



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Quarterly Service Performance and Activity Report

QUARTER 3 2025



Quality & Regulation Directorate

CONTENTS

1.0	PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW	3
2.0	CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES.....	11
2.1	Referrals (Child Welfare And Child Abuse/Neglect)	12
2.2	National Out Of Hours Services	22
2.3	Social Work Activity Data (Child Protection & Welfare)	23
2.4	Child Protection Notification System	28
3.0	ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES	31
3.1	Children in Care (Foster Care / Residential Care)	31
3.2	Aftercare	41
3.3	Adoption Services	49
3.4	Foster Carers	51
4.0	CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION	57
4.1	Early Years Inspectorate	57
4.2	Alternative Education Assessment & Registration Service.....	62
4.3	Alternative Care Inspection & Monitoring Services	66
5.0	TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES	67
6.0	FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES.....	70
6.1	Family Support Services	70
6.2	Meitheal	75
7.0	PEOPLE & CHANGE.....	82
8.0	FINANCE	89
APPENDIX I	90

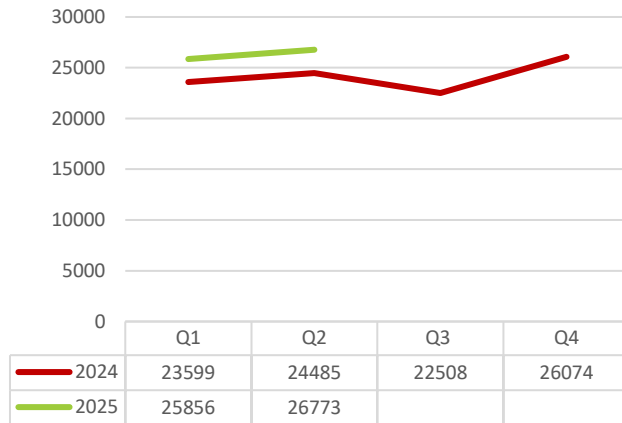
1.0 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

This report provides an update on the performance and activity of Tusla services at the end of Q3 2025. It is structured around key performance and activity measures included in the Agency's Business Plan. The data presented was provided by services and refers to the latest performance and activity information available at this time. **These data can change from data previously published due to the ongoing validation of data.**

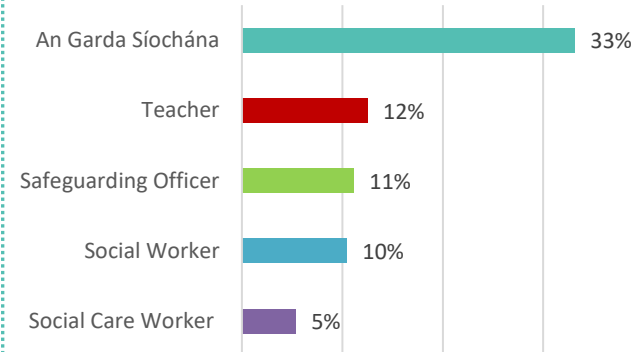
The summary by service type set out below provides an overview of the Q3 2025 position regarding activity and performance.

CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

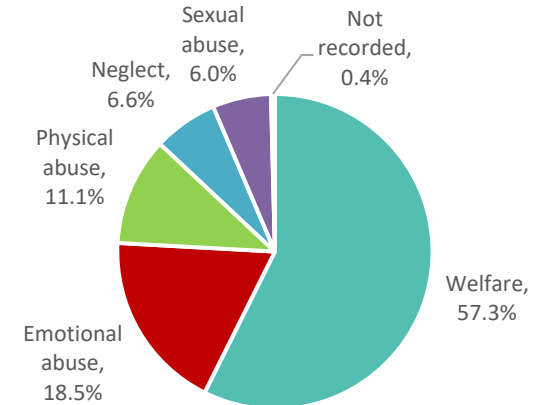
Number of Referrals



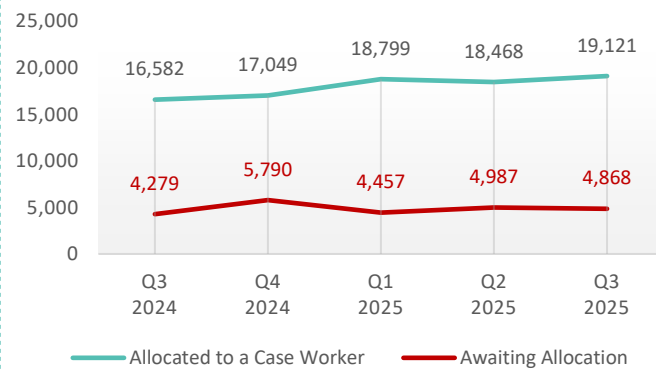
Top 5 most Common Sources of Referrals 2025 [H1]



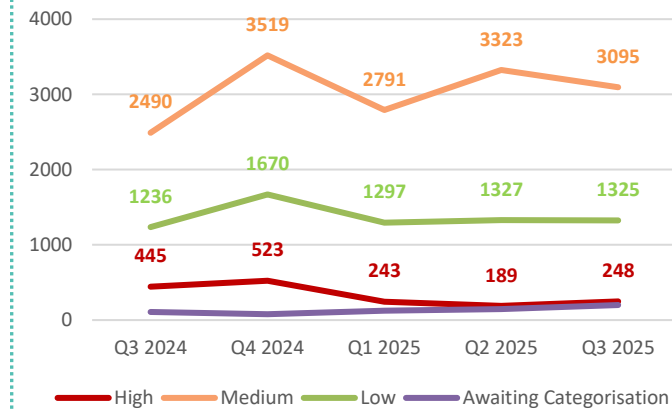
% Breakdown of Referrals by Primary Report Type, 2025 [H1]



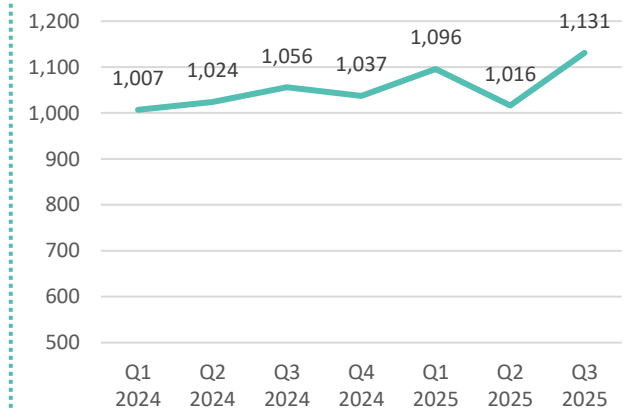
Number of Open Cases (CPW & CiC) by Allocation Status



Cases Awaiting Allocation by Priority Level

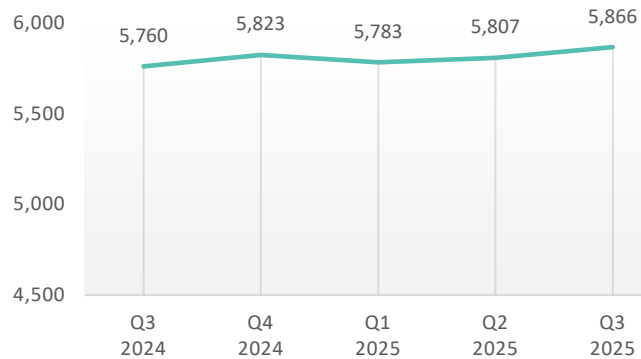


Children 'Active' on the CPNS

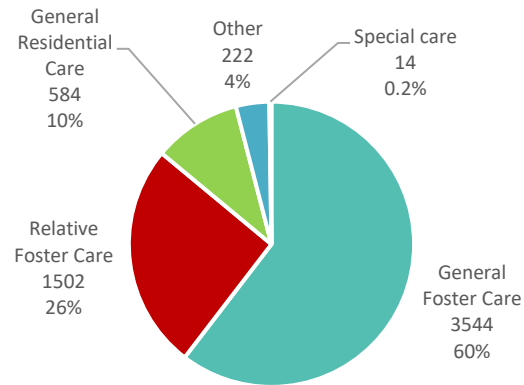


ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

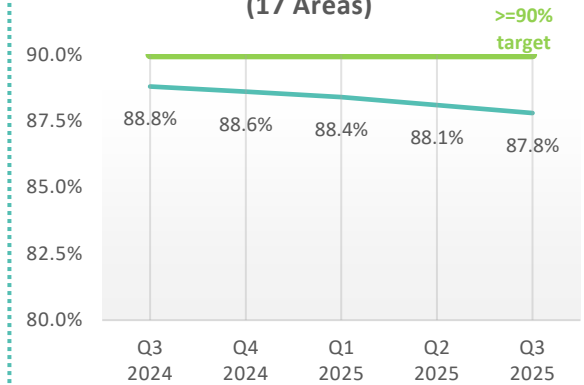
Children in Care



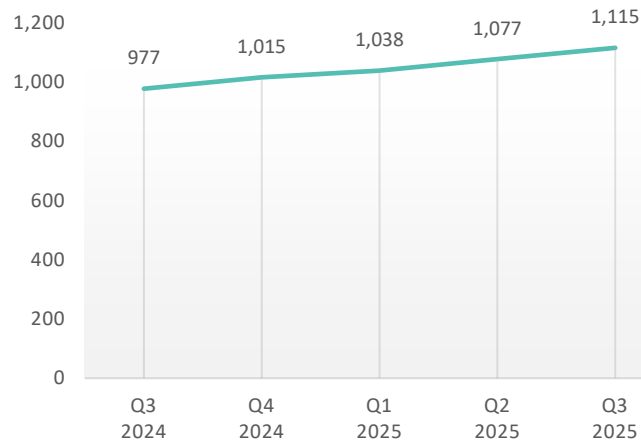
Children in Care by Placement Type, Q3 2025



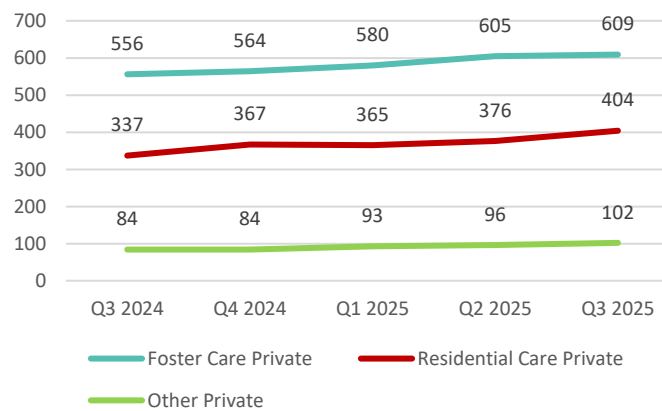
% Children in Care in Foster Care (17 Areas)



Children in Care with Private Providers

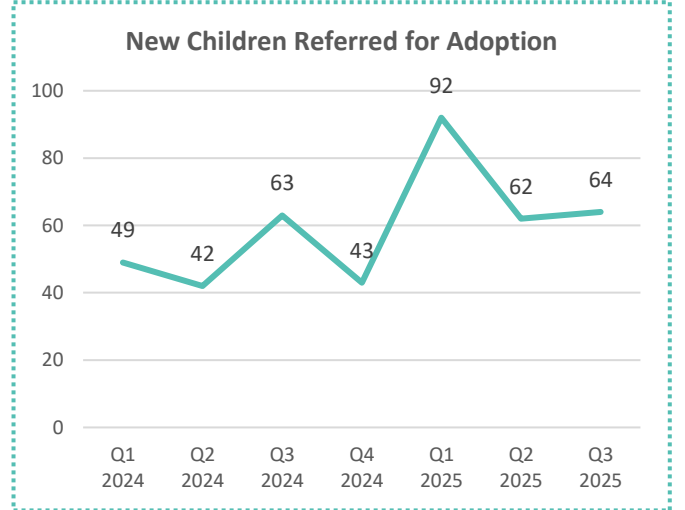
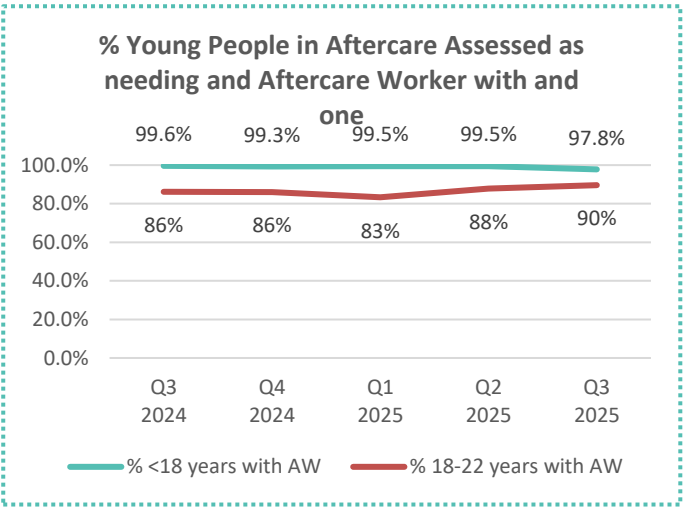
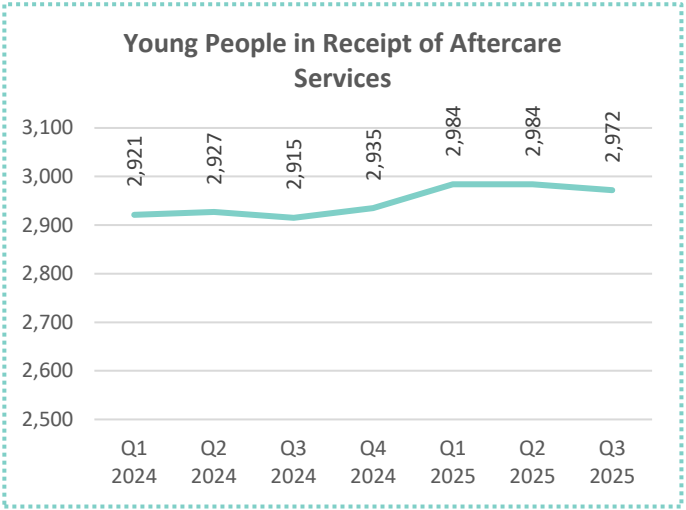
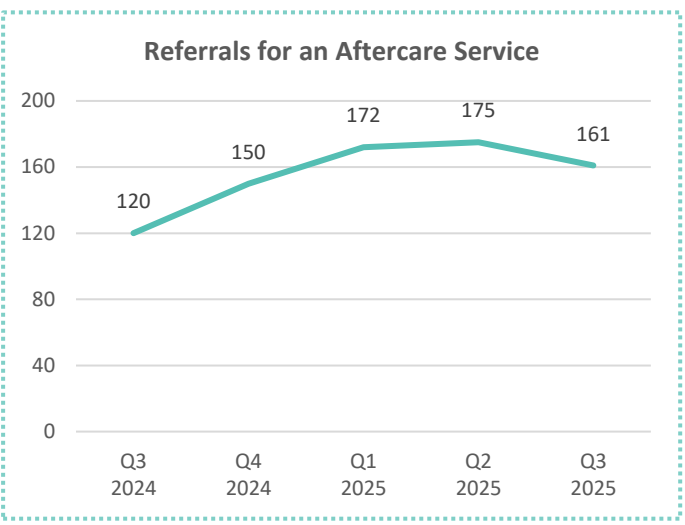
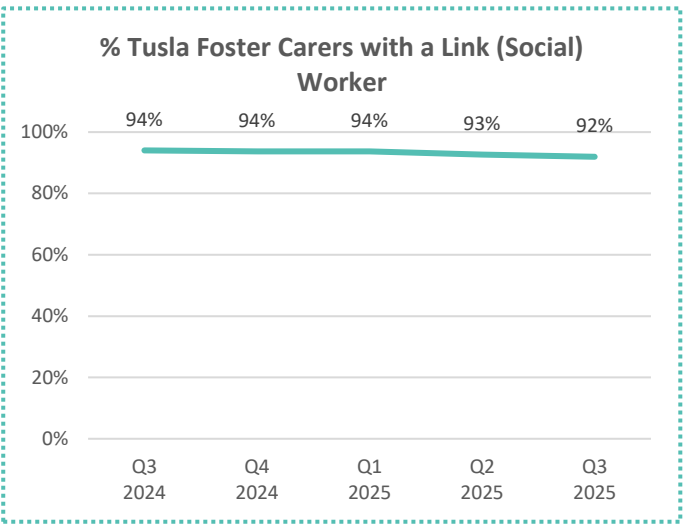
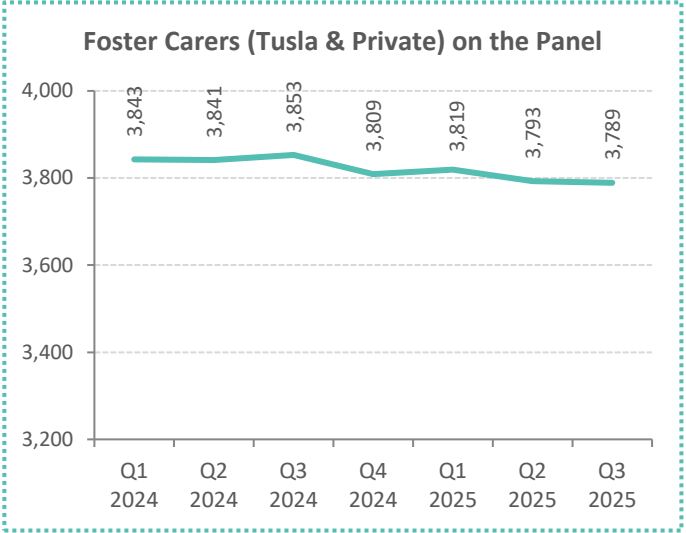


Breakdown of Children with Private Providers by Placement Type

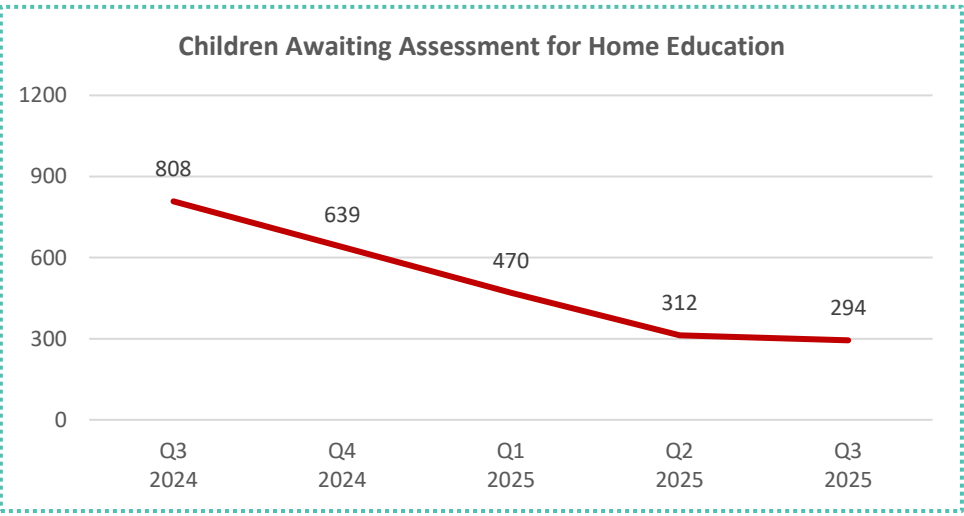
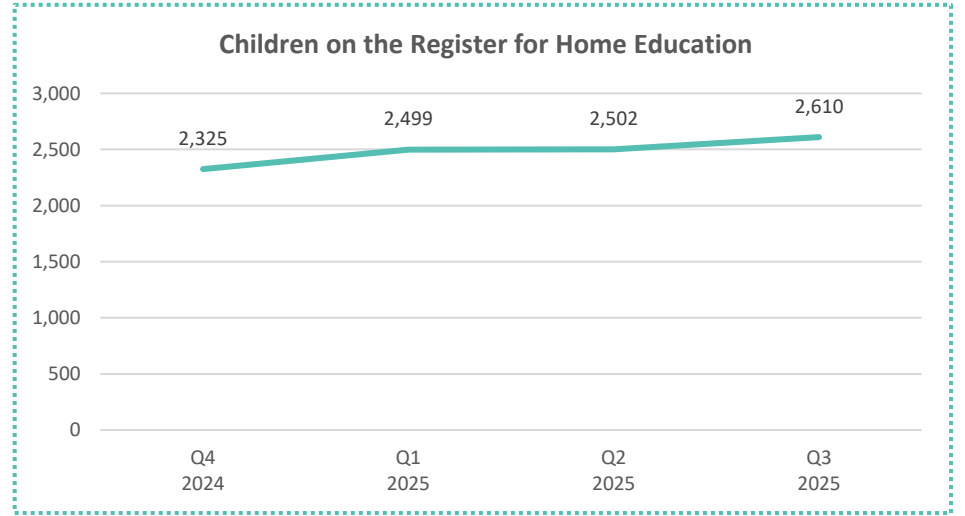
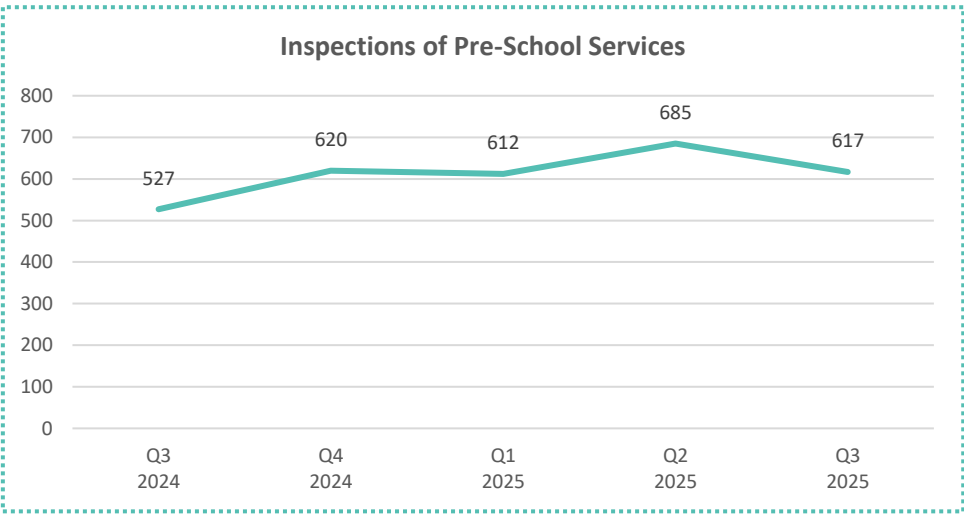
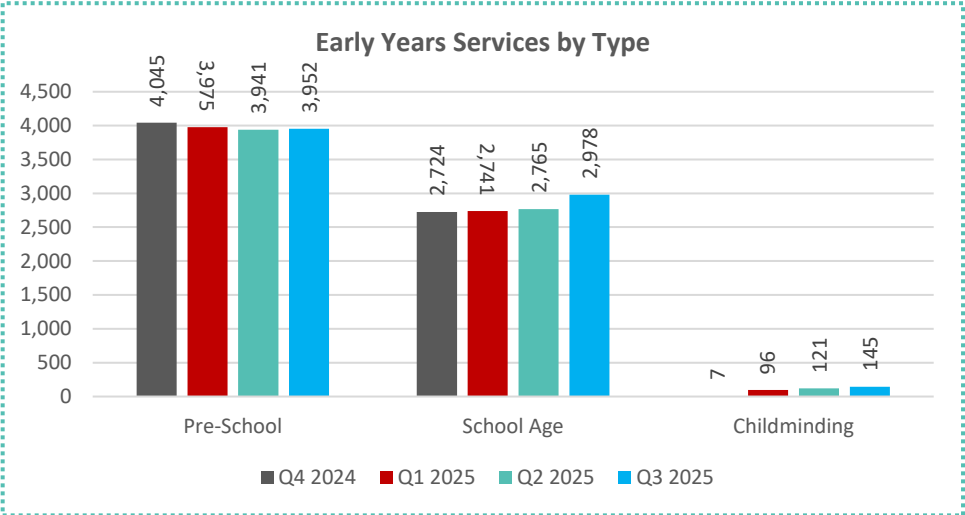


Children in Care – Allocated Case Worker

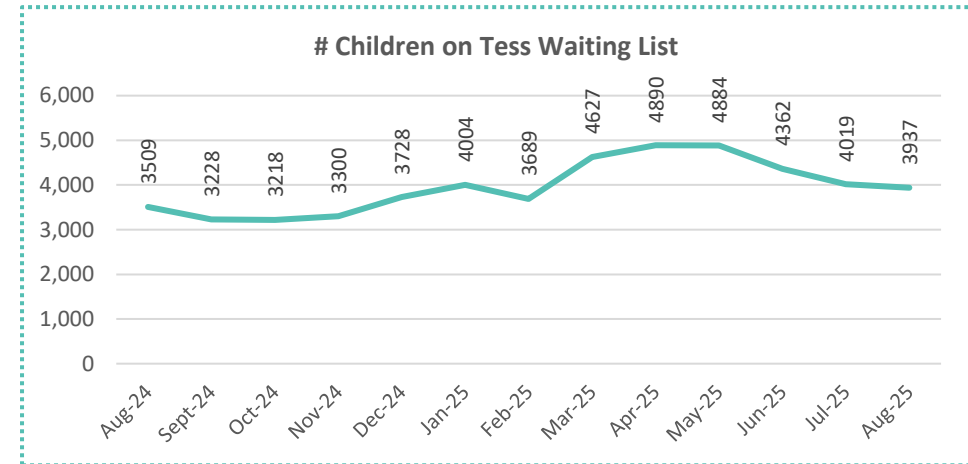
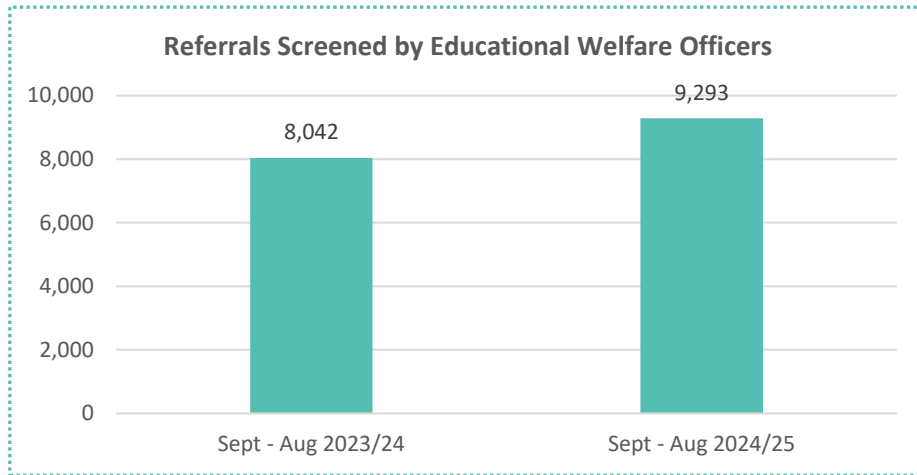
- 99% (5,784) of children in care with an allocated case worker; 82 awaiting (Q3 2025)



CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

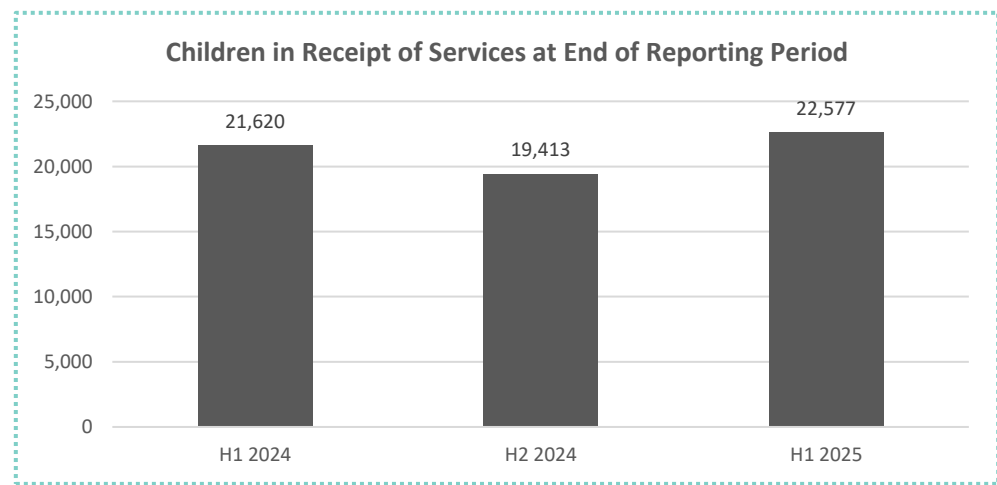
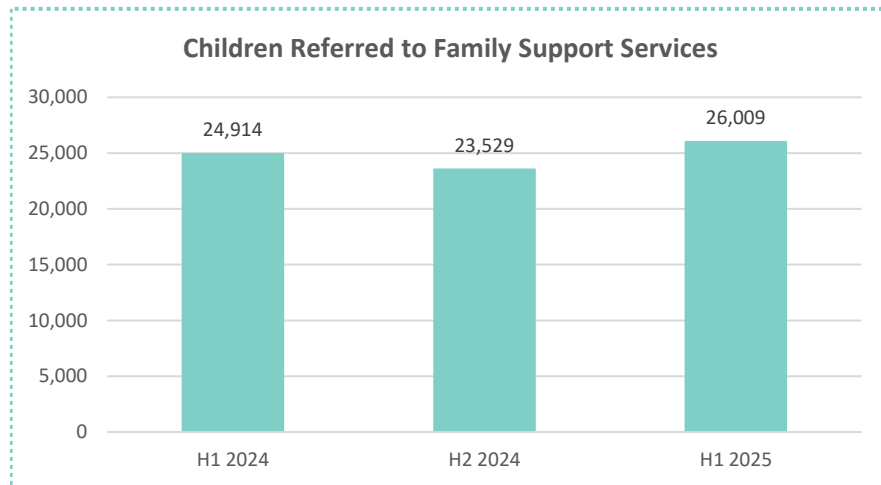


TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

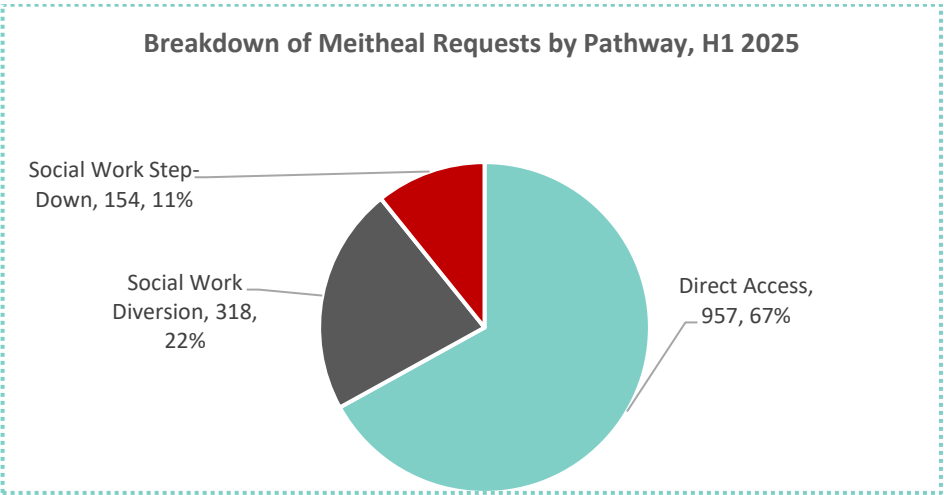
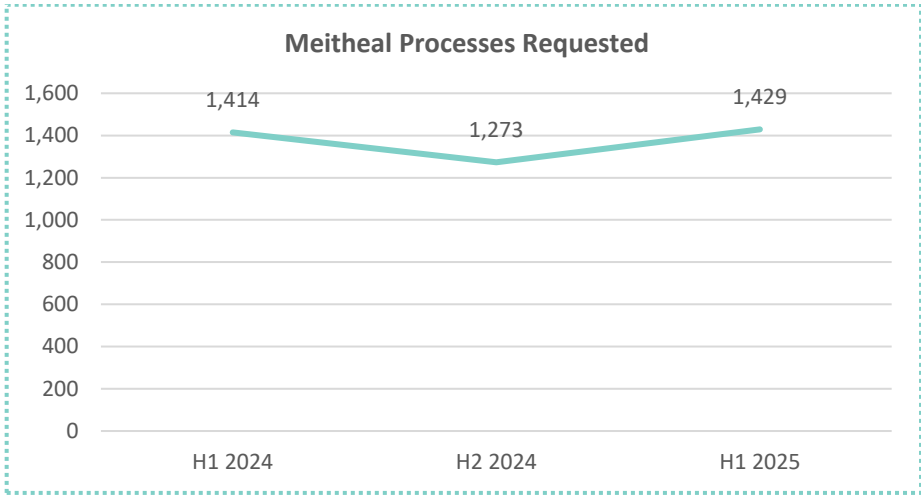


FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

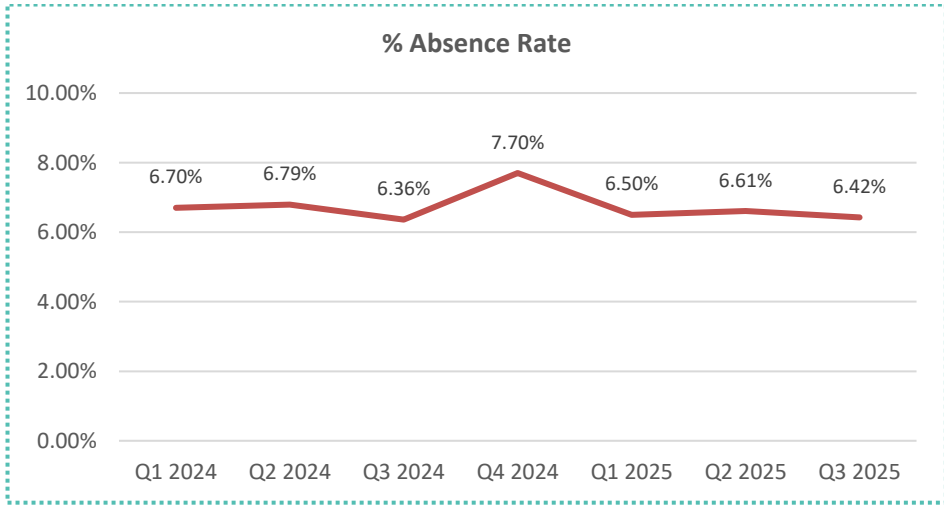
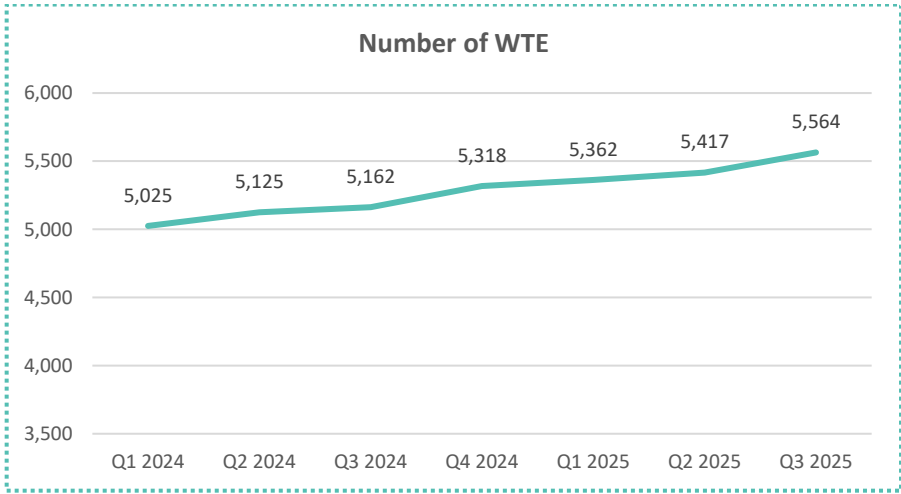
Family Support Services (data reported bi-annually, Q2 and Q4)



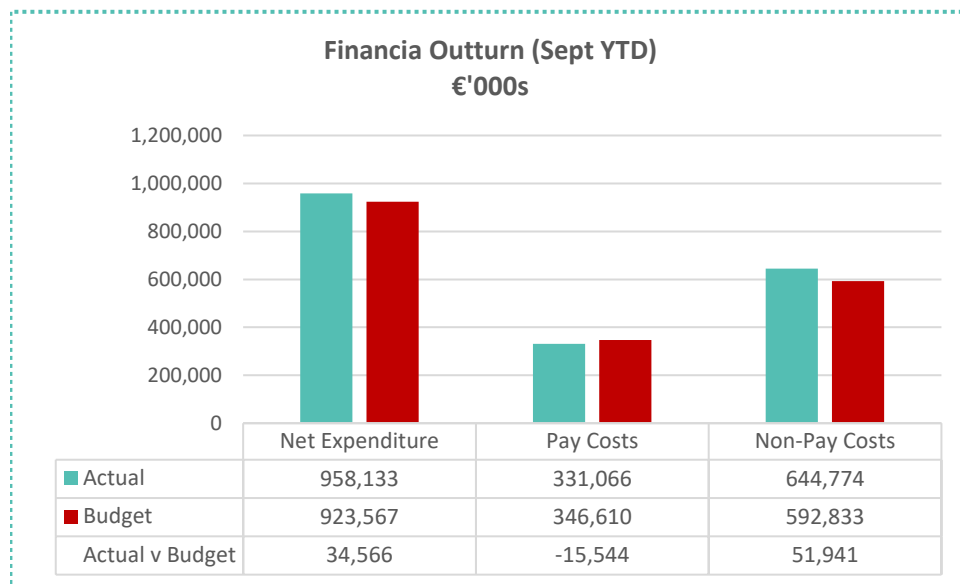
Meitheal (data reported bi-annually, Q2 and Q4)



PEOPLE & CHANGE



FINANCE



2.0 CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

Key Facts

- **26,773 referrals** to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q2 2025, 917 (4%) more than Q1 2025 (25,856) and 2,288 (9%) more than Q2 2024 (24,485). Brings to 52,629 the number of referrals for the first six months of 2025, 4,545 (9%) more than the same period in 2024 (48,084).
- **57.3% (30,150)** of referrals for the first six months of 2025 were for **welfare concerns**, **42.3%** (22,260) were for **abuse/neglect**, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining <1% (219) of referrals.
- Most **common source of referrals** for the first six months of 2025 was members of **An Garda Síochána accounting for 33% (17,436) of referrals**, followed to a lesser extent by teachers (12.5%; 6,572), safeguarding officers (11.1%; 5,852) and social workers (10.4%; 5,489). Mandated persons accounted for 91% (47,740) of all sources.
- **58% (15,656/26,773) of referrals** for Q2 2025 were **closed following screening** while **24% (6,419/26,773)** of referrals for Q2 2025 progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the **preliminary enquiry** stage. The remaining referrals (18%; 4,698) were either at the screening stage, awaiting closure following screening, or another process stage, when the data was extracted for reporting.
- **55% (8,553) of referrals were closed following screening, as assessment / safety planning was already ongoing**, while a further 7% (1,129) were diverted to Tusla's Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) services and 2% (315) were diverted to another agency. Some 34% (5,289) were closed with no further action required.
- At the time the data for Q2 2025 was extracted for reporting, 97.5% (6,260/6,419) of preliminary enquiries were completed.
- Of the **preliminary enquiries completed**, 42% (2,650) required no further action; **36% (2,260) required an initial assessment**, while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 5% (308) of cases. Some 10% (655) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS.
- At the time the Q1 2025 data was extracted for reporting, 56% (1,264/2,260) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were completed
- **47% (599) of referrals that required an initial assessment** following the preliminary enquiry were **closed to social work** following completion of the initial assessment. Of these 54% (322) required no further action, 21% (125) were diverted to another agency for a service, 17% (103) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service, while the remaining 8% (49) were closed as assessment/safety planning already ongoing.
- **31% (395) of referrals required safety planning** following completion of the initial assessment, a further **16% (207) required a children protection response / child protection conference** and **5% (62) required admission to care**.

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

2.1 Referrals (child welfare and child abuse)

2.2 Social Work Activity Data

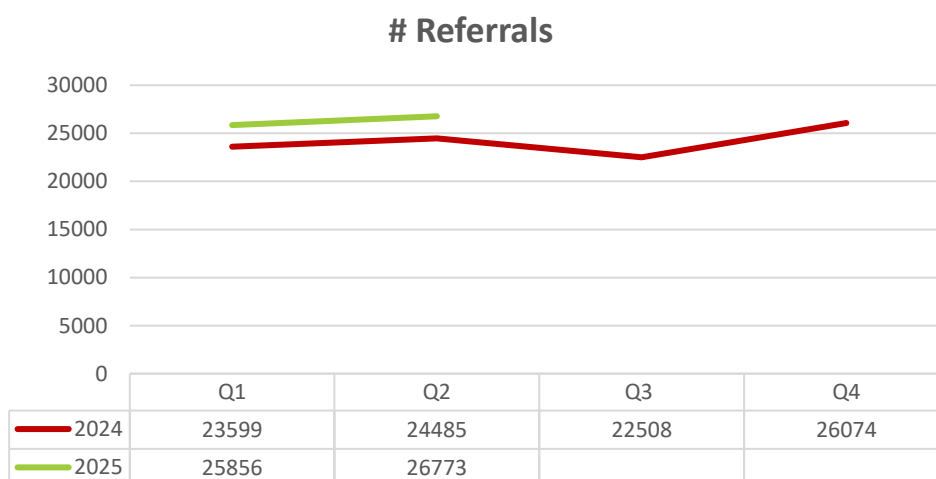
2.3 Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)

2.4 Crisis Intervention Service / Out of Hours Service

2.1 REFERRALS (CHILD WELFARE AND CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT)

Number of Referrals

- 26,773 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q2 2025¹, 917 (4%) more than Q1 2025 (25,856) and 2,288 (9%) more than Q2 2024 (24,485).
- This brings to 52,629 the number of referrals for the first six months of 2025, 4,545 (9%) more than the same period in 2024 (48,084).



- 57.3% (30,150) of referrals for the first six months of 2025 were for welfare concerns, 42.3% (22,260) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining <1% (219) of referrals (Tables 1 and 2).

Table 1: Percentage of referrals by primary report type

Primary Report Type	% Q1 2025	% Q2 2025	% 2025 YTD
Welfare	59.4%	55.3%	57.3%
Emotional abuse	18.7%	18.3%	18.5%
Neglect	5.8%	7.4%	6.6%
Physical abuse	10.3%	12.0%	11.1%
Sexual abuse	5.5%	6.5%	6.0%
Not recorded	0.3%	0.5%	0.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100%

¹ Data on referrals are reported quarterly in arrears.

Table 2: Number of referrals by primary report type

Primary Report Type	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	2025 YTD
Welfare	15,354	14,796	30,150
Emotional abuse	4,846	4,902	9,748
Neglect	1,487	1,981	3,468
Physical abuse	2,652	3,213	5,865
Sexual abuse	1,429	1,750	3,179
Not recorded	88	131	219
Total	25,856	26,773	52,629

Referrals by Area

- The number of referrals for the first six months of 2025 equates to about 43.2 referrals per 1,000 population under 18 years. *Note, the actual number of children referred is likely to be fewer as more than one referral can be received in relation to a child.* The rate of referrals ranges from about 25 per 1,000 (Dublin South East/Wicklow) to 65 per 1,000 (Dublin North City). Seven areas reported a rate equal to or higher than the national average of 43.2/1,000.
- The highest number of referrals for the first six months of 2025 was reported by Midlands (5,248) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (5,108), Dublin North (5,020) and Cork (4,719). The fewest number was reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (762) followed by Mayo (846) and Kerry (1,218). A breakdown of referrals by area is presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Breakdown of referrals by area

Area	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	2025 YTD	0-17 yrs pop	2025 YTD Rate / 1000
Dublin South Central	2,168	1,858	4,026	70,259	57.3
DSE/WW	1,095	1,193	2,288	91,047	25.1
DSW/K/WW	2,439	2,669	5,108	108,927	46.9
Midlands	2,580	2,668	5,248	80,962	64.8
Dublin North City	1,524	1,671	3,195	48,909	65.3
Dublin North	2,399	2,621	5,020	104,281	48.1
Louth / Meath	2,104	1,976	4,080	96,531	42.3
Cavan / Monaghan	756	841	1,597	37,336	42.8
Cork	2,203	2,516	4,719	136,786	34.5
Kerry	568	650	1,218	34,994	34.8
CW/K/ST	1,304	1,404	2,708	62,366	43.4
Waterford/Wexford	1,942	1,885	3,827	69,239	55.3
Mid West	2,059	2,014	4,073	96,764	42.1
Galway/Roscommon	1,199	1,276	2,475	81,799	30.3
Mayo	452	394	846	31,911	26.5
Donegal	717	722	1,439	42,144	34.1
SLWC	347	415	762	24,312	31.3
Total	25,856	26,773	52,629	1,218,567	43.2

Population (0-17 years) based on Census 2022

Source of Referrals

- The most common source of referrals for the first six months of 2025 was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 33% (17,436) of referrals, followed to a lesser extent by teachers (12.5%; 6,572), safeguarding officers (11.1%; 5,852) and social workers (10.4%; 5,489). Mandated persons accounted for 91% (47,740) of all sources. The source of all referrals is presented in Table 4 below.

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

Source	2025 YTD	% Total 2025 YTD
Member of An Garda Síochána	17,436	33.1%
Teacher	6,572	12.5%
A safeguarding officer	5,852	11.1%
Social worker	5,489	10.4%
Social care worker	2,809	5.3%
Anonymous	1,886	3.6%
Medical practitioner	1,689	3.2%
Parent / Guardian	1,653	3.1%
Nurse/midwife	1,540	2.9%
Manager of Domestic Violence Shelter	1,239	2.4%
Psychologist	958	1.8%
Youth worker	869	1.7%
Psychotherapist	860	1.6%
Manager of homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility	584	1.1%
Other Family Member	474	0.9%
Manager of Asylum Seeker accommodation (Direct provision) Centre	340	0.6%
Courts 1 (S20)	263	0.5%
Probation Officer	251	0.5%
Not specified	226	0.4%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	207	0.4%
Person responsible for the care or management of a youth work service	195	0.4%
Member of the Public	160	0.3%
A person carrying on a pre-school service	146	0.3%
Occupational therapist	141	0.3%
Speech and language therapist	117	0.2%
Self	112	0.2%
An addiction counsellor	81	0.2%
Physiotherapist	80	0.2%
Guardian Ad Litem	72	0.1%
Emergency medical technician	65	0.1%
Other	61	0.1%
Mandated person - not specified	54	0.1%
Foster carer registered with the Agency	53	0.1%
Courts 3 (Other Court Request)	41	0.1%
Director of any institution where a child is detained by an order of a court	17	<0.1%
Immigration Services	13	<0.1%

Manager of a language school or other recreational school where children reside	11	<0.1%
Member of the Clergy	8	<0.1%
Dentist	5	<0.1%
Total	52,629	100.0%

Mandated Reports

- 35% (18,578/52,629) of referrals for the first six months of 2025 were mandated reports.
- A breakdown of mandated reports by primary report type is presented in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Mandated reports by primary report type

Primary Report Type	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	2025 YTD	% Total 2025 YTD
Physical Abuse	2,338	2,720	5,058	27%
Emotional Abuse	3,927	3,973	7,900	43%
Sexual Abuse	1,323	1,572	2,895	16%
Neglect	1,143	1,582	2,725	15%
Total	8,731	9,847	18,578	100%

- A breakdown of mandated reports by area is presented in Table 6 below. The number of mandated reports for the first six months of 2025 ranges from 295 (2%) (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) to 2,225 (12%) (Dublin North).

Table 6: Mandated reports by area

Area	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	2025 YTD
Dublin South Central	867	739	1,606
Dublin South East/Wicklow	431	475	906
DSW/K/WW	651	754	1,405
Midlands	788	948	1,736
Dublin North City	594	647	1,241
Dublin North	1022	1203	2,225
Louth/Meath	894	938	1,832
Cavan/Monaghan	252	294	546
Cork	646	808	1,454
Kerry	142	213	355
CW/K/ST	447	641	1,088
Waterford/Wexford	396	499	895
Mid West	600	626	1,226
Galway/Roscommon	402	431	833
Mayo	200	212	412
Donegal	280	243	523
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	119	176	295
Total	8,731	9,847	18,578

- A breakdown of source of mandated reports for the first six months of 2025 is presented in Table 7 below. The most common source of reports was members of An Garda Síochána

accounting for 37.7% (7,009) of all mandated reports, followed to a lesser extent by teachers (15.3%; 2,845), safeguarding officers (12.4%; 2,300) and social workers (9.8%; 1,812).

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

Source	2025 YTD	% Total
Member of An Garda Siochana	7,009	37.7%
Teacher	2,845	15.3%
A safeguarding officer,	2,300	12.4%
Social worker	1,812	9.8%
Social Care worker	1,001	5.4%
Medical Practitioner	551	3.0%
Manager of Domestic Violence Shelter	549	3.0%
Psychologist	468	2.5%
Psychotherapist	442	2.4%
Registered Nurse/midwife	404	2.2%
Youth worker	312	1.7%
Manager of homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility	147	0.8%
Manager of Asylum Seeker accommodation (Direct provision) Centre	115	0.6%
Person responsible for the care or management of a youth work service	88	0.5%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	87	0.5%
Probation Officer	66	0.4%
Speech and Language therapist	66	0.4%
A person carrying on a pre-school service	52	0.3%
Guardian Ad Litem	52	0.3%
Physiotherapist	49	0.3%
Occupational therapist	43	0.2%
An Addiction counsellor	33	0.2%
Emergency medical technician	25	0.1%
Foster carer registered with the Agency	24	0.1%
Select	21	0.1%
Member of the Clergy	6	<1%
Director of any institution where a child is detained by an order of a court	5	<1%
Manager of a language school or other recreational school where children reside	*	*
Dentist	*	*
Total	18,578	100.0%

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

Screening

- 58% (15,656/26,773) of referrals for Q2 2025 were closed following screening (Table 8).
- 24% (6,419/26,773) of referrals for Q2 2025 progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage. The remaining referrals (18%; 4,698) were either at the screening stage, awaiting closure following screening, or another process stage, when the data was extracted for reporting.

Table 8: Referrals closed following screening

Area	% Referrals closed Q2 2025
Dublin South Central	58%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	51%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	59%
Midlands	66%
Dublin North City	61%
Dublin North	60%
Louth/Meath	53%
Cavan/Monaghan	60%
Cork	55%
Kerry	35%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	72%
Waterford/Wexford	68%
Mid West	65%
Galway/Roscommon	35%
Mayo	51%
Donegal	62%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	46%
Total	58%

- A breakdown of the outcome of referrals closed following screening is presented below (Table 9).
- 55% (8,553) of referrals were closed following screening, as assessment / safety planning was already ongoing, while a further 7% (1,129) were diverted to Tusla's Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) services and 2% (315) were diverted to another agency. Some 34% (5,289) were closed with no further action required.

Table 9: Outcome of referrals closed following screening

Outcome of referrals closed	Q2 2025	% Total
No further action - close	5,289	34%
No further action – close, assessment / safety planning ongoing	8,553	55%
Divert to another agency - close	315	2%
Divert to PPFS - close	1,129	7%
Other / Not recorded	370	2%
Total	15,656	100%

- The percentage breakdown of outcomes of referrals for Q2 2025 closed following screening, by area is presented in the table below (Table 10).

Table 10: Outcome of referrals closed following screening by area, Q2 2025

Area	No further action - close	No further action – close, assessment / safety planning ongoing	Divert to PPFS - close
Dublin South Central	15%	77%	3%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	34%	58%	4%
DSW/K/WW	20%	71%	7%
Midlands	26%	62%	6%
Dublin North City	25%	67%	4%
Dublin North	25%	48%	26%
Louth/Meath	36%	51%	8%
Cavan/Monaghan	15%	63%	14%
Cork	28%	64%	2%
Kerry	56%	43%	0%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	63%	30%	6%
Waterford/Wexford	48%	39%	7%
Mid West	46%	42%	1%
Galway/Roscommon	48%	49%	0%
Mayo	83%	15%	0%
Donegal	45%	44%	10%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	53%	46%	1%
Total	34%	55%	7%

Preliminary Enquiries

- At the time the data for Q2 2025 was extracted for reporting, 97.5% (6,260/6,419) of preliminary enquiries were completed. A breakdown of preliminary enquiries completed by area is presented in the table below (Table 11).
- 11% (674) of preliminary enquiries that were completed within 5 working days. A breakdown of preliminary enquiries by area is presented in the table below.

Table 11: Preliminary enquiries commenced and completed, Q2 2025

Area	# PEs commenced	# PEs completed	% PEs completed	% PEs completed 5 days
Dublin South Central	392	389	99.2%	15%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	309	293	94.8%	5%
DSW/K/WW	490	477	97.3%	17%
Midlands	333	329	98.8%	4%
Dublin North City	340	319	93.8%	4%
Dublin North	524	516	98.5%	3%
Louth/Meath	615	588	95.6%	4%
Cavan/Monaghan	201	179	89.1%	4%
Cork	639	611	95.6%	6%
Kerry	388	387	99.7%	27%
CW/K/ST	219	218	99.5%	6%
Waterford/Wexford	398	394	99.0%	11%
Mid West	465	460	98.9%	10%
Galway/Roscommon	552	548	99.3%	15%
Mayo	124	123	99.2%	12%
Donegal	234	233	99.6%	20%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	196	196	100.0%	32%
Total	6,419	6,260	97.5%	11%

- Of the preliminary enquiries completed, 42% (2,650) required no further action; 36% (2,260) required an initial assessment, while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 5% (308) of cases. Some 10% (655) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS (Table 12).

Table 12: Outcomes from preliminary enquiries

Outcomes from preliminary enquiry	Q2 2025	% Total
No Further Action (NFA) - Close	2,650	42%
No Further Action (NFA) - Close, Assessment/Safety Planning Ongoing	308	5%
Divert to PPFS - Close	655	10%
Divert to Another Agency - Close	387	6%
Initial Assessment	2,260	36%
Total	6,260	100%

- The percentage breakdown of the outcomes of preliminary enquires completed, by area for Q2 2025 is presented in the table below (Table 13).

Table 13: Percentage breakdown of outcomes of preliminary enquiries, by area Q2 2022

Area	% Closed - No further Action	% Requiring IA	% Divert - PPFS	% Closed - Ongoing	% Closed - Divert to Another Agency
Dublin South Central	43%	38%	7%	3%	9%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	59%	26%	6%	2%	8%
DSW/K/WW	51%	33%	8%	2%	6%
Midlands	33%	41%	14%	7%	4%
Dublin North City	38%	44%	8%	3%	8%

Dublin North	28%	37%	29%	1%	4%
Louth/Meath	58%	22%	13%	1%	6%
Cavan/Monaghan	53%	28%	12%	5%	2%
Cork	39%	42%	5%	9%	5%
Kerry	45%	35%	5%	11%	3%
CW/K/ST	42%	36%	17%	6%	0%
Waterford/Wexford	28%	36%	17%	9%	10%
Mid West	39%	37%	1%	5%	19%
Galway/Roscommon	46%	43%	5%	2%	4%
Mayo	57%	33%	1%	2%	7%
Donegal	29%	39%	16%	15%	0%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	39%	44%	9%	7%	2%
Total	42%	36%	10%	5%	6%

Initial Assessments

- At the time the Q2 2025 data was extracted for reporting, 56% (1,264/2,260) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were completed (Table 14).
- 34% (425) of initial assessments completed were completed within 40 days of receipt of referral. A breakdown of initial assessments by area is presented in the table below.

Table 14: Breakdown of the status of Initial assessments, by area Q2 2025

Area	% IA Closed	% IAs closed 40 working days
Dublin South Central	55%	42%
DSE/WW	71%	41%
DSW/K/WW	63%	37%
Midlands	35%	30%
Dublin North City	35%	18%
Dublin North	16%	10%
Louth/Meath	24%	0%
Cavan/Monaghan	25%	15%
Cork	35%	20%
Kerry	87%	48%
CW/K/ST	74%	40%
Waterford/Wexford	64%	30%
Mid West	83%	39%
Galway/Roscommon	81%	35%
Mayo	80%	24%
Donegal	66%	13%
SLWC	97%	53%
Total	56%	34%

- 47% (599) of referrals that required an initial assessment following the preliminary enquiry were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. Of these 54% (322) required no further action, 21% (125) were diverted to another agency for a service, 17% (103) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service, while the remaining 8% (49) were closed as assessment/safety planning already ongoing.
- 31% (395) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 16% (207) required a children protection response / child protection conference and 5% (62) required admission to care.
- The outcome of the initial assessments completed is presented in the table below.

Table 15: Breakdown of the outcome of initial assessments, Q2 2025

Outcomes from initial assessments	Q2 2025	% Total
No Further Action (NFA) - Close	322	25%
No Further Action (NFA) - Close, Assessment/Safety Planning Ongoing	49	4%
Divert to Another Agency - Close	125	10%
Divert to PPFS - Close	103	8%
Child Protection / CPC Safety Planning	207	16%
Safety Planning	395	31%
Admission to Care	62	5%
Not specified	1	0%
Total	1,264	100%

2.2 NATIONAL OUT OF HOURS SERVICES

- Tusla National Out of Hours Service (NOHS) received 489 new referrals in Q3 2025. This brings to 1,357 the number of referrals for the first nine months of 2025.

	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	2025 YTD
# Referrals	425	443	489	1,357

- The NOHS placed 256 children in Q3 2025. This brings to 684 the number of children placed for the first nine months of 2025. *Figures include children who may have been placed more than once.*
- A breakdown of children placed for each Tusla area is presented in the table below. Included in the table is the number of children from Ukraine and separated children seeking international protection who were placed.

	# Placements Q1 2025	# Placements Q2 2025	# Placements Q3 2025	# Placements 2025 YTD	% Total
Ukraine	22	6	59	87	12.7%
Dublin North City	17	37	27	81	11.8%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	24	32	10	66	9.6%
Dublin North	24	21	12	57	8.3%
Dublin South Central	11	17	24	52	7.6%
Cork	8	16	28	52	7.6%
Separated Children Seeking International Protection	12	9	23	44	6.4%
Midlands	11	17	15	43	6.3%
Midwest	10	18	9	37	5.4%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	9	11	11	31	4.5%
Louth/Meath	12	13	6	31	4.5%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	7	9	7	23	3.4%
Galway/Roscommon	5	8	3	16	2.3%
Waterford/Wexford	4	7	3	14	2.0%
Donegal	3	9	1	13	1.9%
Cavan/Monaghan	0	7	5	12	1.8%
Kerry	6	0	5	11	1.6%
Sligo/Leitrim/ West Cavan	2	3	4	9	1.3%
Mayo	0	1	4	5	0.7%
TOTAL	187	241	256	684	100.0%

2.3 SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITY DATA (Child Protection & Welfare)

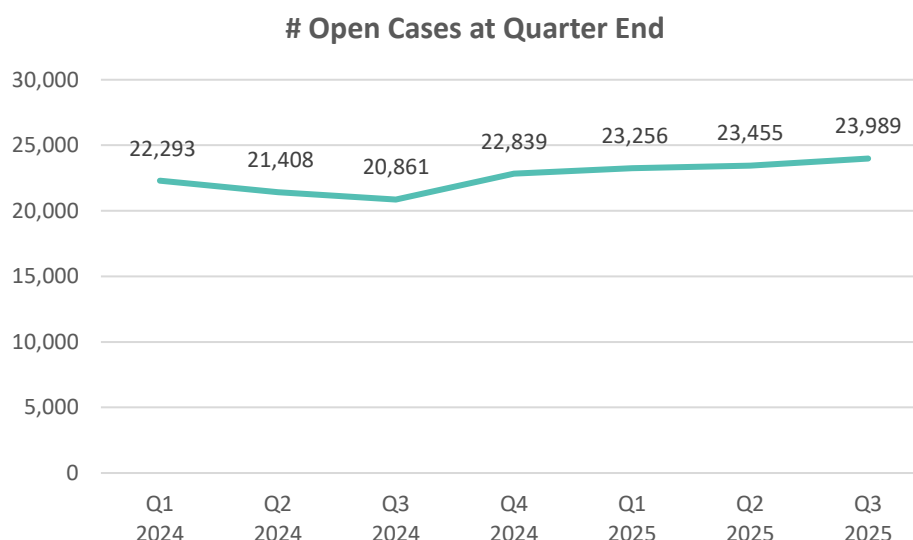
Key Facts

- **23,989 cases open to social work** nationally at the end of Q3 2025, 534 (2%) more than Q2 2025 (23,455) and 3,128 (15%) more than Q3 2024 (20,861).
- **80% (19,121)** of open cases were **allocated to a worker** at the end of Q3 2025, up one percentage point from Q2 2025 (79%).
- **4,868 (20%) cases were awaiting allocation**, 119 (2%) fewer than Q2 2025 (4,987) and 589 (14%) more than Q3 2024 (4,279).
- Five areas account for **70% (3,407)** of cases awaiting allocation, Cork (999), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (812), Dublin South Central (809), Midlands (485) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (302).
- **5% (248)** of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2025 were categorised as **high priority**, 59 (31%) more than Q2 2025 (189) and 197 (44%) fewer than Q3 2024 (445).
- 64% (3,095) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 27% (1,325) were low priority while the remaining 4% (200) were awaiting categorisation.
- **68% (3,308)** of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2025 were **waiting three months or less** and of these 60% (1,981) were waiting less than one month.
- **90% (224)** of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2025 were **waiting 3 months or less** and of these 79% (177) were waiting less than one month.

2.3.1 Open Cases

- 23,989 cases open² to social work nationally at the end of Q3 2025, 534 (2%) more than Q2 2025 (23,455) and 3,128 (15%) more than Q3 2024 (20,861).

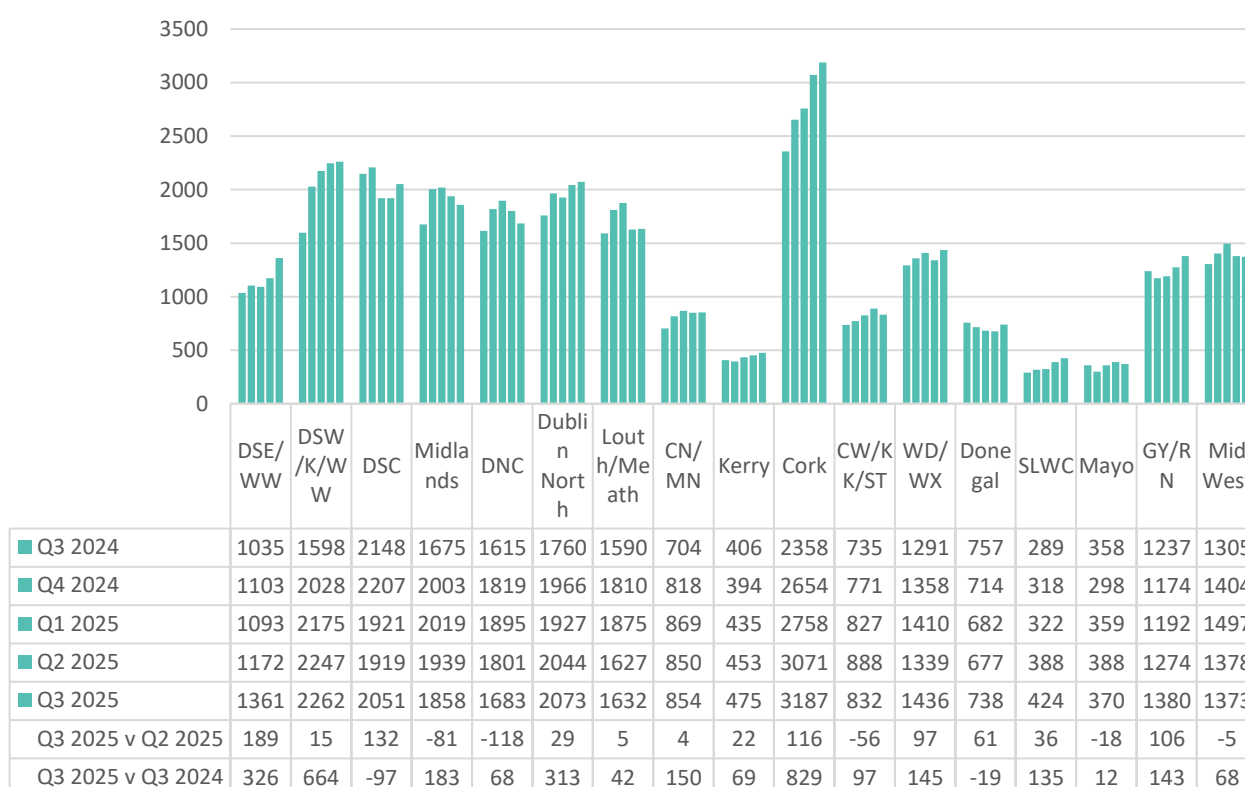
Number of open cases by quarter



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 3,187 (13%) in Cork to 370 (2%) in Mayo. Seven of the 17 areas had between 1,000 and 2,000 cases; a further six areas had fewer than 1,000 cases while the remaining four areas (Cork, Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow, Dublin North and Dublin south Central) had in excess of 2,000 cases.
- 12 of the 17 areas reported an increase in open cases from Q2 2025. The largest increase was reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (up 189), Dublin South Central (up 132) and Cork (up 116).
- Of the five areas that reported a decrease, the largest decrease was reported by Dublin North City (down 118), Midlands (down 81) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 56).

Number of open cases by area



2.3.2 Open Cases Allocated / Awaiting Allocation

- 80% (19,121) of open cases were allocated to a worker at the end of Q3 2025, up one percentage point from Q2 2025 (79%).

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

- Of the cases allocated (19,121) at the end of Q3 2025, 82% (15,719) were allocated to a social worker and 18% (3,402) were allocated to a another professional (see table below)

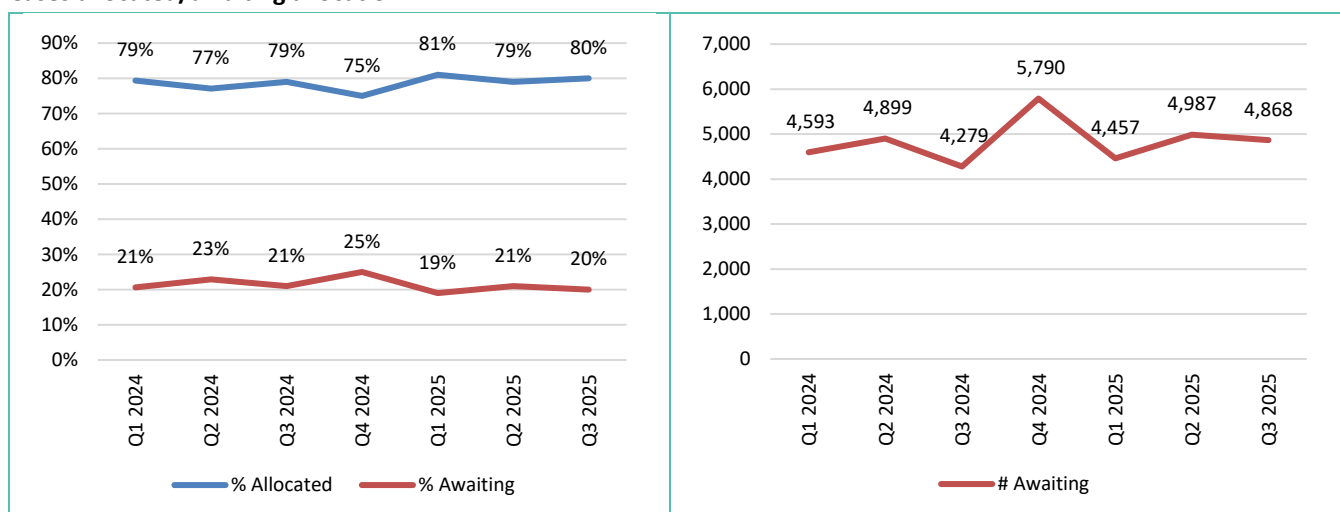
Breakdown of allocated cases by allocated to a social worker and allocated to another professional and area, Q3

2025

Area	Allocated Social Worker	Allocated Other Professional	Total	% Allocated Social Worker	% Allocated Other Professional	Total
Dublin South East/Wicklow	817	242	1,059	77%	23%	100%
DSW/K/WW	962	488	1,450	66%	34%	100%
Dublin South Central	893	349	1,242	72%	28%	100%
Midlands	1099	274	1,373	80%	20%	100%
Dublin North City	1247	224	1,471	85%	15%	100%
Dublin North	1615	198	1,813	89%	11%	100%
Louth/Meath	1133	273	1,406	81%	19%	100%
Cavan/Monaghan	517	181	698	74%	26%	100%
Kerry	373	88	461	81%	19%	100%
Cork	1985	203	2,188	91%	9%	100%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	433	248	681	64%	36%	100%
Waterford/Wexford	973	267	1,240	78%	22%	100%
Donegal	577	60	637	91%	9%	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	400	15	415	96%	4%	100%
Mayo	354	12	366	97%	3%	100%
Galway/Roscommon	1307	49	1,356	96%	4%	100%
Mid West	1034	231	1,265	82%	18%	100%
Total	15,719	3,402	19,121	82%	18%	100%

- 4,868 (20%) cases were awaiting allocation, 119 (2%) fewer than Q2 2025 (4,987) and 589 (14%) more than Q3 2024 (4,279).
- 53% (2,557) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2025 were “active” on a duty system³.

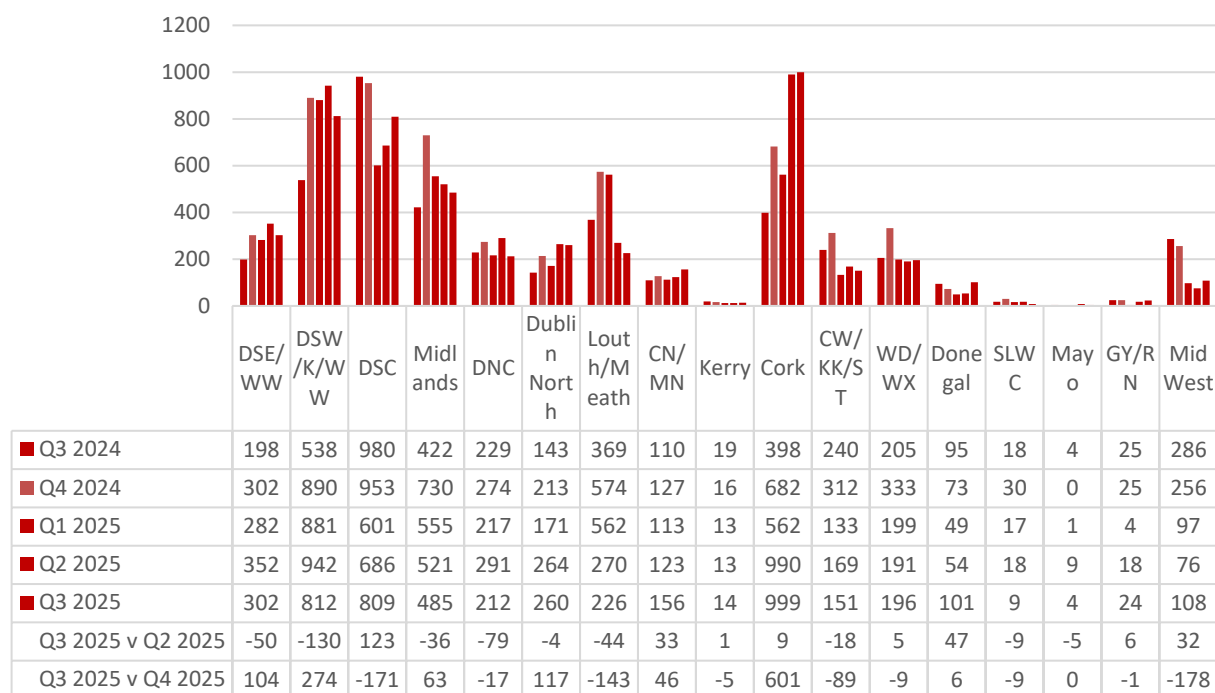
Cases allocated/awaiting allocation



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.

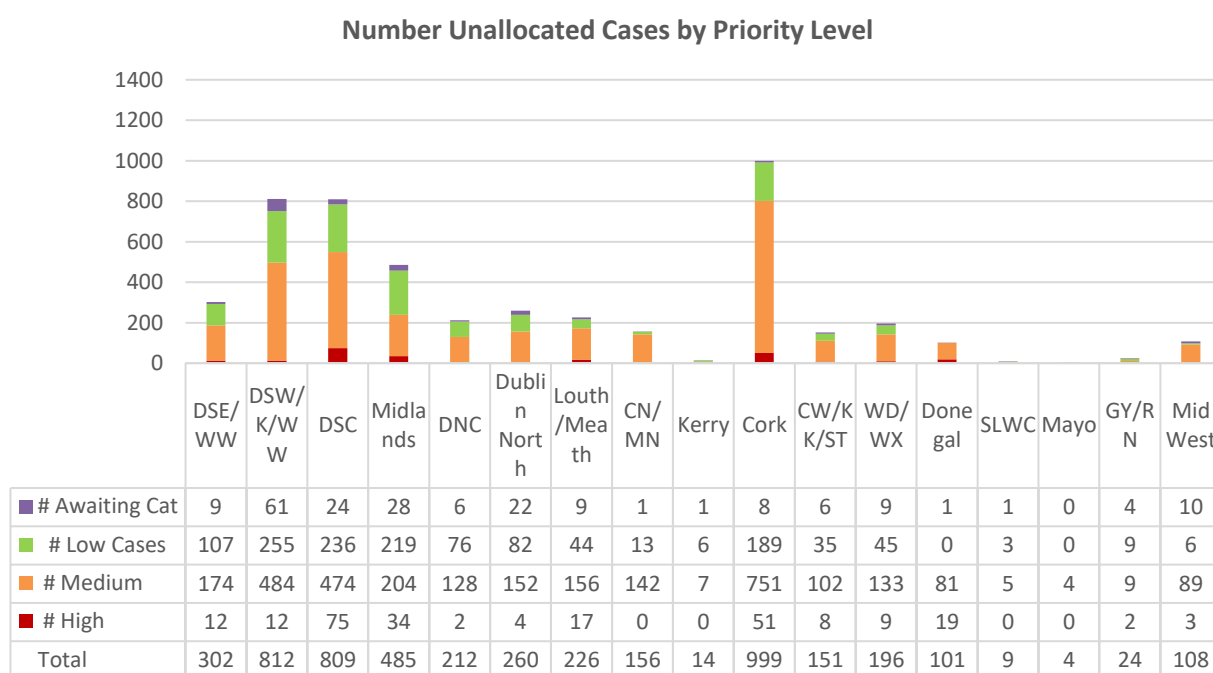
- Cork reported the highest number of cases awaiting allocation (999) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (812), Dublin South Central (809), Midlands (485) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (302). These five areas account for 70% (3,407) of cases awaiting allocation.
- 8 of the 17 areas reported an increase in cases awaiting allocation from Q2 2025 with the largest increases reported by Dublin South Central (up 123), Donegal (up 47), Cavan/Monaghan (up 33) and Midwest (up 32).
- 9 of the 17 areas reported a decrease in cases awaiting allocation from Q2 2025 with the largest decreases reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (down 130), Dublin North City (down 79) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (down 50).

Number of open cases awaiting allocation by area



2.3.3 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Priority Level

- 5% (248) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2025 were categorised as high priority, 59 (31%) more than Q2 2025 (189) and 197 (44%) fewer than Q3 2024 (445).
- 64% (3,095) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 27% (1,325) were low priority while the remaining 4% (200) were awaiting categorisation.
- The highest numbers of high priority cases were reported by Dublin South Central (75), Cork (51), Midlands (34), Donegal (19) and Louth/Meath (17). These five areas reported 79% (196) of all high priority cases awaiting allocation.



2.3.4 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Waiting Time

- 68% (3,308) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2025 were waiting three months or less and of these 60% (1,981) were waiting less than one month.
- 90% (224) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2025 were waiting 3 months or less and of these 79% (177) were waiting less than one month.

Breakdown of cases awaiting allocation by priority level and time waiting

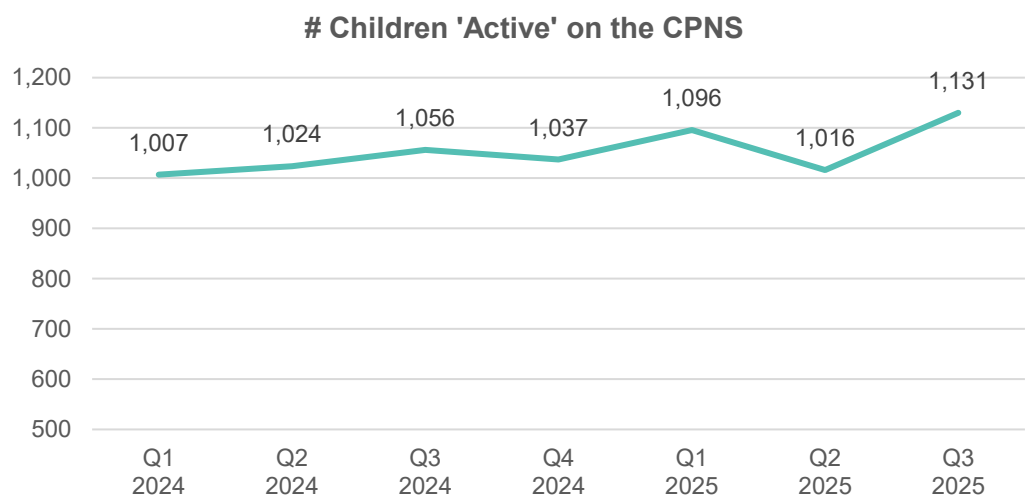
Time Waiting	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q1 2025	Q3 2025
<1 month	1,533 (36%)	1,922 (33%)	1,841 (41.3%)	1,799 (36%)	1,981 (41%)
1-3 months	885 (21%)	2,098 (36%)	1,595 (35.8%)	1,850 (37%)	1,327 (27%)
>3 months	1,861 (43%)	1,770 (31%)	1,021 (22.9%)	1,336 (27%)	1,536 (32%)
Total	4,279 (100%)	5,790 (100%)	4,457 (100%)	4,985 (100%)	4,844 (100%)

*Length of time awaiting not available for two cases for Q2 2025 and 24 cases for Q3 2025

2.4 CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

KEY FACTS

- **1,131 children listed as ‘active’ on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)** at the end of Q3 2025, 115 (11%) more than Q2 2025 (1,016) and 75 (7%) more than Q3 2024 (1,056). The number of children ‘active’ at the end of Q3 2025 is the highest number for all quarters Q1 2024 – Q3 2025.
 - **82% (927/1,131)** of children were listed as ‘active’ for no longer than 12 months, up from 80% (809/1,016) at the end of Q2 2025.
 - **9% (100/1,131)** of children were listed as ‘active’ for > 18 months, up from 7% (74/1,016) at the end of Q2 2025.
 - **98% (1,105)** of children ‘active’ had an allocated social worker, 26 children were awaiting allocation to a social worker. Eighteen of the 26 children were subsequently allocated to a social worker. The remaining eight cases are allocated to another professional.
- 1,131 children listed as ‘active’ on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)⁴ at the end of Q3 2025, 115 (11%) more than Q2 2025 (1,016) and 75 (7%) more than Q3 2024 (1,056). The number of children ‘active’ at the end of Q3 2025 is the highest number for all quarters Q1 2024 – Q3 2025.



- The number listed as ‘active’ equates to about nine children per 10,000 under 18 years and ranges from 4.2/10,000 in Dublin South East/Wicklow to 21.1/10,000 in Dublin North City, more than double the national average. Seven areas reported a rate equal to or higher than the national average.

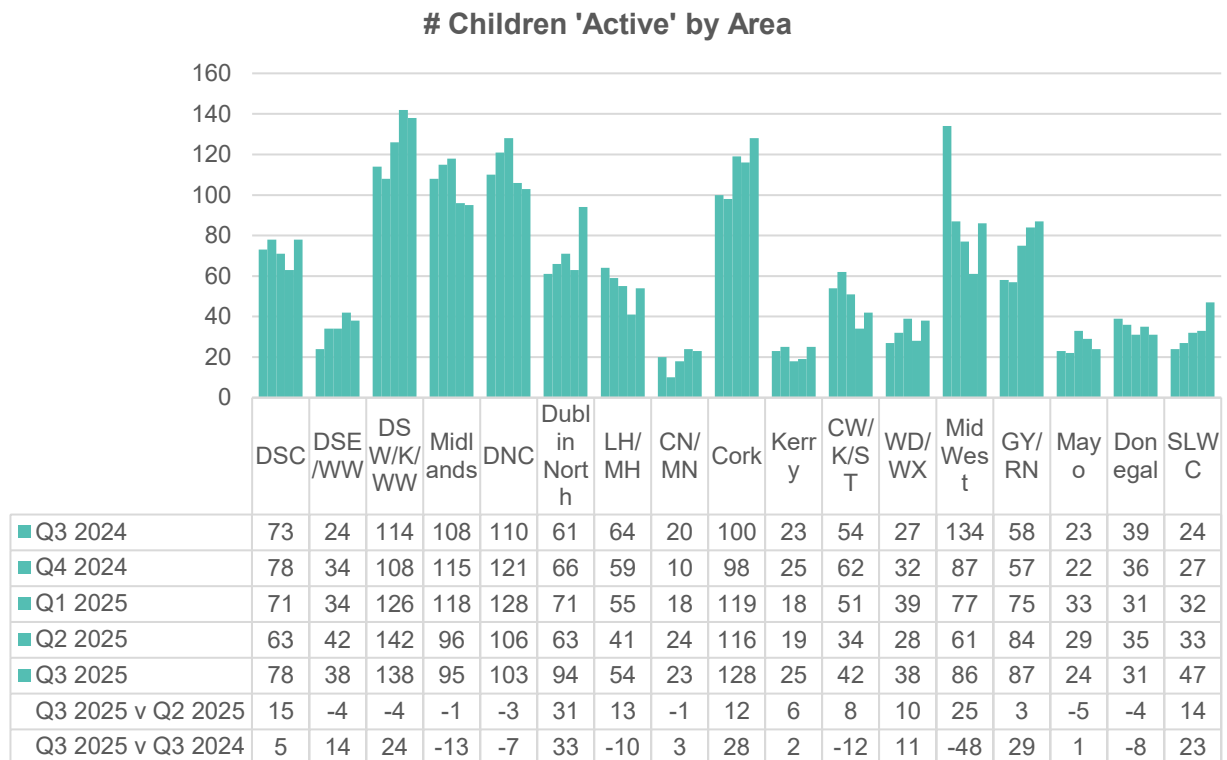
⁴ The CPNS, in accordance with the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, 2011, is a national record of all children who are the subject of a child protection plan agreed at a child protection conference. The CPNS is accessible to named professional groups subject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

- Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow reported the highest number (138) of children ‘active’, followed by Cork (128) and Dublin North City (103).

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

Area	Q3 2025	Population	Rate/10,000
Dublin North City	103	48,909	21.1
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	47	24,312	19.3
Dublin South West / Kildare / West Wicklow	138	108,927	12.7
Midlands	95	80,962	11.7
Dublin South Central	78	70,259	11.1
Galway / Roscommon	87	81,799	10.6
Cork	128	136,786	9.4
Dublin North	94	104,281	9.0
Mid West	86	96,764	8.9
Mayo	24	31,911	7.5
Donegal	31	42,144	7.4
Kerry	25	34,994	7.1
Carlow / Kilkenny / South Tipperary	42	62,366	6.7
Cavan / Monaghan	23	37,336	6.2
Louth / Meath	54	96,531	5.6
Waterford / Wexford	38	69,239	5.5
Dublin South East / Wicklow	38	91,047	4.2
Total	1,131	1,218,567	9.3

- 10/17 areas reported an increase in the number ‘active’ from Q2 2025. The largest increases were reported by Dublin North (up 31), Midwest (up 25) and Dublin South Central (up 15).
- 7/17 areas reported a decrease in the number ‘active’ from Q2 2025. The largest decreases were reported by Mayo (down 5), Donegal (down 4), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (down 4) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (down 4).
- 11/17 areas had more children ‘active’ at the end of Q3 2025 than at the end of Q3 2024. Largest increases reported by Dublin North (up 33), Galway/Roscommon (up 29) and Cork (up 28).
- 6/17 areas had fewer children ‘active’ at the end of Q3 2025 than at the end of Q3 2024. Largest decreases reported by Midwest (down 48), Midlands (down 13) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 12).



- 61% (690/1,131) of children listed as 'active' at the end of Q3 2025 were listed for 0-6 months, up slightly from 59% (600/1,016) at the end of Q2 2025.
- 82% (927/1,131) of children were listed as 'active' for no longer than 12 months, up from 80% (809/1,016) at the end of Q2 2025.
- 9% (100/1,131) of children were listed as 'active' for > 18 months, up from 7% (74/1,016) at the end of Q2 2025.
- 7 areas (Cavan/Monaghan, Donegal, Dublin South Central, Galway/Roscommon, Kerry, Mayo and Midlands) had no child 'active' for longer than 18 months.
- The areas reporting the largest number of children 'active' for > 18 months were, Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (28), Cork (19), Dublin North (16) and Dublin North City (15). These four areas account for 78% (78) of children 'active' for >18 months.
- 98% (1,105) of children 'active' had an allocated social worker, 26 children were awaiting allocation to a social worker. Eighteen of the 26 children were subsequently allocated to a social worker. The remaining eight cases are allocated to another professional.

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

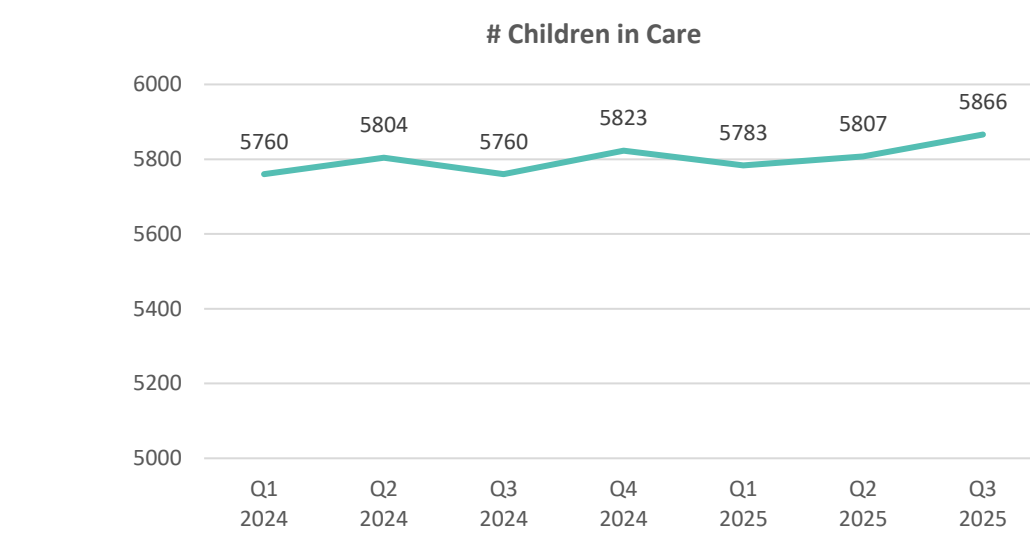
3.1 CHILDREN IN CARE (FOSTER CARE / RESIDENTIAL CARE)

KEY FACTS

- **5,866 children in care at the end of Q3 2025**, 59 (1%) more than Q2 2025 (5,707) and 106 (2%) more than Q3 2024 (5,760). This figure (5,866) includes 139 children reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.
- 86.0% (5,045) of children in care (17 Areas + SCSIP) were in foster care (general, relative) at the end of Q3 2025 and 10.2% (598) were in a residential care (general and special care) placement. The remaining 3.8% (222) of children were in “Other” care placements. *“Other” includes at home under a care order, supported lodgings, detention centre, disability unit, hospital, special emergency arrangement, not specified etc.*
- **Across the 17 Areas, 87.8% (5,028/5,727) of children were in foster care**, 8.6% (490) were in residential care and the remaining 3.6% (209) were in “other” care placements.
- **1,115 (19%) children in care at the end of Q3 2025 were in placements with private providers**, 38 (4%) more than Q2 2025 (1,077) and 138 (14%) more than Q3 2024 (977).
- **99% (5,784) of children in care at the end of Q3 2025 had an allocated case worker**. A total of 82 children were awaiting allocation of worker at the end of Q3 2025, 58 (41%) fewer than Q2 2025 (140).
- **83% (4,867) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan**, no change from Q2 2025. A total of 999 (17%) of children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, four fewer than Q2 2025 (1,003).
- **95% (3,566/3,746) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education** at the end of Q3 2025.
- **93% (907/977) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education** at the end of Q3 2025.

3.1.1 Number of Children in Care

- 5,866 children in care at the end of Q3 2025, 59 (1%) more than Q2 2025 (5,707) and 106 (2%) more than Q3 2024 (5,760). *This figure (5,866) includes 139 children reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.*



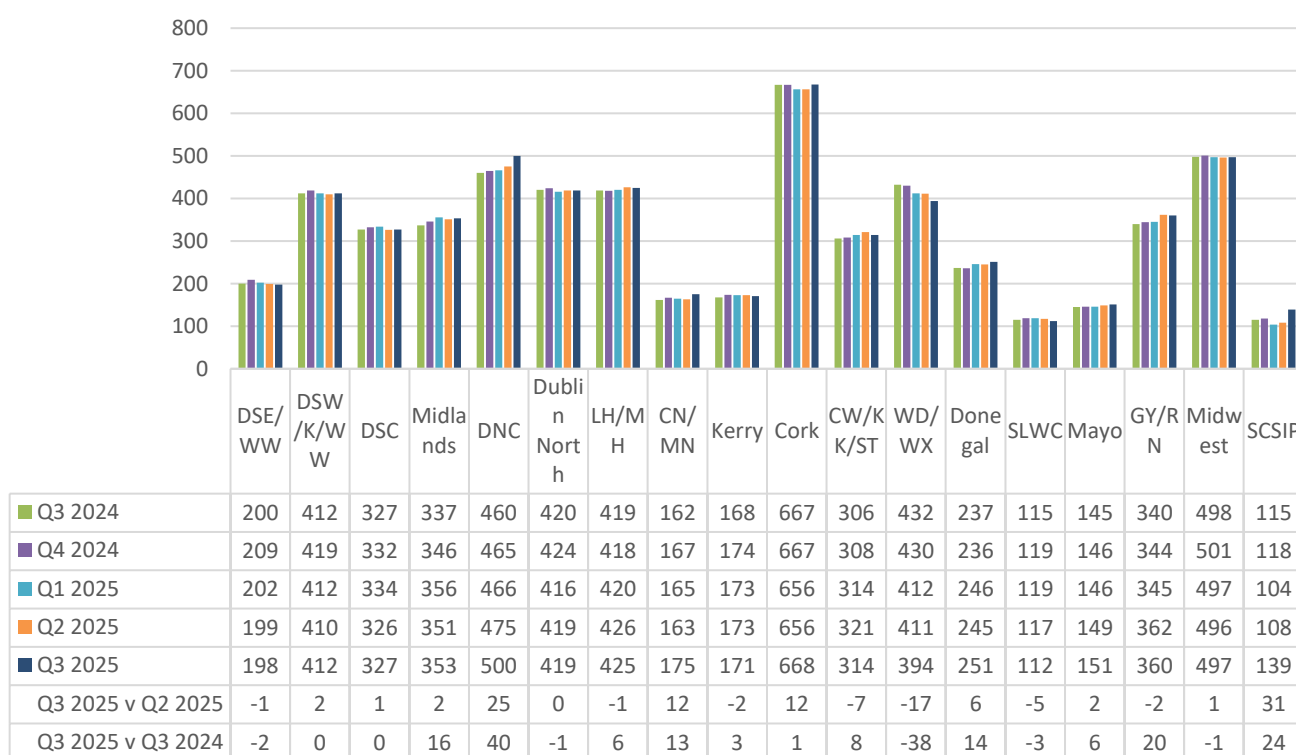
- Across the 17 areas the number of children in care ranged from 668 in Cork to 112 in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan.
- Dublin North City reported the highest rate of children in care per 1,000 population under 18 years (10.2), more than double the national rate (4.7), followed by Donegal (6.0) and Waterford/Wexford (5.7). Lowest rate reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (2.2) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (3.8) and Dublin North (4.0).

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

Area	# Children in care Q3 2025	0-17 population (Census 2022)	No of CIC/1,000 population 0-17
Dublin North City	500	48,909	10.2
Donegal	251	42,144	6.0
Waterford/Wexford	394	69,239	5.7
Midwest	497	96,764	5.1
CW/KK/ST	314	62,366	5
Kerry	171	34,994	4.9
Cork	668	136,786	4.9
Dublin South Central	327	70,259	4.7
Cavan/Monaghan	175	37,336	4.7
Mayo	151	31,911	4.7
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	112	24,312	4.6
Midlands	353	80,962	4.4
Louth/Meath	425	96,531	4.4
Galway/Roscommon	360	81,799	4.4
Dublin North	419	104,281	4.0
DSW/K/WW	412	108,927	3.8
Dublin South East/Wicklow	198	91,047	2.2
Total Areas	5,727	1,218,567	4.7

- 9 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported an increase in children in care from Q2 2025. Largest increases reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (up 31), Dublin North City (up 25), Cork (up 12) and Cavan/Monaghan (up 12).
- 7 areas reported a decrease from Q2 2025, with the largest decrease reported by Waterford/Wexford (down 17) followed to a lesser extent by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 7).
- The remaining area (Dublin North) reported no change.
- 10 areas along with the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection had more children in care at the end of Q3 2025 than at the end of Q3 2024, largest increases reported by Dublin North City (up 40), Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (up 24) and Galway/Roscommon (up 20).
- 5 areas reported a decrease with the largest decrease reported by Waterford/Wexford (down 38). The remaining two areas Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow and Dublin South Central reported no change.

Breakdown of the number of children in care in each area



3.1.2 Number of Children in Care, by Care Type

- 86.0% (5,045) of children in care (17 Areas + SCSIP) were in foster care (general, relative) at the end of Q3 2025 and 10.2% (598) were in a residential care (general and special care) placement. The remaining 3.8% (222) of children were in “Other” care placements. “Other” includes at home under a care order, supported lodgings, detention centre, disability unit, hospital, special emergency arrangement, not specified etc.

- Across the 17 Areas, 87.8% (5,028/5,727) of children were in foster care, 8.6% (490) were in residential care and the remaining 3.6% (209) were in “other” care placements.

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

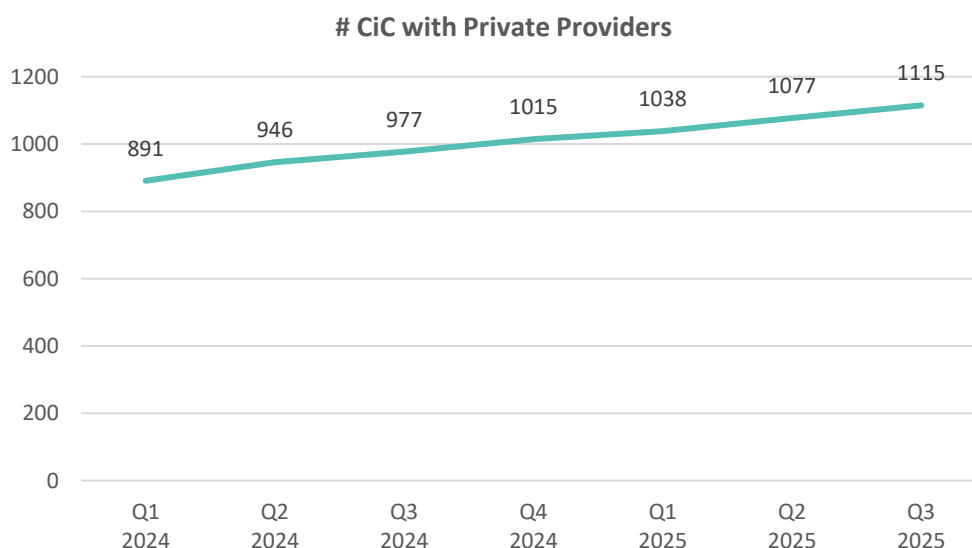
	Foster Care General	Δ+/- prev Q	Foster Care Relative	Δ+/- prev Q	Residential Care Gen	Δ+/- prev Q	Residential Special	Δ+/- prev Q	Other Care	Δ+/- prev Q	Total	Δ+/- prev Q
Q3 2024	3,581	-18	1,454	-19	486	+13	15	0	224	-20	5,760	-44
Q4 2024	3,581	0	1,496	+42	530	+44	13	-2	203	-21	5,823	+63
Q1 2025	3,543	-38	1,498	+2	538	+8	14	+1	190	-13	5,783	-40
Q2 2025	3,563	+20	1,480	-18	542	+4	14	0	208	+18	5,807	+24
Q3 2025	3,544	-19	1,502	+22	584	+42	14	0	222	+14	5,866	+59

- 16 (0.3%) children were in out of State placements at the end of Q3 2025, one fewer than Q2 2025 (17). These children are included in the figures for the various care types set out in the table above.

3.1.3 Children in Placements with Private Providers

- 1,115 (19%) children in care at the end of Q3 2025 were in placements with private providers⁵, 38 (4%) more than Q2 2025 (1,077) and 138 (14%) more than Q3 2024 (977).

Number of children in placements with private providers

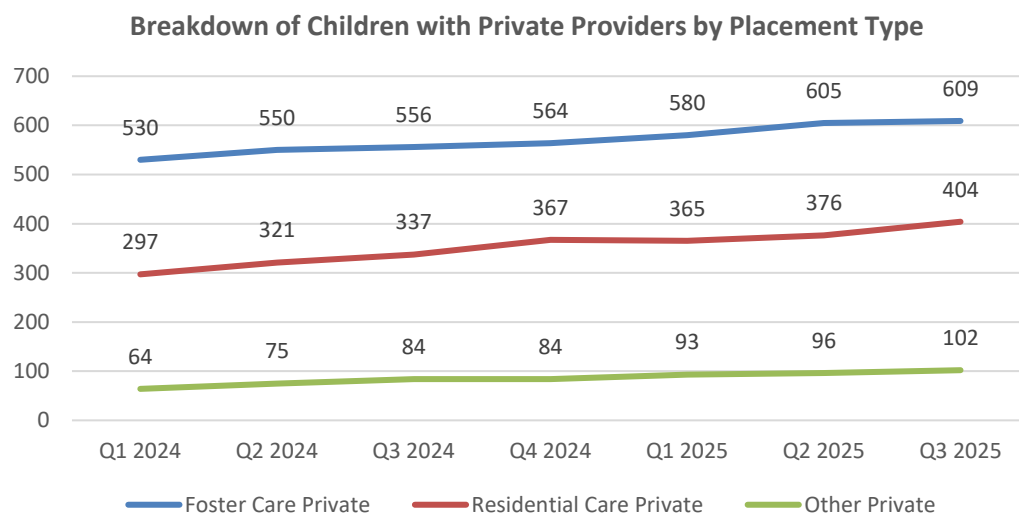


- 55% (609) of children in placements with private providers were in foster care, up 4 (<1%) from Q2 2025 (605) and 53 (10%) from Q3 2024 (556).
- 36% (404) were in residential placements, 28 (7%) more than Q2 2025 (376) and 67 (20%) more than Q3 2024 (337).

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

- The remaining 9% (102) were in “Other” care placements, up 6 (6%) from Q2 2025 (96) and 18 (21%) from Q3 2024 (84). “Other” care placements include, disability units, mental health units, drugs and alcohol rehabilitation centres etc.

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



- The highest number of children in care in placements with private providers is reported by Dublin North City (152) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare West Wicklow (125), Dublin North (124), Dublin South Central (118), and Midlands (107). These five areas account for 56% (626) of all children in placements with private providers.
- 9 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported an increase from Q2 2025 in children in placements with private providers with the largest increases reported by the Service for SCSIP (up 29) and Dublin North City (up 11).

Number of children in placements with private providers, by area

Area	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q3 v Q2
Dublin North city	123	129	138	141	152	11
DSW/K/WW	113	118	112	123	125	2
Dublin North	117	122	122	126	124	-2
Dublin South Central	113	113	118	116	118	2
Midlands	83	87	97	105	107	2
SCSIP	63	72	67	73	102	29
Cork	57	55	60	65	67	2
Louth/Meath	53	53	52	53	54	1
Waterford/Wexford	51	53	51	56	49	-7
Dublin South East/Wicklow	50	52	50	46	45	-1
Midwest	41	41	40	44	43	-1
Kerry	32	33	32	34	34	0
Donegal	20	22	28	30	30	0
CW/KK/ST	22	25	27	25	25	0
Galway/Roscommon	16	16	19	16	17	1

Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	12	14	15	15	12	-3
Cavan/Monaghan	8	9	8	7	8	1
Mayo	3	1	2	2	3	1
Total	977	1,015	1,038	1,077	1,115	38

3.1.4 Children in Care with an Allocated Worker

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

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

- 99% (5,784) of children in care at the end of Q3 2025 had an allocated case worker.
- 82 children were awaiting allocation of worker at the end of Q3 2025, 58 (41%) fewer than Q2 2025 (140).

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

Care Type	CIC Q2 2025	Allocated Q2 2025	% Allocated Q2 2025	CIC Q3 2025	Allocated Q3 2025	% Allocated Q3 2025
Foster Care (General)	3,563	3,474	98%	3,544	3,501	99%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,480	1,438	97%	1,502	1,476	98%
Residential Care (General)	542	536	99%	584	574	98%
Residential Special Care	14	14	100%	14	14	100%
Other Placements	208	205	99%	222	219	99%
Total	5,807	5,667	98%	5,866	5,784	99%

- 90% (5,200) of children allocated were allocated to a social worker and 10% (584) were allocated to another professional. A breakdown of children allocated by role type and area is presented in the table below.

Area	Allocated SW	% Allocated SW	Allocated OP	% Allocated OP	Total Allocated
Dublin South East/Wicklow	173	91.5%	16	8.5%	189
DSW/K/WW	319	83.1%	65	16.9%	384
Dublin South Central	291	93.3%	21	6.7%	312
Midlands	320	90.7%	33	9.3%	353
Dublin North City	462	92.4%	38	7.6%	500
Dublin North	390	93.5%	27	6.5%	417
Louth/Meath	368	87.2%	54	12.8%	422
Cavan/Monaghan	166	94.9%	9	5.1%	175
Kerry	163	95.3%	8	4.7%	171
Cork	661	99.7%	2	0.3%	663
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	159	50.8%	154	49.2%	313

Waterford/Wexford	357	91.3%	34	8.7%	391
Donegal	251	100.0%	0	0.0%	251
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	107	95.5%	5	4.5%	112
Mayo	151	100.0%	0	0.0%	151
Galway/Roscommon	352	98.6%	5	1.4%	357
Mid West	383	77.2%	113	22.8%	496
SCSIP	127	100.0%	0	0.0%	127
Total	5,200	89.9%	584	10.1%	5,784

- 7 of the 17 areas report no cases awaiting allocation with a further eight areas reporting fewer than 10 cases awaiting allocation.

Area	No in Care Q3 2025	No Allocated Q3 2025	% Allocated Q3 2025	# Awaiting Allocation
Midlands	353	353	100.0%	0
Dublin North City	500	500	100.0%	0
Cavan/Monaghan	175	175	100.0%	0
Kerry	171	171	100.0%	0
Donegal	251	251	100.0%	0
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	112	112	100.0%	0
Mayo	151	151	100.0%	0
Mid West	497	496	99.8%	1
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	314	313	99.7%	1
Dublin North	419	417	99.5%	2
Louth/Meath	425	422	99.3%	3
Cork	668	663	99.3%	5
Waterford/Wexford	394	391	99.2%	3
Galway/Roscommon	360	357	99.2%	3
Dublin South East/Wicklow	198	189	95.5%	9
Dublin South Central	327	312	95.4%	15
DSW/K/WW	412	384	93.2%	28
SCSIP	139	127	91.4%	12
Total	5,866	5,784	98.6%	82

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

- 83% (4,867) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan, no change from Q2 2025.
- A total of 999 (17%) of children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, four fewer than Q2 2025 (1,003).

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

Care Type	CIC Q2 2025	No. with UTD CP Q2 2025	% with UTD CP Q2 2025	CIC Q3 2025	No. with UTD CP Q3 2025	% with UTD CP Q3 2025
Foster Care General	3,563	2,996	84%	3,544	3,035	86%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,480	1,239	84%	1,502	1,227	82%
Residential Care General	542	422	79%	584	451	77%
Residential Special Care	14	10	71%	14	11	79%
Other Placements	208	137	66%	222	143	64%
Total	5,807	4,804	83%	5,866	4,867	83%

- The percentage of children with an up-to-date care plan ranged from 98% (Midlands) to 68% (Dublin North City).
- The areas with the highest numbers of children awaiting an up-to-date plan are Dublin North City (160; 32%), Cork (114; 17%), Dublin North (96; 23%) and Dublin South Central (82; 25%).

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

Area	No in Care Q3 2025	No with a care plan Q3 2025	% with a care plan Q3 2025	# Awaiting a Plan
Midlands	353	345	98%	8
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	314	297	95%	17
Donegal	251	236	94%	15
Waterford/Wexford	394	364	92%	30
Mid West	497	429	86%	68
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	112	96	86%	16
Louth/Meath	425	358	84%	67
Cork	668	554	83%	114
DSW/K/WW	412	339	82%	73
Mayo	151	123	81%	28
Cavan/Monaghan	175	142	81%	33
Galway/Roscommon	360	286	79%	74
Kerry	171	132	77%	39
Dublin North	419	323	77%	96
SCSIP	139	107	77%	32
Dublin South East/Wicklow	198	151	76%	47
Dublin South Central	327	245	75%	82
Dublin North City	500	340	68%	160
Total	5,866	4,867	83%	999

3.1.6 Children in Care in Education

- 95% (3,566/3,746) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education at the end of Q3 2025.
- All but one area (Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow) reported 90% or higher with one area (Mayo) reporting 100%.

- 68% (2,423) of children 6-15 years were in primary school, 26% (938) were in post primary school and 4% (131) were in special education. There were a further 74 (2%) spread across boarding school, education training facility, home tuition, pre-school and Other (not specified).
- 93% (907/977) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of Q3 2025.
- 16/17 areas reporting 90% or higher.
- 85% (774) of young people 16 & 17 years were in post primary school, 6% (57) were in special education and 5% (47) were attending an educational training facility. There were a further 29 (3%) spread across boarding school, home tuition and other (not specified).

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

Area	No of CIC 6-15 years Q3 2025	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q3 2025	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q3 2025
Mayo	101	101	100%
Dublin North	290	286	99%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	201	199	99%
Mid West	337	334	99%
Louth/Meath	301	296	98%
Kerry	103	101	98%
Waterford/Wexford	247	241	98%
Galway/Roscommon	239	234	98%
Midlands	251	243	97%
Cavan/Monaghan	121	117	97%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	119	114	96%
Cork	451	413	92%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	79	73	92%
Dublin North City	293	266	91%
Dublin South Central	210	188	90%
Donegal	154	139	90%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	249	221	89%
Total	3,746	3,566	95%

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

Area	No of CIC 16-17 yrs Q3 2025	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q3 2025	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q3 2025
Mid West	78	76	97%
Louth/Meath	71	69	97%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	57	55	96%
Midlands	45	43	96%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	40	38	95%
Dublin North City	76	72	95%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	18	17	94%

Mayo	18	17	94%
Kerry	30	28	93%
Waterford/Wexford	70	65	93%
Galway/Roscommon	69	64	93%
Cavan/Monaghan	24	22	92%
Cork	120	110	92%
Dublin North	72	65	90%
Dublin South Central	58	52	90%
DSW/K/WW	86	77	90%
Donegal	45	37	82%
Total	977	907	93%

3.2 AFTERCARE

KEY FACTS

- **161 referrals for an aftercare service in Q3 2025.** This brings to 508 the number of referrals for the first nine months of 2025, 78 (18%) more than the same period in 2024 (430).
- **2,972 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2025,** 12 (<1%) fewer than Q2 2025 (2,984) and 57 (2%) more than Q3 2024 (2,915). *Figures include young persons < 18 years and those 18-22 years inclusive.*
- **79% (1,774/2,244)** of those 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q3 2025 were **in education/accredited training.**
- Almost half (43%; 970) of young people 18 – 22 years (2,244) in receipt of aftercare services had remained living with their carers. A further 8.6% (194) had returned home to parents/family while one in five (23%; 526) was in independent living arrangements. Some 6.5% (146) were homeless.
- **78% (2,327) of young persons/adults** in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2025 **had an aftercare plan,** down one percentage point from Q2 2025 (79%). A total of 645 were awaiting a plan, 30 (5%) more than Q2 2025 (615).
- **90% (1,979/2,192) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker** at the end of Q3 2025, up one percentage points from Q2 2025 (89%). A total of 213 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2025, 29 (12%) fewer than Q2 2025 (242).
- **98% (177/181) of young people < 18 years** assessed as needing an aftercare worker **had an aftercare worker** at the end of Q3 2025.
- **90% (1,802/2,011) of 18–22-year-olds** assessed as needing an aftercare worker **had an aftercare worker** at the end of Q3 2025.

3.2.1 Referrals for an aftercare service received in the quarter

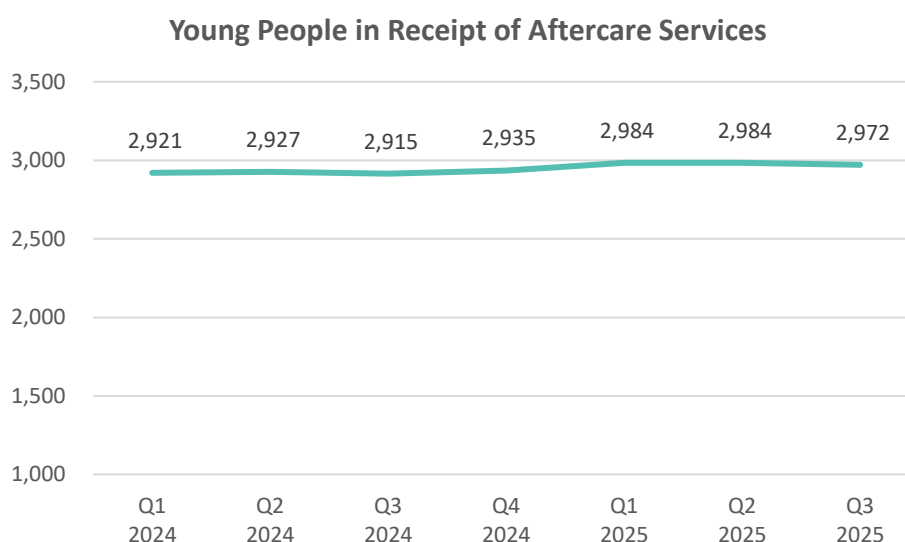
- 161 referrals for an aftercare service in Q3 2025. This brings to 508 the number of referrals for the first nine months of 2025, 78 (18%) more than the same period in 2024 (430).
- All but three referrals for Q3 2025 were eligible for an assessment of need.
- Of those eligible for an assessment of need 98% (155) were <18 years and in care.
- 86 assessments of need were completed in Q3 2025. This brings to 329 the number of assessments completed for the first nine months of 2025, 16 (5%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (345)
- A breakdown of referrals by area is presented in the table below.

Table: Referrals for an Aftercare Service by Area

Area	2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	2025 YTD
Dublin South Central	30	7	7	7	21
Dublin South East/Wicklow	24	5	1	7	13
DSW/K/WW	47	8	16	15	39
Midlands	21	6	7	5	18
Dublin North City	45	21	7	10	38
Dublin North	25	4	11	6	21
Louth/Meath	30	1	5	2	8
Cavan/Monaghan	22	5	4	1	10
Cork	64	24	10	18	52
Kerry	17	9	4	3	16
CW/K/ST	36	6	7	4	17
Waterford/Wexford	40	18	9	8	35
Mid West	42	5	9	12	26
Galway/Roscommon	40	2	10	6	18
Mayo	8	4	3	4	11
Donegal	12	10	10	6	26
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	14	3	2	2	7
SCSIP Service	63	34	53	45	132
Total	580	172	175	161	508

3.2.2 Young Persons / Adults in receipt of an aftercare service

- 2,972 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2025, 12 (<1%) fewer than Q2 2025 (2,984) and 57 (2%) more than Q3 2024 (2,915). *Figures include young persons < 18 years and those 18-22 years inclusive.*



- Highest number of adults/young people in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2025 reported by Cork (368) followed by Dublin North City (269) and Service for SCSIP (254). Fewest number reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (46) followed by Cavan /Monaghan (67) and Mayo (68).

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q4 2024	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q1 2025	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q2 2025	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q3 2025
Dublin South Central	209	213	175	177
DSE/WW	135	123	118	125
DSW/K/WW	215	216	221	217
Midlands	129	129	126	118
Dublin North City	249	262	266	269
Dublin North	182	184	177	215
Louth/Meath	153	134	146	134
Cavan/Monaghan	77	79	79	67
Cork	365	388	360	368
Kerry	87	93	94	93
CW/K/ST	164	158	144	108
Waterford/Wexford	161	200	202	202
Mid West	226	230	230	228
Galway/Roscommon	208	197	200	181
Mayo	67	68	71	68
Donegal	96	95	92	102
SLWC	50	48	47	46
SCSIP Service	162	167	236*	254
Total	2,935	2,984	2,984	2,972

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

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

- 56% (1,660) of those in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q3 2025 (2,972) were 18 – 20 years inclusive and of these 79% (1,304) were in education/accredited training, no change from Q2 2025 (table below).
- 12 of the 17 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported at least seven out of 10 young people (18-20 years) in receipt of aftercare services in education/accredited training. Two areas (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary and Mayo) reported 100%.
- Rates reported by Waterford/Wexford (61%), Cavan/Monaghan (63%), Louth/Meath (64%) and Dublin South Central (65%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# 18-20 years Q2 2025	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 18-20 years Q3 2025	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
Dublin South Central	100	70	70%	100	65	65%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	71	47	66%	72	54	75%
DSW/K/WW	115	77	67%	116	80	69%
Midlands	67	55	82%	64	51	80%
Dublin North City	131	94	72%	119	89	75%
Dublin North	91	65	71%	90	65	72%

Louth/Meath	87	60	69%	85	54	64%
Cavan/Monaghan	45	45	100%	41	26	63%
Cork	190	156	82%	195	158	81%
Kerry	44	32	73%	48	36	75%
CW/K/ST	73	73	100%	76	76	100%
Waterford/Wexford	116	70	60%	122	75	61%
Mid West	143	130	91%	145	128	88%
Galway/Roscommon	97	72	74%	95	76	80%
Mayo	33	28	85%	31	31	100%
Donegal	52	44	85%	53	45	85%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	25	19	76%	25	19	76%
SCSIP Service	167	166	99%	183	176	96%
Total	1,647	1,303	79%	1,660	1,304	79%

- The highest number of those in education/accredited training were in second level (323; 25%) followed by vocational training (252; 19%) and PLCs (250; 19%).

	# 18-20 years in education/accredited Training Q3 2025	%
Second Level	323	25%
Vocational Training	252	19%
PLCs	250	19%
Third Level College / University	239	18%
Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)	148	11%
Other	92	7%
Total	1,304	100%

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

- 20% (584) of those in receipt of an aftercare service (2,984) were 21 – 22 years inclusive and of these 80% (470) were in education/accredited training, an increase of three percentage points from Q2 2025 (table below).
- 13 of the 17 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported 70% or higher with six of the areas (Dublin South East/Wicklow, Midlands, Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary, Midwest, Mayo and Donegal) reporting 100%. Rates reported by Dublin North City (51%), Cavan/Monaghan (63%) and Cork (67%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# 21-22 years Q2 2025	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 21-22 years Q3 2025	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
Dublin South Central	36	19	53%	21	18	86%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	24	22	92%	24	24	100%
DSW/K/WW	43	28	65%	32	27	84%
Midlands	23	23	100%	24	24	100%
Dublin North City	75	42	56%	85	43	51%
Dublin North	37	31	84%	34	28	82%
Louth/Meath	21	15	71%	22	16	73%

Cavan/Monaghan	15	15	100%	8	5	63%
Cork	74	51	69%	70	47	67%
Kerry	19	17	89%	17	15	88%
CW/K/ST	18	18	100%	20	20	100%
Waterford/Wexford	31	24	77%	26	18	69%
Mid West	34	34	100%	34	34	100%
Galway/Roscommon	74	46	62%	60	46	77%
Mayo	21	20	95%	23	23	100%
Donegal	15	15	100%	20	20	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	11	10	91%	11	10	91%
SCSIP Service	49	49	100%	53	52	98%
Total	620	479	77%	584	470	80%

- 46% (214) of those in education/accredited training were in third level colleges with a further 20% (95) in PLCs, 16% (75) in vocational training and 12% (55) in accredited training.

	# 21-22 years in education/accredited Training Q3 2025	%
Second Level	1	<1%
Vocational Training	75	16%
PLCs	95	20%
Third Level College / University	214	46%
Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)	55	12%
Other	30	6%
Total	470	100%

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

- Almost half (43%; 970) of young people 18 – 22 years (2,244) in receipt of aftercare services had remained living with their carers. A further 8.6% (194) had returned home to parents/family while one in five (23%; 526) was in independent living arrangements. Some 6.5% (146) were homeless.

Accommodation	# 18-22 placement type Q3 2025	%
Residential Care Placement	171	7.6%
Remained with Carers	970	43.2%
Independent Living	526	23.4%
Designated Care Leavers Accommodation	33	1.5%
At home	194	8.6%
Supported Lodgings	38	1.7%
Homeless	146	6.5%
Other	166	7.4%
Total	2,244	100.0%

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

- 78% (2,327) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2025 had an aftercare plan, down one percentage point from Q2 2025 (79%). A total of 645 were awaiting a plan, 30 (5%) more than Q2 2025 (615).
- 10 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported a percentage equal to or higher the national average of 78%. Rates reported by Dublin North (60%), Louth/Meath (66%) and Cork (70%) lower than all other areas.
- 95% (2,140/2,244) of those 18-22 years in receipt of an aftercare service had a plan. 26% (187/728) of those <18 years had a plan.

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q2 2025	# with an Aftercare Plan Q2 2025	% with an Aftercare Plan Q2 2025	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q3 2025	# with an Aftercare Plan Q3 2025	% with an Aftercare Plan Q3 2025
Dublin South Central	175	132	75%	177	132	75%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	118	115	97%	125	120	96%
DSW/K/WW	221	173	78%	217	162	75%
Midlands	126	112	89%	118	107	91%
Dublin North City	266	206	77%	269	197	73%
Dublin North	177	135	76%	215	129	60%
Louth/Meath	146	98	67%	134	88	66%
Cavan/Monaghan	79	72	91%	67	61	91%
Cork	360	269	75%	368	259	70%
Kerry	94	73	78%	93	69	74%
CW/K/ST	144	100	69%	108	105	97%
Waterford/Wexford	202	156	77%	202	163	81%
Mid West	230	190	83%	228	189	83%
Galway/Roscommon	200	165	83%	181	147	81%
Mayo	71	57	80%	68	68	100%
Donegal	92	92	100%	102	80	78%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	47	39	83%	46	40	87%
SCSIP Service	236	185	78%	254	211	83%
Total	2,984	2,369	79%	2,972	2,327	78%

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

- 94% (2,192/2,327) of those with an aftercare plan were assessed as needing an aftercare worker. The percentage with an aftercare plan assessed as needing an aftercare worker ranged from 76% to 100% in ten areas. The Service for SCSIP also reported 100%.
- Percentages reported by Midlands (76%), Midwest (78%) and Waterford/Wexford (83%) lower than all other areas. *Some areas advised that young persons/adults who are settled and doing well are moved to the drop-in service (i.e., assessed as not needing an allocated*

aftercare worker). With a reduction in staff this allows the service to prioritise those with greatest need for allocation to an aftercare worker.

- 90% (1,979/2,192) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2025, up one percentage points from Q2 2025 (89%). A total of 213 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2025, 29 (12%) fewer than Q2 2025 (242).
- 98% (177/181) of young people < 18 years assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2025.
- 90% (1,802/2,011) of 18–22-year-olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2025.
- 10 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported 100%. Rates reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (60%), Dublin South Central (61%) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (62%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# with a Plan Q3 2025	# Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q3 2025	% Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q3 2025	# with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q3 2025	% with an Aftercare Worker Q3 2025	% with an Aftercare Worker Q2 2025
Dublin South Central	132	132	100%	81	61%	57%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	120	120	100%	120	100%	100%
DSW/K/WW	162	147	91%	88	60%	56%
Midlands	107	81	76%	81	100%	100%
Dublin North City	197	191	97%	191	100%	100%
Dublin North	129	129	100%	101	78%	80%
Louth/Meath	88	88	100%	88	100%	100%
Cavan/Monaghan	61	61	100%	61	100%	100%
Cork	259	247	95%	230	93%	86%
Kerry	69	69	100%	69	100%	100%
CW/K/ST	105	98	93%	61	62%	61%
Waterford/Wexford	163	136	83%	136	100%	100%
Mid West	189	147	78%	134	91%	87%
Galway/Roscommon	147	147	100%	147	100%	100%
Mayo	68	68	100%	68	100%	100%
Donegal	80	80	100%	72	90%	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	40	40	100%	40	100%	100%
SCSIP Service	211	211	100%	211	100%	100%
Total	2,327	2,192	94%	1,979	90%	89%

3.2.8 Drop-in Service

- All areas reported having a drop-in service.

3.2.9 Interagency Aftercare Steering Committee

- All areas reported having an interagency aftercare steering committee.

3.3 ADOPTION SERVICES

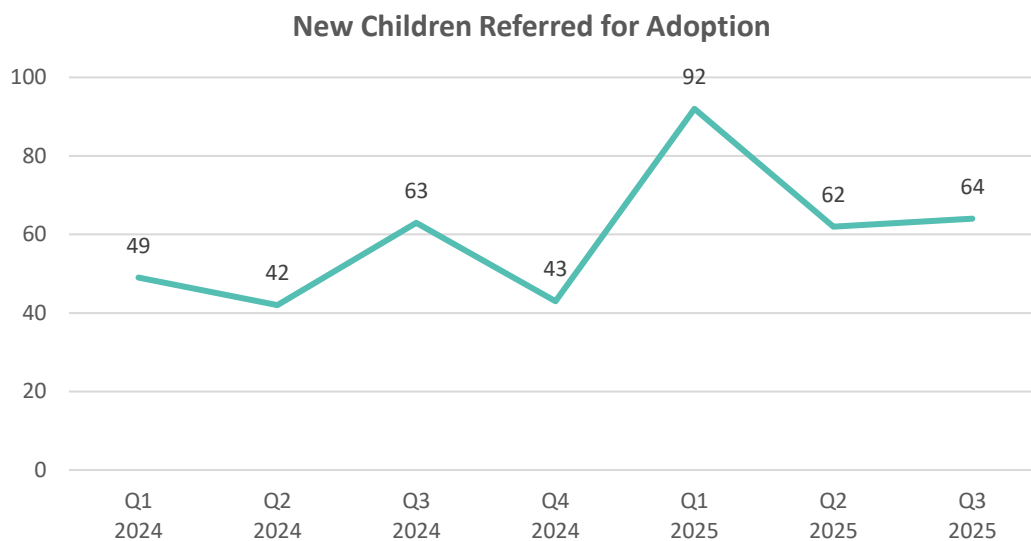
KEY FACTS

Adoption

- **64 new children referred for adoption during Q3 2025.** This brings to 218 the number of children referred for the first nine months of 2025, 64 (42%) more than the same period in 2024 (154). A total of 197 new children were referred for adoption in 2024.
- **34 completed initial assessments awaiting allocation to a social worker for full assessment** at the end of Q3 2025. Of these, 11 (32%) were waiting for 0-8 weeks, 8 (24%) were waiting between 8 and 16 weeks (inclusive) while the remaining 15 (44%) were waiting more than 16 weeks.

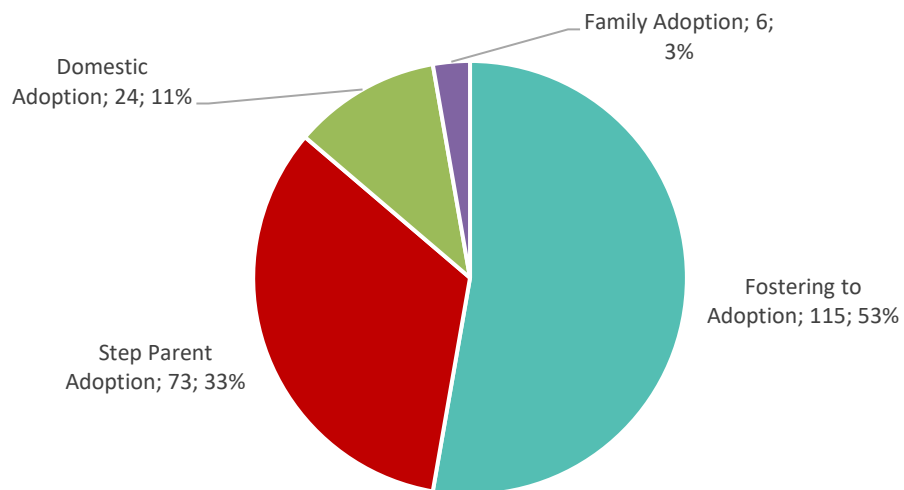
3.3.1 Adoption Assessments

- 64 new children referred for adoption during Q3 2025. This brings to 218 the number of children referred for the first nine months of 2025, 64 (42%) more than the same period in 2024 (154). A total of 197 new children were referred for adoption in 2024.



- Half (115; 53%) of children referred for adoption in the first nine months of 2025 were referred for fostering to adoption with a further 33% (73) referred for step-parent adoption and 11% (24) referred for infant domestic adoption. A breakdown of children referred for the first nine months of 2025 by type is presented in the chart below.

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



- 34 completed initial assessments awaiting allocation to a social worker for full assessment at the end of Q3 2025, 34 (50%) fewer than at the end of Q2 2025. Of those awaiting, 11 (32%) were waiting for 0-8 weeks, 8 (24%) were waiting between 8 and 16 weeks (inclusive) while the remaining 15 (44%) were waiting more than 16 weeks.

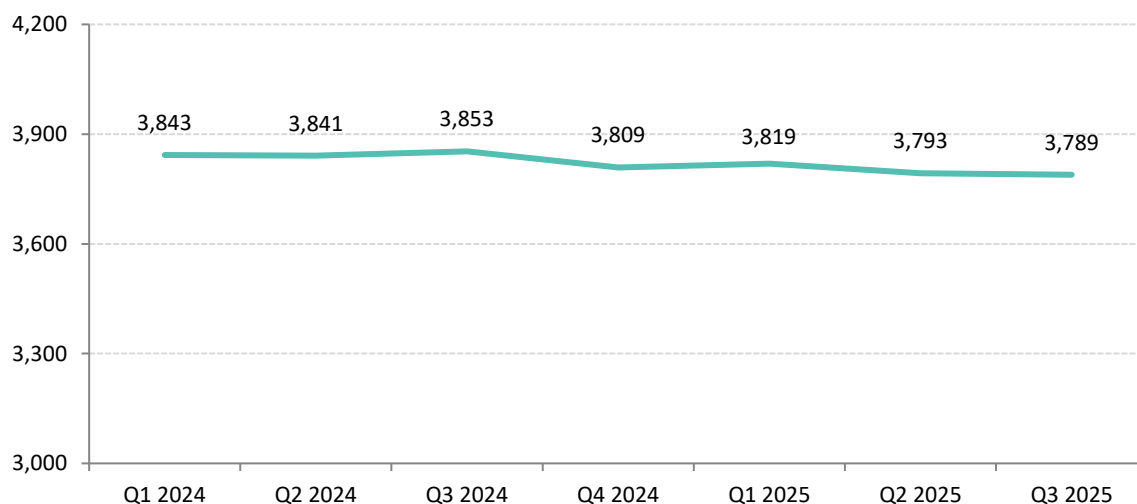
3.4 FOSTER CARERS

KEY FACTS

- **3,789 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel** of approved foster carers at the end of Q3 2025, 4 (<1%) fewer than Q2 2025 (3,793) and 64 (2%) fewer than Q3 2024 (3,853).
- **66 Tusla foster carers (28 general & 38 relative) and 13 private foster carers approved in Q3 2025.** This brings to 167 the number of Tusla foster carers (85 general and 82 relative) and 31 private foster carers approved in the first nine months of 2025. A total of 161 Tusla foster carers (78 general and 83 relative) and 21 private foster carers approved during the same period in 2024.
- At least **76 applications (based on data for 15 areas) for general foster care** and **177 applications (based on data for 16 areas) for relative foster care in progress** at the end of Q3 2025.
- **91% (1,967) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker** at the end of Q3 2025, down one percentage point from Q2 2025 (92%).
- 204 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker, 35 (21%) more than Q2 2025 (169).
- **95% (901) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker** at the end of Q3 2025, up one percentage point from Q2 2025 (94%).
- 47 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q3 2025, 13 (22%) fewer than Q2 2025 (60).
- **97% (204) of unapproved relative foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks had an allocated link (social) worker.** Six carers were awaiting a link worker, three fewer than Q2 2025 (9). The six carers were reported across two areas.

3.4.1 Number of foster carers

- 3,789 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q3 2025, 4 (<1%) fewer than Q2 2025 (3,793) and 64 (2%) fewer than Q3 2024 (3,853). *Increase between Q2 and Q3 2024 partly explained by validation of the foster carers register in one area.*



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

- 268 unapproved relative foster carers at the end of Q3 2025 of which 78% (210) had a child placed for >12 weeks. 78% (948/1,216) of relative foster carers are approved.
- 57% (2,171) of all approved foster carers are general foster carers. Relative foster carers (approved) account for a further 25% (948), while private foster carers account for the remaining 18% (670).
- The number of general foster carers (2,171) is down two from Q2 2025 (2,173) and 39 (2%) from Q3 2024 (2,210).
- Relative foster carers (948) down 9 (1%) from Q2 2025 (957) and down 39 (4%) from Q3 2024 (987).
- Private foster carers (670) up 7 (1%) from Q2 2025 (663) and up 14 (2%) from Q3 2024 (656).

Breakdown of foster carers by type

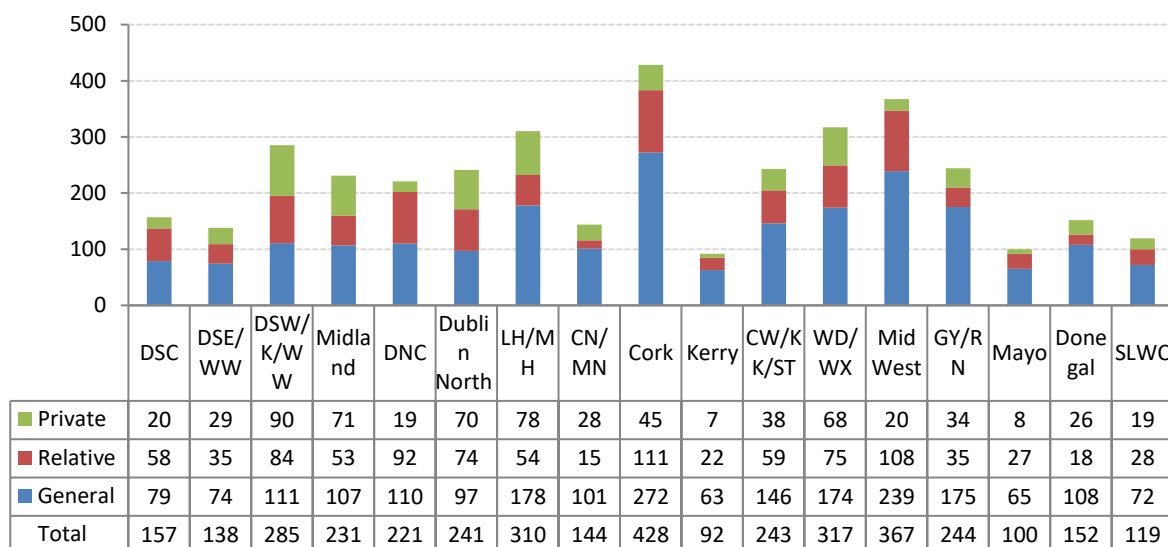
Foster Carers	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Δ (+/-) Q3 v Q2
General (Approved)	2,210	2,191	2,194	2,173	2,171	-2
Relative (Approved)	987	963	966	957	948	-9
Private (Approved)	656	655	659	663	670	+7
Total Approved	3,853	3,809	3,819	3,793	3,789	-4
Relative (Unapproved)	230	244	275	290	268	-22

3.4.2 Number of foster carers approved

- 66 Tusla foster carers (28 general & 38 relative) and 13 private foster carers approved in Q3 2025. This brings to 167 the number of Tusla foster carers (85 general and 82 relative) and 31 private foster carers approved in the first nine months of 2025. A total of 161 Tusla foster carers (78 general and 83 relative) and 21 private foster carers approved during the same period in 2024.
- At least 76 applications (based on data for 15 areas) for general foster care and 177 applications (based on data for 16 areas) for relative foster care in progress at the end of Q3 2025.

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

- The number of foster carers approved (all types) and on the panel at the end of Q3 2025, ranged from 428 in Cork to 92 in Kerry



Foster carers approved by type and area on the panel of approved foster carers, Q3 2025

- 6 areas reported an increase from Q2 2025 in the number of foster carers on the panel. Largest increases reported by Donegal (up 7), Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (up 6) and Dublin North (up 5).
- 10 areas reported a decrease from Q2 2025. Largest decreases were reported by Midwest (down 8), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (down 7) and Dublin North City (down 5). The remaining area (Midlands) reported no change.

Area breakdown of approved foster carers (all types)

Area	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Δ (+/-) Q3 2025 v Q2 2025
Dublin South Central	162	161	161	158	157	-1
Dublin South East/Wicklow	149	147	147	134	138	4
DSW/K/WW	290*	298	296	292	285	-7
Midlands	233	231	235	231	231	0
Dublin North City	223	219	226	226	221	-5
Dublin North	227	232	234	236	241	5
Louth/Meath	310	302	308	311	310	-1
Cavan/Monaghan	141	139	139	143	144	1
Cork	480	444	433	430	428	-2
Kerry	91	91	93	93	92	-1
CW/K/ST	232	230	235	239	243	4
Waterford/Wexford	317	317	318	318	317	-1
Mid West	378	378	375	375	367	-8
Galway/Roscommon	250	247	251	248	244	-4
Mayo	103	99	100	101	100	-1
Donegal	145	145	142	145	152	7
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	122	129	126	113	119	6
Total	3,853	3,809	3,819	3,793	3,789	-4

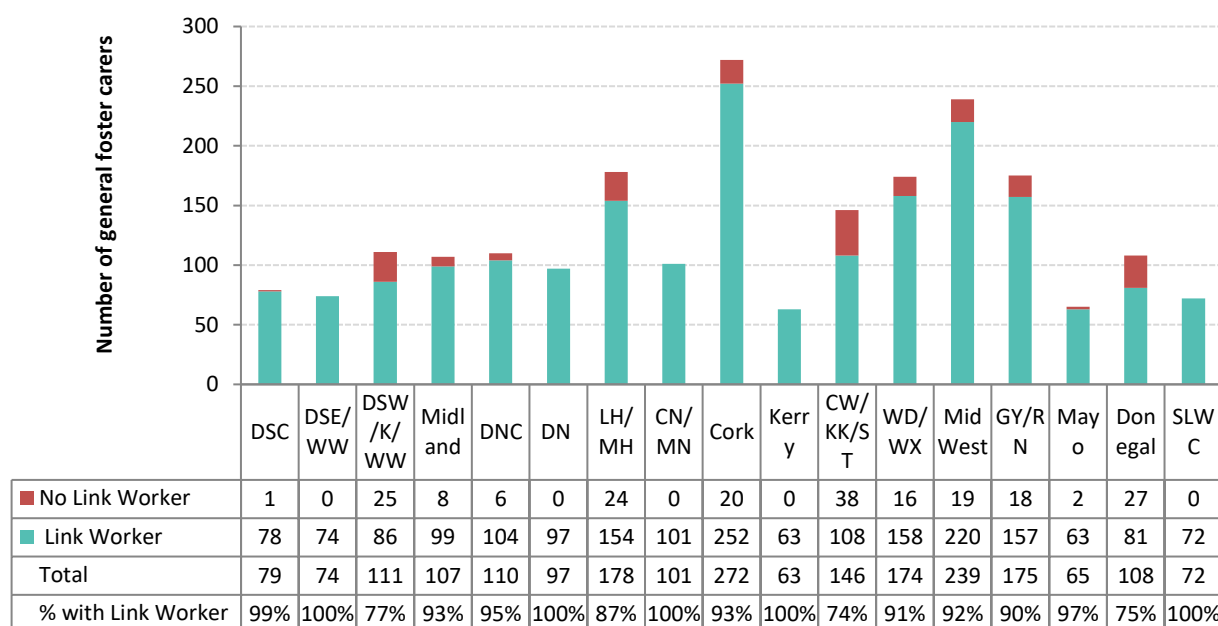
**Increase partly explained by validation of the foster carers register in this area*

- 91% (1,967) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q3 2025, down one percentage point from Q2 2025 (92%).
- 204 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker, 35 (21%) more than Q2 2025 (169).
- 13/17 areas reported 90% or higher with five of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (74%), Donegal (75%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (77%) and Louth/Meath (87%) lower than all other areas.
- Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary has the highest number of general foster carers awaiting an allocated link worker (38) followed by Donegal (27), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (25) and Louth/Meath (24).

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

Area	With Link Worker Q2 2025	Awaiting Link Worker Q2 2025	% With Link Worker Q2 2025	With Link Worker Q3 2025	Awaiting Link Worker Q3 2025	% With Link Worker Q3 2025	Δ +/- No. Awaiting LW Q3 2025 v Q2 2025
Dublin South Central	75	3	96%	78	1	99%	-2
Dublin South East/Wicklow	75	0	100%	74	0	100%	0
DSW/K/WW	82	29	74%	86	25	77%	-4
Midlands	99	8	93%	99	8	93%	0
Dublin North City	99	10	91%	104	6	95%	-4
Dublin North	97	0	100%	97	0	100%	0
Louth/Meath	157	21	88%	154	24	87%	3
Cavan/Monaghan	88	12	88%	101	0	100%	-12
Cork	272	0	100%	252	20	93%	20
Kerry	64	0	100%	63	0	100%	0
CW/K/ST	141	2	99%	108	38	74%	36
Waterford/Wexford	148	28	84%	158	16	91%	-12
Mid West	213	30	88%	220	19	92%	-11
Galway/Roscommon	158	21	88%	157	18	90%	-3
Mayo	64	1	98%	63	2	97%	1
Donegal	102	4	96%	81	27	75%	23
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	70	0	100%	72	0	100%	0
Total	2,004	169	92%	1,967	204	91%	35

General foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting a link (social worker), Q3 2025



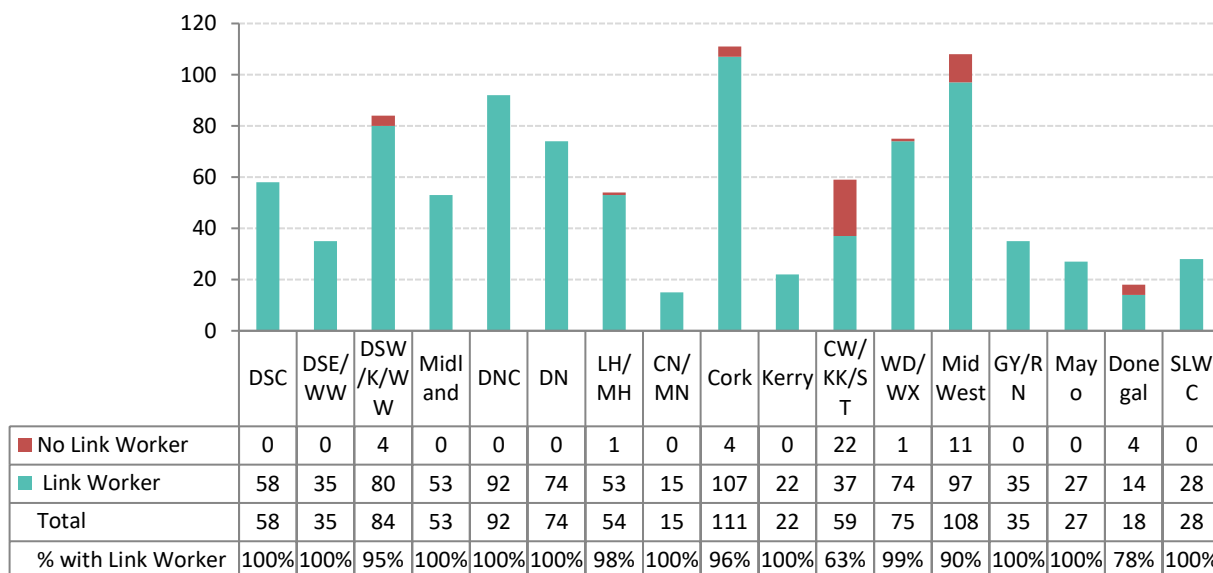
- 95% (901) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q3 2025, up one percentage point from Q2 2025 (94%).
- 47 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q3 2025, 13 (22%) fewer than Q2 2025 (60).
- 15/17 areas reported a percentage of 90% or higher with ten of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (63%) and Donegal (78%) lower than all other areas.
- Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary reported the highest number of relative foster carers on the panel awaiting a link (social) worker (22) followed by Midwest (11).

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

Area	With Link Worker Q2 2025	Awaiting Link Worker Q2 2025	% With Link Worker Q2 2025	With Link Worker Q3 2025	Awaiting Link Worker Q3 2025	% With Link Worker Q3 2025	Δ +/- No. Awaiting Link Worker Q3 2025 v Q2 2025
Dublin South Central	60	0	100%	58	0	100%	0
Dublin South East/Wicklow	31	0	100%	35	0	100%	0
DSW/K/WW	77	7	92%	80	4	95%	-3
Midlands	53	0	100%	53	0	100%	0
Dublin North City	94	4	96%	92	0	100%	-4
Dublin North	70	0	100%	74	0	100%	0
Louth/Meath	53	4	93%	53	1	98%	-3
Cavan/Monaghan	16	0	100%	15	0	100%	0
Cork	112	0	100%	107	4	96%	4
Kerry	22	0	100%	22	0	100%	0
CW/K/ST	61	0	100%	37	22	63%	22
Waterford/Wexford	70	6	92%	74	1	99%	-5
Mid West	79	33	71%	97	11	90%	-22

Galway/Roscommon	35	1	97%	35	0	100%	-1
Mayo	28	0	100%	27	0	100%	0
Donegal	17	0	100%	14	4	78%	4
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	19	5	79%	28	0	100%	-5
Total	897	60	94%	901	47	95%	-13

Relative foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting allocated link Q3 2025



3.4.4 Foster carers (relative) unapproved

- 268 relative foster carers were unapproved at the end of Q3 2025, 22 (8%) fewer than Q2 2025 (290).
- Of these, 210 (78%) had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks; nine fewer than Q2 2025 (219).
- 97% (204) of unapproved relative foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks had an allocated link (social) worker. Six carers were awaiting a link worker, three fewer than Q2 2025 (9). The six carers were reported across two areas.

Breakdown of relative foster carers not approved

Unapproved Relative Foster Carers	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Δ (+/-) Q3 2025 v Q2 2025
No. unapproved	230	244	275	290	268	-22
No (%) with a child > 12 weeks	196	203	218	219	210	-9
	85%	83%	79%	76%	78%	
Child > 12 weeks and have a Link Worker	194	196	210	210	204	-6
	99%	97%	96%	96%	97%	
Child > 12 weeks AWAITING Link Worker	2	7	8	9	6	-3

1.0 CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

4.1 Early Years Inspectorate

4.2 Alternative Education Assessment & Registration Service

4.3 Alternative Care Inspection & Monitoring Service

4.1 EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

KEY FACTS

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

- **7,075 early years services on the national register** at the end of Q3 2025, 248 (4%) more than Q2 2025 (6,827). Breakdown of services for Q3 2025 as follows: pre-school (3,952; 56%); school age (2,978; 42%) and childminding (145; 2%).
- **617 inspections (all types) of pre-school services carried out in Q3 2025.** This brings to 1,914 the number of inspections for the first nine months of 2025. A total of 2,316 inspections carried out in 2024.
- **190 applications to become as a new service received** by the EYI in Q3 2025. This brings to 637 the number of applications received in the first nine months of 2025. A total of 560 applications received in 2024. Breakdown of applications for 2025 YTD as follows: pre-school (128; 20%); school age (426; 67%); child-minding (83; 13%).
- **309 applications to register as a new service approved** by the EYI in Q3 2025. This brings to 445 the number of applications approved in the first nine months of 2025. A total of 430 applications approved in 2024. Breakdown of applications approved for 2025 YTD as follows: pre-school (49; 11%); school age (321; 72%); child-minding (75; 17%).
- **No early years' service refused** by the EYI in the first nine months of 2025. One service refused in 2024.
- **868 change in circumstances notifications processed** by the EYI in Q3 2025. This brings to 1,841 the number processed in the first nine months of 2025. A total of 1,912 were processed in 2024.
- **215 unsolicited information submissions received** by the EYI in Q3 2025. This brings to 532 the number of submissions received in the first nine months of 2025. A total of 460 received in 2024.
- **No early years' service prosecuted** by the EYI in the first nine months of 2025. One service prosecuted in 2024.
- **56 early years services closed in Q3 2025.** This brings to 146 the number of services that closed in the first nine months of 2025. A total of 185 closed in 2024. A breakdown of services closed in the first nine months of 2025 as follows: pre-school services (81; 55%); school age services (59; 40%); childminding (6; 4%).
- **No early years' service removed from the register** in the first nine months of 2025. No service removed in 2024.

4.1.1 Activity Data

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

Early Years Services (EYS) on the EYI Register	Outturn 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	2025 YTD	Q3 2025 v Q2 2025
Pre-school services recorded on the national register	4,045	3,975	3,941	3,952	3,952	+11
School age services recorded on the national register [New for 2025]	2,724	2,741	2,765	2,978	2,978	+213
Childminding services recorded on the national register [New for 2025]	7	96	121	145	145	+24
Total number of services on the national register	6,776	6,812	6,827	7,075	7,075	+248
Registration Renewal	Outturn 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	2025 YTD	
Number of EYS due to renew their registration in the reporting period [New for 2025]	1,306	85	50	382	517	+332
Number of EYS that successfully completed registration renewal in the reporting period [New for 2025]	1,196	78	45	356	479	+311
Inspections Carried Out	Outturn 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	2025 YTD	
Inspections of pre-school services carried out during the reporting period	2,316	612	685	617	1,914	-68
Pre-registration inspections (PRI) carried out in respect of proposed new pre-school services during the reporting period [New for 2025]	98	3	9*	41	53	+32
Fit for purpose (FFP) inspections carried out in respect of proposed change in	196	23	44	100	167	+56

circumstances submitted by pre-school services during the reporting period [New for 2025]						
Pre-school inspections carried out in relation to concerns received during the reporting period [New for 2025]	127	18	34	33	85	-1
Initial inspections (first inspection following registration conducted with 3 months of operation) carried out in pre-school services during the reporting period [New for 2025]	83	20	6	6	32	0
School age inspections carried out during the reporting period [New for 2025]	157	15	9	11	35	+2
Childminding pre-registration assessments (PRAs) carried out during the reporting period [New for 2025]	7	21	26	28	75	+2
Number of notifications of incidents notified to the inspector within remit (for example where a child has been hurt in an Early Years' Service)	704	143	137	115	395	-22
Registration/Change in Circumstances	Outturn 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	2025 YTD	
Applications to become a new pre-school service [Name Change]	136	16	72	40	128	-32
Applications to become a new school age service [New for 2025]	410	78	226	122	426	-104
Applications to become a new childminding service [New for 2025]	14	30	25	28	83	+3
Total applications received	560	124	323	190	637	-133
New registration applications approved to become a pre-school service	96	4	5	40	49	+35

New registration applications approved to become a school age service [New for 2025]	327	36	42	243	321	+201
New registration applications approved to become a childminding service [New for 2025]	7	22	27	26	75	-1
Total number of applications approved	430	62	74	309	445	+235
Number of new applications to become an early years' service that have been refused registration by the EYI in the reporting period	1	0	0	0	0	0
Number of change in circumstance notifications processed by the EYI (for example where an early years' service increases the number of children they can cater for)	1,912	509	464	868	1,841	+404
Concerns/Prosecutions	Outturn 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	2025 YTD	
Number of unsolicited information submissions received by the EYI to identify commonalities and trends over a period of time	460	118	199	215	532	+16
Number of EYS that have been prosecuted by the EYI for breach of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016	1	0	0	0	0	0
Closures	Outturn 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	2025 YTD	
Number of pre-school services that have closed during the reporting period (<i>does not include services closed by Tusla under the de-registration process</i>)	95	13	39	29	81	-10
Number of school age services that have closed during the reporting period (<i>does</i>	90	14	20	25	59	+5

<i>not include services closed by Tusla under the de-registration process) [New for 2025]</i>						
Number of childminding services that have closed during the reporting period <i>(does not include services closed by Tusla under the de-registration process) [New for 2025]</i>	0	2	2	2	6	0
Total closures	185	29	61	56	146	-5
Number of EYS removed from the National Register (de-registered) by the EYI during the reporting period	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Revised from previously reported*

4.2 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT & REGISTRATION SERVICE

Key Facts

Home Education

- **2,610 children on the register for home education** at the end of Q3 2025, 108 (4%) more than Q2 2025 (2,502) and 285 (12%) more than Q4 2024 (2,325).
- **541 applications received** for home education during Q3 2025. This brings to 1,316 the number of applications received for the first nine months of 2025, 440 (50%) more than the same period in 2024 (876).
- **361 assessments (all types) for home education carried out** in Q3 2025. This brings to 1,109 the number of assessments carried in the first nine months of 2025, 174 (19%) more than the same period in 2024 (935).
- **224 children registered for home education** in Q3 2025. This brings to 752 the number of children registered in the first nine months of 2025, 154 (26%) more than the same period in 2024 (598).
- **294 children on a waiting list for assessment** at the end of Q3 2025, 18 (6%) fewer than Q2 2025 (312) and 514 (64%) fewer than Q3 2024 (808).

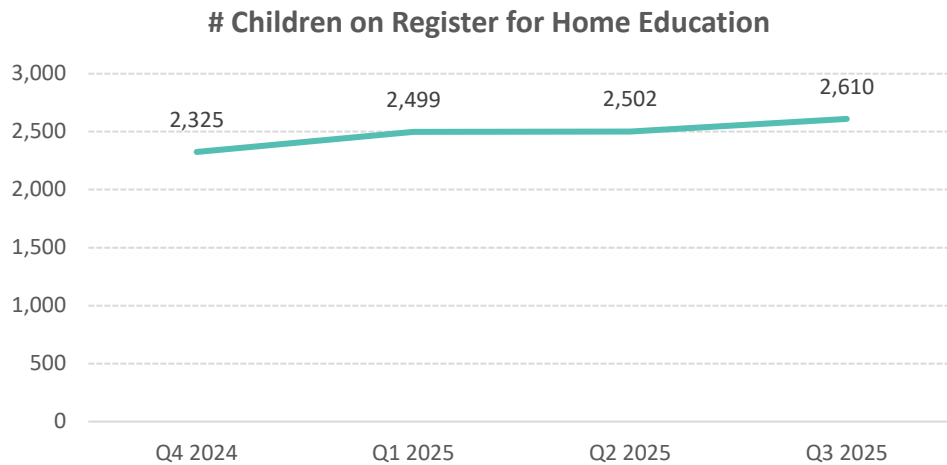
Independent Schools

- **63 assessed and approved independent schools** at the end of Q3 2025, two more than Q2 2025 (61).
- **6,291 children enrolled in independent schools**, of which 83% (5,252) are registered on the Section 14 register. The remaining 17% (1,039) were not registered. Reasons for these children not being registered include, application not submitted, consent not in place, certified documentation not provided.
- **249 applications received during Q3 2025**. This brings to 973 the number of applications received for the first nine months of 2025. A total of 2,077 applications received in 2024.
- **5 school assessment carried out in Q3 2025**. This brings to eight the number of assessments carried out the first nine months of 2025. A total of 29 assessments carried out in 2024.
- No school assessment due at the end of Q3 2025.

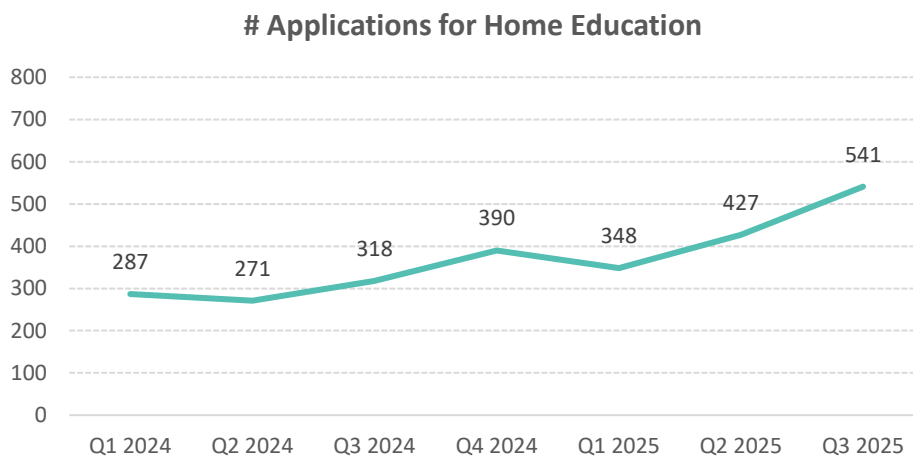
Home Education

- 2,610 children on the register for home education at the end of Q3 2025, 108 (4%) more than Q2 2025 (2,502) and 285 (12%) more than Q4 2024 (2,325)⁶.
- 16% (422) of children on the register at the end of Q3 2025 have special educational needs.

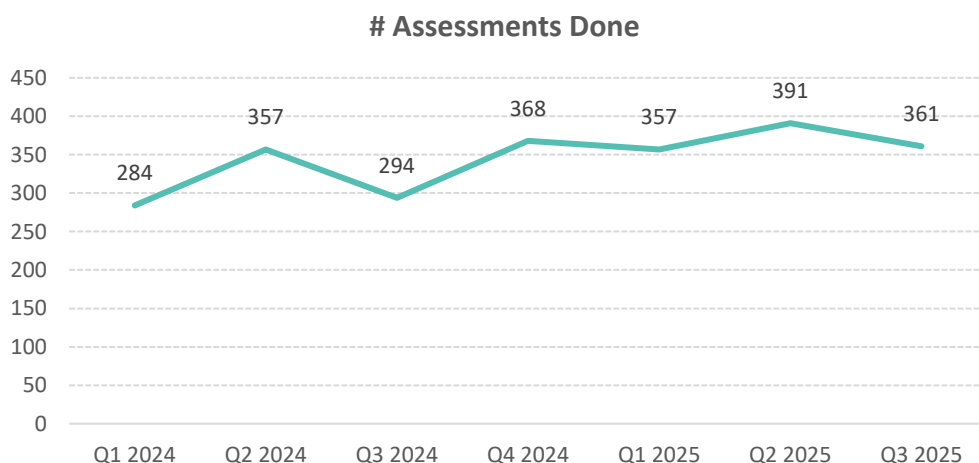
⁶ As outlined in a recently published regulatory notice (AEARS – RN01.1), children and young people aged 16+ who meet specific criteria, as outlined in the notice, will automatically cease to be included on the section 14 register. In response to the notice, 475 children who met these criteria were removed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



- 541 applications⁷ received for home education during Q3 2025. This brings to 1,316 the number of applications received for the first nine months of 2025, 440 (50%) more than the same period in 2024 (876).

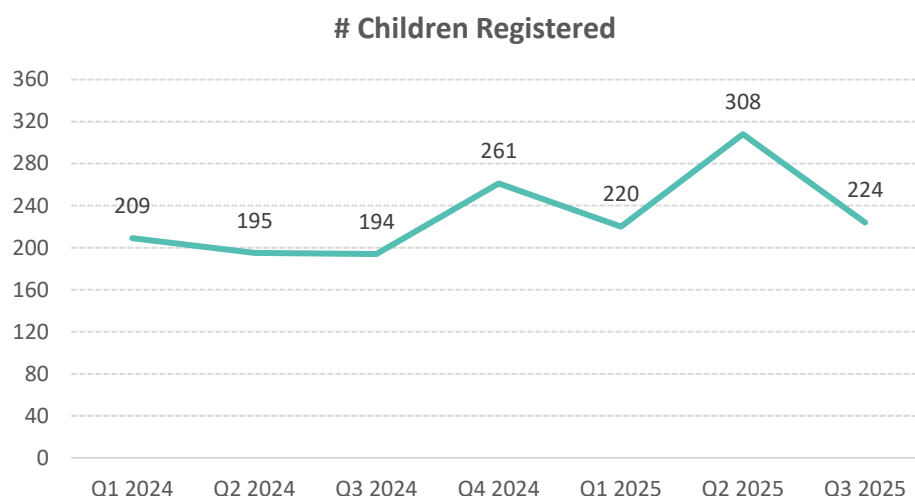


- 361 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q3 2025. This brings to 1,109 the number of assessments carried in the first nine months of 2025, 174 (19%) more than the same period in 2024 (935).

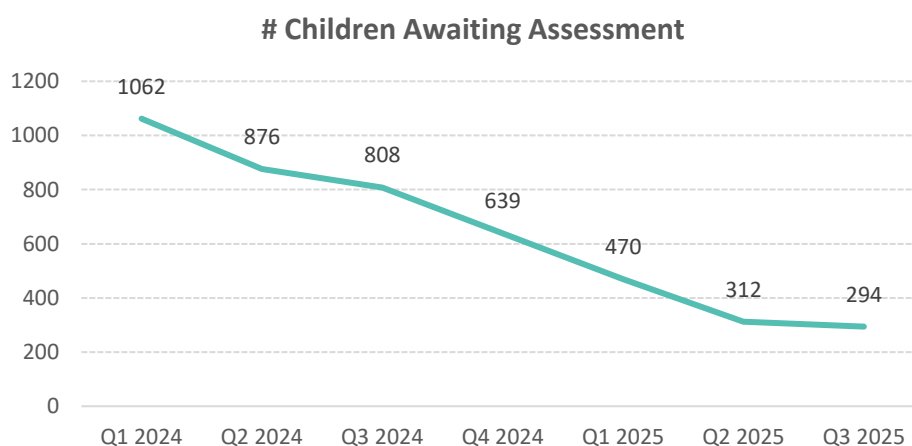


⁷ The figure for applications includes valid and invalid applications

- 224 children registered for home education⁸ in Q3 2025. This brings to 752 the number of children registered in the first nine months of 2025, 154 (26%) more than the same period in 2024 (598).



- 294 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q3 2025, 18 (6%) fewer than Q2 2025 (312) and 514 (64%) fewer than Q3 2024 (808).



- 116 children removed from the register in Q3 2025. Of the children removed from the register in Q3 2025, 77 (66%) were over 16 years, 31 (27%) returned to school, 5 (4%) left the jurisdiction while the remaining 3 (2.6%) left for other reasons.

Independent Schools

- 63 assessed and approved independent schools at the end of Q3 2025, two more than Q2 2025 (61).
- 6,291 children enrolled in independent schools, of which 83% (5,252) are registered on the Section 14 register. The remaining 17% (1,039) were not registered. Reasons for these children

⁸ Number registered in a quarter does not reflect the number of assessments carried out in the previous quarter – reports are written, reviewed and approved internally before registration

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

- 249 applications received during Q3 2025. This brings to 973 the number of applications received for the first nine months of 2025. A total of 2,077 applications received in 2024.
- 5 school assessment carried out in Q3 2025. This brings to eight the number of assessments carried out the first nine months of 2025. A total of 29 assessments carried out in 2024.
- No school assessment due at the end of Q3 2025.

4.3 ALTERNATIVE CARE INSPECTION & MONITORING SERVICES

Key Facts

- **232 non-statutory residential centres** at the end Q3 2025, 7 (3%) more than Q2 2025 (225) and 36 (18%) more than Q4 2024 (196).
- **66 inspections (all types) conducted in Q3 2025.** This brings to 202 the number of inspections for the first nine months of 2025.
- **5 non-statutory foster care services** at the end Q3 2025, no change from Q2 2025. Two monitoring visits conducted in Q3 2025. This brings to five the number of monitoring visits for the first nine months of 2025.

Non-Statutory Children's Residential Centres

- 232 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q3 2025, 7 (3%) more than Q2 2025 (225) and 36 (18%) more than Q4 2024 (196).
- 66 inspections (all types) conducted in Q3 2025. This brings to 202 the number of inspections for the first nine months of 2025.

Inspections of Non-Statutory Residential Services

Inspections by Type	2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	2025 YTD
	Outturn				
New Registration Inspection Visit (onsite)	41	10	22	10	42
Thematic Inspection announced (on-site)	111	18	26	8	52
Thematic Inspection unannounced (on site)	66	17	8	20	45
No of Escalations subject to Onsite Inspection	-	2	1	3	6
No of Escalations subject to Desktop Review	-	18	14	25	57
Total Inspections	218	65	71	66	202

Non-Statutory Foster Care Service

- 5 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q3 2025, no change from Q2 2025. Two monitoring visits conducted in Q3 2025. This brings to five the number of monitoring visits for the first nine months of 2025.

5 TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

KEY FACTS

Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2024 – August 2025

- **9,293 referrals screened** by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) during the academic year 2024-2025, 1,251 (16%) more than the previous academic year (8,042).
- **3,937 screened referrals on a waiting list** at the end of August 2025, 428 (12%) more than August 2024 (3,509).
- **4,257 new individual children worked with** during the academic year 2024-2025, 333 (8%) more than the previous academic year (3,924).
- **8,259 individual children worked with** during the academic year 2024-2025, 684 (9%) more than the previous academic year (7,575).
- **555 school attendance notices (SANs) issued** during the academic year 2024-2025, 126 (19%) fewer than the previous academic year (681). SANs were issued in respect of 396 children, 98 (20%) fewer than the previous academic year (494).
- **141 summonses issued** during the academic year 2024-2025, 5 (4%) more than previous academic year (136). The summonses were in respect of 102 children, 9 (8%) fewer than the previous academic year (111).
- **212 Section 24 meetings convened** by EWOs during the academic year 2024-2025, 59 (22%) fewer than the previous academic year (271).

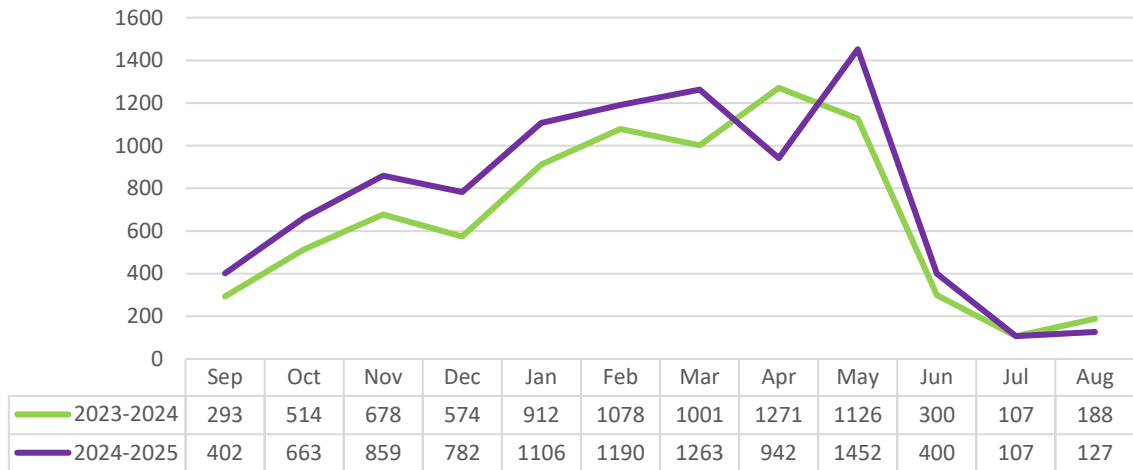
Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2024 – August 2025

- 9,293 referrals⁹ screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) during the academic year 2024-2025, 1,251 (16%) more than the previous academic year (8,042).
- 4,311 referrals allocated to educational welfare officers during the academic year 2024-2025, 326 (8%) more than the previous academic year (3,985).
- 2,649 referrals screened out / required no further action during the academic year 2024-2025, 371 (12%) fewer than the previous academic year (3,020).
- 3,937 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of August 2025, 428 (12%) more than August 2024 (3,509).

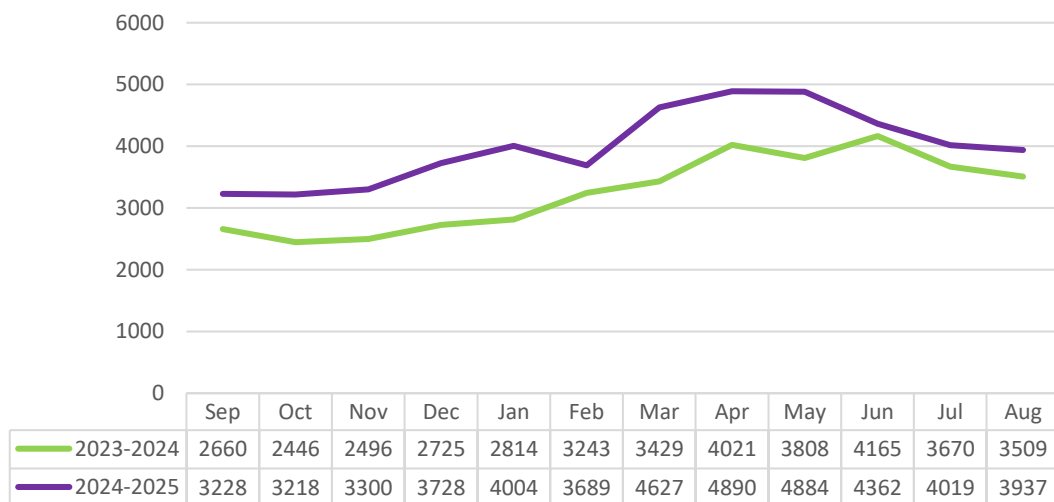
⁹ A referral is a written notification of concern to EWS from a school, a parent, agency or concerned citizen in relation to the educational welfare of a named child. Referrals are then screened against a set of criteria by the Senior Educational Welfare Officer and a decision is made as to whether to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

Metric	Sept 2023 – Aug 2024	Sept 2024 – Aug2025	Δ
# Referrals screened	8,042	9,293	1,251 (16%)
# Referrals allocated	3,985	4,311	326 (8%)
# Referrals screened out	3,020	2,649	-371 (12%)
# Referrals on waiting list	3,509	3,937	428 (12%)

Referrals for Educational Welfare Service



Referrals on Waiting List at Month End



- 5,304 new cases assigned to EWOs during the academic year 2024-2025, 157 (3%) more than the previous academic year (5,147).
- 4,374 cases closed during the academic year 2024-2025, 422 (9%) fewer than the previous academic year (4,796).
- 4,257 new individual children worked with during the academic year 2024-2025, 333 (8%) more than the previous academic year (3,924).
- 8,259 individual children worked with during the academic year 2024-2025, 684 (9%) more than the previous academic year (7,575).

Metric	Sept 2023 – Aug 2024	Sept 2024 – Aug2025	Δ
# cases assigned	5,147	5,304	157 (3%)
# cases closed	4,796	4,374	-422 (9%)
# new individual children worked with	3,924	4,257	333 (8%)
# Individual children worked with	7,575	8,259	684 (9%)

- 555 school attendance notices (SANs) issued during the academic year 2024-2025, 126 (19%) fewer than the previous academic year (681). SANs were issued in respect of 396 children, 98 (20%) fewer than the previous academic year (494).
- 141 summonses issued during the academic year 2024-2025, 5 (4%) more than previous academic year (136). The summonses were in respect of 102 children, 9 (8%) fewer than the previous academic year (111).
- EWOs attended 348 court cases regarding their own cases during the academic year 2024-2025, 101 (41%) more than the previous academic year (247).
- 212 Section 24¹⁰ meetings convened by EWOs during the academic year 2024-2025, 59 (22%) fewer than the previous academic year (271).
- 248 child protection and welfare referrals made by EWOs during the academic year 2024-2025, 70 (39%) more than the previous academic year (178).
- 136 child protection conferences (CPC) attended by EWOs during the academic year 2024-2025, 8 (6%) fewer than the previous academic year (144).

Metric	Sept 2023 – Aug 2024	Sept 2024 – Aug2025	Δ
School Attendance Notices Issues	681	555	-126 (19%)
SANs - individual children involved	494	396	-98 (20%)
Summonses Issued	136	141	5 (4%)
Summonses – individual children involved	111	102	-9 (8%)
Court cases attended in relation to own cases	247	348	101 (41%)
Section 24 meetings convened	271	212	-59 (22%)
Child protection & welfare referrals made	178	248	70 (39%)
Child protection conferences attended	144	136	-8 (6%)

¹⁰ 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 FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

6.1 Family Support Services

6.2 Meitheal and Child & Family Support Networks

6.1 FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES¹¹

KEY FACTS

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

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

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

6.1.1 Family Support Providers

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

Family Support Services Commissioned by Areas

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

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

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

6.1.2 Children in Receipt of Family Support Services

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

Children in receipt of Family Support Services

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

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

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

6.1.3 Children Referred to Family Support Services

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

Children referred to Family Support Services by area

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

6.1.4 Source of Referrals

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

Children referred to Family Support Services by source of referral

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

6.1.5 Children who received a service

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

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

Area	Referrals H1 2025	Of number referred, number who received a service	% who rec'd a service
Dublin South Central	1,894	1,302	69%
DSE/WW	949	517	54%
DSW/K/WW	3,069	842	27%
Midlands	288	125	43%
Dublin North City	2,487	1,462	59%
Dublin North	2,025	1,219	60%
Louth/Meath	1,280	773	60%
Cavan/Monaghan	1,024	927	91%
Cork	1,919	1,493	78%
Kerry	780	780	100%
CW/K/ST	1,722	1,266	74%
Waterford/Wexford	1,947	1,423	73%
Mid West	1,781	1,082	61%
Galway/Roscommon	1,631	1,265	78%
Mayo	545	437	80%
Donegal	1,910	1,590	83%

Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	758	639	84%
Total	26,009	17,142	66%

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

6.2 MEITHEAL

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

KEY FACTS

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

6.2.1 Meitheal Processes Requested

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

Meitheal processes requested

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

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

Access Pathway for Meitheal Requests H1 2025

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

6.2.2 Meitheal Processes Proceeding to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two, H1 2025

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

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

6.2.4 Meitheal Processes Closed

- 1,145 Meitheal processes were closed during the first six months of 2025. The number of processes closed ranged from 340 (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary) to 14 (Dublin South Central).
- 35% (396) of all Meitheal processes were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1). The percentage closed following submission of a Meitheal request form ranged from 68% (23/34) in Cork to 0% (0/21) in Dublin North. Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 35%.
- 26% (298) of Meitheal processes were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2 Discussion Stage). The percentage closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form ranged from 95% (73/77) in Cavan/Monaghan to none in two areas (Dublin North and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan). Three areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average (26%).
- 10% (111) of Meitheal processes were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3). The percentage closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings ranged from 43% in Dublin South Central (6/14) and Donegal (10/23) to none in one area (Cavan/Monaghan). Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 10%.
- 30% (340) of Meitheal processes were closed post-delivery. The percentage closed post-delivery ranged from 71% (15/21) in Dublin North area to 3% (1/34) in Cork. Eleven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 30%.

Number of Meitheals closed H1 2025

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

6.2.5 Child and Family Support Networks

- 113 Child and Family Support Networks¹² (CFSN) operating at the end of H1 2025 with a further three planned in development.

Child and Family Support Networks operating and planned

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

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

7 PEOPLE & CHANGE

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

7.1 Workforce Position

7.2 Absence Rate

7.3 Social Work Staff

7.5 Workforce Learning and Development

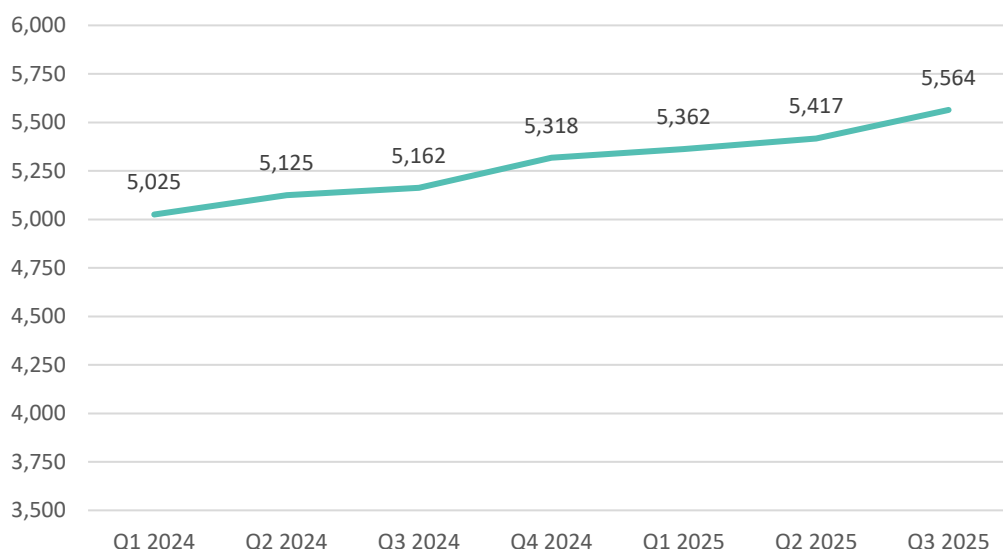
KEY FACTS

- **5,564.3 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff** (excluding agency staff) **employed by Tusla at the end of Q3 2025**, 147.5 (3%) more than Q2 2025 (5,416.8) and 402 (8%) more than Q3 2024 (5,162).
- **684 new staff joined Tusla** (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the **first nine months of 2025**, 11 more than the same period in 2024 (673).
- **312 staff left Tusla** (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in the **first nine months of 2025**, 24 (7%) fewer than the same period in 2024 (336).
- **85 staff retired** in the **first nine months of 2025**, 9 (10%) fewer than the same period in 2024 (94).
- At the end of **Q3 2025**, the **overall absence rate for the Agency was 6.42%**, down slightly from 6.61% at the end of Q2 2025, and up slightly from 6.36% at the end of Q3 2024.
- e-learning training activity: 7,158 completions were achieved in Q3 2025
- Classroom training: 2,154 participants attended in Q3 2025.

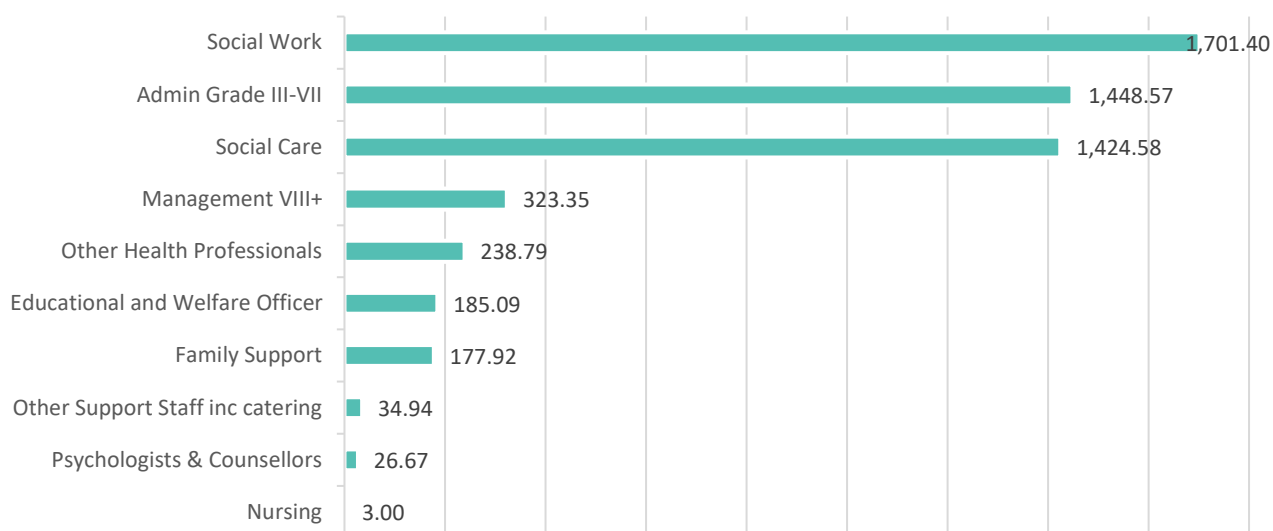
7.1 Workforce Position

- 5,564.3 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q3 2025, 147.5 (3%) more than Q2 2025 (5,416.8) and 402 (8%) more than Q3 2024 (5,162).

Total Staff Employed (WTE), by quarter



- Social workers are the largest category of staff employed by the Agency, accounting for 30.6% (1,701.4) of total staff (WTE) employed at the end of Q3 2025, followed by administrative staff (Grade III – VII) accounting for 26% (1,448.6) and social care staff accounting for 25.6% (1,424.58). Management (Grade VIII+) account for 5.8% (323.35) of the workforce.



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

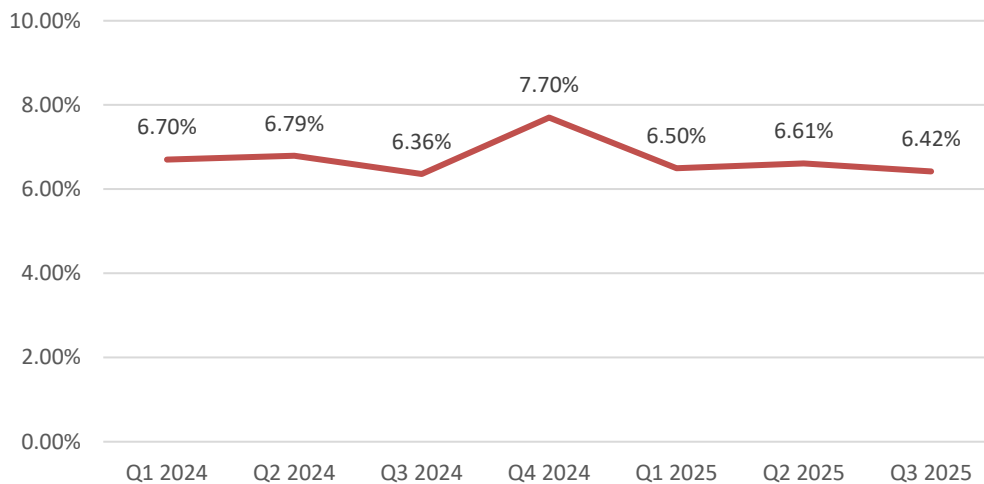
Breakdown of staff (WTE) by category

Staffing by Category	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q3 2025 v Q2 2025	Q3 2025 v Q3 2024
Social Work	1,593.36	1,678.50	1,674.03	1,665.57	1,701.40	35.8	108
Social Care	1,331.37	1,355.03	1,401.32	1,407.66	1,424.58	16.9	93
Admin Grade III-VII	1,297.46	1,349.85	1,350.46	1,375.54	1,448.57	73.0	151
Family Support	199.51	173.85	161.95	175.82	177.92	2.1	-22
Management VIII+	298.27	306.66	304.65	313.95	323.35	9.4	25
Educational & Welfare Officer	151.79	152.55	160.69	169.38	185.09	15.7	33
Other Support Staff	35.93	34.59	33.58	34.58	34.94	0.4	-1
Nursing	2.95	3.58	3.00	3.00	3.00	0.0	0
Psychologists & Counsellors	28.31	28.38	29.75	27.78	26.67	-1.1	-2
Other Health Professionals	222.55	235.45	242.10	243.49	238.79	-4.7	16
Total Staffing	5,162	5,318	5,362	5,416.77	5,564.3	147.5	402

- 684 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first nine months of 2025, 11 more than the same period in 2024 (673).
- 312 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in the first nine months of 2025, 24 (7%) fewer than the same period in 2024 (336).
- 85 staff retired in the first nine months of 2025, 9 (10%) fewer than the same period in 2024 (94).
- 173 (3%) staff were on maternity leave (paid and unpaid) at the end of Q3 2025.

7.2 Absence Rate

- At the end of Q3 2025, the overall absence rate for the Agency was 6.42%, down slightly from 6.61% at the end of Q2 2025, and up slightly from 6.36% at the end of Q3 2024.



- The highest absence rate was reported for social care staff at 9.63%. The rate for Residential Services (10.5%) (data not shown), is 4.1 percentage points higher than the overall rate of 6.42%. The overall absence rate excluding Residential Services is 5.63%.

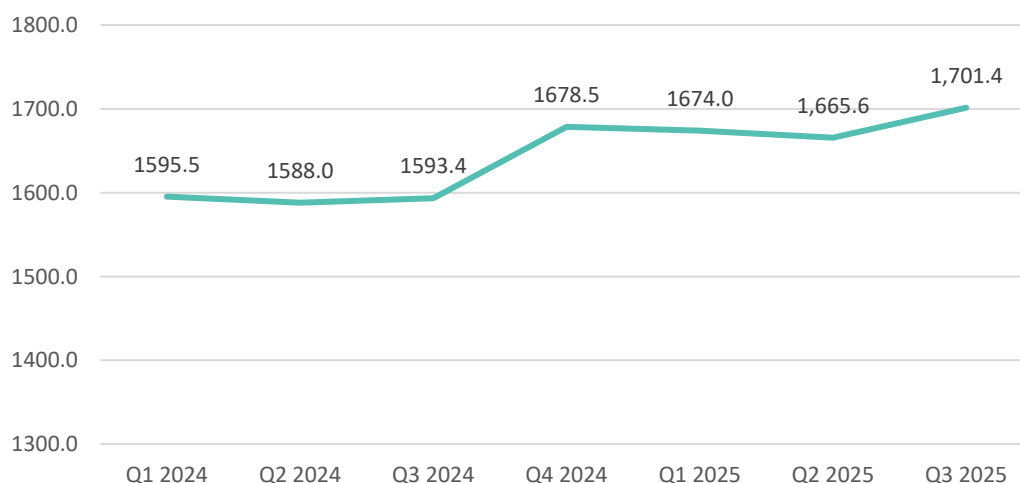
Absence rate by staff grade

Staff Grade	Absence Rate Q3 2024	Absence Rate Q4 2024	Absence Rate Q1 2025	Absence Rate Q2 2025	Absence Rate Q3 2025
Social Work	4.92%	6.64%	5.93%	6.17%	5.76%
Social Care	10.05%	10.94%	8.69%	9.72%	9.63%
All other grades	4.99%	6.15%	5.38%	4.81%	4.87%

7.3 Social Work Staff (WTE)

- 1,701.4 whole time equivalent (WTE) social work staff (all grades and excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q3 2025, 35.8 (2%) more than at the end of Q2 2025 (1,665.6) and 108 (7%) more than Q3 2024 (1,593.4)

Number of social workers (WTE) by quarter



- 185 social workers joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first nine months of 2025, 5 (3%) more than the same period in 2024 (180).
- 127 social workers left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks excluding retirements) in the first nine months of 2025, no change from Q2 2025.
- 16 social workers retired in the first nine months of 2025, 5 (24%) fewer than the same period in 2024 (21).
- 77 (5%) social workers were on maternity leave (paid and unpaid) at the end of Q3 2025.
- A breakdown of the number of social workers (all grades) employed at the end of each quarter Q3 2024 to Q3 2025 by area is presented in the table below.

Breakdown of social work staff (WTE) by area Q3 2024 – Q3 2025

	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)
Area	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025
DSC	76.56	81.51	78.31	77.07	82.38
DSE/WW	74	78.65	77.22	75.54	80.49
DSW/K/WW	100.63	100.23	103.61	105.96	106.98
Midlands	90.28	97.02	95.27	97.6	99.75
Regional Services DML	16.91	17.84	14.96	16.26	16.05
DML Total	358.38	375.25	369.37	372.43	385.65
CN/MN	45.06	50.41	49.41	47.84	48.62
DNC	78.73	81.6	83.35	87.29	97.6
LH/MH	90.47	95.83	95.11	98.8	98.1
Dublin North	89.53	88.19	95.89	90.64	98.4
Regional Services DNE	13.21	14.28	13.06	15.85	16.12
DNE Total	317	330.31	336.82	340.42	358.84
CW/KK/ST	62.28	65.85	60.81	57.27	58.96
Cork	181.17	194.97	192.9	188.75	179.81
Kerry	35.28	37.51	37.28	37.49	33.45
WD/WX	92.56	97.46	94.56	97.46	100.7
Regional Services South	7.47	6.79	7.22	8.41	9.81
South Total	378.56	402.58	392.77	389.38	382.73
Donegal	76.57	81.12	79.54	73.91	70.37
GY/RN	101.75	105.11	105.77	100.96	103.07
Mayo	36.62	39.69	37.93	36.96	37.96
Mid West	91.94	98.89	101.6	102.11	105.12
SLWC	42.03	43.08	42.32	40.97	38.92
Regional Services West	13.07	18.63	18.63	18.98	17.79
West Total	361.98	386.52	385.79	373.89	373.23
Residential DML					
Residential DNE	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6
Residential West					

Residential South	1	1	1	1	1
National residential	1	1	1	1	1
Residential Services	4.6	5	4.6	4.6	4.6
Corporate	172.64	179.24	184.68	184.85	196.35
Corporate	172.64	179.24	184.68	184.85	196.35
Total	1,593.36	1,678.5	1,674.03	1,665.57	1,701.4

7.4 Workforce Learning and Development (WLD)

- Table 1 shows classroom training attendance for Q3 2025 (2,154 completions)
- Table 2 shows E-learning activity for Q3 2025 (7,158 completions)
- The most attended classroom training was ‘Tusla Manual Handling’ with 335 completions followed by ‘Supporting Performance Development Plan’ training at 304 completions.
- The most popular E-learning module during Q3 2025 was ‘Data Protection in Tusla’ with 1,145 completions followed by ‘Implementing Children First in Tusla’ with 967 completions.

Table 1: Classroom Training, Q3 2025

Name of Module	Total Completions
Applied Complaint Officer Training	9
Attachment Step 2	31
CASP V2 Full Day in Person Training 2025	2
Child and Youth Participation: Modules 2 & 3	19
Children who have sexually harmed: Considerations and Safety Planning	46
Court Skills in Practice - Mock court session for educational welfare cases	51
CSA Workshop 2	22
Cumulative Harm	100
Cybersafety	23
Deaf Awareness Training (Cork Assoc for the Deaf)	17
Diversity in Modern Ireland	7
Everyday Personal Effectiveness Programme Values In Action	12
First Aid REFRESHER Response Course (PHECC)	43
First Aid Response Course (PHECC) (3 Day)	25
Hidden Harm	15
Home Visiting	10
Induction Day	23
Ligature Knife & Ligature Audits Training - Tusla	13
Management: An Introduction for First Time Managers - Virtual Classroom	13
Medication Management - Error prevention training	6
MS Excel Intermediate	37
MS Teams/Sharepoint/OneNote	19
Myers Briggs Type Indicator (*MBTI) - Team Development	13
Navigating the Journey Together	85

Non-Violent Resistance Training (NVR)	8
Office for Legal Services, Briefings 2025	45
Online Safety - Information for Tusla Staff and Foster Carers	22
Reflective Writing in Practice	49
Resilience and Self Care Training	9
Resistance and Engaging with Families	7
Sensory Workshop	14
Sharing Personal Data Safely	155
Signs of Safety	27
Solihill Approach	11
Supervision Skills for Supervisors Module 2	31
Supporting Performance and Development	304
TCI Core	6
TCM (Classroom) Training for Child Protection and Alternative Care Staff	81
TCM Fostering	7
TCM Workshop for CRS	3
Therapeutic Crisis Intervention Refresher Training - Classroom (TCI) RESIDENTIAL STAFF only	81
Therapeutic Crisis Intervention Core 5 day	12
Therapeutic approaches to harmful sexual behavior	15
TUSLA COACHING SKILLS PROGRAMME	24
Tusla Manual Handling Training	335
Types of Psychological Therapies for Children, Adolescents and their families	32
Understanding Self Harm	6
Violence Harassment & Aggression (VHA) - Tusla (Classroom Training)	92
Welltree 6 Leadership	7
Welltree Introduction	11
Welltree Module 1: Introduction to Attachment/Trauma Informed Practice	9
Welltree module 1-3	4
Welltree Module 2: Intermediate Attachment/Trauma informed practice within residential childcare	11
Welltree Module 3: Risk Informed Practice within residential childcare	3
Welltree Module 4: Wellbeing informed practice within residential childcare	5
Welltree Module 5: Welltree Outcomes Framework within residential childcare - Tusla	5
Welltree Refresher Training - Tusla	26
Working with Dom Violence, Abuse and Coercive Control	50
Young people – Loss and grief – Social care professionals. An understanding.	6
Total	2,154

Table 2: E-Learning Q3 2025

Name of Module	Total Completions
All about claiming Travel, Subsistence and other Staff Costs	402
An Introduction to Parental Participation for all staff	24
An Introduction to Tusla Approach to Commissioning	12
Attachment in Tusla Practice Step 1	32
Barnahus - An Introduction (Tusla)	44

CASP eLearning for ALL STAFF - Tusla	4
Child Sexual Exploitation - Tusla	254
Children First in Action – Tusla response	540
Complaint handling in Tusla. (Module 1)	662
Complaint handling in Tusla. Understanding Complaint Investigations (Module2)	71
Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) - Tusla	37
Data Protection in Tusla	1145
De-escalation Skills for Redeployed Staff to Residential Services - Tusla	16
Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence - An Introduction - Tusla	46
Freedom of Information: An Introduction to the FOI Act	560
Health and Safety Management: Introduction for Line Managers	42
Hidden Harm: The Impact of Parental Alcohol and other Drug use	75
Implementing Children First in Tusla	967
Incident Management - Tusla	441
Induction to Children's Residential Services in Tusla	5
Medication Management in Children's Residential Services - Tusla	108
Meitheal Briefing - Tusla	18
Minute Taking: An Introduction - Tusla	29
Module 3 : Using NIMS for the Management of Complaints - Tusla	30
Organisational Risk Management - Tusla	36
Policies and Procedures for CRS	27
Parental Participation in Practice	12
Revised Standard Business Processes on NCCIS - Tusla	4
TCM for Child Protection, Welfare and Alternative Care (CPAC) - Tusla Online	86
Tusla Case Management: Fundamentals of the TCM System Online	192
Tusla Employee Health and Safety Awareness Training	799
Violence, Harassment and Aggression (VHA) Online - Tusla	438
Total	7,158

8 FINANCE

KEY FACTS

- The outturn for the year to date (Sept YTD) is an overspend of €34.6 million (4%).
- Net expenditure is €958.1 million against an initial revenue budget allocation of €923.6 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €15.5 million (4%).
- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget year to date by €51.9 million (9%)

Financial Performance

- The outturn for the year to date (Sept YTD) is an overspend of €34.6 million (4%)
- Net expenditure is €958.1 million against an initial revenue budget allocation of €923.6 million
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €15.5 million (4%).

Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	September 2025 YTD			% Variance Act vs Budget
	Actual	Budget	Variance	
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€
Pay costs	331,066	346,610	-15,544	(4%)

- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget year to date by €51.9 million (9%).

Non-Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	September 2025 YTD			% Variance Act vs Budget
	Actual	Budget	Variance	
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€
Non pay costs	644,774	592,833	51,941	9%

APPENDIX I

ABBREVIATIONS

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

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