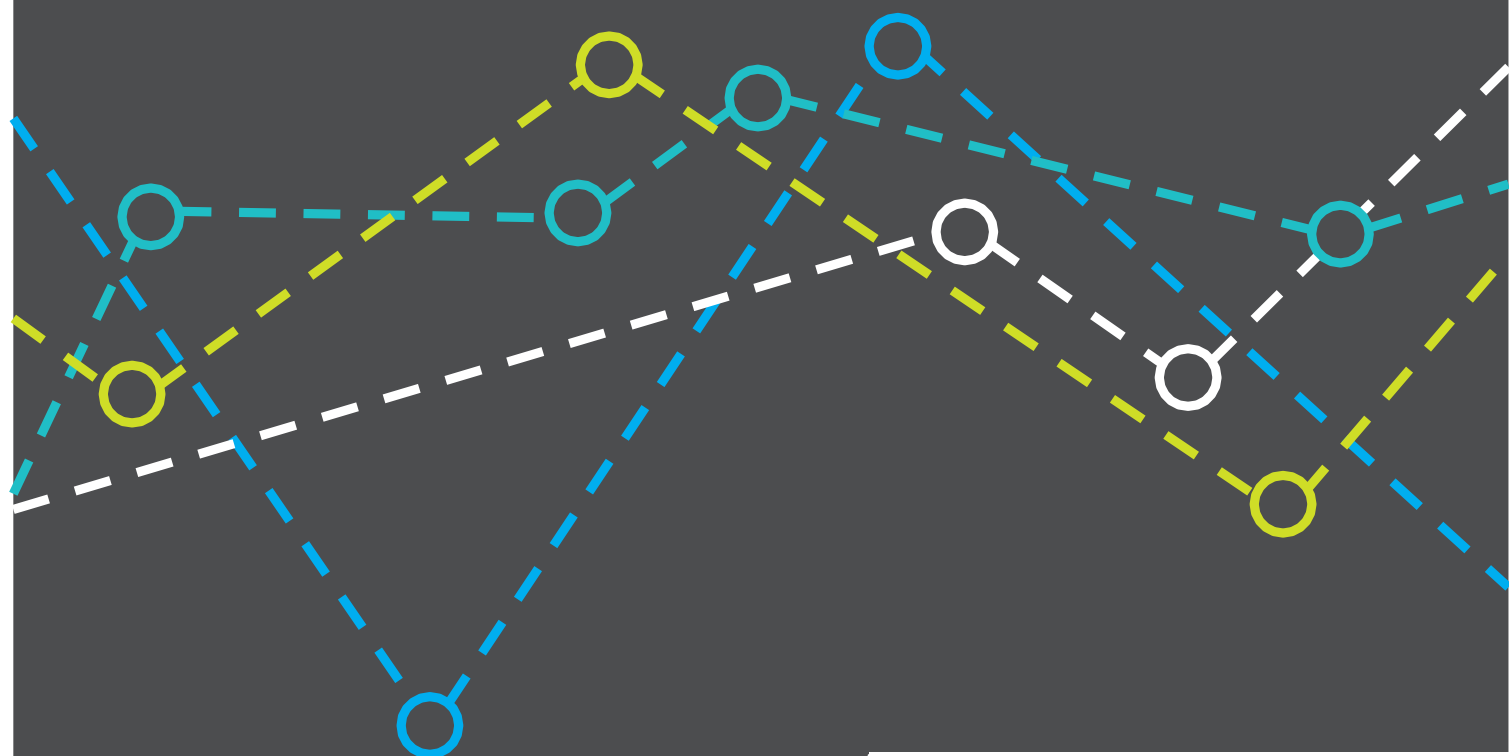




An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Quarterly Service Performance and Activity Report

QUARTER 3 2021



Quality Assurance Directorate

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1.0 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

This report provides an update on the performance and activity of Tusla services at the end of Q3 2021. It is structured around key performance and activity measures included in the Agency's Business Plan. The data presented was provided by services and refers to the latest performance and activity information available at this time. **These data can change from data previously published due to the ongoing validation of data.**

The summary by service type set out below provides an overview of the Q3 2021 position regarding activity and performance.

CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

REFERRALS (based on data extracted from NCCIS on 26 October 2021)

- 18,060 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q2 2021; 1,288 (8%) more than Q1 2021 (16,772) and the highest number for all quarters Q1 2020 – Q2 2021. Brings to 34,832 the number of referrals for the first six months of 2021, 354 (1%) more than the same period in 2020 (34,478). The number of referrals for 2020 / 2021 needs to be interpreted in the context of the closure of schools and other services at various times, due to the pandemic.
- 50% (9,069) of referrals for Q2 2021 were for welfare concerns, 34% (6,198) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining 16% (2,793) of referrals. Similar breakdown to Q1 2021.
- 36% (6,461) of referrals were from An Garda Síochána - most common source, followed by teachers (11%; 1,959) and social workers (10%; 1,891). The source of referrals was not recorded for 8% (1,497) of referrals.
- 49% (8,809) of referrals were closed following screening; 46% (8,352) progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage. The remaining 5% (899) of referrals were either at the screening stage, awaiting closure following screening, or another process stage, when the data was extracted for reporting (26 October 2021).
- 92% (7,671) of preliminary enquiries were completed at the time the data was extracted.
- 47% (3,640) of referrals with a completed preliminary enquiry required no further action and were closed; 28% (2,143) required an initial assessment while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 12% (925) of cases. Some 7% (527) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS.
- 46% (976) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were completed at the time the data was extracted for reporting, 19% (414) were ongoing/ awaiting sign-off while the remaining 35% (753) were awaiting commencement.
- 52% (509) of referrals that required an initial assessment following the preliminary enquiry were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. Of these 64% (327) required no further action, 20% (103) were diverted to another agency for a service, and 9% (46) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service. The remaining 6% (33) were closed as safety planning was already ongoing.

- 28% (274) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 15% (149) required a children protection response / child protection conference and 3% (30) required admission to care.

SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITY DATA

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

- 21,156 cases open to social work nationally at the end of Q3 2021, 1,524 (8%) more than Q1 2021 (19,632).
- 78% (16,516/21,156) of open cases were allocated to a named social worker at the end of Q3 2021; down five percentage points from Q1 2021 (83%).
- 4,595 (22%) cases were awaiting allocation, 1,229 (37%) more than Q1 2021 (3,366). 65% (2988) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2021 were “active” on a duty system.
- 10% (444) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2021 were categorised as high priority, up 26% (91) from Q1 2021 (353).
- 71% (3,254/4,595) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2021 were three months or less and of these 64% (2,081) were waiting less than one month.
- 81% (360/444) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2021 were waiting 3 months or less and of these 71% (257) were waiting less than one month.

CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

- 857 children listed as ‘active’ on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of Q3 2021, 32 fewer than Q2 2021 (889) and the fifth consecutive decrease.
- 95 (10%) fewer children ‘active’ at the end of Q3 2021 than at the end of Q3 2020 (952).

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

- 82% (702) of children were listed as “active for no longer than 12 months. 5% (43) were listed as “active” for > 24 months
- All children listed as “active” at the end of Q3 2021 had an allocated social worker.

NATIONAL OUT OF HOURS SERVICE

- 704 referrals to the National Out of Hours Service in Q3 2021, bringing the number for the first nine months of 2021 to 1,866. The number of referrals for Q3 2021 is up 23 on Q2 2021 (681) and 116 (20%) on Q3 2020.

- 178 children were placed by the National Out of Hours Service in Q3 2021, bringing the number of children placed for the first nine months of 2021 to 497. The number of children placed for the first nine months of 2021 is up 28% (109) on the same period in 2020 (388).

ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

CHILDREN IN CARE

- 5,841 children in care at the end Q3 2021, 11 fewer than Q2 2021 (5,852). The number of children in care is down 72 (1%) on Q3 2020 (5,913), quarter on quarter decrease.
- 90% (5,271) of children in care were in foster care (general and relative) at the end of Q3 2021 and 8% (447) were in a residential (general and special care) placement.
- 782 (13%) children in care at the end of Q3 2021 were in placements with private providers¹; 32 (4%) more than Q2 2021 (750) and 55 (8%) more than Q3 2020 (727).
- 88% (5,167/5,841) of children in care nationally had an allocated social worker at the end of Q3 2021; down one percentage points from Q2 2021
- 674 children were awaiting allocation of a social worker at the end of Q3 2021; 56 (9%) more than at the end of Q2 2021 (618).

AFTERCARE

- 140 referrals in Q3 2021 bringing the number of referrals for the first nine months of 2021 to 404, some 128 (24%) fewer than the same period in 2020 (532).
- 3,035 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2021, 43 more than Q2 2021 (2,992) and 135 (5%) more than Q3 2020 (2,900). Quarter on quarter increase.
- 77% (1,809/2,343) of those 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service were in education/accredited training.
- 83% (2,520) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2021 had an aftercare plan, down two percentage points from Q2 2021. A total of 515 were awaiting a plan, 55 (12%) more than Q2 2021 (460).
- 91% (2,098/2,296) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2021, up one percentage point from Q2 2021. A total of 198 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2021, 33 fewer than Q2 2021 (231).

ADOPTION SERVICES

- 154 new applications to commence tracing of a searched person received in Q3 2021, 11 fewer than Q2 2021 (165). This brings to 672 the number of applications for the first nine months of 2021, 311 (86%) more than the same period in 2020 (361).
- 723 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q3 2021, 22 more than Q2 2021 (701).

- At the end of Q3 2021, the length of time from application (production of ID) to the provision of personal information in line with GDPR legislation ranged from 8 weeks to 16 weeks against a target of 8 weeks, up from 6 to 16 weeks at the end of Q2 2021.
- 50 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received during Q3 2021, nine fewer than Q2 2021 (59). This brings to 159 the number of completed applications received for the first nine months of 2021, 38 (31%) more than the same period in 2020 (121).
- 53 new children were referred for adoption in Q3 2021, four more than Q2 2021 (49). This brings to 171 the number of children referred for adoption in the first nine months of 2021, 29 (20%) more than the same period in 2020 (142).
- 43 completed assessments (all types) were presented to local adoption committees during Q3 2021, two more than Q2 2021 (41). This brings to 121 the number of assessments presented for the first nine months of 2021, 30 (33%) more than the same period in 2020 (91).

FOSTER CARERS

- 4,018 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q3 2021, 24 fewer than Q2 2021 (4,042) and 22 (<1%) fewer than Q3 2020 (4,040).
- 82% (1,057/1,293) of relative foster carers are approved.
- 89% (2,157) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q3 2021, up two percentage points from Q2 2021 (87%)
- 280 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker; 28 fewer than Q2 2021 (308).
- 90% (956) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q3 2021, down one percentage point from Q2 2021.
- 101 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q3 2021; three more than Q2 2021 (98).
- 236 relative foster carers unapproved at the end of Q3 2021; 25 fewer than Q2 2021 (261)
- Of the 201 foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks, 188 (94%) had an allocated link (special) worker. A total of 13 were awaiting a link worker, four fewer than Q2 2021 (17).

CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

- 4,140 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q3 2021, 19 fewer than Q2 2021 (4,159) and 69 (2%) fewer than Q3 2020 (4,209).
- 567 inspections (all types¹) carried out in Q3 2021. This brings to 1,822 the number of inspections for the first nine months of 2021. Inspections from March 2020 to early 2021 impacted due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- 682 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q3 2021, 330 (94%) more than Q2 2021 (352) and the highest number for all quarters Q1 2020 to Q3 2021. This brings to 1,431 the number of

incidents notified in the first nine months of 2021. A total of 257 incidents notified during the same period in 2020 (note services closed for a number of months in 2020 due to pandemic).

- 66 unsolicited information submissions¹ received by the Inspectorate during Q3 2021. This brings to 195 the number received for the first nine months of 2021. A total of 184 submissions received for the same period in 2020.
- 61 services were found to have closed in Q3 2021, bringing to 122 the number of services found to be closed in the first nine months of 2021. A total of 173 services were found to have closed during the same period in 2020.

NON-STATUTORY ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

- 146 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q3 2021; three more than Q2 2021 (143).
- A total of 41 inspections (all types) were conducted in Q3 2021. This brings to 128 the number of inspections for the first nine months of 2021.
- 6 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q3 2021; no change from Q2 2021
- 2 services were visited during Q3 2021, and two monitoring visits was conducted during the same period.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION

Home Education

- 1,793 children on the register for home education at the end of Q3 2021; seven more than Q2 2021 (1,786) and 154 (9%) more than Q3 2020 (1,639).
- 456 applications received for home education during Q3 2021, 181 (66%) more than Q2 2021 (275). This brings to 1,056 the number for the first nine months of 2021, some 298 (22%) fewer than the same period in 2020 (1,354). The sharp increase in applications since the early part of 2020 has been linked to the Covid-19 pandemic with more parents/guardians opting to home educate their children.
- 64 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q3 2021, 52 (45%) fewer than Q2 2021 (116). This brings to 371 the number of assessments carried out for the first nine months of 2021, 187 (34%) fewer than the same period in 2020 (558).
- 95 children registered for home education in Q3 2021. This brings to 326 the number of children registered for the first nine months of 2021, 43 (15%) more than the same period in 2020 (283).
- 1,836 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q3 2021, 248 (16%) more than Q2 2021 (1,588) and the fifth consecutive increase.

Independent Schools

- 50 assessed independent schools on the register at the end of Q3 2021, up two from Q2 2021 (48).
- 6,029 children in assessed independent schools at the end of Q3 2021 with 5,215 of these children on the register.

TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2020 – August 2021

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

- 5,590 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) for the academic year 2020/2021, 1,118 (25%) more than the previous academic year (4,472).
- 2,169 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of August 2021, 1,317 (155%) more than August 2020 (852).
- 2,689 new individual children worked with for the academic year 2020/2021, 303 (13%) more than the previous academic year (2,386).
- 122 school attendance notices (SANs) issued for the academic year 2020/2021, 198 (62%) fewer than the previous academic year (320). The SANs issued were in respect of 76 individual children, 148 (66%) fewer than the previous year (224).
- Three summonses issued for the academic year 2020/2021, 81 (96%) fewer than the previous academic year (84).
- 80 Section 24 meetings convened by EWOs for the academic year 2020/2021, 78 (49%) fewer than the previous academic year (158).

PREVENTION, PARTNERSHIP & FAMILY SUPPORT

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

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

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

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

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

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

HUMAN RESOURCES

- 4,516 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q3 2021, 89 fewer than Q2 2021 (4,605) and four fewer than Q3 2020 (4,520).
- 284 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first nine months of 2021
- 263 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) and 73 staff retired in the first nine months of 2021
- 179 (4%) staff were on maternity leave at the end of September 2021
- At the end of September 2021, the overall absence rate for the Agency was 6.26%, 0.94 percentage points higher than Q2 2021 (5.32%) and 1.22 percentage points higher than September 2020 (5.04%).

FINANCE

- The outturn for the year to date (September 2021) is an under-spend of €15.5 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget for the year to date by €8.7 million and is forecast to be under-spent by €8.0m for the full year at this point, due to additional staff to be recruited as the year progresses.
- Non-pay costs are under-spent against budget year to date by €5.8 million
- A key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €4.8 million over budget year to date. Placement of children in private residential and foster care services is strictly controlled through a national placement process.

2.0 CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

2.1 Referrals (child welfare and child abuse)

2.2 Social Work Activity Data

2.3 Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)

2.4 Crisis Intervention Service / Out of Hours Service

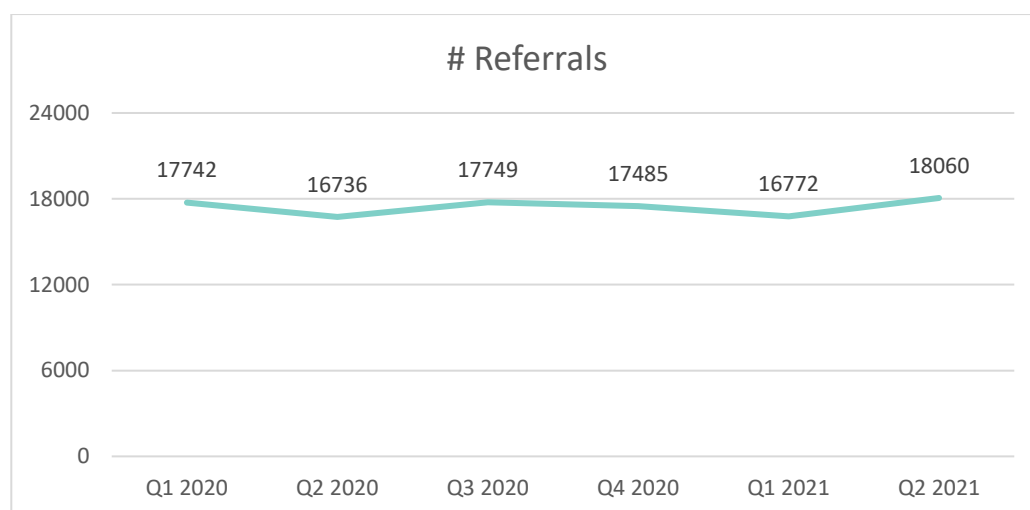
Key Facts (figures based on data extracted from NCCIS on 10 Sep 2021)

- 18,060 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q2 2021; 1,288 (8%) more than Q1 2021 (16,772) and the highest number for all quarters Q1 2020 – Q2 2021. Brings to 34,832 the number of referrals for the first six months of 2021, 354 (1%) more than the same period in 2020 (34,478). The number of referrals for 2020 / 2021 needs to be interpreted in the context of the closure of schools and other services at various times, due to the pandemic.
- 50% (9,069) of referrals for Q2 2021 were for welfare concerns, 34% (6,198) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining 16% (2,793) of referrals. Similar breakdown to Q1 2021.
- 36% (6,461) of referrals were from An Garda Síochána - most common source, followed by teachers (11%; 1,959) and social workers (10%; 1,891). The source of referrals was not recorded for 8% (1,497) of referrals.
- 49% (8,809) of referrals were closed following screening; 46% (8,352) progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage. The remaining 5% (899) of referrals were either at the screening stage, awaiting closure following screening, or another process stage, when the data was extracted for reporting (26 October 2021).
- 92% (7,671) of preliminary enquiries were completed at the time the data was extracted.
- 47% (3,640) of referrals with a completed preliminary enquiry required no further action and were closed; 28% (2,143) required an initial assessment while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 12% (925) of cases. Some 7% (527) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS.
- 46% (976) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were completed at the time the data was extracted for reporting, 19% (414) were ongoing/ awaiting sign-off while the remaining 35% (753) were awaiting commencement.
- 52% (509) of referrals that required an initial assessment following the preliminary enquiry were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. Of these 64% (327) required no further action, 20% (103) were diverted to another agency for a service, and 9% (46) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service. The remaining 6% (33) were closed as safety planning was already ongoing.
- 28% (274) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 15% (149) required a children protection response / child protection conference and 3% (30) required admission to care.

2.1 REFERRALS (CHILD WELFARE AND CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT)

Number of Referrals

- 18,060 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q2 2021¹; 1,288 (8%) more than Q1 2021 (16,772) and the highest number for all quarters Q1 2020 – Q2 2021. This brings to 34,832 the number of referrals for the first six months of 2021, 354 (1%) more than the same period in 2020 (34,478). The number of referrals for 2020 / 2021 needs to be interpreted in the context of the closure of schools and other services at various times, due to the pandemic.



- 50% (9,069) of referrals for Q2 2021 were for welfare concerns, 34% (6,198) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining 16% (2,793) of referrals (Tables 1 and 2). Similar breakdown to Q1 2021.

Table 1: Percentage of referrals by primary report type

Primary Report Type	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021
Welfare	42%	40%	47%	49%	52%	50%
Emotional abuse	12%	13%	15%	14%	15%	14%
Neglect	5%	5%	5%	4%	5%	5%
Physical abuse	8%	5%	8%	10%	8%	9%
Sexual abuse	5%	4%	6%	6%	5%	6%
Not recorded	28%	33%	19%	16%	14%	16%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 2: Number of referrals by primary report type

Primary Report Type	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021
Welfare	7,387	6,686	8,422	8,529	8,686	9,069
Emotional abuse	2,108	2,239	2,674	2,525	2,591	2,527
Neglect	917	813	890	720	867	833
Physical abuse	1,479	852	1,372	1,808	1,309	1,693
Sexual abuse	887	694	1,000	1,072	912	1,145
Not recorded	4,964	5,452	3,391	2,831	2,407	2,793
Total	17,742	16,736	17,749	17,485	16,772	18,060

¹ Data on referrals are reported quarterly in arrears.

Referrals by Area

- The number of referrals for Q2 2021 equates to about 15.2 referrals per 1,000 population under 18 years. The rate of referrals ranged from 7.5 per 1,000 (Dublin South East/Wicklow) to 26.2 per 1,000 (Dublin North City). Eight areas reported a rate equal to or higher than the national average of 15.1/1,000.
- The areas reporting the highest numbers of referrals include Midlands (1,806), Dublin North (1,717), Cork (1,690) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (1,626). The fewest number was reported by Mayo and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan, both reporting 361 followed by Donegal (554) and Cavan Monaghan (578). A breakdown of referrals by area and quarter for Q1 and Q2 2021 is presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Breakdown of referrals by area

Area	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Pop 0-17 years	Rate /1,000 pop Q2 2021	2021 YTD
DSC	1280	1226	65,564	18.7	2506
DSE/WW	740	652	86,810	7.5	1392
DSW/K/WW	1484	1626	108,186	15.0	3110
Midlands	1715	1806	80,193	22.5	3521
DNC	1147	1177	44,927	26.2	2324
Dublin North	1711	1717	100,654	17.1	3428
LH/MH	1080	1288	93,093	13.8	2368
CN/MN	451	578	36,446	15.9	1029
Cork	1467	1690	134,015	12.6	3157
Kerry	488	604	34,527	17.5	1092
CW/KK/ST	1014	906	63,009	14.4	1920
WD/WX	1090	1295	68,513	18.9	2385
MidWest	1091	1284	96,266	13.3	2375
GY/RN	789	935	79,912	11.7	1724
Mayo	367	361	31,968	11.3	728
Donegal	551	554	42,865	12.9	1105
SLWC	307	361	23,554	15.3	668
National	16772	18,060	1,190,502	15.2	34832

Source of Referrals

- The most common source of referrals in Q2 2021 was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 36% (6,461) of referrals, followed to a lesser extent by teachers (11%; 1,959) and social workers (10%; 1,891). Mandated persons accounted for 85% (15,358) of all sources. The source of referrals was not recorded for 8% (1,497) of referrals. The source of all referrals is presented in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Source of Referrals (ranked by # referrals Q2 2021)

Source	# Referrals Q1 2021	% Referrals Q1 2021	# Referrals Q2 2021	% Referrals Q2 2021	2021 YTD	% 2021 YTD
Member of An Garda Siochana	6357	37.90%	6461	35.78%	12818	36.80%
Teacher	951	5.67%	1959	10.85%	2910	8.35%
Social worker	1759	10.49%	1891	10.47%	3650	10.48%
Anonymous	564	3.36%	703	3.89%	1267	3.64%
Parent/Guardian	714	4.26%	701	3.88%	1415	4.06%
Other	817	4.87%	681	3.77%	1498	4.30%
Social care worker	585	3.49%	564	3.12%	1149	3.30%
A safe guarding officer,	455	2.71%	504	2.79%	959	2.75%
Medical practitioner	507	3.02%	477	2.64%	984	2.82%
Registered nurse /midwife	464	2.77%	453	2.51%	917	2.63%
Manager of domestic violence shelter	353	2.10%	346	1.92%	699	2.01%
Psychologist	223	1.33%	263	1.46%	486	1.40%
Other family member	291	1.74%	249	1.38%	540	1.55%
Psychotherapist / counsellor	250	1.49%	248	1.37%	498	1.43%
Member of the public	169	1.01%	187	1.04%	356	1.02%
Youth worker	127	0.76%	186	1.03%	313	0.90%
Courts 1 (S.20 Child Care Act)	106	0.63%	131	0.73%	237	0.68%
Manager of homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility	115	0.69%	118	0.65%	233	0.67%
Person responsible for the care or management of a youth work service	88	0.52%	87	0.48%	175	0.50%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	38	0.23%	49	0.27%	87	0.25%
Probation officer	29	0.17%	47	0.26%	76	0.22%
Self	39	0.23%	35	0.19%	74	0.21%
A person carrying on a pre-school service	17	0.10%	32	0.18%	49	0.14%
Foster carer registered with the Agency	44	0.26%	32	0.18%	76	0.22%
Occupational therapist	17	0.10%	27	0.15%	44	0.13%
Physiotherapist	24	0.14%	26	0.14%	50	0.14%
Speech and language therapist	22	0.13%	23	0.13%	45	0.13%
An addiction counsellor	26	0.16%	22	0.12%	48	0.14%
Manager of Asylum Seeker accommodation (Direct provision) Centre	22	0.13%	18	0.10%	40	0.11%
Emergency medical technician	13	0.08%	12	0.07%	25	0.07%
Courts 3 (Other Court Request)	14	0.08%	8	0.04%	22	0.06%
International social services	12	0.07%	7	0.04%	19	0.05%
Guardian Ad Litem	*	*	6	0.03%	10	0.03%
Member of the clergy	*	*	5	0.03%	8	0.02%
Director of any institution where a child is detained by an order of a court	8	0.05%	*	*	11	0.03%
Dentist	*	*	*	*	3	0.01%
Manager of a language school or other recreational school	7	0.04%	*	*	8	0.02%
Not recorded	1536	9.16%	1497	8.29%	3033	8.71%
National	16772	100.00%	18060	100.00%	34832	100.00%

*Figure <5 suppressed for data confidentiality reasons. Suppressed figures included in the totals.

Mandated Reports

- 26% (4,621) of referrals for Q2 2021 were mandated reports. A breakdown of mandated reports by primary report type is presented in Table 5 below. It is likely that the actual number of mandated reports is slightly higher, due to the fact that the primary report type has not been recorded for 16% of referrals.

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

Type	# Q1 2021	% Q1 2021	# Q2 2021	% Q2 2021	2021 YTD	% 2021 YTD
Emotional Abuse	1689	43.98%	1,803	39.02%	3,492	41.27%
Neglect	471	12.27%	531	11.49%	1,002	11.84%
Physical Abuse	953	24.82%	1,328	28.74%	2,281	26.96%
Sexual Abuse	727	18.93%	959	20.75%	1,686	19.93%
Total	3,840	100%	4,621	100%	8,461	100%

- A breakdown of mandated reports by area for Q2 2021 is presented in Table 6 below. The number of mandated reports ranges from 628 (Dublin North) to 97 (Mayo). The percentage of the overall number of referrals that were mandated reports ranges from 13% (Waterford/Wexford) to 42% (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan).

Table 6: Mandated reports by area

Area	# Referrals Q1 2021	# Mandated Reports	% Mandated Reports	# Referrals Q2 2021	# Mandated Reports	% Mandated Reports
DSC	1280	276	22%	1226	240	20%
DSE/WW	740	200	27%	652	181	28%
DSW/K/WW	1484	176	12%	1626	265	16%
Midlands	1715	361	21%	1806	395	22%
DNC	1147	315	27%	1177	397	34%
Dublin North	1711	600	35%	1717	628	37%
LH/MH	1080	275	25%	1288	423	33%
CN/MN	451	66	15%	578	121	21%
Cork	1467	382	26%	1690	509	30%
Kerry	488	102	21%	604	189	31%
CW/KK/ST	1014	222	22%	906	171	19%
WD/WX	1090	148	14%	1295	164	13%
MidWest	1091	136	12%	1284	226	18%
GY/RN	789	233	30%	935	279	30%
Mayo	367	99	27%	361	97	27%
Donegal	551	127	23%	554	184	33%
SLWC	307	122	40%	361	152	42%
National	16772	3840	23%	18,060	4621	26%

- A breakdown of source of mandated reports is presented in Table 7 below. The most common source of reports for Q2 2021 was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 41% (1,892) of all mandated reports, followed to a lesser extent by teachers (18%; 853) and social workers (12%; 573).

Table 7: Source of mandated reports

Source	# Q1-2021	% Q1 - 2021	Q2-2021	% Q2-2021	# 2021 YTD	% 2021 YTD
Member of An Garda Siochana	1747	45.49%	1892	40.94%	3639	43.01%
Teacher	360	9.38%	853	18.46%	1213	14.34%
Social worker	537	13.98%	573	12.40%	1110	13.12%
Social Care worker	229	5.96%	240	5.19%	469	5.54%
Medical Practitioner	198	5.16%	183	3.96%	381	4.50%
A safe guarding Officer	146	3.80%	179	3.87%	325	3.84%
Psychologist	86	2.24%	126	2.73%	212	2.51%
Psychotherapist or a person providing counselling	94	2.45%	119	2.58%	213	2.52%
Manager of Domestic Violence Shelter	144	3.75%	101	2.19%	245	2.90%
Registered Nurse /midwife	73	1.90%	88	1.90%	161	1.90%
Youth worker	32	0.83%	80	1.73%	112	1.32%
Manager of homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility	36	0.94%	37	0.80%	73	0.86%
Person responsible for the care or management of a youth work service	38	0.99%	35	0.76%	73	0.86%
Physiotherapist	11	0.29%	17	0.37%	28	0.33%
Foster carer registered with the Agency	18	0.47%	15	0.32%	33	0.39%
Occupational therapist	5	0.13%	15	0.32%	20	0.24%
A person carrying on a pre-school service	*	*	13	0.28%	17	0.20%
Probation Officer	*	*	13	0.28%	17	0.20%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	28	0.73%	12	0.26%	40	0.47%
Manager of Asylum Seeker accommodation (Direct provision) Centre	13	0.34%	7	0.15%	20	0.24%
Speech and Language therapist	12	0.31%	7	0.15%	19	0.22%
Guardian Ad Litem	*	*	6	0.13%	10	0.12%
Emergency medical technician	*	*	*	*	6	0.07%
An Addiction counsellor	11	0.29%	*	*	13	0.15%
Director of any institution where a child is detained by an order of a court	*	*	*	*	*	*
Member of the Clergy	*	*	*	*	*	*
Dentist	*	*	0	0.00%	*	*
Manager of a language school or other recreational school	*	*	0	0.00%	*	*
National	3840	100.00%	4621	100.00%	8461	100.00%

**Figure <5 suppressed for data confidentiality reasons. Suppressed figures included in the totals.

Screening and Assessment

- 49% (8,809) of referrals were closed following screening; 46% (8,352) progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage. The remaining 5% (899) of referrals were either at the screening stage, awaiting closure following screening, or another process stage, when the data was extracted for reporting (26 October 2021).

Table 8: Referrals closed following screening, Q2 2021

Area	% Referrals closed	% Progressing to PE	% at screening/ other process stage
DSC	63%	22%	15%
DSE/WW	42%	48%	10%
DSW/K/WW	62%	35%	3%
Midlands	48%	47%	5%
DNC	37%	56%	7%
Dublin North	51%	43%	6%
LH/MH	60%	31%	9%
CN/MN	43%	52%	4%
Cork	41%	59%	1%
Kerry	42%	56%	2%
CW/KK/ST	40%	59%	0%
WD/WX	40%	55%	5%
MidWest	56%	41%	3%
GY/RN	45%	50%	5%
Mayo	55%	42%	3%
Donegal	55%	43%	2%
SLWC	25%	75%	1%
National	49%	46%	5%

- A breakdown of the outcome of referrals closed following screening (8,809) is presented below. Of the referrals closed, 43% (3,771) were closed with no further action required, a further 38% were closed as assessment / safety planning was already ongoing and 7% (582) were diverted to Tusla's Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) services. The outcome was not recorded for 9% (814) of referrals closed.

Table 9: Outcome of referrals closed following screening, Q2 2021

Outcome of referrals closed	#	%
No further action - close	3,771	42.81%
No further action – close, assessment / safety planning ongoing	3,345	37.97%
Divert to another agency - close	217	2.46%
Divert to PPFS - close	582	6.61%
Other	80	0.91%
Not recorded	814	9.24%
Total	8,809	100.00%

- The breakdown of the outcomes of referrals closed following screening, by area for Q2 2021 is presented in the table below.

Table 10: Outcome of referrals closed following screening by area, Q2 2021

Area	No further action - close	No further action – close, assessment / safety planning ongoing	Divert to PPFS - close
DSC	42%	44%	11%
DSE/WW	40%	47%	3%
DSW/K/WW	39%	38%	17%
Midlands	37%	57%	1%
DNC	29%	38%	1%
Dublin North	21%	49%	27%
LH/MH	59%	36%	3%
CN/MN	34%	63%	2%
Cork	55%	36%	1%
Kerry	53%	33%	3%
CW/KK/ST	67%	12%	0%
WD/WX	55%	32%	1%
MidWest	34%	19%	0%
GY/RN	29%	29%	3%
Mayo	79%	14%	3%
Donegal	51%	37%	1%
SLWC	53%	34%	0%
National	43%	38%	7%

- At the time the data was extracted for reporting, 92% (7,671) of preliminary enquiries were completed. A breakdown of preliminary enquiries completed by area presented in the table below. Data on the number that were completed within five working days of receipt of referral is not available due to the cyber-attack.

Table 11: Preliminary enquiries commenced and completed, Q2 2021

Area	# PEs commenced	# PEs completed	% PEs completed
DSC	268	246	92%
DSE/WW	315	303	96%
DSW/K/WW	576	516	90%
Midlands	845	818	97%
DNC	664	549	83%
Dublin North	745	651	87%
LH/MH	400	351	88%
CN/MN	303	272	90%
Cork	989	855	86%
Kerry	338	303	90%
CW/KK/ST	539	536	99%
WD/WX	716	685	96%
MidWest	530	494	93%
GY/RN	469	447	95%
Mayo	150	148	99%
Donegal	236	229	97%
SLWC	269	268	100%
National	8352	7671	92%

- 47% (3,640) of referrals with a completed preliminary enquiry required no further action and were closed; 28% (2,143) required an initial assessment while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 12% (925) of cases. Some 7% (527) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS (Table 12).

Table 12: Outcomes from preliminary enquiries, Q2 2021

Outcomes from preliminary enquiry	#	%
No further action - close	3,640	47%
No further action – close, assessment / safety planning ongoing	925	12%
Initial Assessment	2,143	28%
Divert to another agency - close	436	6%
Divert to PPFS - close	527	7%
Total	7,671	100%

- The percentage breakdown of the outcomes of preliminary enquires completed, by area for Q2 2021 is presented in the Table below.

Table 13: Percentage breakdown of outcomes of preliminary enquires, by area Q2 2021

Area	% Closed - No further Action	% Requiring IA	% Divert - PPFS	% Closed - Assessment / Safety Planning Ongoing	% Closed - Divert to Another Agency	Total
DSC	47%	19%	8%	15%	10%	100%
DSE/WW	45%	33%	6%	6%	9%	100%
DSW/K/WW	47%	31%	8%	8%	6%	100%
Midlands	48%	23%	12%	13%	3%	100%
DNC	27%	32%	7%	30%	5%	100%
Dublin North	44%	35%	11%	8%	3%	100%
LH/MH	52%	34%	9%	1%	4%	100%
CN/MN	59%	22%	8%	8%	3%	100%
Cork	53%	25%	2%	15%	5%	100%
Kerry	46%	19%	10%	18%	7%	100%
CW/KK/ST	59%	19%	1%	19%	1%	100%
WD/WX	49%	26%	10%	12%	3%	100%
MidWest	41%	35%	2%	9%	14%	100%
GY/RN	54%	26%	4%	5%	11%	100%
Mayo	61%	30%	3%	3%	2%	100%
Donegal	34%	35%	2%	9%	19%	100%
SLWC	45%	34%	9%	9%	3%	100%
National	47%	28%	7%	12%	6%	100%

- At the time the data was extracted for reporting, 46% (976) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were completed, 19% (414) were ongoing/ awaiting sign-off while the remaining 35% (753) were awaiting commencement (Table 14).
- Data on the number of initial assessments completed within 40 days of receipt of referral is not available due to the cyber-attack.

Table 14: Breakdown of the status of Initial assessments, by area Q2 2021

Area	IA Completed	IA Ongoing/Awaiting sign-off	IA not started	Total
DSC	8.5%	15%	76.60%	100%
DSE/WW	36.6%	12%	51.49%	100%
DSW/K/WW	70.4%	9%	20.13%	100%
Midlands	26.0%	10%	63.54%	100%
DNC	31.4%	45%	23.43%	100%
Dublin North	18.4%	50%	32.02%	100%
LH/MH	17.4%	38%	44.63%	100%
CN/MN	27.1%	32%	40.68%	100%
Cork	79.5%	7%	13.02%	100%
Kerry	50.8%	5%	44.07%	100%
CW/KK/ST	53.8%	12%	34.62%	100%
WD/WX	25.7%	13%	61.45%	100%
MidWest	59.9%	10%	29.65%	100%
GY/RN	56.0%	12%	31.90%	100%
Mayo	65.9%	16%	18.18%	100%
Donegal	92.5%	3%	5.00%	100%
SLWC	70.7%	9%	20.65%	100%
National	45.5%	19%	35.14%	100%

- 52% (509) of referrals that required an initial assessment following the preliminary enquiry were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. Of these 64% (327) required no further action, 20% (103) were diverted to another agency for a service, and 9% (46) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service. The remaining 6% (33) were closed as safety planning was already ongoing.
- 28% (274) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 15% (149) required a children protection response / child protection conference and 3% (30) required admission to care.
- The outcome of the initial assessments completed is presented in the table below.

Table 15: Breakdown of the outcome of initial assessment, Q2 2021

Outcomes from initial assessments	#	%
Admission to Care	30	3.07%
Child Protection / CPC Safety Planning	149	15.27%
Divert to Another Agency - Close	103	10.55%
Divert to PPFS - Close	46	4.71%
Family Welfare Conference	14	1.43%
No Further Action (NFA) - Close	327	33.50%
No Further Action (NFA) - Close, Assessment/Safety Planning ongoing	33	3.38%
Safety Planning	274	28.07%
Total	976	100.00%

2.2 SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITY DATA (Child Protection & Welfare)

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

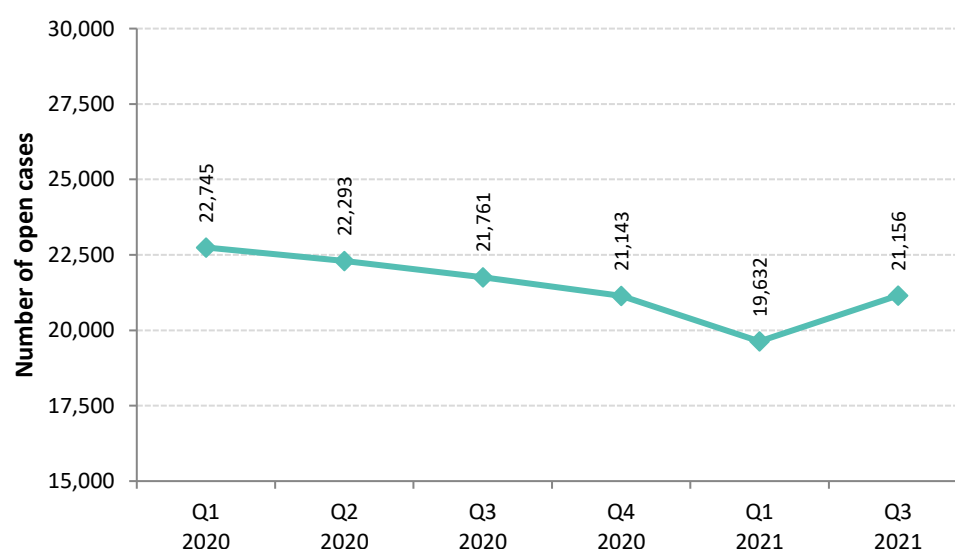
Key Facts

- 21,156 cases open to social work nationally at the end of Q3 2021, 1,524 (8%) more than Q1 2021 (19,632).
- 78% (16,516/21,156) of open cases were allocated to a named social worker at the end of Q3 2021; down five percentage points from Q1 2021 (83%).
- 4,595 (22%) cases were awaiting allocation, 1,229 (37%) more than Q1 2021 (3,366). 65% (2,988) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2021 were “active” on a duty system.
- 10% (444) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2021 were categorised as high priority, up 26% (91) from Q1 2021 (353).
- 71% (3,254/4,595) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2021 were three months or less and of these 64% (2,081) were waiting less than one month.
- 81% (360/444) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2021 were waiting 3 months or less and of these 71% (257) were waiting less than one month.

2.2.1 Open Cases

- 21,156 cases open² to social work nationally at the end of Q3 2021, 1,524 (8%) more than Q1 2021 (19,632).

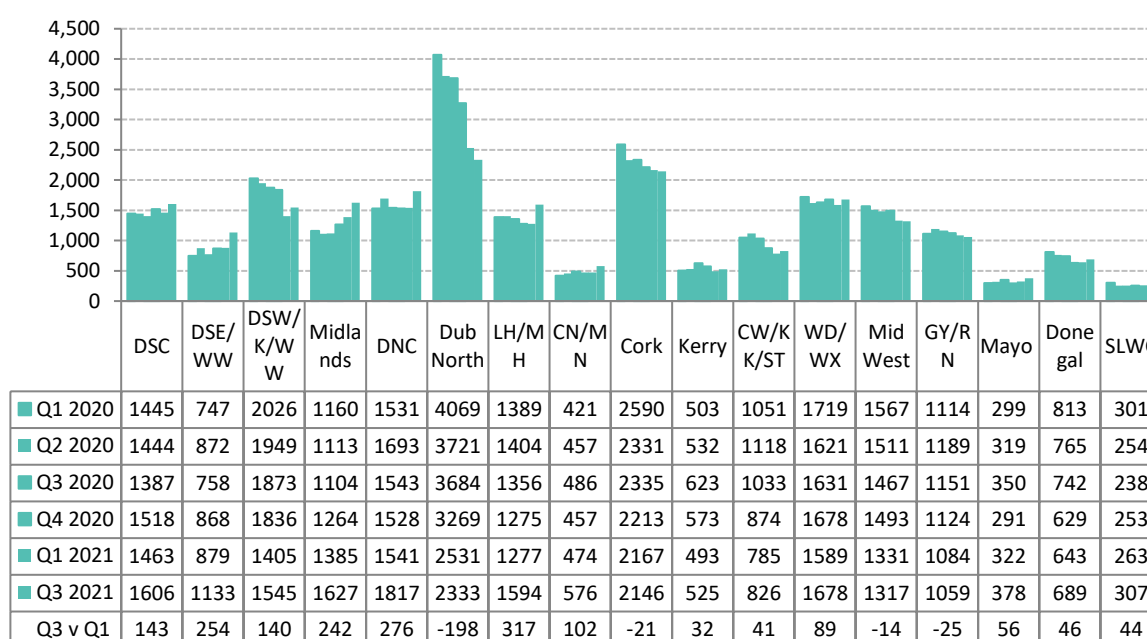
Number of open cases by year



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

- The number of open cases ranged from 2,333 (11%) in Dublin North to 307 (1%) in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan. Nine of the 17 areas had between 1,000 and 2,000 cases; six areas had fewer than 1,000 cases while the remaining two areas (Dublin North and Cork) had in excess of 2,000 cases.
- 4 areas reported a decrease in open cases from Q1 2021. The largest decrease was reported by Dublin North (down 198) followed by Galway/Roscommon (down 25), Cork (down 21) and Midwest (down 14).
- Of the 13 areas that reported an increase, the largest increase was reported by Louth/Meath (up 317), Dublin North City (up 276), Dublin South East Wicklow (up 254), Midlands (up 242), Dublin South Central (143) and Dublin South West / Kildare / West Wicklow (up 140).

Number of open cases by area

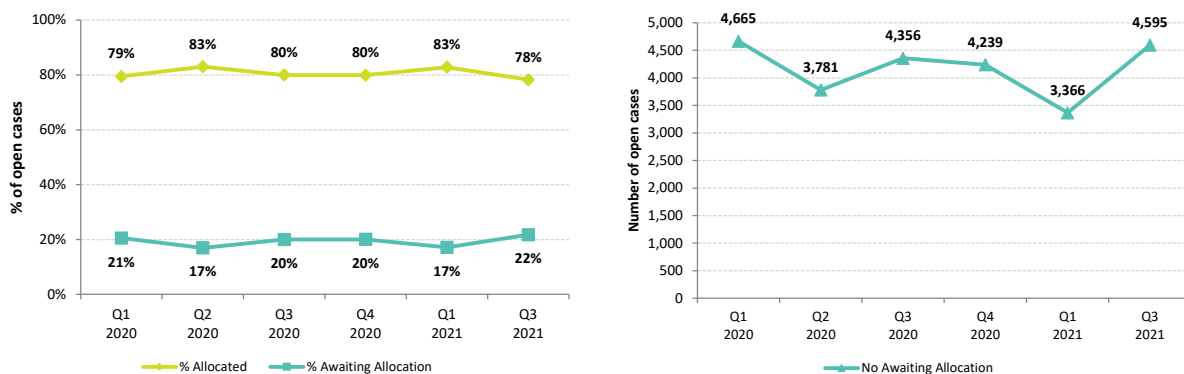


2.2.2 Open Cases Allocated / Awaiting Allocation

- 78% (16,516/21,156) of open cases were allocated to a named social worker at the end of Q3 2021; down five percentage points from Q1 2021 (83%).
- 4,595 (22%) cases were awaiting allocation, 1,229 (37%) more than Q1 2021 (3,366).
- 65% (2,988) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2021 were “active” on a duty system³.

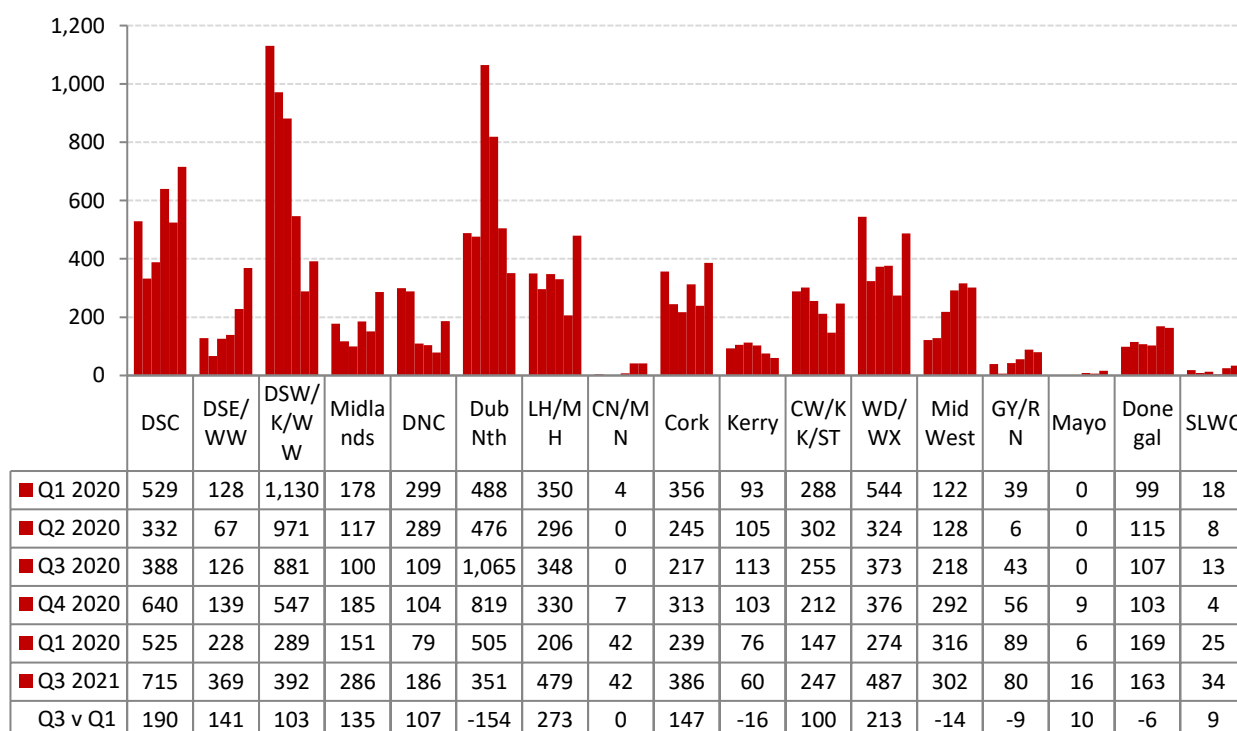
³ A case awaiting allocation may be “active” on a “duty” system. This means that there are actions being undertaken by a dedicated duty team or rotating social workers on a duty roster to progress the protection and welfare of the child. Examples of actions being undertaken include telephone calls relating to the concern, visits to see children, completing initial assessments and child in care reviews or care plans. The actions undertaken must have occurred within the monthly MTP reporting period. There must be evidence of actions progressing the protection and welfare of the child and not simply a management review of a file. These cases will form a separate category on the MTP returns template under cases awaiting allocation.

Cases allocated/awaiting allocation



- Dublin South Central reported the highest number of cases awaiting allocation (715; 16%) followed by Waterford/Wexford (487; 11%), Louth/Meath (479; 10%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (392; 9%), Cork (386; 8%) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (369; 8%). These six areas account for 62% (2,828) of cases awaiting allocation.
- 11 areas reported an increase in cases awaiting allocation from Q1 2021 with the largest increases reported by Louth/Meath (up 273), Waterford/Wexford (up 213), Dublin South Central (up 190), Cork (up 147), Dublin South East/Wicklow (up 141) and Midlands (up 135).
- 5 areas reported a decrease with the largest decrease reported by Dublin North (down 154) and followed to a lesser extent by Kerry (down 16), Midwest (down 14), Galway/Roscommon (down 9) and Donegal (down 6).
- The remaining area Cavan/Monaghan reported no change.

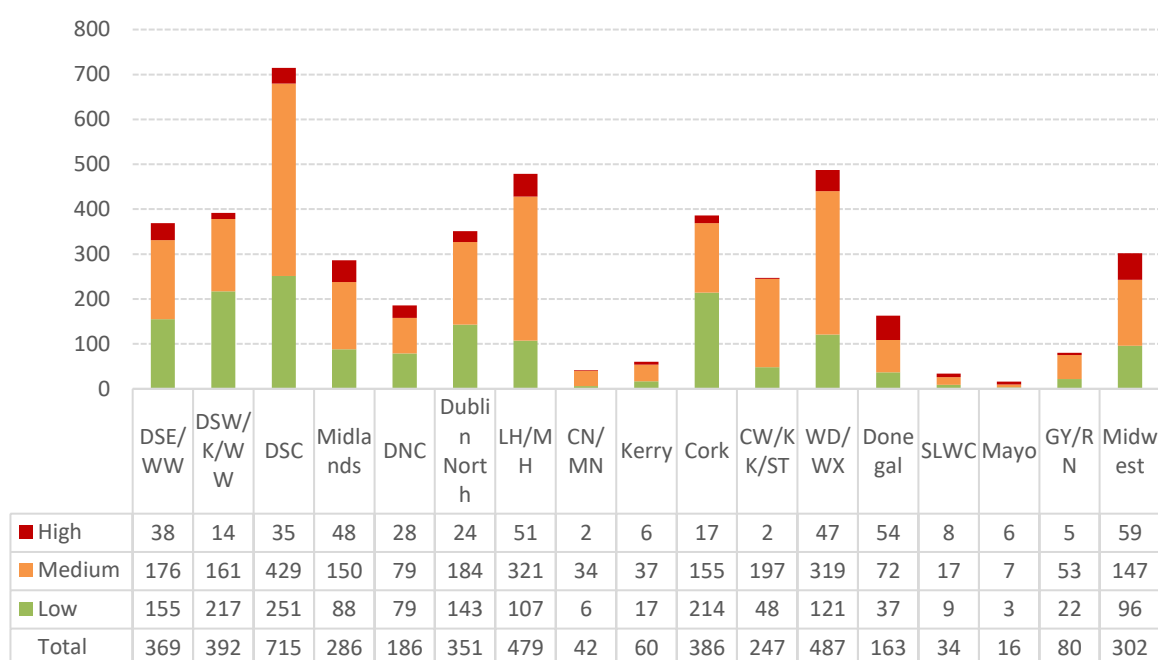
Number of open cases awaiting allocation by area



2.2.3 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Priority Level

- 10% (444) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2021 were categorised as high priority, up 26% (91) from Q1 2021 (353).
- 55% (2,538) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority while the remaining 35% (1,613) were low priority.
- The highest number of high priority cases was reported by Midwest (59) followed by Donegal (54), Louth/Meath (51), Midlands (48), Waterford/Wexford (47) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (38). These six areas account for 67% (297) of high priority cases.

Cases Awaiting by Priority Level, September 2021



2.2.4 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Waiting Time

- 71% (3,254/4,595) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2021 were three months or less and of these 64% (2,081) were waiting less than one month.
- 81% (360/444) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2021 were waiting 3 months or less and of these 71% (257) were waiting less than one month.

Breakdown of cases awaiting allocation by priority level and time waiting

Time Waiting	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q3 2021
<1 month	1,669 (39%)	1,602 (48%)	2,081 (45%)
1-3 months	1,481 (35%)	867 (26%)	1,173 (26%)
>3 months	1,089 (26%)	897 (27%)	1,341 (29%)
Total	4,239 (100%)	3,366 (100%)	4,595 (100%)

2.3 CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

KEY FACTS

- 857 children listed as 'active' on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of Q3 2021, 32 fewer than Q2 2021 (889) and the fifth consecutive decrease.
- 95 (10%) fewer children 'active' at the end of Q3 2021 than at the end of Q3 2020 (952).

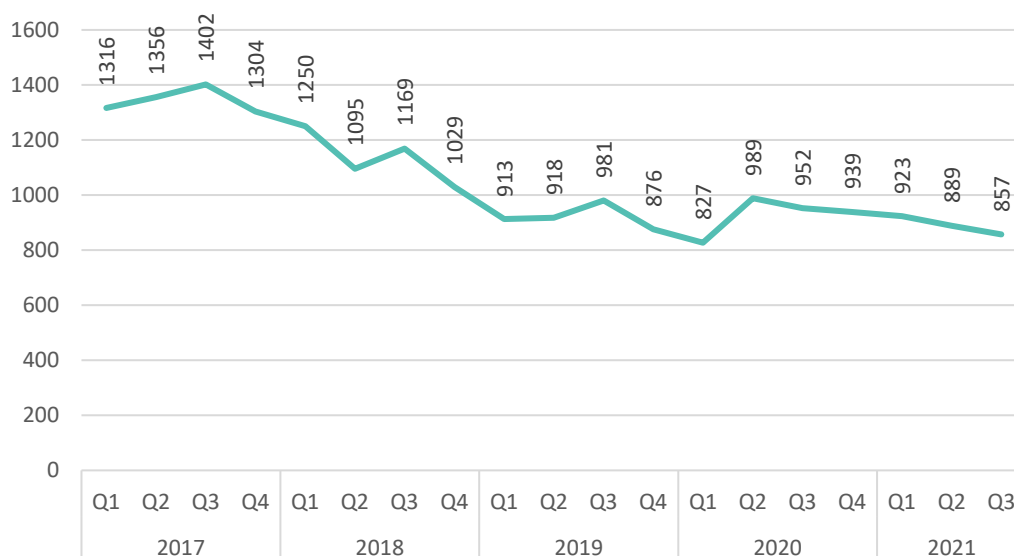
The number of children listed as "active" for 2020 needs to be interpreted with caution, due to some review child protection conferences (where decisions are made to remove children listed as "active") being deferred due to Covid-19 restrictions. Guidance issued by Tusla on foot of the COVID-19 restrictions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

- 82% (702) of children were listed as "active for no longer than 12 months. 5% (43) were listed as "active" for > 24 months
- All children listed as "active" at the end of Q3 2021 had an allocated social worker.

- 857 children listed as 'active' on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)⁴ at the end of Q3 2021, 32 fewer than Q2 2021 (889) and the fifth consecutive decrease.
- 95 (10%) fewer children 'active' at the end of Q3 2021 than at the end of Q3 2020 (952).

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

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



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

- The number listed as “active” equates to about 7.2 children per 10,000 under 18 years and ranges from 2.4/10,000 in Galway/Roscommon to 16.5/10,000 in Dublin North City, more than double the national average.
- Cork reported the highest number (90) of children “active”, followed by Midwest (82), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (79), Dublin North City (74) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (72). Sligo/Leitrim/West/Cavan reported the fewest number (8) followed by Galway/Roscommon (19) and Cavan/Monaghan (22).

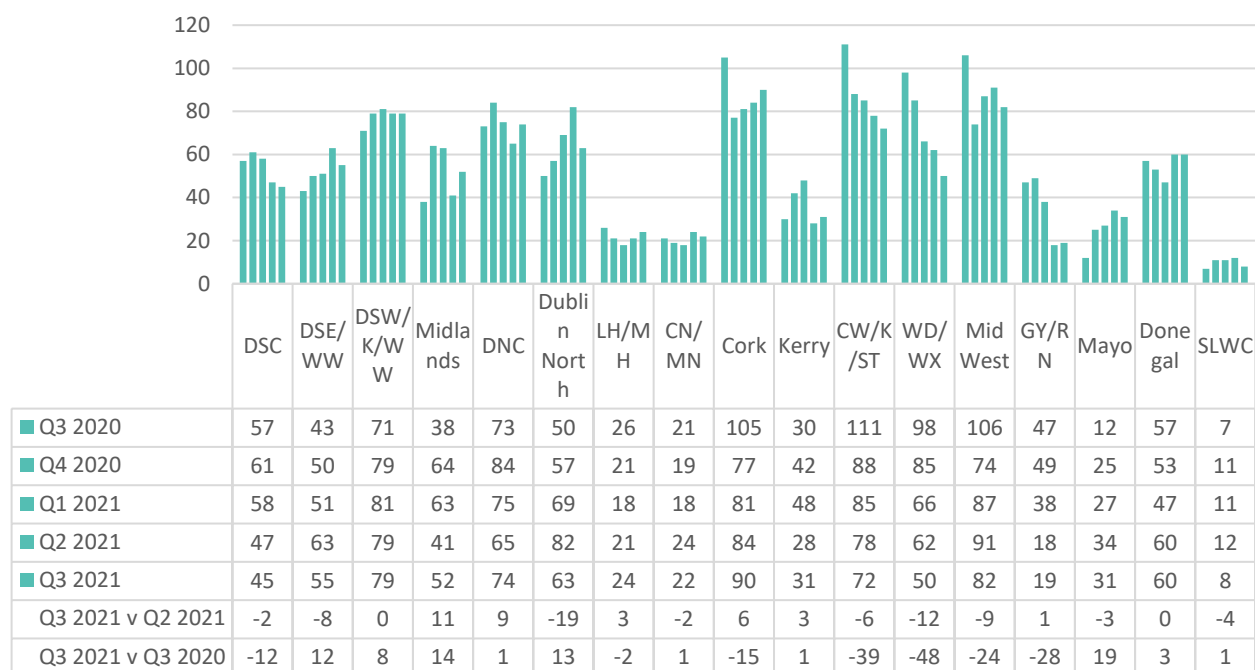
Children listed as 'active' on CPNS per 10,000 population 0-17 years

Area	# Q3 2021	Population 0-17 years	Rate / 10,000 pop
Dublin North City	74	44,927	16.5
Donegal	60	42,865	14.0
Carlow / Kilkenny / South Tipperary	72	63,009	11.4
Mayo	31	31,968	9.7
Kerry	31	96,266	9.0
Mid West	82	68,513	8.5
Dublin South West / Kildare / West Wicklow	79	100,654	7.3
Waterford / Wexford	50	34,527	7.3
Dublin South Central	45	108,186	6.9
Cork	90	86,810	6.7
Midlands	52	65,564	6.5
Dublin South East / Wicklow	55	36,446	6.3
Dublin North	63	134,015	6.3
Cavan / Monaghan	22	80,193	6.0
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	8	23,554	3.4
Louth / Meath	24	93,093	2.6
Galway / Roscommon	19	79,912	2.4
Total	857	1,190,502	7.2

Population: Census 2016

- 9/17 areas reported a decrease in the number “active” from Q2 2021. The largest decrease was reported by Dublin North (down 19) followed by Waterford/Wexford (down 12) and Midwest (down 9)
- 6/17 reported an increase in the number “active” from Q2 2021. The largest increase was reported by Midlands (up 11) followed by Dublin North City (up 9) and Cork (up 6).
- The remaining two areas (Donegal and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow) reported no change from Q2 2021.
- 7/17 areas had fewer children “active” at the end of Q3 2021 than Q3 2020. Largest decreases reported by Waterford/Wexford (down 48) followed by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 39), Galway/Roscommon (down 28) and Midwest (down 24).
- 10/17 areas had more children “active” at the end of Q3 2021 than Q3 2020. Largest increases reported by Mayo (up 19) followed by Midlands (up 14), Dublin North (up 13) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (up 12).

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

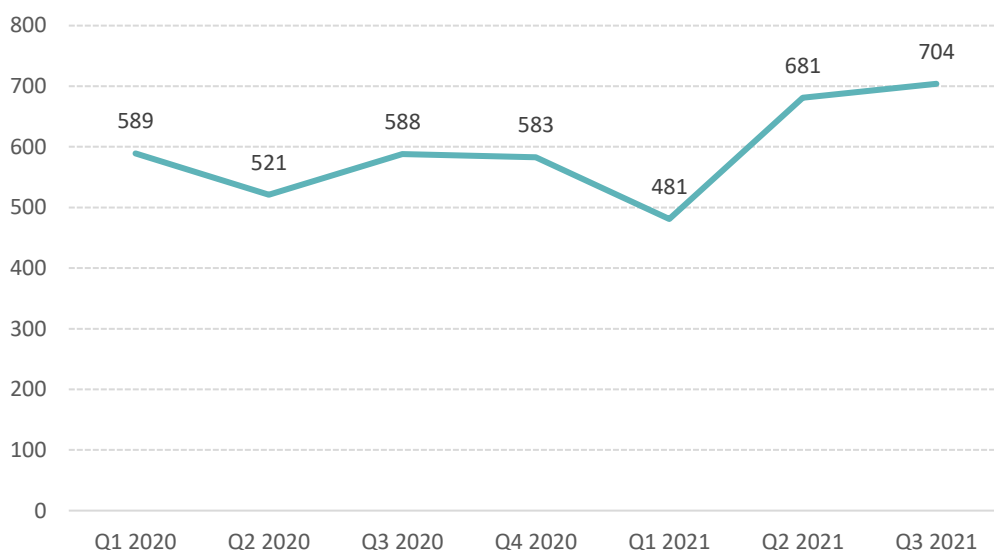


- 56% (482) of children listed as “active” at the end of Q3 2021 were listed for 0-6 months
- 82% (702) of children were listed as “active for no longer than 12 months.
- 5% (43) were listed as “active” for > 24 months
- One areas (Kerry) had no child “active” for longer than 12 months.
- All children listed as “active” at the end of Q3 2021 had an allocated social worker.

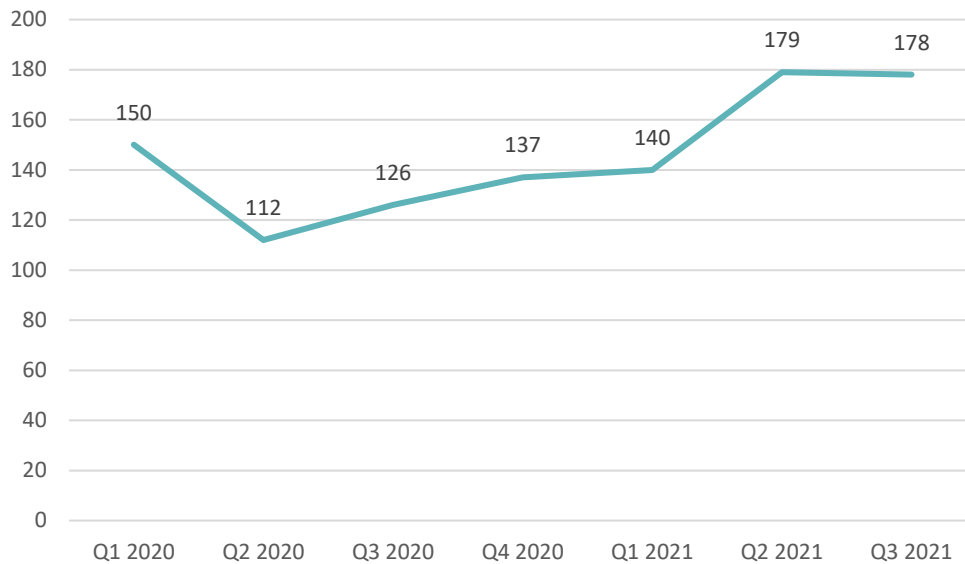
2.4 NATIONAL OUT OF HOURS SERVICE

KEY FACTS

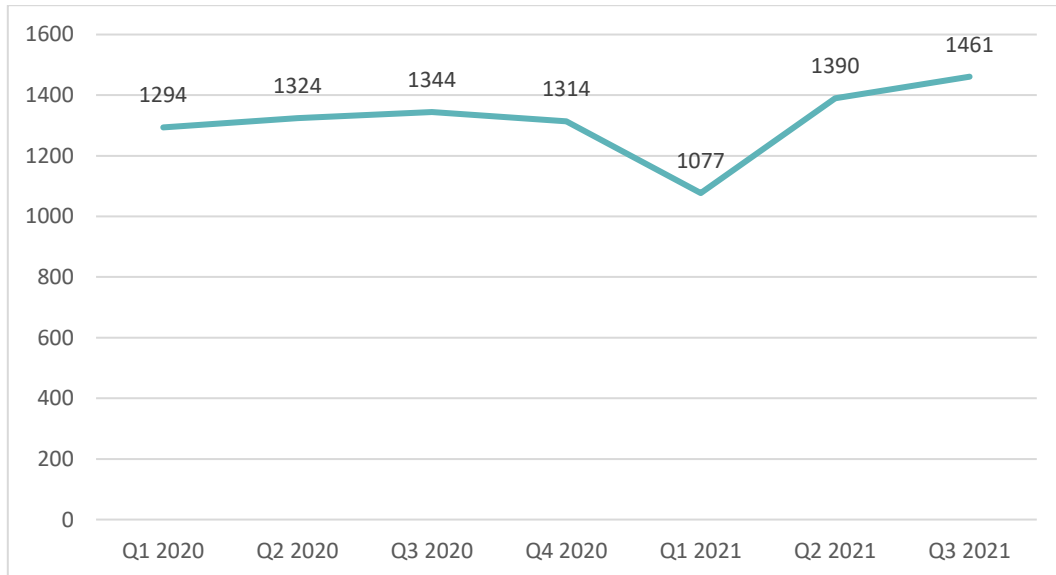
- 704 referrals to the National Out of Hours Service in Q3 2021, bringing the number for the first nine months of 2021 to 1,866. The number of referrals for Q3 2021 is up 23 on Q2 2021 (681) and 116 (20%) on Q3 2020.
 - 178 children were placed by the National Out of Hours Service in Q3 2021, bringing the number of children placed for the first nine months of 2021 to 497. The number of children placed for the first nine months of 2021 is up 28% (109) on the same period in 2020 (388).
- 704 referrals to the National Out of Hours Service in Q3 2021, bringing the number for the first nine months of 2021 to 1,866. The number of referrals for Q3 2021 is up 23 on Q2 2021 (681) and 116 (20%) on Q3 2020. The number of referrals for the first nine months of 2021 is up 10% (168) on the same period in 2020 (1,698).



- 178 children were placed by the National Out of Hours Service in Q3 2021, bringing the number of children placed for the first nine months of 2021 to 497. The number of children placed in Q3 2021 is down one from a high of 179 in Q2 2021. The number of children placed for the first nine months of 2021 is up 28% (109) on the same period in 2020 (388).



- 1,461 nights' accommodation supplied by the National Out of Hours Service in Q3 2021, bringing the number of nights' accommodation for the first nine months of 2021 to 3,928. The number of nights' accommodation for Q3 2021 is up 71 (5%) on Q2 2021 (1,390) and is the highest number for all quarters Q1 2020 – Q3 2021. The number of nights' accommodation for the first nine months of 2021 (3,928) is down 34 on the same period in 2020 (3,962).



3.0 ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

3.1 Children in Care (Foster Care / Residential Care)

3.2 Aftercare

3.3 Adoption

3.4 Foster Carers

3.1 CHILDREN IN CARE (FOSTER CARE / RESIDENTIAL CARE)

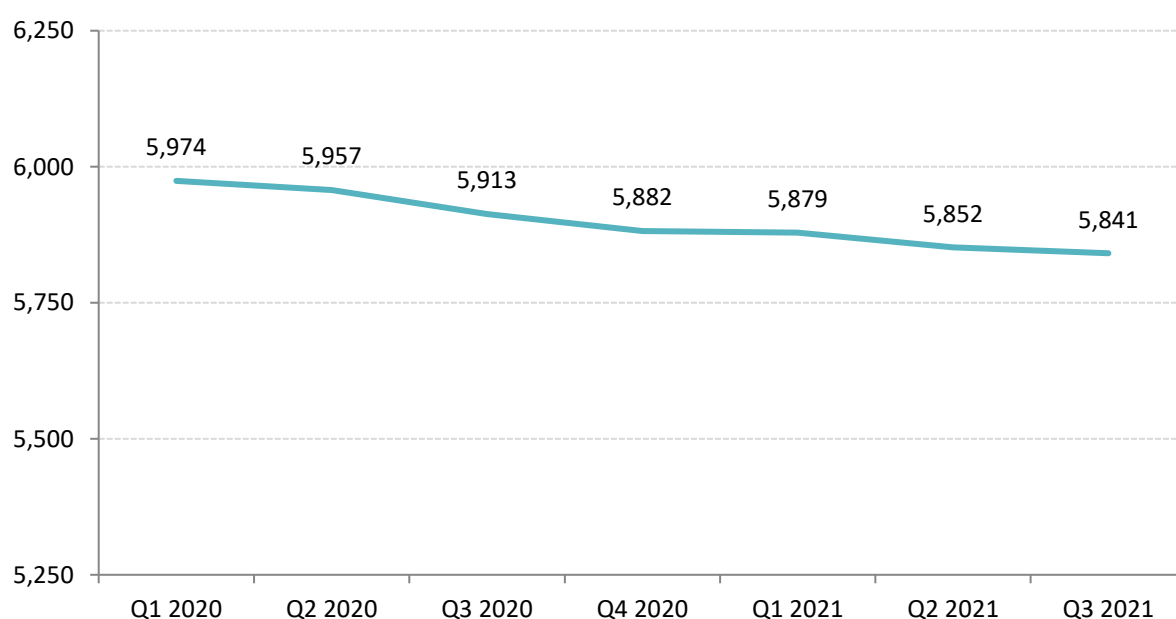
KEY FACTS

- 5,841 children in care at the end Q3 2021, 11 fewer than Q2 2021 (5,852). The number of children in care is down 72 (1%) on Q3 2020 (5,913), quarter on quarter decrease.
- 90% (5,271) of children in care were in foster care (general and relative) at the end of Q3 2021 and 8% (447) were in a residential (general and special care) placement.
- 782 (13%) children in care at the end of Q3 2021 were in placements with private providers¹; 32 (4%) more than Q2 2021 (750) and 55 (8%) more than Q3 2020 (727).
- 88% (5,167/5,841) of children in care nationally had an allocated social worker at the end of Q3 2021; down one percentage points from Q2 2021
- 674 children were awaiting allocation of a social worker at the end of Q3 2021; 56 (9%) more than at the end of Q2 2021 (618).

3.1.1 Number of Children in Care

- 5,841 children in care at the end of Q3 2021, 11 fewer than Q2 2021 (5,852). The number of children in care is down 72 (1%) on Q3 2020 (5,913), quarter on quarter decrease.

Number of children in care by quarter



Figures for Q1 and Q2 2021 revised from previously reported

- Across the 17 areas the number of children in care ranged from 742 in Cork to 109 in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan.
- Dublin North City reported the highest rate of children in care per 1,000 population under 18 years (10.5/1,000), more than double the national rate, followed by Waterford/Wexford (6.0/1,000) and MidWest (5.8/1,000) while Dublin South East/Wicklow reported the lowest rate at 2.5/1,000 population followed by Dublin North (3.4/1,000).

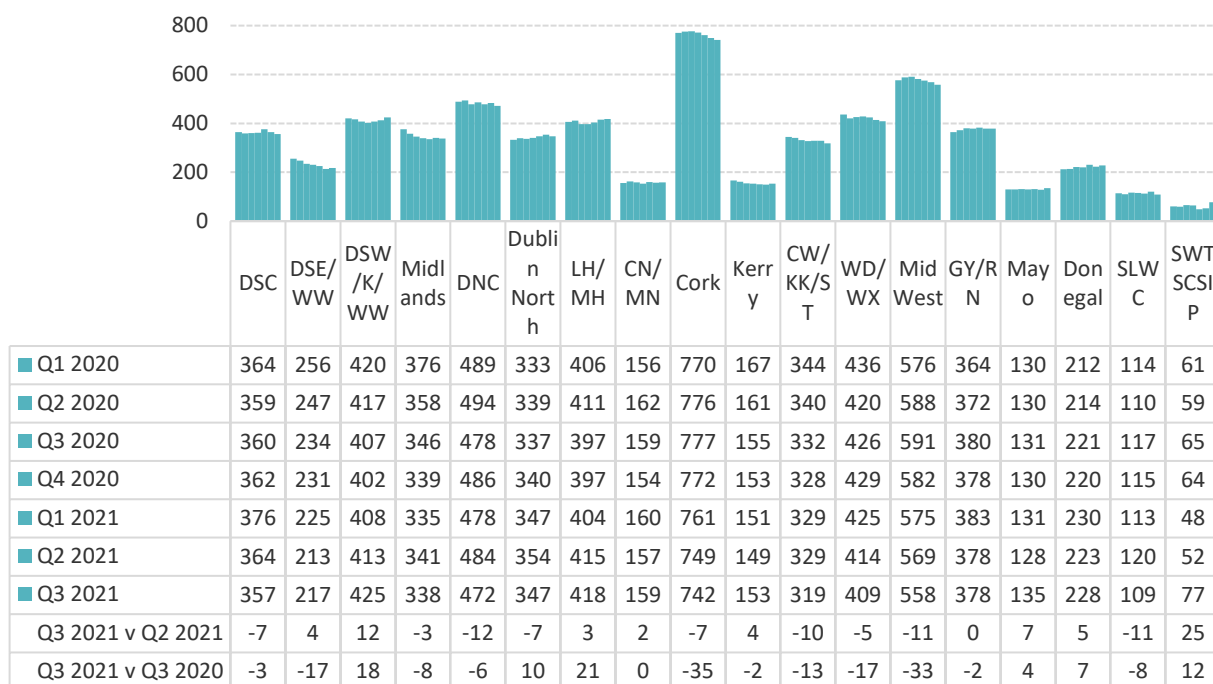
Number of children in care and rate per 1,000 population 0-17 years

Area	0-17 population (Census 2016)	No CIC Q3 2021	No of CIC/1,000 population 0-17
DSC	65,564	357	5.4
DSE/WW	86,810	217	2.5
DSW/K/WW	108,186	425	3.9
Midlands	80,193	338	4.2
DNC	44,927	472	10.5
Dublin North	100,654	347	3.4
LH/MH	93,093	418	4.5
CN/MN	36,446	159	4.4
Cork	134,015	742	5.5
Kerry	34,527	153	4.4
CW/KK/ST	63,009	319	5.1
WD/WX	68,513	409	6.0
Mid West	96,266	558	5.8
GY/RN	79,912	378	4.7
Mayo	31,968	135	4.2
Donegal	42,865	228	5.3
SLWC	23,554	109	4.6
Total	1,190,502	5,764	4.8

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

- 9 areas reported a decrease in children in care from Q2 2021. Largest decrease reported by the Dublin North City (down 12), Midwest (down 11), Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (down 11) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 10).
- 7 areas along with the SWTSCSIP reported an increase in children in care from Q2 2021, with the largest increase reported by the SWTSCSIP (up 25), followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 12), Mayo (up 7) and Donegal (up 5). The remaining area, Galway/Roscommon reported no change.
- 11 areas had fewer children in care at the end of Q3 2021 than Q3 2020. Largest decrease reported by Cork (down 35), Midwest (down 33), Waterford/Wexford (down 17) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (down 17).
- Of the six areas that reported an increase from Q3 2020, the largest increase was reported by Louth/Meath (up 21), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (18) and Dublin North (up 10).

Breakdown of the number of children in care in each area



Number of Children in Care, by Care Type

- 90% (5,271) of children in care were in foster care (general and relative) at the end of Q3 2021 and 8% (447) were in a residential (general and special care) placement.

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

	FC Gen	Δ+/- prev Q	FC Rel	Δ+/- prev Q	Res Care Gen	Δ+/- prev Q	Res Care Spec	Δ+/- prev Q	Other Care 12	Δ+/- prev Q	Total	Δ+/- prev Q
Q1 2020	3,889	-18	1,556	+5	402	+7	13	-1	114	-2	5,974	-9
Q2 2020	3,885	-4	1,565	+9	390	-12	16	+3	101	-13	5,957	-17
Q3 2020	3,849	-36	1,540	-25	391	+1	13	-3	120	+19	5,913	-44
Q4 2020	3,829	-20	1,517	-23	403	+12	18	+5	115	-5	5,882	-31
Q1 2021	3,817	-12	1,517	0	412	+9	17	-1	116	+1	5,879	-3
Q2 2021	3,798	-19	1,503	-14	417	+5	18	+1	116	0	5,852	-27
Q3 2021	3,782	-16	1,489	-14	430	+13	17	-1	123	+7	5,841	-11

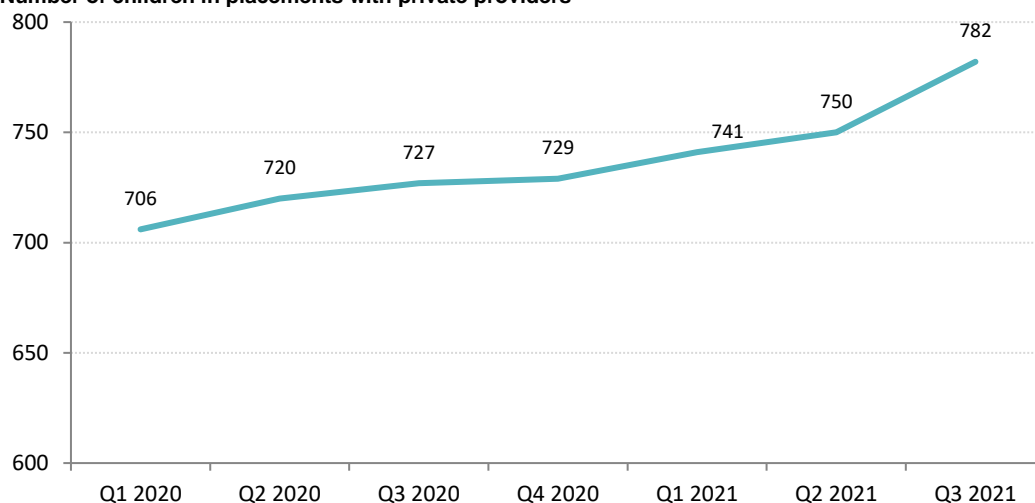
FC Gen = Foster Care General; FC Rel = Foster Care with Relatives; Res Care Gen = Residential Care General; Res Care Spec = Residential Care Special; CIC = Children in care

- 14 (0.24%) children were in out of State placements at the end of Q3 2021; one fewer than Q2 2021 (15). These children are included in the figures for the various care types set out in the table above.
- 7 children in residential care were in a single care placement at the end of Q3 2021, no change from Q2 2021.
- 46 children were in respite care (from home) at the end of Q3 2021.

3.1.2 Children in Placements with Private Providers

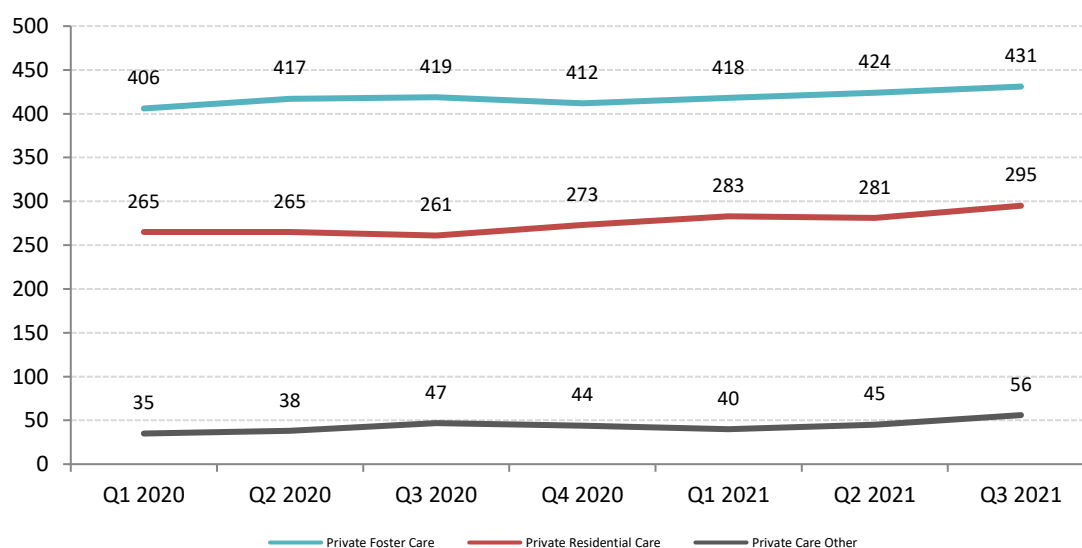
- 782 (13%) children in care at the end of Q3 2021 were in placements with private providers⁵; 32 (4%) more than Q2 2021 (750) and 55 (8%) more than Q3 2020 (727).

Number of children in placements with private providers



- 55% (431) of children in placements with private providers were in foster care and 38% (295) were in residential placements.
- The number of children in foster care placements with private providers (431) is up seven from Q2 2021 (424) and up 12 from Q3 2020 (419).
- 295 children in residential care with private providers, 14 more than Q2 2021 (281) and 34 more than Q3 2020 (261).

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



⁵ The number of children in private placements is included in the children in care figures presented in sections 3.1.1 and 3.1.2

- Dublin South Central (108) and DSW/K/WW (108) report the highest number of children in care in placements with private providers followed by Dublin North City (86), Dublin North (82), Midlands (67) and Cork (67). These six areas account for 66% (518/779) of all children in private placements.
- The SWTSCSIP reported the largest increase from Q2 2021 (up 16) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 9) and Louth/Meath (up 6).
- Waterford/Wexford reported the largest decrease from Q2 2021 (down 8) followed by Midwest (down 6) and Galway/Roscommon (down five).

Number of children in placements with private providers, by area

Area	Q3 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q3 2021 v Q2 2021	Q3 2021 v Q3 2020
DSC	103	116	110	108	-2	5
DSE/WW	40	49	40	44	4	4
DSW/K/WW	92	92	99	108	9	16
Midlands	57	54	64	67	3	10
DNC	85	77	81	86	5	1
Dublin North	70	75	82	82	0	12
LH/MH	28	31	29	35	6	7
CN/MN	*	*	*	7	*	*
Cork	63	66	67	67	0	4
Kerry	13	12	11	13	2	0
CW/KK/ST	15	16	14	12	-2	-3
WD/WX	47	47	43	35	-8	-12
Mid West	41	39	41	38	-3	-3
GY/RN	11	10	9	*	*	*
Mayo	*	*	*	*	*	*
Donegal	18	22	20	20	0	2
SLWC	5	5	7	7	0	2
SWTSCSIP	37	25	30	46	16	9
Total	727	741	750	782	32	55

* – Number suppressed for confidentiality reasons. Suppressed numbers included in totals

3.1.3 Children in Care with an Allocated Social Worker

- 88% (5,167/5,841) of children in care nationally had an allocated social worker (against a target of 100%) at the end of Q3 2021; down one percentage points from Q2 2021
- 674 children were awaiting allocation of a social worker at the end of Q3 2021; 56 (9%) more than at the end of Q2 2021 (618).

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

Care Type	CIC	No with SW	% with SW	CIC	No with SW	% with SW
	Q2 2021	Q2 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q3 2021	Q3 2021
Foster Care (General)	3,798	3,401	90%	3,782	3,356	89%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,503	1,303	87%	1,489	1,264	85%
Residential Care (General)	417	403	97%	430	410	95%
Residential Special Care	18	18	100%	17	17	100%
Other Placements	116	109	94%	123	120	98%
Total	5,852	5,234	89%	5,841	5,167	88%

- Three areas (Dublin South East/Wicklow, Kerry and Mayo) along with Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking International Protection met the target of 100% of children in care with an allocated social worker. Twelve areas reported 90% or higher.
- The area with the highest number of children awaiting an allocated social worker is Midwest (155) followed by Waterford/Wexford (86), Carlow/Kilkenny /South Tipperary (73), Dublin North (68) and Louth/Meath (65). These five areas account for 66% (447) of cases awaiting allocation.

Number of children in care with an allocated social worker

Area	No in Care Q2 2021	No with an allocated SW Q2 2021	% with an allocated SW Q2 2021	No in Care Q3 2021	No with an allocated SW Q3 2021	% with an allocated SW Q3 2021	# awaiting SW
DSC	364	326	90%	357	324	91%	33
DSE/WW	213	205	96%	217	217	100%	0
DSW/K/WW	413	392	95%	425	407	96%	18
Midlands	341	264	77%	338	304	90%	34
DNC	484	417	86%	472	425	91%	47
Dublin North	354	294	83%	347	279	80%	68
LH/MH	415	355	86%	418	353	84%	65
CN/MN	157	149	95%	159	148	93%	11
Cork	749	732	98%	742	695	94%	47
Kerry	149	136	91%	153	153	100%	0
CW/KK/ST	329	278	84%	319	246	77%	73
WD/WX	414	348	84%	409	323	79%	86
Mid West	569	470	83%	558	403	74%	155
GY/RN	378	351	93%	378	354	94%	24
Mayo	128	128	100%	135	135	100%	0
Donegal	223	222	100%	228	224	98%	4
SLWC	120	115	96%	109	100	92%	9
SWTSCSIP	52	52	100%	77	77	100%	0
Total	5,852	5,234	89%	5,841	5,167	89%	674

3.1.4 Children in Care with a Care Plan

- 96% (5,616/5,841) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan, down one percentage point from Q2 2021 (97%).
- 225 children did not have an up-to-date care plan, 21 fewer than Q2 2021 (201).

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

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

Care Type	CIC	No with CP	% with CP	CIC	No with CP	% with CP
	Q2 2021	Q2 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q3 2021	Q3 2021
Foster Care General	3,798	3,670	97%	3,782	3,652	97%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,503	1,463	97%	1,489	1,426	96%
Residential Care General	417	398	95%	430	408	95%
Residential Special Care	18	18	100%	17	17	100%
Other Placements	116	102	88%	123	113	92%
National	5,852	5,651	97%	5,841	5,616	96%

- 16 of the 17 areas along with Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking International Protection reporting 90% or higher.
- Dublin North City has the highest number of children in care awaiting an up-to-date care plan (62) followed by Louth/Meath (29) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (21).

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

Area	No in Care Q2 2021	No with a care plan Q2 2021	% with a care plan Q2 2021	No in Care Q3 2021	No with a care plan Q3 2021	% with a care plan Q3 2021	# with no UTD plan
DSC	364	353	97%	357	346	97%	11
DSE/WW	213	212	100%	217	208	96%	9
DSW/K/WW	413	396	96%	425	404	95%	21
Midlands	341	332	97%	338	334	99%	4
DNC	484	457	94%	472	410	87%	62
Dublin North	354	327	92%	347	331	95%	16
LH/MH	415	396	95%	418	389	93%	29
CN/MN	157	150	96%	159	145	91%	14
Cork	749	723	97%	742	731	99%	11
Kerry	149	144	97%	153	151	99%	2
CW/KK/ST	329	324	98%	319	319	100%	0
WD/WX	414	414	100%	409	407	100%	2
Mid West	569	554	97%	558	546	98%	12
GY/RN	378	365	97%	378	365	97%	13
Mayo	128	127	99%	135	127	94%	8
Donegal	223	208	93%	228	217	95%	11
SLWC	120	117	98%	109	109	100%	0
SWTSCSIP	52	52	100%	77	77	100%	0
TOTAL	5,852	5,651	97%	5,841	5,616	96%	225

3.1.5 Children in Care in Education

- 94% (3,642/3,858) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education at the end of Q3 2021, down two percentage points from Q2 2021. *Note: this figure does not include children in care under the care of Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.*

- 13/17 areas reporting 95% or higher with three of these areas (Dublin South East/Wicklow, Midlands and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) reporting 100%. Lowest percentage reported by Midwest (79%) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (87%)
- 93% (880/945) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of Q3 2021, down one percentage point from Q2 2021. *Note: this figure does not include children in care under the care of Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.*
- All but four areas, (Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow, Kerry, Midwest and Louth/Meath) reporting 90% or higher with five of these areas (Midlands, Dublin North City, Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary, Waterford/Wexford and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) reporting 100%. Lowest percentage reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (77%) followed by Midwest (81%), Kerry (86%) and Louth/Meath 88%).

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

Area	No of CIC 6-15 years Q2 2021	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q2 2021	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q2 2021	No of CIC 6-15 years Q3 2021	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q3 2021	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q3 2021
DSC	246	230	93.5%	241	227	94.2%
DSE/WW	147	147	100%	149	149	100.0%
DSW/K/WW	276	251	90.9%	285	249	87.4%
Midlands	230	225	97.8%	226	226	100.0%
DNC	312	290	92.9%	309	286	92.6%
Dublin North	237	228	96.2%	234	231	98.7%
LH/MH	252	239	94.8%	262	249	95.0%
CN/MN	106	99	93.4%	109	104	95.4%
Cork	522	500	95.8%	522	505	96.7%
Kerry	98	95	96.9%	96	94	97.9%
CW/KK/ST	224	221	98.7%	223	217	97.3%
WD/WX	274	272	99.3%	270	266	98.5%
Mid West	353	351	99.4%	377	299	79.3%
GY/RN	264	260	98.5%	265	254	95.8%
Mayo	78	77	98.7%	81	80	98.8%
Donegal	140	138	98.6%	140	137	97.9%
SLWC	79	79	100%	69	69	100.0%
National	3,838	3,702	96.5%	3,858	3,642	94.4%

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

Area	No of CIC 16-17 yrs Q2 2021	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q2 2021	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q2 2021	No of CIC 16-17 yrs Q3 2021	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q3 2021	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q3 2021
DSC	69	63	91.3%	67	62	92.5%
DSE/WW	44	42	95.5%	46	45	97.8%
DSW/K/WW	75	58	77.3%	77	59	76.6%
Midlands	42	40	95.2%	45	45	100.0%
DNC	89	87	97.8%	81	81	100.0%
Dublin North	68	61	89.7%	62	57	91.9%
LH/MH	51	46	90.2%	49	43	87.8%
CN/MN	29	26	89.7%	25	24	96.0%
Cork	117	113	96.6%	118	115	97.5%
Kerry	27	26	96.3%	29	25	86.2%
CW/KK/ST	53	52	98.1%	49	49	100.0%
WD/WX	66	62	93.9%	63	63	100.0%
Mid West	87	85	97.7%	93	75	80.6%
GY/RN	61	59	96.7%	62	60	96.8%
Mayo	22	21	95.5%	21	20	95.2%
Donegal	37	37	100%	42	41	97.6%
SLWC	14	14	100%	16	16	100.0%
National	951	892	93.8%	945	880	93.2%

3.2 AFTERCARE

KEY FACTS

- 140 referrals in Q3 2021 bringing the number of referrals for the first nine months of 2021 to 404, some 128 (24%) fewer than the same period in 2020 (532).
- 3,035 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2021, 43 more than Q2 2021 (2,992) and 135 (5%) more than Q3 2020 (2,900). Quarter on quarter increase.
- 77% (1,809/2,343) of those 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service were in education/accredited training.
- 83% (2,520) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2021 had an aftercare plan, down two percentage points from Q2 2021. A total of 515 were awaiting a plan, 55 (12%) more than Q2 2021 (460).
- 91% (2,098/2,296) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2021, up one percentage point from Q2 2021. A total of 198 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2021, 33 fewer than Q2 2021 (231).

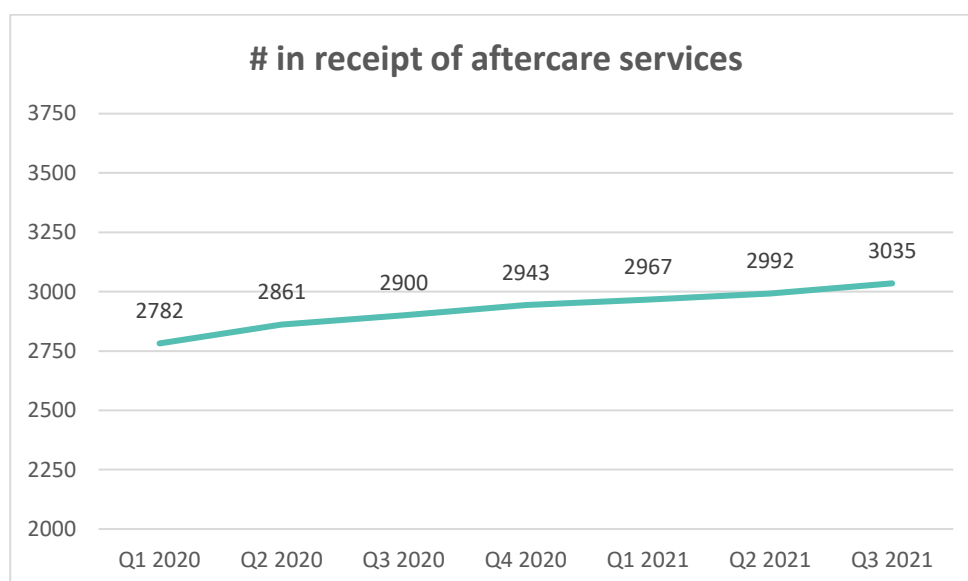
3.2.1 Referrals for an aftercare service received in the quarter

- 140 referrals in Q3 2021 bringing the number of referrals for the first nine months of 2021 to 404, some 128 (24%) fewer than the same period in 2020 (532).
- 99% (138) of referrals for Q3 2021 were eligible for an assessment of need.
- Of those eligible for an assessment of need, all but one were < 18 years and in care.
- 99 assessments of need were completed in Q3 2021, bringing the number for the first nine months of 2021 to 341.

Area	2020 Total	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	2021 YTD
DSC	59	3	5	16	24
DSE/WW	18	10	6	1	17
DSW/K/WW	53	5	6	25	36
Midlands	24	11	5	5	21
DNC	61	12	11	10	33
Dublin North	42	10	11	13	34
LH/MH	24	9	3	4	16
CN/MN	13	10	3	2	15
Cork	86	19	9	13	41
Kerry	14	3	4	4	11
CW/KK/ST	29	6	5	4	15
WD/WX	32	11	3	16	30
Mid West	74	15	14	11	40
GY/RN	48	8	6	4	18
Mayo	24	1	3	2	6
Donegal	19	12	4	3	19
SLWC	9	3	0	3	6
SWTSCSIP	31	9	9	4	22
Total	660	157	107	140	404

3.2.2 Young Persons / Adults in receipt of an aftercare service

- 3,035 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2021, 43 more than Q2 2021 (2,992) and 135 (5%) more than Q3 2020 (2,900). Quarter on quarter increase. *Figure includes young persons < 18 years and those 18-22 years inclusive.*



- Highest number in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2021 reported by Cork (357) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (284), Dublin North City (283) and Midwest (238). Fewest number reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (52).

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q4 2020	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q1 2021	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q2 2021	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q3 2021
DSC	199	204	223	222
DSE/WW	147	145	146	134
DSW/K/WW	281	275	268	284
Midlands	147	143	144	158
DNC	293	275	289	283
Dublin North	158	168	164	175
LH/MH	161	153	150	147
CN/MN	72	77	79	74
Cork	338	344	345	357
Kerry	70	74	76	76
CW/KK/ST	178	182	187	170
WD/WX	176	178	181	180
Mid West	239	236	222	238
GY/RN	180	190	194	203
Mayo	63	71	69	62
Donegal	80	90	91	93
SLWC	53	51	50	52
SWTSCIP	108	111	114	127
Total	2,943	2,967	2,992	3,035

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

- 55% (1,655) of those in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q3 2021 (3,035) were 18 – 20 years inclusive and of these 80% (1,320) were in education/accredited training, down one percentage point from Q2 2021 (table below).
- All areas, but two (Dublin North and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow) along with the SWTSCSIP reported at least seven out of 10 young people (18-20 years) in receipt of aftercare services in education/accredited training. Two areas (Mayo and SLWC) along with SWTSCSIP reported 100%.

Area	# 18-20 years Q2 2021	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 18-20 years Q3 2021	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
DSC	100	78	78%	110	85	77%
DSE/WW	79	65	82%	80	69	86%
DSW/K/WW	122	91	75%	122	84	69%
Midlands	82	71	87%	80	68	85%
DNC	146	117	80%	145	114	75%
Dublin North	95	60	63%	95	58	61%
LH/MH	88	62	70%	93	66	71%
CN/MN	45	39	87%	47	43	91%
Cork	190	158	83%	184	145	79%
Kerry	37	30	81%	41	35	85%
CW/KK/ST	101	85	84%	98	84	86%
WD/WX	98	72	73%	107	80	75%
Mid West	141	115	82%	151	132	87%
GY/RN	110	87	79%	110	80	73%
Mayo	35	35	100%	36	36	100%
Donegal	42	35	83%	42	33	79%
SLWC	27	27	100%	23	23	100%
SWTSCIP	79	79	100%	85	85	100%
Total	1,617	1,306	81%	1,655	1,320	80%

- The highest number of those in education/accredited training were in second level (343; 26%) followed closely by Third Level College /University (323; 24%) and PLCs (286; 22%).

	# 18-20 years in education/accredited Training Q3 2021	%
Second Level	343	26%
Vocational Training	158	12%
PLCs	286	22%
Third Level College / University	323	24%
Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)	135	10%
Other	75	6%
Total	1,320	100%

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

- 23% (688) of those in receipt of an aftercare service were 21 – 22 years inclusive and of these 71% (489) were in education/accredited training, down one percentage point from Q2 2021 (table below).
- 11 areas along with the SWTSCIP reported 70% or higher. Rates reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (47%), Dublin South Central (58%), Dublin North (58%), Dublin North City (62%), Waterford/Wexford (63%) and Galway/Roscommon (67%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# 21-22 years Q2 2021	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 21-22 years Q3 2021	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
DSC	60	35	58%	57	33	58%
DSE/WW	33	30	91%	26	23	88%
DSW/K/WW	90	53	59%	90	42	47%
Midlands	42	34	81%	46	36	78%
DNC	95	56	59%	82	51	62%
Dublin North	27	18	67%	36	21	58%
LH/MH	19	16	84%	26	20	77%
CN/MN	14	12	86%	9	9	100%
Cork	66	56	85%	67	56	84%
Kerry	13	11	85%	12	10	83%
CW/KK/ST	40	25	63%	29	25	86%
WD/WX	39	23	59%	35	22	63%
Mid West	45	43	96%	47	38	81%
GY/RN	52	30	58%	57	38	67%
Mayo	16	14	88%	13	13	100%
Donegal	13	12	92%	13	11	85%
SLWC	10	10	100%	14	14	100%
SWTSCIP	28	24	86%	29	27	93%
Total	702	502	72%	688	489	71%

- Almost half (233) of those in education/accredited training were in Third Level College / with a further 19% (93) in PLCs.

	# 21-22 years in education/accredited Training Q3 2021	%
Second Level	7	1%
Vocational Training	54	11%
PLCs	93	19%
Third Level College / University	233	48%
Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)	71	15%
Other	31	6%
Total	489	100%

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

- Almost half (45%; 1,047) of young people 18 – 22 years (2,343) in receipt of aftercare had remained living with their carers. A further 9% (202) had returned home to parents/family. One in four (29%; 679) was in independent living.

	# 18-22 placement type Q3 2021	%
Residential Care Placement	127	5%
Remained with Carers	1047	45%
Independent Living	679	29%
Designated Care Leavers Accommodation	50	2%
At home	202	9%
Supported Lodgings	47	2%
Other	191	8%
Total	2,343	100%

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

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

- 83% (2,520) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2021 had an aftercare plan, down two percentage points from Q2 2021. A total of 515 were awaiting a plan, 55 (12%) more than Q2 2021 (460)
- 8 areas along with the SWTSCSA reported a percentage equal to or higher the national average of 83%. Rates reported by Dublin North (73%), Dublin North City (73%), Cork (76%), Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (77%), Kerry (78%) and Dublin SouthWest/Kildare/West Wicklow (79%) lower than all other areas.
- 95% (2,232/2,343) of those 18-22 years in receipt of an aftercare service had a plan. 42% (288/692) of those <18 years had a plan.

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q2 2021	# with an Aftercare Plan Q2 2021	% with an Aftercare Plan Q2 2021	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q3 2021	# with an Aftercare Plan Q3 2021	% with an Aftercare Plan Q3 2021
DSC	223	191	86%	222	185	83%
DSE/WW	146	141	97%	134	133	99%
DSW/K/WW	268	212	79%	284	225	79%
Midlands	144	133	92%	158	137	87%
DNC	289	219	76%	283	208	73%
Dublin North	164	133	81%	175	127	73%
LH/MH	150	123	82%	147	120	82%
CN/MN	79	74	94%	74	70	95%
Cork	345	278	81%	357	271	76%
Kerry	76	57	75%	76	59	78%
CW/KK/ST	187	153	82%	170	138	81%
WD/WX	181	146	81%	180	147	82%
Mid West	222	213	96%	238	221	93%
GY/RN	194	164	85%	203	174	86%

Mayo	69	60	87%	62	62	100%
Donegal	91	86	95%	93	89	96%
SLWC	50	40	80%	52	40	77%
SWTSCSIP	114	109	96%	127	114	90%
Total	2,992	2,532	85%	3,035	2,520	83%

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

- 91% (2,296/2,520) of those with an aftercare plan were assessed as needing an aftercare worker. Thirteen areas along with the SWTSCIP reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 91% with twelve of them reporting 100%.
- Percentages reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (62%) Midlands (66%) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (69%) lower than all other areas. *Midlands area advised that a number of young persons/adults who are settled and doing well were been moved to the drop-in service (i.e., assessed as not needing an allocated social worker). With a reduction in staff this allows the service to prioritise those with greatest need for allocation to a social worker.*
- 91% (2,098/2,296) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2021, up one percentage point from Q2 2021. A total of 198 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2021, 33 fewer than Q2 2021 (231).
- Twelve areas along with the SWTSCIP reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 91% with 10 of them reporting 100%. Rates reported by Dublin North (63%), Dublin South Central (67%) and Cork (82%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service with a Plan Q3 2021	# with Plan Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q3 2021	% with Plan Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q3 2021	# with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q3 2021	% with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q3 2021	% with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q2 2021
DSC	185	185	100%	124	67%	69%
DSE/WW	133	133	100%	130	98%	94%
DSW/K/WW	225	139	62%	121	87%	50%
Midlands	137	91	66%	91	100%	100%
DNC	208	208	100%	208	100%	100%
Dublin North	127	127	100%	80	63%	100%
LH/MH	120	120	100%	118	98%	100%
CN/MN	70	66	94%	66	100%	93%
Cork	271	271	100%	221	82%	100%
Kerry	59	59	100%	59	100%	100%
CW/KK/ST	138	95	69%	81	85%	85%
WD/WX	147	139	95%	139	100%	90%
Mid West	221	221	100%	218	99%	97%
GY/RN	174	137	79%	137	100%	89%
Mayo	62	62	100%	62	100%	100%
Donegal	89	89	100%	89	100%	100%
SLWC	40	40	100%	40	100%	100%

SWTSCSIP	114	114	100%	114	100%	100%
Total	2,520	2,296	91%	2,098	91%	90%

3.2.8 Drop-in Service

- All areas reported having a drop-in service.

3.2.9 Interagency Aftercare Steering Committee

- All areas reported having an interagency aftercare steering committee.

3.3 ADOPTION SERVICES

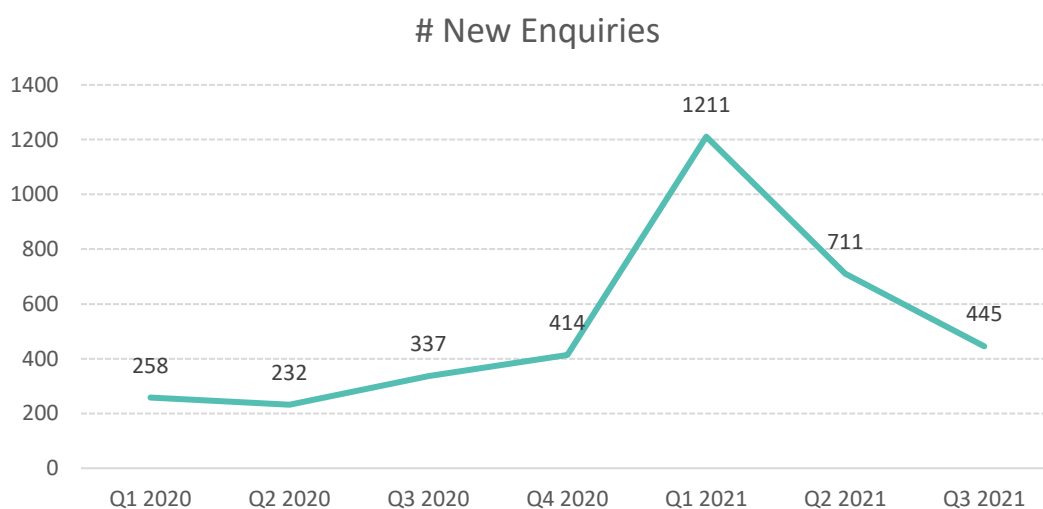
KEY FACTS

- 154 new applications to commence tracing of a searched person received in Q3 2021, 11 fewer than Q2 2021 (165). This brings to 672 the number of applications for the first nine months of 2021, 311 (86%) more than the same period in 2020 (361).
- 723 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q3 2021, 22 more than Q2 2021 (701).
- At the end of Q3 2021, the length of time from application (production of ID) to the provision of personal information in line with GDPR legislation ranged from 8 weeks to 16 weeks against a target of 8 weeks, up from 6 to 16 weeks at the end of Q2 2021.
- 50 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received during Q3 2021, nine fewer than Q2 2021 (59). This brings to 159 the number of completed applications received for the first nine months of 2021, 38 (31%) more than the same period in 2020 (121).
- 53 new children were referred for adoption in Q3 2021, four more than Q2 2021 (49). This brings to 171 the number of children referred for adoption in the first nine months of 2021, 29 (20%) more than the same period in 2020 (142).
- 43 completed assessments (all types) were presented to local adoption committees during Q3 2021, two more than Q2 2021 (41). This brings to 121 the number of assessments presented for the first nine months of 2021, 30 (33%) more than the same period in 2020 (91).

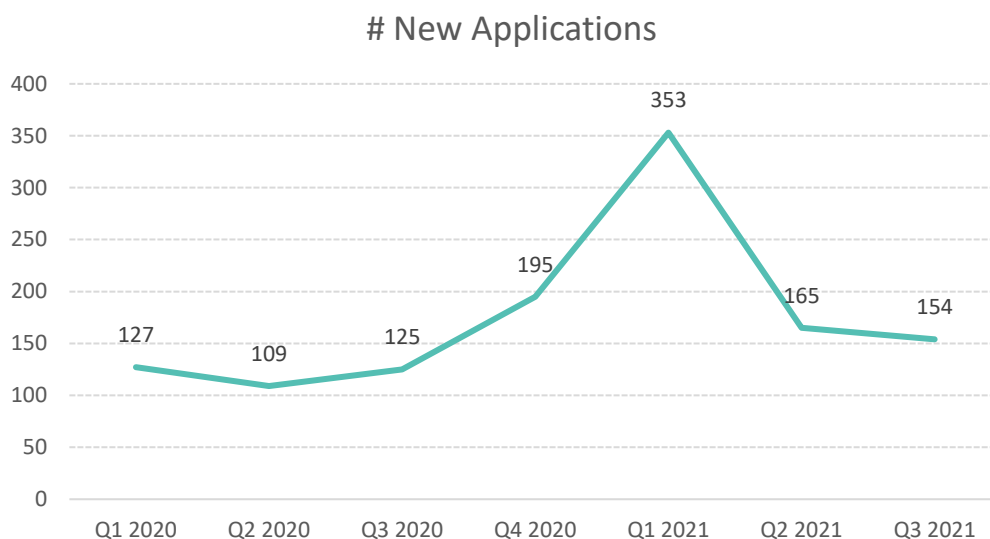
3.3.1 Information and Tracing Service

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

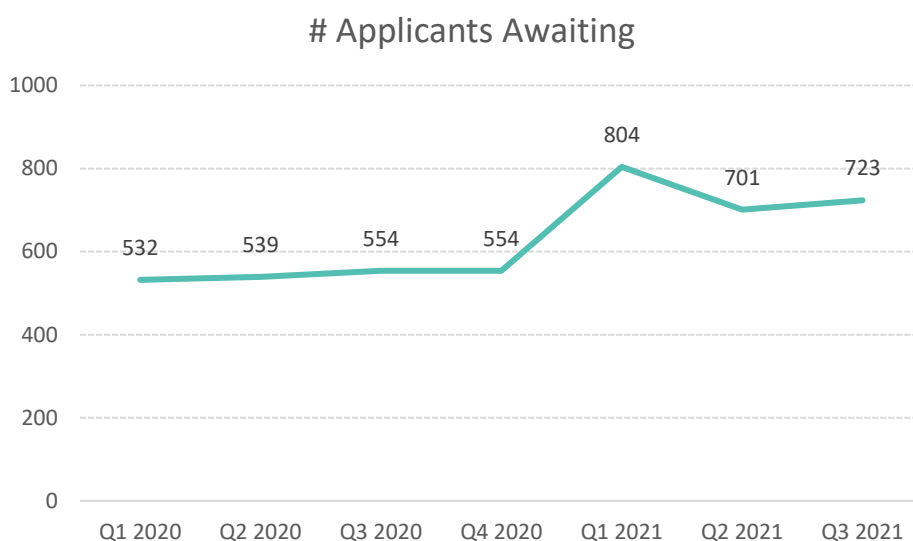
- 445 new enquiries regarding information and tracing received in Q3 2021, 266 (37%) fewer than Q2 2021 (711). This brings to 2,367 the number of enquiries for the first nine months of 2021, 1,540 (186%) more than the same period in 2020 (827).



- 154 new applications to commence tracing of a searched person received in Q3 2021, 11 fewer than Q2 2021 (165). This brings to 672 the number of applications for the first nine months of 2021, 311 (86%) more than the same period in 2020 (361).



- 723 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q3 2021, 22 more than Q2 2021 (701).



- At the end of Q3 2021, the length of time from application (production of ID) to the provision of personal information in line with GDPR legislation ranged from 8 weeks to 16 weeks against a target of 8 weeks, up from 6 to 16 weeks at the end of Q2 2021.
- The length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for priority 1 applications ranged from 9 months to 21 months against a target of 3 months or less, down six months from 27 months at the end of Q2 2021.
- The length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for priority 2 applications ranged 0 months to 20 months against a target of 6 months or less, down four months from 24 months at the end of Q2 2021.

- The length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for all other applications ranged from 18 months to 32 months against a target of 12 months or less, down 10 months from 42 months at the end of Q2 2021.

3.3.2 Adoption Assessments

- 50 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received during Q3 2021, nine fewer than Q2 2021 (59). This brings to 159 the number of completed applications received for the first nine months of 2021, 38 (31%) more than the same period in 2020 (121).
- 53 new children were referred for adoption in Q3 2021, four more than Q2 2021 (49). This brings to 171 the number of children referred for adoption in the first nine months of 2021, 29 (20%) more than the same period in 2020 (142).
- 43 completed assessments (all types) were presented to local adoption committees during Q3 2021, two more than Q2 2021 (41). This brings to 121 the number of assessments presented for the first nine months of 2021, 30 (33%) more than the same period in 2020 (91).

3.4 FOSTER CARERS

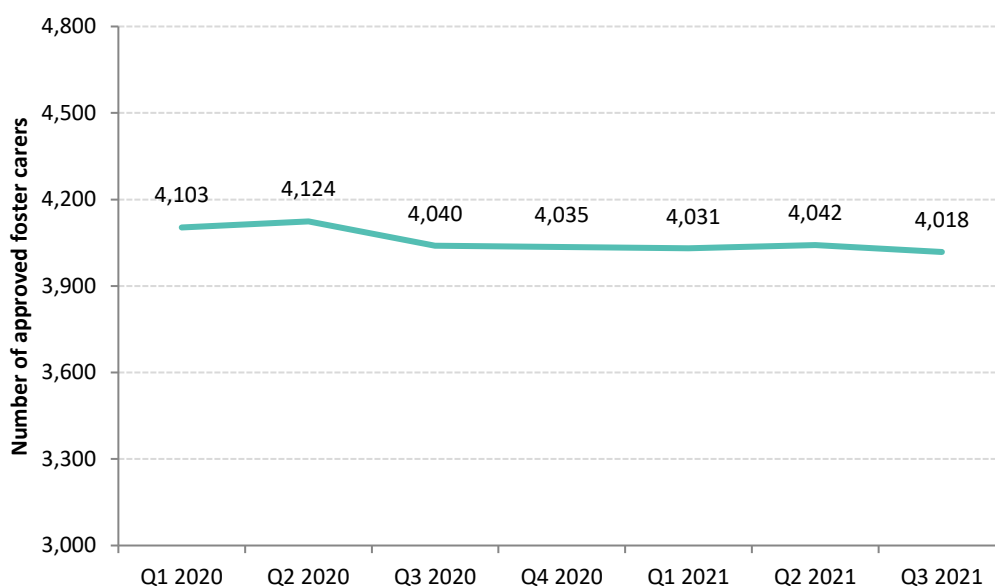
KEY FACTS

- 4,018 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q3 2021, 24 fewer than Q2 2021 (4,042) and 22 (<1%) fewer than Q3 2020 (4,040).
- 82% (1,057/1,293) of relative foster carers are approved.
- 89% (2,157) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q3 2021, up two percentage points from Q2 2021 (87%)
- 280 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker; 28 fewer than Q2 2021 (308).
- 90% (956) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q3 2021, down one percentage point from Q2 2021.
- 101 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q3 2021; three more than Q2 2021 (98).
- 236 relative foster carers unapproved at the end of Q3 2021; 25 fewer than Q2 2021 (261)
- Of the 201 foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks, 188 (94%) had an allocated link (special) worker. A total of 13 were awaiting a link worker, four fewer than Q2 2021 (17).

3.4.1 Number of foster carers

- 4,018 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q3 2021, 24 fewer than Q2 2021 (4,042) and 22 (<1%) fewer than Q3 2020 (4,040).
- 236 unapproved relative foster carers of which 85% (201) had a child placed for >12 weeks. 82% (1,057/1,293) of relative foster carers are approved.

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



- 61% (2,437) of all approved foster carers are general foster carers. Relative foster carers (approved) account for a further 26% (1,057) while private foster carers account for the remaining 13% (524).

- General foster carers are down 25 from Q2 2021 (2,462) and down 52 (2%) from Q3 2020 (2,489). Relative foster carers (approved) are up 5 from Q2 2021 (1,052) and down one from Q3 2020 (1,058). Private foster carers are down four from Q2 2021 (528) and up 31 (6%) from Q3 2020 (493).

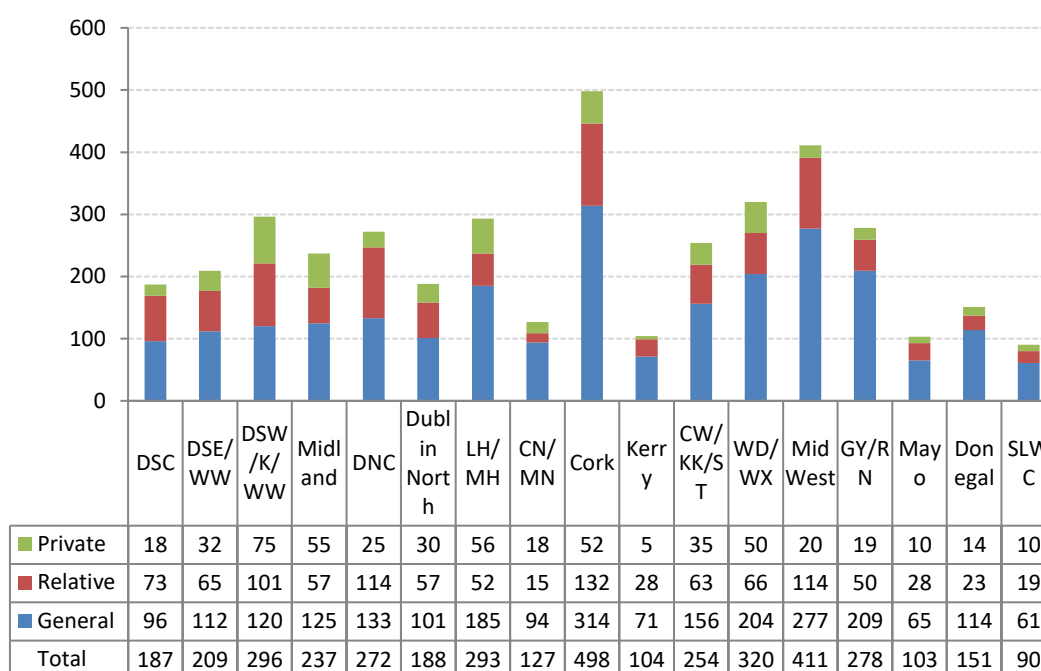
Breakdown of foster carers by type

					$\Delta (+/-)$
Foster Carers	Q3 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q3 2021 v Q2 2021
General (Approved)	2,489	2,460	2,462	2,437	-25
Relative (Approved)	1,058	1,060	1,052	1,057	+5
Private (Approved)	493	511	528	524	-4
Total Approved	4,040	4,031	4,042	4,018	-24
Relative (Unapproved)	247	221	261	236	-25

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

- The number of foster carers approved (all types) and on the panel ranged from 498 in Cork to 90 in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan at the end of Q3 2021.

Foster carers approved by type and area on the panel of approved foster carers, Q3 2021



- 7 areas reported an increase from Q2 2021 in the number of foster carers on the panel. The largest increase was reported by Cavan/Monaghan and Cork, both up six.
- 7 areas reported a decrease from Q2 2021. The largest decrease was reported by Midwest (down 16) followed by Dublin North (down 12) and Dublin South Central (down 9).
- The remaining three areas (Kerry, Galway/Roscommon and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) reported no change from Q2 2021.

Area breakdown of approved foster carers (all types)

Area	Q3 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Δ (+/-) Q3 2021 v Q2 2021
DSC	176	189	196	187	-9
DSE/WW	218	205	205	209	4
DSW/K/WW	292	295	300	296	-4
Midland	252	245	236	237	1
DNC	293	275	270	272	2
Dublin North	208	201	200	188	-12
LH/MH	292	298	291	293	2
CN/MN	121	120	121	127	6
Cork	497	495	492	498	6
Kerry	106	104	104	104	0
CW/KK/ST	260	256	257	254	-3
WD/WX	310	320	323	320	-3
MidWest	408	418	427	411	-16
GY/RN	272	271	278	278	0
Mayo	98	101	104	103	-1
Donegal	147	146	148	151	3
SLWC	90	92	90	90	0
National	4040	4,031	4,042	4,018	-24

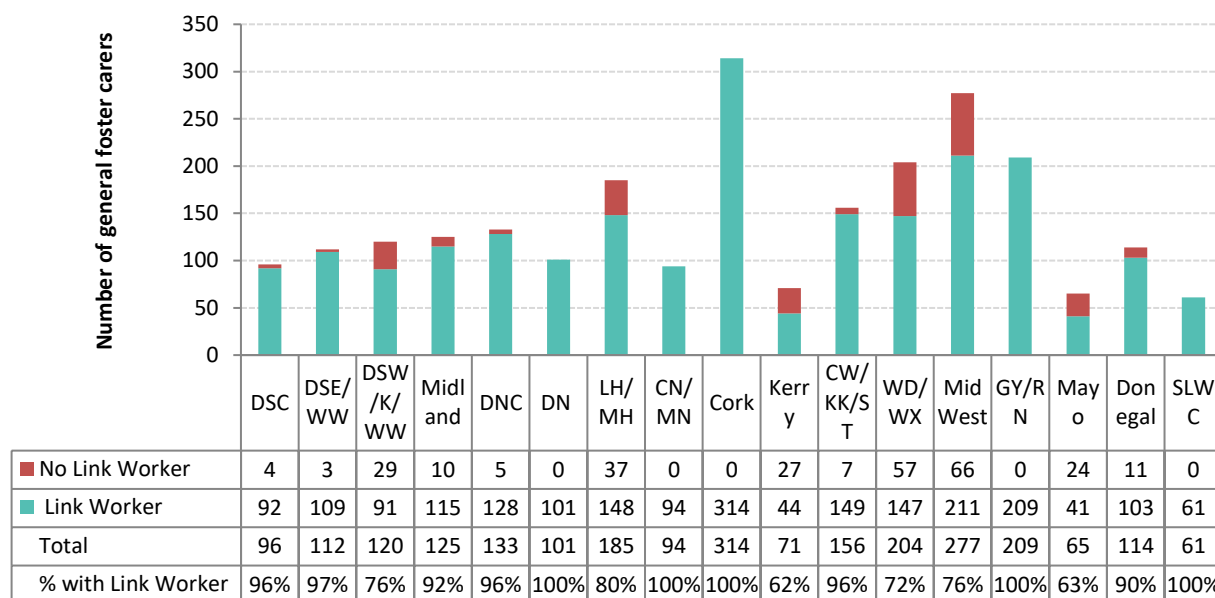
- 89% (2,157) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q3 2021, up two percentage points from Q2 2021 (87%)
- 280 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker; 28 fewer than Q2 2021 (308).
- 11 areas reported 90% or higher with five of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by Kerry (62%), Mayo (63%), Waterford/Wexford (72%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (76%), Midwest (76%) and Louth/Meath (80%) lower than all other areas.
- Midwest has the highest number of general foster carers awaiting an allocated link worker (66) followed by Waterford/Wexford (57) and Louth/Meath (37).

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

Area	With Link Worker Q2 2021	Awaiting Link Worker Q2 2021	% With Link Worker Q2 2021	With Link Worker Q3 2021	Awaiting Link Worker Q3 2021	% With Link Worker Q3 2021	Δ +/- No. Awaiting Link Worker Q3 2021 v Q2 2021
DSC	97	3	97%	92	4	96%	1
DSE/WW	108	4	96%	109	3	97%	-1
DSW/K/WW	88	34	72%	91	29	76%	-5
Midland	108	16	87%	115	10	92%	-6
DNC	118	16	88%	128	5	96%	-11
Dub North	104	0	100%	101	0	100%	0
LH/MH	148	35	81%	148	37	80%	2
CN/MN	91	0	100%	94	0	100%	0
Cork	312	0	100%	314	0	100%	0
Kerry	45	24	65%	44	27	62%	3
CW/KK/ST	149	11	93%	149	7	96%	-4

WD/WX	170	36	83%	147	57	72%	21
MidWest	192	102	65%	211	66	76%	-36
GY/RN	200	11	95%	209	0	100%	-11
Mayo	65	0	100%	41	24	63%	24
Donegal	97	16	86%	103	11	90%	-5
SLWC	62	0	100%	61	0	100%	0
National	2,154	308	87%	2157	280	89%	-28

General foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting a link (social worker), Q3 2021



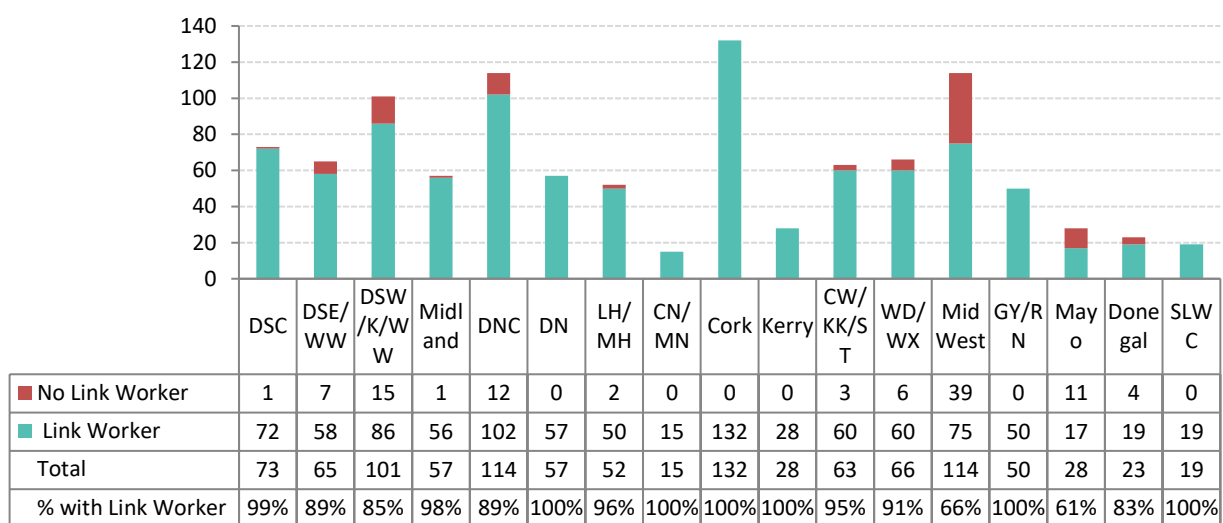
- 90% (956) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q3 2021, down one percentage point from Q2 2021.
- 101 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q3 2021; three more than Q2 2021 (98).
- 11 areas reported a percentage of 90% or higher with six of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by Mayo (61%), Midwest (66%), Donegal (83%) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (85%) lower than all other areas.
- Midwest reported the highest number of relative foster carers on the panel awaiting a link (social) worker (39) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (15) and Dublin North City (12).

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

Area	With Link Worker Q2 2021	Awaiting Link Worker Q2 2021	% With Link Worker Q2 2021	With Link Worker Q3 2021	Awaiting Link Worker Q3 2021	% With Link Worker Q3 2021	Δ +/- No. Awaiting Link Worker Q3 2021 v Q2 2021
DSC	78	0	100%	72	1	99%	1
DSE/WW	63	0	100%	58	7	89%	7
DSW/K/WW	85	18	83%	86	15	85%	-3
Midlands	55	3	95%	56	1	98%	-2
DNC	99	12	89%	102	12	89%	0
Dublin North	56	0	100%	57	0	100%	0

LH/MH	50	2	96%	50	2	96%	0
CN/MN	13	0	100%	15	0	100%	0
Cork	129	0	100%	132	0	100%	0
Kerry	24	6	80%	28	0	100%	-6
CW/KK/ST	59	3	95%	60	3	95%	0
WD/WX	65	0	100%	60	6	91%	6
MidWest	64	49	57%	75	39	66%	-10
GY/RN	50	0	100%	50	0	100%	0
Mayo	29	0	100%	17	11	61%	11
Donegal	17	5	77%	19	4	83%	-1
SLWC	18	0	100%	19	0	100%	0
National	954	98	91%	956	101	88%	3

Relative foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting allocated link Q3 2021



3.4.3 Foster carers (relative) unapproved

- 236 relative foster carers unapproved at the end of Q3 2021; 25 fewer than Q2 2021 (261).
- Of these, 201 (85%) had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks; down 27 from Q2 2021 (228)
- Of the 201 foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks, 188 (94%) had an allocated link (special) worker. A total of 13 were awaiting a link worker, four fewer than Q2 2021 (17).

Breakdown of foster carers not approved

Unapproved Relative Foster Carers	Q3 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Δ (+/-) Q3 2021 v Q2 2021
No. unapproved	228	221	261	236	-25
No (%) with a child > 12 weeks	206 90%	189 86%	228 87%	201 85%	-27
Child > 12 weeks and have a Link Worker	205 99%	186 98%	211 93%	188 94%	-23
Child > 12 weeks AWAITING Link Worker	1	3	17	13	-4

4.0 CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

4.1 Early Years Inspectorate

4.2 Alternative Education Regulation

4.3 Non-Statutory Alternative Care Services

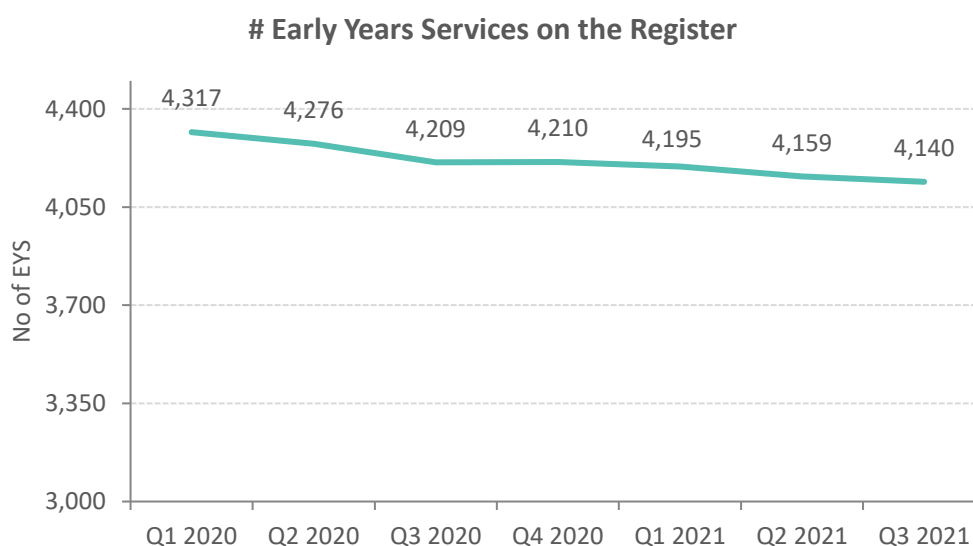
4.1 EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

KEY FACTS

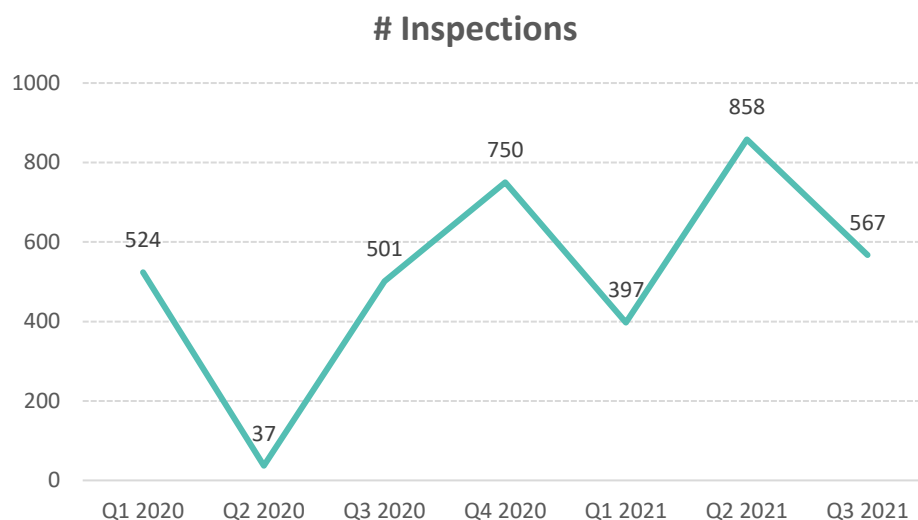
- 4,140 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q3 2021, 19 fewer than Q2 2021 (4,159) and 69 (2%) fewer than Q3 2020 (4,209).
- 567 inspections (all types¹) carried out in Q3 2021. This brings to 1,822 the number of inspections for the first nine months of 2021. Inspections from March 2020 to early 2021 impacted due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- 682 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q3 2021, 330 (94%) more than Q2 2021 (352) and the highest number for all quarters Q1 2020 to Q3 2021. This brings to 1,431 the number of incidents notified in the first nine months of 2021. A total of 257 incidents notified during the same period in 2020 (note services closed for a number of months in 2020 due to pandemic).
- 66 unsolicited information submissions¹ received by the Inspectorate during Q3 2021. This brings to 195 the number received for the first nine months of 2021. A total of 184 submissions received for the same period in 2020.
- 61 services were found to have closed in Q3 2021, bringing to 122 the number of services found to be closed in the first nine months of 2021. A total of 173 services were found to have closed during the same period in 2020.

4.1.1 Activity Data

- 4,140 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q3 2021, 19 fewer than Q2 2021 (4,159) and 69 (2%) fewer than Q3 2020 (4,209).

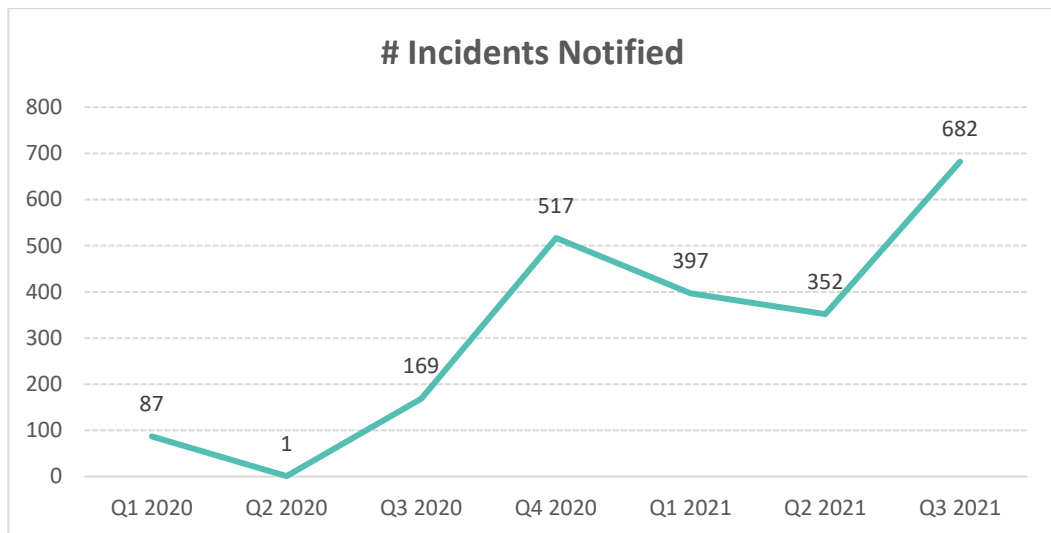


- 567 inspections (all types⁶) carried out in Q3 2021. This brings to 1,822 the number of inspections for the first nine months of 2021. Inspections from March 2020 to early 2021 impacted due to Covid-19 restrictions.

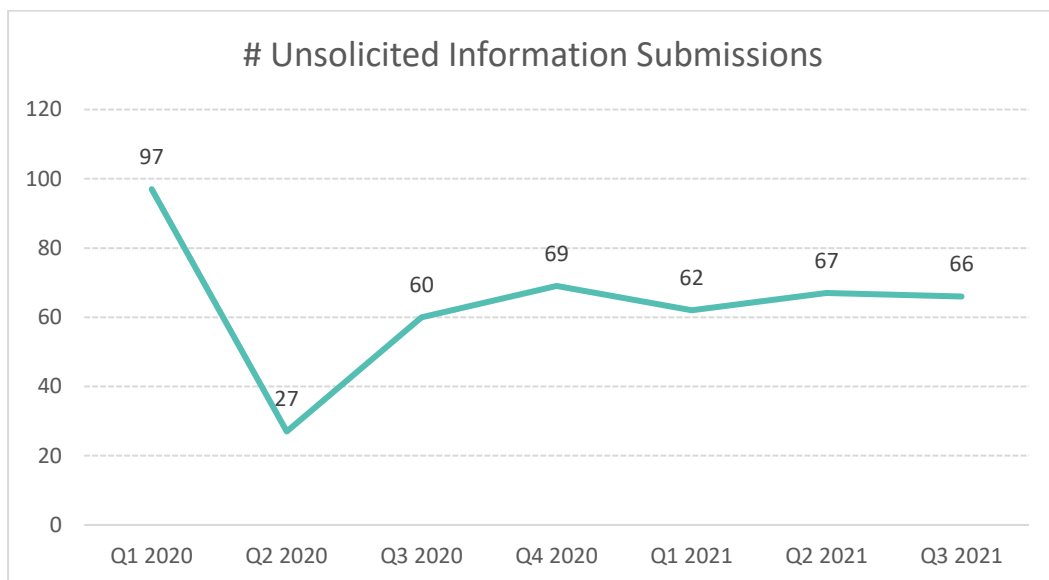


- 59 new applications to become a registered provider received by the Inspectorate in Q3 2021. This brings to 88 the number of new applications for the nine months of 2021. A total of 99 new applications were received for the same period in 2020.
- 42 new registration applications approved by the Inspectorate in Q3 2021. This brings to 53 the number of new applications approved in the first nine months of 2021. A total of 71 applications were approved in the same period in 2020.
- No applications to become an EYS refused registration by the Inspectorate in the first nine months of 2021. No applications refused in the same period in 2020.
- 743 “change in circumstances” requests received by the Inspectorate in Q3 2021. This brings to 1,367 the number of “change in circumstances” requests for the first nine months of 2021. A total of 867 requests were received in the same period in 2020.
- 682 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q3 2021, 330 (94%) more than Q2 2021 (352) and the highest number for all quarters Q1 2020 to Q3 2021. This brings to 1,431 the number of incidents notified in the first nine months of 2021. A total of 257 incidents notified during the same period in 2020 (*note services closed for a number of months in 2020 due to pandemic*).

⁶ Includes initial, follow up, complaints, focused inspections or fit for purpose inspections



- 66 unsolicited information submissions⁷ received by the Inspectorate during Q3 2021. This brings to 195 the number received for the first nine months of 2021. A total of 184 submissions received for the same period in 2020.



- No EYS prosecuted in the first nine months of 2021, by Tusla for breach of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Service) Regulations 2016. No EYS prosecuted during the same period in 2020.
- No service removed from the register by the Inspectorate in the first nine months of 2021. Three services removed during the same period in 2020.
- 61 services were found to have closed in Q3 2021, bringing to 122 the number of services found to be closed in the first nine months of 2021. A total of 173 services were found to have closed during the same period in 2020.

⁷ Unsolicited information is defined as any piece of information that relates to the operation of an Early Years Service that has been brought to the attention of the Inspectorate but has not been sought or requested or invited. Information received in the form of a complaint shall be processed as unsolicited information.

4.2 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION

Key Facts

Home Education

- 1,793 children on the register for home education at the end of Q3 2021; seven more than Q2 2021 (1,786) and 154 (9%) more than Q3 2020 (1,639).
- 456 applications received for home education during Q3 2021, 181 (66%) more than Q2 2021 (275). This brings to 1,056 the number for the first nine months of 2021, some 298 (22%) fewer than the same period in 2020 (1,354). The sharp increase in applications since the early part of 2020 has been linked to the Covid-19 pandemic with more parents/guardians opting to home educate their children.
- 64 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q3 2021, 52 (45%) fewer than Q2 2021 (116). This brings to 371 the number of assessments carried out for the first nine months of 2021, 187 (34%) fewer than the same period in 2020 (558).
- 95 children registered for home education in Q3 2021. This brings to 326 the number of children registered for the first nine months of 2021, 43 (15%) more than the same period in 2020 (283).
- 1,836 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q3 2021, 248 (16%) more than Q2 2021 (1,588) and the fifth consecutive increase.

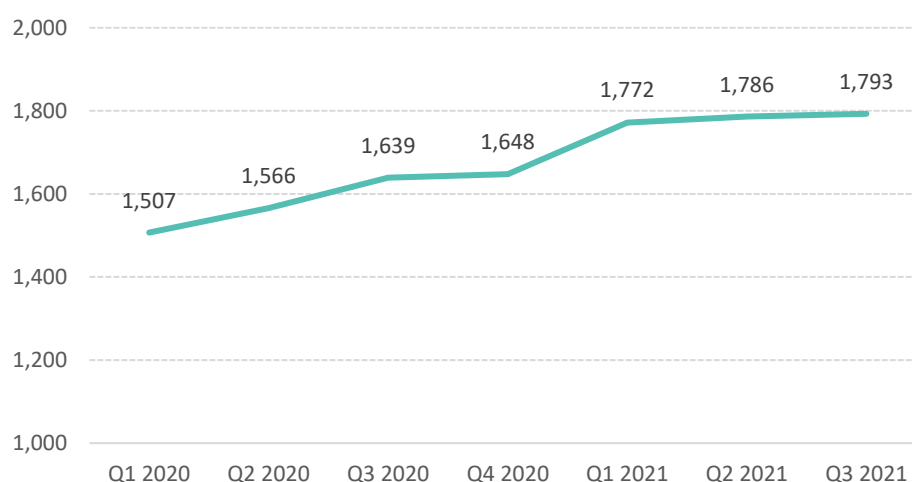
Independent Schools

- 50 assessed independent schools on the register at the end of Q3 2021, up two from Q2 2021 (48).
- 6,029 children in assessed independent schools at the end of Q3 2021 with 5,215 of these children on the register.

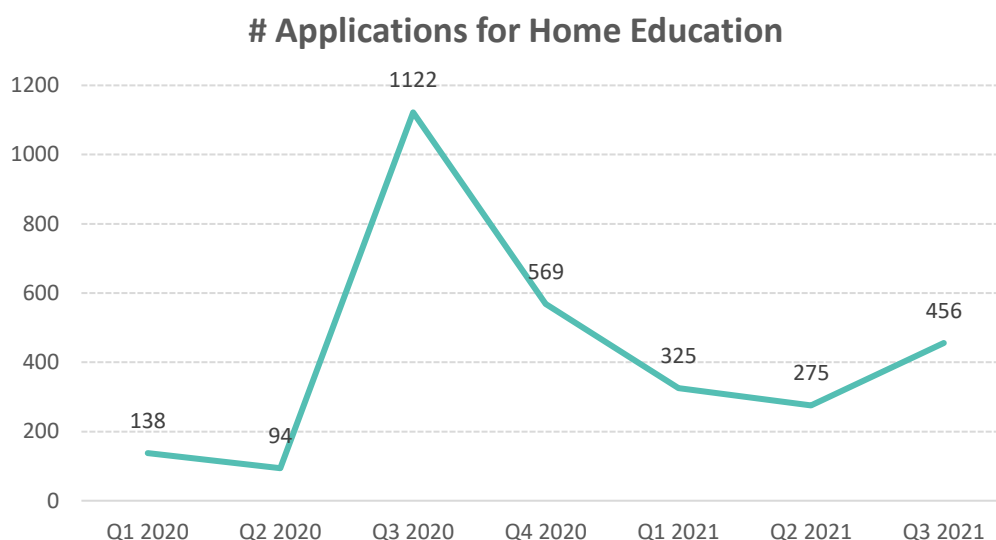
Home Education

- 1,793 children on the register for home education at the end of Q3 2021; seven more than Q2 2021 (1,786) and 154 (9%) more than Q3 2020 (1,639).

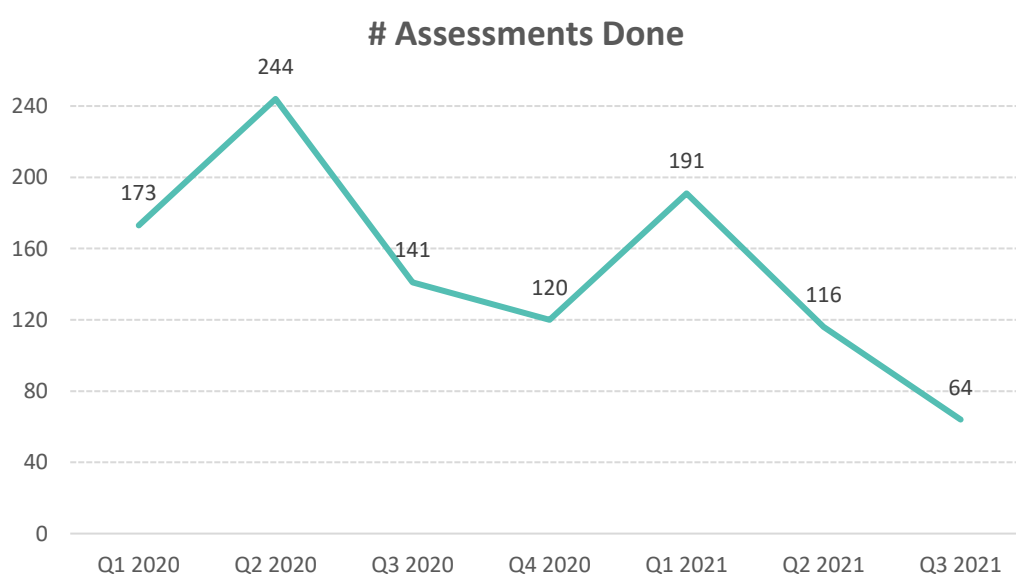
Children on Register for Home Education



- 21% (369) of children on the register at the end of Q2 2021 have special educational needs.
- 456 applications⁸ received for home education during Q3 2021, 181 (66%) more than Q2 2021 (275). This brings to 1,056 the number for the first nine months of 2021, some 298 (22%) fewer than the same period in 2020 (1,354). The sharp increase in applications since the early part of 2020 has been linked to the Covid-19 pandemic with more parents/guardians opting to home educate their children.

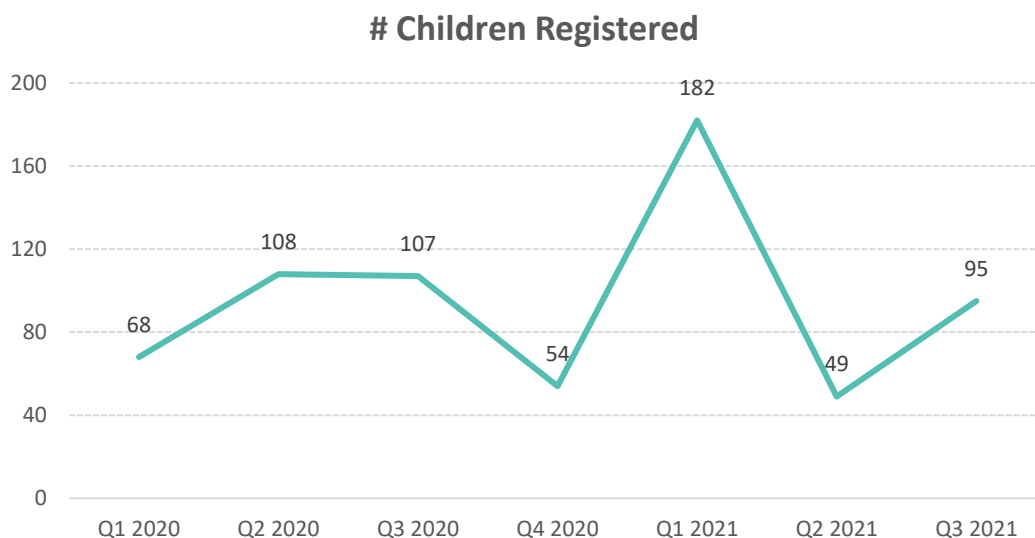


- 64 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q3 2021, 52 (45%) fewer than Q2 2021 (116). This brings to 371 the number of assessments carried out for the first nine months of 2021, 187 (34%) fewer than the same period in 2020 (558).

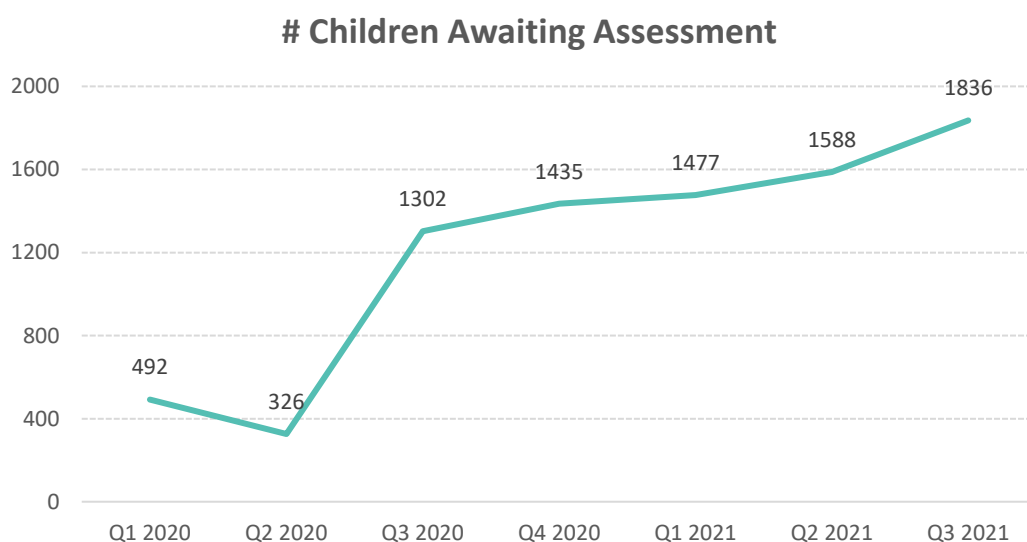


⁸ The figure for applications includes valid and invalid applications

- 95 children registered for home education⁹ in Q3 2021. This brings to 326 the number of children registered for the first nine months of 2021, 43 (15%) more than the same period in 2020 (283).



- 1,836 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q3 2021, 248 (16%) more than Q2 2021 (1,588) and the fifth consecutive increase. *It should be noted that the figure from Q4 2020 inclusive includes children allocated and unallocated for assessment. Data prior to Q4 2020 included only those who were unallocated.*



- 88 children removed from the register in Q3 2021. Of these, 10 returned to school and 71 turned 18 years. The remaining two were removed for other reasons.

⁹ Number registered in a quarter does not reflect the number of assessments carried out in the previous quarter – reports are written, reviewed and approved internally before registration

Independent Schools

- 50 assessed independent schools on the register at the end of Q3 2021, up two from Q2 2021 (48).
- 6,029 children in assessed independent schools at the end of Q3 2021 with 5,215 of these children on the register.
- 17 schools due for review assessment (\geq 3-year cycle) at the end of Q3 2021.

4.3 NON-STATUTORY ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

Key Facts

- 146 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q3 2021; three more than Q2 2021 (143).
- A total of 41 inspections (all types) were conducted in Q3 2021. This brings to 128 the number of inspections for the first nine months of 2021.
- 6 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q3 2021; no change from Q2 2021
- 2 services were visited during Q3 2021, and two monitoring visits was conducted during the same period.

Non-Statutory Children's Residential Centres

- 146 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q3 2021; three more than Q2 2021 (143)
- A total of 41 inspections (all types) were conducted in Q3 2021. This brings to 128 the number of inspections for the first nine months of 2021.

Inspections of Non Statutory Residential Services

Inspections by Type	Total 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021
Thematic Inspection (announced)	101	38	40	29
Thematic Inspection (unannounced)	0	0	0	8
New Registration Inspection Visit	11	5	4	4
Total	112	43	44	41

Non-Statutory Foster Care Services

- 6 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q3 2021; no change from Q2 2021
- 2 services were visited during Q3 2021, and two monitoring visits was conducted during the same period. This brings to four the number of services that were visited and four the number of monitoring visits made.

5.0 TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

KEY FACTS

Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2020 – August 2021

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

- 5,590 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) for the academic year 2020/2021, 1,118 (25%) more than the previous academic year (4,472).
- 2,169 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of August 2021, 1,317 (155%) more than August 2020 (852).
- 2,689 new individual children worked with for the academic year 2020/2021, 303 (13%) more than the previous academic year (2,386).
- 122 school attendance notices (SANs) issued for the academic year 2020/2021, 198 (62%) fewer than the previous academic year (320). The SANs issued were in respect of 76 individual children, 148 (66%) fewer than the previous year (224).
- Three summonses issued for the academic year 2020/2021, 81 (96%) fewer than the previous academic year (84).
- 80 Section 24 meetings convened by EWOs for the academic year 2020/2021, 78 (49%) fewer than the previous academic year (158).

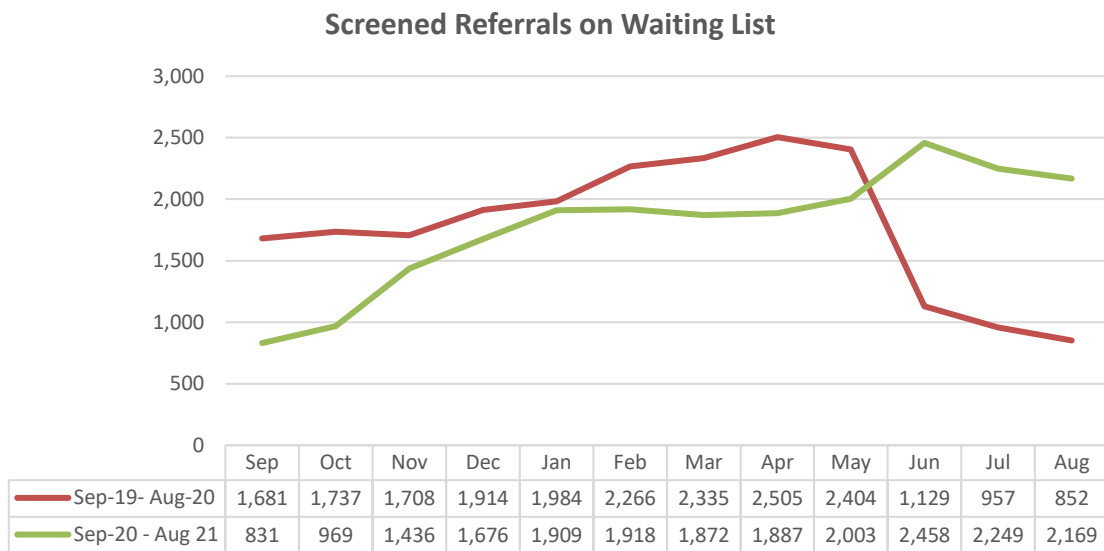
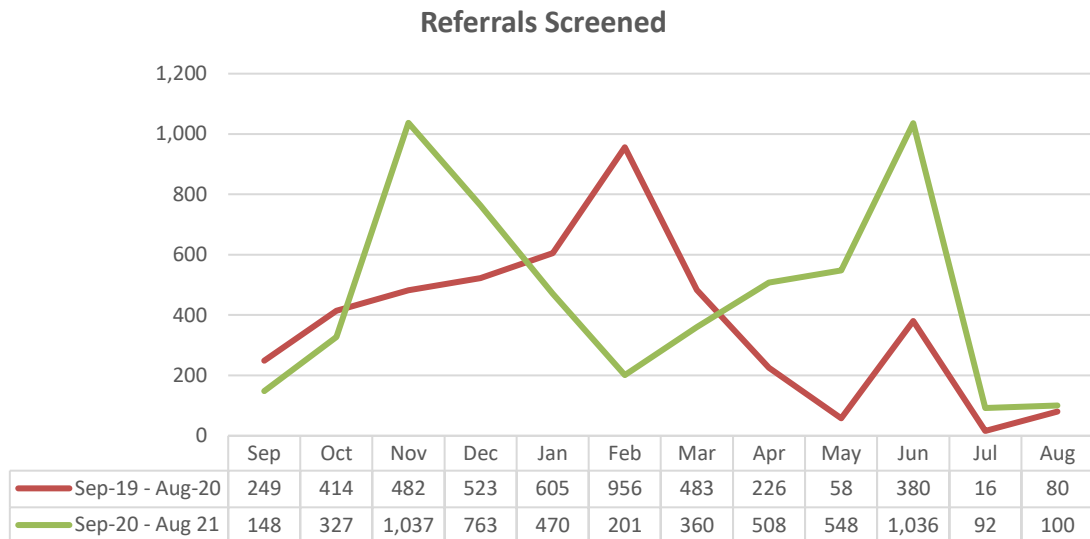
Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2020 – August 2021

Activity from March 2020 impacted due to Covid-19 pandemic

- 5,590 referrals¹⁰ screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) for the academic year 2020/2021, 1,118 (25%) more than the previous academic year (4,472).
- 2,483 referrals allocated to educational welfare officers for the academic year 2020/2021, 128 (5%) more than the previous academic year (2,355).
- 1,347 referrals screened out / required no further action for the academic year 2020/2021, 1,176 (47%) fewer than the previous academic year (2,523).
- 2,169 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of August 2021, 1,317 (155%) more than August 2020 (852).

	Sept 2019- Aug 2020	Sept 2020 - Aug 2021	Δ
# Referrals screened	4,472	5,590	+1,118 (25%)
# Referrals allocated	2,355	2,483	+128 (5%)
# Referrals screened out	2,523	1,347	-1,176 (47%)
# Referrals on waiting list (August)	852	2,169	+1,317 (155%)

¹⁰ A referral is a written notification of concern to EWS from a school, a parent, agency or concerned citizen in relation to the educational welfare of a named child. Referrals are then screened against a set of criteria by the Senior Educational Welfare Officer and a decision is made as to whether to proceed and open a case in relation this named child, or placed on a waiting list if there is an EWS capacity issue.



- 3,478 new cases assigned to EWOs for the academic year 2020/2021, 343 (11%) more than the previous academic year (3,135).
- 3,196 cases closed for the academic year 2020/2021, 81 (2%) fewer than the previous academic year (3,277).
- 2,689 new individual children worked with for the academic year 2020/2021, 303 (13%) more than the previous academic year (2,386).
- 5,533 individual children worked with for the academic year 2020/2021, 161 (3%) more than the previous academic year (5,372).

	Sept 2019- Aug 2020	Sept 2020 - Aug 2021	Δ
# cases assigned	3,135	3,478	343 (11%)
# cases closed	3,277	3,196	-81 (2%)
# New individual children worked with	2,386	2,689	303 (13%)
# Individual children worked with (to end Jun)	5,372	5,533	161 (3%)

- 122 school attendance notices (SANs) issued for the academic year 2020/2021, 198 (62%) fewer than the previous academic year (320). The SANs issued were in respect of 76 individual children, 148 (66%) fewer than the previous year (224).
- Three summonses issued for the academic year 2020/2021, 81 (96%) fewer than the previous academic year (84).
- EWOs attended 35 court cases in relation to their own cases for the academic year 2020/2021, 205 (85%) fewer than the previous academic period (240).
- 141 child protection conferences (CPC) attended by EWOs for the academic year 2020/2021, 21 (18%) more than the previous academic year (120).
- 80 Section 24¹¹ meetings convened by EWOs for the academic year 2020/2021, 78 (49%) fewer than the previous academic year (158).

	Sept 2019- Aug 2020	Sept 2020 - Aug 2021	Δ
School Attendance Notices Issues	320	122	-198 (62%)
SANs - individual children involved	224	76	-148 (66%)
Summonses Issued	84	3	-81 (96%)
Summonses – individual children involved	69	2	-67 (97%)
Court cases attended in relation to own cases	240	35	-205 (85%)
Child protection conferences attended	120	141	+21 (18%)
Section 24 meetings convened	158	80	-78 (49%)
Child protection & welfare referrals made	74	84	+ 10 (14%)

¹¹ Section 24 Education Welfare Act 2000: Where the board of management of a recognised school or a person acting on its behalf is of the opinion that a student should be expelled from that school it shall, before so expelling the student, notify the educational welfare officer to whom functions under this Act have been assigned, in writing, of its opinion and the reasons therefor. The educational welfare officer concerned shall, as soon as may be after receiving a notification under *subsection (1)*, make all reasonable efforts to ensure that provision is made for the continued education of the student to whom the notification relates.

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

6.0 PREVENTION, PARTNERSHIP & FAMILY SUPPORT

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

6.1 Family Support Services

6.2 Meitheal and Child & Family Support Networks

6.1 FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES¹²

KEY FACTS

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

6.1.1 Family Support Providers

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

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

¹² Family Support Services includes those services funded through a Service Arrangement with the Child and Family Agency and those internally funded and delivered through the Child and Family Agency.

Family Support Services Commissioned by Area

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

6.1.2 Children in Receipt of Family Support Services

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

Children in receipt of Family Support Services

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

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

6.1.3 Children Referred to Family Support Services

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

Children referred to Family Support Services by area

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

6.1.4 Source of Referrals

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

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

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

6.1.5 Children who received a service

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.1.6 Parenting Support Service

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

6.2 MEITHEAL

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

KEY FACTS

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

6.2.1 Meitheal Activity Data

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

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

Meitheal processes requested

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

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

Access Pathway for Meitheal Requests

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

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

Meitheal requests received proceeding to Stage Two (Discussion Stage)

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

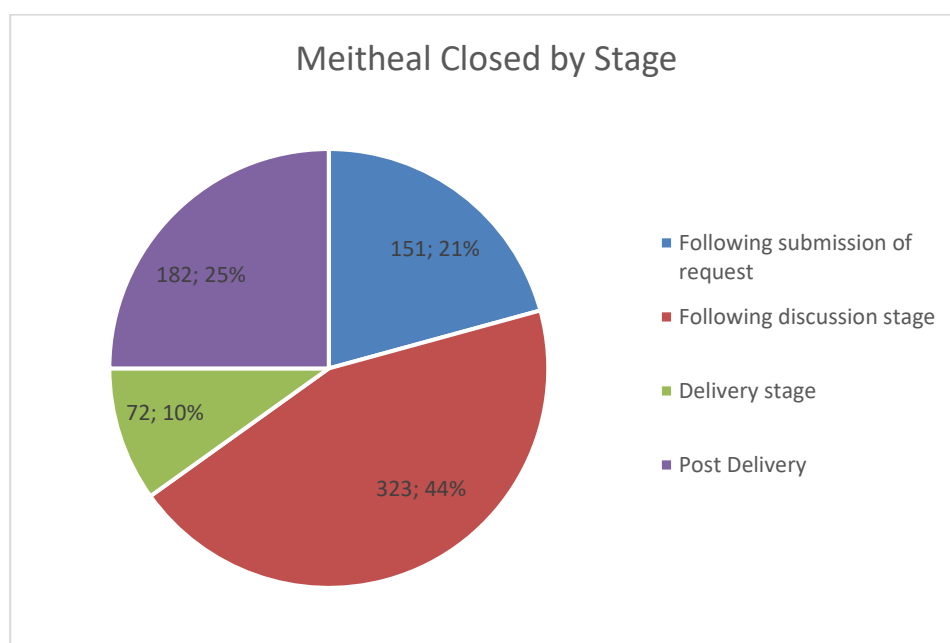
SLWC	26	21	81%
National	1,161	1,036	89%

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

Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two

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

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



Number of Meitheals closed

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

6.2.2 Child and Family Support Networks

- At least 109 Child and Family Support Networks¹³ (CFSN) operating at the end of Q2 2021 (based on data for 16 areas – data for Louth/Meath not available at the time of writing). A further 17 CFSNs are planned/pre planning stage.

Child and Family Support Networks operating and planned

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

¹³ Child and Family Support Networks: Collaborative networks of community, voluntary and statutory providers intended to improve access to support services for children and their families⁸

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

7.0 HUMAN RESOURCES

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

7.1 Workforce Position

7.2 Absence Rate

7.3 Social Work Staff

7.4 Residential Services

7.5 Workforce Learning and Development

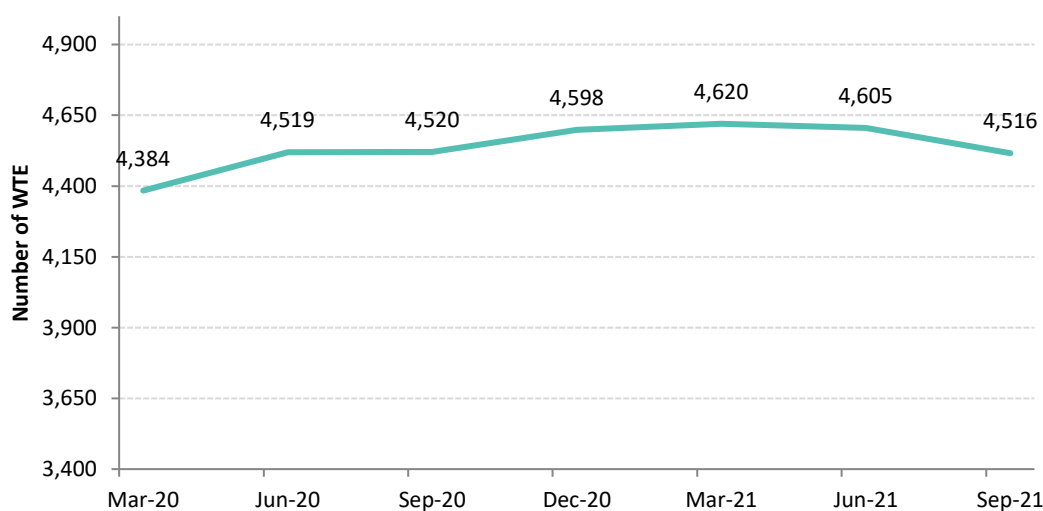
KEY FACTS

- 4,516 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q3 2021, 89 fewer than Q2 2021 (4,605) and four fewer than Q3 2020 (4,520).
- 284 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first nine months of 2021
- 263 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) and 73 staff retired in the first nine months of 2021
- 179 (4%) staff were on maternity leave at the end of September 2021
- At the end of September 2021, the overall absence rate for the Agency was 6.26%, 0.94 percentage points higher than Q2 2021 (5.32%) and 1.22 percentage points higher than September 2020 (5.04%).
- e-learning activity: 2,168 completions were achieved in Q2 2021
- Virtual classroom training: 694 completions (54 sessions).

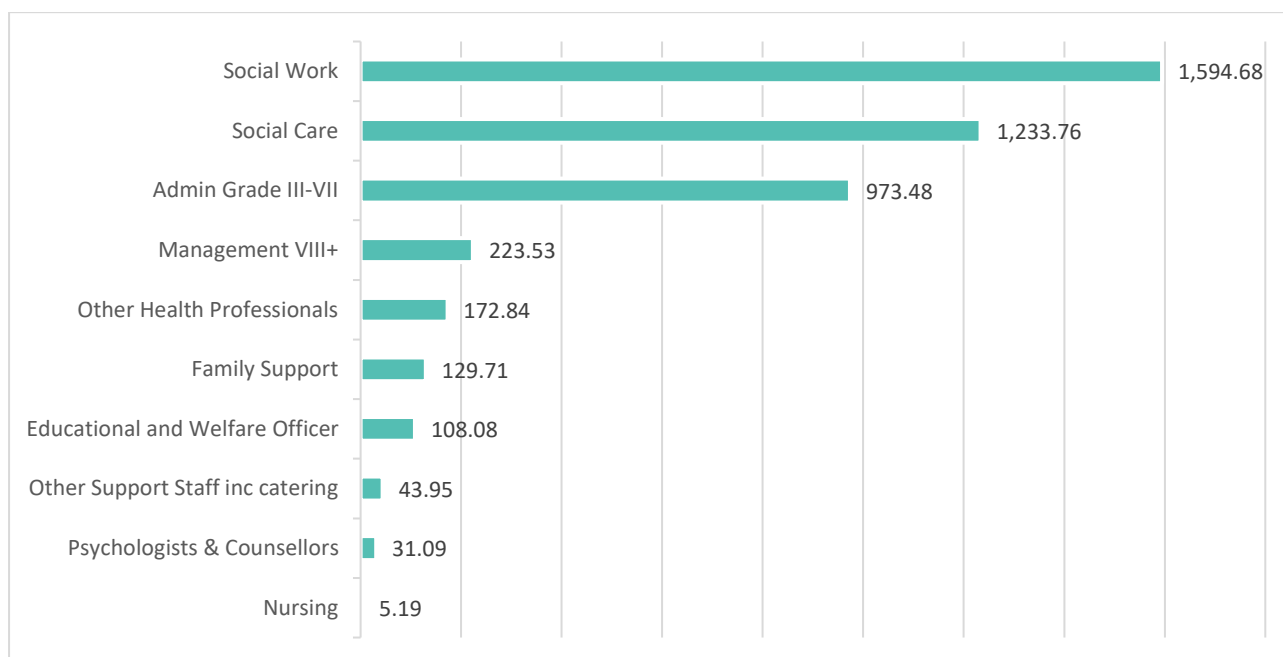
7.1 Workforce Position

- 4,516 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q3 2021, 89 fewer than Q2 2021 (4,605) and four fewer than Q3 2020 (4,520).

Total Staff Employed (WTE), by quarter



- Social workers are the largest category of staff employed by the Agency, accounting for 35% (1,594.68) of total staff (WTE) employed at the end of Q3 2021, followed by social care staff accounting for a further 27% (1,233.76). Management (Grade VIII+) account for less than 5% (223.53) of the workforce.



- Increase/decrease in WTEs by staff category from Q2 2021 and Q3 2020 is presented in the table below.

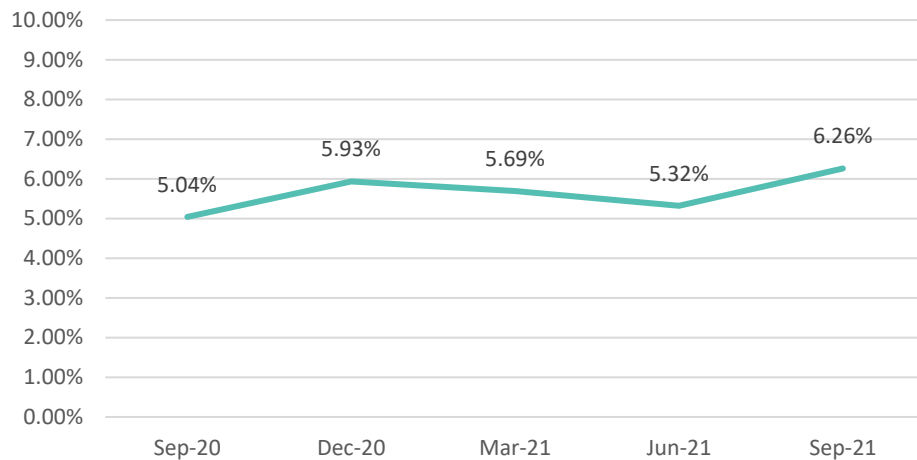
Breakdown of staff (WTE) by category

Staffing by Category	Q3 2020	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q3 2021 v Q2 2021	Q3 2021 v Q3 2020
Social Work	1,641.74	1,643.37	1,594.68	-48.69	-47.06
Social Care	1,242.87	1,246	1,233.76	-12.24	-9.11
Admin Grade III-VII	931.8	994.93	973.48	-21.45	41.68
Family Support	127.56	133.04	129.71	-3.33	2.15
Management VIII+	212.93	218.04	223.53	5.49	10.60
Educational and Welfare Officer	106.63	109.99	108.08	-1.91	1.45
Other Support Staff inc catering	47.42	42.99	43.95	0.96	-3.47
Nursing	5.65	5.62	5.19	-0.43	-0.46
Psychologists & Counsellors	32.37	32.5	31.09	-1.41	-1.28
Other Health Professionals	171.08	178.53	172.84	-5.69	1.76
Total Staffing	4,520	4,605	4,516	-88.69	-3.74

- 284 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first nine months of 2021
- 263 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in the first nine months of 2021
- 73 staff retired in the first nine months of 2021
- 179 (4%) staff were on maternity leave at the end of September 2021

7.2 Absence Rate

- At the end of September 2021, the overall absence rate for the Agency was 6.26%, 0.94 percentage points higher than Q2 2021 (5.32%) and 1.22 percentage points higher than September 2020 (5.04%).



- The highest absence rate was reported for social care staff (8.67%). The rate for Residential Services was 10.11% (data not shown), is 3.85 percentage points higher than the overall rate of 6.26%. The overall absence rate excluding Residential Services is 6.01%.

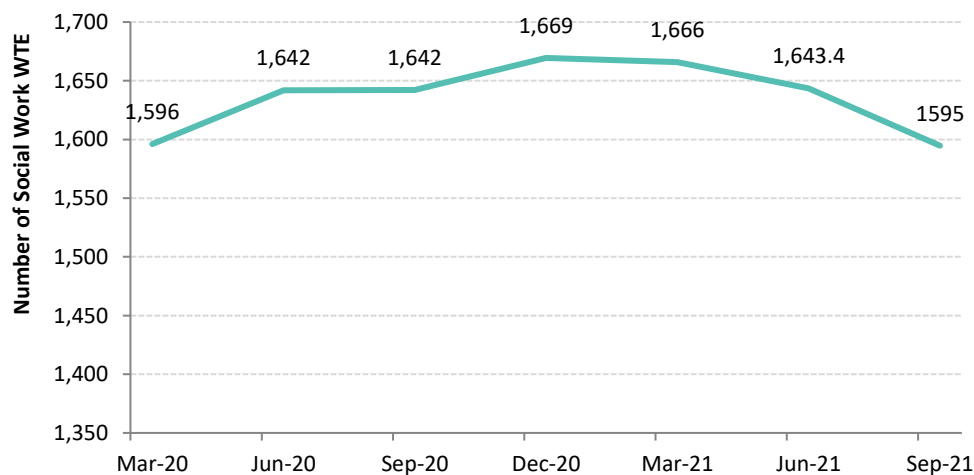
Absence rate by staff grade

Staff Grade	Absence Rate September 2021
Social Work	6.03%
Social Care	8.67%
All other grades	4.72%

7.3 Social Work Staff (WTE)

- 1,594.68 whole time equivalent (WTE) social work staff (all grades and excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q3 2021; 48.7 fewer than Q2 2021 (1,643) and 47 fewer than Q3 2020 (1,642).

Number of social workers (WTE) by quarter



- 110 social workers joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first nine months of 2021
- 126 social workers left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks excluding retirements) in the first nine months of 2021
- 21 social workers retired in the first nine months of 2021
- 95 (6%) social workers were on maternity leave at the end September 2021
- A breakdown of the number of social workers (all grades) employed at the end of each quarter Q3 2020 to Q3 2021 by area is presented in the table below.

Breakdown of social work staff (WTE) by area Q3 2020 – Q3 2021

	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)
Area	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021
DSC	88.31	99.49	101.77	98.96	88.27
DSE/WW	97.71	96.72	98.18	96.08	94.87
DSW/K/WW	103.94	114.52	110.42	107.9	110.06
Midlands	92.78	96.04	97.15	94.83	90.47
Regional Services DML	13.16	12.71	13.75	12.54	12.54
DML Total	395.9	419.48	421.27	410.31	396.21
CN/MN	41.66	43.55	40.98	41.77	40.37
DNC	101	105.44	107.02	105.24	104.32
LH/MH	86.66	85.43	84.65	83.96	83.14
Dublin North	80.57	90.58	92.62	89.97	89.2
Regional Services DNE	12.3	14.26	13.4	16.75	15.35
DNE Total	322.19	339.26	338.67	337.69	332.38
CW/KK/ST	71.84	64.81	63.05	61.41	58.91
Cork	179.16	180.06	178.37	180.46	174.41
Kerry	46.95	46.86	46.29	42.65	39.44
WD/WX	85.38	85.89	89.76	88.65	85.09
Regional Services South					
South Total	383.33	377.62	377.47	373.17	357.85
Donegal	69.3	68.34	66.16	67.89	66.34
GY/RN	104	103.92	98.4	98.18	93.64
Mayo	41.84	36.39	36.73	38.95	33.16
Mid West	122.41	118.88	120.63	117.84	114.8
SLWC	38.49	40.695	40.59	36.65	36.62
Regional Services West	2.96	2.81	2.86	2.86	1.86
West Total	379	370.99	365.37	362.37	346.42
Residential DML	1	1	0.96		
Residential DNE	1.96	1.96	2	2	2
Residential West					
Residential South	1	1	1	2	1.99
Special Care	1	1	1		

Residential Services	4.96	4.96	4.96	4	3.99
Corporate	156.36	157.11	158.05	155.83	157.83
Early Years Inspectorate	6.96	6.96			
Corporate	156.36	157.11	158.05	155.83	157.83
Total	1,641.74	1,669.42	1,665.79	1,643.4	1,594.68

7.4 Workforce Learning and Development (WLD)

- Training activity during this period was severely affected by the HSE ransomware attack, which made access to online and virtual training impossible for many Tusla staff for a prolonged period.
- Table 1 shows virtual classroom training attendance for July, August and September 2021.
- 308 Tusla staff attended a webinar on “Improving Our Response to Children Subject to Section 12 Child Care Act 2021”.
- Table 2 shows e-learning activity for the months July, August and September 2021.
- The most popular e-learning module was ‘Tusla Employee Health & Safety’ with 367 completions. This was followed by the ‘An Introduction to Children First’ module with 208 completions.
- Table 3 shows attendance at Therapeutic Crisis Intervention Physical Skills Training and Assessment run for Children’s Residential Services in Dublin by WLD

Other Developments in Q3 2021

- Development of online and virtual learning continued albeit with major challenges due to loss of network access.
- Agreement was reached with Operational Management Team on a schedule of priority training for delivery during Q4 2021.

Table 1: Virtual Classroom Training

Name of Module	Number of Sessions	Total Completions
Child & Youth Participation Virtual Classroom Day 2	1	4
Therapeutic Crisis Intervention Refresher Programme	5	33
National Child Care Information System (NCCIS) Fundamentals Training	4	9
Coaching Skills (Pilot)	1	5
Seminar: Improving Our Response to Children Subject to Section 12 Child Care Act 2021	1	308
TOTAL	12	359

Table 2: E-Learning

Name of Module	Total Completions
An Introduction to Children First	208
Children First in Action	148
Implementing Children First	184
Tusla Employee Health & Safety	367
Complaints Handling in Tusla Module1	113
Complaints Handling in Tusla Module2	22
Caseload Management	23
Parental Participation in Practice	4
Return to Workplace Training during Covid-19	64
Revised Standard Business Process (NCCIS)	26
An Introduction to Tusla's Approach to Commissioning	8
Hidden Harm	16
Health and Safety Management: Introduction for Line Managers	38
Child Sexual Exploitation	39
Critical Incident Stress Management	42
Meitheal Briefing	19
Total	1321

Table 3: Classroom Training Q3 2021

Name of Module	Number of Sessions	Total Completions
TCI Physical Skills Training and Assessment	30	150

8 FINANCE

KEY FACTS

- The outturn for the year to date (September 2021) is an under-spend of €15.5 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget for the year to date by €8.7 million and is forecast to be under-spent by €8.0m for the full year at this point, due to additional staff to be recruited as the year progresses.
- Non-pay costs are under-spent against budget year to date by €5.8 million
- A key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €4.8 million over budget year to date. Placement of children in private residential and foster care services is strictly controlled through a national placement process.

Financial Performance

- The outturn for the year to date (September 2021) is an under-spend of €15.5 million.
- The net expenditure for the year to date is €628.3 million against a budget allocation of €643.8 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget for the year to date by €8.7 million and is forecast to be under-spent by €8.0m for the full year at this point, due to additional staff to be recruited as the year progresses.

Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	September 2021 YTD			% Variance
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Act vs Budget
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Pay costs	240,793	249,496	(8,703)	(3%)

- Non-pay costs are under-spent against budget year to date by €5.8 million

Non-Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	September 2021 YTD			% Variance
	Actual	Original Budget	Variance	Act vs Budget
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Non pay costs	408,587	414,397	(5,811)	(1%)

- A key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €4.8 million over budget year to date. Placement of children in private residential and foster care services is strictly controlled through a national placement process.
- Legal costs incurred by the Agency account for a significant portion of the overall budget of the Agency. The financial position shows a spend of €22.769 million against a budget of €22.496 million.

- A breakdown of legal expenditure by type is presented in the table below.
- 45% (€10,350 million) of the legal spend was on guardians ad litem (GALs) including GALs solicitors and counsel.
- In terms of forecasting these data should be interpreted with caution as they are based on the individual billing pattern of persons concerned.

Legal Expenditure

Type	September 2021 YTD €'000s
3rd Party Counsel Fees	447
3rd Party Solicitors Fees	1,156
Contracted Legal Services	8,950
Counsel fees - Tusla	1,468
Guardian ad Litem Costs	5,843
Guardian ad Litem Counsel fees	703
Guardian ad Litem Solicitors fees	3,804
General Legal Fees	94
Other	303
Net Expenditure	22,769

APPENDIX I

ABBREVIATIONS

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

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