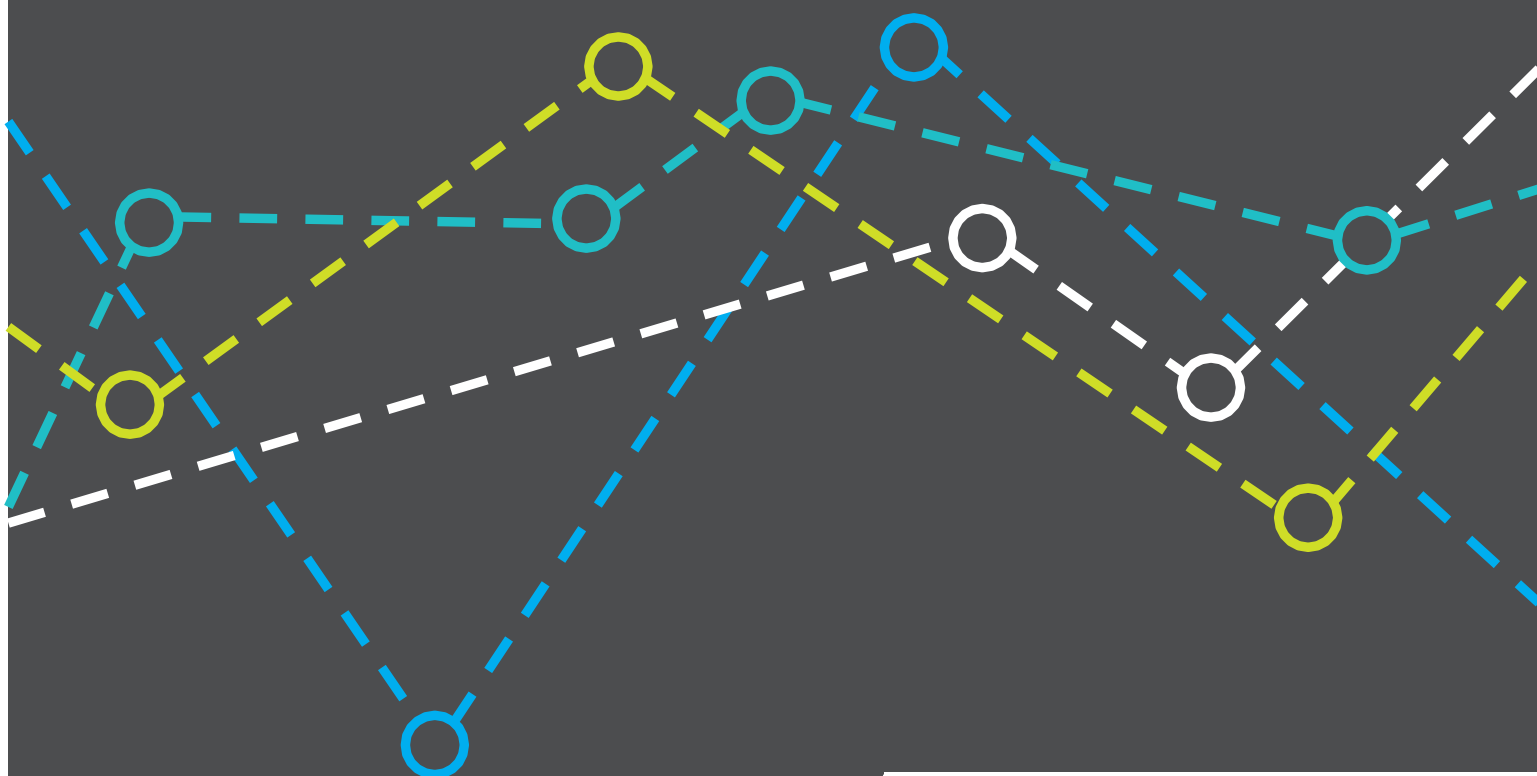




An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Quarterly Service Performance and Activity Report

QUARTER 4 2019



Quality Assurance Directorate

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1.0 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

This report provides an update on the performance and activity of Tusla services at the end of Q4 2019. 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 Q4 2019 position regarding activity and performance.

CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

Referrals

As areas have recently transitioned to the National Child Care Information System and are in the early stages of implementation of the *Signs of Safety* practice model the data for all quarters from Q1 2018 should be interpreted with care.

- 13,149 referrals in Q3 2019, 2,252 (15%) fewer than Q2 2019 and 477 (4%) fewer than Q3 2018. Brings to 43,938 the number of referrals for the first nine months of 2019, 6% (2,625) more than the same period in 2018 (41,313). *In addition to the seasonal factor (schools being off), the decrease observed in Q3 2019 may also be partly explained by the exclusion (from the count) of referrals (following screening) not meeting the eligibility criteria for child protection and welfare services by some areas. Some referrals not meeting the eligibility criteria may have been included by some areas in previous counts.*
- 58% (7,651) of referrals were for welfare concerns; up two percentage points from Q2 2019 and highest percentage since Q1 2018
- 42% (5,498) were concerns of abuse; down two percentage points since Q2 2019
- 99% (12,970/13,149) of referrals for Q3 2019 had a preliminary enquiry carried out.
- 29% (3,791/12,970) of preliminary enquiries were done within 5 working days, up two percentage points from Q2 2019 (3,833/14,258).
- 20% (2,590/12,970) of referrals that had a preliminary enquiry required an initial assessment, up four percentage points from Q2 2019 (2,262/14,258)
- 15% (379/2,590) of initial assessments were done within 40 working days, down two percentage points from Q 2019

Social Work Activity Data

- 24,827 cases open to social work nationally at the end of Q4 2019 fewest number since Q1 2018
- 79% (19,356) of open cases were allocated to named social worker, down one percentage point from Q3 2019
- 5,291 cases were awaiting allocation; 179 (4%) more than Q3 2019 (5,112) and the first increase after three consecutive decreases. Cases awaiting allocation down 18% (1,141) from December 2018 when a high of 6,432 was reported.
- 653 (12%) of the cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2019 were categorised as 'high priority'; 19 more than Q3 2019 (634) and 350 (35%) fewer than December 2018 (1,003).
- 74% (483/653) of cases categorised as 'high priority' awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2019 were waiting less than 3 months.

Child Protection Notification System

- 876 children listed as 'active' on the CPNS at the end of Q4 2019; 105 (11%) fewer than Q3 2019 and the fewest number for the period Q1 2017 – Q4 2019.
- 80% (700) of children listed as "active" were listed for no longer than 12 months
- All children listed as "active" at the end of Q4 2019 had an allocated social worker.

National Out of Hours Service

- 2,186 referrals to the National Out of Hours Service in 2019, 258 (13%) more than 2018 (1,928).
- 635 children were placed by the National Out of Hours Service in 2019, 16 more than 2018 (619)
- 4,025 nights accommodation supplied by the National Out of Hours Service in 2019, 655 (19%) more than 2019 (3,370).

ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

Children in Care

- 5,985 children in care at the end of 2019; two more than Q3 2019, but 56 fewer than Q4 2018 (6,041) and 211 fewer than Q4 2017 (6,196).
- 695 children in private placements; 11 more than Q3 2019 (684) and 40 (6%) more than Q4 2018 (655); highest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q4 2019.
- 92% (5,486/5,985) of children in care had an allocated social worker at the end of 2019; no change in percentage from Q3 2019
- 499 children were awaiting allocation of a social worker; 27 more than at the end of Q3 2019 (472)
- Highest number awaiting in the Dublin North (79, up 8 from Q3) followed by Midwest (68, down 6 from Q3), CW/K/ST (54, down 18 from Q3), DSW/K/WW (53, down 3 from Q3) and Midlands (50, up 7 from Q3)
- 93% (5,570/5,985) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan against a target of 90%, up one percentage points from Q3 2019 (92%).
- 415 children did not have an up-to-date care plan, 70 fewer than Q3 2019 (485). Highest number in Cork (170, down 57 from Q3) followed by Midwest (62, down 8 from Q3).

Aftercare

- 2,774 young persons/adults in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q4 2019, 74 more than Q3 2019 and 152 (6%) more than Q1 2019.
- 73% (1,533/2,108) of those 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service were in education/accredited training.
- 82% (2,265) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of 2019 had an aftercare plan, no change from Q3 2019. A total of 509 were awaiting a plan, 14 more than Q3 2019 (495). Nine areas along with the SWTSCSA reported a percentage equal to or above the national average of 82%.
- 90% (1,889/2,099) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of 2019, up one percentage point from Q3 2019. A total of 210 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of 2019, down four from Q3 2019 (214 awaiting). Thirteen areas along with the SWTSCSA reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 90% with nine of these areas reporting 100%.

Adoption

- 398 new enquiries regarding information and tracing received in Q4 2019, fewest number for all quarters 2019. Brings to 2,332 the number of enquires for 2019, nearly double (90%; 1,107) the number for 2018 (1,225)
- 148 new applications to commence tracing of a searched person received in Q4 2019; fewest number for all quarters 2019. Brings to 804 the number of applications for 2018; 42 (5%) fewer than 2018 (846)
- 619 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q4 2019; 110 (15%) fewer than Q3 2019 and the fewest number for the period Q1 2017 – Q4 2019.
- 39 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received during Q4 2019, fewest number for all quarters 2019. Brings to 194 the number of applications received for 2019, 18 (8%) fewer than 2018 (212).
- 40 new children were referred for adoption in Q4 2019. Brings the total number for 2019 to 179; 18 fewer than 2018 (197).
- 37 completed assessments (all types) were presented to Local Adoption Committees during Q4 2019. Brings the total number for 2019 to 152, one more than 2018 (151).

Foster Carers

- 4,201 foster carers on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of 2019, two fewer than Q3 2019 and the fewest number for the period Q1 2018 – Q4 2019
- 82% (1,095/1,335) of relative foster carers approved against a target of 80%
- 94% (2,428) of general foster carers had an allocated link worker (target 90%); 146 awaiting a link work, 30 fewer than Q3 2019 (176). Rates reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (76%), DSW/K/WW (84%) and Midlands (84%) lower than all other areas.
- 91% (995) of relative foster carers approved and on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker (target 85%); 100 were awaiting an allocated link worker, eight fewer than Q3 2019 (108). Rates reported by DSW/K/WW (64%), LH/MH (74%), WD/WX (76%) and Midlands (79%) lower than all other areas.
- 240 unapproved relative foster carers; 16 fewer than Q3 2019
- 211 (88%) of the unapproved relative foster carers had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks, 12 fewer than Q3 2019 (223).
- 94% (199) had an allocated link worker, down four percentage points from Q3 2019; 12 awaiting allocation across three areas (7 more than Q3)

Early Years Inspectorate

- 4,310 EYS on the register nationally at the end of Q4 2019; fewest number for the period Q1 2018 – Q4 2019
- 514 inspections (all types) carried out in Q4 2019, bringing the total number for 2019 to 2,308. A total of 2,513 inspections carried out in 2018.
- 102 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q4 2019. Brings to 403 the number for 2019, 149 (59%) more than 2018 (254).
- 157 unsolicited information submissions received by the Inspectorate during Q4 2019. Brings to 597 the number for 2019, 184 (45%) more than 2018 (413).
- 4 services removed from the national register in 2019.

Non-Statutory Alternative Care Services

- 130 non-statutory residential centres at the end of 2019; one more than Q3 2019 and 10 more than at the end of 2018
- 29 inspections (all types and onsite) conducted in Q4 2019; three more than Q3 2019. Brings to 128 the number of inspections for 2019, six fewer than 2018 (134).

Alternative Education Regulation

Home Education

- 1,495 children on the register for home education at the end of 2019; 85 (6%) more than 2018.
- 160 applications received for home education during Q4 2019. Brings to 617 the number of applications received for 2019, 12 more than 2018 (605).
- 98 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q4 2019, 48 (96%) more than Q3 2019 and the highest number since Q1 2018. Brings to 301 the number of assessments done for 2019, 61(17%) fewer than 2018 (362).
- 650 children awaiting a preliminary assessment for registration at the end of Q4 2019, eight more than Q3 2019 and the highest number for the period Q1 2019 – Q4 2019.
- 429 registered children awaiting a review at the end of Q4 2019; fewest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q4 2019.

Independent Schools

- 6,688 children attending 49 assessed schools at the end of 2019
- 3 schools awaiting a preliminary assessment at the end of 2019 and a further seven schools allocated to an assessor for review.

Tusla Education Support Services

- 1,419 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers in Q4 2019, bringing the total number for the period Sept 2019 – Dec 2019 to 1,668; 232 (16%) more than the same period in 2018 (1,436)
- 1,914 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of 2019, 395 (26%) more than at the end of December 2018 (1,519).
- 840 new individual children worked with in Q4 2019, bringing the total number for the period Sept 2019 – Dec 2019 to 1,006; 223 fewer than the same period in 2018 (1,229)
- 157 School Attendance Notices (SANs) issued in Q4 2019, bringing the total number for the period Sept 2019 – Dec 2019 to 204; 25 fewer than the same period in 2018 (229).
- 27 summonses issued in Q4 2019, bringing the total number for the period Sept 2019 – Dec 2019 to 34; seven fewer than the same period in 2018 (41).
- 72 Section 24 meetings convened by EWOs in Q4 2019, bringing the total number for the period Sept 2019 – Dec 2019 to 89; 38 fewer than the same period in 2018 (127)

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

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

- At least 18,343 children in receipt of family support services at the end of 2019 (based on 88% response rate). At least 19,016 in receipt at the end of 2018 (response rate 89%).
- At least 37,024 children referred to family support services in 2019. At least 33,270 children referred in 2018.
- 67% (24,828) of children referred to family support services in 2019 received a service, down six percentage points from 2018 (73%; 24,211).

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

- 2,330 Meitheal processes requested in 2019; 596 (34%) more than 2018 (1,734)
- 72% (1,670) of requests requested through Direct Access, 18% (413) requested through Social Work Diversion and 11% (247) Social Work Step Down
- 82% (1,921) of Meitheal requests received in 2019 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage), up from 67% (1,164/1,734) in 2018.
- 1,534 the number of Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage Two in 2019.
- 58% (889) of processes reaching completion of Stage Two, proceeded to delivery (Stage 3)
- 1,654 Meitheals closed in 2019, 597 (56%) more than 2018 (1,057). 35% (577) were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1). 31% (520) were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2). 10% (169) were closed following commencement of Meitheal Support Meetings (Stage 3) and 23% (388) were closed post-delivery.
- 115 Child and Family Support Networks¹ (CFSN) operating at the end of 2019; nine more than 2018. A further 17 CFSNs are planned.

Human Resources

- 4,122 (WTE) employed by the Agency at the end of 2019; a 6% (229) increase on 2018.
- 522 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in 2019; four more than 2018 (518)
- 257 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in 2019, 38 more than 2018 (219)
- 63 staff retired in 2019; 25 fewer than 2018 (88)
- 153 staff were on maternity leave at the end of November 2019.
- 5.43% absence rate (November 2019)
- 227 class-room based courses run by Workforce Learning & Development during Q4 2019 at which 3,069 persons attended. There were 1,636 completions of online training targeted at Tusla staff

Finance

- The financial outturn for the year to date (Dec 2019) is an under-spend of €1.024 million
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €2.718 million
- Non pay costs are over-spent against budget by €9.016 million
- Key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €5.323 million over budget
- 48% (€14.512 million) of legal expenditure (€30.286 million) was on guardians ad litem (GALs), including GAL's solicitors and counsel.

2.0 CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

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

2.1 REFERRALS (CHILD WELFARE AND CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT)

Key Facts

As areas have recently transitioned to the National Child Care Information System and are in the early stages of implementation of the *Signs of Safety* practice model the data for all quarters from Q1 2018 should be interpreted with care.

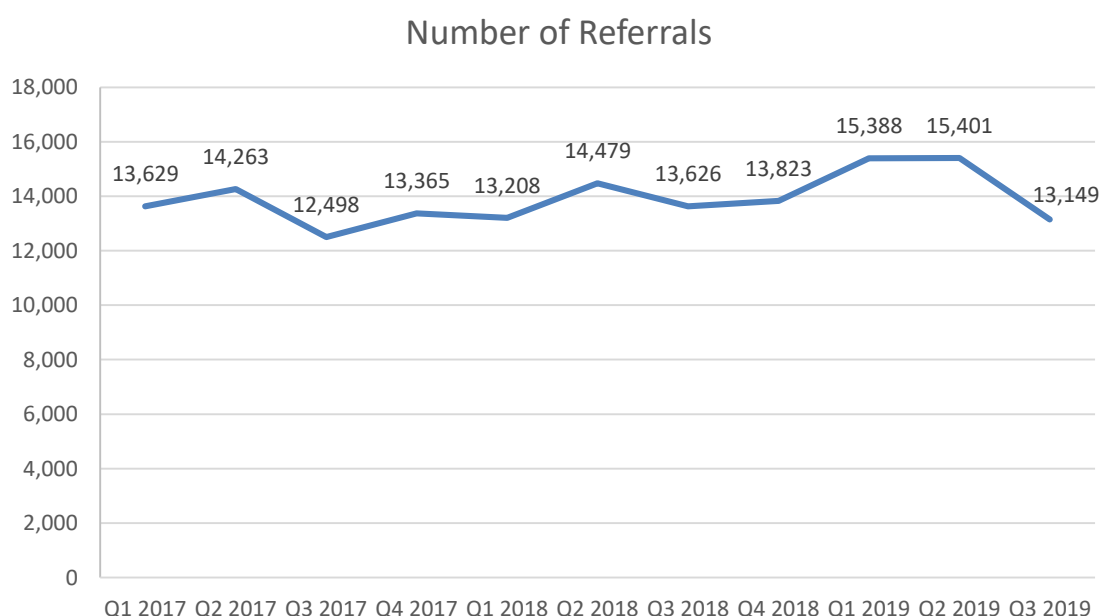
- 13,149 referrals in Q3 2019, 2,252 (15%) fewer than Q2 2019 and 477 (4%) fewer than Q3 2018. Brings to 43,938 the number of referrals for the first nine months of 2019, 6% (2,625) more than the same period in 2018 (41,313). *In addition to the seasonal factor (schools being off), the decrease observed in Q3 2019 may also be partly explained by the exclusion (from the count) of referrals (following screening) not meeting the eligibility criteria for child protection and welfare services by some areas. Some referrals not meeting the eligibility criteria may have been included by some areas in previous counts.*
- 58% (7,651) of referrals were for welfare concerns; up two percentage points from Q2 2019 and highest percentage since Q1 2018
- 42% (5,498) were concerns of abuse; down two percentage points since Q2 2019
- 99% (12,970/13,149) of referrals for Q3 2019 had a preliminary enquiry carried out.
- 29% (3,791/12,970) of preliminary enquiries were done within 5 working days, up two percentage points from Q2 2019 (3,833/14,258).
- 20% (2,590/12,970) of referrals that had a preliminary enquiry required an initial assessment, up four percentage points from Q2 2019 (2,262/14,258)
- 15% (379/2,590) of initial assessments were done within 40 working days, down two percentage points from Q 2019

Number of Referrals Q3 2019

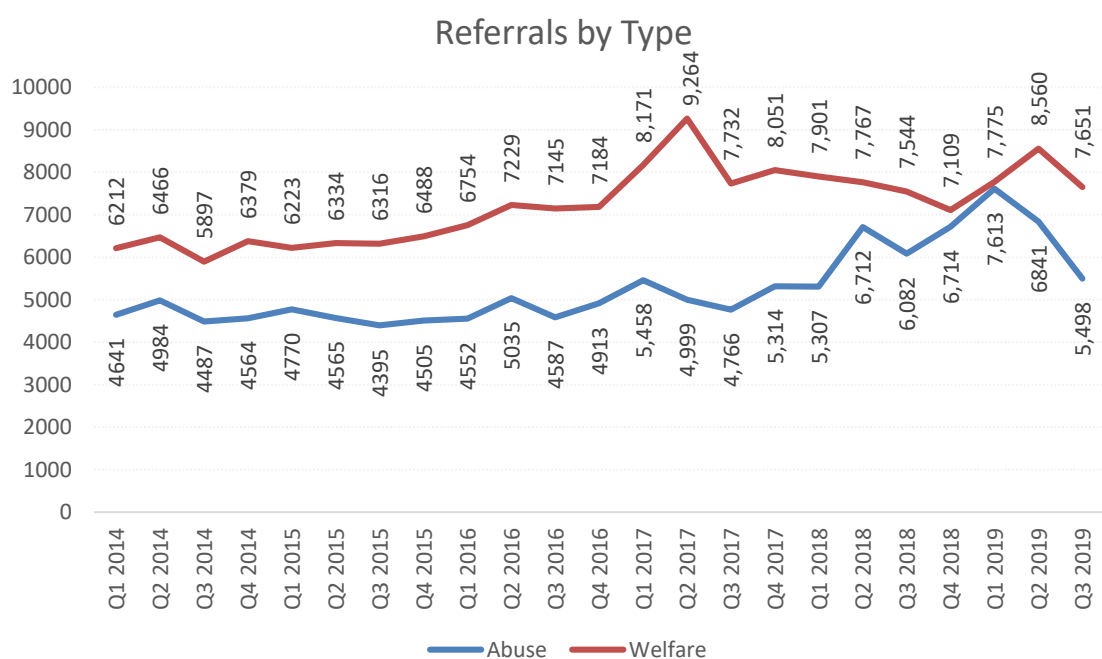
- 13,149 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Service during Q3 2019¹; 2,252 (15%) fewer than Q2 2019 and 477 (4%) fewer than Q3 2018. This brings to 43,938 the number of referrals for the first nine months of 2019, 6% (2,625) more than the same period in 2018 (41,313). *In addition to the seasonal factor (schools being off), the decrease*

¹ Data on referrals are reported quarterly in arrears.

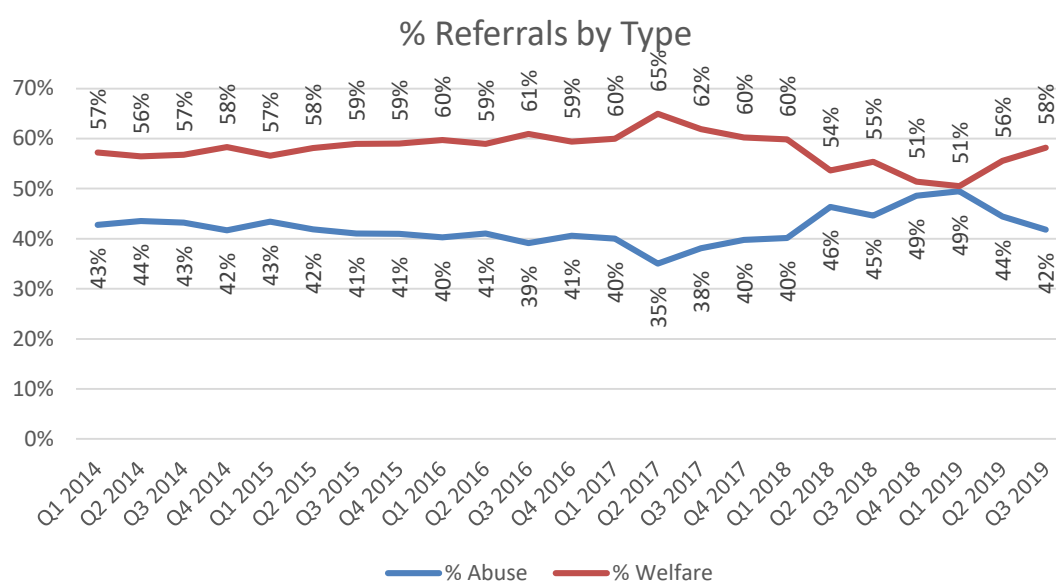
observed in Q3 in some areas may be partly explained by the exclusion (from the count) of referrals (following screening) not meeting the eligibility criteria for child protection and welfare services. Some referrals not meeting the eligibility criteria may have been included by some areas in previous counts.



- 58% (7,651) of referrals were for welfare concerns; 909 (11%) fewer than Q2 2019 (8,560) and 107 (1%) more than Q3 2018 (7,544). This brings to 23,986 the number of referrals for the first nine months of 2019, 774 (3%) more than the same period in 2018 (23,212).
- 42% (5,498) were concerns of abuse; 1,343 (20%) fewer than Q2 2019 (6,841), and 584 (10%) fewer than Q3 2018 (6,082). This brings to 19,952 the number of referrals for the first nine months of 2019, 1,851 (10%) more than the same period in 2018 (18,101).



- Percentage of welfare referrals up two percentage points from Q2 2019, second consecutive increase and the highest percentage since Q1 2018.

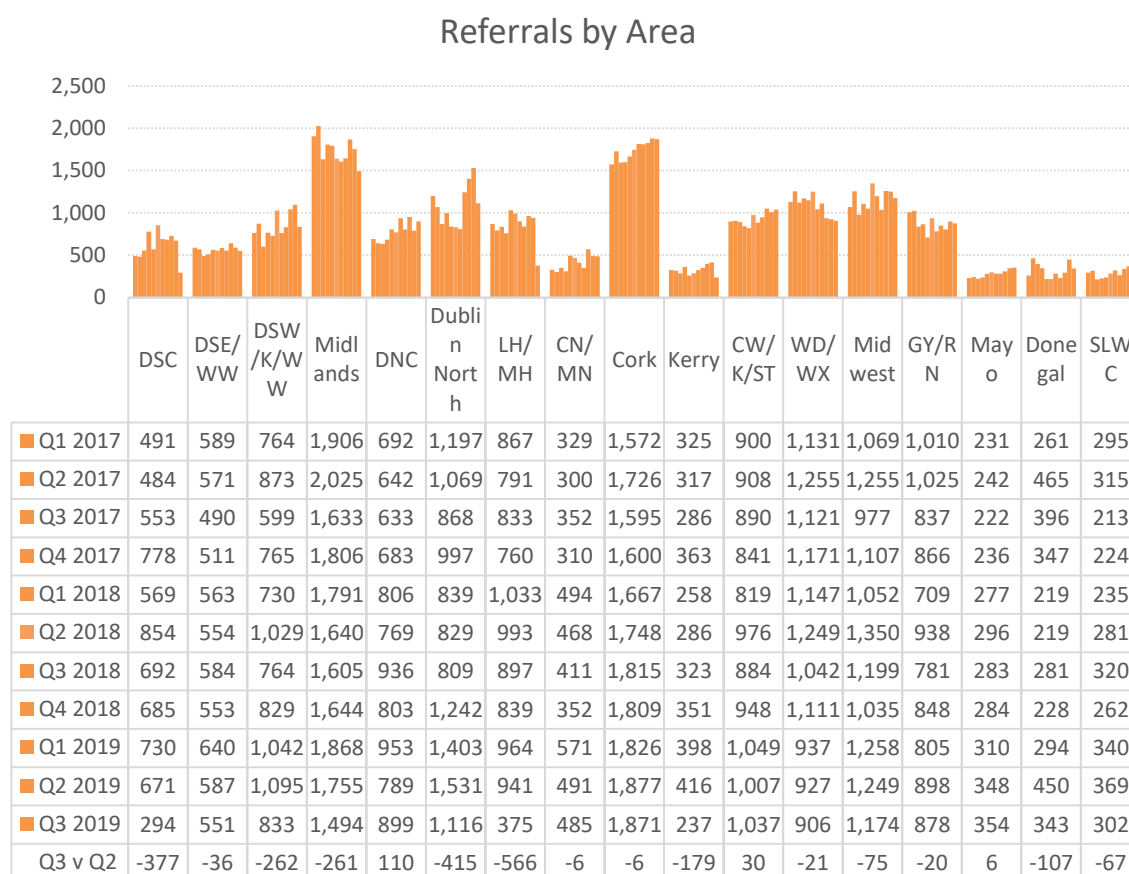


Referrals by Area

- 13,149 referrals equates to about 11 referrals per 1,000 population under 18 years. The rate of referrals ranged from 20 per 1,000 in Dublin North City to 4 per 1,000 in Louth/Meath. Other areas with higher than average rates include, Midlands, CN/MN, Cork, CW/KK/ST, WD/WX, Midwest and SLWC.
- Highest number of referrals reported by the Cork (1,871) followed by Midlands (1,494), Midwest (1,174) and Dublin North (1,116). Fewest number reported by Kerry (237).

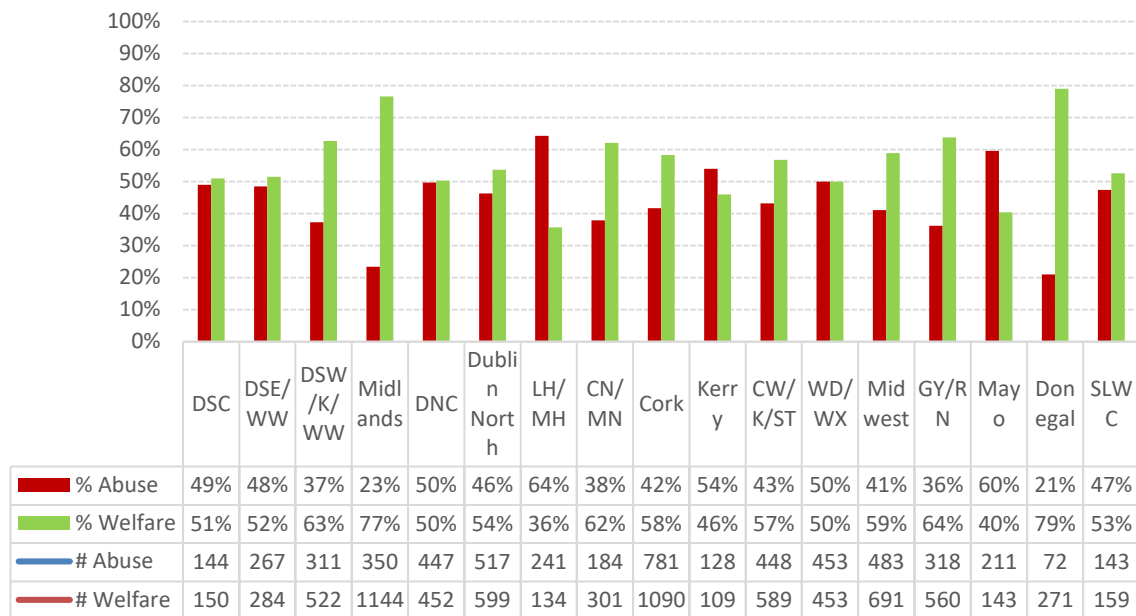
Area	# Q3 2018	# Q4 2018	# Q1 2019	# Q2 2019	# Q3 2019	Δ+/- Q3 v Q2	Population	Rate
DSC	692	685	730	671	294	-377	65,564	4.5
DSE/WW	584	553	640	587	551	-36	86,810	6.3
DSW/K/WW	764	829	1,042	1095	833	-262	108,186	7.7
Midlands	1,605	1,644	1,868	1755	1,494	-261	80,193	18.6
DNC	936	803	953	789	899	110	44,927	20.0
Dublin North	809	1,242	1,403	1531	1,116	-415	100,654	11.1
LH/MH	897	839	964	941	375	-566	93,093	4.0
CN/MN	411	352	571	491	485	-6	36,446	13.3
Cork	1,815	1,809	1,826	1877	1,871	-6	134,015	14.0
Kerry	323	351	398	416	237	-179	34,527	6.9
CW/KK/ST	884	948	1,049	1007	1,037	30	63,009	16.5
WD/WX	1,042	1,111	937	927	906	-21	68,513	13.2
MidWest	1,199	1,035	1,258	1249	1,174	-75	96,266	12.2
GY/RN	781	848	805	898	878	-20	79,912	11.0
Mayo	283	284	310	348	354	6	31,968	11.1
Donegal	281	228	294	450	343	-107	42,865	8.0
SLWC	320	262	340	369	302	-67	23,554	12.8
National	13,626	13,823	15,388	15,401	13,149	-2,252	1,190,502	11.0

- 14 areas reported a decrease in referrals from Q2 2019. Largest decrease reported by Louth/Meath (down 566) followed by Dublin North (down 415) and Dublin South Central (down 377). Largest increase reported by Dublin North City (up 110) followed by CW/K/ST (30). *In addition to the seasonal factor (schools being off), the decrease observed in Q3 in some areas may be partly explained by the exclusion (from the count) of referrals (following screening) not meeting the eligibility criteria for child protection and welfare services. Some referrals not meeting the eligibility criteria may have been included by some areas in previous counts.*



Referrals by Area and Type

- An area breakdown of referrals by type (abuse / welfare) for Q3 2019 is presented in the chart below.
- Nationally, there was 42:58 split between referrals of abuse/neglect and welfare. This varied across the areas and ranged from a 64:36 split for LH/MH to a 21:79 split for Donegal. Eleven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 42% for abuse (Dublin South Central, Dublin South East/Wicklow, Dublin North City, Dublin North, LH/MH, Cork, Kerry, CW/KK/ST, Waterford/Wexford, Mayo and SLWC).



Preliminary Enquiry and Initial Assessment

Tusla introduced a new national approach to practice (Signs of Safety) on the 5th February 2018. This new approach introduced some new changes to the preliminary enquiry and initial assessment steps of the referral process.

The purpose of the **Preliminary Enquiry** as defined under the new approach is: -

- To gather and consider relevant information regarding a reported concern about child.
- To consider the immediate safety of a child and to take necessary immediate protective action, if required.
- To examine all information held by Tusla and determine whether the report meets the threshold for harm for child protection and welfare social work services and to divert cases where this threshold is not met.
- To decide the primary report type and priority status of accepted reports and to respond to these accepted reports in a proportionate and timely manner.

The outcome of this step will be either:

1. An Initial Assessment is required
2. The case can be appropriately diverted for an alternative response through the Child and Family Support Networks.
3. The case will be closed with no further action.

Timeline for the preliminary enquiry is 5 days.

The purpose of the **Initial Assessment** is to determine:

- If the referral is a child protection or serious child welfare matter than requires either a Child Welfare Safety Plan; a Child Protection Safety Plan or whether the harm to the

child is at a level where the children should be removed from the care of their parents until such time as a safety plan can be established.

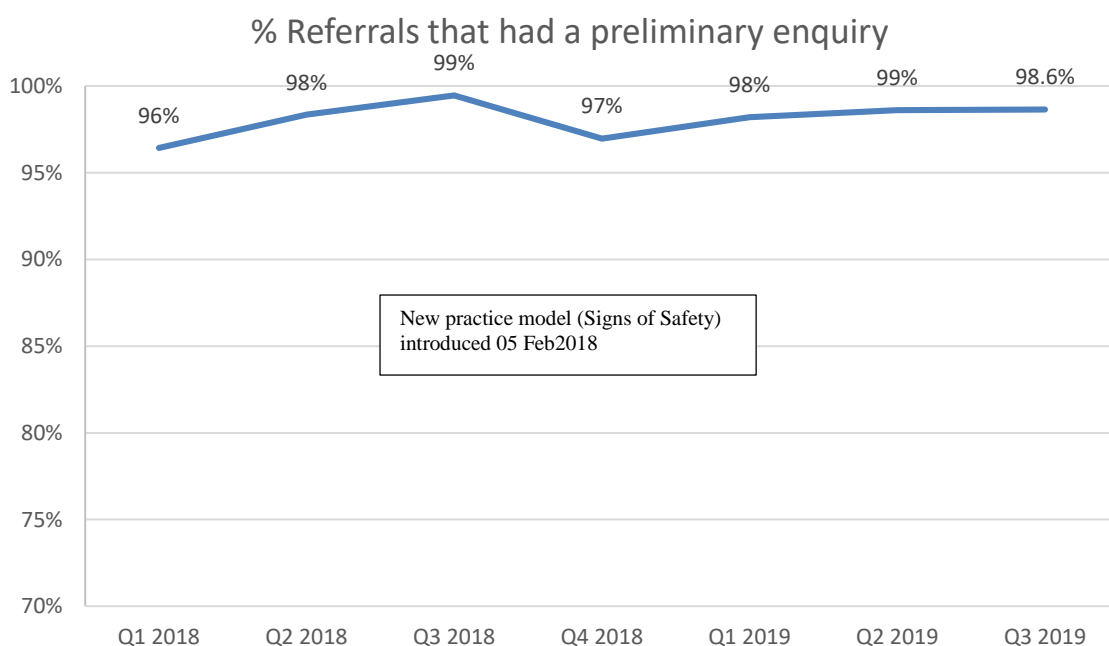
- If the referral can be closed or diverted to an early intervention response that doesn't require Tusla Social Work intervention and can be diverted to a needs led approach like Meitheal.

The timeline for the Initial Assessment is 40 days from receipt of the referral.

Due to these changes the data presented below are not directly comparable with data reported prior to Q1 2018.

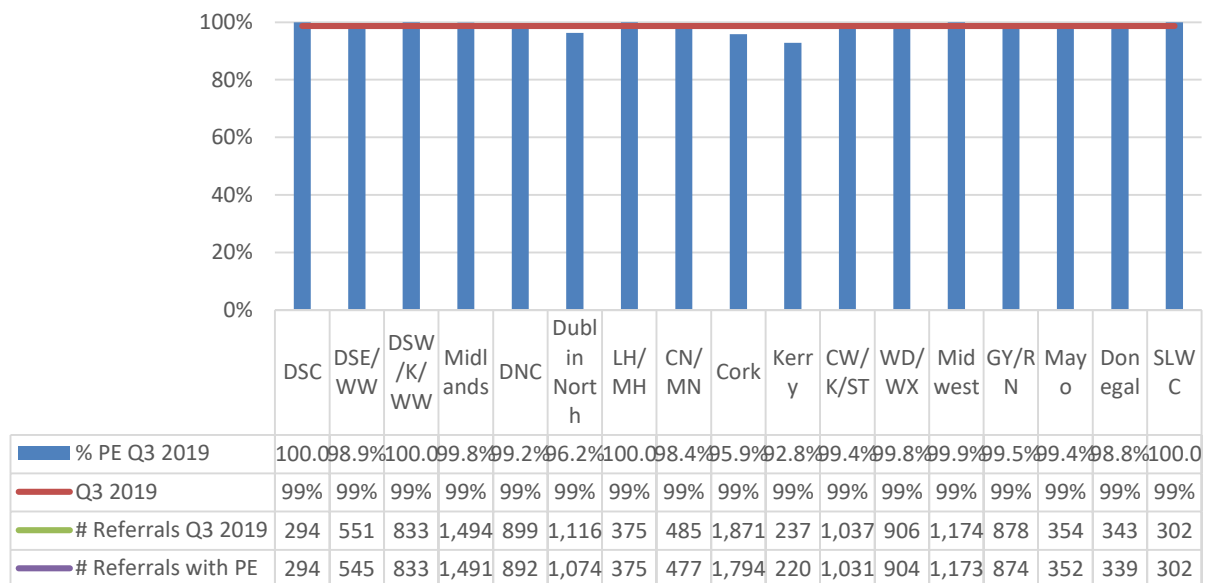
As areas have recently transitioned to the National Child Care Information System and are in the early stages of implementation of the *Signs of Safety* practice model the data for all quarters from Q1 2018 should be interpreted with care.

- 99% (12,970/13,149) of referrals for Q3 2019 had a preliminary enquiry carried out.



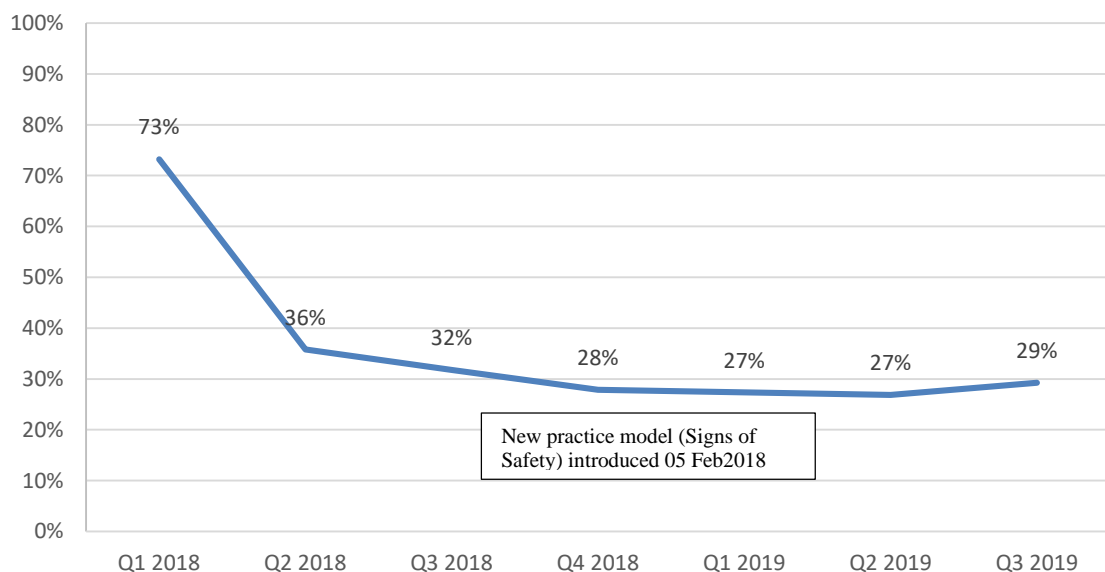
- The percentage of referrals that had a preliminary enquiry ranged from 93% to 100%. Four areas reported 100%.

% referrals that had a preliminary enquiry by area



- 29% (3,791/12,970) of preliminary enquiries were done within 5 working days, up two percentage points from Q2 2019 (3,833/14,258).

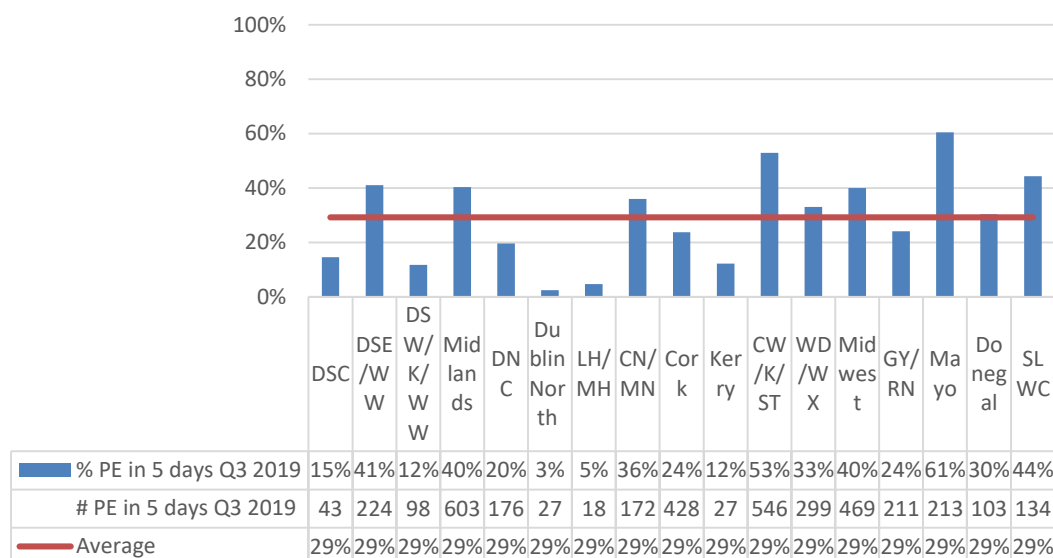
% preliminary enquires completed within 5 working days



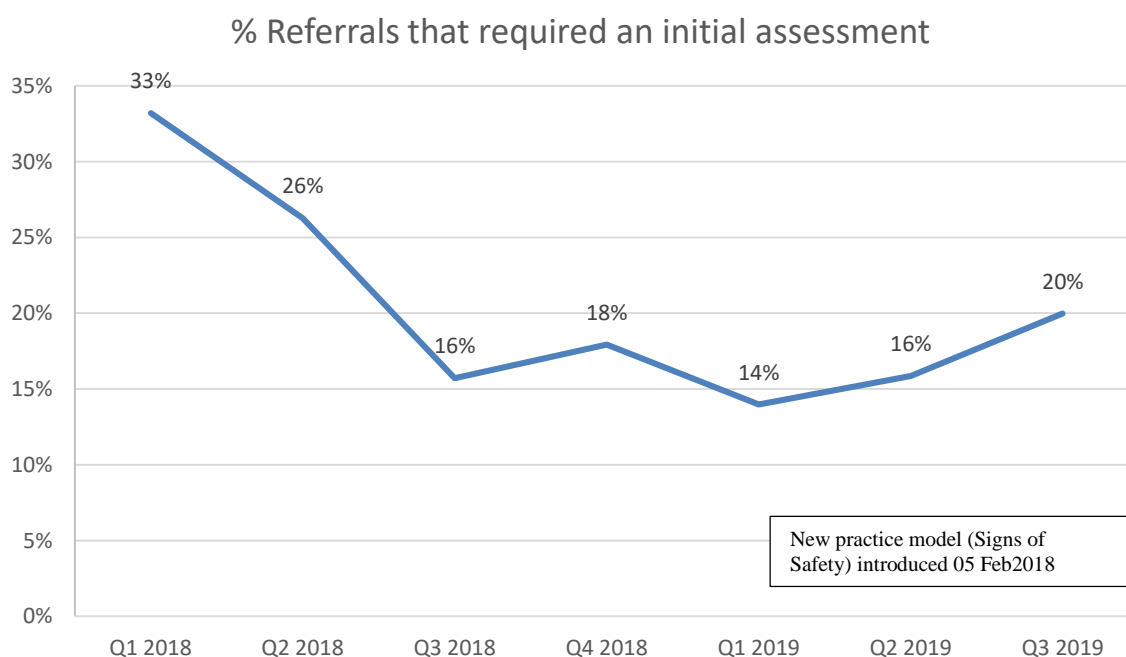
Q1 & Q2 2019 – based on data for 16 areas. Q1 2018 – based on data for 10 areas, Q2 2018 based on data for 15 areas, Q3 – Q4 2018 based on data for 16 areas.

- The percentage of preliminary enquiries done within 5 days ranged from 61% (213/352) (Mayo) to 3% (27/1,074) (Dublin North). Nine areas reported a percentage higher than the national average of 29%.

% preliminary enquiries completed within 5 working days, by area



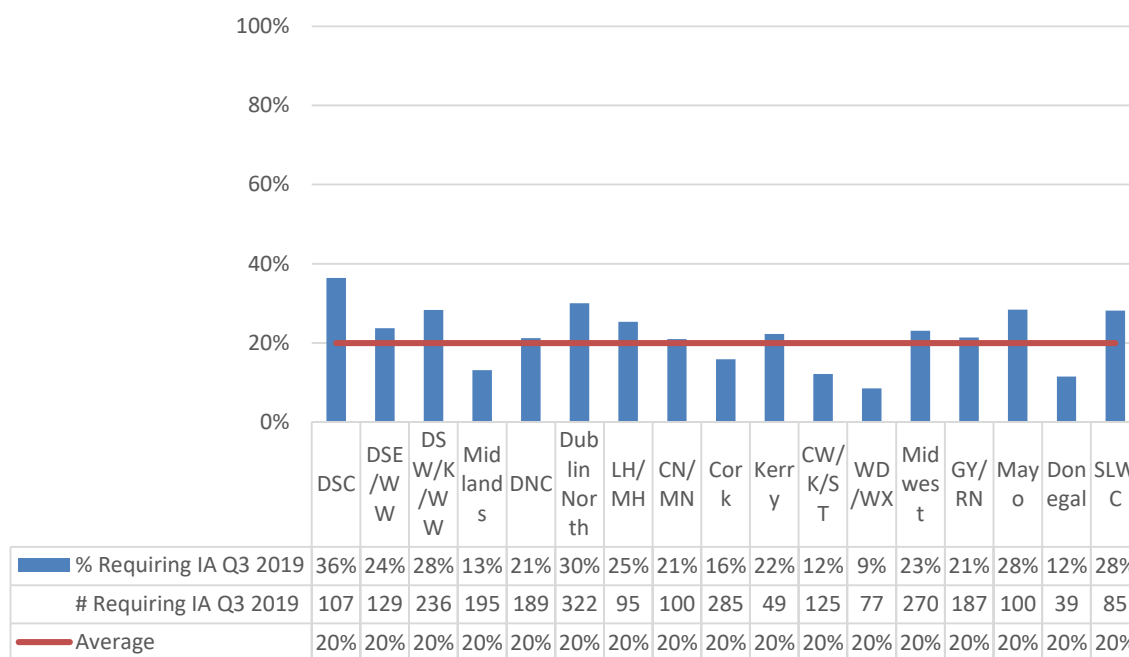
- 20% (2,590/12,970) of referrals that had a preliminary enquiry required an initial assessment, up four percentage points from Q2 2019 (2,262/14,258)



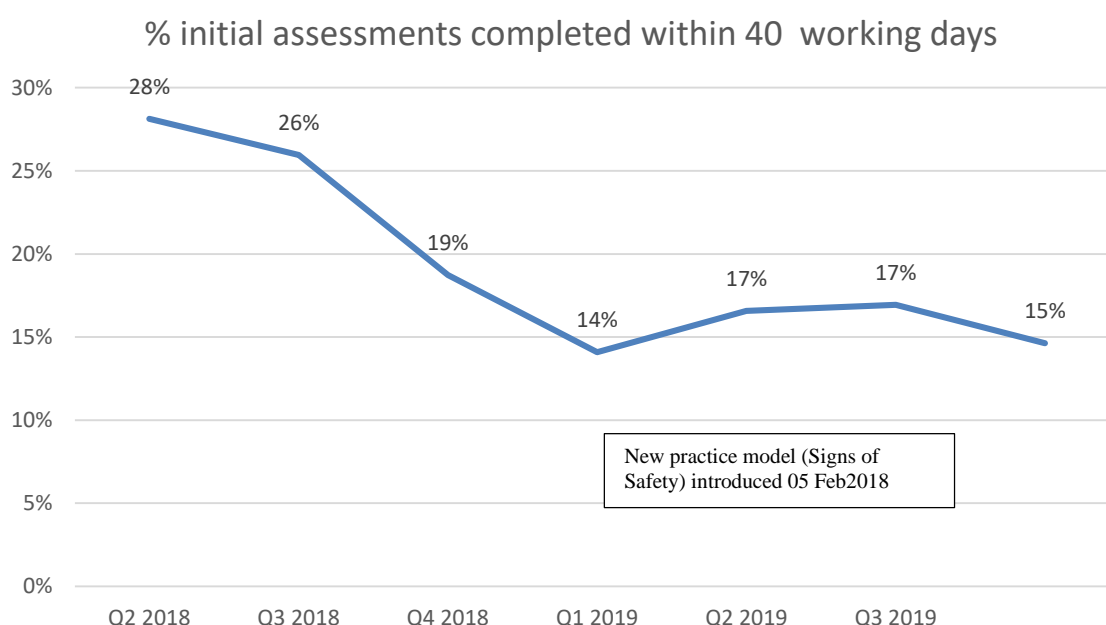
Q2 2019 based on data for 16 areas; Q1 2019 – based on data for 15 areas; Q1 2018 – based on data for 16 areas, Q2 2018 based on data for 15 areas, Q3 – Q4 2018 based on data for 14 areas. Data for Q3 2018 revised from previously reported.

- The percentage of referrals requiring an initial assessment following a preliminary enquiry ranged from 9% (77/904) (WD/WX) to 36% (107/294) (Dublin South Central). Twelve areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 20%.

% Referrals that required an initial assessment, by area



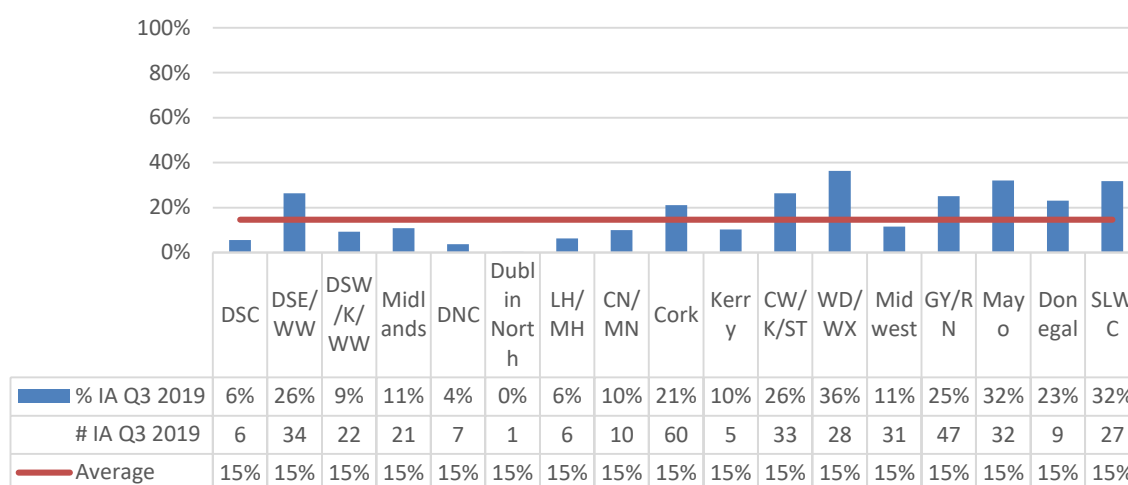
- 15% (379/2,590) of initial assessments were done within 40 working days, down two percentage points from Q 2019



Q2 2019 based on data for 16 areas. Q1 2019 – based on data for 15 areas Q1 2018 – based on data for 16 areas, Q2 2018 based on data for 15 areas, Q3 – Q4 2018 based on data for 14 areas. Data for Q3 2018 revised from previously reported.

- The percentage of initial assessments done within 40 days ranged from 36% (28/77) (WD/WX) to 0.3% (1/322) (Dublin North). Eight areas reported a percentage equal to or above the national average of 15%.

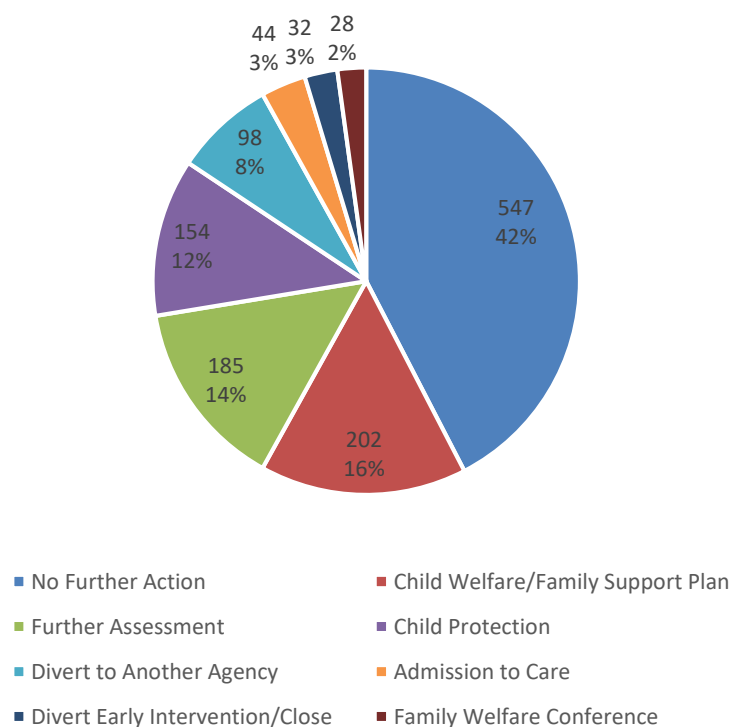
% initial assessments completed within 40 working days, by area



- The outcome of initial assessment was recorded for 1,290 referrals (Q3 2019)
- 'No further action' was recorded in 42% (547/1,2910) of cases.
- "Child protection" was recorded for 12% (154) while 44 (3%) children required admission to care.
- Some 3% (32) cases were diverted for an early intervention response.

Breakdown of actions recorded following initial assessment

Outcome of Initial Assessments



Summary Table Q3 2019

	# Referrals	# With PE	% with PE	# within 5 days	% within 5 days	# requiring IA	% requiring IA	# within 40 days	% within 40 days
DSC	294	294	100.0%	43	15%	107	36%	6	6%
DSE/WW	551	545	98.9%	224	41%	129	24%	34	26%
DSW/K/WW	833	833	100.0%	98	12%	236	28%	22	9%
Midlands	1,494	1,491	99.8%	603	40%	195	13%	21	11%
DNC	899	892	99.2%	176	20%	189	21%	7	4%
Dublin North	1,116	1,074	96.2%	27	3%	322	30%	1	0%
LH/MH	375	375	100.0%	18	5%	95	25%	6	6%
CN/MN	485	477	98.4%	172	36%	100	21%	10	10%
Cork	1,871	1,794	95.9%	428	24%	285	16%	60	21%
Kerry	237	220	92.8%	27	12%	49	22%	5	10%
CW/K/ST	1,037	1,031	99.4%	546	53%	125	12%	33	26%
WD/WX	906	904	99.8%	299	33%	77	9%	28	36%
Mid West	1,174	1,173	99.9%	469	40%	270	23%	31	11%
GY/RN	878	874	99.5%	211	24%	187	21%	47	25%
Mayo	354	352	99.4%	213	61%	100	28%	32	32%
Donegal	343	339	98.8%	103	30%	39	12%	9	23%
SLWC	302	302	100.0%	134	44%	85	28%	27	32%
National	13,149	12,970	98.6%	3,791	29%	2,590	20%	379	15%

Summary Table Q2 2019

	# Referrals	# With PE	% with PE	# within 5 days	% within 5 days	# requiring IA	% requiring IA	# within 40 days	% within 40 days
DSC	671	671	100.0%	21	3%	69	10%	2	3%
DSE/WW	587	587	100.0%	192	33%	135	23%	40	30%
DSW/K/WW	1,095	1,095	100.0%	224	20%	373	34%	27	7%
Midlands*	1,755	1,752	99.8%	968	55%	242	14%	37	15%
DNC	789	785	99.5%	140	18%	76	10%	6	8%
Dublin North*	1,531	1,462	95.5%	68	5%	121	8%	2	2%
LH/MH	941								
CN/MN	491	487	99.2%	95	20%	36	7%	3	8%
Cork	1,877	1,796	95.7%	313	17%	207	12%	27	13%
Kerry	416	390	93.8%	21	5%	52	13%	5	10%
CW/K/ST	1,007	997	99.0%	411	41%	165	17%	44	27%
WD/WX	927	927	100.0%	298	32%	49	5%	22	45%
Mid West	1,249	1,249	100.0%	426	34%	305	24%	45	15%
GY/RN	898	894	99.6%	216	24%	185	21%	35	19%
Mayo	348	348	100.0%	169	49%	114	33%	62	54%
Donegal	450	449	99.8%	83	18%	70	16%	16	23%
SLWC	369	369	100.0%	188	51%	63	17%	10	16%
National	15,401	14,258	99%	3,833	27%	2,262	16%	383	17%

Data for Louth/Meath undergoing validation

2.2 SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITY DATA (Child Protection & Welfare)

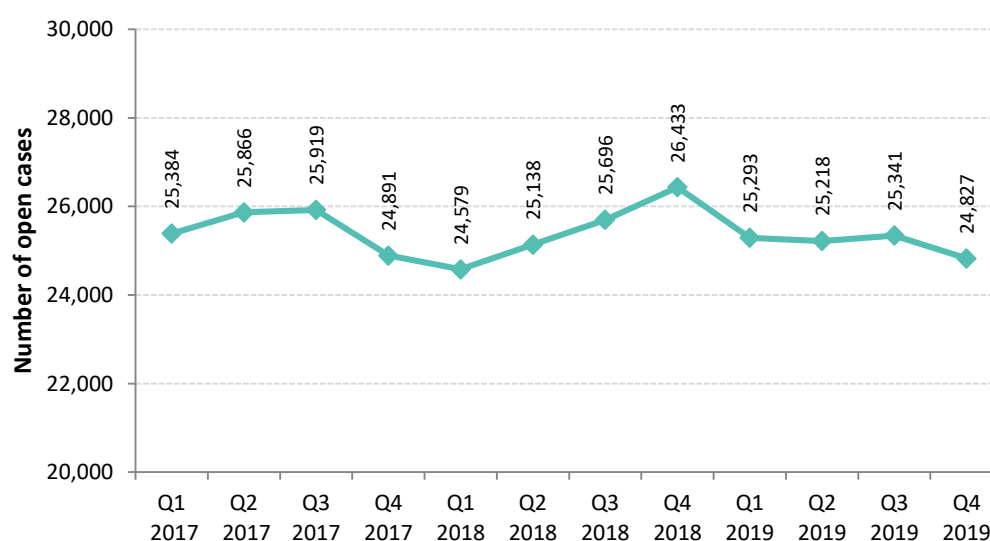
Key Facts

- 24,827 cases open to social work nationally at the end of Q4 2019 fewest number since Q1 2018
- 79% (19,356) of open cases were allocated to named social worker, down one percentage point from Q3 2019
- 5,291 cases were awaiting allocation; 179 (4%) more than Q3 2019 (5,112) and the first increase after three consecutive decreases. Cases awaiting allocation down 18% (1,141) from December 2018 when a high of 6,432 was reported.
- 653 (12%) of the cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2019 were categorised as 'high priority'; 19 more than Q3 2019 (634) and 350 (35%) fewer than December 2018 (1,003).
- 74% (483/653) of cases categorised as 'high priority' awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2019 were waiting less than 3 months.

2.2.1 Open Cases

- 24,827 cases open² to social work nationally at the end of Q4 2019; 514 (2%) fewer than Q3 2019³ (25,341) and the fewest number since Q1 2018

Number of open cases by quarter



*Note: data for Q1 2018 based on complete returns from 16/17 areas and a partial return from the remaining area (Waterford/Wexford)

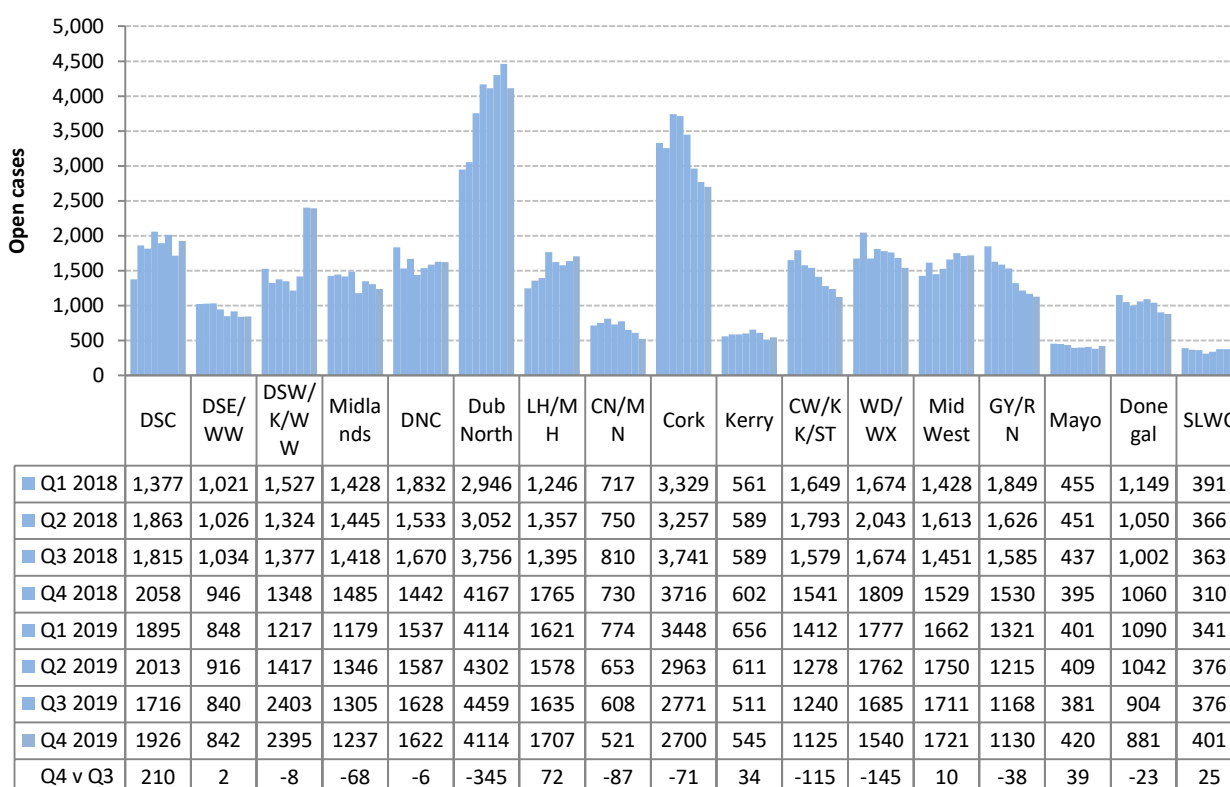
² Open cases include cases held on intake, allocated, unallocated child welfare and protection and children in care cases.

³ **Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow** – area advised that they have transitioned to NCCIS for reporting data. This has resulted in an increase in open cases for a number of reasons and work is underway to address these issues.

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

- The number of open cases ranged from 4,114 (17%) in Dublin North to 401 (2%) in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan with an average of 1,460 per area. Eight of the 17 areas had between 1,000 and 2,000 cases; six areas had fewer than 1,000 cases while the remaining three areas (DSW/K/WW, Dublin North and Cork) had in excess of 2,000 cases.
- 10 areas reported a decrease in open cases from Q3 2019. The largest decrease was reported by Dublin North (down 345) followed by WD/WX (down 145).
- Dublin South Central reported the largest increase (up 210) followed by Louth/Meath (up 72).

Number of open cases by area

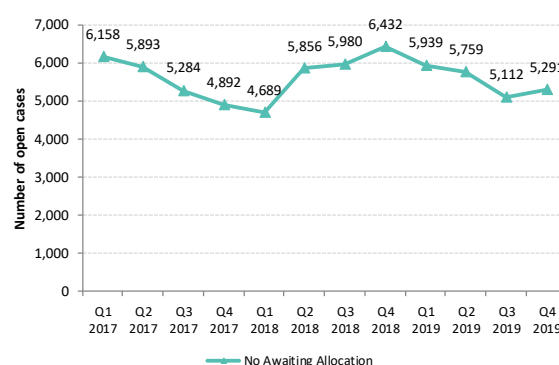
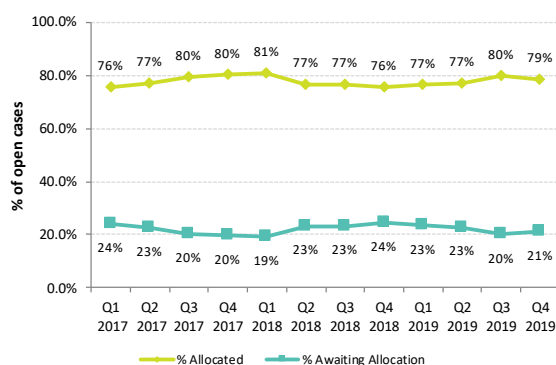


2.2.2 Open Cases Allocated / Awaiting Allocation

- 79% (19,536/24,827) of open cases were allocated to a named social worker at the end of Q4 2019; down one percentage point from Q3 2019.
- 5,291 (21%) cases were awaiting allocation; 179 (4%) more than Q3 2019 (5,112) and the first increase after three consecutive decreases. Cases awaiting allocation are down 18% (1,141) from December 2018 when a high of 6,432 was reported. At least 32% (1,668) of cases awaiting allocation were “active” on a duty system⁴. *Figure based on returns from 14 areas.*

⁴ A case awaiting allocation may be “active” on a “duty” system. This means that there are actions being undertaken by a dedicated duty team or rotating social workers on a duty roster to progress the protection and welfare of the child. Examples of actions being undertaken include telephone calls relating to the concern, visits to see children, completing initial assessments and child in care reviews or care plans. The actions undertaken must have occurred within the monthly MTP reporting period.

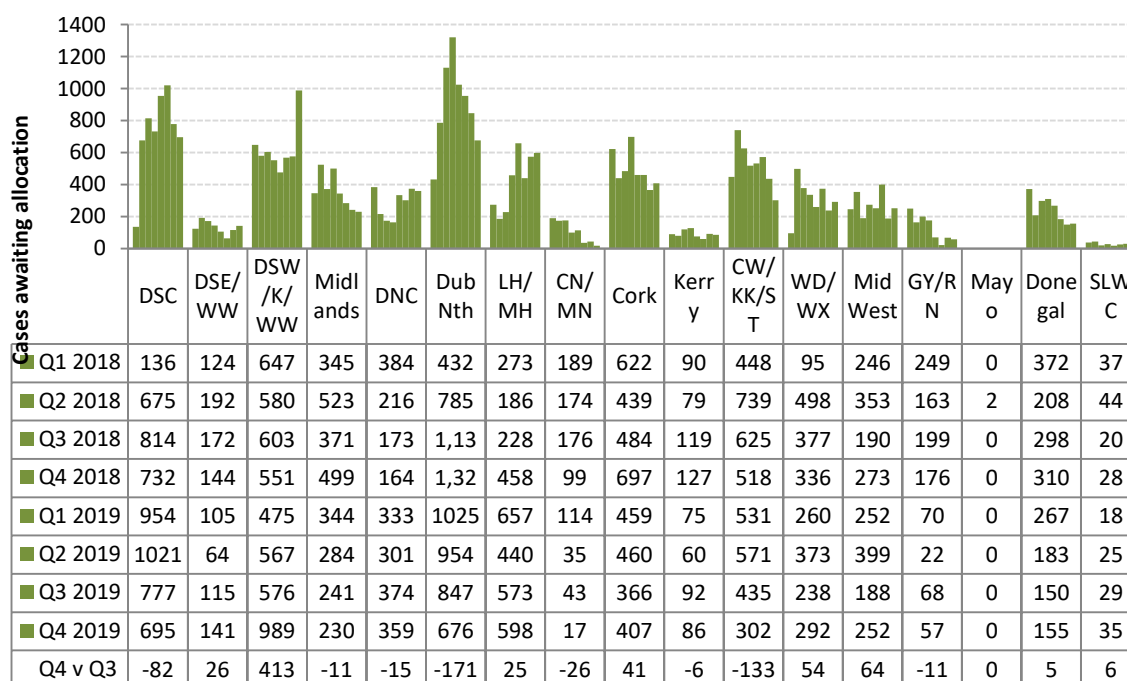
Cases allocated/awaiting allocation



Data for Q1 2018 are incomplete

- Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow reported the highest number of cases awaiting allocation (989) followed by Dublin South Central (695), Dublin North (676), Louth/Meath (598) and Cork (407). 64% (3,365) of cases awaiting allocation are reported by these five areas.
- One area (Mayo) has no cases awaiting allocation.
- 8 areas reported a decrease from Q3 2019 in the number of cases awaiting allocation. Dublin North reported the largest decrease (down 171) followed by CW/KK/ST (down 133) and Dublin South Central (down 82).
- 8 areas reported an increase from Q3 2019. The largest increase was reported by DSW/K/WW (up 413) followed by Midwest (up 64).

Number of open cases awaiting allocation by area

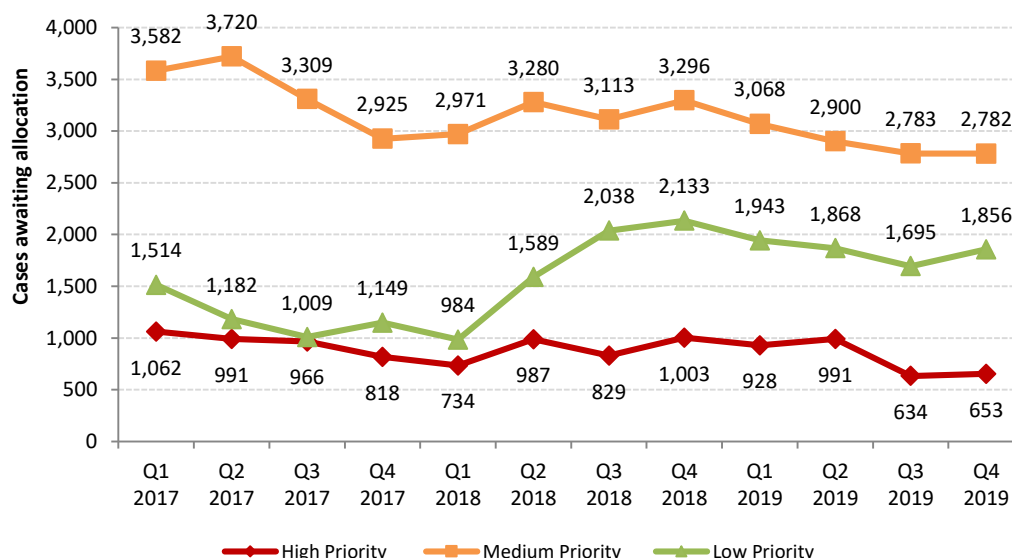


There must be evidence of actions progressing the protection and welfare of the child and not simply a management review of a file. These cases will form a separate category on the MTP returns template under cases awaiting allocation.

2.2.3 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Priority Level⁵

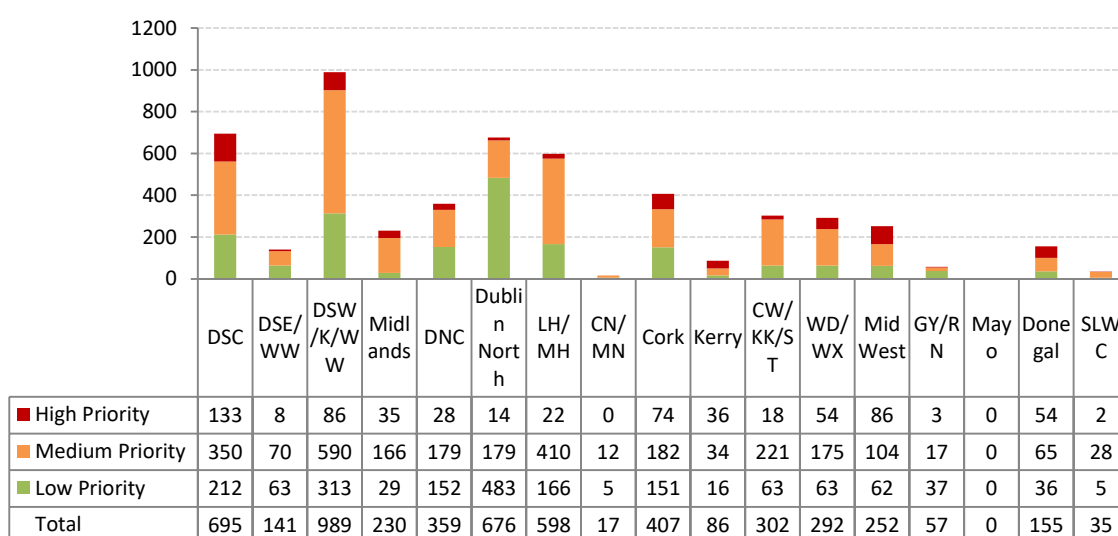
- 653 (12%) of the cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2019 were categorised as 'high priority', 19 more than Q3 2019 (634) and 350 (35%) fewer than December 2018 (1,003).
- 53% of cases (2,782) awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2019 were categorised as 'medium priority' while the remaining 35% (1,856) were categorised as 'low priority'.

Cases awaiting allocation by priority level



- Dublin South Central reported the highest number (133) of 'high priority' cases awaiting allocation, followed by DSW/K/WW and Midwest, both reporting 86 cases. 47% (305) of high priority cases reported by these three areas.

Area breakdown of cases awaiting allocation by priority level Q4 2019



⁵ The priority level as per the guidance outlined in 'Measuring the Pressure' V2. Note: The priority levels in this guidance are currently under national review to ensure that the priority levels identified equate with categorisation of risk. A recent national review highlighted cases being categorised in accordance with actual risk rather than the priority levels in the 'Measuring the Pressure' V2.

2.2.4 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Waiting Time

- 74% (483/653) of cases categorised as 'high priority' awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2019 were waiting less than 3 months.
- 62% (1,728/2,782) of cases categorised as 'medium priority' were waiting less than 3 months at the end of Q4 2019.
- 56% (1,034/1,856) of cases categorised as 'low priority' were waiting less than 3 months at the end of Q4 2019.
- 61% (3,245) of all cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2019 were waiting less than 3 months.

Breakdown of cases awaiting allocation by priority level and time waiting

High Priority / Time Waiting	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019
<1 month	239	269	289	209	311
1-3 months	256	238	344	181	172
>3 months	508	421	358	244	170
Total	1,003	928	991	634	653
Medium Priority / Time Waiting	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019
<1 month	743	745	729	703	864
1-3 months	968	796	901	794	864
>3 months	1,585	1,527	1,270	1,286	1054
Total	3,296	3,068	2,900	2,783	2,782
Low Priority / Time Waiting	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019
<1 month	479	476	398	495	502
1-3 months	683	499	578	452	532
>3 months	971	968	892	748	822
Total	2,133	1,943	1,868	1,695	1,856

Summary Table Q4 2019

	# Referrals* Q3 2019	# Open cases	# Unallocated cases	% open cases unallocated	# high priority cases unallocated	% Unallocated cases high priority
DML	3172	6400	2055	32%	262	13%
DSC	294	1,926	695	36%	133	19%
DSE/WW	551	842	141	17%	8	6%
DSW/K/WW	833	2,395	989	41%	86	9%
Midlands	1,494	1,237	230	19%	35	15%
DNE	2875	7964	1650	21%	64	4%
DNC	899	1,622	359	22%	28	8%
Dublin North	1,116	4,114	676	16%	14	2%
LH/MH	375	1,707	598	35%	22	4%
CN/MN	485	521	17	3%	0	0%
South	4,051	5,910	1,087	18%	182	17%
Cork	1,871	2,700	407	15%	74	18%
Kerry	237	545	86	16%	36	42%
CW/K/ST	1,037	1,125	302	27%	18	6%
WD/WX	906	1,540	292	19%	54	18%
West	3,051	4,553	499	11%	145	29%
Mid West	1,174	1,721	252	15%	86	34%
GY/RN	878	1,130	57	5%	3	5%
Mayo	354	420	0	0%	0	0%
Donegal	343	881	155	18%	54	35%
SLWC	302	401	35	9%	2	6%
National	13,149	24,827	5,291	21%	653	12%

*Referrals are reported quarterly in arrears

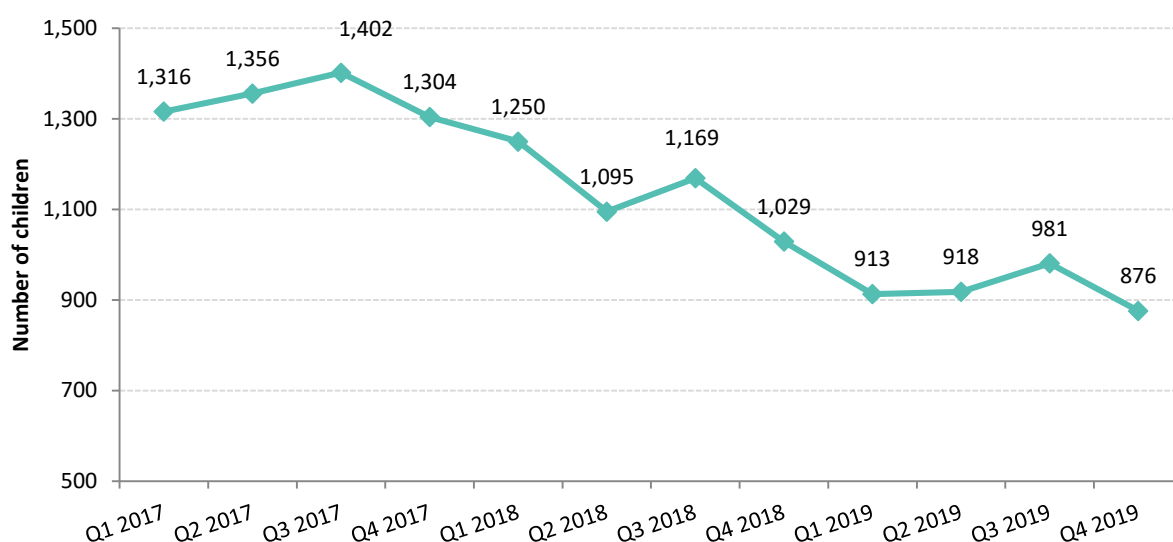
2.3 CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

KEY FACTS

- 876 children listed as 'active' on the CPNS at the end of Q4 2019; 105 (11%) fewer than Q3 2019 and the fewest number for the period Q1 2017 – Q4 2019.
- 80% (700) of children listed as "active" were listed for no longer than 12 months
- All children listed as "active" at the end of Q4 2019 had an allocated social worker.

- 876 children listed as 'active' on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)⁶ at the end of 2019, 105 (11%) fewer than Q3 2019 and the fewest number for the period Q1 2017 – Q4 2019. The number of children listed as active is down 153 (15%) on December 2018 (1,029) and 428 (33%) on December 2017 (1,304)

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



- The number listed as "active" equates to about eight children per 10,000 population under 18 years and ranges from 2.4/10,000 population in Dublin South East/Wicklow to 16.3/10,000 in Mayo.
- DSW/K/WW and Dublin North with higher proportions of the under 18 population reported rates below the national average.

⁶ 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.

- Cork reported the highest number (111) of children “active”, followed by Midwest (86) and Midlands (77). Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan reported the fewest number (18) followed by Dublin South East/Wicklow (21).

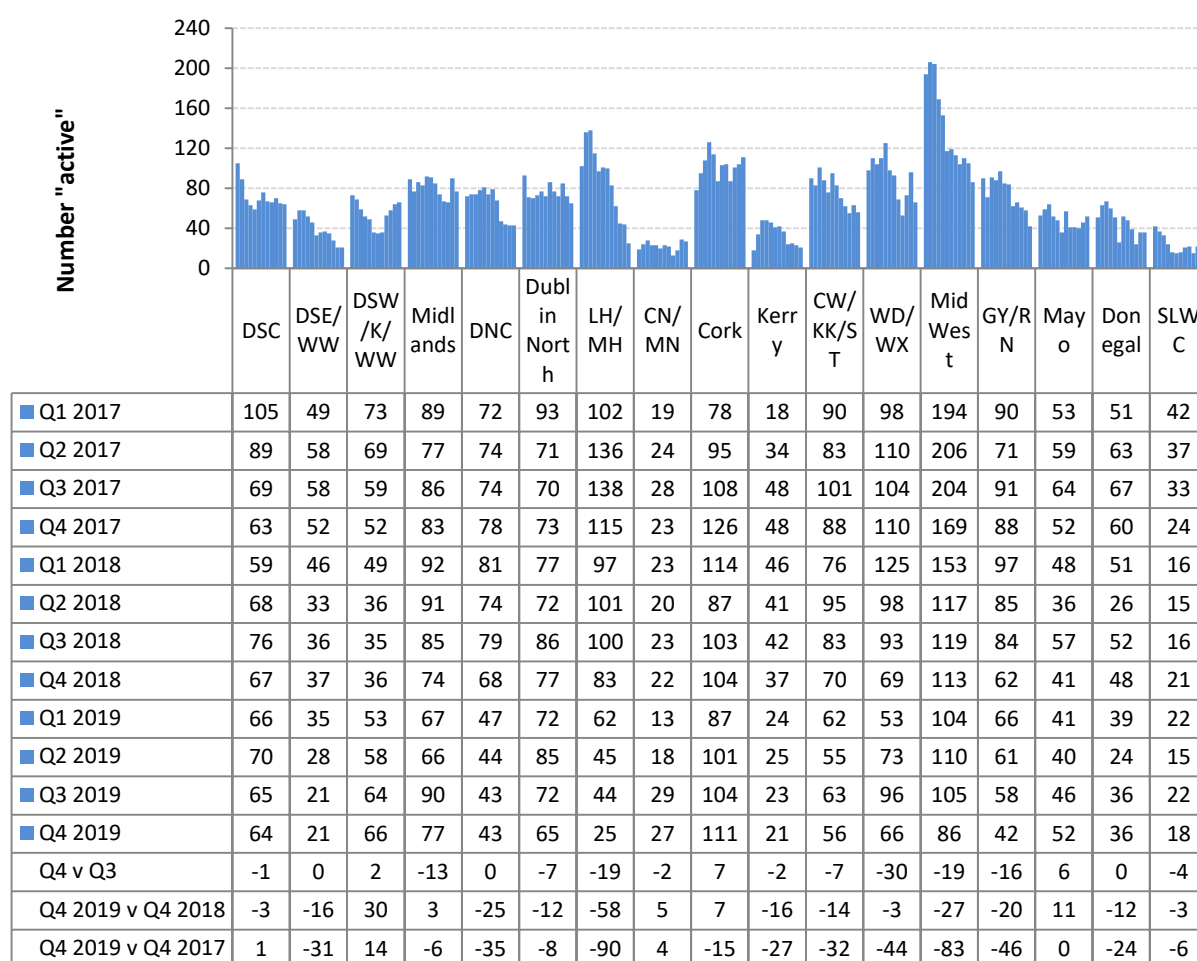
Children listed as 'active' on CPNS per 10,000 population 0-17 years

Area	# Q4 2019	Population 0-17 years	Rate / 10,000 pop
DSC	64	65,564	9.8
DSE/WW	21	86,810	2.4
DSW/K/WW	66	108,186	6.1
Midlands	77	80,193	9.6
DNC	43	44,927	9.6
Dublin North	65	100,654	6.5
LH/MH	25	93,093	2.7
CN/MN	27	36,446	7.4
Cork	111	134,015	8.3
Kerry	21	34,527	6.1
CW/KK/ST	56	63,009	8.9
WD/WX	66	68,513	9.6
Mid West	86	96,266	8.9
GY/RN	42	79,912	5.3
Mayo	52	31,968	16.3
Donegal	36	42,865	8.4
SLWC	18	23,554	7.6
National	876	1,190,502	7.4

Population: Census 2016

- 11/17 areas reported a decrease from Q3 2019. The largest decrease was reported by Waterford/Wexford (down 30) followed by Louth/Meath (down 19) and Midwest (down 19). The largest increase was reported by Cork (up 7) followed by Mayo (up 6). Two areas (DSW/K/WW and Cork) reported three consecutive increases in 2019 while Mayo reported two consecutive increases.
- Three areas (Dublin South East/Wicklow, Dublin North City and Donegal) reported no change from Q3 2019.
- 12/17 areas had fewer cases active at the end of Q4 2019 than Q4 2018. Largest decrease reported by Louth/Meath (down 58) followed by Midwest (down 27) and Dublin North City (down 25). Largest increase reported by DSW/K/WW (up 30), followed by Mayo (up 11).

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



- 53% (467) of children listed as “active” at the end of Q4 2019 were listed for 0-6 months; down slightly from 55% (539) at the end of Q3 2019
- 6% (49) were listed for > 24 months, down 19 from Q3 2019 (68; 7%)
- Listed for >24 months: highest percentage (39%; 7/18) reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan followed by Dublin South Central (14%; 9/64). Three areas (DSE/WW, Kerry and Donegal) reported no child listed as active for >24 months.
- Listed for < 6 months: highest percentage (90%; 19/21) reported by DSE/WW followed by Donegal (78%; 28/36), Dublin North City (63%; 27/43) and CN/MN (63%; 17/27).

Lowest percentage reported by Midwest (33%; 28/86) and Mayo (40%; 21/52). Eleven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 53%.

Children listed as 'active' in each area at the end of Q3 2018, by length of time 'active'

	0-6	% 0-6	7-12	% 7-12	12-18	% 12-18	18-24	% 18-24	>24	% > 24	Total
DSC	32	50%	17	27%	6	9%	0	0%	9	14%	64
DSE/WW	19	90%	2	10%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	21
DSW/K/WW	36	55%	21	32%	5	8%	0	0%	4	6%	66
Midlands	38	49%	21	27%	14	18%	3	4%	1	1%	77
DNC	27	63%	8	19%	4	9%	3	7%	1	2%	43
Dublin North	31	48%	23	35%	7	11%	0	0%	4	6%	65
LH/MH	14	56%	2	8%	5	20%	2	8%	2	8%	25
CN/MN	17	63%	8	30%	0	0%	1	4%	1	4%	27
Cork	62	56%	29	26%	11	10%	4	4%	5	5%	111
Kerry	12	57%	7	33%	2	10%	0	0%	0	0%	21
CW/KK/ST	33	59%	13	23%	8	14%	0	0%	2	4%	56
WD/WX	37	56%	17	26%	5	8%	2	3%	5	8%	66
Mid West	28	33%	28	33%	15	17%	11	13%	4	5%	86
GY/RN	23	55%	14	33%	1	2%	3	7%	1	2%	42
Mayo	21	40%	15	29%	12	23%	1	2%	3	6%	52
Donegal	28	78%	6	17%	2	6%	0	0%	0	0%	36
SLWC	9	50%	2	11%	0	0%	0	0%	7	39%	18
National	467	53%	233	27%	97	11%	30	3%	49	6%	876

- All children listed as “active” at the end of Q4 2019 had an allocated social worker.
- 46 children listed as active at the end of Q4 2019 were reactivated on the CPNS (i.e., their status changed from ‘inactive’ to ‘active’) during Q4 2019. Highest number reported by SLWC (8) followed by Midwest (7).

Number children active whose status changed from inactive to active during the quarter

Area	# Children whose status changed Q1 2019	# Children whose status changed Q2 2019	# Children whose status changed Q3 2019	# Children whose status changed Q4 2019
DSC	2	0	2	1
DSE/WW	0	0	0	5
DSW/K/WW	5	3	2	2
Midlands	0	5	7	5
Dublin North City	0	1	1	0
Dublin North	1	3	5	2
LH/MH	0	4	0	4
CN/MN	0	1	5	0
Cork	1	4	2	1
Kerry	0	0	3	0
CW/KK/ST	1	0	1	3
WD/WX	0	5	13	2
Mid West	0	6	4	7
GY/RN	1	0	9	1
Mayo	3	4	1	2
Donegal	0	0	0	3
SLWC	0	1	0	8
National	14	37	55	46

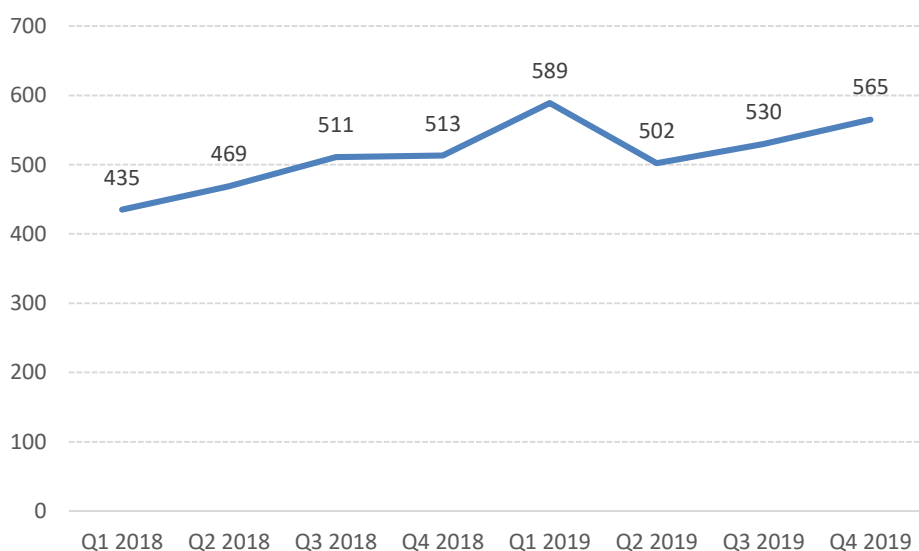
2.4 NATIONAL OUT OF HOURS SERVICE

KEY FACTS

- 2,186 referrals to the National Out of Hours Service in 2019, 258 (13%) more than 2018 (1,928).)
- 635 children were placed by the National Out of Hours Service in 2019, 16 more than 2018 (619)
- 4,025 nights accommodation supplied by the National Out of Hours Service in 2019, 655 (19%) more than 2019 (3,370).

National Out of Hours Services includes all services providing out of hours services (previously reported separately as Crisis Intervention Service and Emergency Out of Hours Service including service in Cork).

- 565 referrals to the National Out of Hours Service in Q4 2019; 35 more than Q3 2019 and 52 more than Q4 2018. This brings to 2,186 the number of referrals for 2019, 258 (13%) more than 2018 (1,928).



- The highest number of referrals was reported by DSW/K/WW (79), followed by Dublin North, Louth/Meath and Midwest, all reporting 48 referrals. Fewest number reported by Cavan/Monaghan (8) and Mayo (9).
- 147 children were placed by the National Out of Hours Service in Q4 2019; no change from Q3 2019. A total of 635 children were placed in 2019, 16 more than 2018 (619)
- 906 nights accommodation supplied by the National Out of Hours Service in Q4 2019, 241 fewer than Q3 2019 (1,147). A total of 4,025 nights supplied in 2019, 655 (19%) more than 2019 (3,370).

Referrals to the National Out of Hours Service Q3 – Q4 2019

Area	# Referrals Q3 2019	# Children Placed Q3 2019	# Nights' Accommodation supplied Q3 2019	# Referrals Q4 2019	# Children Placed Q4 2019	# Nights' Accommodation supplied Q4 2019
Dublin South Central	55	15	372	40	7	132
DSE/WW	23	6	121	27	7	156
DSW/K/WW	64	13	63	79	17	131
Midlands	48	12	35	17	4	16
Dublin North City	50	15	58	45	14	105
Dublin North	52	13	154	48	7	22
Louth/Meath	31	5	6	48	8	15
Cavan/Monaghan	13	5	10	8	1	1
Cork	51	15	47	58	20	134
Kerry	9	3	16	13	5	14
CW/KK/ST	21	5	10	23	12	15
WD/WX	27	7	21	31	6	12
Midwest	33	10	21	48	8	26
GY/RN	22	8	13	17	0	0
Mayo	4	0	0	9	0	0
Donegal	4	2	2	14	2	9
SLWC	4	0	0	10	4	5
SWTSCSA	10	4	4	19	14	21
Other Referral Sources	9	9	194	11	11	92
Total	530	147	1,147	565	147	906

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)

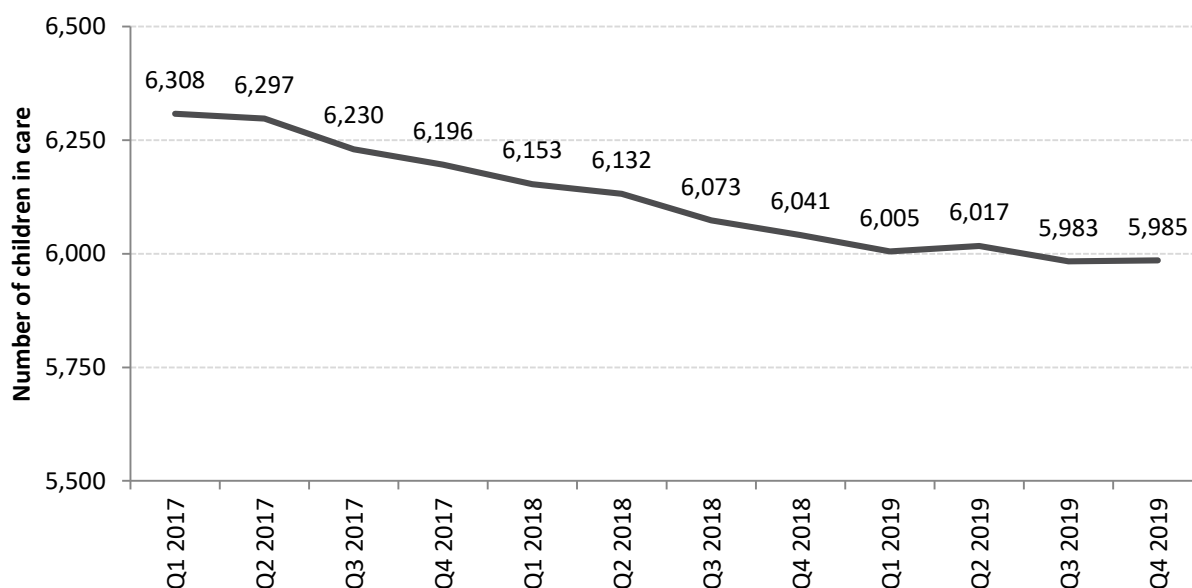
KEY FACTS

- 5,985 children in care at the end of 2019; two more than Q3 2019, but 56 fewer than Q4 2018 (6,041) and 211 fewer than Q4 2017 (6,196).
- 695 children in private placements; 11 more than Q3 2019 (684) and 40 (6%) more than Q4 2018 (655); highest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q4 2019.
- 92% (5,486/5,985) of children in care had an allocated social worker at the end of 2019; no change in percentage from Q3 2019
- 499 children were awaiting allocation of a social worker; 27 more than at the end of Q3 2019 (472)
- Highest number awaiting in the Dublin North (79, up 8 from Q3) followed by Midwest (68, down 6 from Q3), CW/K/ST (54, down 18 from Q3), DSW/K/WW (53, down 3 from Q3) and Midlands (50, up 7 from Q3)
- 93% (5,570/5,985) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan against a target of 90%, up one percentage points from Q3 2019 (92%).
- 415 children did not have an up-to-date care plan, 70 fewer than Q3 2019 (485). Highest number in Cork (170, down 57 from Q3) followed by Midwest (62, down 8 from Q3).

3.1.1 Number of Children in Care

- 5,985 children in care at the end of Q4 2019; two more than Q3 2019, but 56 fewer than Q4 2018 (6,041) and 211 fewer than Q4 2017 (6,196).
- This figure (5,985) includes 67 children under the Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum (SWTSCSA); two more than Q3 2019 (65).

Number of children in care by quarter



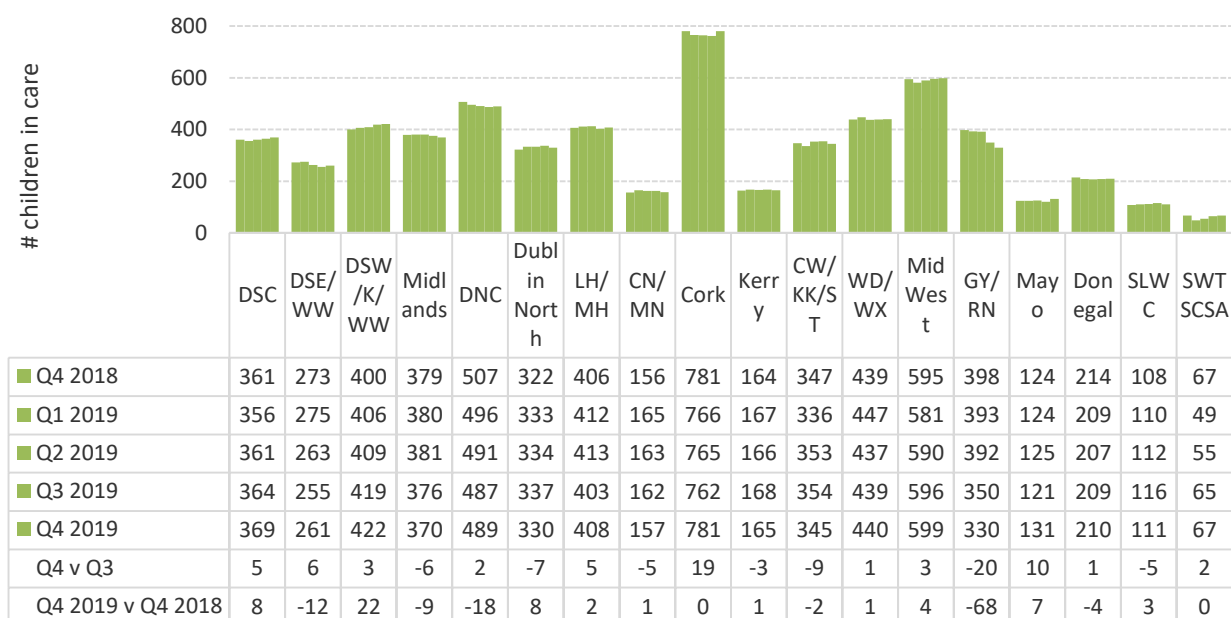
- Across the 17 areas the number of children in care ranged from 781 in Cork to 111 in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan.
- Dublin North City reported the highest rate of children in care per 1,000 population under 18 years (10.9/1,000), more than double the national rate, followed by WD/WX (6.4/1,000) and MidWest (6.2/1,000) while Dublin South East / Wicklow reported the lowest rate at 3.0/1,000 population followed by Dublin North (3.3/1,000).

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

Area	0-17 population (Census 2016)	No CIC Q4 2019	No of CIC/1,000 population 0-17
DSC	65,564	369	5.6
DSE/WW	86,810	261	3.0
DSW/K/WW	108,186	422	3.9
Midlands	80,193	370	4.6
DNC	44,927	489	10.9
Dublin North	100,654	330	3.3
LH/MH	93,093	408	4.4
CN/MN	36,446	157	4.3
Cork	134,015	781	5.8
Kerry	34,527	165	4.8
CW/KK/ST	63,009	345	5.5
WD/WX	68,513	440	6.4
Mid West	96,266	599	6.2
GY/RN	79,912	330	4.1
Mayo	31,968	131	4.1
Donegal	42,865	210	4.9
SLWC	23,554	111	4.7
Total	1,190,502	5,918	5.0

- 10 areas along with the SWTSCSA reported an increase in children in care from Q3 2019. Largest increase reported by the Cork (up 19) followed by Mayo (up 10) and DSE/WW (up 6).
- 7 areas reported a decrease in children in care from Q3 2019. Largest decrease was reported by Galway/Roscommon (down 20) followed by CW/KK/ST (down 9) and Dublin North (down 7).
- 6 areas had fewer children in care at the end of 2019 than 2018. Largest decrease reported by Galway/Roscommon (down 68), followed by Dublin North City (down 18) and DSE/WW (down 12).
- Of the ten areas that reported an increase, DSW/K/WW reported the largest increase (up 22) followed by Dublin South Central (up 8) and Dublin North (up 8). Cork and the SWTSCSA 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

- 91% (5,461) of children in care were in foster care (general and relative) at the end of Q4 2019 and 7% (409) were in a residential (general and special care) placement.

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

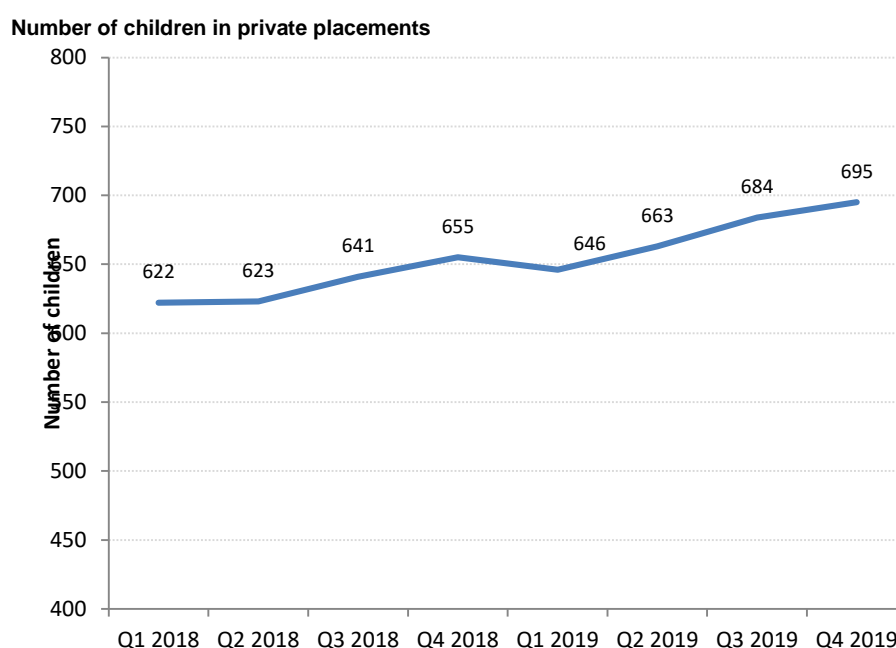
	FC Gen	Δ+/- prev Q	FC Rel	Δ+/- prev Q	Res Care Gen	Δ+/- prev Q	Res Care Spec	Δ+/- prev Q	Other Care 12	Δ+/- prev Q	Total	Δ+/- prev Q
Q3 2018	4,005	-52	1,595	-20	362	+13	13	-2	98	+2	6,073	-59
Q4 2018	3,967	-38	1,594	-1	367	+5	14	+1	99	+1	6,041	-32
Q1 2019	3,958	-17	1,578	-14	358	-5	14	0	97	-2	6,005	-38
Q2 2019	3,965	+7	1,556	-22	387	+29	13	-1	96	-1	6,017	+12
Q3 2019	3,921	-44	1,553	-3	386	-1	15	+2	108	+12	5,983	-34
Q4 2019	3,913	-8	1,548	-5	394	+8	15	0	115	+7	5,985	+2

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

- 20 (0.33%) children were in out of State placements at the end of Q4 2019; three fewer than Q3 2019. *These children are included in the figures for the various care types set out in the table above.*
- 12 children in residential care were in a single care placement at the end of Q4 2019; six more than Q3 2019.
- 82 children were in respite care (from home) at the end of Q4 2019, 79 in respite care (from home) at the end of Q3 2019.

3.1.3 Children in Private Placements

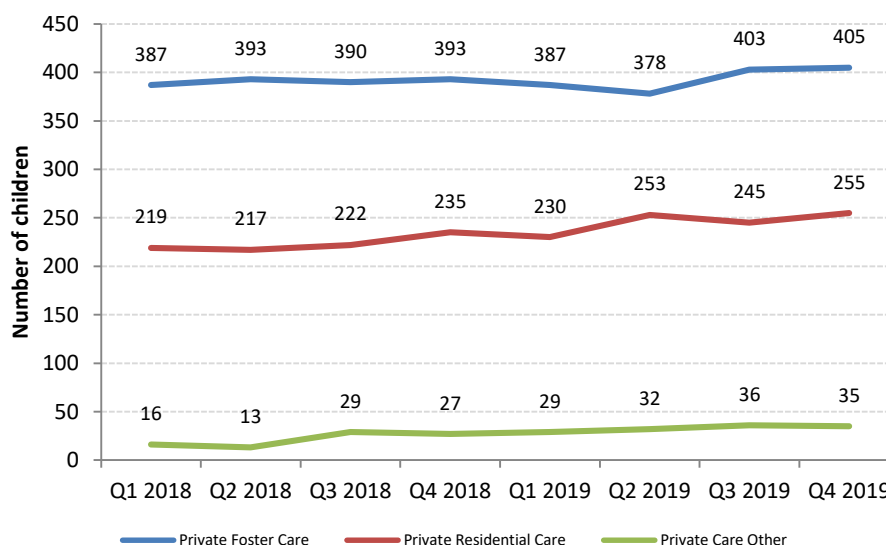
- 695 (11.6%) children in care at the end of Q4 2019 were in private placements⁷; 11 more than Q3 2019 (684) and 40 (6%) more than Q4 2018 (655); highest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q4 2019. This figure (695) includes 37 children in care under the SWTSCSA, four fewer than Q2 2019.



- 58% (405) of children in private placements were in private foster care and 37% (255) were in private residential placements.
- The number of children in private foster care placements (405) is up two from Q3 2019, and 12 from Q4 2018 (393), highest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q4 2019
- The number of children in private residential placements (255) is up 10 from Q3 2019 and 20 from Q4 2018, highest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q4 2019

⁷ The number of children in private placements is included in the children in care figures presented in sections 3.1.1 and 3.1.2

Number of children in private placements by care type



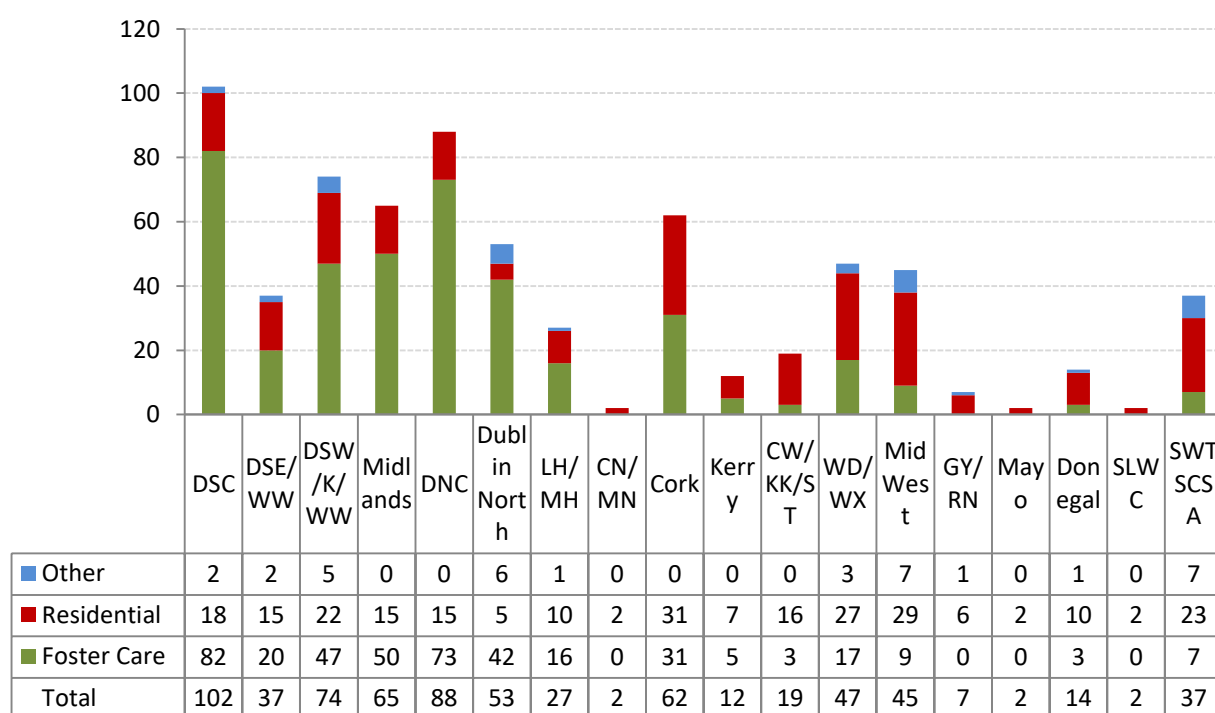
- Dublin South Central (102) followed by Dublin North City (88), DSW/K/WW (74), Midlands (65) and Cork (62) reported the highest numbers of children in private placements in Q4 2019. These five areas account for 56% of all children in private placements (391/701). SLWC and Mayo reported the fewest number (2).
- 10 areas reported an increase in private placements from Q3 2019. The largest increase was reported by WD/WX (up 7) followed by Cork (up 5) and Midwest (up 5). Largest decreases reported by DSW/K/WW, Midlands and SWTSCSA all reporting a decrease of four. Two areas (CN/MN and CW/K/ST) reported no change from Q3 2019.
- 10 areas had more children in private placements at the end of 2019 than 2018. The largest increases were reported by Midwest (up 23), Cork (up 10) and WD/WX (up 8).

Number of children in private placements by area

	DSC	DSE/WW	DSW/K/WW	Midlands	DNC	Dublin North	LH/MH	CN/MN	Cork	Kerry	CW/KK/ST	WD/WX	Mid West	GY/RN	Mayo	Donegal	SLWC	SWTSCSA
Q1 2018	96	42	59	69	91	51	21	2	44	7	14	30	26	5	5	7	6	47
Q2 2018	95	45	64	71	94	46	16	2	48	8	14	31	18	8	4	11	4	44
Q3 2018	101	43	66	65	95	45	21	2	49	12	14	35	20	10	3	10	4	46
Q4 2018	99	44	68	63	95	46	23	2	52	12	15	39	22	9	4	12	5	45
Q1 2019	98	39	66	65	88	46	25	2	56	11	16	38	29	10	4	12	4	37
Q2 2019	100	39	69	67	90	44	25	2	55	10	15	40	37	9	5	14	4	38
Q3 2019	101	35	78	69	89	52	25	2	57	11	19	40	40	8	3	13	1	41
Q4 2019	102	37	74	65	88	53	27	2	62	12	19	47	45	7	2	14	2	37
Q4 v Q3	1	2	-4	-4	-1	1	2	0	5	1	0	7	5	-1	-1	1	1	-4
Q4 2019 v Q4 2018	3	-7	6	2	-7	7	4	0	10	0	4	8	23	-2	-2	2	-3	-8

- The highest number of children in private residential placements was reported by Cork (31) followed by Midwest (29), WD/WX (27) and SWTSCSA (23).
- Dublin South Central reported the highest number of children in private foster care placements (82) followed by Dublin North City (73), Midlands (50), DSW/K/WW (47) and Dublin North (42). Seventy-three percent (294/405) of children in private foster care placements are reported by these five areas. Cavan/Monaghan, Galway/Roscommon and SLWC reported no children in private foster care placements.

Number of children in private placements by care type Q4 2019



3.1.4 Children in Care with an Allocated Social Worker

- 92% (5,846/5,985) of children in care nationally had an allocated social worker (against a target of 100%) at the end of Q4 2019; no change in percentage from Q3 2019
- 499 children were awaiting allocation of a social worker; 27 more than at the end of Q3 2019 (472)

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

Care Type	CIC	No with SW	% with SW	CIC	No with SW	% with SW
	Q3 2019	Q3 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q4 2019	Q4 2019
Foster Care (General)	3,921	3,634	93%	3,913	3,616	92%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,553	1,383	89%	1,548	1,363	88%
Residential Care (General)	386	375	97%	394	381	97%
Residential Special Care	15	15	100%	15	15	100%
Other Placements	108	104	96%	115	111	97%
Total	5,983	5,511	92%	5,985	5,486	92%

- One area (Mayo) along with Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum met the target of 100% of children in care with an allocated social worker. Ten areas reported 90% or higher.
- Seven areas reported less than 90% with the lowest percentage (76%) reported by Dublin North
- The area with the highest number of children awaiting an allocated social worker is Dublin North (79, up 8 from Q3) followed by Midwest (68, down 6 from Q3), CW/K/ST (54, down 18 from Q3), DSW/K/WW (53, down 3 from Q3) and Midlands (50, up 7 from Q3)

Number of children in care with an allocated social worker

Area	No in Care Q3 2019	No with an allocated SW Q3 2019	% with an allocated SW Q3 2019	No in Care Q4 2019	No with an allocated SW Q4 2019	% with an allocated SW Q4 2019	# awaiting SW
DSC	364	319	88%	369	321	87%	48
DSE/WW	255	250	98%	261	241	92%	20
DSW/K/WW	419	363	87%	422	369	87%	53
Midlands	376	333	89%	370	320	86%	50
DNC	487	462	95%	489	479	98%	10
Dublin North	337	266	79%	330	251	76%	79
LH/MH	403	388	96%	408	398	98%	10
CN/MN	162	162	100%	157	147	94%	10
Cork	762	742	97%	781	745	95%	36
Kerry	168	165	98%	165	163	99%	2
CW/KK/ST	354	282	80%	345	291	84%	54
WD/WX	439	408	93%	440	413	94%	27
Mid West	596	522	88%	599	531	89%	68
GY/RN	350	338	97%	330	312	95%	18
Mayo	121	121	100%	131	131	100%	0
Donegal	209	209	100%	210	208	99%	2
SLWC	116	116	100%	111	99	89%	12
SWTSCSA	65	65	100%	67	67	100%	0
Total	5983	5511	92%	5,985	5,486	92%	499

3.1.5 Children in Care with a Care Plan

- 93% (5,570/5,985) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan against a target of 90%, up one percentage points from Q3 2019 (92%).
- 415 children did not have an up-to-date care plan, 70 (14%) fewer than Q3 2019 (485).

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

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

Care Type	CIC	No with CP	% with CP	CIC	No with CP	% with CP
	Q3 2019	Q3 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q4 2019	Q4 2019
Foster Care General	3,921	3,578	91%	3,913	3,633	93%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,553	1,421	92%	1,548	1,436	93%
Residential Care General	386	379	98%	394	384	97%
Residential Special Care	15	15	100%	15	15	100%
Other Placements	108	105	97%	115	102	89%
National	5,983	5,498	92%	5,985	5,570	93%

- 15 areas along with Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum met the target of 90% of children in care with an up-to-date care plan. Rates reported by Cork (78%) and SLWC (84%) lower than all other areas.
- Cork has the highest number of children in care awaiting an up-to-date care plan (170, down 57 from Q3) followed by Midwest (62, down 8 from Q3) and DSW/K/WW (31, down 12 from Q3).

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

Area	No in Care Q3 2019	No with a care plan Q3 2019	% with a care plan Q3 2019	No in Care Q4 2019	No with a care plan Q4 2019	% with a care plan Q4 2019	# with no UTD plan
DSC	364	338	93%	369	351	95%	18
DSE/WW	255	249	98%	261	251	96%	10
DSW/K/WW	419	376	90%	422	391	93%	31
Midlands	376	376	100%	370	370	100%	0
DNC	487	476	98%	489	475	97%	14
Dublin North	337	329	98%	330	304	92%	26
LH/MH	403	383	95%	408	398	98%	10
CN/MN	162	149	92%	157	145	92%	12
Cork	762	535	70%	781	611	78%	170
Kerry	168	162	96%	165	158	96%	7
CW/KK/ST	354	342	97%	345	345	100%	0
WD/WX	439	429	98%	440	440	100%	0
Mid West	596	526	88%	599	537	90%	62
GY/RN	350	336	96%	330	320	97%	10
Mayo	121	119	98%	131	124	95%	7
Donegal	209	207	99%	210	190	90%	20
SLWC	116	101	87%	111	93	84%	18
SWTSCSA	65	65	100%	67	67	100%	0
TOTAL	5,983	5,498	92%	5,985	5,570	93%	415

3.1.6 Children in Care in Education

- 97% (3,729/3,860) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education at the end of 2019. *Note: this figure does not include children in care under the care of Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum.*
- 15/17 areas reporting 95% or higher. Lowest percentage reported by Dublin South Central (89%)
- 93% (969/1,038) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of 2019. *Note: this figure does not include children in care under the care of Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum.*
- 14/17 areas reporting 90% or higher with two of these areas reporting 100%. Lowest percentages reported by Dublin North (88%), Midlands (89%) and Dublin South Central (89%).

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

Area	No of CIC 6-15 years Q3 2019	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q3 2019	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q3 2019	No of CIC 6-15 years Q4 2019	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q4 2019	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q4 2019
DSC	240	217	90.4%	245	217	88.6%
DSE/WW	163	161	98.8%	165	164	99.4%
DSW/K/WW	279	267	95.7%	275	261	94.9%
Midlands	222	190	85.6%	228	210	92.1%
DNC	324	313	96.6%	320	309	96.6%
Dublin North	208	201	96.6%	208	201	96.6%
LH/MH	236	226	95.8%	241	228	94.6%
CN/MN	93	91	97.8%	89	89	100.0%
Cork	542	532	98.2%	560	540	96.4%
Kerry	114	112	98.2%	112	112	100.0%
CW/KK/ST	215	208	96.7%	222	210	94.6%
WD/WX	274	273	99.6%	300	297	99.0%
Mid West	375	373	99.5%	380	378	99.5%
GY/RN	240	238	99.2%	219	218	99.5%
Mayo	73	72	98.6%	77	76	98.7%
Donegal	142	141	99.3%	141	141	100.0%
SLWC	80	79	98.8%	78	78	100.0%
National	3,820	3,694	96.7%	3,860	3,729	96.6%

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

Area	No of CIC 16-17 yrs Q3 2019	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q3 2019	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q3 2019	No of CIC 16-17 yrs Q4 2019	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q4 2019	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q4 2019
DSC	70	64	91.4%	72	64	88.9%
DSE/WW	55	51	92.7%	56	52	92.9%
DSW/K/WW	79	78	98.7%	83	82	98.8%
Midlands	56	46	82.1%	54	48	88.9%

DNC	99	94	94.9%	96	92	95.8%
Dublin North	69	62	89.9%	66	58	87.9%
LH/MH	61	55	90.2%	56	51	91.1%
CN/MN	31	28	90.3%	32	29	90.6%
Cork	135	128	94.8%	129	119	92.2%
Kerry	33	30	90.9%	30	28	93.3%
CW/KK/ST	63	56	88.9%	56	51	91.1%
WD/WX	77	75	97.4%	72	69	95.8%
Mid West	102	96	94.1%	103	97	94.2%
GY/RN	68	66	97.1%	65	63	96.9%
Mayo	24	23	95.8%	25	24	96.0%
Donegal	30	30	100.0%	31	30	96.8%
SLWC	15	15	100.0%	12	12	100.0%
National	1,067	997	93.4%	1,038	969	93.4%

3.2 AFTERCARE

KEY FACTS

- 2,774 young persons/adults in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q4 2019, 74 more than Q3 2019 and 152 (6%) more than Q1 2019.
- 73% (1,533/2,108) of those 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service were in education/accredited training.
- 82% (2,265) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of 2019 had an aftercare plan, no change from Q3 2019. A total of 509 were awaiting a plan, 14 more than Q3 2019 (495). Nine areas along with the SWTSCSA reported a percentage equal to or above the national average of 82%.
- 90% (1,889/2,099) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of 2019, up one percentage point from Q3 2019. A total of 210 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of 2019, down four from Q3 2019 (214 awaiting). Thirteen areas along with the SWTSCSA reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 90% with nine of these areas reporting 100%.

3.2.1 Referrals for an aftercare service received in the quarter

- 180 referrals in Q4 2019, bringing the total for 2019 to 714. Highest number for 2019 reported by Cork (84) followed by Dublin North City (70) and Waterford/Wexford (62). Fewest number reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (10) and Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum (10).
- 99% (704) of all referrals for 2019 were eligible for an assessment of need.
- Of those eligible for an assessment of need 98% (688) were < 18 years and in care, two were < 18 years and not in care while the remaining 14 were 18-20 years.
- A total of 524 assessments were completed in 2019.

Area	# Referrals Q1 2019	# Referrals Q2 2019	# Referrals Q3 2019	# Referrals Q4 2019	Total YTD
DSC	10	12	21	11	54
DSE/WW	3	3	9	13	28
DSW/K/WW	9	5	25	8	47
Midlands	9	22	1	4	36
DNC	21	17	20	12	70
Dublin North	8	15	6	14	43
LH/MH	6	8	13	10	37
CN/MN	11	7	4	7	29
Cork	26	16	20	22	84
Kerry	16	2	3	3	24
CW/KK/ST	20	12	6	12	50
WD/WX	11	22	8	21	62
Mid West	13	15	14	17	59
GY/RN	7	19	7	12	45
Mayo	2	2	4	4	12
Donegal	3	6	1	4	14
SLWC	4	2	0	4	10
SWTSCSA	4	0	4	2	10
Total	183	185	166	180	714

3.2.2 Young Persons / Adults in receipt of an aftercare service

- 2,774 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of 2019, 74 more than Q3 2019 and 152 (6%) more than Q1 2019. *Figure includes young persons < 18 years and those 18-22 years inclusive.*

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q1 2019	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q2 2019	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q3 2019	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q4 2019
DSC	142	143	147	173
DSE/WW	146	138	149	149
DSW/K/WW	247	248	264	271
Midlands	108	139	144	147
DNC	320	286	281	271
Dublin North	99	118	127	140
LH/MH	154	151	154	144
CN/MN	68	76	81	76
Cork	340	338	313	321
Kerry	58	59	68	69
CW/KK/ST	166	174	174	187
WD/WX	182	169	175	215
Mid West	194	185	190	180
GY/RN	138	159	158	152
Mayo	48	54	57	55
Donegal	67	76	72	76
SLWC	50	48	47	50
SWTSCSA	95	98	99	98
Total	2,622	2,659	2,700	2,774

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

- 57% (1,580) of those in receipt of an aftercare service were 18 – 20 years inclusive and of these 75% (1,192) were in education/accredited training.
- 14 areas along with the SWTSCSA reported at least seven out of 10 (18-20 years) in education/accredited training. Four areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by Dublin South Central (49%), DSW/K/WW (56%) and WD/WX (67%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# 18-20 years Q3 2019	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 18-20 years Q4 2019	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
DSC	101	56	55%	95	47	49%
DSE/WW	71	63	89%	71	63	89%
DSW/K/WW	130	82	63%	129	72	56%
Midlands	73	73	100%	76	61	80%
DNC	171	117	68%	174	124	71%
Dublin North	84	60	71%	88	64	73%
LH/MH	105	75	71%	104	73	70%
CN/MN	41	41	100%	39	39	100%
Cork	188	148	79%	193	146	76%
Kerry	28	21	75%	29	29	100%
CW/KK/ST	101	77	76%	106	82	77%
WD/WX	93	67	72%	89	60	67%
Mid West	118	99	84%	112	91	81%
GY/RN	108	85*	79%	101	80	79%
Mayo	33	33	100%	30	30	100%
Donegal	34	27	79%	36	28	78%
SLWC	31	31	100%	32	32	100%
SWTSCSA	75	71	95%	76	71	93%
Total	1,585	1,226	77%	1,580	1,192	75%

*Note: GY/RN figure for Q3 2019 revised from previously reported

- The highest number of those in education/accredited training were in PLCs (297; 25%) followed by closing by second level education (293; 24.5%)

	# 18-20 years in education/accredited Training Q4 2019	%
Second Level	293	25%
Vocational Training	135	11%
PLCs	297	25%
Third Level College / University	256	21%
Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)	141	12%
Other	70	6%
Total	1,192	100%

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

- 19% (528) of those in receipt of an aftercare service were 21 – 22 years inclusive and of these 65% (341) were in education/accredited training.
- 11 areas along reported 70% or higher with four of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by DSW/K/WW (39%), WD/WX (40%), Dublin South Central (42%), Dublin North City (53%), Midwest (56%) and CW/K/ST (57%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# 21-22 years Q3 2019	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 21-22 years Q4 2019	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
DSC	38	13	34%	48	20	42%
DSE/WW	31	22	71%	33	24	73%
DSW/K/W W	73	29	40%	79	31	39%
Midlands	34	30	88%	32	29	91%
DNC	46	23	50%	49	26	53%
Dublin North	10	8	80%	17	14	82%
LH/MH	19	11	58%	24	20	83%
CN/MN	12	12	100%	13	13	100%
Cork	44	42	95%	55	47	85%
Kerry	9	9	100%	9	9	100%
CW/KK/ST	21	13	62%	23	13	57%
WD/WX	47	18	38%	48	19	40%
Mid West	27	19	70%	27	15	56%
GY/RN	33	26*	79%	24	21	88%
Mayo	11	11	100%	14	14	100%
Donegal	7	6	86%	11	9	82%
SLWC	6	6	100%	8	8	100%
SWTSCSA	19	19	100%	14	9	64%
Total	487	317	65%	528	341	65%

*Note: GY/RN figure for Q3 2019 revised from previously reported

- Half (165) of those in education/accredited training were in Third Level College / with a further 24% (83) in PLCs.

	# 21-22 years in education/accredited Training Q4 2019	%
Second Level	8	2%
Vocational Training	28	8%
PLCs	83	24%
Third Level College / University	165	48%
Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)	42	12%
Other	15	4%
Total	341	100%

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

- Almost half (46%; 974) of young people 18 – 22 years in receipt of aftercare had remained living with their carers. A further 9% (197) had returned home to parents/family. One in four (25%; 520) was in independent living.

	# 18-22 placement type Q4 2019	%
Residential Care Placement	118	6%
Remained with Carers	974	46%
Independent Living	520	25%
Designated Care Leavers Accommodation	59	3%
At home	197	9%
Supported Lodgings	55	3%
Other	185	9%
Total	2,108	100%

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

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

- 82% (2,265) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of 2019 had an aftercare plan, no change from Q3 2019. A total of 509 were awaiting a plan, 14 more than Q3 2019 (495).
- Nine areas along with the SWTSCSA reported a percentage equal to or above the national average of 82%. Rates reported by Kerry (61%), Donegal (62%), DSW/K/WW (65%), CW/K/ST (68%) and Dublin South Central (68%) lower than all other areas.
- 94% (1,974/2,108) of those 18-22 years in receipt of an aftercare service had a plan

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q3 2019	# with an Aftercare Plan Q3 2019	% with an Aftercare Plan Q3 2019	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q4 2019	# with an Aftercare Plan Q4 2019	% with an Aftercare Plan Q4 2019
DSC	147	99	67%	173	117	68%
DSE/WW	149	107	72%	149	124	83%
DSW/K/WW	264	169	64%	271	175	65%
Midlands	144	134	93%	147	136	93%
DNC	281	274	98%	271	271	100%
Dublin North	127	103	81%	140	121	86%
LH/MH	154	123	80%	144	132	92%
CN/MN	81	58	72%	76	64	84%
Cork	313	250	80%	321	262	82%
Kerry	68	42	62%	69	42	61%
CW/KK/ST	174	114	66%	187	127	68%
WD/WX	175	152	87%	215	160	74%
Mid West	190	189	99%	180	175	97%
GY/RN	158	153	97%	152	120	79%
Mayo	57	57	100%	55	55	100%
Donegal	72	41	57%	76	47	62%
SLWC	47	41	87%	50	40	80%
SWTSCSA	99	99	100%	98	97	99%
Total	2,700	2,205	82%	2,774	2,265	82%

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

- 93% (2,099) of those with an aftercare plan were assessed as needing an aftercare worker. Twelve areas along with the SWTSCSA reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 93%. Percentage reported by Midlands (71%), Cork (74%) and GY/RN (77%) lower than all other areas.
- 90% (1,889/2,099) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of 2019, up one percentage point from Q3 2019. A total of 210 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of 2019, down four from Q3 2019 (214 awaiting).
- Thirteen areas along with the SWTSCSA reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 90% with nine of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by DSW/K/WW (54%), CW/KK/ST (59%) and Dublin South Central (79%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service with a Plan Q4 2019	# with Plan Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q4 2019	% with Plan Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q4 2019	# with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q4 2019	% with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q4 2019	% with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q3 2019
DSC	117	117	100%	92	79%	79%
DSE/WW	124	123	99%	109	89%	88%
DSW/K/WW	175	175	100%	95	54%	59%
Midlands	136	96	71%	96	100%	100%
DNC	271	271	100%	247	91%	91%
Dublin North	121	102	84%	97	95%	100%
LH/MH	132	132	100%	132	100%	98%
CN/MN	64	58	91%	58	100%	100%
Cork	262	194	74%	185	95%	95%
Kerry	42	42	100%	42	100%	100%
CW/KK/ST	127	123	97%	72	59%	73%
WD/WX	160	160	100%	160	100%	100%
Mid West	175	175	100%	175	100%	100%
GY/RN	120	92	77%	90	98%	74%
Mayo	55	55	100%	55	100%	100%
Donegal	47	47	100%	47	100%	100%
SLWC	40	40	100%	40	100%	100%
SWTSCSA	97	97	100%	97	100%	84%
Total	2,265	2,099	93%	1,889	90%	89%

3.2.8 Drop-in Service

- All but two areas (GY/RN and Mayo) reported having a drop-in service.

3.2.9 Interagency Aftercare Steering Committee

- All areas with the exception of Mayo and the SWTSCSA reported having an interagency aftercare steering committee.

3.3 ADOPTION SERVICES

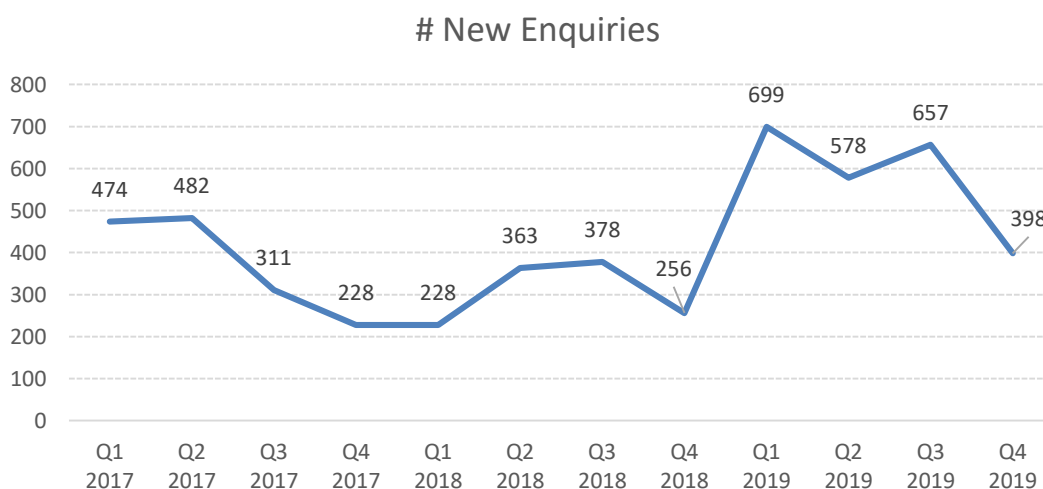
KEY FACTS

- 398 new enquiries regarding information and tracing received in Q4 2019, fewest number for all quarters 2019. Brings to 2,332 the number of enquires for 2019, nearly double (90%; 1,107) the number for 2018 (1,225)
- 148 new applications to commence tracing of a searched person received in Q4 2019; fewest number for all quarters 2019. Brings to 804 the number of applications for 2018; 42 (5%) fewer than 2018 (846)
- 619 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q4 2019; 110 (15%) fewer than Q3 2019 and the fewest number for the period Q1 2017 – Q4 2019.
- 39 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received during Q4 2019, fewest number for all quarters 2019. Brings to 194 the number of applications received for 2019, 18 (8%) fewer than 2018 (212).
- 40 new children were referred for adoption in Q4 2019. Brings the total number for 2019 to 179; 18 fewer than 2018.
- 37 completed assessments (all types) were presented to Local Adoption Committees during Q4 2019. Brings the total number for 2019 to 152, one more than 2018 (151).

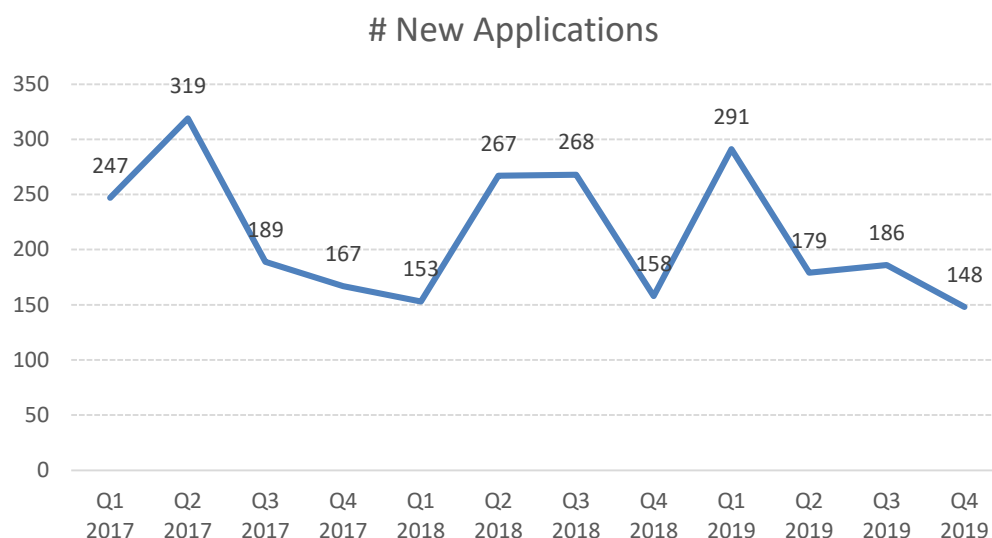
3.3.1 Information and Tracing Service

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

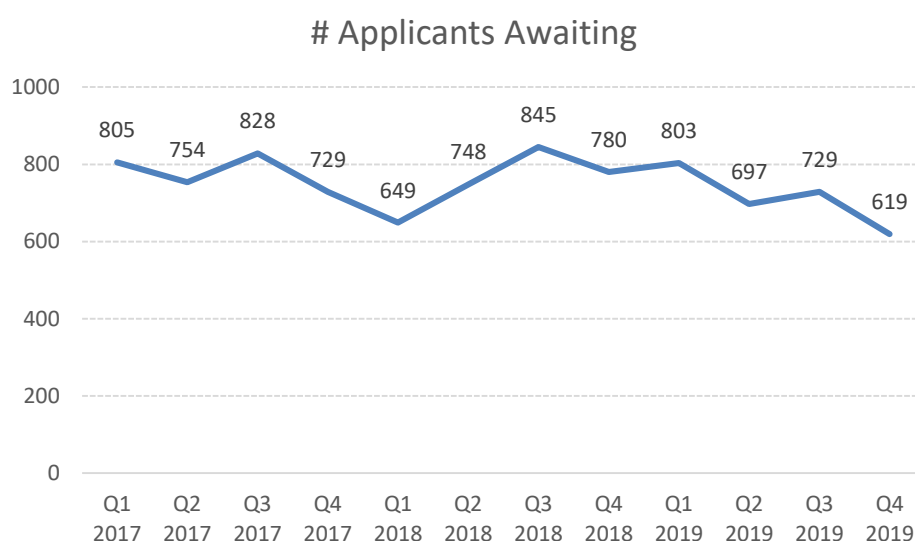
- 398 new enquiries regarding information and tracing received in Q4 2019; fewest number for all quarters 2019. This brings to 2,332 the number of enquires for 2019, nearly double (90%; 1,107) the number for 2018 (1,225).



- 148 new applications to commence tracing of a searched person received in Q4 2019; fewest number for all quarters 2019. This brings to 804 the number of applications for 2018; 42 (5%) fewer than 2018 (846)



- 619 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q4 2019; 110 (15%) fewer than Q3 2019 and the fewest number for the period Q1 2017 – Q4 2019.



- At the end of Q4 2019, the length of time from application (production of ID) to the provision of personal information in line with GDPR legislation ranged from 4 weeks to 16 weeks against a target of 8 weeks; no change from Q3 2019.
- The length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for priority 1 applications ranged from 6 weeks to 35 months against a target of 3 months or less; an increase on the 1 month to 21 months reported in Q3 2019
- The length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for priority 2 applications ranged from 0 months to 21 months against a target of 6 months or less; down from 0 months to 29 months in Q3 2019

- The length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for all other applications ranged from 12 months to 60 months against a target of 12 months or less; up from 11 months to 36 months in Q3 2019.

3.3.2 Adoption Assessments

- 39 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received during Q4 2019, fewest number for all quarters in 2019. This brings to 194 the number of applications received for 2019, 18 (8%) fewer than 2018 (212). Applications for step-parent adoption increased by 38% (26) in 2019, while applications for all other types of adoption decreased.

Number of receipted completed adoption application packs received in the quarter

Area	Total 2018	# Q1 2019	# Q2 2019	# Q3 2019	# Q4 2019	Total 2019
Fostering to Adoption	27	4	7	10	4	25
Inter-Country Adoption	76	15	10	17	8	50
Domestic Adoption	41	8	7	6	4	25
Step-parent adoption	68	18	23	30	23	94
Total	212	45	47	63	39	194

- 40 new children were referred for adoption in Q4 2019 bringing the total number for 2019 to 179; 18 fewer than 2018. New children referred for step-parent adoption were down 20% (27) on 2018, while children referred for fostering to adoption and domestic adoption were up slightly.

Number of new children referred for adoption in the quarter

Area	Total 2018	# Q1 2019	# Q2 2019	# Q3 2019	# Q4 2019	Total 2019
Fostering to Adoption	45	6	16	14	12	48
Domestic Adoption	16	1	5	11	5	22
Step-parent adoption	136	28	27	31	23	109
Total	197	35	48	56	40	179

- 37 completed assessments (all types) were presented to Local Adoption Committees during Q4 2019, bringing the total number for 2019 to 152, one more than 2018 (151).

Completed assessments presented to Local Adoption Committees, by type

Area	Total 2018	# Q1 2019	# Q2 2019	# Q3 2019	# Q4 2019	Total 2019
Fostering to Adoption	32	5	8	8	4	25
Inter-Country Adoption	52	8	12	12	14	46
Domestic Adoption	22	4	10	6	5	25
Step-parent adoption	45	11	12	19	14	56
Total	151	28	42	45	37	152

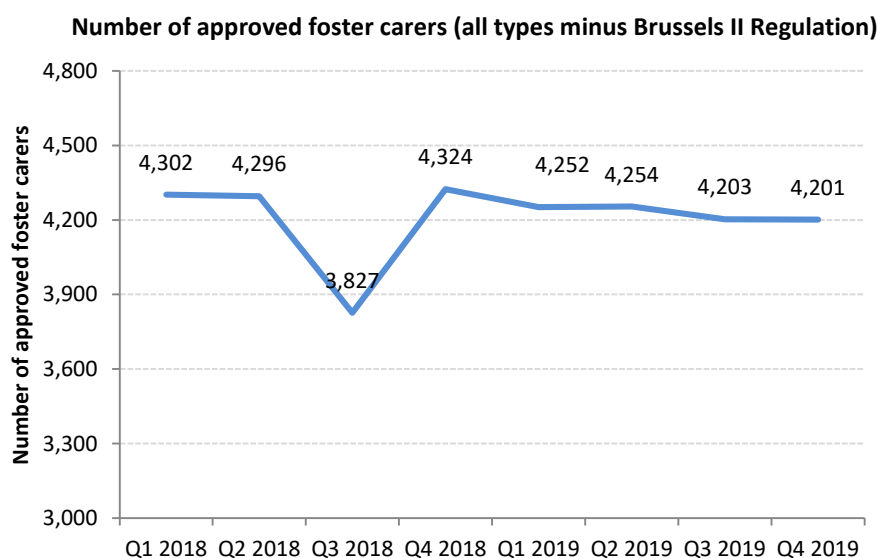
3.4 FOSTER CARERS

KEY FACTS

- 4,201 foster carers on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of 2019, two fewer than Q3 2019 and the fewest number for the period Q1 2018 – Q4 2019
- 82% (1,095/1,335) of relative foster carers approved against a target of 80%
- 94% (2,428) of general foster carers had an allocated link worker (target 90%); 146 awaiting a link work, 30 fewer than Q3 2019 (176). Rates reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (76%), DSW/K/WW (84%) and Midlands (84%) lower than all other areas.
- 91% (995) of relative foster carers approved and on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker (target 85%); 100 were awaiting an allocated link worker, eight fewer than Q3 2019 (108). Rates reported by DSW/K/WW (64%), LH/MH (74%), WD/WX (76%) and Midlands (79%) lower than all other areas.
- 240 unapproved relative foster carers; 16 fewer than Q3 2019
- 211 (88%) of the unapproved relative foster carers had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks, 12 fewer than Q3 2019 (223).
- 94% (199) had an allocated link worker, down four percentage points from Q3 2019; 12 awaiting allocation across three areas (7 more than Q3)

3.4.1 Number of foster carers

- 4,201 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of 2019; two fewer than Q3 2019 and the fewest number for the period Q1 2018 – Q4 2019
- 240 unapproved relative foster carers of which 88% (211) had a child placed for >12 weeks. Eighty-two percent (1,095/1,335) of relative foster carers are approved against a target of 80%.



* Figure for Q3 2018 based on data from 16 areas (data for Cork not available)

- 61% (2,574) of all approved foster carers are general foster carers. Relative foster carers (approved) account for a further 26% (1,095) while private foster carers account for the remaining 13% (532).

Breakdown of foster carers by type

						Δ (+/-)
Foster Carers	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q4 2019 v Q3 2019
General (Approved)	2,675	2,619	2,631	2,574	2,574	0
Relative (Approved)	1,146	1,116	1,104	1,103	1,095	-8
Private (Approved)	503	517	519	526	532	+6
Total Approved	4,324	4,252	4,254	4,203	4,201	-2
Relative (Unapproved)	257	250	253	256	240	--16

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

- The number of foster carers approved (all types) and on the panel ranged from 496 in Cork to 88 in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan at the end of 2019.

Foster carers approved by type and area on the panel of approved foster carers, Q4 2019

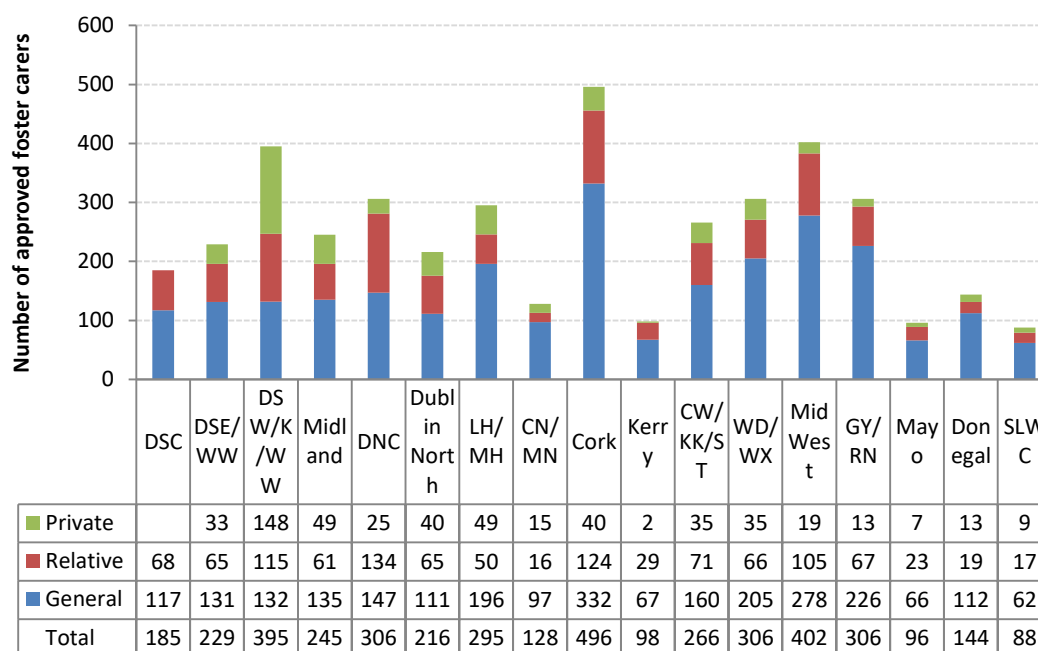


Figure for private carers provided by DSW/KWW includes private carers for Dublin South Central.

Number of general foster carers reported by Cork undergoing validation

- Nine areas reported an increase from Q3 2019 in the number of foster carers approved and on the panel. The largest increase was reported by DSW/K/WW and Midwest, both up five.
- Six areas reported a decrease from Q3 2019. The largest decrease was reported by Kerry (down 11) followed by WD/WX (down 10). Two areas (GY/RN and SLWC) reported no change from Q3 2019. *Kerry advised that the decrease noted was due to validation of the register.*

Area breakdown of approved foster carers (all types)

Area	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Δ (+/-) Q4 2019 v Q3 2019
DSC	215	189	193	189	185	-4
DSE/WW	227	234	227	227	229	2
DSW/K/WW	401	397	388	390	395	5
Midland	244	247	249	241	245	4
DNC	310	297	301	302	306	4
Dublin North	241	228	221	215	216	1
LH/MH	284	294	299	291	295	4
CN/MN	134	121	133	132	128	-4
Cork	496	488	487	493	496	3
Kerry	105	106	109	109	98	-11
CW/KK/ST	294	293	273	268	266	-2
WD/WX	318	316	318	316	306	-10
MidWest	426	418	425	397	402	5
GY/RN	300	288	298	306	306	0
Mayo	102	103	103	93	96	3
Donegal	140	146	144	146	144	-2
SLWC	87	87	86	88	88	0
National	4,324	4,252	4,254	4,203	4,201	-2

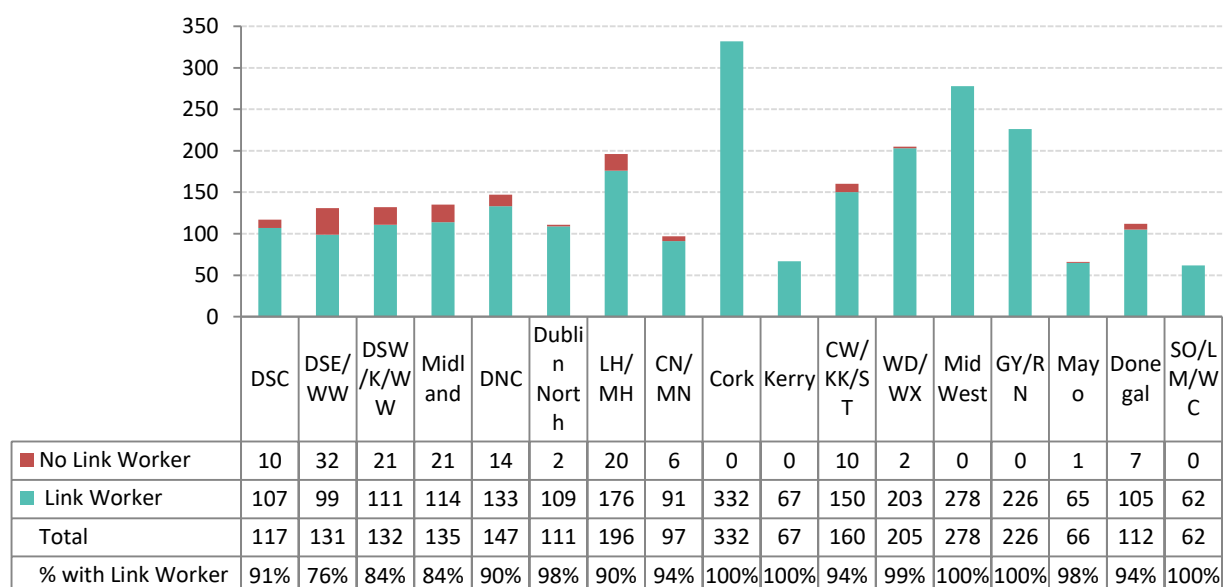
- 94% (2,428) of general foster carers approved and on the Panel had an allocated link (social) worker against a target of 90% at the end of 2019, up one percentage points from Q3 2019
- 146 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker; 30 (17%) fewer than Q3 2019
- 14 areas reported a percentage of 90% or higher with five of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (76%), DSW/K/WW (84%) and Midlands (84%) lower than all other areas.
- Eight areas reported a decrease in general foster carers awaiting an allocated link worker from Q3 2019. The largest decrease was reported by Cork (down 41) followed by Dublin North (down 8).
- Dublin South East/Wicklow reported the largest increase (up 14) followed by Dublin North City (up 8).
- Dublin South East/Wicklow has the highest number of general foster carers awaiting a link worker (32) followed by DSW/K/WW (21), Midlands (21) and LH/MH (20).

General foster carers (approved) with/awaiting link social worker, Q3 2019 – Q4 2019

Area	With Link Worker Q3 2019	Awaiting Link Worker Q3 2019	% With Link Worker Q3 2019	With Link Worker Q4 2019	Awaiting Link Worker Q4 2019	% With Link Worker Q4 2019	Δ +/- No. Awaiting Link Worker Q4 2019 v Q3 2019
DSC	115	9	93%	107	10	91%	1
DSE/WW	112	18	86%	99	32	76%	14
DSW/K/WW	110	22	83%	111	21	84%	-1
Midland	108	21	84%	114	21	84%	0
DNC	135	6	96%	133	14	90%	8
Dub North	99	10	91%	109	2	98%	-8
LH/MH	173	23	88%	176	20	90%	-3
CN/MN	92	7	93%	91	6	94%	-1
Cork	285	41	87%	332	0	100%	-41
Kerry	76	0	100%	67	0	100%	0
CW/KK/ST	157	4	98%	150	10	94%	6
WD/WX	206	4	98%	203	2	99%	-2
MidWest	273	3	99%	278	0	100%	-3
GY/RN	225	1	100%	226	0	100%	-1
Mayo	64	0	100%	65	1	98%	1
Donegal	106	7	94%	105	7	94%	0
SLWC	62	0	100%	62	0	100%	0
National	2,398	176	93%	2,428	146	94%	-30

*Figure for Cork undergoing validation. Q3 2019 Galway/Roscommon showing 100% due to rounding

General foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting a link (social worker), Q4 2019



Galway/Roscommon showing 100% due to rounding

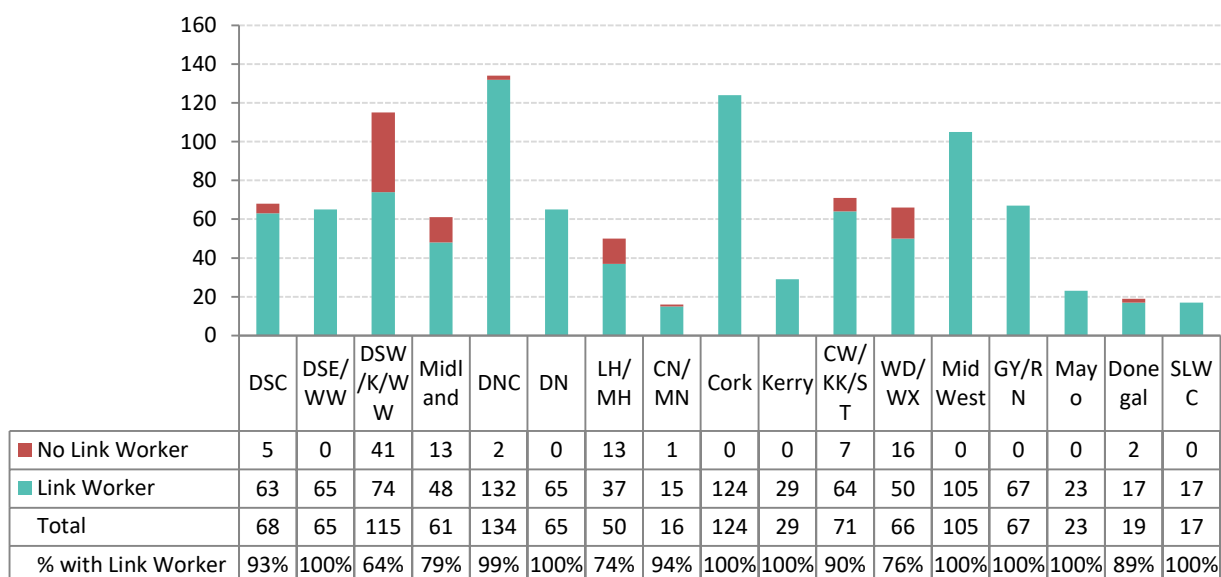
- 91% (995) of relative foster carers approved and on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of 2019 against a target of 85%; up one percentage point from Q3 2019
- 100 were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of 2019; eight fewer than Q3 2019.

- 13 areas reported a percentage of 85% (target) or higher with eight of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by DSW/K/WW (64%), LH/MH (74%), WD/WX (76%) and Midlands (79%) lower than all other areas.
- DSW/K/WW reported the highest number of relative foster carers awaiting a link worker (41) followed by WD/WX (16), Midlands (13) and LH/MH (13)
- Four areas reported a decrease in the number awaiting from Q3 2019; largest decrease reported by Cork (down 28) followed by Dublin North (down 7). DSW/K/WW and WD/WX reported the largest increase (up 9).

Relative foster carers (approved) with/awaiting link social worker, Q3 2019 – Q4 2019

Area	With Link Worker Q3 2019	Awaiting Link Worker Q3 2019	% With Link Worker Q3 2019	With Link Worker Q4 2019	Awaiting Link Worker Q4 2019	% With Link Worker Q4 2019	Δ +/- No. Awaiting Link Worker Q4 2019 v Q3 2019
DSC	63	2	97%	63	5	93%	3
DSE/WW	60	5	92%	65	0	100%	-5
DSW/K/WW	78	32	71%	74	41	64%	9
Midlands	48	15	76%	48	13	79%	-2
DNC	135	1	99%	132	2	99%	1
Dublin North	59	7	89%	65	0	100%	-7
LH/MH	40	8	83%	37	13	74%	5
CN/MN	18	0	100%	15	1	94%	1
Cork	100	28	78%	124	0	100%	-28
Kerry	30	0	100%	29	0	100%	0
CW/KK/ST	70	2	97%	64	7	90%	5
WD/WX	68	7	91%	50	16	76%	9
MidWest	102	0	100%	105	0	100%	0
GY/RN	66	0	100%	67	0	100%	0
Mayo	22	0	100%	23	0	100%	0
Donegal	19	1	95%	17	2	89%	1
SLWC	17	0	100%	17	0	100%	0
National	995	108	90%	995	100	91%	-8

Relative foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting allocated link Q4 2019



3.4.3 Foster carers (relative) unapproved

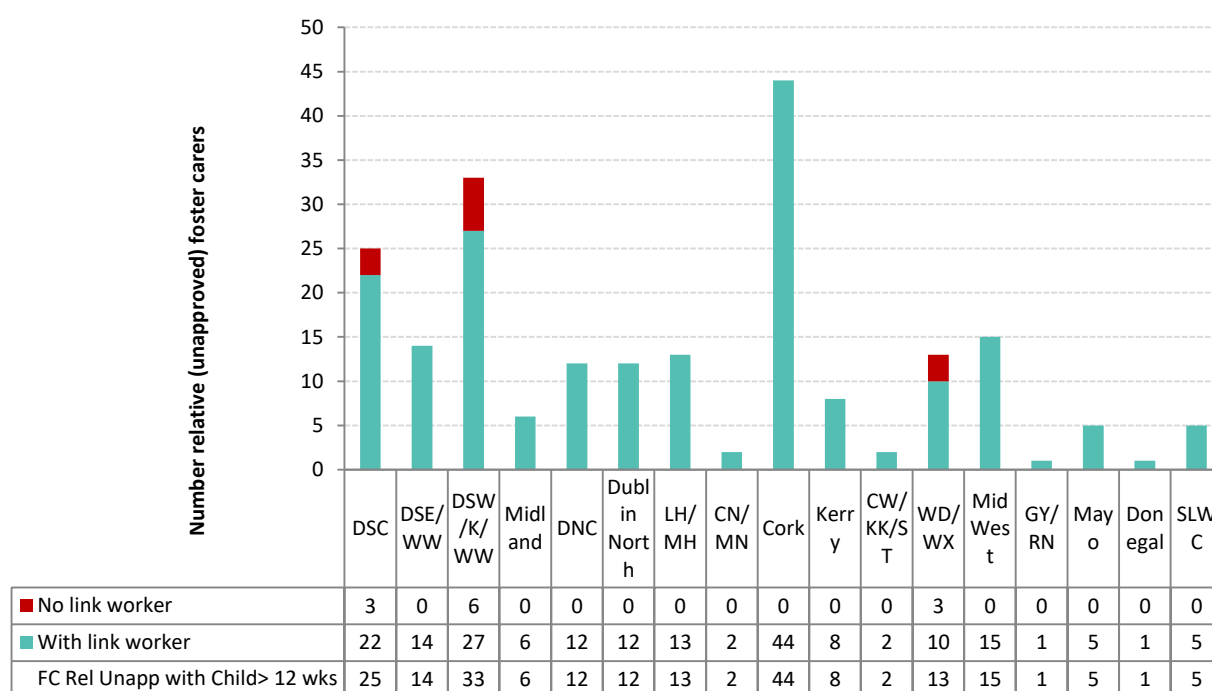
- 240 relative foster carers unapproved at the end of 2019; 16 fewer than Q3 2019
- Of these 211 (88%) had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks; 12 fewer than Q3 2019
- Of the 211 foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks, 94% (199) had an allocated link (social), down four percentage points from Q3 2019 (98%).
- 12 unapproved carers were awaiting allocation of a link worker; seven more than Q3 2019 (5). The 12 cases were reported by three areas, Dublin South Central (3, up 1 from Q3), DSW/K/WW (6, up 4 from Q3) and WD/WX (3, up from none in Q3).

Breakdown of foster carers not approved

Unapproved Relative Foster Carers	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Δ (+/-) Q4 2019 v Q3 2019
No. unapproved	257	250	253	256	240	-16
No (%) with a child > 12 weeks	231 (90%)	221 (88%)	207 (82%)	223 (87%)	211 (88%)	-12
Child > 12 weeks and have a Link Worker	193 (84%)	199 (90%)	193 (93%)	218 (98%)	199 (94%)	-19
Child > 12 weeks AWAITING Link Worker	38	22	14	5	12	+7

*Data for Q3 includes data for Cork

Relative foster carers UNAPPROVED with a child > 12 weeks, with/awaiting a link worker, Q4 2019



4.0 REGULATORY FUNCTIONS

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

4.1 Early Years Inspectorate

4.2 Alternative Education Regulation

4.3 Non-Statutory Alternative Care Services

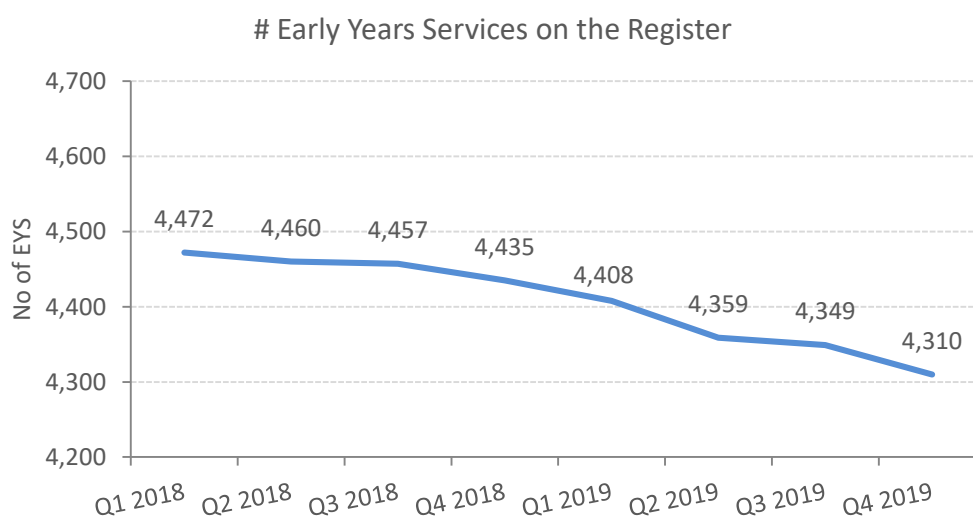
4.1 EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

KEY FACTS

- 4,310 EYS on the register nationally at the end of Q4 2019; fewest number for the period Q1 2018 – Q4 2019
- 514 inspections (all types) carried out in Q4 2019, bringing the total number for 2019 to 2,308. A total of 2,513 inspections carried out in 2018.
- 102 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q4 2019. Brings to 403 the number for 2019, 149 (59%) more than 2018 (254).
- 157 unsolicited information submissions received by the Inspectorate during Q4 2019. Brings to 597 the number for 2019, 184 (45%) more than 2018 (413).
- 4 services removed from the national register in 2019.

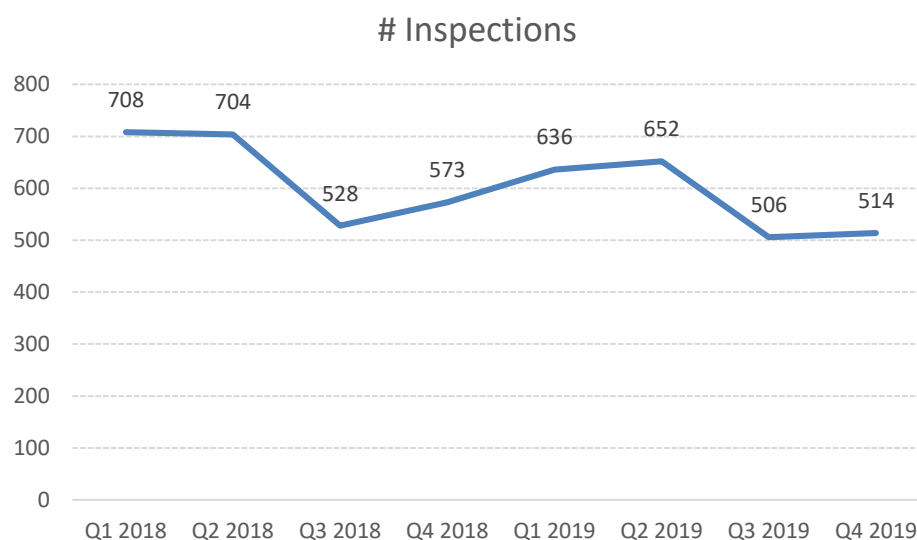
4.1.1 Activity Data

- 4,310 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q4 2019; 39 fewer than Q3 2019 and 125 (3%) fewer than Q4 2018 (4,435); fewest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q4 2019.



Note: figures for Q1 and Q3 2019 revised from previously reported.

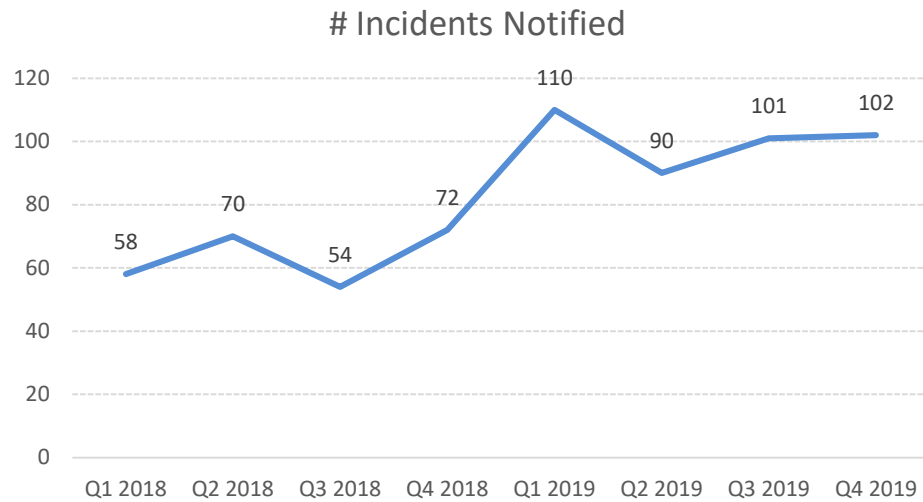
- 514 inspections (all types⁸) carried out in Q4 2019, bringing the total number for 2019 to 2,308. A total of 2,513 inspections carried out in 2018.



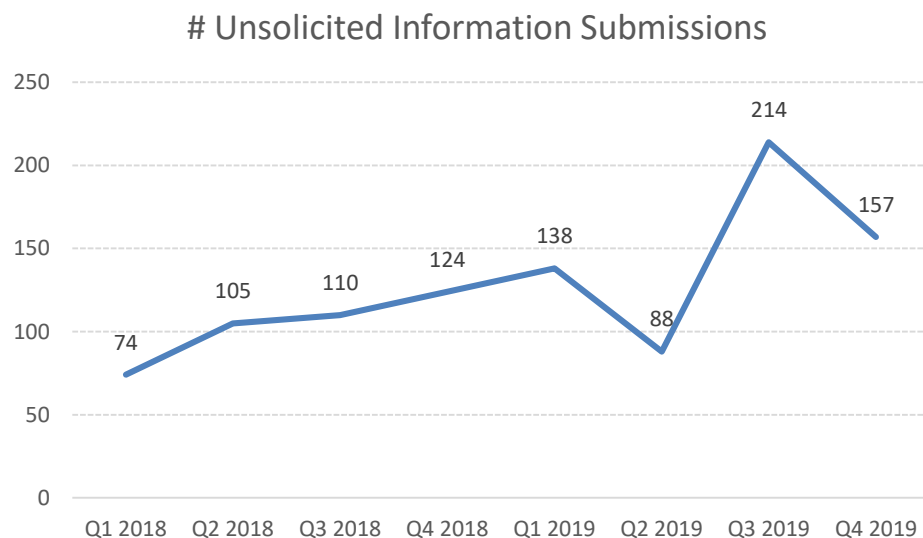
Note: figures for Q2 2019 revised from previously reported.

- 16 new applications to become a registered provider received by the Inspectorate in Q4 2019. This brings to 142 the number for 2019, 22 (18%) more than 2018 (120).
- 24 new registration applications approved by the Inspectorate in Q4 2019. This brings to 93 the number for 2019, two more than 2018 (91).
- No applications to become an EYS refused registration by the Inspectorate in 2019
- 267 “change in circumstances” requests received by the Inspectorate in Q4 2019. This brings to 1,331 the number for 2019, 53 (4%) fewer than 2018 (1,384).
- 102 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q4 2019. This brings to 403 the number for 2019, 149 (59%) more than 2018 (254).

⁸ Includes initial, follow up, complaints, focused inspections or fit for purpose inspections

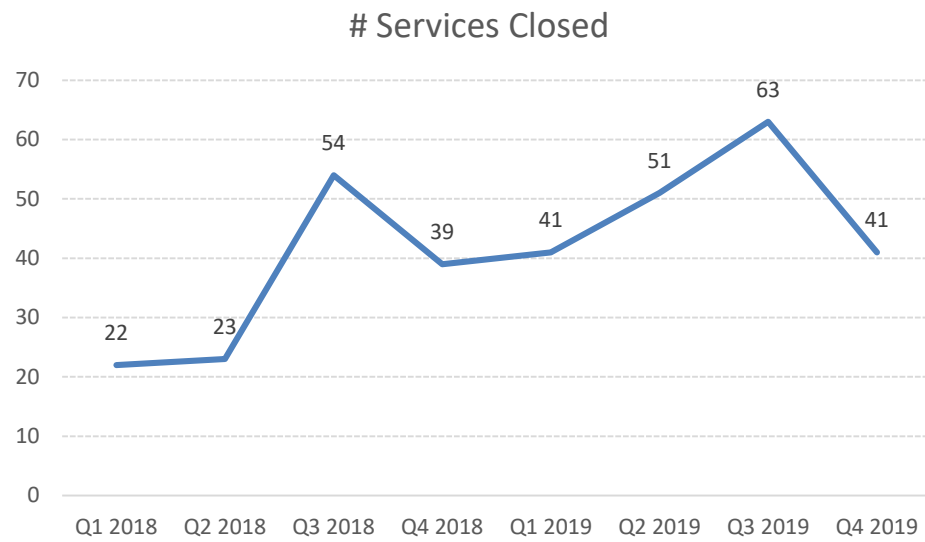


- 157 unsolicited information submissions⁹ received by the Inspectorate during Q4 2019. This brings to 597 the number for 2019, 184 (45%) more than 2018 (413).



- No prosecution of EYS taken by Tusla in 2019.
- 41 services were found to have closed in Q4 2019. This brings to 196 the number for 2019, 58 (42%) more than 2018 (138).

⁹ Unsolicited information is defined as any piece of information that relates to the operation of an Early Years Service that has been brought to the attention of the Inspectorate but has not been sought or requested or invited. Information received in the form of a complaint shall be processed as unsolicited information.



Note: data for Q2 and Q3 revised from previously reported.

- 4 services removed from the national register in 2019.

4.2 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION REGULATION

Key Facts

Home Education

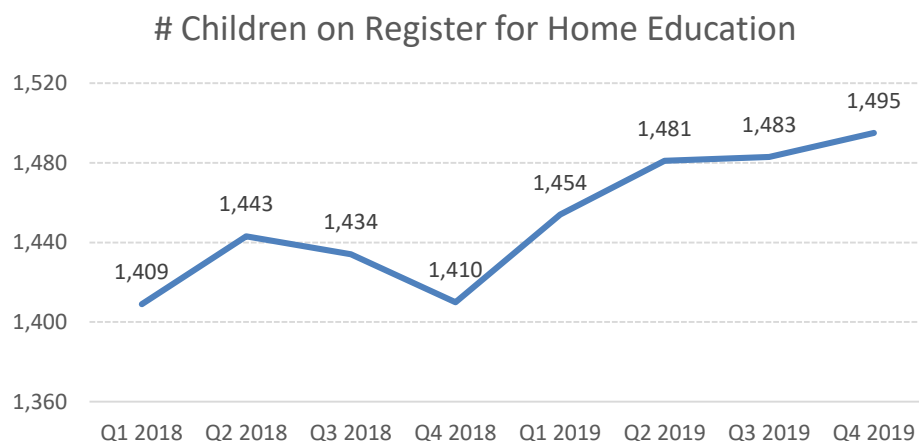
- 1,495 children on the register for home education at the end of 2019; 85 (6%) more than 2018.
- 160 applications received for home education during Q4 2019. Brings to 617 the number of applications received for 2019, 12 more than 2018 (605).
- 98 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q4 2019, 48 (96%) more than Q3 2019 and the highest number since Q1 2018. Brings to 301 the number of assessments done for 2019, 61(17%) fewer than 2018 (362).
- 650 children awaiting a preliminary assessment for registration at the end of Q4 2019, eight more than Q3 2019 and the highest number for the period Q1 2019 – Q4 2019.
- 429 registered children awaiting a review at the end of Q4 2019; fewest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q4 2019.

Independent Schools

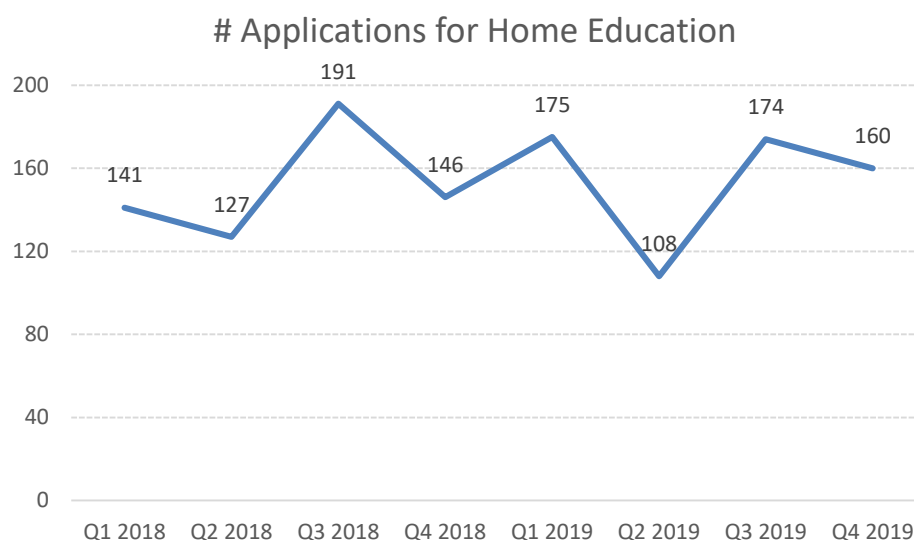
- 6,688 children attending 49 assessed schools at the end of 2019
- 3 schools awaiting a preliminary assessment at the end of 2019 and a further seven schools allocated to an assessor for review.

Home Education

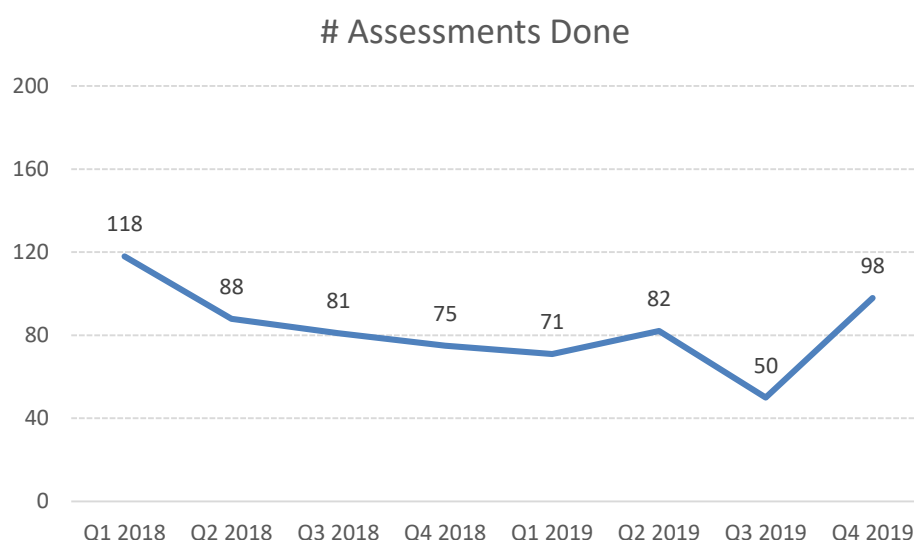
- 1,495 children on the register for home education at the end of Q4 2019; 12 more than Q3 2019 and 85 (6%) more than Q4 2019. Quarter on quarter increase in 2019.



- 19% (289) of children on the register at the end of 2019 have special educational needs; 42 (17%) more than 2018 (247).
- 160 applications received for home education during Q4 2019. This brings to 617 the number of applications for 2019, 12 more than 2018 (605).
- 24% (145) of all applications for 2019 were for children with special educational needs, similar to 2018 (25%; 151/605)

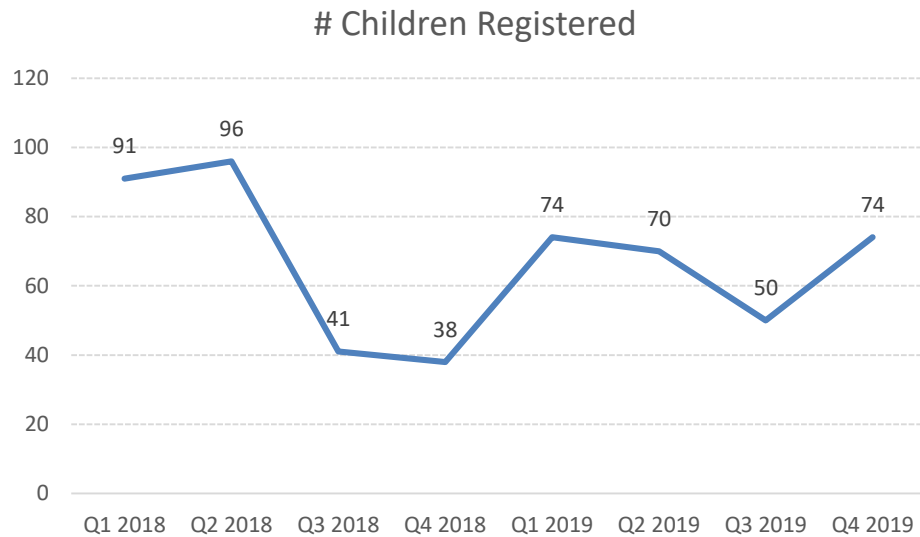


- 98 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q4 2019, 48 (96%) more than Q3 2019 and the highest number since Q1 2018. This brings to 301 the number of assessments done for 2019, 61(17%) fewer than 2018 (362).

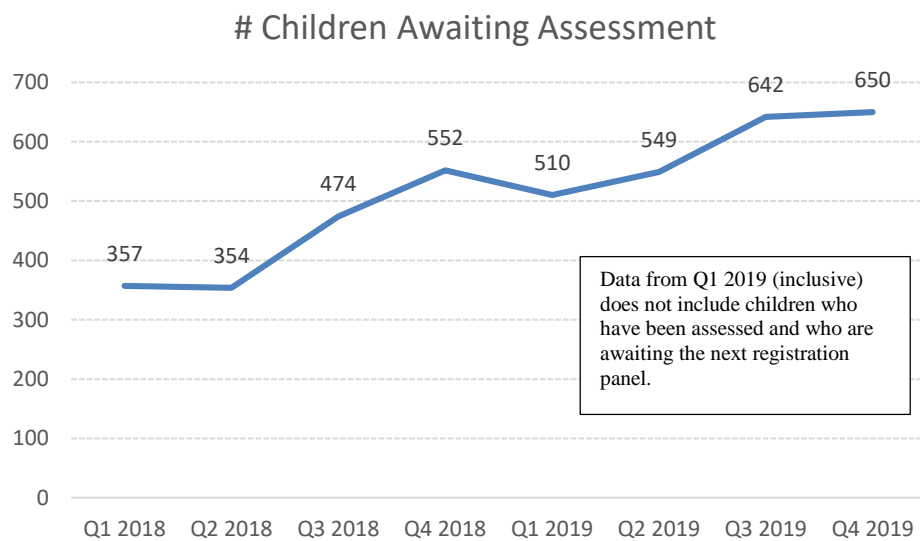


- 74 children registered for home education¹⁰ in Q4 2019; 24 (48%) more than Q3 2019 (50). This brings to 268 the number registered for 2019, two more than 218 (266).

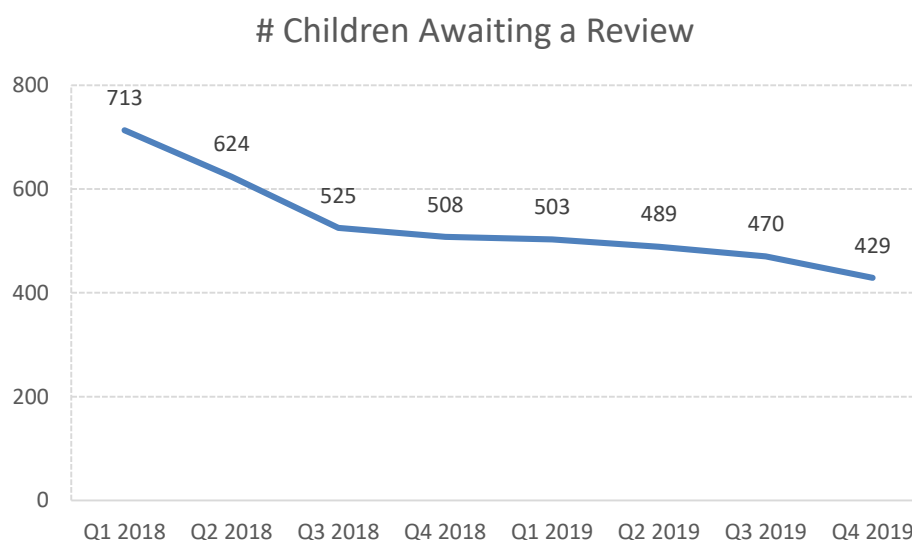
¹⁰ Number registered in a quarter does not reflect the number of assessments carried out in the previous quarter – reports are written, reviewed and approved internally before registration



- 650 children awaiting a preliminary assessment for registration at the end of Q4 2019, eight more than Q3 2019 and the highest number for the period Q1 2019 – Q4 2019. Data not comparable with data prior to Q1 2019 - *data from Q1 2019 (inclusive) does not include children who have been assessed and who are awaiting the next registration panel.*



- 429 registered children awaiting a review at the end of Q4 2019; fewest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q4 2019. Of these (429), 46 have been allocated to an assessor for review, while the remaining 383 are unallocated.



- 20 children were refused registration for home education in 2019
- 7 appeals made against decisions not to register in 2019.
- 183 children removed from the register in 2019. Breakdown of the 183 is as follows: 103 turned 18 years; 48 returned to school, 14 left Ireland, 8 de-registered, 10 “Other reasons”. This brings to 123 the number removed from the register in the first nine months of 2019.

Independent Schools

- 6,688 children attending 49 assessed schools at the end 2019; 773 (13%) more than Q3 2019 (5,915) and 1,396 (26%) more than 2018 (5,292)
- 1,415 new children’s applications for education in independent schools received in Q4 2019. This brings to 1,637 the number received for 2019, 233 (12%) fewer than 2018 (1,870)
- 738 children registered¹¹ during Q4 2019. This brings to 2,100 the number of children registered in 2019, 655 (45%) more than 2018 (1,445).
- No child refused registration in Q3 2019
- 1,177 children awaiting registration at the end of Q4 2019 – *due to issues relating to internal capacity or where information is awaited from the parents e.g., birth certs, signed application form*
- 54 children removed from the register during Q4 2019, bringing the number for 2019 to 886– *children are automatically removed from the register when they reach 18 years. No capacity to follow-up children who move to a new school.*
- 3 schools awaiting a preliminary assessment at the end of 2019 and a further seven schools allocated to an assessor for review.

¹¹ Number of children registered includes the processing of applications forms received in previous months. Once a school has been assessed children are registered automatically once parents have supplied all required documentation

4.3 NON STATUTORY ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

Key Facts

- 130 non-statutory residential centres at the end of 2019; one more than Q3 2019 and 10 more than at the end of 2018
- 29 inspections (all types and onsite) conducted in Q4 2019; three more than Q3 2019. Brings to 128 the number of inspections for 2019, six fewer than 2018 (134).

Non Statutory Children's Residential Centres

- 130 non-statutory residential centres at the end of 2019; one more than Q3 2019 and 10 more than at the end of 2018
- 29 inspections (all types and onsite) conducted in Q4 2019; three more than Q3 2019. This brings to 128 the number of inspections for 2019, six fewer than 2018 (134).

Inspections of Non Statutory Residential Services

Inspections by Type	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2018	Total
Thematic Inspection (announced)	13	13	14	27	67
Thematic Inspection (unannounced)	16	11	9	1	37
Lead Inspector Agency Visit	4	7	0	0	11
New Registration Inspection Visit	4	5	3	1	13
Total	37	36	26	29	128

5.0 TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

KEY FACTS

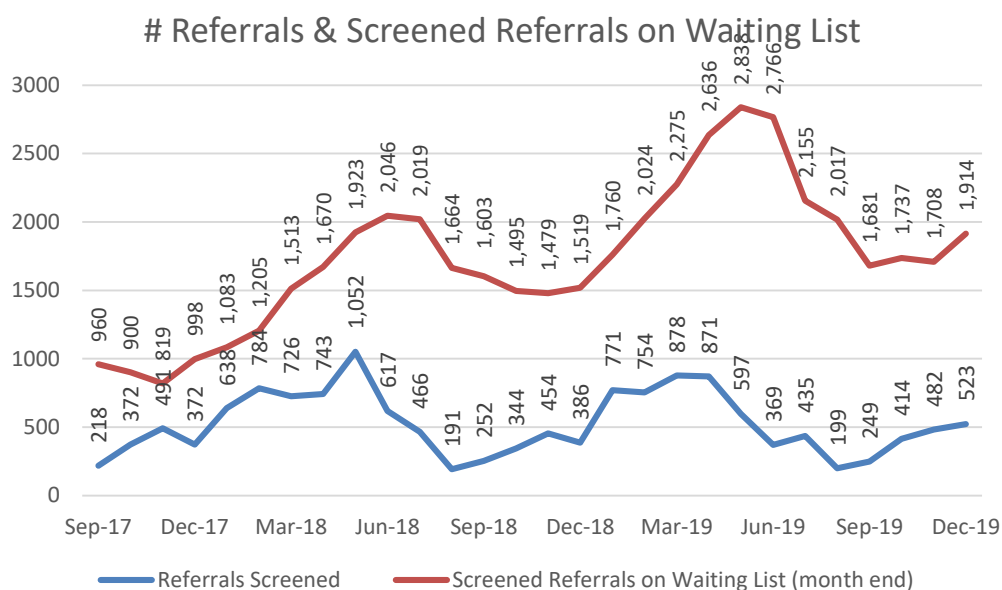
- 1,419 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers in Q3 2019, bringing the total number for the period Sept 2019 – Dec 2019 to 1,668; 232 (16%) more than the same period in 2018 (1,436)
- 1,914 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of 2019, 395 (26%) more than at the end of December 2018 (1,519).
- 840 new individual children worked with in Q4 2019, bringing the total number for the period Sept 2019 – Dec 2019 to 1,006; 223 fewer than the same period in 2018 (1,229)
- 157 School Attendance Notices (SANs) 1 issued in Q4 2019, bringing the total number for the period Sept 2019 – Dec 2019 to 204; 25 fewer than the same period in 2018 (229).
- 27 summonses issued in Q4 2019, bringing the total number for the period Sept 2019 – Dec 2019 to 34; seven fewer than the same period in 2018 (41).
- 72 Section 24 meetings convened by EWOs in Q4 2019, bringing the total number for the period Sept 2019 – Dec 2019 to 89; 38 fewer than the same period in 2018 (127)

Academic Year September 2019 – December 2019

- 1,419 referrals¹² screened by senior educational welfare officers in Q4 2019, bringing the total number for the period Sept 2019 – Dec 2019 to 1,668; 232 (16%) more than the same period in 2018 (1,436)
- 904 referrals allocated to educational welfare officers (EWOs) in Q4 2019, bringing the total number for the period Sept 2019 – Dec 2019 to 1,224; 36 fewer than the same period in 2018 (1,260)
- 250 referrals screened out / required no further action in Q4 2019, bringing the total number for the period Sept 2019 – Dec 2019 to 409, some 37 more than the same period in 2018 (372)
- 1,914 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of 2019, 395 (26%) more than at the end of December 2018 (1,519).

	Sept-Dec 2018	Sept - Dec 2019	Δ
# Referrals screened	1,436	1,668	+232
# Referrals allocated	1,260	1,224	-36
# Referrals screened out	372	409	+37
# Referrals on waiting list	1,519 (Dec)	1,914 (Dec)	395

¹² 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.



- 1,082 new cases assigned to EWOs in Q4 2019, bringing the total number for the period Sept 2019 – Dec 2019 to 1,574; 100 fewer than the same period in 2018 (1,674)
- 1,125 cases closed in Q4 2019, bringing the total number for the period Sept 2019 – Dec 2019 to 1,472; 273 fewer than the same period in 2018 (1,745)
- 840 new individual children worked with in Q4 2019, bringing the total number for the period Sept 2019 – Dec 2019 to 1,006; 223 fewer than the same period in 2018 (1,229)
- 3,992 children worked with this school year to date (end of Dec 2019); 4,384 worked with at the same time last academic year.

	Sept-Dec 2018	Sept - Dec 2019	Δ
# cases assigned	1,674	1,574	-100
# cases closed	1,745	1,472	-273
# New individual children worked with	1,229	1,006	-223
# Individual children worked with	4,384	3,992	-392

- 157 School Attendance Notices (SANs) ¹³ issued in Q4 2019, bringing the total number for the period Sept 2019 – Dec 2019 to 204; 25 fewer than the same period in 2018 (229). The SANs issued for the period Sept – Dec 2019 were issued in respect of 140 individual children.
- 27 summonses issued in Q4 2019, bringing the total number for the period Sept 2019 – Dec 2019 to 34; seven fewer than the same period in 2018 (41). The summonses issued for the period Sept – Dec 2019 were issued in respect of 30 individual children.

¹³ Section 25 Education (Welfare) Act 2000—(1) Subject to section 17(2), the Board shall, if of opinion that a parent is failing or neglecting to cause his or her child to attend a recognised school in accordance with this Act, serve a notice (hereafter in this section referred to as a “school attendance notice”) on such parent—(a) requiring him or her on the expiration of such period as is specified in the notice, to cause his or her child named in the notice to attend such recognised school as is specified in the notice, and there to attend on each school day that the notice is in force, and (b) informing him or her that if he or she fails to comply with a requirement under paragraph (a) he or she shall be guilty of an offence.

- 39 child protection conferences (CPC) attended by EWOs in Q4 2019, bringing the total number for the period Sept 2019 – Dec 2019 to 49; 17 fewer than the same period in 2018
- EWOs attended 87 court cases in relation to their own cases in Q4 2019, bringing the total number for the period Sept 2019 – Dec 2019 to 123; 150 fewer than the same period in 2018 (273)
- 72 Section 24¹⁴ meetings convened by EWOs in Q4 2019, bringing the total number for the period Sept 2019 – Dec 2019 to 89; 38 fewer than the same period in 2018 (127)
- 25 official child protection and welfare referrals made by EWOs in Q4 2019, bringing the total number for the period Sept 2019 – Dec 2019 to 32; 25 fewer than the same period in 2018 (57)

	Sept-Dec 2018	Sept - Dec 2019	Δ
School Attendance Notices Issues	229	204	-25
SANs - individual children involved	145	140	-5
Summonses Issued	41	34	-7
Summonses – individual children involved	29	30	+1
Court cases attended in relation to own cases	273	123	-150
Child protection conferences attended	66	49	-17
Section 24 meetings convened	127	89	-38
Child protection referrals made	57	32	25

¹⁴ Section 24 Education Welfare Act 2000: Where the board of management of a recognised school or a person acting on its behalf is of the opinion that a student should be expelled from that school it shall, before so expelling the student, notify the educational welfare officer to whom functions under this Act have been assigned, in writing, of its opinion and the reasons therefor. The educational welfare officer concerned shall, as soon as may be after receiving a notification under *subsection (1)*, make all reasonable efforts to ensure that provision is made for the continued education of the student to whom the notification relates.

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

6.0 FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

6.1 Family Support Services

6.2 Meitheal and Child & Family Support Networks

6.1 FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES¹⁵

KEY FACTS

- At least 18,343 children in receipt of family support services at the end of 2019 (based on 88% response rate). At least 19,016 in receipt at the end of 2018 (response rate 89%).
- At least 37,024 children referred to family support services in 2019. At least 33,270 children referred in 2018.
- 67% (24,828) of children referred to family support services in 2019 received a service, down six percentage points from 2018 (73%; 24,211).

6.1.1 Family Support Providers

- 346 family support providers commissioned for Q3– Q4 2019.
- 88% (303) of services provided data for Q3 – Q4 2019, ranging from 68% to 100% in seven areas.

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

Family Support Services Commissioned by Area

Area	# Family Support Providers Commissioned Q3 – Q4 2019	# External to Tusla	# Internal to Tusla	# of services that provided data for Q3 – Q4 2019	% that provided data for Q3 – Q4 2019
DSC	19	15	4	19	100%
DSE/WW	12	9	3	12	100%
DSW/K/WW	35	29	6	32	91%
Midlands	8	8	0	8	100%
DNC	37	31	6	31	84%
Dublin North	23	21	2	23	100%
LH/MH	22	16	6	21	95%
CN/MN	19	13	6	14	74%
Cork	8	7	1	8	100%
Kerry	5	4	1	5	100%
CW/KK/ST	29	28	1	23	79%
WD/WX	29	25	4	25	86%
MidWest	35	35	0	31	89%
GY/RN	22	15	7	15	68%
Mayo	13	10	3	9	69%

¹⁵ 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.

Donegal	12	12	0	12	100%
SLWC	18	18	0	15	83%
Total	346	296	50	303	88%

6.1.2 Children in Receipt of Family Support Services

- At least 18,343 children were in receipt of family support services at the end 2019. Highest number reported by DSW/K/WW (2,096; 11%) followed by Dublin North (1,965; 11%), Donegal (1,838; 10%), Dublin North City (1,649; 9%) and Midwest (1,611; 9%) Fewest number reported by Kerry (244; 1%) followed by Cork (318; 2%) and Mayo (322; 2%).

Children in receipt of Family Support Services

Area	Total number of children in receipt of a FSS at the end Q4 2018	Total number of children in receipt of a FSS at the end Q2 2019	Total number of children in receipt of a FSS at the end Q4 2019	% Total 2019
DSC	1,252	1,024	807	4%
DSE/WW	835	862	824	4%
DSW/K/WW	1,384	1,226	2,096	11%
Midlands	865	554	633	3%
DNC	1,887	1,506	1,649	9%
Dublin North	2,067	2,080	1,965	11%
LH/MH	849	777	767	4%
CN/MN	469	525	684	4%
Cork	288	297	318	2%
Kerry	274	269	244	1%
CW/KK/ST	1,034	1,108	1,533	8%
WD/WX	1,039	1,168	901	5%
MidWest	1,426	1,479	1,611	9%
GY/RN	1,328	1,005	793	4%
Mayo	411	349	322	2%
Donegal	2,100	2,237	1,838	10%
SLWC	1,508	1,413	1,358	7%
Total	19,016	17,879	18,343	100%

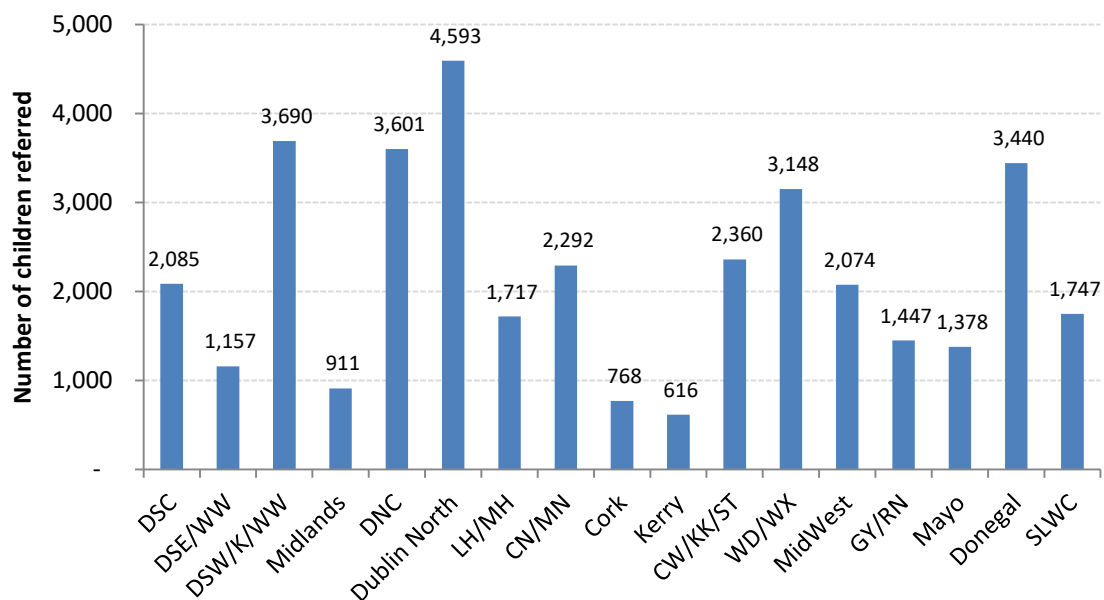
6.1.3 Children Referred to Family Support Services

- At least 18,856 children referred to family support services during the last six months of 2019. This brings to 37,024 the number of children referred for 2019.
- The highest number of children referred for 2019 was reported by Dublin North (4,593; 12%) followed by DSW/K/WW (3,690; 10%), Dublin North City (3,601; 10%), Donegal (3,440; 9%) and WD/WX (3,148; 9%). Fewest number reported by Kerry (616; 2%) followed by Cork (768; 2%) and Midlands (911; 2%).

Children referred to Family Support Services by area

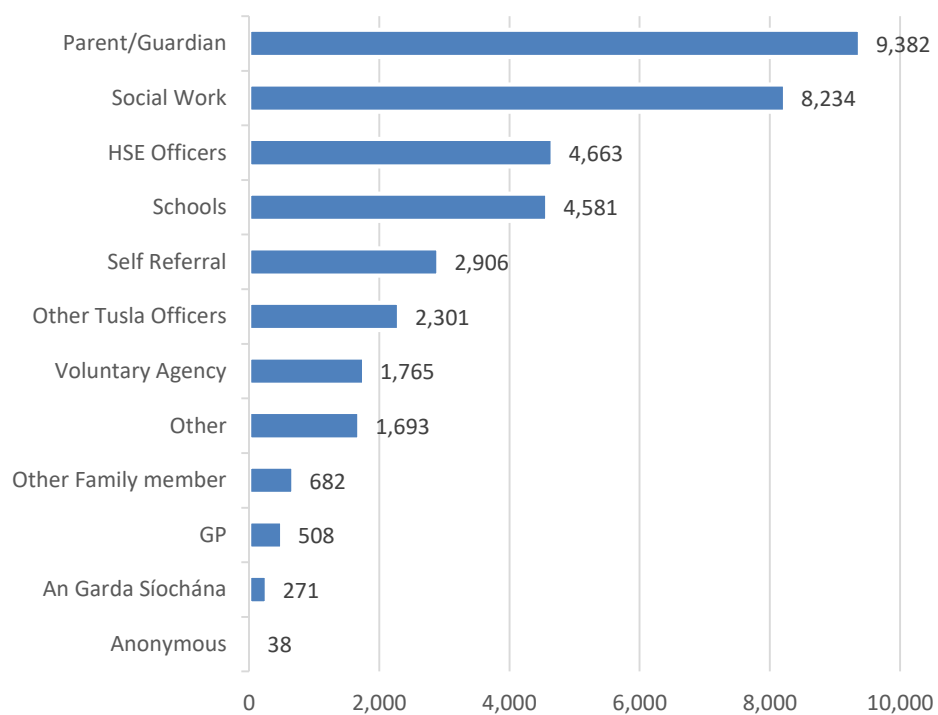
Area	Total number of children referred to FSS, 2018	Total number of children referred to FSS, Q1-Q2 2019	Total number of children referred to FSS, Q3-Q4 2019	Total number of children referred to FSS, 2019	% Total Referred 2019
DSC	2,428	1,263	822	2,085	6%
DSE/WW	1,027	567	590	1,157	3%
DSW/K/WW	2,488	1,370	2,320	3,690	10%
Midlands	748	425	486	911	2%
DNC	4,301	2,210	1,391	3,601	10%
Dublin North	3,508	2,370	2,223	4,593	12%
LH/MH	1,867	915	802	1,717	5%
CN/MN	1,884	736	1,556	2,292	6%
Cork	594	404	364	768	2%
Kerry	625	328	288	616	2%
CW/KK/ST	1,979	1,127	1,233	2,360	6%
WD/WX	2,667	1,544	1,604	3,148	9%
MidWest	2,141	986	1,088	2,074	6%
GY/RN	1,998	827	620	1,447	4%
Mayo	1,189	834	544	1,378	4%
Donegal	2,522	1,518	1,922	3,440	9%
SLWC	1,304	744	1,003	1,747	5%
Total	33,270	18,168	18,856	37,024	100%

Children referred to Family Support Services by area, 2019



- The most common source of referral for 2019 was Parent/Guardian, accounting for one in four referrals (9,382; 25%) followed closely by Tusla Social Workers (8,234; 22%), HSE Officers (4,663; 13%) and Schools (4,568; 12%).

Children referred to Family Support Services by source of referral, 2019



Breakdown of source of referrals by area, 2019

	Social Work	Other Tusla Officers	HSE Officers	An Garda Síochána	Self - Referral	Parent/G uardian	Other Family member	GP	Voluntar y Agency	Anonym ous	Schools	Other	Total
DSC	428	102	334	3	14	667	20	19	149	2	163	184	2,085
DSE/WW	373	45	139	1	6	339	0	29	71	0	115	39	1,157
DSW/K/WW	1084	258	373	14	247	902	33	64	189	0	240	286	3,690
Midlands	398	43	216	6	137	14	8	6	37	0	29	17	911
DNC	694	367	726	14	81	1151	15	24	171	0	218	140	3,601
Dublin North	874	168	541	1	85	1525	450	49	264	21	469	146	4,593
LH/MH	607	93	324	6	49	367	1	32	39	2	138	59	1,717
CN/MN	466	175	171	144	675	131	14	27	104	6	89	290	2,292
Cork	368	41	53	29	80	70	0	4	30	0	13	80	768
Kerry	95	67	38	15	14	244	6	46	29	0	39	23	616
CW/KK/ST	370	185	133	2	256	988	41	74	69	0	172	70	2,360
WD/WX	635	315	41	9	283	914	13	12	73	0	790	63	3,148
MidWest	558	73	297	7	140	452	13	39	201	0	257	37	2,074
GY/RN	296	147	316	10	57	331	4	31	41	0	156	58	1,447
Mayo	133	103	109	2	203	505	15	3	83	4	161	57	1,378
Donegal	302	91	573	5	376	571	43	35	132	0	1196	116	3,440
SLWC	553	28	279	3	203	211	6	14	83	3	336	28	1,747
Total	8,234	2,301	4,663	271	2,906	9,382	682	508	1,765	38	4,581	1,693	37,024
% of Total	22%	6%	13%	1%	8%	25%	2%	1%	5%	0.1%	12%	5%	100%

- 68% (12,735) of children referred to family support services in the last six months of 2019 received a service, up one percentage point for the first half of the year (12,093; 67%). The percentage who received a service ranged from 37% (Cavan/Monaghan) to 89% (Dublin North). Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 68%.
- Of the children referred to family support services who received a service 4% (565) were subject of a Child in Care Plan; 5% (691) were subject of a Tusla Social Work Child Protection Plan; 8% (972) were subject of a Tusla Social Work Family Support Plan; 6% (813) were subject of a Meitheal Support Plan while 46% (5,799) were subject of a Single Agency Family Support Plan.

children referred to Family Support Services (Q3 – Q4 2019) who received a service during the reporting period

				Of the total number of children referred to FSS (Q3-Q4 2019) and received a service the number who were subject of a:				
Area	Number referred	Of number referred, number who received a service	% who rec'd a service	Child in Care Plan	Tusla Social Work Child Protection Plan	Tusla Social Work led Family Support Plan	Meitheal Support Plan	Single Agency Family Support Plan
DSC	822	489	59%	17	30	49	15	114
DSE/WW	590	390	66%	26	69	93	49	210
DSW/K/WW	2,320	1,353	58%	96	46	77	73	629
Midlands	486	319	66%	15	22	17	116	117
DNC	1,391	908	65%	36	33	107	85	235
Dublin North	2,223	1,974	89%	34	47	68	30	1894
LH/MH	802	465	58%	25	38	50	40	223
CN/MN	1,556	568	37%	13	22	46	91	363
Cork	364	165	45%	27	36	35	7	20
Kerry	288	196	68%	26	17	43	12	93
CW/KK/ST	1,233	1,049	85%	61	110	97	59	253
WD/WX	1,604	1,154	72%	36	18	25	32	236
MidWest	1,088	790	73%	28	61	69	73	325
GY/RN	620	281	45%	11	21	31	30	179
Mayo	544	360	66%	6	5	7	17	142
Donegal	1,922	1,578	82%	31	52	74	61	716
SLWC	1,003	696	69%	77	64	84	23	50
Total	18,856	12,735	68%	565	691	972	813	5,799

- 67% (24,828) of children referred to family support services in 2019 received a service during the reporting period, down six percentage points from 2018 (73%; 24,211). The percentage who received a service ranged from 41% (Cavan/Monaghan) to 88% (CW/KK/ST). Nine areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 67%.

children referred to Family Support Services in 2019 who received a service during the reporting period

Area	Number referred	Of number referred, number who received a service	% who rec'd a service
DSC	2,085	1,025	49%
DSE/WW	1,157	776	67%
DSW/K/WW	3,690	1,934	52%
Midlands	911	531	58%
DNC	3,601	2,307	64%
Dublin North	4,593	3,647	79%
LH/MH	1,717	1,072	62%
CN/MN	2,292	941	41%
Cork	768	360	47%
Kerry	616	379	62%
CW/KK/ST	2,360	2,082	88%
WD/WX	3,148	2,235	71%
MidWest	2,074	1,452	70%
GY/RN	1,447	972	67%
Mayo	1,378	924	67%
Donegal	3,440	2,887	84%
SLWC	1,747	1,304	75%
Total	37,024	24,828	67%

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

- 2,330 Meitheal processes requested in 2019; 596 (34%) more than 2018 (1,734)
- 72% (1,670) of requests requested through Direct Access, 18% (413) requested through Social Work Diversion and 11% (247) Social Work Step Down
- 82% (1,921) of Meitheal requests received in 2019 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage), up from 67% (1,164/1,734) in 2018.
- 1,534 the number of Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage Two in 2019.
- 58% (889) of processes reaching completion of Stage Two, proceeded to delivery (Stage 3)
- 1,654 Meitheals closed in 2019, 597 (56%) more than 2018 (1,057). 35% (577) were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1). 31% (520) were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2). 10% (169) were closed following commencement of Meitheal Support Meetings (Stage 3) and 23% (388) were closed post-delivery.
- 115 Child and Family Support Networks¹ (CFSN) operating at the end of 2019; nine more than 2018. A further 17 CFSNs are planned.

6.2.1 Meitheal Activity Data

- 1,055 Meitheal processes requested during the last six months of 2019, 220 (17%) fewer than the first six months (1,275). This brings to 2,330 the number for 2019, 596 (34%) more than 2018 (1,734)
- Highest number of requests for 2019 was reported by Dublin North (565; 24%) followed by Cork (289; 12%), Waterford/Wexford (179; 8%), CW/K/ST (153; 7%) and GY/RN (147; 6%).
- The fewest number was reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (42; 2%) followed by Dublin South Central (43; 2%).
- Two areas reported fewer than 50 requests, seven areas reported 50-100 requests with the remaining eight areas reporting between 100 – 200 requests.

Meitheal processes requested

Area	Total Meitheal processes Requested 2018	Total Meitheal processes Requested Q1- Q2 2019	Total Meitheal processes Requested Q3- Q4 2019	Total Meitheal processes Requested 2019	% Total 2019
DSC	18	25	18	43	2%
DSE/WW	55	32	41	73	3%
DSW/K/WW	79	58	76	134	6%
Midlands	39	40	44	84	4%
DNC	98	47	57	104	4%
Dublin North	480	377	188	565	24%
LH/MH	56	43	34	77	3%
CN/MN	30	78	33	111	5%
Cork	38	173	116	289	12%
Kerry	47	37	52	89	4%
CW/KK/ST	170	60	93	153	7%
WD/WX	113	77	102	179	8%
MidWest	88	48	44	92	4%
GY/RN	312	83	64	147	6%
Mayo	39	24	30	54	2%
Donegal	52	59	35	94	4%
SLWC	20	14	28	42	2%
National	1,734	1,275	1,055	2,330	100%

- For requests received in 2019, the most common pathway was Direct Access accounting for 72% (1,670/2,330). Percentage for 2018 was 74% (1,291) of requests.
- Social Work Diversion accounted for a further 18% (413) of requests. More than half (240; 58%) of these requests were reported by four areas (Dublin North, Cork, CW/KK/ST and WD/WX). Six areas reported 10 or fewer of these requests with one of these areas (Galway/Roscommon) reporting none.
- Social Work Step-Down accounted for the remaining 11% (247) of requests. More than half of these requests (143; 58%) were reported by two areas (Dublin North and Cork). Eleven areas reported 10 or fewer of these requests.

Access Pathway for Meitheal Requests 2019

Area	Total Meitheal processes Requested 2019	Of the total number of Meitheal requests for 2019 the number (%) where the access pathway was:					
		Direct Access	% Direct Access	Social Work Diversion	% SW Diversion	Social Work Step-Down	% Step-Down
DSC	43	27	63%	13	30%	3	7%
DSE/WW	73	54	74%	17	23%	2	3%
DSW/K/WW	134	93	69%	32	24%	9	7%
Midlands	84	69	82%	10	12%	5	6%
DNC	104	66	63%	30	29%	8	8%
Dublin North	565	365	65%	102	18%	98	17%
LH/MH	77	38	49%	23	30%	16	21%
CN/MN	111	88	79%	8	7%	15	14%
Cork	289	207	72%	37	13%	45	16%
Kerry	89	63	71%	16	18%	10	11%
CW/KK/ST	153	99	65%	49	32%	5	3%
WD/WX	179	126	70%	52	29%	1	1%
MidWest	92	78	85%	1	1%	13	14%
GY/RN	147	145	99%	0	0%	2	1%
Mayo	54	34	63%	9	17%	11	20%
Donegal	94	90	96%	1	1%	3	3%
SLWC	42	28	67%	13	31%	1	2%
National	2,330	1,670	72%	413	18%	247	11%

- 82% (1,921) of Meitheal requests received in 2019 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage), up from 67% (1,164/1,734) in 2018.
- The percentage of requests proceeding to Stage 2 ranged from 64% (71/111) in CN/MN to 99% (72/73) in Dublin South East/Wicklow. Twelve areas reported 82% or higher.

Meitheal requests received proceeding to Stage Two (Discussion Stage) 2019

Area	Total Meitheal processes requested 2019	Of the total number of requests received the number that Proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage Two)	% that Proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage Two)
DSC	43	30	70%
DSE/WW	73	72	99%
DSW/K/WW	134	124	93%
Midlands	84	66	79%
DNC	104	99	95%
Dublin North	565	381	67%
LH/MH	77	75	97%
CN/MN	111	71	64%
Cork	289	250	87%
Kerry	89	80	90%
CW/KK/ST	153	117	76%
WD/WX	179	159	89%
MidWest	92	83	90%
GY/RN	147	137	93%
Mayo	54	46	85%
Donegal	94	91	97%
SLWC	42	40	95%
National	2,330	1,921	82%

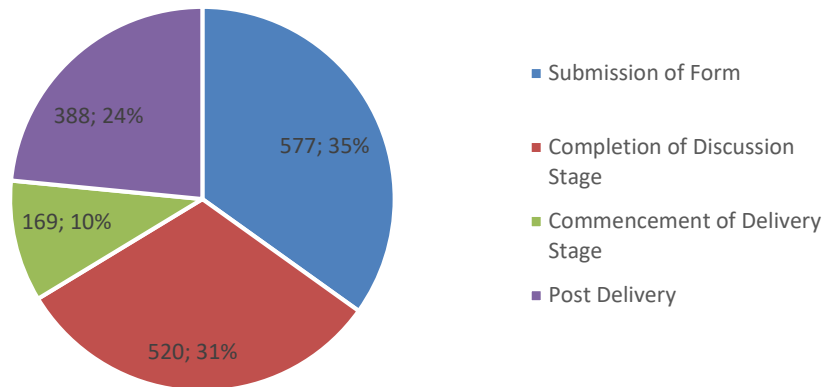
- 828 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage Two in the last six months of 2019. This brings to 1,534 the number of Meitheal processes that reached completion of Stage Two in 2019. Highest number reported (for 2019) by Dublin North (351) followed by Cork (194). The fewest number was reported by Dublin South Central (25) followed by SLWC (31)
- 58% (889) of processes reaching completion of Stage Two in 2019, proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting). The percentage of processes that proceeded to delivery ranged from 10% (35/351) in Dublin North to 100% in Dublin South East/Wicklow. Thirteen areas reported a percentage above the national average of 58%.
- 28% (431) were referred for a Single Agency Response – majority of these were reported by Dublin North (87%; 304).
- 1% (19) of processes where referred to social work (stepped – up).
- 9% (138) processes were closed – highest percentage reported by CN/MN (24%; 18/76) followed by LH/MH (22%; 7/32), DNC (21%; 14/68) and Cork (20%; 38/194).

Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two, 2019

Area	Number of Meitheal Processes Reaching Completion of Stage Two, 2019	Of the total number of Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two (Discussion Stage) the number and percentage that									
		<i>Proceeded to Delivery (Meitheal Support Meeting)</i>	%	<i>Referred to Social Work (Stepped Up)</i>	%	<i>Referred to a Single Agency Response</i>	%	<i>Closed</i>	%	<i>Categorised as Other</i>	%
DSC	25	19	76%	0	0.0%	1	4%	4	16%	1	4%
DSE/WW	57	57	100%	0	0.0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
DSW/K/WW	88	79	90%	0	0.0%	0	0%	2	2%	7	8%
Midlands	46	35	76%	1	2.2%	7	15%	2	4%	1	2%
DNC	68	38	56%	2	2.9%	3	4%	14	21%	11	16%
Dublin North	351	35	10%	4	1.1%	304	87%	6	2%	2	1%
LH/MH	32	23	72%	0	0.0%	2	6%	7	22%	0	0%
CN/MN	76	45	59%	2	2.6%	4	5%	18	24%	7	9%
Cork	194	135	70%	4	2.1%	6	3%	38	20%	11	6%
Kerry	77	76	99%	0	0.0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%
CW/KK/ST	110	60	55%	2	1.8%	38	35%	8	7%	2	2%
WD/WX	101	25	25%	0	0.0%	61	60%	11	11%	4	4%
MidWest	61	52	85%	1	1.6%	2	3%	4	7%	2	3%
GY/RN	104	87	84%	0	0.0%	0	0%	14	13%	3	3%
Mayo	39	34	87%	0	0.0%	1	3%	2	5%	2	5%
Donegal	74	63	85%	3	4.1%	2	3%	3	4%	3	4%
SLWC	31	26	84%	0	0.0%	0	0%	5	16%	0	0%
National	1,534	889	58%	19	1.2%	431	28%	138	9%	57	4%

- 811 Meitheals closed in the last six months of 2019. This brings to 1,654 the number of Meitheals closed in 2019, 597 (56%) more than 2018 (1,057).
- 35% (577) of Meitheals closed in 2019 were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1). The percentage of Meitheals closed following submission of a Meitheal request form ranged from 62% (79/128) in Cork to 13% in DSW/K/WW and Kerry. Eight areas reported a percentage equal to or above the national average of 35% (DSC, Midlands, DNC, Dublin North, LH/MH, CN/MN, Cork and CW/K/ST)
- 31% (520) were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2). The percentage of Meitheals closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form ranged from 63% (311/490) in Dublin North to 6% (3/53) in Mayo. Sixty percent (311) of all Meitheals closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form were reported by Dublin North. Three areas (Dublin North, WD/WX and SLWC) reported a percentage equal to or above the national average of 31%. Nine areas reported 10 or fewer cases.
- 10% (169) were closed following commencement of Meitheal Support Meetings (Stage 3). The percentage of Meitheals closed following commencement of Meitheal Support Meetings ranged from 46% (13/28) in SLWC to <1% (1/490) in Dublin North. Twelve areas reported percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 10%.
- 23% (388) were closed post-delivery. The percentage of Meitheals closed post-delivery ranged from 72% (38/53) in Mayo to 0% (0/28) in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan. Eleven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 23%.

Meitheals Closed 2109, by Stage



% Meitheal Closed 2019, by Stage and Area



Number of Meitheals closed 2019

Area	Total number of Meitheals closed	Of the total number of Meitheals closed the number and % that were closed following:							
		Submission of a Meitheal Request Form	%	Completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Discussion Stage)	%	Commence ment of Meitheal Support meetings (Delivery Stage)	%	Post delivery	%
DSC	16	8	50%	3	19%	3	19%	2	13%
DSE/WW	43	9	21%	4	9%	11	26%	19	44%
DSW/K/WW	47	6	13%	6	13%	15	32%	20	43%
Midlands	62	24	39%	12	19%	2	3%	24	39%
DNC	96	39	41%	14	15%	15	16%	28	29%
Dublin North	490	174	36%	311	63%	1	0%	4	1%
LH/MH	53	25	47%	15	28%	8	15%	5	9%
CN/MN	75	27	36%	10	13%	6	8%	32	43%
Cork	128	79	62%	23	18%	13	10%	13	10%
Kerry	32	4	13%	3	9%	7	22%	18	56%
CW/KK/ST	149	52	35%	20	13%	20	13%	57	38%
WD/WX	115	38	33%	53	46%	5	4%	19	17%
MidWest	82	24	29%	7	9%	19	23%	32	39%
GY/RN	142	41	29%	20	14%	23	16%	58	41%
Mayo	53	11	21%	3	6%	1	2%	38	72%
Donegal	43	10	23%	7	16%	7	16%	19	44%
SLWC	28	6	21%	9	32%	13	46%	0	0%
National	1,654	577	35%	520	31%	169	10%	388	23%

6.2.2 Child and Family Support Networks

- 115 Child and Family Support Networks¹⁶ (CFSN) operating at the end of 2019; nine more than 2018. A further 17 CFSNs are planned.
- Cork reported the highest number of networks operating (15) followed by GY/RN (12). MidWest (2) and SLWC (3) reported the fewest.

Child and Family Support Networks operating and planned

Area	CFSNs Operating Dec 2018	CFSNs Operating Dec 2019	CFSNs Planned
DSC	5	5	3
DSE/Wicklow	7	7	2
DSW/K/WW	6	9	1
Midlands	7	7	0
Dublin North City	6	6	0
Dublin North	4	4	0

¹⁶ 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

Louth/Meath	5	5	0
Cavan/Monaghan	8	8	2
Cork	10	15	1
Kerry	8	8	0
CW/KK/ST	7	7	2
WD/WX	8	8	0
MidWest	2	2	6
GY/RN	12	12	0
Mayo	4	4	0
Donegal	4	5	0
SLWC	3	3	0
National	106	115	17

7.0 HUMAN RESOURCES

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

7.1 Workforce Position

7.2 Absence Rate

7.3 Social Work Staff

7.4 Residential Services

7.5 Workforce Learning and Development

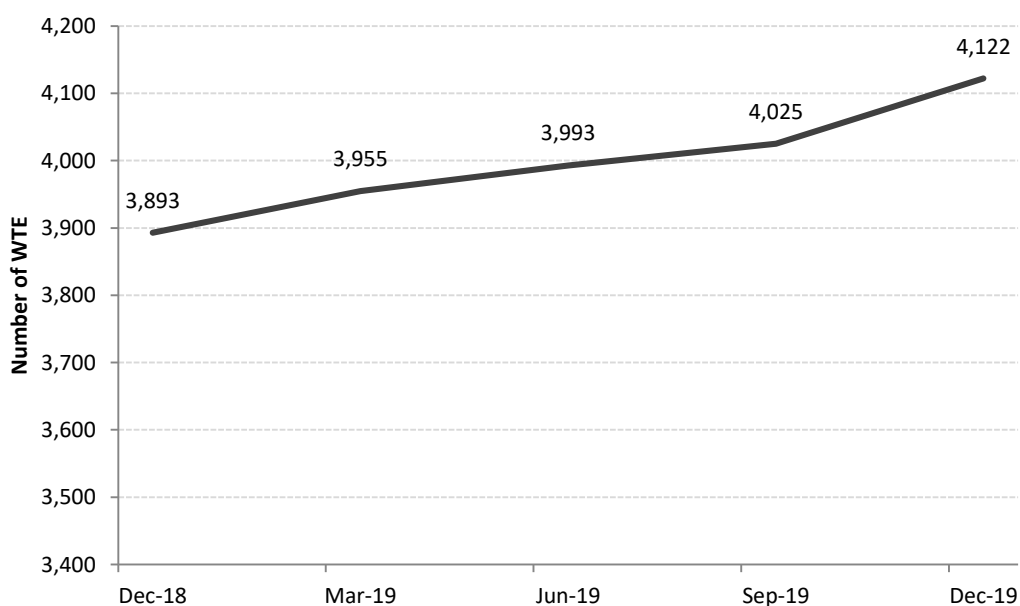
KEY FACTS

- 4,122 (WTE) employed by the Agency at the end of 2019; a 6% (229) increase on 2018.
- 522 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in 2019; four more than 2018 (518)
- 257 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in 2019, 38 more than 2018 (219)
- 63 staff retired in 2019; 25 fewer than 2018 (88)
- 153 staff were on maternity leave at the end of November 2019.
- 5.43% absence rate (November 2019)
- 227 class-room based courses run by Workforce Learning & Development during Q4 2019 at which 3,069 persons attended. There were 1,636 completions of online training targeted at Tusla staff.

7.1 Workforce Position

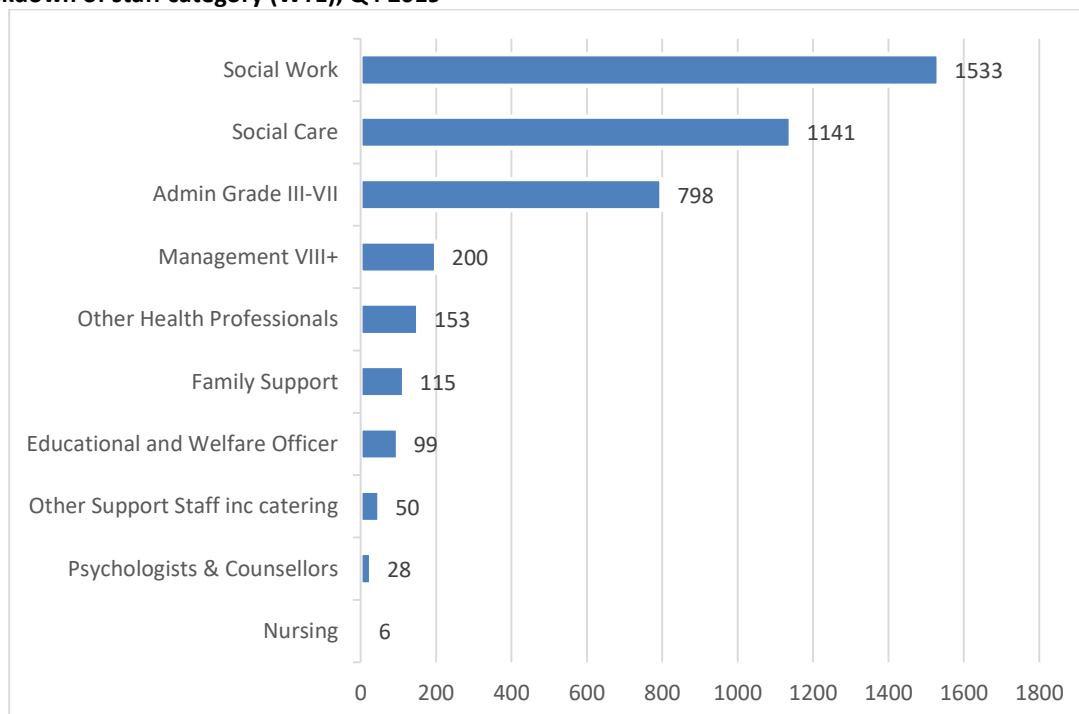
- 4,122 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of 2019, a 6% (229) increase on 2018.

Total Staff Employed (WTE), by quarter



- Social workers are the largest category of staff employed by the Agency, accounting for 37% (1,532) of total staff (WTE) employed at the end of 2019, followed by social care staff accounting for a further 28% (1,141). Management (Grade VIII+) account for less than 5% (200) of the workforce.

Breakdown of staff category (WTE), Q4 2019



- Increase/decrease in WTEs by staff category from Q4 2018 to Q4 2019 is presented in the table below. Admin Grade III - VII experienced the highest increase in staff (up 114.45; 17%).

Breakdown of staff (WTE) by category and year and quarter

Staffing by Category	Q4 2018	Q4 2019	Δ Q4 2019 v Q4 2018
Social Work	1,452.72	1,532.75	80.03
Social Care	1,149.55	1,141.17	-8.38
Admin Grade III-VII	683.57	798.02	114.45
Family Support	131.94	114.91	-17.03
Management VIII+	178.55	199.81	21.26
Educational and Welfare Officer	97.51	98.82	1.31
Other Support Staff inc catering	53.43	49.81	-3.62
Nursing	6.22	5.71	-0.51
Psychologists & Counsellors	28.59	27.95	-0.64
Other Health Professionals	111.02	152.82	41.80
Total Staffing	3,893	4,122	228.67

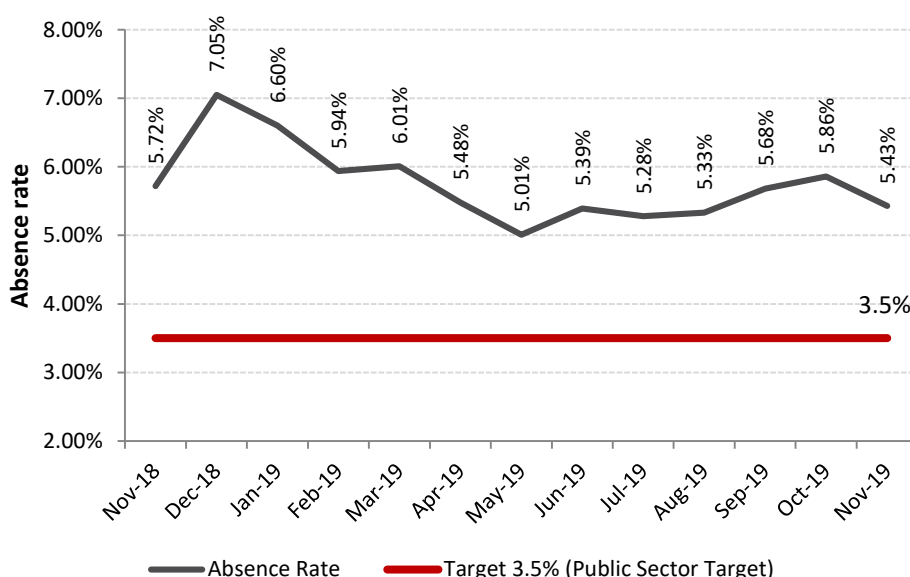
- 522 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in 2019; four more than 2018 (518)
- 257 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in 2019, 38 more than 2018 (219)

- 63 staff retired in 2019; 25 fewer than 2018 (88)
- 153 staff were on maternity leave at the end of November 2019.

7.2 Absence Rate

- At the end of November 2019¹⁷ the overall absence rate for the Agency was 5.43% against a target of 3.5% (target for public sector), 0.29 percentage points lower than the same period in 2018 (5.72%)

Overall staff absence rate by month



- The highest absence rate was reported for social care staff (7.97%). The rate for Residential Services was 8.06% (data not shown), 2.63 percentage points higher than the overall rate of 5.43%. The overall absence rate excluding Residential Services is 4.84%.

Absence rate by staff grade

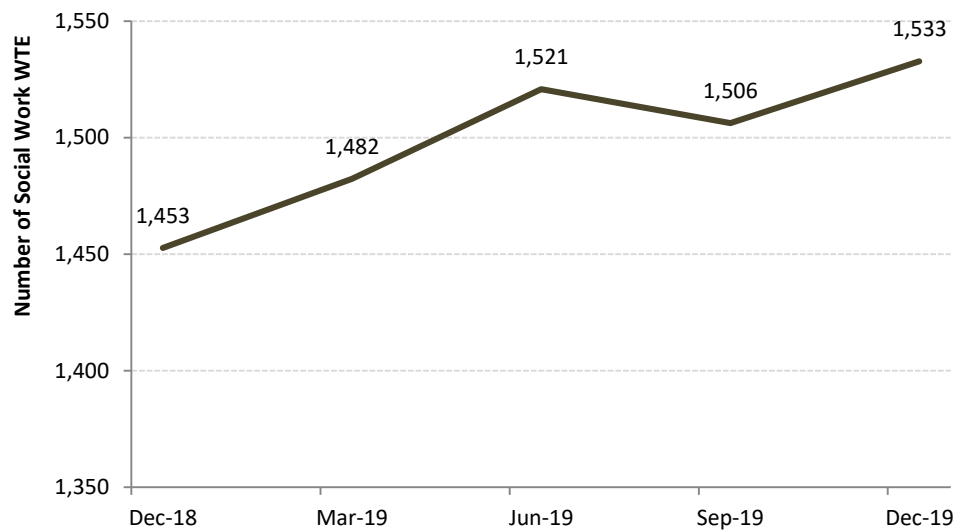
Staff Grade	Absence Rate Nov 2019
Social Work	4.71%
Social Care	7.97%
All other grades	4.17%

7.3 Social Work Staff (WTE)

- 1,533 whole time equivalent (WTE) social work staff (all grades and excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of 2019; 80 (6%) more than 2018 (1,453).

¹⁷ Absence rates are reported monthly in arrears

Number of social workers (WTE) by quarter



- 218 social workers joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in 2019, 69 (46%) more than 2018 (149)
- 120 social workers left (i.e., resigned, career breaks excluding retirements) in the 2019, four fewer than 2018 (124)
- 12 social workers retired in 2019, 21 fewer than 2018 (33)
- 86 (6%) social workers were on maternity leave at the end of November 2019
- A breakdown of the number of social workers (all grades) employed at the end of each quarter Q4 2018 to Q4 2019 by area is presented in the table below.

Breakdown of social work staff (WTE) by area Q4 2018 – Q4 2019

	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)
Area	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019
DSC	66.23	71.61	66.05	70.43	72.71
DSE/WW	90.1	87.54	91.66	91.81	92.62
DSW/K/WW	82.54	81.78	82.66	82.82	89.95
Midlands	68.68	75.86	84.8	79.18	80.22
Regional Services DML	22.88	22.37	22.4	20.79	22.47
DML Total	330.43	339.16	347.57	345.03	357.97
CN/MN	35.71	38.71	38.33	41.34	43.83
DNC	92.66	84.96	91.49	87.42	90.8
LH/MH	81.29	80.2	82.65	86.9	82.65
Dublin North	74.25	69.67	68.87	66.87	68.04
Regional Services DNE	28.52	32.68	36.21	39.86	38.3
DNE Total	312.43	306.22	317.55	322.39	323.62
CW/KK/ST	64.06	68.33	65.16	62.69	67.5
Cork	155.98	163.93	168.31	165	162.5
Kerry	38.98	43.81	46.21	42.84	41.94
WD/WX	83.72	85.24	88.96	85.49	85.08
Regional Services South	5	4	4	4	4
South Total	346.74	365.31	372.64	360.02	361.02
Donegal	68.57	66.17	69.64	67.45	67.94
GY/RN	92.84	96.45	94.45	91.76	94.21
Mayo	36.85	35.36	38.56	42.24	41.47
Mid West	107.01	106.54	109.15	104.12	110.48
SLWC	37.06	40.02	41.88	42.04	44.16
Regional Services West	0.8	0.85	1	2	1
West Total	343.13	345.39	354.68	349.61	359.26
Residential DML	1	1	4.85	4.71	4.85
Residential DNE	1.89	3.78	3.81	3.56	3.81
Residential West					
Residential South	3.8	4.72	8.93	7.77	7.8
Residential Services	6.69	9.5	17.59	16.04	16.46
Corporate	106.4	108.86	102.95	105.32	106.54
Early Years Inspectorate	6.9	7.88	7.88	7.87	7.88
Corporate	113.3	116.74	110.83	113.19	114.42
Total	1,452.72	1,482.32	1,520.86	1,506.28	1,532.75

7.4 Workforce Learning and Development

- During the months October to December 2019, Workforce Learning and Development (WLD) ran a total of 227 classroom-based events for which 3,069 persons attended. A summary of the course and attendee breakdown is presented in the table below.
- During Q4, 2019 the most frequently run course was 'Meitheal Standardised Briefing' with 40 events.
- The training with the highest number of attendees in Q4 was 'Permanency Planning Workshops' with 474 attending 16 workshops.
- There were 33 events that were categorised as 'Other' courses. These courses which constitute 14.5% of all the classroom-based courses, refer to a range of locally delivered courses that are developed in response to particular needs and requests in areas such as working with young people who have experienced trauma, domestic violence etc.
- Online training targeted at Tusla staff was completed by 1,636 people in Q4. Of completed programmes in this period 'Complaints Handling in Tusla' had most completions with 580. This was followed by Health and 'Safety Awareness for Tusla Staff' with 293.

Other Developments in Q4

- WLD supported Tusla operations in design and delivery of information and consultation Workshops to 474 Tusla staff on the implementation of Permanency Policy
- WLD staff and management lead Tusla's engagement with the HSE on the development and launch of The Hidden Harm Strategic Statement, Practice Guide and the E-learning programme 'Hidden Harm-The Impact of Parental Alcohol and Other Drugs Misuse on Children'
- Tusla's 'Introduction to Children First' E-learning programme was successful in achieving the Brandon Hall Bronze Award for 'Best Unique or Innovative Learning and Development programme'.
- A second E-learning programme to support the handling of complaints by Tusla staff was launched in December.
- A number of PPFS related activities occurred in Q4: Launch of the Parental Participation E-learning Programme; a successful 'Parent Support Champions Symposium' was held; Meitheal Trainers Audit completed in Oct. identifying 75 trainers available nationally to deliver Meitheal standardised training.
- With a WLD Manager assigned to Signs of Safety the recruitment of further L&D staff was completed and the team is now at full complement; a National Safety Planning Workshop was held where staff were supported to implement the approach by working with open cases in real time; redesign of the Signs of Safety 2-day program with a view to Tusla staff rolling out this training in 2020

Table 1: Breakdown of courses run by Workforce Learning and Development and attendees by type

WLD National Training Data - October to December 2019		
Administration & Development Training for Grade 3 & 4 staff	2	23
Advance Legal Training and Oral Testimony	3	20
Attachment Theory Linking to Practice	7	70
Caseload Management	4	30
Child and Youth Participation Training (Day 1)	16	177
Child and Youth Participation Training (Day 2)	14	107
Children who have Sexually Harmed - Considerations and Safety Planning	3	67
Conflict Resolution	1	8
Corporate Induction National Workshop	1	32
Diversity In Modern Ireland	2	22
Domestic Sexual and Gender Based Violence - Awareness & Response	5	63
Everyday Inspirational Leadership	1	19
Evidence Informed Practitioner Programme	1	9
Introduction to Court Skills	2	32
Legal Training Programme	2	46
Making the Most of Supervision for Supervisees	3	29
Meitheal A National Practice Model (2 Day Training)	2	12
Meitheal Record Keeping Training	1	9
Meitheal Standardised Briefing	40	221
Meitheal Standardised Refresher Course	2	25
Meitheal Standardised Training	15	220
NCCIS Training	21	128
Permanency Planning Workshops	16	474
Practice Development for Newly Appointed Social Workers	3	31
Preparing for Success: Tusla First Time Manager Training	2	23
Presentation and Facilitations Skills	1	4
Purposeful Use of Daily Life Events	1	10
Resilience and Self Care Training	3	33
Response Ability Pathways	3	28
Signs of Safety 2 Day Training	3	213
Signs of Safety 5 Day Training	1	47
Therapeutic Crisis Intervention Training - Core	1	21
Therapeutic Crisis Intervention Training - Refresher	5	84
The PersonBrain Model	3	34
Other Training	37	698
Total	227	3069
Online Training Module	Total Completions	
Introduction to PPFS	33	
Health and Safety Awareness for Tusla Staff	293	
Introduction to Children First (2017)	207	
CF in Action	104	
Implementing Children First	183	
Caseload Management	36	
Complaints Handling in Tusla	580	
Total	1436	

8.0 FINANCE

KEY FACTS

- The financial outturn for the year to date (Dec 2019) is an under-spend of €1.024 million
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €2.718 million
- Non pay costs are over-spent against budget by €9.016 million
- Key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €5.323 million over budget
- 48% (€14.512 million) of legal expenditure (€30.286 million) was on guardians ad litem (GALs), including GAL's solicitors and counsel.

Financial Performance

- The outturn for the year to date 2019 (December 2019) is an under-spend of €1.024 million.
- The net expenditure for the year to date is €779.685 million against a budget allocation of €780.709 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €2.718 million.

Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	Dec 2019 YTD			% Variance Act vs Budget
	Actual	Budget	Variance	
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Pay costs	298,230	300,948	(2,718)	(1%)

- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget by €9,016 million.

Non Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	Dec 2019 YTD			% Variance Act vs Budget
	Actual	Budget	Variance	
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Non pay costs	517,360	508,344	9,016	2%

- A key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €5.323 million (4%) over-spend. Placement of children in private residential and foster care services is strictly controlled through a national placement process.

Private Residential and Foster Care Costs

Child and Family Agency	Dec 2019 YTD			% Variance Act vs Budget
	Actual	Budget	Variance	
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Private Residential & Foster Care	136,349	131,025	5,323	4%

- Legal costs incurred by the Agency account for a significant portion of the overall budget of the Agency. The financial position shows a spend of €30.286 million against a budget of €28.303 million.
- A breakdown of legal expenditure by type is presented in the table below.
- 48% (€14.512 million) of the legal spend was on guardians ad litem (GALs) including GALs solicitors and counsel.
- In terms of forecasting these data should be interpreted with caution as they are based on the individual billing pattern of persons concerned.

Legal Expenditure

Type	Dec 2019 €'000s
3rd Party Counsel Fees	739
3rd Party Solicitors Fees	1,495
Contracted Legal Services	10,925
Counsel fees - Tusla	1,603
Guardian ad Litem Costs	8,350
Guardian ad Litem Counsel fees	950
Guardian ad Litem Solicitors fees	5,212
General Legal Fees	400
Other	611
Net Expenditure	30,286

APPENDIX I

ABBREVIATIONS

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

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