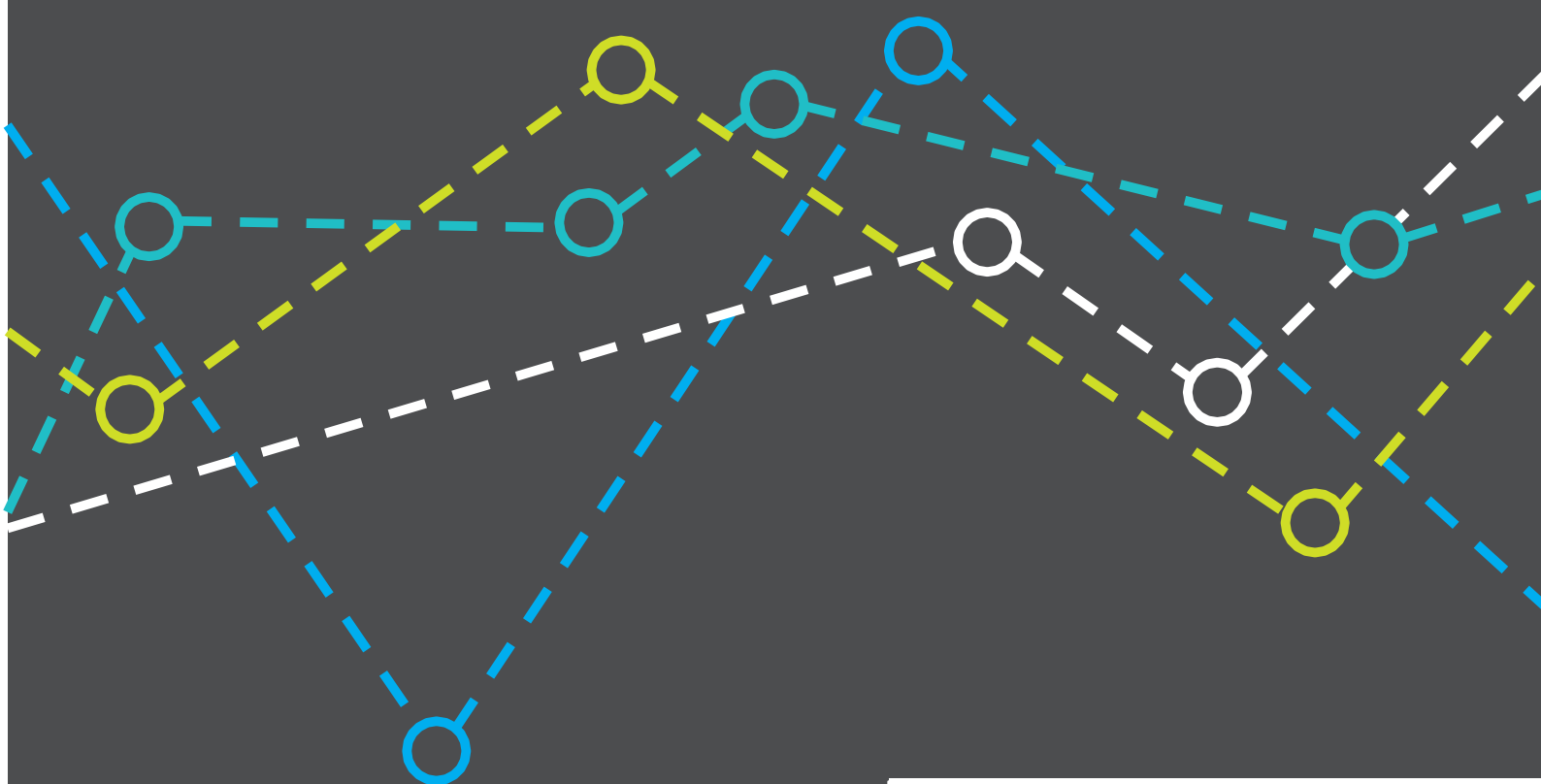




An Ghníomhaireacht um  
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach  
Child and Family Agency

# Quarterly Service Performance and Activity Report

QUARTER 2 2025



Quality & Regulation Directorate

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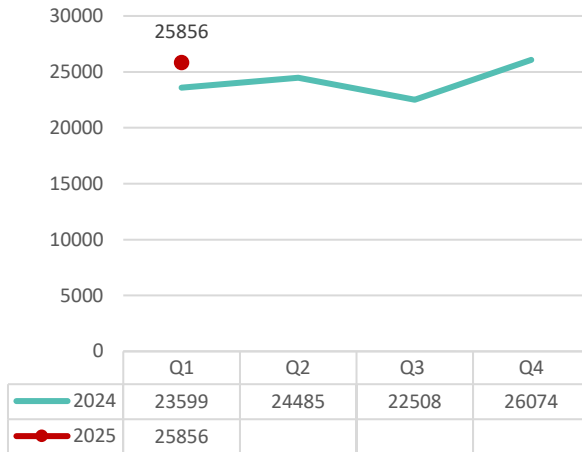
## 1.0 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

This report provides an update on the performance and activity of Tusla services at the end of Q2 2025. It is structured around key performance and activity measures included in the Agency's Business Plan. The data presented was provided by services and refers to the latest performance and activity information available at this time. **These data can change from data previously published due to the ongoing validation of data.**

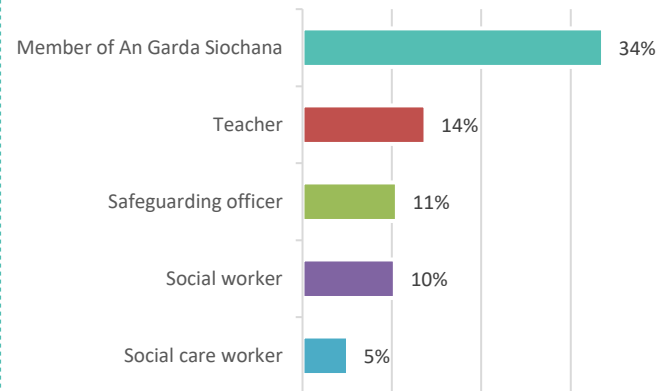
The summary by service type set out below provides an overview of the Q2 2025 position regarding activity and performance.

# CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

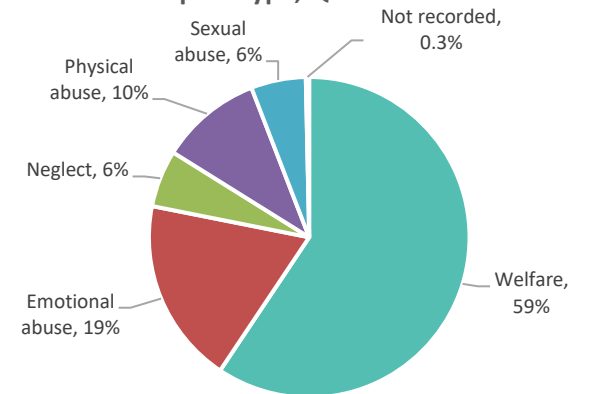
## # Referrals per Quarter



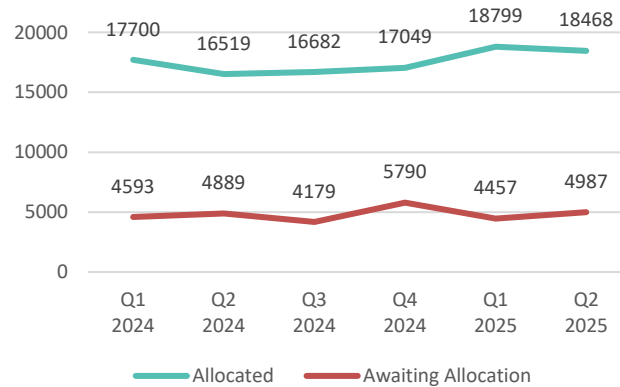
## Top 5 most common sources of referrals Q1 2025



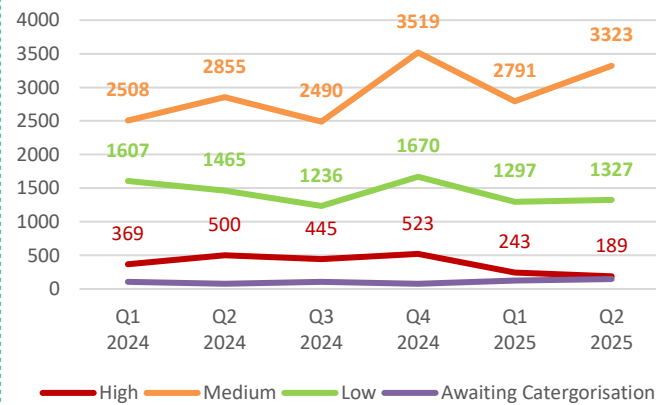
## % Breakdown of Referrals by Primary Report Type, Q1 2025



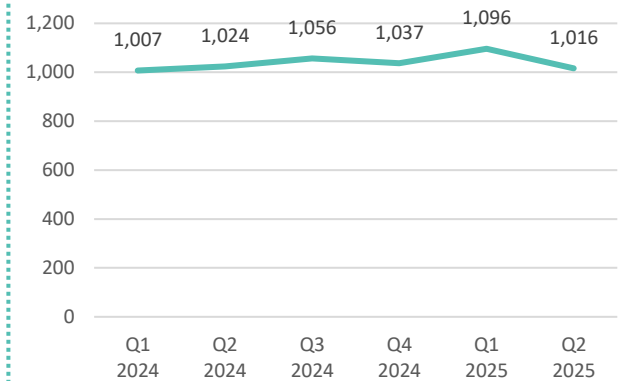
## # Open Cases by Allocation Status at Quarter End



## # Cases Awaiting Allocation by Priority Level



## # Children 'Active' on the CPNS at Quarter End



## REFERRALS (data on referrals reported quarterly in arrears)

- **25,856 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q1 2025**, 218 (<1%) fewer than Q4 2024 (26,074) and 2,257 (10%) more than Q1 2024 (23,599).
- 59.4% (15,354) of referrals for Q1 2025 were for welfare concerns, 40.3% (10,414) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining <1% (88) of referrals
- **Most common source** of referrals for Q1 2025 was **members of An Garda Síochána** accounting for **34% (8,692) of referrals**, followed to a lesser extent by teachers (13.8%; 3,559), safeguarding officers (10.6%; 2,731) and social workers (10.3%; 2,670). Mandated persons accounted for 91% (23,544) of all sources.
- **58% (14,875/25,856) of referrals for Q1 2025 were closed following screening**; 26% (6,596) of referrals progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage. The remaining referrals (17%; 4,385) were either at the screening stage, awaiting closure following screening, or another process stage, when the data was extracted for reporting.
- 52% (7,785) of referrals were closed following screening, as assessment / safety planning was already ongoing, while a further 7% (1,083) were diverted to Tusla's Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) services and 2% (302) were diverted to another agency. Some 36% (5,323) were closed with no further action required.
- At the time the data for Q1 2025 was extracted for reporting, **97% (6,395/6,596) of preliminary enquiries were completed**.
- Of the preliminary enquiries completed, 43% (2,732) required no further action; **36% (2,325) required an initial assessment**, while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 5% (294) of cases. Some 10% (648) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS.
- At the time the Q1 2025 data was extracted for reporting, **54% (1,256/2,325) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were completed**.
- **53% (667) of referrals that required an initial assessment** following the preliminary enquiry **were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment**. Of these 57% (378) required no further action, 20% (132) were diverted to another agency for a service, 16% (106) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service, while the remaining 8% (51) were closed as assessment/safety planning already ongoing.
- **29% (362) of referrals required safety planning** following completion of the initial assessment, a further **15% (187) required a children protection response / child protection conference** and **3% (40) required admission to care**.

## NATIONAL OUT OF HOURS SERVICE

- Tusla National Out of Hours Service (NOHS) received **444 new referrals** in Q2 2025. This brings to 869 the number of referrals for the first six months of 2025.
- The NOHS **placed 241 children in Q2 2025**. This brings to 428 the number of referrals for the first six months of 2025. *Figure includes children who may have been placed more than once in the quarter.*

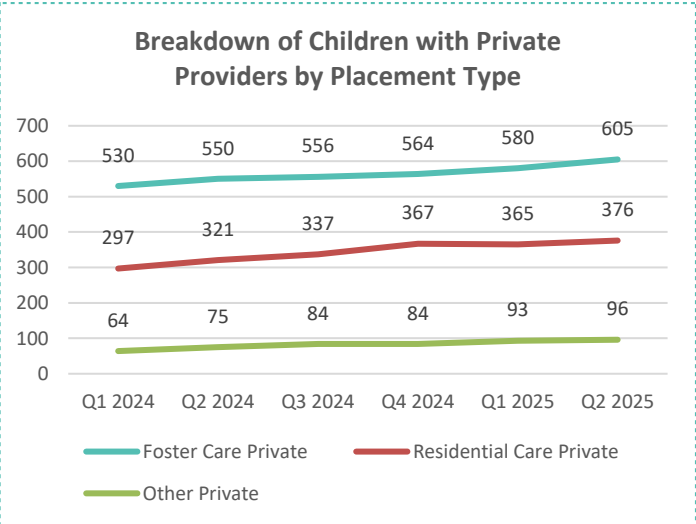
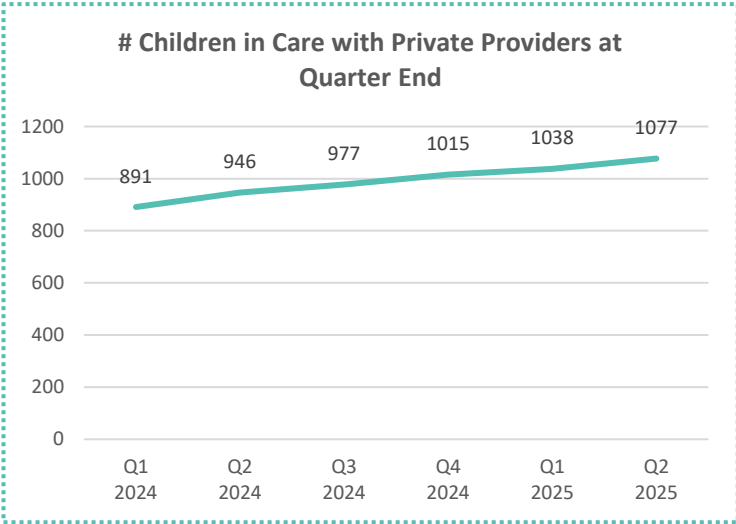
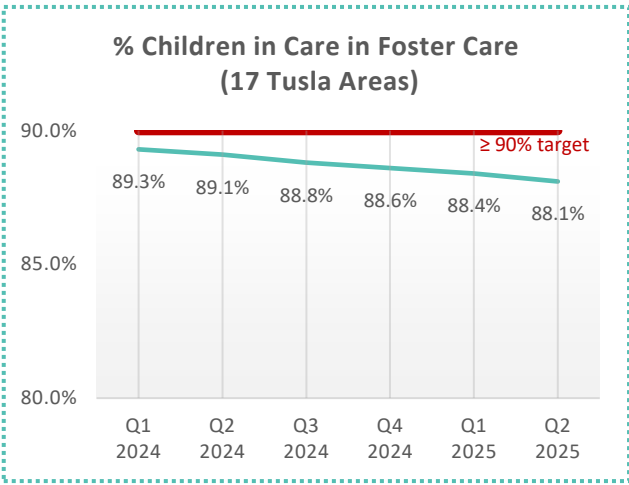
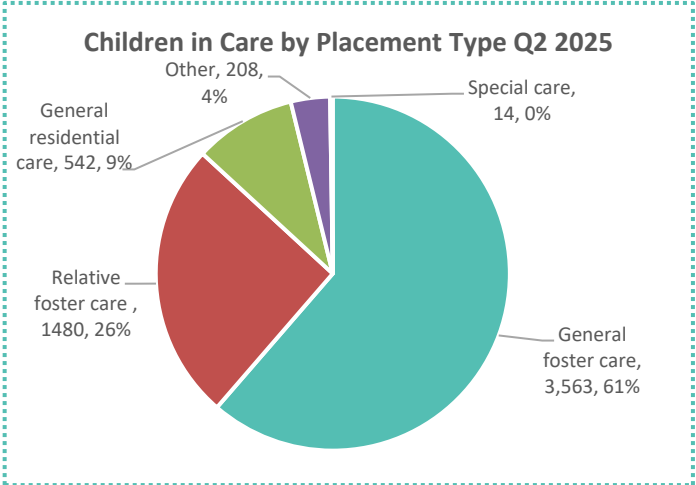
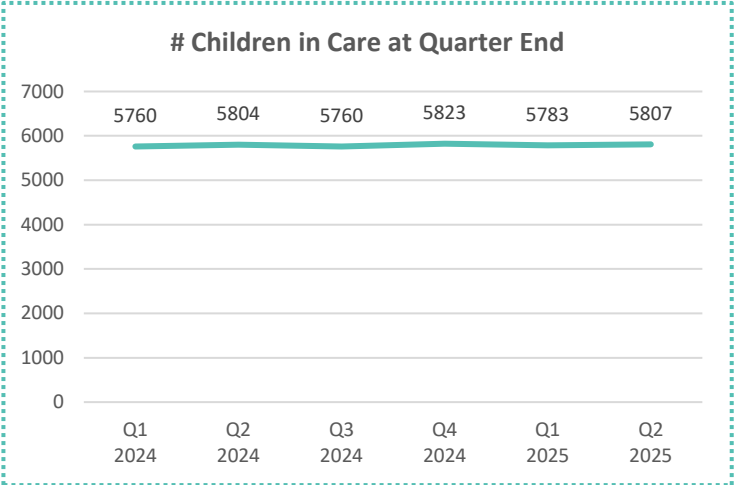
## SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITY DATA

- **23,455 cases open to social work nationally at the end of Q2 2025**, 199 (<1%) more than Q1 2025 (23,256) and 2,047 (10%) more than Q2 2024 (21,408).
- **79% (18,468) of open cases were allocated** to a case worker at the end of Q2 2025, down two percentage points from Q1 2025 (81%).
- **4,987 (21%) cases were awaiting allocation**, 530 (12%) more than Q1 2025 (4,457) and 88 (2%) more than Q2 2024 (4,899).
- Five areas account for 70% (3,491) of cases awaiting allocation, Cork (990), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (942), Dublin South Central (686), Midlands (521) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (352).
- **49% (2,435)** of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2025 were “**active**” on a duty system.
- **4% (189)** of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2025 were categorised as **high priority**, 54 (22%) fewer than Q1 2025 (243) and 311 (62%) fewer than Q2 2024 (500).
- 67% (3,323) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 27% (1,327) were low priority while the remaining 3% (148) were awaiting categorisation.
- **73% (3,649)** of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2025 were **waiting three months or less** and of these 49% (1,799) were waiting less than one month.
- 79% (148) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2025 were waiting 3 months or less and **of these 62% (92)** were waiting less than one month.

## CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (CPNS)

- **1,016 children listed as ‘active’ on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)** at the end of Q2 2025, 80 (7%) fewer than Q1 2025 (1,096) and 8 (<1%) fewer than Q2 2024 (1,024).
- **80% (809/1,016)** of children were listed as ‘active’ for **no longer than 12 months**, down from 84% (924/1,096) at the end of Q1 2025.
- **7% (74/1,016)** of children were listed as ‘active’ for **> 18 months**, up slightly from 6% (63/1,096) at the end of Q2 2025.
- **98% (1,000)** of all children listed as ‘active’ at the end of Q2 2025 had an **allocated social worker**. Sixteen children were awaiting allocation to a social worker, of which five were subsequently allocated.

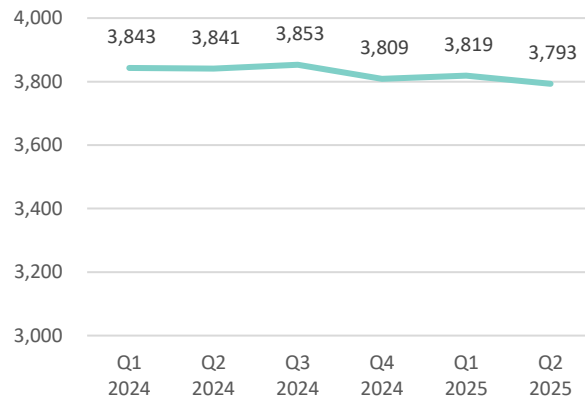
# ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES



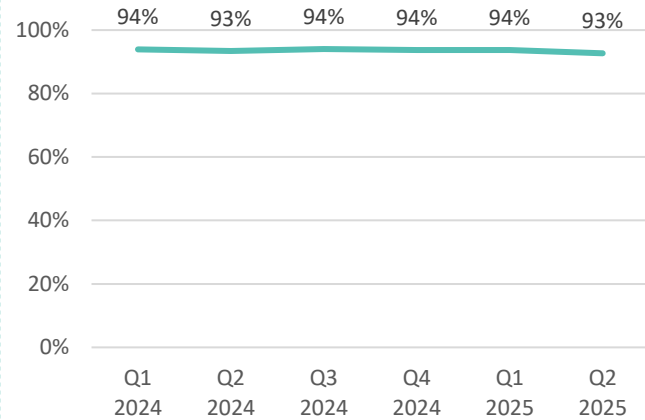
### Children in Care – Allocated Case Worker

- 98% (5,667) of children in care with an allocated case worker; 140 awaiting (Q2 2025)

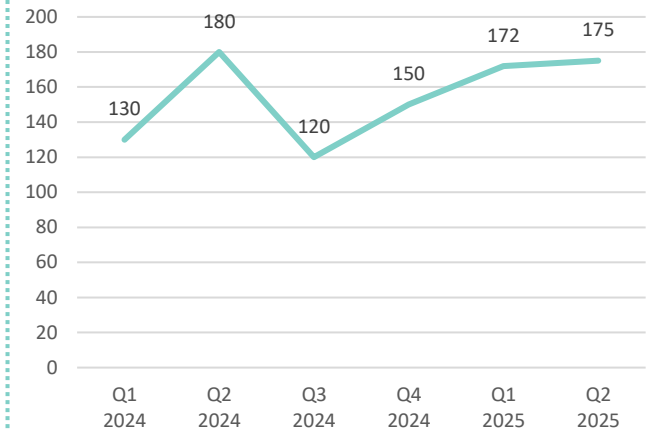
**# Foster Carers on the Panel of Approved Foster Carers at Quarter End**



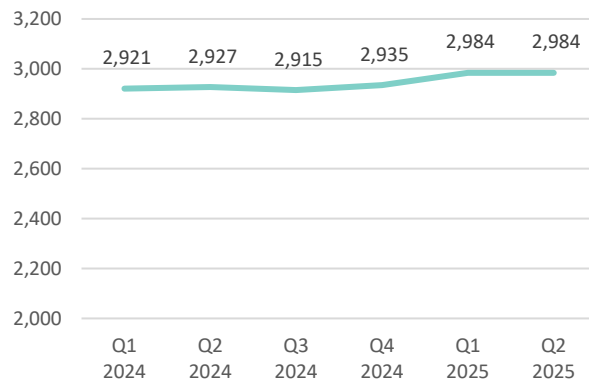
**% Tusla Foster Carers with a Link (Social) Worker**



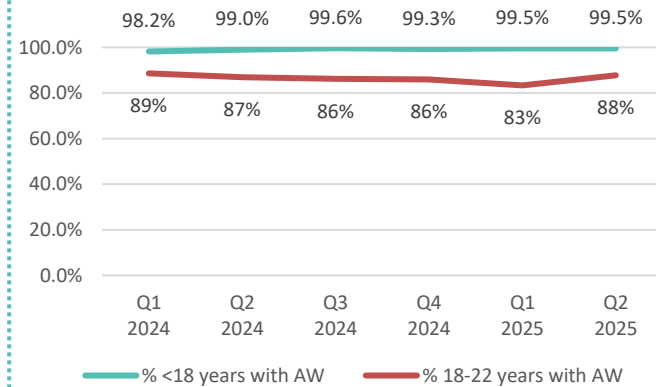
**# Referrals for an Aftercare Service**



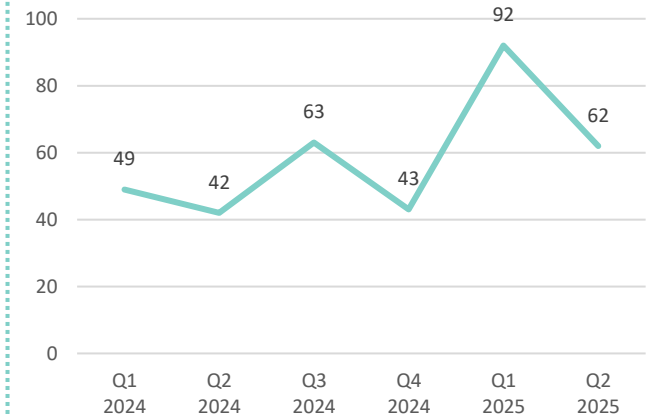
**# Young People (all ages) in Receipt of Aftercare Services at Quarter End**



**% Young People in Aftercare with an Aftercare Worker**



**# Children Referred for Adoption**





## CHILDREN IN CARE

- **5,807 children in care at the end of Q2 2025**, 24 (<1%) more than Q1 2025 (5,783) and 3 (<1%) more than Q2 2024 (5,804). This figure (5,807) includes 108 children reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.
- **86.8% (5,043) of children in care (17 Areas + SCSIP) were in foster care (general, relative)** at the end of Q2 2025 and 9.6% (556) were in a residential care (general and special care) placement. The remaining 3.6% (208) of children were in “Other” care placements. *“Other” includes at home under a care order, supported lodgings, detention centre, disability unit, hospital, special emergency arrangement, not specified etc.*
- Across the 17 Areas, 88.1% (5,023/5,699) were in foster care, 8.3% (475) were in residential care and the remaining 3.5% (201) were in “other” care placements.
- **1,077 (18.5%) children in care at the end of Q2 2025 were in placements with private providers**, 39 (4%) more than Q1 2025 (1,038) and 131 (14%) more than Q2 2024 (946).
- **98% (5,667) of children in care at the end of Q2 2025 had an allocated social worker / other professional.** A total of 140 children were awaiting allocation of worker at the end of Q2 2025, 48 (52%) more than Q1 2025 (92). *Refer to context on page 35.*
- **83% (4,804) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan**, no change from Q1 2025. A total of 1,003 (17%) of children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 37 (4%) more than Q1 2025 (966).
- **96% (3,549/3,709) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education** at the end of Q2 2025, down one percentage point from Q1 2025 (97%).
- **93% (928/996) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education** at the end of Q2 2025, no change from Q1 2025.

## AFTERCARE

- **175 referrals** for an aftercare service in Q2 2025. This brings to 347 the number of referrals for the first six months of 2025, 37 (12%) more than the same period in 2024 (310).
- **2,984 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services** at the end of Q2 2025, no change from Q1 2025 and 57 (2%) more than Q2 2024 (2,927). *Figures include young persons < 18 years and those 18-22 years inclusive.*
- **79% (1,782/2,267) of those 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q2 2025 were in education/accredited training.**
- Almost half (44%; 989) of young people 18 – 22 years (2,267) in receipt of aftercare services had remained living with their carers. A further 9% (205) had returned home to parents/family. One in five (24%; 541) was in independent living arrangements.
- **79% (2,369) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q2 2025 had an aftercare plan** up one percentage point from Q1 2025 (78%). A total of 615 were awaiting a plan, 55 (8%) fewer than Q1 2025 (670).
- **89% (1,930/2,172) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker** at the end of Q2 2025, up four percentage points from Q1 2025 (85%). A total of 242

young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2025, 99 (29%) fewer than Q1 2025 (341).

- 99.5% (193/194) of young people < 18 years assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2025.
- 88% (1,737/1,978) of 18–22-year-olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2025.

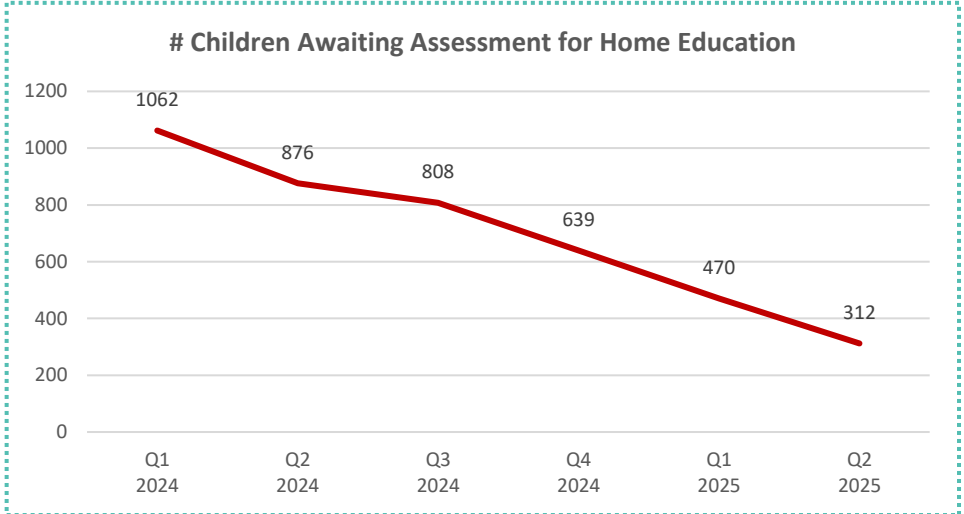
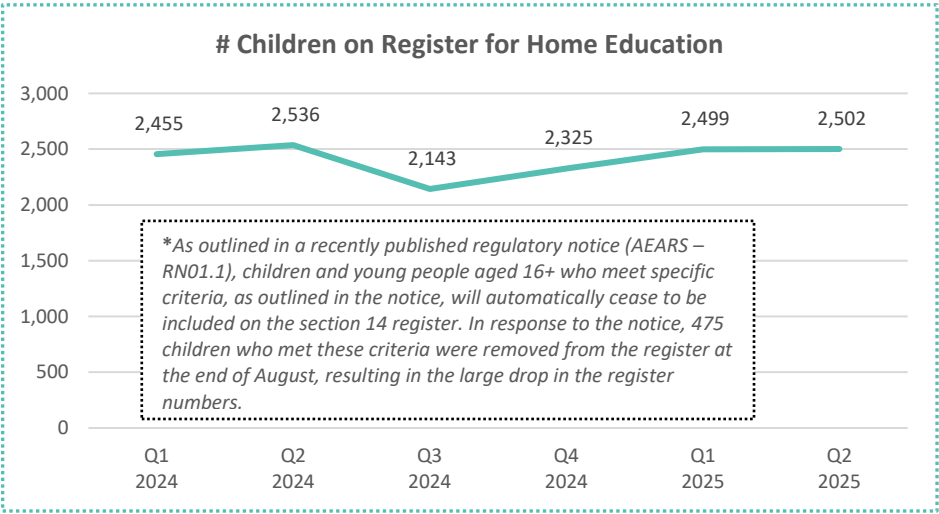
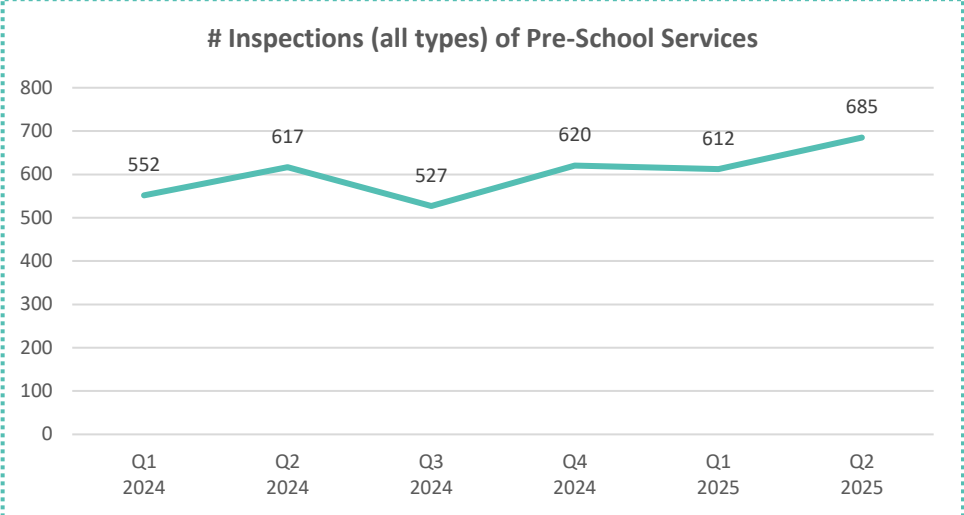
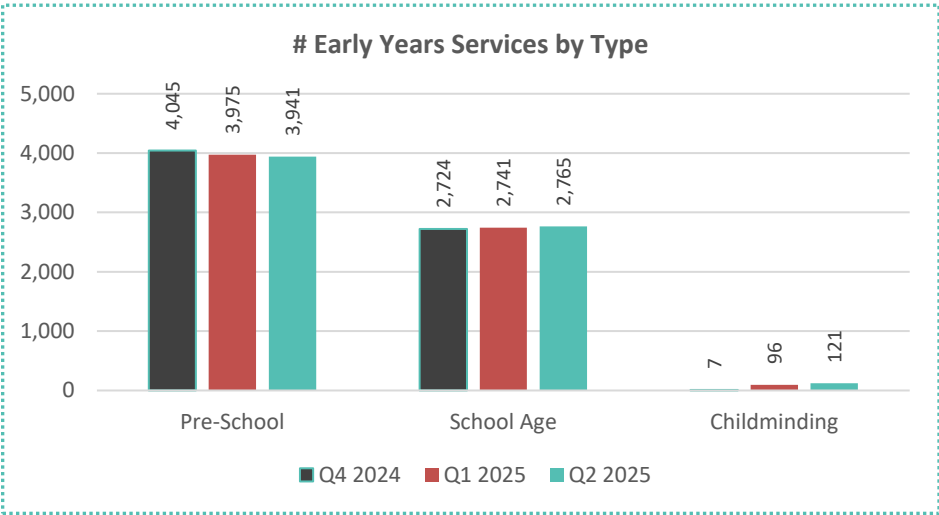
## ADOPTION SERVICES

- **62 new children referred for adoption during Q2 2025.** This brings to 154 the number of children referred for the first six months of 2025, 63 (69%) more than the same period in 2024 (91). A total of 197 new children were referred for adoption in 2024.
- **68 completed initial assessments awaiting allocation** to a social worker for full assessment at the end of Q2 2025. Of these, 45 (66%) were waiting for 0-8 weeks, 4 (6%) were waiting > 8 weeks to 16 weeks (inclusive) while the remaining 19 (28%) were waiting more than 16 weeks.

## FOSTER CARERS

- **3,793 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel** of approved foster carers at the end of Q2 2025, 26 (<1%) fewer than Q1 2025 (3,819 revised figure) and 48 (1%) fewer than Q2 2024 (3,841).
- **52 Tusla foster carers** (26 general & 26 relative) and **five private foster carers approved** in Q2 2025. This brings to 119 the number of foster carers approved in the first six months of 2025. A total of 125 foster carers approved during the same period in 2024
- 71 applications for general foster care and 205 applications for relative foster care in progress at the end of Q2 2025.
- **92% (2,004) of general foster carers** on the panel **had an allocated link (social) worker** at the end of Q2 2025, down one percentage point from Q1 2025 (93%).
- 169 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker, 14 (9%) more than Q1 2025 (155).
- **94% (897) of relative foster carers** on the panel **had an allocated link (social) worker** at the end of Q2 2025, down two percentage point from Q1 2025 (96%).
- 60 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q2 2025, 17 (40%) more than Q1 2025 (43).
- **96% (210) of unapproved relative foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks had an allocated link (social) worker.** Nine carers were awaiting a link worker, one more than Q1 2025 (8). The nine carers were reported across three areas.

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION



## EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

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

- **6,827 early years services on the national register at the end of Q2 2025**, 15 (<1%) more than Q1 2025 (6,812). Breakdown of services for Q2 2025 as follows: pre-school (3,941; 58%); school age (2,765; 41%) and childminding (121; 2%).
- **685 inspections (all types) of pre-school services carried out in Q2 2025**. This brings to 1,297 the number of inspections for the first six months of 2025. A total of 2,316 inspections carried out in 2024.
- **323 applications to become as a new service received** by the EYI in Q2 2025. This brings to 447 the number of applications received in the first six months of 2025. A total of 560 applications received in 2024. Breakdown of applications for 2025 YTD as follows: pre-school (88; 20%); school age (304; 68%); child-minding (55; 12%).
- **74 applications to register as a new service approved** by the EYI in Q2 2025. This brings to 136 the number of applications approved in the first six months of 2025. A total of 430 applications approved in 2024. Breakdown of applications approved for Q2 2025 as follows: pre-school (9; 7%); school age (78; 57%); child-minding (49; 36%).
- **No early years' service refused** by the EYI in the first six months of 2025. One service refused in 2024.
- **464 change in circumstances notifications processed** by the EYI in Q2 2025. This brings to 973 the number processed in the first six months of 2025. A total of 1,912 were processed in 2024.
- **199 unsolicited information submissions received** by the EYI in Q2 2025. This brings to 317 the number of submissions received in the first six months of 2025. A total of 460 received in 2024.
- **No early years' service prosecuted** by the EYI in the first six months of 2025. One service prosecuted in 2024.
- **61 early years services closed in Q2 2025**. This brings to 90 the number of services that closed in the first six months of 2025. A total of 185 closed in 2024. A breakdown of services closed in the first six months of 2025 as follows: pre-school services (52; 58%); school age services (34; 38%); childminding (4; 4%).
- **No early years' service removed from the register** in the first six months of 2025. No service removed in 2024.

## ALTERNATIVE CARE INSPECTION & MONITORING SERVICE

- **225 non-statutory residential centres** at the end Q2 2025, 19 (9%) more than Q1 2025 (206).
- **59 inspections (all types) conducted in Q2 2025.** This brings to 101 the number of inspections for the first six months of 2025.
- **5 non-statutory foster care services** at the end Q2 2025, no change from Q1 2025. Two monitoring visits conducted in Q2 2025. This brings to three the number of monitoring visits for the first six months of 2025.

## ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION SERVICE

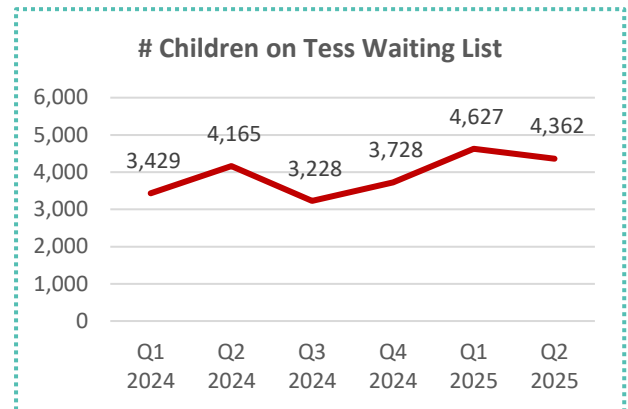
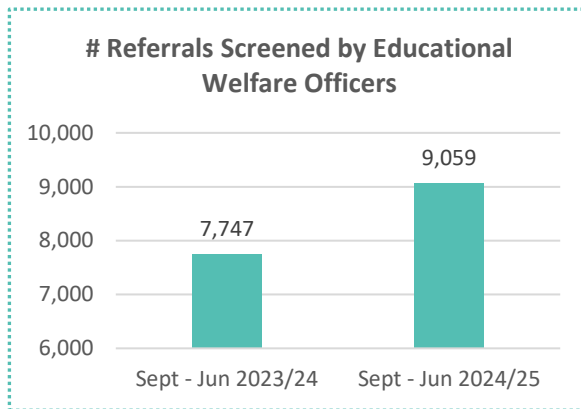
### Home Education

- **2,502 children on the register for home education** at the end of Q2 2025, three more than Q1 2025 (2,499) and 177 (8%) more than Q4 2024 (2,325).
- **427 applications received for home education during Q2 2025.** This brings to 775 the number of applications received for the first six months of 2025, 217 (39%) more than the same period in 2024 (558).
- **391 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q2 2025.** This brings to 748 the number of assessments carried in the first six months of 2025, 107 (17%) more than the same period in 2024 (641).
- **308 children registered for home education in Q2 2025.** This brings to 528 the number of children registered in the first six months of 2025, 124 (31%) more than the same period in 2024 (404).
- **312 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q2 2025,** 158 (34%) fewer than Q1 2025 (470) and 564 (64%) fewer than Q2 2024 (876).

### Independent Schools

- **61 assessed and approved independent schools** at the end of Q2 2025, one more than Q1 2025 (60).
- **6,301 children enrolled in independent schools,** of which 82% (5,175) are registered on the Section 14 register. The remaining 18% (1,126) were not registered. Reasons for these children not being registered include, application not submitted, consent not in place, certified documentation not provided.
- **384 applications received during Q2 2025.** This brings to 724 the number of applications received for the first six months of 2025. A total of 2,077 applications received in 2024.
- **1 school assessment carried out in Q2 2025.** This brings to three the number of assessments carried out for the first six months of 2025. A total of 29 assessments carried out in 2024.
- **No school assessment due at the end of Q2 2025.**

# TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES



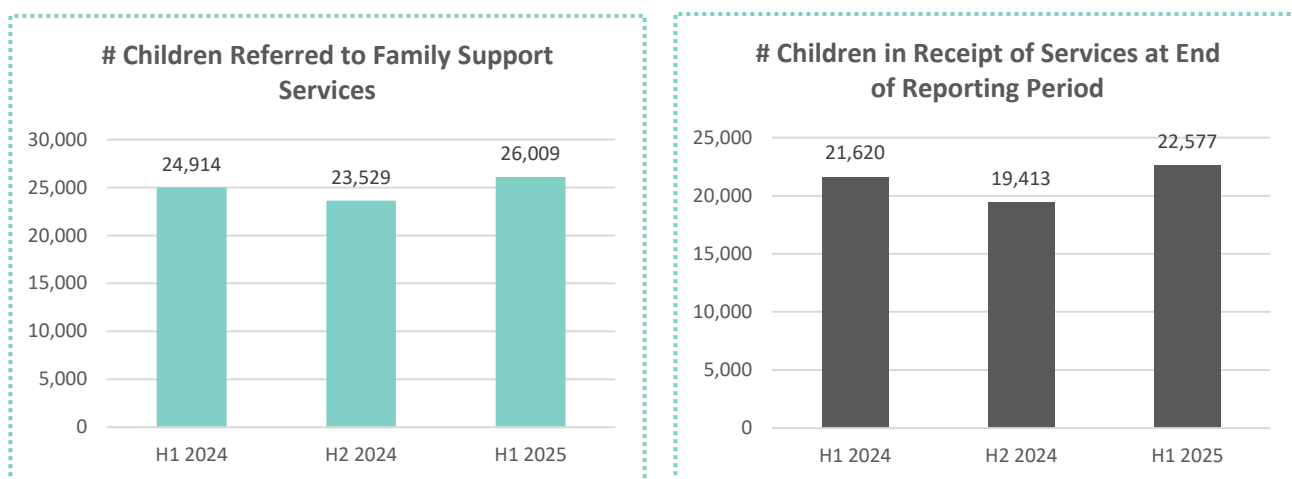
## Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2024 – August 2025

- **9,059 referrals screened** by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) during the first 10 months of the academic year 2024-2025, 1,312 (17%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (7,747).
- **4,362 screened referrals on a waiting list** at the end of June 2025, 197 (5%) more than June 2024 (4,165).
- **3,838 new individual children worked with** during the first 10 months of the academic year 2024-2025, 259 (7%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (3,579).
- 7,840 individual children worked with during the first 10 months of the academic year 2024-2025, 610 (8%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (7,230).
- **549 school attendance notices (SANs) issued** in the first 10 months of academic year 2024-2025, 97 (15%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (646). SANs were in respect of 392 children, 75 (16%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (467).
- **132 summonses issued** during the first 10 months of the academic year 2024-2025, 10 (8%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (122). The summonses were in respect of 96 children, 7 (7%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (103).
- **208 Section 24 meetings convened by EWOs** during the first 10 months of the academic year 2024-2025, 56 (21%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (264).

# FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

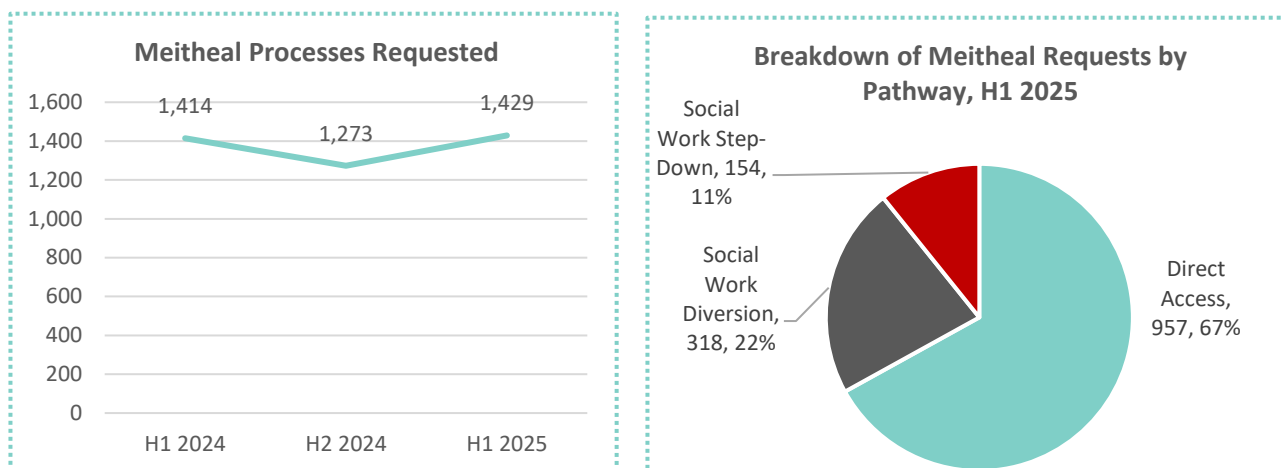
## Family Support Services (data reported bi-annually, Q2 and Q4)

Family Support Services includes those services funded through a Service Arrangement with the Agency and those funded internally and delivered through the Agency. Data needs to be interpreted in the context of varying response rates.



- **384 family support providers commissioned** (H1 2025).
- 85% (328) of services commissioned provided data for H1 2025. Response rates ranged from 25% to 100% in seven areas.
- **At least 22,577 children were in receipt of family support services** at the end of H1 2025. This equates to almost 2% of children (0-17 years).
- **At least 26,009 children referred to family support services** during the first six months of 2025.
- The **most common source** of referrals for H1 2025 was **Tusla Social Work**, accounting for **26.1% (6,785) of referrals** followed by parents/guardians (25.9%; 6,741), schools (13.9%; 3,611) and HSE Officers (9.3%; 2,406).
- **66% (17,142) of children referred** to family support services during the first six months of 2025 **received a service during that period**. The percentage who received a service ranged from 27% (Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow) to 100% (Kerry). Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 66%.

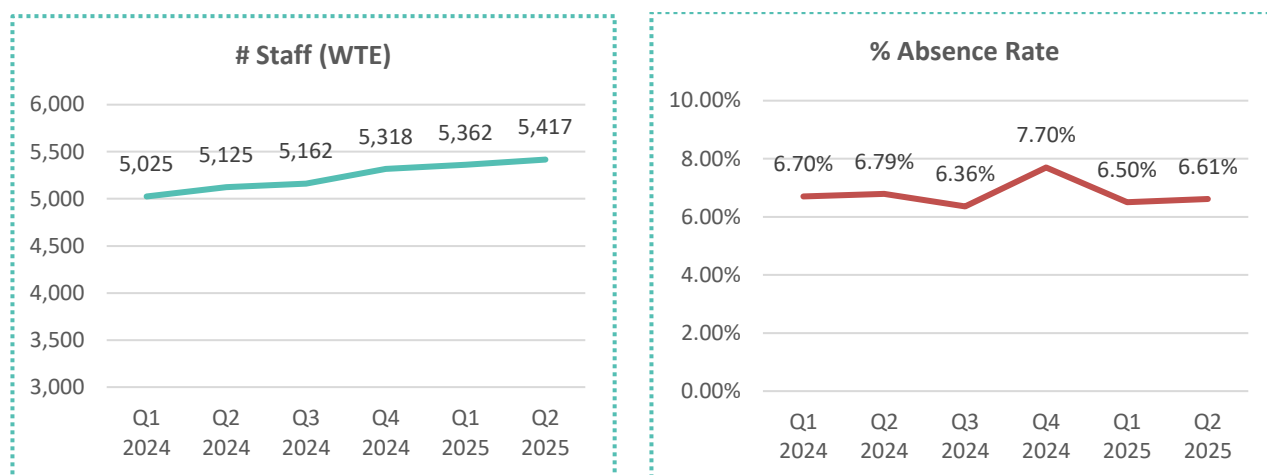
## Meitheal (data reported bi-annually, Q2 and Q4)



- **1,429 Meitheal processes requested** during the first six months of 2025, 15 (1%) more than the same period in 2024 (1,414).
- The **most common pathway** for requests received during the first six months of 2025 was **“Direct Access” accounting for 67% (957) of requests**. “Social Work Diversion” accounted for a further 22% (318) while “Social Work Step-Down” accounted for 11% (154) of requests.
- Of the requests where the pathway was ‘Direct Access’ 40% (265/658) were previously known to social work (based on data from 15/17 areas).
- **66% (938/1,429) of Meitheal requests** received during the first six months of 2025 **proceeded to Stage 2** (Discussion Stage).
- 874 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 in the first six months of 2025.
- **52% (452) of processes reaching completion of Stage 2 proceeded to delivery** (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting).
- **1,145 Meitheal processes were closed** during the first six months of 2025.
- 35% (396) of all Meitheal processes were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1); 26% (298) were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2 Discussion Stage); 10% (111) were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3); 30% (340) were closed post-delivery.
- **113 Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) operating** at the end of H1 2025 with a further three planned in development.

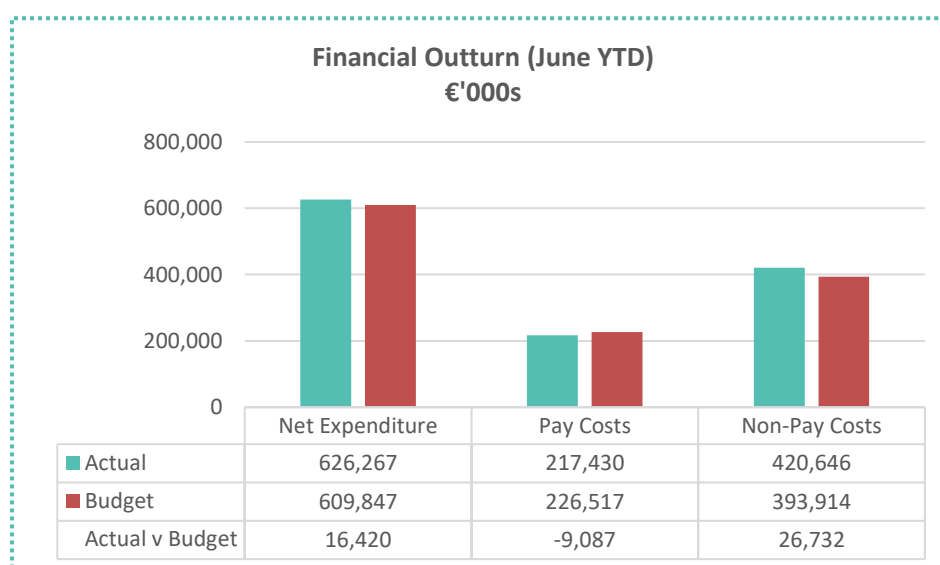


## PEOPLE & CHANGE



- **5,417 whole time equivalent (WTE)** staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q2 2025, 55 (1%) more than Q1 2025 (5,362) and 292 (6%) more than Q2 2024 (5,125).
- **444 new staff joined Tusla** (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first six months of 2025, 54 (14%) more than the same period in 2024 (390).
- **209 staff left Tusla** (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in the first six months of 2025, 5 (2%) more than the same period in 2024 (204).
- At the end of Q2 2025, the **overall absence rate for the Agency was 6.61%**, up slightly from 6.5% at the end of Q1 2025, but down slightly 6.79% at the end of Q2 2024.
- e-learning training activity: 8,945 completions were achieved in Q2 2025
- Classroom training: 2,770 participants attended in Q2 2025.

## FINANCE



- The **outturn for the year to date** (June YTD) is an **overspend of €16.4 million** (3%).
- Net expenditure is €626.3 million against an initial revenue budget allocation of €609.8 million.
- **Pay costs** are **under-spent** against budget by **€9.1 million** (4%).
- **Non-pay costs** are **over-spent** against budget year to date by **€26.7 million** (7%)

## 2.0 CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

### Key Facts

- **25,856 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q1 2025**, 218 (<1%) fewer than Q4 2024 (26,074) and 2,257 (10%) more than Q1 2024 (23,599).
- **59.4% (15,354)** of referrals for Q1 2025 were for **welfare concerns**, **40.3% (10,414)** were for **abuse/neglect**, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining <1% (88) of referrals
- **Most common source of referrals** for Q1 2025 was members of **An Garda Síochána** accounting for **34% (8,692) of referrals**, followed to a lesser extent by teachers (13.8%; 3,559), safeguarding officers (10.6%; 2,731) and social workers (10.3%; 2,670). Mandated persons accounted for 91% (23,544) of all sources.
- **58% (14,875/25,856) of referrals for Q1 2025 were closed following screening**; 26% (6,596) of referrals progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage. The remaining referrals (17%; 4,385) were either at the screening stage, awaiting closure following screening, or another process stage, when the data was extracted for reporting.
- 52% (7,785) of referrals were closed following screening, as assessment / safety planning was already ongoing, while a further 7% (1,083) were diverted to Tusla's Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) services and 2% (302) were diverted to another agency. Some 36% (5,323) were closed with no further action required.
- At the time the data for Q1 2025 was extracted for reporting, **97% (6,395/6,596) of preliminary enquiries were completed**.
- Of the preliminary enquiries completed, 43% (2,732) required no further action; **36% (2,325) required an initial assessment**, while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 5% (294) of cases. Some 10% (648) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS.
- At the time the Q1 2025 data was extracted for reporting, 54% (1,256/2,325) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were completed.
- **53% (667) of referrals that required an initial assessment** following the preliminary enquiry were **closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment**. Of these 57% (378) required no further action, 20% (132) were diverted to another agency for a service, 16% (106) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service, while the remaining 8% (51) were closed as assessment/safety planning already ongoing.
- **29% (362) of referrals required safety planning** following completion of the initial assessment, a further **15% (187) required a children protection response / child protection conference** and **3% (40) required admission to care**.

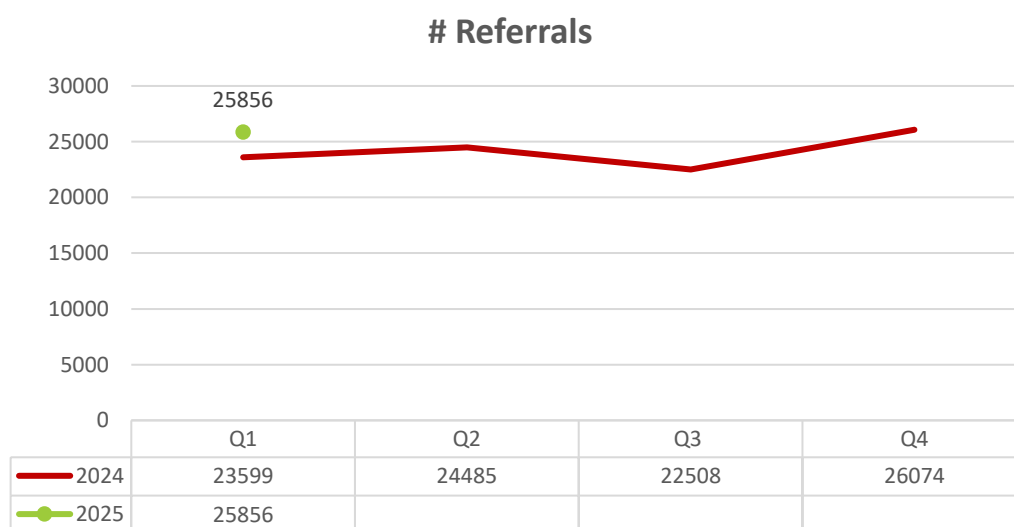
## KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

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

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

### Number of Referrals

- 25,856 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q1 2025<sup>1</sup>, 218 (<1%) fewer than Q4 2024 (26,074) and 2,257 (10%) more than Q1 2024 (23,599).



- 59.4% (15,354) of referrals for Q1 2025 were for welfare concerns, 40.3% (10,414) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining <1% (88) of referrals (Tables 1 and 2).

**Table 1: Percentage of referrals by primary report type**

Primary Report Type	% 2024	% Q1 2025
Welfare	60.7%	59.4%
Emotional abuse	17.3%	18.7%
Neglect	5.9%	5.8%
Physical abuse	9.8%	10.3%
Sexual abuse	5.8%	5.5%
Not recorded	0.6%	0.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

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

**Table 2: Number of referrals by primary report type**

Primary Report Type	Total YTD	Q1 2025
Welfare	58,695	15,354
Emotional abuse	16,714	4,846
Neglect	5,658	1,487
Physical abuse	9,452	2,652
Sexual abuse	5,603	1,429
Not recorded	544	88
<b>Total</b>	<b>96,666</b>	<b>25,856</b>

## Referrals by Area

- The number of referrals for Q1 2025 equates to about 21.2 referrals per 1,000 population under 18 years. *Note, the actual number of children referred is likely to be fewer as more than one referral can be received in relation to a child.* The rate of referrals ranges from about 12 per 1,000 (Dublin South East/Wicklow) to 32 per 1,000 (Midlands). Eight areas reported a rate equal to or higher than the national average of 21.2/1,000.
- The highest number of referrals for 2024 was reported by Midlands (2,580) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (2,439), Dublin North (2,399) and Cork (2,203). The fewest number was reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (347) followed by Mayo (452) and Kerry (568). A breakdown of referrals by area is presented in Table 3 below.

**Table 3: Breakdown of referrals by area**

Area	Total 2024	Pop 0-17 years	2024 Rate / 1000	Q1 2025	Q1 2025 Rate / 1000
Dublin South Central	7,742	70,259	110.2	2,168	30.9
DSE/WW	3,772	91,047	41.4	1,095	12.0
DSW/K/WW	9,442	108,927	86.7	2,439	22.4
Midlands	9,879	80,962	122.0	2,580	31.9
Dublin North City	5,376	48,909	109.9	1,524	31.2
Dublin North	9,308	104,281	89.3	2,399	23.0
Louth / Meath	7,589	96,531	78.6	2,104	21.8
Cavan / Monaghan	3,034	37,336	81.3	756	20.2
Cork	8,806	136,786	64.4	2,203	16.1
Kerry	2,544	34,994	72.7	568	16.2
CW/K/ST	4,507	62,366	72.3	1,304	20.9
Waterford/Wexford	6,889	69,239	99.5	1,942	28.0
Mid West	7,139	96,764	73.8	2,059	21.3
Galway/Roscommon	4,648	81,799	56.8	1,199	14.7
Mayo	1,323	31,911	41.5	452	14.2
Donegal	3,102	42,144	73.6	717	17.0
SLWC	1,566	24,312	64.4	347	14.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>96,666</b>	<b>1,218,567</b>	<b>79.3</b>	<b>25,856</b>	<b>21.2</b>

Population (0-17 years) based on Census 2022

## Source of Referrals

- The most common source of referrals for Q1 2025 was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 34% (8,692) of referrals, followed to a lesser extent by teachers (13.8%; 3,559), safeguarding officers (10.6%; 2,731) and social workers (10.3%; 2,670). Mandated persons accounted for 91% (23,544) of all sources. The source of all referrals is presented in Table 4 below.

**Table 4: Source of Referrals (ranked by # referrals Q1 2025)**

Source	Total 2024	% Total 2024	Q1 2025	% Total Q1 2025
Member of An Garda Siochana	32,009	33.11%	8,692	33.62%
Teacher	10,384	10.74%	3,559	13.76%
Safeguarding officer	11,433	11.83%	2,731	10.56%
Social worker	10,841	11.21%	2,670	10.33%
Social care worker	4,519	4.67%	1,315	5.09%
Anonymous	4,135	4.28%	889	3.44%
Parent / Guardian	3,085	3.19%	798	3.09%
Nurse/ midwife	2,806	2.90%	759	2.94%
Medical practitioner	3,397	3.51%	752	2.91%
Manager of domestic violence shelter	2,221	2.30%	628	2.43%
Psychologist	1,737	1.80%	454	1.76%
Youth worker	1,556	1.61%	420	1.62%
Psychotherapist	1,598	1.65%	414	1.60%
Manager of homeless provision or emergency accommodation	1,313	1.36%	313	1.21%
Other Family Member	1,069	1.11%	217	0.84%
Courts (S20 Child Care Act 1991)	459	0.47%	151	0.58%
Manager of asylum seeker accommodation (direct provision centre)	448	0.46%	147	0.57%
Probation officer	364	0.38%	117	0.45%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	304	0.31%	101	0.39%
Person responsible for the care or management of a youth work service	350	0.36%	92	0.36%
Not specified	542	0.56%	88	0.34%
Occupational therapist	218	0.23%	81	0.31%
Member of the Public	308	0.32%	77	0.30%
Speech and language therapist	157	0.16%	62	0.24%
A person carrying on a pre-school service	263	0.27%	59	0.23%
Self	139	0.14%	43	0.17%
Physiotherapist	147	0.15%	42	0.16%
Emergency medical technician	101	0.10%	33	0.13%
Addiction counsellor	153	0.16%	30	0.12%
Guardian Ad Litem	121	0.13%	27	0.10%
Other	106	0.11%	26	0.10%
Foster carer registered with the Agency	91	0.09%	24	0.09%
Courts (Other Court Request)	125	0.13%	17	0.07%
Director of any institution where a child is detained by an order of a court	58	0.06%	13	0.05%
Immigration Services	28	0.03%	6	0.02%
Member of the Clergy	25	0.03%	*	0.02%

Dentist	17	0.02%	*	0.01%
Manager of a language school...children reside away from home	35	0.04%	*	0.01%
Mandated person not specified	*	0.00%	*	0.00%
Courts (S47 Child Care Act 1991)	*	0.00%	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>96,666</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>25,856</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

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

## Mandated Reports

- 34% (8,731/25,856) of referrals for Q1 2025 were mandated reports.
- A breakdown of mandated reports by primary report type is presented in Table 5 below.

**Table 5: Mandated reports by primary report type**

Primary Report Type	Total 2024	% Total 2024	Q1 2025	% Total Q1 2025
Physical Abuse	8,226	27%	2,338	27%
Emotional Abuse	13,078	43%	3,927	45%
Sexual Abuse	5,016	16%	1,323	15%
Neglect	4,320	14%	1,143	13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,640</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>8,731</b>	<b>100%</b>

- A breakdown of mandated reports by area is presented in Table 6 below. The number of mandated reports for Q1 2025 ranges from 119 (1.4%) (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) to 1,022 (11.7%) (Dublin North).

**Table 6: Mandated reports by area**

Area	Total 2024	% Total 2024	Q1 2025	% Total Q1 2025
Dublin South Central	2,661	8.7%	867	9.9%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	1,421	4.6%	431	4.9%
DSW/K/WW	2,164	7.1%	651	7.5%
Midlands	2,769	9.0%	788	9.0%
Dublin North City	1,616	5.3%	594	6.8%
Dublin North	3,758	12.3%	1,022	11.7%
Louth/Meath	3,513	11.5%	894	10.2%
Cavan/Monaghan	767	2.5%	252	2.9%
Cork	2,552	8.3%	646	7.4%
Kerry	908	3.0%	142	1.6%
CW/K/ST	1,045	3.4%	447	5.1%
Waterford/Wexford	1,433	4.7%	396	4.5%
Mid West	1,955	6.4%	600	6.9%
Galway/Roscommon	1,659	5.4%	402	4.6%
Mayo	784	2.6%	200	2.3%
Donegal	999	3.3%	280	3.2%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	636	2.1%	119	1.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,640</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>8,731</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

- A breakdown of source of mandated reports is presented in Table 7 below. The most common source of reports for Q1 2025 was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 39.7% (3,463) of all mandated reports, followed to a lesser extent by teachers (16.6%; 1,452), safeguarding officers (11.4%; 991) and social workers (9.5%; 825).

**Table 7: Source of mandated reports (ranked by number of reports Q1 2025)**

Source	Total 2024	% Total 2024	Q1 2025	% Total Q1 2025
Member of An Garda Síochána	11,657	38.05%	3,463	39.66%
Teacher	4,339	14.16%	1,452	16.63%
Safeguarding officer,	4,111	13.42%	991	11.35%
Social worker	3,357	10.96%	825	9.45%
Social care worker	1,455	4.75%	421	4.82%
Manager of domestic violence shelter	879	2.87%	249	2.85%
Medical practitioner	1,032	3.37%	239	2.74%
Psychologist	677	2.21%	209	2.39%
Psychotherapist	768	2.51%	197	2.26%
Nurse/midwife	630	2.06%	167	1.91%
Youth worker	532	1.74%	142	1.63%
Manager of homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility	275	0.90%	66	0.76%
Person responsible for the care or management of a youth work service	123	0.40%	45	0.52%
Manager of Asylum Seeker accommodation (direct provision centre)	96	0.31%	42	0.48%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	116	0.38%	40	0.46%
Speech and language therapist	62	0.20%	34	0.39%
Physiotherapist	54	0.18%	25	0.29%
Occupational therapist	68	0.22%	25	0.29%
Probation officer	53	0.17%	24	0.27%
Guardian Ad Litem	64	0.21%	20	0.23%
Emergency medical technician	32	0.10%	15	0.17%
Addiction counsellor	50	0.16%	13	0.15%
Foster carer registered with the Agency	51	0.17%	11	0.13%
A person carrying on a pre-school service	103	0.34%	10	0.11%
Director of any institution where a child is detained by an order of a court	24	0.08%	*	0.03%
Member of the Clergy	4	0.01%	*	0.02%
Manager of a language school where children reside away from home	16	0.05%	*	0.01%
Dentist	12	0.04%	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,640</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>8,731</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

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



## Screening

- 58% (14,875/25,856) of referrals for Q1 2025 were closed following screening (Table 8).
- 26% (6,596/25,856) of referrals for Q1 2024 progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage. The remaining referrals (17%; 4,385) were either at the screening stage, awaiting closure following screening, or another process stage, when the data was extracted for reporting.

**Table 8: Referrals closed following screening**

Area	% Referrals closed Q1 2025
Dublin South Central	61%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	58%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	56%
Midlands	65%
Dublin North City	53%
Dublin North	68%
Louth/Meath	50%
Cavan/Monaghan	51%
Cork	56%
Kerry	33%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	67%
Waterford/Wexford	65%
Mid West	59%
Galway/Roscommon	37%
Mayo	54%
Donegal	61%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	37%
<b>Total</b>	<b>58%</b>

- A breakdown of the outcome of referrals closed following screening is presented below (Table 9).
- 52% (7,785) of referrals were closed following screening, as assessment / safety planning was already ongoing, while a further 7% (1,083) were diverted to Tusla's Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) services and 2% (302) were diverted to another agency. Some 36% (5,323) were closed with no further action required.

**Table 9: Outcome of referrals closed following screening**

Outcome of referrals closed	Q1 2025	% Total
No further action - close	5,323	36%
No further action – close, assessment / safety planning ongoing	7,785	52%
Divert to another agency - close	302	2%
Divert to PPFS - close	1,083	7%
Other / Not recorded	382	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,875</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

**Table 10: Outcome of referrals closed following screening by area, Q1 2025**

Area	No further action - close	No further action – close, assessment / safety planning ongoing	Divert to PPFS - close
Dublin South Central	17%	74%	4%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	39%	55%	3%
DSW/K/WW	28%	62%	7%
Midlands	32%	58%	5%
Dublin North City	34%	58%	2%
Dublin North	25%	44%	29%
Louth/Meath	28%	58%	7%
Cavan/Monaghan	20%	61%	10%
Cork	31%	58%	4%
Kerry	38%	61%	0%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	67%	29%	3%
Waterford/Wexford	51%	38%	8%
Mid West	40%	48%	1%
Galway/Roscommon	50%	48%	1%
Mayo	87%	8%	3%
Donegal	51%	39%	9%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	42%	51%	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>7%</b>

## Preliminary Enquiries

- At the time the data for Q1 2025 was extracted for reporting, 97% (6,395/6,596) of preliminary enquiries were completed. A breakdown of preliminary enquiries completed by area is presented in the table below (Table 11).
- 13% (842) of preliminary enquiries that were completed within 5 working days. A breakdown of preliminary enquiries by area is presented in the table below.

**Table 11: Preliminary enquiries commenced and completed, Q1 2025**

Area	# PEs commenced	# PEs completed	% PEs completed	% PEs completed 5 days
Dublin South Central	455	452	99.3%	12.8%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	311	302	97.1%	4.6%
DSW/K/WW	460	427	92.8%	17.6%
Midlands	332	325	97.9%	5.8%
Dublin North City	318	302	95.0%	9.6%
Dublin North	460	429	93.3%	9.1%
Louth/Meath	700	677	96.7%	4.7%
Cavan/Monaghan	218	203	93.1%	13.8%
Cork	572	555	97.0%	14.4%
Kerry	347	345	99.4%	30.7%
CW/K/ST	267	266	99.6%	18.0%
Waterford/Wexford	437	434	99.3%	11.3%
Mid West	548	535	97.6%	9.3%
Galway/Roscommon	550	527	95.8%	13.9%
Mayo	160	156	97.5%	9.0%
Donegal	264	264	100.0%	17.8%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	197	196	99.5%	41.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,596</b>	<b>6,395</b>	<b>97.0%</b>	<b>13.2%</b>

- Of the preliminary enquiries completed, 43% (2,732) required no further action; 36% (2,325) required an initial assessment, while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 5% (294) of cases. Some 10% (648) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS (Table 12).

**Table 12: Outcomes from preliminary enquiries**

Outcomes from preliminary enquiry	Q1 2025	% Total
No Further Action (NFA) - Close	2,732	43%
No Further Action (NFA) - Close, Assessment/Safety Planning Ongoing	294	5%
Divert to PPFS - Close	648	10%
Divert to Another Agency - Close	396	6%
Initial Assessment	2,325	36%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,395</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

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

Area	% Closed - No further Action	% Requiring IA	% Divert - PPFS	% Closed - Ongoing	% Closed - Divert to Another Agency
Dublin South Central	41%	42%	5%	4%	9%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	56%	29%	10%	2%	3%
DSW/K/WW	41%	42%	9%	3%	7%
Midlands	32%	35%	21%	10%	2%

Dublin North City	39%	42%	10%	6%	4%
Dublin North	35%	39%	22%	1%	2%
Louth/Meath	61%	22%	10%	4%	4%
Cavan/Monaghan	36%	37%	17%	7%	2%
Cork	45%	41%	5%	4%	5%
Kerry	42%	37%	5%	10%	6%
CW/K/ST	46%	36%	9%	8%	0%
Waterford/Wexford	26%	35%	21%	9%	8%
Mid West	40%	35%	0%	3%	22%
Galway/Roscommon	51%	37%	6%	0%	6%
Mayo	56%	30%	3%	1%	9%
Donegal	27%	45%	17%	10%	2%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	37%	45%	11%	1%	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>6%</b>

## Initial Assessments

- At the time the Q1 2025 data was extracted for reporting, 54% (1,256/2,325) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were completed (Table 14).
- 34% (422) of initial assessments completed were completed within 40 days of receipt of referral. A breakdown of initial assessments by area is presented in the table below.

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

Area	% IA Closed	% IAs closed 40 working days
Dublin South Central	49%	17%
DSE/WW	33%	34%
DSW/K/WW	64%	32%
Midlands	36%	24%
Dublin North City	23%	21%
Dublin North	28%	9%
Louth/Meath	34%	14%
Cavan/Monaghan	21%	38%
Cork	24%	24%
Kerry	87%	43%
CW/K/ST	79%	31%
Waterford/Wexford	49%	44%
Mid West	85%	39%
Galway/Roscommon	83%	44%
Mayo	91%	28%
Donegal	57%	6%
SLWC	99%	68%
<b>Total</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>34%</b>

- 53% (667) of referrals that required an initial assessment following the preliminary enquiry were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. Of these 57% (378) required no further action, 20% (132) were diverted to another agency for a service, 16% (106) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service, while the remaining 8% (51) were closed as assessment/safety planning already ongoing.
- 29% (362) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 15% (187) 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 assessments, Q1 2025**

Outcomes from initial assessments	Q1 2025	% Total
No Further Action (NFA) - Close	378	30%
No Further Action (NFA) - Close, Assessment/Safety Planning Ongoing	51	4%
Divert to Another Agency - Close	132	11%
Divert to PPFS - Close	106	8%
Child Protection / CPC Safety Planning	187	15%
Safety Planning	362	29%
Admission to Care	40	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,256</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 2.2 NATIONAL OUT OF HOURS SERVICES

- Tusla National Out of Hours Service (NOHS) received 444 new referrals in Q2 2025. This brings to 869 the number of referrals for the first six months of 2025.
- The NOHS placed 241 children in Q2 2025. This brings to 428 the number of referrals for the first six months of 2025. *Figure includes children who may have been placed more than once in the quarter.*
- A breakdown of children placed for each Tusla area is presented in the table below. Included in the table is the number of children from Ukraine who were placed by the NOHS and also the number of separated children seeking international protection who were placed.

	# Placements Q1 2025	# Placements Q2 2025	# Placements 2025 YTD	% Total
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	24	32	56	13.1%
Dublin North City	17	37	54	12.6%
Dublin North	24	21	45	10.5%
Dublin South Central	11	17	28	6.5%
Midlands	11	17	28	6.5%
Midwest	10	18	28	6.5%
<i>Ukraine</i>	22	6	28	6.5%
Louth/Meath	12	13	25	5.8%
Cork	8	16	24	5.6%
<i>Separated Children Seeking International Protection</i>	12	9	21	4.9%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	9	11	20	4.7%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	7	9	16	3.7%
Galway/Roscommon	5	8	13	3.0%
Donegal	3	9	12	2.8%
Waterford/Wexford	4	7	11	2.6%
Cavan/Monaghan	0	7	7	1.6%
Kerry	6	0	6	1.4%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	2	3	5	1.2%
Mayo	0	1	1	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 2.3 SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITY DATA (Child Protection & Welfare)

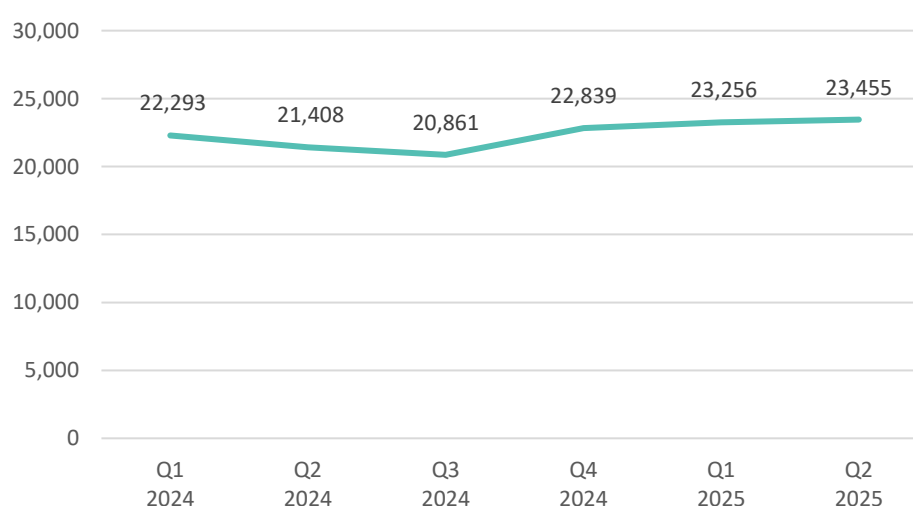
### Key Facts

- **23,455 cases open to social work nationally at the end of Q2 2025**, 199 (<1%) more than Q1 2025 (23,256) and 2,047 (10%) more than Q2 2024 (21,408).
- **79% (18,468) of open cases were allocated** to a worker at the end of Q2 2025, down two percentage points from Q1 2025 (81%).
- **4,987 (21%) cases were awaiting allocation**, 530 (12%) more than Q1 2025 (4,457) and 88 (2%) more than Q2 2024 (4,899).
- Five areas account for 70% (3,491) of cases awaiting allocation, Cork (990), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (942), Dublin South Central (686), Midlands (521) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (352).
- **49% (2,435) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2025 were “active” on a duty system.**
- **4% (189) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2025 were categorised as high priority**, 54 (22%) fewer than Q1 2025 (243) and 311 (62%) fewer than Q2 2024 (500).
- 67% (3,323) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 27% (1,327) were low priority while the remaining 3% (148) were awaiting categorisation.
- **73% (3,649) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2025 were waiting three months or less** and of these 49% (1,799) were waiting less than one month.
- 79% (148) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2025 were waiting 3 months or less and of these 62% (92) were waiting less than one month.

### 2.3.1 Open Cases

- 23,455 cases open<sup>2</sup> to social work nationally at the end of Q2 2025, 199 (<1%) more than Q1 2025 (23,256) and 2,047 (10%) more than Q2 2024 (21,408).

Number of open cases by quarter



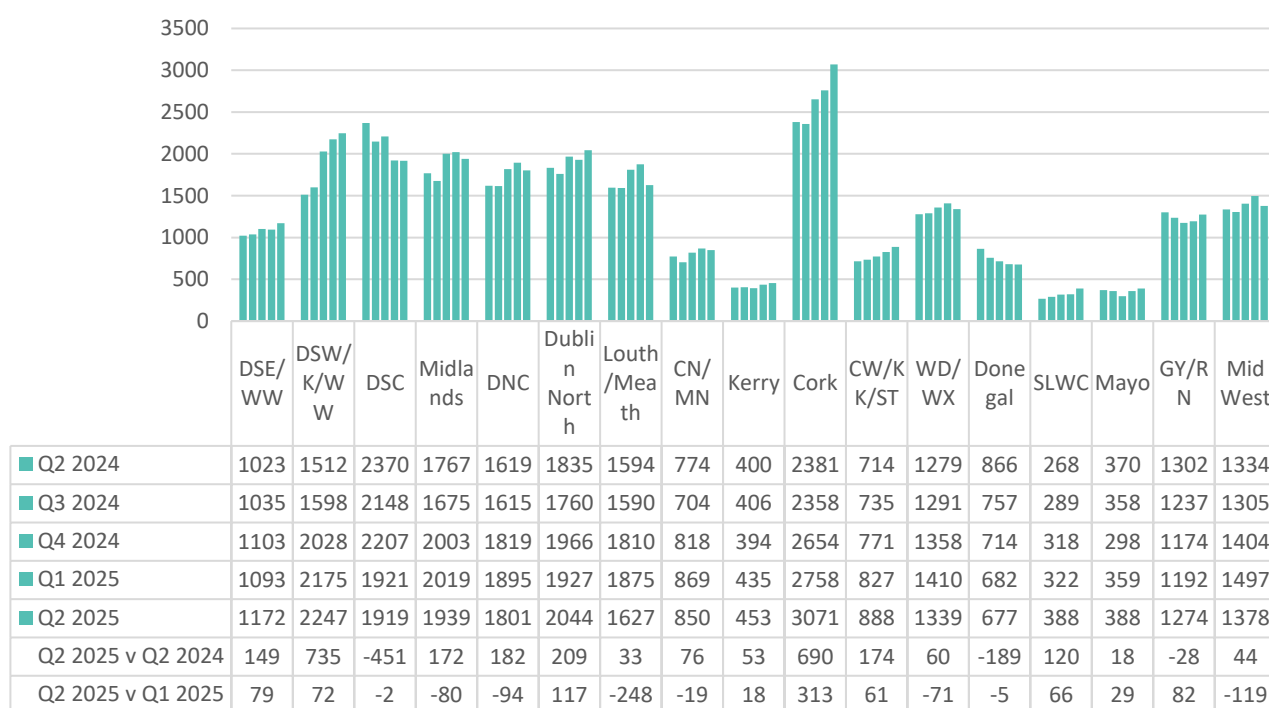
- The number of open cases ranged from 3,071 (13%) in Cork to 388 (2%) in Mayo and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan. Eight of the 17 areas had between 1,000 and 2,000 cases; a

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

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

- 9 of the 17 areas reported an increase in open cases from Q1 2025. The largest increase was reported by Cork (up 313) followed by Dublin North (up 117), Galway/Roscommon (up 82) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (up 79).
- Of the eight areas that reported a decrease, the largest decrease was reported by Louth/Meath (down 248) followed by Midwest (down 119) and Dublin North City (down 94).

Number of open cases by area



### 2.3.2 Open Cases Allocated / Awaiting Allocation

- 79% (18,468) of open cases were allocated to a worker at the end of Q2 2025, down two percentage points from Q1 2025 (81%).

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

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



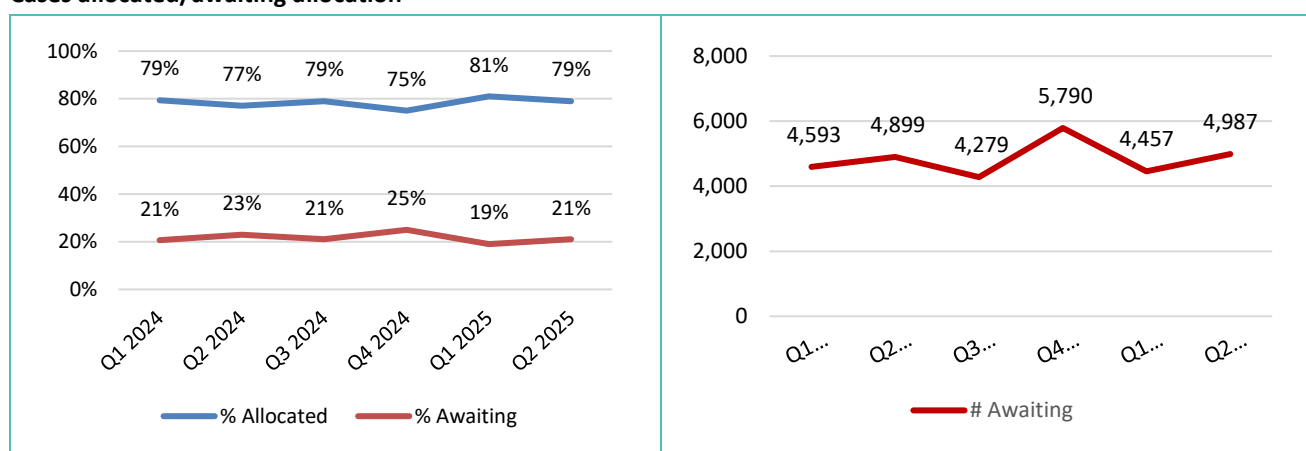
- Of the cases allocated (18,468) at the end of Q2 2025, 81% (14,878) were allocated to a social worker and 19% (3,590) were allocated to a another professional (see table below)

**Breakdown of allocated cases by allocated to a social worker and allocated to another professional and area, Q2 2025**

Area	Allocated Social Worker	Allocated Other Professional	Total	% Allocated Social Worker	% Allocated Other Professional	Total
Dublin South East/Wicklow	668	152	820	81%	19%	100%
DSW/K/WW	883	422	1305	68%	32%	100%
Dublin South Central	864	369	1233	70%	30%	100%
Midlands	1175	243	1418	83%	17%	100%
Dublin North City	1174	336	1510	78%	22%	100%
Dublin North	1562	218	1780	88%	12%	100%
Louth/Meath	1001	356	1357	74%	26%	100%
Cavan/Monaghan	562	165	727	77%	23%	100%
Kerry	333	107	440	76%	24%	100%
Cork	1891	190	2081	91%	9%	100%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	424	295	719	59%	41%	100%
Waterford/Wexford	902	246	1148	79%	21%	100%
Donegal	525	98	623	84%	16%	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	351	19	370	95%	5%	100%
Mayo	353	26	379	93%	7%	100%
Galway/Roscommon	1186	70	1256	94%	6%	100%
Midwest	1024	278	1302	79%	21%	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,878</b>	<b>3,590</b>	<b>18,468</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>100%</b>

- 4,987 (21%) cases were awaiting allocation, 530 (12%) more than Q1 2025 (4,457) and 88 (2%) more than Q2 2024 (4,899).
- 49% (2,435) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2025 were “active” on a duty system<sup>3</sup>.

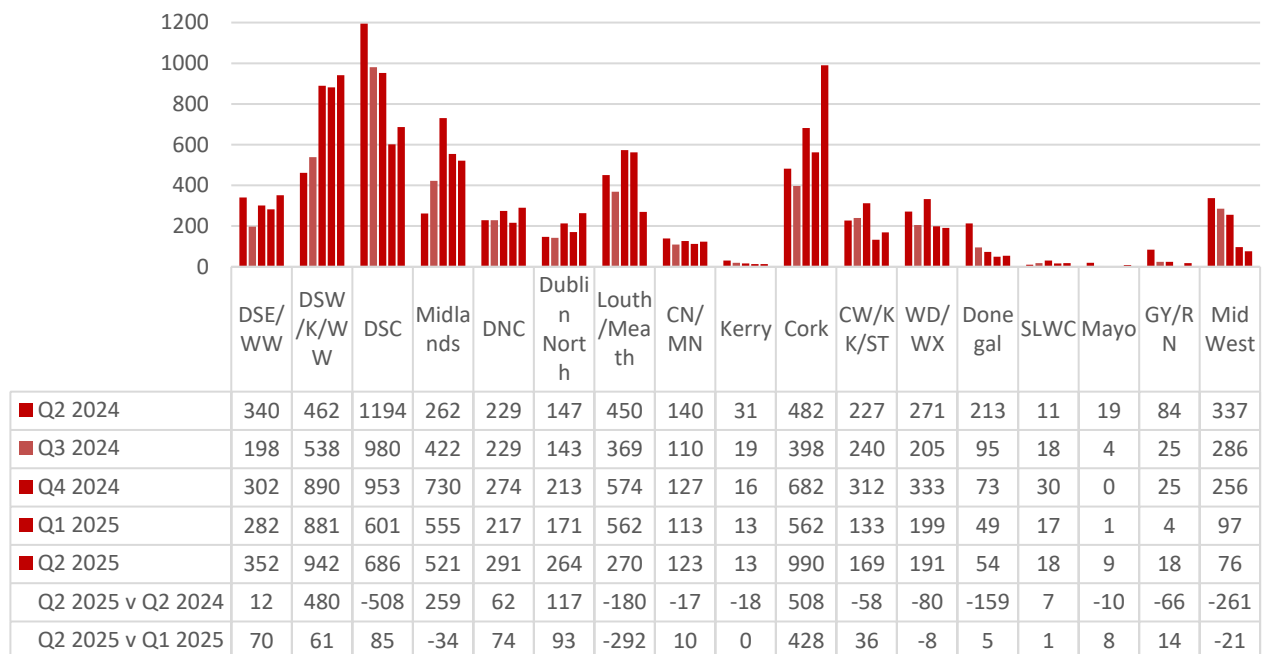
**Cases allocated/awaiting allocation**



<sup>3</sup> 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.

- Cork reported the highest number of cases awaiting allocation (990) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (942), Dublin South Central (686), Midlands (521) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (352). These five areas account for 70% (3,491) of cases awaiting allocation.
- 12 of the 17 areas reported an increase in cases awaiting allocation from Q1 2025 with the largest increases reported by Cork (up 428), Dublin North (up 93) and Dublin South Central (up 85).
- 4 of the 17 areas reported a decrease in cases awaiting allocation from Q1 2025 with the largest decrease reported by Louth/Meath (down 292) followed to a lesser extent by Midlands (down 34) and Midwest (down 21).
- The remaining area (Kerry) reported no change from Q1 2025.

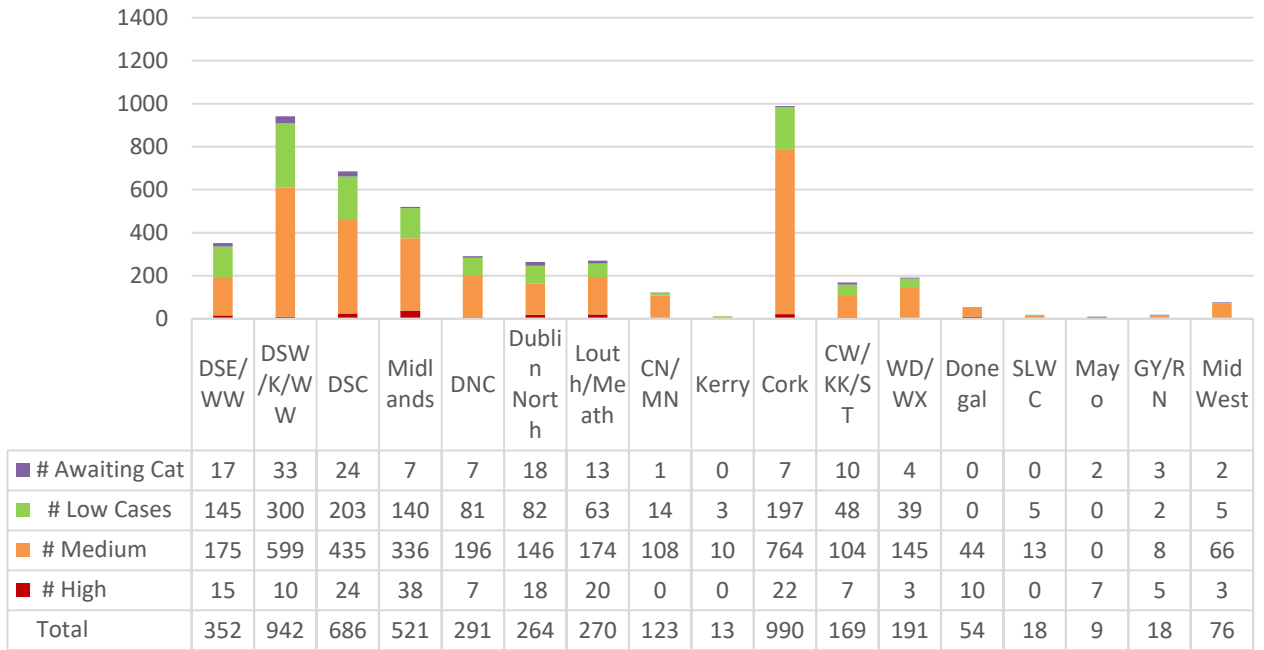
**Number of open cases awaiting allocation by area**



### 2.3.3 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Priority Level

- 4% (189) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2025 were categorised as high priority, 54 (22%) fewer than Q1 2025 (243) and 311 (62%) fewer than Q2 2024 (500).
- 67% (3,323) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 27% (1,327) were low priority while the remaining 3% (148) were awaiting categorisation.
- The highest number of high priority cases was reported by Midlands (38) followed by Dublin South Central (24), Cork (22), Louth/Meath (20) and Dublin North (18). These five areas account for 65% (122) of all high priority cases awaiting.

Number Unallocated Cases by Priority Level



#### 2.3.4 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Waiting Time

- 73% (3,649) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2025 were waiting three months or less and of these 49% (1,799) were waiting less than one month.
- 79% (148) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2025 were waiting 3 months or less and of these 62% (92) were waiting less than one month.

Breakdown of cases awaiting allocation by priority level and time waiting

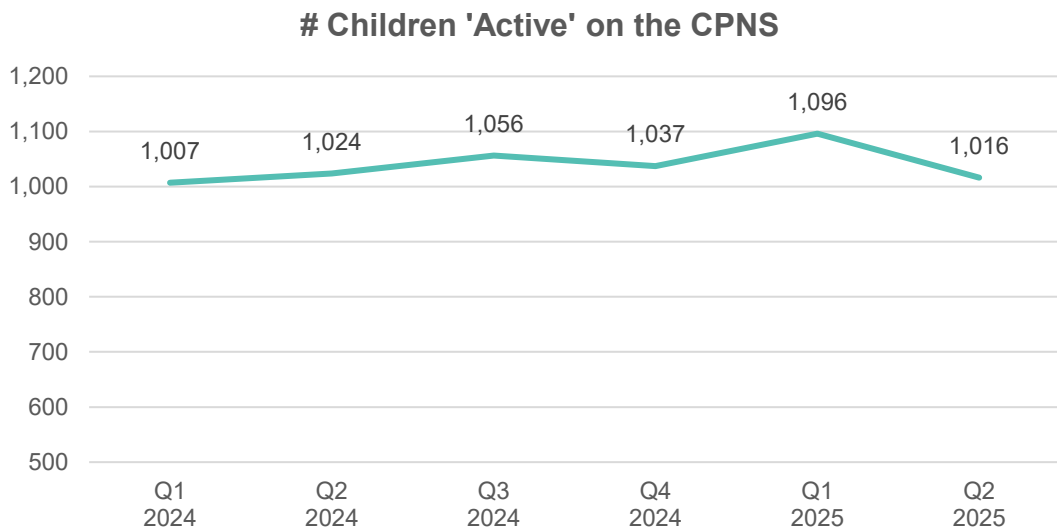
Time Waiting	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q1 2025
<1 month	1,366 (28%)	1,533 (36%)	1,922 (33%)	1,841 (41.3%)	1,799 (36%)
1-3 months	1,648 (34%)	885 (21%)	2,098 (36%)	1,595 (35.8%)	1,850 (37%)
>3 months	1,885 (38%)	1,861 (43%)	1,770 (31%)	1,021 (22.9%)	1,336 (27%)
Total	4,899 (100%)	4,279 (100%)	5,790 (100%)	4,457 (100%)	4,985 (100%)*

\*Length of time awaiting not available for two cases for Q2 2025

## 2.4 CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

### KEY FACTS

- **1,016 children listed as ‘active’ on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)** at the end of Q2 2025, 80 (7%) fewer than Q1 2025 (1,096) and 8 (<1%) fewer than Q2 2024 (1,024).
  - **80% (809/1,016)** of children were listed as ‘active’ for no longer than 12 months, down from 84% (924/1,096) at the end of Q1 2025.
  - **7% (74/1,016)** of children were listed as ‘active’ for > 18 months, up slightly from 6% (63/1,096) at the end of Q2 2025.
  - **98% (1,000)** of all children listed as ‘active’ at the end of Q2 2025 had an **allocated social worker**. Sixteen children were awaiting allocation to a social worker, of which five were subsequently allocated.
- 1,016 children listed as ‘active’ on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)<sup>4</sup> at the end of Q2 2025, 80 (7%) fewer than Q1 2025 (1,096) and 8 (<1%) fewer than Q2 2024 (1,024).



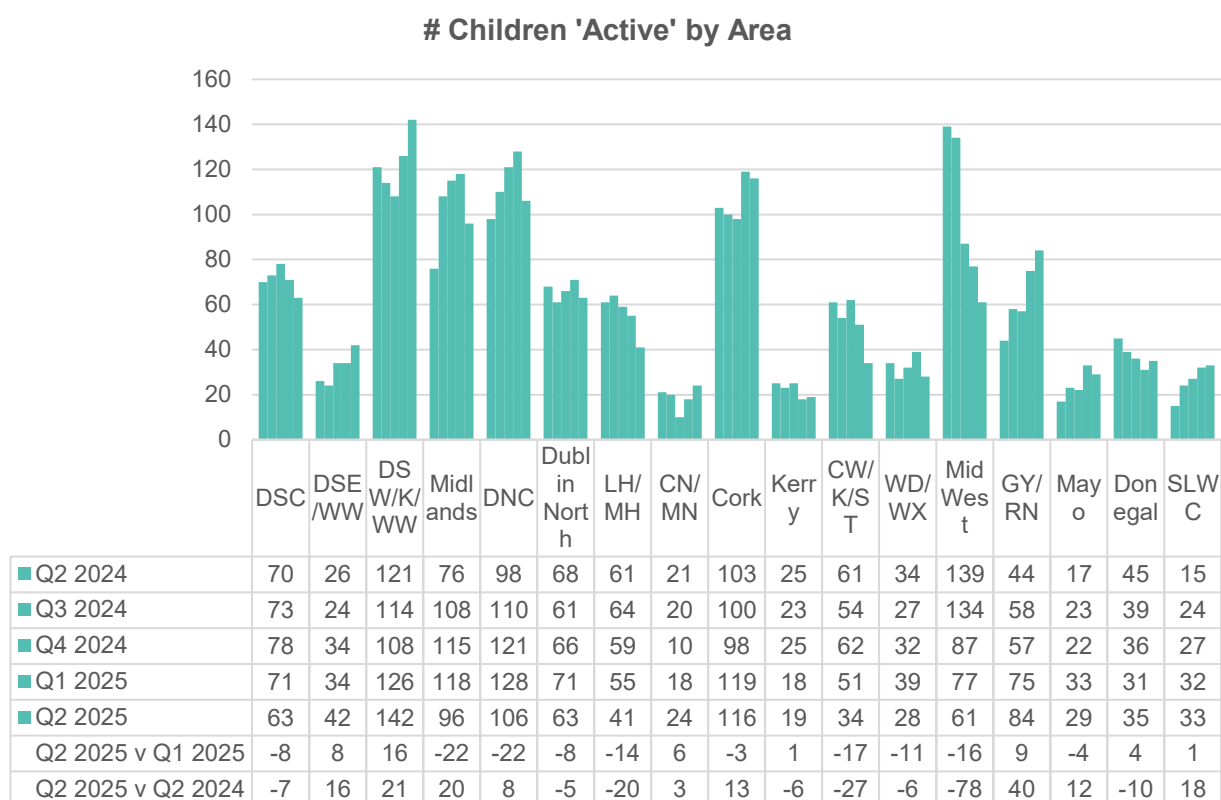
- The number listed as ‘active’ equates to about eight children per 10,000 under 18 years and ranges from 4.0/10,000 in Waterford/Wexford to 21.7/10,000 in Dublin North City, more than double the national average. Nine areas reported a rate equal to or higher than the national average.
- Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow reported the highest number (142) of children ‘active’, followed by Cork (116) and Dublin North City (106).

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

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

Area	Q2 2025	Population	Rate/10,000
Dublin North City	106	48,909	21.7
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	33	24,312	13.6
Dublin South West / Kildare / West Wicklow	142	108,927	13.0
Midlands	96	80,962	11.9
Galway / Roscommon	84	81,799	10.3
Mayo	29	31,911	9.1
Dublin South Central	63	70,259	9.0
Cork	116	136,786	8.5
Donegal	35	42,144	8.3
Cavan / Monaghan	24	37,336	6.4
Midwest	61	96,764	6.3
Dublin North	63	104,281	6.0
Carlow / Kilkenny / South Tipperary	34	62,366	5.5
Kerry	19	34,994	5.4
Dublin South East / Wicklow	42	91,047	4.6
Louth / Meath	41	96,531	4.2
Waterford / Wexford	28	69,239	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,016</b>	<b>1,218,567</b>	<b>8.3</b>

- 7/17 areas reported an increase in the number 'active' from Q1 2025. The largest increases were reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 16), Galway/Roscommon (up 9) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (up 8).
- 10/17 areas reported a decrease in the number 'active' from Q1 2025. The largest decreases were reported by Dublin North City (down 22), Midlands (down 22), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 17) and Midwest (down 16).
- 9/17 areas had more children 'active' at the end of Q2 2025 than at the end of Q2 2024. Largest increases reported by Galway/Roscommon (up 40), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 21), Midlands (up 20) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (up 18).
- 8/17 areas had fewer children 'active' at the end of Q2 2025 than at the end of Q2 2024. Largest decreases reported by Midwest (down 78), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 27), Louth/Meath (down 20) and Donegal (down 10).



- 59% (600/1,016) of children listed as 'active' at the end of Q2 2025 were listed for 0-6 months, down slightly from 60% (659/1,096) at the end of Q1 2025.
- 80% (809/1,016) of children were listed as 'active' for no longer than 12 months, down from 84% (924/1,096) at the end of Q1 2025.
- 7% (74/1,016) of children were listed as 'active' for > 18 months, up slightly from 6% (63/1,096) at the end of Q2 2025.
- 7 areas (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary, Cavan/Monaghan, Dublin South Central, Kerry, Mayo, Midlands and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) had no child 'active' for longer than 18 months.
- The areas reporting the largest number of children 'active' for > 18 months were, Dublin North City (20), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (18) and Dublin North (11)
- 98% (1,000) of all children listed as 'active' at the end of Q2 2025 had an allocated social worker. Sixteen children were awaiting allocation to a social worker, of which five were subsequently allocated.

## 3.0 ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

### KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

#### 3.1 Children in Care (Foster Care / Residential Care)

#### 3.2 Aftercare

#### 3.3 Adoption

#### 3.4 Foster Carers

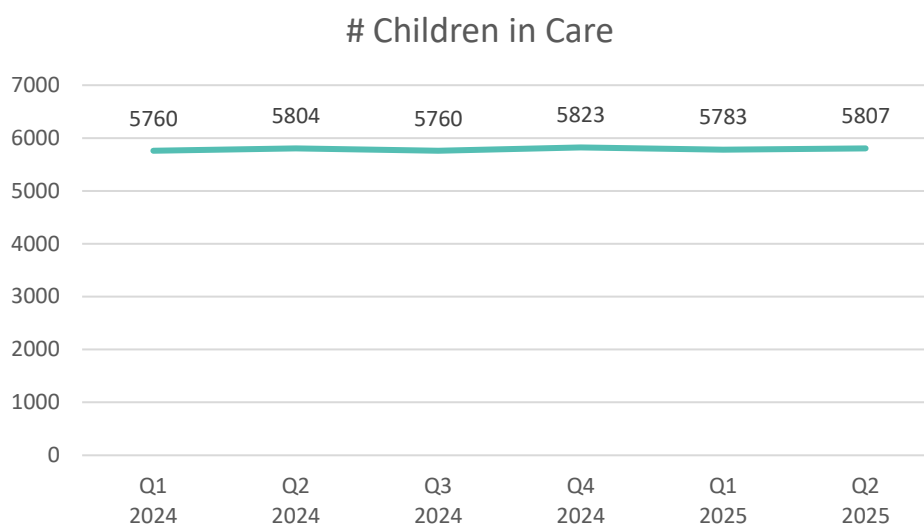
### 3.1 CHILDREN IN CARE (FOSTER CARE / RESIDENTIAL CARE)

#### KEY FACTS

- **5,807 children in care at the end of Q2 2025**, 24 (<1%) more than Q1 2025 (5,783) and 3 (<1%) more than Q2 2024 (5,804). This figure (5,807) includes 108 children reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.
- **86.8% (5,043) of children in care (17 Areas + SCSIP) were in foster care (general, relative)** at the end of Q2 2025 and 9.6% (556) were in a residential care (general and special care) placement. The remaining 3.6% (208) of children were in “Other” care placements. *“Other” includes at home under a care order, supported lodgings, detention centre, disability unit, hospital, special emergency arrangement, not specified etc.*
- Across the 17 Areas, 88.1% (5,023/5,699) were in foster care, 8.3% (475) were in residential care and the remaining 3.5% (201) were in “other” care placements.
- **1,077 (18.5%) children in care at the end of Q2 2025 were in placements with private providers**, 39 (4%) more than Q1 2025 (1,038) and 131 (14%) more than Q2 2024 (946).
- **98% (5,667) of children in care at the end of Q2 2025 had an allocated social worker / other professional**. A total of 140 children were awaiting allocation of worker at the end of Q2 2025, 48 (52%) more than Q1 2025 (92). *Refer to context on page 35.*
- **83% (4,804) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan**, no change from Q1 2025. A total of 1,003 (17%) of children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 37 (4%) more than Q1 2025 (966).
- **96% (3,549/3,709) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education** at the end of Q2 2025, down one percentage point from Q1 2025 (97%).
- **93% (928/996) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education** at the end of Q2 2025, no change from Q1 2025.

#### 3.1.1 Number of Children in Care

- 5,807 children in care at the end of Q2 2025, 24 (<1%) more than Q1 2025 (5,783) and 3 (<1%) more than Q2 2024 (5,804). *This figure (5,807) includes 108 children reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.*



- Across the 17 areas the number of children in care ranged from 656 in Cork to 117 in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan.
- Dublin North City reported the highest rate of children in care per 1,000 population under 18 years (9.7), more than double the national rate 4.7, followed by Waterford/Wexford (5.9), and Donegal (5.8). Lowest rate reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (2.2) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (3.8) and Dublin North (4.0).

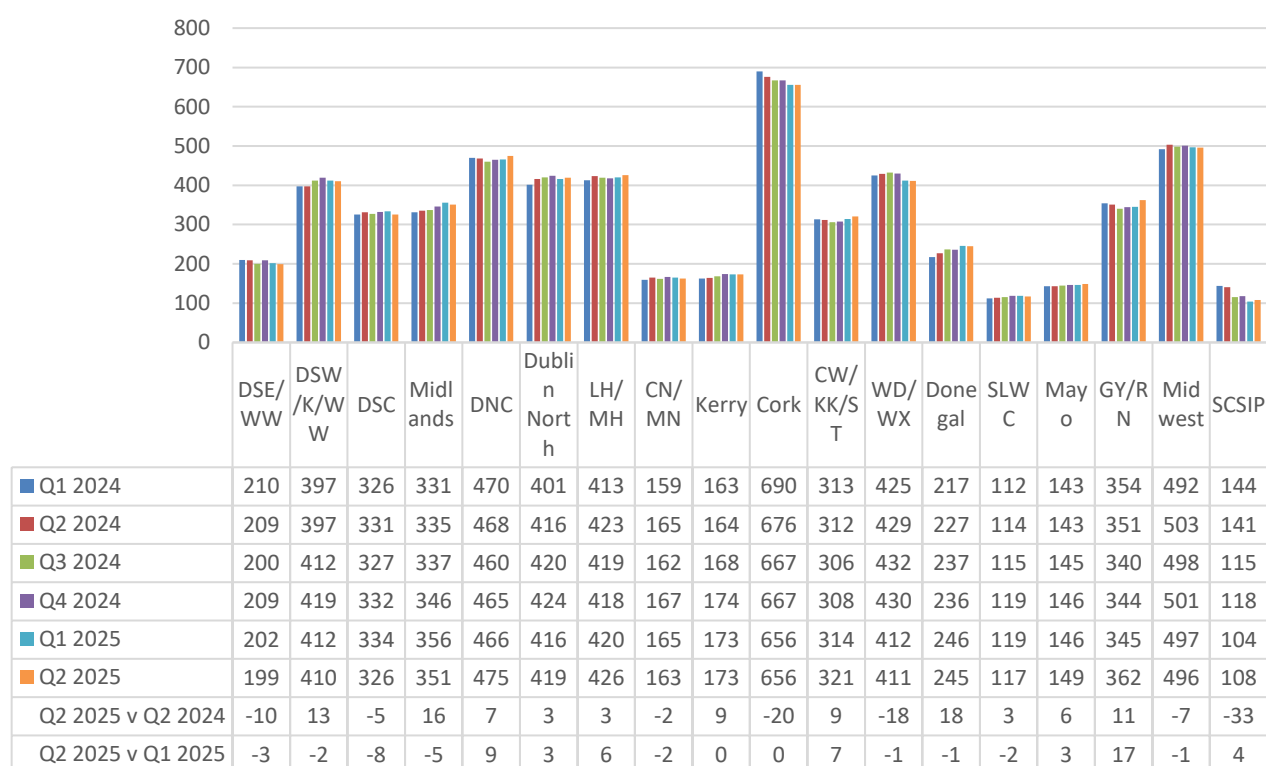
**Number of children in care and rate per 1,000 population 0-17 years (ranked by rate)**

Area	# Children in care Q2 2025	0-17 population (Census 2022)	No of CIC/1,000 population 0-17
Dublin North City	475	48,909	9.7
Waterford/Wexford	411	69,239	5.9
Donegal	245	42,144	5.8
CW/KK/ST	321	62,366	5.1
Midwest	496	96,764	5.1
Kerry	173	34,994	4.9
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	117	24,312	4.8
Cork	656	136,786	4.8
Mayo	149	31,911	4.7
Dublin South Central	326	70,259	4.6
Galway/Roscommon	362	81,799	4.4
Louth/Meath	426	96,531	4.4
Cavan/Monaghan	163	37,336	4.4
Midlands	351	80,962	4.3
Dublin North	419	104,281	4.0
DSW/K/WW	410	108,927	3.8
Dublin South East/Wicklow	199	91,047	2.2
<b>Total Areas</b>	<b>5,699</b>	<b>1,218,567</b>	<b>4.7</b>



- 6 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported an increase in children in care from Q1 2025. Largest increases reported by Galway/Roscommon (up 17), Dublin North City (up 9) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (up 7).
- 9 areas reported a decrease from Q1 2025, with the largest decreases reported by Dublin South Central (down 8), Midlands (down 5) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (down 3).
- The remaining two areas (Kerry and Cork) reported no change.
- 11 areas had more children in care at the end of Q2 2025 than at the end of Q2 2024, largest increases reported by Donegal (up 18), Midlands (up 16), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (13) and Galway/Roscommon (up 11).
- 6 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported a decrease with the largest decreases reported by SCSIP (down 33), Cork (down 20) and Waterford/Wexford (down 18).

#### Breakdown of the number of children in care in each area



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

- 86.8% (5,043) of children in care (17 Areas + SCSIP) were in foster care (general, relative) at the end of Q2 2025 and 9.6% (556) were in a residential care (general and special care) placement. The remaining 3.6% (208) of children were in “Other” care placements. “Other” includes at home under a care order, supported lodgings, detention centre, disability unit, hospital, special emergency arrangement, not specified etc.
- Across the 17 Areas, 88.1% (5,023/5,699) were in foster care, 8.3% (475) were in residential care and the remaining 3.5% (201) were in “other” care placements.

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

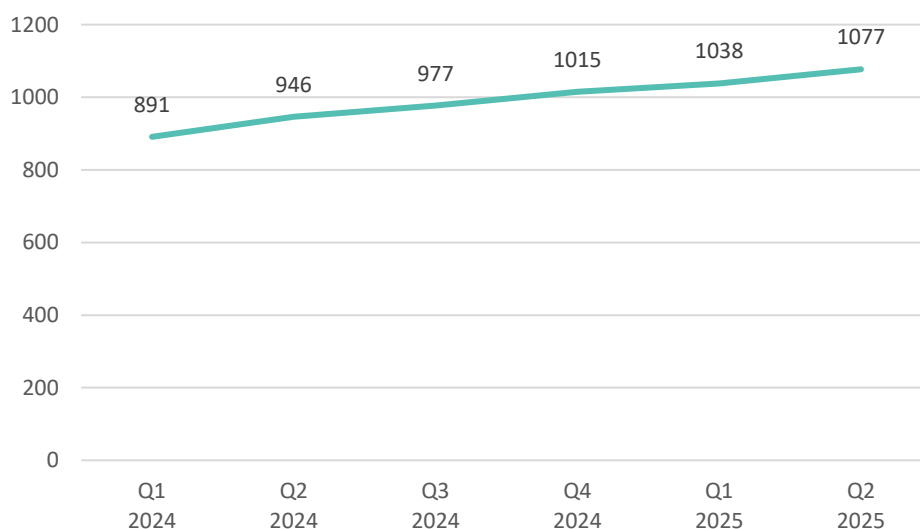
	Foster Care General	Δ+/- prev Q	Foster Care Relative	Δ+/- prev Q	Residential Care Gen	Δ+/- prev Q	Residential Special	Δ+/- prev Q	Other Care	Δ+/- prev Q	Total	Δ+/- prev Q
Q2 2024	3,599		1,473		473		15		244		5,804	
Q3 2024	3,581	-18	1,454	-19	486	+13	15	0	224	-20	5,760	-44
Q4 2024	3,581	0	1,496	+42	530	+44	13	-2	203	-21	5,823	+63
Q1 2025	3,543	-38	1,498	+2	538	+8	14	+1	190	-13	5,783	-40
Q2 2025	3,563	+20	1,480	-18	542	+4	14	0	208	+18	5,807	+24

- 17 (0.3%) children were in out of State placements at the end of Q2 2025, one fewer than Q1 2025 (18). These children are included in the figures for the various care types set out in the table above.

### 3.1.3 Children in Placements with Private Providers

- 1,077 (18.5%) children in care at the end of Q2 2025 were in placements with private providers<sup>5</sup>, 39 (4%) more than Q1 2025 (1,038) and 131 (14%) more than Q2 2024 (946).

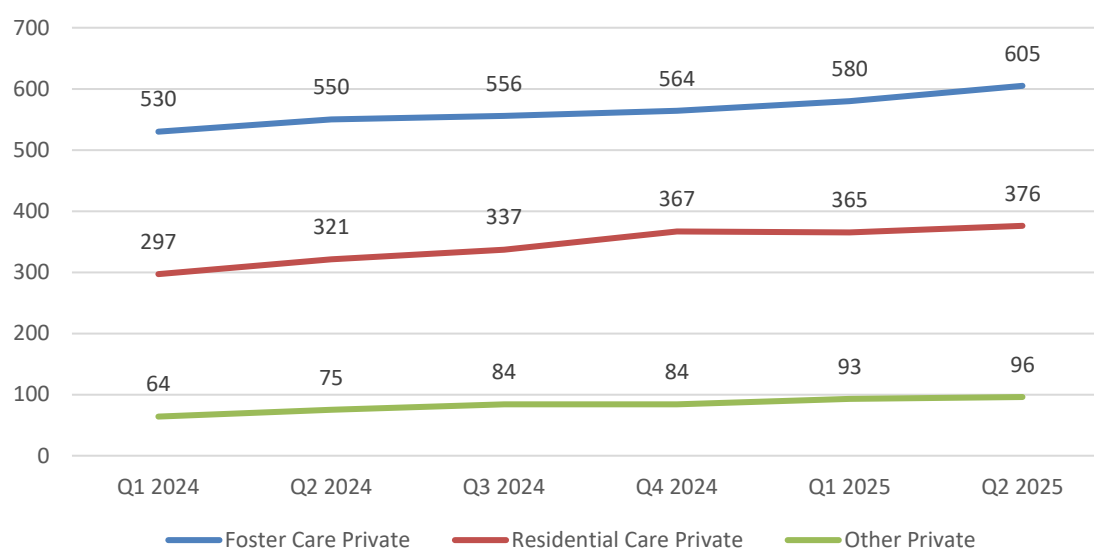
Number of children in placements with private providers



- 56% (605) of children in placements with private providers were in foster care, up 25 (4%) from Q1 2025 (580) and 55 (10%) from Q2 2024 (550).
- 35% (376) were in residential placements, 11 (3%) more than Q1 2025 (365) and 55 (17%) more than Q2 2024 (321).
- The remaining 9% (96) were in “Other” care placements, up 3 (3%) from Q1 2025 (93) and 21 (28%) from Q2 2024 (75). “Other” care placements include, disability units, mental health units, drugs and alcohol rehabilitation centres etc.

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

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



- The highest number of children in care in placements with private providers is reported by Dublin North City (141) followed by Dublin North (126), Dublin South West/Kildare West Wicklow (123), Dublin South Central (116), and Midlands (105). These five areas account for 57% (611) of all children in placements with private providers.
- 10 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported an increase from Q1 2025 in children in placements with private providers with the largest increases reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 11), Midlands (up 8) and Service for SCSIP (up 6). Five areas reported a decrease with the largest decrease reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (down 4) and Galway/Roscommon (down 3). The remaining two areas (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan and Mayo) reported no change.

### Number of children in placements with private providers, by area

Area	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q2 v Q1
Dublin North City	119	123	129	138	141	3
Dublin North	102	117	122	122	126	4
DSW/K/WW	109	113	118	112	123	11
Dublin South Central	110	113	113	118	116	-2
Midlands	80	83	87	97	105	8
SCSIP	71	63	72	67	73	6
Cork	60	57	55	60	65	5
Waterford/Wexford	46	51	53	51	56	5
Louth/Meath	51	53	53	52	53	1
Dublin South East/Wicklow	51	50	52	50	46	-4
Midwest	39	41	41	40	44	4
Kerry	33	32	33	32	34	2
Donegal	18	20	22	28	30	2
CW/KK/ST	22	22	25	27	25	-2
Galway/Roscommon	14	16	16	19	16	-3

SLWC	12	12	14	15	<b>15</b>	0
Cavan/Monaghan	8	8	9	8	<b>7</b>	-1
Mayo	1	3	1	2	<b>2</b>	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>977</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>1,038</b>	<b>1,077</b>	<b>39</b>

### 3.1.4 Children in Care with an Allocated Worker

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

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

- 98% (5,667) of children in care at the end of Q2 2025 had an allocated social worker / other professional.
- 140 children were awaiting allocation of worker at the end of Q2 2025, 48 (52%) more than Q1 2025 (92).

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

Care Type	CIC Q1 2025	Allocated Q1 2025	% Allocated Q1 2025	CIC Q2 2025	Allocated Q2 2025	% Allocated Q2 2025
Foster Care (General)	3,543	3,486	<b>98%</b>	3,563	3,474	<b>98%</b>
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,498	1,467	<b>98%</b>	1,480	1,438	<b>97%</b>
Residential Care (General)	538	534	<b>99%</b>	542	536	<b>99%</b>
Residential Special Care	14	14	<b>100%</b>	14	14	<b>100%</b>
Other Placements	190	190	<b>100%</b>	208	205	<b>99%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,783</b>	<b>5,691</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>5,807</b>	<b>5,667</b>	<b>98%</b>

- 88% (5,004) of children allocated were allocated to a social worker and 12% (663) were allocated to another professional. A breakdown of children allocated by role type and area is presented in the table below.

Area	Allocated SW	% Allocated SW	Allocated OP	% Allocated OP	Total Allocated
SCSIP	104	<b>100.0%</b>	0	<b>0.0%</b>	104
Galway/Roscommon	355	<b>98.9%</b>	4	<b>1.1%</b>	359
Kerry	169	<b>97.7%</b>	4	<b>2.3%</b>	173
Cavan/Monaghan	159	<b>97.5%</b>	4	<b>2.5%</b>	163
Dublin South East/Wicklow	190	<b>97.4%</b>	5	<b>2.6%</b>	195
Cork	605	<b>97.4%</b>	16	<b>2.6%</b>	621
Midlands	338	<b>96.6%</b>	12	<b>3.4%</b>	350
Mayo	139	<b>93.3%</b>	10	<b>6.7%</b>	149
Dublin North	378	<b>92.0%</b>	33	<b>8.0%</b>	411
Dublin North City	435	<b>91.6%</b>	40	<b>8.4%</b>	475

Waterford/Wexford	374	91.4%	35	8.6%	409
Donegal	221	90.6%	23	9.4%	244
Louth/Meath	361	90.0%	40	10.0%	401
Dublin South Central	263	87.4%	38	12.6%	301
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	100	87.0%	15	13.0%	115
DSW/K/WW	302	79.1%	80	20.9%	382
Mid West	351	71.1%	143	28.9%	494
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	160	49.8%	161	50.2%	321
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,004</b>	<b>88.3%</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>11.7%</b>	<b>5,667</b>

- 5 of the 17 areas report no cases awaiting allocation with a further eight areas and the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection reporting fewer than 10 cases awaiting allocation.
- The remaining four areas account for 81% (13) of cases awaiting allocation, Cork (35), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (28), Louth/Meath (25) and Dublin South Central (25),

Area	Total Allocated	% Allocated	Awaiting Allocation	% Awaiting Allocation	Total
Kerry	173	100.0%	0	0.0%	173
Cavan/Monaghan	163	100.0%	0	0.0%	163
Mayo	149	100.0%	0	0.0%	149
Dublin North City	475	100.0%	0	0.0%	475
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	321	100.0%	0	0.0%	321
Midlands	350	99.7%	1	0.3%	351
Mid West	494	99.6%	2	0.4%	496
Donegal	244	99.6%	1	0.4%	245
Waterford/Wexford	409	99.5%	2	0.5%	411
Galway/Roscommon	359	99.2%	3	0.8%	362
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	115	98.3%	2	1.7%	117
Dublin North	411	98.1%	8	1.9%	419
Dublin South East/Wicklow	195	98.0%	4	2.0%	199
SCSIP	104	96.3%	4	3.7%	108
Cork	621	94.7%	35	5.3%	656
Louth/Meath	401	94.1%	25	5.9%	426
DSW/K/WW	382	93.2%	28	6.8%	410
Dublin South Central	301	92.3%	25	7.7%	326
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,667</b>	<b>97.6%</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>5,807</b>

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

- 83% (4,804) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan, no change from Q1 2025.
- A total of 1,003 (17%) of children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 37 (4%) more than Q1 2025 (966).

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

Care Type	CIC Q1 2025	No. with UTD CP Q1 2025	% with UTD CP Q1 2025	CIC Q2 2025	No. with UTD CP Q2 2025	% with UTD CP Q2 2025
Foster Care General	3,543	3,023	85%	3,563	2,996	84%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,498	1,264	84%	1,480	1,239	84%
Residential Care General	538	394	73%	542	422	79%
Residential Special Care	14	11	79%	14	10	71%
Other Placements	190	125	66%	208	137	66%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,783</b>	<b>4,817</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>5,807</b>	<b>4,804</b>	<b>83%</b>

- The percentage of children with an up-to-date care plan ranged from 99% (Midlands) to 63% (Dublin South Central).
- The areas with the highest numbers of children awaiting an up-to-date plan are Dublin North City (132; 28%), Dublin South Central (121; 37%), Midwest (115; 23%), Cork (107; 16%) and Louth/Meath (103; 24.2%).

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

Area	No in Care Q1 2025	No with a care plan Q1 2025	% with a care plan Q1 2025	No in Care Q2 2025	No with a care plan Q2 2025	% with a care plan Q2 2025	# Awaiting a Plan
Midlands	356	350	98.3%	351	350	99.7%	1
Donegal	246	229	93.1%	245	235	95.9%	10
CW/KK/ST	314	296	94.3%	321	306	95.3%	15
WD/WX	412	380	92.2%	411	382	92.9%	29
Mayo	146	130	89.0%	149	136	91.3%	13
SLWC	119	100	84.0%	117	106	90.6%	11
CN/MN	165	136	82.4%	163	144	88.3%	19
DSW/K/WW	412	352	85.4%	410	362	88.3%	48
Cork	656	587	89.5%	656	549	83.7%	107
GY/RN	345	298	86.4%	362	295	81.5%	67
Dublin North	416	344	82.7%	419	338	80.7%	81
Kerry	173	150	86.7%	173	138	79.8%	35
Midwest	497	385	77.5%	496	381	76.8%	115
LH/MH	420	312	74.3%	426	323	75.8%	103
SCSIP Service	104	69	66.3%	108	79	73.1%	29
DNC	466	339	72.7%	475	343	72.2%	132
DSE/WW	202	154	76.2%	199	132	66.3%	67
DSC	334	206	61.7%	326	205	62.9%	121
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,783</b>	<b>4,817</b>	<b>83.3%</b>	<b>5,807</b>	<b>4,804</b>	<b>82.7%</b>	<b>1,003</b>

### 3.1.6 Children in Care in Education

- 96% (3,549/3,709) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education at the end of Q2 2025, down one percentage point from Q1 2025 (97%).
- All but two areas (Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow and Dublin South Central) reporting 90% or higher with one area (Louth/Meath) reporting 100%.
- 69% (2,449) of children 6-15 years were in primary school, 25% (896) were in post primary school and 4% (134) were in special education. There were a further 70 (2%) spread across boarding school, education training facility, home tuition, pre-school and Other (not specified).
- 93% (928/996) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of Q2 2025, no change from Q1 2025.
- 13/17 areas reporting 90% or higher.
- 85% (790) of young people 16 & 17 years were in post primary school, 7% (61) were in special education and 5% (42) were attending an educational training facility. There were a further 35 (4%) spread across boarding school, home tuition and other (not specified).

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

Area	No of CIC 6-15 years Q1 2025	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q1 2025	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q1 2025	No of CIC 6-15 years Q2 2025	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q2 2025	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q2 2025
DSE/WW	125	122	98%	120	117	98%
DSW/K/WW	259	234	90%	256	227	89%
DSC	213	189	89%	209	185	89%
Midlands	251	246	98%	251	243	97%
Dublin North City	278	271	97%	277	268	97%
Dublin North	292	286	98%	295	280	95%
LH/MH	293	291	99%	300	300	100%
CN/MN	110	109	99%	111	109	98%
Kerry	103	102	99%	100	98	98%
Cork	442	437	99%	442	420	95%
CW/K/ST	202	198	98%	204	197	97%
WD/WX	252	249	99%	248	240	97%
Donegal	152	142	93%	154	140	91%
SLWC	79	75	95%	76	71	93%
Mayo	96	96	100%	97	95	98%
GY/RN	226	214	95%	236	230	97%
Mid West	337	337	100%	333	329	99%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,710</b>	<b>3,598</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>3,709</b>	<b>3,549</b>	<b>96%</b>

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

Area	No of CIC 16-17 yrs Q1 2025	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q1 2025	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q1 2025	No of CIC 16-17 yrs Q2 2025	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q2 2025	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q2 2025
DSE/WW	40	36	90%	39	38	97%
DSW/K/WW	78	69	88%	78	70	90%
DSC	57	50	88%	56	50	89%
Midlands	52	47	90%	48	41	85%
DNC	76	70	92%	78	75	96%
Dublin North	67	61	91%	67	62	93%
LH/MH	71	68	96%	75	75	100%
CN/MN	30	29	97%	24	24	100%
Kerry	35	34	97%	36	35	97%
Cork	122	118	97%	122	113	93%
CW/K/ST	58	57	98%	61	59	97%
WD/WX	76	72	95%	75	68	91%
Donegal	41	37	90%	41	36	88%
SLWC	23	21	91%	24	23	96%
Mayo	17	16	94%	19	18	95%
GY/RN	71	62	87%	74	64	86%
Mid West	77	76	99%	79	77	97%
<b>Total</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>923</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>996</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>93%</b>



## 3.2 AFTERCARE

### KEY FACTS

- **175 referrals** for an aftercare service in Q2 2025. This brings to 347 the number of referrals for the first six months of 2025, 37 (12%) more than the same period in 2024 (310).
- **2,984 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services** at the end of Q2 2025, no change from Q1 2025 and 57 (2%) more than Q2 2024 (2,927). *Figures include young persons < 18 years and those 18-22 years inclusive.*
- **79% (1,782/2,267)** of those 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q2 2025 were **in education/accredited training**.
- Almost half (44%; 989) of young people 18 – 22 years (2,267) in receipt of aftercare services had remained living with their carers. A further 9% (205) had returned home to parents/family. One in five (24%; 541) was in independent living arrangements.
- **79% (2,369)** of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q2 2025 **had an aftercare plan** up one percentage point from Q1 2025 (78%). A total of 615 were awaiting a plan, 55 (8%) fewer than Q1 2025 (670).
- **89% (1,930/2,172)** of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker **had an aftercare worker** at the end of Q2 2025, up four percentage points from Q1 2025 (85%). A total of 242 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2025, 99 (29%) fewer than Q1 2025 (341).
- 99.5% (193/194) of young people < 18 years assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2025.
- 88% (1,737/1,978) of 18–22-year-olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2025.

### 3.2.1 Referrals for an aftercare service received in the quarter

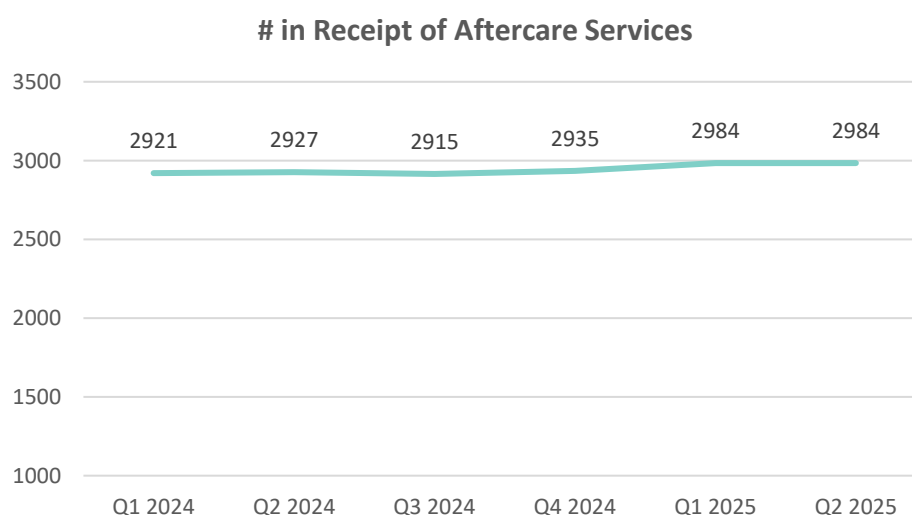
- 175 referrals for an aftercare service in Q2 2025. This brings to 347 the number of referrals for the first six months of 2025, 37 (12%) more than the same period in 2024 (310).
- All referrals for Q2 2025 were eligible for an assessment of need.
- Of those eligible for an assessment of need 97% (170) were <18 years and in care. The remaining five young people were 18-20 years.
- 109 assessments of need were completed in Q2 2025. This brings to 243 the number of assessments completed for the first six months of 2025, 26 (12%) more than Q2 2024 (217).
- A breakdown of referrals by area is presented in the table below.

**Table: Referrals for an Aftercare Service by Area**

Area	2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	2025 YTD
Dublin South Central	30	7	7	14
Dublin South East/Wicklow	24	5	1	6
DSW/K/WW	47	8	16	24
Midlands	21	6	7	13
Dublin North City	45	21	7	28
Dublin North	25	4	11	15
Louth/Meath	30	1	5	6
Cavan/Monaghan	22	5	4	9
Cork	64	24	10	34
Kerry	17	9	4	13
CW/K/ST	36	6	7	13
Waterford/Wexford	40	18	9	27
Mid West	42	5	9	14
Galway/Roscommon	40	2	10	12
Mayo	8	4	3	7
Donegal	12	10	10	20
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	14	3	2	5
SCSIP Service	63	34	53	87
<b>Total</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>347</b>

### 3.2.2 Young Persons / Adults in receipt of an aftercare service

- 2,984 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q2 2025, no change from Q1 2025 and 57 (2%) more than Q2 2024 (2,927). *Figures include young persons < 18 years and those 18-22 years inclusive.*



- Highest number of adults/young people in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q2 2025 reported by Cork (360) followed by Dublin North City (266) and Service for SCSIP (236). Fewest number reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (47) followed by Mayo (71) and Cavan/Monaghan (79).

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q4 2024	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q1 2025	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q2 2025
Dublin South Central	209	213	175
DSE/WW	135	123	118
DSW/K/WW	215	216	221
Midlands	129	129	126
Dublin North City	249	262	266
Dublin North	182	184	177
Louth/Meath	153	134	146
Cavan/Monaghan	77	79	79
Cork	365	388	360
Kerry	87	93	94
CW/K/ST	164	158	144
Waterford/Wexford	161	200	202
Mid West	226	230	230
Galway/Roscommon	208	197	200
Mayo	67	68	71
Donegal	96	95	92
SLWC	50	48	47
SCSIP Service	162	167	236*
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,935</b>	<b>2,984</b>	<b>2,984</b>

\*Increase from Q1 2025 and previous quarters due to the inclusion of a number of young people who were inadvertently excluded previously.

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

- 55% (1,647) of those in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q2 2025 (2,984) were 18 – 20 years inclusive and of these 79% (1,303) were in education/accredited training, no change from Q1 2025 (table below).
- 13 of the 17 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported at least seven out of 10 young people (18-20 years) in receipt of aftercare services in education/accredited training. Two areas (Cavan/Monaghan and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary) reported 100%.
- Rates reported by Waterford/Wexford (60%), Dublin South East/Wicklow (66%) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (67%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# 18-20 years Q1 2025	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 18-20 years Q2 2025	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
Dublin South Central	114	64	56%	100	70	70%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	66	56	85%	71	47	66%
DSW/K/WW	110	78	71%	115	77	67%
Midlands	61	49	80%	67	55	82%
Dublin North City	136	105	77%	131	94	72%
Dublin North	85	46	54%	91	65	71%
Louth/Meath	89	61	69%	87	60	69%
Cavan/Monaghan	43	43	100%	45	45	100%
Cork	191	156	82%	190	156	82%
Kerry	44	31	70%	44	32	73%
CW/K/ST	70	70	100%	73	73	100%
Waterford/Wexford	112	72	64%	116	70	60%
Mid West	141	141	100%	143	130	91%
Galway/Roscommon	104	74	71%	97	72	74%
Mayo	34	29	85%	33	28	85%
Donegal	56	48	86%	52	44	85%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	21	19	90%	25	19	76%
SCSIP Service	128	122	95%	167	166	99%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,605</b>	<b>1,264</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>1,647</b>	<b>1,303</b>	<b>79%</b>

- The highest number of those in education/accredited training were in second level (387; 30%) followed by third level (225; 17%), PLCs (210; 16%) and vocational training (209; 16%).

	# 18-20 years in education/accredited Training Q2 2025	%
<b>Second Level</b>	387	30%
<b>Vocational Training</b>	209	16%
<b>PLCs</b>	210	16%
<b>Third Level College / University</b>	225	17%
<b>Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)</b>	169	13%
<b>Other</b>	103	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,303</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

- 21% (620) of those in receipt of an aftercare service (2,984) were 21 – 22 years inclusive and of these 77% (479) were in education/accredited training, no change from Q1 2025 (table below).
- 12 of the 17 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported 70% or higher with five of these areas (Midlands, Cavan/Monaghan, Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary, Midwest and Donegal) and Service for SCSIP reporting 100%. Rates reported by Dublin South Central

(53%), Dublin North City (56%), Galway/Roscommon (62%) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (65%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# 21-22 years Q1 2025	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 21-22 years Q2 2025	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
Dublin South Central	52	23	44%	36	19	53%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	28	24	86%	24	22	92%
DSW/K/WW	47	31	66%	43	28	65%
Midlands	28	28	100%	23	23	100%
Dublin North City	70	51	73%	75	42	56%
Dublin North	31	26	84%	37	31	84%
Louth/Meath	19	16	84%	21	15	71%
Cavan/Monaghan	13	13	100%	15	15	100%
Cork	74	44	59%	74	51	69%
Kerry	16	13	81%	19	17	89%
CW/K/ST	39	39	100%	18	18	100%
Waterford/Wexford	29	25	86%	31	24	77%
Mid West	41	41	100%	34	34	100%
Galway/Roscommon	66	39	59%	74	46	62%
Mayo	21	18	86%	21	20	95%
Donegal	17	17	100%	15	15	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	13	12	92%	11	10	91%
SCSIP Service	22	21	95%	49	49	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>77%</b>

- 45% (215) of those in education/accredited training were in third level colleges with a further 19% (83) in PLCs, 16% (78) in accredited training and 14% (68) in vocational training.

	# 21-22 years in education/accredited Training Q2 2025	%
<b>Second Level</b>	1	0.2%
<b>Vocational Training</b>	68	14.2%
<b>PLCs</b>	83	19.4%
<b>Third Level College / University</b>	215	44.9%
<b>Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)</b>	78	16.3%
<b>Other</b>	24	5.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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

- Almost half (44%; 989) of young people 18 – 22 years (2,267) in receipt of aftercare services had remained living with their carers. A further 9% (205) had returned home to parents/family. One in five (24%; 541) was in independent living arrangements.

Accommodation	# 18-22 placement type Q2 2025	%
Residential Care Placement	181	8%
Remained with Carers	989	44%
Independent Living	541	24%
Designated Care Leavers Accommodation	33	1%
At home	205	9%
Supported Lodgings	38	2%
Other	280	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,267</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

- 79% (2,369) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q2 2025 had an aftercare plan up one percentage point from Q1 2025 (78%). A total of 615 were awaiting a plan, 55 (8%) fewer than Q1 2025 (670).
- 8 areas reported a percentage equal to or higher the national average of 79%. Rates reported by Louth/Meath (67%) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (69%) lower than all other areas.
- 96% (2,170/2,267) of those 18-22 years in receipt of an aftercare service had a plan. 28% (199/717) of those <18 years had a plan.

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q1 2025	# with an Aftercare Plan Q1 2025	% with an Aftercare Plan Q1 2025	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q2 2025	# with an Aftercare Plan Q2 2025	% with an Aftercare Plan Q2 2025
Dublin South Central	213	151	71%	175	132	75%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	123	117	95%	118	115	97%
DSW/K/WW	216	175	81%	221	173	78%
Midlands	129	116	90%	126	112	89%
Dublin North City	262	193	74%	266	206	77%
Dublin North	184	125	68%	177	135	76%
Louth/Meath	134	100	75%	146	98	67%
Cavan/Monaghan	79	72	91%	79	72	91%
Cork	388	281	72%	360	269	75%
Kerry	93	70	75%	94	73	78%
CW/K/ST	158	108	68%	144	100	69%
Waterford/Wexford	200	99	50%	202	156	77%
Mid West	230	203	88%	230	190	83%
Galway/Roscommon	197	162	82%	200	165	83%
Mayo	68	58	85%	71	57	80%
Donegal	95	88	93%	92	92	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	48	40	83%	47	39	83%

SCSIP Service	167	156	93%	236	185	78%
Total	2,984	2,314	78%	2,984	2,369	79%

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

- 92% (2,172/2,369) of those with an aftercare plan were assessed as needing an aftercare worker. Eleven areas reported 100%.
- Percentages reported by the Service for SCSIP (69%), Midlands (75%) and Waterford/Wexford (79%) lower than all other areas. *Some areas advised that young persons/adults who are settled and doing well are moved to the drop-in service (i.e., assessed as not needing an allocated social worker). With a reduction in staff this allows the service to prioritise those with greatest need for allocation to a social worker.*
- 89% (1,930/2,172) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2025, up four percentage points from Q1 2025 (85%). A total of 242 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2025, 99 (29%) fewer than Q1 2025 (341).
- 99.5% (193/194) of young people < 18 years assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2025.
- 88% (1,737/1,978) of 18–22-year-olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2025.
- 11 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported 100%. Rates reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (56%), Dublin South Central (57%) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (61%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# with a Plan Q2 2025	# Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q2 2025	% Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q2 2025	# with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q2 2025	% with an Aftercare Worker Q2 2025	% with an Aftercare Worker Q1 2025
Dublin South Central	132	132	100%	75	57%	40%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	115	115	100%	115	100%	100%
DSW/K/WW	173	151	87%	84	56%	51%
Midlands	112	84	75%	84	100%	100%
Dublin North City	206	206	100%	206	100%	100%
Dublin North	135	135	100%	108	80%	78%
Louth/Meath	98	98	100%	98	100%	100%
Cavan/Monaghan	72	72	100%	72	100%	100%
Cork	269	257	96%	222	86%	86%
Kerry	73	73	100%	73	100%	100%
CW/K/ST	100	93	83%	57	61%	62%
Waterford/Wexford	156	123	79%	123	100%	95%

Mid West	190	153	81%	133	87%	67%
Galway/Roscommon	165	165	100%	165	100%	100%
Mayo	57	57	100%	57	100%	100%
Donegal	92	92	100%	92	100%	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	39	39	100%	39	100%	100%
SCSIP Service	185	127	69%	127	100%	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,369</b>	<b>2,172</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>1,930</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>85%</b>

### 3.2.8 Drop-in Service

- All areas reported having a drop-in service.

### 3.2.9 Interagency Aftercare Steering Committee

- All areas reported having an interagency aftercare steering committee.



### 3.3 ADOPTION SERVICES

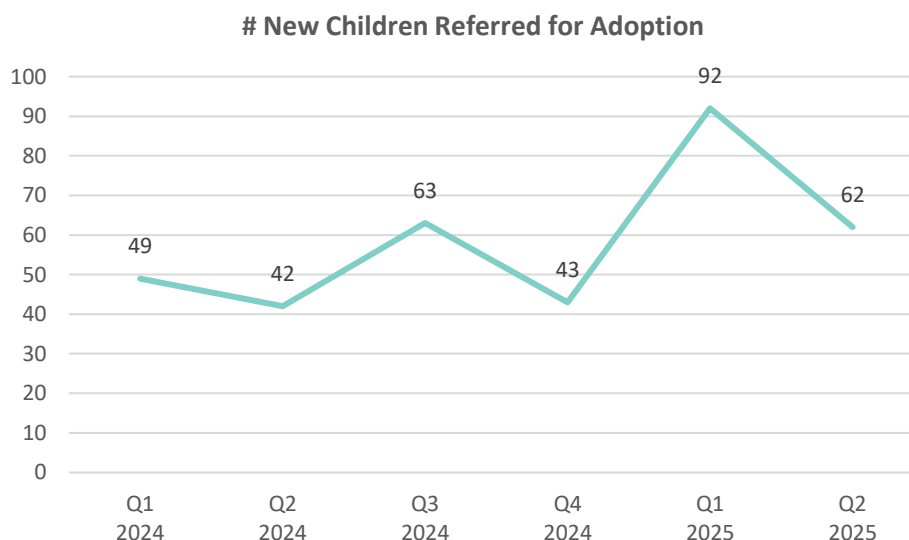
#### KEY FACTS

##### Adoption

- **62 new children referred for adoption during Q2 2025.** This brings to 154 the number of children referred for the first six months of 2025, 63 (69%) more than the same period in 2024 (91). A total of 197 new children were referred for adoption in 2024.
- **68 completed initial assessments awaiting allocation** to a social worker for full assessment at the end of Q2 2025. Of these, 45 (66%) were waiting for 0-8 weeks, 4 (6%) were waiting > 8 weeks to 16 weeks (inclusive) while the remaining 19 (28%) were waiting more than 16 weeks.

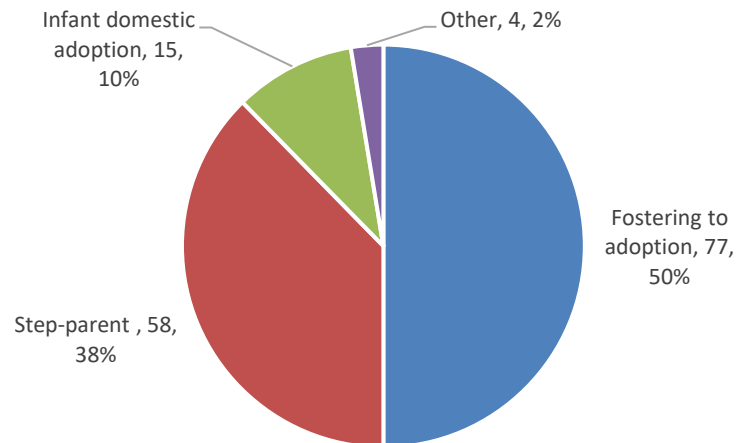
#### 3.3.1 Adoption Assessments

- 62 new children referred for adoption during Q2 2025. This brings to 154 the number of children referred for the first six months of 2025, 63 (69%) more than the same period in 2024 (91). A total of 197 new children were referred for adoption in 2024.



- Half of children referred for adoption in the first six months of 2025 were referred for fostering to adoption with a further 38% (58) referred for step-parent adoption and 10% (15) referred for infant domestic adoption. A breakdown of children referred for the first six months of 2025 by type is presented in the chart below.

**Breakdown of New Children Referred for Adoption by Type,  
2025 YTD**



- 68 completed initial assessments awaiting allocation to a social worker for full assessment at the end of Q2 2025. Of these, 45 (66%) were waiting for 0-8 weeks, 4 (6%) were waiting > 8 weeks to 16 weeks (inclusive) while the remaining 19 (28%) were waiting more than 16 weeks.

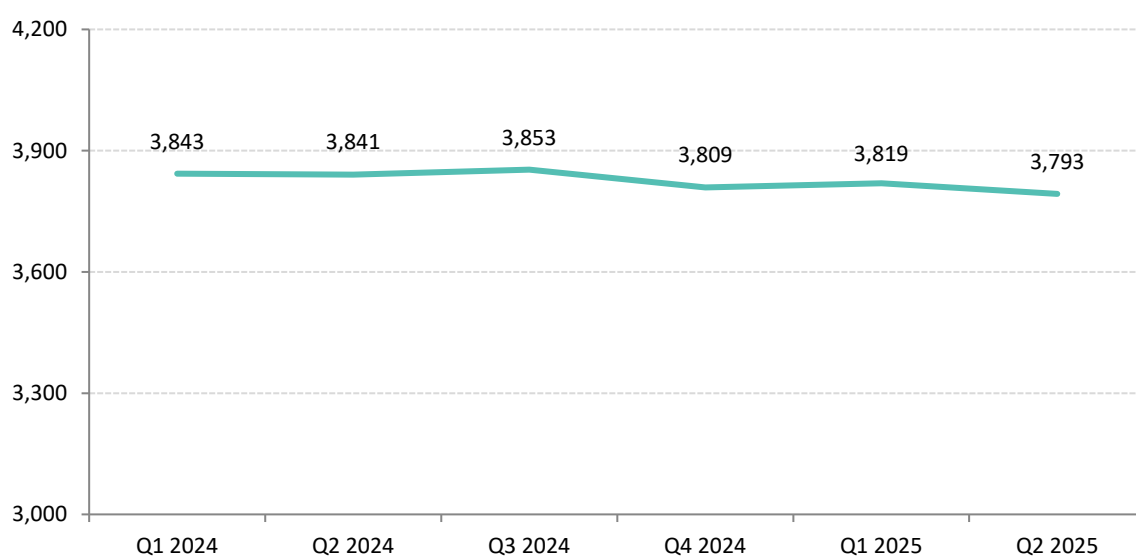
### 3.4 FOSTER CARERS

#### KEY FACTS

- **3,793 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel** of approved foster carers at the end of Q2 2025, 26 (<1%) fewer than Q1 2025 (3,819 revised figure) and 48 (1%) fewer than Q2 2024 (3,841).
- **52 Tusla foster carers** (26 general & 26 relative) and **five private foster carers approved** in Q2 2025. This brings to 119 the number of foster carers approved in the first six months of 2025. A total of 125 foster carers approved during the same period in 2024
- 71 applications for general foster care and 205 applications for relative foster care in progress at the end of Q2 2025.
- **92% (2,004) of general foster carers** on the panel **had an allocated link (social) worker** at the end of Q2 2025, down one percentage point from Q1 2025 (93%).
- 169 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker, 14 (9%) more than Q1 2025 (155).
- **94% (897) of relative foster carers** on the panel **had an allocated link (social) worker** at the end of Q2 2025, down two percentage point from Q1 2025 (96%).
- 60 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q2 2025, 17 (40%) more than Q1 2025 (43).
- **96% (210) of unapproved relative foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks had an allocated link (social) worker.** Nine carers were awaiting a link worker, one more than Q1 2025 (8). The nine carers were reported across three areas.

#### 3.4.1 Number of foster carers

- 3,793 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q2 2025, 26 (<1%) fewer than Q1 2025 (3,819 revised figure) and 48 (1%) fewer than Q2 2024 (3,841). *Increase between Q2 and Q3 2024 partly explained by validation of the foster carers register in one area.*



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

- 290 unapproved relative foster carers at the end of Q2 2025 of which 76% (219) had a child placed for >12 weeks. 77% (957/1,247) of relative foster carers are approved.
- 57% (2,173) of all approved foster carers are general foster carers. Relative foster carers (approved) account for a further 25% (957), while private foster carers account for the remaining 17% (663).
- The number of general foster carers (2,173) is down 21 (1%) from Q1 2025 (2,194) and 42 (2%) from Q2 2024 (2,215).
- Relative foster carers (957) down 9 (1%) from Q1 2025 (966) and down 36 (4%) from Q2 2024 (993).
- Private foster carers (663) up 4 (1%) from Q1 2025 (659) and up 30 (5%) from Q2 2024 (633).

#### Breakdown of foster carers by type

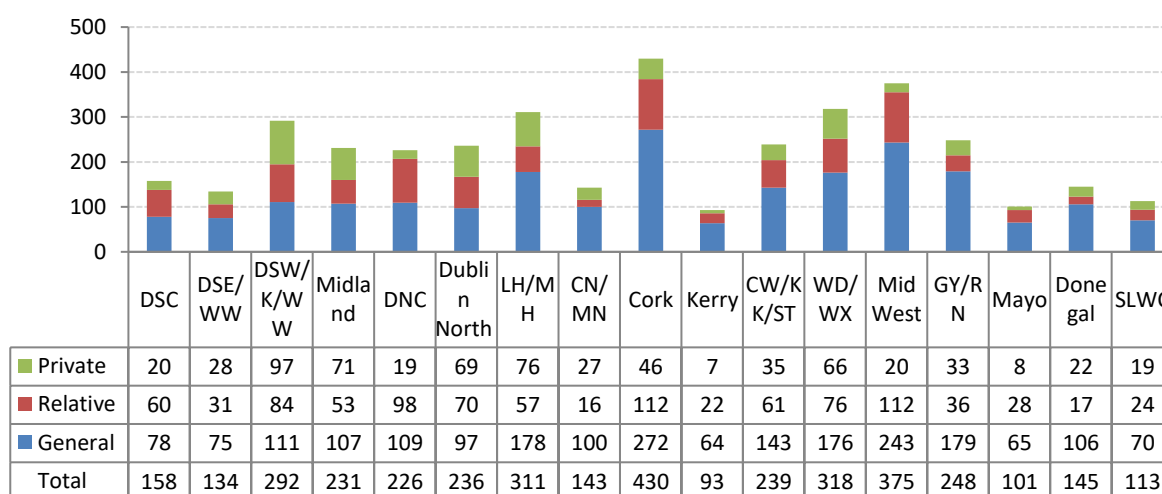
Foster Carers	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Δ (+/-) Q2 v Q1
General (Approved)	2,215	2,210	2,191	2,194	<b>2,173</b>	-21
Relative (Approved)	993	987	963	966	<b>957</b>	-9
Private (Approved)	633	656	655	659*	<b>663</b>	+4
<b>Total Approved</b>	<b>3,841</b>	<b>3,853</b>	<b>3,809</b>	<b>3,819</b>	<b>3,793</b>	<b>-26</b>
Relative (Unapproved)	222	230	244	275	<b>290</b>	+15

\*Revised from previously reported

- 52 Tusla foster carers (26 general & 26 relative) and five private foster carers approved in Q2 2025. This brings to 119 the number of foster carers approved in the first six months of 2025. A total of 125 foster carers approved during the same period in 2024.
- 71 applications for general foster care and 205 applications for relative foster care in progress at the end of Q2 2025.

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

- The number of foster carers approved (all types) and on the panel at the end of Q2 2025, ranged from 430 in Cork to 93 in Kerry



Foster carers approved by type and area on the panel of approved foster carers, Q2 2025

- 6 areas reported an increase from Q1 2025 in the number of foster carers on the panel. Largest increases reported by Cavan/Monaghan (4), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (4), Louth/Meath (3) and Donegal (3).
- 7 areas reported a decrease from Q1 2025. Largest decreases were reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (13) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (13). The remaining four areas (Dublin North City, Kerry, Waterford/Wexford and Midwest) reported no change.

**Area breakdown of approved foster carers (all types)**

Area	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Δ (+/-) Q2 2025 v Q1 2025
Dublin South Central	169	162	161	161	158	-3
Dublin South East/Wicklow	149	149	147	147	134	-13
DSW/K/WW	283	290*	298	296	292	-4
Midlands	236	233	231	235	231	-4
Dublin North City	224	223	219	226	226	0
Dublin North	224	227	232	234	236	2
Louth/Meath	304	310	302	308	311	3
Cavan/Monaghan	139	141	139	139	143	4
Cork	485	480	444	433	430	-3
Kerry	90	91	91	93	93	0
CW/K/ST	235	232	230	235	239	4
Waterford/Wexford	312	317	317	318	318	0
Mid West	379	378	378	375	375	0
Galway/Roscommon	249	250	247	251	248	-3
Mayo	98	103	99	100	101	1
Donegal	147	145	145	142	145	3
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	118	122	129	126	113	-13
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,841</b>	<b>3,853</b>	<b>3,809</b>	<b>3,819</b>	<b>3,793</b>	<b>-26</b>

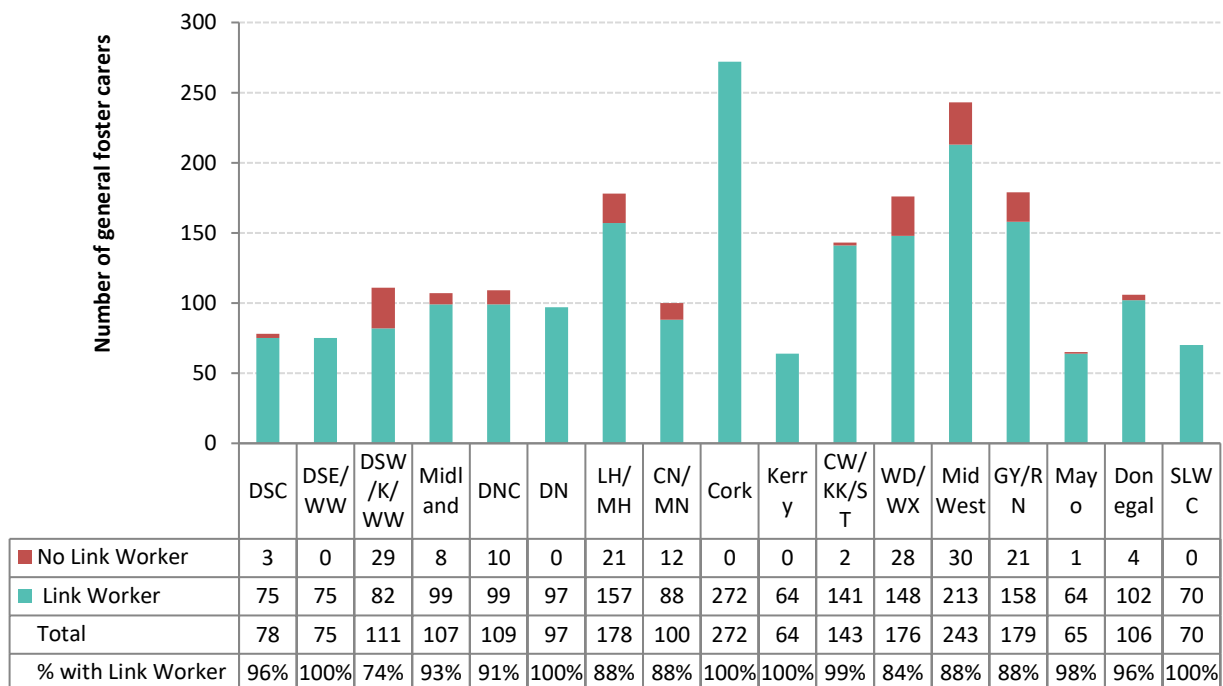
*\*Increase partly explained by validation of the foster carers register in this area*

- 92% (2,004) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q2 2025, down one percentage point from Q1 2025 (93%).
- 169 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker, 14 (9%) more than Q1 2025 (155).
- 11/17 areas reported 90% or higher with five of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (74%) and Waterford/Wexford (84%) lower than all other areas.
- Midwest has the highest number of general foster carers awaiting an allocated link worker (30) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (29) and Waterford/Wexford (28).

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

Area	With Link Worker Q1 2025	Awaiting Link Worker Q1 2025	% With Link Worker Q1 2025	With Link Worker Q2 2025	Awaiting Link Worker Q2 2025	% With Link Worker Q2 2025	Δ +/- No. Awaiting LW Q2 2025 v Q1 2025
Dublin South Central	76	3	96%	75	3	96%	0
Dublin South East/Wicklow	80	0	100%	75	0	100%	0
DSW/K/WW	96	17	85%	82	29	74%	12
Midlands	99	10	91%	99	8	93%	-2
Dublin North City	113	1	99%	99	10	91%	9
Dublin North	95	0	100%	97	0	100%	0
Louth/Meath	149	27	85%	157	21	88%	-6
Cavan/Monaghan	94	4	96%	88	12	88%	8
Cork	272	0	100%	272	0	100%	0
Kerry	64	0	100%	64	0	100%	0
CW/K/ST	118	23	84%	141	2	99%	-21
Waterford/Wexford	146	30	83%	148	28	84%	-2
Mid West	224	18	93%	213	30	88%	12
Galway/Roscommon	162	18	90%	158	21	88%	3
Mayo	63	1	98%	64	1	98%	0
Donegal	102	3	97%	102	4	96%	1
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	86	0	100%	70	0	100%	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,039</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>2,004</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>14</b>

### General foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting a link (social worker), Q2 2025



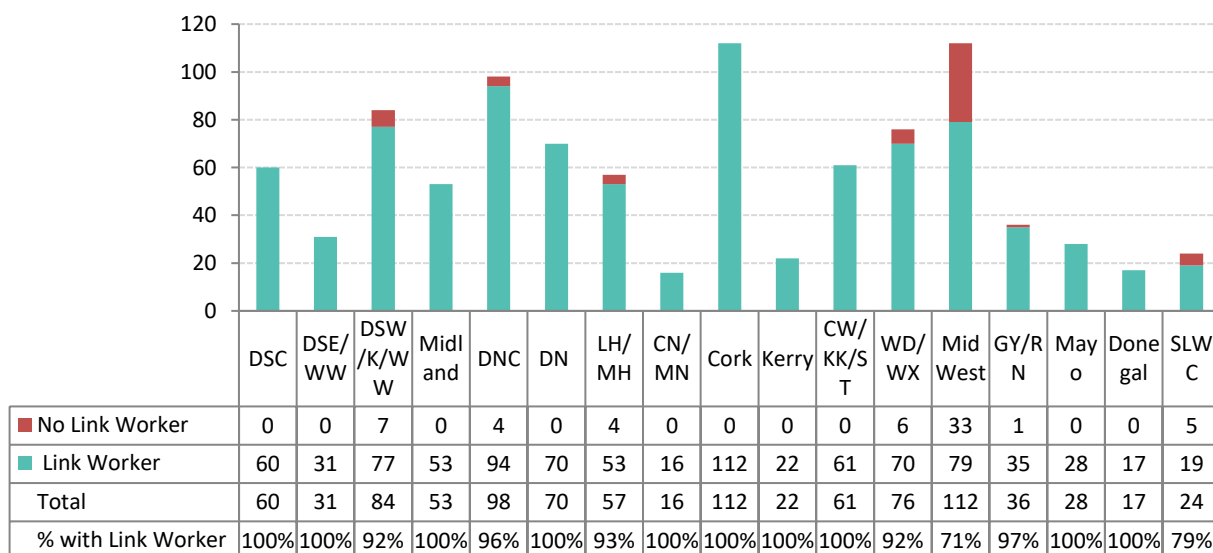
- 94% (897) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q2 2025, down two percentage point from Q1 2025 (96%).

- 60 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q2 2025, 17 (40%) more than Q1 2025 (43).
- 15/17 areas reported a percentage of 90% or higher with ten of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by Midwest (71%) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (79%) lower than all other areas.
- Midwest reported the highest number of relative foster carers on the panel awaiting a link (social) worker (33).

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

Area	With Link Worker Q1 2025	Awaiting Link Worker Q1 2025	% With Link Worker Q1 2025	With Link Worker Q2 2025	Awaiting Link Worker Q2 2025	% With Link Worker Q2 2025	Δ +/- No. Awaiting Link Worker Q2 2025 v Q1 2025
Dublin South Central	61	0	100%	60	0	100%	0
Dublin South East/Wicklow	38	0	100%	31	0	100%	0
DSW/K/WW	82	5	94%	77	7	92%	2
Midlands	55	0	100%	53	0	100%	0
Dublin North City	91	2	98%	94	4	96%	2
Dublin North	70	0	100%	70	0	100%	0
Louth/Meath	55	1	98%	53	4	93%	3
Cavan/Monaghan	16	0	100%	16	0	100%	0
Cork	115	0	100%	112	0	100%	0
Kerry	22	0	100%	22	0	100%	0
CW/K/ST	50	9	85%	61	0	100%	-9
Waterford/Wexford	69	7	91%	70	6	92%	-1
Mid West	98	17	85%	79	33	71%	16
Galway/Roscommon	38	2	95%	35	1	97%	-1
Mayo	28	0	100%	28	0	100%	0
Donegal	16	0	100%	17	0	100%	0
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	19	0	100%	19	5	79%	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>923</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>17</b>

#### Relative foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting allocated link Q2 2025



### 3.4.3 Foster carers (relative) unapproved

- 290 relative foster carers were unapproved at the end of Q2 2025, 15 (5%) more than Q1 2025 (275).
- Of these, 219 (76%) had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks; up one from Q1 2025 (218).
- 96% (210) of unapproved relative foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks had an allocated link (social) worker. Nine carers were awaiting a link worker, one more than Q1 2025 (8). The nine carers were reported across three areas.

#### Breakdown of relative foster carers not approved

Unapproved Relative Foster Carers	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Δ (+/-) Q2 2025 v Q1 2025
No. unapproved	222	230	244	275	290	+15
No (%) with a child > 12 weeks	174	196	203	218	219	+1
	78%	85%	83%	79%	76%	
Child > 12 weeks and have a Link Worker	167	194	196	210	210	0
	96%	99%	97%	96%	96%	
Child > 12 weeks AWAITING Link Worker	7	2	7	8	9	+1



## 4.0 CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

### KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

#### 4.1 Early Years Inspectorate

#### 4.2 Alternative Education Assessment & Registration Service

#### 4.3 Alternative Care Inspection & Monitoring Service

### 4.1 EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

#### KEY FACTS

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

- **6,827 early years services on the national register** at the end of Q2 2025, 15 (<1%) more than Q1 2025 (6,812). Breakdown of services for Q2 2025 as follows: pre-school (3,941; 58%); school age (2,765; 41%) and childminding (121; 2%).
- **685 inspections (all types) of pre-school services carried out in Q2 2025.** This brings to 1,297 the number of inspections for the first six months of 2025. A total of 2,316 inspections carried out in 2024.
- **323 applications to become as a new service received** by the EYI in Q2 2025. This brings to 447 the number of applications received in the first six months of 2025. A total of 560 applications received in 2024. Breakdown of applications for 2025 YTD as follows: pre-school (88; 20%); school age (304; 68%); child-minding (55; 12%).
- **74 applications to register as a new service approved** by the EYI in Q2 2025. This brings to 136 the number of applications approved in the first six months of 2025. A total of 430 applications approved in 2024. Breakdown of applications approved for Q2 2025 as follows: pre-school (9; 7%); school age (78; 57%); child-minding (49; 36%).
- **No early years' service refused** by the EYI in the first six months of 2025. One service refused in 2024.
- **464 change in circumstances notifications processed** by the EYI in Q2 2025. This brings to 973 the number processed in the first six months of 2025. A total of 1,912 were processed in 2024.
- **199 unsolicited information submissions received** by the EYI in Q2 2025. This brings to 317 the number of submissions received in the first six months of 2025. A total of 460 received in 2024.
- **No early years' service prosecuted** by the EYI in the first six months of 2025. One service prosecuted in 2024.
- **61 early years services closed in Q2 2025.** This brings to 90 the number of services that closed in the first six months of 2025. A total of 185 closed in 2024. A breakdown of services closed in the first six months of 2025 as follows: pre-school services (52; 58%); school age services (34; 38%); childminding (4; 4%).
- **No early years' service removed from the register** in the first six months of 2025. No service removed in 2024.

### 4.1.1 Activity Data

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

Early Years Services (EYS) on the EYI Register	Outturn 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	2025 YTD	Q2 2025 v Q1 2025
<b>Pre-school services</b> recorded on the national register	4,045	3,975	<b>3,941</b>	3,941	-34
<b>School age services</b> recorded on the national register [New for 2025]	2,724	2,741	<b>2,765</b>	2,765	24
<b>Childminding services</b> recorded on the national register [New for 2025]	7	96	<b>121</b>	121	25
<b>Total number of services on the national register</b>	<b>6,776</b>	<b>6,812</b>	<b>6,827</b>	<b>6,827</b>	<b>15</b>
Registration Renewal	Outturn 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	2025 YTD	Q2 v Q1
Number of EYS due to renew their registration in the reporting period [New for 2025]	1,306	85	<b>50</b>	135	-35
Number of EYS that successfully completed registration renewal in the reporting period [New for 2025]	1,196	78	<b>45</b>	123	-33
Inspections Carried Out	Outturn 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	2025 YTD	Q2 v Q1
<b>Inspections (all inspection types) of pre-school services</b> carried out during the reporting period	2,316	612	<b>685</b>	1,297	73
<b>Pre-registration inspections (PRI)</b> carried out in respect of proposed new pre-school services during the reporting period [New for 2025]	98	3	<b>8</b>	11	5

<b>Fit for purpose (FFP) inspections</b> carried out in respect of proposed change in circumstances submitted by pre-school services during the reporting period [New for 2025]	196	23	<b>44</b>	67	21
<b>Pre-school inspections</b> carried out in relation to <b>concerns received</b> during the reporting period [New for 2025]	127	18	<b>34</b>	52	16
<b>Initial inspections</b> (first inspection following registration conducted with 3 months of operation) carried out in pre-school services during the reporting period [New for 2025]	83	20	<b>6</b>	26	-14
<b>School age inspections</b> carried out during the reporting period [New for 2025]	157	15	<b>9</b>	24	-6
<b>Childminding pre-registration assessments</b> (PRAs) carried out during the reporting period [New for 2025]	7	21	<b>26</b>	47	5
Number of notifications of <b>incidents notified to the inspector</b> within remit (for example where a child has been hurt in an Early Years' Service)	704	143	<b>137</b>	280	-6
<b>Registration/Change in Circumstances</b>	<b>Outturn 2024</b>	<b>Q1 2025</b>	<b>Q2 2025</b>	<b>2025 YTD</b>	<b>Q2 v Q1</b>
Applications to become a new <b>pre-school service</b> [Name Change]	136	16	<b>72</b>	88	56
Applications to become a new <b>school age service</b> [New for 2025]	410	78	<b>226</b>	304	148
Applications to become a new <b>childminding service</b> [New for 2025]	14	30	<b>25</b>	55	-5
<b>Total applications received</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>199</b>
New registration applications approved to become a <b>pre-school service</b>	96	4	<b>5</b>	9	1

New registration applications approved to become a <b>school age service</b> [New for 2025]	327	36	42	78	6
New registration applications approved to become a <b>childminding service</b> [New for 2025]	7	22	27	49	5
<b>Total number of applications approved</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>12</b>
Number of <b>new applications</b> to become an early years' service that have been <b>refused</b> registration by the EYI in the reporting period	1	0	0	0	0
Number of <b>change in circumstance notifications</b> processed by the EYI (for example where an early years' service increases the number of children they can cater for)	1,912	509	464	973	-45
<b>Concerns/Prosecutions</b>	<b>Outturn 2024</b>	<b>Q1 2025</b>	<b>Q2 2025</b>	<b>2025 YTD</b>	<b>Q2 v Q1</b>
Number of <b>unsolicited information submissions</b> received by the EYI to identify commonalities and trends over a period of time	460	118	199	317	81
Number of <b>EYS that have been prosecuted</b> by the EYI for breach of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Closures</b>	<b>Outturn 2024</b>	<b>Q1 2025</b>	<b>Q2 2025</b>	<b>2025 YTD</b>	<b>Q2 v Q1</b>
Number of <b>pre-school services</b> that have <b>closed</b> during the reporting period ( <i>does not include services closed by Tusla under the de-registration process</i> )	95	13	39	52	26
Number of <b>school age services</b> that have <b>closed</b> during the reporting period ( <i>does not include services closed by Tusla under the de-registration process</i> ) [New for 2025]	90	14	20	34	6

Number of <b>childminding services</b> that have <b>closed</b> during the reporting period <i>(does not include services closed by Tusla under the de-registration process)</i> [New for 2025]	0	2	2	4	0
<b>Total closures</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>32</b>
Number of EYS removed from the National Register (de-registered) by the EYI during the reporting period	0	0	0	0	0

## 4.2 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT & REGISTRATION SERVICE

### Key Facts

#### Home Education

- 2,502 children on the register for home education at the end of Q2 2025, three more than Q1 2025 (2,499) and 177 (8%) more than Q4 2024 (2,325).
- 427 applications received for home education during Q2 2025. This brings to 775 the number of applications received for the first six months of 2025, 217 (39%) more than the same period in 2024 (558).
- 391 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q2 2025. This brings to 748 the number of assessments carried in the first six months of 2025, 107 (17%) more than the same period in 2024 (641).
- 308 children registered for home education<sup>1</sup> in Q2 2025. This brings to 528 the number of children registered in the first six months of 2025, 124 (31%) more than the same period in 2024 (404).
- 312 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q2 2025, 158 (34%) fewer than Q1 2025 (470) and 564 (64%) fewer than Q2 2024 (876).

#### Independent Schools

- 61 assessed and approved independent schools at the end of Q2 2025, one more than Q1 2025 (60).
- 6,301 children enrolled in independent schools, of which 82% (5,175) are registered on the Section 14 register. The remaining 18% (1,126) were not registered. Reasons for these children not being registered include, application not submitted, consent not in place, certified documentation not provided.
- 384 applications received during Q2 2025. This brings to 724 the number of applications received for the first six months of 2025. A total of 2,077 applications received in 2024.
- 1 school assessment carried out in Q2 2025. This brings to three the number of assessments carried out for the first six months of 2025. A total of 29 assessments carried out in 2024.
- No school assessment due at the end of Q2 2025.

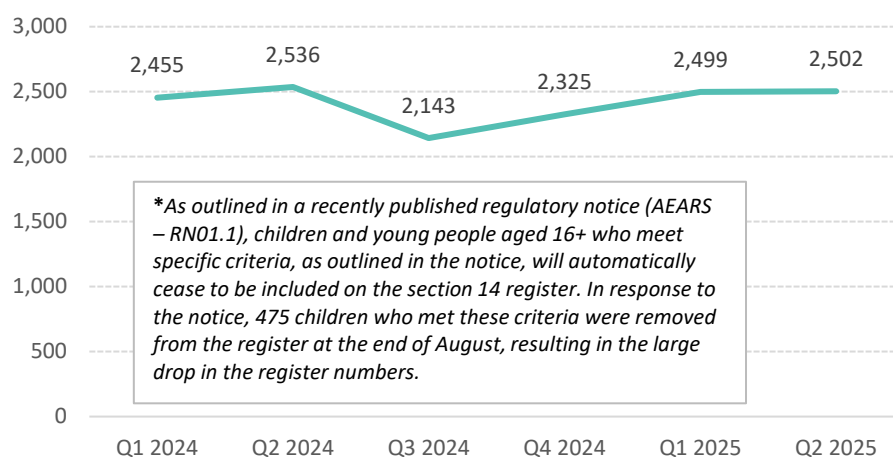
### Home Education

- 2,502 children on the register for home education at the end of Q2 2025, three more than Q1 2025 (2,499) and 177 (8%) more than Q4 2024 (2,325)<sup>6</sup>.
- 16% (403) of children on the register at the end of Q2 2025 have special educational needs.

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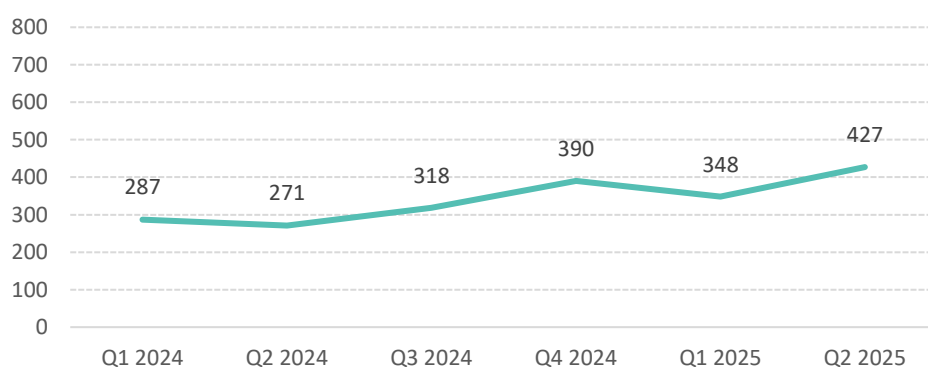
<sup>6</sup> As outlined in a recently published regulatory notice (AEARS – RN01.1), children and young people aged 16+ who meet specific criteria, as outlined in the notice, will automatically cease to be included on the section 14 register. In response to the notice, 475 children who met these criteria were removed from the register at the end of August, resulting in the large drop in the register numbers for Q3 2024.

### # Children on Register for Home Education



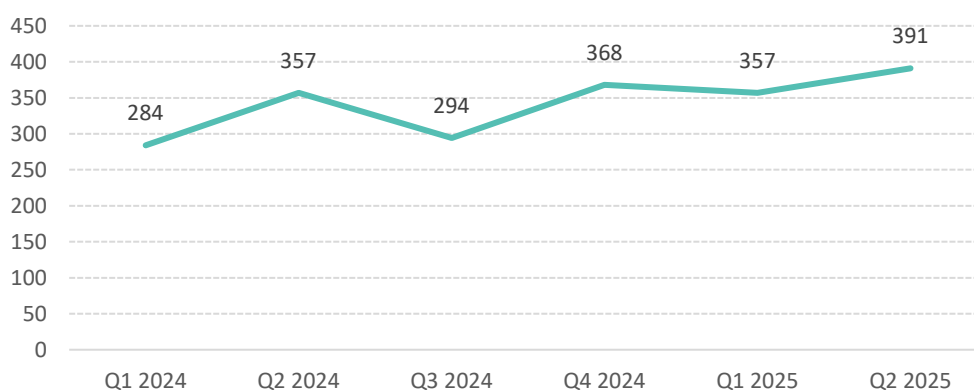
- 427 applications<sup>7</sup> received for home education during Q2 2025. This brings to 775 the number of applications received for the first six months of 2025, 217 (39%) more than the same period in 2024 (558).

### # Applications for Home Education



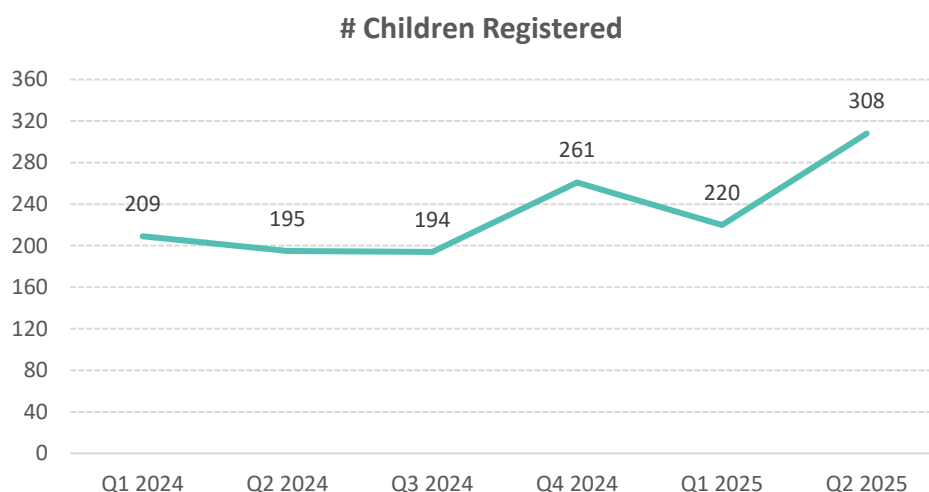
- 391 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q2 2025. This brings to 748 the number of assessments carried in the first six months of 2025, 107 (17%) more than the same period in 2024 (641).

### # Assessments Done

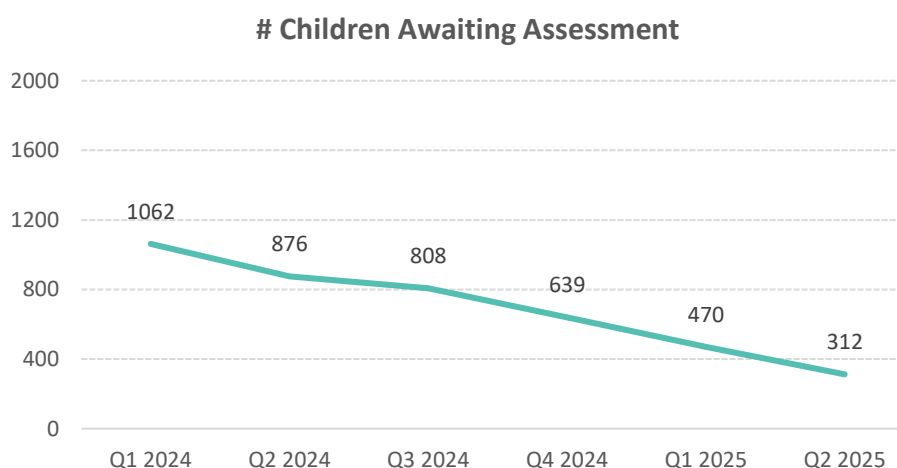


<sup>7</sup> The figure for applications includes valid and invalid applications

- 308 children registered for home education<sup>8</sup> in Q2 2025. This brings to 528 the number of children registered in the first six months of 2025, 124 (31%) more than the same period in 2024 (404).



- 312 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q2 2025, 158 (34%) fewer than Q1 2025 (470) and 564 (64%) fewer than Q2 2024 (876).



- 305 children removed from the register in Q2 2025. Of the children removed from the register in Q2 2025, 246 (81%) were over 16 years, 45 (15%) returned to school, 4 (1%) left the jurisdiction while the remaining 10 (3%) left for other reasons.

### Independent Schools

- 61 assessed and approved independent schools at the end of Q2 2025, one more than Q1 2025 (60).
- 6,301 children enrolled in independent schools, of which 82% (5,175) are registered on the Section 14 register. The remaining 18% (1,126) were not registered. Reasons for these children

<sup>8</sup> 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



not being registered include, application not submitted, consent not in place, certified documentation not provided.

- 384 applications received during Q2 2025. This brings to 724 the number of applications received for the first six months of 2025. A total of 2,077 applications received in 2024.
- 1 school assessment carried out in Q2 2025. This brings to three the number of assessments carried out the first six months of 2025. A total of 29 assessments carried out in 2024.
- No school assessment due at the end of Q2 2025.

## 4.3 ALTERNATIVE CARE INSPECTION & MONITORING SERVICES

### Key Facts

- 225 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q2 2025, 19 (9%) more than Q1 2025 (206).
- 59 inspections (all types) conducted in Q2 2025. This brings to 101 the number of inspections for the first six months of 2025.
- 5 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q2 2025, no change from Q1 2025. Two monitoring visits conducted in Q2 2025. This brings to three the number of monitoring visits for the first six months of 2025.

### Non-Statutory Children's Residential Centres

- 225 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q2 2025, 19 (9%) more than Q1 2025 (206).
- 59 inspections (all types) conducted in Q2 2025. This brings to 101 the number of inspections for the first six months of 2025.

#### Inspections of Non-Statutory Residential Services

Inspections by Type	2024 Outturn	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	2025 YTD
New Registration Inspection Visit	41	10	22	32
Thematic Inspection (announced) on-site	111	14	26	40
Thematic Inspection (unannounced) on site	66	13	11	24
No of CAPA review Inspections of non-statutory Children's Residential Centres [New for 2025]	-	5	0	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>101</b>

CAPA: Corrective and Preventive Actions

### Non-Statutory Foster Care Service

- 5 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q2 2025, no change from Q1 2025. Two monitoring visits conducted in Q2 2025. This brings to three the number of monitoring visits for the first six months of 2025.

## 5.0 TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

### KEY FACTS

#### Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2024 – August 2025

- 9,059 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) during the first 10 months of the academic year 2024-2025, 1,312 (17%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (7,747).
- 4,362 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of June 2025, 197 (5%) more than June 2024 (4,165).
- 3,838 new individual children worked with during the first 10 months of the academic year 2024-2025, 259 (7%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (3,579).
- 7,840 individual children worked with during the first 10 months of the academic year 2024-2025, 610 (8%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (7,230).
- 549 school attendance notices (SANs) issued in the first 10 months of academic year 2024-2025, 97 (15%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (646). SANs were in respect of 392 children, 75 (16%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (467).
- 132 summonses issued during the first 10 months of the academic year 2024-2025, 10 (8%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (122). The summonses were in respect of 96 children, 7 (7%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (103).
- 208 Section 24 meetings convened by EWOs during the first 10 months of the academic year 2024-2025, 56 (21%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (264).

#### Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2024 – August 2025

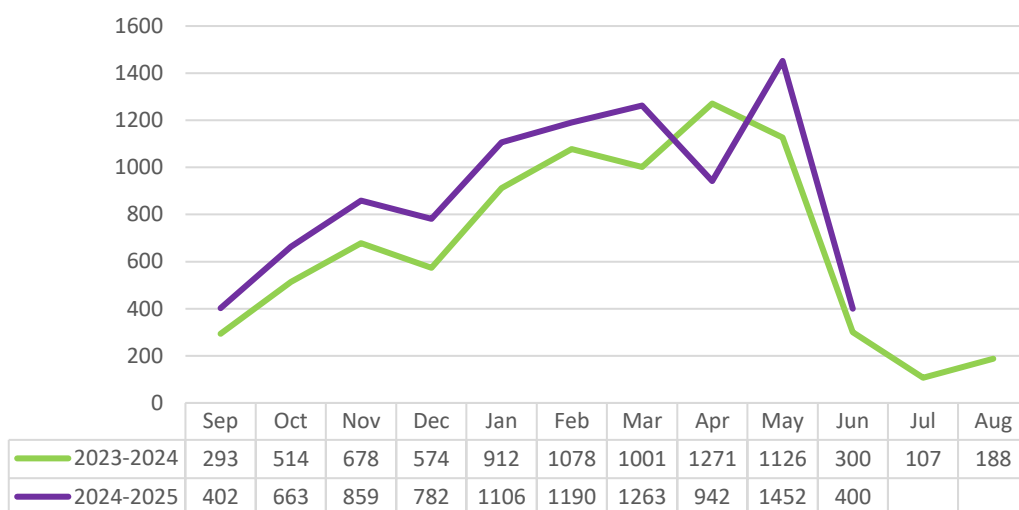
- 9,059 referrals<sup>9</sup> screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) during the first 10 months of the academic year 2024-2025, 1,312 (17%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (7,747).
- 4,013 referrals allocated to educational welfare officers during the first 10 months of the academic year 2024-2025, 387 (11%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (3,626).
- 2,376 referrals screened out / required no further action during the first 10 months of the academic year 2024-2025, 71 (3%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (2,447).
- 4,362 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of June 2025, 197 (5%) more than June 2024 (4,165).

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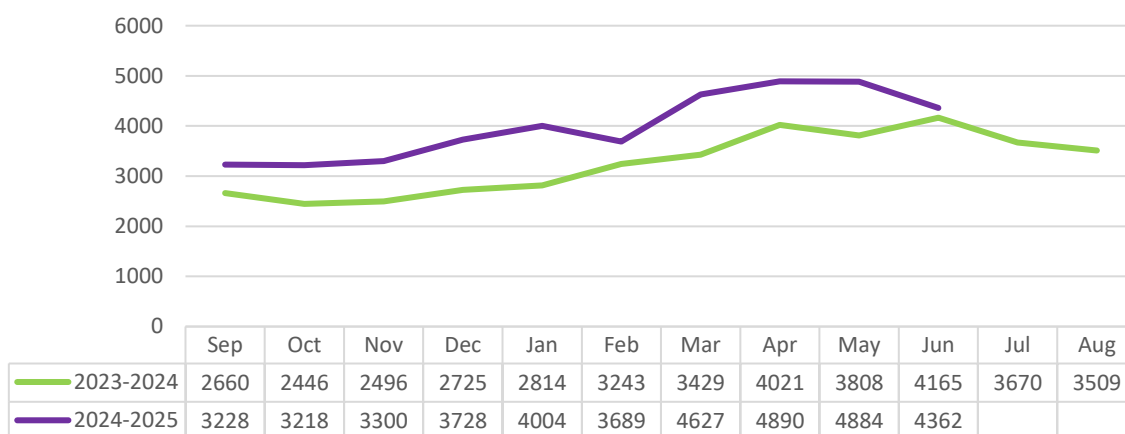
<sup>9</sup> A referral is a written notification of concern to EWS from a school, a parent, agency or concerned citizen in relation to the educational welfare of a named child. Referrals are then screened against a set of criteria by the Senior Educational Welfare Officer and a decision is made as to whether to proceed and open a case in relation this named child, or placed on a waiting list if there is an EWS capacity issue.

	Sept 2023 – Jun 2024	Sept 2024 – Jun 2025	Δ
# Referrals screened	7,747	9,059	1,312 (17%)
# Referrals allocated	3,626	4,013	387 (11%)
# Referrals screened out	2,447	2,376	-71 (3%)
# Referrals on waiting list	4,165	4,362	197 (5%)

### Referrals for Educational Welfare Service



### Referrals on Waiting List at Month End



- 4,727 new cases assigned to EWOs during the first 10 months of the academic year 2024-2025, same number as the same period in the previous academic year (4,727).
- 3,833 cases closed during the first 10 months of the academic year 2024-2025, 506 (12%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (4,339).
- 3,838 new individual children worked with during the first 10 months of the academic year 2024-2025, 259 (7%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (3,579).
- 7,840 individual children worked with during the first 10 months of the academic year 2024-2025, 610 (8%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (7,230).

	Sept 2023 – Jun 2024	Sept 2024 – Jun 25	Δ
# cases assigned	4,727	4,727	0
# cases closed	4,339	3,833	-506 (12%)
# new individual children worked with	3,579	3,838	259 (7%)
# Individual children worked with	7,230	7,840	610 (8%)

- 549 school attendance notices (SANs) issued in the first 10 months of academic year 2024-2025, 97 (15%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (646). SANs were in respect of 392 children, 75 (16%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (467).
- 132 summonses issued during the first 10 months of the academic year 2024-2025, 10 (8%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (122). The summonses were in respect of 96 children, 7 (7%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (103).
- EWOs attended 338 court cases regarding their own cases in the first 10 months of the academic year 2024-2025, 110 (48%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (228).
- 208 Section 24<sup>10</sup> meetings convened by EWOs during the first 10 months of the academic year 2024-2025, 56 (21%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (264).
- 240 child protection and welfare referrals made by EWOs during the first 10 months of the academic year 2024-2025, 72 (43%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (168).
- 132 child protection conferences (CPC) attended by EWOs during the first 10 months of the academic year 2024-2025, three fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (135).

	Sept 2023 – Jun 24	Sept 2024 – Jun 25	Δ
School Attendance Notices Issues	646	549	-97 (15%)
SANs - individual children involved	467	392	-75 (16%)
Summonses Issued	122	132	10 (8%)
Summonses – individual children involved	103	96	-7 (7%)
Court cases attended in relation to own cases	228	338	110 (48%)
Section 24 meetings convened	264	208	-56 (21%)
Child protection & welfare referrals made	168	240	72 (43%)
Child protection conferences attended	135	132	-3 (2%)

<sup>10</sup> Section 24 Education Welfare Act 2000: Where the board of management of a recognised school or a person acting on its behalf is of the opinion that a student should be expelled from that school it shall, before so expelling the student, notify the educational welfare officer to whom functions under this Act have been assigned, in writing, of its opinion and the reasons therefor. The educational welfare officer concerned shall, as soon as may be after receiving a notification under *subsection (1)*, make all reasonable efforts to ensure that provision is made for the continued education of the student to whom the notification relates.

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

## 6.0 FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

### KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

#### 6.1 Family Support Services

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

### 6.1 FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES<sup>11</sup>

#### KEY FACTS

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

- **384 family support providers commissioned** (H1 2025).
- 85% (328) of services commissioned provided data for H1 2025. Response rates ranged from 25% to 100% in seven areas.
- **At least 22,577 children were in receipt of family support services** at the end of H1 2025. This equates to almost 2% of children (0-17 years).
- **At least 26,009 children referred to family support services** during the first six months of 2025.
- The **most common source** of referrals for H1 2025 was **Tusla Social Work**, accounting for **26.1% (6,785) of referrals** followed by parents/guardians (25.9%; 6,741), schools (13.9%; 3,611) and HSE Officers (9.3%; 2,406).
- **66% (17,142) of children referred** to family support services during the first six months of 2025 **received a service during that period**. The percentage who received a service ranged from 27% (Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow) to 100% (Kerry). Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 66%.

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

#### 6.1.1 Family Support Providers

- 384 family support providers commissioned (H1 2025).
- 85% (328) of services commissioned provided data for H1 2025.
- Response rates ranged from 25% to 100% in seven areas.

Family Support Services Commissioned by Areas

Area	# FSS Commissioned H1 2025	# External to Tusla	# Internal to Tusla	# that provided data	% that provided data
Dublin South Central	29	27	2	29	100%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	15	12	3	14	93%
DSW/K/WW	25	20	5	20	80%

<sup>11</sup> Family Support Services includes those services funded through a Service Arrangement with the Child and Family Agency and those internally funded and delivered through the Child and Family Agency.

Midlands	4	4	0	1	25%
Dublin North City	54	47	7	35	65%
Dublin North	24	23	1	21	88%
Louth/Meath	23	18	5	23	100%
Cavan/Monaghan	18	16	2	16	89%
Cork	37	35	2	26	70%
Kerry	20	20	0	18	90%
CW/K/ST	29	26	3	29	100%
Waterford/Wexford	23	20	3	19	83%
Mid West	32	30	2	26	81%
Galway/Roscommon	13	13	0	13	100%
Mayo	12	12	0	12	100%
Donegal	12	11	1	12	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	14	14	0	14	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>85%</b>

### 6.1.2 Children in Receipt of Family Support Services

- At least 22,577 children were in receipt of family support services at the end of H1 2025. This equates to almost 2% of children (0-17 years).
- Highest rates reported by Donegal (5.8%) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (5.2). Eight areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 1.9%.
- Highest numbers of children in receipt of family support services reported by Donegal (2,430; 11%), Dublin South Central (1,973; 9%), Dublin North City (1,962; 9%) and Midwest (1,928; 9%). Fewest number reported by Midlands (160), Mayo (528) and Cavan/Monaghan (531).

#### Children in receipt of Family Support Services

Area	Children in receipt of FSS end of H2 2024	Children in receipt of FSS end of H1 2025	% Total H1 2025	Population 0-17 years	Rate / 100 children
Dublin South Central	1,540	<b>1,973</b>	9%	70,259	<b>2.8</b>
Dublin South East/Wicklow	701	<b>768</b>	3%	91,047	<b>0.8</b>
DSW/K/WW	645*	<b>1,834</b>	8%	108,927	<b>1.7</b>
Midlands	236	<b>160</b>	1%	80,962	<b>0.2</b>
Dublin North City	1,926	<b>1,962</b>	9%	48,909	<b>4.0</b>
Dublin North	1,050	<b>1,047</b>	5%	104,281	<b>1.0</b>
Louth/Meath	1,232	<b>1,381</b>	6%	96,531	<b>1.4</b>
Cavan/Monaghan	560	<b>531</b>	2%	37,336	<b>1.4</b>
Cork	1,217	<b>1,319</b>	6%	136,786	<b>1.0</b>
Kerry	1,133	<b>780</b>	3%	34,994	<b>2.2</b>
CW/KK/ST	1,595	<b>1,632</b>	7%	62,366	<b>2.6</b>
Waterford/Wexford	747	<b>1,240</b>	5%	69,239	<b>1.8</b>
MidWest	1,720	<b>1,928</b>	9%	96,764	<b>2.0</b>
Galway/Roscommon	1,591	<b>1,810</b>	8%	81,799	<b>2.2</b>
Mayo	486	<b>528</b>	2%	31,911	<b>1.7</b>

Donegal	1,905	<b>2,430</b>	11%	42,144	<b>5.8</b>
SLWC	1,129	<b>1,254</b>	6%	24,312	<b>5.2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,413</b>	<b>22,557</b>	100%	<b>1,218,567</b>	<b>1.9</b>

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

### 6.1.3 Children Referred to Family Support Services

- At least 26,009 children referred to family support services during the first six months of 2025.
- The highest rate of referrals for H1 2025 was reported by Dublin North City (5.1%) followed by Donegal (4.5%) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (3.1%). The lowest rate was reported by Midlands (0.4%) followed by Dublin South East/Wicklow (1.0%) and Louth/Meath (1.3%).
- The highest number of children referred for H1 2025 was reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (3,069; 12%) followed by Dublin North City (2,487; 10%). The fewest number was reported by Midlands (288; 1%) followed by Mayo (545; 2%).

#### Children referred to Family Support Services by area

Area	Total Referrals 2024	Total Referrals H1 2025	% Total Q1 2025	Population 0-17 years (Census 2016)	Rate / 100 children
Dublin South Central	4,263	<b>1,894</b>	<b>7%</b>	70,259	<b>2.7%</b>
DSE/WW	1,840	<b>949</b>	<b>4%</b>	91,047	<b>1.0%</b>
DSW/K/WW	3,258	<b>3,069</b>	<b>12%</b>	108,927	<b>2.8%</b>
Midlands	569	<b>288</b>	<b>1%</b>	80,962	<b>0.4%</b>
Dublin North City	5,426	<b>2,487</b>	<b>10%</b>	48,909	<b>5.1%</b>
Dublin North	2,545	<b>2,025</b>	<b>8%</b>	104,281	<b>1.9%</b>
Louth/Meath	2,489	<b>1,280</b>	<b>5%</b>	96,531	<b>1.3%</b>
Cavan/Monaghan	1,718	<b>1,024</b>	<b>4%</b>	37,336	<b>2.7%</b>
Cork	3,865	<b>1,919</b>	<b>7%</b>	136,786	<b>1.4%</b>
Kerry	2,058	<b>780</b>	<b>3%</b>	34,994	<b>2.2%</b>
CW/K/ST	3,245	<b>1,722</b>	<b>7%</b>	62,366	<b>2.8%</b>
Waterford/Wexford	3,616	<b>1,947</b>	<b>7%</b>	69,239	<b>2.8%</b>
Mid West	3,236	<b>1,781</b>	<b>7%</b>	96,764	<b>1.8%</b>
Galway/Roscommon	3,005	<b>1,631</b>	<b>6%</b>	81,799	<b>2.0%</b>
Mayo	1,191	<b>545</b>	<b>2%</b>	31,911	<b>1.7%</b>
Donegal	4,224	<b>1,910</b>	<b>7%</b>	42,144	<b>4.5%</b>
SLWC	1,895	<b>758</b>	<b>3%</b>	24,312	<b>3.1%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>48,443</b>	<b>26,009</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,218,567</b>	<b>2.1%</b>



### 6.1.4 Source of Referrals

- The most common source of referrals for H1 2025 was Tusla Social Work, accounting for 26.1% (6,785) of referrals followed by parents/guardians (25.9%; 6,741), schools (13.9%; 3,611) and HSE Officers (9.3%; 2,406).

#### Children referred to Family Support Services by source of referral

Source	Total Referrals 2024	Total Referrals Q1 2025	% Total Q1 2025
Tusla Social Workers	11,771	6,785	26.09%
Parent/Guardian	14,909	6,741	25.92%
Schools	5,364	3,611	13.88%
HSE Officers	4,589	2,406	9.25%
Other	3,268	1,686	6.48%
Other Tulsa Officers	2,972	1,682	6.47%
Child/Young Person	2,293	1,391	5.35%
Voluntary Agency	2,133	1,198	4.61%
GP	508	283	1.09%
Other Family Member	468	152	0.58%
AGS	168	74	0.28%
<b>Total</b>	<b>48,443</b>	<b>26,009</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### 6.1.5 Children who received a service

- 66% (17,142) of children referred to family support services during the first six months of 2025 received a service during that period. The percentage who received a service ranged from 27% (Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow) to 100% (Kerry). Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 66%.

#### Children referred to Family Support Services who received a service during the reporting period, H1 2025

Area	Referrals H1 2025	Of number referred, number who received a service	% who rec'd a service
Dublin South Central	1,894	1,302	69%
DSE/WW	949	517	54%
DSW/K/WW	3,069	842	27%
Midlands	288	125	43%
Dublin North City	2,487	1,462	59%
Dublin North	2,025	1,219	60%
Louth/Meath	1,280	773	60%
Cavan/Monaghan	1,024	927	91%
Cork	1,919	1,493	78%
Kerry	780	780	100%
CW/K/ST	1,722	1,266	74%
Waterford/Wexford	1,947	1,423	73%
Mid West	1,781	1,082	61%
Galway/Roscommon	1,631	1,265	78%
Mayo	545	437	80%

Donegal	1,910	1,590	83%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	758	639	84%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,009</b>	<b>17,142</b>	<b>66%</b>

- Of the 17,142 children referred to family support services in H1 2025 who received a service,
  - 4% (685) were subject of a child in care plan
  - 9% (1,572) were subject of a Tusla Child Protection & Welfare Safety Plan
  - 5% (897) were subject of a Meitheal Support Plan
  - 45% (7,775) were subject of a Single Agency Response.

## 6.2 MEITHEAL

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

### KEY FACTS

- **1,429 Meitheal processes requested** during the first six months of 2025, 15 (1%) more than the same period in 2024 (1,414).
- The **most common pathway** for requests received during the first six months of 2025 was **“Direct Access” accounting for 67% (957) of requests**. “Social Work Diversion” accounted for a further 22% (318) while “Social Work Step-Down” accounted for 11% (154) of requests.
- Of the requests where the pathway was ‘Direct Access’ 40% (265/658) were previously known to social work (based on data from 15/17 areas).
- **66% (938/1,429) of Meitheal requests** received during the first six months of 2025 **proceeded to Stage 2** (Discussion Stage).
- 874 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 in the first six months of 2025.
- **52% (452) of processes reaching completion of Stage 2 proceeded to delivery** (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting).
- **1,145 Meitheal processes were closed** during the first six months of 2025.
- 35% (396) of all Meitheal processes were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1); 26% (298) were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2 Discussion Stage); 10% (111) were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3); 30% (340) were closed post-delivery.
- **113 Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) operating** at the end of H1 2025 with a further three planned in development.

### 6.2.1 Meitheal Processes Requested

- 1,429 Meitheal processes requested during the first six months of 2025, 15 (1%) more than the same period in 2024 (1,414).
- The number of requests reported for the first six months of 2025 ranged from 14 (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) to 333 (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary).

Meitheal processes requested

Area	Total Requested H1 2024	Total Requested H1 2025	% Total Q1 2025
Dublin South Central	29	42	3%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	61	53	4%
DSW/K/WW	83	65	5%
Midlands	54	51	4%
Dublin North City	26	31	2%
Dublin North	44	42	3%
Louth/Meath	61	38	3%
Cavan/Monaghan	131	123	9%
Cork	153	128	9%
Kerry	86	124	9%
CW/K/ST	274	333	23%
Waterford/Wexford	216	215	15%
Mid West	72	65	5%
Galway/Roscommon	41	44	3%
Mayo	28	30	2%
Donegal	33	31	2%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	22	14	1%
<b>National</b>	<b>1,414</b>	<b>1,429</b>	<b>100%</b>

- The most common pathway for requests received during the first six months of 2025 was “Direct Access” accounting for 67% (957) of requests. “Social Work Diversion” accounted for a further 22% (318) while “Social Work Step-Down” accounted for 11% (154) of requests.
- Of the requests where the pathway was ‘Direct Access’ 40% (265/658) were previously known to social work (based on data from 15/17 areas).
- A breakdown of requests received during the first six months of 2025 by pathway is presented in the table below.

### Access Pathway for Meitheal Requests H1 2025

Area	# Requested H1 2025	Of the total number of Meitheal requests:					
		Direct Access	% Direct Access	Social Work Diversion	% SW Diversion	Social Work Step-Down	% Step-Down
Dublin South Central	42	28	67%	11	26%	3	7%
DSE/WW	53	49	92%	2	4%	2	4%
DSW/K/WW	65	56	86%	2	3%	7	11%
Midlands	51	48	94%	2	4%	1	2%
Dublin North City	31	27	87%	3	10%	1	3%
Dublin North	42	32	76%	7	17%	3	7%
Louth/Meath	38	23	61%	13	34%	2	5%
Cavan/Monaghan	123	65	53%	38	31%	20	16%
Cork	128	94	73%	4	3%	30	23%
Kerry	124	73	59%	38	31%	13	10%
CW/K/ST	333	139	42%	137	41%	57	17%
Waterford/Wexford	215	160	74%	53	25%	2	1%
Mid West	65	59	91%	2	3%	4	6%
Galway/Roscommon	44	42	95%	1	2%	1	2%
Mayo	30	24	80%	3	10%	3	10%
Donegal	31	27	87%	1	3%	3	10%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	14	11	79%	1	7%	2	14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,429</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>11%</b>

### 6.2.2 Meitheal Processes Proceeding to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage)

- 66% (938/1,429) of Meitheal requests received during the first six months of 2025 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage).
- The percentage of requests proceeding to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage) ranged from 20% (Cavan/Monaghan) to 100% (Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow). Thirteen areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 66%.

### Meitheal requests received proceeding to Stage Two (Discussion Stage) H1 2025

Area	# Requested H1 2025	# that proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage 2)	% that Proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage 2)
Dublin South Central	42	39	93%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	53	52	98%
DSW/K/WW	65	65	100%
Midlands	51	39	76%
Dublin North City	31	26	84%
Dublin North	42	34	81%
Louth/Meath	38	34	89%
Cavan/Monaghan	123	25	20%
Cork	128	117	91%

Kerry	124	73	59%
CW/K/ST	333	206	62%
Waterford/Wexford	215	76	35%
Mid West	65	50	77%
Galway/Roscommon	44	38	86%
Mayo	30	21	70%
Donegal	31	30	97%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	14	13	93%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,429</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>66%</b>

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

- 874 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 in the first six months of 2025.
- 52% (452) of processes reaching completion of Stage 2 proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting). The percentage of processes that proceeded to delivery ranged from 100% (13/13) Donegal to 15% (13/88) in Waterford/Wexford. Twelve areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 52%.
- 34% (297) were referred for a single agency response. The percentage of processes referred for a single agency response ranged from 80% (70/88) in Waterford/Wexford to 0% in six areas. Three areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 34%.
- 4% (35) of processes were referred to social work (stepped – up). The percentage of processes referred to social work ranged from 14% (2/14) in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan to 0% in six areas. Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 4%.
- 10% (90) of processes were closed. The percentage of processes closed ranged from 30% (32/106) in Kerry to none in three areas. Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average (10%).

#### Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two, H1 2025

Area	# Reaching Completi on of Stage 2, H1 2025	Procee d to Delivery	%	Referred to Social Work	%	Referred to a Single Agency Response	%	Closed	%
DSC	36	34	94%	1	3%	1	3%	0	0%
DSE/WW	46	45	98%	0	0%	0	0%	1	2%
DSW/K/WW	45	42	93%	0	0%	0	0%	3	7%
Midlands	44	38	86%	0	0%	6	14%	0	0%
DNC	29	23	79%	3	10%	1	3%	2	7%
Dublin North	38	13	34%	2	5%	12	32%	11	29%
LH/MH	18	10	56%	2	11%	4	22%	2	11%
CN/MN	115	23	20%	5	4%	77	67%	10	9%
Cork	40	28	70%	1	3%	2	5%	9	23%
Kerry	106	34	32%	9	8%	31	29%	32	30%

CW/KK/ST	127	26	20%	8	6%	92	72%	1	1%
WD/WX	88	13	15%	1	1%	70	80%	4	5%
MidWest	44	41	93%	0	0%	0	0%	3	7%
GY/RN	41	36	88%	1	2%	0	0%	4	10%
Mayo	30	22	73%	0	0%	1	3%	7	23%
Donegal	13	13	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
SLWC	14	11	79%	2	14%	0	0%	1	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>10%</b>

#### 6.2.4 Meitheal Processes Closed

- 1,145 Meitheal processes were closed during the first six months of 2025. The number of processes closed ranged from 340 (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary) to 14 (Dublin South Central).
- 35% (396) of all Meitheal processes were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1). The percentage closed following submission of a Meitheal request form ranged from 68% (23/34) in Cork to 0% (0/21) in Dublin North. Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 35%.
- 26% (298) 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 95% (73/77) in Cavan/Monaghan to none in two areas (Dublin North and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan). Three areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average (26%).
- 10% (111) of Meitheal processes were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3). The percentage closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings ranged from 43% in Dublin South Central (6/14) and Donegal (10/23) to none in one area (Cavan/Monaghan). Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 10%.
- 30% (340) of Meitheal processes were closed post-delivery. The percentage closed post-delivery ranged from 71% (15/21) in Dublin North area to 3% (1/34) in Cork. Eleven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 30%.

## Number of Meitheals closed H1 2025

Area	Total number of Meitheals closed H1 2025	Of the total number of Meitheals closed the number and % that were closed following:							
		<i>Submission of a Meitheal Request Form</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Discussion Stage)</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Commencement of Meitheal Support meetings (Delivery Stage)</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Post delivery</i>	<i>%</i>
DSC	14	2	14%	2	14%	6	43%	4	29%
DSE/WW	55	8	15%	4	7%	7	13%	36	65%
DSW/K/WW	65	12	18%	7	11%	5	8%	41	63%
Midlands	16	6	38%	2	13%	6	38%	2	13%
DNC	17	7	41%	4	24%	2	12%	4	24%
Dublin North	21	0	0%	0	0%	6	29%	15	71%
LH/MH	22	5	23%	6	27%	1	5%	10	45%
CN/MN	77	1	1%	73	95%	0	0%	3	4%
Cork	34	23	68%	8	24%	2	6%	1	3%
Kerry	101	48	48%	11	11%	8	8%	34	34%
CW/KK/ST	340	163	48%	123	36%	16	5%	38	11%
WD/WX	221	86	39%	44	20%	6	3%	85	38%
MidWest	58	12	21%	2	3%	14	24%	30	52%
GY/RN	35	4	11%	8	23%	9	26%	14	40%
Mayo	19	7	37%	2	11%	4	21%	6	32%
Donegal	23	4	17%	2	9%	10	43%	7	30%
SLWC	27	8	30%	0	0%	9	33%	10	37%
National	1,145	396	35%	298	26%	111	10%	340	30%



### 6.2.5 Child and Family Support Networks

- 113 Child and Family Support Networks<sup>12</sup> (CFSN) operating at the end of H1 2025 with a further three planned in development.

Child and Family Support Networks operating and planned

Area	CFSNs Operating H2 2024	CFSNs Operating H1 2025	CFSNs Planned H1 2025
Dublin South Central	6	6	0
Dublin South East/Wicklow	7	7	0
DSW/K/WW	10	10	0
Midlands	4	4	2
Dublin North City	6	6	1
Dublin North	4	4	0
Louth/Meath	5	5	0
Cavan/Monaghan	4	4	0
Cork	12	12	0
Kerry	3	3	0
CW/K/ST	8	8	0
Waterford/Wexford	8	7	0
Mid West	13	13	0
Galway/Roscommon	12	12	0
Mayo	4	4	0
Donegal	5	5	0
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	3	3	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>3</b>

<sup>12</sup> Child and Family Support Networks: Collaborative networks of community, voluntary and statutory providers intended to improve access to support services for children and their families

## 7.0 PEOPLE & CHANGE

### KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

#### 7.1 Workforce Position

#### 7.2 Absence Rate

#### 7.3 Social Work Staff

#### 7.4 Residential Services

#### 7.5 Workforce Learning and Development

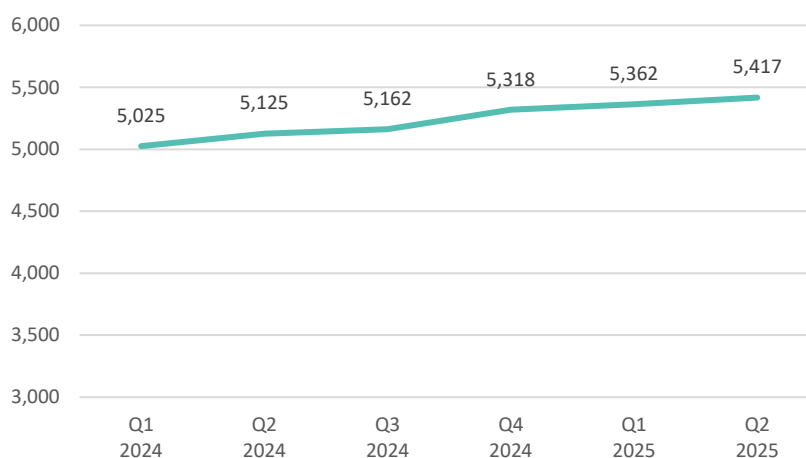
### KEY FACTS

- **5,417 whole time equivalent (WTE)** staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q2 2025, 55 (1%) more than Q1 2025 (5,362) and 292 (6%) more than Q2 2024 (5,125).
- **444 new staff joined Tusla** (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first six months of 2025, 54 (14%) more than the same period in 2024 (390).
- **209 staff left Tusla** (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in the first six months of 2025, 5 (2%) more than the same period in 2024 (204).
- At the end of Q2 2025, the **overall absence rate for the Agency was 6.61%**, up slightly from 6.5% at the end of Q1 2025, but down slightly 6.79% at the end of Q2 2024.
- e-learning training activity: 8,945 completions were achieved in Q2 2025
- Classroom training: 2,770 participants attended in Q2 2025.

### 7.1 Workforce Position

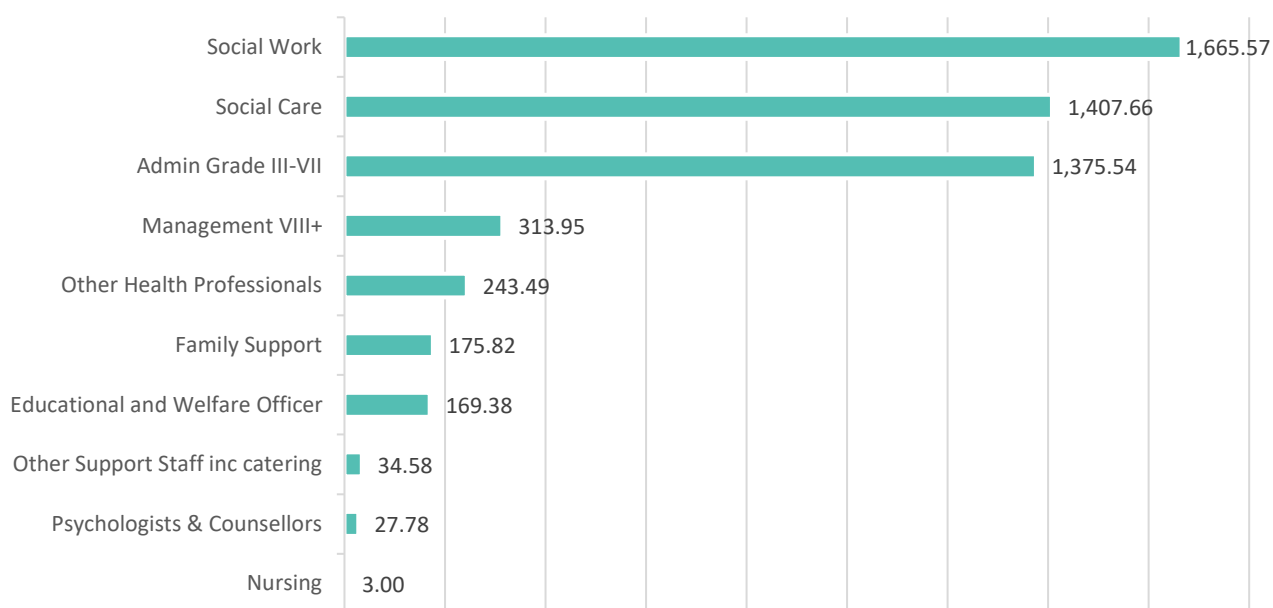
- 5,417 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q2 2025, 55 (1%) more than Q1 2025 (5,362) and 292 (6%) more than Q2 2024 (5,125).

Total Staff Employed (WTE), by quarter



- Social workers are the largest category of staff employed by the Agency, accounting for 31% (1,665.57) of total staff (WTE) employed at the end of Q2 2025, followed by social care staff

accounting for a further 26% (1,407.66). Management (Grade VIII+) account for 6% (313.95) of the workforce.



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

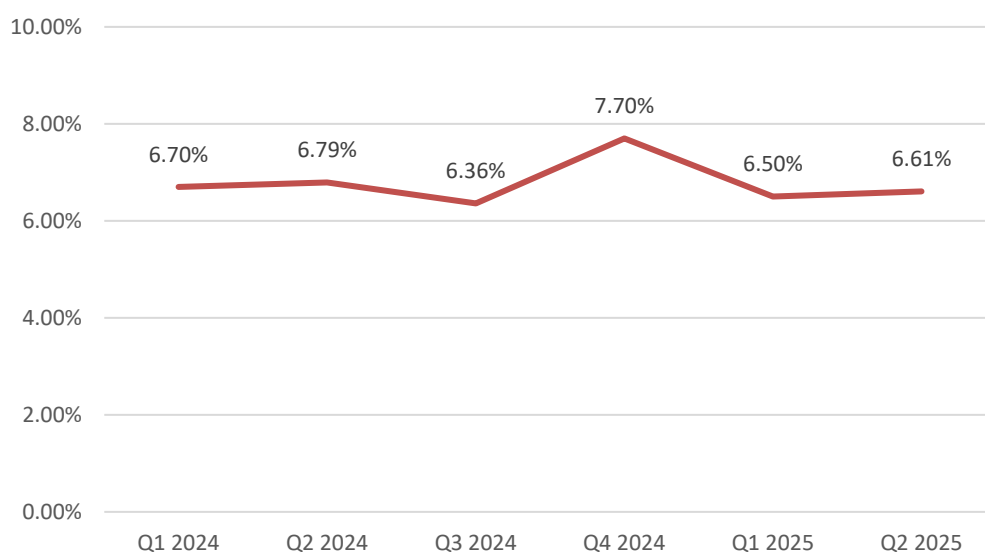
#### Breakdown of staff (WTE) by category

Staffing by Category	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q2 2025 v Q1 2024	Q2 2025 v Q2 2024
Social Work	1,588.02	1,593.36	1,678.50	1,674.03	<b>1,665.57</b>	-8.46	77.55
Social Care	1,334.16	1,331.37	1,355.03	1,401.32	<b>1,407.66</b>	6.34	73.50
Admin Grade III-VII	1,275.99	1,297.46	1,349.85	1,350.46	<b>1,375.54</b>	25.08	99.55
Family Support	194.49	199.51	173.85	161.95	<b>175.82</b>	13.87	-18.67
Management VIII+	298.07	298.27	306.66	304.65	<b>313.95</b>	9.30	15.88
Educational & Welfare Officer	152.84	151.79	152.55	160.69	<b>169.38</b>	8.69	16.54
Other Support Staff	37.46	35.93	34.59	33.58	<b>34.58</b>	1.00	-2.88
Nursing	3.52	2.95	3.58	3.00	<b>3.00</b>	0.00	-0.52
Psychologists & Counsellors	25.85	28.31	28.38	29.75	<b>27.78</b>	-1.97	1.93
Other Health Professionals	214.88	222.55	235.45	242.10	<b>243.49</b>	1.39	28.61
<b>Total Staffing</b>	<b>5,125</b>	<b>5,162</b>	<b>5,318</b>	<b>5,362</b>	<b>5,416.77</b>	<b>54.77</b>	<b>291.77</b>

- 444 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first six months of 2025, 54 (14%) more than the same period in 2024 (390).
- 209 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in the first six months of 2025, 5 (2%) more than the same period in 2024 (204).
- 57 staff retired in the first six months of 2025, 10 (15%) fewer than the same period in 2024 (67).
- 170 (3%) staff were on maternity leave (paid and unpaid) at the end of Q2 2025.

## 7.2 Absence Rate

- At the end of Q2 2025, the overall absence rate for the Agency was 6.61%, up slightly from 6.5% at the end of Q1 2025, but down slightly 6.79% at the end of Q2 2024.



- The highest absence rate was reported for social care staff at 9.72%. The rate for Residential Services (10.19%) (data not shown), is 3.6 percentage points higher than the overall rate of 6.6%. The overall absence rate excluding Residential Services is 5.88%.

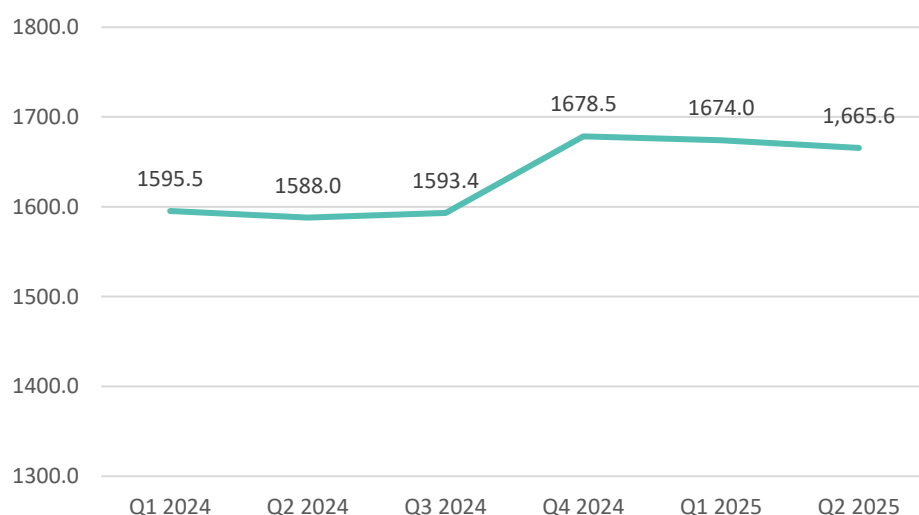
#### Absence rate by staff grade

Staff Grade	Absence Rate Q2 2024	Absence Rate Q3 2024	Absence Rate Q4 2024	Absence Rate Q1 2025	Absence Rate Q2 2025
Social Work	6.14%	4.92%	6.64%	5.93%	<b>6.17%</b>
Social Care	9.74%	10.05%	10.94%	8.69%	<b>9.72%</b>
All other grades	5.2%	4.99%	6.15%	5.38%	<b>4.81%</b>

## 7.3 Social Work Staff (WTE)

- 1,665.6 whole time equivalent (WTE) social work staff (all grades and excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q2 2025, 8.4 (<1%) fewer than at the end of Q1 2025 (1,674.0) but 77.6 (5%) more than Q2 2024 (1,588.0)

#### Number of social workers (WTE) by quarter



- 97 social workers joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first six months of 2025, 24 (33%) more than the same period in 2024 (73).
- 90 social workers left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks excluding retirements) in the six three months of 2025, one more than the same period in 2024 (89).
- 9 social workers retired in the first six months of 2025, 7 (44%) fewer than the same period in 2024 (16).
- 77 (5%) social workers were on maternity leave (paid and unpaid) at the end of Q2 2025.
- A breakdown of the number of social workers (all grades) employed at the end of each quarter Q1 2024 to Q1 2025 by area is presented in the table below.

**Breakdown of social work staff (WTE) by area Q2 2024 – Q2 2025**

	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)
Area	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025
DSC	70.52	76.56	81.51	78.31	<b>77.07</b>
DSE/WW	80.61	74	78.65	77.22	<b>75.54</b>
DSW/K/WW	97.16	100.63	100.23	103.61	<b>105.96</b>
Midlands	91.76	90.28	97.02	95.27	<b>97.6</b>
Regional Services DML	18.77	16.91	17.84	14.96	<b>16.26</b>
<b>DML Total</b>	<b>358.82</b>	<b>358.38</b>	<b>375.25</b>	<b>369.37</b>	<b>372.43</b>
CN/MN	49.02	45.06	50.41	49.41	<b>47.84</b>
DNC	79.75	78.73	81.6	83.35	<b>87.29</b>
LH/MH	85.76	90.47	95.83	95.11	<b>98.8</b>
Dublin North	92.9	89.53	88.19	95.89	<b>90.64</b>
Regional Services DNE	12.42	13.21	14.28	13.06	<b>15.85</b>
<b>DNE Total</b>	<b>319.85</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>330.31</b>	<b>336.82</b>	<b>340.42</b>
CW/KK/ST	62.31	62.28	65.85	60.81	<b>57.27</b>
Cork	187.68	181.17	194.97	192.9	<b>188.75</b>
Kerry	36.79	35.28	37.51	37.28	<b>37.49</b>
WD/WX	89.56	92.56	97.46	94.56	<b>97.46</b>
Regional Services South	6.77	7.47	6.79	7.22	<b>8.41</b>
<b>South Total</b>	<b>383.11</b>	<b>378.56</b>	<b>402.58</b>	<b>392.77</b>	<b>389.38</b>
Donegal	72.19	76.57	81.12	79.54	<b>73.91</b>
GY/RN	93.69	101.75	105.11	105.77	<b>100.96</b>
Mayo	35.04	36.62	39.69	37.93	<b>36.96</b>
Mid West	92.74	91.94	98.89	101.6	<b>102.11</b>
SLWC	44.52	42.03	43.08	42.32	<b>40.97</b>
Regional Services West	11.56	13.07	18.63	18.63	<b>18.98</b>
<b>West Total</b>	<b>349.74</b>	<b>361.98</b>	<b>386.52</b>	<b>385.79</b>	<b>373.89</b>
Residential DML					
Residential DNE	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	<b>2.6</b>
Residential West					

Residential South	1	1	1	1	1
National residential	1	1	1	1	1
Residential Services	4.6	4.6	5	4.6	4.6
Corporate	171.9	172.64	179.24	184.68	184.85
Corporate	171.9	172.64	179.24	184.68	184.85
Total	1,588.02	1,593.36	1,678.5	1,674.03	1,665.57

## 7.4 Workforce Learning and Development (WLD)

- Table 1 shows classroom training attendance for Q2 2025 (2,770 completions)
- Table 2 shows E-learning activity for Q2 2025 (8,945 completions)
- The most attended classroom training was ‘Tusla Manual Handling’ with 332 completions followed by ‘Cumulative Harm’ training with 255 completions.
- The most popular E-learning module during Q2 2025 was ‘Data Protection in Tusla’ with 1,282 completions followed by ‘Introduction to Children First’ with 1,145 completions.

**Table 1: Classroom Training, Q2 2025**

Name of Module	Total Completions
Anti Racism and Intercultural Awareness	19
Applied Complaint Officer Training	9
Attachment (Step 2)	37
Being Trauma Informed - Tusla	118
CASP Data Protection Guidance for Applying CP to CASP VC	12
CASP V2 Full Day in Person Training 2025	33
Child and Youth Participation: Modules 2 & 3 - Tusla	41
Children who have sexually harmed: Considerations and Safety Planning - Tusla	49
Court Skills in Practice - Mock court session for educational welfare cases - Tusla	42
Cumulative Harm - Tusla	255
Diversity in Modern Ireland	2
Emergency First Aid	8
Everyday Personal Effectiveness Programme, Values In Action - Tusla	77
Exploring and responding to young people, drug and alcohol misuse	78
Fire Safety Extinguisher Training	20
Fire Warden Training	10
First Aid REFRESHER Response Course (PHECC) - Tusla	76
First Aid Response Course (PHECC) (3 Day) - Tusla	30
Focus on Mental Health	78
Home Visiting	50
Induction Day - Tusla	40
LGBTQIA+ Issues in Child Protection, Welfare Foster Care and Alternative Care - Tusla	10

Ligature Knife & Ligature Audits Training - Tusla	14
Management: An Introduction for First Time Managers - Virtual Classroom - Tusla	31
MECPATHS Child Trafficking Workshop (Hidden in Plain Sight) Face to Face – Tusla	57
Mediation Skills (Two-day training programme) - Tusla	12
Meitheal - Tusla Led Early Intervention Practice Model - Tusla	11
Myers Briggs Type Indicator (*MBTI) - Team Development - Tusla	10
Navigating the Journey Together	38
Non-Violent Resistance Training (NVR) - Tusla	12
Office for Legal Services, Briefings 2025 - Classroom Based - Tusla	52
Professional Management of Challenging Behaviour	4
Resilience and Self Care Training - Tusla	31
Resistance and Engaging with Families - Tusla	49
SafeTALK - Tusla	3
Sensory Workshop	3
Sharing Personal Data Safely	77
Signs of Safety	34
Solihill Approach	3
Strengthening Attachment Relationships A play based experiential workshop	9
Supervision Skills for Supervisors Module 2 - Tusla	17
TCM (Classroom) Training for Child Protection and Alternative Care Staff - Tusla	60
Therapeutic Crisis Intervention Refresher Training - Classroom (TCI)	207
TUSLA COACHING SKILLS PROGRAMME	28
Tusla Manual Handling Training	332
University of Galway/Tusla Joint Training Events	65
Violence Harassment & Aggression (VHA) - Tusla (Classroom Training)	199
Welltree Introduction	6
Welltree Module 1: Introduction to Attachment/Trauma Informed Practice - Tusla	37
Welltree module 1-3	14
Welltree Module 2: Intermediate Attachment/Trauma informed practice within residential childcare - Tusla	29
Welltree Module 3: Risk Informed Practice within residential childcare - Tusla	7
Welltree Module 4: Wellbeing informed practice within residential childcare - Tusla	8
Welltree module 4-6	21
Welltree Module 5: Welltree Outcomes Framework within residential childcare - Tusla	11
Welltree Refresher Training - Tusla	42
Working Sexual abuse and Harmful Sexual Behaviour 1 or 3 Pilot	13
Working with Dom Violence, Abuse and Coercive Control	108
Young people – Loss and grief – Social care professionals. An understanding.	12
Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) - Tusla	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,770</b>

**Table 2: E-Learning Q2 2025**

Name of Module	Total Completions
All about claiming Travel, Subsistence and other Staff Costs	474
An Introduction to Parental Participation for all staff	24
An Introduction to Tusla's Approach to Commissioning	5
Attachment in Tusla Practice	58
Barnahus	31
CASP eLearning	2
Child Sexual Exploitation	365
Children First in Action	700
Complaint handling in Tusla. (Module 1)	644
Complaint handling in Tusla. Understanding Complaint Investigations (Module2)	79
Critical Incident Stress Management	43
Data Protection in Tusla	1,282
De-escalation Skills for Staff Redeployed to CRS	5
DSGBV	43
Freedom of Information: An Introduction to the FOI Act	547
Health and Safety Management: Introduction for Line Managers	42
Hidden Harm: The Impact of Parental Alcohol and other Drug use	66
Implementing Children First in Tusla	1,112
Incident Management - Tusla	414
Induction to Children's Residential Services in Tusla	5
Introduction to Children First	1,145
Medication Management in CRS	134
Meitheal Briefing - Tusla	22
Minute Taking: An Introduction - Tusla	32
Module 3 : Using NIMS for the Management of Complaints - Tusla	19
Organisational Risk Management - Tusla	52
Policies and Procedures for CRS	32
Parental Participation in Practice	2
Revised Standard Business Processes on NCCIS - Tusla	6
TCM for CPAC	118
Tusla Case Management: Fundamentals of the TCM System	190
Tusla Employee Health and Safety Awareness Training	788
Violence, Harassment and Aggression (VHA) Online - Tusla	464
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,945</b>



## 8 FINANCE

### KEY FACTS

- The outturn for the year to date (June YTD) is an overspend of €16.4 million (3%).
- Net expenditure is €626.3 million against an initial revenue budget allocation of €609.8 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €9.1 million (4%).
- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget year to date by €26.7 million (7%)

### Financial Performance

- The outturn for the year to date (June YTD) is an overspend of €16.4 million (3%)
- Net expenditure is €626.3 million against an initial revenue budget allocation of €609.8 million
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €9.1 million (4%).

#### Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	June 2025 YTD			% Variance Act vs Budget
	Actual	Budget	Variance	
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€
<b>Pay costs</b>	217,430	226,517	-9,088	(4%)

- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget year to date by €23.7 million.

#### Non-Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	June 2025 YTD			% Variance Act vs Budget
	Actual	Budget	Variance	
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€
<b>Non pay costs</b>	420,646	393,914	26,732	7%

## APPENDIX I

### ABBREVIATIONS

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

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