



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Quarterly Service Performance and Activity Report

QUARTER 2 2021



Quality Assurance Directorate

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1.0 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

This report provides an update on the performance and activity of Tusla services at the end of Q2 2021. It is structured around key performance and activity measures included in the Agency's Business Plan. The data presented was provided by services and refers to the latest performance and activity information available at this time. **These data can change from data previously published due to the ongoing validation of data.**

The summary by service type set out below provides an overview of the Q2 2021 position regarding activity and performance.

CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

REFERRALS (based on data extracted from NCCIS on 10 Sept 2021)

- 16,772 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q1 2021; 713 (4%) fewer than Q4 2020 (17,485) and 970 (5%) fewer than Q1 2020 (17,742). The number of referrals for 2020 / 2021 needs to be interpreted in the context of the closure of schools and other services at various times, due to the pandemic.
- 52% (8,686) of referrals for Q1 2021 were for welfare concerns, 34% (5,679) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining 14% (2,407) of referrals.
- 38% (6,357) of referrals were from An Garda Síochána - most common source, followed by social workers (10%; 1,759) and teachers (951, 6%). The source of referrals was not recorded for 9% (1,536) of referrals.
- 47% (7,853) of referrals were closed following screening; 50% (8,421) progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage.
- 94% (7,944) of preliminary enquiries were completed at the time the data was extracted and of these 20% (1,589) were completed within 5 working days.
- 46% (3,616) of referrals with a completed preliminary enquiry required no further action and were closed; 29% (2,262) required an initial assessment while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 14% (1,135) of cases. Some 8% (598) of referrals were closed with diversion to Tusla Prevention, Partnership, Family Support (PPFS) services.
- 56% (1,265) of initial assessments required following the preliminary enquiry were completed at the time the data was extracted; 19% (422) were ongoing / awaiting sign-off while the remaining 25% (575) were awaiting commencement. 33% (419) of the initial assessments were completed in 40 working days from receipt of referral.
- 56% (703) of referrals were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. Of these 63% (441) required no further action, 19% (132) were diverted to another agency for a service, and 11% (74) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service. The remaining 8% (56) were closed as safety planning was already ongoing.

- 28% (348) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 13% (159) required a children protection response / child protection conference and 3% (40) required admission to care.

SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITY DATA

Data for Q2 2021 is not available due to the impact of the cyber-attack on Tusla systems. The data on cases open to social work is based on the time actions are completed on NCCIS, hence data for the period while the system was unavailable is not meaningful.

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

CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

- 889 children listed as ‘active’ on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of Q2 2021, 34 fewer than Q1 2021 (923) and the fourth consecutive decrease.
- 100 (10%) fewer children ‘active’ at the end of Q2 2021 than at the end of Q2 2020 (989).

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

- 80% (711) of children were listed as “active for no longer than 12 months. 5% (42) were listed as “active” for > 24 months, up two percentage points (11 children) from Q1 2021 (31).
- All children listed as “active” at the end of Q2 2021 had an allocated social worker.

NATIONAL OUT OF HOURS SERVICE

- 681 referrals to the National Out of Hours Service in Q2 2021, bringing the number for the first six months of 2021 to 1,162. The number of referrals for the first six months of 2021 is up 5% (52) on the same period in 2020 (1,110).
- 179 children were placed by the National Out of Hours Service in Q2 2021, bringing the number of children placed for the first six months of 2021 to 319. The number of children placed for the first six months of 2021 is up 22% (57) on the same period in 2020 (262).

ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

CHILDREN IN CARE

- 5,851 children in care at the end of Q2 2021, 29 fewer than Q1 2021 (5,880 revised figure). The number of children in care is down 106 (2%) on Q2 2020 (5,957), quarter on quarter decrease.
- 750 (13%) children in care at the end of Q2 2021 were in placements with private providers¹; eight more than Q1 2021 (742) and 30 (4%) more than Q2 2020 (720).
- 89% (5,233/5,851) of children in care nationally had an allocated social worker (against a target of 100%) at the end of Q2 2021; down three percentage point from Q1 2021 (92%).
- 618 children were awaiting allocation of a social worker at the end of Q2 2021; 124 (25%) more than at the end of Q1 2021 (494).
- 97% (5,650/5,851)¹ of children in care had an up-to-date care plan, up one percentage point from Q1 2021 (96%).
- 201 children did not have an up-to-date care plan, 22 fewer than Q1 2021 (223).

AFTERCARE

- 107 referrals in Q2 2021, bringing to 264 the number of referrals for the first six months of 2021.
- 2,992 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q2 2021, 25 more than Q1 2021 (2,967) and 131 (5%) more than Q2 2020 (2,861).
- 78% (1,808/2,319) of those 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service were in education/accredited training.
- 85% (2,532) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q2 2021 had an aftercare plan, up one percentage points from Q1 2021. A total of 460 were awaiting a plan, six fewer than Q1 2021 (466).
- 90% (2,177/2,408) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2021, up one percentage points from Q1 2021 (89%). A total of 231 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2021, 31 fewer than Q1 2021 (262).

ADOPTION SERVICES

- 165 new applications to commence tracing of a searched person received in Q2 2021, 188 (53%) fewer than Q1 2021 (353). This brings to 518 the number of applications for the first six months of 2021, 282 (119%) more than the same period in 2020 (236).
- 701 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q2 2021, 103 (13%) fewer than Q1 2021 when a high of 804 applicants were awaiting.

¹ It should be noted that variances have been identified in how data on this metric are being reported by areas. In some areas care plans that have fallen due for review and not updated are included. Also, it should be noted that where a care plan is not up-to-date, the care plan in place (albeit that it is awaiting review) is used to support the care of the child.

- At the end of Q2 2021, the length of time from application (production of ID) to the provision of personal information in line with GDPR legislation ranged from 6 weeks to 16 weeks against a target of 8 weeks.
- 59 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received during Q2 2021, nine more than Q1 2021 (50). This brings to 109 the number of completed applications received for the first six months of 2021, 29 (36%) more than the same period in 2020 (80).
- 49 new children were referred for adoption in Q2 2021, 20 fewer than Q1 2021 (69). This brings to 118 the number of children referred for adoption in the first six months of 2021, 20 (20%) more than the same period in 2020 (98).
- 41 completed assessments (all types) were presented to local adoption committees during Q2 2021, four more than Q1 2021 (37). This brings to 78 the number of assessments presented for the first six months of 2021, eight more than the same period in 2020 (70).

FOSTER CARERS

- 4,042 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q2 2021, 11 more than Q1 2021 (4,031 revised figure) and 82 (2%) fewer than Q2 2020 (4,124).
- 80% (1,052/1,313) of relative foster carers are approved.
- 87% (2,154) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q2 2021, down five percentage points percentage point from Q1 2021 (92%).
- 308 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker; 107 (53%) more than Q1 2021 (201).
- 91% (954) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q2 2021, no change from Q1 2021
- 98 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q2 2021; four more than Q1 2021 (94).
- 261 relative foster carers unapproved at the end of Q2 2021; 40 more than Q1 2021 (221)
- Of these, 228 (87%) had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks; 39 more than Q1 2021 (189). Of these (228), 93% (211) had an allocated link worker; 17 were awaiting, 14 more than Q1 2021 (3).

CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

- 4,159 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q2 2021, 36 fewer than Q1 2021 (4,195) and 117 (3%) fewer than Q2 2020 (4,276).
- 858 inspections (all types) carried out in Q2 2021. This brings to 1,255 the number of inspections for the first six months of 2021. Inspections since March 2020 impacted due to Covid-19 restrictions.

- 352 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q2 2021, bringing to 749 the number of incidents notified in the first six months of 2021. A total of 88 incidents notified during the same period in 2020.
- 67 unsolicited information submissions received by the Inspectorate during Q2 2021. This brings to 129 the number received for the first six months of 2021. A total of 124 submissions received for the same period in 2020.
- 39 services were found to have closed in Q2 2021, bringing to 61 the number of services found to be closed in the first six months of 2021. A total of 51 services were found to have closed during the same period in 2020.

NON-STATUTORY ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

- 143 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q2 2021; one more than Q1 2021 (142).
- A total of 44 inspections (all types) were conducted in Q2 2021. This brings to 87 the number of inspections for the first six months of 2021.
- 6 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q2 2021; no change from Q1 2021
- 1 service was visited during Q2 2021 and one monitoring visits was conducted during the same period.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION

Home Education

- 1,786 children on the register for home education at the end of Q2 2021; 14 more than Q1 2021 (1,772) and 220 (14%) more than Q2 2020 (1,566).
- 275 applications received for home education during Q2 2021, 50 (15%) fewer than Q1 2021 (325). This brings the number for the first six months of 2021 to 600, some 368 (159%) more than the same period in 2020 (232). (232). The sharp increase in applications since the early part of 2020 has been linked to the Covid-19 pandemic with more parents/guardians opting to home educate their children.
- 116 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q2 2021, 75 (39%) fewer than Q1 2021 (191). This brings to 307 the number of assessments carried out for the first six months of 2021, 110 (26%) fewer than the same period in 2020 (417).
- 49 children registered for home education¹ in Q2 2021. This brings to 231 the number of children registered for the first six months of 2021, 55 (31%) more than the same period in 2020 (176).
- 1,588 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q2 2021, 111 (8%) more than Q1 2021 (1,477).

Independent Schools

- 48 assessed independent schools on the register at the end of Q2 2021, no change from Q1 2021.
- 6,351 children in assessed independent schools at the end of Q2 2021 with 5,762 of these children on the register.

TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2020 – August 2021

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

- 5,398 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) for the 10 months September 2020 – June 2021; 1,022 (23%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (4,376).
- 2,458 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of June 2021, 1,329 (118%) more than June 2020 (1,129).
- 5,257 individual children worked with for the 10 months September 2020 – June 2021, 53 (1%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (5,204).
- 98 school attendance notices (SANs) issued for the 10 months September 2020 – June 2021, 222 (69%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (320).
- No summonses issued for the 10 months September 2020 – June 2021, 78 fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (78).
- 79 Section 24 meetings convened by EWOs for the 10 months September 2020 – June 2021, 79 (50%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (158).

PREVENTION, PARTNERSHIP & FAMILY SUPPORT

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

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

- At least 16,652 children were in receipt of family support services at the end Q2 2021 (based on 80% response rate).
- 16,182 children referred to family support services during the first six months of 2021, equating to about 1.4% of the child population (0-17 years).
- 77% (12,537) of children referred to family support services in the first six months of 2021 received a service. The percentage who received a service ranged from 47% (Kerry) to 100% (Cavan/Monaghan). Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 77%.

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

- At least 1,161 Meitheal processes requested in the first six months of 2021 (figure based on data from 16 areas – data from Louth/Meath not available at the time of writing). The number of requests is up at least 86 on the same period in 2020 (1,075).
- 68% (789) of requests were requested through Direct Access, 21% (244) requested through Social Work Diversion and 11% (128) Social Work Step Down
- 89% (1,036/1,161) of Meitheal requests received in the first six months of 2021 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage).

- 806 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage Two in the first six months of 2021.
- 51% (408) of processes reaching completion of Stage Two, proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting).
- 728 Meitheal processes were closed in the first six months of 2021 21% (151) of Meitheal processes were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1); 44% (323) of Meitheal processes were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2 Discussion Stage); 10% (72) of Meitheal processes were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3); 25% (182) of Meitheal processes were closed post-delivery
- 121 Child and Family Support Networks¹ (CFSN) operating at the end 2020 and a further 19 planned.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- 4,605 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q2 2021, 15 fewer than Q1 2021 (4,620) and 86 (2%) more than Q2 2020 (4,519).
- 199 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first six months of 2021
- 151 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in the first six months of 2021
- 47 staff retired in the first six months of 2021
- 158 (3%) staff were on maternity leave at the end of June 2021
- At the end of June 2021 the overall absence rate for the Agency was 5.32%, 0.37 percentage points lower than Q1 2021 (5.69%) and 1.59 percentage points higher than June 2020 (3.73%).
- e-learning activity: 2,168 completions were achieved in Q2 2021
- Virtual classroom training: 694 completions (54 sessions).

FINANCE

- The outturn for the year to date (June 2021) is an under-spend of €14.2 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget for the year to date by €5.6 million and is forecast to be under-spent by €2.0m for the full year at this point, due to additional staff to be recruited as the year progresses.
- Non-pay costs are under-spent against budget year to date by €7.9 million
- A key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €2.5 million over budget year to date. Placement of children in private residential and foster care services is strictly controlled through a national placement process.

2.0 CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

2.1 Referrals (child welfare and child abuse)

2.2 Social Work Activity Data

2.3 Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)

2.4 Crisis Intervention Service / Out of Hours Service

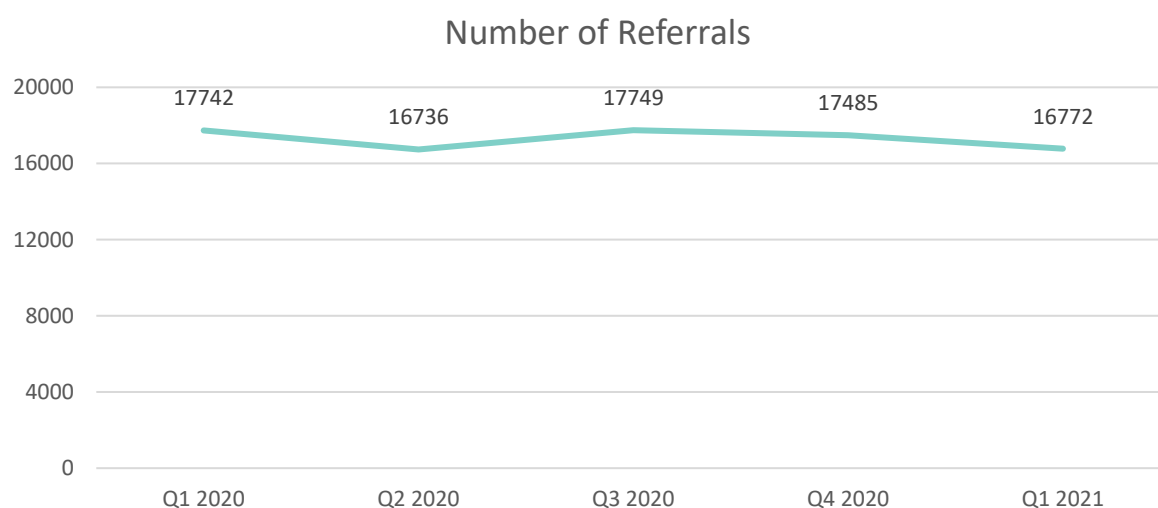
Key Facts (figures based on data extracted from NCCIS on 10 Sep 2021)

- 16,772 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q1 2021; 713 (4%) fewer than Q4 2020 (17,485) and 970 (5%) fewer than Q1 2020 (17,742). The number of referrals for 2020 / 2021 needs to be interpreted in the context of the closure of schools and other services at various times, due to the pandemic.
- 52% (8,686) of referrals for Q1 2021 were for welfare concerns, 34% (5,679) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining 14% (2,407) of referrals.
- 38% (6,357) of referrals were from An Garda Síochána - most common source, followed by social workers (10%; 1,759) and teachers (951, 6%). The source of referrals was not recorded for 9% (1,536) of referrals.
- 47% (7,853) of referrals were closed following screening; 50% (8,421) progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage.
- 94% (7,944) of preliminary enquiries were completed at the time the data was extracted and of these 20% (1,589) were completed within 5 working days.
- 46% (3,616) of referrals with a completed preliminary enquiry required no further action and were closed; 29% (2,262) required an initial assessment while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 14% (1,135) of cases. Some 8% (598) of referrals were closed with diversion to Tusla Prevention, Partnership, Family Support (PPFS) services.
- 56% (1,265) of initial assessments required following the preliminary enquiry were completed at the time the data was extracted; 19% (422) were ongoing / awaiting sign-off while the remaining 25% (575) were awaiting commencement. 33% (419) of the initial assessments were completed in 40 working days from receipt of referral.
- 56% (703) of referrals were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. Of these 63% (441) required no further action, 19% (132) were diverted to another agency for a service, and 11% (74) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service. The remaining 8% (56) were closed as safety planning was already ongoing.
- 28% (348) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 13% (159) required a children protection response / child protection conference and 3% (40) required admission to care.

2.1 REFERRALS (CHILD WELFARE AND CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT)

Number of Referrals

- 16,772 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q1 2021²; 713 (4%) fewer than Q4 2020 (17,485) and 970 (5%) fewer than Q1 2020 (17,742). The number of referrals for 2020 / 2021 needs to be interpreted in the context of the closure of schools and other services at various times, due to the pandemic.



- 52% (8,686) of referrals for Q1 2021 were for welfare concerns, 34% (5,679) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining 14% (2,407) of referrals (Tables 1 and 2).

Table 1: Percentage of referrals by primary report type

Primary Report Type	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021
Welfare	42%	40%	47%	49%	52%
Emotional abuse	12%	13%	15%	14%	15%
Neglect	5%	5%	5%	4%	5%
Physical abuse	8%	5%	8%	10%	8%
Sexual abuse	5%	4%	6%	6%	5%
Not recorded	28%	33%	19%	16%	14%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 2: Number of referrals by primary report type

Primary Report Type	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021
Welfare	7387	6686	8422	8529	8,686
Emotional abuse	2108	2239	2674	2525	2,591
Neglect	917	813	890	720	867
Physical abuse	1479	852	1372	1808	1,309
Sexual abuse	887	694	1000	1072	912
Not recorded	4964	5452	3391	2831	2,407
Total	17742	16736	17749	17485	16,772

² Data on referrals are reported quarterly in arrears.

Referrals by Area

- The number of referrals for Q1 2021 equates to about 14 referrals per 1,000 population under 18 years. The rate of referrals ranged from 8.5 per 1,000 (Dublin South East/Wicklow) to 25.5 per 1,000 (Dublin North City). Seven areas reported a rate equal to or higher than the national average of 14.1/1,000.
- The areas reporting the highest numbers of referrals include Midlands (1,715), Dublin North (1,711), DSW/K/WW (1,484) and Cork (1,467). The fewest number was reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (307) followed by Mayo (367), Cavan/Monaghan (451) and Kerry (488). A breakdown of referrals by area and quarter for Q1 2020 – Q1 2021 is presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Breakdown of referrals by area

Area	# Q1 2020	# Q2 2020	# Q3 2020	# Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Population 0-17 years	Rate /1,000 pop
DSC	1334	1301	1358	1363	1280	65,564	19.5
DSE/WW	809	817	811	686	740	86,810	8.5
DSW/K/WW	1523	1644	1667	1668	1484	108,186	13.7
Midlands	1875	1636	1544	1606	1715	80,193	21.4
DNC	1156	1104	1065	1036	1147	44,927	25.5
Dublin North	1657	1401	1695	1720	1711	100,654	17.0
LH/MH	1284	1138	1184	1264	1080	93,093	11.6
CN/MN	564	413	547	521	451	36,446	12.4
Cork	1794	1604	1668	1670	1467	134,015	10.9
Kerry	389	413	529	488	488	34,527	14.1
CW/KK/ST	925	924	1009	1009	1014	63,009	16.1
WD/WX	1202	1079	1445	1265	1090	68,513	15.9
MidWest	1235	1243	1210	1152	1091	96,266	11.3
GY/RN	994	1009	807	889	789	79,912	9.9
Mayo	298	311	385	399	367	31,968	11.5
Donegal	436	410	490	436	551	42,865	12.9
SLWC	267	289	335	313	307	23,554	13.0
National	17742	16736	17749	17485	16772	1,190,502	14.1

Source of Referrals

- The most common source of referrals in Q1 2021 was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 38% (6,357) of referrals, followed to a lesser extent by social workers (10%; 1,759) and teachers (951, 6%). Mandated persons accounted for 84% (14,046) of all sources. The source of referrals was not recorded for 9% (1,536) of referrals. As mentioned previously, the number of referrals overall and particularly from teachers is lower than expected due to closure of schools for most of Q1 2021. The source of all referrals is presented in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Source of Referrals Q1 2021

Source	# Referrals	% Referrals
Member of An Garda Siochana	6357	37.90%
Social worker	1759	10.49%
Teacher	951	5.67%
Other	817	4.87%
Parent/Guardian	714	4.26%
Social Care worker	585	3.49%
Anonymous	564	3.36%
Medical Practitioner	507	3.02%
Registered Nurse /Midwife	464	2.77%
Safeguarding Officer,	455	2.71%
Manager of Domestic Violence Shelter	353	2.10%
Other Family Member	291	1.74%
Psychotherapist or a person providing counselling	250	1.49%
Psychologist	223	1.33%
Member of the Public	169	1.01%
Youth worker	127	0.76%
Manager of homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility	115	0.69%
Courts 1 (S.20 Child Care Act 1991)	106	0.63%
Person responsible for the care or management of a youth work service	88	0.52%
Foster carer registered with the Agency	44	0.26%
Self	39	0.23%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	38	0.23%
Probation Officer	29	0.17%
Addiction counsellor	26	0.16%
Physiotherapist	24	0.14%
Manager of Asylum Seeker accommodation (Direct provision) Centre	22	0.13%
Speech and language therapist	22	0.13%
A person carrying on a pre-school service	17	0.10%
Occupational therapist	17	0.10%
Courts 3(Other Court Request)	14	0.08%
Emergency medical technician	13	0.08%
International Social Services	12	0.07%
Director of any institution where a child is detained by an order of a court	8	0.05%
Manager of a language school or other recreational school, children reside away from home	7	0.04%
Guardian Ad Litem & Member of the Clergy & Dentist (<i>combined due to small numbers</i>)	9	0.05%
Not recorded	1536	9.16%
Total	16772	100.0%

Mandated Reports

- 23% (3,840) of referrals were mandated reports. A breakdown of mandated reports by primary report type is presented in Table 5 below. It is likely that the actual number of mandated reports is slightly higher, due to the fact that the primary report type has not been recorded for 14% of referrals.

Table 5: Mandated reports by primary report type, Q1 2021

Mandated Reports by Primary Report Type	#	%
Emotional Abuse	1689	43.98%
Neglect	471	12.27%
Physical Abuse	953	24.82%
Sexual Abuse	727	18.93%
Total	3,840	100%

- A breakdown of mandated reports by area for Q1 2021 is presented in Table 6 below. The number of mandated reports ranges from 600 (Dublin North) to 66 (Cavan/Monaghan). The percentage of the overall number of referrals that were mandated reports ranges from 12% (Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow and Midwest) to 40% (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan).

Table 6: Mandated reports by area, Q1 2021

Area	# Referrals Q1 2021	# Mandated Reports	% Mandated Reports
DSC	1280	276	22%
DSE/WW	740	200	27%
DSW/K/WW	1484	176	12%
Midlands	1715	361	21%
DNC	1147	315	27%
Dublin North	1711	600	35%
LH/MH	1080	275	25%
CN/MN	451	66	15%
Cork	1467	382	26%
Kerry	488	102	21%
CW/KK/ST	1014	222	22%
WD/WX	1090	148	14%
MidWest	1091	136	12%
GY/RN	789	233	30%
Mayo	367	99	27%
Donegal	551	127	23%
SLWC	307	122	40%
National	16772	3840	23%

- A breakdown of source of mandated reports is presented in Table 7 below. The most common source of reports was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 46% (1,747) of all mandated reports, followed to a lesser extent by social workers (14%; 537) and teachers (10%; 360).

Table 7: Source of mandated reports, Q1 2021

Source	# Mandated Reports	% of Total
Member of An Garda Siochana	1747	45.5%
Social worker	537	14.0%
Teacher	360	9.4%
Social Care worker	229	6.0%
Medical Practitioner	198	5.2%
Safeguarding Officer	146	3.8%
Manager of Domestic Violence Shelter	144	3.8%
Psychotherapist or a person providing counselling	94	2.4%
Psychologist	86	2.2%
Registered Nurse /midwife	73	1.9%
Person responsible for the care or management of a youth work service	38	1.0%
Manager of homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility	36	0.9%
Youth worker	32	0.8%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	28	0.7%
Foster carer registered with the Agency	18	0.5%
Manager of Asylum Seeker accommodation (Direct provision) Centre	13	0.3%
Speech and Language therapist	12	0.3%
Addiction counsellor	11	0.3%
Physiotherapist	11	0.3%
Occupational therapist	5	0.1%
Others	22	0.6%
Total	3840	100.0%

Others includes A person carrying on a pre-school service, Guardian Ad Litem, Probation Officer, Manager of a language school or other recreational school, Director of any institution where a child is detained by an order of a court, Emergency medical technician, Member of the Clergy, Dentist

Screening and Assessment

- 47% (7,853) of referrals were closed following screening; 50% (8,421) progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage. The remaining 3% (498) of referrals were either at the screening stage, awaiting closure following screening, or another process stage, when the data was extracted for reporting (10 September 2021).

Table 8: Referrals closed following screening, Q1 2021

Area	% Referrals closed	% Progressing to PE	% at screening/ other process stage
DSC	63%	25%	13%
DSE/WW	39%	58%	3%
DSW/K/WW	63%	36%	1%
Midlands	33%	66%	1%
DNC	38%	59%	3%
Dublin North	50%	47%	3%
LH/MH	55%	41%	4%
CN/MN	39%	54%	7%
Cork	39%	59%	2%

Kerry	47%	53%	0%
CW/KK/ST	40%	60%	0%
WD/WX	43%	54%	3%
MidWest	59%	41%	1%
GY/RN	38%	59%	3%
Mayo	59%	41%	0%
Donegal	55%	44%	1%
SLWC	25%	75%	0%
National	47%	50%	3%

- A breakdown of the outcome of referrals closed following screening (7,853) is presented below. Of the referrals closed, 41% (3,233) were closed with no further action required, a further 40% were closed as assessment / safety planning was already ongoing and 6% (502) were diverted to Tusla's Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) services. The outcome was not recorded for 10% (795) of referrals closed.

Table 9: Outcome of referrals closed following screening, Q1 2021

Outcome of referrals closed	#	%
No further action - close	3,233	41.2%
No further action – close, assessment / safety planning ongoing	3,167	40.3%
Divert to another agency - close	112	1.4%
Divert to PPFS - close	502	6.4%
Other	44	0.56%
Not recorded	795	10.1%
Total	7,853	100%

- The breakdown of the outcomes of referrals closed following screening, by area for Q1 2021 is presented in the table below.

Table 10: Outcome of referrals closed following screening by area, Q1 2021

Area	No further action - close	No further action – close, assessment / safety planning ongoing	Divert to PPFS - close
DSC	35%	52%	12%
DSE/WW	42%	48%	3%
DSW/K/WW	41%	41%	12%
Midlands	31%	67%	1%
DNC	33%	39%	0%
Dublin North	13%	59%	25%
LH/MH	58%	37%	2%
CN/MN	31%	64%	2%
Cork	55%	33%	1%
Kerry	54%	39%	1%
CW/KK/ST	52%	8%	7%
WD/WX	49%	22%	1%
MidWest	36%	28%	0%
GY/RN	42%	29%	2%
Mayo	73%	17%	1%
Donegal	59%	33%	0%
SLWC	60%	35%	0%
National	41%	40%	6%

- At the time the data was extracted for reporting, 94% (7,944) of preliminary enquiries were completed and of these 20% (1,589) were completed within 5 working days. A breakdown of preliminary enquiries commenced and completed with 5 working days by area is presented in the table below.

Table 11: Preliminary enquiries commenced and completed, Q1 2021

Area	# PEs commenced	# PEs completed	% PEs completed	# Completed within 5 days	% Completed within 5 days
DSC	316	293	93%	48	16%
DSE/WW	426	415	97%	55	13%
DSW/K/WW	535	513	96%	26	5%
Midlands	1127	1088	97%	204	19%
DNC	680	595	88%	156	26%
Dublin North	799	696	87%	103	15%
LH/MH	446	413	93%	35	8%
CN/MN	244	234	96%	42	18%
Cork	868	807	93%	177	22%
Kerry	258	252	98%	18	7%
CW/KK/ST	611	610	100%	203	33%
WD/WX	585	543	93%	55	10%
MidWest	444	431	97%	85	20%
GY/RN	462	438	95%	87	20%
Mayo	149	148	99%	58	39%
Donegal	242	239	99%	47	20%
SLWC	229	229	100%	190	83%
National	8421	7944	94%	1589	20%

- 46% (3,616) of referrals with a completed preliminary enquiry required no further action and were closed; 28% (2,262) required an initial assessment while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 14% (1,135) of cases. Some 8% (598) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS (Table 12).

Table 12: Outcomes from preliminary enquiries, Q1 2021

Outcomes from preliminary enquiry	#	%
No further action - close	3,616	45.5%
No further action – close, assessment / safety planning ongoing	1,135	14.3%
Initial Assessment	2,262	28.5%
Divert to another agency - close	332	4.18%
Divert to PPFS - close	598	7.53%
Not recorded	1	0.01%
Total	7,944	100%

- The percentage breakdown of the outcomes of preliminary enquires completed, by area is presented in the Table below.

Table 13: Percentage breakdown of outcomes of preliminary enquires, by area Q1 2021

Area	% Closed - No further Action	% Requiring IA	% Divert - PPFS	% Closed - Assessment / Safety Planning Ongoing	% Closed - Divert to Another Agency	Total
DSC	32%	40%	2%	18%	8%	100%
DSE/WW	51%	28%	7%	7%	8%	100%
DSW/K/WW	47%	25%	7%	14%	6%	100%
Midlands	48%	24%	10%	15%	3%	100%
DNC	29%	30%	9%	30%	2%	100%
Dublin North	35%	39%	13%	10%	2%	100%
LH/MH	53%	26%	17%	3%	2%	100%
CN/MN	52%	18%	15%	12%	3%	100%
Cork	48%	28%	2%	17%	5%	100%
Kerry	50%	25%	6%	16%	2%	100%
CW/KK/ST	53%	19%	7%	20%	1%	100%
WD/WX	47%	24%	10%	16%	2%	100%
MidWest	49%	33%	0%	12%	6%	100%
GY/RN	48%	34%	4%	9%	5%	100%
Mayo	47%	46%	3%	3%	1%	100%
Donegal	36%	34%	3%	9%	19%	100%
SLWC	51%	29%	7%	9%	5%	100%
National	46%	28%	8%	14%	4%	100%

- At the time the data was extracted for reporting, 56% (1,265) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were completed, 19% (422) were ongoing/ awaiting sign-off while the remaining 25% (575) were awaiting commencement (Table 13).
- 33% (419) of initial assessments were completed in 40 working days from receipt of referral (Table 14).

Table 14: Breakdown of the status of Initial assessments, by area Q1 2021

Area	IA Completed	IA Ongoing/Awaiti ng sign-ff	IA not started	Total	% completed in 40 working days
DSC	20%	6%	74%	100%	8%
DSE/WW	59%	9%	32%	100%	28%
DSW/K/WW	68%	8%	24%	100%	23%
Midlands	36%	7%	57%	100%	16%
DNC	42%	51%	7%	100%	9%
Dublin North	39%	43%	18%	100%	16%
LH/MH	27%	41%	32%	100%	38%
CN/MN	47%	33%	21%	100%	0%
Cork	76%	14%	11%	100%	38%
Kerry	68%	6%	26%	100%	52%
CW/KK/ST	79%	3%	18%	100%	41%
WD/WX	63%	8%	29%	100%	22%
MidWest	68%	10%	22%	100%	42%
GY/RN	59%	23%	17%	100%	34%
Mayo	82%	10%	7%	100%	38%
Donegal	94%	1%	5%	100%	82%
SLWC	91%	5%	5%	100%	57%
National	56%	19%	25%	100%	33%

- 56% (703) of referrals were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. Of these 63% (441) required no further action, 19% (132) were diverted to another agency for a service, and 11% (74) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service. The remaining 8% (56) were closed as safety planning was already ongoing.
- 28% (348) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 13% (159) required a children protection response / child protection conference and 3% (40) required admission to care.
- The outcome of the initial assessments completed is presented in the table below.

Table 15: Breakdown of the outcome of initial assessment, Q1 2021

Outcomes from initial assessments	#	%
Admission to Care	40	3.16%
Child Protection / CPC Safety Planning	159	12.57%
Divert to Another Agency - Close	132	10.43%
Divert to PPFS - Close	74	5.85%
Family Welfare Conference	15	1.19%
No Further Action (NFA) - Close	441	34.86%
No Further Action (NFA) - Close, Assessment/Safety Planning ongoing	56	4.43%
Safety Planning	348	27.51%
Total	1,265	100.00%

Summary Table 2020

	# Referrals	# progressed to PE	# PE Completed	# PE completed 5 working days	# Referrals required IA following PE	# IA Completed	# IA Completed 40 working days
DSC	1280	316	293	48	118	24	2
DSE/WW	740	426	415	55	115	68	19
DSW/K/WW	1484	535	513	26	130	88	20
Midlands	1715	1127	1088	204	259	93	15
DNC	1147	680	595	156	177	75	7
Dublin North	1711	799	696	103	274	106	17
LH/MH	1080	446	413	35	107	29	11
CN/MN	451	244	234	42	43	20	0
Cork	1467	868	807	177	225	170	64
Kerry	488	258	252	18	62	42	22
CW/K/ST	1014	611	610	203	115	91	37
WD/WX	1090	585	543	55	132	83	18
Mid West	1091	444	431	85	141	96	40
GY/RN	789	462	438	87	149	88	30
Mayo	367	149	148	58	68	56	21
Donegal	551	242	239	47	81	76	62
SLWC	307	229	229	190	66	60	34
National	16772	8421	7944	1589	2262	1265	419

	% Referrals progressed to PE	% PE completed	% PE completed 5 working days	# Required IA following PE	# IA Completed	# IA Completed 40 working days
DSC	25%	93%	16%	40%	20%	8%
DSE/WW	58%	97%	13%	28%	59%	28%
DSW/K/WW	36%	96%	5%	25%	68%	23%
Midlands	66%	97%	19%	24%	36%	16%
DNC	59%	88%	26%	30%	42%	9%
Dublin North	47%	87%	15%	39%	39%	16%
LH/MH	41%	93%	8%	26%	27%	38%
CN/MN	54%	96%	18%	18%	47%	0%
Cork	59%	93%	22%	28%	76%	38%
Kerry	53%	98%	7%	25%	68%	52%
CW/K/ST	60%	100%	33%	19%	79%	41%
WD/WX	54%	93%	10%	24%	63%	22%
Mid West	41%	97%	20%	33%	68%	42%
GY/RN	59%	95%	20%	34%	59%	34%
Mayo	41%	99%	39%	46%	82%	38%
Donegal	44%	99%	20%	34%	94%	82%
SLWC	75%	100%	83%	29%	91%	57%
National	50%	94%	20%	28%	56%	33%

2.2 SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITY DATA (Child Protection & Welfare)

Data for Q2 2021 is not available due to the impact of the cyber-attack on Tusla systems. The data on cases open to social work is based on the time actions are completed on NCCIS, hence data for the period while the system was unavailable is not meaningful

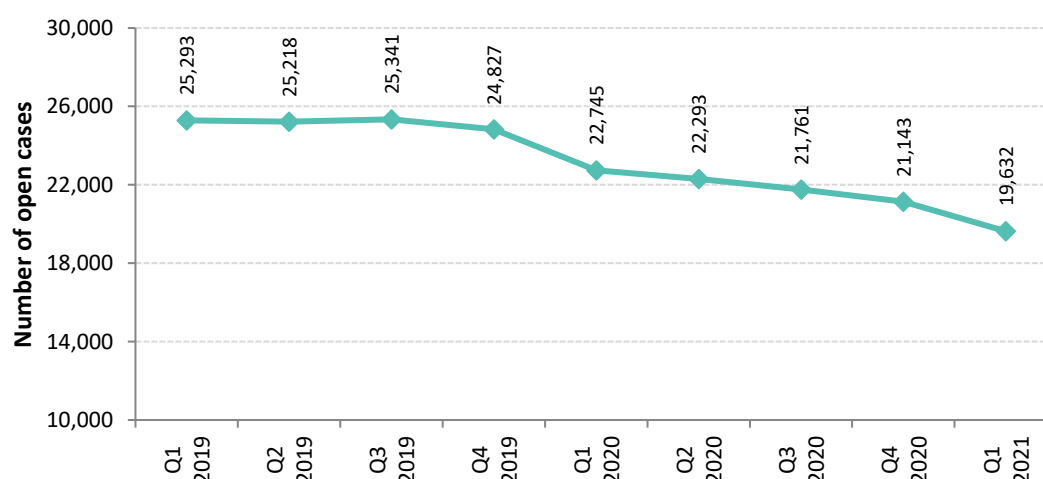
Key Facts

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

2.2.1 Open Cases

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

Number of open cases by year



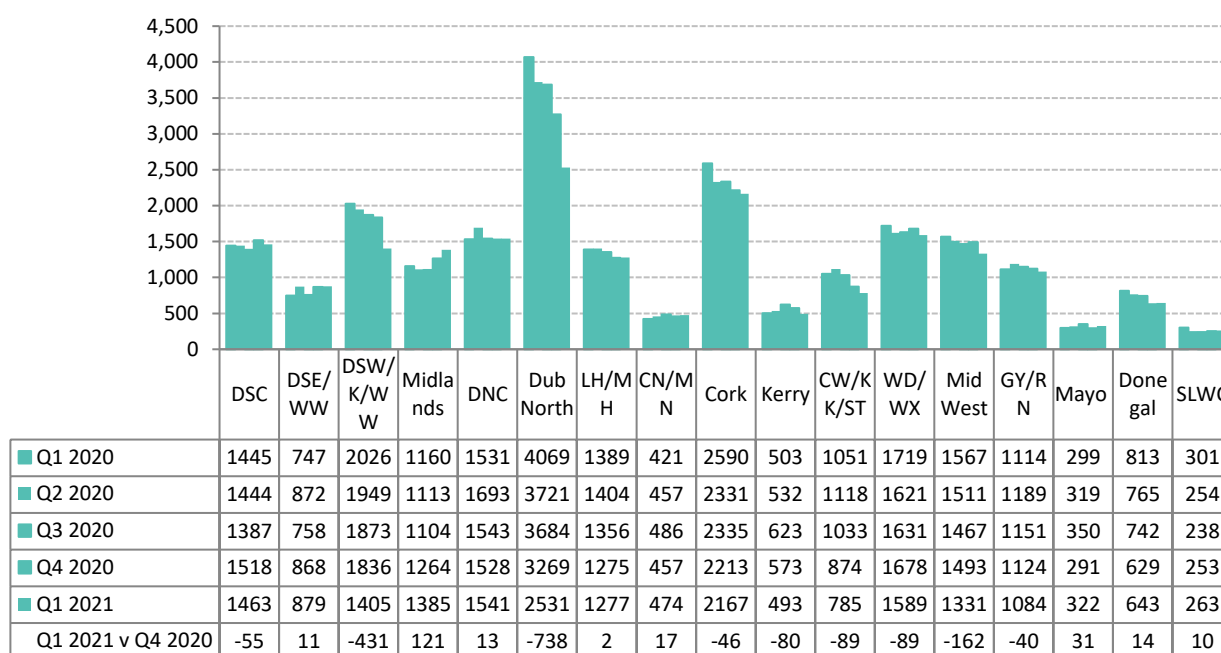
- The number of open of cases ranged from 2,531 (13%) in Dublin North to 263 (1%) in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan. Eight of the 17 areas had between 1,000 and 2,000 cases;

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

seven areas had fewer than 1,000 cases while the remaining two areas (Dublin North and Cork) had in excess of 2,000 cases.

- 9 areas reported a decrease in open cases from Q4 2020. The largest decrease was reported by Dublin North (down 738) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (down 431) and Midlands (down 162)
- Of the eight areas that reported an increase, the largest increase was reported by Midlands (up 121) followed to a lesser extent by Mayo (up 31), Cavan/Monaghan (up 17) and Donegal (up 14).

Number of open cases by area

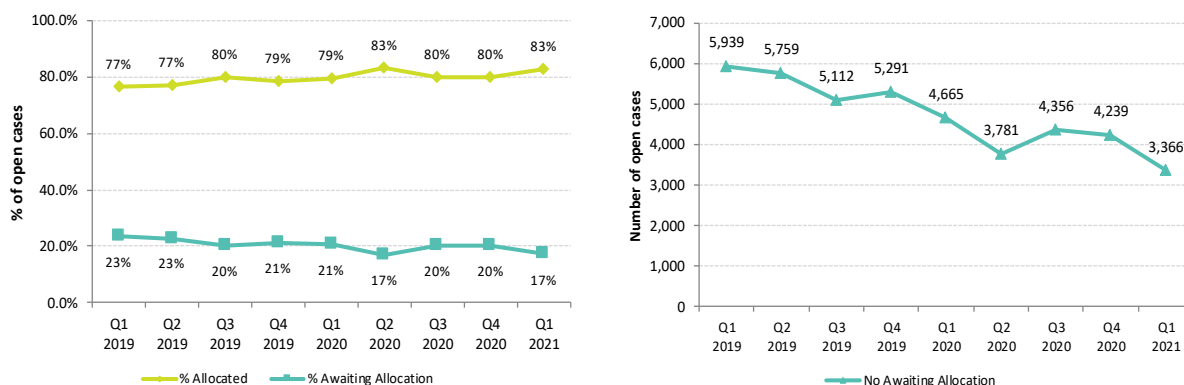


2.2.2 Open Cases Allocated / Awaiting Allocation

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

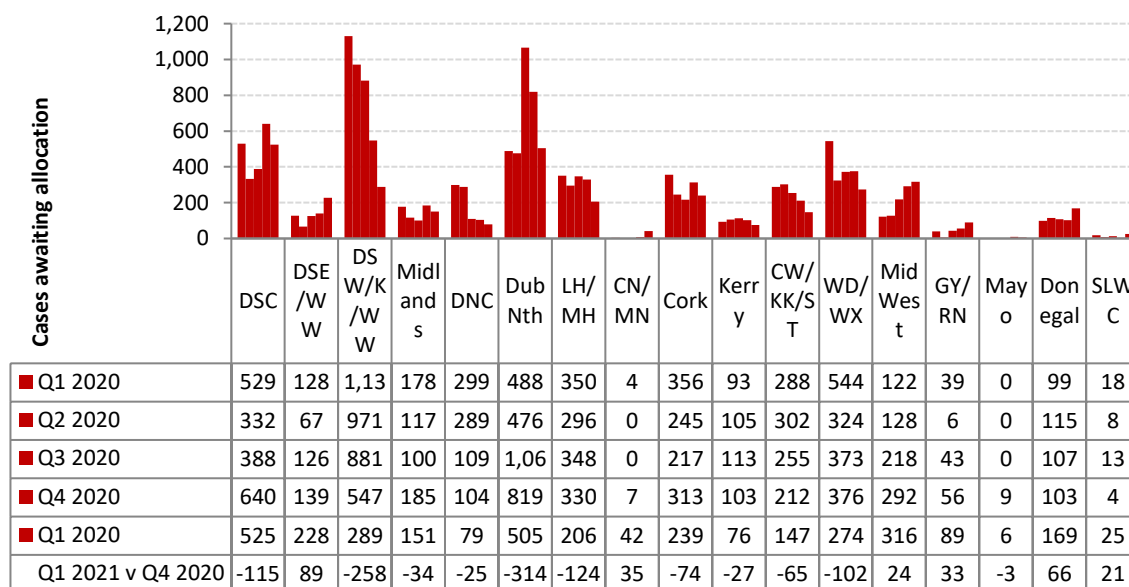
⁴ A case awaiting allocation may be “active” on a “duty” system. This means that there are actions being undertaken by a dedicated duty team or rotating social workers on a duty roster to progress the protection and welfare of the child. Examples of actions being undertaken include telephone calls relating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

Cases allocated/awaiting allocation



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

Number of open cases awaiting allocation by area

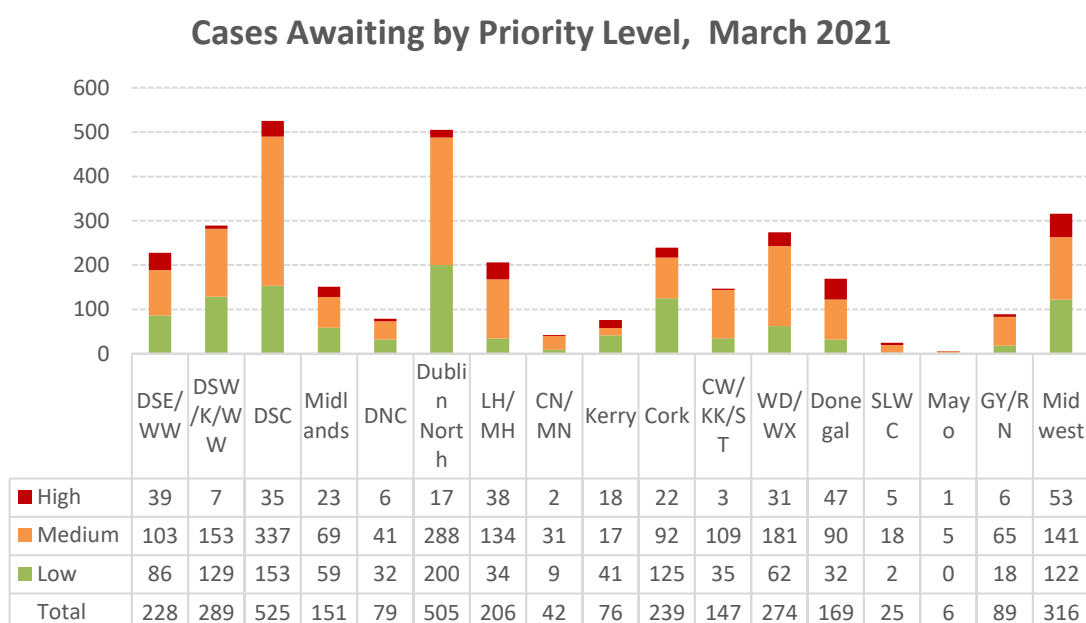


2.2.3 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Priority Level

- 10% (353) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2021 were categorised as high priority.
- 56% (1,874) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority while the remaining 34% (1,139) were low priority.

- The highest number of high priority cases was reported by Midwest (53) followed by Donegal (47), Dublin South East/Wicklow (39), Louth/Meath (38), Dublin South Central (35) and Waterford/Wexford (31). These six areas account for 69% (243) of high priority cases.

Number of open cases awaiting allocation by area and priority level



2.2.4 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Waiting Time

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

Breakdown of cases awaiting allocation by priority level and time waiting

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

Summary Table Q1 2021

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

2.3 CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

KEY FACTS

- 889 children listed as 'active' on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)¹ at the end of Q2 2021, 34 fewer than Q1 2021 (923) and the fourth consecutive decrease.
- 100 (10%) fewer children 'active' at the end of Q2 2021 than at the end of Q2 2020 (989).

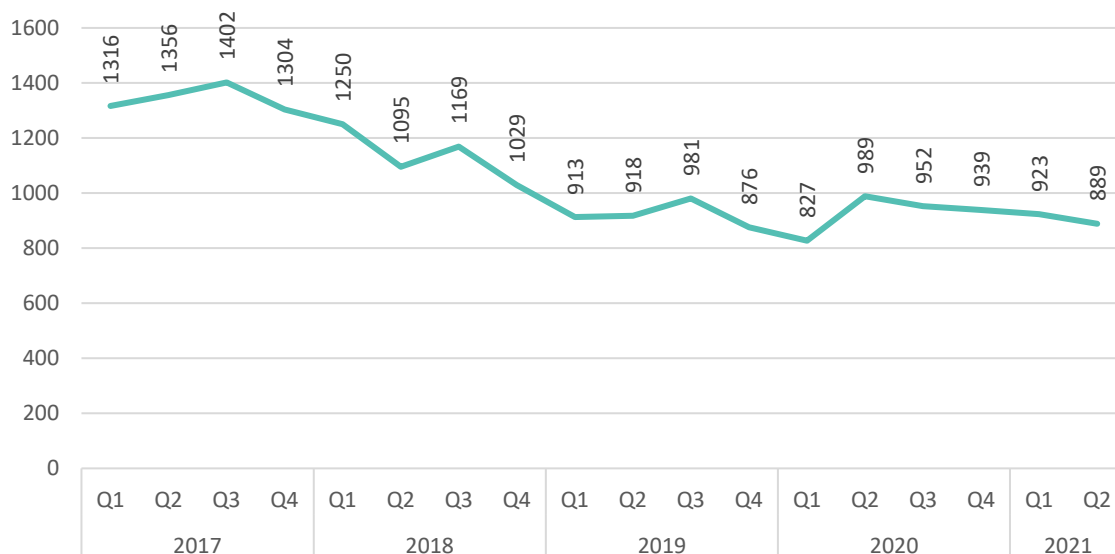
The number of children listed as "active" for 2020 needs to be interpreted with caution, due to some review child protection conferences (where decisions are made to remove children listed as "active") being deferred due to Covid-19 restrictions. Guidance issued by Tusla on foot of the COVID-19 restrictions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

- 80% (711) of children were listed as "active for no longer than 12 months. 5% (42) were listed as "active" for > 24 months, up two percentage points (11 children) from Q1 2021 (31).
- All children listed as "active" at the end of Q2 2021 had an allocated social worker.

- 889 children listed as 'active' on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)⁵ at the end of Q2 2021, 34 fewer than Q1 2021 (923) and the fourth consecutive decrease.
- 100 (10%) fewer children 'active' at the end of Q2 2021 than at the end of Q2 2020 (989).

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

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



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

- The number listed as “active” equates to about 7.5 children per 10,000 under 18 years and ranges from 2.3/10,000 in Galway/Roscommon to 14.5/10,000 in Dublin North City, more than double the national average.
- Midwest reported the highest number (91) of children “active”, followed by Cork (84), and Dublin North (82). Sligo/Leitrim/West/Cavan reported the fewest number (12) followed by Galway/Roscommon (18) and Louth/Meath (21).

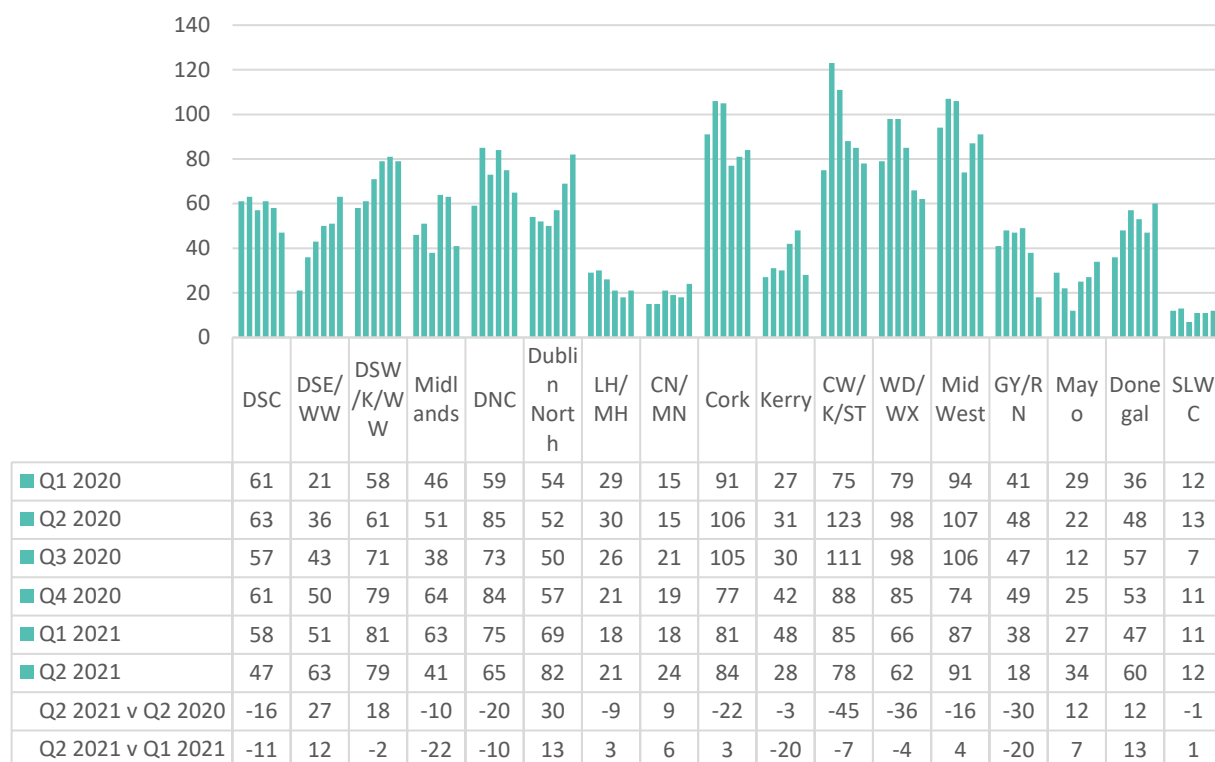
Children listed as 'active' on CPNS per 10,000 population 0-17 years

Area	# Q2 2021	Population 0-17 years	Rate / 10,000 pop
Dublin North City	65	44,927	14.5
Donegal	60	42,865	14.0
Carlow / Kilkenny / South Tipperary	78	63,009	12.4
Mayo	34	31,968	10.6
Mid West	91	96,266	9.5
Waterford / Wexford	62	68,513	9.0
Dublin North	82	100,654	8.1
Kerry	28	34,527	8.1
Dublin South West / Kildare / West Wicklow	79	108,186	7.3
Dublin South East / Wicklow	63	86,810	7.3
Dublin South Central	47	65,564	7.2
Cavan / Monaghan	24	36,446	6.6
Cork	84	134,015	6.3
Midlands	41	80,193	5.1
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	12	23,554	5.1
Louth / Meath	21	93,093	2.3
Galway / Roscommon	18	79,912	2.3
Total	889	1,190,502	7.5

Population: Census 2016

- 8/17 areas reported a decrease in the number “active” from Q1 2021. The largest decrease was reported by Midlands (down 22) followed by Kerry and Galway/Roscommon, both down 20.
- 9/17 reported an increase in the number “active” from Q1 2021. The largest increase was reported by Dublin North and Donegal, both up 13 followed by Dublin South East/Wicklow (up 12).
- 11/17 areas had fewer children “active” at the end of Q2 2021 than Q2 2020. Largest decreases reported by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 45), Waterford/Wexford (down 36) and Galway/Roscommon (down 30).
- 6/17 areas had more children “active” at the end of Q2 2021 than Q2 2020. Largest increases reported by Dublin North (up 30) followed by Dublin South East/Wicklow (27) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 18).

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

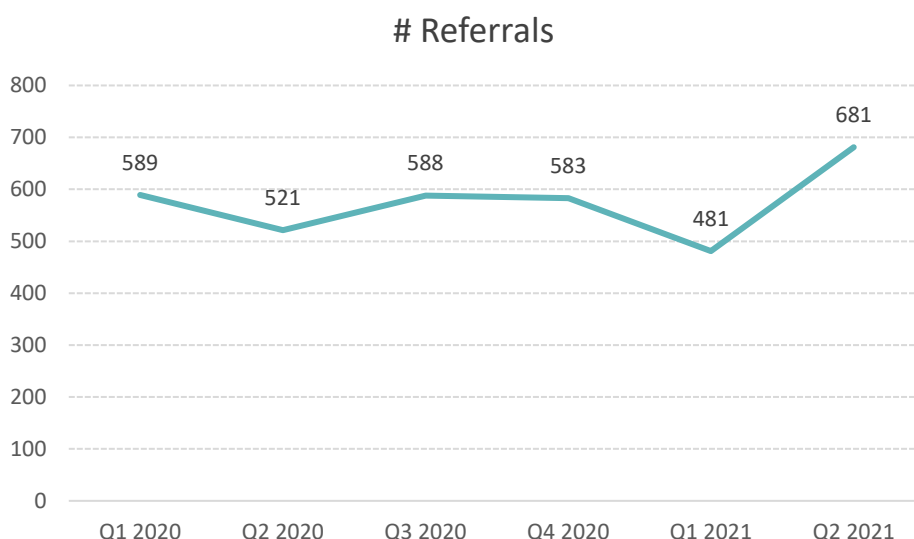


- 54% (477) of children listed as “active” at the end of Q2 2021 were listed for 0-6 months; no change from Q1 2021.
- 80% (711) of children were listed as “active for no longer than 12 months.
- 5% (42) were listed as “active” for > 24 months, up two percentage points (11 children) from Q1 2021 (31).
- One areas (Kerry) had no child “active” for longer than 12 months.
- All children listed as “active” at the end of Q2 2021 had an allocated social worker.

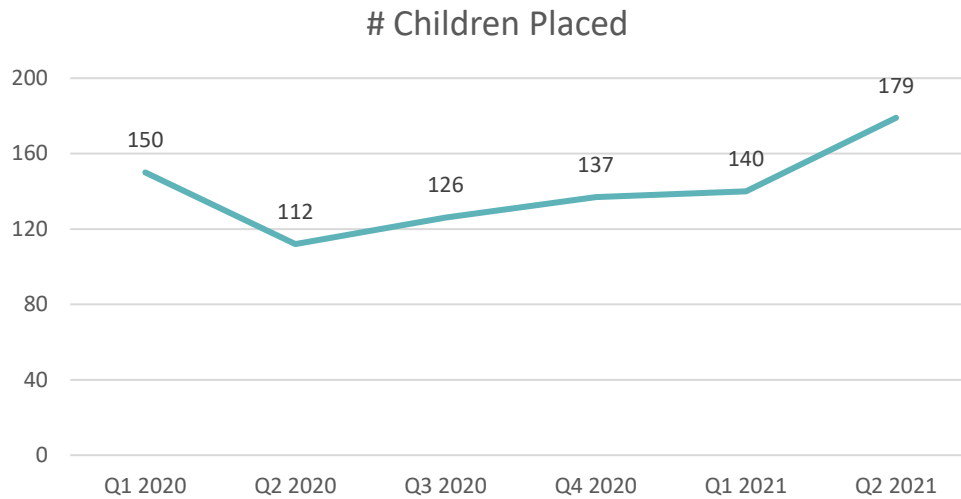
2.4 NATIONAL OUT OF HOURS SERVICE

KEY FACTS

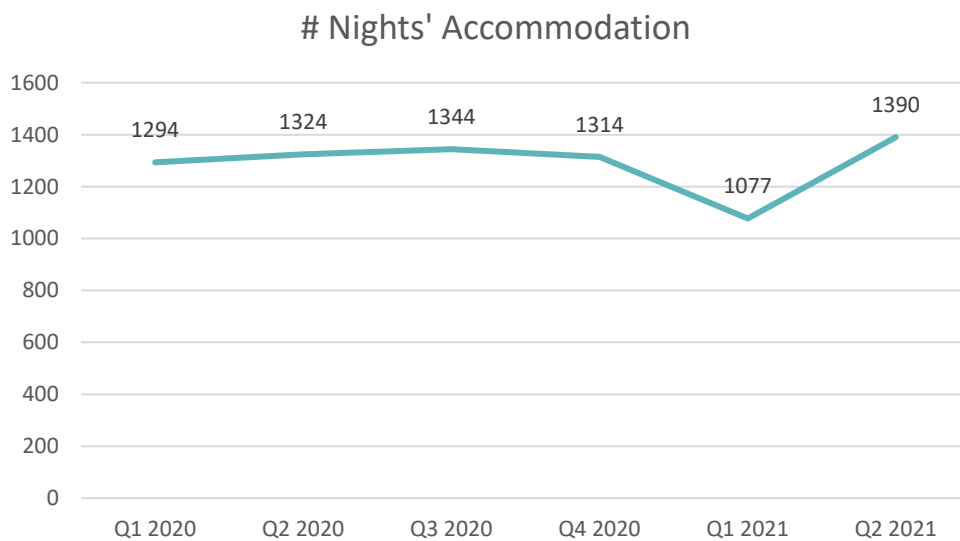
- 681 referrals to the National Out of Hours Service in Q2 2021, bringing the number for the first six months of 2021 to 1,162. The number of referrals for the first six months of 2021 is up 5% (52) on the same period in 2020 (1,110).
 - 179 children were placed by the National Out of Hours Service in Q2 2021, bringing the number of children placed for the first six months of 2021 to 319. The number of children placed for the first six months of 2021 is up 22% (57) on the same period in 2020 (262).
- 681 referrals to the National Out of Hours Service in Q2 2021, bringing the number for the first six months of 2021 to 1,162. The number of referrals for Q2 2021 is up 42% (200) on Q1 2021 (481) and is the highest number for all quarters Q1 2020 – Q2 2021. The number of referrals for the first six months of 2021 is up 5% (52) on the same period in 2020 (1,110).



- 179 children were placed by the National Out of Hours Service in Q2 2021, bringing the number of children placed for the first six months of 2021 to 319. The number of children placed in Q2 2021 is up 28% (39) on Q1 2021 and is the highest number for all quarters Q1 2020 – Q2 2021. The number of children placed for the first six months of 2021 is up 22% (57) on the same period in 2020 (262).



- 1,390 nights' accommodation supplied by the National Out of Hours Service in Q2 2021, bringing the number of nights' accommodation for the first six months of 2021 to 2,467. The number of nights' accommodation for Q2 2021 is up 29% (313) on Q1 2021 (1,077) and is the highest number for all quarters Q1 2020 – Q1 2021. The number of nights' accommodation for the first six months of 2021 (2,467) is down 6% (151) on the same period in 2020 (2,618).



3.0 ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

3.1 Children in Care (Foster Care / Residential Care)

3.2 Aftercare

3.3 Adoption

3.4 Foster Carers

3.1 CHILDREN IN CARE (FOSTER CARE / RESIDENTIAL CARE)

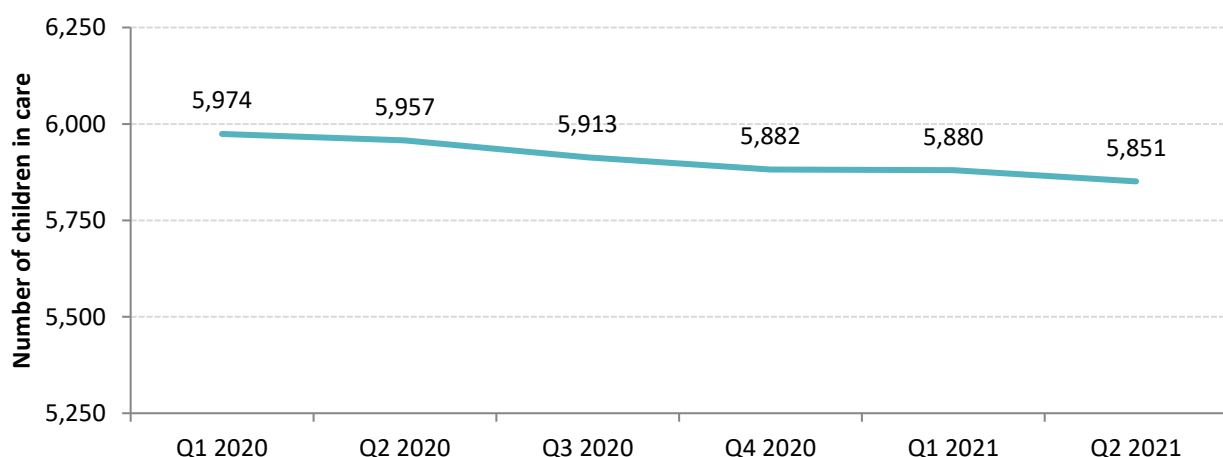
KEY FACTS

- 5,851 children in care at the end of Q2 2021, 29 fewer than Q1 2021 (5,880 revised figure). The number of children in care is down 106 (2%) on Q2 2020 (5,957), quarter on quarter decrease.
- 750 (13%) children in care at the end of Q2 2021 were in placements with private providers¹; eight more than Q1 2021 (742) and 30 (4%) more than Q2 2020 (720).
- 89% (5,233/5,851) of children in care nationally had an allocated social worker (against a target of 100%) at the end of Q2 2021; down three percentage point from Q1 2021 (92%).
- 618 children were awaiting allocation of a social worker at the end of Q2 2021; 124 (25%) more than at the end of Q1 2021 (494).
- 97% (5,650/5,851) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan, up one percentage point from Q1 2021 (96%).
- 201 children did not have an up-to-date care plan, 22 fewer than Q1 2021 (223).

3.1.1 Number of Children in Care

- 5,851 children in care at the end of Q2 2021, 29 fewer than Q1 2021 (5,880 revised figure). The number of children in care is down 106 (2%) on Q2 2020 (5,957), quarter on quarter decrease.

Number of children in care by quarter



- Across the 17 areas the number of children in care ranged from 749 in Cork to 120 in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan.
- Dublin North City reported the highest rate of children in care per 1,000 population under 18 years (10.8/1,000), more than double the national rate, followed by Waterford/Wexford (6.0/1,000) and MidWest (5.9/1,000) while Dublin South East/Wicklow reported the lowest rate at 2.5/1,000 population followed by Dublin North (3.5/1,000).

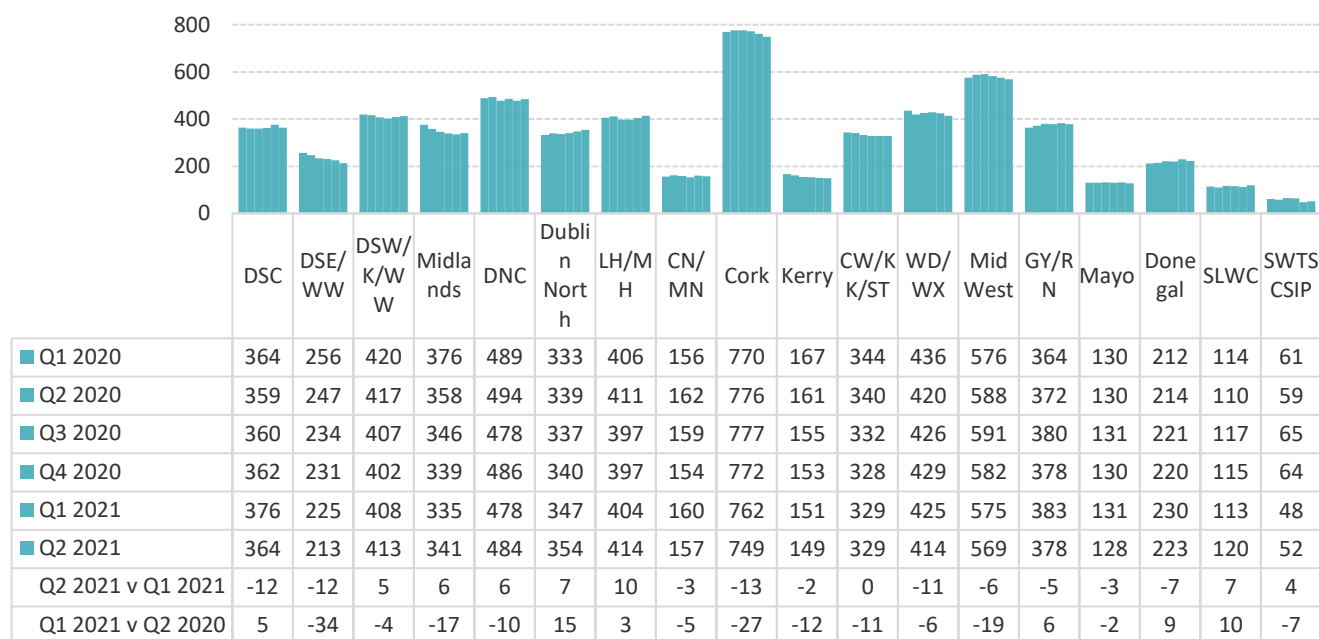
Number of children in care and rate per 1,000 population 0-17 years

Area	0-17 population (Census 2016)	No CIC Q2 2021	No of CIC/1,000 population 0-17
DSC	65,564	364	5.6
DSE/WW	86,810	213	2.5
DSW/K/WW	108,186	413	3.8
Midlands	80,193	341	4.3
DNC	44,927	484	10.8
Dublin North	100,654	354	3.5
LH/MH	93,093	414	4.4
CN/MN	36,446	157	4.3
Cork	134,015	749	5.6
Kerry	34,527	149	4.3
CW/KK/ST	63,009	329	5.2
WD/WX	68,513	414	6.0
Mid West	96,266	569	5.9
GY/RN	79,912	378	4.7
Mayo	31,968	128	4.0
Donegal	42,865	223	5.2
SLWC	23,554	120	5.1
Total	1,190,502	5,799	4.9

*Children under Tusla's Social Work Team for separated children seeking international protection (SWTSCSIP) are not included above.

- 10 areas reported a decrease in children in care from Q1 2021. Largest decrease reported by the Cork (down 13) followed by Dublin South Central and Dublin South East Wicklow, both down 12.
- 6 areas along with the SWTSCSIP reported an increase in children in care from Q1 2021, with the largest increase reported by Louth/Meath (up 10) followed by Dublin North and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan, both up seven. The remaining area, Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary reported no change.
- 11 areas along with the SWTSCSIP had fewer children in care at the end of Q2 2021 than Q2 2020. Largest decrease reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (down 34) followed by Cork (down 27) and Midwest (down 19).
- Of the six areas that reported an increase from Q2 2020, the largest increase was reported by Dublin North (up 15) followed by Sligo/Leitrim West Cavan (up 10).

Breakdown of the number of children in care in each area



Number of Children in Care, by Care Type

- 91% (5,301) of children in care were in foster care (general and relative) at the end of Q2 2021 and 7% (434) were in a residential (general and special care) placement.

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

	FC Gen	Δ+/- prev Q	FC Rel	Δ+/- prev Q	Res Care Gen	Δ+/- prev Q	Res Care Spec	Δ+/- prev Q	Other Care 12	Δ+/- prev Q	Total	Δ+/- prev Q
Q1 2020	3,889	-18	1,556	+5	402	+7	13	-1	114	-2	5,974	-9
Q2 2020	3,885	-4	1,565	+9	390	-12	16	+3	101	-13	5,957	-17
Q3 2020	3,849	-36	1,540	-25	391	+1	13	-1	120	+19	5,913	-44
Q4 2020	3,829	-20	1,517	-23	403	+12	18	+5	115	-5	5,882	-31
Q1 2021	3,817	-12	1,517	0	409	+6	16	-2	121	+6	5,880	-2
Q2 2021	3,798	-19	1,503	-14	417	+8	17	+1	116	-5	5,851	-29

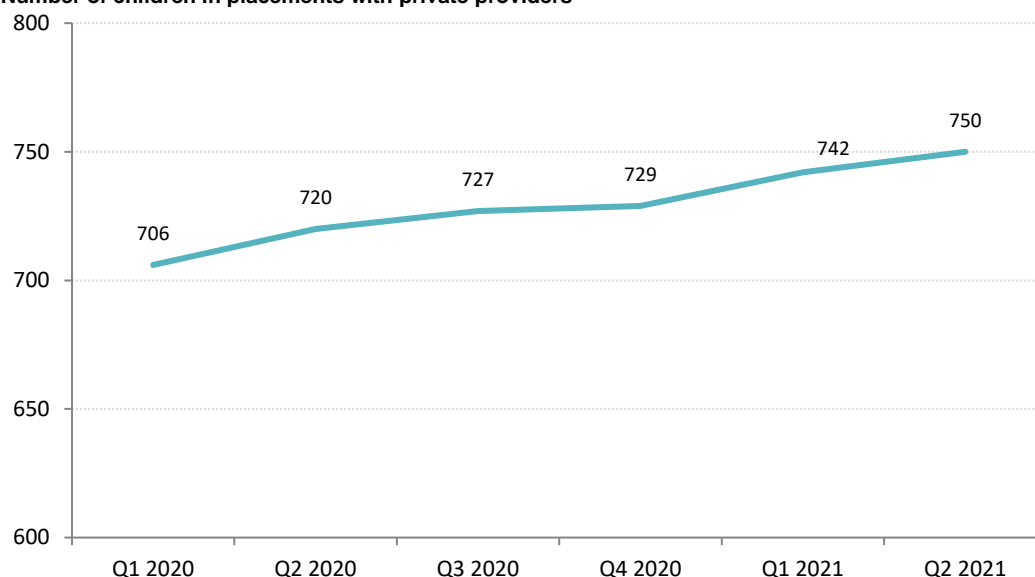
FC Gen = Foster Care General; FC Rel = Foster Care with Relatives; Res Care Gen = Residential Care General; Res Care Spec = Residential Care Special; CIC = Children in care

- 15 (0.25%) children were in out of State placements at the end of Q1 2021; two fewer than Q1 2020 (17). These children are included in the figures for the various care types set out in the table above.
- 7 children in residential care were in a single care placement at the end of Q2 2021, down one from Q1 2021 (8).
- 53 children were in respite care (from home) at the end of Q2 2021.

3.1.2 Children in Placements with Private Providers

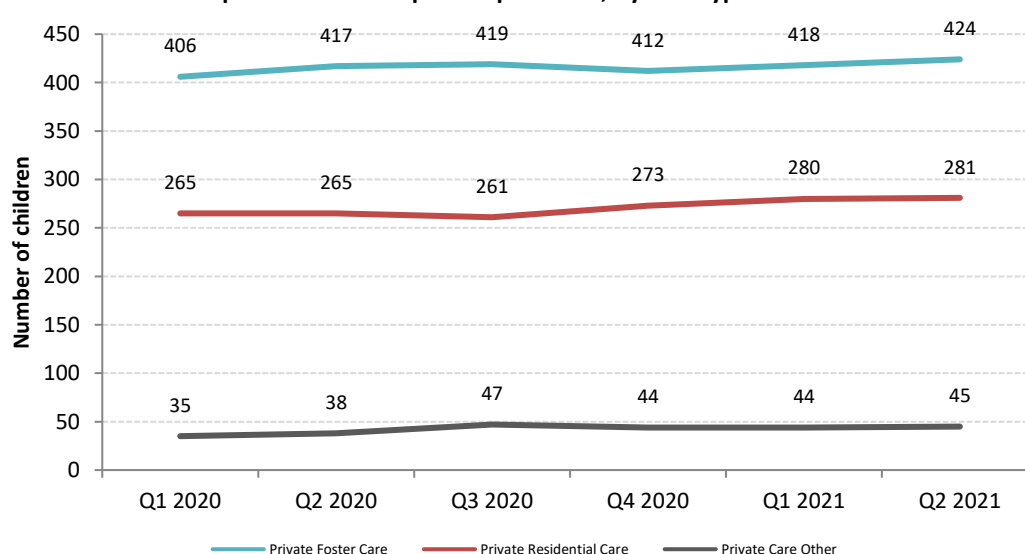
- 750 (13%) children in care at the end of Q2 2021 were in placements with private providers⁶; eight more than Q1 2021 (742) and 30 (4%) more than Q2 2020 (720).

Number of children in placements with private providers



- 57% (424) of children in placements with private providers were in foster care and 37% (281) were in residential placements.
- The number of children in foster care placements with private providers (424) is up six from Q1 2021 (418) and up seven from Q2 2020 (417).
- 281 children in residential care with private providers, one more than Q1 2021 (280) and 16 more than Q2 2020 (265).

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



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

- Dublin South Central (110) followed by DSW/K/WW (99), Dublin North (82), Dublin North City (81) and Cork (67) reported the highest numbers of children in placements with private providers in Q2 2021. These five areas account for 59% (439/750) of all children in private placements.
- Midlands area reported the largest increase from Q1 2021 (up 10) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow and Dublin North, both up seven.
- Dublin South East /Wicklow reported the largest decrease from Q1 2021 (down 9) followed by Dublin South Central (down 6) and Waterford/Wexford (down 4).

Number of children in placements with private providers, by area

Area	Q2 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q2 2021 v Q1 2021	Q2 2021 v Q2 2020
DSC	100	116	110	-6	10
DSE/WW	42	49	40	-9	-2
DSW/K/WW	86	92	99	7	13
Midlands	64	54	64	10	0
DNC	84	77	81	4	-3
Dublin North	69	75	82	7	13
LH/MH	33	31	29	-2	-4
CN/MN	5	5	5		
Cork	65	67	67	0	2
Kerry	12	12	11	-1	-1
CW/KK/ST	17	16	14	-2	-3
WD/WX	50	47	43	-4	-7
Mid West	41	39	41	2	0
GY/RN	7	10	9	-1	2
Mayo	5	5	5	0	0
Donegal	14	22	20	-2	6
SLWC	5	5	7	2	
SWTSCSIP	30	25	30	5	0
Total	720	742	750	8	30

S – Number suppressed for confidentiality reasons

3.1.3 Children in Care with an Allocated Social Worker

- 89% (5,233/5,851) of children in care nationally had an allocated social worker (against a target of 100%) at the end of Q2 2021; down three percentage point from Q1 2021 (92%).
- 618 children were awaiting allocation of a social worker at the end of Q2 2021; 124 (25%) more than at the end of Q1 2021 (494).

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

Care Type	CIC	No with SW	% with SW	CIC	No with SW	% with SW
	Q1 2021	Q1 2021	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q2 2021	Q2 2021
Foster Care (General)	3,817	3,516	92%	3,798	3,401	90%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,517	1,335	88%	1,503	1,303	87%
Residential Care (General)	409	402	98%	417	403	97%
Residential Special Care	16	16	100%	17	17	100%
Other Placements	121	117	97%	116	109	94%
Total	5,880	5,386	92%	5,851	5,233	89%

- One area (Mayo) along with Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking International Protection met the target of 100% of children in care with an allocated social worker. Nine areas reported 90% or higher.
- The area with the highest number of children awaiting an allocated social worker is Midwest (99) followed by Midlands (77), Dublin North City (67), Waterford/Wexford (66) and Louth/Meath and Dublin North, both reporting 60. These six areas account for 69% (429) of cases awaiting allocation.

Number of children in care with an allocated social worker

Area	No in Care Q1 2021	No with an allocated SW Q1 2021	% with an allocated SW Q1 2021	No in Care Q2 2021	No with an allocated SW Q2 2021	% with an allocated SW Q2 2021	# awaiting SW
DSC	376	342	91%	364	326	90%	38
DSE/WW	225	225	100%	213	205	96%	8
DSW/K/WW	408	385	94%	413	392	95%	21
Midlands	335	272	81%	341	264	77%	77
DNC	478	450	94%	484	417	86%	67
Dublin North	347	299	86%	354	294	83%	60
LH/MH	404	340	84%	414	354	86%	60
CN/MN	160	154	96%	157	149	95%	8
Cork	762	758	99%	749	732	98%	17
Kerry	151	149	99%	149	136	91%	13
CW/KK/ST	329	293	89%	329	278	84%	51
WD/WX	425	376	88%	414	348	84%	66
Mid West	575	475	83%	569	470	83%	99
GY/RN	383	354	92%	378	351	93%	27
Mayo	131	131	100%	128	128	100%	0
Donegal	230	230	100%	223	222	100%	1
SLWC	113	105	93%	120	115	96%	5
SWTSCSIP	48	48	100%	52	52	100%	0
Total	5,880	5386	92%	5,851	5,233	89%	618

3.1.4 Children in Care with a Care Plan

- 97% (5,650/5,851) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan, up one percentage point from Q1 2021 (96%).
- 201 children did not have an up-to-date care plan, 22 fewer than Q1 2021 (223).

It should be noted that variances have been identified in how data on this metric are being reported by areas. In some areas care plans that have fallen due for review and not updated are included. Also, it should be noted that where a care plan is not up-to-date, the care plan in place (albeit that it is awaiting review) is used to support the care of the child.

Number of children in care (CIC) with an up-to-date care plan by care type

Care Type	CIC	No with CP	% with CP	CIC	No with CP	% with CP
	Q1 2021	Q1 2021	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q2 2021	Q2 2021
Foster Care General	3,817	3,670	96%	3,798	3,670	97%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,517	1,463	96%	1,503	1,463	97%
Residential Care General	409	399	98%	417	398	95%
Residential Special Care	16	16	100%	17	17	100%
Other Placements	121	109	90%	116	102	88%
National	5,880	5,657	96%	5,851	5,650	97%

- All areas along with Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking International Protection reporting 90% or higher.
- Dublin North City and Dublin North have the highest number of children in care awaiting an up-to-date care plan, both reporting 27, followed by Cork (26) and Louth/Meath (19).

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

Area	No in Care Q1 2021	No with a care plan Q1 2021	% with a care plan Q1 2021	No in Care Q2 2021	No with a care plan Q2 2021	% with a care plan Q2 2021	# with no UTD plan
DSC	376	355	94%	364	353	97%	11
DSE/WW	225	225	100%	213	212	100%	1
DSW/K/WW	408	396	96%	413	396	96%	17
Midlands	335	329	98%	341	332	97%	9
DNC	478	422	88%	484	457	94%	27
Dublin North	347	308	89%	354	327	92%	27
LH/MH	404	380	94%	414	395	95%	19
CN/MN	160	155	97%	157	150	96%	7
Cork	762	742	97%	749	723	97%	26
Kerry	151	150	99%	149	144	97%	5
CW/KK/ST	329	329	100%	329	324	98%	5
WD/WX	425	422	99%	414	414	100%	0
Mid West	575	567	99%	569	554	97%	15
GY/RN	383	371	97%	378	365	97%	13
Mayo	131	130	99%	128	127	99%	1
Donegal	230	217	94%	223	208	93%	15
SLWC	113	111	98%	120	117	98%	3
SWTSCSIP	48	48	100%	52	52	100%	0
TOTAL	5,880	5657	96%	5,851	5,650	97%	201

3.1.5 Children in Care in Education

- 97% (3,702/3,838) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education at the end of Q2 2021, no change from Q1 2021. *Note: this figure does not include children in care under the care of Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.*

- 13/17 areas reporting 95% or higher with two of these areas (Dublin South East/Wicklow, Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) reporting 100%. Lowest percentage reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (91%) followed by Dublin North City (93%) and Cavan/Monaghan (93%).
- 94% (892/951) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of Q2 2021, down one percentage point from Q1 2021. *Note: this figure does not include children in care under the care of Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.*
- All areas, but one (Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow) reporting 90% or higher with two of these areas (Donegal and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) reporting 100%. Remaining area (Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow) reported 77%.

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

Area	No of CIC 6-15 years Q1 2021	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q1 2021	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q1 2021	No of CIC 6-15 years Q2 2021	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q2 2021	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q2 2021
DSC	251	238	94.8%	246	230	93.5%
DSE/WW	154	153	99.4%	147	147	100%
DSW/K/WW	278	252	90.6%	276	251	90.9%
Midlands	223	219	98.2%	230	225	97.8%
DNC	305	285	93.4%	312	290	92.9%
Dublin North	233	225	96.6%	237	228	96.2%
LH/MH	246	243	98.8%	252	239	94.8%
CN/MN	106	100	94.3%	106	99	93.4%
Cork	527	506	96.0%	522	500	95.8%
Kerry	99	99	100.0%	98	95	96.9%
CW/KK/ST	221	220	99.5%	224	221	98.7%
WD/WX	298	293	98.3%	274	272	99.3%
Mid West	380	370	97.4%	353	351	99.4%
GY/RN	264	262	99.2%	264	260	98.5%
Mayo	77	76	98.7%	78	77	98.7%
Donegal	145	144	99.3%	140	138	98.6%
SLWC	74	74	100.0%	79	79	100%
National	3,881	3,759	96.9%	3,838	3,702	96.5%

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

Area	No of CIC 16-17 yrs Q1 2021	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q1 2021	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q1 2021	No of CIC 16-17 yrs Q2 2021	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q2 2021	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q2 2021
DSC	71	65	91.5%	69	63	91.3%
DSE/WW	49	45	91.8%	44	42	95.5%
DSW/K/WW	70	57	81.4%	75	58	77.3%
Midlands	46	43	93.5%	42	40	95.2%
DNC	97	95	97.9%	89	87	97.8%
Dublin North	62	56	90.3%	68	61	89.7%
LH/MH	67	64	95.5%	51	46	90.2%

CN/MN	31	28	90.3%	29	26	89.7%
Cork	121	119	98.3%	117	113	96.6%
Kerry	25	25	100.0%	27	26	96.3%
CW/KK/ST	55	54	98.2%	53	52	98.1%
WD/WX	71	68	95.8%	66	62	93.9%
Mid West	96	96	100.0%	87	85	97.7%
GY/RN	69	66	95.7%	61	59	96.7%
Mayo	25	24	96.0%	22	21	95.5%
Donegal	37	36	97.3%	37	37	100%
SLWC	15	15	100.0%	14	14	100%
National	1,007	956	94.9%	951	892	93.8%

3.2

3.3 AFTERCARE

KEY FACTS

- 107 referrals in Q2 2021, bringing to 264 the number of referrals for the first six months of 2021.
- 2,992 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q2 2021, 25 more than Q1 2021 (2,967) and 131 (5%) more than Q2 2020 (2,861).
- 78% (1,808/2,319) of those 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service were in education/accredited training.
- 85% (2,532) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q2 2021 had an aftercare plan, up one percentage points from Q1 2021. A total of 460 were awaiting a plan, six fewer than Q1 2021 (466).
- 90% (2,177/2,408) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2021, up one percentage points from Q1 2021 (89%). A total of 231 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2021, 31 fewer than Q1 2021 (262).

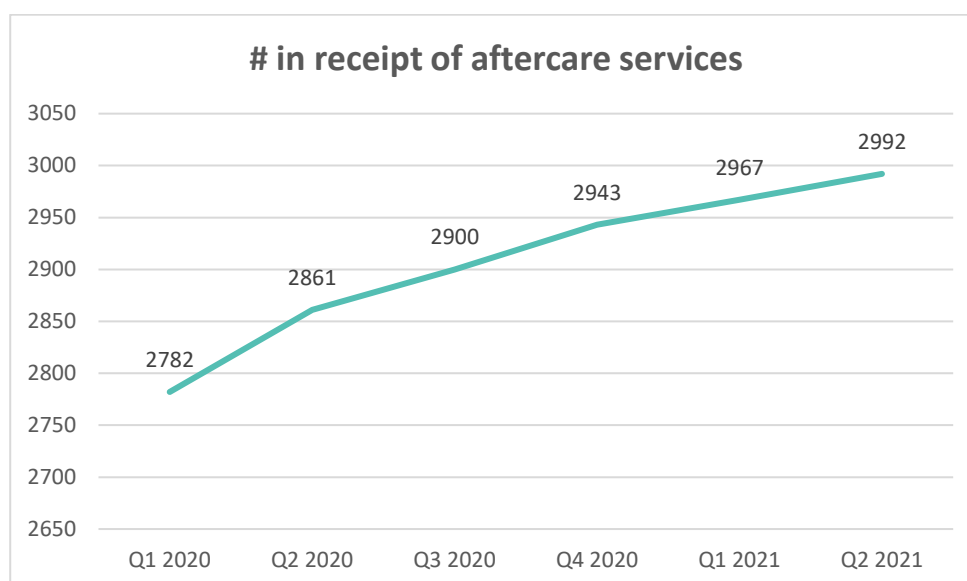
3.3.1 Referrals for an aftercare service received in the quarter

- 107 referrals in Q2 2021, 50 fewer than Q1 2021 (157). Brings to 264 the number of referrals for the first six months of 2021.
- 92% (98) of referrals for Q2 2021 were eligible for an assessment of need.
- Of those eligible for an assessment of need, 91% (89) were < 18 years and in care.
- 115 assessments of need were completed in Q2 2021, bringing the number for the first six months of 2021 to 242.

Area	2020 Total	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	2021 YTD
DSC	59	3	5	8
DSE/WW	18	10	6	16
DSW/K/WW	53	5	6	11
Midlands	24	11	5	16
DNC	61	12	11	23
Dublin North	42	10	11	21
LH/MH	24	9	3	12
CN/MN	13	10	3	13
Cork	86	19	9	28
Kerry	14	3	4	7
CW/KK/ST	29	6	5	11
WD/WX	32	11	3	14
Mid West	74	15	14	29
GY/RN	48	8	6	14
Mayo	24	1	3	4
Donegal	19	12	4	16
SLWC	9	3	0	3
SWTSCSIP	31	9	9	18
Total	660	157	107	264

3.3.2 Young Persons / Adults in receipt of an aftercare service

- 2,992 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q2 2021, 25 more than Q1 2021 (2,967) and 131 (5%) more than Q2 2020 (2,861). Quarter on quarter increase. *Figure includes young persons < 18 years and those 18-22 years inclusive.*



- Highest number in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q2 2021 reported by Cork (345) followed by Dublin North City (289), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (268), Dublin South Central (223) and Midwest (222). Fewest number reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (50).

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q4 2020	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q1 2021	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q2 2021
DSC	199	204	223
DSE/WW	147	145	146
DSW/K/WW	281	275	268
Midlands	147	143	144
DNC	293	275	289
Dublin North	158	168	164
LH/MH	161	153	150
CN/MN	72	77	79
Cork	338	344	345
Kerry	70	74	76
CW/KK/ST	178	182	187
WD/WX	176	178	181
Mid West	239	236	222
GY/RN	180	190	194
Mayo	63	71	69
Donegal	80	90	91
SLWC	53	51	50
SWTSCIP	108	111	114
Total	2,943	2,967	2,992

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

- 54% (1,617) of those in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q2 2021 (2,992) were 18 – 20 years inclusive and of these 81% (1,306) were in education/accredited training, up three percentage points from Q1 202 (78%) (table below).
- All areas, but one (Dublin North) along with the SWTSCSIP reported at least seven out of 10 (18-20 years) in education/accredited training. Two areas (Mayo and SLWC) along with SWTSCSIP reported 100%.

Area	# 18-20 years Q1 2021	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 18-20 years Q2 2021	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
DSC	100	79	79%	100	78	78%
DSE/WW	75	64	85%	79	65	82%
DSW/K/WW	124	85	69%	122	91	75%
Midlands	85	75	88%	82	71	87%
DNC	154	116	75%	146	117	80%
Dublin North	94	54	57%	95	60	63%
LH/MH	95	62	65%	88	62	70%
CN/MN	40	34	85%	45	39	87%
Cork	187	151	81%	190	158	83%
Kerry	37	30	81%	37	30	81%
CW/KK/ST	101	87	86%	101	85	84%
WD/WX	92	65	71%	98	72	73%
Mid West	139	106	76%	141	115	82%
GY/RN	110	89	81%	110	87	79%
Mayo	36	34	94%	35	35	100%
Donegal	39	31	79%	42	35	83%
SLWC	27	27	100%	27	27	100%
SWTSCSIP	82	80	98%	79	79	100%
Total	1,617	1,269	78%	1,617	1,306	81%

- The highest number of those in education/accredited training were in second level (491; 38%) followed by Third Level College /University (247; 19%) and PLCs (225; 17%).

	# 18-20 years in education/accredited Training Q2 2021	%
Second Level	491	38%
Vocational Training	175	13%
PLCs	225	17%
Third Level College / University	247	19%
Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)	113	9%
Other	55	4%
Total	1,306	100%

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

- 23% (702) of those in receipt of an aftercare service were 21 – 22 years inclusive and of these 72% (502) were in education/accredited training, up one percentage point from Q1 2021 (table below).
- 10 areas along with the SWTSCIP reported 70% or higher. Rates reported by Galway/Roscommon (58%), Dublin South Central (58%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (59%), Dublin North City (59%), Waterford/Wexford (59%), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (63%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# 21-22 years Q1 2021	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 21-22 years Q2 2021	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
DSC	52	27	52%	60	35	58%
DSE/WW	36	31	86%	33	30	91%
DSW/K/WW	94	56	60%	90	53	59%
Midlands	38	30	79%	42	34	81%
DNC	78	49	63%	95	56	59%
Dublin North	31	21	68%	27	18	67%
LH/MH	20	17	85%	19	16	84%
CN/MN	10	8	80%	14	12	86%
Cork	67	57	85%	66	56	85%
Kerry	13	11	85%	13	11	85%
CW/KK/ST	34	24	71%	40	25	63%
WD/WX	39	27	69%	39	23	59%
Mid West	49	39	80%	45	43	96%
GY/RN	49	27	55%	52	30	58%
Mayo	7	7	100%	16	14	88%
Donegal	11	10	91%	13	12	92%
SLWC	10	10	100%	10	10	100%
SWTSCIP	23	20	87%	28	24	86%
Total	661	471	71%	702	502	72%

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

	# 21-22 years in education/accredited Training Q2 2021	%
Second Level	9	2%
Vocational Training	72	14%
PLCs	112	22%
Third Level College / University	232	46%
Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)	59	12%
Other	18	4%
Total	502	100%

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

- Almost half (48%; 1,120) of young people 18 – 22 years (2,278) in receipt of aftercare had remained living with their carers. A further 9% (211) had returned home to parents/family. One in four (27%; 630) was in independent living.

	# 18-22 placement type Q2 2021	%
Residential Care Placement	125	5%
Remained with Carers	1,120	48%
Independent Living	630	27%
Designated Care Leavers Accommodation	38	2%
At home	211	9%
Supported Lodgings	43	2%
Other	152	7%
Total	2,319	100%

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

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

- 85% (2,532) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q2 2021 had an aftercare plan, up one percentage points from Q1 2021. A total of 460 were awaiting a plan, six fewer than Q1 2021 (466).
- 8 areas along with the SWTSCSA reported a percentage equal to or higher the national average of 85%. Rates reported by Kerry (75%), Dublin North City (76%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (79%) lower than all other areas.
- 97% (2,246/2,319) of those 18-22 years in receipt of an aftercare service had a plan. 42% (286/673) of those <18 years had a plan.

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q1 2021	# with an Aftercare Plan Q1 2021	% with an Aftercare Plan Q1 2021	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q2 2021	# with an Aftercare Plan Q2 2021	% with an Aftercare Plan Q2 2021
DSC	204	164	80%	223	191	86%
DSE/WW	145	140	97%	146	141	97%
DSW/K/WW	275	211	77%	268	212	79%
Midlands	143	132	92%	144	133	92%
DNC	275	222	81%	289	219	76%
Dublin North	168	142	85%	164	133	81%
LH/MH	153	131	86%	150	123	82%
CN/MN	77	63	82%	79	74	94%
Cork	344	275	80%	345	278	81%
Kerry	74	57	77%	76	57	75%
CW/KK/ST	182	145	80%	187	153	82%
WD/WX	178	178	100%	181	146	81%
Mid West	236	216	92%	222	213	96%
GY/RN	190	160	84%	194	164	85%
Mayo	71	43	61%	69	60	87%

Donegal	90	77	86%	91	86	95%
SLWC	51	39	76%	50	40	80%
SWTSCSIP	111	106	95%	114	109	96%
Total	2,967	2,501	84%	2,992	2,532	85%

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

- 95% (2,408/2,532) of those with an aftercare plan were assessed as needing an aftercare worker. Fifteen areas along with the SWTSCSIP reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 95% with twelve of them reporting 100%.
- Percentages reported by Midlands (63%), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (65%) lower than all other areas. *Midlands area advised that a number of young persons/adults who are settled and doing well were been moved to the drop-in service (i.e., assessed as not needing an allocated social worker). With a reduction in staff this allows the service to prioritise those with greatest need for allocation to a social worker.*
- 90% (2,177/2,408) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2021, up one percentage points from Q1 2021 (89%). A total of 231 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2021, 31 fewer than Q1 2021 (262).
- Thirteen areas along with the SWTSCSIP reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 90% with 10 of them reporting 100%. Rates reported by DSW/K/WW (50%), Dublin South Central (69%) and CW/K/ST (85%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service with a Plan Q2 2021	# with Plan Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q2 2021	% with Plan Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q2 2021	# with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q2 2021	% with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q2 2021	% with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q1 2021
DSC	191	191	100%	131	69%	71%
DSE/WW	141	141	100%	132	94%	96%
DSW/K/WW	212	212	100%	107	50%	45%
Midlands	133	84	63%	84	100%	100%
DNC	219	219	100%	219	100%	100%
Dublin North	133	133	100%	133	100%	70%
LH/MH	123	123	100%	123	100%	100%
CN/MN	74	70	95%	65	93%	100%
Cork	278	278	100%	278	100%	100%
Kerry	57	57	100%	57	100%	100%
CW/KK/ST	153	100	65%	85	85%	71%
WD/WX	146	138	95%	124	90%	100%
Mid West	213	212	100%	206	97%	100%
GY/RN	164	155	95%	138	89%	89%
Mayo	60	60	100%	60	100%	100%
Donegal	86	86	100%	86	100%	100%
SLWC	40	40	100%	40	100%	100%
SWTSCSIP	109	109	100%	109	100%	100%
Total	2,532	2,408	95%	2,177	90%	89%

3.3.8 Drop-in Service

- All areas reported having a drop-in service.

3.3.9 Interagency Aftercare Steering Committee

- All areas reported having an interagency aftercare steering committee.

3.4 ADOPTION SERVICES

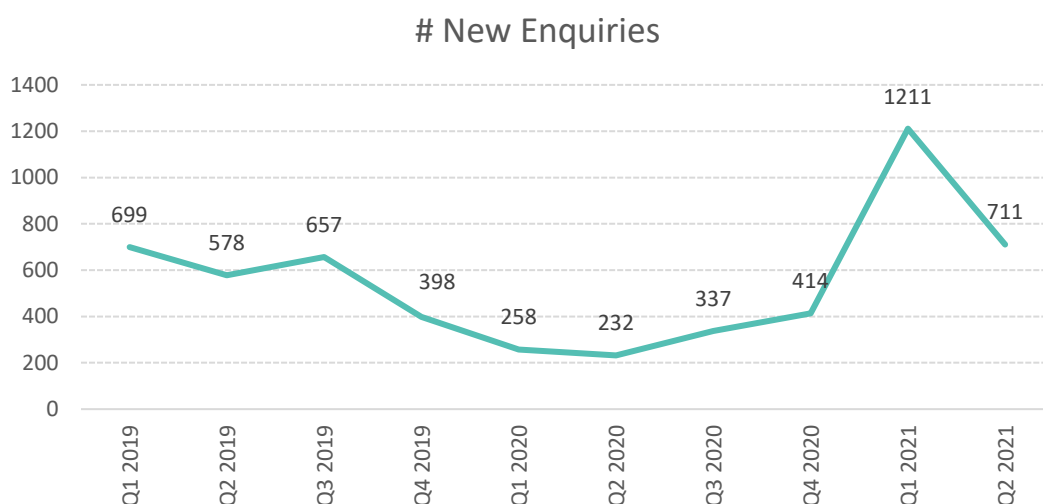
KEY FACTS

- 165 new applications to commence tracing of a searched person received in Q2 2021, 188 (53%) fewer than Q1 2021 (353). This brings to 518 the number of applications for the first six months of 2021, 282 (119%) more than the same period in 2020 (236).
- 701 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q2 2021, 103 (13%) fewer than Q1 2021 when a high of 804 applicants were awaiting.
- At the end of Q2 2021, the length of time from application (production of ID) to the provision of personal information in line with GDPR legislation ranged from 6 weeks to 16 weeks against a target of 8 weeks.
- 59 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received during Q2 2021, nine more than Q1 2021 (50). This brings to 109 the number of completed applications received for the first six months of 2021, 29 (36%) more than the same period in 2020 (80).
- 49 new children were referred for adoption in Q2 2021, 20 fewer than Q1 2021 (69). This brings to 118 the number of children referred for adoption in the first six months of 2021, 20 (20%) more than the same period in 2020 (98).
- 41 completed assessments (all types) were presented to local adoption committees during Q2 2021, four more than Q1 2021 (37). This brings to 78 the number of assessments presented for the first six months of 2021, eight more than the same period in 2020 (70).

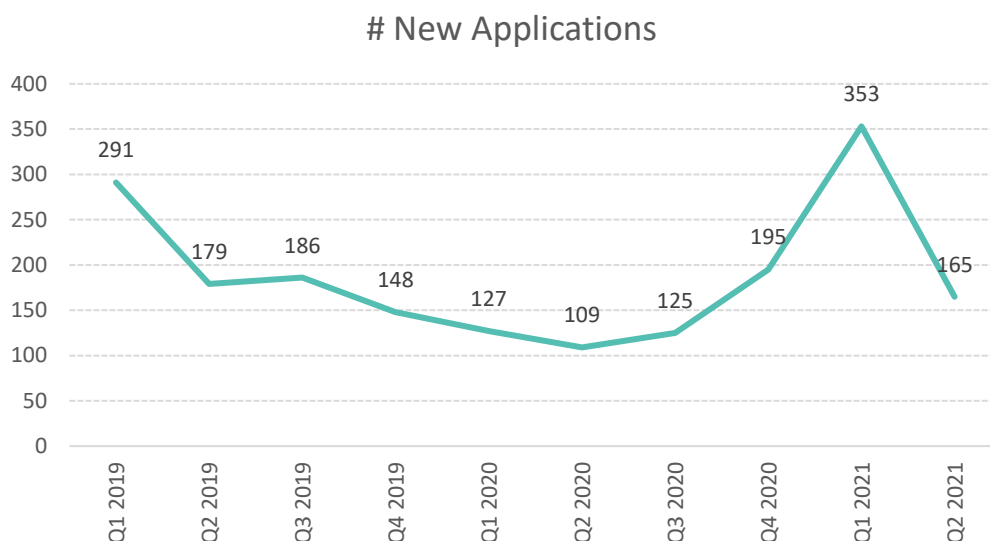
3.4.1 Information and Tracing Service

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

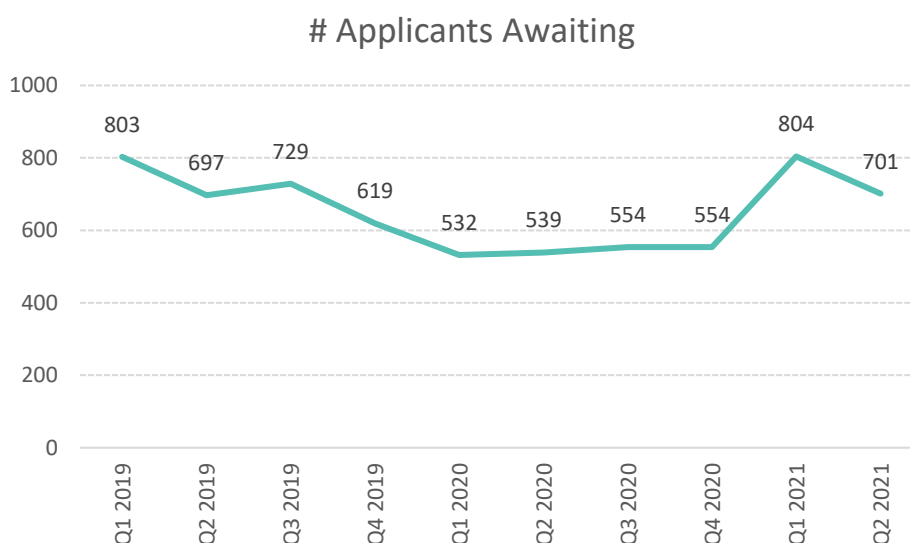
- 711 new enquiries regarding information and tracing received in Q2 2021, 500 (41%) fewer than Q1 2021 when a high of 1,211 was reported. This brings to 1,922 the number of enquiries for the first six months of 2021, 1,432 (292%) more than the same period in 2020 (490).



- 165 new applications to commence tracing of a searched person received in Q2 2021, 188 (53%) fewer than Q1 2021 (353). This brings to 518 the number of applications for the first six months of 2021, 282 (119%) more than the same period in 2020 (236).



- 701 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q2 2021, 103 (13%) fewer than Q1 2021 when a high of 804 applicants were awaiting.



- At the end of Q2 2021, the length of time from application (production of ID) to the provision of personal information in line with GDPR legislation ranged from 6 weeks to 16 weeks against a target of 8 weeks.
- The length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for priority 1 applications ranged from 6 months to 27 months against a target of 3 months or less, up three months from 24 months at the end of Q1 2021.
- The length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for priority 2 applications ranged 0 months to 24 months against a target of 6 months or less, up four months from 20 months at the end of Q1 2021.

- The length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for all other applications ranged from 16 months to 42 months against a target of 12 months or less, up 12 months from 30 months at the end of Q1 2021.

3.4.2 Adoption Assessments

- 59 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received during Q2 2021, nine more than Q1 2021 (50). This brings to 109 the number of completed applications received for the first six months of 2021, 29 (36%) more than the same period in 2020 (80).
- 49 new children were referred for adoption in Q2 2021, 20 fewer than Q1 2021 (69). This brings to 118 the number of children referred for adoption in the first six months of 2021, 20 (20%) more than the same period in 2020 (98).
- 41 completed assessments (all types) were presented to local adoption committees during Q2 2021, four more than Q1 2021 (37). This brings to 78 the number of assessments presented for the first six months of 2021, eight more than the same period in 2020 (70).

3.5 FOSTER CARERS

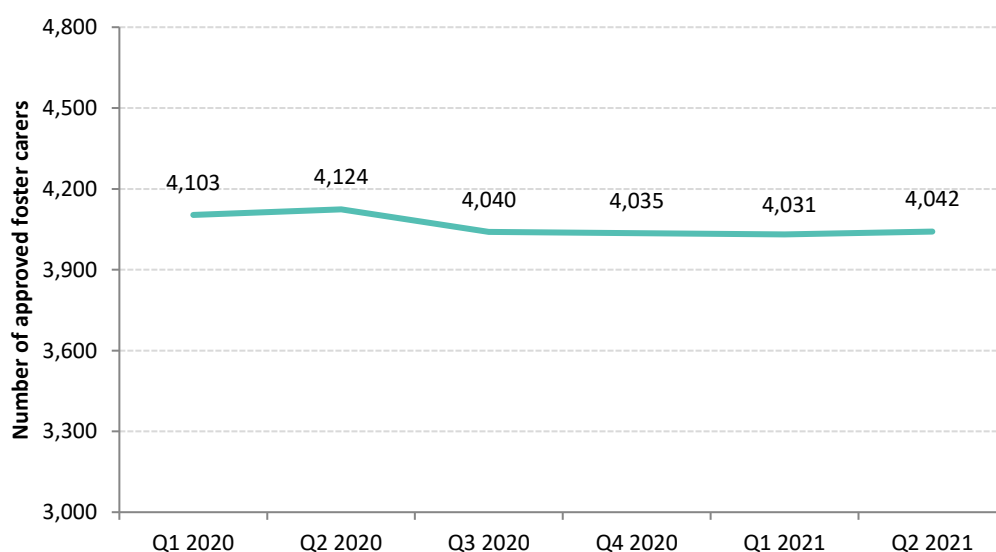
KEY FACTS

- 4,042 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q2 2021, 11 more than Q1 2021 (4,031 revised figure) and 82 (2%) fewer than Q2 2020 (4,124).
- 80% (1,052/1,313) of relative foster carers are approved.
- 87% (2,154) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q2 2021, down five percentage points percentage point from Q1 2021 (92%).
- 308 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker; 107 (53%) more than Q1 2021 (201).
- 91% (954) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q2 2021, no change from Q1 2021
- 98 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q2 2021; four more than Q1 2021 (94).
- 261 relative foster carers unapproved at the end of Q2 2021; 40 more than Q1 2021 (221)
- Of these, 228 (87%) had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks; 39 more than Q1 2021 (189). Of these (228), 93% (211) had an allocated link worker; 17 were awaiting, 14 more than Q1 2021 (3).

3.5.1 Number of foster carers

- 4,042 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q2 2021, 11 more than Q1 2021 (4,031 revised figure) and 82 (2%) fewer than Q2 2020 (4,124).
- 261 unapproved relative foster carers of which 87% (228) had a child placed for >12 weeks. 80% (1,052/1,313) of relative foster carers are approved.

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



- 61% (2,462) of all approved foster carers are general foster carers. Relative foster carers (approved) account for a further 26% (1,052) while private foster carers account for the remaining 13% (528).
- General foster carers are up two from Q1 2021 and down 65 (3%) from Q2 2021 (2,527). Relative foster carers (approved) are down eight from Q1 2021 (1,060 revised figure) and down 55 (5%) from Q2 2021 (1,107). Private foster carers are up 17 from Q1 2021 and 38 (8%) from Q2 2021 (490).

Breakdown of foster carers by type

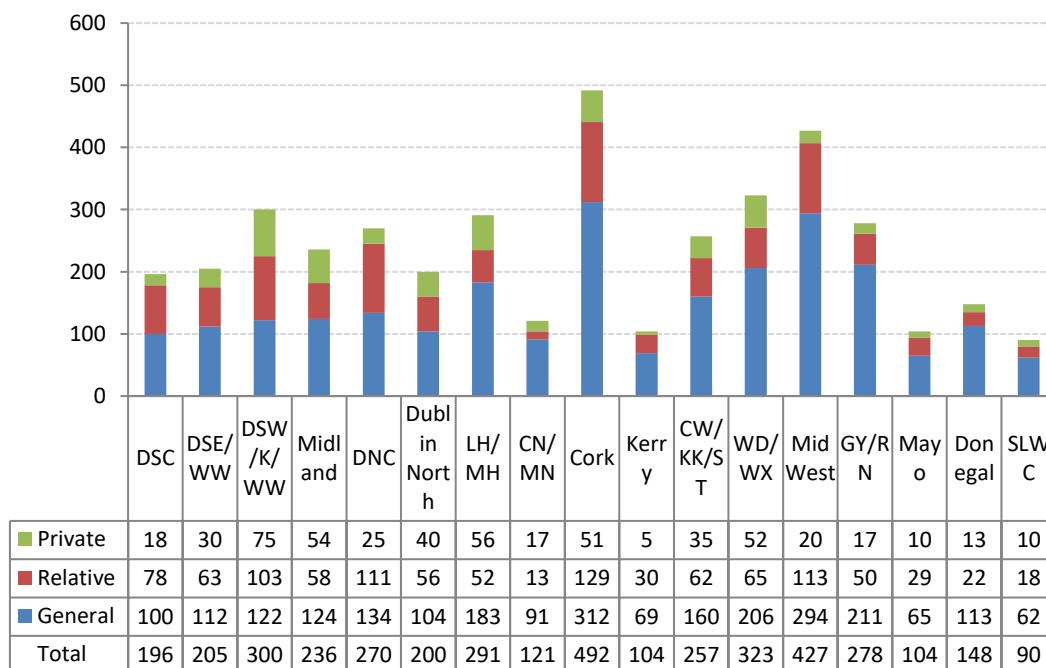
Foster Carers	Q2 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Δ (+/-) Q2 2021 v Q1 2021
General (Approved)	2,527	2,476	2,460	2,462	+2
Relative (Approved)	1,107	1,056	1,060*	1,052	-8
Private (Approved)	490	503	511	528	+17
Total Approved	4,124	4,035	4,031	4,042	+11
Relative (Unapproved)	257	228	221	261	+40

*Revised from previously published

3.5.2 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 492 in Cork to 90 in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan at the end of Q1 2021.

Foster carers approved by type and area on the panel of approved foster carers, Q2 2021



- 9 areas reported an increase from Q1 2021 in the number of foster carers on the panel. The largest increase was reported Midwest (up 9) followed by Dublin South Central and Galway/Roscommon, both up seven.

- 6 areas reported a decrease from Q1 2021. The largest decrease was reported by Midlands (down 9) followed Louth /Meath (down 7) and Dublin North City (down 5).
- The remaining two areas (Dublin South East/Wicklow and Kerry) reported no change from Q1 2021.

Area breakdown of approved foster carers (all types)

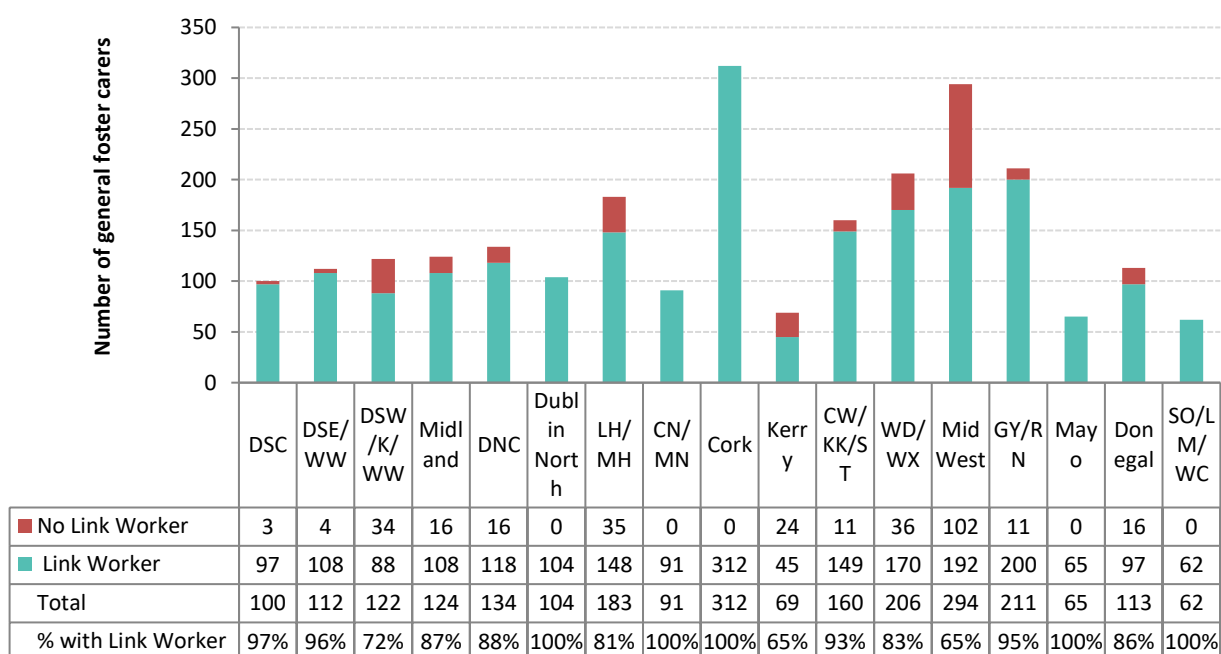
Area	Q2 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Δ (+/-) Q2 2021 v Q1 2021
DSC	187	183	189	196	7
DSE/WW	223	211	205	205	0
DSW/K/WW	311	293	295	300	5
Midland	250	244	245	236	-9
DNC	292	295	275	270	-5
Dublin North	213	201	201	200	-1
LH/MH	293	299	298	291	-7
CN/MN	123	123	120	121	1
Cork	500	486	495	492	-3
Kerry	104	107	104	104	0
CW/KK/ST	264	255	256	257	1
WD/WX	306	321	320	323	3
MidWest	413	413	418	427	9
GY/RN	303	271	271	278	7
Mayo	105	98	101	104	3
Donegal	147	143	146	148	2
SLWC	90	92	92	90	-2
National	4,124	4,035	4,031	4,042	11

- 87% (2,154) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q2 2021, down five percentage points percentage point from Q1 2021 (92%).
- 308 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker; 107 (53%) more than Q1 2021 (201).
- 9 areas reported a percentage of 90% or higher with five of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by Kerry (65%), Midwest (65%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (72%), Louth/Meath (81%) and Waterford/Wexford (83%) lower than all other areas.
- Midwest has the highest number of general foster carers awaiting an allocated link worker (102) followed by Waterford/Wexford (36) and Louth/Meath (35).

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

Area	With Link Worker Q1 2021	Awaiting Link Worker Q1 2021	% With Link Worker Q1 2021	With Link Worker Q2 2021	Awaiting Link Worker Q2 2021	% With Link Worker Q2 2021	Δ +/- No. Awaiting Link Worker Q2 2021 v Q1 2021
DSC	98	1	99%	97	3	97%	2
DSE/WW	104	7	94%	108	4	96%	-3
DSW/K/WW	79	42	65%	88	34	72%	-8
Midland	121	10	92%	108	16	87%	6
DNC	130	4	97%	118	16	88%	12
Dub North	104	0	100%	104	0	100%	0
LH/MH	184	8	96%	148	35	81%	27
CN/MN	90	0	100%	91	0	100%	0
Cork	315	0	100%	312	0	100%	0
Kerry	70	0	100%	45	24	65%	24
CW/KK/ST	145	14	91%	149	11	93%	-3
WD/WX	188	18	91%	170	36	83%	18
MidWest	210	75	74%	192	102	65%	27
GY/RN	200	8	96%	200	11	95%	3
Mayo	65	0	100%	65	0	100%	0
Donegal	95	14	87%	97	16	86%	2
SLWC	61	0	100%	62	0	100%	0
National	2,259	201	92%	2,154	308	87%	107

General foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting a link (social worker), Q2 2021



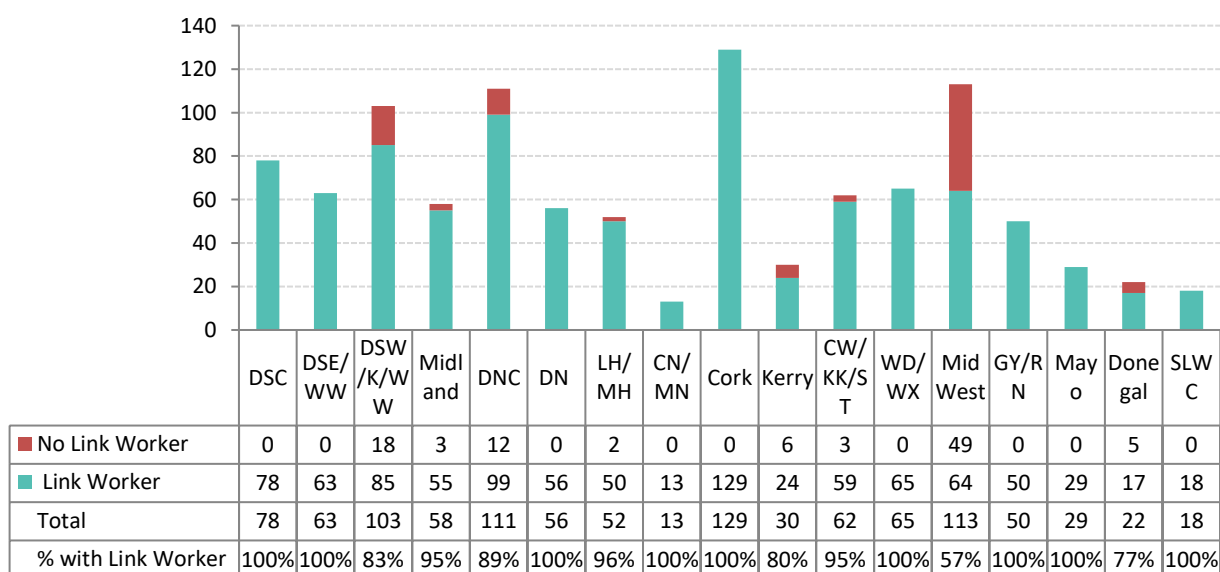
- 91% (954) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q2 2021, no change from Q1 2021
- 98 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q2 2021; four more than Q1 2021 (94).

- 12 areas reported a percentage of 90% or higher with nine of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by Midwest (57%), Donegal (77%), Kerry (80%) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (83%) lower than all other areas.
- Midwest reported the highest number of relative foster carers on the panel awaiting a link (social) worker (49) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (18) and Dublin North City (12).

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

Area	With Link Worker Q1 2021	Awaiting Link Worker Q1 2021	% With Link Worker Q1 2021	With Link Worker Q2 2021	Awaiting Link Worker Q2 2021	% With Link Worker Q2 2021	Δ +/- No. Awaiting Link Worker Q2 2021 v Q1 2021
DSC	73	1	99%	78	0	100%	-1
DSE/WW	59	4	94%	63	0	100%	-4
DSW/K/WW	78	21	79%	85	18	83%	-3
Midlands	57	3	95%	55	3	95%	0
DNC	103	13	89%	99	12	89%	-1
Dublin North	57	0	100%	56	0	100%	0
LH/MH	45	8	85%	50	2	96%	-6
CN/MN	13	0	100%	13	0	100%	0
Cork	131	0	100%	129	0	100%	0
Kerry	30	0	100%	24	6	80%	6
CW/KK/ST	58	5	92%	59	3	95%	-2
WD/WX	70	0	100%	65	0	100%	0
MidWest	79	34	70%	64	49	57%	15
GY/RN	48	0	100%	50	0	100%	0
Mayo	28	0	100%	29	0	100%	0
Donegal	19	5	79%	17	5	77%	0
SLWC	18	0	100%	18	0	100%	0
National	966	94	91%	954	98	91%	4

Relative foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting allocated link Q2 2021



3.5.3 Foster carers (relative) unapproved

- 261 relative foster carers unapproved at the end of Q2 2021; 40 (18%) more than Q1 2021 (221) and four more than Q2 2020 (257).
- Of these, 228 (87%) had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks; up 39 from Q1 2021 (189)
- Of the 228 foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks, 211 (93%) had an allocated link (special) worker. A total of 17 were awaiting a link worker, 14 more than Q1 2021 (3).

Breakdown of foster carers not approved

Unapproved Relative Foster Carers	Q2 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Δ (+/-) Q2 2021 v Q1 2021
No. unapproved	257	228	221	261	+40
No (%) with a child > 12 weeks	223 87%	206 90%	189 86%	228 87%	+39
Child > 12 weeks and have a Link Worker	209 94%	205 99%	186 98%	211 93%	+25
Child > 12 weeks AWAITING Link Worker	14	1	3	17	+14

4.0 CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

4.1 Early Years Inspectorate

4.2 Alternative Education Regulation

4.3 Non-Statutory Alternative Care Services

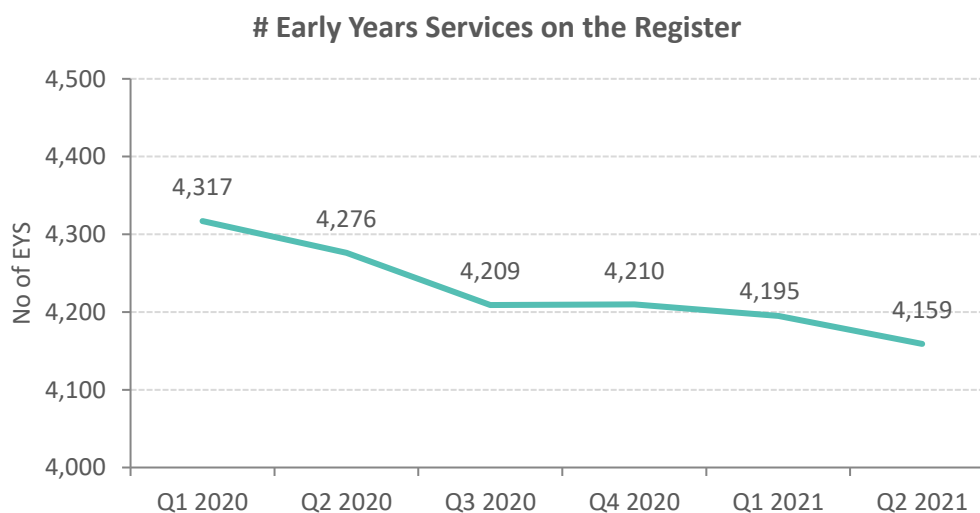
4.1 EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

KEY FACTS

- 4,159 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q2 2021, 36 fewer than Q1 2021 (4,195) and 117 (3%) fewer than Q2 2020 (4,276).
- 858 inspections (all types) carried out in Q2 2021. This brings to 1,255 the number of inspections for the first six months of 2021. Inspections since March 2020 impacted due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- 352 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q2 2021, bringing to 749 the number of incidents notified in the first six months of 2021. A total of 88 incidents notified during the same period in 2020.
- 67 unsolicited information submissions received by the Inspectorate during Q2 2021. This brings to 129 the number received for the first six months of 2021. A total of 124 submissions received for the same period in 2020.
- 39 services were found to have closed in Q2 2021, bringing to 61 the number of services found to be closed in the first six months of 2021. A total of 51 services were found to have closed during the same period in 2020.

4.1.1 Activity Data

- 4,159 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q2 2021, 36 fewer than Q1 2021 (4,195) and 117 (3%) fewer than Q2 2020 (4,276).

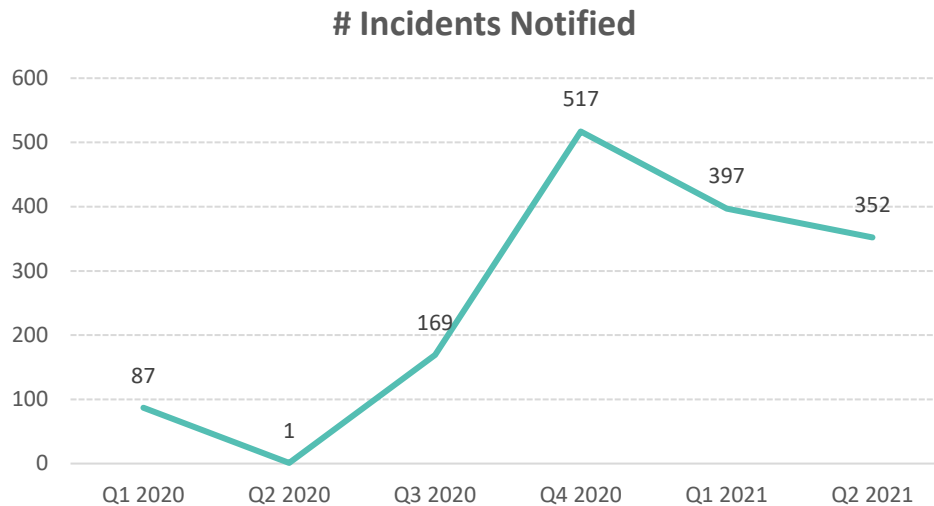


- 858 inspections (all types⁷) carried out in Q2 2021. This brings to 1,255 the number of inspections for the first six months of 2021. Inspections from March 2020 impacted due to Covid-19 restrictions.

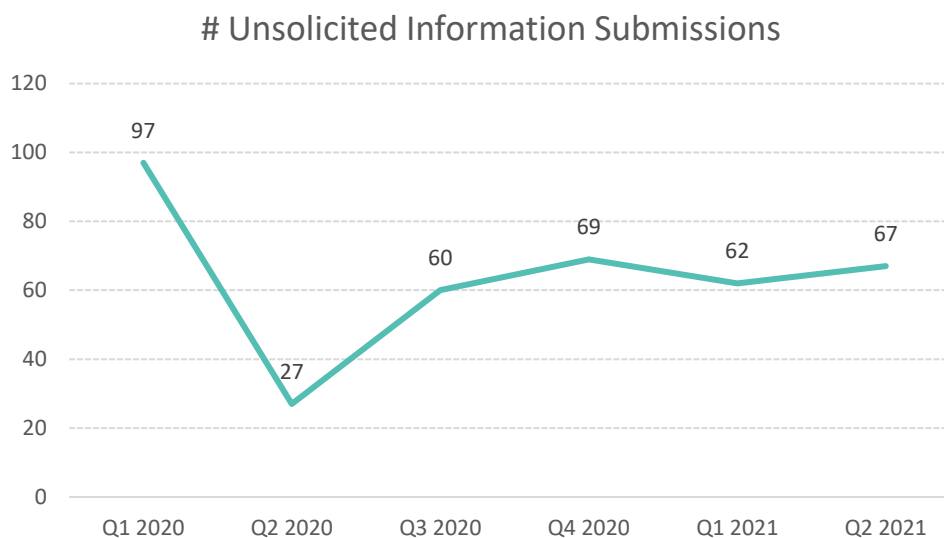


- 14 new applications to become a registered provider received by the Inspectorate in Q2 2021. This brings to 29 the number of new applications for the six months of 2021. A total of 59 new applications were received for the same period in 2020.
- 3 new registration applications approved by the Inspectorate in Q2 2021. This brings to 11 the number of new applications approved in the first six months of 2021. A total of 17 applications were approved in the same period in 2020.
- No applications to become an EYS refused registration by the Inspectorate in the first six months of 2021. No applications refused in the same period in 2020.
- 237 “change in circumstances” requests received by the Inspectorate in Q2 2021. This brings to 624 the number of “change in circumstances” requests for the first six months of 2021. A total of 419 requests were received in the same period in 2020.
- 352 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q2 2021, bringing to 749 the number of incidents notified in the first six months of 2021. A total of 88 incidents notified during the same period in 2020.

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



- 67 unsolicited information submissions⁸ received by the Inspectorate during Q2 2021. This brings to 129 the number received for the first six months of 2021. A total of 124 submissions received for the same period in 2020.



- No EYS prosecuted in the first six months of 2021, by Tusla for breach of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Service) Regulations 2016. No EYS prosecuted during the same period in 2020.
- No service removed from the register by the Inspectorate in the first six months of 2021. Three services removed during the same period in 2020.
- 39 services were found to have closed in Q2 2021, bringing to 61 the number of services found to be closed in the first six months of 2021. A total of 51 services were found to have closed during the same period in 2020.

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

4.2 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION

Key Facts

Home Education

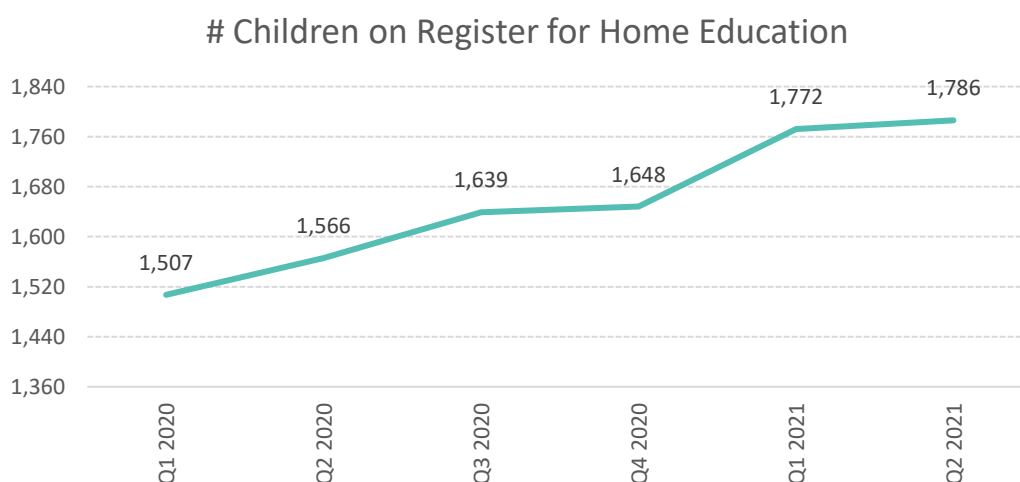
- 1,786 children on the register for home education at the end of Q2 2021; 14 more than Q1 2021 (1,772) and 220 (14%) more than Q2 2020 (1,566).
- 275 applications received for home education during Q2 2021, 50 (15%) fewer than Q1 2021 (325). This brings the number for the first six months of 2021 to 600, some 368 (159%) more than the same period in 2020 (232). The sharp increase in applications since the early part of 2020 has been linked to the Covid-19 pandemic with more parents/guardians opting to home educate their children.
- 116 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q2 2021, 75 (39%) fewer than Q1 2021 (191). This brings to 307 the number of assessments carried out for the first six months of 2021, 110 (26%) fewer than the same period in 2020 (417).
- 49 children registered for home education¹ in Q2 2021. This brings to 231 the number of children registered for the first six months of 2021, 55 (31%) more than the same period in 2020 (176).
- 1,588 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q2 2021, 111 (8%) more than Q1 2021 (1,477).

Independent Schools

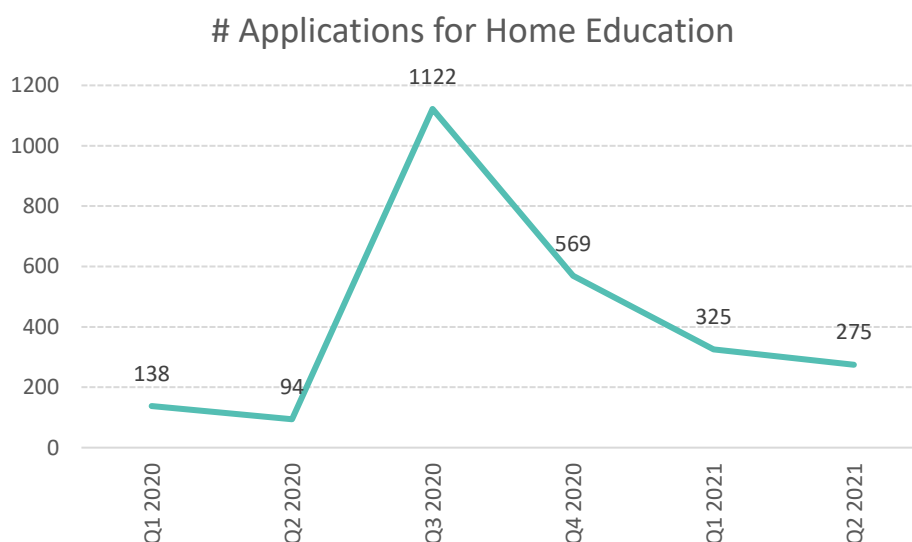
- 48 assessed independent schools on the register at the end of Q2 2021, no change from Q1 2021
- 6,351 children in assessed independent schools at the end of Q2 2021 with 5,762 of these children on the register.

Home Education

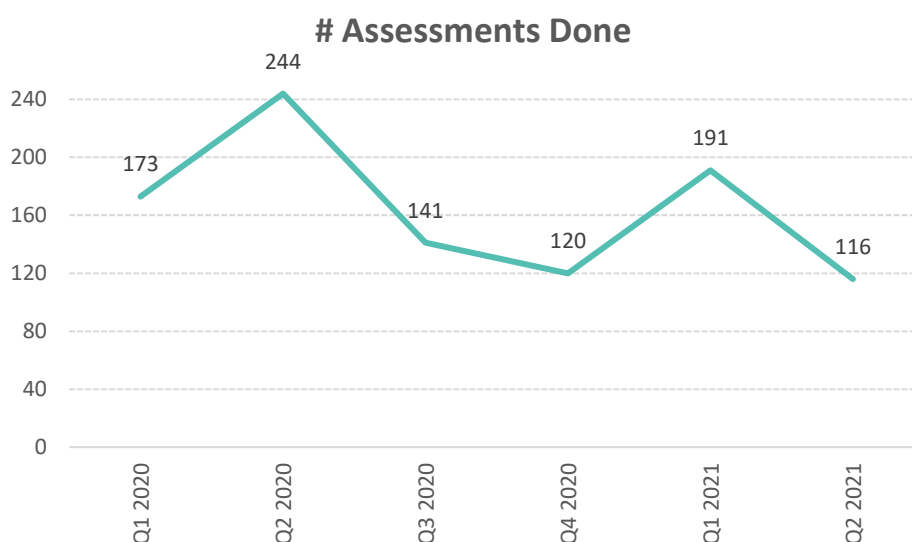
- 1,786 children on the register for home education at the end of Q2 2021; 14 more than Q1 2021 (1,772) and 220 (14%) more than Q2 2020 (1,566).



- 20% (361) of children on the register at the end of Q2 2021 have special educational needs.
- 275 applications⁹ received for home education during Q2 2021, 50 (15%) fewer than Q1 2021 (325). This brings the number for the first six months of 2021 to 600, some 368 (159%) more than the same period in 2020 (232). The sharp increase in applications since the early part of 2020 has been linked to the Covid-19 pandemic with more parents/guardians opting to home educate their children.

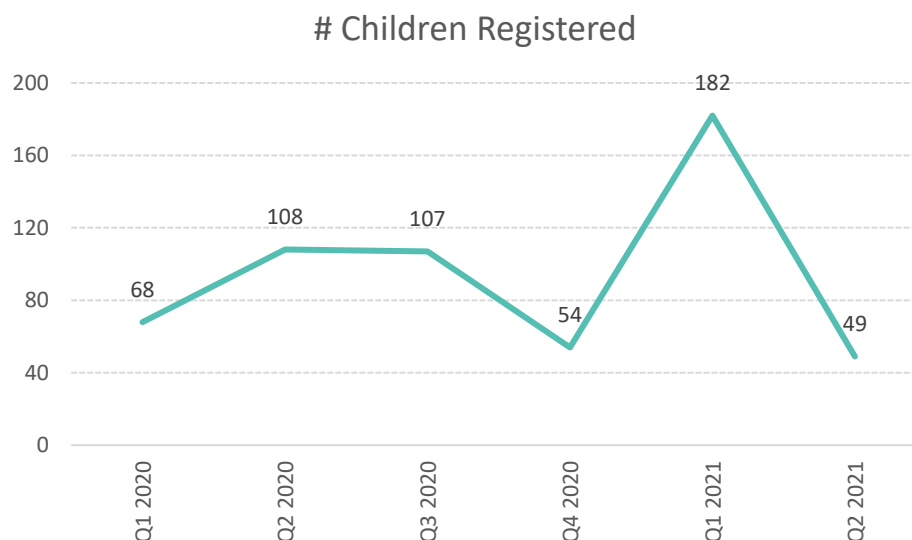


- 116 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q2 2021, 75 (39%) fewer than Q1 2021 (191). This brings to 307 the number of assessments carried out for the first six months of 2021, 110 (26%) fewer than the same period in 2020 (417).

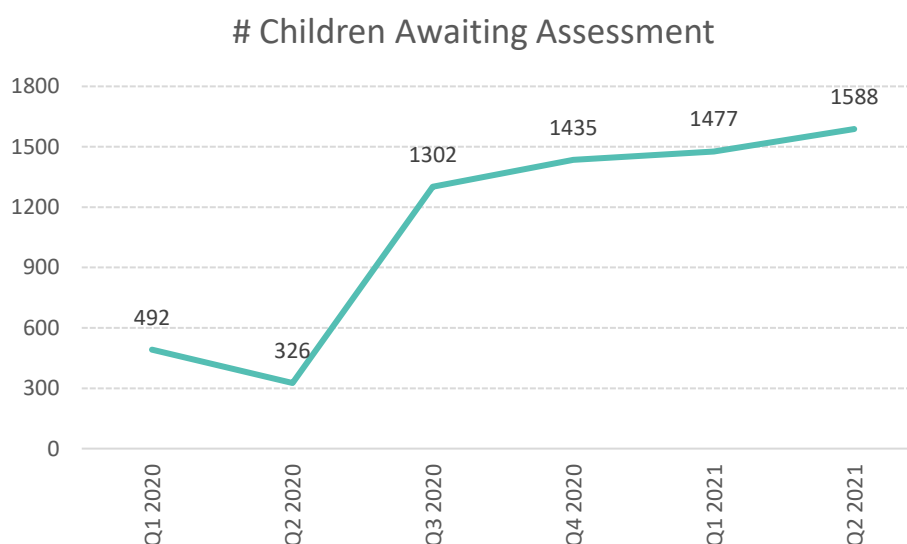


⁹ The figure for applications includes valid and invalid applications

- 49 children registered for home education¹⁰ in Q2 2021. This brings to 231 the number of children registered for the first six months of 2021, 55 (31%) more than the same period in 2020 (176).



- 1,588 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q2 2021, 111 (8%) more than Q1 2021 (1,477). *It should be noted that the figure from Q4 2020 inclusive includes children allocated and unallocated for assessment. Data prior to Q4 2020 included only those who were unallocated.*



- 35 children removed from the register in Q2 2021. Of these, 22 returned to school and eight turned 18 years. The remaining five were removed for other reasons (e.g., left jurisdiction, deregistered)

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

Independent Schools

- 48 assessed independent schools on the register at the end of Q2 2021, no change from Q1 2021
- 6,351 children in assessed independent schools at the end of Q2 2021 with 5,762 of these children on the register.

4.3 NON-STATUTORY ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

Key Facts

- 143 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q2 2021; one more than Q1 2021 (142).
- A total of 44 inspections (all types) were conducted in Q2 2021. This brings to 87 the number of inspections for the first six months of 2021.
- 6 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q2 2021; no change from Q1 2021
- 1 service was visited during Q2 2021 and one monitoring visits was conducted during the same period.

Non-Statutory Children's Residential Centres

- 143 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q2 2021; one more than Q1 2021 (142)
- A total of 44 inspections (all types) were conducted in Q2 2021. This brings to 87 the number of inspections for the first six months of 2021.

Inspections of Non Statutory Residential Services

Inspections by Type	Total 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021
Thematic Inspection (announced)	101	38	40
Thematic Inspection (unannounced)	0	0	0
New Registration Inspection Visit	11	5	4
Total	112	43	44

Non-Statutory Foster Care Services

- 6 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q2 2021; no change from Q1 2021
- 1 service was visited during Q2 2021 and one monitoring visits was conducted during the same period.

5.0 TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

KEY FACTS

Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2020 – August 2021

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

- 5,398 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) for the 10 months September 2020 – June 2021, 1,022 (23%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (4,376).
- 2,458 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of June 2021, 1,329 (118%) more than June 2020 (1,129).
- 5,257 individual children worked with for the 10 months September 2020 – June 2021, 53 (1%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (5,204).
- 98 school attendance notices (SANs) issued for the 10 months September 2020 – June 2021, 222 (69%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (320).
- No summonses issued for the 10 months September 2020 – June 2021, 78 fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (78).
- 79 Section 24 meetings convened by EWOs for the 10 months September 2020 – June 2021, 79 (50%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (158).

Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2020 – August 2021

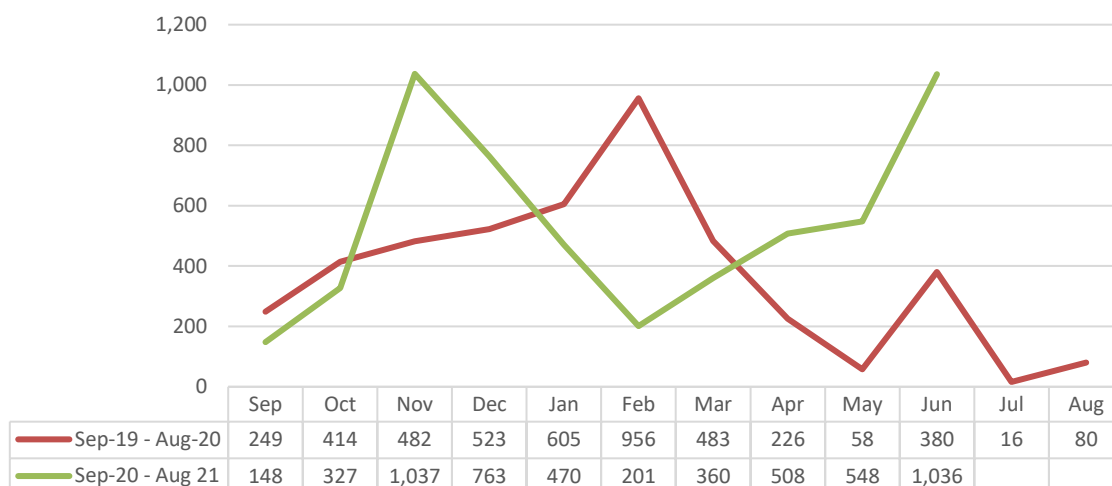
Activity from March 2020 impacted due to Covid-19 pandemic

- 5,398 referrals¹¹ screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) for the 10 months September 2020 – June 2021, 1,022 (23%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (4,376).
- 2,287 referrals allocated to educational welfare officers for the 10 months September 2020 – June 2021, 23 (1%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (2,310).
- 1,140 referrals screened out / required no further action for the 10 months September 2020 – June 2021, 1,061 (48%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (2,201).
- 2,458 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of June 2021, 1,329 (118%) more than June 2020 (1,129).

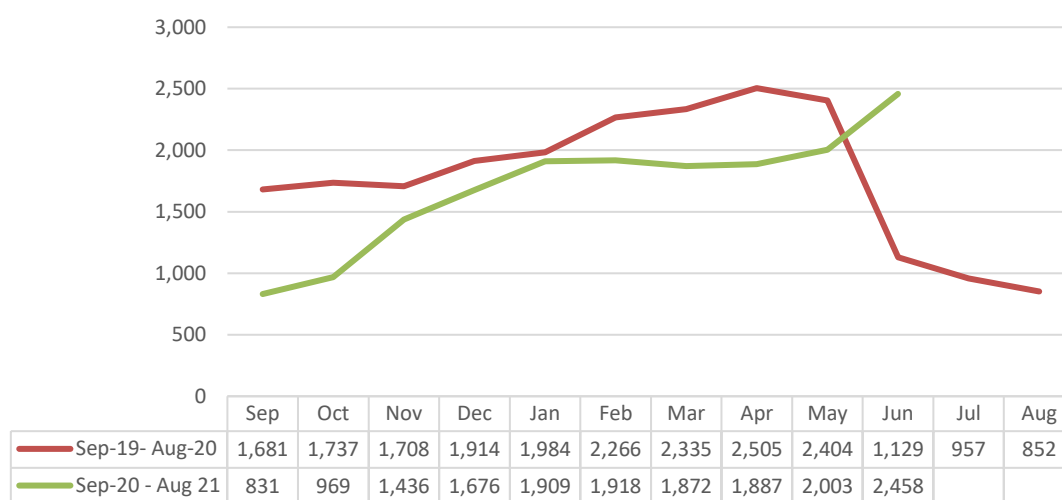
	Sept 2019- Jun 2020	Sept 2020 - Jun 2021	Δ
# Referrals screened	4,376	5,398	+1,022 (23%)
# Referrals allocated	2,310	2,287	-23 (1%)
# Referrals screened out	2,201	1,140	-1,061 (48%)
# Referrals on waiting list (March)	1,129	2,458	+1,329 (118%)

¹¹ A referral is a written notification of concern to EWS from a school, a parent, agency or concerned citizen in relation to the educational welfare of a named child. Referrals are then screened against a set of criteria by the Senior Educational Welfare Officer and a decision is made as to whether to proceed and open a case in relation this named child, or placed on a waiting list if there is an EWS capacity issue.

Referrals Screened



Screened Referrals on Waiting List



- 3,029 new cases assigned to EWOs for the 10 months September 2020 – June 2021, 87 (3%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (2,942).
- 2,811 cases closed for the 10 months September 2020 – June 2021, 82 (3%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (2,893).
- 2,413 new individual children worked with for the 10 months September 2020 – June 2021, 195 (9%) more than the same period during the previous academic year (2,218).
- 5,257 individual children worked with for the 10 months September 2020 – June 2021, 53 (1%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (5,204).

	Sept 2019- Jun 2020	Sept 2020 - Jun 2021	Δ
# cases assigned	2,942	3,029	+87 (3%)
# cases closed	2,893	2,811	-82 (3%)
# New individual children worked with	2,218	2,413	+195 (9%)
# Individual children worked with (to end Jun)	5,204	5,257	+53 (1%)

- 98 school attendance notices (SANs) issued for the 10 months September 2020 – June 2021, 222 (69%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (320). The SANs issued were in respect of 62 individual children, 162 (72%) fewer than the previous year (224).
- No summonses issued for the 10 months September 2020 – June 2021, 78 fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (78).
- EWOs attended 33 court cases in relation to their own cases for the 10 months September 2020 – June 2021, 206 (86%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic period (239).
- 136 child protection conferences (CPC) attended by EWOs for the 10 months September 2020 – June 2021, 22 (19%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (114).
- 79 Section 24¹² meetings convened by EWOs for the 10 months September 2020 – June 2021, 79 (50%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (158).

	Sept 2019- Jun 2020	Sept 2020 - Jun 2021	Δ
School Attendance Notices Issues	320	98	-222 (69%)
SANs - individual children involved	224	62	-162 (72%)
Summonses Issued	78	0	-78 (100%)
Summonses – individual children involved	65	0	-65 (100%)
Court cases attended in relation to own cases	239	33	-206 (86%)
Child protection conferences attended	114	136	22 (19%)
Section 24 meetings convened	158	79	-79 (50%)
Child protection & welfare referrals made	73	75	+2 (3%)

¹² Section 24 Education Welfare Act 2000: Where the board of management of a recognised school or a person acting on its behalf is of the opinion that a student should be expelled from that school it shall, before so expelling the student, notify the educational welfare officer to whom functions under this Act have been assigned, in writing, of its opinion and the reasons therefor. The educational welfare officer concerned shall, as soon as may be after receiving a notification under *subsection (1)*, make all reasonable efforts to ensure that provision is made for the continued education of the student to whom the notification relates.

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

6.0 PREVENTION, PARTNERSHIP & FAMILY SUPPORT

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

6.1 Family Support Services

6.2 Meitheal and Child & Family Support Networks

6.1 FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES¹³

KEY FACTS

- At least 16,652 children were in receipt of family support services at the end Q2 2021 (based on 80% response rate).
- 16,182 children referred to family support services during the first six months of 2021, equating to about 1.4% of the child population (0-17 years).
- 77% (12,537) of children referred to family support services in the first six months of 2021 received a service. The percentage who received a service ranged from 47% (Kerry) to 100% (Cavan/Monaghan). Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 77%.

6.1.1 Family Support Providers

- At least 369 family support providers commissioned for Q1/ Q2 2021.
- 80% (296) of services provided data for Q1/Q2 2021, ranging from 43% (Galway/Roscommon) to 100% in five areas (Dublin South Central, Midlands, Dublin North, Cork and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan).

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

¹³ 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.

Family Support Services Commissioned by Area

Area	# Family Support Providers Commissioned Q1/Q2 2021	# External to Tusla	# Internal to Tusla	# services that provided data	% that provided data
DSC	33	30	3	33	100%
DSE/WW	12	9	3	10	83%
DSW/K/WW	31	26	5	30	97%
Midlands	7	7	0	7	100%
DNC	50	43	7	39	78%
Dublin North	24	23	1	24	100%
LH/MH	21	16	5	16	76%
CN/MN	21	17	4	14	67%
Cork	3	3	0	3	100%
Kerry	NA				
CW/KK/ST	26	24	2	22	85%
WD/WX	28	25	3	16	57%
MidWest	38	38	0	30	79%
GY/RN	28	21	7	12	43%
Mayo	16	6	10	10	63%
Donegal	13	13	0	12	92%
SLWC	18	18	0	18	100%
Total	369	319	50	296	80%

6.1.2 Children in Receipt of Family Support Services

- 16,652 children were in receipt of family support services at the end Q2 2021. Highest number reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (2,342; 14%) followed by Dublin North (1,914; 11%), Dublin North City (1,592; 10%), Dublin South Central (1,421; 9%) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (1,256; 8%). Fewest number reported by Mayo (99; 1%) followed by Midlands (144; 1%) and Cavan/Monaghan (296; 2%).

Children in receipt of Family Support Services

Area	Total number of children in receipt of a FSS at the end Q4 2020	Total number of children in receipt of a FSS at the end Q2 2021	% 2021 Total
DSC	1,043	1421	9%
DSE/WW	846	753	5%
DSW/K/WW	1,971	2342	14%
Midlands	244	144	1%
DNC	1,269	1592	10%
Dublin North	1,902	1914	11%
LH/MH	840	646	4%
CN/MN	731	296	2%
Cork	355	393	2%
Kerry	258	582	3%
CW/KK/ST	1,413	878	5%
WD/WX	847	1024	6%
MidWest	1,509	1202	7%
GY/RN	1,116	1102	7%
Mayo	216	99	1%

Donegal	1,662	1008	6%
SLWC	1,294	1256	8%
Total	17,516	16,652	100%

6.1.3 Children Referred to Family Support Services

- 16,182 children referred to family support services during the first six months of 2021. This equates to about 1.4% of the child population (0-17 years).
- The highest rate of referrals was reported by Dublin North City at 7.1% followed by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (2.4%), Donegal (2.3%), Cavan/Monaghan (2.1%) and Dublin South Central (2.0%).
- The highest number of children referred was reported by Dublin North City (3,192; 20%) followed by Dublin North (1,648; 20%), DSW/K/WW (1,482; 9%), Dublin South Central (1,335; 8%), Galway/Roscommon (1,110; 7%) and Waterford/Wexford (1,024; 6%). Fewest number reported by Mayo (126; 1%), Midlands (166; 1%) and Cork (322; 2%).

Children referred to Family Support Services by area

Area	Total number of children referred to FSS, Q1/Q2 2020	Total number of children referred to FSS, Q3/Q4 2020	Total number of children referred to FSS, Q1/Q2 2021	% Total Referred 2021	Population 0-17 years (Census 2016)	% children referred
DSC	1,164	1,352	1335	8%	65564	2.0%
DSE/WW	421	454	461	3%	86810	0.5%
DSW/K/WW	2,068	1,501	1482	9%	108186	1.4%
Midlands	366	291	166	1%	80193	0.2%
DNC	1,188	1,358	3192	20%	44927	7.1%
Dublin North	2,298	1,576	1648	10%	100654	1.6%
LH/MH	716	944	722	4%	93093	0.8%
CN/MN	1,243	823	779	5%	36446	2.1%
Cork	321	380	322	2%	134015	0.2%
Kerry	288	294	582	4%	34527	1.7%
CW/KK/ST	901	806	878	5%	63009	1.4%
WD/WX	1,302	1,265	1024	6%	68513	1.5%
MidWest	875	1,133	799	5%	96266	0.8%
GY/RN	586	1,299	1110	7%	79912	1.4%
Mayo	569	311	126	1%	31968	0.4%
Donegal	970	1,047	982	6%	42865	2.3%
SLWC	582	575	574	4%	23554	2.4%
Total	15,858	15,409	16182	100%	1,190,502	1.4%

6.1.4 Source of Referrals

- The most common source of referral in the first half of 2021 was Tusla Social Work, accounting for 28% (4,545) of referrals followed by Parents/Guardians (20%; 3,305) and Self - Referrals (17%; 2,731).

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

Source	# Referrals	% Total
Tusla Social Workers	4545	28.1%
Parent/Guardian	3305	20.4%
Self-Referral	2731	16.9%
HSE Officers	1612	10.0%
Schools	1,156	7.1%
Other Tulsa Officers	1043	6.4%
Voluntary Agency	622	3.8%
Other	559	3.5%
Other Family Member	264	1.6%
GP	185	1.1%
AGS	150	0.9%
Anonymous	10	0.1%
Total	16,182	100%

6.1.5 Children who received a service

- 77% (12,537) of children referred to family support services in the first six months of 2021 received a service. The percentage who received a service ranged from 47% (Kerry) to 100% (Cavan/Monaghan). Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 77%.

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

Area	Number referred Q1/Q2 2021	Of number referred, number who received a service	% who rec'd a service
DSC	1335	855	64%
DSE/WW	461	284	62%
DSW/K/WW	1482	952	64%
Midlands	166	93	56%
DNC	3192	3053	96%
Dublin North	1648	1321	80%
LH/MH	722	486	67%
CN/MN	779	779	100%
Cork	322	179	56%
Kerry	582	273	47%
CW/KK/ST	878	833	95%
WD/WX	1024	899	88%
MidWest	799	440	55%
GY/RN	1110	757	68%
Mayo	126	118	94%
Donegal	982	671	68%
SLWC	574	544	95%
Total	16,182	12,537	77%

- Of the children referred to family support services who received a service 6% (741) were subject of a child in care plan; 6% (723) were subject of a Tusla social work child protection plan; 7% (892) were subject of a Tusla safety plan; 6% (697) were subject of a Meitheal support plan while 37% (4,686) were subject of a single agency family support plan.
- A breakdown on the number and percentage of children who participated in the development, implementation and review of those plans is presented in the table below.

Breakdown of the number and percentage of children who participated in the development, implementation and review of plans

Plan type	# children subject of plan:	# / % children who participated in development of plan	# / % children who participated in implementation of plan	# / % children who participated in review of plan
Children in care plan	741	155	155	131
		21%	21%	18%
Tusla social work child protection plan	723	220	231	205
		30%	32%	28%
Tusla safety plan	892	216	205	169
		24%	23%	19%
Meitheal support plan	697	461	386	393
		66%	55%	56%
Single agency response plan	4,686	2,695	2,625	2,571
		58%	56%	55%

6.1.6 Parenting Support Service

- 8,976 parents/guardians/care givers were referred to a parenting support service in the first half of 2021.
- 6,637 (74%) of the parents/guardians/care givers referred, received a service
- 5,704 individual (one-to-one) parenting support services were commissioned internally during the first half of 2021.
- 4,023 individual (one-to-one) parenting support services were commissioned externally during the first half of 2021.
- 796 parenting support services that are group-based interventions were commissioned internally during the reporting period.
- 265 parenting support services that are group-based interventions were commissioned externally during the reporting period.

6.2 MEITHEAL

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

KEY FACTS

- At least 1,161 Meitheal processes requested in the first six months of 2021 (figure based on data from 16 areas – data from Louth/Meath not available at the time of writing). The number of requests is up at least 86 on the same period in 2020 (1,075).
- 68% (789) of requests were requested through Direct Access, 21% (244) requested through Social Work Diversion and 11% (128) Social Work Step Down
- 89% (1,036/1,161) of Meitheal requests received in the first six months of 2021 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage).
- 806 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage Two in the first six months of 2021.
- 51% (408) of processes reaching completion of Stage Two, proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting).
- 728 Meitheal processes were closed in the first six months of 2021 21% (151) of Meitheal processes were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1); 44% (323) of Meitheal processes were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2 Discussion Stage); 10% (72) of Meitheal processes were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3); 25% (182) of Meitheal processes were closed post-delivery
- 121 Child and Family Support Networks¹ (CFSN) operating at the end 2020 and a further 19 planned.

6.2.1 Meitheal Activity Data

- At least 1,161 Meitheal processes requested in the first six months of 2021 (figure based on data from 16 areas – data from Louth/Meath not available at the time of writing). The number of requests is up at least 86 on the same period in 2020 (1,075).
- Highest number of requests for the first half of 2021 reported by Dublin North (248; 21%) followed by Kerry (151; 13%), Cork (128; 11%) and Waterford/Wexford (103; 9%).

- The fewest number was reported by the Midlands area (17; 1%) followed by Mayo (25; 2%) and Dublin South Central (26; 2%) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (26; 2%).

Meitheal processes requested

Area	# Requested Q1/Q2 2020	# Requested Q3/Q4 2020	# Requested 2020	# Requested Q1/Q2 2021	% Total 2021
DSC	40	36	76	26	2%
DSE/WW	23	35	58	50	4%
DSW/K/WW	53	69	122	68	6%
Midlands	40	53	93	17	1%
DNC	28	71	99	34	3%
Dublin North	157	173	330	248	21%
LH/MH	21	16	37		
CN/MN	129	85	214	55	5%
Cork	95	103	198	128	11%
Kerry	132	130	262	151	13%
CW/KK/ST	82	122	204	45	4%
WD/WX	101	131	232	103	9%
MidWest	43	68	111	55	5%
GY/RN	56	50	106	98	8%
Mayo	25	29	54	25	2%
Donegal	20	19	39	32	3%
SLWC	30	22	52	26	2%
National	1,075	1,212	2,287	1,161	100%

- The most common pathway for requests was Direct Access accounting for 68% (789/1,161).
- Social Work Diversion accounted for a further 21% (244) of requests.
- Social Work Step-Down accounted for the remaining 11% (128) of requests.
- The percentage of direct access requests ranged from 55% (83/151) in Kerry to 88% (15/17) in Midlands area. Eleven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 68%.
- The percentage of requests diverted from social work ranged from 3% (1/34) in Dublin North City to 36% (18/50) in Dublin South East/Wicklow. Six areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 21%.
- The percentage of requests stepped down from social work ranged from 0% (0/17) in Midlands area to 27% (26/98) in the Galway/Roscommon. Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average 11%.

Access Pathway for Meitheal Requests

Area	# Requested Q1/Q2 2021	Of the total number of Meitheal requests:					
		Direct Access	% Direct Access	Social Work Diversion	% SW Diversion	Social Work Step-Down	% Step-Down
DSC	26	21	81%	4	15%	1	4%
DSE/WW	50	28	56%	18	36%	4	8%
DSW/K/WW	68	49	72%	14	21%	5	7%
Midlands	17	15	88%	2	12%	0	0%
DNC	34	29	85%	1	3%	4	12%
Dublin North	248	178	72%	58	23%	12	5%
LH/MH	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
CN/MN	55	32	58%	9	16%	14	25%
Cork	128	81	63%	26	20%	21	16%
Kerry	151	83	55%	49	32%	19	13%
CW/KK/ST	45	31	69%	13	29%	1	2%
WD/WX	103	71	69%	30	29%	2	2%
MidWest	55	42	76%	2	4%	11	20%
GY/RN	98	63	64%	9	9%	26	27%
Mayo	25	19	76%	4	16%	2	8%
Donegal	32	27	84%	2	6%	3	9%
SLWC	26	20	77%	3	12%	3	12%
National	1,161	789	68%	244	21%	128	11%

- 89% (1,036/1,161) of Meitheal requests received in the first six months of 2021 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage).
- The percentage of requests proceeding to Stage 2 ranged from 68% (17/25) in Donegal to 98% in Dublin North (244/248). Six areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average (89%).

Meitheal requests received proceeding to Stage Two (Discussion Stage)

Area	# Requested Q1 / Q2 2021	# that proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage 2)	% that Proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage 2)
DSC	26	23	88%
DSE/WW	50	37	74%
DSW/K/WW	68	65	96%
Midlands	17	12	71%
DNC	34	31	91%
Dublin North	248	244	98%
LH/MH	NA	NA	NA
CN/MN	55	38	69%
Cork	128	124	97%
Kerry	151	134	89%
CW/KK/ST	45	38	84%
WD/WX	103	88	85%
MidWest	55	52	95%
GY/RN	98	84	86%
Mayo	25	17	68%
Donegal	32	28	88%

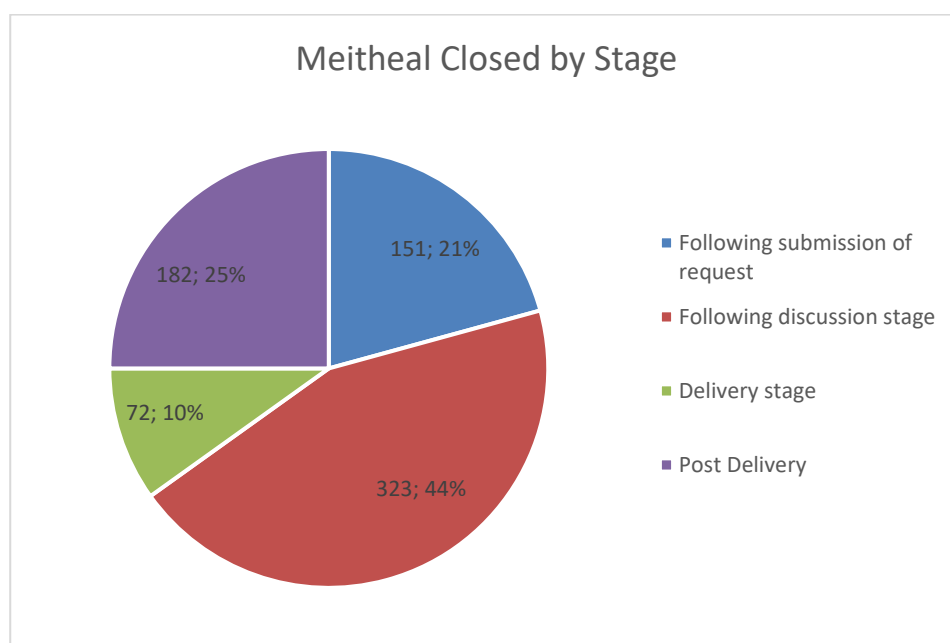
SLWC	26	21	81%
National	1,161	1,036	89%

- 806 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage Two in the first six months of 2021.
- 51% (408) of processes reaching completion of Stage Two, proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting). The percentage of processes that proceeded to delivery ranged from 7% (17/242) in Dublin North to 100% in Midlands (12/12) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (3/3). Fourteen areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 51%.
- 37% (299) were referred for a single agency response – majority (75%; 223) of these were reported by one area (Dublin North). The percentage of processes referred for a single agency response ranged from 0% in seven areas (Dublin South East/Wicklow, Dublin North City, Donegal, Galway/Roscommon, DSW/K/WW, SLWC and Midlands) to 92% (223/342) in Dublin North. Two areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 37%.
- 2% (18) of processes were referred to social work (stepped – up). These processes were reported across eight areas. Eight areas reported none.
- 5% (42) of processes were closed. These processes were reported across eight areas with the highest number (15) reported by Cork followed by Kerry (11).

Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two

Area	# Reaching Completion of Stage 2, Q1/Q2 2021	Of the total number of Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two (Discussion Stage) the number and percentage that									
		Proceeded to Delivery	%	Referred to Social Work	%	Referred to a Single Agency Response	%	Closed	%	Categorised as Other	%
DSC	23	22	96%	0	0%	1	4%	0	0%	0	0%
DSE/WW	37	22	59%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	15	41%
DSW/K/WW	53	49	92%	0	0%	0	0%	2	4%	2	4%
Midlands	12	12	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
DNC	24	18	75%	1	4%	0	0%	0	0%	5	21%
Dublin North LH/MH	242	17	7%	0	0%	223	92%	0	0%	2	1%
CN/MN	32	20	63%	2	6%	8	25%	2	6%	0	0%
Cork	54	30	56%	3	6%	6	11%	15	28%	0	0%
Kerry	85	47	55%	1	1%	22	26%	11	13%	4	5%
CW/KK/ST	33	22	67%	5	15%	6	18%	0	0%	0	0%
WD/WX	40	10	25%	0	0%	27	68%	3	8%	0	0%
MidWest	38	26	68%	1	3%	5	13%	1	3%	5	13%
GY/RN	78	71	91%	4	5%	0	0%	3	4%	0	0%
Mayo	24	17	71%	1	4%	1	4%	5	21%	0	0%
Donegal	28	22	79%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	6	21%
SLWC	3	3	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
National	806	408	51%	18	2%	299	37%	42	5%	39	5%

- 728 Meitheal processes were closed in the first six months of 2021. The number closed ranged from none in the Midlands area to 240 in Dublin North. The majority of areas (10) reported fewer than 50.
- 21% (151) of Meitheal processes were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1). The percentage closed following submission of a Meitheal request form ranged from 2% (4/240) in Dublin North to 65% (34/52) in Waterford/Wexford. Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 21%.
- 44% (323) of Meitheal processes were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2 Discussion Stage). The percentage closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form ranged from 0% in Dublin South Central (0/3) to 93% (222/240) in Dublin North. One area (Dublin North) reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average (44%). Sixty-nine (222/323) percent of Meitheals closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage) were reported by Dublin North.
- 10% (72) of Meitheal processes were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3). The percentage closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings ranged from 0% in Dublin South Central (0/3) to 27% (7/26) in Cork. Nine areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 10%.
- 25% (182) of Meitheal processes were closed post-delivery. The percentage closed post-delivery ranged from 0% in Kerry (0/47) to 67% (2/3) in Dublin South Central. Eleven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 25%.



Number of Meitheals closed

Area	Total number of Meitheals closed Q1/Q2	Of the total number of Meitheals closed the number and % that were closed following:							
		Submission of a Meitheal Request Form	%	Completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Discussion Stage)	%	Commencement of Meitheal Support meetings (Delivery Stage)	%	Post delivery	%
DSC	3	1	33%	0	0%	0	0%	2	67%
DSE/WW	19	8	42%	3	16%	3	16%	5	26%
DSW/K/WW	62	8	13%	5	8%	10	16%	39	63%
Midlands	0	0		0		0		0	
DNC	26	4	15%	5	19%	5	19%	12	46%
Dublin North	240	4	2%	222	93%	7	3%	7	3%
LH/MH									
CN/MN	26	3	12%	4	15%	4	15%	15	58%
Cork	26	1	4%	2	8%	7	27%	16	62%
Kerry	47	26	55%	18	38%	3	6%	0	0%
CW/KK/ST	56	23	41%	20	36%	4	7%	9	16%
WD/WX	52	34	65%	13	25%	1	2%	4	8%
MidWest	57	8	14%	14	25%	13	23%	22	39%
GY/RN	58	20	34%	7	12%	3	5%	28	48%
Mayo	24	5	21%	4	17%	4	17%	11	46%
Donegal	20	4	20%	4	20%	5	25%	7	35%
SLWC	12	2	17%	2	17%	3	25%	5	42%
National	728	151	21%	323	44%	72	10%	182	25%

6.2.2 Child and Family Support Networks

- At least 109 Child and Family Support Networks¹⁴ (CFSN) operating at the end of Q2 2021 (based on data for 16 areas – data for Louth/Meath not available at the time of writing). A further 17 CFSNs are planned/pre planning stage.

Child and Family Support Networks operating and planned

Area	CFSNs Operating Dec 2020	CFSNs Operating Q2 2021	CFSNs Planned
DSC	7	7	3
DSE/Wicklow	7	7	2
DSW/K/WW	9	9	1
Midlands	4	2	0
Dublin North City	6	6	0
Dublin North	4	4	1
Louth/Meath	5	NA	NA
Cavan/Monaghan	8	8	0
Cork	14	11	1

¹⁴ Child and Family Support Networks: Collaborative networks of community, voluntary and statutory providers intended to improve access to support services for children and their families⁸

Kerry	8	8	0
CW/KK/ST	7	6	3
WD/WX	8	8	4
MidWest	10	9	2
GY/RN	12	12	0
Mayo	4	4	0
Donegal	5	5	0
SLWC	3	3	0
National	121	109	17

7.0 HUMAN RESOURCES

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

7.1 Workforce Position

7.2 Absence Rate

7.3 Social Work Staff

7.4 Residential Services

7.5 Workforce Learning and Development

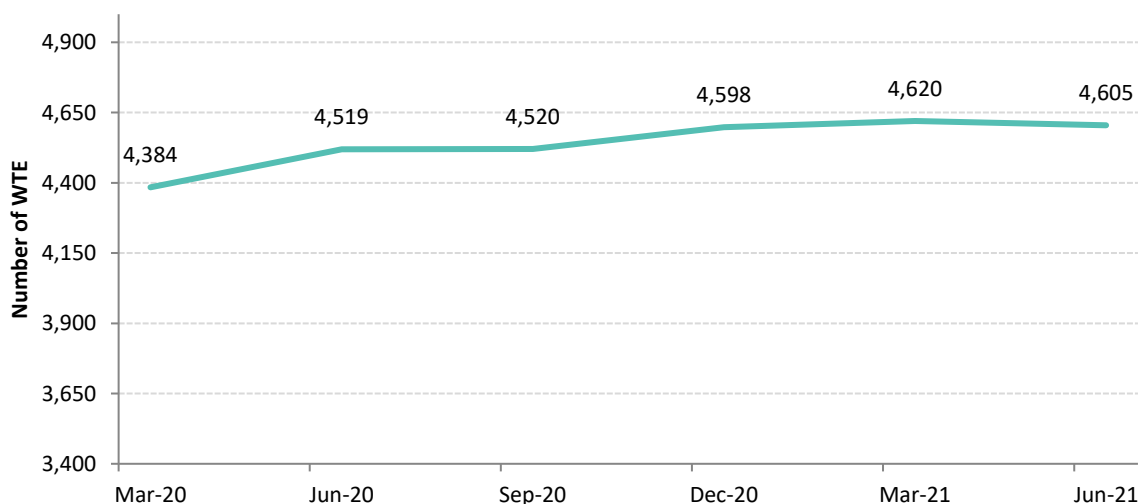
KEY FACTS

- 4,605 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q2 2021, 15 fewer than Q1 2021 (4,620) and 86 (2%) more than Q2 2020 (4,519).
- 199 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first six months of 2021
- 151 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in the first six months of 2021
- 47 staff retired in the first six months of 2021
- 158 (3%) staff were on maternity leave at the end of June 2021
- At the end of June 2021 the overall absence rate for the Agency was 5.32%, 0.37 percentage points lower than Q1 2021 (5.69%) and 1.59 percentage points higher than June 2020 (3.73%).
- e-learning activity: 2,168 completions were achieved in Q2 2021
- Virtual classroom training: 694 completions (54 sessions).

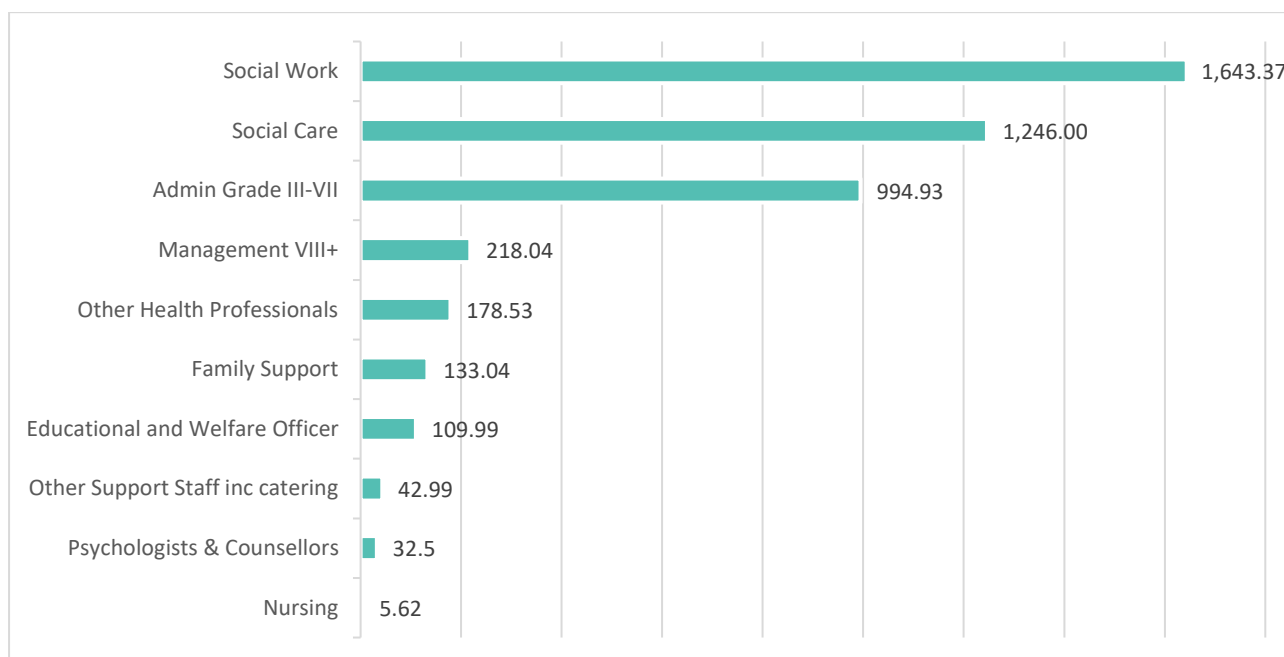
7.1 Workforce Position

- 4,605 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q2 2021, 15 fewer than Q1 2021 (4,620) and 86 (2%) more than Q2 2020 (4,519).

Total Staff Employed (WTE), by quarter



- Social workers are the largest category of staff employed by the Agency, accounting for 36% (1,643.37) of total staff (WTE) employed at the end of Q2 2021, followed by social care staff accounting for a further 27% (1,246). Management (Grade VIII+) account for less than 5% (218.04) of the workforce.



- Increase/decrease in WTEs by staff category from Q1 2021 and Q2 2020 is presented in the table below.

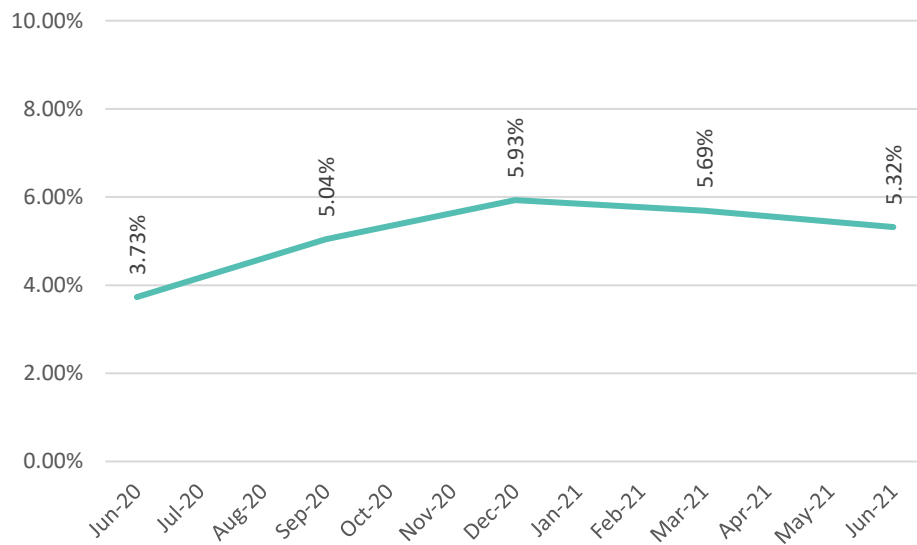
Breakdown of staff (WTE) by category

Staffing by Category	Q2 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q2 2021 v Q1 2021	Q2 2021 v Q2 2020
Social Work	1,641.79	1,665.79	1,643.37	-22.42	1.58
Social Care	1,243.8	1,254.03	1,246	-8.03	2.20
Admin Grade III-VII	921.14	981.94	994.93	12.99	73.79
Family Support	136.19	134.13	133.04	-1.09	-3.15
Management VIII+	210.48	219.71	218.04	-1.67	7.56
Educational and Welfare Officer	106.97	107.85	109.99	2.14	3.02
Other Support Staff inc catering	48.24	42.78	42.99	0.21	-5.25
Nursing	5.66	5.7	5.62	-0.08	-0.04
Psychologists & Counsellors	33.69	31.95	32.5	0.55	-1.19
Other Health Professionals	170.91	175.94	178.53	2.59	7.62
Total Staffing	4,519	4,620	4,605	-15.00	86.00

- 199 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first six months of 2021
- 151 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in the first six months of 2021
- 47 staff retired in the first six months of 2021
- 158 (3%) staff were on maternity leave at the end of June 2021

7.2 Absence Rate

- At the end of June 2021 the overall absence rate for the Agency was 5.32%, 0.37 percentage points lower than Q1 2021 (5.69%) and 1.59 percentage points higher than June 2020 (3.73%).



- The highest absence rate was reported for social care staff (8.04%). The rate for Residential Services was 9.23% (data not shown), is 3.91 percentage points higher than the overall rate of 5.32%. The overall absence rate excluding Residential Services is 5.08%.

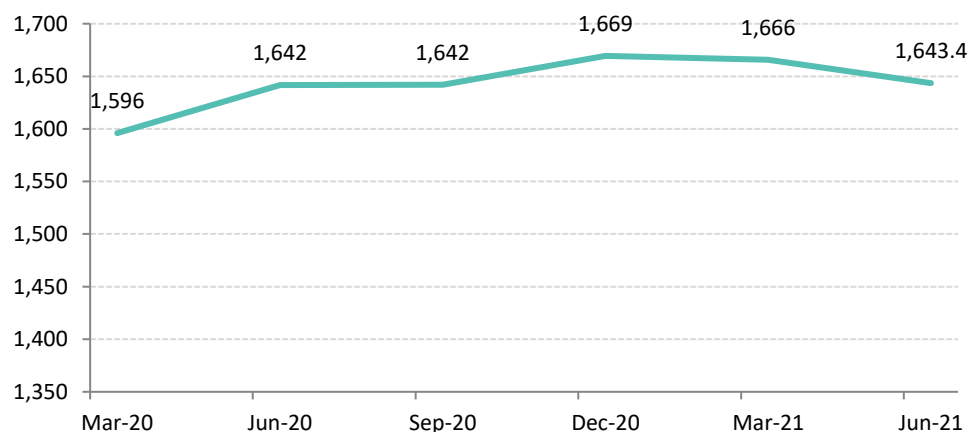
Absence rate by staff grade

Staff Grade	Absence Rate February 2021
Social Work	5.01%
Social Care	8.04%
All other grades	3.59%

7.3 Social Work Staff (WTE)

- 1,643.4 whole time equivalent (WTE) social work staff (all grades and excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q2 2021; 22.6 fewer than Q1 2021 (1,666) and one more than Q2 2020 (1,642).

Number of social workers (WTE) by quarter



- 48 social workers joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first six months of 2021
- 70 social workers left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks excluding retirements) in the first six months of 2021
- 13 social workers retired in the first six months of 2021
- 85 (5%) social workers were on maternity leave at the end June 2021
- A breakdown of the number of social workers (all grades) employed at the end of each quarter Q2 2020 to Q2 2021 by area is presented in the table below.

Breakdown of social work staff (WTE) by area Q2 2020 – Q2 2021

	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)
Area	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021
DSC	86.54	88.31	99.49	101.77	98.96
DSE/WW	95.44	97.71	96.72	98.18	96.08
DSW/K/WW	99.41	103.94	114.52	110.42	107.9
Midlands	91.32	92.78	96.04	97.15	94.83
Regional Services DML	8.45	13.16	12.71	13.75	12.54
DML Total	381.16	395.9	419.48	421.27	410.31
CN/MN	43.84	41.66	43.55	40.98	41.77
DNC	107.12	101	105.44	107.02	105.24
LH/MH	86.64	86.66	85.43	84.65	83.96
Dublin North	79.33	80.57	90.58	92.62	89.97
Regional Services DNE	11.76	12.3	14.26	13.4	16.75
DNE Total	328.69	322.19	339.26	338.67	337.69
CW/KK/ST	74.65	71.84	64.81	63.05	61.41
Cork	173.27	179.16	180.06	178.37	180.46
Kerry	46.64	46.95	46.86	46.29	42.65
WD/WX	87	85.38	85.89	89.76	88.65
Regional Services South	1.8				
South Total	383.36	383.33	377.62	377.47	373.17
Donegal	71.1	69.3	68.34	66.16	67.89
GY/RN	103.34	104	103.92	98.4	98.18
Mayo	39.08	41.84	36.39	36.73	38.95
Mid West	133.97	122.41	118.88	120.63	117.84
SLWC	41.28	38.49	40.695	40.59	36.65
Regional Services West	1.86	2.96	2.81	2.86	2.86
West Total	390.63	379	370.99	365.37	362.37
Residential DML	1	1	1	0.96	
Residential DNE	1.96	1.96	1.96	2	2
Residential West					
Residential South	3	1	1	1	2
Special Care		1	1	1	

Residential Services	5.96	4.96	4.96	4.96	4
Corporate	151.99	156.36	157.11	158.05	155.83
Early Years Inspectorate	6.96	6.96	6.96		
Corporate	151.99	156.36	157.11	158.05	155.83
Total	1,641.79	1,641.74	1,669.42	1,665.79	1,643.4

7.4 Workforce Learning and Development

- Classroom based training continued to be prohibited during Q2 2021 under public health measures to control COVID19.
- Table 1 shows e-learning activity for the months April, May and June 2021.
- The most popular e-learning module was ‘Tusla Employee Health & Safety’ with 649 completions. This was followed by “An Introduction to Children First” module with 283 completions.
- Table 2 shows virtual classroom training attendance for April, May and June 2021.
- 463 staff were trained over 17 online sessions on the GDPR+ module ‘Sharing Personal Data Safely: Making Good Decisions About Sharing Personal Data Safely’

Other Developments in Q2 2021

- Development of online and virtual learning continued.
- 455 Tusla staff attended a major web conference on research into voluntary admission to care during April.
- Engagement continued with Tusla Senior Leadership Team and various service managers to identify the learning and developments supports required by them to deliver on Corporate Plan and Business Plan commitments.

Table 1: E-Learning Q2 2021

Name of Module	Total Completions
An Introduction to Children First	283
Children First in Action	189
Implementing Children First	250
Tusla Employee Health & Safety	649
Complaints Handling in Tusla Module1	128
Complaints Handling in Tusla Module2	66
Caseload Management	15
Parental Participation in Practice	13
Return to Workplace Training during Covid-19	57
Revised Standard Business Process (NCCIS)	22
Induction to Children’s Residential Services in Tusla	12
An Introduction to Tusla's Approach to Commissioning	25
Hidden Harm	26

Health and Safety Management: Introduction for Line Managers	43
Child Sexual Exploitation	184
Critical Incident Stress Management	105
NCCIS Children in Care Module Training	31
Minute Taking - An Introduction	39
Meitheal Briefing	31
Total Completions	2168

Table 2: Virtual Classroom Q2 2021

Name of Module	Number of Sessions	Total Completions
Child & Youth Participation - Day 2	8	43
NUIG/Tusla Joint Training Events	1	43
Sharing Personal Data Safely	17	463
Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (Refresher)	14	77
National Child Care Information System (NCCIS) Fundamentals Training	8	27
NCCIS Children in Care Module Training	6	41
Understanding Self Harm	1	6
TOTAL	54	694

8 FINANCE

KEY FACTS

- The outturn for the year to date (June 2021) is an under-spend of €14.2 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget for the year to date by €5.6 million and is forecast to be under-spent by €2.0m for the full year at this point, due to additional staff to be recruited as the year progresses.
- Non-pay costs are under-spent against budget year to date by €7.9 million
- A key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €2.5 million over budget year to date. Placement of children in private residential and foster care services is strictly controlled through a national placement process.

Financial Performance

- The outturn for the year to date (June 2021) is an under-spend of €14.2 million.
- The net expenditure for the year to date is €413.5 million against a budget allocation (including of €427.7 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget for the year to date by €5.6 million and is forecast to be under-spent by €2.0m for the full year at this point, due to additional staff to be recruited as the year progresses.

Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	June 2021 YTD			% Variance
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Act vs Budget
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Pay costs	€159,800	€165,436	(€5,635)	(3%)

- Non-pay costs are under-spent against budget year to date by €7.9 million

Non-Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	June 2021 YTD			% Variance
	Actual	Original Budget	Variance	Act vs Budget
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Non pay costs	€267,722	€275,655	(€7,932)	(3%)

- A key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €2.5 million over budget year to date. Placement of children in private residential and foster care services is strictly controlled through a national placement process.
- Legal costs incurred by the Agency account for a significant portion of the overall budget of the Agency. The financial position shows a spend of €15.229 million against a budget of €14.997 million.

- A breakdown of legal expenditure by type is presented in the table below.
- 46% (€6,980 million) of the legal spend was on guardians ad litem (GALs) including GALs solicitors and counsel.
- In terms of forecasting these data should be interpreted with caution as they are based on the individual billing pattern of persons concerned.

Legal Expenditure

Type	June 2021 YTD €'000s
3rd Party Counsel Fees	319
3rd Party Solicitors Fees	707
Contracted Legal Services	6,030
Counsel fees - Tusla	956
Guardian ad Litem Costs	3,890
Guardian ad Litem Counsel fees	484
Guardian ad Litem Solicitors fees	2,606
General Legal Fees	61
Other	175
Net Expenditure	15,229

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