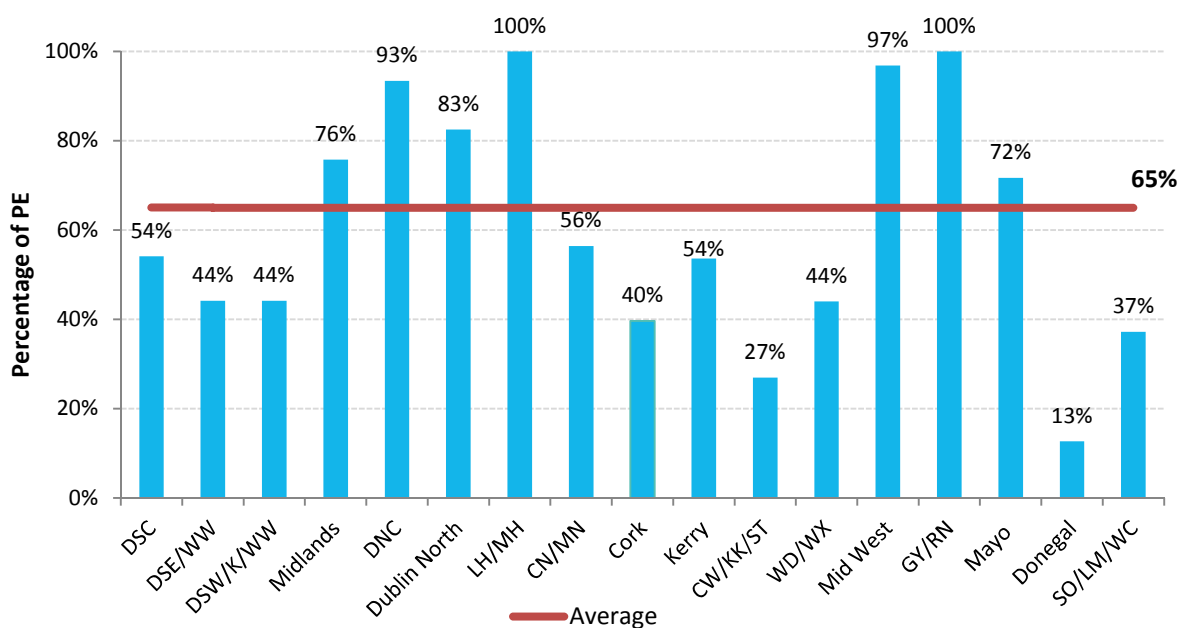
<sup>3</sup> Initial assessment is a time-limited process to allow the gathering of sufficient information on the needs and risks within a case so that informed decisions and recommendations can be made and actions that will result in better outcomes for children taken. Initial Assessments should normally be completed in 21 days or less.

**Figure 3: Percentage of preliminary enquiries and initial assessments carried out**



- The percentage of preliminary enquiries carried out within 24 hours of receipt of the referral ranged from 100% in areas Louth/Meath (n=737) and Galway/Roscommon (n=759) to 13% in Donegal (n=30) (Figure 4).
- A table showing the number and percentage of preliminary enquiries completed within 24 hours of receipt of the referral for the quarters Q1 2015 to Q1 2016, by area along with the change from Q4 2015 to Q1 2016 can be found in Appendix I (Table 1).

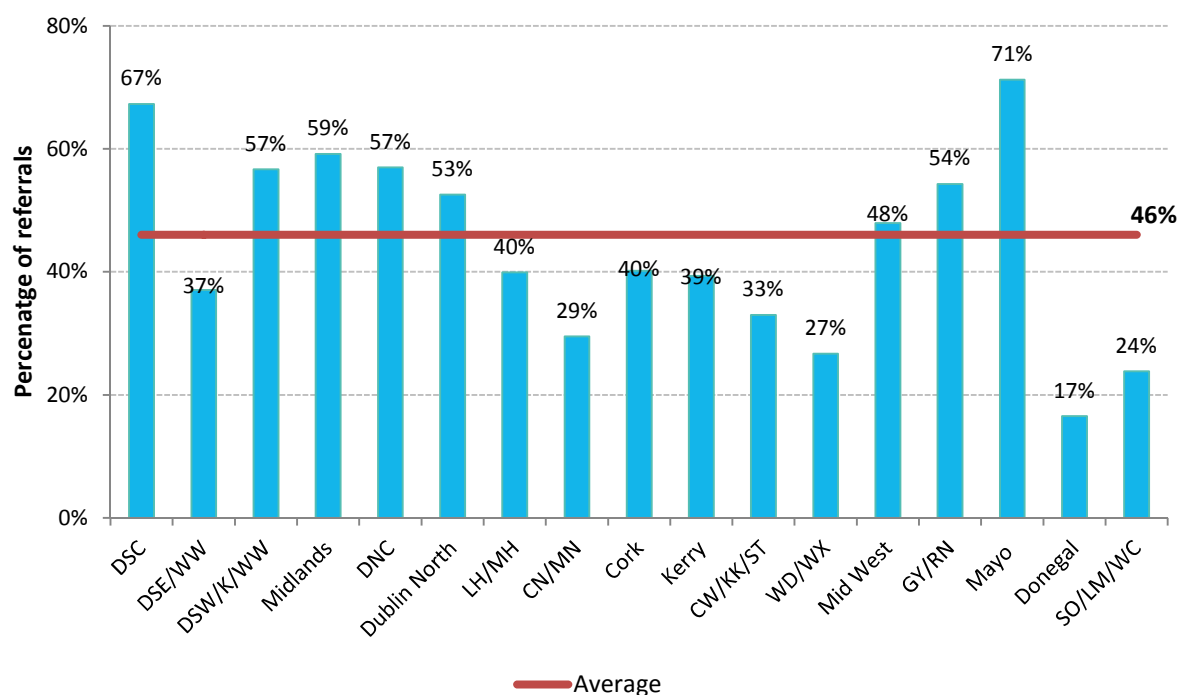
**Figure 4: Percentage of PEs completed within 24 hours of receipt of referral by area, Q1 2016**



- The percentage of referrals requiring an initial assessment following a preliminary enquiry ranged from 71% in Mayo (n=151/212) to 17% in Donegal (n=39/236) (Figure 5).

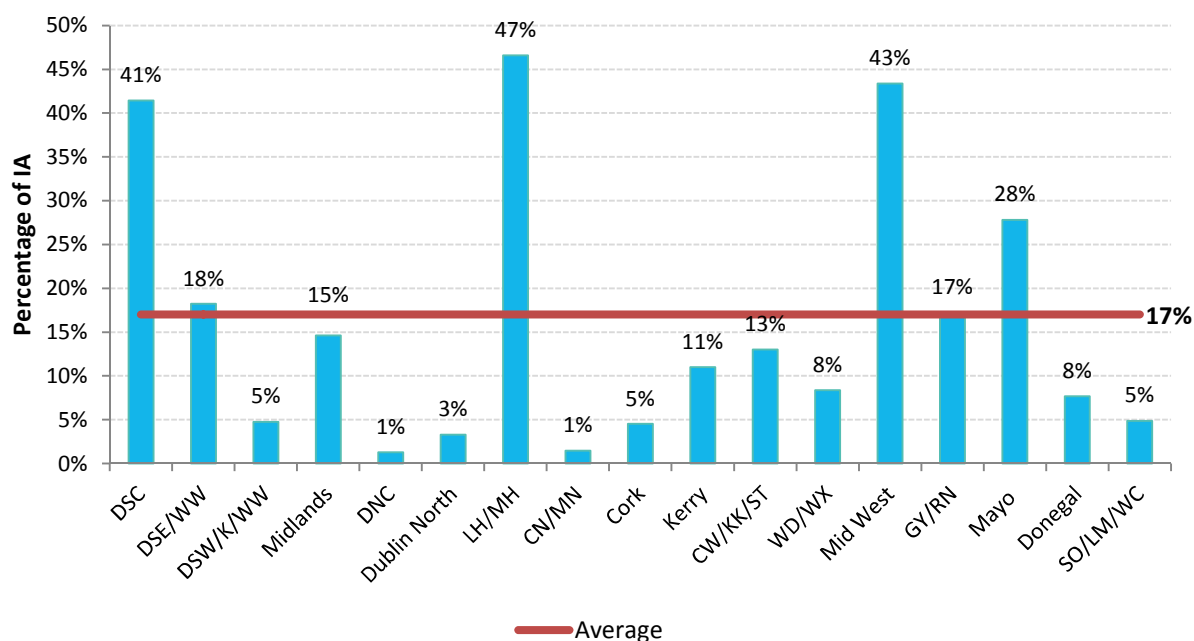
- A table showing the number and percentage of referrals requiring an initial assessment following a preliminary enquiry for the quarters Q1 2015 to Q1 2016, by area along with the change from Q4 2015 to Q1 2016 can be found in the Appendix I (Table 2).

**Figure 5: Percentage of referrals requiring an IA following a preliminary enquiry, by area, Q1 2016**



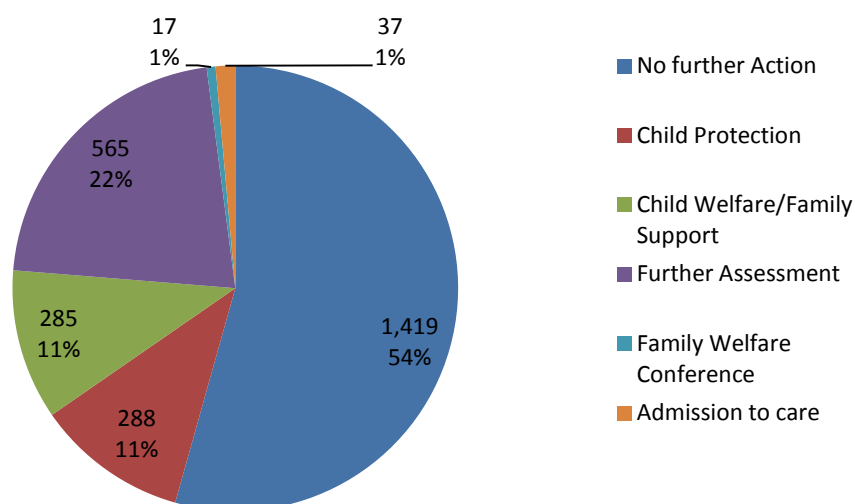
- The percentage of initial assessments completed within 21 days of receipt of the referral ranged from 47% (n=137/294) in Louth/Meath to 1% in Dublin North City (n=5/391) and Cavan/Monaghan (n=1/69) (Figure 6).
- A table showing the number and percentage of initial assessments completed within 21 days for the quarters Q1 2015 to Q1 2016, by area along with the change from Q4 2015 to Q1 2016 can be found in the Appendix I (Table 3).

**Figure 6: Percentage of initial assessments completed within 21 day target, by area Q1 2016**



- The outcome of initial assessment was recorded for 2,611 referrals (Q1 2016) (Figure 7)
- 'No further action' was recorded in the majority (54%; n=1,419) of cases.
- Admission to care was recorded for 1% (n=37) cases and 'child protection<sup>4</sup>' was recorded for 288 (11%) cases.

**Figure 7: Breakdown of actions recorded following initial assessment, Q1 2016**



<sup>4</sup> A child protection conference is requested for child(ren) who require a child protection response, as they have been assessed as being at ongoing risk of significant harm. A child protection plan is developed at the conference to safeguard the child(ren) identified as being at risk. Whereas children may suffer harm for a range of reasons, for the purpose of the child protection conference and the CPNS, the threshold of ongoing risk of significant harm is confined to abuse, including neglect, attributable to inappropriate or inadequate care from parent/s.

## 2.2 SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITY DATA

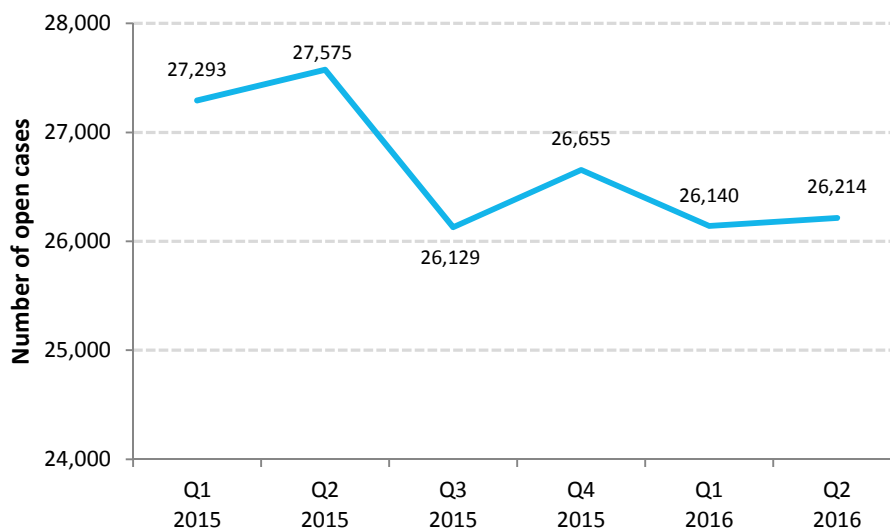
### Key Facts

- 26,214 cases open to social work at the end of Q2 2016; 74 more than Q1 2016
- 79% (n=20,604) of open cases allocated to a social worker at the end of Q2 2016; no change from Q1 2016
- 5,610 cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2016; 31 more than Q1 2016. Cases awaiting allocation down 21% (n=1,521) on Q2 2015 (n=7,131). Target 2,687 or fewer by year end
- 820 (15%) cases awaiting allocation were categorised as 'high priority'; 394 (32%) fewer than Q1 2016 and 685 (46%) fewer than Q2 2015. Target 134 or fewer by year end.
- 62% (n=511/820) of 'high priority' awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2016 were waiting less than 3 months. The number of 'high priority' cases waiting over 3 months dropped by 34 between Q1 2016 and Q2 2016.

### 2.2.1 Open Cases

- 26,214 cases open<sup>5</sup> to social work nationally at the end of Q2 2016; 74 more than at the end of Q1 2016 and 1,361 (5%) fewer than Q2 2015 (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Number of open cases by quarter

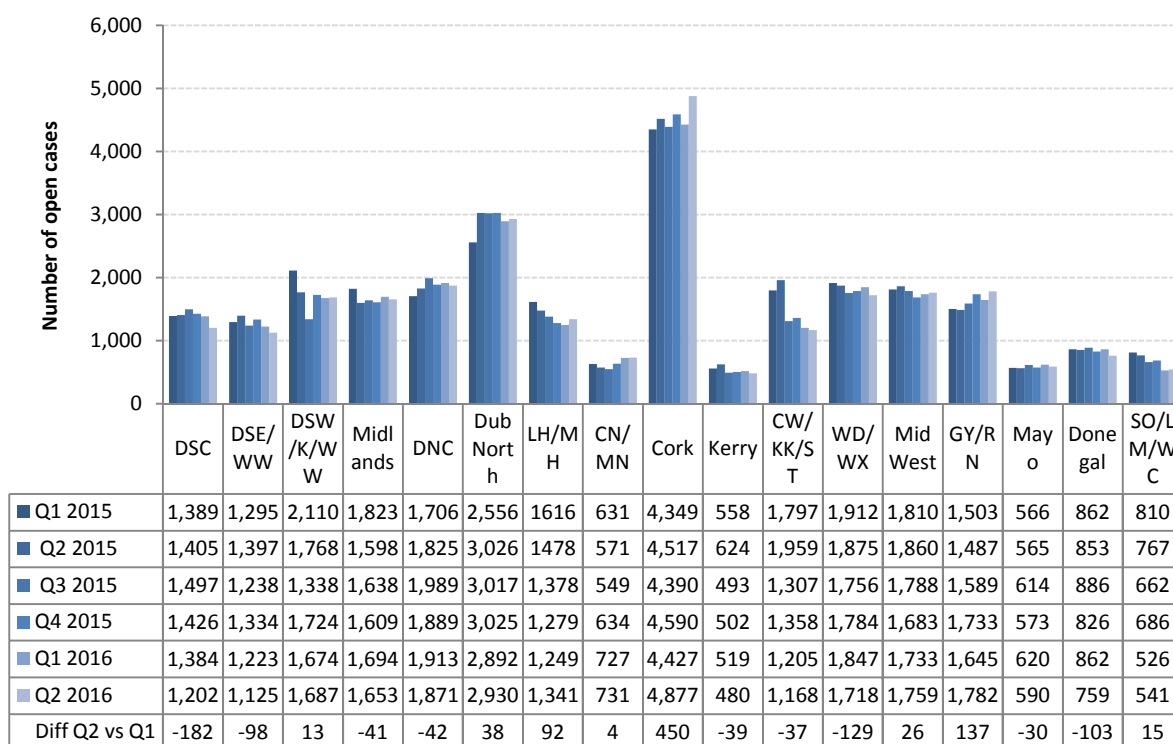


- Almost one-third (30%; n=7,807) of all open cases is reported by two areas: Cork (n=4,877; 19%) and Dublin North (n=2,930; 11%). The fewest number of cases is held by Kerry (n=480; 2%), followed by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (n=541; 2%) and Mayo (n=590; 2%) (Figure 9).
- Eight areas reported an increase in open cases from Q1 2016 and of these Cork reported the highest increase (n=450), followed by Galway/Roscommon (n=137) and Louth/Meath (n=92).

<sup>5</sup> Open cases include cases held on intake, allocated, unallocated child welfare and protection and children in care cases.

- Of the nine areas that reported a decrease, Dublin South Central reported the highest decrease (n=182) followed by Waterford/Wexford (n=129) and Donegal (n=103).

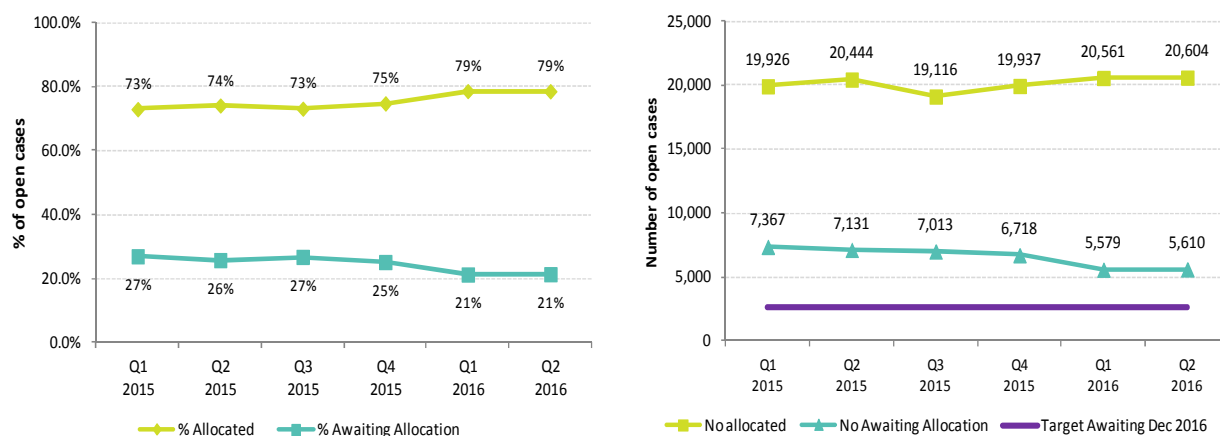
**Figure 9: Number of open cases by area, Q1 2015 - Q2 2016**



## 2.2.2 Open Cases Allocated / Awaiting Allocation

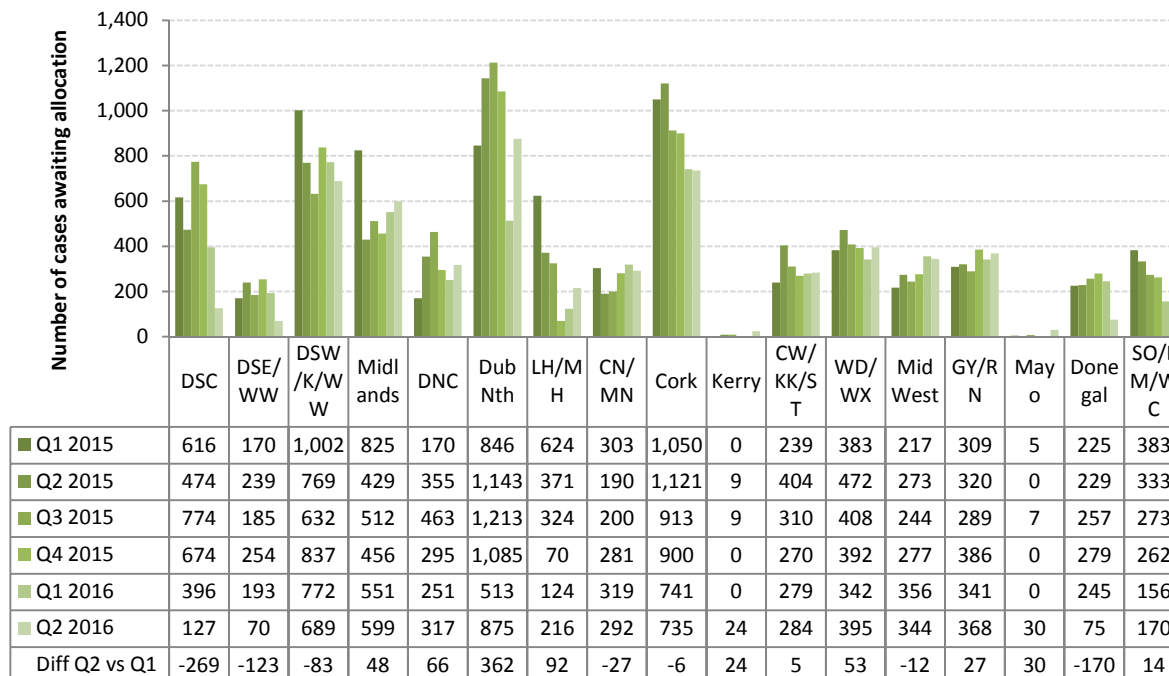
- 79% (n=20,604/26,214) of open cases were allocated to a social worker at the end of Q2 2016; no change from Q1 2016 (79%; n=20,561/26,140) (Figure 10).
- 5,610 (21%) cases were awaiting allocation; 31 more than Q1 2016 (n=5,579) but 1,521 (21%) fewer than Q2 2015 (n=7,131).
- The target set for year end is a 60% reduction in the number of cases that were awaiting allocation at the end of December 2015 (n=6,718) i.e., approximately 2,687 cases or fewer awaiting allocation.

**Figure 10: Cases allocated/awaiting allocation, Q1 2015 – Q2 2016**



- Dublin North (n=875) has the highest number of cases awaiting allocation, followed by Cork (n=735), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (n=689) and Midlands (n=599) (Figure 11). These four areas have more than half (52%; n= 2,898) of all cases awaiting allocation.
- Seven areas reported a decrease from Q1 2016 in the number of cases awaiting allocation (Figure 11). Dublin South Central reported the highest decrease (n=269), followed by Donegal (n=170), Dublin South East/Wicklow (n=123) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (n=83).
- Ten areas reported an increase from Q1 2016. The highest increase was reported by Dublin North (n=362), followed by Louth/Meath (n=92), Dublin North City (n=66), Waterford/Wexford (n=53). The remaining six areas reported an increase of fewer than 50 cases.
- Eleven areas have reported a decrease in cases awaiting allocation from the same period last year (Q2 2015); the most notable being that for Cork (n=386), followed by Dublin South Central (n=347) and Dublin North (n=268) albeit that this area reported significant increase between Q1 2016 and Q2 2016 (Figure 11).
- Of the six areas that reported an increase from Q2 2015, Midlands reported the highest increase (n=170) followed by Cavan/Monaghan (n=102), MidWest (n=71) and Galway/Roscommon (n=48).

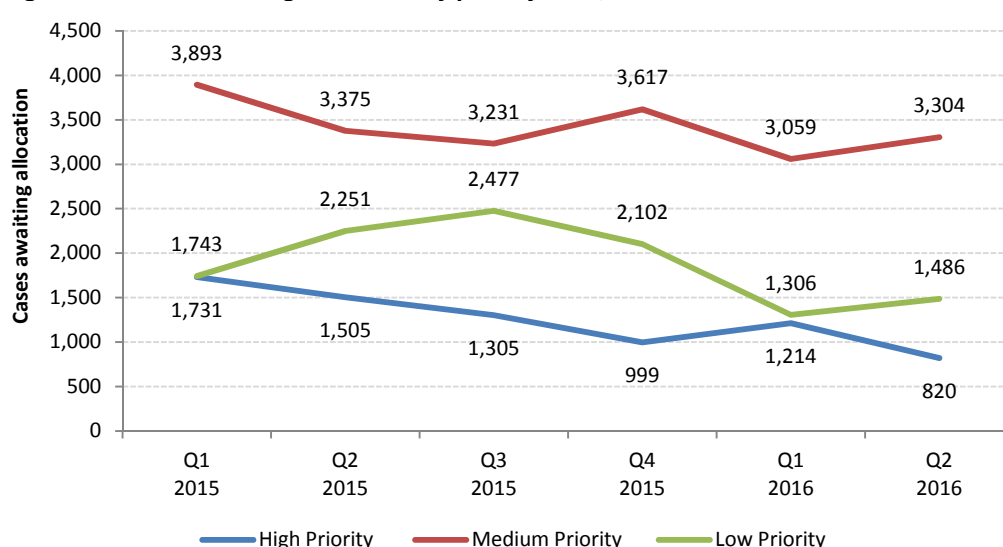
**Figure 11: Number of open cases awaiting allocation by area, Q1 2015 – Q2 2016**



## 2.2.3 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Priority Level<sup>6</sup>

- 15% (n=820) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2016 were categorised as 'high priority'; down from 22% (n=1,214) at the end of Q1 2016 (Figure 12). The number of 'high priority' cases awaiting allocation is down 32% (n=394) from Q1 2016 and 46% (n=685) on the same period last year (Q2 2015).
- The target set for year end is 5% or fewer high priority cases awaiting allocation i.e., 5% or fewer of the target number awaiting (n=2,687) or approximately 134.
- 59% of cases (n=3,304) awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2016 were categorised as 'medium priority' up from 55% (n=3,059) in Q1 2016 while the remaining 26% (n=1,486) were categorised as 'low priority'; up from 23% (n=1,306) in Q1 2016.

**Figure 12: Cases awaiting allocation by priority level, Q1 2015 – Q2 2016**

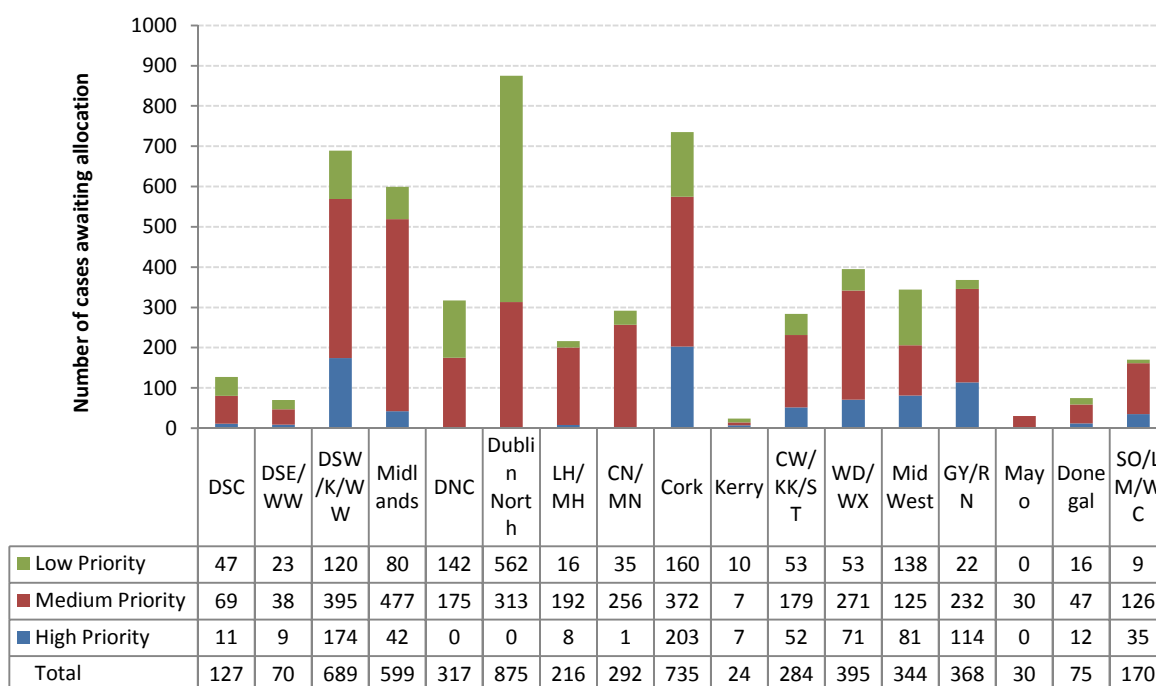


- Cork reported the highest number of 'high priority' cases awaiting allocation (n=203) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (n=174), Galway/Roscommon (n=114), MidWest (n=81), Waterford/Wexford (n=71) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (n=52). All other areas with high priority cases reported fewer than 50 cases with three areas reporting none (Figure 13).
- Dublin North with highest number of cases awaiting allocation (n=875) has no high priority cases awaiting allocation.

<sup>6</sup> The priority level as per the guidance outlined in 'Measuring the Pressure' V2. Note: The priority levels in this guidance are currently under national review to ensure that the priority levels identified equate with categorisation of risk. A recent national review highlighted cases being categorised in accordance with actual risk rather than the priority levels in the "Measuring the Pressure" V2.



Figure 13: Area breakdown of cases awaiting allocation by priority level, Q2 2016



## 2.2.4 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Waiting Time

- 62% (n=511/820) of cases categorised as ‘high priority’ awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2016 were waiting less than 3 months (Table 1). The number of ‘high priority’ cases waiting over 3 months for allocation decreased by 34 between Q1 2016 and Q2 2016.
- 54% (n=1,770/3,304) of cases categorised as ‘medium priority’ were waiting less than 3 months at the end of Q2 2016. No change from Q1 2016 in the number of medium priority cases waiting > 3 months (n=1,534) (Table 1).

Table 1: Breakdown of cases awaiting allocation by priority level and time waiting, Q2 2015 – Q2 2016

High Priority / Time Waiting	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Δ (+/-) Q2 2016 vs Q1 2015
1 week	131	94	76	185	112	-73
1-2 weeks	119	145	111	101	136	35
2-3 weeks	65	144	73	251	54	-197
3-4 weeks	103	82	101	112	43	-69
1-2 months	241	148	105	123	99	-24
2-3 months	240	165	156	99	67	-32
>3 months	606	527	377	343	309	-34
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,505</b>	<b>1,305</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>1,214</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>-394</b>
Medium Priority / Time Waiting	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Δ (+/-) Q2 vs Q1
1 week	170	94	83	87	175	88
1-2 weeks	193	165	214	151	216	65
2-3 weeks	193	152	265	190	205	15
3-4 weeks	195	185	176	190	151	-39
1-2 months	505	378	623	516	549	33

<b>2-3 months</b>	528	451	509	391	<b>474</b>	83
<b>&gt;3 months</b>	1,591	1,806	1,747	1,534	<b>1,534</b>	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,375</b>	<b>3,231</b>	<b>3,617</b>	<b>3,059</b>	<b>3,304</b>	<b>245</b>
<b>Low Priority / Time Waiting</b>	<b>Q2 2015</b>	<b>Q3 2015</b>	<b>Q4 2015</b>	<b>Q1 2016</b>	<b>Q2 2016</b>	<b>Δ (+/-) Q2 vs Q1</b>
<b>1 week</b>	32	51	16	20	<b>78</b>	58
<b>1-2 weeks</b>	98	74	65	74	<b>107</b>	33
<b>2-3 weeks</b>	108	86	38	112	<b>67</b>	-45
<b>3-4 weeks</b>	139	87	140	58	<b>98</b>	40
<b>1-2 months</b>	238	290	279	193	<b>320</b>	127
<b>2-3 months</b>	329	320	210	184	<b>224</b>	40
<b>&gt;3 months</b>	1,307	1,569	1,354	665	<b>592</b>	-73
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,251</b>	<b>2,477</b>	<b>2,102</b>	<b>1,306</b>	<b>1,486</b>	<b>180</b>

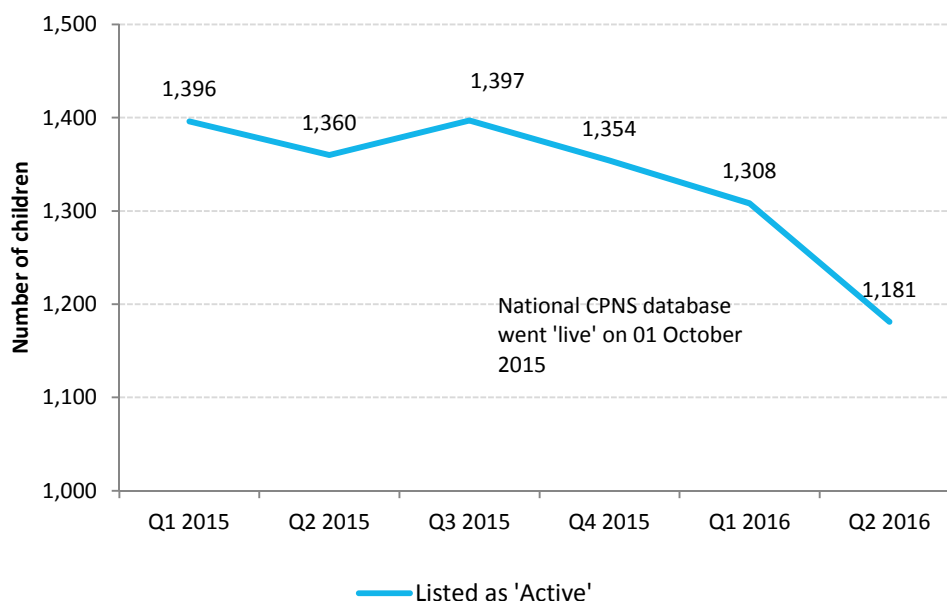
## 2.3 CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

### KEY FACTS

- The national interim CPNS database went live on 01 October 2015. This database replaces all previous CPNS lists and is the sole source of data for CPNS purposes. Users are now able to record details of child protection conferences and place a child on the national database in line with the Tusla Child Protection Conference and Child Protection Notification System national guidelines. Access to this database is strictly controlled and the service is being provided centrally by the Crisis Intervention Team based in Dublin. The system is also being made available to approved external agencies (e.g., Gardaí and hospitals) to conduct out of hours searches where required.
- 1,181 children listed as 'active' on the CPNS at the end of Q2 2016; 127 fewer than Q1 2016 and the fewest number Q1 2015 – Q2 2016. All children had an allocated social worker.

- 1,181 children listed as 'active' on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)<sup>7</sup> at the end of Q2 2016; 127 fewer than Q1 2016 (n=1,308) and the fewest number for the six quarters shown (Figure 14).

**Figure 14: Number of children listed as 'Active' on the CPNS, by quarter, Q1 2015 – Q2 2016**



\*Q4 2015 figure revised (from 1,349) since publication of the Q4 2015 Integrated Performance and Activity Report

- The number of children listed as 'active' ranged from 155 in MidWest to 16 in Dublin South East/Wicklow (Table 2).

<sup>7</sup> The CPNS, in accordance with the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, 2011, is a national record of all children who are the subject of a child protection plan agreed at a child protection conference. The CPNS is accessible to named professional groups subject to strict protocols.

- Five areas reported an increase from Q1 2016. The highest increase was reported by LH/MH and Waterford /Wexford each reporting an increase of nine, followed by DSW/K/WW (n=8), MidWest (n=4) and Dublin North (n=3).
- 12 areas that reported a decrease; the highest decrease was reported by Dublin South Central (n=26), followed by Galway/Roscommon (n=24) and Mayo (n=22). The remaining nine areas reported a decrease of 20 or fewer cases (Table 2).
- All children listed as 'active' at the end of Q2 2016, had an allocated social worker.

**Table 2: Children listed as 'active' on CPNS and number with allocated social worker Q2 2016**

Area	No Listed as Active Q4 2015	No Listed as Active Q1 2016	No Listed as Active Q2 2016	No. Listed as Active Δ (+/-) Q2 2016 vs Q1 2016	No with allocated SW Q2 2016	% with Allocated SW Q2 2016
DSC	181	154	128	-26	128	100%
DSE/WW	16	19	16	-3	16	100%
DSW/K/WW	54	52	60	+8	60	100%
Midlands	94	87	82	-5	82	100%
DNC	90	90	88	-2	88	100%
Dublin North	56	75	78	+3	78	100%
LH/MH	92	87	96	+9	96	100%
CN/MN	43	56	36	-20	36	100%
Cork	71*	68	51	-17	51	100%
Kerry	34*	30	28	-2	28	100%
CW/KK/ST	97*	92	73	-19	73	100%
WD/WX	65	67	76	+9	76	100%
Mid West	161*	151	155	+4	155	100%
GY/RN	102	99	75	-24	75	100%
Mayo	77*	68	46	-22	46	100%
Donegal	74*	72	58	-14	58	100%
SO/LM/WC	47	41	35	-6	35	100%
<b>National</b>	<b>1,354</b>	<b>1,308</b>	<b>1,181</b>	<b>-127</b>	<b>1,181</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Q4 2015 figures revised since publication of the Q4 2015 Integrated Performance and Activity Report

- 53% (n=625/1,181) of children listed as “active” were listed for 0-6 months; 25% (n=291/1,181) were listed for 7-12 months; 16% (n=187/1,181) were listed for 12-24 months while the remaining 7% (n=78/1,181) were listed for longer than 24 months.
- A breakdown of the length of time children were listed as ‘active’ by area is presented in Table 3. Dublin South Central reported the highest percentage of children listed for > 12 months at 46% (n=59/128) followed by Donegal (40%; n=23/58), Kerry (39%; n=11/28), Mayo (37%; n= 17/46) and SLWC (34%; n= 12/35).
- 83% (n= 30/36) of the children listed as ‘active’ in the CN/MN were listed for 0-6 months; the highest percentage of all areas and followed by Midlands (71%; n= 58/82), and MidWest (70%; 108/155).

**Table 3: Children listed as 'active' in each area at the end of Q2 2016, by length of time 'active'**

	Number 0-6 mths	% 0-6 mths	Number 7-12 mths	% 7-12 mths	Number > 12 mths	% > 12 mths	Total
DSC	39	30%	30	23%	59	46%	128
DSE/WW	4	25%	7	44%	5	31%	16
DSW/K/WW	35	58%	17	28%	8	13%	60
Midlands	58	71%	20	24%	4	5%	82
DNC	40	45%	28	32%	20	23%	88
Dublin North	42	54%	25	32%	11	14%	78
LH/MH	60	63%	11	11%	25	26%	96
CN/MN	30	83%	5	14%	1	3%	36
Cork	31	61%	6	12%	14	27%	51
Kerry	10	36%	7	25%	11	39%	28
CW/KK/ST	46	63%	20	27%	7	10%	73
WD/WX	47	62%	15	20%	14	18%	76
Mid West	108	70%	36	23%	11	7%	155
GY/RN	36	48%	16	21%	23	31%	75
Mayo	18	39%	11	24%	17	37%	46
Donegal	15	26%	20	34%	23	40%	58
SO/LM/WC	6	17%	17	49%	12	34%	35
<b>National</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>1,181</b>

- 31 children were reactivated on the CPNS (i.e., their status changed from 'inactive' to 'active') during Q2 2016.

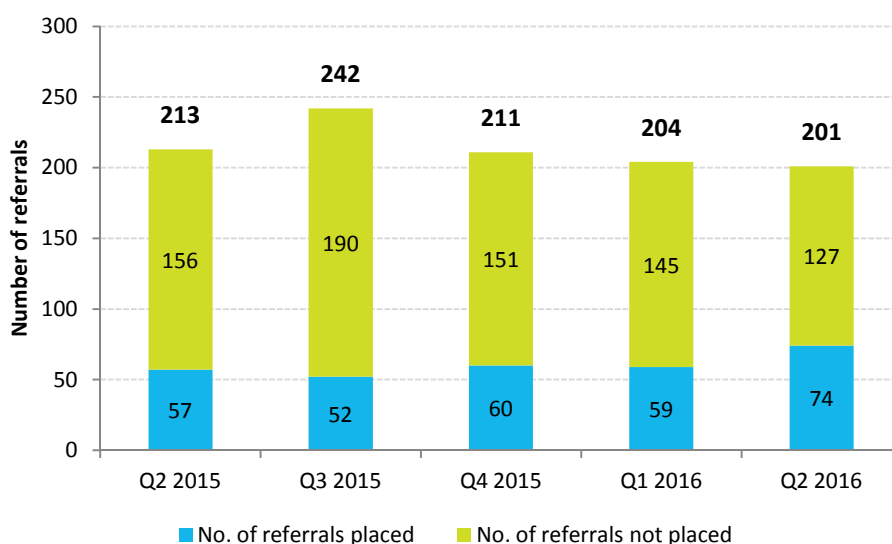
## 2.4 CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICE / OUT OF HOURS SERVICE

### KEY FACTS

- 201 referrals to the Crisis Intervention Service in Q2 2016; three fewer than Q1 2016 and the fewest number for the period Q2 2015 – Q2 2016.
- 143 referrals to the Emergency Place of Safety Service in Q2 2016; 17 more than Q1 2016 and highest number for period Q2 2015 – Q2 2016

- 201 referrals to the Crisis Intervention Service (CIS)<sup>8</sup> during Q2 2016; three fewer than Q1 2016 and the fewest number for the five quarters Q2 2015 – Q2 2016 (Figure 15).
- 37% (n=74) of referrals were placed; up from 29% (n=59/204) in Q1 2016 and 27% (n=57/213) from the same period last year.
- 316 nights' accommodation were supplied by the CIS during Q2 2016; 180 fewer than Q1 2016 (n=496).

**Figure 15: Referrals to the Crisis Intervention Service, by quarter Q2 2015 – Q2 2016**



- 143 referrals to the Emergency Place of Safety Service (EPSS)<sup>9</sup> during Q2 2016; 17 more than Q1 2016 and the highest number for the five quarters Q2 2015 – Q2 2016 (Figure 16).
- 45% (n=64/143) of referrals were placed; up from 34% (n=43/126) in Q1 2016 but down on the 68% (n=71/105) reported for Q2 2015. The decrease in the percentage placed has

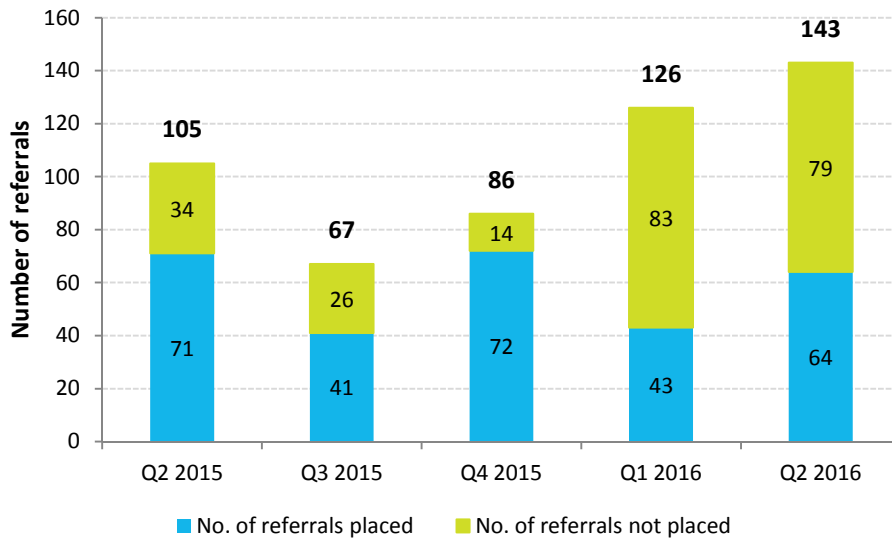
<sup>8</sup> The CIS provides an out-of-hours emergency social work service to young people aged under 18 years who are in crisis. The service operates across the greater Dublin area (Counties Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow). Referrals are made by service providers outside of normal working hours i.e. Gardaí, hospital and ambulance service personnel

<sup>9</sup> Outside the greater Dublin area, an Emergency Place of Safety Service (EPSS) operates, whereby Gardaí can access an emergency placement for children found to be at risk out of hours. This service involves the out of hours placement of a child in a family setting until the next working day when the local social work service assumes responsibility for the case.

been attributed to the work of the National Emergency National Out of Hours Social Work Service that was established in late 2015.

- 95 nights' accommodation were supplied by the EPSS during Q2 2016; 27 more than Q1 2016.

**Figure 16: Referrals to the Emergency Place of Safety Service, by quarter Q2 2015 – Q2 2016**



## 2.5 HIQA INSPECTIONS - CHILD PROTECTION & WELFARE SERVICES

The Health Information and Quality Authority (Hiqa) published one Child Protection & Welfare Services inspection report in Q2 2016. This report pertained to services in the MidWest. Judgments and main findings are as follows:

### ➤ Summary of Judgments

CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES					
National Standards for the Protection and Welfare of Children, Hiqa 2012					
Services Inspected	Summary of Judgments				
	No of Standards Assessed	Exceeds Standard	Meets Standard	Requires Improvement	Significant Risk Identified
MidWest	27 (Announced/Full)	0	12	15	0

### ➤ Summary of Findings

The inspection found that children at immediate risk of harm received timely interventions. There was an effective prioritisation system in place with the majority of high priority cases allocated. In general, assessments of children's needs and child protection plans were found to be of a good standard although there was variation in quality and timeliness across the area. For the most part Children First (2011) was implemented and child protection conferences were timely and followed procedures. There was efficient management of retrospective abuse allegations but further training required to fully implement the policy. The welfare needs of children and families were addressed appropriately in coordination with community agencies but the family support model called Meitheal required further development and integration in some areas. Patterns of long term harm and neglect required further consideration. There was a positive attitude towards complaints which were effectively managed. The area was child-centred in its promotion of children's rights but improvements were required to ensure children received written rights information and knew their rights. There was very good communication but resources were lacking for communicating with children and families that had specific communication difficulties and there was insufficient consultation with children and families on the quality of the service. There was no strategy in place for raising awareness of the general public about child abuse and about how to access the service.

Managers of the service were found to be qualified, experienced and competent. Quality assurance mechanisms and risk management systems were in place. The majority of services were delivered in a timely way with the most vulnerable children prioritised. There was effective interagency working and cooperation. Staff were competent and committed but there were vacancies across the staff team and significant variation in community resources. Dissemination and implementation of recommendations arising from serious incidents and reviews to improve practice and outcomes for children required improvement.



## 3.0 ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

### KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

- 3.1 Children in Care (Foster Care / Residential Care)
- 3.2 Aftercare
- 3.3 Adoption
- 3.4 Foster Carers
- 3.5 Hiqa Inspections – Children’s Residential Services

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

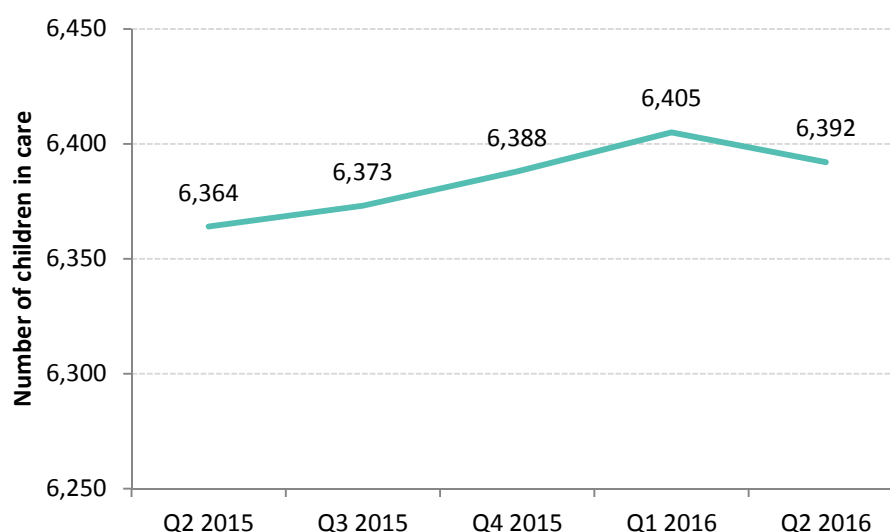
#### KEY FACTS

- 6,392 children in care at the end of Q2 2016; 13 fewer than Q1 2016
- 94% (n=6,018) of children in care had an allocated social worker (against a target of 100%); up one percentage point on Q1 2016
- 374 children awaiting allocation of a social worker; down 90 on Q1 2016
- 91% (n=5,832) of children in care had a written care plan (against a target of 90%); no change from Q1 2016
- 97% (n=3,925/4,035) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) in full time education
- 93% (n=983/1,057) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years in full time education

#### 3.1.1 Number of Children in Care

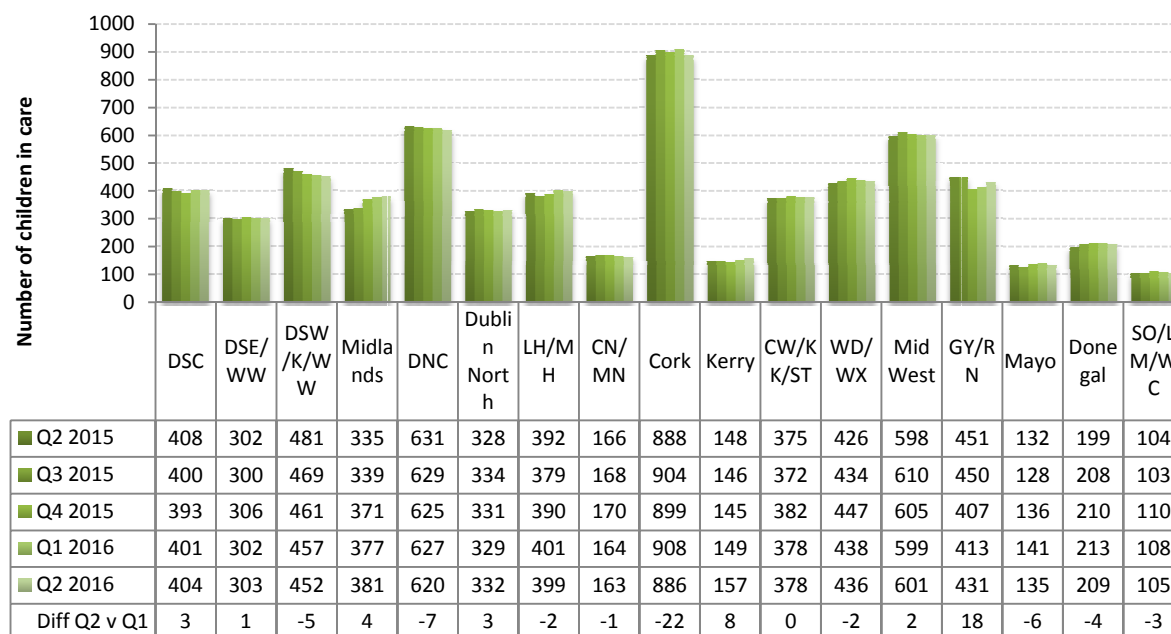
- 6,392 children in care at the end of Q2 2016 (Figure 17); 13 fewer than Q1 2016 (n=6,405) and 28 more than the same quarter last year (n=6,364) (Figure 17).

Figure 17: Number of children in care by quarter, Q2 2015 – Q2 2016



- The number of children in care ranged from 886 in Cork to 105 in SO/LM/WC (Figure 18)
- Seven areas reported an increase from Q1 2016; the highest increase was reported by Galway/Roscommon (n=18), followed by Kerry (n=8). The remaining areas reported an increase of four or fewer.
- Cork reported the highest decrease (n=22), followed by DNC (n=7) and Mayo (n=6). The remaining six areas reported a decrease of five or fewer.

**Figure 18: Breakdown of the number of children in care in each area, Q2 2015– Q2 2016**



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

- 93% (n=5,953) of children in care were in foster care (general and relative) and 5% (n=326) were in a residential (general) placement (Table 4).
- There were three fewer children in foster care (general) and 11 fewer children in residential care (all types) at the end of Q2 2016 than Q1 2016.

**Table 4: Breakdown of the number of children in care by care type and month, Q2 2015 – Q2 2016**

	FC Gen	Δ+/- prev Q	FC Rel	Δ+/- prev Q	Res Care Gen	Δ+/- prev Q	Res Care Spec	Δ+/- prev Q	Other Care <sup>10</sup>	Δ+/- prev Q	Total	Δ+/- prev Q
Q2 2015	4,074		1,832		341		16		101		6,364	
Q3 2015	4,077	3	1,837	5	341	0	14	-2	104	3	6,373	9
Q4 2015	4,100	23	1,832	-5	331	-10	16	2	109	5	6,388	15
Q1 2016	4,162	62	1,790	-42	334	3	14	-2	105	-4	6,405	17
Q2 2016	4,159	-3	1,794	4	326	-8	11	-3	102	-3	6,392	-13
% of Total	65%		28%		5%		<1%		2%		100%	

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

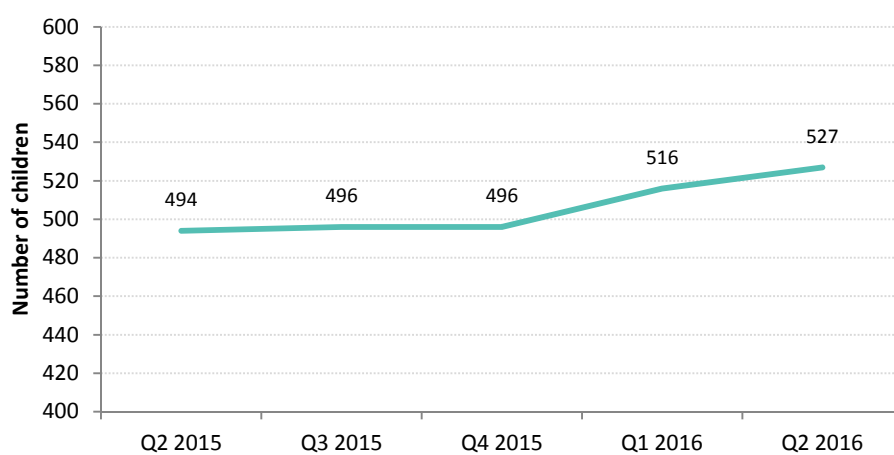
<sup>10</sup> Other includes supported lodgings; at home under a care order; detention centre/prison; youth homeless facility; other residential centre (therapeutic; disability; residential assessment; mother & baby home)

- 15 (0.23%) children were in out of state placements at the end of Q2 2106; two fewer than Q1 2016. *These children are included in the figures for the various care types set out in Table 4.*
- Seven children in residential care were in a single care placement at the end of Q2 2016; five more than Q1 2015.
- 199 children were in respite care (from home) at the end of Q2 2016.

### 3.1.3 Children in Private Placements

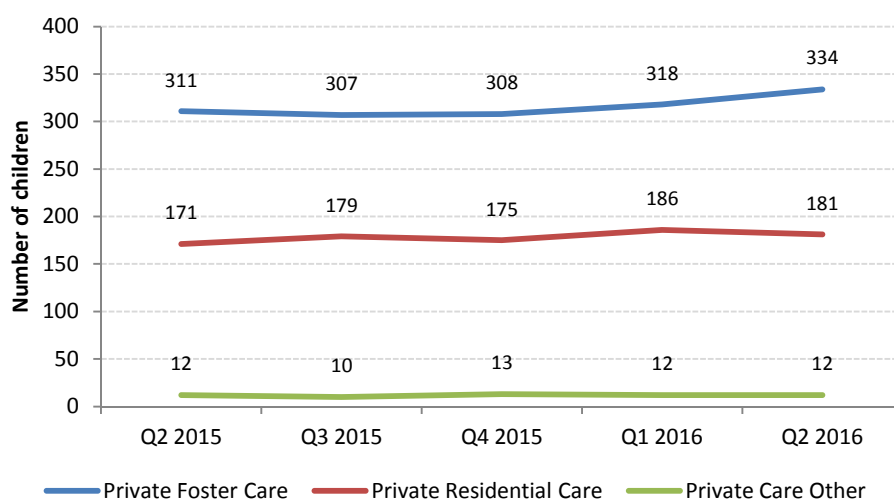
- 527 (8%) children in care in private placements<sup>11</sup>; 11 (2%) more than Q1 2016 (n=516) and 33 (7%) more than the same quarter last year (n=494) (Figure 19).

**Figure 19: Number of children in private placements, Q2 2015 – Q2 2016**



- 63% (n=334) of children in private placements were in private foster care; 34% (n=181) were in private residential placements (Figure 20).
- 10 more children in private residential placements compared to same period last year and 23 more children in private foster care placements.

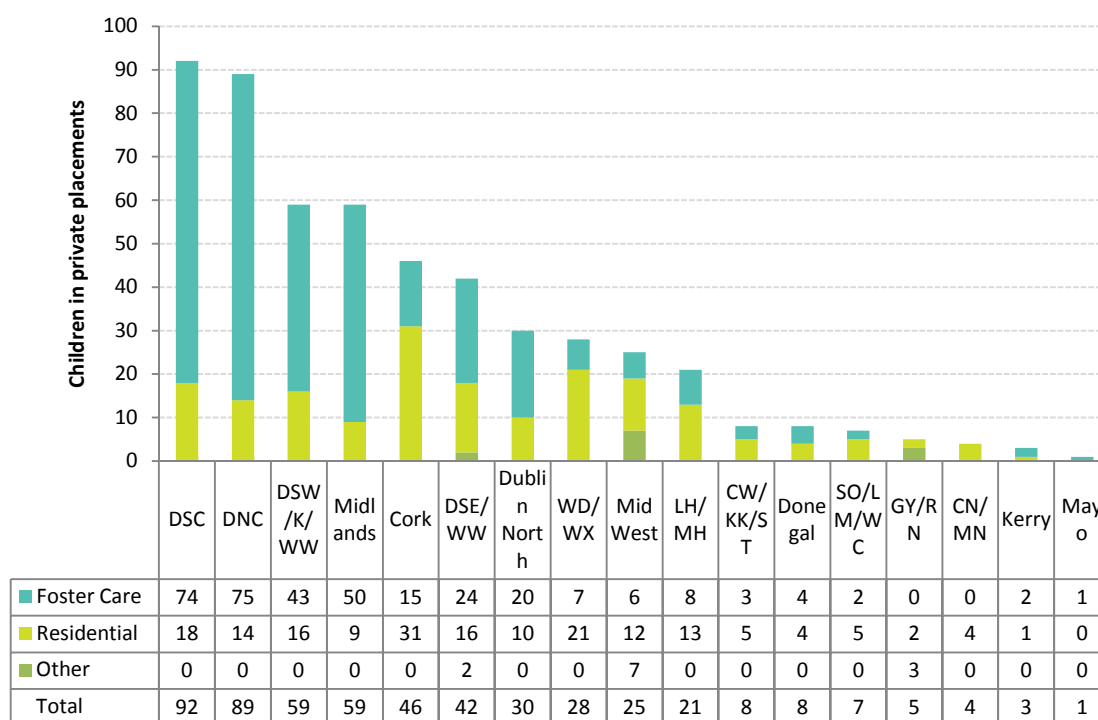
**Figure 20: Number of children in private placements by care type, Q2 2015 – Q2 2016**



<sup>11</sup> The number of children in private placements is included in the children in care figures presented in sections 3.1.1 and 3.1.2

- Dublin South Central (n=92) and Dublin North City (n=89) reported the highest number of children in private placements while Kerry (n=3) and Mayo (n=1) reported the fewest number (Figure 21).
- Cork reported the highest number of children in private residential placements (n=31), followed by Waterford/Wexford (n=21) and Dublin South Central (n=18).
- Dublin North City reported the highest number of children in private foster care placements (n=75), followed by Dublin South Central (n=74), Midlands (n=50) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (n=43).
- Areas with a higher preponderance of children in private residential care (than private foster care) include Cork (67%; n=31/46); Waterford/Wexford (75%; n=21/28) and Louth/Meath (62%; n=13/21).

**Figure 21: Number of children in private placements by care type and area, Q2 2016**



- Seven areas reported an increase from Q1 2016 in the number of children in private placements (Table 5). The highest increase was reported by Midlands (n=9), followed by Donegal (n=4).
- Dublin South West/Kildare West Wicklow reported the highest decrease (n=7).

**Table 5: Number of children in private placements by area**

Area	Total Private Placements Q4 2015	Total Private Placements Q1 2016	Total Private Placements Q2 2016	Δ+/- Q1 vs Q2 2016
DSC	86	89	92	+3
DSE/WW	40	42	42	0
DSW/K/WW	66	66	59	-7
Midlands	47	50	59	+9
DNC	89	89	89	0
Dublin North	30	27	30	+3
LH/MH	17	22	21	-1
CN/MN	4	5	4	-1
Cork	46	47	46	-1
Kerry	3	3	3	0
CW/KK/ST	8	8	8	0
WD/WX	29	31	28	-3
Mid West	17	22	25	+3
GY/RN	3	3	5	+2
Mayo	3	3	1	-2
Donegal	3	4	8	+4
SO/LM/WC	5	5	7	+2
<b>Total</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>+11</b>

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

- 94% (n=6,018/6,392) of children in care nationally had an allocated social worker (against a target of 100%) at the end of Q2 2016; up one percentage point from Q1 2016. A total of 374 children were awaiting allocation of a social worker; 90 fewer than Q1 2016 (n=464) (Table 6).
- An increase in percentage with an allocated social worker was noted across all main care types (Table 6).

**Table 6: Children in care (CIC) with an allocated social worker (SW) by care type, Q1 2016 - Q2 2016**

Care Type	CIC Q1 2016	No with SW Q1 2016	% with SW Q1 2016	CIC Q2 2016	No with SW Q2 2016	% with SW Q2 2016	Δ+/- Q2 vs Q1
Foster Care (General)	4,162	3,892	94%	4,159	3,941	95%	+1%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,790	1,611	90%	1,794	1,648	92%	+2%
Residential Care (General)	334	324	97%	326	319	98%	+1%
Residential Special Care	14	14	100%	11	11	100%	0%
Other Placements	105	100	95%	102	99	97%	+2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,405</b>	<b>5,941</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>6,392</b>	<b>6,018</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>+1%</b>

- Six areas met the target of 100% of children in care with an allocated social worker. A further six areas reported a percentage of 95% or higher. The three poorest performing areas are Waterford/Wexford, Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow and MidWest, all scoring below 90% (Table 7).
- Eight areas reported an increase in percentage performance from Q1 2016; the most notable being Donegal up 21% to 100%.

- The area with the highest number of children awaiting an allocated social worker is MidWest (n=103) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (n=57), Waterford/Wexford (n=50) and Cork (n=35).

**Table 7: Number of children in care with an allocated social worker, Q1 2016 – Q2 2016**

Area	No in Care Q1 2016	No with an allocated SW Q1 2016	% with an allocated SW Q1 2016	No in Care Q2 2016	No with an allocated SW Q2 2016	% with an allocated SW Q2 2016	+/- Q2 vs Q1 2016
DSE/WW	302	302	100%	303	303	100%	0%
LH/MH	401	398	99%	399	399	100%	1%
Kerry	149	149	100%	157	157	100%	0%
Mayo	141	141	100%	135	135	100%	0%
Donegal	213	168	79%	209	209	100%	21%
SO/LM/WC	108	108	100%	105	105	100%	0%
CW/KK/ST	378	365	97%	378	372	98%	1%
DSC	401	383	96%	404	390	97%	1%
Dublin North	329	298	91%	332	319	96%	5%
Cork	908	864	95%	886	851	96%	1%
DNC	627	577	92%	620	592	95%	3%
CN/MN	164	164	100%	163	155	95%	-5%
<b>National</b>	<b>6,405</b>	<b>5,941</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>6,392</b>	<b>6,018</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>1%</b>
GY/RN	413	402	97%	431	402	93%	-4%
Midlands	377	354	94%	381	350	92%	-2%
WD/WX	438	390	89%	436	386	89%	0%
DSW/K/WW	457	375	82%	452	395	87%	5%
Mid West	599	503	84%	601	498	83%	-1%

### 3.1.5 Children in Care with a Written Care Plan

- 91% (n=5,832/6,392) of children in care had a written care plan; no change from Q1 2016. A total of 560 children did not have a written care plan, 43 fewer than Q1 2016 (Table 8). *However, it should be noted that variances have been identified in how data on this metric are being reported by areas. In some areas care plans that have fallen due for review and not updated are not included. This is the subject of a review.*

**Table 8: Number of children in care (CIC) with a written care by care type, Q1 2016 - Q2 2016**

Care Type	CIC Q1 2016	No with CP Q1 2016	% with CP Q1 2016	CIC Q2 2016	No with CP Q2 2016	% with CP Q2 2016	Δ+/- Q2 vs Q1 2016
Foster Care General	4,162	3,806	91%	4,159	3,830	92%	+1%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,790	1,576	88%	1,794	1,592	89%	+1%
Residential Care General	334	310	93%	326	311	95%	+2%
Residential Special Care	14	14	100%	11	11	100%	0%
Other Placements	105	96	91%	102	88	86%	-5%
<b>National</b>	<b>6,405</b>	<b>5,802</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>6,392</b>	<b>5,832</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>0%</b>

- 13 areas met the target of 90% of children in care with a written care plan (Table 9).

- Seven areas reported an increased percentage from Q1 2016, the most notable being that for Dublin South Central up from 51% to 63%.

**Table 9: Breakdown of the number of children in care with a written care plan, Q1 2016 – Q2 2016**

Area	No in Care Q1 2016	No with a care plan Q1 2016	% with a care plan Q1 2016	No in Care Q2 2016	No with a care plan Q2 2016	% with a care plan Q2 2016	+/- Q1 vs Q2 2016
CN/MN	164	158	96%	163	163	100%	4%
Mid West	599	595	99%	601	598	100%	0%
Mayo	141	141	100%	135	135	100%	0%
WD/WX	438	436	100%	436	432	99%	0%
GY/RN	413	413	100%	431	425	99%	-1%
Kerry	149	145	97%	157	154	98%	1%
Donegal	213	211	99%	209	205	98%	-1%
SO/LM/WC	108	108	100%	105	103	98%	-2%
CW/KK/ST	378	378	100%	378	365	97%	-3%
Midlands	377	366	97%	381	361	95%	-2%
Louth/Meath	401	364	91%	399	381	95%	5%
Cork	908	845	93%	886	827	93%	0%
DNC	627	553	88%	620	568	92%	3%
<b>National</b>	<b>6,405</b>	<b>5,802</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>6,392</b>	<b>5,832</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>0%</b>
DSE/WW	302	257	85%	303	269	89%	4%
Dublin North	329	284	86%	332	269	81%	-5%
DSW/K/WW	457	343	75%	452	324	72%	-3%
DSC	401	205	51%	404	253	63%	12%

### 3.1.6 Children in Care in Education

- 97% (n=3,925/4,035) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education at the end of Q2 2016; no change from Q1 2016 (Table 10).
- Fifteen areas reported a percentage of 95% or higher.
- 93% (n=983/1,057) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of Q2 2016; up 1% on Q1 2016 (Table 11).
- Fifteen areas reported 90% or higher.

**Table 10: Children in care, 6 -15 years, in full time education, Q1 2016 – Q2 2016**

Area	No of CIC 6-15 years Q1 2016	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q1 2016	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q1 2016	No of CIC 6-15 years Q2 2016	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q2 2016	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q2 2016	Δ(+/-) Q2 2016 vs Q1 2016
DSC	253	239	94.5%	252	234	92.9%	-1%
DSE/WW	207	206	99.5%	204	203	99.5%	0%
DSW/K/WW	281	269	95.7%	286	270	94.4%	-2%
Midlands	205	201	98.0%	219	210	95.9%	-2%
DNC	406	393	96.8%	400	389	97.3%	0%
Dublin North	212	209	98.6%	207	205	99.0%	0%
LH/MH	249	243	97.6%	244	238	97.5%	0%
CN/MN	94	94	100.0%	99	98	99.0%	-1%
Cork	547	524	95.8%	544	526	96.7%	1%
Kerry	97	97	100.0%	106	106	100.0%	0%
CW/KK/ST	221	210	95.0%	230	222	96.5%	2%
WD/WX	306	302	98.7%	320	315	98.4%	0%
Mid West	382	374	97.9%	383	374	97.7%	0%
GY/RN	238	237	99.6%	264	261	98.9%	-1%
Mayo	117	117	100.0%	83	83	100.0%	0%
Donegal	133	131	98.5%	129	127	98.4%	0%
SO/LM/WC	67	67	100.0%	65	64	98.5%	-2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,015</b>	<b>3,913</b>	<b>97.5%</b>	<b>4,035</b>	<b>3,925</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>0%</b>

\*Data for Q2 2016 for WD/WX requires validation

**Table 11: Children in care, 16 and 17 years, in full time education, Q1 2016 – Q2 2016**

Area	No of CIC 16-17 years Q1 2016	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q1 2016	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q1 2016	No of CIC 16-17 years Q2 2016	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q2 2016	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q2 2016	Δ(+/-) Q2 2016 vs Q1 2016
DSC	72	56	77.8%	74	67	90.5%	12.8%
DSE/WW	44	42	95.5%	47	44	93.6%	-1.8%
DSW/K/WW	99	92	92.9%	90	83	92.2%	-0.7%
Midlands	54	48	88.9%	61	51	83.6%	-5.3%
DNC	105	99	94.3%	103	98	95.1%	0.9%
Dublin North	50	47	94.0%	52	48	92.3%	-1.7%
LH/MH	68	64	94.1%	73	69	94.5%	0.4%
CN/MN	33	30	90.9%	30	25	83.3%	-7.6%
Cork	160	146	91.3%	149	138	92.6%	1.4%
Kerry	25	24	96.0%	26	25	96.2%	0.2%
CW/KK/ST	58	55	94.8%	64	62	96.9%	2.0%
WD/WX	77	71	92.2%	70	67	95.7%	+3.5%
Mid West	94	89	94.7%	91	84	92.3%	-2.4%
GY/RN	61	61	100.0%	60	59	98.3%	-1.7%
Mayo	17	15	88.2%	18	18	100.0%	11.8%
Donegal	31	27	87.1%	29	26	89.7%	2.6%
SO/LM/WC	19	18	94.7%	20	19	95.0%	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,067</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>92.2%</b>	<b>1,057</b>	<b>983</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>



## 3.2 AFTERCARE

### KEY FACTS

- 1,897 young adults (all ages) in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q2 2016; 39 more than Q1 2016;
- 33% (n=346/1,056) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years had a preparation for leaving care and aftercare plan;
- 34% (n=360/1,056) of children in care 16 and 17 years had an allocated aftercare worker;
- 194 young adults were discharged from care by reason of reaching 18 years; 74% (n=144/194) had an allocated aftercare worker.
- 91% (n=174/191) of those eligible for an aftercare service were availing of an aftercare service.

### 3.2.1 Young adults in receipt of aftercare services

- 1,897 young adults (all ages i.e., 18 years and upwards and inclusive of those 25 or older) in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q2 2016; 39 more than Q1 2016 (n=1,858) (Table 12).
- 1,790 (94%) young adults in receipt of aftercare services were aged 18-22 years (inclusive).
- 1,050 (59%) of this cohort (18-22 years) were in full-time education; up two percentage points on Q1 2016 (Table 12).
- 78% (n=1,405) of the 18-22 years cohort were 18-20 years
- 810 (58%) of those 18-20 years were in full-time education.

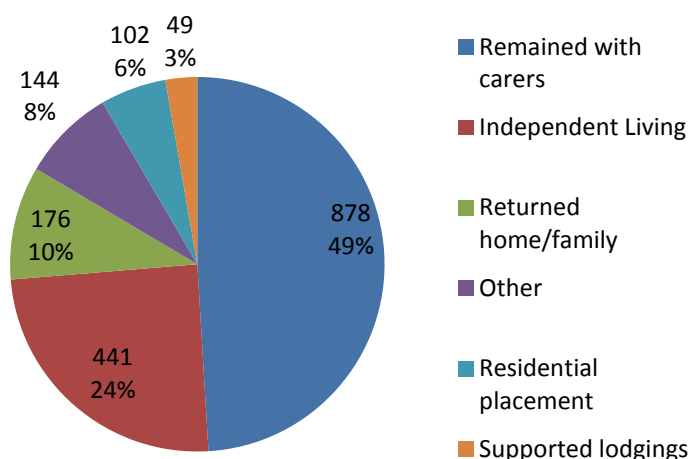
**Table 12: Young adults in receipt of aftercare services and in fulltime education Q1 2015 – Q2 2016**

	Total no. of young adults in receipt of aftercare services (all ages)	No. (%) of 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of aftercare service	% 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of aftercare in full time education	No. (%) of 18-20 years inclusive in receipt of aftercare service	% 18-20 years inclusive in receipt of aftercare in full time education
<b>Q2 2016</b>	1,897	1,790	1,050 (59%)	1,405	810 (58%)
<b>Q1 2016</b>	1,858	1,754	1,001 (57%)	1,319	772 (59%)
<b>Q4 2015</b>	1,835	1,763	1,022 (58%)	1,364	814 (60%)
<b>Q3 2015</b>	1,796	1,737	1,009 (58%)	1,338	781 (58%)
<b>Q2 2015*</b>	1,723	1,666	941 (56%)	1,315	774 (59%)
<b>Q1 2015</b>	1,783	1,720	1,012 (59%)	1,388	799 (60%)

\* Q2 2015 data for DSW/K/WW partial.

- In terms of living arrangements, almost half (49%; n=878) of the 18-22 year olds remained with their carers, 10% (n=176) returned home, 24% (n=441) were in independent living arrangements and 6% (n=102) were in a residential placement (Figure 22).

**Figure 22: Living arrangements of young adults (18-22 years) in receipt of aftercare services, Q2 2016**



### 3.2.2 Children in care with an aftercare plan / allocated aftercare worker

- 33% (n=346/1,056) of 16 and 17 year olds in care had a preparation for leaving care and aftercare plan at the end of Q2 2016; down 1% on Q1 2016 (Table 13).
- The percentage of children with plans at the end of Q2 2016 ranged from 0% (n=0/103) in Dublin North City to 100% in Kerry (n=26/26) and Mayo (18/18). With the exception of the five areas Kerry, Mayo, DSW/K/WW, Cavan/Monaghan and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan the percentage for all other areas that reported data was less than 50%.
- Seven areas reported an increase from Q1 2016 ranging from 23% (Cork) to 2% (LH/MH and CN/MN). Of the areas that reported a decrease, the most significant was reported by GY/RN, down from 69% to 7%.

**Table 13: Children in care 16 & 17 years with a preparation for leaving care & aftercare plan, Q1–Q2 2016**

Area	No of CIC aged 16 & 17 years Q1 2016	No with plan Q1 2016	% with plan Q1 2016	No of CIC aged 16 & 17 years Q2 2016	No with plan Q2 2016	% with plan Q2 2016	Δ (=/-) Q2 2016 vs Q1 2016
DSC	72	7	10%	74	7	9%	-1%
DSE/WW	44	14	32%	46	17	37%	+5%
DSW/K/WW	99	69	70%	90	68	76%	+6%
Midlands	54	15	28%	61	5	8%	-20%
DNC	105	0	0%	103	0	0%	0%
Dublin North	50	15	30%	52	11	21%	-9%
LH/MH	68	16	24%	73	19	26%	+2%
CN/MN	33	16	48%	30	15	50%	+2%
Cork	160	40	25%	149	72	48%	+23%
Kerry	25	25	100%	26	26	100%	0%
CW/KK/ST	58	8	14%	64	1	2%	-12%
WD/WX	77	21	27%	70	23	33%	+6%
Mid West	94	31	33%	91	37	41%	+8%
GY/RN	61	42	69%	60	4	7%	-62%
Mayo	17	17	100%	18	18	100%	0%

Donegal	31	14	45%	29	13	45%	0%
SO/LM/WC	19	12	63%	20	10	50%	-13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,067</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>1,056</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>-1%</b>

- 34% (n=360/1,056) of children in care 16 and 17 years had an allocated aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2016; down 2% on Q1 2016 (Table 14).
- The percentage with an allocated aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2016 ranged from 100% in Mayo (n=18/18) to 5% in Dublin North City (n=5/103) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (n=3/64). Eleven areas reported a percentage of less than 50%.
- Seven areas reported an increase in percentage from Q1 2016 ranging from 23% (Cork) to 1% (Louth/Meath). Of the areas reported a decrease, the most significant was Galway/Roscommon down from 75% to 18%.

**Table 14: Children 16 and 17 years with an allocated aftercare worker, Q1 2016 – Q2 2016**

Area	No of 16 & 17 years in care Q1 2016	No with allocated aftercare worker Q1 2016	% with allocated aftercare worker Q1 2016	No of 16 & 17 years in care Q2 2016	No with allocated aftercare worker Q2 2016	% with allocated aftercare worker Q2 2016	Δ (=/-) Q2 2016 vs Q1 2016
DSC	72	13	18%	74	11	15%	-3%
DSE/WW	44	32	73%	46	30	65%	-8%
DSW/K/WW	99	26	26%	90	18	20%	-6%
Midlands	54	21	39%	61	34	56%	17%
DNC	105	10	10%	103	5	5%	-5%
Dublin North	50	20	40%	52	14	27%	-13%
LH/MH	68	30	44%	73	33	45%	1%
CN/MN	33	20	61%	30	17	57%	-4%
Cork	160	40	25%	149	72	48%	+23%
Kerry	25	1	4%	26	2	8%	4%
CW/KK/ST	58	12	21%	64	3	5%	-16%
WD/WX	77	21	27%	70	23	33%	+6%
Mid West	94	40	43%	91	32	35%	-8%
GY/RN	61	46	75%	60	11	18%	-57%
Mayo	17	17	100%	18	18	100%	0%
Donegal	31	18	58%	29	18	62%	4%
SO/LM/WC	19	15	79%	20	19	95%	16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,067</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>1,056</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>-2%</b>

### 3.2.3 Young adults discharged from care by reason of reaching 18 years

- 194 young adults were discharged from care by reason of reaching 18 years during Q2 2016 (Table 15).
- 98% (n=191/194) were eligible for an aftercare service and of these 91% (n=174/191) were availing of the service .
- 74% (n=144/194) of those discharged had an allocated aftercare worker

**Table 15: Number discharged, eligible for aftercare service and allocated aftercare worker, Q1 2016-Q2 2016**

Area	No discharged Q1 2016	No discharged eligible for aftercare Q1 2016	No availing of an aftercare service Q1 2016	No with allocated aftercare worker Q1 2016	% with allocated aftercare worker Q1 2016*	No discharged Q2 2016	No discharged eligible for aftercare Q2 2016	No availing of an aftercare service Q2 2016	No with allocated aftercare worker Q2 2016	% with allocated aftercare worker Q2 2016
DSC	12	11	3	3	25%	10	10	3	3	30%
DSE/WW	3	3	3	3	100%	4	4	4	4	100%
DSW/K/WW	13	10	9	7	54%	15	13	8	9	60%
Midlands	7	7	7	7	100%	3	3	2	2	67%
DNC	10	10	9	9	90%	61	61	61	39	64%
Dublin North	6	6	6	6	100%	21	21	20	20	95%
LH/MH	12	12	12	12	100%	6	6	6	6	100%
CN/MN	2	2	2	2	100%	5	5	5	5	100%
Cork	18	18	18	9	50%	23	22	22	17	74%
Kerry	1	1	1	1	100%	4	4	4	1	25%
CW/KK/ST	13	13	13	13	100%	4	4	4	3	75%
WD/WX	7	7	7	7	100%	10	10	10	10	100%
Mid West	8	8	7	7	88%	8	8	8	7	88%
GY/RN	4	4	4	4	100%	10	10	8	8	80%
Mayo	0	0	0	0	NA	4	4	4	4	100%
Donegal	1	1	1	1	100%	5	5	4	5	100%
SO/LM/WC	4	4	4	4	100%	1	1	1	1	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>79%*</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>74%</b>

\*Amended from Q1 2016. Denominator changed from number availing to total number discharged.

### 3.3 ADOPTION SERVICES

#### KEY FACTS

- 818 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service; up 172 (27%) on Q1 2016 due to the transfer of records (incl. a waiting list of 240 applicants) from St. Patrick's Guild
- 1 – 20 weeks wait from time of application to provision of non identifying information against a target of 8 weeks or less. All but one service is meeting this target
- 74 adoption assessments (domestic, inter-country, fostering to adoption) completed during Q2 2016; 41 more than Q1 2016

#### 3.3.1 Information and Tracing Service

The Agency's Adoption Information and Tracing Service oversees a broad spectrum of enquiries from a wide range of people, including adopted people, birth parents, adoptive parents, siblings of adopted people and other birth relatives and people raised in long-term foster care. The service operates on a non-statutory basis within the wider legal framework of the Adoption Acts and assists each of these categories of person with their information and tracing enquiries.

- 818 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q2 2016; up 172 (27%) on Q1 2016 (Table 16). This increase is due to the transfer of 13,600 records from St. Patrick's Guild to Tusla in May 2016. A waiting list of 240 applicants was included in the transfer. The planned target for 200 or fewer applicants awaiting a service by year end will now not be achieved.
- The highest number of applicants (n=324; 40%) is awaiting the Dublin Mid Leinster / Dublin North East service, followed by the Cork/Kerry service (n=287; 35%).
- Three services reported an increase from Q1 2016 in applicants waiting. The highest increase was reported by Dublin Mid Leinster/Dublin North East (n=226) reflecting the transfer of files referred above.
- For the same period the number waiting on a service in Cork/Kerry dropped by 13% (n=43) reflecting the positive impact of the service improvement plan introduced in 2015, while the number awaiting on the MidWest service dropped by 23% (n=18).

**Table 16: Number of applicants awaiting the information and tracing service, Q4 2015 – Q2 2016**

Service Area	No waiting Q4 2015	No waiting Q1 2016	No waiting Q2 2016	Δ (+/-) Q2 2016 vs Q1 2016
Dublin Mid Leinster Dublin North East <i>These two services are combined for applications waiting</i>	116	98	324	+226
Cork/Kerry	332	330	287	-43
CW/KK/ST/WD/WX	53	94	93	-1
Midwest	50	78	60	-18
Galway/Roscommon	16	28	27	-1
Mayo	0	6	8	+2
Donegal/SLWC	25	12	19	+7
<b>National</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>+172</b>

- At the end of Q2 2016, the length of time from application (production of ID) to the provision of non identifying information ranged from 1 week (Mayo) to 20 weeks (MidWest) (Table 17). The target for the length time of application to production of non identifying information is 8 weeks or less by year end. All but one service (MidWest) is currently meeting this target. The waiting time in the MidWest is currently being addressed and improvement is anticipated for the Q3 2106 report.
- Galway/Roscommon reported a 28 week drop in length of time from application to the provision of non identifying information between Q1 2016 and Q2 2016 and is now on target.

**Table 17: Length of time (weeks) from application to the provision of non identifying information**

Area	Length of Time (weeks) Q4 2015	Length of Time (weeks) Q1 2016	Length of Time (weeks) Q2 2016	Δ (+/-) Q1 2016 vs Q2 2016
Dublin Mid Leinster	-	1	3	+2
Dublin North East	2	3	4	+1
Cork/Kerry	12	4	6	+2
CW/KK/ST/WD/WX	8	8	8	0
Midwest	26	20	20	0
Galway/Roscommon	52	36	8	-28
Mayo	1	1	1	0
Donegal/SLWC	8	8	8	0

- At the end of Q2 2016:
  - the length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for priority 1 applications ranged from 3 weeks (Dublin Mid Leinster) to 3 months (CW/KK/ST/WD/WX), against a target of 3 months or less (Table 18). All services are meeting the target.
  - the length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for priority 2 applications ranged from 1 month (Dublin Mid Leinster) to 9 months (Galway/Roscommon), against a target of 6 months or less (Table 18). All but one service (Galway/Roscommon) is meeting this target. The waiting time in this area increased by 7 months between Q1 2016 and Q2 2016.
  - the length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for all other applications ranged from 6 weeks (Dublin Mid Leinster) to 24 months (Cork/Kerry), against a target of 12 months or less by year end (Table 18). All but one service (Cork/Kerry) is currently meeting this target.

**Table 18: Length of time (mths) from application to allocation of a social worker, by type Q2 2016**

Area	Priority 1 Applications Waiting time (mths)	Priority 2 Applications Waiting time (mths)	All other Applications (mths)
Dublin Mid Leinster	0.75	1	1.5
Dublin North East	2	4	12
Cork/Kerry	2	5	24
CW/KK/ST/WD/WX	3	3	12
Midwest	1	5	12
Galway/Roscommon	2	9	12
Mayo	0	0	6
Donegal/Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	1	2	4

### 3.3.2 Adoption Assessments

- A total of 74 adoption assessments (fostering to adoption, inter-country and domestic) were completed during Q2 2016; 41 more than Q1 2016. A breakdown of assessment types completed is presented in Table 19.

**Table 19: Breakdown of assessments completed by type, Q4 2015 – Q2 2016**

Area	No of assessments completed Q4 2015	No of assessments completed Q1 2016	No of assessments completed Q2 2016	Δ (+/-) Q2 2016 vs Q1 2016
Fostering to Adoption	24	9	22	+13
Inter-Country Adoption	17	20	36	+16
Domestic Adoption	4	4	16	+12
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>+41</b>

- The projected waiting time for assessment (2<sup>nd</sup>) for inter-country adoption (i.e. from waiting list to the beginning of preparation) ranges from 0 months to 21 months (Cork/Kerry) (Table 20). The waiting time in all but two areas (Cork/Kerry and MidWest) is 3 months or less. The waiting time in Cork/Kerry increased by 8 months between Q1 2016 and Q2 2016. This is a demand led service and courses are only held when there are sufficient numbers applicants to attend. At present there is only one applicant waiting in this area (Cork/Kerry).

**Table 20: Projected waiting time for 2<sup>nd</sup> assessment, Inter Country Adoption, Q4 2015 – Q2 2016**

Area	Waiting time – 2 <sup>nd</sup> assessment Inter country Adoption (months) Q4 2015	Waiting time – 2 <sup>nd</sup> assessment Inter country Adoption (months) Q1 2016	Waiting time – 2 <sup>nd</sup> assessment Inter country Adoption (months) Q2 2016	Δ (+/-) Q1 2016 vs Q2 2016
Midlands	-	3	Incl. with Dublin Kildare/Wicklow	
LH/MH/CN/MN	6	4	0	-4
Dublin/Kildare/Wicklow	3	3	2	-1
Cork/Kerry	13	13	21	+8
CW/KK/ST/WD/WX	6	6	3	-3
Midwest	12	12	12	0
Galway/Roscommon	0	1	3	+2
Mayo	3	3	3	0
Donegal/SLWC	2	2	2	0

- 15 applications for step-adoption were received during Q2 2016; no change from Q1 2016 (Table 21).

**Table 21: Step-adoption applications received, Q4 2015 – Q2 2016**

Area	No of applications received Q4 2015	No of applications received Q1 2016	No of applications received Q2 2016	Δ (+/-) Q1 2016 vs Q2 2016
Step-parent Adoption	13	15	15	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>

## 3.4 FOSTER CARERS

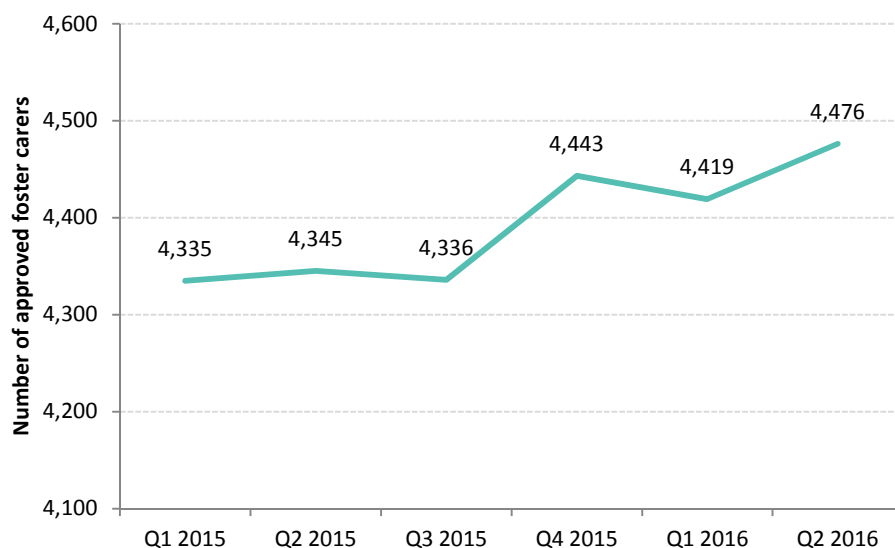
### KEY FACTS

- 4,476 approved foster carers on panel (all types minus Brussels II) at the end of Q2 2016; 57 more than Q1 2016 and highest number for period Q1 2015 – Q2 2016
- 76% (n=1,204) of relative foster carers approved against a target of 80%; up from 75% Q1 2016
- 85% (n=2,496) of general foster carers (approved) had an allocated link (social) worker against a target of 90%; no change from Q1 2016
- 77% (n=929) of relative foster carers (approved) had an allocated link (social worker) against a target of 85%; down from 83% (987) Q1 2016
- 382 unapproved relative foster carers; down seven on Q1 2016
- 306 (80%) of the unapproved relative foster carers had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks; down nine on Q1 2016 (n=315)
- 63% (n=192) of unapproved relative foster carers with a child placed > 12 weeks had an allocated link (social) worker; down from 69% (n=218) Q1 2016

### 3.4.1 Number of foster carers

- 4,476 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers; 57 more than Q1 2016 and the highest number for the six quarters shown (Figure 23). There were 382 unapproved relative foster carers; seven fewer than Q1 2016.

Figure 23: Number of approved foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) Q1 2016 – Q2 2016





- 66% (n=2,942) of all approved foster carers are general foster carers. Relative foster carers account for a further 27% (1,204), while private foster carers account for the remaining 7% (n=330) (Table 22).
- 76% (n=1,204/1,586) of relative foster carers were approved and on the Panel against a target of 80%; up from 75% (1,188/1,577) Q1 2016.

**Table 22: Breakdown of foster carers by type Q1 2015 – Q2 2016**

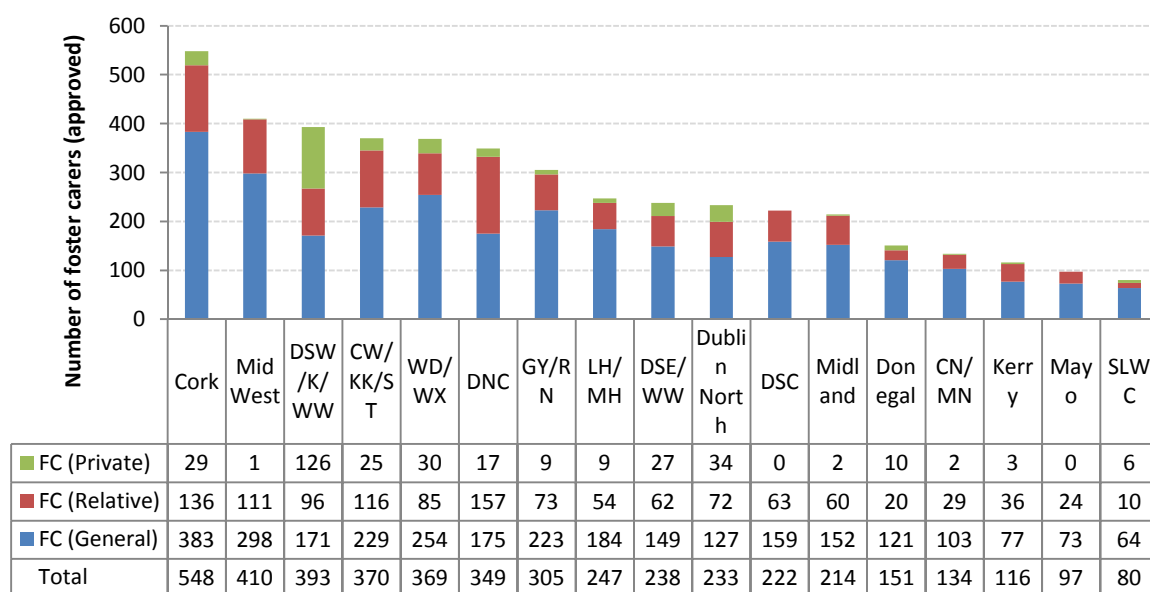
Foster Carers	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Δ (+/-) Q2 2016 vs Q1 2016
General (Approved)	2,896	2,890	2,894	2,955 <sup>#</sup>	2,942	2,942	0
Relative (Approved)	1,172	1,154	1,167	1,194	1,188	1,204	+16
Private (Approved)	267	301	275	294	289	330	+41
Relative (Unapproved)	439	437	410	380	389	382	-7

\*Figure revised from 2,957 to 2,955 since publication of Q4 2015 Integrated Performance and Activity Report

### 3.4.2 Foster carers approved and on the Panel of Approved Foster Carers

- The number of foster carers approved (all types) and on the panel ranged from 548 in Cork to 80 in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan at the end of Q2 2016 (Figure 24).

**Figure 24: Foster carers approved by type and area on the panel of approved foster carers, Q2 2016**



*Note: the number of private foster carers reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (n=126) includes those for Dublin South Central*

- A breakdown of approved foster carers (all types) by area is presented in (Table 23).

**Table 23: Area breakdown of approved foster carers (all types), Q1 2015 – Q2 2016**

Area	Total Q1 2015	Total Q2 2015	Total Q3 2015	Total Q4 2015	Total Q1 2016	Total Q2 2016	Δ (+/-) Q2 2016 v Q1 2016
DSC	208	202	199	246	241	222 <sup>#</sup>	-19
DSE/Wicklow	231	232	227	236	239	238	-1
DSW/K/WW	338	351	353	357	359	393 <sup>#</sup>	+34
Midland	198	202	209	217	212	214	+2
DNC	364	345	348	351	349	349	0
Dublin North	232	232	229	237	228	233	+5
LH/MH	253	258	255	248	240	247	+7
CN/MN	133	129	128	129	131	134	+3
Cork	550	546	549	550	545	548	+3
Kerry	106	106	106	108	108	116	+8
CW/KK/ST	336	351	354	353	365	370	+5
WD/WX	360	367	353	361 <sup>*</sup>	361	369	+8
MidWest	412	417	420	416	410	410	0
GY/RN	290	294	293	306	300	305	+5
Mayo	103	95	105	94	101	97	-4
Donegal	150	153	141	156	154	151	-3
SO/LM/WC	71	65	67	78	76	80	+4
<b>National</b>	<b>4,335</b>	<b>4,345</b>	<b>4,336</b>	<b>4,443</b>	<b>4,419</b>	<b>4,476</b>	<b>+57</b>

<sup>\*</sup>Revised from 363 to 361 since publication of the Q4 2015 Integrated Performance and Activity Report

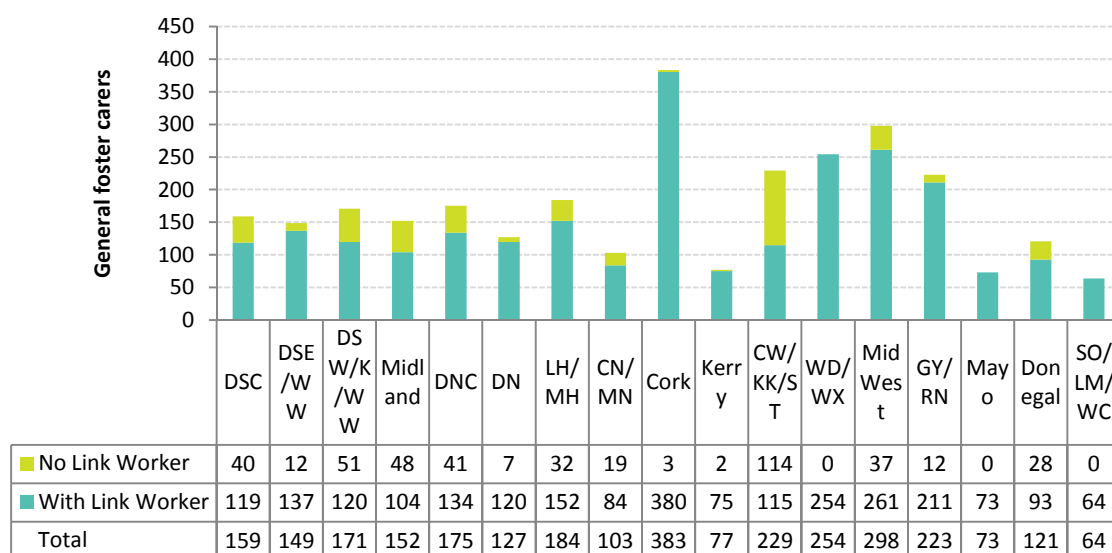
<sup>#</sup>Figure for private foster carers for Dublin South Central is included with figure for Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow

- 85% (n=2,496/2,942) of general foster carers approved and on the Panel had an allocated link (social) worker against a target of 90% at the end of Q2 2016; no change from Q1 2016. A total of 446 carers were awaiting an allocated worker compared to 441 at the end of Q1 2016. Eight areas reported a percentage of 90% or higher with three of these areas reporting 100% (Table 24).
- Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary reported the highest number (n=114) of foster carers awaiting an allocated link worker; up 22 on Q1 2016, followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (n=51); Midlands (n=48); Dublin North City (n=41) and Dublin South Central (n=40).
- Four areas reported a decrease in the number of foster carers awaiting an allocated link worker from Q1 2016; the highest decrease was reported by Cavan/Monaghan (n=27), followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (n=18).

**Table 24: General foster carers (approved) with/awaiting link social worker, Q1 2016 – Q2 2016**

Area	With Link Worker Q1 2016	Awaiting Link Worker Q1 2016	% With Link Worker Q1 2016	With Link Worker Q2 2016	Awaiting Link Worker Q2 2016	% With Link Worker Q2 2016	Δ +/- % Q2 2016 vs Q1 2016	Δ +/- No. Awaiting Link Worker Q2 vs Q1
DSC	136	24	85%	119	40	75%	-10%	16
DSE/WW	141	12	92%	137	12	92%	0%	0
DSW/K/WW	102	69	60%	120	51	70%	11%	-18
Midland	104	47	69%	104	48	68%	0%	1
DNC	148	29	84%	134	41	77%	-7%	12
DN	114	12	90%	120	7	94%	4%	-5
LH/MH	153	31	83%	152	32	83%	-1%	1
CN/MN	56	46	55%	84	19	82%	27%	-27
Cork	381	3	99%	380	3	99%	0%	0
Kerry	75	0	100%	75	2	97%	-3%	2
CW/KK/ST	135	92	59%	115	114	50%	-9%	22
WD/WX	249	0	100%	254	0	100%	0%	0
MidWest	259	40	87%	261	37	88%	1%	-3
GY/RN	211	12	95%	211	12	95%	0%	0
Mayo	72	0	100%	73	0	100%	0%	0
Donegal	97	24	80%	93	28	77%	-3%	4
SO/LM/WC	68	0	100%	64	0	100%	0%	0
<b>National</b>	<b>2,501</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>2,496</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>5</b>

**Figure 25: General foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting a link (social worker), Q2 2016**



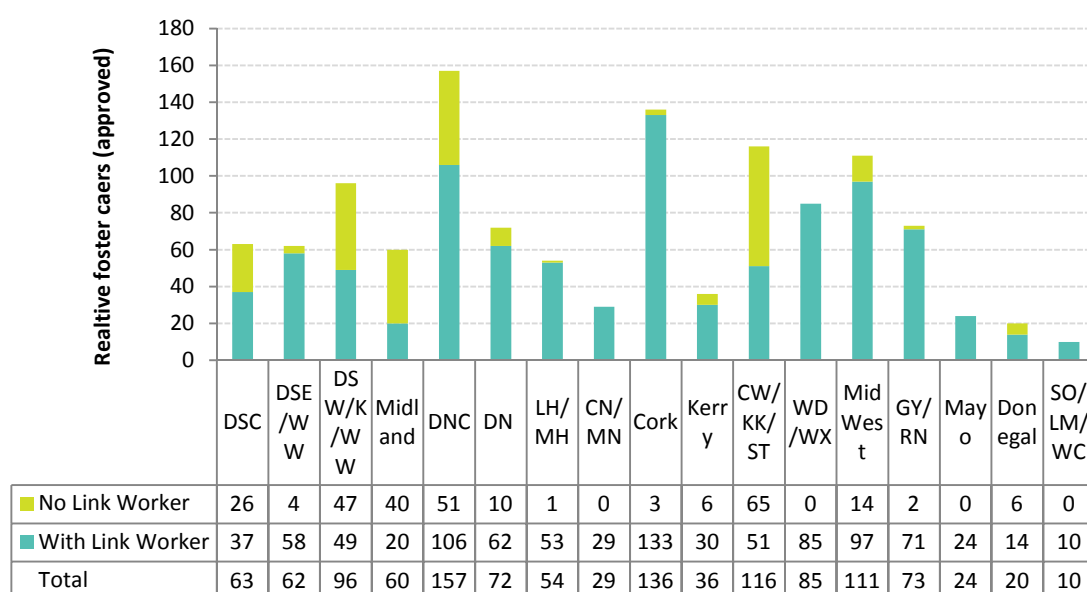
- 77% (n=929/1,204) of relative foster carers approved and on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q2 2016; down from 83% (n=987/1,188) at the end of Q1 2016. A total of 275 carers were awaiting an allocated link worker compared to 201 at the end of Q1 2016. Ten areas reported a percentage of 85% (target) or higher with four of these areas reporting 100% (Table 25).
- Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary reported the highest number awaiting an allocated link worker (n=65), up 33 on Q1 2016 followed by Dublin North City (n=51), up 19 on Q1 2016;

Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (n=47) and Midlands (n=40), up 15 on Q1 2016 (Table 25).

**Table 25: Relative foster cares (approved) with/awaiting an allocated link worker Q1 2016 – Q2 2016**

Area	With Link Worker Q1 2016	Awaiting Link Worker Q1 2016	% With Link Worker Q1 2016	With Link Worker Q2 2016	Awaiting Link Worker Q2 2016	% With Link Worker Q2 2016	Δ +/- % Q2 2016 vs Q1 2016	Δ +/- Number Awaiting Link Worker Q2 vs Q1
DSC	45	17	73%	37	26	59%	-14%	9
DSE/WW	55	5	92%	58	4	94%	2%	-1
DSW/K/WW	46	50	48%	49	47	51%	3%	-3
Midland	35	25	58%	20	40	33%	-25%	15
DNC	123	32	79%	106	51	68%	-12%	19
DN	57	12	83%	62	10	86%	4%	-2
LH/MH	50	5	91%	53	1	98%	7%	-4
CN/MN	29	0	100%	29	0	100%	0%	0
Cork	129	4	97%	133	3	98%	1%	-1
Kerry	30	0	100%	30	6	83%	-17%	6
CW/KK/ST	81	32	72%	51	65	44%	-28%	33
WD/WX	84	0	100%	85	0	100%	0%	0
MidWest	95	16	86%	97	14	87%	2%	-2
GY/RN	74	2	97%	71	2	97%	0%	0
Mayo	24	0	100%	24	0	100%	0%	0
Donegal	22	1	96%	14	6	70%	-26%	5
SO/LM/WC	8	0	100%	10	0	100%	0%	0
<b>National</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>74</b>

**Figure 26: Relative foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting allocated link Q2 2016**



### 3.4.3 Foster carers (relative) unapproved

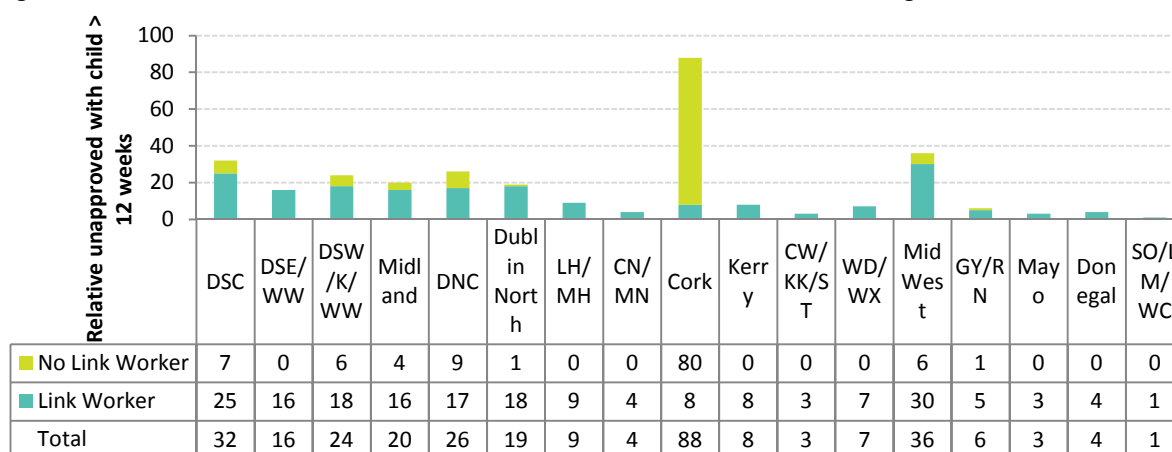
- 382 relative foster carers unapproved at the end of Q2 2016; down seven on Q1 2016 (Table 26).
- Of these 306 (80%) had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks; down nine from Q1 2016 (n=315) (Table 26).
- Of the 306 foster carers that had a child placed with them for >12 weeks, 63% (n= 192/306) had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q2 2016; down from 69% (n=218/315) at the end of Q1 2015 (Table 26). A total of 114 carers were awaiting allocation of a link worker compared to 97 at the end of Q1 2016.

**Table 26: Breakdown of foster carers not approved, Q1 2015 – Q2 2016**

Unapproved Relative Foster Carers	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Δ (+/-) Q2 2016 vs Q1 2016
No. unapproved	439	437	410	380	389	382	-7
No (%) with a child > 12 weeks	366 (83%)	368 (84%)	350 (85%)	327 (86%)	315 (81%)	306 (80%)	-19
Child > 12 weeks and have a Link Worker	184 (50%)	174 (47%)	204 (58%)	209 (64%)	218 (69%)	192 (63%)	-26 (12%)
Child > 12 weeks AWAITING Link Worker	182	194	146	118	97	114	+17 (18%)

- An area breakdown of the number of relative foster carers unapproved that had a child placed for longer than 12 weeks and had/awaiting a link worker at the end of Q2 2016, is presented in Figure 27.
- Cork had the highest number (n=88) of relative foster carers unapproved with a child placed for longer than 12 weeks, at the end of Q2 2016; SO/LM/WC had the fewest (n=1).
- In nine areas all unapproved relative foster carers with a child for >12 weeks had a link work (Figure 27).
- Of the remaining eight areas, Cork had the highest number (n=80; 91%) of unapproved relative fosters awaiting a link worker. The other seven areas had fewer than 10 unapproved relative foster carers with a child >12 weeks without a link worker.

**Figure 27: Relative foster carers UNAPPROVED with a child > 12 weeks, with/awaiting a link worker, Q2 2016**



### 3.5 HIQA INSPECTIONS – CHILDREN’S RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

The Health Information and Quality Authority (Hiqa) published 10 inspection reports in Q2 2016. The summary of judgments is set out in Table 27 and a summary of findings for each centre inspected can be found in Appendix II.

**Table 27: Residential Centres, Hiqa Inspections Summary Judgments**

Residential Care Centre					
SI No. 259 /1995 – Child Care (Placement of Children in Residential Care) Regulations 1995 and the National Standards for Residential Care (2001).					
Centre Inspected	Summary of Judgments				
	No of Standards Assessed	Exceeds Standard	Meets Standard	Requires Improvement	Significant Risk Identified
OSV - 0004176	10 (Unannounced/Full)	0	4	5	1
OSV - 0004175	7 (Unannounced / Follow-Up)	0	3	4	0
OSV -0004182	10 (Unannounced/Full)	0	6	4	0
OSV -0004174	10 (Unannounced/Full)	0	4	6	0
OSV - 0004181	10 (Unannounced/Full)	0	3	6	1
OSV - 0004187	10 (Unannounced/Full)	0	5	5	0
OSV - 0004170	8 (Unannounced / Follow-Up)	0	2	6	0
OSV - 0004165	10 (Unannounced/Full)	1	3	6	0
OSV - 0004166	10 (Announced/Full	0	4	6	0
OSV - 0004167	10 (Announced/Full	0	5	4	1

## 4.0 REGULATION AND SUPERVISION OF EXTERNAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES

### KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

#### 4.1 Early Years Services

#### 4.2 Children Registered In Places Other Than Recognised Schools

#### 4.3 Non-Statutory Children's Residential Services

#### 4.4 Non-Statutory Foster Care Services

### 4.1 EARLY YEARS SERVICES

#### KEY FACTS

- 4,639 EYS nationally at the end of Q2 2016; 212 more than Q1 2016
- 620 (13%) of EYS inspected during Q2 2016; 1,297 EYS inspected January – June 2016
- 55 complaints received in respect of EYS during Q2 2016
- 0 prosecutions of EYS taken by the Agency January – June 2016

#### 4.1.1 New Developments

- All Early Years Services (EYS)<sup>12</sup> re-registered by administrative process in preparation for commencement of the new Child Care Regulations (the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016) on 30 June 2016
- Survey of all service providers on their experience of inspections. The purpose of the survey was to assist Tusla to improve and develop the early years inspectorate regulation framework based on the experiences of inspection from the perspective of the service provider. Overall, feedback was positive. Findings from the survey can be accessed from the Tusla website [http://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/b\\_External\\_Analysis\\_GRAPHIS\\_ONLY.PDF](http://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/b_External_Analysis_GRAPHIS_ONLY.PDF)
- Briefing sessions provided to service providers on the new regulations and process changes required. Fourteen public briefing/information sessions were conducted across nine venues with a total 3,835 attendees. The video presentations can be accessed from the Tusla website <http://www.tusla.ie/services/preschool-services/early-years-inspectorate-update>
- Two EYS inspectors started with Tusla in Q2 2016
- Inspectors provided with training on “Incredible Years” - Training series for parents, teachers and children

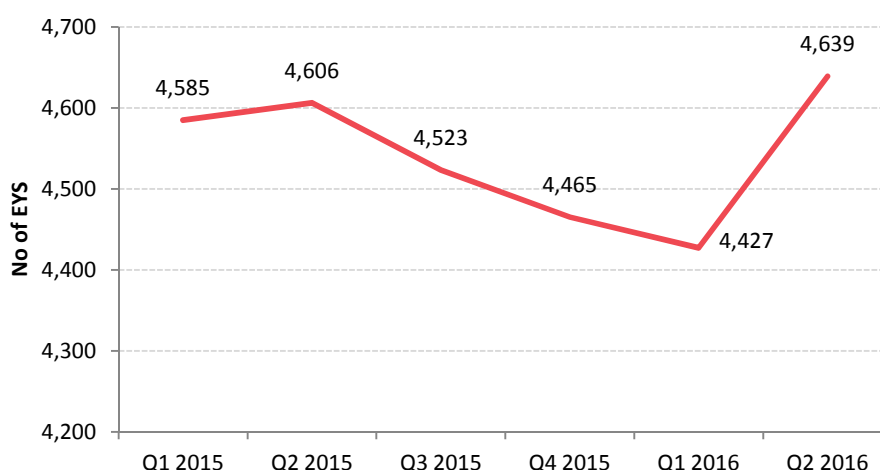
<sup>12</sup> Early Years Services is an overarching term that includes Pre-School Services. The Child and Family Agency is responsible for inspecting pre-schools, play groups, nurseries, crèches, day-care and similar services which cater for children aged 0-6, under the Child Care (Pre-School Services) Regulations 2006.

- Processes for the management of EYS operational activity streamlined, providing for stronger oversight, governance and assurance of the service.

#### 4.1.2 Activity Data

- 4,639 early years services (EYS) nationally at the end of Q2 2016; 212 more than Q1 2016 and the highest number for the six quarters shown (Figure 28). This increase is due to new services coming on stream on foot of the changes to the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme introduced in Budget 2016 and in advance of the new regulations which commenced on 30 June 2016.

**Figure 28: Number of EYS, by quarter**



- 345 new registrations/new notifications of EYS during Q2 2016; 312 more than Q1 2016 and again reflecting changes to the ECCE programme and the new regulations (Table 28).
- 133 EYS were found to be closed during Q2 2016; 62 more than Q1 2016 (Table 28). It should be noted that closure of services is found on inspection. The Inspectorate targets EYS not inspected in three or more years and on commencement of inspection a proportion of these are found to be closed. No service de-registered by the Agency from January – June 2016.

**Table 28: Number of new registrations/notifications of EYS and number closed, by quarter**

	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016
<b>New Registrations /Notifications</b>	18	55	42	22	33	<b>345</b>
<b>Closed Services</b>	18	34	125	80	71	<b>133</b>

Note: for Q2 2015 the number of new registrations/notifications has been revised from 56 to 55 and the number of services closed revised from 33 to 34, following a validation exercise that took place in one region following publication of the Q2 Integrated performance and Activity Report

- 620 (13%) EYS services inspected during Q2 2016; down 57 (8%) on Q1 2016 (n=677)
- No prosecutions of EYS taken by the Agency, January – June 2016.
- 55 complaints relating to EYS were received during Q2 2016, 16 more than Q1 2016 (n=39).



## 4.2 CHILDREN EDUCATED IN PLACES OTHER THAN RECOGNISED SCHOOLS

### Key Facts

- 76 applications made under Section 14 of the Education (Welfare)<sup>1</sup> Act 2000 for home education during Q2 2016; 70 applications for education in non-recognised schools
- 110 assessments for home education carried out under Section 14 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 during Q2 2016; no assessments for non-recognised schools carried out
- 93 children registered for home education during Q2 2016; 258 children registered for education in non recognised schools

- 76 applications made under Section 14 of the Education (Welfare)<sup>13</sup> Act 2000 for home education during Q2 2016; 70 applications for education in non-recognised schools
- A total of 313 applications for home education between September 2015 and June 2016; 1,230 applications for education in non recognised schools
- 110 assessments for home education carried out under Section 14 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 during Q2 2016; no assessments for non-recognised schools carried out
- A total of 359 assessments for home education carried out between September 2015 and June 2016; six assessments in respect of non-recognised schools carried out.
- 93 children registered for home education during Q2 2016; 258 children registered for education in non recognised schools
- A total of 286 children registered for home education between September 2015 and June 2016; 962 children registered for education in non recognised schools
- Four children were refused registration between September 2015 and June 2016. There were no appeals made against decisions not to register.

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<sup>13</sup> Section 14 Education (Welfare) Act 2000 14.—(1) The Board shall, on the commencement of this section, cause to be established and maintained a register of all children in receipt of education in a place other than a recognised school (hereafter in this section referred to as “the register”). (2) Subject to subsection (3), where a parent chooses to educate, or have educated, his or her child in a place other than a recognised school he or she shall, in accordance with this section, apply to the Board to have the child concerned registered in the register.

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

### 4.3 NON-STATUTORY CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL CENTRES

In accordance with the Agency's Business Plan for 2016, the Agency's former Inspection and Monitoring Service was restructured in Q1 2016. This resulted in the creation of two teams: a team responsible for responsible for the registration and inspection of private residential and foster care services and a team for the monitoring and review of Tusla's (statutory) residential and foster care services, expanded to include child protection services. The new structure became operational on the 1st April 2016. A risk and intelligence led approach will be used to target areas where service improvement and monitoring activity is most needed.

#### Key Facts

- 91 private residential centres registered with the Agency at the end of Q2 2016; seven more than Q1 2016
- 9 centres were due an inspection; all received their inspection
- 28 voluntary residential centres registered with the Agency at the end of Q2 2016; no change from Q1 2016
- One centre was due an inspection and received its inspection
- 7 non-statutory foster care services; all received a monitoring visit during Q2 2016

#### Private Residential Centres

- 91 private centres registered with the Agency at the end of Q2 2016; seven more than Q1 2016 (Table 29)
- Nine centres were due an inspection in Q2 2016 and all received their inspection. This brings to 19 the number of centres that were due an inspection and were inspected January – June 2016.
- Eight centres were subject to a registration intervention. This brings to 14 the number of centres that were subject to a registration intervention January – June 2016.
- 49 monitoring visits were done during Q2 2016; seven fewer than Q1 2016. The highest number of the visits was done in the South (n=21), followed by the West (n=17). Substantially fewer were done in Dublin North East and Dublin Mid Leinster. This brings to 105 the number of monitoring visits that were done January – June 2016.
- 42% (n=38/91) of individual centres received a monitoring visit during Q2 2016.

Table 29: Private residential centres registered, inspected, monitored, by region and quarter

Private Residential Centres	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Δ (+/-) Q2 vs Q1
Number registered at end of quarter	DML = 19	DML = 23	DML = +4
	DNE= 28	DNE= 30	DNE = +2
	South = 26	South = 26	South = 0
	West = 11	West = 12	West = +1

	<b>Total = 84</b>	<b>Total = 91</b>	<b>Total = +7</b>
<b>No due an inspection during quarter</b>	DML = 3 DNE = 4 South = 2 West = 1 <b>Total = 10</b>	DML = 2 DNE = 3 South = 4 West = 0 <b>Total = 9</b>	
<b>No (%) inspected during the quarter</b>	DML = 3 (100%) DNE = 4 (100%) South = 2 (100%) West = 1 (100%) <b>Total = 10 (100%)</b>	DML = 2 (100%) DNE = 3 (100%) South = 4 (100%) <b>Total = 9 (100%)</b>	
<b>No subject to a registration intervention</b>	DML = 2 DNE = 3 South = 1 West = 0 <b>Total = 6</b>	DML = 4 DNE = 2 South = 2 West = 0 <b>Total = 8</b>	DML = +2 DNE = -1 South = +1 West = 0 <b>Total = +2</b>
<b>Total number of monitoring visits during the quarter</b>	DML = 1 DNE = 9 South = 24 West = 22 <b>Total = 56</b>	DML = 2 DNE = 9 South = 21 West = 17 <b>Total = 49</b>	DML = +1 DNE = 0 South = -3 West = -5 <b>Total = -7</b>
<b>No (%) of individual centres that were visiting during the quarter</b>	DML = 1 (5%) DNE = 9 (32%) South = 20 (77%) West = 8 (73%) <b>Total = 38 (45%)</b>	DML = 2 (9%) DNE = 9 (30%) South = 17 (65%) West = 10 (83%) <b>Total = 38 (42%)</b>	DML = +1 DNE = 0 South = -3 West = 2 <b>Total = 0</b>

## Voluntary Residential Centres

- 28 voluntary centres registered with the Agency at the end of Q2 2016; no change from Q1 2016 (Table 30).
- One centre due an inspection received its inspection. This brings to three the number due an inspection and inspected January – June 2016.
- Three centres were subject to a registration intervention during Q2 2016. This brings to five the number of centres that were subject to a registration intervention January – June 2016.
- Ten monitoring visits done in Q2 2016; eight more than Q1 2016. This brings to 12 the number of monitoring visits that were done January – June 2016.
- 36% (n=10/28) of individual centres received a monitoring visit during Q2 2016.

**Table 30: Voluntary residential centres registered, inspected, monitored by region and quarter**

Voluntary Centres	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	$\Delta$ (+/-) Q2 vs Q1
<b>Number registered at end of quarter</b>	DML = 10 DNE = 14 South = 4 West = 0 <b>Total = 28</b>	DML = 10 DNE = 14 South = 4 West = 0 <b>Total = 28</b>	DML = 0 DNE = 0 South = 0 West = 0 <b>Total = 0</b>
<b>No due an inspection during quarter</b>	DML = 0 DNE = 2 South = 0 <b>Total = 2</b>	DML = 0 DNE = 1 South = 0 <b>Total = 1</b>	
<b>No (%) inspected during the quarter</b>	DNE = 2 (100%) <b>Total = 2 (100%)</b>	DNE = 1 (100%) <b>Total = 1 (100%)</b>	
<b>No subject to a registration intervention</b>	DML = 2 DNE = 0 South = 0 <b>Total = 2</b>	DML = 2 DNE = 1 South = 0 <b>Total = 3</b>	DML = 0 DNE = +1 South = 0 <b>Total = +1</b>
<b>Total number of monitoring visits during the quarter</b>	DML = 0 DNE = 1 South = 1 <b>Total = 2</b>	DML = 3 DNE = 6 South = 1 <b>Total = 10</b>	DML = +3 DNE = +5 South = 0 <b>Total = +8</b>
<b>No (%) of individual centres that were visiting during the quarter</b>	DML = 0 (0%) DNE = 1 (7%) South = 1 (25%) <b>Total = 2 (7%)</b>	DML = 3 (30%) DNE = 6 (43%) South = 1 (25%) <b>Total = 10 (36%)</b>	DML = +3 DNE = +5 South = 0 <b>Total = +8</b>

#### 4.4 NON-STATUTORY FOSTER CARE SERVICES

- 7 non-statutory foster care services nationally
- 7 services received a monitoring visit during Q2 2016
- 15 monitoring visits done in Q2 2016

## 5.0 FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

### KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

#### 5.1 Family Support Services

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

### 5.1 FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES<sup>14</sup>

#### KEY FACTS

- 14,621 children and 10,702 families referred to family support services, Jan – Jun 2016
- 20,039 children and 13,641 families in receipt of family support services at the end of June 2016

#### 5.1.1 Children and Families Referred to Family Support Services

- 14,621 children and 10,702 families referred to family support services between January and June 2016 (Table 31).
- 29% (n=4,242) of the children referred to family support services were referred by social work. The remaining 71% (n=10,379) were referred by other sources.
- 22% (n=2,384) of the families referred to family support services were referred by social work. The remaining 78% (n=8,318) were referred by other sources.
- The number of children referred to family support services ranged from 3,062 (21%) in the MidWest to 275 (2%) in CW/KK/ST. Five areas (Dublin North City, Dublin North, LH/MH, MidWest and GY/RN) reported in excess of 1,000 referrals. Eight areas reported fewer than 500 referrals.
- The majority of children referred in all but two areas, Cavan/Monaghan and Waterford/Wexford, were referred by “other sources”.

Table 31: Referrals to Family Support Services Jan - Jun 2016

Area	Children referred by Social Work	Children referred by Other Sources	% referred by Social Work	% referred by Other Sources	Total Children Referred
DSC	268	548	33%	67%	816
DSE/WW	195	263	43%	57%	458
DSW/K/WW	156	476	25%	75%	632
Midlands	138	208	40%	60%	346
DNC	410	1,307	24%	76%	1,717
Dublin North	566	798	41%	59%	1,364
LH/MH	422	1,036	29%	71%	1,458
CN/MN	287	163	64%	36%	450

<sup>14</sup> Family Support Services includes those services funded through a Service Arrangement with the Child and Family Agency and those internally funded and delivered through the Child and Family Agency

<b>Cork</b>	164	203	45%	55%	<b>367</b>
<b>Kerry</b>	49	242	17%	83%	<b>291</b>
<b>CW/KK/ST</b>	118	157	43%	57%	<b>275</b>
<b>WD/WX</b>	341	290	54%	46%	<b>631</b>
<b>MidWest</b>	644	2,418	21%	79%	<b>3,062</b>
<b>GY/RN</b>	248	886	22%	78%	<b>1,134</b>
<b>Mayo</b>	54	362	13%	87%	<b>416</b>
<b>Donegal</b>	96	394	20%	80%	<b>490</b>
<b>SLWC</b>	86	628	12%	88%	<b>714</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,242</b>	<b>10,379</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>14,621</b>

- The number of families referred to family support services ranged from 2,218 (21%) for the MidWest to 151 (<2%) for Kerry (Table 32).
- Four areas (MidWest, Dublin North City, Dublin North and Louth/ Meath) reported in excess of 1,000 referrals with a further four reporting between 500 and 1,000 referrals. Nine areas reported fewer than 500 referrals.
- In all but one area (Cavan/Monaghan) the majority of referrals were by “other sources”.

**Table 32: Families referred to Family Support Services Jan - Jun 2016**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Families referred by Social Work</b>	<b>Families referred by Other Sources</b>	<b>% referred by Social Work</b>	<b>% referred by Other Sources</b>	<b>Total Families Referred</b>
<b>DSC</b>	161	394	29%	71%	<b>555</b>
<b>DSE/WW</b>	104	166	39%	61%	<b>270</b>
<b>DSW/K/WW</b>	70	432	14%	86%	<b>502</b>
<b>Midlands</b>	101	132	43%	57%	<b>233</b>
<b>DNC</b>	232	846	22%	78%	<b>1,078</b>
<b>Dublin North</b>	353	690	34%	66%	<b>1,043</b>
<b>LH/MH</b>	187	1,295	13%	87%	<b>1,482</b>
<b>CN/MN</b>	86	73	54%	46%	<b>159</b>
<b>Cork</b>	94	156	38%	62%	<b>250</b>
<b>Kerry</b>	26	125	17%	83%	<b>151</b>
<b>CW/KK/ST</b>	79	192	29%	71%	<b>271</b>
<b>WD/WX</b>	208	220	49%	51%	<b>428</b>
<b>MidWest</b>	414	1,804	19%	81%	<b>2,218</b>
<b>GY/RN</b>	134	668	17%	83%	<b>802</b>
<b>Mayo</b>	31	156	17%	83%	<b>187</b>
<b>Donegal</b>	55	377	13%	87%	<b>432</b>
<b>SLWC</b>	49	592	8%	92%	<b>641</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,384</b>	<b>8,318</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>10,702</b>

### 5.1.2 Children and Families in Receipt of and Discharged from Family Support Services

- 20,039 children and 13,641 families in receipt of family support services at the end of June 2016 (Table 33).
- The highest number of children and families in receipt of family support services was reported by the MidWest (n=7,251) followed by SLWC (n=4,567) and Donegal (n=3,046).

The fewest number was reported by Kerry (n=321) followed by Cavan/Monaghan (n=378) and Cork (n=385).

- 6,937 children and 5,850 families were discharged from family support services between January and June 2016 (Table 33).

**Table 33: Children and families in receipt of FSS at the end of June 2016 and discharged between Jan - Jun 2016**

Area	Total number of children in receipt of a FSS at the end of June 2016	Total number of families in receipt of a FSS at the end of June 2016	Total number of children & families in receipt of a FSS at the end of June 2016	Total number of children discharged from FSS Jan - Jun 2016	Total number of families discharged from FSS Jan - Jun 2016	Total number of children & families discharged from FSS Jan - Jun 2016
DSC	830	738	1,568	328	394	722
DSE/WW	627	323	950	338	208	546
DSW/K/WW	650	388	1,038	413	339	752
Midlands	447	430	877	196	156	352
DNC	1,334	904	2,238	594	561	1,155
Dublin North	1,512	1,220	2,732	618	605	1,223
LH/MH	1,254	939	2,193	532	276	808
CN/MN	273	105	378	236	84	320
Cork	223	162	385	152	110	262
Kerry	238	83	321	149	76	225
CW/KK/ST	818	682	1,500	242	226	468
WD/WX	926	674	1,600	361	213	574
MidWest	4,506	2,745	7,251	1,114	1,350	2,464
GY/RN	1,166	622	1,788	804	570	1,374
Mayo	912	336	1,248	341	150	491
Donegal	1,728	1,318	3,046	169	278	447
SLWC	2,595	1,972	4,567	350	254	604
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,039</b>	<b>13,641</b>	<b>33,680</b>	<b>6,937</b>	<b>5,850</b>	<b>12,787</b>

## 5.2 MEITHEAL

A key component of Tusla's Prevention, Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) programme of work is the roll-out of **Meitheal** - a national practice model (common approach to practice) for all agencies working with children, young people and their families. This model is designed to ensure that the needs and strengths of children and their families are effectively identified and understood and responded to in a timely way so that children and families get the help and support needed to improve children's outcomes and realise their rights. It is an early intervention response tailored to the needs of an individual child or young person and is used where more than one agency involvement is needed.

The data illustrated for Q1-Q2 2016 captures full Meitheal activity only. However, a significant amount of 'Pre-Meitheal' and co-ordination work is taking place which is not currently being collated, but will be captured in new metrics in 2017.

### KEY FACTS

- 572 Meitheal processes initiated between January and June 2016
- Tusla is working to establish Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) - collaborative networks of community, voluntary and statutory providers intended to improve access to support services for children and their families, at local level across all 17 Area Management Areas.
- 62 Child and Family Support Networks (CFSNs) operating at the end of June 2016 and 49 CFSNs planned

### 5.2.1 Meitheal Activity Data

- 572 Meitheal processes initiated between January and June 2016. Of these 217 (38%) were initiated directly as a result of a discussion between a parent and a practitioner, a further 250 (44%) were initiated as a result of diversion<sup>15</sup> by Social Work Departments while the remaining 105 (18%) were initiated as a result of stepdown<sup>16</sup> by Social Work Departments.
- The number of Meitheal processes initiated across the areas ranged from 200 in CW/KK/ST to none in Cork. The majority of areas (n=13) reported fewer than 30 processes initiated (Table 34).

<sup>15</sup> Social Work Diversion: where a Meitheal process is initiated when a referral under Children First is deemed not reach the threshold necessary for the involvement of the Child and Family Agency Social Work Department but due to outstanding unmet need, that requires child and family support services, is diverted, with the consent of the parent, via the Child and Family Support Network Coordinator for a Local Area Pathways Response and this results in a Meitheal process being initiated

<sup>16</sup> Social Work Stepdown: where a Meitheal process is initiated when a referral is accepted to the Child and Family Agency Social Work Department, assessed by the Social Work Department and is deemed suitable for closure either after assessment or after a period of intervention but has outstanding unmet need, that requires child and family support services, and is stepped down, with the consent of the parent, via the Child and Family Support Network Coordinator for a Local Area Pathways Response and this results in a Meitheal process being initiated.



- 84% (n=209/250) of processes initiated as a result of diversion by Social Work Departments were reported by three areas, CW/KK/ST (n=141); Galway/Roscommon (n=43) and MidWest (n=25).
- 72% (n=76/105) of processes initiated as a result of step down by Social Work Departments were reported by two areas, CW/KK/ST (n=51) and Galway/Roscommon (n=25).
- Dublin North City reported the highest number of processes initiated directly as a result of discussion between a parent and a practitioner (n=45; 21%), followed by DSW/K/WW (n=24; 11%) and Louth/Meath (n=22; 10%).

**Table 34: Meitheal processes initiated by source, Jan - Jun 2016**

Area	Meitheal processes initiated – Direct Access	Meitheal processes initiated – SW Diversion	Meitheal processes initiated – SW Step-down	Total Meitheal processes initiated
DSC	1	9	8	18
DSE/WW	15	2	2	19
DSW/K/WW	24	0	3	27
Midlands	14	0	1	15
DNC	45	3	3	51
Dublin North	7	4	1	12
LH/MH	22	6	1	29
CN/MN	16	3	0	19
Cork	0	0	0	0
Kerry	5	0	0	5
CW/KK/ST	8	141	51	200
WD/WX	2	5	3	10
MidWest	15	25	25	65
GY/RN	17	43	2	62
Mayo	10	2	1	13
Donegal	2	1	0	3
SLWC	14	6	4	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>572</b>

- 214 Meitheal processes reaching completion of discussion stage proceeded to delivery between January and June 2016 (Table 35). The highest number was reported by MidWest (n=36) followed by Louth/Meath (n=26) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (n=26). More than half of the areas (n=9) reported 10 or fewer processes reaching completion.
- 183 Meitheal processes closed between January and June 2016 (Table 35). The highest number was reported by MidWest (n=51) followed by Galway/Roscommon (n=44) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (n=22). The majority of areas (n=11) reported fewer than 10 processes closed.

**Table 35: Meitheal processes reaching completion of discussion stage proceeding to delivery and Meitheal processes closed, Jan - Jun 2016**

Area	Meitheal processes reaching completion of discussion stage proceeding to delivery	Meitheal processes closed
DSC	13	2
DSE/WW	26	16
DSW/K/WW	14	4
Midlands	10	2
DNC	16	11
Dublin North	7	3
LH/MH	26	16
CN/MN	9	3
Cork	0	0
Kerry	8	1
CW/KK/ST	10	1
WD/WX	8	1
MidWest	36	51
GY/RN	13	44
Mayo	4	6
Donegal	1	0
SLWC	13	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>183</b>

- 417 Tusla staff trained to facilitate the Meitheal process between January and June 2016.

### 5.2.2 Child and Family Support Networks

- 62 Child and Family Support Networks<sup>17</sup> (CFSN) operating at the end of June 2016 and further 49 CFSNs are planned (Table 36).
- Galway/Roscommon reported the highest number of networks operating (n=12) followed by Cavan/Monaghan (n=9), Waterford/Wexford (n=8), Dublin North City (n=6) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (n=6) (Table 36). Four areas (Midlands, LH/MH, CW/KK/ST and Mayo) reported none operating. Networks are planned for these areas.

**Table 36: Child and Family Support Networks operating and planned, June 2016**

Area	CFSNs Operating June 2016	CFSNs Planned June 2016
DSC	3	0
DSE/WW	6	3
DSW/K/WW	4	6
Midlands	0	6
DNC	6	0
Dublin North	4	1
LH/MH	0	5

<sup>17</sup> Child and Family Support Networks: Collaborative networks of community, voluntary and statutory providers intended to improve access to support services for children and their families

<b>CN/MN</b>	9	1
<b>Cork</b>	1	4
<b>Kerry</b>	5	3
<b>CW/KK/ST</b>	0	9
<b>WD/WX</b>	8	0
<b>MidWest</b>	1	5
<b>GY/RN</b>	12	0
<b>Mayo</b>	0	3
<b>Donegal</b>	2	1
<b>SLWC</b>	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>49</b>

## 6.0 EDUCATIONAL WELFARE SERVICES

### KEY FACTS

- 1,105 new individual children worked with during Q2 2016; 3,507 worked with between September 2015 and June 2016
- 166 school attendance notices (SANs) issued in respect of 112 children under Section 25 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000<sup>1</sup> during Q2 2016; 495 SANs (343 children) issued between September 2015 and June 2016.
- 24 summonses issued in respect of 21 children under Section 25 of the Act<sup>1</sup> during Q2 2016; 121 summonses (91 children) were issued between September 2015 and June 2016.

*Data on children being educated in places other than in recognised schools can be found in Chapter 4 (Regulation & Supervision of External Children Service). This is to reflect the fact that this area now comes under the responsibility of the Director of Quality Assurance.*

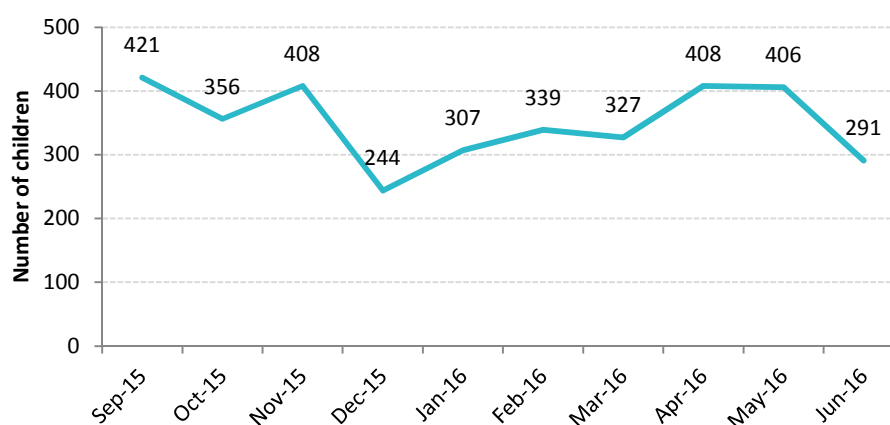
### Key Developments Q2 2016

- The strategy document “Developing the Statement of Strategy for School Attendance: Guidelines for Schools” was published and disseminated by Educational Welfare Services (EWS). This document can be accessed on the Tusla website at [http://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/FINAL\\_SAS\\_strategy\\_eng\\_2jun.pdf](http://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/FINAL_SAS_strategy_eng_2jun.pdf)
- Tusla hosted Educational Welfare Services Conference - Bridging the Gap between Education and Child Welfare in April 2016. The focus of the conference was the inter-relationship between education and welfare and how the two services can work together to achieve better outcomes for children. Further information is available from Tusla’s website <http://www.tusla.ie/news/tusla-hosts-educational-welfare-services-conference>
- Caseload management system for EWS developed.

### Open Cases / Cases Worked

- 1,105 new individual children worked with during Q2 2016 bringing the total number for September 2015 to June 2016 to 3,507 (Figure 29).

Figure 29: Number of new individual children worked with in the month, Sept 2015 - June 2016

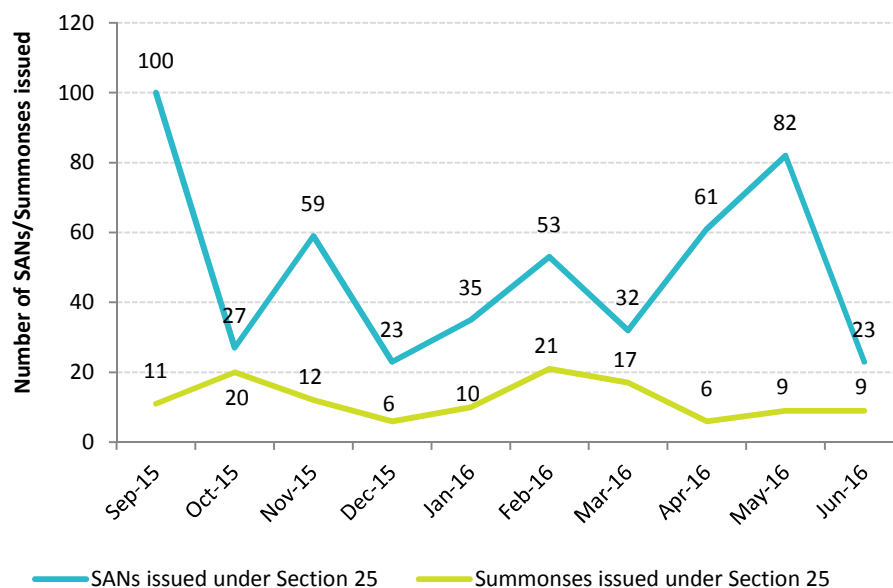


- 2,426 open cases on hand at the start of Q2 2016
- 1,407 new cases assigned to Educational Welfare Officers (EWOs) during Q2 2016; 4,047 cases assigned from September 2015 – June 2016
- 1,176 cases closed during Q2 2016; 2,549 cases closed from September 2015 – June 2016
- 2,657 open cases on hand at the end of June 2016.

### School Attendance Notices and Summonses under Section 25

- 166 school attendance notices (SANs) issued by EWS under Section 25 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000<sup>18</sup> during Q2 2016 (Figure 30). The notices issued were in respect of 112 individual children i.e., more than one notice was issued in respect of some children.
- 495 (343 individual children) SANs issued between September 2015 and June 2016.
- 24 summonses issued by EWS under Section 25 of the Education (Welfare Act) 2000 (Figure 30) during Q2 2016. The summonses issued were in respect of 21 individual children i.e., more than one summons was issued in respect some children.
- 121 (91 individual children) summonses issued between September 2015 and June 2016.

Figure 30: SANs and summonses issued under Section 25 Education and Welfare Act 2000, by month



- Educational Welfare Officers (EWOs) attended a total of 107 court cases pertaining to their own cases during Q2 2016 and an additional 10 court cases in a supporting capacity (e.g., at

<sup>18</sup> Section 25 Education (Welfare) Act 2000—(1) Subject to section 17(2), the Board shall, if of opinion that a parent is failing or neglecting to cause his or her child to attend a recognised school in accordance with this Act, serve a notice (hereafter in this section referred to as a “school attendance notice”) on such parent—(a) requiring him or her on the expiration of such period as is specified in the notice, to cause his or her child named in the notice to attend such recognised school as is specified in the notice, and there to attend on each school day that the notice is in force, and (b) informing him or her that if he or she fails to comply with a requirement under paragraph (a) he or she shall be guilty of an offence.

the request of social work services). This brings to 403 the number of court cases attended from September 2015 to June 2016.

- EWOs were also in attendance at a total of 67 child protection conferences (CPC) during Q2 2016. This brings to 186 the number CPCs attended from September 2015 to June 2016.

## 7.0 HUMAN RESOURCES

### KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

- 7.1 Workforce Position
- 7.2 Absence Rate
- 7.3 Social Work Staff
- 7.4 Residential Services
- 7.5 Workforce Learning and Development

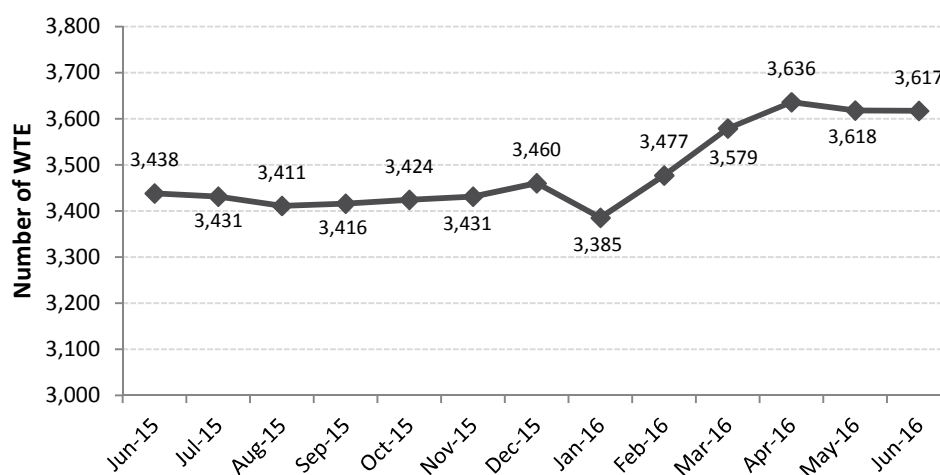
#### KEY FACTS

- 3,617 (WTE) employed by the Agency, Q2 2016; up 38 on Q1 2016
- 251 new staff came on to the Agency's payroll (January and May 2016)
- 136 staff left (incl. retirements) the Agency (January and May 2016)
- 146 staff on maternity leave at the end of May 2016
- 196 agency staff employed by Tusla at the end of May 2016
- 4.21% absence rate (May 2016); lowest rate recorded for period May 2015 – May 2016
- 239 courses run by Workforce Learning and Development in Q2 2016; 3,321 attendees

### 7.1 Workforce Position

- 3,617 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q2 2016; 38 more than Q1 2016 and 179 (5.2%) more than Q2 2015 (Figure 31).

Figure 31: Total Staff Employed (WTE), by month Jun 2015– Jun 2016

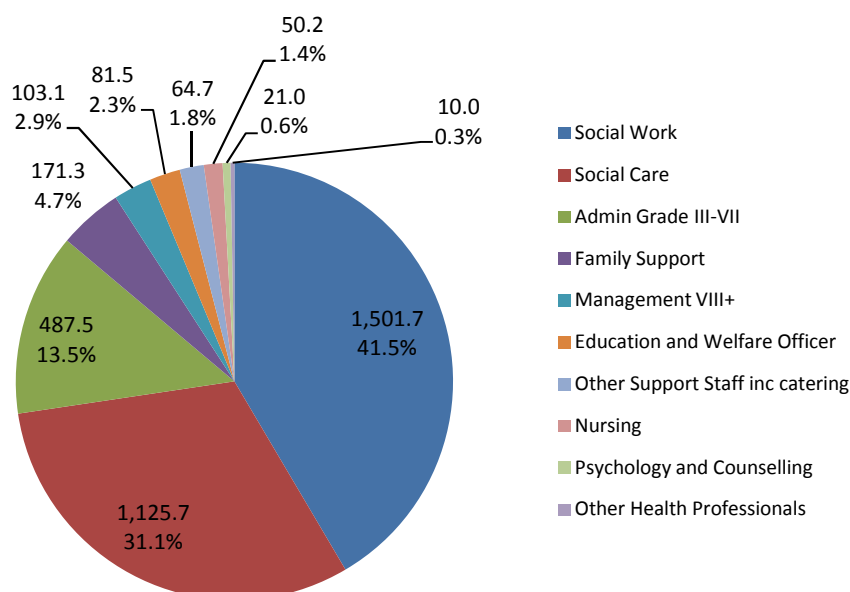


*The decrease noted in January is due to unpaid leave (shorter working year) in December 2015.*

- Social workers are the largest category of staff employed by the Agency accounting for 42% (n=1,501.7) of total staff (WTE) employed at the end of Q2 2016, followed by social care

staff accounting for a further 31% (n=1,125.7) of total WTE. Management (i.e., grade VIII and above) accounts for less than 3% (n=103.3) of the workforce (Figure 32).

**Figure 32: Breakdown of staff category (WTE), Q2 2016**



- All categories of staff, with the exception of social work, psychology & counselling, other health professionals and family support experienced an increase in WTEs between Q1 2016 and Q2 2016 (Table 37).

**Table 37: Breakdown of staff (WTE) by category and month**

Staffing by Category	Jun -15	Mar -16	Jun -16	Δ+/- Q2 2016 vs Q1 2016
Social Work	1,394.7	1,503.67	<b>1,501.7</b>	-2.0
Social Care	1148.07	1,119.3	<b>1,125.7</b>	6.4
Psychology & Counselling	22.75	23.15	<b>20.97</b>	-2.2
Other Support Staff	61.92	63.88	<b>64.74</b>	0.9
Other Health Professionals	9.9	9.98	<b>9.97</b>	0.0
Nursing	45.5	47.2	<b>50.16</b>	3.0
Management VIII+	83.92	99.88	<b>103.13</b>	3.3
Family Support	174.41	172.77	<b>171.34</b>	-1.4
Education and Welfare Officer	60.23	74.15	<b>81.46</b>	7.3
Admin Grade III-VII	436.5	464.81	<b>487.48</b>	22.7
<b>Total Staffing</b>	<b>3,438</b>	<b>3,579</b>	<b>3,617</b>	<b>38</b>

- 251 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) between January and May 2016 (latest data available);
- 103 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks) between January and May 2016 (latest data available). In addition to these staff, 33 staff retired.
- 146 staff were on maternity leave at the end of May 2016; 81 (55%) of whom were social workers.

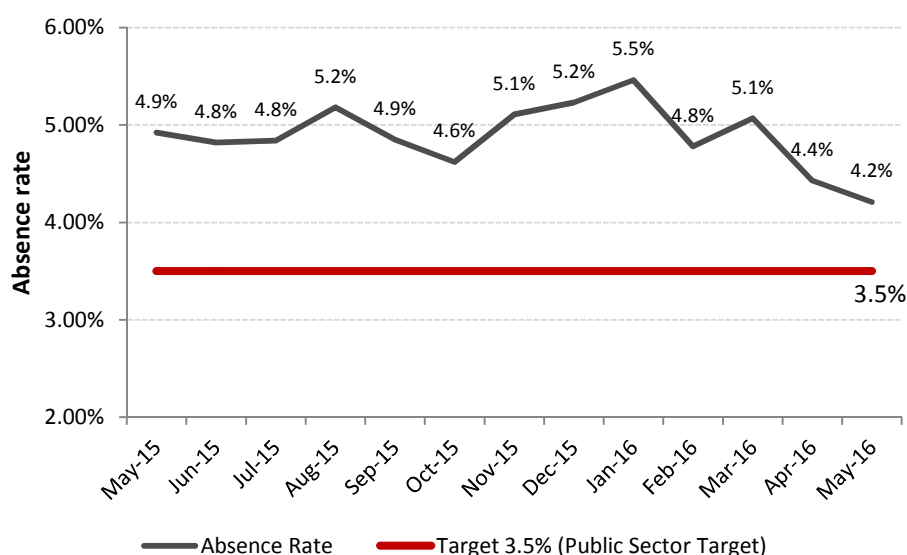


- 196 agency staff employed by Tusla at the end of May 2016; 63 (32%) of whom were social workers and 75 (38%) of whom were social care staff.

## 7.2 Absence Rate

- At the end of May 2016<sup>19</sup> the overall absence rate for the Agency was 4.21% against a target of 3.5% (target for public sector) and the lowest rate recorded for the period May 2015 – May 2016 (Figure 33).

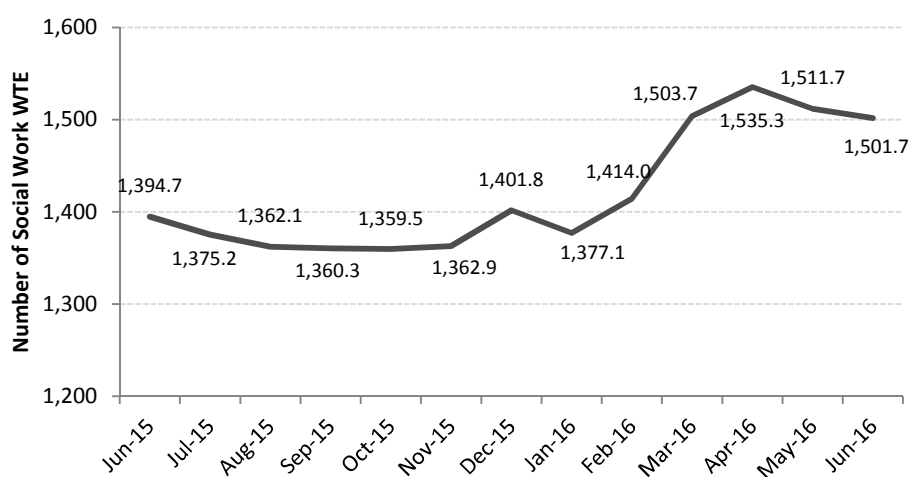
Figure 33: Overall staff absence rate by month



## 7.3 Social Work Staff (WTE)

- 1,501.74 whole time equivalent (WTE) social work staff (all grades and excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q2 2016; a decrease of 1.93 on Q1 2016 but 107.04 (8%) more than Q2 2015 (Figure 34).

Figure 34: Number of social workers (WTE) by month Q2 2015 – Q2 2016



- 174 social workers joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll), January - May 2016 (latest data available).

<sup>19</sup> Absence rates are reported quarterly in arrears

- 68 social workers left (i.e., resigned, career breaks) Tusla, January - May 2016 (latest data available). In addition to these staff, 12 social workers retired.
- 81 social workers were on maternity leave at the end of May 2016.
- 63 agency social workers were employed at the end of May 2016.
- The absence rate for social workers was 3.65% at the end of May 2016; 0.56 percentage points lower than the national rate of 4.21% and just above the public sector target of 3.5%.
- A breakdown of the number of social workers (all grades) employed at the end of each quarter Q2 2015 – Q2 2016 by area is presented in Table 38.

**Table 38: Breakdown of social work staff (WTE) by area Q2 2015 – Q2 2016**

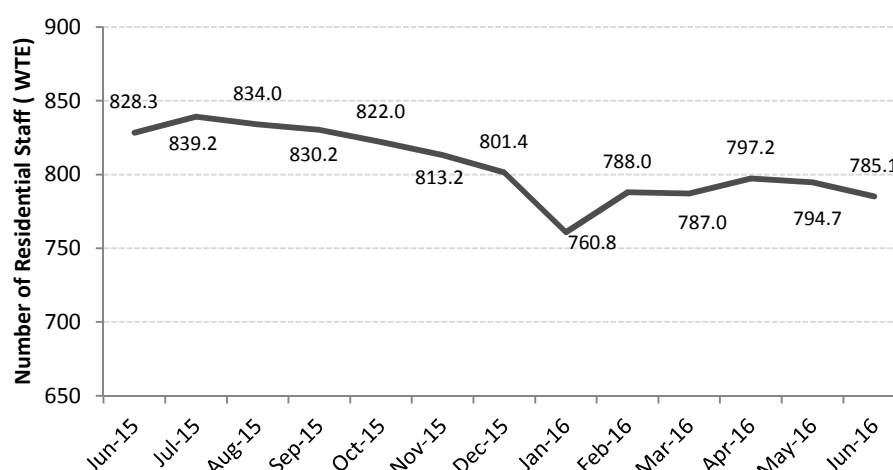
Area	Social Work (WTE) Q2 2015	Social Work (WTE) Q3 2015	Social Work (WTE) Q4 2015	Social Work (WTE) Q1 2016	Social Work (WTE) Q2 2016	Δ +/- Q2 2016 vs Q1 2016
DSC	76.85	71.33	72.9	75.42	81.06	5.64
DSE/WW	91.49	97.17	100.3	107.01	108.31	1.3
DSW/K/WW	80.83	82.38	77.69	85.53	84.82	-0.71
Midlands	77.2	72.64	76.63	81.96	82.8	0.84
Regional Services DML	26.8	25.37	26.15	18.33	16.39	-1.94
<b>DML</b>	<b>353.17</b>	<b>348.89</b>	<b>353.67</b>	<b>368.25</b>	<b>373.38</b>	<b>5.13</b>
CN/MN	27.06	27.97	31.8	34.06	35.84	1.78
DNC	111.7	106.7	109.51	122.74	113.63	-9.11
LH/MH	77.19	71.2	76.4	83	79.67	-3.33
Dublin North	62.52	58.84	64.29	72.27	72.73	0.46
Regional Services DNE	36.58	36.07	38.82	31.17	32.12	0.95
<b>DNE</b>	<b>315.05</b>	<b>300.78</b>	<b>320.82</b>	<b>343.24</b>	<b>333.99</b>	<b>-9.25</b>
CW/KK/ST	59.53	57.91	59.03	64.4	63.93	-0.47
Cork*	155.53	148.4	138.95	158.85	152.36	-6.49
Kerry*	17.11	17.46	40.17	41.22	41.44	0.22
WD/WX	82.08	81.19	78.62	89.24	88.42	-0.82
Regional Services South	25.4	25.13	26.51	11.16	11.16	0
<b>South</b>	<b>339.65</b>	<b>330.09</b>	<b>343.28</b>	<b>364.87</b>	<b>357.31</b>	<b>-7.56</b>
Donegal	55.45	54.63	52.25	51.21	54.07	2.86
GY/RN	89.27	78.66	85.58	89.27	90.7	1.43
Mayo	35.57	37.18	37.98	35.38	36.3	0.92
Mid West	113.6	113.39	116.31	120.18	123.41	3.23
SO/LM/WC	35.45	38.31	35.81	39.24	39.55	0.31
Regional Services West	11.02	13.31	11.61	2	2	0
<b>West</b>	<b>340.36</b>	<b>335.48</b>	<b>339.54</b>	<b>337.28</b>	<b>346.03</b>	<b>8.75</b>
Residential DML	4	3.91	4.83	3.76	3.83	0.07
Residential DNE	5.43	4.93	3.6	4.46	4.99	0.53
Residential West	4.9	4.9	3.12			0
Residential South	3	4	5.83	5.9	4.4	-1.5
<b>Residential Services</b>	<b>17.33</b>	<b>17.74</b>	<b>17.38</b>	<b>14.12</b>	<b>13.22</b>	<b>-0.9</b>
Corporate	26.14	24.34	24.11	72.91	74.81	1.9

Early Years Service	3	3	3	3	3	0
<b>Corporate</b>	<b>29.14</b>	<b>27.34</b>	<b>27.11</b>	<b>75.91</b>	<b>77.81</b>	<b>1.9</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,394.7</b>	<b>1,360.32</b>	<b>1,401.8</b>	<b>1503.67</b>	<b>1501.74</b>	<b>-1.93</b>

## 7.4 Residential Services Staff (WTE)

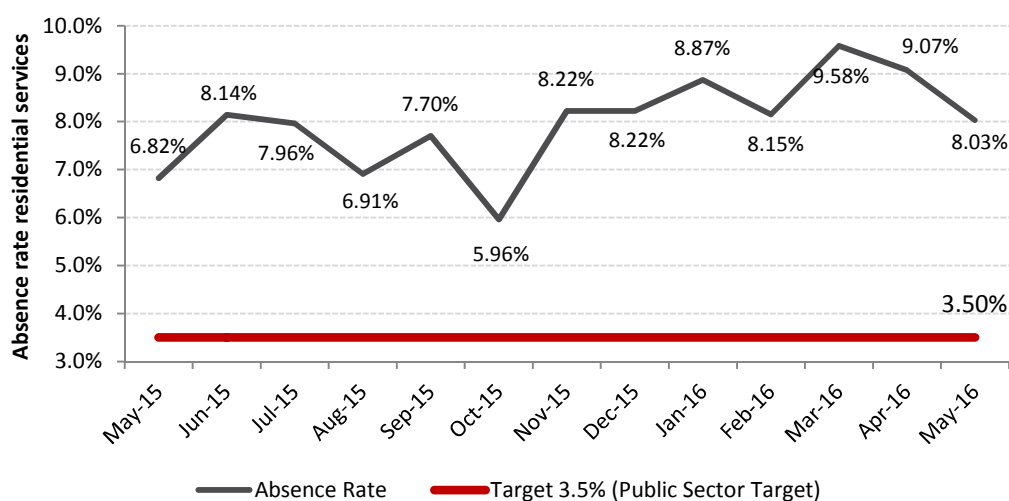
- 785.1 WTE staff (all grades) employed in Residential Services at the end of Q2 2016; up 1.9 on Q1 2016 (n=787.0) and down 43.2 on Q2 2015 (Figure 35).

**Figure 35: Number of Residential Services Staff (WTE), by month**



- 10 staff joined residential services (i.e., joined Agency's payroll), January - May 2016.
- 13 staff left (i.e., career breaks, resignations) residential services, January – May 2016, while a further five staff retired.
- 75 agency staff employed by Residential Services at the end of May 2016.
- At the end of May 2016<sup>20</sup> the absence rate for Residential Services was running at 8.03%; 3.82 percentage point higher than the overall rate for the Agency. The rate for May 2016 was 1.55 percentage points lower than Q1 2016 (9.58%) but 1.21 percentage points higher than the same period last year (6.82%) (Figure 36).

**Figure 36: Staff absence rate by month, Residential Services, May 2015 – May 2016**



<sup>20</sup> Absence data is reported a month in arrears

## 7.5 Workforce Learning and Development

- Workforce Learning and Development (WLD) ran a total of 239 courses during Q2 2016 at which a total of 3,321 persons attended. A breakdown of the courses run and attendees by type is presented in Table 39. Some planned courses as per the Tusla Business Plan, 2016, have been excluded from the table as data for training delivered to some service areas, and some courses that are being provided by external providers, will not be available until later in 2016.
- The most frequently run course was Meitheal Standardised Briefing with 39 courses run. This was followed by Children First Basic training with 37 courses run.
- 1,625 Tusla staff attended training and of these 51% (n = 835/1,625) were social workers.
- 21% (n=692/3,321) of all those who attended training attended Children First Basic training, the majority (69%: n=480/692) of whom were HSE staff.
- 918 external staff attended training; the majority (63%; n=582/918) of whom received Meitheal training.
- There were 56 courses that were categorised as 'Other' courses. These courses which constitute 23% of all the courses, refer to a range of locally delivered courses that are developed in response to particular needs and requests in areas such as Neglect, Child Development; addressing HIQA Recommendations etc.

**Table 39: Breakdown of courses run by Workforce Learning and Development and attendees by type, Q2 2016**

<b>WORKFORCE LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT - TRAINING ACTIVITY DATA - Q2 2016</b>						
<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	<b>NO. COURSES RUN</b>	<b>NO. TUSLA SOCIAL WORKERS</b>	<b>NO. TUSLA OTHER STAFF</b>	<b>NO. HSE STAFF</b>	<b>NO. OTHER EXT STAFF</b>	<b>TOTAL NO. ATTENDEES</b>
Children First - Basic Training	37	34	92	480	86	692
Children First - for Foster Carers	7	0	0	0	93	93
Children First Refresher Programme	3	2	13	24	0	39
Core Court Room Skills	3	48	3	0	5	56
DSGBV - Awareness & Response	3	8	11	14	14	47
Therapeutic Use of Daily Life Events	4	12	26	0	26	64
SAOR	3	14	12	0	20	46
Practice Dev. for Newly Appointed SWs	2	28	0	0	0	28
Suicide Prevention - SafeTALK	2	8	11	7	2	28
Suicide Prevention - ASIST	1	0	2	0	0	2
Supervision (SV) - Making the Most of SV for Supervisees	3	13	11	25	1	50
SV - Staff Supervision Skills Training for Supervisors	2	4	8	9	2	23
TCI - Core	4	0	74	0	0	74
TCI - Refresher	16	17	135	7	21	180
Reflective Recording & Report Writing	4	21	21	0	7	49
Attachment Theory Into Practice	2	22	10	0	1	33
Diversity in Modern Ireland	1	7	2	0	0	9

Direct Work with Children	4	26	34	0	0	60
Caseload Management	3	37	0	0	0	37
Response Ability Pathways	2	12	31	0	2	45
Legal Briefing Seminar	1	0	7	8	0	15
Other	56	495	200	13	55	763
Meitheal Standardised Training Course	35	12	57	25	390	484
Meitheal Standardised Refresher Course	1	0	0	0	6	6
Meitheal Standardised Briefing	39	7	14	166	186	373
PPFS /Meitheal Other	1	8	16	0	1	25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>3,321</b>

## 8.0 FINANCE

### KEY FACTS

- The financial outturn for the year to date (June 2016) is an over-spend of €2.098 million
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €1.522 million
- Non pay costs are over-spent against budget by €2.869 million
- Key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €1.237 million over budget
- 45% (€6,623 million) of legal expenditure year to date on guardians ad litem (GALs), including GAL's solicitors and counsel.

### Financial Performance

- The outturn at the end of June 2016 year to date (YTD) is an over-spend of €2.098 million. This outturn takes account of the annual cost of €7.0 million relating to psychology services.
- The net expenditure for the period YTD is €320.357 million against a budget allocation of €318.258 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €1.522 million for the YTD (Table 40). June 2016 results show an increase in pay costs of €4.882 million on June 2015 due to the hiring of additional staff, increases in pension cost, increases in minimum wage rates, increases in on-call, increases in employers PRSI from the replacement of retiring staff and other pay reviews entered into at the time of the establishment of the Agency.

**Table 40: Pay Costs**

Child and Family Agency	June 2016 Year To date			% Variance Act vs Budget
	Actual	Budget	Variance	
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
<b>Pay costs</b>	119,319	120,841	(1,522)	(1%)

- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget by €2.855 million for the YTD (Table 41).

**Table 41: Non Pay Costs**

Child and Family Agency	June 2016 Year To date			% Variance Act vs Budget
	Actual	Budget	Variance	
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
<b>Non pay costs</b>	211,247	208,392	2,855	1%

- A key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €1.237 million over-spend YTD (Table 42). This over-spend is due to an increased number of children in private placements in recent months. Placement of children in private residential and foster care services is strictly controlled through a national placement process.

**Table 42: Private Residential and Foster Care Costs**

Child and Family Agency	June 2016 Year To date			% Variance Act vs Budget
	Actual	Budget	Variance	
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
<b>Private Residential &amp; Foster Care</b>	46,813	45,576	1,237	3%

- Legal costs incurred by the Agency account for a significant portion of the overall budget of the Agency. The financial position at the end of June 2016 shows a year to date spend of €14,669 million against a budget of €14,500 million (i.e., €0.169 million over-spend).
- A breakdown of legal expenditure by type for the first six months of 2016 is presented in Table 43.
- 45% (n=€6,623 million) of the legal spend year to date has been on guardians ad litem (GALs) including GALs solicitors and counsel.
- In terms of forecasting these data should be interpreted with caution as they are based on the individual billing pattern of persons concerned.

**Table 43: Legal Expenditure**

Type	Actual Jan 2016 €'000s	Actual Feb 2016 €'000s	Actual Mar 2016 €'000s	Actual Apr 2016 €'000s	Actual May 2016 €'000s	Actual Jun 2016 €'000s	Actual Jun 2016 YTD €'000s
3rd Party Counsel Fees	-158	200	159	38	-272	64	30
3rd Party Solicitors Fees	-307	493	63	53	107	131	541
Arthur Cox Consultancy Services (ACCS) <sup>21</sup>	1,108	1,105	1,112	1,111	1,126	1,119	6,681
Counsel fees - Tusla	54	62	131	196	87	46	576
Guardian ad Litem Costs	740	508	470	657	1,053	259	3,688
Guardian ad Litem Counsel fees	147	52	37	185	70	112	604
Guardian ad Litem Solicitors fees	285	456	398	316	622	253	2,331
General Legal Fees	-43	60	12	0	-14	1	17
Other	38	32	36	44	37	14	202
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>1,865</b>	<b>2,968</b>	<b>2,419</b>	<b>2,599</b>	<b>2,818</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>14,669</b>

<sup>21</sup> Fees paid to Member Firms by ACCS

# APPENDIX I

## ABBREVIATIONS

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

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



**Table 1: Number and percentage of preliminary enquiries that were completed within 24 hours of receipt of the referral, by quarter**

Area	Number of PEs completed within 24 hrs Q1 2015	% of PEs completed within 24 hrs Q1 2015	Number of PEs completed within 24 hrs Q2 2015	% of PEs completed within 24 hrs Q2 2015	Number of PEs completed within 24 hrs Q3 2015	% of PEs completed within 24 hrs Q3 2015	Number of PEs completed within 24 hrs Q4 2015	% of PEs completed within 24 hrs Q4 2015	Number of PEs completed within 24 hrs Q1 2016	% of PEs completed within 24 hrs Q1 2016	(+/-) % Q1 2016 vs Q4
DSC	147	35.8%	45	13%	201	40%	229	45%	268	54%	9%
DSE/WW	301	61.2%	229	43%	295	50%	231	43%	242	44%	1%
DSW/K/WW	394	52.2%	401	50%	370	48%	314	39%	328	44%	5%
Midlands	696	67.6%	886	80%	997	87%	892	73%	894	76%	3%
DNC	432	78.4%	443	78%	502	75%	506	76%	641	93%	17%
Dublin North	700	70.4%	894	88%	657	79%	795	79%	765	83%	4%
LH/MH	631	100.0%	608	100%	564	100%	568	100%	737	100%	0%
CN/MN	127	100.0%	158	100%	123	52%	150	100%	132	56%	-44%
Cork	393	29.4%	481	37%	448	37%	632	50%	567	40%	-10%
Kerry	129	52.0%	142	48%	148	66%	132	57%	161	54%	-3%
CW/KK/ST	158	27.9%	144	24%	167	28%	124	21%	144	27%	+6%
WD/WX	359	45.8%	307	39%	278	36%	360	44%	414	44%	0%
Mid West	1,097	96.7%	1018	98%	978	99%	899	98%	1006	97%	-1%
GY/RN	836	100.0%	834	100%	738	100%	761	99%	759	100%	1%
Mayo	210	100.0%	231	100%	238	100%	205	100%	152	72%	-28%
Donegal	65	25.6%	59	27%	28	13%	57	24%	30	13%	-11%
SO/LM/WC	77	23.1%	72	33%	108	45%	84	43%	64	37%	-6%
<b>National</b>	<b>6,752</b>	<b>63.1%</b>	<b>6,952</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>6,840</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>6,939</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>7,304</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>0%</b>

**Table 2: Number and percentage of referrals that required an initial assessment following a preliminary enquiry, by quarter**

Area	No that required an IA Q1 2015	% that required an IA Q1 2015	No that required an IA Q2 2015	% that required an IA Q2 2015	No that required an IA Q3 2015	% that required an IA Q3 2015	No that required an IA Q4 2015	% that required an IA Q4 2015	No that required an IA Q1 2016	% that required an IA Q1 2016	(+/-) % Q1 2016 vs Q4
DSC	214	52.1%	200	60%	367	74%	362	71%	333	67%	-4%
DSE/WW	225	45.7%	178	34%	229	39%	226	42%	203	37%	-5%
DSW/K/WW	445	58.9%	482	60%	493	63%	535	67%	421	57%	-11%
Midlands	755	73.3%	575	52%	613	54%	654	54%	698	59%	6%
DNC	356	64.6%	385	68%	450	67%	460	69%	391	57%	-12%
Dublin North	657	66.1%	636	63%	545	66%	642	64%	487	53%	-11%
LH/MH	142	22.5%	207	34%	140	25%	270	48%	294	40%	-8%
CN/MN	55	43.3%	71	45%	63	27%	101	67%	69	29%	-38%
Cork	608	45.5%	530	40%	494	41%	536	42%	575	40%	-2%
Kerry	109	44.0%	101	34%	92	41%	102	44%	118	39%	-5%
CW/KK/ST	303	53.4%	241	40%	194	32%	211	36%	172	33%	-3%
WD/WX	320	40.9%	336	43%	341	44%	287	35%	251	27%	-8%
Mid West	519	45.7%	438	42%	448	45%	394	43%	498	48%	5%
GY/RN	292	34.9%	248	30%	247	33%	210	27%	412	54%	27%
Mayo	109	51.9%	131	57%	163	68%	108	53%	151	71%	19%
Donegal	94	37.0%	75	34%	62	28%	71	30%	39	17%	-13%
SO/LM/WC	53	15.9%	87	40%	54	22%	52	27%	41	24%	-3%
<b>National</b>	<b>5,256</b>	<b>49.1%</b>	<b>4921</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>4,995</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>5,221</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>5,153</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>-1%</b>

**Table 3: Number and percentage of initial assessments that were completed within 21 days, by quarter**

Area	No of IA completed within 21 days Q1 2015	% of IA completed within 21 days Q1 2015	No of IA completed within 21 days Q2 2015	% of IA completed within 21 days Q2 2015	No of IA completed within 21 days Q3 2015	% of IA completed within 21 days Q3 2015	No of IA completed within 21 days Q4 2015	% of IA completed within 21 days Q4 2015	No of IA completed within 21 days Q1 2016	% of IA completed within 21 days Q1 2016	(+/-) % Q1 2016 vs Q4
DSC	89	41.6%	20	10%	86	23%	93	26%	138	41%	16%
DSE/WW	72	32.0%	23	13%	37	16%	40	18%	37	18%	1%
DSW/K/WW	18	4.0%	42	9%	39	8%	10	2%	20	5%	3%
Midlands	213	28.2%	192	33%	47	8%	85	13%	102	15%	2%
DNC	11	3.1%	5	1%	5	1%	3	1%	5	1%	1%
Dublin North	8	1.2%	6	1%	6	1%	40	6%	16	3%	-3%
LH/MH	31	21.8%	85	41%	104	74%	121	45%	137	47%	2%
CN/MN	4	7.3%	9	13%	5	8%	4	4%	1	1%	-3%
Cork	47	7.7%	50	9%	47	10%	33	6%	26	5%	-2%
Kerry	12	11.0%	13	13%	22	24%	10	10%	13	11%	1%
CW/KK/ST	45	14.9%	31	13%	42	22%	36	17%	23	13%	-4%
WD/WX	22	6.9%	30	9%	26	8%	28	10%	21	8%	-1%
Mid West	208	40.1%	188	43%	174	39%	208	53%	216	43%	-9%
GY/RN	56	19.2%	32	13%	12	5%	31	15%	71	17%	2%
Mayo	65	59.6%	86	66%	80	49%	57	53%	42	28%	-25%
Donegal	10	10.6%	16	21%	11	18%	18	25%	3	8%	-18%
SO/LM/WC	5	9.4%	8	9%	17	31%	14	27%	2	5%	-22%
<b>National</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>17.4%</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>+1%</b>

## APPENDIX II – Hiqa Inspections Children’s Residential Centres

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – REPORTS PUBLISHED Q2 2016

#### **Centre ID OSV – 0004176 (North Dublin)**

The service was found to be operating within its statement of purpose and was staffed with a stable and experienced team. Inspectors found that staff emphasised developing relationships with children and had a good understanding of the needs of the children resident in the centre. The service was awaiting updated plans from child in care reviews that had taken place in previous weeks. Inspectors saw that children had placement plans that informed the development of weekly plans. There was evidence that some children had contributed to their plans while other children's wishes were not reflected in plans. Safeguarding issues were managed appropriately by the service. Three out of four children were attending an educational placement and ongoing efforts were being made to re-engage one child in training. Children's health was well taken care of but inspectors identified significant issues around the safe management of medication. Inspectors found that the implementation of management systems needed to be improved so that review, learning and accountability become part of everyday practice in the centre. Inspectors found the centre to be a welcoming environment.

#### **Centre ID OSV – 0004175 (Louth/Meath)**

This was a follow up inspection, carried out for the purpose of assessing the progress against an action plan from a previous inspection which was carried out in August 2015. The centre was found to be well managed and the staff team delivered high-quality care to the children. Internal quality assurance systems had improved in the centre. Records of complaints had improved, but further improvement in recording was required. A training needs analysis and a training audit was completed by centre management. However, there were some gaps identified in training. Children were found to be safe in this centre. Staff were trained in safeguarding practices and inspectors saw these practices being implemented to protect children. There were good levels of communication and follow up with relevant social work departments in relation to reported child protection concerns and individual children’s progress. Staff demonstrated a good knowledge of children’s needs and these needs were met through the key worker role and staff implementation of the placement plan. Staff demonstrated that they considered underlying causes of inappropriate behaviour and plans were in place to support children to manage their behaviour. Children presented as happy and well cared for by management and staff. The staff team were experienced and committed to providing high quality care to children. The health of young people was found to be appropriately assessed and met.

#### **Centre ID OSV – 0004182 (Kerry)**

This centre, according to its statement of purpose and function, provided an assessment/consultation service, a respite service and a family support service to a mixed client group up to the age of 18 years within the Cork and Kerry area. At the time of this inspection a strategic review was on-going to look at how the purpose and function of the centre could become more dynamic and meet the needs of families who were referred to the service.

Inspectors found that children staying at the centre for respite were happy and safe. The quality of care they received was high and there were well developed systems to meet their healthcare needs and to promote education. Some centre practices required improvements. These included practices to ensure children's right to privacy was maintained, medication management and risk management.

### **Centre ID OSV – 0004174 (North Dublin)**

Inspectors found that the centre provided a child centred service. Records and observations of staff interactions with children showed that children were respected and cared for. While overall, the quality of care provided by the centre was good, a number of areas required improvement within the relevant standard. In a number of instances, areas for improvement were identified in relation to actions reportedly taken by the service, where inspectors were unable to verify these actions through written records. This is relevant to complaints, the management of behaviour that challenged and governance systems. Other areas for improvement related to some children not having identified educational supports, improvements being needed in relation to the management of medication and unqualified staff working in the centre. Considerable efforts were made by staff to provide individualised care and support to children. It was evident during the inspection that children were happy living in this centre and that they had good relationships with staff. The service was provided by a stable and experienced staff team who had a unified approach to working with children from a strengths based perspective.

### **Centre ID OSV – 0004181 (South)**

The inspection found children's rights were respected and they were consulted and supported to participate in decision making about their lives. Complaints were generally well managed but some improvements were required. In general, children were appropriately admitted to the centre although a placement for one child had broken down due to the centre being unable to meet his needs. Children were provided with a range of activities, emotional support, and relationships between children and staff were strong. Every child had a social worker but not all statutory requirements were in place and children over 16 years of age were not adequately supported for leaving care. Measures were in place to safeguard and protect children from abuse but some improvements were required and not all plans to manage behaviours that challenge were sufficiently robust. The building and location of the centre was not in line with the centre's statement of purpose to provide a therapeutic environment and there was significant risk in fire safety practices. A plan to rectify these fire safety concerns was immediately put in place by management. The centre had sufficient information regarding the health and educational needs of the children. Staff and social workers ensured that the necessary supports and resources were in place to meet the children's needs in these areas. Medication policies needed updating and medicines management training was required. Routine monitoring of the centre by a Tusla monitoring officer took place and the centre was well managed. Sufficient levels of staff with appropriate skills and experience to meet the needs of the children were in place at the time of inspection. Staff and management meetings required some improvements as did quality assurance, risk management and staff supervision.

### **Centre ID OSV – 0004187 (South)**

The centre was found to be homely in character and was fit for purpose. Both young people attended school and had their health and emotional needs met. They told inspectors that they were happy there and that they were well cared for by the staff team. There was a strong and experienced management team in the centre and managers and staff were committed to the provision of positive outcomes for the young people. Each young person had regular contact with an allocated social worker. Care plans and placement plans were up to date. There were good working relationships between the staff of the centre and other professionals. A monitoring officer visited the centre regularly and was kept up-to-date on events in the centre. There were a number of improvements required in the following areas: statement of purpose and function; reviews of significant events and unplanned endings; awareness of protected disclosure policies and records on the progress of child protection investigations; maintenance, risk management and fire safety; audits of practice and measurement of outcomes for young people; and some staffing issues, including training. During the previous six months, two of the young people had been moved to another centre for a period of almost three weeks. HIQA should have been notified of this but no such notification was received.

### **Centre ID OSV – 0004170 (2 locations –West Dublin and North Dublin)**

This was a follow up inspection, to assess progress against the action plan from last inspection in July 2015. At that time, improvements were required in relation to restrictive practices, health and safety assessments, premises and management oversight systems. In addition, inspectors reviewed complaints, safeguarding and planning for young people on this inspection. On this inspection, young people presented as happy in the centre and interacted in a positive way with staff. They had built strong attachments with staff. Staff members were experienced and demonstrated a good understanding of young people's needs and underlying cause of behaviours. Inspectors found that restrictive practices and the maintenance and repair of the centre had improved. However, management oversight of the quality of the service, while improved, required further development to ensure that deficits identified in HIQA inspections and monitor visits were addressed in a timely way. In addition risk management systems were found to require improvement.

### **Centre ID OSV – 0004165 (Midlands)**

The inspection found that overall, the staff team provided good quality care to the young people. Children and young people were safe and their rights were respected. They were regularly consulted in regard to their care. The staff team promoted young people's attendance and attainment in their educational placements. They encouraged young people to attend third level education and or training. The majority of children and young people's needs were regularly assessed, reviewed and updated, but, not all children's up to date care plans were available in the centre. Young people were prepared for leaving care, but not all aftercare plans were comprehensive and completed in a timely way. The centre manager was an experienced manager who was well supported by her team and the interim service manager. Some management systems were in the early stages of development such as risk management and the centre did not have a risk register. Specific training needs were identified for the staff team for 2016, but none of this training had been delivered at the time of the inspection. The decor of the centre required some attention.

### **Centre ID OSV – 0004166 (Kildare)**

The inspection found that the centre was suitable for its stated purpose and the young people were cared for in a kind and caring manner. The young people told inspectors that they felt safe in the centre and were cared for appropriately. Children's rights were promoted and the young people were aware of rights and how to complain if they were not happy. Complaints were managed and resolved but the recording of outcomes needed to improve. Some statutory requirements had not been met in relation to care plans, visits from allocated social workers and detail contained on placements plans for the young people was not specific enough. Admissions and discharges were managed in line with the related policies but there was one young person who had been placed a significant distance from their previous school and this impacted on the educational outcomes for the young person. Planning and the provision of appropriate aftercare for the young people was not adequate. The management of behaviour that challenged was effective and there had been a reduction in the number of significant events. Significant events were reported as required and there were systems in place to ensure all events were reviewed. Child protection concerns were escalated to the social work department through an internal system as opposed to the procedure outlined on Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, 2011. The social work department did not always provide a response or conclusion regarding the notifications. There was one concern, which had been reported to the department but this was not reported in line with the centres reporting procedure. The health and education needs of the young people were met but practices relating to medication management needed to improve. There was clearly defined management structure and the management team provided effective leadership and support to the team. Management systems were sufficient to ensure the service was safe and monitored regularly. The staff team were competent and skilled and committed to the work with the young people. Most of the training needs of the staff had been met but gaps remained in the provision of training in Children First.

### **Centre ID OSV – 0004167 (Dublin Mid Leinster)**

Inspectors found that the centre provided a good level of individualised care and support to young people. The service was provided by a stable and experienced staff team who were well supported by the centre manager. Young people told inspectors that they were happy living in the centre and this was evident through warm and positive interactions observed between staff and young people. However, the centre was operating outside of their statement of purpose and function as two young adults were residing in the centre alongside children for a significant period of time. While overall the quality of care provided was good, significant risks were identified in relation to preparation for leaving care and aftercare planning for young people. Significant gaps in aftercare service provision were highlighted during a previous HIQA inspection in January of 2014. However, no progress had been made. Other areas that required improvement included, planning for young people, evidencing actions taken by the service, recording responses to requests by young people, action taken in response to child protection concerns, and the development of effective governance and quality monitoring systems.

