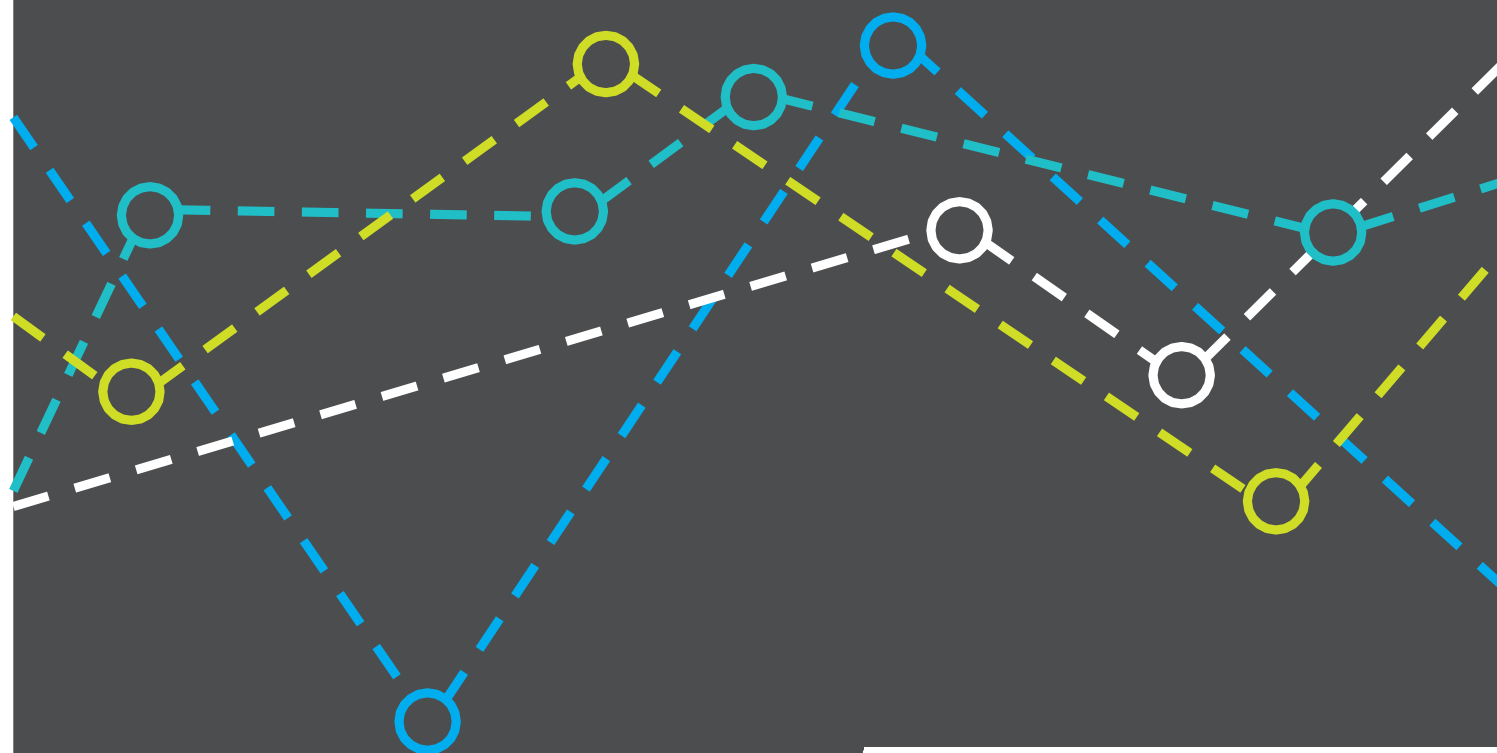




An Ghníomhaireacht um  
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach  
Child and Family Agency

# Quarterly Service Performance and Activity Report

QUARTER 4 2021



Quality Assurance Directorate

# CONTENTS

<b>CONTENTS .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1.0 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.0 CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES.....</b>	<b>11</b>
2.1 Referrals (Child Welfare And Child Abuse/Neglect) .....	12
2.2 Social Work Activity Data (Child Protection & Welfare) .....	22
2.3 Child Protection Notification System .....	27
2.4 National Out Of Hours Service .....	30
<b>3.0 ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES .....</b>	<b>32</b>
3.1 Children in Care (Foster Care / Residential Care).....	32
3.2 Aftercare.....	41
3.3 Adoption Services.....	48
3.4 Foster Carers.....	51
<b>4.0 CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION .....</b>	<b>57</b>
4.1 Early Years Inspectorate .....	57
4.2 Alternative Education Assessment And Registration.....	60
4.3 Non Statutory Alternative Care Services .....	64
<b>5.0 TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES .....</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>6.0 PREVENTION, PARTNERSHIP &amp; FAMILY SUPPORT .....</b>	<b>68</b>
6.1 Family Support Services .....	68
6.2 Meitheal.....	73
<b>7.0 HUMAN RESOURCES .....</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>8.0 FINANCE .....</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>APPENDIX I.....</b>	<b>90</b>

## 1.0 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

This report provides an update on the performance and activity of Tusla services at the end of Q4 2021. It is structured around key performance and activity measures included in the Agency's Business Plan. The data presented was provided by services and refers to the latest performance and activity information available at this time. **These data can change from data previously published due to the ongoing validation of data.**

The summary by service type set out below provides an overview of the Q4 2021 position regarding activity and performance.

## CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

### REFERRALS (based on data extracted from NCCIS on 26 January 2022)

- 18,657 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q3 2021; 597 (3%) more than Q2 2021 (18,060) and 908 (5%) more than Q3 2020 (17,749). This brings to 53,489 the number of referrals for the first nine months of 2021, 1,262 (2%) more than the same period in 2020 (52,227). The number of referrals for 2020 / 2021 needs to be interpreted in the context of the closure of schools and other services at various times, due to the pandemic.
- 51% (9,520) of referrals for Q3 2021 were for welfare concerns, 34% (6,413) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining 15% (2,724) of referrals. Similar breakdown to Q1 and Q2 2021.
- The most common source of referrals in 2021 YTD is members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 38% (20,109) of referrals, followed to a lesser extent by social workers (11%; 5,896) and teachers (7%; 3,811). Mandated persons account for 84% (45,094) of all sources. The mandated person was not specified for 8% (4,186) of referrals.
- 52% (9,696) of referrals for Q3 2021 were closed following screening. 44% (8,244) progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage. The remaining 4% (717) of referrals for Q3 2021 were either at the screening stage, awaiting closure following screening, or another process stage, when the data was extracted for reporting (26th Jan 2022).
- 94% (7,753) of preliminary enquiries were completed at the time the data was extracted and 14% (1,085) of completed preliminary enquiries were completed with 5 working days.
- 48% (3,685) of referrals with a completed preliminary enquiry required no further action and were closed; 28% (2,146) required an initial assessment while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 13% (991) of cases. Some 6% (484) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS.
- 55% (1,170) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were completed, 15% (331) were ongoing/ awaiting sign-off while the remaining 30% (645) were awaiting commencement. 34% (403) of initial assessments completed were completed within 40 days of receipt of referral.
- 47% (552) of referrals that required an initial assessment following the preliminary enquiry were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. 26% (298) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 19% (226)

required a children protection response / child protection conference and 4% (50) required admission to care

## SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITY DATA

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

- 21,248 cases open to social work nationally at the end of Q4 2021, 92 (<1%) more than Q3 2021 (21,156) and 105 (<1%) more than Q4 2021 (21,143).
- 77% (16,441/21,248) of open cases were allocated to a named social worker at the end of Q4 2021; down one percentage points from Q3 2021 (78%).
- 4,807 (23%) cases were awaiting allocation, 212 (5%) more than Q3 2021 (4,595) and 568 (13%) more than Q4 2020 (4,239).
- 9% (436) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2021 were categorised as high priority, eight fewer than Q3 2021 (444) and 60 (16%) more than Q4 2020 (376).
- 73% (3,526/4,807) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2021 were three months or less and of these 53% (1,865) were waiting less than one month.
- 78% (339/436) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2021 were waiting 3 months or less and of these 72% (244) were waiting less than one month.

## CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

- 983 children listed as 'active' on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of Q4 2021, 126 (15%) more than Q3 2021 (857) and the first quarterly increase after five consecutive decreases.
- 44 (5%) more children 'active' at the end of Q4 2021 than at the end of Q4 2020 (939).

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

- 83% (817) of children were listed as "active for no longer than 12 months. 5% (48) were listed as "active" for > 24 months
- All but two children listed as "active" at the end of Q4 2021 had an allocated social worker. The two children have since been allocated.

## NATIONAL OUT OF HOURS SERVICE

- 852 referrals to the National Out of Hours Service in Q4 2021, bringing the number for 2021 to 2,718. The number of referrals for 2021 (2718) is up 437 (19%) on 2020 (2,281).
- 201 children were placed by the National Out of Hours Service in Q4 2021, bringing the number of children placed for 2021 to 698. The number of children placed for 2021 (698) is up 173 (33%) from 2020 (525).

## ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

### CHILDREN IN CARE

- 5,863 children in care at the end of Q4 2021, 22 (<1%) more than Q3 2021 (5,841), first increase after six consecutive decreases. The number of children in care is down 19 (<1%) on Q4 2020 (5,882).
- 90% (5,266) of children in care were in foster care (general and relative) at the end of Q4 2021 and 8% (459) were in a residential (general and special care) placement.
- 786 (13%) children in care at the end of Q4 2021 were in placements with private providers<sup>1</sup>; four (1%) more than Q3 2021 (782) and 57 (8%) more than Q4 2020 (729).
- 87% (5,128) of children in care at the end of December 2021 had an allocated social worker; down one percentage points from Q3 2021
- 735 children were awaiting allocation of a social worker at the end of Q4 2021; 61 (9%) more than at the end of Q3 2021 (674).

### AFTERCARE

- 122 referrals in Q4 2021 bringing the number of referrals for 2021 to 523, some 137 (21%) fewer 2020 (660).
- 3,059 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q4 2021, 24 more than Q3 2021 (3,035) and 116 (4%) more than Q4 2020 (2,943). Quarter on quarter increase.
- 76% (1,788/2,339) of those 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service were in education/accredited training.
- 82% (2,500) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q4 2021 had an aftercare plan, down one percentage point from Q3 2021. A total of 559 were awaiting a plan, 44 (9%) more than Q3 2021 (515).
- 94% (2,080/2,203) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q4 2021, up three percentage points from Q3 2021. A total of 123 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q4 2021, 75 (38%) fewer than Q3 2021 (198).

## ADOPTION SERVICES

- 440 new enquiries regarding information and tracing received in Q4 2021. This brings to 2,807 the number of enquiries for 2021, 1,566 (126%) more than 2020 (1,241).
- 715 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q4 2021, eight fewer than Q3 2021 (723). The number of applicants awaiting an information and tracing service is up 161 (29%) on Q4 2020 (554).
- At the end of Q4 2021, the length of time from application (production of ID) to the provision of personal information in line with GDPR legislation ranged from 8 weeks to 16 weeks against a target of 8 weeks, no change from Q3 2021.
- 40 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received during Q4 2021. This brings to 199 the number of completed applications received for 2021, 41 (26%) more than 2020 (158).
- 37 new children were referred for adoption in Q4 2021. This brings to 208 the number of children referred for adoption in 2021, 12 (6%) more than 2020 (196).
- 49 completed assessments (all types) were presented to local adoption committees during Q4 2021. This brings to 170 the number of assessments presented for 2021, 15 (10%) more than the same period in 2020 (155).

## FOSTER CARERS

- 4,039 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q4 2021, 23 more than Q3 2021 (4,016 revised data) and four more than Q4 2020 (4,035).
- 90% (2,201) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q4 2021, up two percentage points from Q3 2021 (88%)
- 234 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker; 62 (21%) fewer than Q3 2021 (296).
- 90% (953) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q4 2021, no change from Q3 2021.
- 109 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q4 2021; three more than Q3 2021 (106).
- 246 relative foster carers unapproved at the end of Q4 2021; 18 more than Q3 2021 (228).
- All of the 191 foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks, had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q4 2021.

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

## EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

- 4,133 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q4 2021, seven fewer than Q3 2021 (4,140) and 77 (2%) fewer than Q4 2020 (4,210).
- 682 inspections (all types<sup>1</sup>) carried out in Q4 2021. This brings to 2,504 the number of inspections for 2021; a total of 1,812 inspections carried out in 2020. Inspections from March 2020 to early 2021 impacted due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- 1,463 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q4 2021. This brings to 2,894 the number of incidents notified in 2021. A total of 774 incidents notified during in 2020.
- 73 unsolicited information submissions<sup>1</sup> received by the Inspectorate during Q4 2021. This brings to 268 the number received for 2021. A total of 253 submissions received in 2020.
- 19 services were found to have closed in Q4 2021, bringing to 141 the number of services found to be closed in 2021. A total of 197 services were found to have closed in 2020.

## NON-STATUTORY ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

- 144 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q4 2021; two fewer than Q3 2021 (146)
- A total of 36 inspections (all types) were conducted in Q4 2021. This brings to 165 the number of inspections for 2021, 53 (47%) more than 2020 (112).
- 6 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q4 2021; no change from Q3 2021.
- 3 services were visited during Q4 2021, and three monitoring visits was conducted during the same period. This brings to seven the number of services that were visited and seven the number of monitoring visits made.

## ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION

### Home Education

- 1,808 children on the register for home education at the end of Q4 2021; 15 more than Q3 2021 (1,793) and 160 (10%) more than Q4 2020 (1,648).
- 490 applications<sup>1</sup> received for home education during Q4 2021, 34 (7%) more than Q3 2021 (456). This brings to 1,546 the number for 2021, some 377 (20%) fewer than 2020 (1,923). The sharp increase in applications since the early part of 2020 has been linked to the Covid-19 pandemic with more parents/guardians opting to home educate their children.
- 88 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q4 2021, 24(38%) more than Q3 2021 (64). This brings to 459 the number of assessments carried out for 2021, 219 (32%) fewer than 2020 (678).
- 61 children registered for home education<sup>1</sup> in Q4 2021. This brings to 387 the number of children registered 2021, 50 (15%) more than 2020 (337).
- 1,922 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q4 2021, 86 (5%) more than Q3 2021 (1,836) and the sixth consecutive increase.

## Independent Schools

- 56 assessed independent schools on the register at the end of Q4 2021, up six from Q3 2021 (50).
- 5,947 children in assessed independent schools at the end of Q4 2021 with 4,462 of these children on the register.
- 34 schools due for review assessment ( $\geq$  3-year cycle) at the end of Q4 2021.

## TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

### Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2021 – August 2022

Data presented needs to be interpreted in the context of the impact of Covid-19 on school attendance and service provided.

- 1,814 referrals<sup>1</sup> screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) for the four months Sept – Dec 2021, 461 (20%) fewer than the same period in 2020 (2,275).
- 1,910 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of December 2021, 234 (14%) more than December 2020 (1,676).
- 1,112 new individual children worked with for the four months Sept – Dec 2021, 147 (12%) fewer than the same period in 2020 (1,259).
- 172 school attendance notices (SANs) issued for the four months Sept – Dec 2021, 137 (391%) more than the same period in 2020 (35). The SANs issued were in respect of 114 individual children, 92 (418%) more than the same period in 2020 (22).
- 12 summonses issued for the four months Sept – Dec 2021. None issued during the same period in 2020. The summonses pertained to seven individual children.
- 44 Section 241 meetings convened by EWOs for the four months Sept – Dec 2021, 3 (6%) fewer than the same period in 2020 (47).

## PREVENTION, PARTNERSHIP & FAMILY SUPPORT

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

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

- At least 17,075 children were in receipt of family support services at the end Q4 2021 (based on 80% response rate).
- At least 16,291 children referred to family support services during the last six months of 2021, bringing the total number of children referred to at least 32,473. This equates to about 2.7% of the child population (0-17 years).
- 69% (11,270) of children referred to family support services in the last six months of 2021 received a service while 73% (23,807) of all children referred in 2021 received a service. The percentage who received a service in 2021 ranged from 53% (Midlands) to 99% (Mayo). Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 73%.



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

- 1,131 Meitheal processes requested in the last six months of 2021 bringing the total number of Meitheal processes requested for 2021 to at least 2,373. The number of requests is up 86 on the 2,287 reported in 2020.
- The most common pathway for requests is “Direct Access” accounting for 67% (759/1,131) of all requests for the last six months of 2021 and 67% (1,584/2,373) of all requests for 2021. “Social Work Diversion” accounted for a further 18% (199) of requests for the last six months of 2021 and 21% (488/2,373) of all requests for 2021. “Social Work Step-Down” accounted for the remaining 15% (173) of all requests for the last six months of 2021 and 13% (301/2,373) of all requests for 2021.
- 82% (932/1,131) of Meitheal requests received in the last six months of 2021 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage) while 86% (2,041/2,373) of all requests received in 2021 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage).
- 742 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 in the last six months of 2021, bringing the total number of Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage 2 in 2021 to 1,596.
- 46% (741) of processes reaching completion of Stage 2 in 2021, proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting).
- 828 Meitheal processes were closed in the last six months of 2021 bringing the total number of Meitheal processes closed in 2021 to 1,580. 24% (386) of Meitheal processes were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1); 39% (617) of Meitheal processes were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2 Discussion Stage); 11% (171) of Meitheal processes were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3); 26% (406) of Meitheal processes were closed post-delivery
- 122 Child and Family Support Networks<sup>1</sup> (CFSN) operating at the end of Q4 2021. A further 15 CFSNs are planned/pre planning stage.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

- 4,579 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q4 2021, 63 (1%) more than Q3 2021 (4,516) and 18.45 (<1%) fewer than Q4 2020 (4,598).
- 415 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla’s payroll) in 2021
- 347 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in 2021 and 89 staff retired in 2021
- At the end of December 2021, the overall absence rate for the Agency was 7.25%, 0.99 percentage points higher than Q3 2021 (6.26%) and 1.32 percentage points higher than December 2020 (5.93%).
- e-learning activity: 3,822 completions were achieved in Q4 2021
- Virtual classroom training: 461 completions (54 sessions).

## FINANCE

- The outturn for the year to date (December 2021) is an under-spend of €10.272 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget for the year to date by €7.8 million
- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget year to date by €7.18 million
- A key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €7.78 million over budget year to date. Placement of children in private residential and foster care services is strictly controlled through a national placement process.

## 2.0 CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

### Key Facts (figures based on data extracted from NCCIS on 26 January 2022)

- 18,657 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q3 2021; 597 (3%) more than Q2 2021 (18,060) and 908 (5%) more than Q3 2020 (17,749). This brings to 53,489 the number of referrals for the first nine months of 2021, 1,262 (2%) more than the same period in 2020 (52,227). The number of referrals for 2020 / 2021 needs to be interpreted in the context of the closure of schools and other services at various times, due to the pandemic.
- 51% (9,520) of referrals for Q3 2021 were for welfare concerns, 34% (6,413) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining 15% (2,724) of referrals. Similar breakdown to Q1 and Q2 2021.
- The most common source of referrals in 2021 YTD is members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 38% (20,109) of referrals, followed to a lesser extent by social workers (11%; 5,896) and teachers (7%; 3,811). Mandated persons account for 84% (45,094) of all sources. The mandated person was not specified for 8% (4,186) of referrals.
- 52% (9,696) of referrals for Q3 2021 were closed following screening. 44% (8,244) progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage. The remaining 4% (717) of referrals for Q3 2021 were either at the screening stage, awaiting closure following screening, or another process stage, when the data was extracted for reporting (26th Jan 2022).
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- 55% (1,170) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were completed, 15% (331) were ongoing/ awaiting sign-off while the remaining 30% (645) were awaiting commencement. 34% (403) of initial assessments completed were completed within 40 days of receipt of referral.
- 47% (552) of referrals that required an initial assessment following the preliminary enquiry were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. 26% (298) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 19% (226) required a children protection response / child protection conference and 4% (50) required admission to care.

### KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

#### 2.1 Referrals (child welfare and child abuse)

#### 2.2 Social Work Activity Data

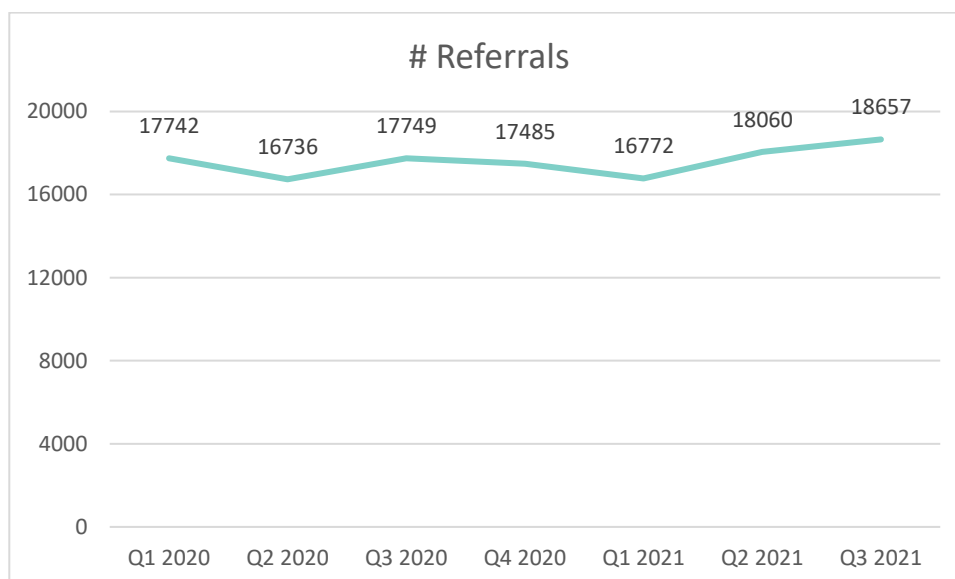
#### 2.3 Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)

#### 2.4 Crisis Intervention Service / Out of Hours Service

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

### Number of Referrals

- 18,657 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q3 2021<sup>1</sup>; 597 (3%) more than Q2 2021 (18,060) and 908 (5%) more than Q3 2020 (17,749). This brings to 53,489 the number of referrals for the first nine months of 2021, 1,262 (2%) more than the same period in 2020 (52,227). The number of referrals for 2020 / 2021 needs to be interpreted in the context of the closure of schools and other services at various times, due to the pandemic.



- 51% (9,520) of referrals for Q3 2021 were for welfare concerns, 34% (6,413) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining 15% (2,724) of referrals (Tables 1 and 2). Similar breakdown to Q1 and Q2 2021.

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

Primary Report Type	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021
<b>Welfare</b>	42%	40%	47%	49%	52%	50%	51%
<b>Emotional abuse</b>	12%	13%	15%	14%	15%	14%	15%
<b>Neglect</b>	5%	5%	5%	4%	5%	5%	5%
<b>Physical abuse</b>	8%	5%	8%	10%	8%	9%	8%
<b>Sexual abuse</b>	5%	4%	6%	6%	5%	6%	6%
<b>Not recorded</b>	28%	33%	19%	16%	14%	16%	15%
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

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

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

Primary Report Type	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021
Welfare	7387	6686	8422	8529	8,686	<b>9,069</b>	<b>9,520</b>
Emotional abuse	2108	2239	2674	2525	2,591	<b>2,527</b>	<b>2,811</b>
Neglect	917	813	890	720	867	<b>833</b>	<b>976</b>
Physical abuse	1479	852	1372	1808	1,309	<b>1,693</b>	<b>1,511</b>
Sexual abuse	887	694	1000	1072	912	<b>1,145</b>	<b>1,115</b>
Not recorded	4964	5452	3391	2831	2,407	<b>2,793</b>	<b>2,724</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>17742</b>	<b>16736</b>	<b>17749</b>	<b>17485</b>	<b>16,772</b>	<b>18,060</b>	<b>18,657</b>

## Referrals by Area

- The number of referrals year to date equates to about 45 referrals per 1,000 population under 18 years. The rate of referrals ranges from 26 per 1,000 (Dublin South East/Wicklow) to 78 per 1,000 (Dublin North City). Eight areas reported a rate equal to or higher than the national average of 45/1,000.
- The areas reporting the highest numbers of referrals year to date include Midlands (5,338), Dublin North (5,137), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (4,890) and Cork (4,723). The fewest number was reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (1,004) followed by Mayo (1,102) and Kerry (1,580). A breakdown of referrals by area and quarter is presented in Table 3 below.

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

Area	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	2021 YTD	Pop 0-17 years	Rate /1,000 pop YTD
DSC	1280	1226	<b>1315</b>	3821	65,564	<b>58</b>
DSE/WW	740	652	<b>852</b>	2244	86,810	<b>26</b>
DSW/K/WW	1484	1626	<b>1780</b>	4890	108,186	<b>45</b>
Midlands	1715	1806	<b>1817</b>	5338	80,193	<b>67</b>
DNC	1147	1177	<b>1187</b>	3511	44,927	<b>78</b>
Dublin North	1711	1717	<b>1709</b>	5137	100,654	<b>51</b>
LH/MH	1080	1288	<b>1287</b>	3655	93,093	<b>39</b>
CN/MN	451	578	<b>583</b>	1612	36,446	<b>44</b>
Cork	1467	1690	<b>1566</b>	4723	134,015	<b>35</b>
Kerry	488	604	<b>488</b>	1580	34,527	<b>46</b>
CW/KK/ST	1014	906	<b>982</b>	2902	63,009	<b>46</b>
WD/WX	1090	1295	<b>1329</b>	3714	68,513	<b>54</b>
MidWest	1091	1284	<b>1438</b>	3813	96,266	<b>40</b>
GY/RN	789	935	<b>1085</b>	2809	79,912	<b>35</b>
Mayo	367	361	<b>374</b>	1102	31,968	<b>34</b>
Donegal	551	554	<b>529</b>	1634	42,865	<b>38</b>
SLWC	307	361	<b>336</b>	1004	23,554	<b>43</b>
<b>National</b>	<b>16772</b>	<b>18,060</b>	<b>18657</b>	<b>53489</b>	<b>1,190,502</b>	<b>45</b>

## Source of Referrals

- The most common source of referrals in 2021 YTD is members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 38% (20,109) of referrals, followed to a lesser extent by social workers (11%; 5,896) and teachers (7%; 3,811). Mandated persons accounted for 84% (45,094) of all sources. The mandated person was not specified for 8% (4,186) of referrals. The source of all referrals is presented in Table 4 below.

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

Source	# Referrals Q3 2021	% Referrals Q1 2021	# Referrals Q3 2021	% Referrals Q2 2021
Member of An Garda Síochána	7291	39.1%	20109	37.6%
Social worker	2246	12.0%	5896	11.0%
Mandated person - not specified	1153	6.2%	4186	7.8%
Teacher	901	4.8%	3811	7.1%
Parent/Guardian	770	4.1%	2185	4.1%
Anonymous	862	4.6%	2129	4.0%
Other	604	3.2%	2102	3.9%
Social Care worker	792	4.2%	1941	3.6%
A safeguarding officer,	629	3.4%	1588	3.0%
Medical practitioner	563	3.0%	1547	2.9%
Registered nurse /midwife	466	2.5%	1383	2.6%
Manager of domestic violence shelter	422	2.3%	1121	2.1%
Other family member	294	1.6%	834	1.6%
Psychotherapist	274	1.5%	772	1.4%
Psychologist	251	1.3%	737	1.4%
Member of the public	218	1.2%	574	1.1%
Youth worker	171	0.9%	484	0.9%
Manager of homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility	177	0.9%	410	0.8%
Courts 1 (S.20)	142	0.8%	379	0.7%
Person responsible for the care or management of a youth work service	106	0.6%	281	0.5%
Childcare staff member employed in a pre-school service	34	0.2%	121	0.2%
Self	43	0.2%	117	0.2%
Foster carer registered with the Agency	25	0.1%	101	0.2%
Probation Officer	20	0.1%	96	0.2%
Physiotherapist	23	0.1%	73	0.1%
Speech and language therapist	27	0.1%	72	0.1%
Occupational therapist	26	0.1%	70	0.1%
An addiction counsellor	19	0.1%	67	0.1%
A person carrying on a pre-school service	14	0.1%	63	0.1%
Manager of asylum seeker accommodation (Direct provision centre)	17	0.1%	57	0.1%
Emergency medical technician	15	0.1%	40	0.1%
Courts 3 (Other Court Request)	16	0.1%	38	0.1%
International Social Services	16	0.1%	35	0.1%
Guardian Ad Litem	15	0.1%	25	0.0%
Director of any institution where a child is detained by an order of a court	*	0.0%	14	0.0%
Member of the clergy	5	0.0%	13	0.0%
Manager of a language school or other recreational school where children reside away from home	*	0.0%	9	0.0%
Dentist	*	0.0%	7	0.0%
HSE Officer	*	0.0%	*	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,657</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>53,489</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

## Mandated Reports

- 25% (4,611) of referrals for Q3 2021 and 24% (13,072) of all referrals YTD were mandated reports. A breakdown of mandated reports by primary report type is presented in Table 5 below. It is likely that the actual number of mandated reports is slightly higher, due to the fact that the primary report type has not been recorded for 15% of referrals overall.

**Table 5: Mandated reports by primary report type, Q3 2021**

Primary Report Type	Q3 2021	% Q3 2021	2021 YTD	% 2021 YTD
Physical Abuse	1074	23.29%	3355	25.7%
Emotional Abuse	1967	42.66%	5459	41.8%
Sexual Abuse	956	20.73%	2642	20.2%
Neglect	614	13.32%	1616	12.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4611</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>13072</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

- A breakdown of mandated reports by area for Q3 2021 and 2021 YTD is presented in Table 6 below. The number of mandated reports 2021 YTD ranges from 1,963 (Dublin North) to 313 (Cavan/Monaghan) while the percentage of referrals that were mandated reports ranges from 41% (413/1,004) Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan to 13% (466/3,714) in Waterford/Wexford.

**Table 6: Mandated reports by area**

Area	# Referrals Q3 2021	# Mandated Reports Q3 2021	% Mandated Reports	# Referrals 2021 YTD	# Mandated Reports 2021 YTD	% Mandated Reports
DSC	1315	283	22%	3821	799	21%
DSE/WW	852	295	35%	2244	676	30%
DSW/K/WW	1780	222	12%	4890	663	14%
Midlands	1817	403	22%	5338	1159	22%
DNC	1187	416	35%	3511	1128	32%
Dublin North	1709	735	43%	5137	1963	38%
LH/MH	1287	406	32%	3655	1104	30%
CN/MN	583	126	22%	1612	313	19%
Cork	1566	380	24%	4723	1271	27%
Kerry	488	119	24%	1580	410	26%
CW/KK/ST	982	157	16%	2902	550	19%
WD/WX	1329	154	12%	3714	466	13%
MidWest	1438	227	16%	3813	589	15%
GY/RN	1085	277	26%	2809	789	28%
Mayo	374	151	40%	1102	347	31%
Donegal	529	121	23%	1634	432	26%
SLWC	336	139	41%	1004	413	41%
<b>National</b>	<b>18657</b>	<b>4611</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>53489</b>	<b>13072</b>	<b>24%</b>

- A breakdown of source of mandated reports is presented in Table 7 below. The most common source of reports for 2021 YTD is members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 44% (5,762) of all mandated reports, followed to a lesser extent by social workers (13%) and teachers (12%).

**Table 7: Source of mandated reports (ranked by number of reports 2021 YTD)**

Source	# Q3-2021	% Q3 -2021	# 2021 YTD	% 2021 YTD
Member of An Garda Síochána	2123	46.0%	5762	44.1%
Social worker	636	13.8%	1746	13.4%
Teacher	375	8.1%	1588	12.1%
Social Care worker	312	6.8%	781	6.0%
Medical Practitioner	187	4.1%	568	4.3%
A safe guarding officer	209	4.5%	534	4.1%
Manager of Domestic Violence Shelter	155	3.4%	400	3.1%
Psychologist	126	2.7%	338	2.6%
Psychotherapist or a person providing counselling	116	2.5%	329	2.5%
Registered Nurse /midwife	104	2.3%	265	2.0%
Youth worker	69	1.5%	181	1.4%
Manager of homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility	61	1.3%	134	1.0%
Person responsible for the care or management of a youth work service	31	0.7%	104	0.8%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	13	0.3%	53	0.4%
Foster carer registered with the Agency	15	0.3%	48	0.4%
Physiotherapist	18	0.4%	46	0.4%
Manager of asylum seeker accommodation (direct provision centre)	14	0.3%	34	0.3%
Occupational therapist	8	0.2%	28	0.2%
A person carrying on a pre-school service	8	0.2%	25	0.2%
Speech and Language therapist	6	0.1%	25	0.2%
Probation Officer	5	0.1%	22	0.2%
An Addiction counsellor	*	0.1%	16	0.1%
Guardian Ad Litem	6	0.1%	16	0.1%
Emergency medical technician	6	0.1%	12	0.1%
Member of the Clergy	*	0.0%	6	0.0%
Director of any institution where a child is detained by an order of a court	0	0.0%	*	0.0%
Manager of a language school or other recreational school where children reside away from home	*	0.0%	*	0.0%
Dentist	*	0.0%	*	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,611</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>13,072</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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



## Screening and Assessment

- 52% (9,696) of referrals for Q3 2021 were closed following screening.
- 44% (8,244) of referrals for Q3 2021 progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage. The remaining 4% (717) of referrals for Q3 2021 were either at the screening stage, awaiting closure following screening, or another process stage, when the data was extracted for reporting (26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022).

**Table 8: Referrals closed following screening, Q2 and Q3 2021**

Area	% Referrals closed Q3 2021	% Progressing to PE Q3 2021	% at screening/ other process stage Q3 2021
DSC	67%	24%	9%
DSE/WW	44%	47%	8%
DSW/K/WW	64%	33%	3%
Midlands	58%	38%	4%
DNC	37%	57%	6%
Dublin North	55%	42%	3%
LH/MH	54%	38%	8%
CN/MN	48%	48%	4%
Cork	47%	53%	0%
Kerry	43%	56%	1%
CW/KK/ST	44%	56%	0%
WD/WX	42%	50%	7%
MidWest	53%	47%	0%
GY/RN	51%	46%	3%
Mayo	55%	41%	5%
Donegal	61%	38%	1%
SLWC	33%	66%	1%
National	<b>52%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>4%</b>

- A breakdown of the outcome of referrals closed following screening (9,696) is presented below. Of the referrals closed, 42% (4,066) were closed with no further action required, a further 41% (3,929) were closed as assessment / safety planning was already ongoing and 6% (556) were diverted to Tusla's Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) services. The outcome was not recorded for 10% (927) of referrals closed.

**Table 9: Outcome of referrals closed following screening, Q3 2021**

Outcome of referrals closed	#	%
No further action - close	4,066	42%
No further action – close, assessment / safety planning ongoing	3,929	41%
Divert to another agency - close	158	2%
Divert to PPFS - close	556	6%
Other	60	1%
Not recorded	927	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,696</b>	<b>100%</b>

- The breakdown of the outcomes of referrals closed following screening, by area for Q3 2021 is presented in the table below.

**Table 10: Outcome of referrals closed following screening by area, Q3 2021**

Area	No further action - close	No further action – close, assessment / safety planning ongoing	Divert to PPFS - close
DSC	44%	45%	8%
DSE/WW	36%	48%	4%
DSW/K/WW	39%	42%	14%
Midlands	45%	50%	1%
DNC	40%	48%	1%
Dublin North	22%	52%	24%
LH/MH	54%	38%	4%
CN/MN	30%	61%	6%
Cork	50%	42%	1%
Kerry	45%	40%	2%
CW/KK/ST	54%	21%	0%
WD/WX	46%	31%	2%
MidWest	33%	29%	0%
GY/RN	37%	19%	0%
Mayo	61%	38%	0%
Donegal	58%	36%	0%
SLWC	54%	35%	0%
<b>National</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>6%</b>

- At the time the data was extracted for reporting, 94% (7,753) of preliminary enquiries were completed. A breakdown of preliminary enquiries completed by area is presented in the table below.
- 14% (1,085) of completed preliminary enquiries were completed with 5 working days. A breakdown of the percentage of preliminary enquiries completed within 5 working days by area is presented in the table below.

**Table 11: Preliminary enquiries commenced and completed, Q3 2021**

Area	# PEs commenced	# PEs completed	% PEs completed	% PEs completed 5 days
DSC	317	307	97%	8%
DSE/WW	404	391	97%	10%
DSW/K/WW	587	546	93%	6%
Midlands	693	672	97%	8%
DNC	676	571	84%	19%
Dublin North	726	623	86%	8%
LH/MH	483	446	92%	12%
CN/MN	277	248	90%	13%
Cork	830	783	94%	15%
Kerry	274	270	99%	10%
CW/KK/ST	554	548	99%	19%
WD/WX	670	639	95%	14%
MidWest	675	661	98%	23%
GY/RN	501	483	96%	10%
Mayo	153	144	94%	17%
Donegal	203	200	99%	19%
SLWC	221	221	100%	43%
<b>National</b>	<b>8244</b>	<b>7753</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>14%</b>

- 48% (3,685) of referrals with a completed preliminary enquiry required no further action and were closed; 28% (2,146) required an initial assessment while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 13% (991) of cases. Some 6% (484) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS (Table 12).

**Table 12: Outcomes from preliminary enquiries, Q3 2021**

Outcomes from preliminary enquiry	#	%
No further action - close	3,685	48%
No further action – close, assessment / safety planning ongoing	991	13%
Initial Assessment	2,146	28%
Divert to another agency - close	447	6%
Divert to PPFS - close	484	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,753</b>	<b>100%</b>

- The percentage breakdown of the outcomes of preliminary enquires completed, by area for Q3 2021 is presented in the Table below.

**Table 13: Percentage breakdown of outcomes of preliminary enquires, by area Q3 2021**

Area	% Closed - No further Action	% Requiring IA	% Divert - PPFS	% Closed - Assessment / Safety Planning Ongoing	% Closed - Divert to Another Agency	Total
DSC	45%	22%	3%	21%	8%	100%
DSE/WW	39%	46%	2%	10%	4%	100%
DSW/K/WW	52%	25%	5%	10%	8%	100%
Midlands	46%	29%	6%	15%	3%	100%
DNC	35%	20%	8%	31%	6%	100%
Dublin North	40%	36%	12%	8%	4%	100%
LH/MH	58%	27%	9%	2%	4%	100%
CN/MN	54%	17%	16%	10%	2%	100%
Cork	54%	25%	2%	11%	7%	100%
Kerry	45%	18%	9%	24%	5%	100%
CW/KK/ST	55%	23%	9%	12%	1%	100%
WD/WX	51%	23%	10%	14%	2%	100%
MidWest	43%	29%	0%	11%	16%	100%
GY/RN	49%	30%	6%	6%	9%	100%
Mayo	67%	31%	1%	1%	1%	100%
Donegal	36%	44%	2%	13%	6%	100%
SLWC	45%	33%	6%	14%	1%	100%
<b>National</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>100%</b>

- At the time the data was extracted for reporting, 55% (1,170) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were completed, 15% (331) were ongoing/ awaiting sign-off while the remaining 30% (645) were awaiting commencement (Table 14).
- 34% (403) of initial assessments completed were completed within 40 days of receipt of referral.

**Table 14: Breakdown of the status of Initial assessments, by area Q3 2021**

Area	IA Completed	IA Ongoing/Awaiting sign-off	IA not started	% IAs completed 40 working days	Total
DSC	48%	13%	39%	33%	100%
DSE/WW	57%	8%	35%	44%	100%
DSW/K/WW	77%	10%	13%	47%	100%
Midlands	39%	6%	55%	18%	100%
DNC	47%	32%	21%	20%	100%
Dublin North	37%	42%	21%	8%	100%
LH/MH	37%	31%	32%	16%	100%
CN/MN	23%	44%	33%	30%	100%
Cork	80%	9%	11%	30%	100%
Kerry	52%	4%	44%	64%	100%
CW/KK/ST	46%	8%	46%	55%	100%
WD/WX	40%	10%	50%	41%	100%
MidWest	71%	5%	24%	39%	100%
GY/RN	54%	16%	29%	33%	100%
Mayo	55%	16%	30%	17%	100%
Donegal	80%	3%	17%	51%	100%
SLWC	70%	8%	22%	35%	100%
<b>National</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>100%</b>

- 47% (552) of referrals that required an initial assessment following the preliminary enquiry were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. Of these 66% (367) required no further action, 21% (118) were diverted to another agency for a service, and 12% (67) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service.
- 3% (31) were closed as safety planning was already ongoing.
- 26% (298) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 19% (226) required a children protection response / child protection conference and 4% (50) required admission to care.
- The outcome of the initial assessments completed is presented in the table below.

**Table 15: Breakdown of the outcome of initial assessment, Q3 2021**

<b>Outcomes from initial assessments</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Admission to Care	50	4.3%
Child Protection / CPC Safety Planning	226	19.3%
Divert to Another Agency - Close	118	10.1%
Divert to PPFS - Close	67	5.7%
Family Welfare Conference	13	1.1%
No Further Action (NFA) - Close	367	31.4%
No Further Action (NFA) - Close, Assessment/Safety Planning ongoing	31	2.6%
Safety Planning	298	25.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1170</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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

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

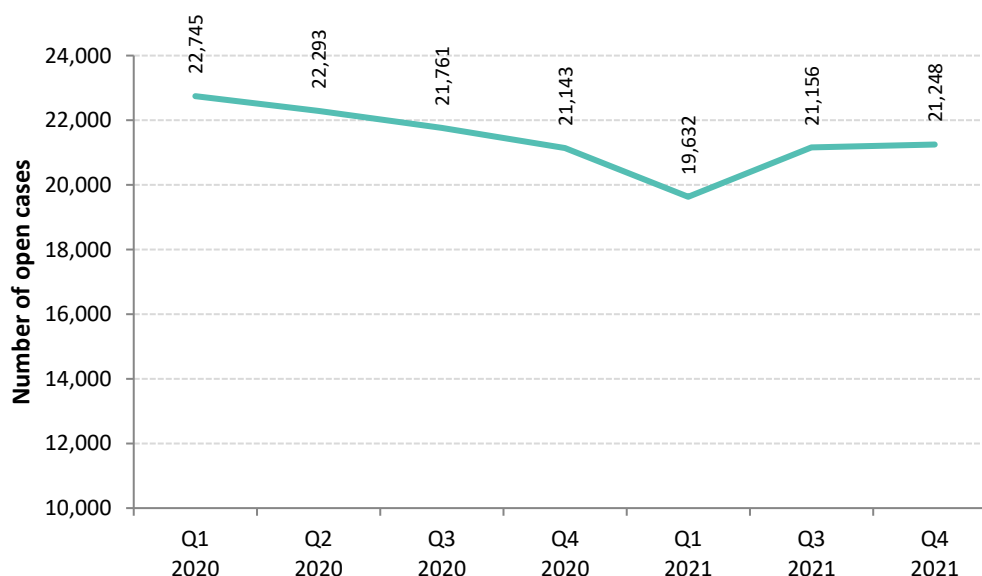
### Key Facts

- 21,248 cases open<sup>1</sup> to social work nationally at the end of Q4 2021, 92 (<1%) more than Q3 2021 (21,156) and 105 (<1%) more than Q4 2020 (21,143).
- 77% (16,441/21,248) of open cases were allocated to a named social worker at the end of Q4 2021; down one percentage points from Q3 2021 (78%).
- 4,807 (23%) cases were awaiting allocation, 212 (5%) more than Q3 2021 (4,595) and 568 (13%) more than Q4 2020 (4,239).
- 9% (436) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2021 were categorised as high priority, eight fewer than Q3 2021 (444) and 60 (16%) more than Q4 2020 (376).
- 73% (3,526/4,807) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2021 were three months or less and of these 53% (1,865) were waiting less than one month.
- 78% (339/436) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2021 were waiting 3 months or less and of these 72% (244) were waiting less than one month.

### 2.2.1 Open Cases

- 21,248 cases open<sup>2</sup> to social work nationally at the end of Q4 2021, 92 (<1%) more than Q3 2021 (21,156) and 105 (<1%) more than Q4 2020 (21,143).

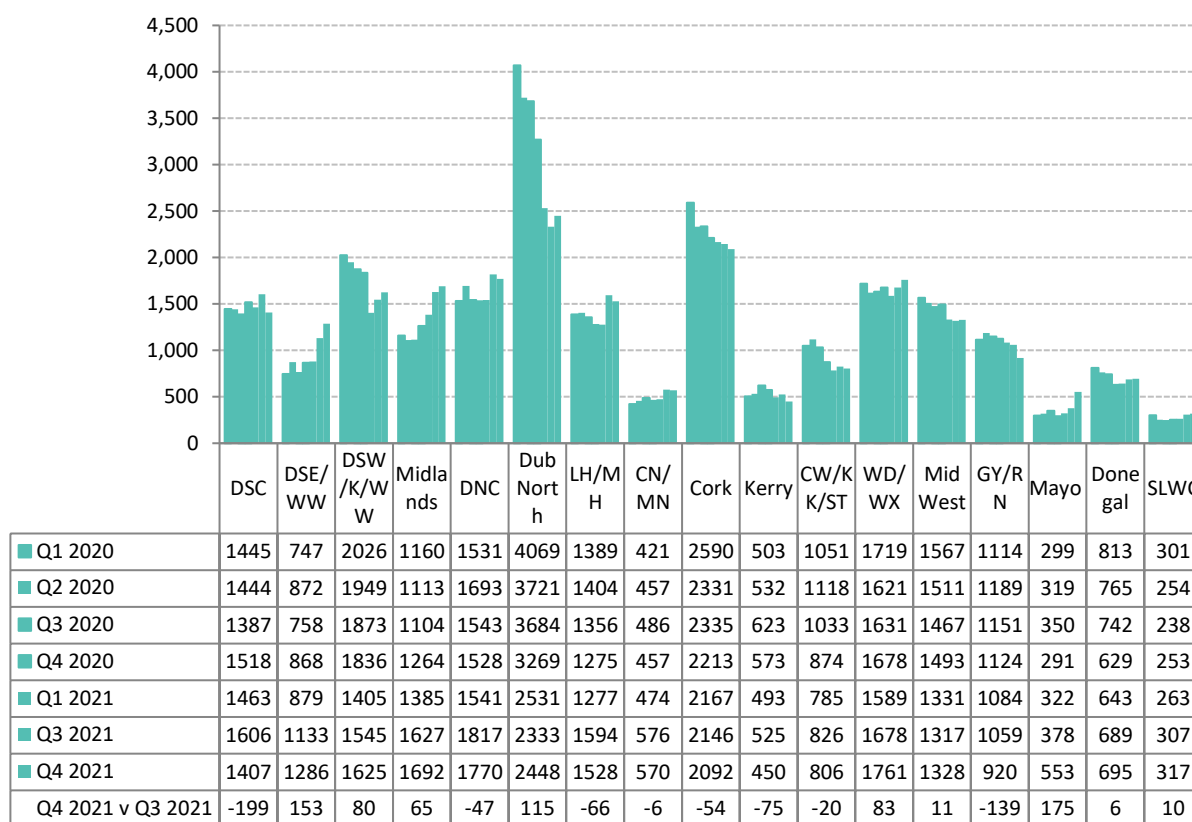
Number of open cases by year



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

- The number of open cases ranged from 2,448 (12%) in Dublin North to 317 (1%) in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan. Eight of the 17 areas had between 1,000 and 2,000 cases; seven areas had fewer than 1,000 cases while the remaining two areas (Dublin North and Cork) had in excess of 2,000 cases.
- 8 areas reported a decrease in open cases from Q3 2021. The largest decrease was reported by Dublin South Central (down 199) followed by Galway/Roscommon (down 139), Kerry (down 75) and Louth/Meath (down 66).
- Of the nine areas that reported an increase, the largest increase was reported by Mayo (up 175) followed by Dublin South East/Wicklow (up 153), Dublin North (up 115), Waterford/Wexford (up 83) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 80).

**Number of open cases by area**

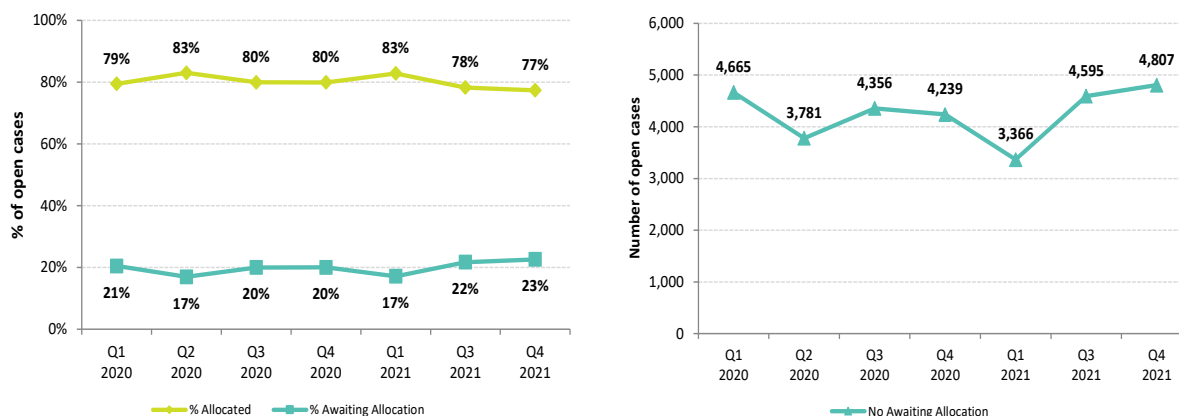


## 2.2.2 Open Cases Allocated / Awaiting Allocation

- 77% (16,441/21,248) of open cases were allocated to a named social worker at the end of Q4 2021; down one percentage points from Q3 2021 (78%).
- 4,807 (23%) cases were awaiting allocation, 212 (5%) more than Q3 2021 (4,595) and 568 (13%) more than Q4 2020 (4,239).
- 62% (2,985) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2021 were “active” on a duty system<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> A case awaiting allocation may be “active” on a “duty” system. This means that there are actions being undertaken by a dedicated duty team or rotating social workers on a duty roster to progress the protection and welfare of the child. Examples of actions being undertaken include telephone calls relating to the concern, visits to see children, completing initial assessments and child in care reviews or care plans. The actions undertaken must have occurred within the monthly MTP reporting period. There must be evidence of actions

## Cases allocated/awaiting allocation

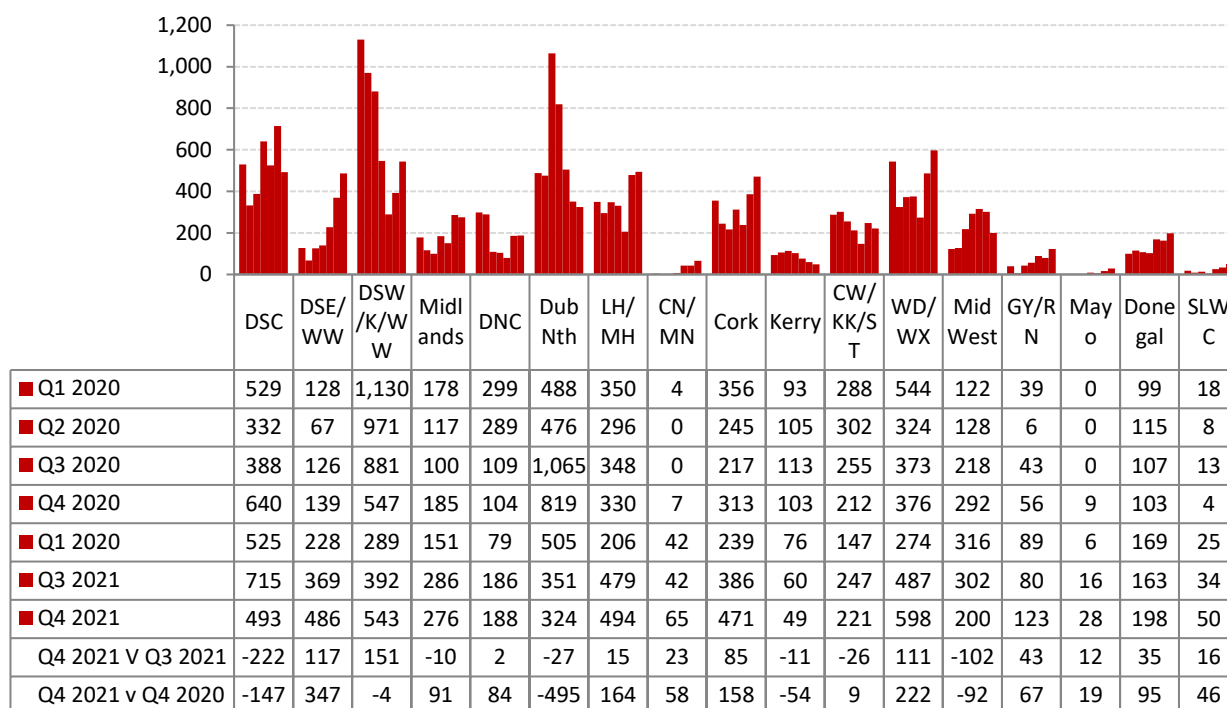


- Waterford/Wexford reported the highest number of cases awaiting allocation (598; 12%) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (543; 11%), Louth/Meath (494; 10%), Dublin South Central (493; 10%), Dublin South East/Wicklow (486; 10%) and Cork (471; 10%). These six areas account for 64% (3,085) of cases awaiting allocation.
- 11 areas reported an increase in cases awaiting allocation from Q3 2021 with the largest increases reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 151), Dublin South East/Wicklow (up 117), Waterford/Wexford (up 111), Cork (up 85) and Galway/Roscommon (up 43).
- 6 areas reported a decrease with the largest decreases reported by Dublin South Central (down 222), Midwest (down 102), Dublin North (down 27), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 26), Kerry (down 11) and Midlands (down 10).
- All but five areas (Dublin North, Dublin South Central, Midwest, Kerry and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow) had more cases awaiting allocation at the end of December 2021 than at the same time last year.
- Largest increases reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (up 347), Waterford/Wexford (up 222), Louth/Meath (up 164) and Cork (up 158).
- Largest decreases reported by Dublin North (down 495), Dublin South Central (down 147), Midwest (down 92) and Kerry (down 54).

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.



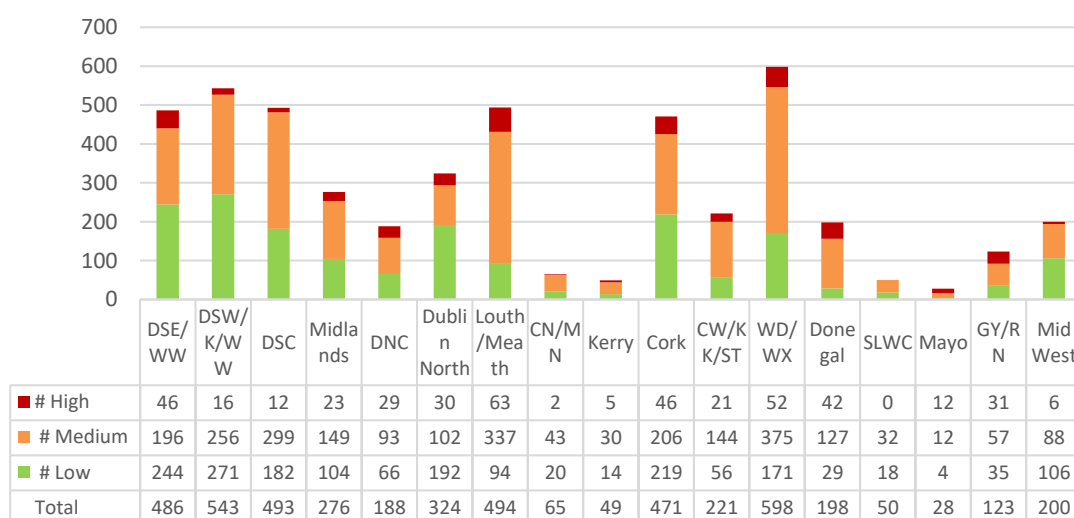
## Number of open cases awaiting allocation by area



### 2.2.3 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Priority Level

- 9% (436) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2021 were categorised as high priority, eight fewer than Q3 2021 (444) and 60 (16%) more than Q4 2020 (376).
- 53% (2,546) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority while the remaining 38% (1,825) were low priority.
- The highest number of high priority cases reported by Louth/Meath (63) followed by Waterford/Wexford (52), Dublin South East / Wicklow (46), Cork (46), Donegal (42) and Galway/Roscommon (31). These six areas account for 64% (280) of all high priority cases awaiting.

### Unallocated Cases by Priority Level and Area



#### 2.2.4 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Waiting Time

- 73% (3,526/4,807) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2021 were three months or less and of these 53% (1,865) were waiting less than one month.
- 78% (339/436) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2021 were waiting 3 months or less and of these 72% (244) were waiting less than one month.

**Breakdown of cases awaiting allocation by priority level and time waiting**

Time Waiting	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021
<1 month	1,669 (39%)	1,602 (48%)	2,081 (45%)	1,865 (39%)
1-3 months	1,481 (35%)	867 (26%)	1,173 (26%)	1,661 (35%)
>3 months	1,089 (26%)	897 (27%)	1,341 (29%)	1,281 (27%)
Total	4,239 (100%)	3,366 (100%)	4,595 (100%)	4,807 (100%)

## 2.3 CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

### KEY FACTS

- 983 children listed as 'active' on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of Q4 2021, 126 (15%) more than Q3 2021 (857) and the first quarterly increase after five consecutive decreases.
- 44 (5%) more children 'active' at the end of Q4 2021 than at the end of Q4 2020 (939).

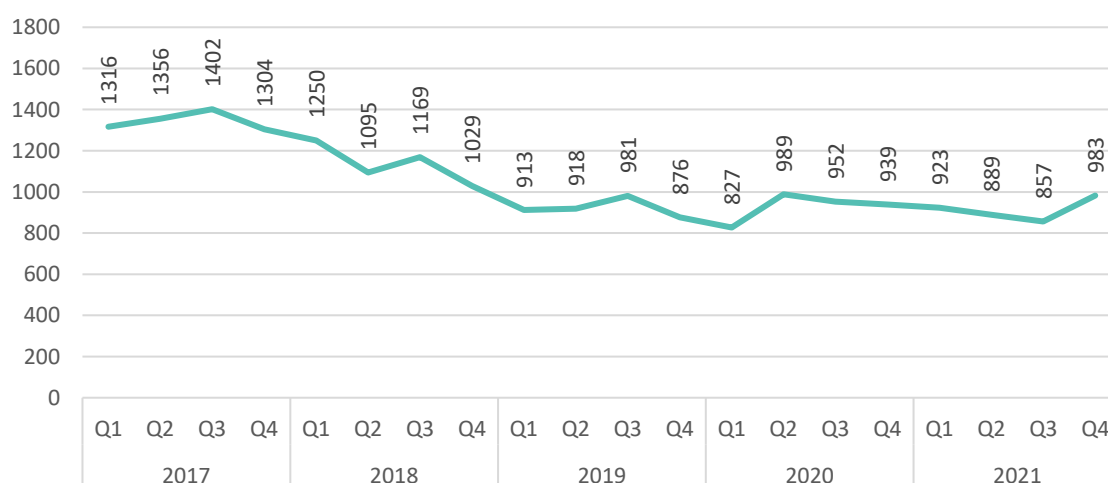
*The number of children listed as "active" for 2020 needs to be interpreted with caution, due to some review child protection conferences (where decisions are made to remove children listed as "active") being deferred due to Covid-19 restrictions. Guidance issued by Tusla on foot of the COVID-19 restrictions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

- 83% (817) of children were listed as "active for no longer than 12 months. 5% (48) were listed as "active" for > 24 months
- All but two children listed as "active" at the end of Q4 2021 had an allocated social worker. The two children were subsequently allocated.

- 983 children listed as 'active' on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)<sup>4</sup> at the end of Q4 2021, 126 (15%) more than Q3 2021 (857) and the first increase after five consecutive decreases.
- 44 (5%) more children 'active' at the end of Q4 2021 than at the end of Q4 2020 (939).

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

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



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

- The number listed as “active” equates to about 8.3 children per 10,000 under 18 years and ranges from 3.8/10,000 in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan to 18.5/10,000 in Dublin North City, more than double the national average.
- Cork reported the highest number (96) of children “active”, followed by Dublin North City (83), Midwest (83), Midlands (81) and Dublin North (80). Sligo/Leitrim/West/Cavan reported the fewest number (9) followed by Mayo (29) and Kerry (29).

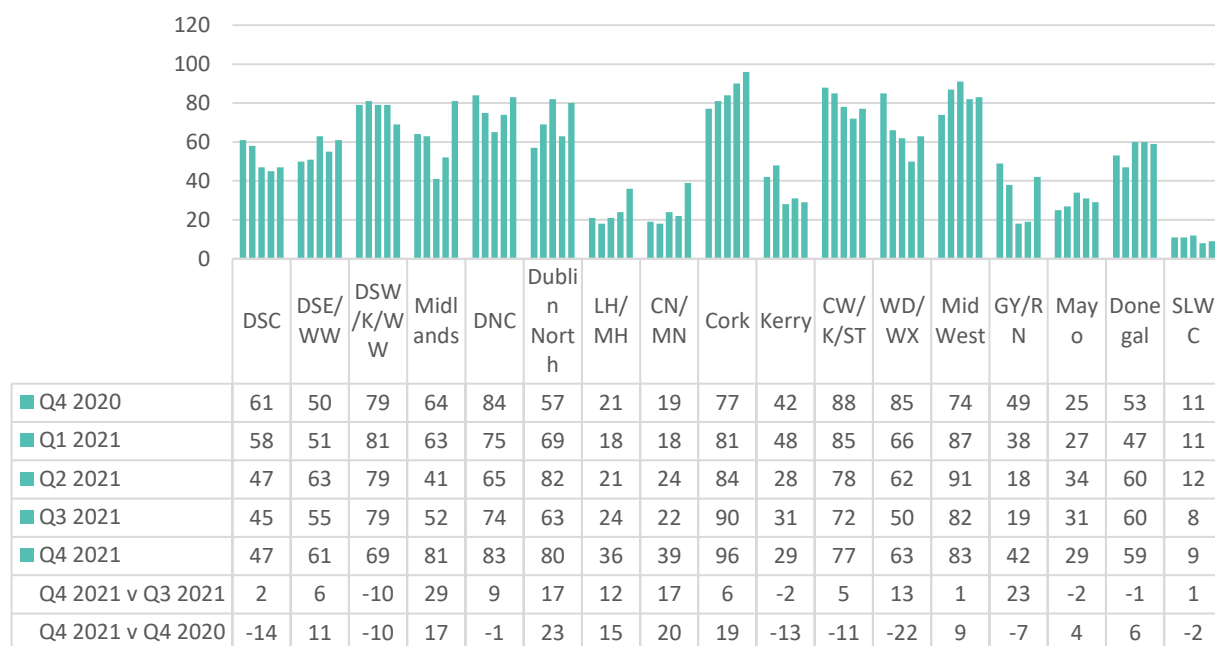
**Children listed as 'active' on CPNS per 10,000 population 0-17 years**

Area	# Q4 2021	Population 0-17 years	Rate / 10,000 pop
Dublin North City	83	44927	18.5
Donegal	59	42865	13.8
Carlow / Kilkenny / South Tipperary	77	63009	12.2
Cavan / Monaghan	39	36446	10.7
Midlands	81	80193	10.1
Waterford / Wexford	63	68513	9.2
Mayo	29	31968	9.1
Mid West	83	96266	8.6
Kerry	29	34527	8.4
Dublin North	80	100654	7.9
Dublin South Central	47	65564	7.2
Cork	96	134015	7.2
Dublin South East / Wicklow	61	86810	7.0
Dublin South West / Kildare / West Wicklow	69	108186	6.4
Galway / Roscommon	42	79912	5.3
Louth / Meath	36	93093	3.9
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	9	23554	3.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>983</b>	<b>1190502</b>	<b>8.3</b>

Population: Census 2016

- 13/17 areas reported an increase in the number “active” from Q3 2021. The largest increase was reported by Midlands (up 29) followed by Galway/Roscommon (up 23) and Dublin North (up 17)
- 4/17 areas reported a decrease in the number “active” from Q3 2021. The largest decrease was reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (down 10) followed by Mayo (down 2), Kerry (down 2) and Donegal (down 1).
- 9/17 areas had more children “active” at the end of Q4 2021 than Q4 2020. Largest increases reported by Dublin North (up 23) followed by Cavan/Monaghan (up 20), Cork (up 19), Midlands (up 17) and Louth/Meath (up 15).
- 8/17 areas had fewer children “active” at the end of Q4 2021 than Q4 2020. Largest decreases reported by Waterford/Wexford (down 22) followed by Dublin South Central (down 14), Kerry (down 13), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 11) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (down 10).

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

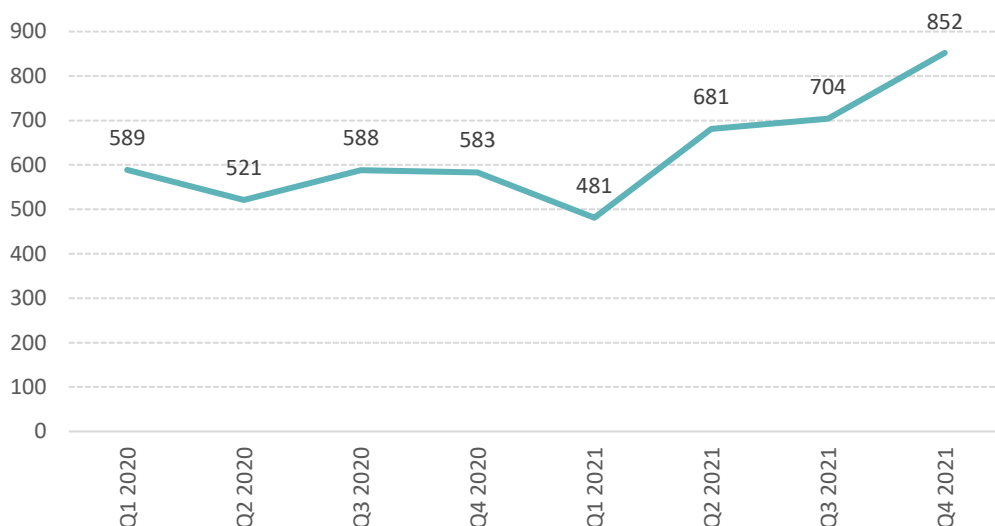


- 58% (572) of children listed as “active” at the end of Q4 2021 were listed for 0-6 months
- 83% (817) of children were listed as “active for no longer than 12 months.
- 5% (48) were listed as “active” for > 24 months
- Three areas (Midlands, Kerry and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) had no child “active” for longer than 12 months.
- All but two children listed as “active” at the end of Q4 2021 had an allocated social worker. The two children have since been allocated.

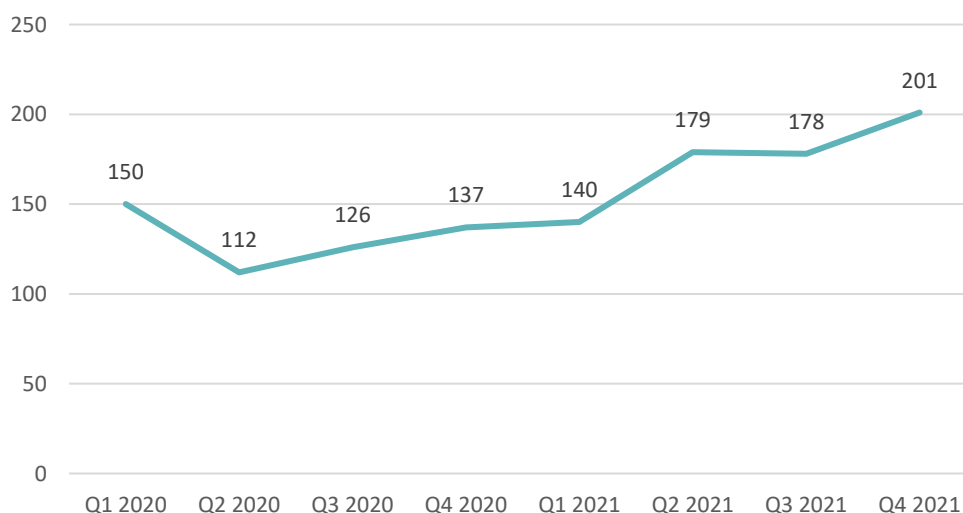
## 2.4 NATIONAL OUT OF HOURS SERVICE

### KEY FACTS

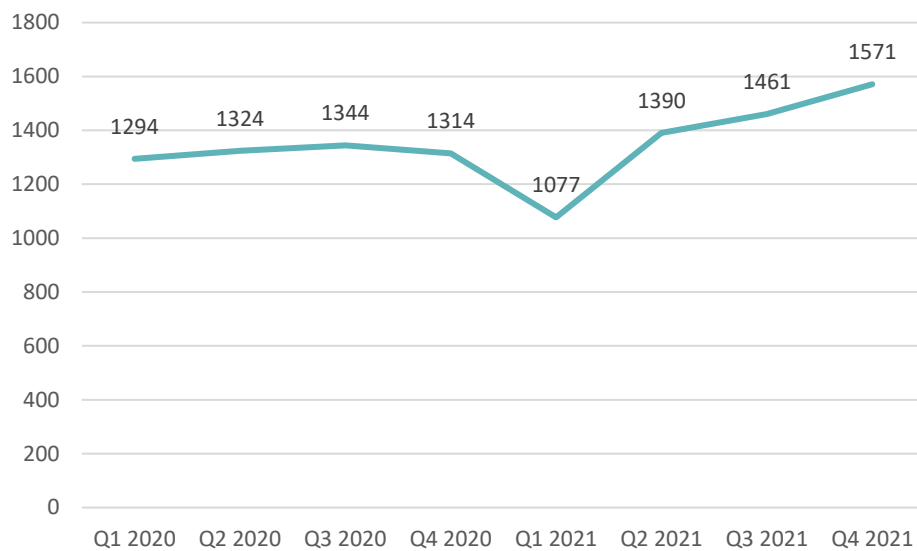
- 852 referrals to the National Out of Hours Service in Q4 2021, bringing the number for 2021 to 2,718. The number of referrals for 2021 (2718) is up 437 (19%) on 2020 (2,281).
- 201 children were placed by the National Out of Hours Service in Q4 2021, bringing the number of children placed for 2021 to 698. The number of children placed for 2021 (698) is up 173 (33%) from 2020 (525).
- 852 referrals to the National Out of Hours Service in Q4 2021, bringing the number for 2021 to 2,718. The number of referrals for Q4 2021 is up 148 (21%) on Q3 2021 (704) and is the highest number for all quarters Q1 2020 to Q4 2021. The number of referrals for 2021 (2718) is up 437 (19%) on 2020 (2,281).



- 201 children were placed by the National Out of Hours Service in Q4 2021, bringing the number of children placed for 2021 to 698. The number of children placed in Q4 2021 is up 23 (13%) from Q3 2021 (178). The number of children placed for 2021 (698) is up 173 (33%) from 2020 (525).



- 1,571 nights' accommodation supplied by the National Out of Hours Service in Q4 2021, bringing the number of nights' accommodation for 2021 to 5,499. The number of nights' accommodation for Q4 2021 is up 110 (8%) on Q3 2021 (1,461) and is the highest number for all quarters Q1 2020 – Q4 2021. The number of nights' accommodation for 2021 (5,499) is up 223 (4%) on the 2020 (5,276).



## 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)

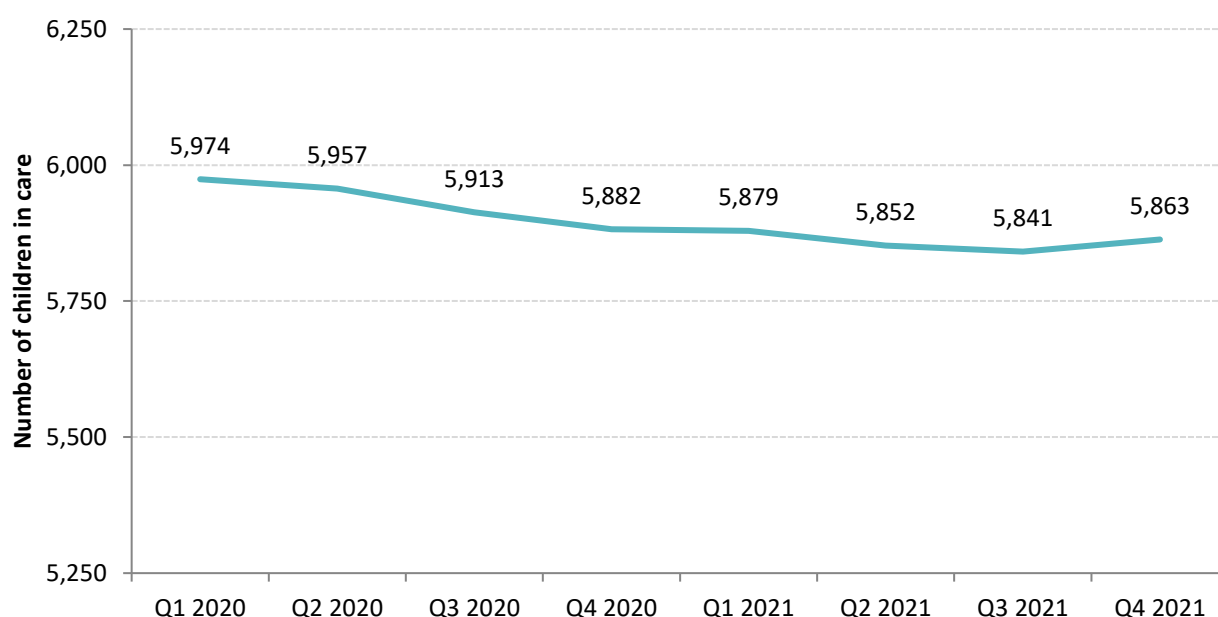
#### KEY FACTS

- 5,863 children in care at the end of Q4 2021, 22 (<1%) more than Q3 2021 (5,841), first increase after six consecutive decreases. The number of children in care is down 19 (<1%) on Q4 2020 (5,882).
- 90% (5,266) of children in care were in foster care (general and relative) at the end of Q4 2021 and 8% (459) were in a residential (general and special care) placement.
- 786 (13%) children in care at the end of Q4 2021 were in placements with private providers<sup>1</sup>; four (1%) more than Q3 2021 (782) and 57 (8%) more than Q4 2020 (729).
- 87% (5,128) of children in care at the end of December 2021 had an allocated social worker; down one percentage points from Q3 2021
- 735 children were awaiting allocation of a social worker at the end of Q4 2021; 61 (9%) more than at the end of Q3 2021 (674).

#### 3.1.1 Number of Children in Care

- 5,863 children in care at the end of Q4 2021, 22 (<1%) more than Q3 2021 (5,841), first increase after six consecutive decreases. The number of children in care is down 19 (<1%) on Q4 2020 (5,882).

Number of children in care by quarter





- Across the 17 areas the number of children in care ranged from 751 in Cork to 109 in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan.
- Dublin North City reported the highest rate of children in care per 1,000 population under 18 years (10.3/1,000), more than double the national rate, followed by Waterford/Wexford (6.0/1,000), MidWest (5.7/1,000), Cork (5.6/1,000) and Dublin South Central (5.6/1,000) while Dublin South East/Wicklow reported the lowest rate at 2.4/1,000 population followed by Dublin North (3.5/1,000).

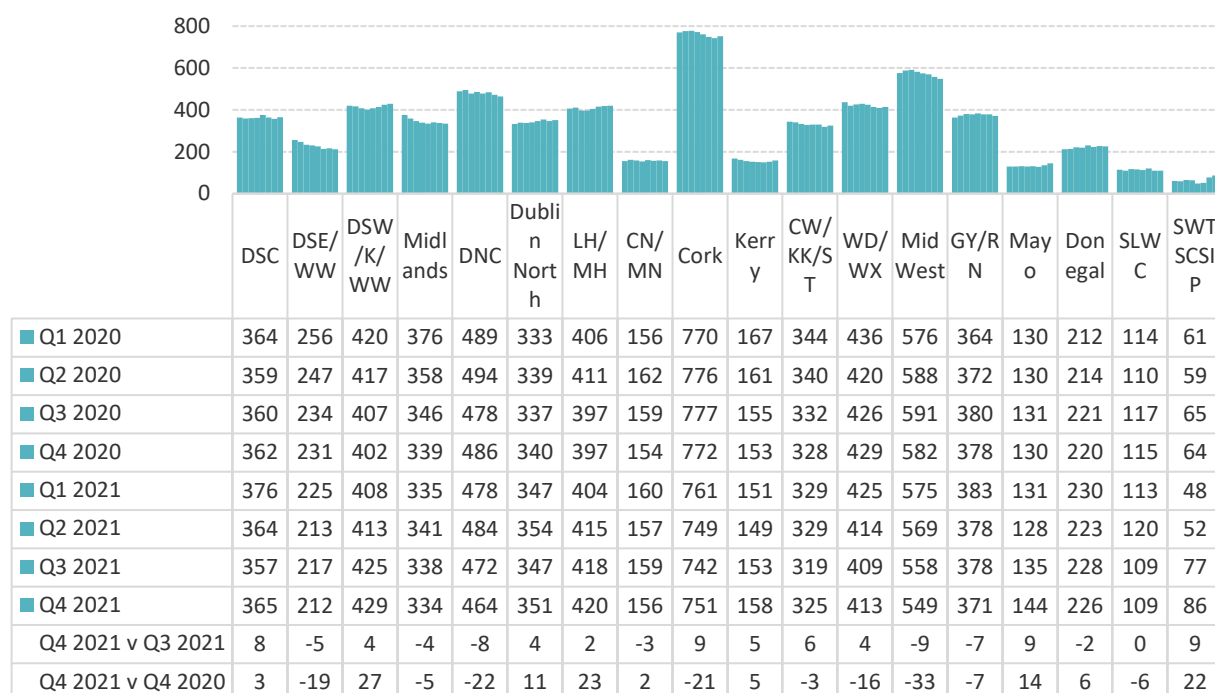
**Number of children in care and rate per 1,000 population 0-17 years**

Area	0-17 population (Census 2016)	No CIC Q4 2021	No of CIC/1,000 population 0-17
DSC	65,564	365	5.6
DSE/WW	86,810	212	2.4
DSW/K/WW	108,186	429	4.0
Midlands	80,193	334	4.2
DNC	44,927	464	10.3
Dublin North	100,654	351	3.5
LH/MH	93,093	420	4.5
CN/MN	36,446	156	4.3
Cork	134,015	751	5.6
Kerry	34,527	158	4.6
CW/KK/ST	63,009	325	5.2
WD/WX	68,513	413	6.0
Mid West	96,266	549	5.7
GY/RN	79,912	371	4.6
Mayo	31,968	144	4.5
Donegal	42,865	226	5.3
SLWC	23,554	109	4.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,190,502</b>	<b>5,777</b>	<b>4.9</b>

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

- 7 areas reported a decrease in children in care from Q3 2021. Largest decrease reported by the Midwest (down 9) followed by Dublin North City (down 8) and Galway/Roscommon (down 7)
- 9 areas along with the SWTSCSIP reported an increase in children in care from Q3 2021, with the largest increase reported by the SWTSCSIP (up 9), followed by Mayo (up 9), Cork (up 9) and Dublin South Central (up 8). The remaining area, Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan reported no change.
- 9 areas had fewer children in care at the end of Q4 2021 than Q4 2020. Largest decrease reported by Midwest (down 33) followed by Dublin North City (down 22), Cork (down 21) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (down 19).
- Of the eight areas that reported an increase from Q4 2020, the largest increase was reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 27), Louth/Meath (up 23) and Mayo (up 14). The SWTSCSIP also reported an increase of 22.

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



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

- 90% (5,266) of children in care were in foster care (general and relative) at the end of Q4 2021 and 8% (459) 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	Δ+/- prev Q	Total	Δ+/- prev Q
Q1 2020	3,889	-18	1,556	+5	402	+7	13	-1	114	-2	5,974	-9
Q2 2020	3,885	-4	1,565	+9	390	-12	16	+3	101	-13	5,957	-17
Q3 2020	3,849	-36	1,540	-25	391	+1	13	-3	120	+19	5,913	-44
Q4 2020	3,829	-20	1,517	-23	403	+12	18	+5	115	-5	5,882	-31
Q1 2021	3,817	-12	1,517	0	412	+9	17	-1	116	+1	5,879	-3
Q2 2021	3,798	-19	1,503	-14	417	+5	18	+1	116	0	5,852	-27
Q3 2021	3,782	-16	1,489	-14	430	+13	17	-1	123	+7	5,841	-11
Q4 2021	3,768	-14	1,498	+9	443	+13	16	-1	138	+15	5,863	+22

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

- 12 (0.2%) children were in out of State placements at the end of Q4 2021; two fewer than Q3 2021 (14). These children are included in the figures for the various care types set out in the table above.
- 5 children in residential care were in a single care placement at the end of Q4 2021, down two from Q3 2021 (7).

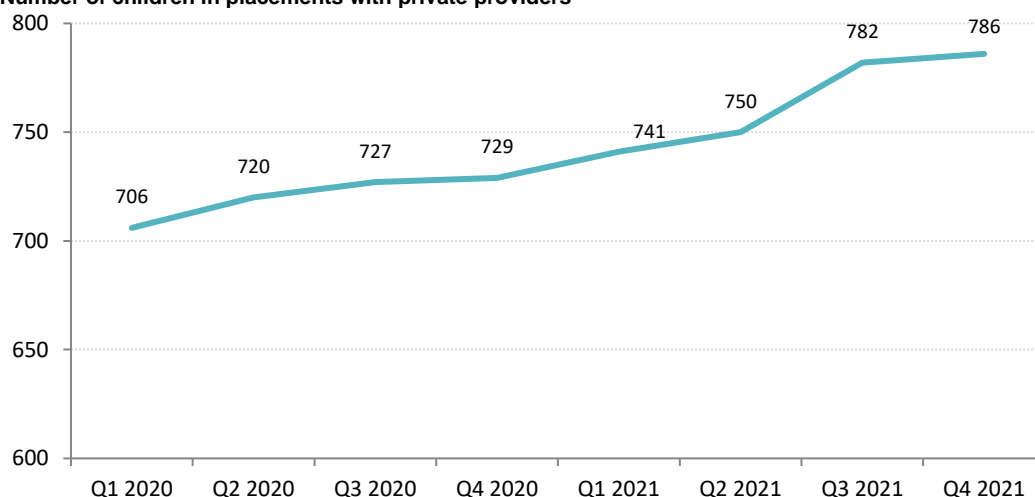
- 44 children were in respite care (from home) at the end of Q4 2021.

### 3.1.2 Children in Placements with Private Providers

- 786 (13%) children in care at the end of Q4 2021 were in placements with private providers<sup>5</sup>; four (1%) more than Q3 2021 (782) and 57 (8%) more than Q4 2020 (729).

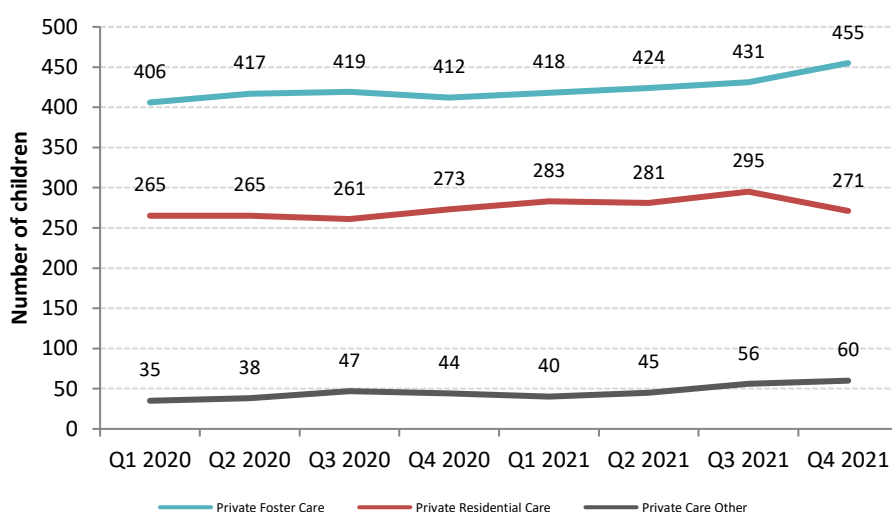
*Note: data should be interpreted with caution due to the inclusion of a small number of children in residential care in placements with voluntary organisations.*

**Number of children in placements with private providers**



- 58% (455) of children in placements with private providers were in foster care and 34% (271) were in residential placements.
- The number of children in foster care placements with private providers (455) is up 24 (6%) from Q3 2021 (431) and up 43 (10%) from Q4 2020 (412).
- 271 children in residential care with private providers, 24 (8%) fewer than Q3 2021 (295) and down two from Q4 2020 (273). *[Ref: note above re voluntary organisations].*

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



<sup>5</sup> 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

- The highest number of children in care in placements with private providers is reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (108), followed by Dublin South Central (107), Dublin North City (97), Dublin North (82), Midlands (66) and Cork (64). These six areas account for 67% (524) of all children in private placements.
- Eight areas reported an increase from Q3 2021 in children in placements with private providers. Five areas along with the SWTSCSIP reported a decrease while four areas reported no change.
- 11 areas along with the SWTSCSIP had more children in private placements at the end of Q4 2021 than at the same time in 2020. Largest increases reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 18), Dublin North City (up 15), Midlands (up 15) and Dublin North (up 10). Five areas had fewer children with the largest decrease reported by Waterford/Wexford (down 15) followed by Galway/Roscommon (down 3). One area Dublin South East/Wicklow reported no change.

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

Area	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q4 2021 v Q3 2021	Q4 2021 v Q4 2020
DSC	106	116	110	108	107	-1	1
DSE/WW	42	49	40	44	42	-2	0
DSW/K/WW	90	92	99	108	108	0	18
Midlands	51	54	64	67	66	-1	15
DNC	82	77	81	86	97	11	15
Dublin North	72	75	82	82	82	0	10
LH/MH	29	31	29	35	36	1	7
CN/MN	4	4	2	7	8	1	4
Cork	65	66	67	67	64	-3	-1
Kerry	13	12	11	13	16	3	3
CW/KK/ST	14	16	14	12	12	0	-2
WD/WX	51	47	43	35	36	1	-15
Mid West	38	39	41	38	36	-2	-2
GY/RN	10	10	9	6	7	1	-3
Mayo	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Donegal	19	22	20	20	22	2	3
SLWC	5	5	7	7	7	0	2
SWTSCSIP	37	25	30	46	38	-8	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>57</b>

### 3.1.3 Children in Care with an Allocated Social Worker

- 87% (5,128) of children in care at the end of December 2021 had an allocated social worker; down one percentage points from Q3 2021
- 735 children were awaiting allocation of a social worker at the end of Q4 2021; 61 (9%) more than at the end of Q3 2021 (674).

#### 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 2021	Q3 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q4 2021	Q4 2021
Foster Care (General)	3,782	3,356	89%	3,768	3,291	87%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,489	1,264	85%	1,498	1,264	84%
Residential Care (General)	430	410	95%	443	423	95%
Residential Special Care	17	17	100%	16	16	100%
Other Placements	123	120	98%	138	134	97%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,841</b>	<b>5,167</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>5,863</b>	<b>5,128</b>	<b>87%</b>

- Two areas (Dublin South East/Wicklow, and Mayo) met the target of 100% of children in care with an allocated social worker. Eleven areas along with the SWTSCSIP reported 90% or higher.
- The area with the highest number of children awaiting an allocated social worker is Waterford/Wexford (144) followed by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (111), Midwest (98), Louth/Meath (89) and Cork (66). These five areas account for 69% (508) of cases awaiting allocation.

#### Number of children in care with an allocated social worker

Area	No in Care Q3 2021	No with an allocated SW Q3 2021	% with an allocated SW Q3 2021	No in Care Q4 2021	No with an allocated SW Q4 2021	% with an allocated SW Q4 2021	# awaiting SW
DSC	364	326	90%	365	330	90%	35
DSE/WW	213	205	96%	212	212	100%	0
DSW/K/WW	413	392	95%	429	409	95%	20
Midlands	341	264	77%	334	315	94%	19
DNC	484	417	86%	464	426	92%	38
Dublin North	354	294	83%	351	302	86%	49
LH/MH	415	355	86%	420	331	79%	89
CN/MN	157	149	95%	156	149	96%	7
Cork	749	732	98%	751	685	91%	66
Kerry	149	136	91%	158	153	97%	5
CW/KK/ST	329	278	84%	325	214	66%	111
WD/WX	414	348	84%	413	269	65%	144
Mid West	569	470	83%	549	451	82%	98
GY/RN	378	351	93%	371	340	92%	31
Mayo	128	128	100%	144	144	100%	0
Donegal	223	222	100%	226	221	98%	5
SLWC	120	115	96%	109	95	87%	14
SWTSCSIP	52	52	100%	86	82	95%	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,852</b>	<b>5,234</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>5863</b>	<b>5128</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>735</b>

#### 3.1.4 Children in Care with a Care Plan

- 97% (5,660) of children in care had a care plan, up one percentage point from Q3 2021 (96%).
- 203 children did not have an up-to-date care plan, 22 fewer than Q3 2021 (225).

*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 2021	Q3 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q4 2021	Q4 2021
Foster Care General	3,782	3,652	97%	3,768	3,661	97%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,489	1,426	96%	1,498	1,431	96%
Residential Care General	430	408	95%	443	425	96%
Residential Special Care	17	17	100%	16	16	100%
Other Placements	123	113	92%	138	127	92%
National	5,841	5,616	96%	5,863	5,660	97%

- 16 of the 17 areas along with Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking International Protection reporting 90% or higher.

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

Area	No in Care Q3 2021	No with a care plan Q3 2021	% with a care plan Q3 2021	No in Care Q4 2021	No with a care plan Q4 2021	% with a care plan Q4 2021	# with no UTD plan
DSC	357	346	97%	365	334	92%	31
DSE/WW	217	208	96%	212	211	99.5%	1
DSW/K/WW	425	404	95%	429	388	90%	41
Midlands	338	334	99%	334	333	99.7%	1
DNC	472	410	87%	464	447	96%	17
Dublin North	347	331	95%	351	314	89%	37
LH/MH	418	389	93%	420	398	95%	22
CN/MN	159	145	91%	156	151	97%	5
Cork	742	731	99%	751	738	98%	13
Kerry	153	151	99%	158	149	94%	9
CW/KK/ST	319	319	100%	325	325	100%	0
WD/WX	409	407	100%	413	413	100%	0
Mid West	558	546	98%	549	534	97%	15
GY/RN	378	365	97%	371	365	98%	6
Mayo	135	127	94%	144	143	99%	1
Donegal	228	217	95%	226	223	99%	3
SLWC	109	109	100%	109	108	99%	1
SWTSCSIP	77	77	100%	86	86	100%	0
TOTAL	5,841	5,616	96%	5863	5660	97%	203

### 3.1.5 Children in Care in Education

- 95% (3,630/3,837) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education at the end of Q4 2021, up one percentage point from Q3 2021. *Note: this figure does not include children in care under the care of Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.*

- 12/17 areas reporting 95% or higher with three of these areas (Dublin South East/Wicklow, Midlands and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) reporting 100%. Lowest percentage reported by Midwest (81%) followed by Dublin North City (88%).
- 70% (2,557) of children 6-15 years were in primary school, 24% (863) were in post primary school, 5% (163) were in special education and <1% in pre-school (20). The remaining 27 were spread across boarding school, education training facility, home tuition, outside recognised school and Other (not specified).
- 93% (930/1,005) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of Q4 2021, no change from Q3 2021. *Note: this figure does not include children in care under the care of Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.*
- All but three areas, (Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow, Kerry and Midwest) reporting 90% or higher with three of these areas (Dublin South East/Wicklow, Midlands and Mayo) reporting 100%. Lowest percentage reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (79%) followed by Midwest (81%) and Kerry (87%).
- 85% (790) of young people 16 & 17 years were in post primary school, 8% (75) were in special education and 5% (46) were attending an educational training facility. The remaining 19 were spread across boarding school, home tuition, primary school, third level/higher, outside recognised school and other (not specified).

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

Area	No of CIC 6-15 years Q3 2021	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q3 2021	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q3 2021	No of CIC 6-15 years Q4 2021	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q4 2021	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q4 2021
DSC	241	227	94.2%	235	217	92.3%
DSE/WW	149	149	100.0%	147	147	100.0%
DSW/K/WW	285	249	87.4%	287	264	92.0%
Midlands	226	226	100.0%	227	227	100.0%
DNC	309	286	92.6%	306	270	88.2%
Dublin North	234	231	98.7%	243	235	96.7%
LH/MH	262	249	95.0%	263	258	98.1%
CN/MN	109	104	95.4%	109	106	97.2%
Cork	522	505	96.7%	513	497	96.9%
Kerry	96	94	97.9%	102	96	94.1%
CW/KK/ST	223	217	97.3%	221	210	95.0%
WD/WX	270	266	98.5%	265	264	99.6%
Mid West	377	299	79.3%	366	298	81.4%
GY/RN	265	254	95.8%	259	250	96.5%
Mayo	81	80	98.8%	90	89	98.9%
Donegal	140	137	97.9%	139	137	98.6%
SLWC	69	69	100.0%	65	65	100.0%
National	3,858	3,642	94%	3,837	3,630	95%

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

Area	No of CIC 16-17 yrs Q3 2021	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q3 2021	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q3 2021	No of CIC 16-17 yrs Q4 2021	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q4 2021	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q4 2021
DSC	67	62	92.5%	75	69	92.0%
DSE/WW	46	45	97.8%	43	43	100.0%
DSW/K/WW	77	59	76.6%	81	64	79.0%
Midlands	45	45	100.0%	41	41	100.0%
DNC	81	81	100.0%	85	79	92.9%
Dublin North	62	57	91.9%	58	55	94.8%
LH/MH	49	43	87.8%	67	63	94.0%
CN/MN	25	24	96.0%	27	25	92.6%
Cork	118	115	97.5%	128	122	95.3%
Kerry	29	25	86.2%	31	27	87.1%
CW/KK/ST	49	49	100.0%	56	55	98.2%
WD/WX	63	63	100.0%	72	69	95.8%
Mid West	93	75	80.6%	96	78	81.3%
GY/RN	62	60	96.8%	62	60	96.8%
Mayo	21	20	95.2%	21	21	100.0%
Donegal	42	41	97.6%	42	41	97.6%
SLWC	16	16	100.0%	20	18	90.0%
National	945	880	93%	1,005	930	93%



## 3.2 AFTERCARE

### KEY FACTS

- 122 referrals in Q4 2021 bringing the number of referrals for 2021 to 523, some 137 (21%) fewer 2020 (660).
- 3,059 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q4 2021, 24 more than Q3 2021 (3,035) and 116 (4%) more than Q4 2020 (2,943). Quarter on quarter increase.
- 76% (1,788/2,339) of those 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service were in education/accredited training.
- 82% (2,500) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q4 2021 had an aftercare plan, down one percentage point from Q3 2021. A total of 559 were awaiting a plan, 44 (9%) more than Q3 2021 (515).
- 94% (2,080/2,203) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q4 2021, up three percentage points from Q3 2021. A total of 123 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q4 2021, 75 (38%) fewer than Q3 2021 (198).

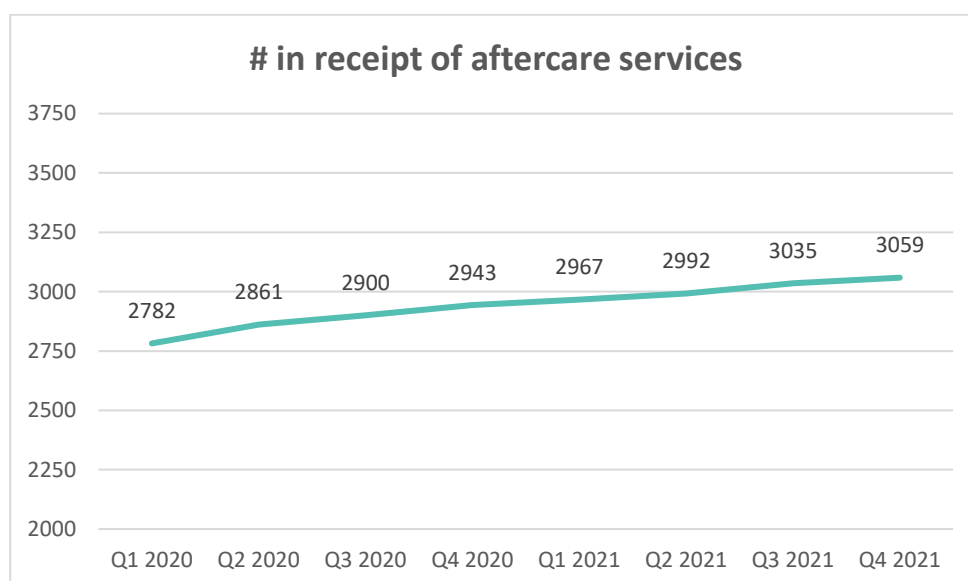
### 3.2.1 Referrals for an aftercare service received in the quarter

- 122 referrals in Q4 2021 bringing the number of referrals for 2021 to 523, some 137 (21%) fewer 2020 (660).
- 95% (496) of all referrals for 2021 were eligible for an assessment of need.
- Of those eligible for an assessment of need 97% (483) were < 18 years and in care; 1.4% (7) were < 18 years and not in care while the remaining four were 18-20 years.
- 83 assessments of need were completed in Q4 2021, bringing to 426 the number of assessments completed for 2021.

Area	2020 Total	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	2021 YTD
DSC	59	3	5	6	13	27
DSE/WW	18	10	6	1	4	21
DSW/K/WW	53	5	6	25	9	45
Midlands	24	11	5	5	8	29
DNC	61	12	11	10	9	42
Dublin North	42	10	11	13	8	42
LH/MH	24	9	3	4	4	20
CN/MN	13	10	3	2	2	17
Cork	86	21	10	13	16	60
Kerry	14	3	4	4	3	14
CW/KK/ST	29	6	5	4	5	20
WD/WX	32	12	4	18	7	41
Mid West	74	15	14	11	18	58
GY/RN	48	8	6	4	6	24
Mayo	24	1	3	2	2	8
Donegal	19	12	4	3	3	22
SLWC	9	3	0	3	0	6
SWTSCSIP	31	9	9	4	5	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>523</b>

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

- 3,059 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q4 2021, 24 more than Q3 2021 (3,035) and 116 (4%) more than Q4 2020 (2,943). Quarter on quarter increase. *Figure includes young persons < 18 years and those 18-22 years inclusive.*



- Highest number in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q4 2021 reported by Cork (360) followed by Dublin North City (309), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (284), Midwest (256) and Dublin South Central (232).

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q4 2020	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q1 2021	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q2 2021	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q3 2021	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q4 2021
DSC	199	204	223	222	232
DSE/WW	147	145	146	134	131
DSW/K/WW	281	275	268	284	284
Midlands	147	143	144	158	163
DNC	293	275	289	283	309
Dublin North	158	168	164	175	184
LH/MH	161	153	150	147	132
CN/MN	72	77	79	74	74
Cork	338	344	345	357	360
Kerry	70	74	76	76	77
CW/KK/ST	178	182	187	170	168
WD/WX	176	178	181	180	175
Mid West	239	236	222	238	256
GY/RN	180	190	194	203	191
Mayo	63	71	69	62	68
Donegal	80	90	91	93	91
SLWC	53	51	50	52	46
SWTSCIP	108	111	114	127	118
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,943</b>	<b>2,967</b>	<b>2,992</b>	<b>3,035</b>	<b>3,059</b>

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

- 53% (1,618) of those in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q4 2021 (3,059) were 18 – 20 years inclusive and of these 80% (1,289) were in education/accredited training, no change from Q3 2021 (table below).
- 16/17 areas along with the SWTSCSIP reported at least seven out of 10 young people (18-20 years) in receipt of aftercare services in education/accredited training. Two areas (Mayo and SLWC) reported 100%.

Area	# 18-20 years Q3 2021	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 18-20 years Q4 2021	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
DSC	110	85	77%	116	91	78%
DSE/WW	80	69	86%	76	65	86%
DSW/K/WW	122	84	69%	122	85	70%
Midlands	80	68	85%	77	60	78%
DNC	145	114	75%	142	109	77%
Dublin North	95	58	61%	102	68	67%
LH/MH	93	66	71%	89	65	73%
CN/MN	47	43	91%	48	44	92%
Cork	184	145	79%	178	136	76%
Kerry	41	35	85%	39	35	90%
CW/KK/ST	98	84	86%	92	73	79%
WD/WX	107	80	75%	100	75	75%
Mid West	151	132	87%	153	135	88%
GY/RN	110	80	73%	102	78	76%
Mayo	36	36	100%	38	38	100%
Donegal	42	33	79%	43	35	81%
SLWC	23	23	100%	22	22	100%
SWTSCIP	85	85	100%	79	75	95%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,655</b>	<b>1,320</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>1,618</b>	<b>1,289</b>	<b>80%</b>

- The highest number of those in education/accredited training were in second level (350; 27%) followed closely by Third Level College /University (296; 23%) and PLCs (250; 19%).

	# 18-20 years in education/accredited Training Q4 2021	%
<b>Second Level</b>	350	27%
<b>Vocational Training</b>	191	15%
<b>PLCs</b>	250	19%
<b>Third Level College / University</b>	296	23%
<b>Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)</b>	128	10%
<b>Other</b>	74	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,289</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

- 24% (721) of those in receipt of an aftercare service were 21 – 22 years inclusive and of these 69% (499) were in education/accredited training, down two percentage point from Q3 2021 (table below).
- 12 areas along with the SWTSCIP reported 70% or higher with four of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (45%), Dublin North City (54%), Dublin South Central (58%) and Dublin North (64%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# 21-22 years Q3 2021	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 21-22 years Q4 2021	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
DSC	57	33	58%	55	32	58%
DSE/WW	26	23	88%	28	25	89%
DSW/K/WW	90	42	47%	91	41	45%
Midlands	46	36	78%	48	39	81%
DNC	82	51	62%	112	61	54%
Dublin North	36	21	58%	33	21	64%
LH/MH	26	20	77%	16	16	100%
CN/MN	9	9	100%	9	9	100%
Cork	67	56	84%	70	49	70%
Kerry	12	10	83%	15	12	80%
CW/KK/ST	29	25	86%	32	24	75%
WD/WX	35	22	63%	41	29	70%
Mid West	47	38	81%	41	37	90%
GY/RN	57	38	67%	65	43	66%
Mayo	13	13	100%	12	12	100%
Donegal	13	11	85%	15	13	87%
SLWC	14	14	100%	10	10	100%
SWTSCIP	29	27	93%	28	26	93%
<b>Total</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>69%</b>

- Almost half (231) of those in education/accredited training were in Third Level College / with a further 20% (102) in PLCs.

	# 21-22 years in education/accredited Training Q4 2021	%
Second Level	7	1%
Vocational Training	77	16%
PLCs	102	20%
Third Level College / University	231	46%
Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)	54	11%
Other	28	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

- Almost half (45%; 1,047) of young people 18 – 22 years (2,339) in receipt of aftercare had remained living with their carers. A further 9% (213) had returned home to parents/family. One in four (27%; 639) was in independent living.

	# 18-22 placement type Q4 2021	%
Residential Care Placement	144	6%
Remained with Carers	1,047	45%
Independent Living	639	27%
Designated Care Leavers Accommodation	54	2%
At home	213	9%
Supported Lodgings	46	2%
Other	196	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,339</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*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% (2,500) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q4 2021 had an aftercare plan, down one percentage point from Q3 2021. A total of 559 were awaiting a plan, 44 (9%) more than Q3 2021 (515).
- 9 areas along with the SWTSCSIP reported a percentage equal to or higher the national average of 82%. Rates reported by Dublin North City (72%), Cork (75%), Dublin North (78%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (78%) and Dublin South Central (78%) lower than all other areas.
- 96% (2,247/2,339) of those 18-22 years in receipt of an aftercare service had a plan. 35% (253/720) of those <18 years had a plan.

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q3 2021	# with an Aftercare Plan Q3 2021	% with an Aftercare Plan Q3 2021	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q4 2021	# with an Aftercare Plan Q4 2021	% with an Aftercare Plan Q4 2021
DSC	222	185	83%	232	182	78%
DSE/WW	134	133	99%	131	130	99%
DSW/K/WW	284	225	79%	284	221	78%
Midlands	158	137	87%	163	135	83%
DNC	283	208	73%	309	224	72%
Dublin North	175	127	73%	184	143	78%
LH/MH	147	120	82%	132	112	85%
CN/MN	74	70	95%	74	72	97%
Cork	357	271	76%	360	271	75%
Kerry	76	59	78%	77	61	79%
CW/KK/ST	170	138	81%	168	134	80%
WD/WX	180	147	82%	175	151	86%
Mid West	238	221	93%	256	215	84%
GY/RN	203	174	86%	191	155	81%

Mayo	62	62	100%	68	56	82%
Donegal	93	89	96%	91	89	98%
SLWC	52	40	77%	46	39	85%
SWTSCSIP	127	114	90%	118	110	93%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,035</b>	<b>2,520</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>3,059</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>82%</b>

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

- 88% (2,203/2,500) of those with an aftercare plan were assessed as needing an aftercare worker. Eleven areas along with the SWTSCIP reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 88% with eight of them reporting 100%.
- Percentages reported by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (64%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (65%), Dublin North (66%) and Midlands (67%) are lower than all other areas. *Midlands area advised that a number of young persons/adults who are settled and doing well were been moved to the drop-in service (i.e., assessed as not needing an allocated social worker). With a reduction in staff this allows the service to prioritise those with greatest need for allocation to a social worker.*
- 94% (2,080/2,203) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q4 2021, up three percentage points from Q3 2021. A total of 123 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q4 2021, 75 (38%) fewer than Q3 2021 (198).
- 14 areas along with the SWTSCIP reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 94% with 12 of them reporting 100%. Rates reported by Dublin South Central (71%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (72%) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (85%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service with a Plan Q4 2021	# with Plan Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q4 2021	% with Plan Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q4 2021	# with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q4 2021	% with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q4 2021	% with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q3 2021
DSC	182	181	99%	129	71%	67%
DSE/WW	130	130	100%	130	100%	98%
DSW/K/WW	221	144	65%	103	72%	87%
Midlands	135	90	67%	90	100%	100%
DNC	224	224	100%	224	100%	100%
Dublin North	143	94	66%	94	100%	63%
LH/MH	112	112	100%	112	100%	98%
CN/MN	72	68	94%	68	100%	100%
Cork	271	233	86%	227	97%	82%
Kerry	61	61	100%	61	100%	100%
CW/KK/ST	134	86	64%	73	85%	85%
WD/WX	151	151	100%	151	100%	100%
Mid West	215	215	100%	204	95%	99%
GY/RN	155	122	79%	122	100%	100%
Mayo	56	54	96%	54	100%	100%
Donegal	89	89	100%	89	100%	100%

<b>SLWC</b>	39	39	100%	39	100%	100%
<b>SWTSCSIP</b>	110	110	100%	110	100%	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>2,203</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>2,080</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>91%</b>

### 3.2.8 Drop-in Service

- All areas reported having a drop-in service.

### 3.2.9 Interagency Aftercare Steering Committee

- All areas reported having an interagency aftercare steering committee.

### 3.3 ADOPTION SERVICES

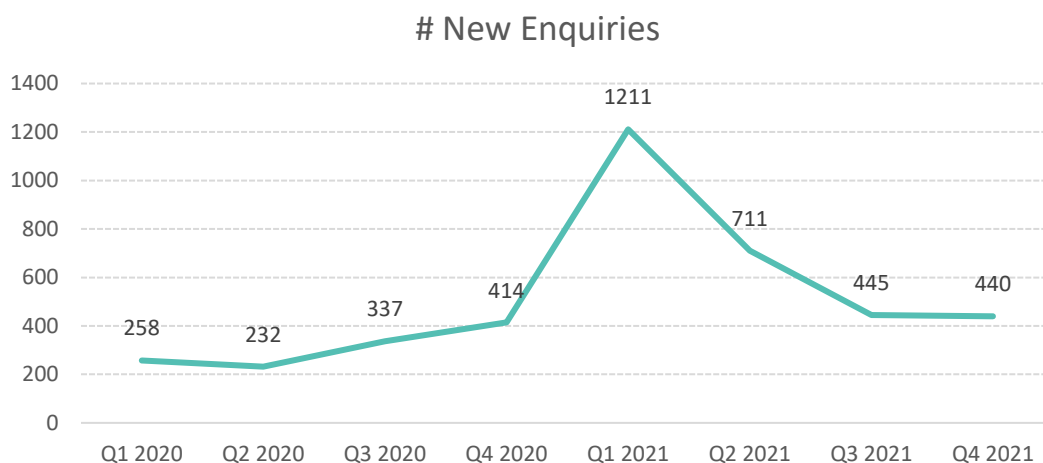
#### KEY FACTS

- 440 new enquiries regarding information and tracing received in Q4 2021. This brings to 2,807 the number of enquiries for 2021, 1,566 (126%) more than 2020 (1,241).
- 715 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q4 2021, eight fewer than Q3 2021 (723). The number of applicants awaiting an information and tracing service is up 161 (29%) on Q4 2020 (554).
- At the end of Q4 2021, the length of time from application (production of ID) to the provision of personal information in line with GDPR legislation ranged from 8 weeks to 16 weeks against a target of 8 weeks, no change from Q3 2021.
- 40 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received during Q4 2021. This brings to 199 the number of completed applications received for 2021, 41 (26%) more than 2020 (158).
- 37 new children were referred for adoption in Q4 2021. This brings to 208 the number of children referred for adoption in 2021, 12 (6%) more than 2020 (196).
- 49 completed assessments (all types) were presented to local adoption committees during Q4 2021. This brings to 170 the number of assessments presented for 2021, 15 (10%) more than the same period in 2020 (155).

#### 3.3.1 Information and Tracing Service

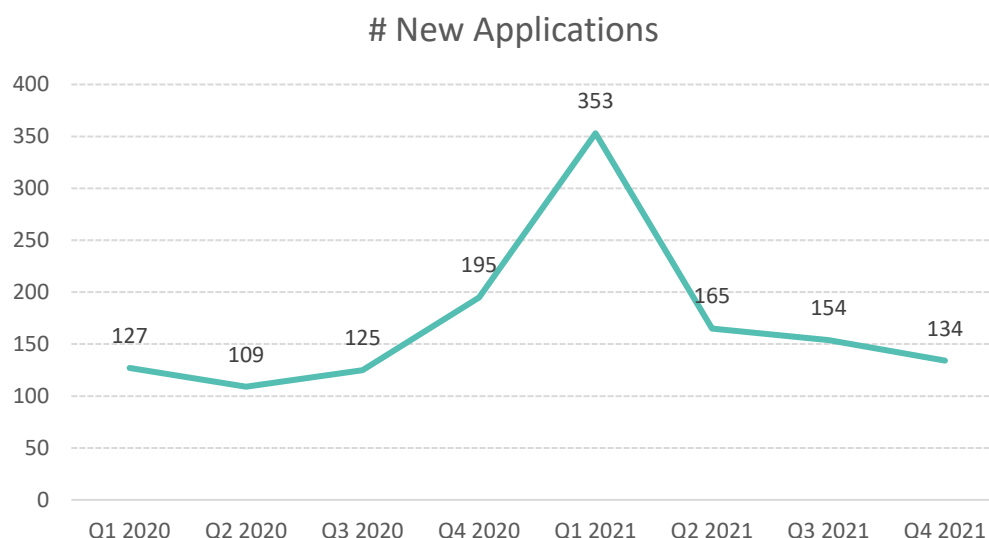
The Agency's Adoption Information and Tracing Service oversees a broad spectrum of enquiries from a wide range of people, including adopted people, birth parents, adoptive parents, siblings of adopted people and other birth relatives and people raised in long-term foster care. The service assists each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

- 440 new enquiries regarding information and tracing received in Q4 2021. This brings to 2,807 the number of enquiries for 2021, 1,566 (126%) more than 2020 (1,241).

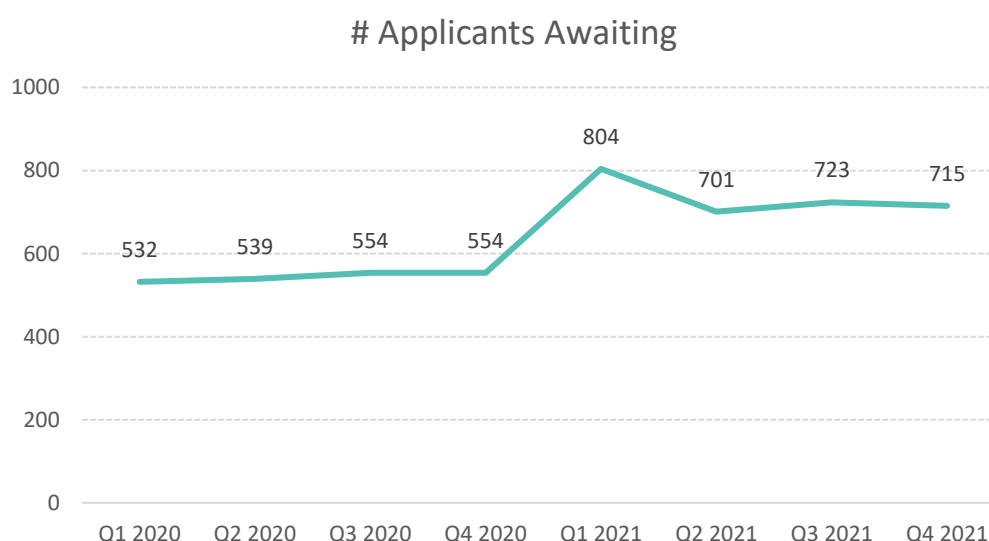




- 134 new applications to commence tracing of a searched person received in Q4 2021. This brings to 806 the number of applications for 2021, 250 (45%) more than 2020 (556).



- 715 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q4 2021, eight fewer than Q3 2021 (723). The number of applicants awaiting an information and tracing service is up 161 (29%) on Q4 2020 (554).



- At the end of Q4 2021, the length of time from application (production of ID) to the provision of personal information in line with GDPR legislation ranged from 8 weeks to 16 weeks against a target of 8 weeks, no change from Q3 2021.
- The length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for priority 1 applications ranged from 9 months to 20 months against a target of 3 months or less, down one month from 21 months at the end of Q3 2021.
- The length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for priority 2 applications ranged 0 months to 23 months against a target of 6 months or less, up three months from 20 months at the end of Q3 2021.

- The length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for all other applications ranged from 14 months to 32 months against a target of 12 months or less.

### 3.3.2 Adoption Assessments

- 40 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received during Q4 2021. This brings to 199 the number of completed applications received for 2021, 41 (26%) more than 2020 (158).
- 37 new children were referred for adoption in Q4 2021. This brings to 208 the number of children referred for adoption in 2021, 12 (6%) more than 2020 (196).
- 49 completed assessments (all types) were presented to local adoption committees during Q4 2021. This brings to 170 the number of assessments presented for 2021, 15 (10%) more than the same period in 2020 (155).

## 3.4 FOSTER CARERS

### KEY FACTS

- 4,039 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q4 2021, 23 more than Q3 2021 (4,016 revised data) and four more than Q4 2020 (4,035).
- 90% (2,201) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q4 2021, up two percentage points from Q3 2021 (88%)
- 234 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker; 62 (21%) fewer than Q3 2021 (296).
- 90% (953) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q4 2021, no change from Q3 2021.
- 109 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q4 2021; three more than Q3 2021 (106).
- 246 relative foster carers unapproved at the end of Q4 2021; 18 more than Q3 2021 (228).
- All of the 191 foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks, had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q4 2021.

### 3.4.1 Number of foster carers

- 4,039 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q4 2021, 23 more than Q3 2021 (4,016 revised data) and four more than Q4 2020 (4,035).
- 246 unapproved relative foster carers of which 78% (191) had a child placed for >12 weeks. 81% (1,062/1,308) of relative foster carers are approved.

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



- 60% (2,435) of all approved foster carers are general foster carers. Relative foster carers (approved) account for a further 26% (1,062) while private foster carers account for the remaining 13% (542).
- The number of general foster carers (2,435) is down seven from Q3 2021 (2,442) and 41 (2%) from Q4 2020 (2,476). Relative foster carers (approved) are up 12 from Q3 2021 (1,050) and six

from Q4 2020 (1,056). Private foster carers (542) are up 18 (3%) from Q3 2021 (524) and 39 (8%) from Q4 2020 (503).

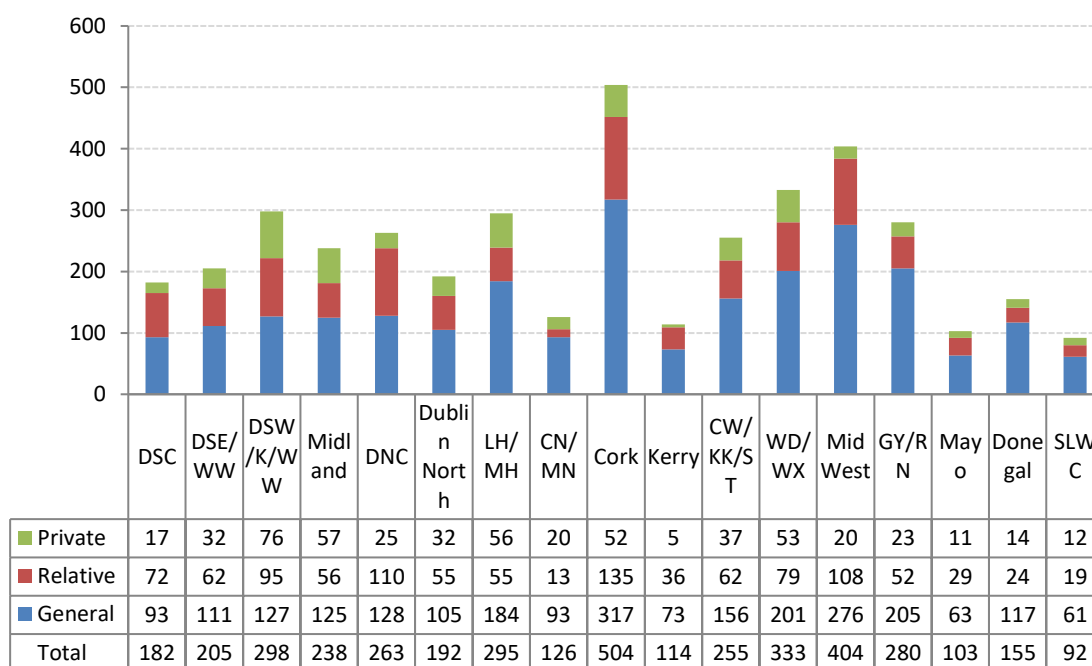
#### Breakdown of foster carers by type

						Δ (+/-)
Foster Carers	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q4 2021 v Q3 2021
General (Approved)	2,476	2,460	2,462	2,442	2,435	-7
Relative (Approved)	1,056	1,060	1,052	1,050	1,062	+12
Private (Approved)	503	511	528	524	542	+18
<b>Total Approved</b>	<b>4,035</b>	<b>4,031</b>	<b>4,042</b>	<b>4,016</b>	<b>4,039</b>	<b>+23</b>
Relative (Unapproved)	228	221	261	228	246	+18

### 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 504 in Cork to 92 in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan at the end of Q4 2021.

#### Foster carers approved by type and area on the panel of approved foster carers, Q4 2021



- 11 areas reported an increase from Q3 2021 in the number of foster carers on the panel. The largest increase was reported by Waterford/Wexford (up 13) followed by Kerry (up 10) and Cork (up 6).
- 4 areas reported a decrease from Q3 2021. The largest decrease was reported by Midwest (down 10) followed by Dublin North City (down 9), Dublin South East/Wicklow (down 4) and Cavan/Monaghan (down 1).
- The remaining two areas (Dublin South Central and Mayo) reported no change from Q3 2021.

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

Area	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Δ (+/-) Q4 2021 v Q3 2021
DSC	183	189	196	182	182	0
DSE/WW	211	205	205	209	205	-4
DSW/K/WW	293	295	300	296	298	2
Midland	244	245	236	237	238	1
DNC	295	275	270	272	263	-9
Dublin North	201	201	200	188	192	4
LH/MH	299	298	291	293	295	2
CN/MN	123	120	121	127	126	-1
Cork	486	495	492	498	504	6
Kerry	107	104	104	104	114	10
CW/KK/ST	255	256	257	254	255	1
WD/WX	321	320	323	320	333	13
MidWest	413	418	427	414	404	-10
GY/RN	271	271	278	278	280	2
Mayo	98	101	104	103	103	0
Donegal	143	146	148	151	155	4
SLWC	92	92	90	90	92	2
National	4,035	4,031	4,042	4,016	4,039	+23

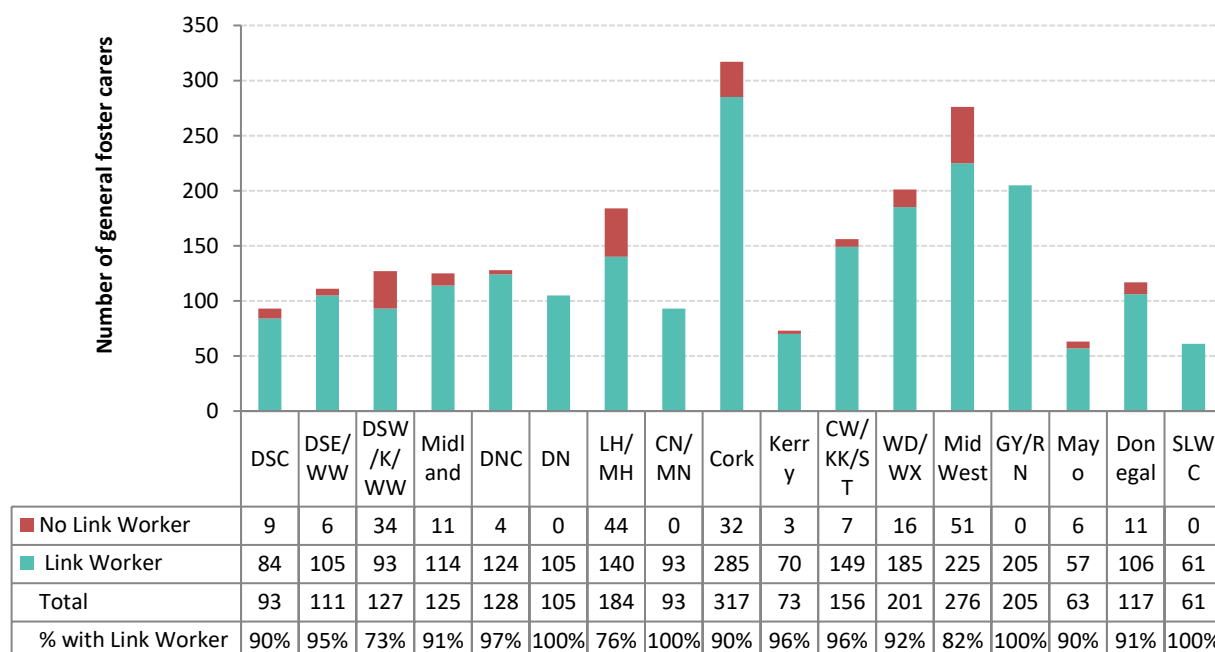
- 90% (2,201) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q4 2021, up two percentage points from Q3 2021 (88%)
- 234 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker; 62 (21%) fewer than Q3 2021 (296).
- 14 areas reported 90% or higher with four of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (73%), Louth/Meath (76%) and Midwest (82%) lower than all other areas.
- Midwest has the highest number of general foster carers awaiting an allocated link worker (51) followed by Louth/Meath (44), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (34) and Cork (32).

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

Area	With Link Worker Q3 2021	Awaiting Link Worker Q3 2021	% With Link Worker Q3 2021	With Link Worker Q4 2021	Awaiting Link Worker Q4 2021	% With Link Worker Q4 2021	Δ +/- No. Awaiting Link Worker Q4 2021 v Q3 2021
DSC	88	6	94%	84	9	90%	3
DSE/WW	109	3	97%	105	6	95%	3
DSW/K/WW	91	29	76%	93	34	73%	5
Midland	115	10	92%	114	11	91%	1
DNC	128	5	96%	124	4	97%	-1
Dub North	101	0	100%	105	0	100%	0
LH/MH	148	37	80%	140	44	76%	7
CN/MN	94	0	100%	93	0	100%	0
Cork	314	0	100%	285	32	90%	32

Kerry	44	27	62%	70	3	96%	-24
CW/KK/ST	149	7	96%	149	7	96%	0
WD/WX	147	57	72%	185	16	92%	-41
MidWest	204	80	72%	225	51	82%	-15
GY/RN	209	0	100%	205	0	100%	0
Mayo	41	24	63%	57	6	90%	-18
Donegal	103	11	90%	106	11	91%	0
SLWC	61	0	100%	61	0	100%	0
National	2,146	296	88%	2,201	234	90%	-48

General foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting a link (social worker), Q4 2021

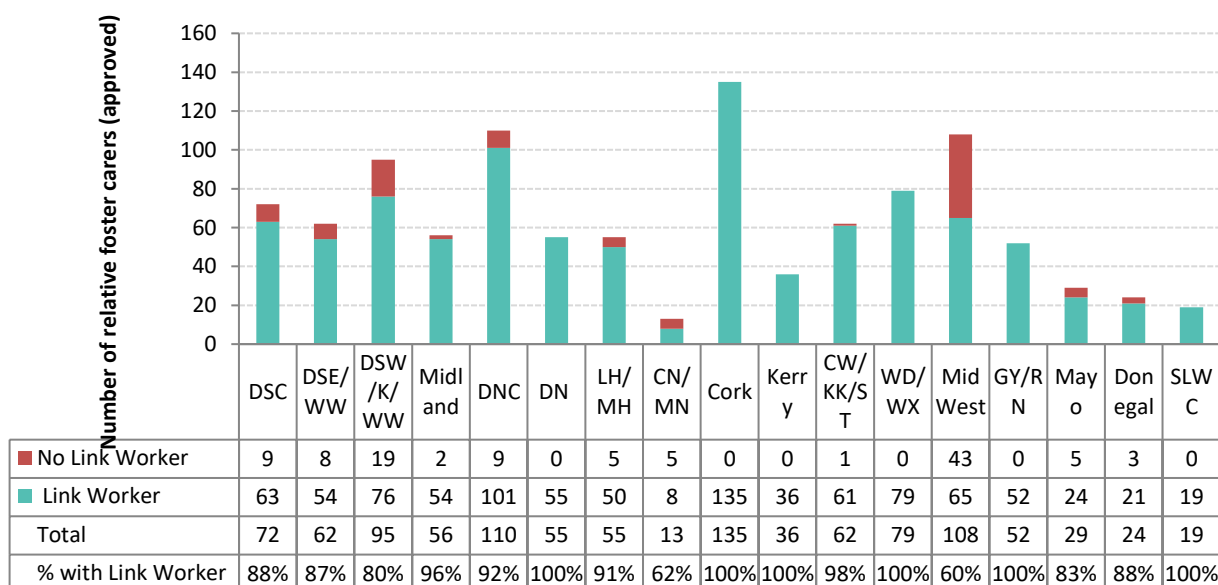


- 90% (953) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q4 2021, no change from Q3 2021.
- 109 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q4 2021; three more than Q3 2021 (106).
- 10 areas reported a percentage of 90% or higher with six of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by Midwest (60%), Cavan/Monaghan (62%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (80%) and Mayo (83%) lower than all other areas.
- Midwest reported the highest number of relative foster carers on the panel awaiting a link (social) worker (43) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (19), Dublin North City (9) and Dublin South Central (9).

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

Area	With Link Worker Q3 2021	Awaiting Link Worker Q3 2021	% With Link Worker Q3 2021	With Link Worker Q4 2021	Awaiting Link Worker Q4 2021	% With Link Worker Q4 2021	Δ +/- No. Awaiting Link Worker Q4 2021 v Q3 2021
DSC	68	2	97%	63	9	88%	7
DSE/WW	58	7	89%	54	8	87%	1
DSW/K/WW	86	15	85%	76	19	80%	4
Midlands	56	1	98%	54	2	96%	1
DNC	102	12	89%	101	9	92%	-3
Dublin North	57	0	100%	55	0	100%	0
LH/MH	50	2	96%	50	5	91%	3
CN/MN	15	0	100%	8	5	62%	5
Cork	132	0	100%	135	0	100%	0
Kerry	28	0	100%	36	0	100%	0
CW/KK/ST	60	3	95%	61	1	98%	-2
WD/WX	60	6	91%	79	0	100%	-6
MidWest	67	43	61%	65	43	60%	4
GY/RN	50	0	100%	52	0	100%	0
Mayo	17	11	61%	24	5	83%	-6
Donegal	19	4	83%	21	3	88%	-1
SLWC	19	0	100%	19	0	100%	0
National	944	106	90%	953	109	90%	7

### Relative foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting allocated link Q4 2021



### 3.4.3 Foster carers (relative) unapproved

- 246 relative foster carers unapproved at the end of Q4 2021; 18 more than Q3 2021 (228).
- Of these, 191 (78%) had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks; down three from Q3 2021 (194)

- All of the 191 foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks, has an allocated link (social) worker.

**Breakdown of foster carers not approved**

Unapproved Relative Foster Carers	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	$\Delta$ (+/-) Q4 2021 v Q3 2021
No. unapproved	228	221	261	228	246	+18
No (%) with a child > 12 weeks	206 90%	189 86%	228 87%	194 85%	191 78%	-3
Child > 12 weeks and have a Link Worker	205	186 98%	211 93%	192 99%	191 100%	-1
Child > 12 weeks AWAITING Link Worker	99.5%	3	17	2	0	-2



## 4.0 CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

### KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

#### 4.1 Early Years Inspectorate

#### 4.2 Alternative Education Regulation

#### 4.3 Non-Statutory Alternative Care Services

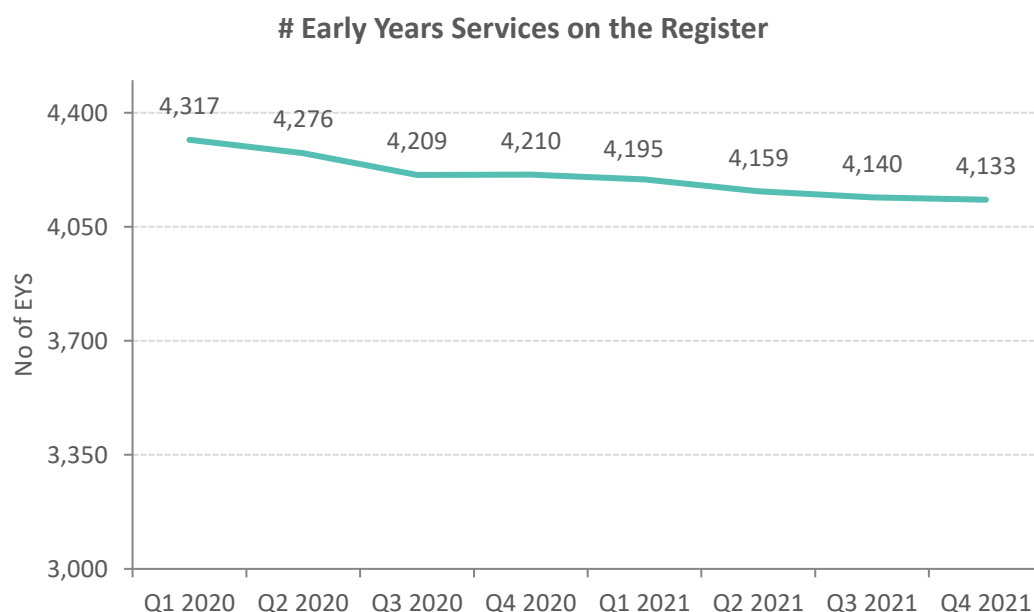
### 4.1 EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

#### KEY FACTS

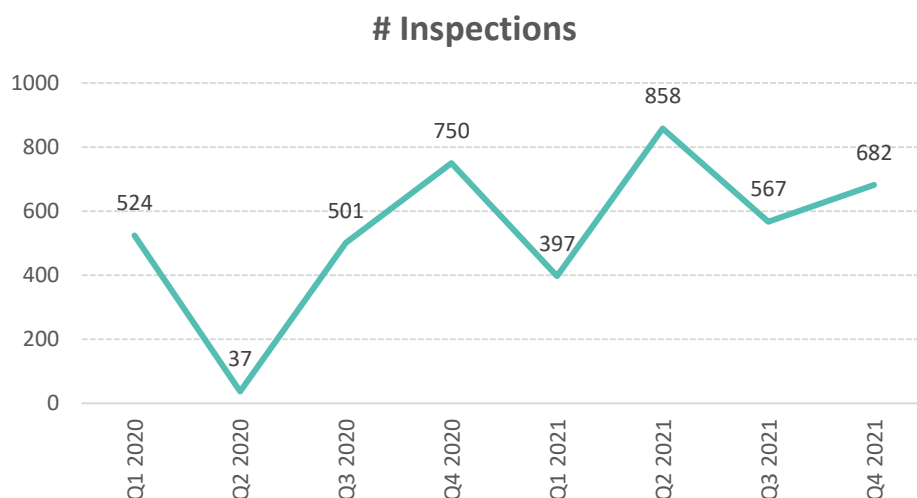
- 4,133 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q4 2021, seven fewer than Q3 2021 (4,140) and 77 (2%) fewer than Q4 2020 (4,210).
- 682 inspections (all types<sup>1</sup>) carried out in Q4 2021. This brings to 2,504 the number of inspections for 2021; a total of 1,812 inspections carried out in 2020. *Inspections from March 2020 to early 2021 impacted due to Covid-19 restrictions.*
- 1,463 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q4 2021. This brings to 2,894 the number of incidents notified in 2021. A total of 774 incidents notified during in 2020.
- 73 unsolicited information submissions<sup>1</sup> received by the Inspectorate during Q4 2021. This brings to 268 the number received for 2021. A total of 253 submissions received in 2020.
- 19 services were found to have closed in Q4 2021, bringing to 141 the number of services found to be closed in 2021. A total of 197 services were found to have closed in 2020.

#### 4.1.1 Activity Data

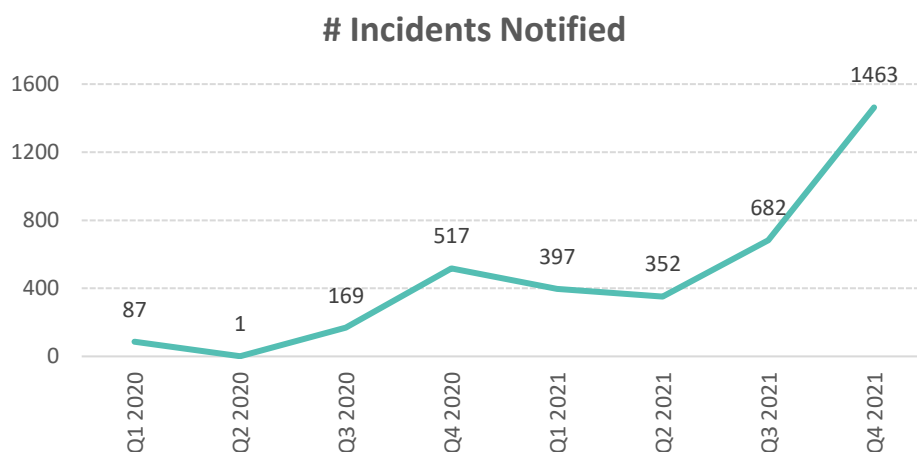
- 4,133 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q4 2021, seven fewer than Q3 2021 (4,140) and 77 (2%) fewer than Q4 2020 (4,210).



- 682 inspections (all types<sup>6</sup>) carried out in Q4 2021. This brings to 2,504 the number of inspections for 2021; a total of 1,812 inspections carried out in 2020. *Inspections from March 2020 to early 2021 impacted due to Covid-19 restrictions.*

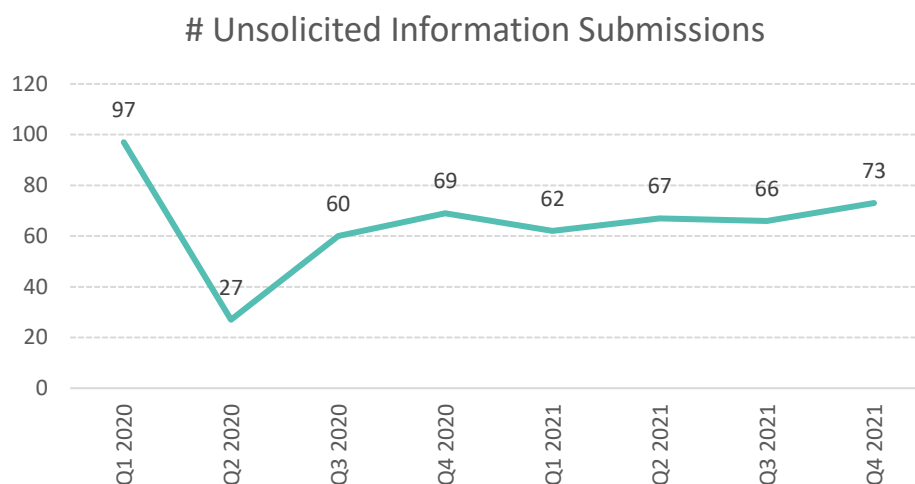


- 19 new applications to become a registered provider received by the Inspectorate in Q4 2021. This brings to 107 the number of new applications for 2021, same number as 2020.
- 12 new registration applications approved by the Inspectorate in Q4 2021. This brings to 65 the number of new applications approved in 2021. A total of 91 applications were approved in the same period in 2020.
- No applications to become an EYS refused registration by the Inspectorate in 2021. No applications refused in 2020.
- 293 “change in circumstances” requests received by the Inspectorate in Q4 2021. This brings to 1,660 the number of “change in circumstances” requests for 2021. A total of 1,342 requests were received in 2020.
- 1,463 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q4 2021. This brings to 2,894 the number of incidents notified in 2021. A total of 774 incidents notified during in 2020.



<sup>6</sup> Includes initial, follow up, complaints, focused inspections or fit for purpose inspections

- 73 unsolicited information submissions<sup>7</sup> received by the Inspectorate during Q4 2021. This brings to 268 the number received for 2021. A total of 253 submissions received in 2020.



- No EYS prosecuted in 2021, by Tusla for breach of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Service) Regulations 2016.
- No service removed from the register by the Inspectorate in 2021. Three services removed in 2020.
- 19 services were found to have closed in Q4 2021, bringing to 141 the number of services found to be closed in 2021. A total of 197 services were found to have closed in 2020.

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

## 4.2 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION

### Key Facts

#### Home Education

- 1,808 children on the register for home education at the end of Q4 2021; 15 more than Q3 2021 (1,793) and 160 (10%) more than Q4 2020 (1,648).
- 490 applications<sup>1</sup> received for home education during Q4 2021, 34 (7%) more than Q3 2021 (456). This brings to 1,546 the number for 2021, some 377 (20%) fewer than 2020 (1,923). The sharp increase in applications since the early part of 2020 has been linked to the Covid-19 pandemic with more parents/guardians opting to home educate their children.
- 88 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q4 2021, 24(38%) more than Q3 2021 (64). This brings to 459 the number of assessments carried out for 2021, 219 (32%) fewer than 2020 (678).
- 61 children registered for home education<sup>1</sup> in Q4 2021. This brings to 387 the number of children registered 2021, 50 (15%) more than 2020 (337).
- 1,922 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q4 2021, 86 (5%) more than Q3 2021 (1,836) and the sixth consecutive increase.

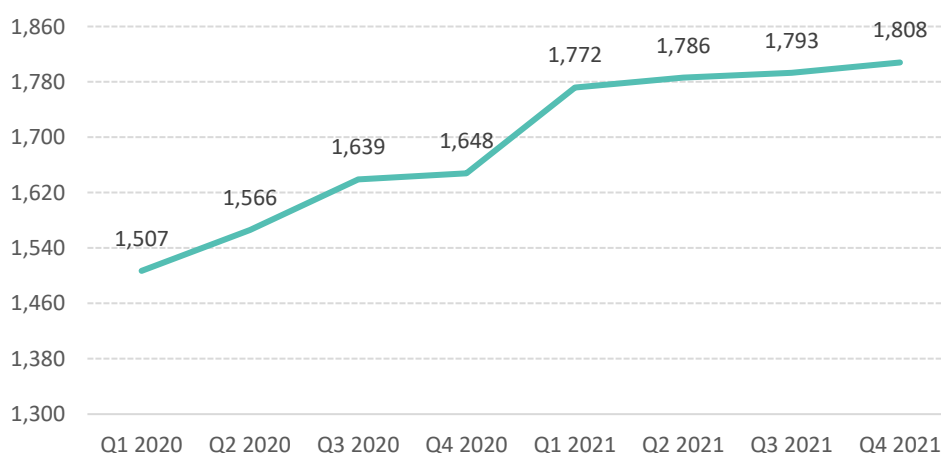
#### Independent Schools

- 56 assessed independent schools on the register at the end of Q4 2021, up six from Q3 2021 (50).
- 5,947 children in assessed independent schools at the end of Q4 2021 with 4,462 of these children on the register.
- 34 schools due for review assessment ( $\geq$  3-year cycle) at the end of Q4 2021.

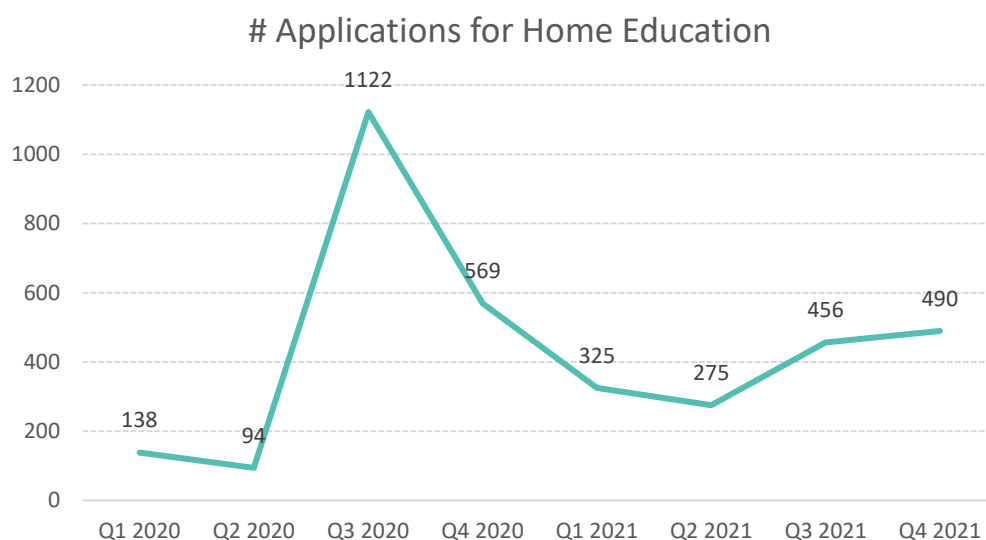
### Home Education

- 1,808 children on the register for home education at the end of Q4 2021; 15 more than Q3 2021 (1,793) and 160 (10%) more than Q4 2020 (1,648).

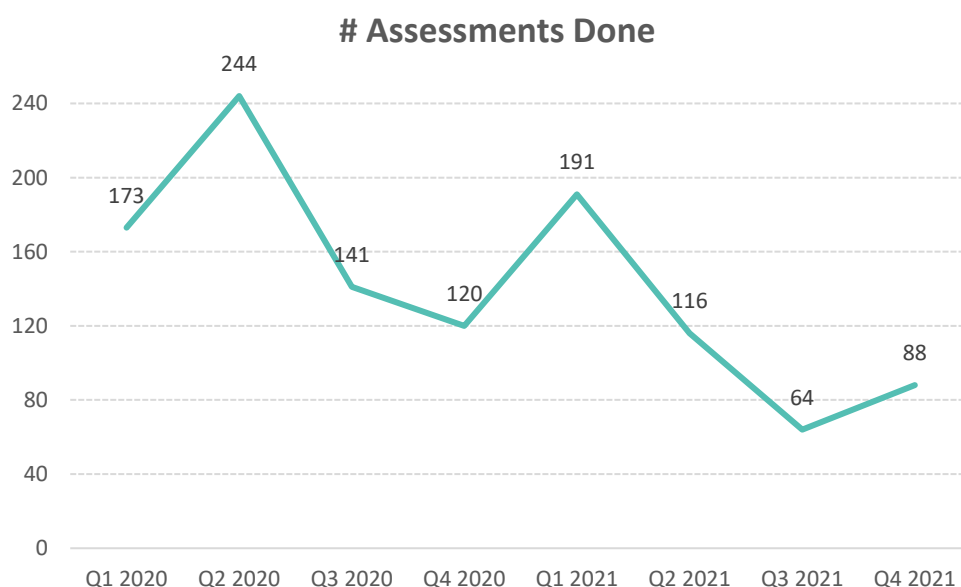
# Children on Register for Home Education



- 20% (370) of children on the register at the end of Q4 2021 have special educational needs.
- 490 applications<sup>8</sup> received for home education during Q4 2021, 34 (7%) more than Q3 2021 (456). This brings to 1,546 the number for 2021, some 377 (20%) fewer than 2020 (1,923). The sharp increase in applications since the early part of 2020 has been linked to the Covid-19 pandemic with more parents/guardians opting to home educate their children.

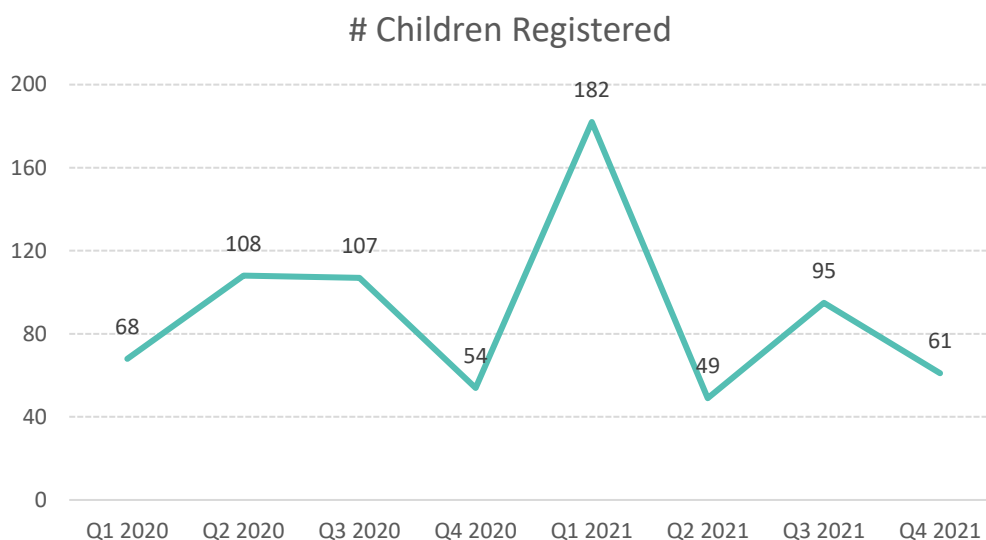


- 88 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q4 2021, 24(38%) more than Q3 2021 (64). This brings to 459 the number of assessments carried out for 2021, 219 (32%) fewer than 2020 (678).

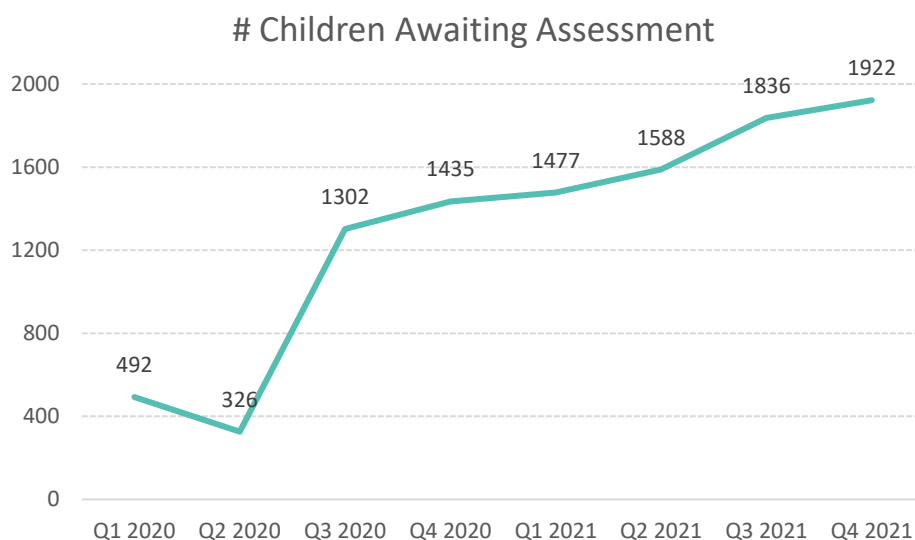


<sup>8</sup> The figure for applications includes valid and invalid applications

- 61 children registered for home education<sup>9</sup> in Q4 2021. This brings to 387 the number of children registered 2021, 50 (15%) more than 2020 (337).



- 1,922 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q4 2021, 86 (5%) more than Q3 2021 (1,836) and the sixth consecutive increase. *It should be noted that the figure from Q4 2020 inclusive includes children allocated and unallocated for assessment. Data prior to Q4 2020 included only those who were unallocated.*



- 46 children removed from the register in Q4 2021. Of these, six returned to school and 32 turned 18 years. The remaining six were removed for other reasons.

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

### Independent Schools

- 56 assessed independent schools on the register at the end of Q4 2021, up six from Q3 2021 (50).
- 5,947 children in assessed independent schools at the end of Q4 2021 with 4,462 of these children on the register.
- 34 schools due for review assessment ( $\geq$  3-year cycle) at the end of Q4 2021.

## 4.3 NON-STATUTORY ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

### Key Facts

- 144 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q4 2021; two fewer than Q3 2021 (146)
- A total of 36 inspections (all types) were conducted in Q4 2021. This brings to 165 the number of inspections for 2021, 53 (47%) more than 2020 (112).
- 6 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q4 2021; no change from Q3 2021
- 3 services were visited during Q4 2021, and three monitoring visits was conducted during the same period. This brings to seven the number of services that were visited and seven the number of monitoring visits made.

### Non-Statutory Children's Residential Centres

- 144 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q4 2021; two fewer than Q3 2021 (146)
- A total of 36 inspections (all types) were conducted in Q4 2021. This brings to 165 the number of inspections for 2021, 53 (47%) more than 2020 (112).

#### Inspections of Non Statutory Residential Services

Inspections by Type	Total 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Total 2021
Thematic Inspection (announced)	101	38	40	29	28	135
Thematic Inspection (unannounced)	0	0	2	7	6	15
New Registration Inspection Visit	11	5	4	4	2	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>165</b>

### Non-Statutory Foster Care Services

- 6 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q4 2021; no change from Q3 2021
- 3 services were visited during Q4 2021, and three monitoring visits was conducted during the same period. This brings to seven the number of services that were visited and seven the number of monitoring visits made.



## 5.0 TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

### KEY FACTS

#### Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2020 – August 2021

Data presented needs to be interpreted in the context of the impact of Covid-19 on school attendance and service provided.

- 1,814 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) for the four months Sept – Dec 2021, 461 (20%) fewer than the same period in 2020 (2,275).
- 1,910 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of December 2021, 234 (14%) more than December 2020 (1,676).
- 1,112 new individual children worked with for the four months Sept – Dec 2021, 147 (12%) fewer than the same period in 2020 (1,259).
- 172 school attendance notices (SANs) issued for the four months Sept – Dec 2021, 137 (391%) more than the same period in 2020 (35). The SANs issued were in respect of 114 individual children, 92 (418%) more than the same period in 2020 (22).
- 12 summonses issued for the four months Sept – Dec 2021. None issued during the same period in 2020. The summonses pertained to seven individual children.
- 44 Section 241 meetings convened by EWOs for the four months Sept – Dec 2021, 3 (6%) fewer than the same period in 2020 (47).

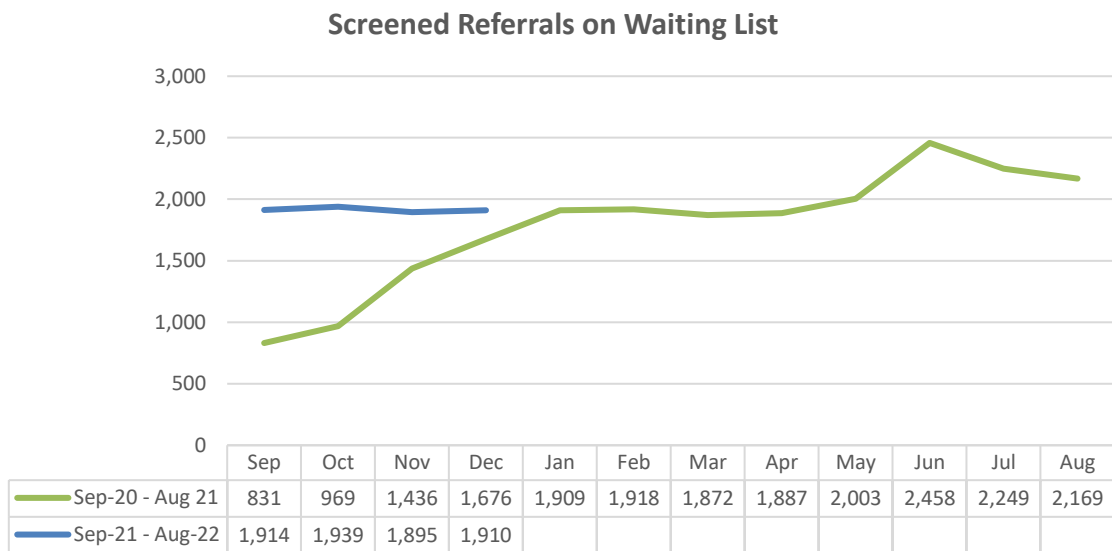
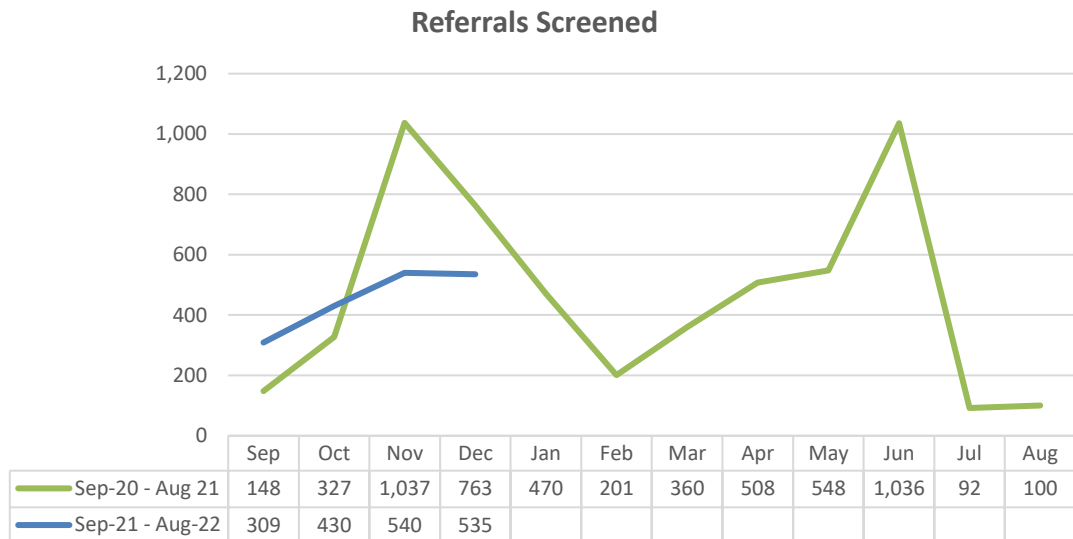
#### Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2021 – August 2022

Data presented needs to be interpreted in the context of the impact of Covid-19 on school attendance and service provided.

- 1,814 referrals<sup>10</sup> screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) for the four months Sept – Dec 2021, 461 (20%) fewer than the same period in 2020 (2,275).
- 1,209 referrals allocated to educational welfare officers for the four months Sept – Dec 2021, 126 (12%) more than the same period in 2020 (1,083).
- 602 referrals screened out / required no further action for the four months Sept – Dec 2021, 372 (162%) more than the same period in 2020 (230).
- 1,910 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of December 2021, 234 (14%) more than December 2020 (1,676).

	Sept 2020 – Dec 2020	Sept 2021 – Dec 2021	Δ
# Referrals screened	2,275	1,814	-461 (20%)
# Referrals allocated	1,083	1,209	126 (12%)
# Referrals screened out	230	602	372 (162%)
# Referrals on waiting list (Dec 2021)	1,676	1,910	234 (14%)

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



- 1,363 new cases assigned to EWOs for the four months Sept – Dec 2021, 56 (4%) fewer than the same period in 2020 (1,419).
- 1,223 cases closed for the four months Sept – Dec 2021, 154 (11%) fewer than the same period in 2020 (1,377).
- 1,112 new individual children worked with for the four months Sept – Dec 2021, 147 (12%) fewer than the same period in 2020 (1,259).
- 4,238 individual children worked with for the four months Sept – Dec 2021, 135 (3%) more than the same period in 2020 (4,103).

	Sept 2020 – Dec 2020	Sept 2021 – Dec 2021	Δ
# cases assigned	1,419	1,363	-56 (4%)
# cases closed	1,377	1,223	-154 (11%)
# New individual children worked with	1,259	1,112	-147 (12%)
# Individual children worked with (to end Dec)	4,103	4,238	135 (3%)

- 172 school attendance notices (SANs) issued for the four months Sept – Dec 2021, 137 (391%) more than the same period in 2020 (35). The SANs issued were in respect of 114 individual children.
- 12 summonses issued for the four months Sept – Dec 2021. None issued during the same period in 2020. The summonses were in respect of seven individual children.
- EWOs attended 18 court cases in relation to their own cases for the four months Sept – Dec 2021, 3 (20%) more than the same period in 2020 (15).
- 41 child protection conferences (CPC) attended by EWOs for the four months Sept – Dec 2021, 12 (23%) fewer than the same period in 2020 (53).
- 44 Section 24<sup>11</sup> meetings convened by EWOs for the four months Sept – Dec 2021, 3 (6%) fewer than the same period in 2020 (47).

	Sept 2020 – Dec 2020	Sept 2021 – Dec 2021	Δ
<b>School Attendance Notices Issues</b>	35	172	137 (391%)
<b>SANs - individual children involved</b>	22	114	92 (418%)
<b>Summonses Issued</b>	0	12	12
<b>Summonses – individual children involved</b>	0	7	7
<b>Court cases attended in relation to own cases</b>	15	18	3 (20%)
<b>Child protection conferences attended</b>	53	41	-12 (23%)
<b>Section 24 meetings convened</b>	47	44	-3 (6%)
<b>Child protection &amp; welfare referrals made</b>	23	30	7 (30%)

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

- (2) For the purposes of *subsection (2)*, the educational welfare officer concerned shall, as soon as may be after receiving the said notification—
- 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
  - convene a meeting attended by him or her of such of those persons as agree to attend such meeting.

## 6.0 PREVENTION, PARTNERSHIP & FAMILY SUPPORT

### KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

#### 6.1 Family Support Services

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

### 6.1 FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES<sup>12</sup>

#### KEY FACTS

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

- At least 17,075 children were in receipt of family support services at the end Q4 2021 (based on 80% response rate).
- At least 16,291 children referred to family support services during the last six months of 2021, bringing the total number of children referred to at least 32,473. This equates to about 2.7% of the child population (0-17 years).
- 69% (11,270) of children referred to family support services in the last six months of 2021 received a service while 73% (23,807) of all children referred in 2021 received a service. The percentage who received a service in 2021 ranged from 53% (Midlands) to 99% (Mayo). Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 73%.

#### 6.1.1 Family Support Providers

- 384 family support providers commissioned for Q3 / Q4 2021.
- 80% (307) of services provided data for Q3/Q4 2021, ranging from 28% (Kerry) to 100% in four areas (Dublin South East / Wicklow, Midlands, Cork, Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan).

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

##### Family Support Services Commissioned by Areas

Area	# Family Support Providers Commissioned Q3/Q4 2021	# External to Tusla	# Internal to Tusla	# services that provided data	% that provided data
DSC	33	30	3	29	88%
DSE/WW	15	12	3	15	100%
DSW/K/WW	31	26	5	29	94%
Midlands	7	7	0	7	100%
DNC	46	39	7	32	70%
Dublin North	21	20	1	14	67%
LH/MH	22	17	5	19	86%
CN/MN	22	19	3	21	95%
Cork	7	6	1	7	100%
Kerry	18	17	1	5	28%

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

CW/KK/ST	24	22	2	23	96%
WD/WX	26	23	3	20	77%
MidWest	37	37	0	36	97%
GY/RN	28	21	7	12*	43%
Mayo	18	6	12	10	56%
Donegal	13	13	0	12	92%
SLWC	16	16	0	16	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>80%</b>

\*Relates to Galway only. Data for Roscommon not available

### 6.1.2 Children in Receipt of Family Support Services

- At least 17,075 children were in receipt of family support services at the end Q4 2021. Highest number reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (2,101; 12%) followed by Dublin North City (1,408; 8%), Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (1,382; 8%), Donegal (1,343; 8%) and Midwest (1,316; 8%). Fewest number reported by Midlands (224; 1%) followed by Kerry (389; 2%) and Mayo (432; 3%).

#### Children in receipt of Family Support Services

Area	Total number of children in receipt of a FSS at the end Q4 2020	Total number of children in receipt of a FSS at the end Q2 2021	Total number of children in receipt of a FSS at the end Q4 2021	% Total Q4 2021
DSC	1,043	1421	1,220	7%
DSE/WW	846	753	615	4%
DSW/K/WW	1,971	2342	2,101	12%
Midlands	244	144	224	1%
DNC	1,269	1592	1,408	8%
Dublin North	1,902	1914	1,235	7%
LH/MH	840	646	863	5%
CN/MN	731	296	963	6%
Cork	355	393	479	3%
Kerry	258	582	389	2%
CW/KK/ST	1,413	878	1,034	6%
WD/WX	847	1024	817	5%
MidWest	1,509	1202	1,316	8%
GY/RN	1,116	1102	1,254	7%
Mayo	216	99	432	3%
Donegal	1,662	1008	1,343	8%
SLWC	1,294	1256	1,382	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,516</b>	<b>16,652</b>	<b>17,075</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 6.1.3 Children Referred to Family Support Services

- At least 16,291 children referred to family support services during the last six months of 2021, bringing the total number of children referred to at least 32,473. This equates to about 2.7% of the child population (0-17 years).
- The highest rate of referrals for 2021 was reported by Dublin North City at 10.5% followed by Donegal (5.8%), Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (5.6%), Cavan/Monaghan (4.3%) and Dublin South Central (4.1%).

- The highest number of children referred was reported by Dublin North City (4,725; 15%) followed by Dublin North (3,087; 10%), DSW/K/WW (3,050; 9%), Dublin South Central (2,702; 8%), Donegal (2,467; 8%), Galway/Roscommon (2,329; 7%) and Waterford / Wexford (2,322; 7%). Fewest number reported by Midlands (416; 1%), Mayo (557; 2%) and Cork (728; 2%).

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

Area	Total number of children referred to FSS, 2020	Total number of children referred to FSS, Q1/Q2 2021	Total number of children referred to FSS, Q3/Q4 2021	Total number of children referred to FSS, 2021	% Total Referred 2021	Population 0-17 years (Census 2016)	% children referred
DSC	2,516	1335	1,367	2,702	8%	65,564	4.12%
DSE/WW	875	461	561	1,022	3%	86,810	1.18%
DSW/K/WW	3,569	1482	1,568	3,050	9%	108,186	2.82%
Midlands	657	166	250	416	1%	80,193	0.52%
DNC	2,546	3192	1,533	4,725	15%	44,927	10.52%
Dublin North	3,874	1648	1,439	3,087	10%	100,654	3.07%
LH/MH	1,660	722	635	1,357	4%	93,093	1.46%
CN/MN	2,066	779	777	1,556	5%	36,446	4.27%
Cork	701	322	406	728	2%	134,015	0.54%
Kerry	582	582	472	1,054	3%	34,527	3.05%
CW/KK/ST	1,707	878	922	1,800	6%	63,009	2.86%
WD/WX	2,567	1024	1,298	2,322	7%	68,513	3.39%
MidWest	2,008	799	1,191	1,990	6%	96,266	2.07%
GY/RN	1,885	1110	1,219	2,329	7%	79,912	2.91%
Mayo	880	126	431	557	2%	31,968	1.74%
Donegal	2,017	982	1,485	2,467	8%	42,865	5.76%
SLWC	1,157	574	737	1,311	4%	23,554	5.57%
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,267</b>	<b>16,182</b>	<b>16,291</b>	<b>32,473</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,190,502</b>	<b>2.73%</b>

#### 6.1.4 Source of Referrals

- The most common source of referral in 2021 was Tusla Social Work, accounting for 28% (9,178) of referrals followed by Parents/Guardians (22%; 7,148), Self - Referrals (13%; 4,192) and HSE Officers (3,269; 10%).

#### Children referred to Family Support Services by source of referral, 2021

Source	# Referrals Q1/Q2 2021	# Referrals Q3/Q4 2021	# Referrals 2021	% Total
Tusla Social Workers	4545	4633	9178	28%
Parent/Guardian	3305	3843	7148	22%
Self-Referral	2731	1461	4192	13%
HSE Officers	1612	1657	3269	10%
Schools	1156	1616	2772	9%
Other Tulsa Officers	1043	968	2011	6%
Voluntary Agency	622	750	1372	4%

Other	559	741	<b>1300</b>	4%
Other Family Member	264	202	<b>466</b>	1%
GP	185	241	<b>426</b>	1%
AGS	150	159	<b>309</b>	1%
Anonymous	10	20	<b>30</b>	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16182</b>	<b>16291</b>	<b>32473</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 6.1.5 Children who received a service

- 69% (11,270) of children referred to family support services in the last six months of 2021 received a service while 73% (23,807) of all children referred in 2021 received a service. The percentage who received a service in 2021 ranged from 53% (Midlands) to 99% (Mayo). Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 73%.

#### # children referred to Family Support Services (2021) who received a service during the reporting period

Area	Number referred Q3/Q4 2021	Of number referred, number who received a service	% who rec'd a service	Number referred 2021	Of number referred, number who received a service	% who rec'd a service
DSC	1,367	808	59%	2,702	1,663	62%
DSE/WW	561	333	59%	1,022	617	60%
DSW/K/WW	1,568	911	58%	3,050	1,863	61%
Midlands	250	127	51%	416	220	53%
DNC	1,533	1024	67%	4,725	4,077	86%
Dublin North	1,439	949	66%	3,087	2,270	74%
LH/MH	635	404	64%	1,357	890	66%
CN/MN	777	715	92%	1,556	1,494	96%
Cork	406	274	67%	728	453	62%
Kerry	472	393	83%	1,054	666	63%
CW/KK/ST	922	603	65%	1,800	1,436	80%
WD/WX	1,298	1017	78%	2,322	1,916	83%
MidWest	1,191	713	60%	1,990	1,153	58%
GY/RN	1,219	896	74%	2,329	1,653	71%
Mayo	431	431	100%	557	549	99%
Donegal	1,485	1012	68%	2,467	1,683	68%
SLWC	737	660	90%	1,311	1,204	92%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,291</b>	<b>11,270</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>32,473</b>	<b>23,807</b>	<b>73%</b>

- Of the children referred to family support services in 2021 who received a service (23,807), 6% (1,519) were subject of a child in care plan; 6% (1,463) were subject of a Tusla social work child protection plan; 7% (1,639) were subject of a Tusla safety plan; 6% (1,379) were subject of a Meitheal support plan while 40% (9,426) were subject of a single agency family support plan.
- A breakdown on the number and percentage of children who participated in the development, implementation and review of those plans is presented in the table below.

**Breakdown of the number and percentage of children who participated in the development, implementation and review of plans, 2021**

Plan type	# children subject of plan:	# / % children who participated in development of plan	# / % children who participated in implementation of plan	# / % children who participated in review of plan
Children in care plan	1,519	376	345	312
		25%	23%	21%
Tusla social work child protection plan	1,463	498	494	438
		34%	34%	30%
Tusla safety plan	1,639	463	438	386
		28%	27%	24%
Meitheal support plan	1,379	858	744	729
		62%	54%	53%
Single agency response plan	9,426	5,024	4,783	4,589
		53%	51%	49%

### 6.1.6 Parenting Support Service

- 8,643 parents/guardians/care givers were referred to a parenting support service in the last six months of 2021 bringing the total number referred for 2021 to 17,619.
- 6,304 (73%) of the parents/guardians/care givers referred in the last six months of 2021 received a service, while 12,941 (73%) of all those referred in 2021 received a service.
- 3,476 individual (one-to-one) parenting support services were commissioned internally during the last six months of 2021; 5,704 commissioned in the first half of 2021.
- 1,282 individual (one-to-one) parenting support services were commissioned externally during the last six months of 2021; 4,023 commissioned in the first half of 2021.
- 1,091 parenting support services that are group-based interventions were commissioned internally during the last six months of 2021; 796 commissioned in the first half of 2021.
- 430 parenting support services that are group-based interventions were commissioned externally during the last six months of 2021; 265 commissioned in the first half of 2021.



## 6.2 MEITHEAL

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

### KEY FACTS

- 1,131 Meitheal processes requested in the last six months of 2021 bringing the total number of Meitheal processes requested for 2021 to at least 2,373. The number of requests is up 86 on the 2,287 reported in 2020.
- The most common pathway for requests is "Direct Access" accounting for 67% (759/1,131) of all requests for the last six months of 2021 and 67% (1,584/2,373) of all requests for 2021. "Social Work Diversion" accounted for a further 18% (199) of requests for the last six months of 2021 and 21% (488/2,373) of all requests for 2021. "Social Work Step-Down" accounted for the remaining 15% (173) of all requests for the last six months of 2021 and 13% (301/2,373) of all requests for 2021.
- 82% (932/1,131) of Meitheal requests received in the last six months of 2021 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage) while 86% (2,041/2,373) of all requests received in 2021 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage).
- 742 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 in the last six months of 2021, bringing the total number of Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage 2 in 2021 to 1,596.
- 46% (741) of processes reaching completion of Stage 2 in 2021, proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting).
- 828 Meitheal processes were closed in the last six months of 2021 bringing the total number of Meitheal processes closed in 2021 to 1,580. 24% (386) of Meitheal processes were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1); 39% (617) of Meitheal processes were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2 Discussion Stage); 11% (171) of Meitheal processes were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3); 26% (406) of Meitheal processes were closed post-delivery
- 122 Child and Family Support Networks<sup>1</sup> (CFSN) operating at the end of Q4 2021. A further 15 CFSNs are planned/pre planning stage.

### 6.2.1 Meitheal Activity Data

- 1,131 Meitheal processes requested in the last six months of 2021 bringing the total number of Meitheal processes requested for 2021 to at least 2,373. The number of requests is up 86 on the 2,287 reported in 2020.

- Highest number of requests for 2021 reported by Dublin North (429; 18%) followed by Kerry (293; 12%), Cork (242; 10%) and Waterford/Wexford (203; 9%). These four areas account for almost half (49%; 1,167) of all Meitheal processes requested in 2021.
- The fewest number was reported by the Mayo (46; 2%) followed by Midlands (50; 2%) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (52; 2%).

#### Meitheal processes requested

Area	# Requested 2020	# Requested Q1/Q2 2021	# Requested Q3/Q4 2021	# Requested 2021	% Total 2021
DSC	76	26	47	73	3%
DSE/WW	58	50	38	88	4%
DSW/K/WW	122	68	37	105	4%
Midlands	93	17	33	50	2%
DNC	99	34	31	65	3%
Dublin North	330	248	181	429	18%
LH/MH	37	81	53	134	6%
CN/MN	214	55	101	156	7%
Cork	198	128	114	242	10%
Kerry	262	151	142	293	12%
CW/KK/ST	204	45	75	120	5%
WD/WX	232	103	100	203	9%
MidWest	111	55	59	114	5%
GY/RN	106	98	48	146	6%
Mayo	54	25	21	46	2%
Donegal	39	32	25	57	2%
SLWC	52	26	26	52	2%
National	2,287	1,242	1,131	2,373	100%

- The most common pathway for requests was Direct Access accounting for 67% (759/1,131) of requests for the last six months of 2021 and 67% (1,584/2,373) of all requests for 2021.
- Social Work Diversion accounted for a further 18% (199) of requests for the last six months of 2021 and 21% (488/2,373) of all requests for 2021.
- Social Work Step-Down accounted for the remaining 15% (173) of requests for the last six months of 2021 and 13% (301/2,373) of all requests for 2021.
- The percentage of direct access requests for 2021 ranged from 57% (77/134) in Louth/Meath to 94% (47/50) in Midlands area. Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 67%.
- The percentage of requests diverted from social work for 2021 ranged from 4% (4/114) Midwest to 43% (57/134) in Louth/Meath. Six areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 21%.
- The percentage of requests stepped down from social work for 2021 ranged from none in two areas (Midlands and Louth/Meath) to 33% (48/146) in Galway/Roscommon. Six areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average 13%.

### Access Pathway for Meitheal Requests Q3 / Q4 2021

Area	# Requested Q3/Q4 2021	Of the total number of Meitheal requests:					
		Direct Access	% Direct Access	Social Work Diversion	% SW Diversion	Social Work Step -Down	% Step-Down
DSC	47	34	72%	0	0%	13	28%
DSE/WW	38	27	71%	4	11%	7	18%
DSW/K/WW	37	29	78%	6	16%	2	5%
Midlands	33	32	97%	1	3%	0	0%
DNC	31	25	81%	4	13%	2	6%
Dublin North	181	108	60%	3	2%	70	39%
LH/MH	53	41	77%	12	23%	0	0%
CN/MN	101	76	75%	22	22%	3	3%
Cork	114	59	52%	34	30%	21	18%
Kerry	142	87	61%	43	30%	12	8%
CW/KK/ST	75	42	56%	32	43%	1	1%
WD/WX	100	68	68%	30	30%	2	2%
MidWest	59	49	83%	2	3%	8	14%
GY/RN	48	26	54%	0	0%	22	46%
Mayo	21	17	81%	1	5%	3	14%
Donegal	25	20	80%	4	16%	1	4%
SLWC	26	19	73%	1	4%	6	23%
National	1,131	759	67%	199	18%	173	15%

### Access Pathway for Meitheal Requests 2021

Area	# Requested 2021	Of the total number of Meitheal requests:					
		Direct Access	% Direct Access	Social Work Diversion	% SW Diversion	Social Work Step -Down	% Step-Down
DSC	73	55	75%	4	5%	14	19%
DSE/WW	88	55	63%	22	25%	11	13%
DSW/K/WW	105	78	74%	20	19%	7	7%
Midlands	50	47	94%	3	6%	0	0%
DNC	65	54	83%	5	8%	6	9%
Dublin North	429	286	67%	61	14%	82	19%
LH/MH	134	77	57%	57	43%	0	0%
CN/MN	156	108	69%	31	20%	17	11%
Cork	242	140	58%	60	25%	42	17%
Kerry	293	170	58%	92	31%	31	11%
CW/KK/ST	120	73	61%	45	38%	2	2%
WD/WX	203	139	68%	60	30%	4	2%
MidWest	114	91	80%	4	4%	19	17%
GY/RN	146	89	61%	9	6%	48	33%
Mayo	46	36	78%	5	11%	5	11%
Donegal	57	47	82%	6	11%	4	7%
SLWC	52	39	75%	4	8%	9	17%
National	2373	1584	67%	488	21%	301	13%

- 82% (932/1,131) of Meitheal requests received in the last six months of 2021 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage) while 86% (2,041/2,373) of all requests received in 2021 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage).
- The percentage of requests for 2021 proceeding to Stage 2 ranged from 54% (85/156) in Cavan/Monaghan to 97% in Dublin North (416/429). Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average (86%).

#### Meitheal requests received proceeding to Stage Two (Discussion Stage) Q3/Q4 2021

Area	# Requested Q3 / Q4 2021	# that proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage 2)	% that Proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage 2)
DSC	47	46	98%
DSE/WW	38	20	53%
DSW/K/WW	37	34	92%
Midlands	33	27	82%
DNC	31	25	81%
Dublin North	181	172	95%
LH/MH	53	42	79%
CN/MN	101	47	47%
Cork	114	99	87%
Kerry	142	137	96%
CW/KK/ST	75	60	80%
WD/WX	100	85	85%
MidWest	59	43	73%
GY/RN	48	48	100%
Mayo	21	21	100%
Donegal	25	6	24%
SLWC	26	20	77%
<b>National</b>	<b>1,131</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>82%</b>

#### Meitheal requests received proceeding to Stage Two (Discussion Stage) 2021

Area	# Requested 2021	# that proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage 2)	% that Proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage 2)
DSC	73	69	95%
DSE/WW	88	57	65%
DSW/K/WW	105	99	94%
Midlands	50	39	78%
DNC	65	56	86%
Dublin North	429	416	97%
LH/MH	134	115	86%
CN/MN	156	85	54%
Cork	242	223	92%
Kerry	293	271	92%
CW/KK/ST	120	98	82%
WD/WX	203	173	85%
MidWest	114	95	83%
GY/RN	146	132	90%
Mayo	46	38	83%
Donegal	57	34	60%
SLWC	52	41	79%
<b>National</b>	<b>2373</b>	<b>2,041</b>	<b>86%</b>

- 742 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 in the last six months of 2021 bringing the total number of Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage 2 in 2021 to 1,596.
- 46% (741) of processes reaching completion of Stage 2 in 2021, proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting). The percentage of processes that proceeded to delivery ranged from 4% (18/408) in Dublin North to 97% in Dublin South Central (68/70). Fourteen areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 46%.
- 34% (543) were referred for a single agency response – majority (71%; 385) of these were reported by one area (Dublin North). The percentage of processes referred for a single agency response ranged from 0% in six areas (Dublin South East/Wicklow, Donegal, Midlands, Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan, Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow and Galway/Roscommon) to 94% (385/408) in Dublin North. Two areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 34%.
- 3% (42) of processes were referred to social work (stepped – up). These processes were reported across nine areas. Eight areas reported none.
- 7% (108) of processes were closed. The percentage of processes closed ranged from 0% in three areas (Donegal, Dublin south Central, Dublin North City) to 28% (30/108) in Cork. Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average.

#### Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two, Q3 / Q4 2021

Area	# Reaching Completion of Stage 2, Q3/Q4 2021	Of the total number of Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two (Discussion Stage) the number and percentage that									
		Proceeded to Delivery	%	Referred to Social Work	%	Referred to a Single Agency Response	%	Closed	%	Categorised as Other	%
DSC	47	46	98%	0	0.0%	1	2%	0	0%	0	0%
DSE/WW	26	12	46%	0	0.0%	0	0%	2	8%	12	46%
DSW/K/WW	28	20	71%	0	0.0%	0	0%	6	21%	2	7%
Midlands	20	16	80%	0	0.0%	0	0%	1	5%	3	15%
DNC	24	14	58%	1	4.2%	2	8%	0	0%	7	29%
Dublin North	166	1	1%	0	0.0%	162	98%	3	2%	0	0%
LH/MH	18	17	94%	1	5.6%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
CN/MN	24	20	83%	0	0.0%	4	17%	0	0%	0	0%
Cork	54	30	56%	3	5.6%	6	11%	15	28%	0	0%
Kerry	142	25	18%	2	1.4%	15	11%	13	9%	87	61%
CW/KK/ST	45	20	44%	0	0.0%	20	44%	5	11%	0	0%
WD/WX	40	12	30%	0	0.0%	23	58%	5	13%	0	0%
MidWest	38	30	79%	1	2.6%	3	8%	3	8%	1	3%
GY/RN	22	22	100%	0	0.0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Mayo	21	15	71%	0	0.0%	0	0%	5	24%	1	5%
Donegal	24	14	58%	0	0.0%	0	0%	0	0%	10	42%
SLWC	3	2	67%	0	0.0%	0	0%	1	33%	0	0%
National	742	316	43%	8	1.1%	236	32%	59	8%	123	17%

#### Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two, 2021

Area	# Reaching Completion of Stage 2, 2021	Of the total number of Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two (Discussion Stage) the number and percentage that									
		Proceeded to Delivery	%	Referred to Social Work	%	Referred to a Single Agency Response	%	Closed	%	Categorised as Other	%
DSC	70	68	97%	0	0%	2	3%	0	0%	0	0%
DSE/WW	63	34	54%	0	0%	0	0%	2	3%	27	43%
DSW/K/WW	81	69	85%	0	0%	0	0%	8	10%	4	5%
Midlands	32	28	88%	0	0%	0	0%	1	3%	3	9%
DNC	48	32	67%	2	4%	2	4%	0	0%	12	25%
Dublin North	408	18	4%	0	0%	385	94%	3	1%	2	0.5%
LH/MH	66	34	52%	17	26%	8	12%	7	11%	0	0%
CN/MN	56	40	71%	2	4%	12	21%	2	4%	0	0%
Cork	108	60	56%	6	6%	12	11%	30	28%	0	0%
Kerry	227	72	32%	3	1%	37	16%	24	11%	91	40%
CW/KK/ST	78	42	54%	5	6%	26	33%	5	6%	0	0%
WD/WX	80	22	28%	0	0%	50	63%	8	10%	0	0%
MidWest	76	56	74%	2	3%	8	11%	4	5%	6	8%
GY/RN	100	93	93%	4	4%	0	0%	3	3%	0	0%
Mayo	45	32	71%	1	2%	1	2%	10	22%	1	2%
Donegal	52	36	69%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	16	31%
SLWC	6	5	83%	0	0%	0	0%	1	17%	0	0%
National	1596	741	46%	42	3%	543	34%	108	7%	162	10%

- 828 Meitheal processes were closed in the last six months of 2021 bringing the total number of Meitheal processes closed in 2021 to 1,580. The number closed in 2021 ranged from 13 in Dublin South Central to 404 in Dublin North.
- 24% (386) of Meitheal processes closed in 2021 were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1). The percentage closed following submission of a Meitheal request form ranged from 3% (11/404) in Dublin North to 68% (52/77) in Kerry. Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 24%.
- 39% (617) of Meitheal processes closed in 2021 were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2 Discussion Stage). The percentage closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form ranged from 0% in Dublin South Central (0/13) to 94% (379/404) in Dublin North. Two areas (Dublin North and Louth/Meath) reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average (39%). Sixty-one (379/617) percent of Meitheals closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage) were reported by Dublin North.

- 11% (171) of Meitheal processes closed in 2021 were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3). The percentage closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings ranged from 2% in Louth/Meath (1/51), Waterford/Wexford (2/111) and Dublin North (7/404) to 38% (5/13) in Dublin South Central. Twelve areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 11%.
- 26% (406) of Meitheal processes closed in 2021 were closed post-delivery. The percentage closed post-delivery ranged from 0% in Louth/Meath (0/51) and Kerry (0/77) to 63% (86/136) in Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow. Eleven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 26%.

#### Number of Meitheals closed Q3 / Q4 2021

Area	Total number of Meitheals closed Q3/Q4	Of the total number of Meitheals closed the number and % that were closed following:							
		Submission of a Meitheal Request Form	%	Completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Discussion Stage)	%	Commencement of Meitheal Support meetings (Delivery Stage)	%	Post delivery	%
DSC	10	0	0%	0	0%	5	50%	5	50%
DSE/WW	26	3	12%	5	19%	9	35%	9	35%
DSW/K/WW	74	7	9%	11	15%	9	12%	47	64%
Midlands	31	15	48%	6	19%	4	13%	6	19%
DNC	27	8	30%	9	33%	2	7%	8	30%
Dublin North	164	7	4%	157	96%	0	0%	0	0%
LH/MH	27	11	41%	15	56%	1	4%	0	0%
CN/MN	27	3	11%	4	15%	10	37%	10	37%
Cork	79	31	39%	16	20%	11	14%	21	27%
Kerry	30	26	87%	3	10%	1	3%	0	0%
CW/KK/ST	81	16	20%	27	33%	16	20%	22	27%
WD/WX	59	30	51%	13	22%	1	2%	15	25%
MidWest	57	24	42%	9	16%	7	12%	17	30%
GY/RN	55	10	18%	9	16%	8	15%	28	51%
Mayo	25	5	20%	2	8%	2	8%	16	64%
Donegal	19	2	11%	2	11%	7	37%	8	42%
SLWC	37	18	49%	1	3%	6	16%	12	32%
National	828	216	26%	289	35%	99	12%	224	27%

## Number of Meitheals closed 2021

Area	Total number of Meitheals closed 2021	Of the total number of Meitheals closed the number and % that were closed following:							
		Submission of a Meitheal Request Form	%	Completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Discussion Stage)	%	Commencement of Meitheal Support meetings (Delivery Stage)	%	Post delivery	%
DSC	13	1	8%	0	0%	5	38%	7	54%
DSE/WW	45	11	24%	8	18%	12	27%	14	31%
DSW/K/WW	136	15	11%	16	12%	19	14%	86	63%
Midlands	31	15	48%	6	19%	4	13%	6	19%
DNC	53	12	23%	14	26%	7	13%	20	38%
Dublin North	404	11	3%	379	94%	7	2%	7	2%
LH/MH	51	30	59%	20	39%	1	2%	0	0%
CN/MN	53	6	11%	8	15%	14	26%	25	47%
Cork	105	32	30%	18	17%	18	17%	37	35%
Kerry	77	52	68%	21	27%	4	5%	0	0%
CW/KK/ST	137	39	28%	47	34%	20	15%	31	23%
WD/WX	111	64	58%	26	23%	2	2%	19	17%
MidWest	114	32	28%	23	20%	20	18%	39	34%
GY/RN	113	30	27%	16	14%	11	10%	56	50%
Mayo	49	10	20%	6	12%	6	12%	27	55%
Donegal	39	6	15%	6	15%	12	31%	15	38%
SLWC	49	20	41%	3	6%	9	18%	17	35%
National	1580	386	24%	617	39%	171	11%	406	26%

## 6.2.2 Child and Family Support Networks

- 122 Child and Family Support Networks<sup>13</sup> (CFSN) operating at the end of Q4 2021. A further 15 CFSNs are planned/pre planning stage.

### Child and Family Support Networks operating and planned

Area	CFSNs Operating Dec 2020	CFSNs Operating Q4 2021	CFSNs Planned
DSC	7	7	3
DSE/Wicklow	7	7	2
DSW/K/WW	9	10	0
Midlands	4	6	4
Dublin North City	6	6	0
Dublin North	4	4	1
Louth/Meath	5	5	0
Cavan/Monaghan	8	8	1
Cork	14	11	1
Kerry	8	8	0

<sup>13</sup> Child and Family Support Networks: Collaborative networks of community, voluntary and statutory providers intended to improve access to support services for children and their families<sup>8</sup>



<b>CW/KK/ST</b>	7	7	2
<b>WD/WX</b>	8	8	0
<b>MidWest</b>	10	11	1
<b>GY/RN</b>	12	12	0
<b>Mayo</b>	4	4	0
<b>Donegal</b>	5	5	0
<b>SLWC</b>	3	3	0
<b>National</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>15</b>

## 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

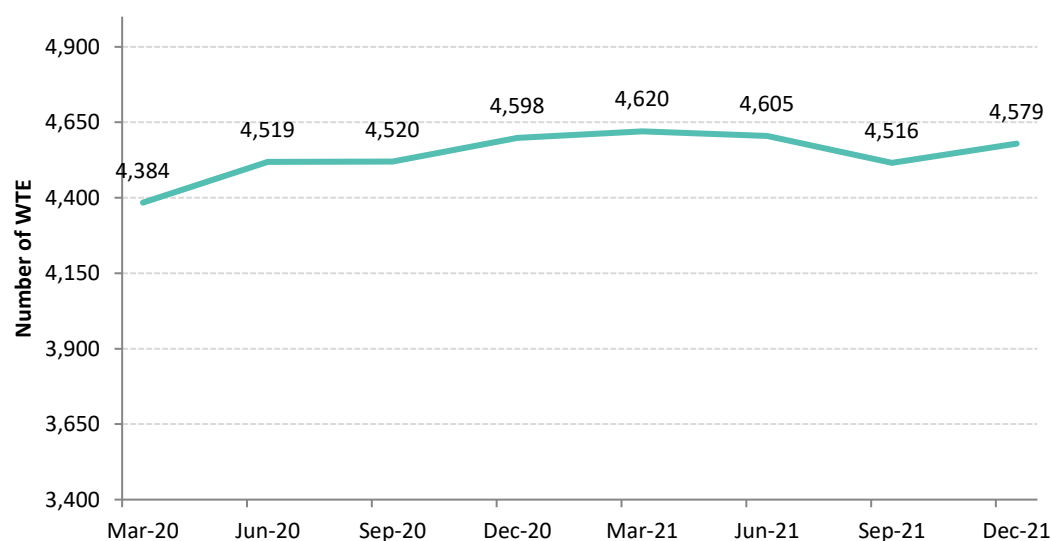
### KEY FACTS

- 4,579 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q4 2021, 63 (1%) more than Q3 2021 (4,516) and 18.45 (<1%) fewer than Q4 2020 (4,598).
- 415 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in 2021
- 347 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in 2021 and 89 staff retired in 2021
- At the end of December 2021, the overall absence rate for the Agency was 7.25%, 0.99 percentage points higher than Q3 2021 (6.26%) and 1.32 percentage points higher than December 2020 (5.93%).
- e-learning activity: 3,822 completions were achieved in Q4 2021
- Virtual classroom training: 461 completions (54 sessions).

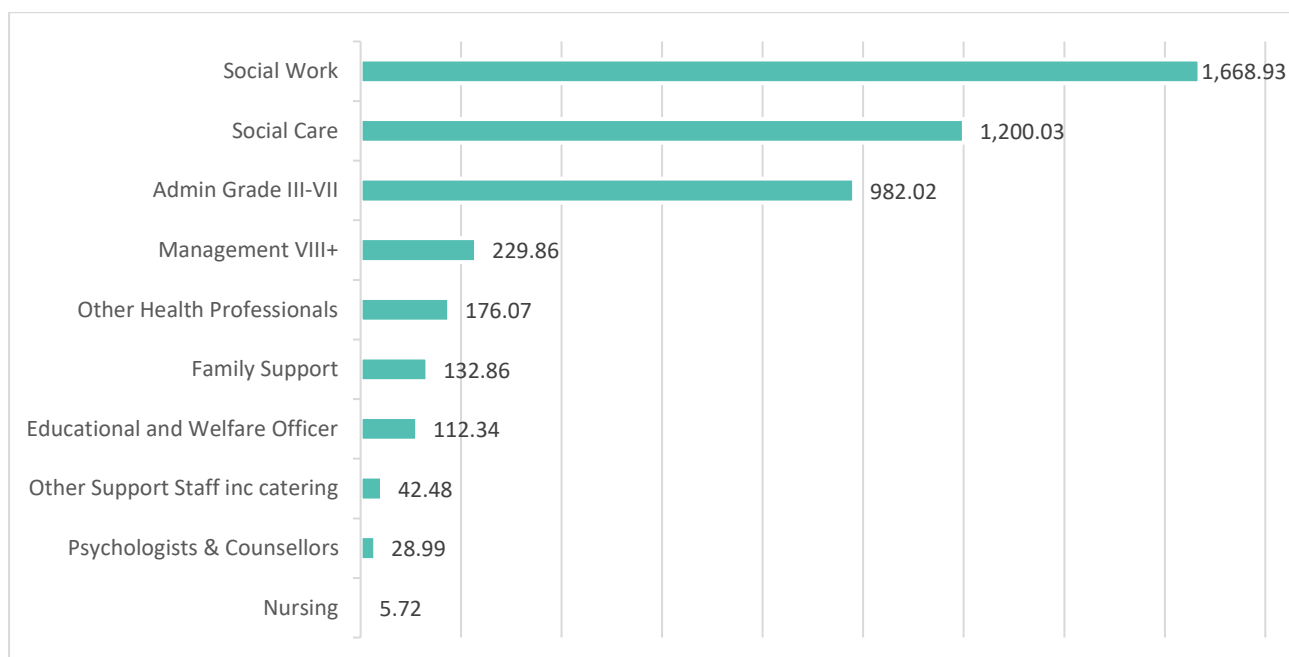
### 7.1 Workforce Position

- 4,579 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q4 2021, 63 (1%) more than Q3 2021 (4,516) and 18.45 (<1%) fewer than Q4 2020 (4,598).

Total Staff Employed (WTE), by quarter



- Social workers are the largest category of staff employed by the Agency, accounting for 36% (1,668.93) of total staff (WTE) employed at the end of Q4 2021, followed by social care staff accounting for a further 26% (1,200.03). Management (Grade VIII+) account for less than 5% (229.86) of the workforce.



- Increase/decrease in WTEs by staff category from Q3 2021 and Q4 2020 is presented in the table below.

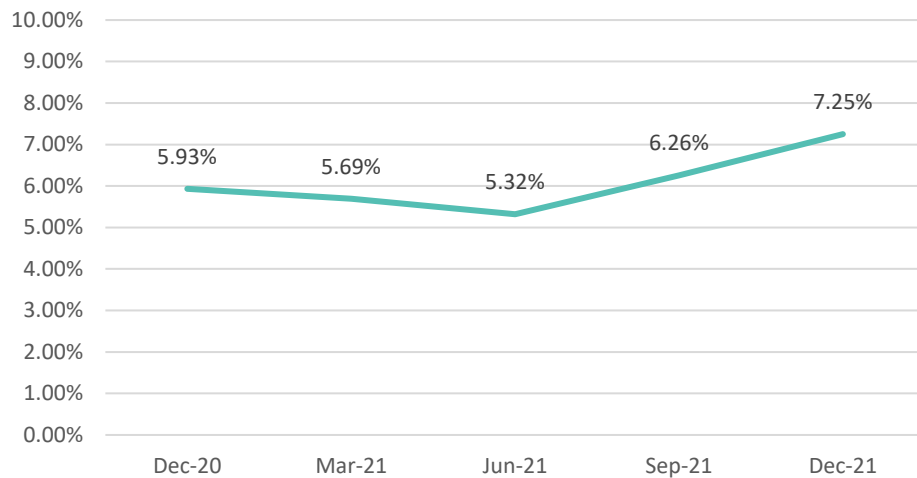
**Breakdown of staff (WTE) by category**

Staffing by Category	Q4 2020	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q4 2021 v Q3 2021	Q4 2021 v Q4 2020
<b>Social Work</b>	1,669.42	1,594.68	1668.93	74.25	-0.49
<b>Social Care</b>	1,256.40	1,233.76	1,200.03	-33.73	-56.37
<b>Admin Grade III-VII</b>	954.75	973.48	982.02	8.54	27.27
<b>Family Support</b>	133.36	129.71	132.86	3.15	-0.50
<b>Management VIII+</b>	217.9	223.53	229.86	6.33	11.96
<b>Educational and Welfare Officer</b>	109.91	108.08	112.34	4.26	2.43
<b>Other Support Staff inc catering</b>	44.16	43.95	42.48	-1.47	-1.68
<b>Nursing</b>	5.66	5.19	5.72	0.53	0.06
<b>Psychologists &amp; Counsellors</b>	33.06	31.09	28.99	-2.10	-4.07
<b>Other Health Professionals</b>	173.13	172.84	176.07	3.23	2.94
<b>Total Staffing</b>	<b>4,597.75</b>	<b>4,516</b>	<b>4579.3</b>	<b>62.99</b>	<b>-18.45</b>

- 415 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in 2021
- 347 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in 2021
- 89 staff retired in 2021
- 182 (4%) staff were on maternity leave at the end of December 2021

## 7.2 Absence Rate

- At the end of December 2021, the overall absence rate for the Agency was 7.25%, 0.99 percentage points higher than Q3 2021 (6.26%) and 1.32 percentage points higher than December 2020 (5.93%).



- The highest absence rate was reported for social care staff (11.77%). The rate for Residential Services (13.93%) (data not shown), is 6.68 percentage points higher than the overall rate of 7.25%. The overall absence rate excluding Residential Services is 6.67%.

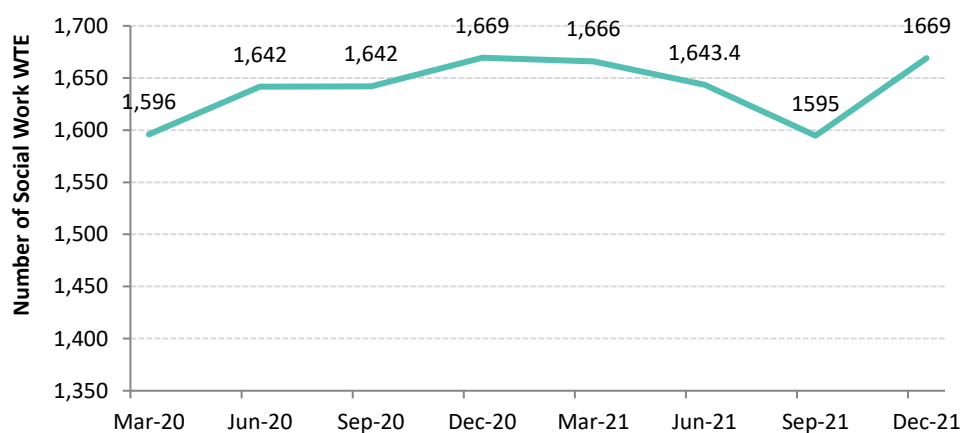
**Absence rate by staff grade**

Staff Grade	Absence Rate December 2021
Social Work	5.61%
Social Care	11.77%
All other grades	5.4%

## 7.3 Social Work Staff (WTE)

- 1,668.93 whole time equivalent (WTE) social work staff (all grades and excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q4 2021; 74.25 more than Q3 2021 (1,594) and 0.5 fewer than Q4 2020 (1,669.42).

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



- 184 social workers joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in 2021
- 167 social workers left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks excluding retirements) in 2021
- 27 social workers retired in 2021
- 96 (6%) social workers were on maternity leave at the end December 2021
- A breakdown of the number of social workers (all grades) employed at the end of each quarter Q4 2020 to Q4 2021 by area is presented in the table below.

**Breakdown of social work staff (WTE) by area Q4 2020 – Q4 2021**

	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)
Area	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021
DSC	99.49	101.77	98.96	88.27	98.57
DSE/WW	96.72	98.18	96.08	94.87	101.09
DSW/K/WW	114.52	110.42	107.9	110.06	112.62
Midlands	96.04	97.15	94.83	90.47	94.89
Regional Services DML	12.71	13.75	12.54	12.54	13.44
<b>DML Total</b>	<b>419.48</b>	<b>421.27</b>	<b>410.31</b>	<b>396.21</b>	<b>420.61</b>
CN/MN	43.55	40.98	41.77	40.37	41.72
DNC	105.44	107.02	105.24	104.32	104.64
LH/MH	85.43	84.65	83.96	83.14	89.69
Dublin North	90.58	92.62	89.97	89.2	102.95
Regional Services DNE	14.26	13.4	16.75	15.35	13.29
<b>DNE Total</b>	<b>339.26</b>	<b>338.67</b>	<b>337.69</b>	<b>332.38</b>	<b>352.29</b>
CW/KK/ST	64.81	63.05	61.41	58.91	67.37
Cork	180.06	178.37	180.46	174.41	175.65
Kerry	46.86	46.29	42.65	39.44	42.22
WD/WX	85.89	89.76	88.65	85.09	85
Regional Services South					0.98
<b>South Total</b>	<b>377.62</b>	<b>377.47</b>	<b>373.17</b>	<b>357.85</b>	<b>371.22</b>
Donegal	68.34	66.16	67.89	66.34	66.93
GY/RN	103.92	98.4	98.18	93.64	92.84
Mayo	36.39	36.73	38.95	33.16	40.03
Mid West	118.88	120.63	117.84	114.8	121.57
SLWC	40.695	40.59	36.65	36.62	38.49
Regional Services West	2.81	2.86	2.86	1.86	1.86
<b>West Total</b>	<b>370.99</b>	<b>365.37</b>	<b>362.37</b>	<b>346.42</b>	<b>361.72</b>
Residential DML	1	0.96			
Residential DNE	1.96	2	2	2	2.6
Residential West					
Residential South	1	1	2	1.99	2
Special Care	1	1			

<b>Residential Services</b>	<b>4.96</b>	<b>4.96</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3.99</b>	<b>4.6</b>
Corporate	157.11	158.05	155.83	157.83	158.49
Early Years Inspectorate	6.96	6.96			
<b>Corporate</b>	<b>157.11</b>	<b>158.05</b>	<b>155.83</b>	<b>157.83</b>	<b>158.49</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,669.42</b>	<b>1,665.79</b>	<b>1,643.4</b>	<b>1,594.68</b>	<b>1,668.93</b>

## 7.4 Workforce Learning and Development (WLD)

- Training activity during this period continued to be impacted by COVID19 restrictions
- Table 1 below shows virtual classroom training attendance for October, November and December 2021.
- Table 2 shows E-learning activity for the months October, November and December 2021.
- The most popular E-learning module was ‘Data Protection in Tusla’ with 933 completions. This was followed by ‘Tusla Employee Health & Safety’ module with 488 completions.
- Table 3 shows attendance at Therapeutic Crisis Intervention Physical Skills Training and Assessment run for Children’s Residential Services in Dublin by WLD

### Other Developments in Q4 2021

- Development of online and virtual learning continued albeit with major challenges due to loss of network access.
- WLD Digital L&D Team developed a ‘Tell Us Revised Policy’ briefing that was launched in October
- An informational video was also developed on Tusla’s response to Violence, Harassment and Aggression (VHA) and launched in December 2021, to support the agency’s VHA strategy.

**Table 1: Virtual Classroom Training, Q4 2021**

<b>Name of Module</b>	<b>Number of Sessions</b>	<b>Total Completions</b>
Child & Youth Participation	5	23
Therapeutic Crisis Intervention Refresher Programme	5	32
National Child Care Information System (NCCIS) Fundamentals Training	13	44
NUIG/Tusla Learning Event	1	30
Microsoft Excel Advanced	2	12
Microsoft Excel Intermediate	2	14
Microsoft Excel Foundations	4	25
Microsoft Word Advanced	2	18
Microsoft Word Foundations	1	9
Microsoft Powerpoint Advanced	2	13
Microsoft Powerpoint Foundations	1	3
Microsoft Word/Outlook Foundations	1	2
Sharing Personal Data Safely	15	236
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>461</b>

**Table 2: E-Learning Q4 2021**

<b>Name of Module</b>	<b>Total Completions</b>
An Introduction to Parental Participation for all staff	38
An Introduction to PPFS	26
An Introduction to Tusla's Approach to Commissioning	17
Caseload Management	29
CF in Action	266
Child Sexual Exploitation	63
Complaints Handling in Tusla Module1	201
Complaints Handling in Tusla Module2	73
Critical Incident Stress Management	30
Data Protection in Tusla	933
Freedom of Information: An Introduction to the FOI Act	733
Health and Safety Management: Introduction for Line Managers	44
Hidden Harm	42
Implementing CF	360
Introduction to Children First	343
Meitheal Briefing	34
Minute Taking - An Introduction	17
Parental Participation in Practice	12
Revised Standard Business Process (NCCIS)	33
Tusla Case Management-the Fundamentals of the TCM Sys	78
Tusla Employee Health & Safety	488
Tusla NIMS (Complaints) Training Programme	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>3882</b>

**Table 3: Classroom Training Q4 2021**

<b>Name of Module</b>	<b>Number of Sessions</b>	<b>Total Completions</b>
TCI Physical Skills Training and Assessment	7	36

## 8 FINANCE

### KEY FACTS

- The outturn for the year to date (December 2021) is an under-spend of €10.272 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget for the year to date by €7.8 million
- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget year to date by €7.18 million
- A key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €7.78 million over budget year to date. Placement of children in private residential and foster care services is strictly controlled through a national placement process.

### Financial Performance

- The outturn for the year to date (December 2021) is an under-spend of €10.272 million.
- The net expenditure for the year to date is €849.6 million against a budget allocation of €859.9 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget for the year to date by €7.8 million

#### Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	December 2021 YTD			% Variance
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Act vs Budget
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Pay costs	325,733	333,556	(7,823)	(2%)

- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget year to date by €7.2 million

#### Non-Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	December 2021 YTD			% Variance
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Act vs Budget
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Non pay costs	560,325	553,142	7,182	1%

- A key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €7.78 million over budget year to date. Placement of children in private residential and foster care services is strictly controlled through a national placement process.
- Legal costs incurred by the Agency account for a significant portion of the overall budget of the Agency. The financial position shows a spend of €32.022 million against a budget of €29.994 million.
- A breakdown of legal expenditure by type is presented in the table below.



- 44% (€14,005 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	December 2021 YTD €'000s
3rd Party Counsel Fees	904
3rd Party Solicitors Fees	2,515
Contracted Legal Services	12,177
Counsel fees - Tusla	1,941
Guardian ad Litem Costs	7,898
Guardian ad Litem Counsel fees	948
Guardian ad Litem Solicitors fees	5,159
General Legal Fees	104
Other	375
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>32,022</b>

## 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