



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Integrated Performance and Activity Report

QUARTER 3 2015



QUALITY ASSURANCE DIRECTORATE

CONTENTS

PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW	4
1.0 CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES	10
1.1 Referrals (Child Welfare and Child Abuse)	10
1.2 Child Protection Notification System	16
1.3 Crisis Intervention Service / Out of Hours Service	18
2.0 CHILDREN IN CARE.....	20
2.1 Number of Children in Care	20
2.2 Number of Children in Care by Care Type	22
2.3 Children in Private Placements	23
2.4 Children in Care with an Allocated Social Worker.....	26
2.5 Children in Care with a Written Care Plan.....	28
2.6 Children in Respite Care from Home	29
2.7 Children in Care in Education.....	30
3.0 SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITY DATA “Measuring the Pressure”	32
3.1 Open Cases	32
3.2 Open Cases Allocated / Awaiting Allocation	34
3.3 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Priority Level	35
3.4 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Waiting Time	37
4.0 AFTERCARE SERVICES.....	39
4.1 Young adults in receipt of aftercare services	39
4.2 Children in care with an aftercare plan / allocated aftercare worker	40
4.3 Young adults discharged from care by reason of reaching 18 years.....	41
5.0 ADOPTION SERVICES.....	43
5.1 Information and Tracing Service	43
5.2 Adoption Assessments	44
6.0 FOSTER CARERS	45
6.1 Foster carers approved and on the Panel of Approved Foster Carers	45
6.2 Foster carers (relative) unapproved	49
7.0 SOCIAL WORK / RESIDENTIAL SERVICES – HR AND FINANCE DATA	51
7.1 Social Work Staff (WTE) – Workforce Position	51
7.2 Residential Services Staff (WTE) – Workforce Position.....	53
7.3 Finance – Variance from Budget	55
8.0 NATIONAL EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE	56
8.1 New Developments	56
8.2 Activity Data	57
9.0 EDUCATIONAL WELFARE SERVICES	59
9.1 Brief interventions / Cases	59
9.2 School Attendance Notices and Summonses under Section 25	61
9.3 Children educated in places other than recognised schools	62
9.4 Applications and Assessments under Section 14	63
9.5 Educational Welfare Officers – Workforce Position	64
9.6 Finance – Variance from Budget	65
10.0 QUALITY ASSURANCE	66
11.1 Internal Inspection and Monitoring.....	66
11.2 HIQA Inspections.....	71

11.0	HUMAN RESOURCES.....	76
11.1	Workforce Position	76
11.2	Absence Rate.....	78
11.3	Workforce Learning and Development	79
12.0	LEGAL SERVICES.....	81
13.0	FINANCE.....	83
13.1	Financial Performance.....	83
13.2	Financial Risks Facing the Agency in 2015	84
14.0	APPENDIX A.....	86

PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

This report provides an update on the performance and activity of services at the end of Q3 2015. It is structured around key performance and activity measures included in the Agency's Business Plan 2015. The data presented was provided by the individual service areas and refers to the latest performance and activity information available at this time.

This report provides evidence of continued excellence and improvement in a number of key areas and also highlights challenges and areas where further improvement is required.

The summary by service area set out below provides an overview of the Q3 2015 position regarding activity and performance.

CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

- 10,899 referrals¹ during Q2 2015; down 94 on Q1 2015
- 58% (n=6,334) child welfare concerns, up 111 on Q1 2015 and 42% (n=4,565) child abuse concerns, down 205 on Q1 2015
- 65% (n=6,952) of preliminary enquiries completed within 24 hours; 2% higher than Q1 2015
- 46% (n=4,921) of referrals required an initial assessment; 3% lower than Q1 2015
- 17% (n=836) of initial assessments completed within 21 days; no change from Q1 2015
- 1,397 children listed as 'active' (i.e., at ongoing risk of significant harm) on the CPNS at the end of Q3 2015; 37 more than Q2 2015
- 99% (n=1,383/1,397) of children had an allocated social worker at the point of listing on the CPNS
- 26,129 cases open to social work at the end of Q3 2015; down 1,446 on Q2 2015
- 73.2% (n=19,116) of open cases were allocated to a social worker; 0.9% lower than Q2 2015
- 7,013 cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2015, 118 fewer than Q2 2015
- 19% (n=1,305) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised as 'high priority'; 2% lower than Q2 2015 and the fewest number for the period Q1 2014 – Q2 2015. High priority cases awaiting allocation of a social worker down 60% (n = 1,959) since Q1 2014.

ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES²

Children in care

- 6,373 children in care at the end of Q3 2015, nine more than Q2 2015
- 92% (n=5,932) of children in care had an allocated social worker against a target of 100%; down 1% from Q2 2015

¹ Referral data are reported quarterly in arrears

² Includes children in care, young adults in receipt of aftercare services and adoption services

- 90% (n=5748) of children in care had a care plan (on target and no change from previous quarter).
- 8% (n = 496) of children in care at the end of Q3 2015 were in private placements; an increase of two on Q2 2015
- 16 (0.25%) children in care were in a placement outside of the State; down one on Q2 2015
- 98% (n = 3,932/4,013) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) and 94% (n = 975/1,042) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of Q3 2015, no change from Q2 2015

Foster Carers

- 4,336 foster carers (all types) approved and on the Panel of Approved Foster Carers at the end of Q3 2015; down 9 on Q2 2015
- 78% (n = 2,263/2,894) of general foster carers approved had an allocated link (social worker), up 3% on Q2 2015
- 70% (n = 712/1,167) of relative foster carers approved had an allocated link (social worker), up 2% on Q2 2015
- 410 relative foster carers unapproved at the end of Q3 2015; down 27 from Q2 2015
- 350 (85%) of relative foster carers unapproved had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks; 18 fewer than Q2 2015
- 58% (n=204) of relative foster carers unapproved had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks had an allocated link(social) work; up 11% from Q2 2015.

Aftercare

- 1,796 young adults (all ages) in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2015; 73 more than Q2 2015
- 58% (n = 1,009/1,737) of young adults aged 18-22 years (inclusive) in receipt of aftercare services were in full-time education at the end of Q3 2015
- 4% (n = 77/1,737) of young adults 18-22 years (inclusive) in receipt of aftercare services were in a residential placement
- 31% (n = 295/962) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years had a preparation for leaving care and aftercare plan at the end of Q2 2015 (data provisional)
- 35% (n = 362/1,042) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years had an allocated aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2015
- 170 young adults were discharged from care by reason of reaching 18 years during Q3 2015; 97% (n =165) were eligible for an aftercare service and of these 89% (n =147) had an allocated aftercare worker

Adoption and Information and Tracing Service

- 666 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q3 2015; 201 fewer than Q2 2015
- 232 new applications to commence tracing for a searched person received during Q3 2015; up 44 on Q2 2015. 615 new applications since start of 2015
- 58 adoption assessments (all types) completed during Q3 2015; up four on Q2 2015.

NATIONAL EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

- 4,523 early years services (EYS) nationally at the end of Q3 2015; down 83 on Q2 2015
- 11% (n = 508) of EYS received an inspection during Q3 2015; 37% (1,659) inspected September year to date. Inspections up 68% (n = 672) on same period in 2014
- 53 complaints received in respect of EYS during Q3 2015; down 14 on Q2 2015
- 1 prosecution of EYS taken by the Agency during Q3 2015; total of 2 taken January-September 2015

EDUCATIONAL WELFARE SERVICES

- EWS worked with (brief interventions and cases) a total of 559 new individual children during Q3 2015 bringing the total for the year (Jan – Sept) to 2,951
- 145 school attendance notices were issued under Section 25 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 during Q3 2015. 407 SANs (265 children) issued January –September 2015.
- 30 summonses were issued under Section 25 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 during Q3 2015. 116 summonses (76 children) issued January -September 2015.
- 45 children were registered as being educated in places other than in recognised schools in Q3 2015. 1,018 registered January – September 2015 of which 18% (n = 180) registered as home educated.
- Applications were made under Section 14 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, in respect of 142 children during Q3 2015. 707 applications January – September 2015.
- 93 assessments under Section 14 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, were carried out from during Q3 2015. 257 assessments carried out January – September 2015.

QUALITY ASSURANCE – INSPECTION AND MONITORING

- 97 **private residential centres** registered with the Agency at the end of Q3 2015; up 8 from Q2
- 11 private residential centres were due an inspection and all centres received their inspection; 44 inspections January – September 2015
- 5 private residential centres were the subject of a registration intervention in Q3; 25 centres subject to an intervention January-September 2015

- 45% (n = 44/97) of individual private residential centres received a monitoring visit in Q3; 184 visits January – September 2015
- 25 **voluntary residential centres** registered with the Agency at the end of Q3 2015; no change from Q2
- 20% (n = 5/25) of voluntary residential centres received a monitoring visit during Q3; 21 visits January – September 2015
- 38 **statutory residential centres** (excluding special care) operating at the end of Q3 2015; down 6 from Q2 2015
- 63% (n = 24/38) of individual statutory residential centres received a monitoring visit during Q3; 89 visits January – September 2015
- 10 monitoring visits to **special care centres** (n = 3) during Q3 2015; 34 visits January – September 2015
- 20 monitoring visits to **foster care services** (8/17 areas) during Q3 2015; 53 visits (9/17 areas) January – September 2015.

HUMAN RESOURCES OVERVIEW

- 3,416 staff (WTE) employed by the Agency at the end of Q3 2015; down 22 from Q2 2015
- 159 staff on maternity leave at the end of Q3 2015; down 8 on Q2 2015
- 186 new staff on the Agency's payroll since January 2015
- 182 staff have left (including retirements) the Agency since January 2015
- Overall absence rate was 5.18% at the end of August 2015; up 0.36% from Q2 2015
- 107 courses delivered by Workforce Learning and Development in Q3 2015 at which 1,677 persons attended.

LEGAL SERVICES

- The year to date (September 2015) financial position for legal services, shows a total spend of €23.062 million against a budget of €21.953 million (i.e., over-spend of €1.109 million)
- 44% (€10.204 million) of total spend YTD on GALs (including solicitors and counsel)
- 43% (€9.891 million) of total spend YTD on contracted legal services (Arthur Cox Consultancy Services)

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

- The financial outturn for the year to date (September 2015) is an over-spend of €9.086 million.
- The net expenditure for the period was €462.732 million against an original budget allocation of €453.645 million.
- The key areas of over-spend are non pay at €12.246 million; private residential and foster care at €7.602 million overspend YTD, agency pay at €1.659 million over-spend YTD, staff

travel at €0.966 million over-spend YTD and legal services at €1.109 million over-spend YTD.

- The key areas of under-spend are basic and pension pay at €4.118 million under-spend YTD and foster care and other allowances at €0.336 million under-spend YTD.

ABBREVIATIONS

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

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

1.0 CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

1.1 Referrals (child welfare and child abuse)

1.2 Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)

1.3 Crisis Intervention Service / Out of Hours Service

KEY FACTS

- 10,899 referrals received in Q2 2015; down 94 on Q1 2015
- 58% (n=6,334) child welfare concerns and 42% (n=4,565) child abuse concerns
- Referrals ranged from 227 (Cavan/Monaghan and Donegal) to 1,316 (Cork)
- 65% (n=6,952) of preliminary enquiries completed within 24 hours of receipt of the referral; 2% higher than Q1 2015
- 46% (n=4,921) of referrals required an initial assessment; 3% lower than Q1 2015
- 17% (n = 836) of initial assessments completed within the 21 day target of receipt of the referral; no change from Q1 2014
- 1,397 children listed as 'active' (i.e., at ongoing risk of significant harm) on the CPNS at the end of Q3 2015; 37 more than Q2 2015
- 99% (n=1,383) children had an allocated social worker at the point of listing on the CPNS
- 242 referrals to the Crisis Intervention Service in Q3 2015; up 29 from Q2 2015. 21% (n = 52) of referrals placed
- 67 referrals to the Emergency Place of Safety Service in Q3 2015; 38 fewer than Q2 2015. 61% (n = 41) of referrals placed.

1.1 Referrals (Child Welfare and Child Abuse)

1.1.1 Referrals received

- 10,899 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Service during Q2 2015³ (Figure 1); 94 fewer than Q1 2015 (n = 10,993) and 551 fewer than the same period last year (n = 11,450). This brings to 21,892 the number of referrals for Q1 –Q2 2015.
- 58% (n=6,334) of referrals were for child welfare concerns, up 111 on Q1 2015 and 42% (n=4,565) were for child abuse concerns, down 205 on Q2 2015 (Figure 1/Table 1).

³ Data on referrals are reported quarterly in arrears.

Figure 1: Number of referrals (child welfare and abuse), by quarter Q1 2013 – Q2 2015

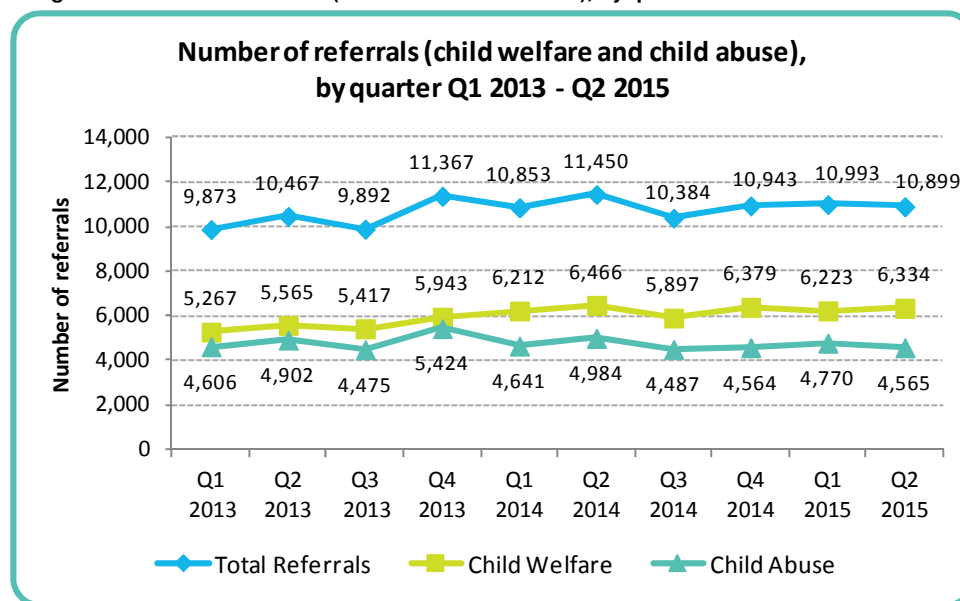


Table 1: Breakdown of the percentage of child welfare and abuse referrals, by quarter Q1 2013 – Q2 2015

Referral type	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015
% Welfare	53.3%	53.2%	54.8%	52.3%	57.2%	56.5%	56.8%	58.3%	56.6%	58.1%
% Abuse	46.7%	46.8%	45.2%	47.7%	42.8%	43.5%	43.2%	41.7%	43.4%	41.9%
Difference	6.7%	6.3%	9.5%	4.6%	14.5%	12.9%	13.6%	16.6%	13.2%	16.2%

- A breakdown of referrals by area, Q2 2014 to Q2 2015, is presented in Table 2. For Q2 2015, the number of referrals by area ranged from 1,316 (Cork) to 227 (Cavan/Monaghan and Donegal). Four areas (Midlands, Dublin North, Cork, MidWest) reported in excess of 1,000 referrals.
- Nine of the 17 areas reported an increase in referrals from Q1 2015 to Q2 2015, of which Midlands reported the highest increase (n=73) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (n = 47) and Kerry (n = 46).
- Of the remaining eight areas that reported a decrease Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan reported the largest decrease (n=120) followed by MidWest (n=94).

Table 2: Total referrals received by area, Q2 2014 – Q2 2015

Area	Number of referrals Q2 2014	Number of referrals Q3 2014	Number of referrals Q4 2014	Number of referrals Q1 2015	Number of referrals Q2 2015	Δ (+/-) Q2 2015 v Q1 2015
DSC	357	274	483	411	336	-75
DSE/WW	456	400	636	492	530	+38
DSW/K/WW	723	646	713	755	802	+47
Midlands	927	931	1,029	1,030	1,103	+73
DNC	498	477	472	551	569	+18
Dublin North	1060	903	843	994	1,013	+19
LH/MH	912	840	830	631	608	-23
CN/MN	536	304	224	217	227	+10
Cork	1,291	1,269	1,204	1,337	1,316	-21

Kerry	262	266	236	248	294	+46
CW/KK/ST	738	664	694	658	670	+12
WD/WX	1,074	987	963	867	864	-3
Mid West	1,092	877	1,039	1,135	1,041	-94
GY/RN	720	664	804	836	834	-2
Mayo	196	297	203	210	231	+21
Donegal	342	281	247	267	227	-40
SO/LM/WC	266	304	323	354	234	-120
National	11,450	10,384	10,943	10,993	10,899	-94

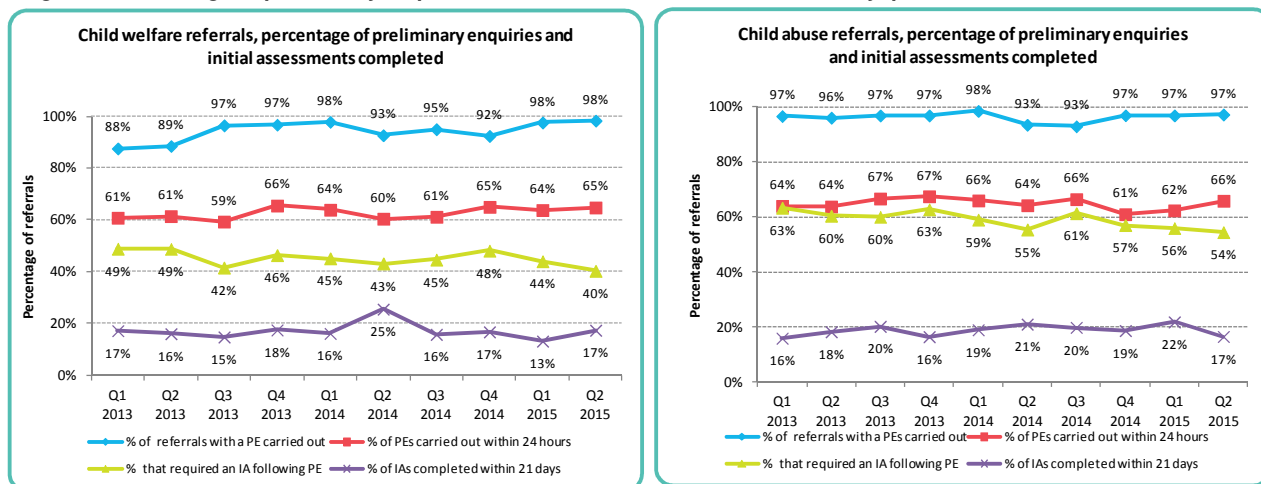
1.1.2 Preliminary Enquiries Carried Out / Initial Assessments Completed

- A preliminary enquiry⁴ was carried out for 98% (n=10,663/10,899) of all referrals in Q2 2015; 1% higher than Q1 2015 (97%; n = 10,694/10,993).
- 98% of child welfare referrals were subject to a preliminary enquiry, no change from Q1 2015 and 97% of child abuse referrals were subject to preliminary enquiry, no change from Q1 2015 (Figure 2).
- 65% (n=6,952/10,663) of the preliminary enquiries were completed within the 24 hour target of receipt of the referral; 2% higher than Q1 2015 (63%; n=6,752/10,694). A slightly higher percentage was reported for child abuse referrals (66%; n=2,920/4,437) than child welfare referrals (65%; n = 4,032/6,226).
- 46% (n=4,921/10,663) of referrals that were subject to a preliminary enquiry required an initial assessment⁵; 3% lower than Q1 2015 (49%; n=5,256/10,694) and 6% lower than Q4 2014.
- A higher percentage of referrals for child abuse (54%; n=2,415/4,437) than child welfare (40%; n=2,506/6,226) required an initial assessment following a preliminary enquiry (Figure 2).
- 17% (n=836/4,921) of the initial assessments were completed within the 21 day target of receipt of the referral; no change from Q1 2015.
- The percentage of initial assessments for child abuse referrals completed within 21 days dropped from 22% in Q1 2015 to 17% in Q2 2015, while the percentage of initial assessments for child welfare referrals completed within 21 days increased from 13% to 17% (Figure 2).

⁴ The preliminary enquiries step is concerned with substantiating the details provided by the reporter e.g. verify reporters phone number, child's address, concern, check if the child is already known to the service, other network checks etc. A preliminary enquiry is not an assessment. The aim of the preliminary enquiry process is to support and help the user (the social worker) to make a decision on the action to take in response to the information reported, that will result in the best outcome for the child who is the subject of the referral. Preliminary enquiries should normally be completed within 24 hours.

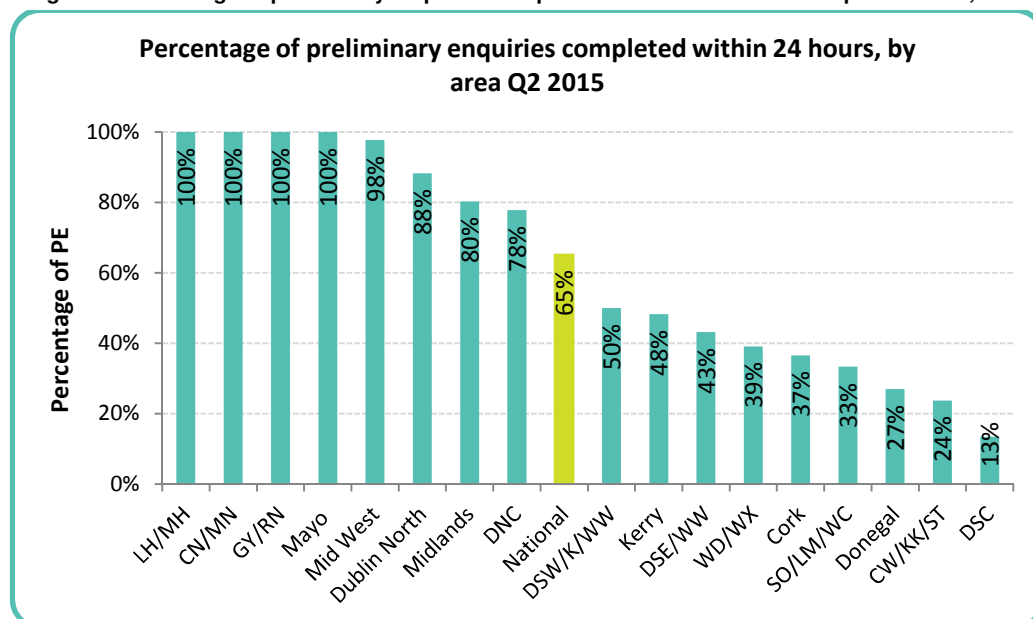
⁵ Initial assessment is a time-limited process to allow the gathering of sufficient information on the needs and risks within a case so that informed decisions and recommendations can be made and actions that will result in better outcomes for children taken. Initial Assessments should normally be completed in 21 days or less.

Figure 2: Percentage of preliminary enquiries and initial assessments carried out, by quarter Q1 2013 – Q2 2015



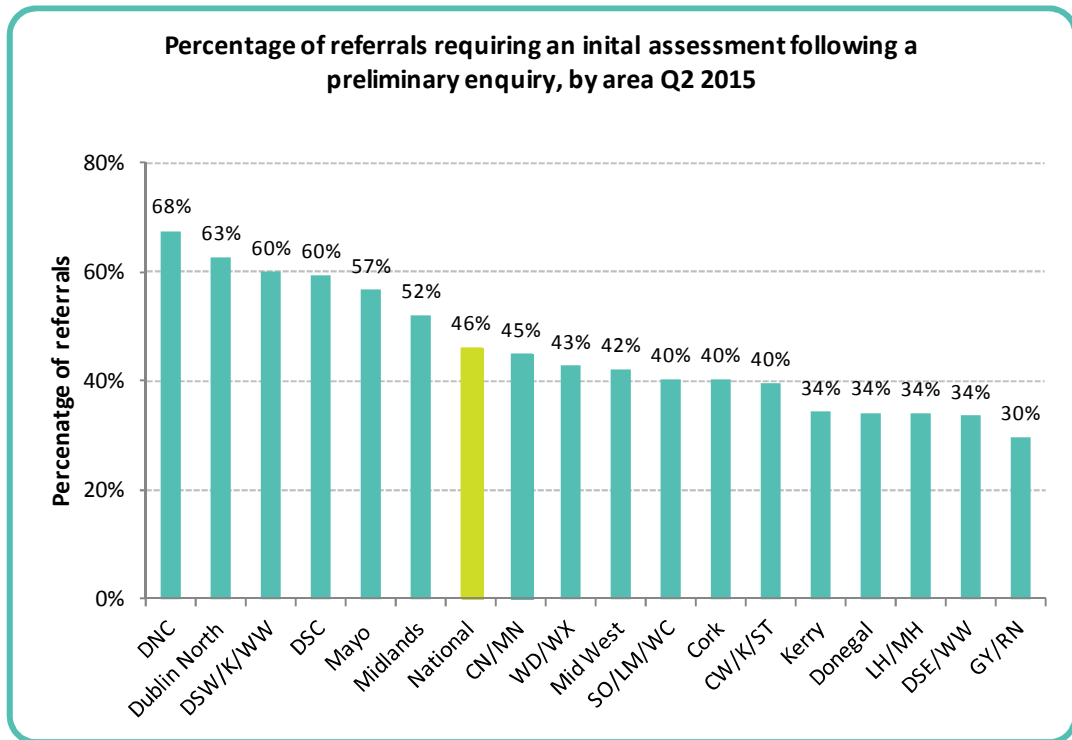
- Masked by the national percentages is significant variation in performance across the areas regarding these data.
- For Q2 2015 referrals, the percentage of preliminary enquiries carried out within 24 hours of receipt of the referral ranged from 13% (n=45/336) in Dublin South Central to 100% in areas Louth/Meath, Cavan/Monaghan, Galway/Roscommon and Mayo (Figure 3).
- A table showing the number and percentage of preliminary enquiries completed within 24 hours of receipt of the referral for the three quarters Q4 2014 to Q2 2015, by area along with the change from Q1 2015 to Q2 2015 can be found in Appendix A (Table 1).
- Preliminary findings from a national audit of compliance with standard business processes for the management of referrals identified delays in the formal sign-off of intake records by social work team leaders as one of the reasons for the low rates in a number of areas.

Figure 3: Percentage of preliminary enquiries completed within 24 hours of receipt of referral, Q2 2015



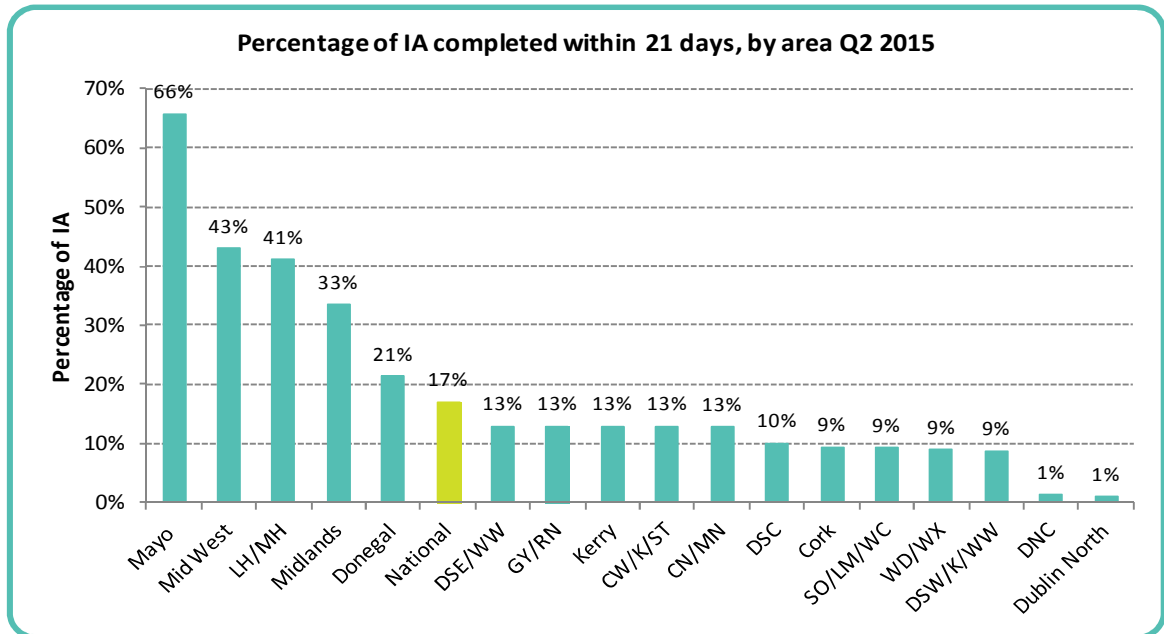
- The percentage of referrals requiring an initial assessment following a preliminary enquiry ranged from 30% (n=248/834) in Galway/Roscommon to 68% (n=385/569) in Dublin North City (Figure 4).
- A table showing the number and percentage of referrals requiring an initial assessment following a preliminary enquiry for the quarters Q4 2014 to Q2 2015, by area along with the change from Q1 2015 to Q2 2015 can be found in the Appendix A (Table 2).

Figure 4: Percentage of referrals requiring an IA following a preliminary enquiry, by area, Q2 2015



- The percentage of initial assessments completed within 21 days of receipt of the referral ranged from 1% in Dublin North (n = 6/636) and Dublin North City (n = 5/385) to 66% in Mayo (n = 86/131) (Figure 5).
- Only one of the 17 areas reported a percentage above 50% (Mayo); the majority (n=12) reported a percentage below the national average of 17%. The target of 21 days for completion of an initial assessment is currently under review.
- A table showing the number and percentage of initial assessments completed within 21 days for the quarters Q4 2014 to Q2 2015, by area along with the change from Q1 2015 to Q2 2015 can be found in the Appendix A (Table 3).

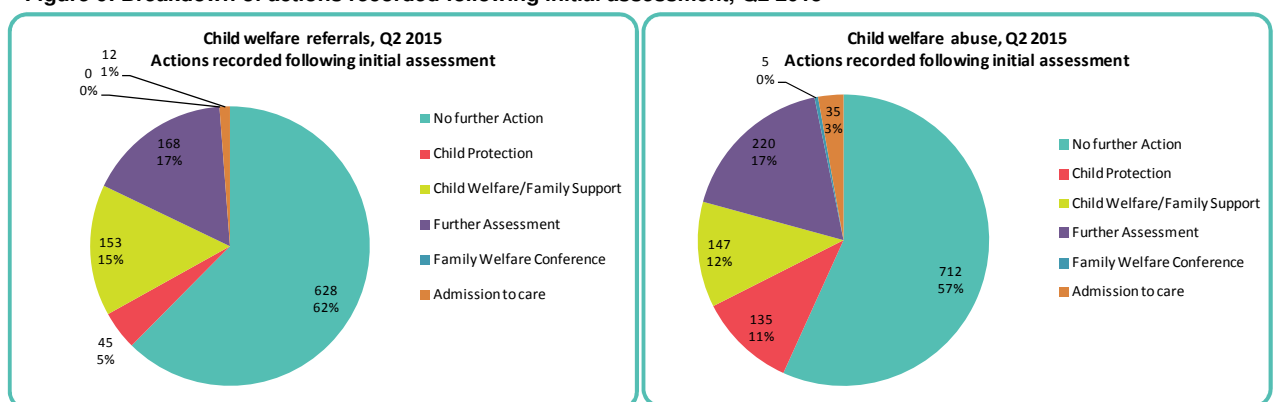
Figure 5: Percentage of initial assessments completed within 21 day target, by area Q2 2015



1.1.3 Actions Recorded

- A breakdown of the actions recorded following initial assessment is presented in Figure 6.
- Of the 2,260 actions recorded, 'No further action' was recorded for the majority (59%; $n=1,340/2,260$) of referrals: [62% ($n=628/1,006$) for child welfare referrals and 57% ($n=712/1,254$) for child abuse referrals].
- 47 (92%) children were admitted to care. Of these, 26% ($n=12$) were child welfare referrals and 74% ($n=35$) were child abuse referrals.
- There were 180 (8%) actions of 'child protection⁶'. Of these, 75% ($n=135$) were child abuse referrals and 25% ($n=45$) were child welfare referrals.
- Further assessment was recorded for 17% ($n=388/2,260$) of cases while 13% ($n=300/2,260$) had an action of child welfare/family support recorded.

Figure 6: Breakdown of actions recorded following initial assessment, Q2 2015

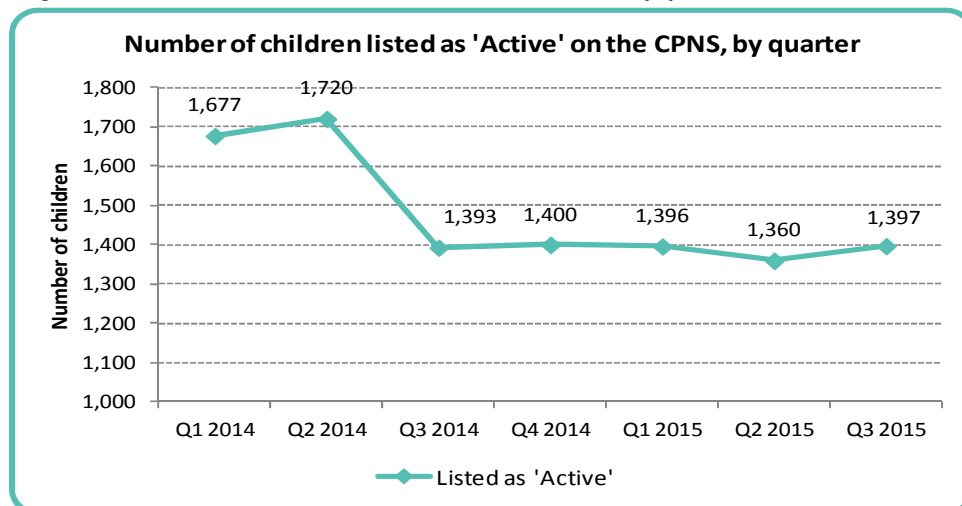


⁶ A child protection conference is requested for child(ren) who require a child protection response, as they have been assessed as being at ongoing risk of significant harm. A child protection plan is developed at the conference to safeguard the child(ren) identified as being at risk. Whereas children may suffer harm for a range of reasons, for the purpose of the child protection conference and the CPNS, the threshold of ongoing risk of significant harm is confined to abuse, including neglect, attributable to inappropriate or inadequate care from parent/s.

1.2 Child Protection Notification System

- There were 1,397 children listed as 'active' (i.e., at ongoing risk of significant harm) on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)⁷ at the end of Q3 2015; 37 more than Q2 2015 (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Number of children listed as 'Active' on the CPNS, by quarter, Q1 2014 – Q3 2015



- The average number of children listed as 'active' at the end of Q3 2015 per 10,000 population 0-17 years was 12 and ranged from 29 in Dublin South Central to three in Dublin South East/Wicklow (Table 3). Ten areas reported a rate above the national rate.

Table 3: Number of children listed as 'active' on the CPNS per 10,000 population 0-17 years, Q3 2015

Area	0-17 population (CSO 2011 Census)	No listed as active Q3 2015	No/10,000 pop 0-17 yrs
DSC	62,438	184	29
Mayo	32,514	86	26
DNC	42,971	84	20
SO/LM	23,060	42	18
Mid West	94,989	161	17
GY/RN	77,270	116	15
Donegal	44,534	66	15
Midlands	77,726	109	14
CW/KK/ST	57,800	80	14
WD/WX	71,608	91	13
National	1,148,687	1,397	12
LH/MH	87,562	102	12
CN/MN	35,085	39	11
Kerry	34,940	37	11
Cork	128,448	86	7
DSW/K/WW	102,800	52	5
Dublin North	92,951	40	4
DSE/WW	81,991	22	3

*Population for Dublin North and Dublin North City revised to take account of the reconfiguration of these administrative areas in 2014 (i.e., Dublin 15 transferred from Dublin North City to Dublin North). The population prior to the change was incorrectly used in the Q2 Integrated Performance and Activity Report.

⁷ 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.

- At the end of Q3 2015, the number of children listed as 'active' ranged from 184 in Dublin South Central to 22 in Dublin South East/Wicklow (Table 4).
- Eight of the 17 areas reported an increase from Q2, ranging from 21 in Mayo to one in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan.
- Of the nine areas that reported a decrease between Q2 and Q3, the highest decrease was reported by Donegal area with 10 fewer children on the CPNS, followed by Cork with seven fewer children. Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary has reported a 32% (n = 38) decrease in the number of children listed as 'active', since Q1 2015, the highest decrease of all areas.
- Of the 1,397 children listed as 'active' at the end of Q3 2015, 1,383 (99%) had an allocated social worker at the point of listing (Table 4). Of the 14 children that did not have an allocated social worker at the point of listing, 10 were reported by Donegal, and four were reported by Dublin South Central. All children were subsequently allocated a social worker.

Table 4: Children listed as 'active' on CPNS and with an allocated social worker at point of listing, Q4 2014 – Q3 2015

Area	No Listed as Active Q1 2015	No Listed as Active Q2 2015	No Listed as Active Q3 2015	No. Listed as Active $\Delta(+/-)$ Q3 2015 vs Q2 2015	No with allocated SW at point of listing Q3 2015	% with Allocated SW Q3 2015
DSC	164	186	184	-2	180	98%
DSE/WW	26	24	22	-2	22	100%
DSW/K/WW	59	44	52	8	52	100%
Midlands	77	90	109	19	109	100%
DNC	82	86	84	-2	84	100%
Dublin North	42	32	40	8	40	100%
LH/MH	107	108	102	-6	102	100%
CN/MN	40	32	39	7	39	100%
Cork	91	93	86	-7	86	100%
Kerry	40	43	37	-6	37	100%
CW/KK/ST	118	86	80	-6	80	100%
WD/WX	87	80	91	11	91	100%
Mid West	138	153	161	8	161	100%
GY/RN	123	121	116	-5	116	100%
Mayo	75	65	86	21	86	100%
Donegal	76	76	66	-10	56	85%
SO/LM/WC	51	41	42	1	42	100%
National	1,396	1,360	1,397	37	1,383	99%

*Data for Mid West and Louth/Meath were taken from the national CPNS. Data for the other areas were provided directly by the Areas.

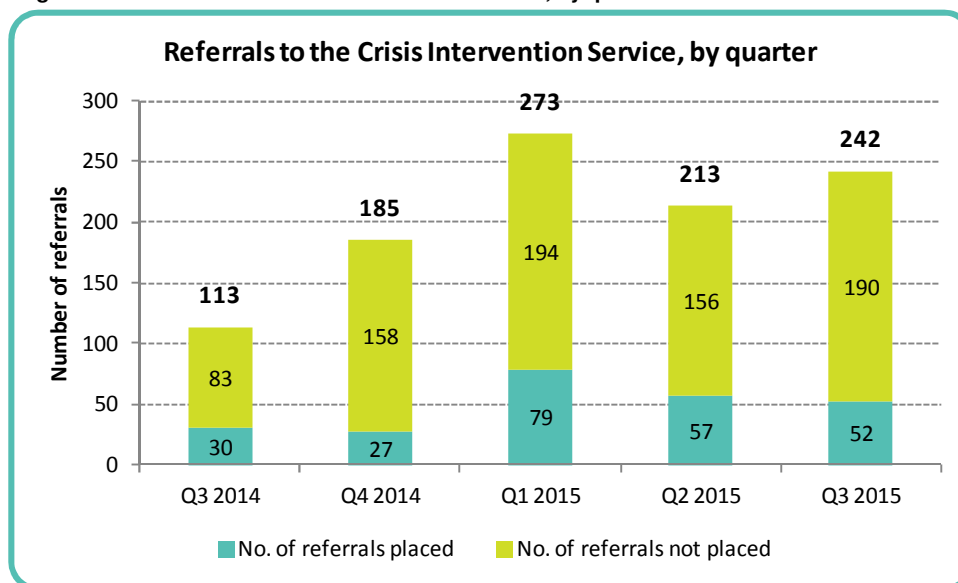
- The national interim CPNS database went live on 01 October 2015. This database replaces all previous CPNS lists and is the sole source of data for CPNS purposes. Users are now able to record details of child protection conferences and place a child on the national database in line with the Tusla Child Protection Conference and Child Protection Notification System national guidelines. Access to this database is strictly controlled and the service is being provided centrally by the Crisis Intervention Team

based in Dublin. The system is also being made available to approved external agencies (e.g., Gardaí and hospitals) to conduct out of hours searches where required.

1.3 Crisis Intervention Service / Out of Hours Service

- The Crisis Intervention Service (CIS)⁸ received a total of 242 referrals during Q3 2015; an increase of 29 from Q2 2015 and 129 from the same period last year (Figure 8). This brings to 728 the number of referrals from Q1 – Q3 2015.
- Of the 242 referrals 21% (n = 52) were placed. Based on the five quarters shown, approximately one in every four referrals (24%; n = 245/1,026) was placed. During Q3 2015, 660 nights' accommodation were supplied by the CIS; 12 fewer than Q2 2015 (n = 672).

Figure 8: Referrals to the Crisis Intervention Service, by quarter Q3 2014 – Q3 2015

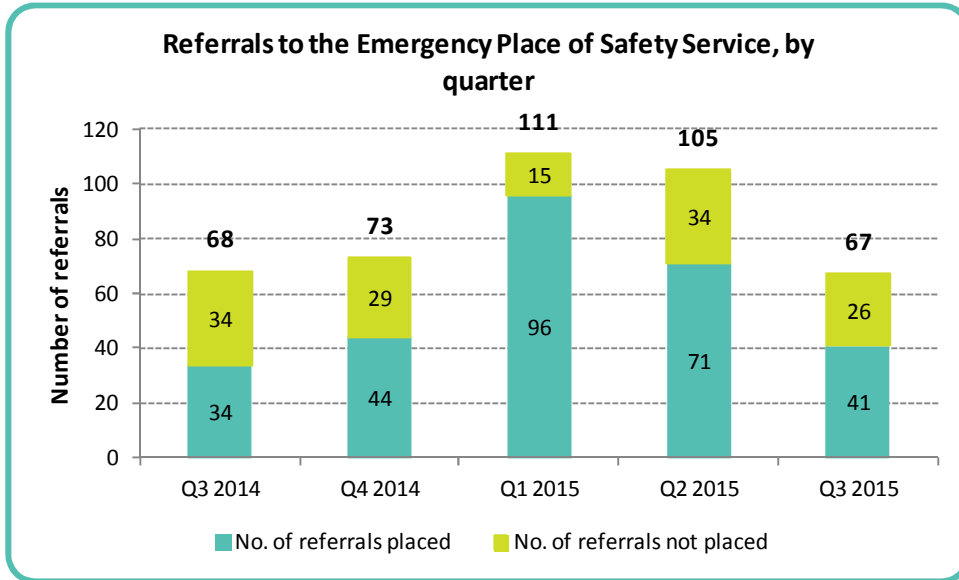


- The Emergency Place of Safety Service (EPSS)⁹ received a total of 67 referrals during Q3 2015; 38 fewer than Q2 2015 and the fewest number for the five quarters shown (Figure 9). This brings to 283 the number of referrals Q1 – Q3 2015.
- Of the 67 referrals received 61% (n = 41/67) were placed. Based on the five quarters shown at least two out of every three referrals (67%; n = 286/424) to the EPSS were placed. During Q3 2015, 102 nights' accommodation were supplied by the EPSS; 49 fewer nights than Q2 2015 (n = 151).

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

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

Figure 9: Referrals to the Emergency Place of Safety Service, by quarter Q3 2014 – Q3 2015



2.0 CHILDREN IN CARE

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

- 2.1 Number of children in care
- 2.2 Number of children in care, by care type
- 2.3 Children in private placements
- 2.4 Children in care with an allocated social worker
- 2.5 Children in care with a written care plan
- 2.6 Children in respite care from home
- 2.7 Children in care in education

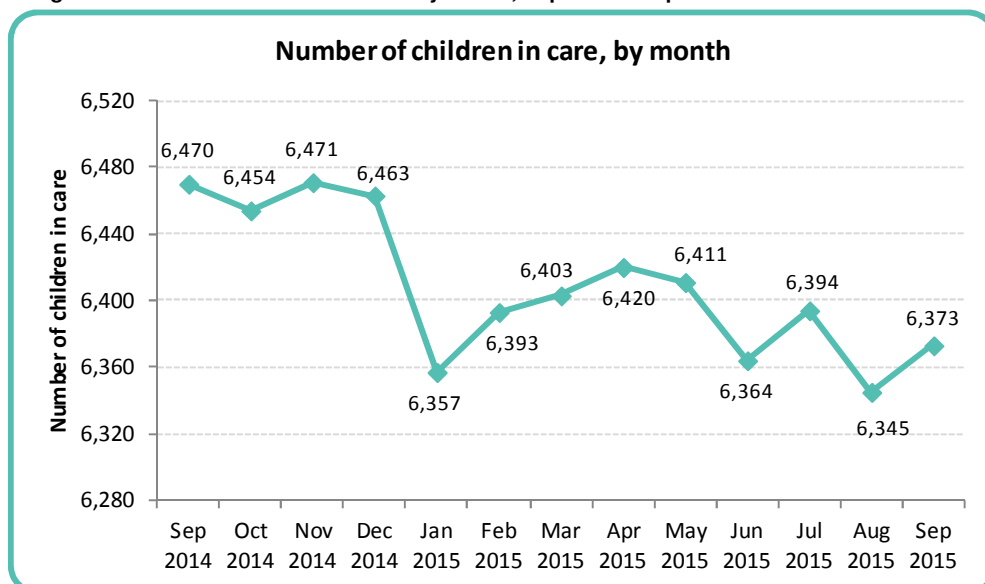
KEY FACTS

- 6,373 children in care at the end of Q3 2015; up 9 from Q2 2015
- 496 children in care at the end of Q3 2015 were in private placements, two more than Q2 2015
- 16 (0.25%) children in care at the end of Q3 2015 were in a placement outside of the State; one down on Q2 2015
- 92% (n = 5,880) of children in care at the end of Q3 2015 had an allocated social worker (against a target of 100%); a decrease of 1% from Q2 2015
- 90% (n = 5,748) of children in care at the end of Q3 2015 had a written care plan (on target and no change from previous month)
- 98% (n = 3,932/4,013) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) in full time education at the end of Q3 2015; no change from Q2 2015
- 94% (n = 975/1,042) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years in full time education at the end of Q3 2015; no change from Q2 2015

2.1 Number of Children in Care

- At the end of Q3 2015, there were 6,373 children in care; nine more than at the end of Q2 2015 (n = 6,364) (Figure 10). *It should be noted that prior to January 2015 the number of children in care included children in respite care from home. These children are now being reported separately (see section 2.6 below).*

Figure 10: Number of children in care by month, Sep 2014 – Sep 2015



- The average number of children in care at the end of Q3 2015 per 10,000 population 0-17 years was 55 and ranged from 146 in Dublin North City to 36 in Dublin North (Table 5). Ten of the 17 areas had a rate below the national rate.

Table 5: Number of children in care per 10,000 population 0-17 years, Q3 2015

Area	0-17 population (CSO 2011 Census)	No of CIC Q3 2015	No of CIC/10,000 population 0-17 years
DNC	42,971*	629	146
Cork	128,448	904	70
CW/KK/ST	57,800	372	64
Mid West	94,989	610	64
DSC	62,438	400	64
WD/WX	71,608	434	61
GY/RN	77,270	450	58
National	1,148,687	6,373	55
CN/MN	35,085	168	48
Donegal	44,534	208	47
DSW/K/WW	102,800	469	46
SO/LM	23,060	103	45
Midlands	77,726	339	44
LH/MH	87,562	379	43
Kerry	34,940	146	42
Mayo	32,514	128	39
DSE/WW	81,991	300	37
Dublin North	92,951*	334	36

*Population for Dublin North and Dublin North City revised to take account of the reconfiguration of these administrative areas in 2014 (i.e., Dublin 15 transferred from Dublin North City to Dublin North). The population prior to the change was incorrectly used in the Q2 Integrated Performance and Activity Report

- Seven of the 17 areas reported an increase in the number of children in care in their area between Q2 2015 and Q3 2015; the highest number reported by Cork (n = 16), followed by Mid West (n = 12) and Donegal (n = 9) (Table 6).

- Of the ten areas that reported a decrease in the number of children in care in their area between Q2 2015 and Q3 2015, Louth/Meath reported the highest decrease with 13 fewer children in care, followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow with 12 fewer children in care.
- A breakdown of the number of children in care in each area for the six months April to September 2015 along with the difference in numbers between Q2 2015 and Q3 2015 is presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Breakdown of the number of children in care in each area, April – September 2015

Area	No of CIC Apr-15	No of CIC May-15	No of CIC Jun-15	No of CIC Jul-15	No of CIC Aug-15	No of CIC Sep-15	Δ(+/-) Sep vs Jun
DSC	410	417	408	407	407	400	-8
DSE/WW	300	301	302	297	297	300	-2
DSW/K/WW	476	477	481	473	467	469	-12
Midlands	353	346	335	337	338	339	4
DNC	634	633	631	632	631	629	-2
Dublin North	326	327	328	335	336	334	6
LH/MH	378	397	392	381	375	379	-13
CN/MN	172	168	166	167	169	168	2
Cork	889	902	888	906	895	904	16
Kerry	151	148	148	147	144	146	-2
CW/KK/ST	373	374	375	378	369	372	-3
WD/WX	445	438	426	424	427	434	8
Mid West	595	604	598	611	600	610	12
GY/RN	498	450	451	454	449	450	-1
Mayo	123	130	132	133	129	128	-4
Donegal	197	198	199	206	207	208	9
SO/LM/WC	100	101	104	106	105	103	-1
Total	6,420	6,411	6,364	6,394	6,345	6,373	9

2.2 Number of Children in Care by Care Type

- At the end of Q3 2015, there were eight more children in foster care compared to Q2 2015. The number of children in general residential care remained the same, while there were two fewer children in special care (Table 7).
- An area breakdown of the number of children in care by care type at the end of September 2015 is presented in Appendix A (Table 4).

Table 7: Breakdown of the number of children in care by care type and month, April - September 2015

	FC Gen	Δ+/- prev mth	FC Rel	Δ+/- prev mth	Res Care Gen	Δ+/- prev mth	Res Care Spec	Δ+/- prev mth	Res Care Secure OOS	Δ+/- prev mth	Other Care	Δ+/- prev mth	Total	Δ+/- prev mth
Apr '15	4,114	+6	1,845	+6	333	+12	15	-2	5	0	108	-5	6,420	+17
May '15	4,110	-4	1,833	-12	343	+10	16	+1	4	-1	105	-3	6,411	-9
Jun '15	4,074	-36	1,832	-1	337	-6	16	0	4	0	101	-4	6,364	-47
Jul '15	4,084	+10	1,838	+6	343	+6	15	-1	4	0	110	+9	6,394	+30

Aug '15	4,050	-34	1,828	-10	343	0	15	0	5	+1	104	-6	6,345	-49
Sep '15	4,077	+27	1,837	+9	337	-6	14	-1	4	-1	104	0	6,373	+28
Δ (+/-) Sep vs Jun	+3		+5		0		-2		0		+3		+9	
% of Total CIC Sep 15	64%		29%		5%		<1%		<1%		2%		100%	

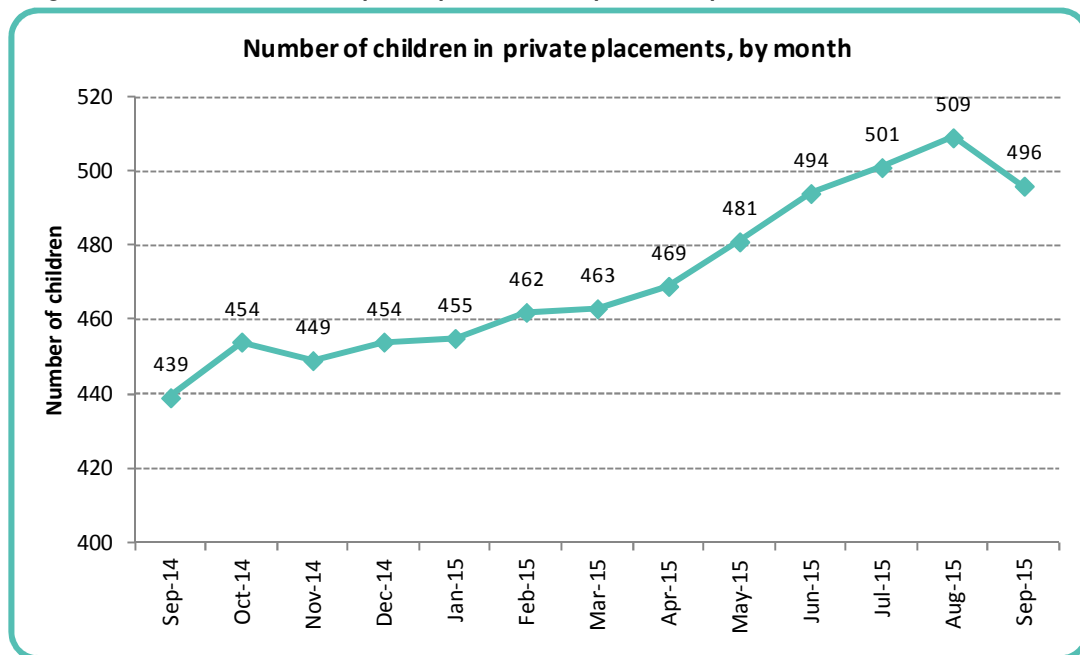
FC Gen = Foster Care General; FC Rel = Foster Care with Relatives; Res Care Gen = Residential Care General; Res Care Spec = Residential Care Special; Res Care Secure OOS = Residential Care, Secure Out of State. CIC = Children in care

- A total of 16 (0.25%) children were in out of state placements at the end of Q3 2105; one fewer than at the end of Q2 2015. *These children are included in the figures for the various care types set out in Table 7.*
- At the end of Q3 2015, one child in residential care was in a single care placement; one down on Q2 2015.

2.3 Children in Private Placements

- At the end of Q3 2015 there were 496 children in private placements¹⁰; two more than at the end of Q2 2015, but 13 fewer than August 2015 when the highest number for the 12 month period shown was reported (Figure 11). This is the first decrease after nine consecutive increases. It is too early to predict if this is the start of a downward trend.

Figure 11: Number of children in private placements, Sep 2014 – Sep 2015

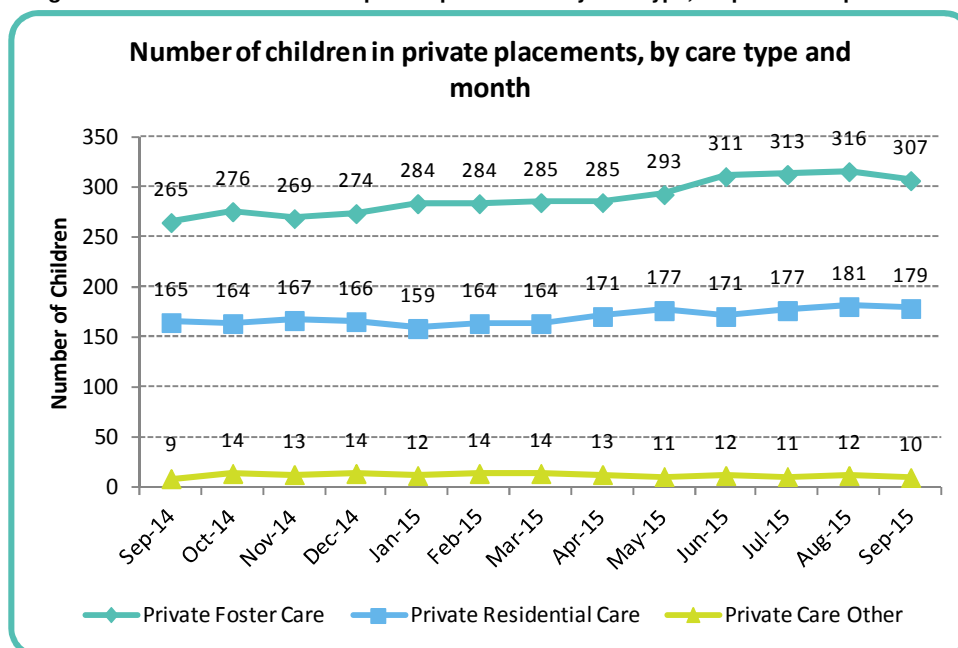


- At the end of Q3 2015, 62% (n = 307) of children in private placements were in private foster care; 36% (n = 179) were in private residential placements (Figure 12).

¹⁰ The number of children in private placements is included in the children in care figures presented in sections 2.1 and 2.2

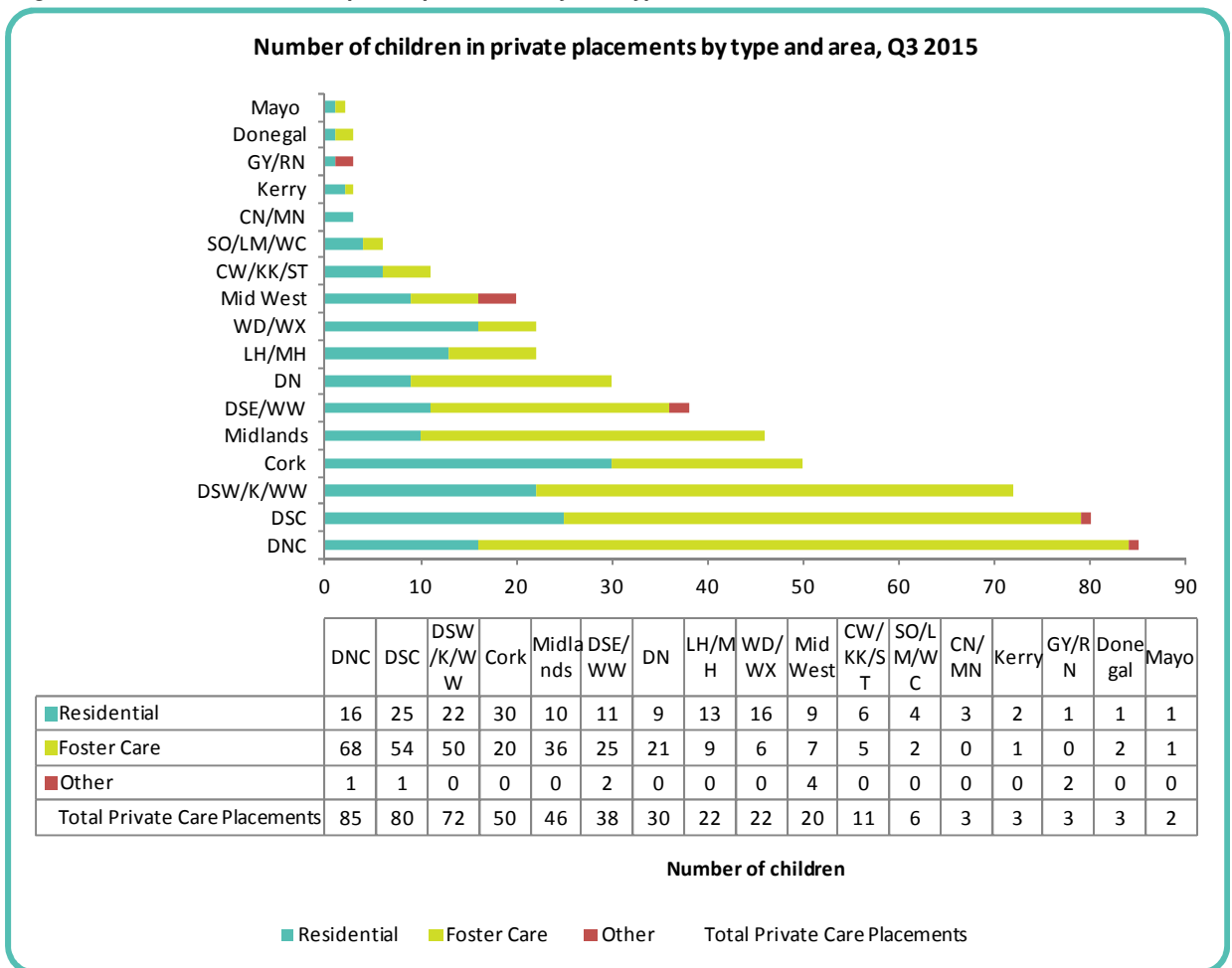
- There were 42 (16%) more children in private foster care placements at the end of Q3 2015 than same period last year, while there were 14 (8%) more children in private residential care.
- The increased use of private placements in recent months has been attributed to difficulties with placing children with relatives, the lack of availability of suitable placements in an area, and the capacity of an area foster care service to recruit new carers to keep up with demand (ref Chapter 6 for data on foster carers).

Figure 12: Number of children in private placements by care type, Sep 2014 - Sep 2015



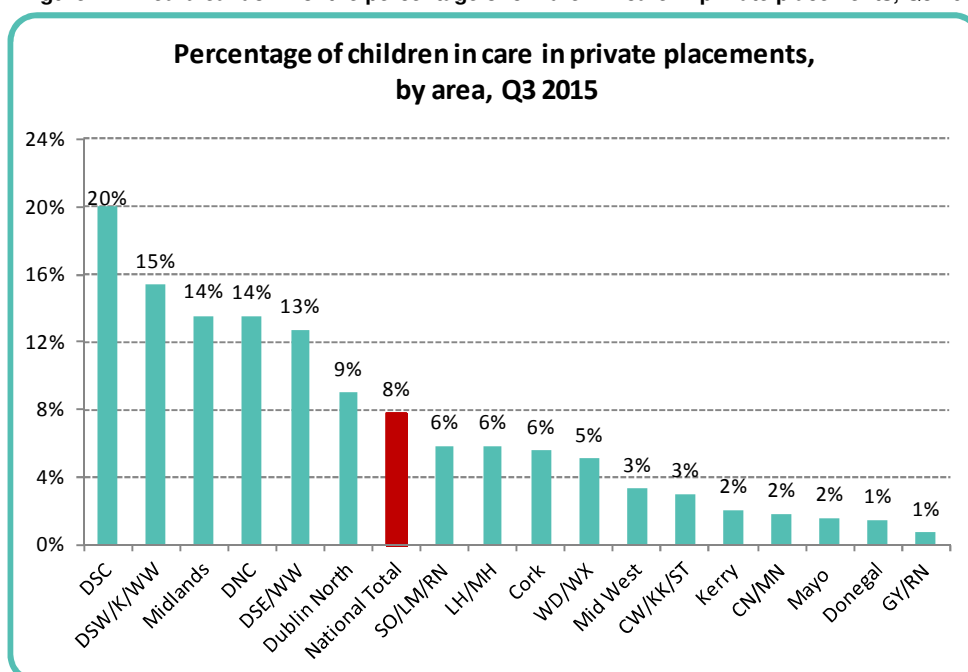
- At the end of Q3 2015, Dublin North City (DNC) had the highest number (n = 85) of children in private placements while Mayo had the fewest number (n = 2) (Figure 13).
- Cork had the highest number of children in private residential placements at 30, followed by Dublin South Central with 25 children and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow with 22 children in private residential placements (Figure 13).
- Dublin North City had the highest number of children in private foster care placements at 68, followed by Dublin South Central with 54 and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow with 50 (Figure 13).
- Areas with a higher preponderance of children in private residential care (than private foster care) include Cork at 60% (n = 30/50); Waterford/Wexford at 73% (n = 16/22) and Louth/Meath at 59% (n = 13/22).
- In contrast, areas with a higher preponderance of children in private foster care include Dublin North City with 80% (n = 68/85), the Midlands with 78% (n = 36/46); Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow with 69% (n = 50/72); Dublin South Central with 68% (n = 54/80); Dublin South East/Wicklow with 66% (n = 25/38) and Dublin North with 70% (n = 21/30).

Figure 13: Number of children in private placements by care type and area, Q3 2015



- At the end of Q3 2015, the percentage of children in care in private placements in each area ranged from 20% (n = 80/400) in Dublin South Central to less than 1% in Galway/Roscommon (n = 3/450) (Figure 14). Nationally, 7.8% (n = 496/6,373) of children in care at the end of Q3 2015 were in private placements.

Figure 14: Area breakdown of the percentage of children in care in private placements, Q3 2015



- Eight of the 17 areas reported an increase in the number of children in private placements at the end of Q3 2015 when compared to Q2 2015 (Table 8). The highest increase was reported by Dublin South Central and Dublin North City both reporting an increase of four children (Table 8).
- Of the seven areas that reported a decrease Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow reported the highest with seven fewer children in private placements, followed by Midlands with four fewer children.

Table 8: Number of children in private placements by area, Apr-Sep 2015

Area	Total Private Placement Apr 15	Total Private Placement May 15	Total Private Placement Jun 15	Total Private Placement Jul 15	Total Private Placement Aug 15	Total Private Placement Sep 15	Δ+/- Sep vs Jun 15
DSC	76	77	76	77	81	80	+4
DSE/WW	36	36	37	37	36	38	+1
DSW/K/WW	66	66	79	76	73	72	-7
Midlands	49	47	50	49	59	46	-4
DNC	81	85	81	86	86	85	+4
Dublin North	30	31	32	33	31	30	-2
LH/MH	18	18	19	20	22	22	+3
CN/MN	4	4	4	4	4	3	-1
Cork	47	50	47	49	52	50	+3
Kerry	1	1	3	3	3	3	0
CW/KK/ST	8	10	10	10	10	11	+1
WD/WX	22	26	24	24	23	22	-2
Mid West	15	14	17	17	17	20	+3
GY/RN	2	3	2	2	3	3	+1
Mayo	2	2	2	3	2	2	0
Donegal	5	4	4	4	3	3	-1
SO/LM/WC	7	7	7	7	4	6	-1
National Total	469	481	494	501	509	496	2

2.4 Children in Care with an Allocated Social Worker

- At the end of Q3 2015, 92% (n = 5,880/6,373) of children in care nationally had an allocated social worker (against a target of 100%); 1% lower than Q2 2015 (Table 9). *Due to the separate reporting of children in respite care from home from January 2015 comparisons cannot be drawn between these data and the data reported prior to January 2015.*
- In respect of care type, the percentage of children in foster care (general and relative) and other placements with an allocated social worker was 1% lower than Q2 2013; no change for other care categories (Table 9). Almost all children in residential care (general) continued to have an allocated social worker (98%; n =330/337).

Table 9: Number and percentage of children in care (CIC) with an allocated social worker (SW) by care type, Q2 and Q3 2015

Care Type	CIC Jun 2015	No with SW Jun 2015	% with SW Jun 2015	CIC Sep 2015	No with SW Sep 2015	% with SW Sep 2015	Δ+/- Sep vs Jun 2015
Foster Care (General)	4,074	3,821	94%	4,077	3,784	93%	-1%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,832	1,661	91%	1,837	1,645	90%	-1%
Residential Care (General)	337	329	98%	337	330	98%	0%
Residential Special Care	16	16	100%	14	14	100%	0%
Residential Out of State Secure Care	4	4	100%	4	4	100%	0%
Other Placements	101	101	100%	104	103	99%	-1%
Total	6,364	5,932	93%	6,373	5,880	92%	-1%

- At the end of Q3 2015, six of the 17 Areas met the target of 100% of children in care with an allocated social worker; two more than Q2 2015. A further seven areas reported a percentage of 90% or higher (Table 10).
- Six areas reported an increase in performance from Q2 2015; the most notable being Midlands area, up 17%, bringing its overall performance rate to 96% and Louth/Meath up 14% bringing its overall to 93%.
- Of particular note is the decrease in performance reported by the Mid West; down 12% on Q2 2015 relegating it to the poorest performing area at 79%.

Table 10: Percentage of children in care with an allocated social worker, Q1 - Q3 2015

Area	% with an allocated SW Mar 2015	% with an allocated SW Jun 2015	% with an allocated SW Sep2015	Δ (+/-) Sep vs Jun 2015
CN/MN	98%	100%	100%	0%
Kerry	100%	100%	100%	0%
Donegal	100%	100%	100%	0%
SO/LM/WC	100%	100%	100%	0%
DSE/WW	91%	95%	100%	+5%
Mayo	100%	95%	100%	+5%
Midlands	91%	79%	96%	+17%
DNC	98%	97%	95%	-2%
Cork	98%	99%	94%	-5%
WD/WX	100%	97%	94%	-3%
DSC	92%	93%	94%	+1%
LH/MH	75%	79%	93%	+14%
National	92%	93%	92%	-1%
GY/RN	92%	99%	90%	-9%
Dublin North	91%	92%	89%	-3%
CW/KK/ST	89%	93%	88%	-5%
DSW/K/WW	80%	84%	86%	+2%
Mid West	88%	91%	79%	-12%

2.5 Children in Care with a Written Care Plan

- At the end of Q3 2015, the number of children in care nationally with a written care plan continued to be on target at 90% (n = 5,748/6,373) (Table 11). *However, it should be noted that variances have been identified in how data on this metric are being reported by areas. In some areas care plans that have fallen due for review and not updated are not included. This is the subject of a review.*
- In respect of care type, the percentage of children in foster care (general) with a written care plan was up 1% from Q2 2015 to 91% (n=3,730/4,077), while the percentage of children in foster care with relatives with a care plan was down 1% (n =1,599/1,837). The percentage of children in residential care (general) with a written care plan continues to exceed the target at 91% (n = 308/337).

Table 11: Breakdown of the number of children in care (CIC) with a written care by type, Q2 and Q3 2015

Care Type	CIC Jun 2015	No with CP Jun 2015	% with CP Jun 2015	CIC Sep 2015	No with CP Sep 2015	% with CP Sep 2015	Δ +/- Sep vs Jun 2015
Foster Care General	4,074	3,663	90%	4,077	3,730	91%	+1%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,832	1,616	88%	1,837	1,599	87%	-1%
Residential Care General	337	305	91%	337	308	91%	0%
Residential Special Care	16	16	100%	14	14	100%	0%
Residential Out of State Secure Care	4	4	100%	4	4	100%	0%
Other Placements	101	92	91%	104	93	89%	-2%
National	6,364	5,696	90%	6,373	5,748	90%	0%

- At the end of Q3 2015, 11 of the 17 areas met the target of 90% of children in care with a written care plan; up one on Q2 2015 (Table 12).
- Although up 9% from Q2 2015 Dublin South Central continues to fall behind the target with 60% (n = 239/400) of children in care with a written care plan. *However, in respect of Dublin South Central it should be noted that children with care plans that have fallen due for review and not updated are not included.*
- Seven areas reported an increase from Q2 2015, the most notable being Dublin South Central up 9% to 60% and Louth/Meath up 5% to 86%
- Of particular note is the decrease in performance for Dublin South East Wicklow, down 7% from Q2 2015 to 79%.

Table 12: Breakdown of the number of children in care with a written care plan, Q1 - Q3 2015

Area	% with a care plan Mar 2015	% with a care plan Jun 2015	% with a care plan Sep 2015	Δ (+/-) Sep vs Jun
Midlands	100%	100%	100%	0%
CW/KK/ST	100%	100%	100%	0%

GY/RN	99%	100%	100%	0%
Mayo	100%	100%	100%	0%
CN/MN	97%	99%	99%	0%
Donegal	98%	99%	99%	0%
WD/WX	99%	99%	99%	0%
Mid West	100%	98%	99%	+1%
SO/LM/WC	95%	98%	100%	+2%
Cork	94%	94%	93%	-1%
National	90%	90%	90%	0%
Kerry	87%	89%	90%	+1%
DNC	84%	87%	89%	+2%
LH/MH	94%	81%	86%	+5%
DSE/WW	74%	86%	79%	-7%
DSW/K/WW	81%	82%	79%	-3%
Dublin North	78%	71%	74%	+3%
DSC	48%	51%	60%	+9%

2.6 Children in Respite Care from Home

- At the end of Q3 2015, 156 children were reported as being in respite care from home, five fewer than at the end of Q2 2015 (Table 13).

Table 13: Number of children in respite care from home, Apr – Sep 2015

	Apr 2015	May 2015	June 2015	July 2015	Aug 2015	Sep 2015
No of children in respite care from home	145	139	161	166	154	156

- The majority (76%; n =118/156) of children in respite care from home at the end of Q3 2015 were reported by three areas in the South; Cork (30%; n=47); Waterford/Wexford (26%; n = 40); and Carlow/Kilkenny South Tipperary (20%; n = 31). Eight of the 17 areas reported no children in respite care from home at the end of Q3 2015 (Table 14).

Table 14: Breakdown of children in respite care from home by area, Q2 and Q3 2015

Area	No in respite care	No in respite care	% of those in respite care Sep 15
	Jun-15	Sep-15	
Cork	38	47	30%
WD/WX	43	40	26%
CW/KK/ST	32	31	20%
LH/MH	5	10	6%
GY/RN	13	9	6%
DSE/WW	6	6	4%
DSC	6	5	3%
Kerry	7	4	3%
DSW/K/WW	2	4	3%
Midlands	7	0	0%
Mayo	2	0	0%

Dublin North	0	0	0%
DNC	0	0	0%
CN/MN	0	0	0%
Mid West	0	0	0%
Donegal	0	0	0%
SO/LM/WC	0	0	0%
Total	161	156	100%

2.7 Children in Care in Education

- At the end of Q3 2015, 98% (n = 3,932/4,013) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education; no change from Q2 2015 (n = 3,955/4,020). Six of the 17 areas reported 100% of children in care aged 6 to 15 years in full time education. All areas with the exception of Louth/Meath (93%; n =214/229) reported a percentage of 95% or higher (Table 15).

Table 15: Children in care, 6 -15 years, in full time education, Q2 – Q3 2015

Area	No of CIC 6-15 years Q2 2015	No of CIC 6-15 years in education Q2 2015	% of CIC 6-15 years in education Q2 2015	No of CIC 6-15 years Q3 2015	No of CIC 6-15 years in education Q3 2015	% of CIC 6-15 years in education Q3 2015	Δ(+/-) Q3 vs Q2
DSC	258	254	98%	247	240	97%	-1%
DSE/WW	198	197	99%	201	198	99%	0%
DSW/K/WW	307	301	98%	295	287	97%	-1%
Midlands	202	199	99%	194	186	96%	-3%
DNC	423	415	98%	415	409	99%	1%
Dublin North	202	201	100%	209	200	96%	-4%
LH/MH	256	237	93%	229	214	93%	0%
CN/MN	96	95	99%	92	92	100%	1%
Cork	533	524	98%	542	529	98%	0%
Kerry	100	100	100%	101	101	100%	0%
CW/KK/ST	204	204	100%	237	236	100%	0%
WD/WX	294	288	98%	294	292	99%	1%
Mid West	371	367	99%	377	373	99%	0%
GY/RN	305	304	100%	293	293	100%	0%
Mayo	87	87	100%	94	89	95%	-5%
Donegal	123	123	100%	132	132	100%	0%
SO/LM/WC	61	59	97%	61	61	100%	3%
Total	4,020	3,955	98%	4,013	3,932	98%	0%

- For the same period, 94% (n = 975/1,042) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education; no change from Q2 2015 (94%; n = 960/1,018 revised data). Thirteen of the 17 areas reported 90% or higher with two areas (Kerry and Mayo) reporting 100% (Table 16).

Table 16: Children in care, 16 and 17 years, in full time education, Q2 – Q3 2015

Area	No of CIC 16-17 years Q2 2015	No of CIC 16-17 years in education Q2 2015	% of CIC 16-17 years in education Q2 2015	No of CIC 16-17 years Q3 2015	No of CIC 16-17 years in education Q3 2015	% of CIC 16-17 years in education Q3 2015	Δ(+/-) Q3 vs Q2
DSC	74	70	95%	80	73	91%	-4%
DSE/WW	49	45	92%	43	42	98%	6%
DSW/K/WW	93	87	94%	96	89	93%	-1%
Midlands	55	50	91%	51	47	92%	1%
DNC	94	90	96%	93	84	90%	-6%
Dublin North	48	45	94%	53	46	87%	-7%
LH/MH	66	62	94%	63	61	97%	3%
CN/MN	33	30	91%	35	32	91%	0%
Cork	152	146	96%	158	147	93%	-3%
Kerry	22	22	100%	19	19	100%	0%
CW/KK/ST	57	56	98%	58	56	97%	-1%
WD/WX	65	59	91%	74	72	97%	6%
Mid West	90	84	93%	92	86	93%	0%
GY/RN	52 [#]	50	96%	56	55	98%	2%
Mayo	18 [#]	18	100%	19	19	100%	0%
Donegal	30	28	93%	30	28	93%	0%
SO/LM/WC	20	18	90%	22	19	86%	-4%
Total	1,018	960	94%	1,042	975	94%	0%

[#] Data undergoing validation

3.0 SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITY INFORMATION

“MEASURING THE PRESSURE”

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

- 3.1 Number of open cases
- 3.2 Number of open cases allocated / awaiting allocation
- 3.3 Cases awaiting allocation by priority level
- 3.4 Cases awaiting allocation by time waiting

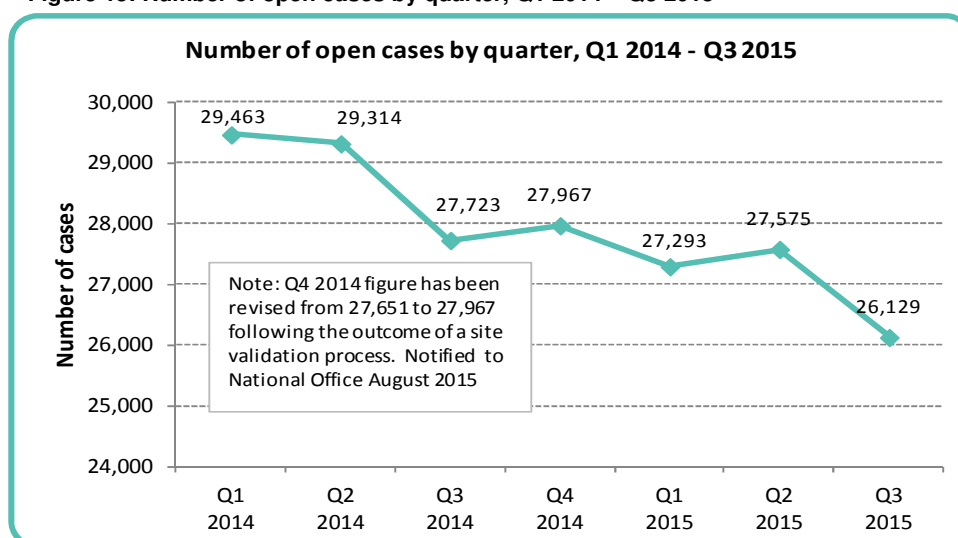
KEY FACTS

- 26,129 cases open to social work at the end of Q3 2015; a decrease of 1,446 from Q2 2015
- 73.2% (n = 19,116) of open cases allocated to a social worker at the end of Q3 2015; down by 0.9% from Q2 2015
- 7,013 cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2015; 118 fewer than Q2 2015 and the fewest number for the period Q1 2014 – Q3 2015
- 19% (n = 1,305) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised as ‘high priority’; 2% lower than the percentage reported for Q2 2015 and the fewest number for the period Q1 2014 – Q3 2015.
- 60% (n = 778/1,305) of cases awaiting allocation categorised as ‘high priority’ at the end of Q3 2015 were waiting less than 3 months. The number of ‘high priority’ cases waiting over 3 months dropped by 79 between Q2 2015 and Q3 2015.

3.1 Open Cases¹¹

- At the end of Q3 2015, there were 26,129 cases open to social work nationally; 1,446 fewer than at the end of Q2 2015 (n = 27,575) and the fewest number for the seven quarters shown (Figure 15).

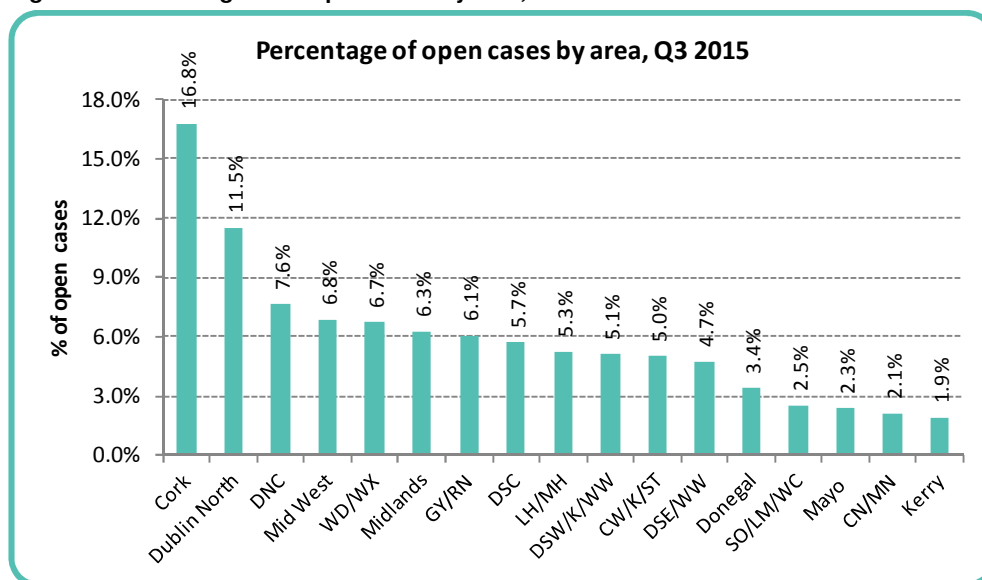
Figure 15: Number of open cases by quarter, Q1 2014 – Q3 2015



¹¹ Open cases include cases held on intake, allocated, unallocated child welfare and protection and children in care cases.

- Of all ‘open cases’ at the end of Q3 2015, Cork had the highest percentage at 16.8% (n =4,390) while Kerry had the lowest at 2% (n = 493) (Figure 16).

Figure 16: Percentage of all open cases by area, Q3 2015



- A breakdown of open cases by area for the three quarters Q1 2015 – Q3 2015, along with the difference between Q3 and Q2 2015 is presented in Table 17.
- Six areas reported an increase from Q2 2015 and of these Dublin North City reported the highest increase (n=164), followed by Galway/Roscommon (n =102) and Dublin South Central (n = 92).
- Of the areas that reported a decrease (n=11), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary reported the highest decrease (n=652), followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow with 430 fewer open cases (Table 17). Open cases have dropped by 37% (n = 772) in Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow since Q1 2015; the highest decrease of all areas.

Table 17: Area breakdown of open cases Q1 2015 – Q3 2015 along with change from Q2 2015

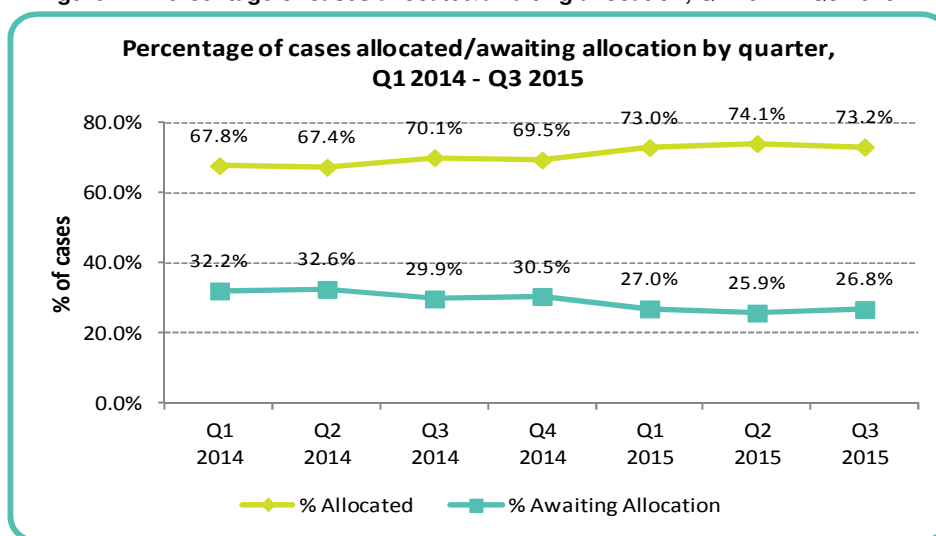
Area	Open cases Q1 2015	Open Cases Q2 2015	Open Cases Q3 2015	Δ (+/-) Q3 vs Q2
DSC	1,389	1,405	1,497	92
DSE/WW	1,295	1,397	1,238	-159
DSW/K/WW	2,110	1,768	1,338	-430
Midlands	1,823	1,598	1,638	40
Dublin North City	1,706	1,825	1,989	164
Dublin North	2,556	3,026	3,017	-9
Louth/Meath	1,616	1,478	1,378	-100
Cavan/Monaghan	631	571	549	-22
Cork	4,349	4,517	4,390	-127
Kerry	558	624	493	-131
CW/KK/ST	1,797	1,959	1,307	-652
Waterford/Wexford	1,912	1,875	1,756	-119
Mid West	1,810	1,860	1,788	-72

Galway/Roscommon	1,503	1,487	1,589	102
Mayo	566	565	614	49
Donegal	862	853	886	33
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	810	767	662	-105
National	27,293	27,575	26,129	-1,446

3.2 Open Cases Allocated / Awaiting Allocation

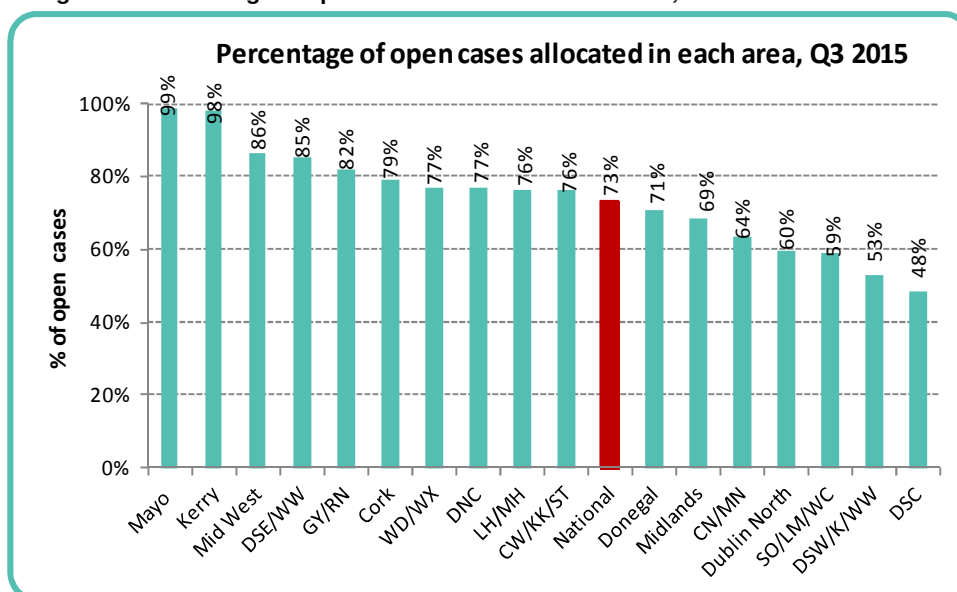
- Of the 26,129 open cases reported at the end of Q3 2015, 73.2% (n = 19,116) were allocated to a social worker; 0.9% lower than Q2 2015 (74.1%) (Figure 17). A total of 7,013 (26.8%) cases were awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2015; 118 fewer than Q2 2015 (n = 7,131).

Figure 17: Percentage of cases allocated/awaiting allocation, Q1 2014 – Q3 2015



- At the end of Q3 2015, the percentage open cases allocated in each area ranged from 99% (n=607/614) in Mayo to 48% in Dublin South Central (723/1,497) (Figure 18). More than seven out of 10 cases were allocated at the end of Q3 2015 in 11 out of the 17 areas.

Figure 18: Percentage of open cases allocated in each area, Q3 2015



- Seven of the 17 areas reported an increase from Q2 2015 in the percentage of open cases allocated (Table 18). The areas reporting the highest increase in percentage were Cork and Galway/Roscommon at 4%.
- Of the areas that reported a decrease in the percentage of cases allocated, Dublin South Central reported the highest at 18% (Table 18).

Table 18: Area breakdown of the number and % of cases allocated/awaiting allocation, Q1 2015 and Q3 2015

Area	No Allocated Q2 2015	No Awaiting Allocation Q2 2015	% Allocated Q2 2015	No Allocated Q3 2015	No Awaiting Allocation Q3 2015	% Allocated Q3 2015	Δ (+/-) Q3 vs Q2
DSC	931	474	66%	723	774	48%	-18%
DSE/WW	1,158	239	83%	1,053	185	85%	2%
DSW/K/WW	999	769	57%	706	632	53%	-4%
Midlands	1,169	429	73%	1,126	512	69%	-4%
DNC	1,470	355	81%	1,526	463	77%	-4%
Dublin North	1,883	1,143	62%	1,804	1,213	60%	-2%
Louth/Meath	1,107	371	75%	1,054	324	77%	2%
CN/MN	381	190	67%	349	200	64%	-3%
Cork	3,396	1,121	75%	3,477	913	79%	4%
Kerry	615	9	99%	484	9	98%	-1%
CW/KK/ST	1,555	404	79%	997	310	76%	-3%
WD/WX	1,403	472	75%	1,348	408	77%	2%
Mid West	1,587	273	85%	1,544	244	86%	1%
GY/RN	1,167	320	78%	1,300	289	82%	4%
Mayo	565	0	100%	607	7	99%	-1%
Donegal	624	229	73%	629	257	71%	-2%
SO/LM/WC	434	333	57%	389	273	59%	2%
National	20,444	7,131	74%	19,116	7,013	73.2%	-1%

3.3 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Priority Level¹²

- Of the cases awaiting allocation (n = 7,013) at the end of Q3 2015, 19% (n = 1,305) were categorised as 'high priority'; 2% lower than the percentage reported for Q2 2015 (21%; n = 1,505/7,131) and the fewest number for the seven quarters shown (Table 19). The number of 'high priority' cases awaiting allocation has decreased by 60% (n = 1,959) since Q1 2014.
- Forty-six per cent of cases (n = 3,231) awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2015 were categorised as 'medium priority' while the remaining 35% (n = 2,477) were categorised as 'low priority'.

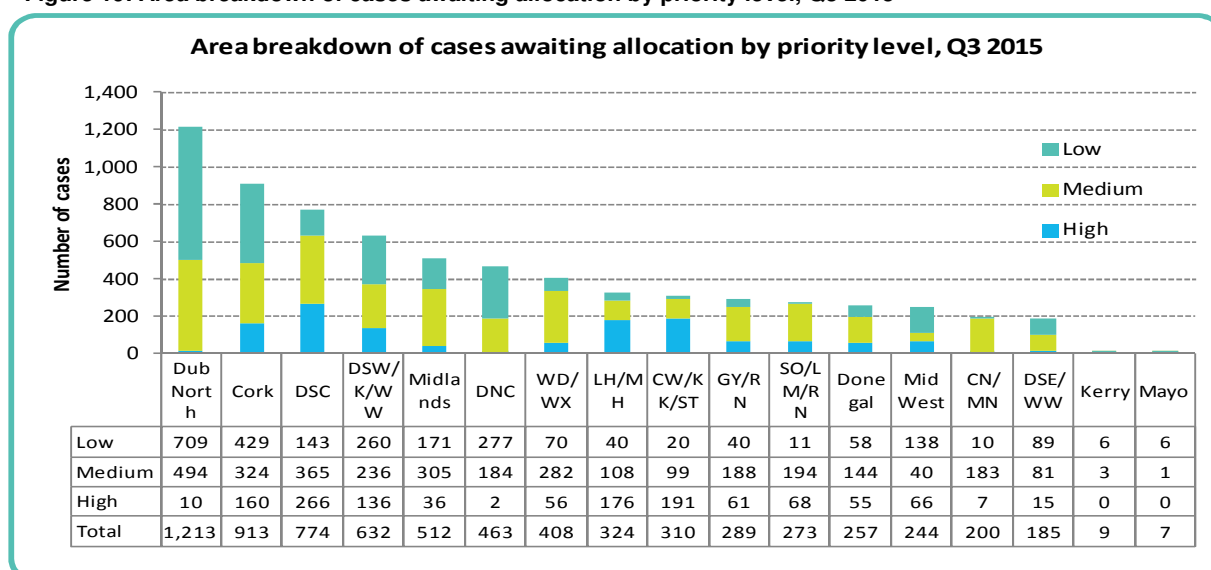
¹² The priority level as per the guidance outlined in 'Measuring the Pressure' V2. Note: The priority levels in this guidance are currently under national review to ensure that the priority levels identified equate with categorisation of risk. A recent national review highlighted cases being categorised in accordance with actual risk rather than the priority levels in the "Measuring the Pressure" V2.

Table 19: Breakdown of service activity data, Q1 2014 – Q3 2015

	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Δ (+/-) Q3 vs Q2
Open cases	29,463	29,314	27,723	27,967	27,293	27,575	26,129	-1,446
No (%) Allocated	19,990 (67.9%)	19,766 (67.4%)	19,442 (70.1%)	19,425 (69.5%)	19,926 (73%)	20,444 (74.1%)	19,116 (73.2%)	-1,328 (-0.9%)
No (%) Awaiting Allocation	9,473 (32.1%)	9,548 (32.6%)	8,281 (29.9%)	8,542 (30.5%)	7,367 (27%)	7,131 (25.9%)	7,013 (26.8%)	-118 (+0.9%)
No (%) High Priority Awaiting	3,264 (34.5%)	3,240 (33.9%)	2,743 (33.1%)	2,836 (33.2%)	1,731 (23.5%)	1,505 (21%)	1,305 (19%)	-200 (-2%)
No (%) Medium Priority Awaiting	4,360 (46.0%)	4,731 (49.6)	3,956 (47.8)	4,383 (51.3%)	3,893 (52.8%)	3,375 (47%)	3,231 (46%)	-144 (-1%)
No (%) Low Priority Awaiting	1,849 (19.5%)	1,577 (16.5%)	1,582 (19.1%)	1,323 (15.5%)	1,743 (23.7%)	2,251 (32%)	2,477 (35%)	+226 (+3%)

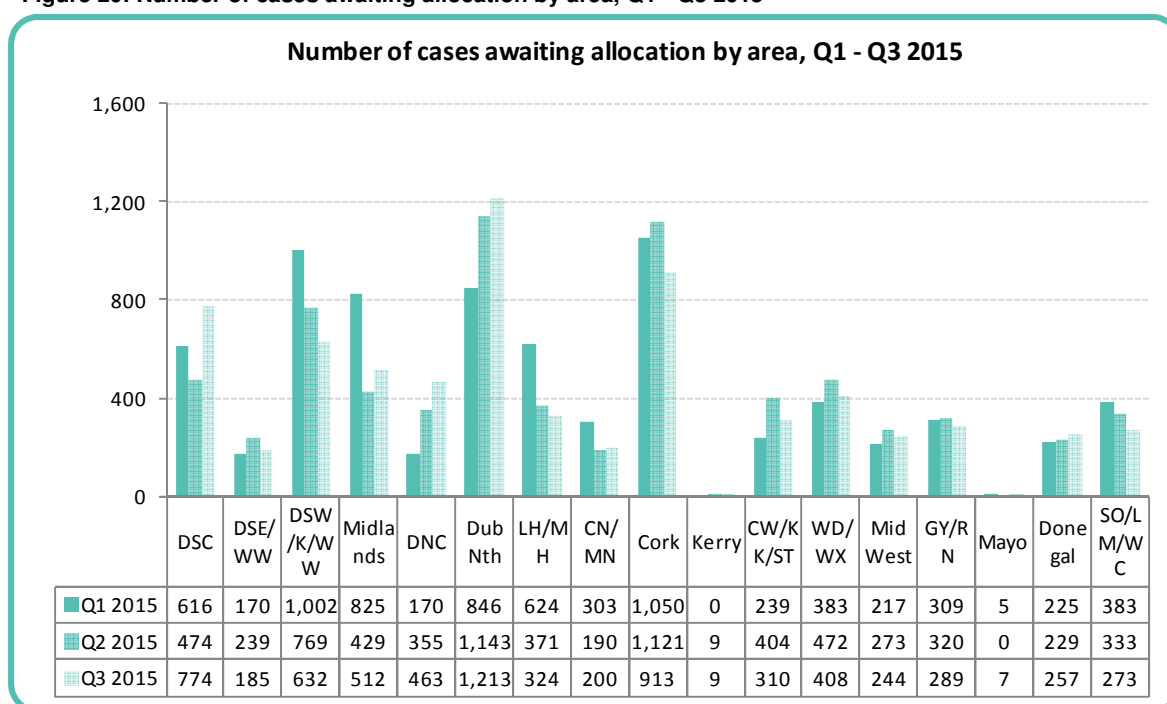
- At the end of Q3 2015, Dublin North reported the highest number of cases awaiting allocation (n = 1,213), followed by Cork (n = 913) and Dublin South Central (DSC) (n = 774 (Figure 19). Twelve of the 17 areas reported fewer than 500 cases awaiting allocation.
- Dublin South Central reported the highest number of ‘high priority’ cases awaiting allocation (n=266/1,305; 20%), followed by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (n= 191/1,305; 15%); Louth/Meath (n = 176/1,305; 13%) and Cork (n = 160/1,305; 12%). Sixty percent (793 /1,305) of all ‘high priority’ cases were reported by these four areas.
- Dublin North reported the highest number of ‘medium priority’ cases (n=494/3,231; 15%) followed by Dublin South Central (n = 365/3,231; 11%) and Cork (324/3,231; 10%).
- Of the 1,213 cases awaiting allocation in Dublin North only ten were categorised as ‘high priority’ and of the 463 that were awaiting allocation in Dublin North City two were categorised as ‘high priority’.

Figure 19: Area breakdown of cases awaiting allocation by priority level, Q3 2015



- Figure 20 shows the number of cases awaiting allocation at the end of each quarter (Q1 – Q3 2015) by area.
- Three of the 17 areas reported two consecutive decreases, the most marked being that for Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (n = -370) followed by Louth/Meath (n = -300) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (n = -110).
- Three areas reported two consecutive increases, the most marked being that for Dublin North (n = 367), followed by Dublin North City (n = 293) and to a lesser extent Donegal (n = 32).
- The number of cases awaiting allocation in the remaining areas fluctuated from one quarter to another.

Figure 20: Number of cases awaiting allocation by area, Q1 - Q3 2015



3.4 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Waiting Time

- The majority (60%; n = 778/1,305) of cases categorised as 'high priority' awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2015 were waiting less than 3 months (Table 20). The number of 'high priority' cases waiting over 3 months for allocation decreased by 79 between Q2 and Q3 2015.
- Over half (56%; n = 1,806/3,231) of cases categorised as 'medium priority' awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2015 were waiting more than 3 months, an increase of 215 on Q2 2015 (Table 20).
- The majority (63%; n = 1,569/2,477) of 'low priority cases' awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2015 were waiting over 3 months; an increase of 262 on Q2 2015 (Table 20).

Table 20: Breakdown of cases awaiting allocation by priority level and time waiting, Q1 2014 – Q3 2015

High Priority / Time Waiting	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Δ (+/-) Q3 vs Q2
1 week	124	185	89	109	120	131	94	-37
1-2 weeks	168	184	95	138	123	119	145	26
2-3 weeks	187	181	124	111	79	65	144	79
3-4 weeks	251	265	233	168	107	103	82	-21
1-2 months	580	470	406	316	249	241	148	-93
2-3 months	461	319	305	197	235	240	165	-75
>3 months	1,493	1,636	1,491	1,797	818	606	527	-79
Total	3,264	3,240	2,743	2,836	1,731	1,505	1,305	-200
Medium Priority / Time Waiting	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Δ (+/-) Q3 vs Q2
1 week	86	146	54	65	227	170	94	-76
1-2 weeks	188	163	87	142	171	193	165	-28
2-3 weeks	235	292	106	143	206	193	152	-41
3-4 weeks	377	379	341	364	231	195	185	-10
1-2 months	533	703	659	499	524	505	378	-127
2-3 months	524	937	866	359	927	528	451	-77
>3 months	2,417	2,111	1,843	2,811	1,607	1,591	1,806	215
Total	4,360	4,731	3,956	4,383	3,893	3,375	3,231	-144
Low Priority / Time Waiting	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Δ (+/-) Q3 vs Q2
1 week	15	40	23	34	30	32	51	19
1-2 weeks	31	38	39	21	30	98	74	-24
2-3 weeks	55	58	54	31	32	108	86	-22
3-4 weeks	266	102	103	55	55	139	87	-52
1-2 months	215	216	212	204	233	238	290	52
2-3 months	293	246	203	109	662	329	320	-9
>3 months	974	877	948	869	701	1,307	1,569	262
Total	1,849	1,577	1,582	1,323	1,743	2,251	2,477	226

4.0 AFTERCARE SERVICES

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

4.1 Young adults in receipt of an aftercare service

4.2 Children in care with an aftercare plan / allocated aftercare worker

4.3 Young adults discharged from care by reason of reaching 18 years

KEY FACTS

- 1,796 young adults (all ages) in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2015; 73 more than Q2 2015
- 58% (n = 1,009/1,737) of young adults aged 18-22 years (inclusive) in receipt of aftercare services were in full-time education at the end of Q3 2015
- 4% (n = 77/1,737) of young adults 18-22 years (inclusive) in receipt of aftercare services were in a residential placement
- 31% (n = 295/962) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years had a preparation for leaving care and aftercare plan at the end of Q2 2015 (*data provisional*)
- 35% (n = 362/1,042) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years had an allocated aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2015
- 170 young adults were discharged from care by reason of reaching 18 years during Q3 2015; 97% (n =165) were eligible for an after care service and of these 89% (n =147) had an allocated aftercare worker

4.1 Young adults in receipt of aftercare services

- At the end of Q3 2015, there were 1,796 young adults (all ages i.e., 18 years and upwards and inclusive of those 25 or older) in receipt of aftercare services; 73 more than Q2 2015 (Table 21).
- Of the 1,796 young adults in receipt of aftercare services, 1,737 (97%) were aged **18-22 years (inclusive)** and of these 58% (n = 1,009/1,737) were in full-time education and 4% (n = 77/1,737) were in a residential placement (Table 21).
- Of the 1,737 young adults aged 18-22 years (inclusive) in receipt of aftercare services 1,319 (76%) were aged **18-20 years (inclusive)** (Table 21).
- Of the 1,319 young adults aged 18-20 years (inclusive) in receipt of aftercare services 59% (n = 781/1,319) were in full-time education (Table 21).

Table 21: Breakdown of young adults in receipt of aftercare services and in fulltime education Q1 2014 – Q3 2015

	Total no. of young adults in receipt of aftercare services (all ages)	No. of 18-20 years inclusive in receipt of aftercare	No (%) 18-20 years inclusive in receipt of aftercare in full time education	No. (%) of 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of aftercare service	% 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of aftercare in full time education
Q3 2015 [#]	1,796	1,319	781 (59%)	1,737	1,009 (58%)
Q2 2015 [*]	1,723	1,315	774 (59%)	1,666	941 (56%)
Q1 2015	1,783	1,338	799 (60%)	1,720	1,012 (59%)
Q4 2014	1,707	1,292	761 (59%)	Not comparable – prior to Jan 2015 young adults aged 18 – 23 years inclusive were included by some areas	Not comparable – prior to Jan 2015 young adults aged 18 – 23 years inclusive were included by some areas
Q3 2014	1,714	1,313	750 (57%)		
Q2 2014	1,627	1,302	749 (58%)		
Q1 2014	1,559	1,102	662 (60%)		

^{*}Q2 2015 Data provisional – DSW/K/WW partial return received

[#]Q3 2015 Data provisional – data for Galway/Roscommon and Mayo not available

4.2 Children in care with an aftercare plan / allocated aftercare worker

- At the end of Q3 2015, there were 1,042 children in care aged 16 and 17 years (Table 22).
- Of the 16 areas that provided data on the number of children with a preparation for leaving care and aftercare plan 31% (n = 295/962) had a plan at the end of Q3 2015.
- The percentage of children with a plan at the end of Q3 2015 ranged from 0% (n=0/93) in Dublin North City to 100% in Midlands (n = 51/51), Kerry (n=19/19) and Mayo (19/19) (Table 22). With the exception of the four areas Kerry, Midlands, Mayo and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan, the percentage for all other areas was less than 50%.

Table 22: Children in care 16 and 17 years with a preparation for leaving care and aftercare plan, Q2–Q3 2015

Area	No of CIC aged 16 & 17 years Q2 2015	No with plan Q2 2015	% with plan Q2 2015	No of CIC aged 16 & 17 years Q2 2015	No with plan Q3 2015	% with plan Q3 2015
DSC	74	No data	-	80	No data	
DSE/WW	49	No data	-	43	13	30%
DSW/K/WW	35 [#]	No data	-	96	23	24%
Midlands	55	53	96%	51	51	100%
DNC	94	No data	-	93	0	0%
Dublin North	48	7	15%	53	8	15%
LH/MH	66	18	27%	63	3	5%
CN/MN	33	9	27%	35	5	14%
Cork	152	72	47%	158	56	35%
Kerry	22	22	100%	19	19	100%
CW/KK/ST	57	2	4%	58	2	3%
WD/WX	65	21	32%	74	24	32%
Mid West	90	41	46%	92	31	34%
GY/RN	23 ^{***}	5	22%	56	13	23%
Mayo	11 ^{***}	2	18%	19	19	100%
Donegal	30	11	37%	30	13	43%
SO/LM/WC	20	9	45%	22	15	68%
Total	924	272	40%**	1,042	295	31%**

^{**} Based on areas where the number of children with a preparation for leaving care/aftercare plan was provided

*** Data undergoing validation

#Q2 2015 Data provisional – DSW/K/WW partial return received

- Thirty-five percent (n = 362/1,042) of children in care 16 and 17 years had an allocated worker at the end of Q3 2015 (Table 23).
- The percentage with an allocated aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2015 ranged from 100% in Midlands (n =51/51) and Mayo (n=19/19) to 2% in Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (n = 1/58). Thirteen of the 17 areas reported a percentage of less than 50% (Table 23).

Table 23: Children 16 and 17 years with an allocated aftercare worker, Q2 – Q3 015

Area	No of 16 & 17 years in care Q2 2015	No with allocated aftercare worker Q2 2015	% with allocated aftercare worker Q2 2015	No of 16 & 17 years in care Q3 2015	No with allocated aftercare worker Q3 2015	% with allocated aftercare worker Q3 2015
DSC	74	10	14%	80	10	13%
DSE/WW	49	29	59%	43	28	65%
DSW/K/WW	35 [#]	8	23%	96	23	24%
Midlands	55	53	96%	51	51	100%
DNC	94	26	28%	93	19	20%
Dublin North	48	20	42%	53	16	30%
LH/MH	66	33	50%	63	22	35%
CN/MN	33	9	27%	35	5	14%
Cork	152	72	47%	158	56	35%
Kerry	22	6	27%	19	2	11%
CW/KK/ST	57	3	5%	58	1	2%
WD/WX	65	21	32%	74	24	32%
Mid West	90	38	42%	92	39	42%
GY/RN	23***	6	26%	56	13	23%
Mayo	11***	8	73%	19	19	100%
Donegal	30	15	50%	30	17	57%
SO/LM/WC	20	13	65%	22	17	77%
Total	924	370	40%	1,042	362	35%

*** Data undergoing validation

DSW/K/WW Q2 2015 partial return of data

4.3 Young adults discharged from care by reason of reaching 18 years

- During Q3 2015, 170 young adults were discharged from care by reason of reaching 18 years. Of these 97% (n = 165/170) were eligible for an aftercare service and 89% (n = 147/165) had an allocated aftercare worker (Table 24).

Table 24: Number discharged, eligible for aftercare service and allocated aftercare worker, Q2-Q3 2015

Area	No discharged Q2 2015	No discharged eligible for aftercare Q2 2015	No with allocated aftercare worker Q2 2015	% with allocated aftercare worker Q2 2015	No discharged Q3 2015	No discharged eligible for aftercare Q3 2015	No with allocated aftercare worker Q3 2015	% with allocated aftercare worker Q3 2015
DSC	13	9	5	56% [#]	2	2	2	100%
DSE/WW	5	5	5	100%	10	10	10	100%
DSW/K/WW*	11	10	4	40% [#]	8	4	4	100%
Midlands	10	10	10	100%	23	23	23	100%
DNC	10	10	7	70%	17	17	14	82%
Dublin North	4	4	4	100%	9	9	9	100%
LH/MH	8	7	6	86% [#]	10	10	10	100%
CN/MN	7	7	5	71%	5	5	5	100%
Cork	22	22	18	82%	16	16	15	94%
Kerry	2	2	2	100%	6	6	4	67%
CW/KK/ST	1	1	1	100%	11	11	1	9%
WD/WX	14	14	14	100%	25	25	25	100%
Mid West	9	9	9	100%	14	14	14	100%
GY/RN	0	0	0	-	8	8	6	75%
Mayo	1	1	1	100%	2	2	2	100%
Donegal	2	2	2	100%	2	1	1	100%
SO/LM/WC	0	0	0	-	2	2	2	100%
Total	119	113	93	82%[#]	170	165	147	89%

*DSW/K/WW Q2 2015 partial return

[#] Revised from Q2 2015

5.0 ADOPTION SERVICES

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

5.1 Information and Tracing Service

5.2 Adoption Assessments Completed

KEY FACTS

- 666 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q3 2015; 201 fewer than at the end of Q2 2015
- 232 new applications to commence tracing for a searched person received during Q3 2015; up 44 on Q2 2015
- 58 adoption assessments (all types) completed during Q3 2015; 4 more than Q2 2015

5.1 Information and Tracing Service

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

- At the end of Q3 2015, there were at least 666 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service (Table 25).
- 55% (n=369/666) of those waiting nationally, were waiting on the Cork/Kerry service which holds the majority of files. The number waiting on this particular service has dropped by 52% (n = 396) since Q4 2014 (Table 25). The length of time applicants are waiting for this service has also decreased (data not shown). This is the result of an improvement plan that was introduced in this area during Q1 2015.

Table 25: Number of applicants awaiting the information and tracing service, Q4 2014 – Q3 2015

Area	No waiting Q4 2014	No waiting Q1 2015	No waiting Q2 2015	No waiting Q3 2015	Δ (+/-) from Q3 vs Q2
Dublin/Wicklow/Kildare	0	0	6	0	-6
Laois/Offaly [#]	0	3	6	5	-1
Longford/Westmeath [#]	0	1	1	1	0
Louth/Cavan/Monaghan/Meath/Dublin North	110	143	140	137	-3
Cork/Kerry	765	629	563	369	-194
Carlow/Kilkenny/St Tipperary/Waterford/Wexford	78	73	69	61	-8
Midwest	53	36	57	51	-6
Galway/Roscommon	13	8	8*	22	+14
Mayo	10	4	4	4	0
Donegal/Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	13	15	13	16	+3
National	1,042	912	867	666	-201

*Galway/Roscommon Q2 2015 – estimate based on Q1 2015 data

[#] Laois/Offaly, Longford/Westmeath and Galway/Roscommon areas have not transferred into the National Adoption Service

- During Q3 2015, a total of 232 new applications to commence tracing for a searched person was received, up 44 on Q2 2015 (Table 26). This brings to 615 the number of new applications received since the start of the year.
- The highest number of new applications (26%; n =61/232) was reported by the South East area (i.e., Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary/Waterford/Wexford), followed by the Cork/Kerry (17%; n = 39), up 15 from Q2 2015.

Table 26: Number of new applications for an information and tracing service; by month Q1 – Q3 2015

Area	No of new applications Q1 2015	No of new applications Q2 2015	No of new applications Q3 2015	Δ(+/-) Q3 vs Q2	Total new applicants Q1 –Q3 2015
Dublin Wicklow Kildare	30	16	32	+16	78
Laois/Offaly	3	1	0	-1	4
Longford/Westmeath	3	1	4	+3	8
Louth/Cavan/Monaghan/Meath/Dublin North	31	25	26	+1	82
Cork/Kerry	45	24	39	+15	108
Carlow/Kilkenny/St Tipperary/Waterford/Wexford	40	63	61	-2	164
Midwest	20	39	36	-3	95
Galway/Roscommon	1	1*	15	+14	17
Mayo	11	5	7	+2	23
Donegal/Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	11	13	12	-1	36
National	195	188	232	+44	615

* Galway/Roscommon Q2 2015 – estimate based on Q1 2015 data

5.2 Adoption Assessments

- A total of 58 adoption assessments (all types) were completed during Q3 2015; four more than Q2 2015. This brings to 165 the total number of assessments (all types) completed since the start of the year. A breakdown of assessment types completed is presented in Table 27.

Table 27: Breakdown of assessments completed by type, Q4 2014 – Q3 2015

Area	No of assessments completed Q1 2015	No of assessments completed Q2 2015*	No of assessments completed Q3 2015*	Δ (+/-) Q3 vs Q2	Total No of assessments completed Q1 – Q3 2015
Fostering to Adoption	10	13	18	+5	41
Inter-Country Adoption	27	27	21	-6	75
Domestic Adoption	3	5	6	+1	14
Step-parent Adoption	13	9	13	+4	35
Total	53	54	58	+4	165

*Q2 2015 – figures provided by one area (Galway/Roscommon) were an estimate based on Q1 2015 data

6.0 FOSTER CARERS

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

6.1 Foster carers approved and on the Panel of Approved Foster Carers

6.2 Foster carers (relative) unapproved

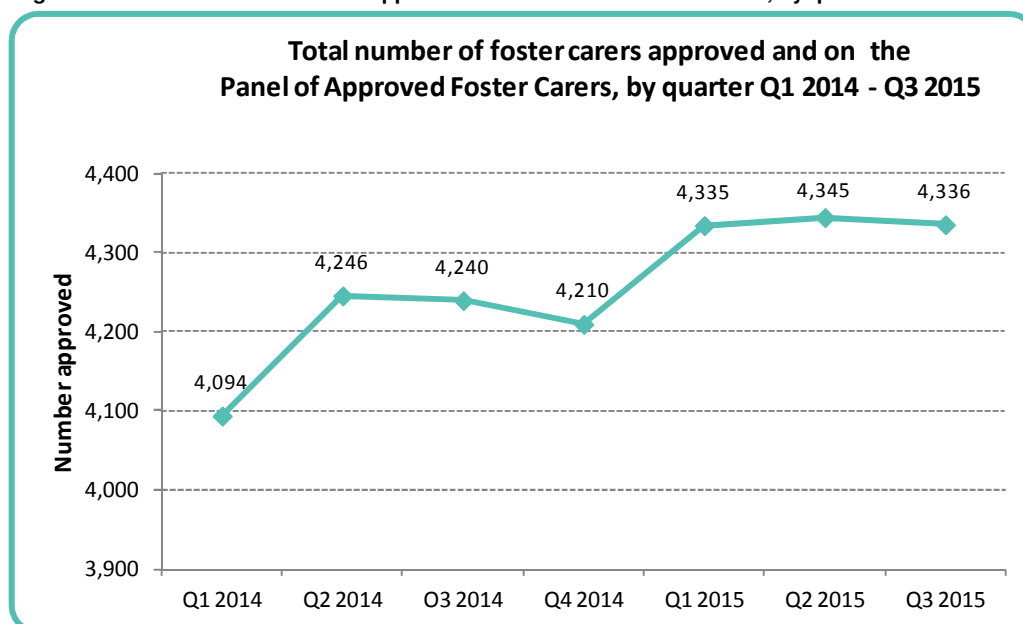
KEY FACTS

- 4,336 foster carers (all types) approved and on the Panel of Approved Foster Carers at the end of Q3 2015; down 9 on Q2 2015
- 6% (n = 275) of foster carers (all types) approved and on the Panel at the end of Q3 2015 were private foster carers; down 1% (n = 26) on Q2 2015
- 78% (n = 2,267/2,894) of general foster carers approved and on the Panel at the end of Q3 2015 had an allocated link (social) worker; up 3% on Q2 2015
- 70% (n = 812/1,167) of relative foster carers approved and on the Panel at the end of Q3 2015 had an allocated link (social worker); up 2% on Q2 2015
- 410 unapproved relative foster carers at the end of Q3 2015, down 27 from Q2 2015; the fewest number for the period Q1 2014 – Q1 2015
- 350 (85%) of the unapproved relative foster carers had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks, 18 fewer than Q2 2015
- 58% (n=204/350) of unapproved relative foster carers with a child placed > 12 weeks had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q3 2015; up 11% on Q2 2015

6.1 Foster carers approved and on the Panel of Approved Foster Carers

- At the end of Q3 2015, there were 4,336 foster carers (all types) approved and on the Panel of Approved Foster Carers; down nine from Q2 2015 (n = 4,345) (Figure 21).

Figure 21: Number of foster carers approved and on the Foster Care Panel, by quarter Q1 2014 –Q3 2015



- The number of approved general and relative foster carers were up on Q2 2015, by four and 13 respectively, while the number of private foster carers were down 26 (Table 28).
- Private foster carers accounted for 6% (n=275/4,336) of foster carers (all types) at the end of Q3 2015; down 1% on Q2 2015. General foster carers comprise 67% (n=2,894) of the foster carers approved and on Panel while relative foster carers comprise the remaining 27% (n = 1,154).

Table 28: Breakdown of approved foster carers, by type, Q1 2014 – Q3 2015

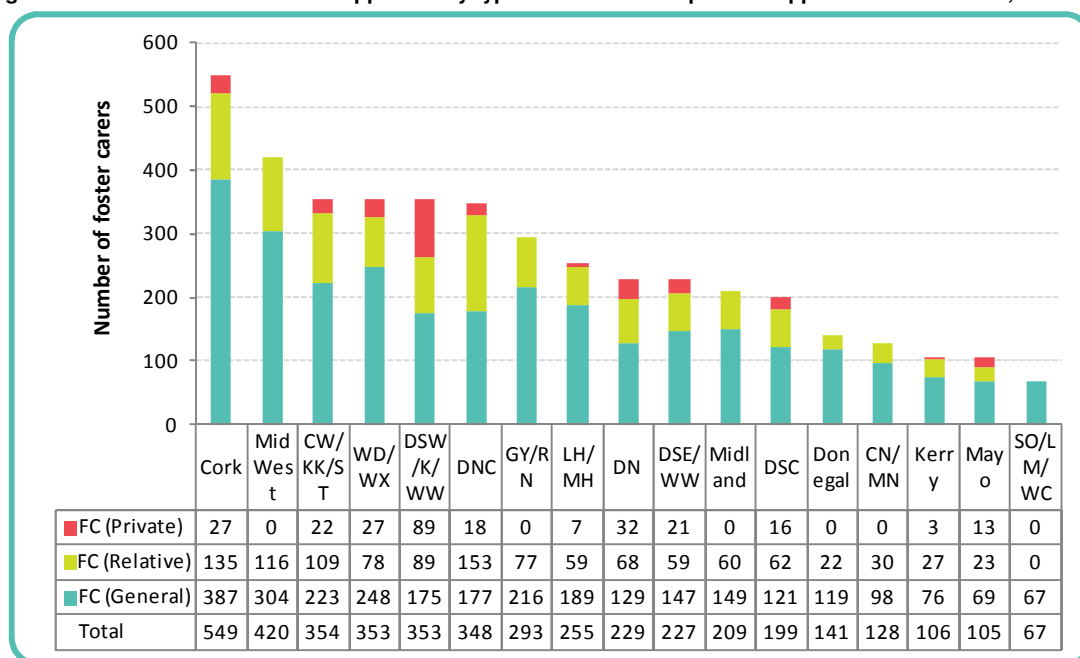
Approved Foster Carers	Q1 2014*	Q2 2014*	Q3 2014*	Q4 2014*	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Δ (+/-) Q3 2015 vs Q2 2015
Foster Carers General	2,812	2,885	2,886	2,880	2,896	2,890	2,894	4
Foster Carers Relative	1,128	1,145	1,175	1,166	1,172	1,154	1,167	13
Foster Carers Private	154	216	179	164	267	301	275	-26
Total	4,094	4,246	4,240	4,210	4,335	4,345	4,336	-9

*Figures for 2014 should be interpreted with caution as a small number of areas did not have a mechanism in place to collate the data on private foster carers in 2014. This has been rectified for 2015.

- A breakdown of the number of foster carers approved and on the panel by type and area, at the end of Q3 2015 is presented in Figure 22. The number of fosters carers approved (all types) and on the panel ranged from 549 in Cork to 67 in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan.
- Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow had the highest number of private foster carers approved and on the panel at 89, followed by Dublin North (DN) at 32 and Waterford/Wexford and Cork both with 27.

- Six areas (Midlands, Cavan/Monaghan, MidWest, Galway/Roscommon, Donegal and Sligo/Leitrim West Cavan) had no private foster carers approved and on the panel at the end of Q3 2015.

Figure 22: Number of foster carers approved by type and area on the panel of approved foster carers, Q3 2015



- Eight of the 17 areas reported an overall increase from Q2 in the number of foster carers approved and on the Panel, with the highest increase reported by Mayo (n = 10), followed by Midlands (n = 7) (Table 29).
- Of the eight areas that reported a decrease in the number of foster carers approved, the highest decrease was reported by Waterford/Wexford (n = 14) followed by Donegal (n=12) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (n = 5) (Table 29).
- Waterford/Wexford reported the highest decrease (n =10) in general foster carers from Q2 2015, while Dublin South East Wicklow reported the highest decrease (n=6) in relative foster carers during Q3 2015. Donegal (n=13), Louth/Meath (n=9) and Galway/Roscommon (n = 8) reported the highest decreases in private foster carers.
- In terms of increases, Louth/Meath, Cork and Mid West areas reported the highest increases in general foster carers at four, while Galway/Roscommon (n = 9), Midland (n = 7) and Carlow/Kilkenny /South Tipperary (n = 5) reported the highest increases in relative foster carers. Mayo reported the highest increase (n = 8) in private foster carers followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (n =2).

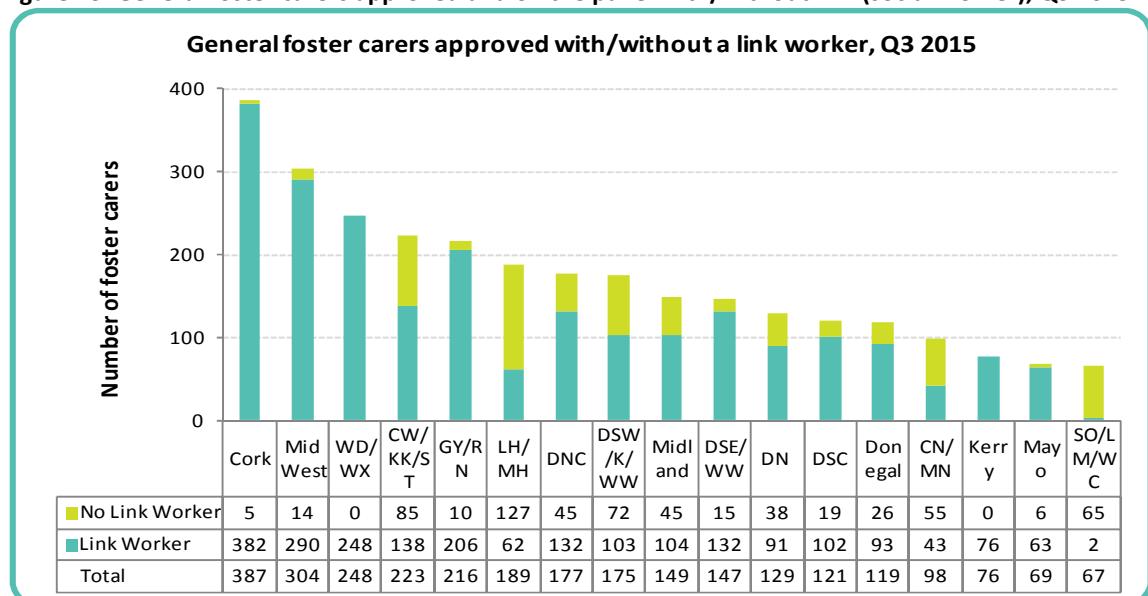
Table 29: Area breakdown of foster carers (all types), Q1 – Q3 2015

Area	Total Q1 2015	Total Q2 2015	Total Q3 2015	Δ (+/-) Q3 v Q2
Dublin South Central	208	202	199	-3
Dublin South East Wicklow	231	232	227	-5
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	338	351	353	2

Midland	198	202	209	7
Dublin North City	364	345	348	3
Dublin North	232	232	229	-3
Louth/Meath	253	258	255	-3
Cavan/Monaghan	133	129	128	-1
Cork	550	546	549	3
Kerry	106	106	106	0
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	336	351	354	3
Waterford/Wexford	360	367	353	-14
MidWest	412	417	420	3
Galway/Roscommon	290	294	293	-1
Mayo	103	95	105	10
Donegal	150	153	141	-12
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	71	65	67	2
National	4,335	4,345	4,336	-9

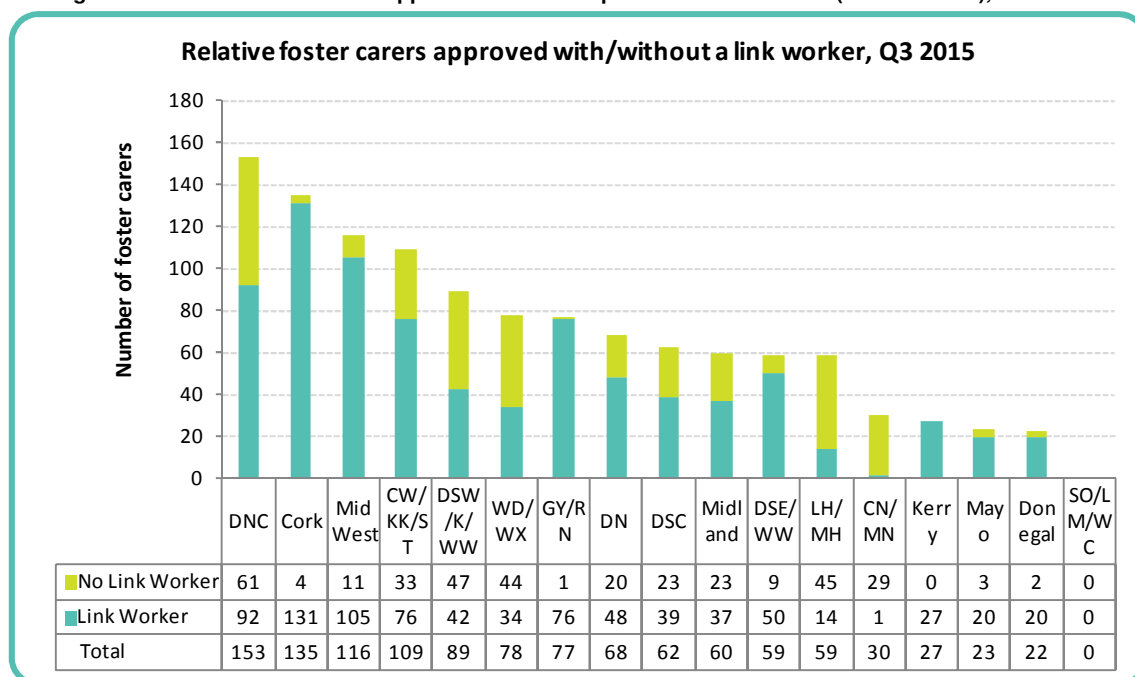
- At the end of Q3 2015, 78% (n = 2,267/2,894) of general foster carers approved and on the Panel had an allocated link (social) worker; up 3% from Q2 2015.
- The number of general foster carers approved with no link (social worker) ranged from none in Kerry and Waterford/Wexford to 127 (67%) in Louth/Meath (Figure 23). This area noted that the high number was due to that fact that all fostering workers were temporarily reallocated to the children in care team, due to severe staffing crisis.
- Other areas with a high number of general foster carers approved with no link (social worker) include Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary with 85 (38%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow with 72 (41%), Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan with 65 (97%) and Cavan/Monaghan with 55(56%) (Figure 23).

Figure 23: General foster carers approved and on the panel with/without link (social worker), Q3 2015



- For the same period 70% (n = 812/1,167) of relative foster carers approved and on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker; up 2% on Q2 2015 (68%; n = 781/1,154).
- The number of relative foster carers approved with no link worker ranged from none in Kerry to 61 (40%) in Dublin North City (Figure 24). Other areas with a high number of approved relative foster carers with no link worker include Dublin South West/Kildare West Wicklow with 47 (53%), Louth/Meath with 45 (76%) and Waterford/Wexford with 44 (56%). Only one of the 29 foster carers in Cavan/Monaghan had a link (social) worker (Figure 24).

Figure 24: Relative foster carers approved and on the panel with/without link (social worker), Q2 2015



6.2 Foster carers (relative) unapproved

- At the end of Q3 2015, there were 410 relative foster carers that were unapproved; down 27 from Q2 2015 and the fewest number for the period Q1 2014 – Q4 2015.
- Of these 350 (85%) had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks; 18 fewer than Q2 2015 (Table 30).
- Of the 350 foster carers that had a child placed with them for > 12 weeks, 58% (n = 204/350) had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q3 2015; up 11% on Q2 2015.

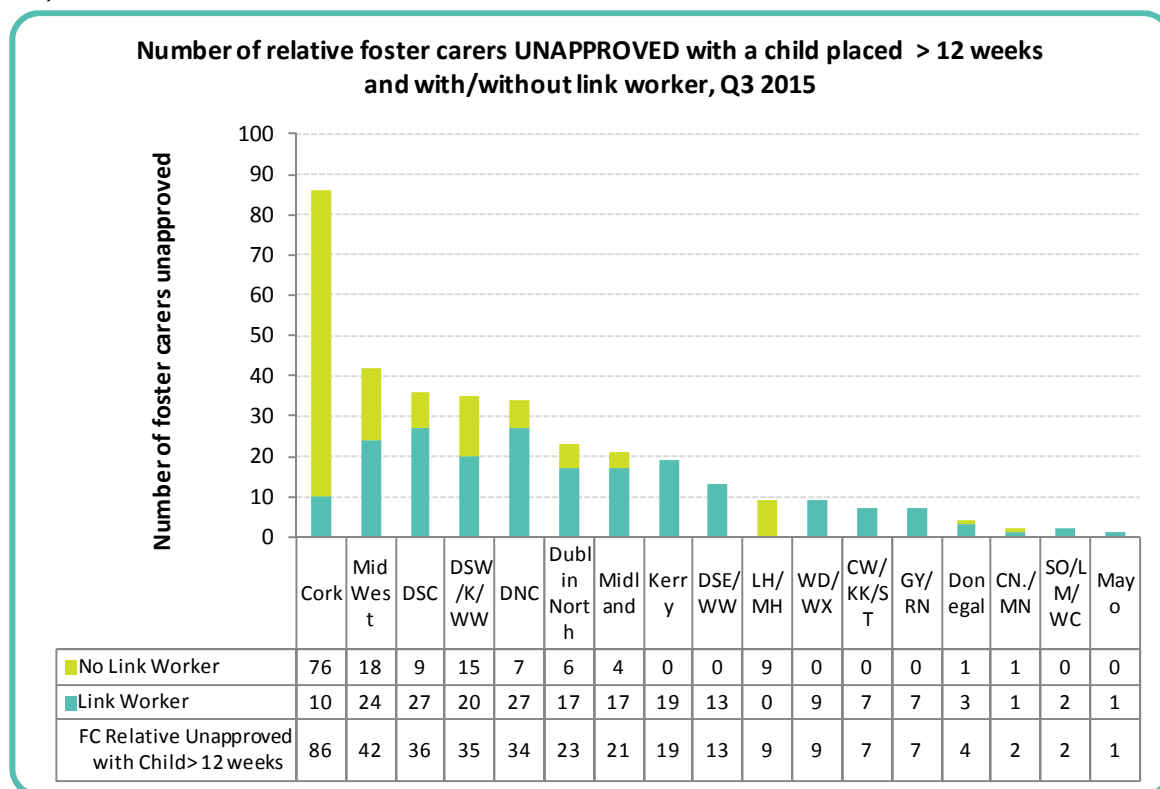
Table 30: Breakdown of foster carers not approved, Q1 2014 – Q3 2015

Unapproved Relative Foster Carers	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2014	Δ (+/-) Q3 2015 vs Q2 2015
No. unapproved	434	442	449	442	439	437	410	-27
No (%) with a child > 12 weeks	367 (85%)	383 (87%)	374 (83%)	388 (88%)	366 (83%)	368 (84%)	350 (85%)	-18

No with a child > 12 weeks and who have an allocated Link (Social) Worker	258 (70%)	247 (64%)	260 (70%)	223 (57%)	184 (50%)	174 (47%)	204 (58%)	+30
---	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	-----

- An area breakdown of the number of relative foster carers unapproved that had a child placed for longer than 12 weeks and had/had not a link (social) worker at the end of Q3 2015, is presented in Figure 25.
- Cork had the highest number (n=86) of relative foster carers unapproved with a child placed for longer than 12 weeks, at the end of Q3 2015, followed by Mid West (n=42). Mayo had the fewest number (n = 1).
- Of the 86 relative foster carers unapproved in Cork, 12% (n = 10) had a link (social) worker. None of the nine relative foster carers unapproved in Louth/Meath had a link worker.

Figure 25: Number of foster carers relative UNAPPROVED with a child placed > 12 weeks and with/without a link (social) worker, Q3 2015



7.0 SOCIAL WORK / RESIDENTIAL SERVICES – HR AND FINANCE DATA

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

7.1 Social Work Staff (WTE) – Workforce position

7.2 Residential Services Staff (WTE) – Workforce position

7.3 Finance – Summary table of social work / social care related services

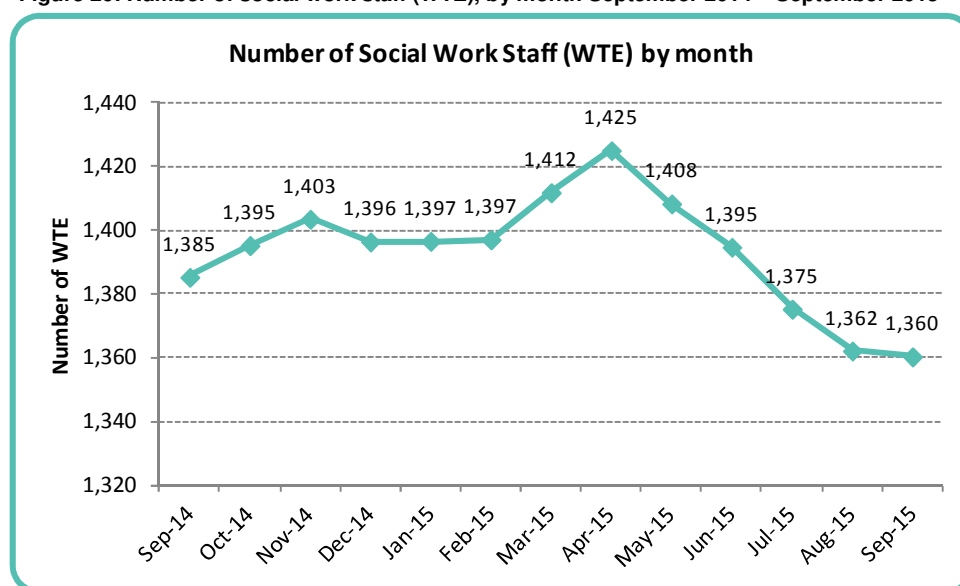
KEY FACTS

- 1,360.32 social work staff (WTE) employed (excluding agency) at the end of Q3 2015; down 34.38 on Q2 2015
- 167 agency social workers employed at the end of Q3 2015;
- 88 social workers came onto the Agency's payroll between January and September 2015
- 266.43 social work posts being processed by the NRS at the end of Q3 2015
- 80 social workers on maternity at the end of Q3 2015; down nine on Q2 2015
- 107 social workers left the Agency (including retirements) between January and September 2015
- 830.22 staff (all grades) employed in Residential Services at the end of Q3 2015; a increase of 1.92 on Q2 2015
- 23 staff started with Residential Services (come onto Tusla's payroll) between January and September 2015 and 23 staff left (including retirements) Residential Services between January 2015 and September 2015
- 43 staff in Residential Services on maternity leave at the end of Q3 2015; down one on Q2 2015
- 6.91% absence rate for Residential Services, August 2015; 1.23% lower than Q2 2015

7.1 Social Work Staff (WTE) – Workforce Position

- At the end of Q3 2015 there were 1,360.32 whole time equivalent (WTE) social work staff (all grades and excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla; a decrease of 34.38 on the number reported at the end of Q2 2015 (n = 1,394.7) and the fewest number for the 12 month period was reported (Figure 26).
- The HR system is currently being configured to report social work staff by grades and areas worked (e.g., frontline and non-frontline services).

Figure 26: Number of social work staff (WTE), by month September 2014 – September 2015



- At the end of Q3 2015 there were 80 social workers (all grades) on maternity leave; a decrease of nine the number reported for Q2 2015 (n = 89). Of these 52 (65%) were on paid maternity leave while the remainder (n = 28; 35%) were on unpaid maternity leave.
- There were 167 agency social workers employed by Tusla at the end of Q3 2015, eight more than at the end of June 2015.
- A total of 88 social workers started with the Agency (came onto Agency's payroll) between January and September 2015.
- At the end of Q3 2015, an additional 226.43 social work posts were being processed by the National Recruitment Service (NRS).
- A total of 85 social workers left (i.e., career breaks, resignations) Tusla between January and September 2015 and a further 22 retired.
- A breakdown of the number of social workers (all grades) employed at the end of each quarter (Q1 2015 – Q3 2015) along the number on maternity leave, the number of agency staff and the number of positions being processed by the NRS at the end of Q3 2015, by area are presented in Table 31.

Table 31: Breakdown of social work staff, by area Q1 –Q3 2015

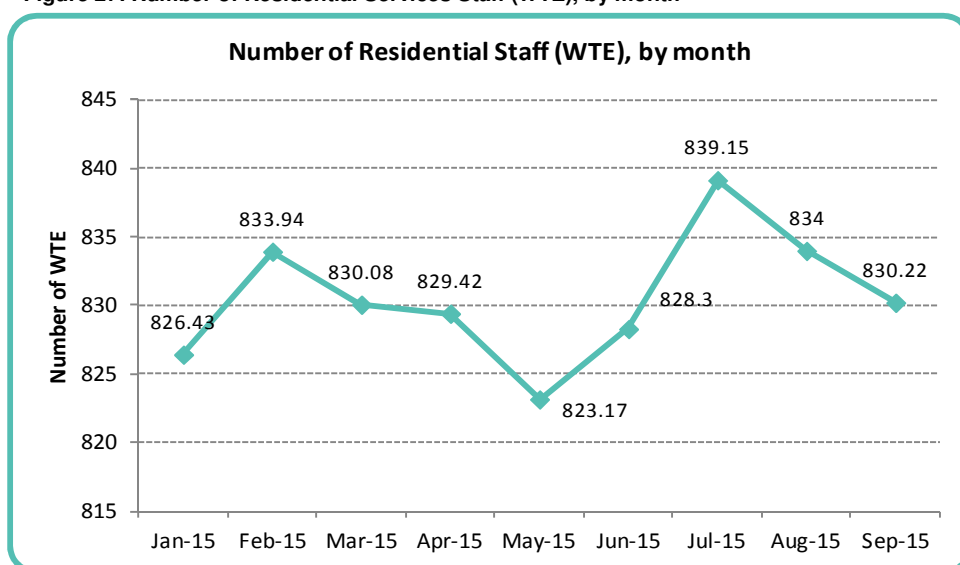
Area	Social Work (WTE) Q1 2015	Social Work (WTE) Q2 2015	Social Work (WTE) Q3 2015	Δ +/- Q3 vs Q2	Social Work Maternity Leave Q3 2015	Agency Staff	SW positions being processed by NRS Q3 2015
Dublin South Central	75.36	76.85	71.33	-5.52	5		17
DSE/WW	91.41	91.49	97.17	5.68	3		14.6
DSW/K/WW	87.35	80.83	82.38	1.55	4		16
Midlands	78.62	77.2	72.64	-4.56	7		33
Regional Services DML	28.59	26.8	25.37	-1.43	2		
Dublin Mid Leinster	361.33	353.17	348.89	-4.28	21	66	80.6

Cavan/Monaghan	29.54	27.06	27.97	0.91	1		8
Dublin North City	115.37	111.7	106.7	-5	10		27
Louth/Meath	78.31	77.19	71.2	-5.99	3		17.33
Dublin North	64.35	62.52	58.84	-3.68	3		28
Regional Services DNE	42.14	36.58	36.07	-0.51	1		
Dublin North East	329.71	315.05	300.78	14.27	18	42	80.33
CW/KK/ST	60.23	59.53	57.91	-1.62	2		4
Cork	160.25	155.53	148.4	-7.13	12		6
Kerry	16.4	17.11	17.46	0.35			1
Waterford/Wexford	82.91	82.08	81.19	-0.89	2		10
Regional Services South	30.84	25.4	25.13	-0.27			
South	350.63	339.65	330.09	-9.56	16	41	21
Donegal	55.42	55.45	54.63	-0.82	5		5
Galway/Roscommon	84.24	89.27	78.66	-10.61	7		7
Mayo	36.72	35.57	37.18	1.61	1		3
Mid West	116.33	113.6	113.39	-0.21	8		19.5
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	36.85	35.45	38.31	2.86	4		9
Regional Services West	14.17	11.02	13.31	2.29			
West	343.73	340.36	335.48	-4.88	25	18	44.5
Residential DML	4	4	3.91	-0.09			
Residential DNE	5.36	5.43	4.93	-0.5			
Residential South	4.9	4.9	4.9	0			
Special Care Services	3	3	4	1			
Child Residential Service	17.26	17.33	17.74	0.41	0	0	
Corporate	6.7	26.14	24.34	-1.8			
Early Years Service	2.48	3	3	0			
Corporate	9.18	29.14	27.34	-1.8	0	0	
Total	1,411.84	1,394.7	1,360.32	-34.38	80	167	226.43

7.2 Residential Services Staff (WTE) – Workforce Position

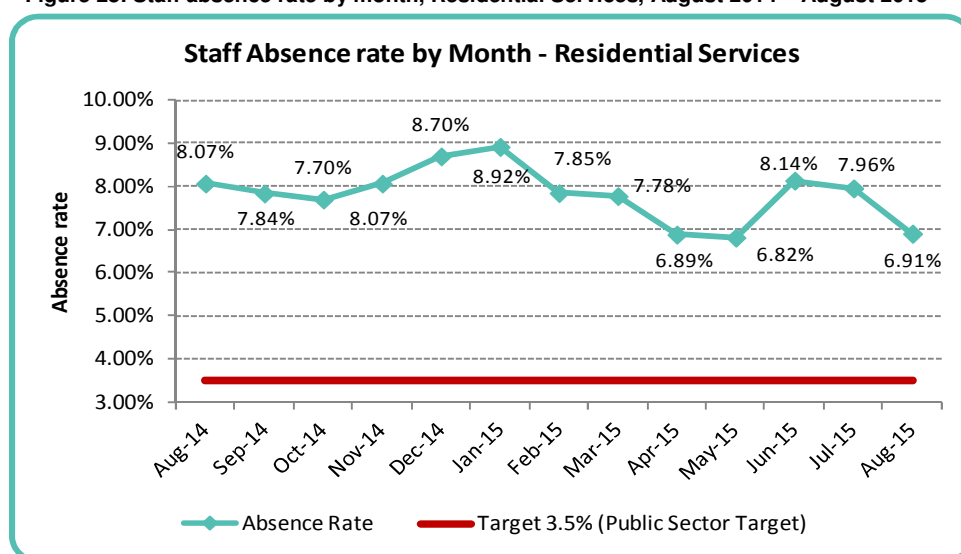
- At the end of Q3 2015 there were 830.22 WTE staff (all grades) employed in Residential Services; an increase of 1.92 on Q2 2015 (n = 828.3) but the second consecutive decrease since July 2015 when the highest number for the nine month period was reported (Figure 27). *Due to a realignment of staff in residential services the figures reported for 2015 cannot be compared with 2014 figures.*

Figure 27: Number of Residential Services Staff (WTE), by month



- A total of 43 staff in Residential Services were on maternity leave at the end of Q3 2015; a decrease of one on the figure reported for Q2 2015 (n = 44).
- An additional two staff started with Residential Services (came onto Tusla's payroll) in Q3 2015. This brings to 23 the number of 'new starters' since January 2015.
- A total of three staff left (i.e., resigned, career breaks) Residential Services during Q3 2015 while a further staff member retired. This brings to 14 the number of staff who left Residential Services between January and September 2015 and nine the number of staff who retired.
- At the end of August 2015¹³ the absence rate for Residential Services was running at 6.91%; 1.23% lower than at the end of Q2 2015 and 1.16% lower than the same period last year (8.07%) (Figure 28). It is 1.73% higher than the overall rate of 5.18%.

Figure 28: Staff absence rate by month, Residential Services, August 2014 – August 2015



¹³ Absence data is reported a month in arrears

7.3 Finance – Variance from Budget

- For the period Q3 2015 year to date (YTD), Residential Services was over budget by €6.108 million (Table 32).
- For the same period, private residential and foster care placements was over spent against budget by €7.602 million reflecting the increased number of children in private placements in recent months. Placement of children in private residential and foster care services is strictly controlled through a national placement process. However, Residential Services has indicated that there is considerable pressure for additional places to be provided and it is expected that this will result in increased spend in this area.
- Adoption Services was also overspent against budget by €0.486 million while foster care and other allowances was under-spent against budget by €0.336 million.
- Spend on agency staff was over budget by €1.659 million at the end of Sept YTD.

Table 32: Variance from budget September 2015 Year to Date – Social work/social care related services

	September 2015 Year To date			% Variance Act vs Budget
	Actual	Budget	Variance	
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Residential Services	107,483	101,375	6,108	6%
Private Residential and Foster Care	66,169	58,568	7,602	13%
Foster Care and Other Allowances	88,950	89,285	(336)	(0%)
Adoption Services	4,160	3,674	486	13%
Agency Staff (Child & Family Services – transferred from HSE)	11,793	10,134	1,659	16%

8.0 NATIONAL EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

9.1 New developments

9.2 Activity data

KEY FACTS

- 4,523 EYS nationally at the end of Q3 2015; down 83 on Q2 2015
- 42 new registrations/notifications; down 14 on Q2 2015
- 125 services closed during Q3 2015; up 92 on Q1 2015
- 11% (n = 508/4,523) of EYS inspected during Q3 2015; 37% (n=1,659) inspected year to date. Inspections up 68% (n = 672) on same period in 2014
- 53 complaints received in respect of EYS during Q3 2015; down 14 on Q2 2015
- 1 prosecution of EYS taken by the Agency during Q3 2015; total of two taken Jan – Sept 2015

8.1 New Developments

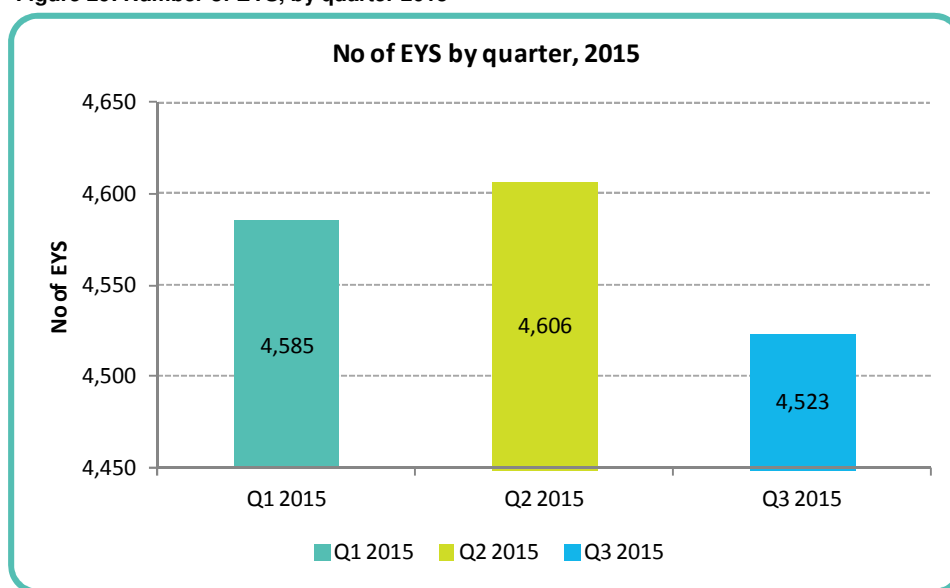
- During Q3 2015, work continued on the development of the National Early Years Inspectorate which was established on the 27 January 2015 and includes:
 - Recruitment of one inspector;
 - Scoping of an ICT system for the Inspectorate. This system will support and assist the Inspectorate with a number of aspects and functions of the inspection process;
 - Services not inspected for three or more years have been prioritised for inspection. In terms of inspections, there continues to be poor levels of compliance in relation to vetting of staff and safety.
 - Training undertaken by staff included ICT support and continuation of the induction programme for new staff commenced in Q2 2015. A seminar was held between the Inspectorate, Better Start National Early Years Quality Development Service¹⁴ and the National Curriculum Council of Ireland (NCCA) who developed a practice guide for Better Start and Aistear the Curriculum Framework for early years.

¹⁴ Better Start National Early Years Quality Development Service is a national initiative of DCYA collaborating with the Early Years Education Policy Unit of the Department of Education and Skills (DES), to ensure a coordinated approach to early years quality in Ireland.

8.2 Activity Data

- At the end of Q3 2015, there was a total of 4,523 early years services¹⁵ (EYS) nationally; 83 fewer than Q2 2015 (n = 4,606) and the fewest number for the three quarters shown (Figure 29). *These data are not comparable with data from 2014 due to the establishment of a register of EYS in Q1 2015, which has brought consistency to the counting of services. Prior to 2015, AM and PM sessions, provided by the same service provider in the same premises, were counted as two services in some areas; these services are now being counted as one service by all areas. Amalgamation of the AM and PM sessions into one service has subsequently increased the number of closures*

Figure 29: Number of EYS, by quarter 2015

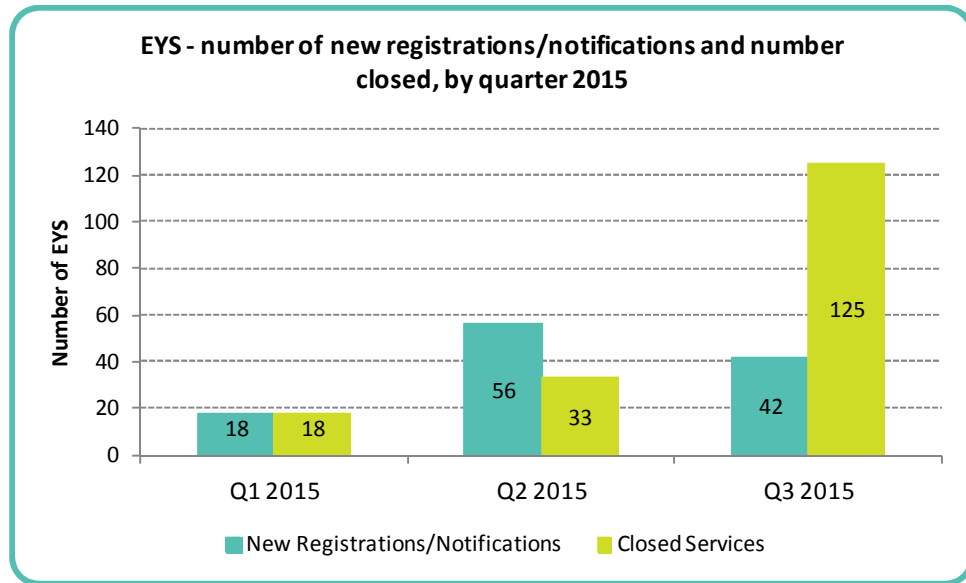


- There were 42 new registrations/new notifications of EYS in Q3 2015; 14 fewer than Q2 2015 (n=56) (Figure 31). This brings to 116 the number of new registrations/notifications since January 2015.
- A total 125 EYS were found to be closed during Q3 2015; 92 more than Q2 2015 (n = 33) (Figure 30). This brings to 176 the number of EYS found to be closed since January 2015. It should be noted that closure of services is found on inspection. The Inspectorate targets EYS not inspected in three or more years and on commencement of inspection a proportion of these are found to be closed. No service was de-registered by the Agency during the first nine months of 2015.

¹⁵ Early Years Services is an overarching term that includes Pre-School Services. The Child and Family Agency is responsible for inspecting pre-schools, play groups, nurseries, crèches, day-care and similar services which cater for children aged 0-6, under the [Child Care \(Pre-School Services\) Regulations 2006](#).

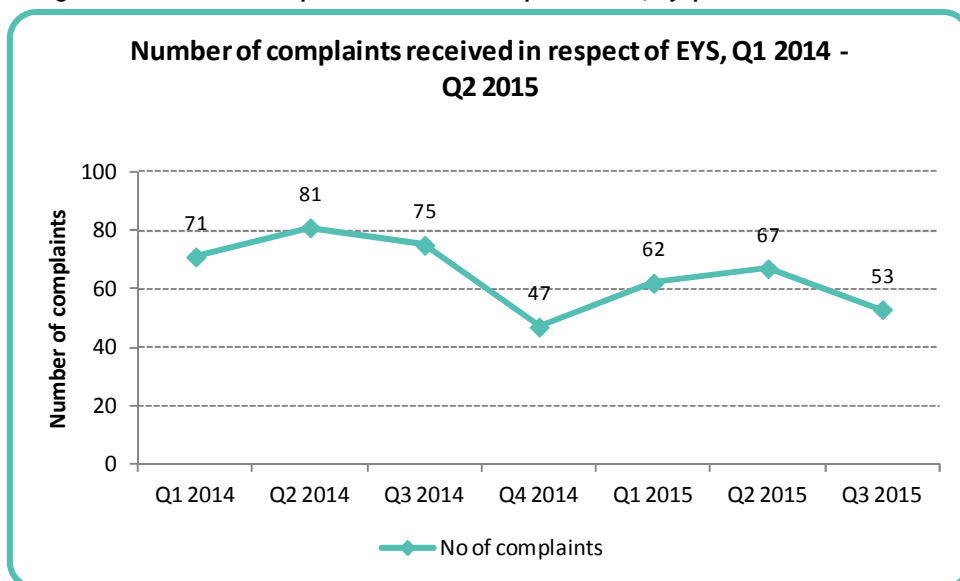
* The number of EYS for Q1 2015 was revised from 4,577 to 4,585 following a validation exercise that took place in one region since publication of the Q1 2015 Integrated Performance and Activity Report.

Figure 30: Number of new registrations/notifications of EYS and number closed, by quarter 2015



- Eleven percent ($n = 508/4,523$) of EYS were inspected in Q3 2015; a drop of 3% on Q2 2015 (14%; $n=656/4,606$). This brings to 37% ($n=1,659/4,523$) the percentage of services inspected since January 2015.
- At the end of Q3 2015, inspections were up 68% ($n = 672$) on the same period last year ($n = 987$).
- One prosecution of EYS was taken by the Agency during Q3 2015; this brings to two the number that has been taken from January – September 2015.
- 53 complaints relating to EYS were received during Q3 2015, a decrease of 14 on Q2 2015 and the fewest number since January 2015. This brings to 182 the number of complaints received since January 2015 (Figure 31).

Figure 31: Number of complaints received in respect of EYS, by quarter Q1 2014 – Q3 2015



9.0 EDUCATIONAL WELFARE SERVICES

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

10.1 Brief interventions / cases

10.2 School attendance notices and summonses under Section 25 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000

10.3 Children registered as being educated in places other than recognised schools

10.4 Applications and assessments under Section 14 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000

10.5 Educational Welfare Officers – Workforce position

10.6 Finance – Summary table of variance from budget

KEY FACTS

- 559 new individual children were worked with (brief interventions and cases) during Q3 2015, bringing the total number from September 2014 to September 2015 to 2,951
- 145 school attendance notices (SANs) were issued in respect of 86 children under Section 25 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000¹ during Q3 2015. 407 SANs issued in respect of 265 children between January and September 2015.
- 30 summonses were issued in respect of 20 children under Section 25 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000¹ during Q3 2015. 116 summonses issued in respect 76 children between January and September 2015.
- 45 children registered as being educated in places other than in recognised schools, Q3 2015. 1,018 children registered between January – September 2015; 18% (n = 180) registered as home educated.
- Applications were made under Section 14 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, in respect of 142 children during Q3 2015. 707 applications made between January and September 2015.
- 93 assessments were carried out under Section 14 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 during Q3 2015. 257 assessments carried out between January and September 2015.
- 14 children refused registration January – September 2015
- 64.62 (WTE) educational welfare officers (EWOs) at the end of Q3 2015; an increase of 4.39 from Q2 2015
- EWS was under spent (€0.427 million) against budget September YTD

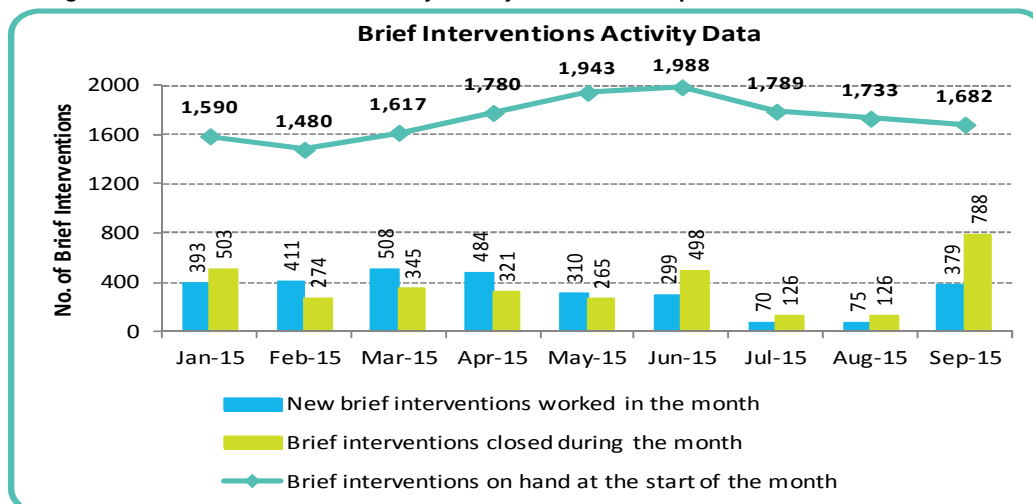
9.1 Brief interventions / Cases

- For the 3 month period July to September 2015, the number of brief interventions¹⁶ carried forward by Educational Welfare Services (EWS) dropped month on month from 1,988 in June to 1,682 in September, reflecting the school holiday period (Figure 32).

¹⁶ The statutory EWS is provided to students and parents according to need. A brief intervention is where a student requires more input to fully meet their needs than is offered through universal work. In this instance the student is targeted for extra resources or assistance through a brief intervention. For example: continued support, action or

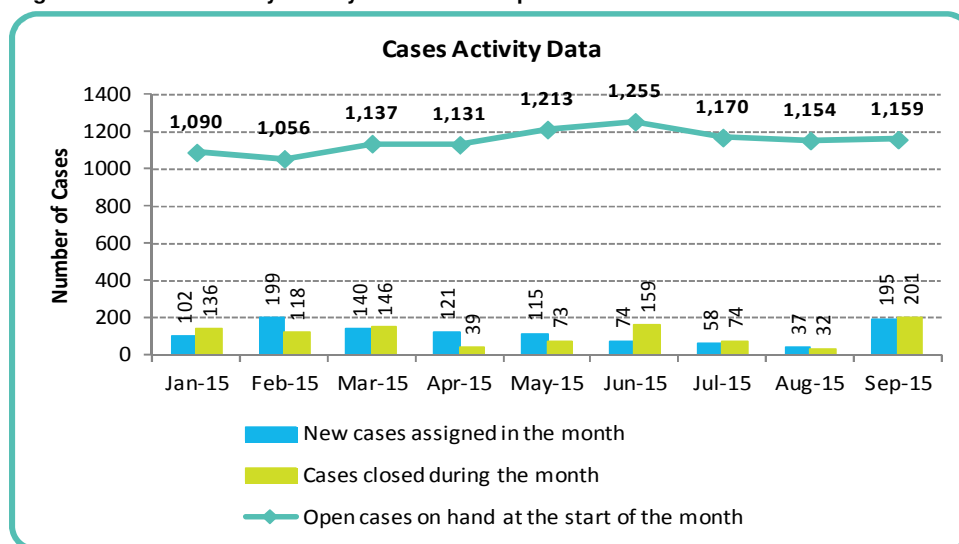
- Similarly, the number of brief interventions worked dropped from 299 in June to 70 in July and 75 in August and rose again in September to 379, while the number of brief interventions closed dropped from 484 in June to 126 in both Jun and July and rose again to 788 in September; the highest number closed for the nine month period shown.

Figure 32: Brief interventions - activity data by month Jan – Sep 2015



- For the same 3 month period (Q3 2015), the number cases¹⁷ carried forward by EWS dropped slightly over the summer months (Jul and Aug), as did cases assigned and cases closed (Figure 33).
- The number of cases closed in September (n = 201) was the highest number for the nine month period shown (Figure 33).

Figure 33: Cases - activity data by month Jan - Sep 2015



advice, to schools/families/agencies regarding individual children, about attendance/placement/educational welfare issues.

¹⁷ Casework is reserved for those students with the most complex and challenging needs in relation to attendance, participation or retention and is only used when other lower level interventions (universal/brief) have been unsuccessful. The essence of planning casework is to ensure that, following an assessment, an agreed plan is in place with actions, targets and proposed outcomes which can be monitored at regular intervals.

- EWS worked with (brief interventions and cases) a total of 559 new individual children between July and September 2015 bringing the total from September 2014 to 2,951. The highest number was reported for March 2015 (n = 504) (Table 33).

Table 33: Number of new individual children worked with, Sept 2014 - June 2015

Metric	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Total
The total number of new individual children worked with (brief intervention and cases) at the end of the reporting period	478*	321	504	501	321	267	75	63	421	2,951

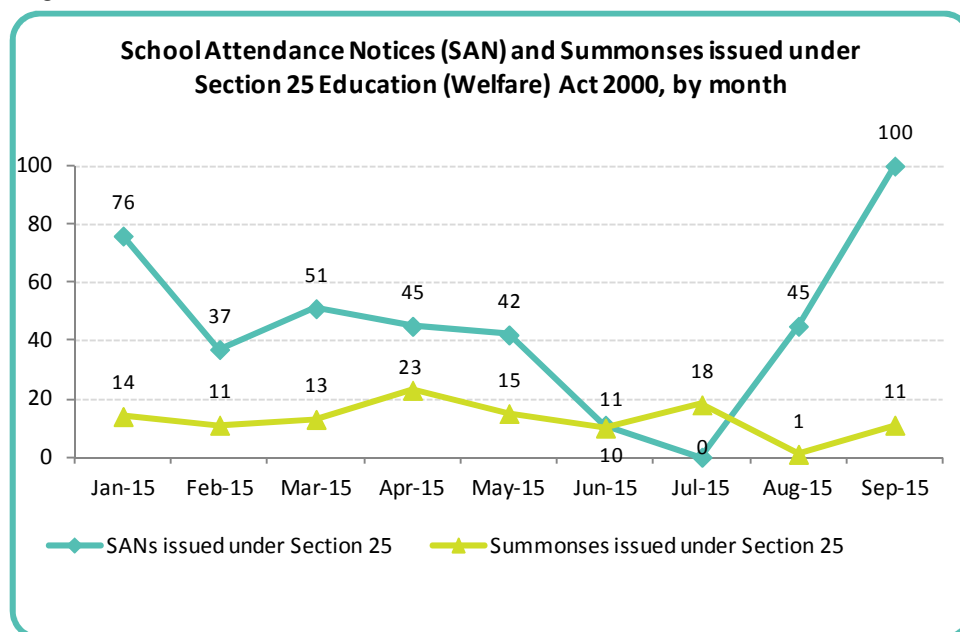
*Figure for January 2015 is the total number of individual children worked with from Sept 2014 to Jan 2015. Figures for the remaining months are new cases worked within the month.

9.2 School Attendance Notices and Summonses under Section 25

- For the three month period July to September 2015, EWS issued a total of 145 school attendance notices (SANs) under Section 25 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000¹⁸; 47 more than Q2 2015 (n = 98) (Figure 34). The 145 attendance notices issued were in respect of 86 individual children i.e., more than one notice was issued in respect of some children.
- This brings to 407 (265 individual children) the number of SANs issued for the nine month period January to September 2015. The highest number (n = 100) of SANs was issued in September 2015.
- For the same three month period a total of 30 summonses were issued under Section 25 of the Education (Welfare Act) 2000 (Figure 34); 18 fewer than Q2 2015. The summonses issued were in respect of 20 individual children i.e., more than one summons was issued in respect some children.
- This brings to 116 (76 individual children) the number of summonses issued for the nine month period January to September 2015. The highest number (n = 23) of summonses was issued in September 2015.

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

Figure 34: SANs and summonses issued under Section 25 Education and Welfare Act 2000, by month



- For the three month period July to September 2015, Educational Welfare Officers (EWOs) attended a total of 56 court cases pertaining to their own cases; 66 fewer than Q2 2015 and an additional 12 court cases in a supporting capacity (e.g., at the request of social work services). EWOs were also in attendance at a total of 19 child protection conferences during the three month period; 57 fewer than Q2 2015 (Table 34).

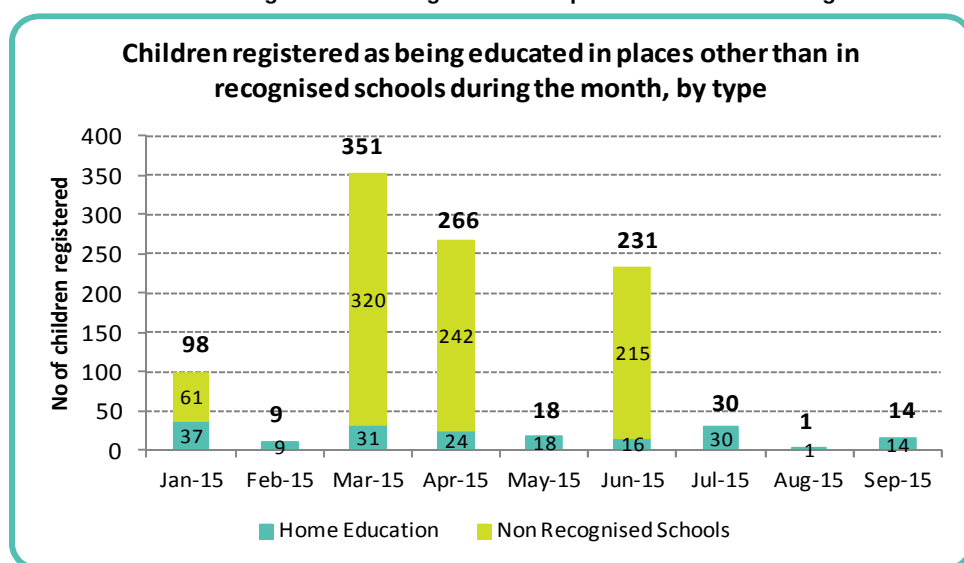
Table 34: Court cases and child protection conferences attended by Educational Welfare Officers, by month

Metric	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Total
Number of court cases attended where EWOs attended in relation to their own cases	31	39	11	33	51	38	7	0	49	259
Number of other court cases where EWOs attended in support (e.g. at request of social work)	7	3	2	0	1	2	6	0	6	27
Number of Child Protection Conferences held where an EWO was in attendance	26	25	29	23	25	28	6	3	10	175

9.3 Children educated in places other than recognised schools

- During Q3 2015 a total of 45 children were registered as being educated in places other than in recognised schools; an decrease of 470 on Q2 2015. All 45 were registered as being home educated (Figure 35).
- Between January and September 2015 a total of 1,018 children were registered as being educated in places other than in recognised schools. Eighteen percent ($n = 180/1,018$) of these children were registered as being home educated.

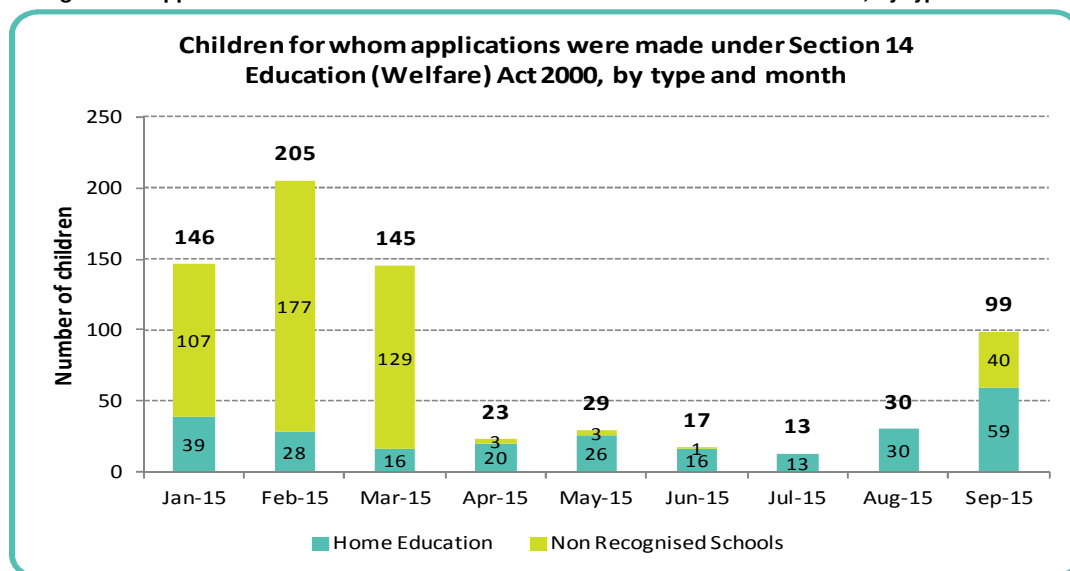
Figure 35: Breakdown of children registered as being educated in places other than in recognised schools, by month



9.4 Applications and Assessments under Section 14

- During Q3 2015 applications were made under Section 14 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000¹⁹ in respect of 142 children; 73 more than Q2 2015 and of these 72% (n = 102) were in respect of home education (Figure 36).
- This brings to 707 the number of applications that were made between January and September 2015 and of these 35% (n=247/707) were in respect of home education.

Figure 36: Applications made under Section 14 Educational and Welfare Act 2000, by type and month

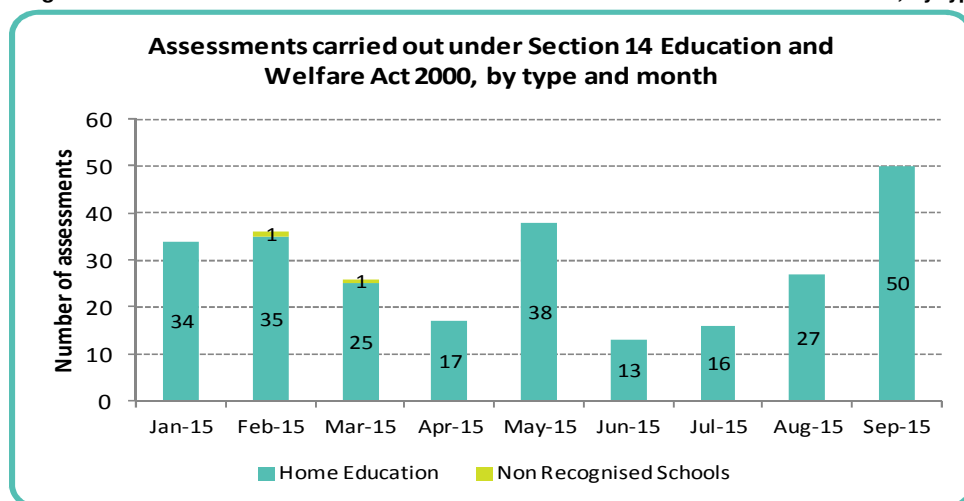


¹⁹ Section 14 Education (Welfare) Act 2000 14.—(1) The Board shall, on the commencement of this section, cause to be established and maintained a register of all children in receipt of education in a place other than a recognised school (hereafter in this section referred to as “the register”). (2) Subject to subsection (3), where a parent chooses to educate, or have educated, his or her child in a place other than a recognised school he or she shall, in accordance with this section, apply to the Board to have the child concerned registered in the register.

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

- For the same period (Q3 2015), a total of 93 assessments were carried out under Section 14 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000; 25 more than Q2 2015 and all of the assessments were for home education (Figure 37).
- This brings to 257 the number of assessments that were carried out between January and September 2015 and of these 99% (n =255/257) were for home education.

Figure 37: Assessments carried out under Section 14 Education and Welfare Act 2000, by type and month

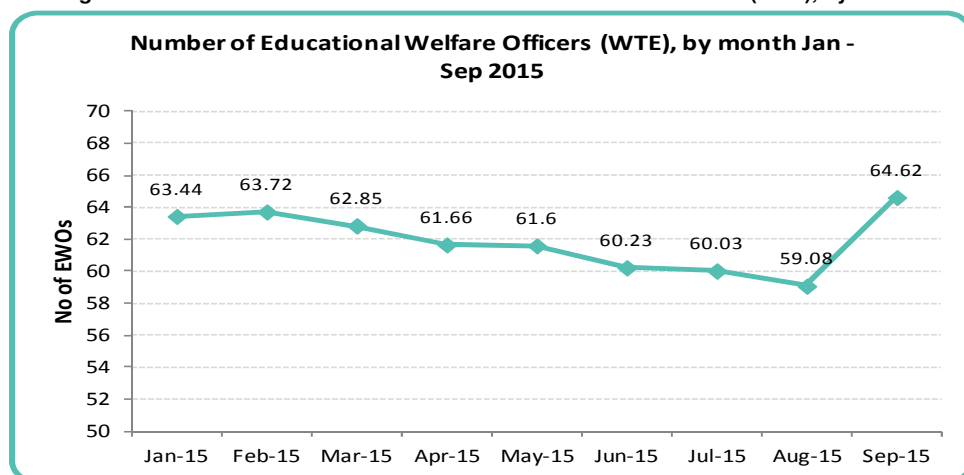


- During Q3 2015 eleven children were refused registration; three in respect of home education and eight in respect of non recognised schools. This brings to 14 the number of children that were refused registration between January and September 2015; six in respect of home education and eight in respect of non recognised schools. There were no appeals made against decisions not to register.

9.5 Educational Welfare Officers – Workforce Position

- At the end of Q3 2015 there was a total of 64.62 (WTE) educational welfare officers (EWOs); an increase of 4.39 on the Q2 2015 (Figure 38).
- A total of five²⁰ EWOs started with the EWS between January and September 2015. One EWO retired and one left the Agency during the same period.

Figure 38: Breakdown of the number of educational welfare officers (WTE), by month



²⁰ Payroll system to be updated for one EWO

9.6 Finance – Variance from Budget

- For the period September 2015 YTD, Educational Welfare Services was under-spent against budget by €0.427 million (Table 35). *Data based on income and expenditure.*

Table 35: Educational Welfare Services - variance from budget Sept 2015 YTD

Educational Welfare Services	September Year To date			% Variance Act vs Budget
	Actual	Budget	Variance	
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Total	5,062	5,490	(427)	(8%)

10.0 QUALITY ASSURANCE

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

Internal Inspection and Monitoring Activity

HIQA Inspections

KEY FACTS

- **97 private residential centres** registered with the Agency at the end of Q3 2015; up 8 from Q2
- 11 private residential centres were due an inspection and all centres received their inspection; 44 inspections January – September 2015
- 5 private residential centres were the subject of a registration intervention in Q3; 25 centres subject to an intervention January-September 2015
- 45% (n = 44/97) of individual private residential centres received a monitoring visit in Q3; 184 visits January – September 2015
- **25 voluntary residential centres** registered with the Agency at the end of Q3 2015; no change from Q2
- No voluntary residential centres were due an inspection during Q3; 3 centres due an inspection January – September 2015
- 20% (n = 5/25) of voluntary residential centres received a monitoring visit during Q3; 21 visits January – September 2015
- **38 statutory residential centres** (excluding special care) operating at the end of Q3 2015; down 6 from Q2 2015
- 63% (n = 24/38) of individual statutory residential centres received a monitoring visit during Q3; 89 visits January – September 2015
- 10 monitoring visits to **special care centres** (n = 3) during Q3 2015; 34 visits January – September 2015
- 20 monitoring visits to **foster care services** (8/17 areas) during Q3 2015; 53 visits (9/17 areas) January – September 2015

11.1 Internal Inspection and Monitoring

11.1.1 Inspection and Monitoring of Residential Centres

All children's residential centres are subject to statutory inspection. HIQA inspects and registers statutory (Child and Family Agency) children's residential centres and Tusla inspects and registers voluntary and private children's residential centres. The statutory framework which underpins this work is laid out in the Child Care (Placement of Children in Residential Care) Regulations 1995 and the Child Care (Standards in Children's Residential Centres) Regulations 1996, in addition to National Standards for Children's Residential Centres (2001). Centres are inspected in line with a 3 year registration cycle.

The Child Care (Placement of Children in Residential Care) Regulations 1995 places additional duties on the Agency to ensure compliance with the Child Care Regulations 5-16. The regulations state that an authorised person (monitoring officer) is required to visit centres from ‘time to time’ (Part III, Article 17(b)). The aim of the monitoring process is to support best practice and the provision of the highest standards of care. This duty extends to statutory centres in addition to the private and voluntary centres referred above. Special Care Centres are monitored under Article 22 of the Child Care Special Care Regulations 2004.

Private Residential Centres

- At the end of Q3 2015, there were 97 private centres registered with the Agency; an increase of eight from Q2 2015 (Table 36).
- Eleven centres were due an inspection in Q3 2015 and all received their inspection. This brings to 44 the number of centres that were due an inspection and were inspected January – September 2015.
- Five centres were subject to a registration intervention; three fewer than Q2 2015. This brings to 25 the number of centres that were subject to a registration intervention January – June 2015.
- During Q3 2015 a total of 64 monitoring visits were done; one fewer than Q2 2015. The highest number of the visits was done in the South (47%; n = 30/64). Substantially fewer were done in Dublin North East (n = 5/64) and Dublin Mid Leinster (n = 6/64). This brings to 184 the number of monitoring visits that were done January – September 2015.
- 45% (n = 44/97) of individual centres received a monitoring visit during Q3 2015. The percentage of individual centres that received a monitoring visit ranged from 82% (n = 9/11) in the West to 15% (n = 5/33) in Dublin North East.

Table 36: Private residential centres registered, inspected, monitored, by region and quarter 2015

Private Residential Centres	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Δ (+/-) Q3 vs Q2
Number registered at end of quarter	DML = 21 DNE = 33 South = 17 West = 11 Total = 82	DML = 21 DNE = 33 South = 24 West = 11 Total = 89	DML = 21 DNE = 33 South = 32 West = 11 Total = 97	DML = 0 DNE = 0 South = +8 West = 0 Total = +8
No due an inspection during quarter	DML = 4 DNE = 4 South = 12 West = 2 Total = 22	DML = 2 DNE = 2 South = 5 West = 2 Total = 11	DML = 4 DNE = 3 South = 4 West = 0 Total = 11	DML = +2 DNE = +1 South = -1 West = -2 Total = 0
No (%) inspected during the quarter	DML = 4 (100%) DNE = 4 (100%) South = 12 (100%)	DML = 2 (100%) DNE = 2 (100%) South = 5 (100%)	DML = 4 (100%) DNE = 3 (100%) South = 4 (100%)	DML = +2 DNE = +1 South = -1

	West = 2 (100%) Total = 22 (100%)	West = 2 (100%) Total = 11 (100%)	West = 0 (100%) Total = 11 (100%)	West = -2 Total = 0
No subject to a registration intervention	DML = 6 DNE = 5 South = 0 West = 1 Total = 12	DML = 3 DNE = 5 South = 0 West = 0 Total = 8	DML = 1 DNE = 2 South = 2 West = 0 Total = 5	DML = -2 DNE = -3 South = +2 West = -0 Total = -3
Total number of monitoring visits during the quarter	DML = 2 DNE = 9 South = 20 West = 24 Total = 55	DML = 1 DNE = 2 South = 37 West = 25 Total = 65	DML = 6 DNE = 5 South = 30 West = 23 Total = 64	DML = +5 DNE = +3 South = -7 West = -2 Total = -1
No (%) of individual centres that were visiting during the quarter	DML = 3 (14%) DNE = 9 (27%) South = 14 (82%) West = 11 (100%) Total = 37 (45%)	DML = 1 (5%) DNE = 2 (6%) South = 22 (92%) West = 11 (100%) Total = 36 (40%)	DML = 6 (29%) DNE = 5 (15%) South = 24 (60%) West = 9 (82%) Total = 44 (45%)	DML = +5 DNE = +3 South = +2 West = -2 Total = +8

Voluntary Residential Centres

- At the end of Q3 2015, there were 25 voluntary centres registered with the Agency; no change from Q2 2015 (Table 37).
- No centres were due an inspection in Q3 2015. This brings to three the number that were due an inspection January – September 2015
- No centres were subject to a registration intervention during Q3 2015. This brings to one the number of centres that were subject to a registration intervention January – September 2015
- During Q3 2015 a total of five monitoring visits were done; three in DNE and two in the South. This brings to 21 the number of monitoring visits that were done January – September 2015
- 20% (n = 5/25) of individual centres received a monitoring visit during Q3 2015.

Table 37: Voluntary residential centres registered, inspected, monitored by region and quarter 2015

Voluntary Centres	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Δ (+/-) Q3 vs Q2
Number registered at end of quarter	DML = 7 DNE = 13 South = 5 West = No voluntary centres Total = 25	DML = 7 DNE = 13 South = 5 West = No voluntary centres Total = 25	DML = 7 DNE = 13 South = 5 West = No voluntary centres Total = 25	DML = 0 DNE = 0 South = 0 West = 0 Total = 0
No due an inspection during quarter	DML = 0 DNE = 1 South = 2 Total = 3	DML = 0 DNE = 0 South = 0 Total = 0	DML = 0 DNE = 0 South = 0 Total = 0	DML = 0 DNE = 0 South = 0 Total = 0
No (%) inspected	DML = 0	DML = 0	DML = 0	DML = 0

during the quarter	DNE = 1 (100%) South = 2 (100%) Total = 3 (100%)	DNE = 0 South = 0 Total = 0	DNE = 0 South = 0 Total = 0	DNE = 0 South = 0 Total = 0
No subject to a registration intervention	DML = 0 DNE = 1 South = 0 Total = 1	DML = 0 DNE = 0 South = 0 Total = 0	DML = 0 DNE = 0 South = 0 Total = 0	DML = 0 DNE = 0 South = 0 Total = 0
Total number of monitoring visits during the quarter	DML = 1 DNE = 1 South = 7 Total = 9	DML = 2 DNE = 1 South = 4 Total = 7	DML = 0 DNE = 3 South = 2 Total = 5	DML = -2 DNE = +2 South = -2 Total = -2
No (%) of individual centres that were visiting during the quarter	DML = 1 (14%) DNE = 1 (8%) South = 5 (100%) Total = 7 (28%)	DML = 2 (29%) DNE = 1 (8%) South = 3 (60%) Total = 6 (24%)	DML = 0 (0%) DNE = 3 (23%) South = 2 (40%) Total = 5 (20%)	DML = -2 DNE = +2 South = -1 Total = -1

Statutory Residential Centres

- At the end of Q3 2015, there were 38 statutory residential centres (excluding special care centres) operating; down six from Q2 2015 (Table 38).
- During Q3 2015 a total of 27 monitoring visits were done; seven fewer than Q2 2015. The highest number of the visits was done in the South (37%; n = 10/27) followed by the West (33%; n = 9/27). This brings to 89 the number of monitoring visits that were done January – September 2015.
- 63% (n = 24/38) of individual centres received a monitoring visit during Q3 2015. All of the centres in West (n = 5) and 11 of the 12 (92%) centres in South received a monitoring visit. Substantially fewer centres in DNE received a visit (n = 2/12; 17%).

Table 38: Statutory residential centres monitored by region and quarter 2015

Statutory Centres	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Δ (+/-) Q3 vs Q2
Number registered at end of quarter	DML = 9 DNE = 12 South = 16 West = 7* Total = 44	DML = 9 DNE = 12 South = 16 West = 7* Total = 44	DML = 9 DNE = 12 South = 12 West = 5 Total = 38	DML = 0 DNE = 0 South = -4 West = -2 Total = -6
Total number of monitoring visits during the quarter	DML = 0 DNE = 1 South = 14 West = 13 Total = 28	DML = 0 DNE = 2 South = 17 West = 15 Total = 34	DML = 6 DNE = 2 South = 10 West = 9 Total = 27	DML = +6 DNE = 0 South = -7 West = -6 Total = -7
No (%) of individual centres that were visiting during the quarter	DML = 0 DNE = 1 (8%) South = 14 (88%) West = 7 (100%) Total = 22 (50%)	DML = 0 DNE = 2 (17%) South = 11 (69%) West = 7 (100%) Total = 20 (45%)	DML = 6 (67%) DNE = 2 (17%) South = 11 (92%) West = 5 (100%) Total = 24 (63%)	DML = +6 DNE = 0 South = 0 West = -2 Total = +4

*Two of the seven centres have a very specific purpose and function and do not operate as mainstream residential centres.

Special Care Centres

- During Q3 2015 a total of 10 monitoring visits to special care centres were done; five fewer than Q2 2015 (Table 39). The highest number of visits was to Gleann Alainn (n = 5), followed by Ballydowd (n = 4) and Coovagh (n = 1). This brings to 34 the number of monitoring visits that were done January – September 2015.

Table 39: Special care centres - monitoring visits by centre and quarter 2015

Special Care	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015
Total number of monitoring visits during the quarter	Ballydowd = 3 Coovagh = 4 Gleann Alainn = 2 Total = 9	Ballydowd = 5 Coovagh = 2 Gleann Alainn = 8 Total = 15	Ballydowd = 4 Coovagh = 1 Gleann Alainn = 5 Total = 10

Foster Care

- During Q3 2015 a total of 20 monitoring visits of foster care services were carried out; two more than Q2 2015. The Q3 2015 monitoring visits took place across eight of the 17 areas as follows (Table 40). This brings to 53 the total number of monitoring visits that were done January – September 2015.

Table 40: Foster care services - number of monitoring visits by area and quarter 2015

Area	No of monitoring visits Q1 2015	No of monitoring visits Q2 2015	No of monitoring visits Q3 2015	Total no of monitoring visits 2015
DSC	0	0	0	0
DSE/WW	0	0	0	0
DSW/K/WW*	0	0	0	0
Midlands	0	4	4	8
DNC	3	3	1	7
Dublin North	1	1	1	3
LH/MH	1	1	1	3
CN/MN	1	1	1	3
Cork	1	1	0	2
Kerry	0	0	0	0
CW/KK/ST	1	0	1	2
WD/WX	3	1	2	6
Mid West	4	6	9	19
GY/RN	0	0	0	0
Mayo	0	0	0	0
Donegal	0	0	0	0
SO/LM/WC	0	0	0	0
Total	15	18	20	53

11.2 HIQA Inspections

- The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) published 10 inspection reports in Q3 2015 as follows:
 - Child Protection and Welfare Service (n = 1)
 - Children's Residential Centres (n = 8)
 - Special Care Unit (n = 1)
- Monitoring inspections assess continuing compliance with the Standards for the service type (e.g., child protection and welfare, residential etc.) and can be announced or unannounced. On completion of the inspection, services are provided with the findings of the inspection and action plans are developed to address areas for improvement identified. The inspection reports and action plans are published on the HIQA website.
- The inspection reports set out the findings of monitoring inspections against themes which generally encompass the following or various elements of these:
 - Child Centred Services
 - Safe and Effective Services
 - Leadership, Governance and Management
 - Use of Resources
 - Workforce
 - Use of Information
- The summary of judgments and summary of findings against the standards assessed for each of the services that had an inspection report published by HIQA in Q3 2015 are presented in below:

11.2.1 Child Protection and Welfare Services

➤ Summary of Judgments

Table 41: Child Protection and Welfare Services, HIQA Inspections Summary Judgments

CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES					
National Standards for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2012)					
Services Inspected	Summary of Judgments				
	No of Standards Assessed	Exceeds Standard	Meets Standard	Requires Improvement	Significant Risk Identified
Dublin North	27	0	8	17	2

➤ Summary of Findings

Dublin North

Inspected 17 February -26 February 2015

The report finds a service that is child-centred, competently managed and has effective governance structures in place with clear lines of authority and accountability. It finds staff in the service value the safety of children and although they endeavour to keep children safe

and meet their needs, this is not always possible. Elements of the service were found to be delivered effectively, and children at greatest risk were prioritised, however the management of waiting lists was a concern.

Prior to the issue of the final report the Authority requested written assurances from the area manager in relation to:

- the strategies to be taken to reduce the waiting lists for the allocation of social workers and provide assurances that the managers of the service are effectively managing and mitigating any risks to children's safety associated with these waiting lists
- the strategies to be taken to manage adults about whom retrospective allegations had been made and provide assurances that these controls are effective in line with the standards

Other areas requiring improvement and to be addressed through the implementation of an action plan developed by the service (published separately) include: risk management, quality assurance systems; management of complex cases; formal consultation with children; provision of information to children and families on their right to make a complaint and further development of an awareness campaign about child abuse and the role of the service.

11.2.2 Children's Residential Centres

➤ Summary of Judgments

Table 42: Residential Centres, HIQA Inspections Summary Judgments

Residential Care Centre					
SI No. 259 /1995 – Child Care (Placement of Children in Residential Care) Regulations 1995 and the National Standards for Residential Care (2001).					
Centre Inspected	Summary of Judgments				
	No of Standards Assessed	Exceeds Standard	Meets Standard	Requires Improvement	Significant Risk Identified
ID 195	7 (unannounced / themed)	0	1	6	0
ID 38	Unannounced Follow-up inspection	The Authority wanted to be assured that the provider had taken measures to address deficits identified at previous inspections.			
ID 22	7 (unannounced / themed)	0	2	5	0
ID 37	7 (unannounced / themed)	0	3	4	0
ID 35	7 (announced)	0	1	6	0
ID 187	7 (unannounced / themed)	0	4	3	0
ID 372	7 (announced/ themed)	0	4	3	0
ID 279	7 (unannounced / themed)	0	4	3	0

➤ Summary of Findings

ID 195 (West): Inspection March 2015

This inspection focused solely on how the needs of children who display behaviours that challenge are met. This centre experienced different types of behaviours that challenged in the last year, some of which placed children at risk. The report finds a centre that works in partnership with the social work department and other professionals to manage these risks and this is effective for many children, but not all. There were aspects of the service that required improvement to ensure the centre was a consistently safe living environment for all children that promoted their right to privacy, ensured they were not adversely affected by the behaviours they or their peers displayed, and ensured they had the opportunity to reach their full educational potential within the placement. The centre was well managed at an operational level, but there was a need to ensure stronger leadership and guidance for staff in relation to the management of behaviour that challenged. The needs of children living in the centre were assessed and the staff team demonstrated a good understanding of these needs. Care of the children living in the centre was well planned and resources were in place to meet their needs and care plan objectives.

ID 38 (Cork): Inspection March 2015

This inspection was undertaken to follow up on the actions taken by the service to address a number of serious failures to comply with the National Standards identified in the previous inspection which took place in July 2014.

In this inspection, the inspector found that some improvements had been made in assessing vulnerability and risk taking behaviour as part of the care planning process but the process required further development to ensure complete robustness. Some changes had been made to children's individual crisis management plans with an improved focus on strategies to address high risk behaviours. Specialist supports to meet children's emotional needs had been further reduced since the last inspection but given the reduction in numbers of children at the centre this was not inappropriate. An external review on systems of safety and the ability to manage high risk behaviour was completed by the National Manager for Residential Services.

ID 22 (Dublin North East): Inspection May 2015

This inspection focused solely on how the needs of children who display behaviours that challenge are met. The report finds that overall, young people received a safe, good quality service that supported their development in managing their own behaviours and lives. The management team provided good leadership of the service. Staff were clear about their roles and responsibilities. There was good communication and decision making. However, improvements were required in quality assurance, monitoring mechanisms and risk management systems.

ID 37 (Dublin North East): Inspection June 2015

This inspection focused solely on how the needs of children who display behaviours that challenge are met. The report finds a service that was well managed. The staff had a child-centred approach and were well informed about each young person's needs. There was good planning for young people. Their needs were assessed and appropriate services put in place for them. The young people were engaged in some behaviours that challenged but there were found to be managed well by staff and young people told inspectors that they felt safe.

ID 35 (Cork): Inspection June 2015

This inspection focused solely on how the needs of children who display behaviours that challenge are met. The report finds that while the centre was well managed and the staff team were experienced some of the systems in place to ensure services were safe and of good quality required improvement. The quality assurance system to ensure a safe service and improve outcomes for children was reported to be inadequate.

ID 187 (Mid West): Inspection June 2015

This inspection focused solely on how the needs of children who display behaviours that challenge are met. The report finds a service with good governance and management structures. There were mechanisms in place to monitor the responses to challenging behavior and there was a strong emphasis on risk assessment and the care programmes. Staff were found to be knowledgeable about the needs of young people in their care and clear about their role. However, the recent closure of another residential centre in the area and the pressure on the service to provide placements had contributed to difficulties being experienced by staff in managing the mix of young people with complex needs within this centre. While inspectors found that the centre had good systems in place to address issues of challenging behaviour and the associated risks, the seriousness of the behaviours that challenge relating to the involvement of some young people in criminal activity identified on this inspection were of concern. The Authority therefore, requested written assurances from the regional manager prior to the inspection report being issued that the current young people were appropriately placed and that the risk management strategies evident during the inspection were sufficiently robust to address the complex needs of these young people. An appropriate response was received on the 30 June 2015.

ID 372 (South): Inspection July 2015

This inspection focused solely on how the needs of children who display behaviours that challenge are met. The report finds a service that was child centred and where the needs of children with behavior that challenged were met. Inspectors observed appropriate interaction with children that was warm and respectful even when faced with behavior that challenged. The governance and management structure was also good.

ID 279 (Dublin Mid Leinster): Inspection July 2015

This inspection focused solely on how the needs of children who display behaviours that challenge are met. The report finds a service where children's needs were assessed and

behaviours that challenged addressed in ways that showed that staff understood the reasons for their behaviour. The centre was well managed with enough staff to meet the needs of the children.

11.2.3 Special Care Units

In July 2015, Hiqa carried out a triggered inspection in Ballydowd Special Care Unit, focusing solely on the practice of single separation²¹. This was on foot of the receipt of a concern regarding this restrictive practice.

➤ Summary of Judgments

Table 43: Special Care Units, HIQA Inspections Summary Judgments

Residential Care Centre					
SI No. 259 /1995 – Child Care (Placement of Children in Residential Care) Regulations 1995 and the National Standards for Residential Care (2001).					
Centre Inspected	Summary of Judgments				
	No of Standards Assessed	Exceeds Standard	Meets Standard	Requires Improvement	Significant Risk Identified
Ballydowd	3	0	0	1	2

➤ Summary of Findings

The report finds a number of concerns in relation to the practice of single separation. It highlights the need for improvement in a number of areas including: overuse and duration of restrictive interventions, learning from incidents to drive improvements, promoting the rights of children and staff training in the use of single separation.

Immediate steps were taken by Tusla due to the serious issues identified including an immediate directive that the Director of Residential Services was to be informed about episodes of single separation in all special care services as an interim measure and formal assurances to be provided to Hiqa that such practices were not evident in other special care units in the country,

In response Tusla, also said that it was in the process of developing a specially designed single-occupancy facility at Ballydowd that will be better equipped to deal with extremely challenging behaviour and which will in turn reduce the need for single separation.

²¹The term single separation is used to describe the restrictive practice of the isolation of a seriously disruptive young person for as short a period as possible, to give the young person an opportunity to regain self-control.

11.0 HUMAN RESOURCES

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

12.1 Workforce Position

12.2 Absence Rate

12.3 Workforce Learning and Development

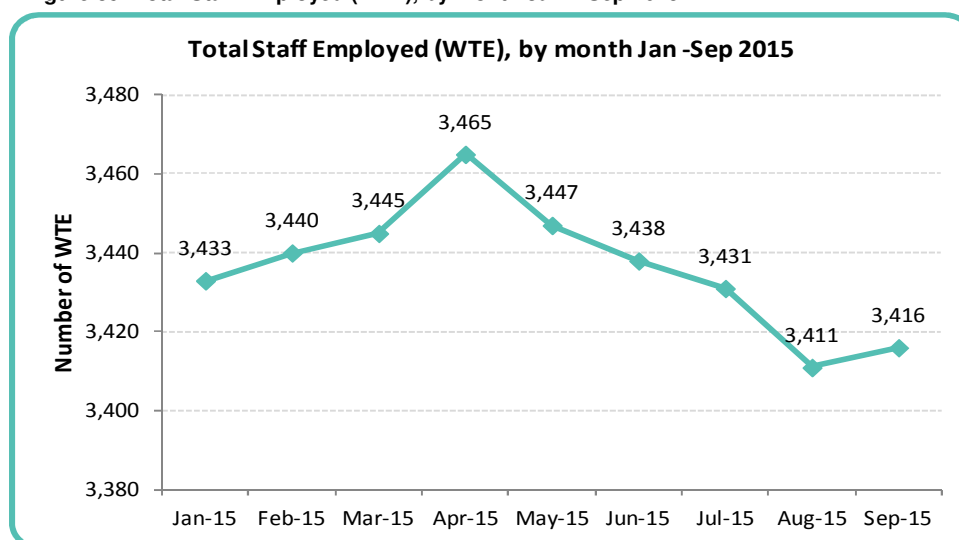
KEY FACTS

- 3,416 staff (WTE) employed by the Agency at the end of Q3 2015; down 22 from Q2 2015
- 159 staff on maternity leave at the end of Q3 2015; down 8 on Q2 2015
- 186 new staff on the Agency's payroll since January 2015
- 182 staff have left (including retirements) the Agency since January 2015
- Overall absence rate was 5.18% at the end of August 2015; up 0.36% from Q2 2015
- 107 courses delivered by Workforce Learning and Development in Q3 2015 at which 1,677 persons attended.

11.1 Workforce Position

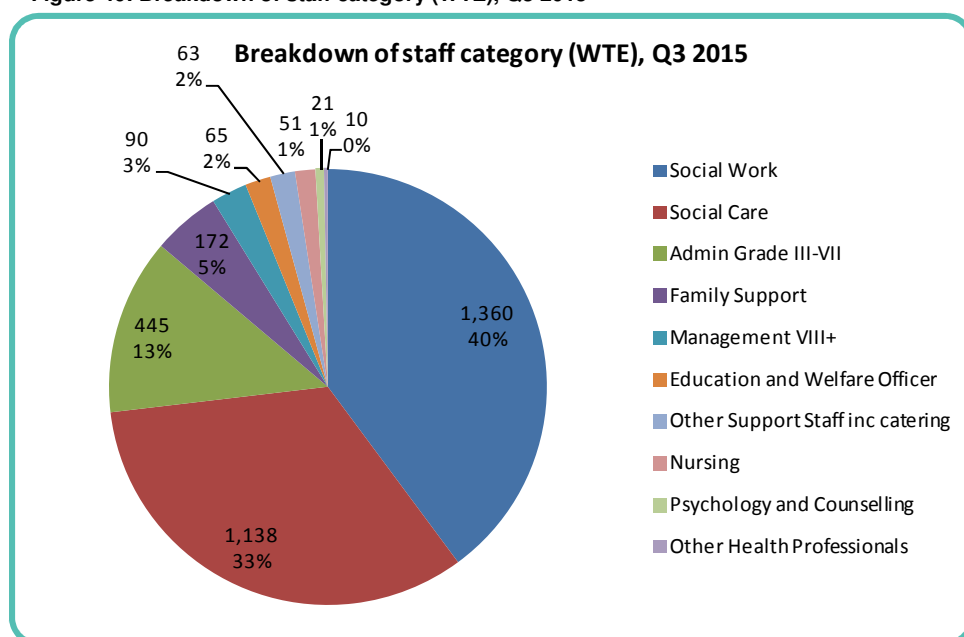
- At the end of Q3 2015 there were 3,416 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla; a decrease of 22 on the number reported at the end of Q2 2015 (n = 3,438), but five more than at the end of August 2015, the first increase after four consecutive decreases (Figure 39).

Figure 39: Total Staff Employed (WTE), by month Jan – Sep 2015



- Social workers are the largest category of staff employed by the Agency accounting for 40% (n = 1,360) of total staff (WTE) employed at the end of Q3 2015, followed by social care staff accounting for a further one-third (33%; n = 1,138) of total staff. Management (i.e., grade VIII and above) accounts for 2.6% (n = 90) of the workforce (Figure 40).

Figure 40: Breakdown of staff category (WTE), Q3 2015



- At the end of Q3 2015 there were 1,360.32 social workers (WTE) employed; a decrease of 34.38 from Q2 2015 and 64.7 from April 2015 when the highest number (n = 1,425.02) for the 9 month period was reported (Table 44).
- Other categories of staff experiencing a decrease in WTEs between Q2 and Q3 2015 included Social Care (n = 10.11), Psychology and Counselling (n = 1.38), Other Health professionals (n = 0.25) and Family Support Staff (n = 1.96)
- Categories of staff experiencing an increase in WTEs include Nursing (n = 5.92), Management VIII+ (n = 6.06), Educational Welfare Officers (n = 4.39), Other Support Staff (n = 1.39) and Admin VIII-VII (n = 8.37) (Table 44).

Table 44: Breakdown of staff by category and month Jan 2015 – Sep 2015

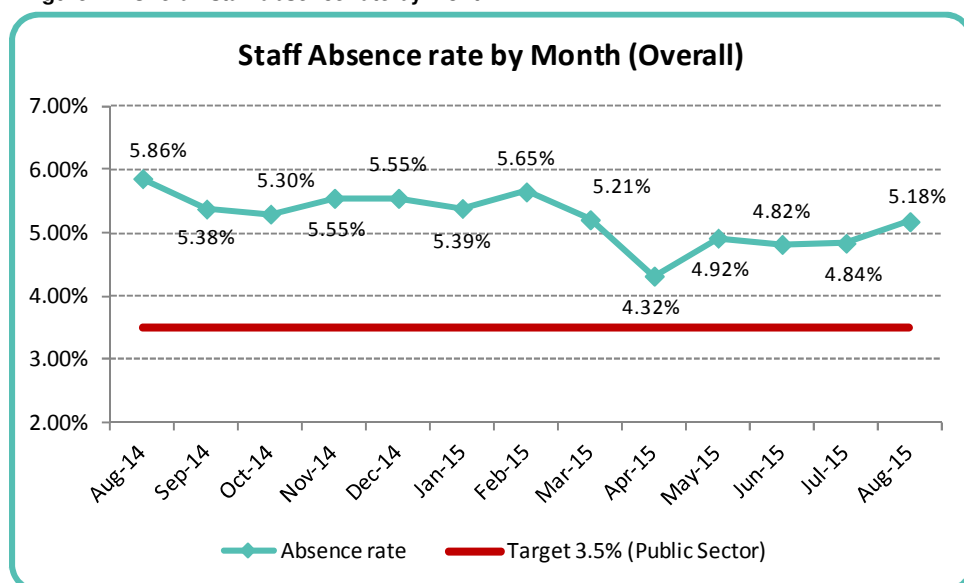
Staffing by Category	Jan 15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Sep vs Jun
Social Work	1,396.55	1,397.04	1,411.84	1,425.02	1,408.31	1,394.7	1,375.24	1,362.14	1,360.32	-34.38
Social Care	1,149.46	1,156.04	1,148.89	1,148.92	1,143.97	1,148.07	1,154.26	1,142.74	1,137.96	-10.11
Psychology & Counselling	20.79	20.35	19.67	21.15	22.83	22.75	22.44	21.83	21.37	-1.38
Other Support Staff	63.15	64.59	64.18	63.25	63.07	61.92	61.74	63.35	63.31	1.39
Other Health Professionals	8.93	8.75	8.67	8.85	9.48	9.9	9.79	9.79	9.65	-0.25
Nursing	45.78	45.88	45.9	46.09	46.33	45.5	47.38	49.88	51.42	5.92
Management VIII+	81.68	80.51	82.2	83.71	84.15	83.92	85.91	87.49	89.98	6.06
Family Support	176.37	177.64	176.08	175.03	173.74	174.41	174.45	172.55	172.45	-1.96
Education and Welfare Officer	63.44	63.72	62.85	61.66	61.6	60.23	60.03	59.08	64.62	4.39
Admin Grade III-VII	427.2	425.35	424.45	461.64	433.07	436.5	439.74	441.95	444.87	8.37
Total Staffing	3,433	3,440	3,445	3,465	3,447	3,438	3,431	3,411	3,416	-22.05

- At the end of Q3 2015 there were 159 staff on maternity leave; a decrease of eight on the number reported for Q2 2015 (n = 167). Fifty per cent (n = 80) of staff on maternity leave at the end of Q3 2015 were social workers and 38% (n = 61) were social care staff. Of the 159 staff on maternity leave at the end of Q3 2015, 109 were on paid maternity leave; the remaining 50 were on unpaid maternity leave.
- At the end of Q3 2015 there were 224 (headcount) agency staff employed. This figure does not include those employed in Residential Services. Social workers accounted for 75% (n = 167/224) of the agency staff employed. A process has been put in place to control, track and monitor these posts on a monthly basis.
- A total of 186 new staff joined the Agency (came onto Tusla's payroll) between January and September 2015.
- A total of 127 staff left (i.e., resigned, career breaks) the Agency during the first nine months of 2015. The majority of staff who left the Agency were social workers (n = 85/127; 67%). In addition to these staff, 55 staff retired during the first nine months of 2015. Of those who retired during 2015, 22 were social workers and 16 were social care workers.

11.2 Absence Rate

- At the end of August 2015²² the overall absence rate for the Agency was 5.18% against a target of 3.5% (target for public sector). This is 0.36% higher than the percentage reported for Q2 2015 (4.82%) but 0.68% lower than the same period last year (Aug 2014) (Figure 41).
- The HR system is currently being configured to report absence rates by staff grade groupings.

Figure 41: Overall staff absence rate by month



²² Absence rates are reported quarterly in arrears

11.3 Workforce Learning and Development

- Workforce Learning and Development (WLD) ran a total of 107 courses during Q3, 2015 at which a total of 1,677 persons attended. A breakdown of the courses run and attendees by type is presented in Table 45. Some planned courses, as per the Tusla Business Plan 2015, have been excluded from the table, as data for training delivered to some service areas and some courses that are being provided by external providers will not be available until the end of the year.
- During Q3 2015 the most frequently run course was Children First Basic training with 32 courses run. This was followed by Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) training with 16 courses run (6 core and 10 refresher courses combined), and Partnership, Prevention and Family Support training (e.g. Meitheal Standardised Training and Meitheal Train the Trainer courses) with 11 courses run.
- A total of 857 Tusla staff attended training during Q3 2015 and of these over half (52%; n = 446/857) were social workers.
- 32% (n=543/1,677) of all those who attended training during Q3 2015 attended Children First training and of these the majority (65%; n = 352/543) were HSE staff.
- A total of 377 external staff attended training in Q3 2015; the highest number (43% n = 161/377) of whom received Partnership, Prevention and Family Support training (e.g. Meitheal Standardised Training and Meitheal Train the Trainer courses).
- There were 24 courses that were categorised as 'Other' courses. These courses which constitute 22% of all the courses, refer to a range of locally delivered courses that are developed in response to particular needs and requests in areas such as neglect, child development; addressing HIQA Recommendations etc.

Table 45: Breakdown of courses run by Workforce Learning and Development and attendees by type, Q3 2015

Workforce Learning and Development Training Activity Q3 2015	NO. COURSES RUN	NO. TUSLA SOCIAL WORKERS	NO. TUSLA OTHER STAFF	NO. HSE STAFF	NO. OTHER EXT STAFF	TOTAL NO. ATTENDEES
Children First - Basic Training	32	50	95	352	46	543
Children First - for Foster Carers	1				12	12
Core Court Room Skills	2	19			1	20
DSGBV - Awareness & Response	3	22	11	18	7	58
PPFS (Meitheal & Other Related to PPFS)	11	31	27	11	161	230
SV - Making the Most of SV for Supervisees	7	48	24	8	4	84
SV - Staff SV Skills for Supervisors	4	17	16	8	5	46
TCI - Core	6		39		26	65
TCI - Refresher	10	23	79		25	127
Attachment Theory and Practice	1	21				21
Cultural Diversity	1	9	1			10
Marte Meo	5	15	13	9		37

Other	24	191	106	37	90	424
TOTAL	107	446	411	443	377	1,677

12.3.1 Other Developments Q3 2015

- One new Training and Development Officer was appointed to support the implementation of the Partnership, Prevention and Family Support Training bringing the total recruits for this area to the full complement of eight.
- A National Continuing Professional Development day was held for all WLD Training and Development Officers.
- WLD commenced placing information on its service area on the Tusla website
- Following the successful delivery of the Leadership Development Programme (LDP) to all regions in 2014, four further programmes were commissioned for delivery by year end. The target group is multi-disciplinary managers. An initial meeting to establish an Internal LDP Faculty was held. The faculty membership will be drawn from those who have participated in the LDP and other individuals that have a role in developing leadership within Tusla with an expectation that they will support the delivery of future programmes and initiatives in this area.
- A second national *People Management the Legal Framework* programme for Area Managers and equivalent managers took place.
- Personal Development Planning and Training Needs Analysis continued to be rolled out to Tusla staff supported by WLD during.
- Learning and Development Plan for Partnership, Prevention and Family Support completed.
- WLD planned and provided a Corporate Level Induction day for all new Partnership, Prevention, and Family Support staff.
- Online survey completed in Q3 2015 to identify learning and development needs of Tusla staff with respect to Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence services.
- A QQ1 Level 6 Programme in Training and Development was commissioned for WLD staff. The programme will ensure that all staff members that participate have a minimum baseline qualification in training and development and can attain professional membership with the Irish Institute of Training and Development.
- Delivery commenced on the new standardised Attachment Theory in Practice course which was developed by the WLD Development Team.
- The Meitheal Standardised Briefings were finalised. Two standardised Meitheal Train the Trainers Programmes were delivered.

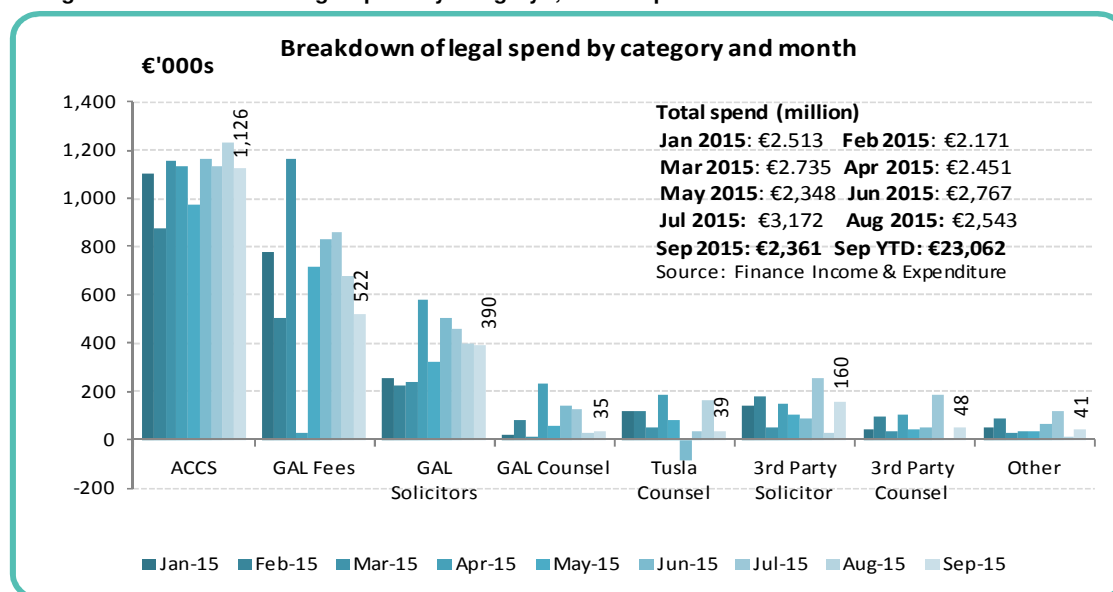
12.0 LEGAL SERVICES

KEY FACTS

- The year to date (September 2015) financial position for legal services, shows a total spend of €23.062 million against a budget of €21.953 million (i.e., over-spend of €1.109 million)
- 44% (€10.204 million) of total spend YTD on GALs (including solicitors and counsel)
- 43% (€9.891 million) of total spend YTD on contracted legal services (Arthur Cox Consultancy Services)

- Legal costs incurred by the Agency account for a significant portion of the overall budget of the Agency. The financial position at the end of September 2015, shows a year to date (YTD) spend of €23.062 million against a budget of €21.953 million (i.e., over-spend of €0.109 million) (Figure 42).
- Legal spend (overall) for Q3 2015 (€8.076 million) was up 7% (€0.510 million) on Q2 2015 (€7.566 million).
- 44% (€10.204 million) of the legal spend YTD has been on Guardian ad Litems (GALs) including GALs' solicitors and counsel; accounting for the highest spend of all categories of spend.
- Contracted legal services (Arthur Cox Consultancy Services) have accounted for 43% (€9.891 million) of the total spend YTD.
- In terms of forecasting these data should be interpreted with caution as they are based on the individual billing pattern of persons concerned.

Figure 42: Breakdown of legal spend by category²³, Jan – Sep 2015



²³ Arthur Cox Consultancy Services (ACCS) i.e. fees paid to Member Firms by ACCS; Guardian ad Litems' own fees and expenses; Guardian ad Litems' solicitors fees; Guardian ad Litems' counsel fees; Tusla's own counsel fees; 3rd party counsel fees; 3rd party solicitors fees (3rd refers to parents or child's legal costs)

- In terms of reducing legal costs, controls are continually being enhanced around legal spend. Work is continuing with legal providers to ensure that billing is completed on a timely basis. Controls over expenditure at Area level are also in place and continue to be reviewed.

13.0 FINANCE

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

14.1 Financial position

14.2 Financial risks facing the Agency

KEY FACTS

- The outturn for the year to date (September 2015) is an over-spend of €9.086 million.
- The key areas of over-spend are non pay at €12.246 million; private residential and foster care at €7.602 million overspend YTD, agency pay at €1.659 million over-spend YTD, staff travel at €0.966 million over-spend YTD and legal services at €1.109 million over-spend YTD.
- The key areas of under-spend are basic and pension pay at €4.118 million under-spend YTD and foster care and other allowances at €0.336 million under-spend YTD

13.1 Financial Performance

- The outturn at the end of September 2015 year to date (YTD) is an over-spend of €9.086 million (Table 46). This outturn takes account of a 9 month provision of the annual cost of €7.0 million relating to psychology services.
- The net expenditure for the period YTD is €462.732 million against an original budget allocation of €453.645 million.

Table 46: Income and Expenditure

Child and Family Agency	Approved Allocation 2015	September 2015 Year To date			% Variance Act vs Budget
		Actual	Budget	Variance	
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Net expenditure	609,157	462,732	453,645	9,086	2%

- The key areas of over-spend are non pay at €12.246 million; private residential and foster care at €7.602 million over-spend YTD, agency pay at €1.659 million over-spend YTD, staff travel at €0.966 million over-spend YTD and legal services at €1.109 million over-spend YTD.
- The key areas of under-spend are basic and pension pay at €4.118 million under-spend YTD and foster care and other allowances at €0.336 million under-spend YTD.

14.1.1 Financial Performance (Basic and Pension Pay)

- Pay is under-spent against budget by €4.118 million for the YTD (Table 47). The saving is mainly down to time related savings and vacancies which have been slower to fill than planned. This level of under-spend is not expected to continue for the remainder of the year as additional costs are expected such as arrears settlements and new developments.

HR has indicated that a significant number of new contracts have been issued and this is expected to result in additional staff costs.

Table 47: Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	September 2015 Year To date			% Variance Act vs Budget
	Actual	Budget	Variance	
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Pay	172,888	177,007	(4,118)	(2%)

- Due to service pressures and the level of maternity/absences in the year to date, the level of expenditure on agency staff continues to exceed the budget target (Table 48). Management has enhanced control of cost in this area through revised authorisation processes and weekly reporting of usage.

Table 48: Agency Costs

Child and Family Agency	September 2015 Year To date			% Variance Act vs Budget
	Actual	Budget	Variance	
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Agency Pay	11,793	10,134	1,659	16%

14.1.2 Financial Performance (Private Residential and Foster Care Placement Costs)

- Costs for private residential and foster care services are showing an over-spend of €7.602 million YTD (Table 49). This over-spend is due to an increased number of children in private placements in recent months. Placement of children in private residential and foster care services is strictly controlled through a national placement process. However, Residential Services has indicated that there is considerable pressure emerging for additional places to be provided and it is expected that this will result in increased spend in this area. Part of this over-spend is also due to timing of cost containment measures which have yet to be implemented.

Table 49: Private Residential and Foster Care Placement Costs

Child and Family Agency	September 2015 Year To date			% Variance Act vs Budget
	Actual	Budget	Variance	
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Private Residential & Foster Care	66,169	58,568	7,602	13%

- Significant work was undertaken in late 2014 and in 2015 to establish a single process nationally for the recording and processing of residential costs.

13.2 Financial Risks Facing the Agency in 2015

- The main financial risks facing the Agency in 2015 are:
 - Increase in the number of children in care requiring specialist residential and foster care services.

- Legal costs driven by Guardian ad Litem costs and third party legal costs which are paid through the Agency.
- Significant legal costs relating to previous years may be billed in 2015, as occurred in 2014 and previous.
- Pension costs may be driven by higher numbers of staff retirements than are budgeted for in 2015.
- There is no budget in place for any charges that are levied by the State Claims Agency in 2015.
- A Labour Court agreement to change the cost of sleepovers in residential homes has been costed at up to €5 million for a full year.
- Agency costs required for staff to fill key vacancies.

14.0 APPENDIX A

Table 1: Number and percentage of preliminary enquiries that were completed within 24 hours of receipt of the referral, by area Q4 2014 – Q2 2015

Area	Number of PEs completed within 24 hrs Q4 2014	% of PEs completed within 24 hrs Q4 2014	Number of PEs completed within 24 hrs Q1 2015	% of PEs completed within 24 hrs Q1 2015	Number of PEs completed within 24 hrs Q2 2015	% of PEs completed within 24 hrs Q2 2015	Δ (+/-) % Q2 vs Q1
DSC	53	11.0%	147	35.8%	45	13%	-22%
DSE/WW	408	64.2%	301	61.2%	229	43%	-18%
DSW/K/WW	376	52.7%	394	52.2%	401	50%	-2%
Midlands	530	51.5%	696	67.6%	886	80%	13%
DNC	391	82.8%	432	78.4%	443	78%	-1%
Dublin North	609	72.2%	700	70.4%	894	88%	18%
LH/MH	830	100.0%	631	100.0%	608	100%	0%
CN/MN	134	100.0%	127	100.0%	158	100%	0%
Cork	494	41.0%	393	29.4%	481	37%	7%
Kerry	157	66.5%	129	52.0%	142	48%	-4%
CW/KK/ST	88	14.0%	158	27.9%	144	24%	-4%
WD/WX	277	56.0%	359	45.8%	307	39%	-7%
Mid West	1016	97.8%	1,097	96.7%	1018	98%	1%
GY/RN	804	100.0%	836	100.0%	834	100%	0%
Mayo	203	100.0%	210	100.0%	231	100%	0%
Donegal	47	19.4%	65	25.6%	59	27%	1%
SO/LM/WC	113	35.0%	77	23.1%	72	33%	10%
National	6,530	63.3%	6,752	63.1%	6,952	65%	2%

Table 2: Number and percentage of referrals that had an initial assessment following a preliminary enquiry, by area Q4 2014 – Q2 2015

Area	No that required an IA Q4 2014	% that required an IA 4 2014	No that required an IA Q1 2015	% that required an IA Q1 2015	No that required an IA Q2 2015	% that required an IA Q2 2015	Δ (+/-) % Q2 vs Q1
DSC	173	35.8%	214	52.1%	200	60%	7%
DSE/WW	297	46.7%	225	45.7%	178	34%	-12%
DSW/K/WW	479	67.2%	445	58.9%	482	60%	1%
Midlands	834	81.0%	755	73.3%	575	52%	-21%
DNC	268	56.8%	356	64.6%	385	68%	3%
Dublin North	532	63.1%	657	66.1%	636	63%	-3%
LH/MH	165	19.9%	142	22.5%	207	34%	12%
CN/MN	97	72.4%	55	43.3%	71	45%	2%
Cork	624	51.8%	608	45.5%	530	40%	-5%
Kerry	115	48.7%	109	44.0%	101	34%	-10%
CW/KK/ST	411	65.4%	303	53.4%	241	40%	-14%
WD/WX	279	56.4%	320	40.9%	336	43%	2%
Mid West	445	42.8%	519	45.7%	438	42%	-4%
GY/RN	320	39.8%	292	34.9%	248	30%	-5%
Mayo	147	72.4%	109	51.9%	131	57%	5%
Donegal	91	37.6%	94	37.0%	75	34%	-3%
SO/LM/WC	77	23.8%	53	15.9%	87	40%	24%
National	5,354	51.9%	5,256	49.1%	4921	46%	-3%

Table 3: Number and percentage of initial assessments that were completed within 21 days, by area Q4 2014 – Q2 2015

Area	No of IA completed within 21 days Q4 2014	% of IA completed within 21 days Q4 2014	No of IA completed within 21 days Q1 2015	% of IA completed within 21 days Q1 2015	No of IA completed within 21 days Q2 2015	% of IA completed within 21 days Q2 2015	Δ (+/-) % Q2 vs Q1
DSC	43	24.9%	89	41.6%	20	10%	-32%
DSE/WW	44	14.8%	72	32.0%	23	13%	-19%
DSW/K/WW	22	4.6%	18	4.0%	42	9%	5%
Midlands	167	20.0%	213	28.2%	192	33%	5%
DNC	8	3.0%	11	3.1%	5	1%	-2%
Dublin North	13	2.4%	8	1.2%	6	1%	0%
LH/MH	41	24.8%	31	21.8%	85	41%	19%
CN/MN	2	2.1%	4	7.3%	9	13%	5%
Cork	41	6.6%	47	7.7%	50	9%	2%
Kerry	20	17.4%	12	11.0%	13	13%	2%
CW/KK/ST	158	38.4%	45	14.9%	31	13%	-2%
WD/WX	19	6.8%	22	6.9%	30	9%	2%
Mid West	223	50.1%	208	40.1%	188	43%	3%
GY/RN	30	9.4%	56	19.2%	32	13%	-6%
Mayo	86	58.5%	65	59.6%	86	66%	6%
Donegal	20	22.0%	10	10.6%	16	21%	11%
SO/LM/WC	7	9.1%	5	9.4%	8	9%	0%
National	944	17.6%	916	17.4%	836	17%	0%

Table 4: Number of children in care (CIC) by care type and area, September 2015

Area / CIC Jun15	Residential Care General	Residential Care Special	Residential Care Secure Out of State	Foster Care General	Foster Care Relative	Other Care	Total
DSC	46	2	1	234	114	3	400
DSE/WW	18	1	1	188	85	7	300
DSW/K/WW	41	3	0	274	147	4	469
Midlands	19	0	0	229	91	0	339
DNC	53	2	0	335	232	7	629
Dublin North	26	5	0	173	128	2	334
LH/MH	17	0	0	257	92	13	379
CN/MN	3	0	0	142	22	1	168
Cork	40	0	2	551	280	31	904
Kerry	5	0	0	81	59	1	146
CW/KK/ST	14	0	0	229	125	4	372
WD/WX	22	0	0	310	99	3	434
Mid West	19	1	0	401	174	15	610
GY/RN	1	0	0	348	97	4	450
Mayo	1	0	0	93	34	0	128
Donegal	4	0	0	154	42	8	208
SO/LM/WC	8	0	0	78	16	1	103
Total	337	14	4	4,077	1,837	104	6,373