



An Ghníomhaireacht um  
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach  
Child and Family Agency

# Quarterly Service Performance and Activity Report

QUARTER 4 2025



Quality & Regulation Directorate

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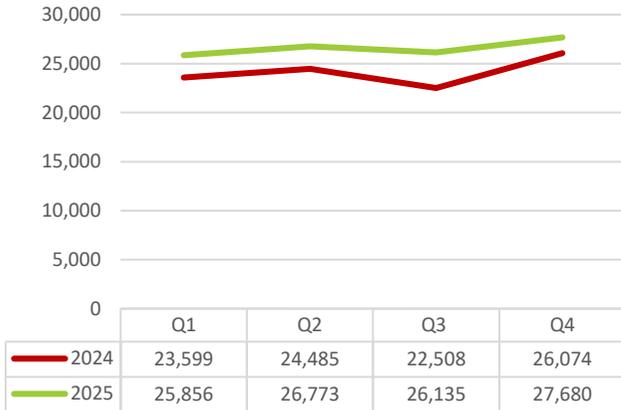
## 1.0 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

This report provides an update on the performance and activity of Tusla services at the end of Q4 2025. It is structured around key performance and activity measures included in the Agency's Business Plan. The data presented was provided by services and refers to the latest performance and activity information available at this time. **These data can change from data previously published due to the ongoing validation of data.**

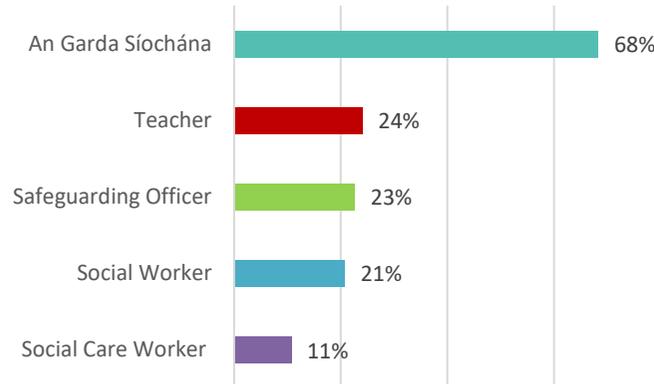
The summary by service type set out below provides an overview of the Q4 2025 position regarding activity and performance.

# CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

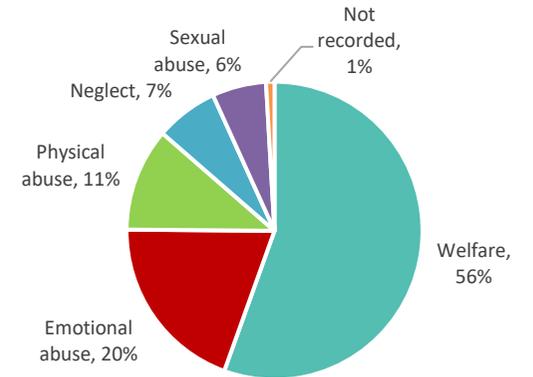
### # Referrals



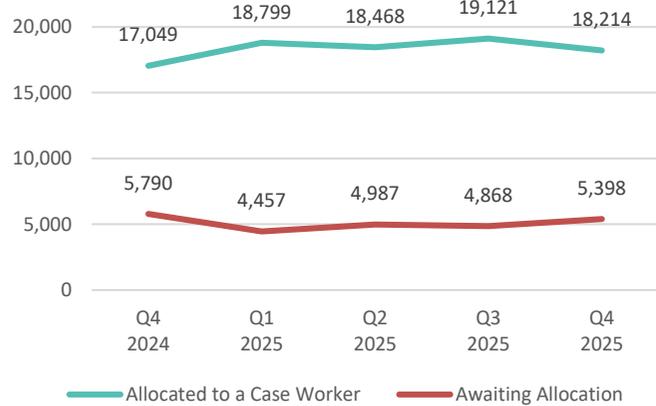
### Top most common sources of referrals 2025



### % Breakdown of Referrals by Primary Report Type, 2025



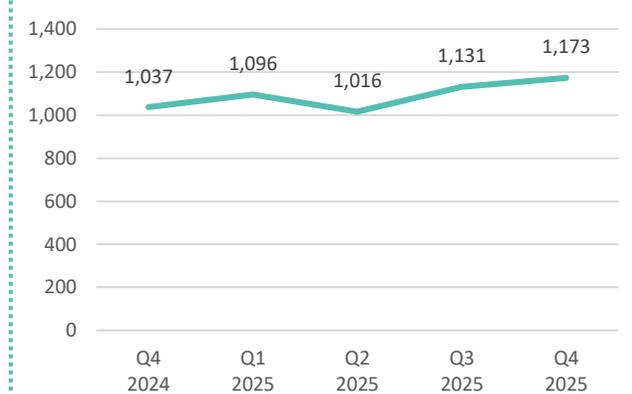
### Open Cases (CPW & CiC) by Allocation Status



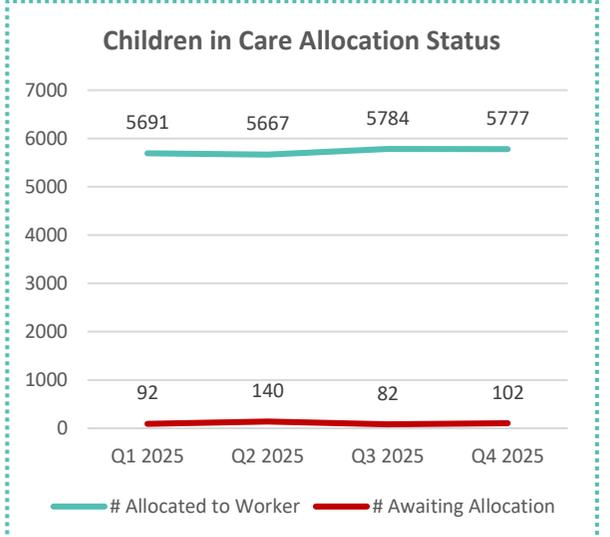
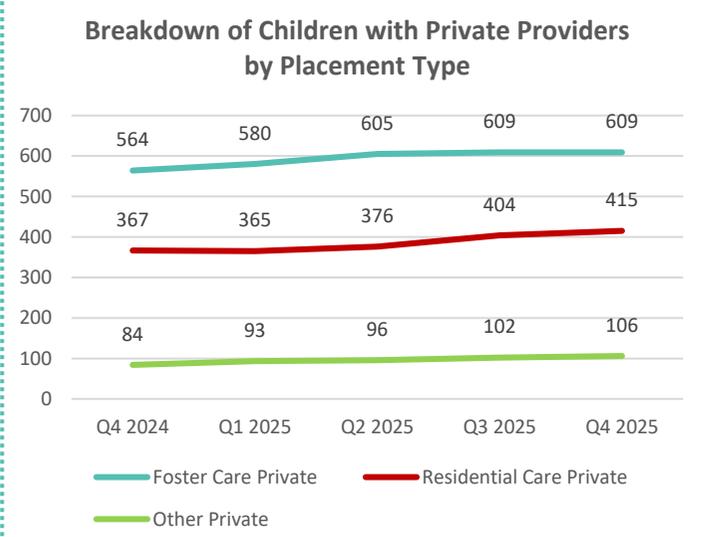
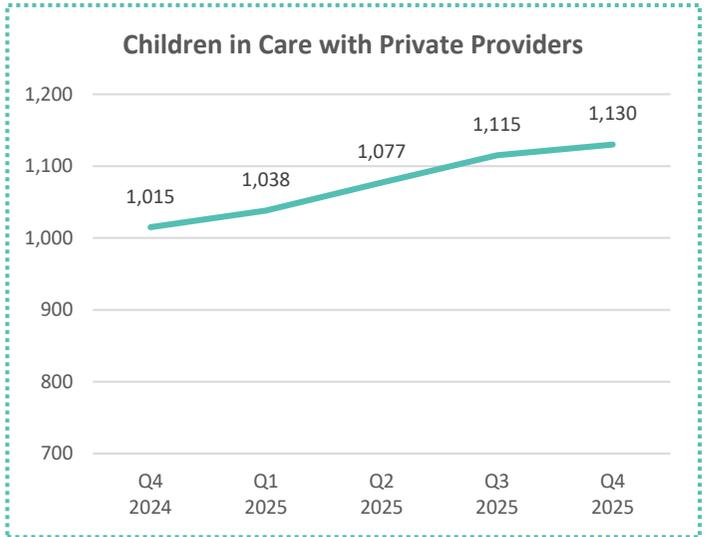
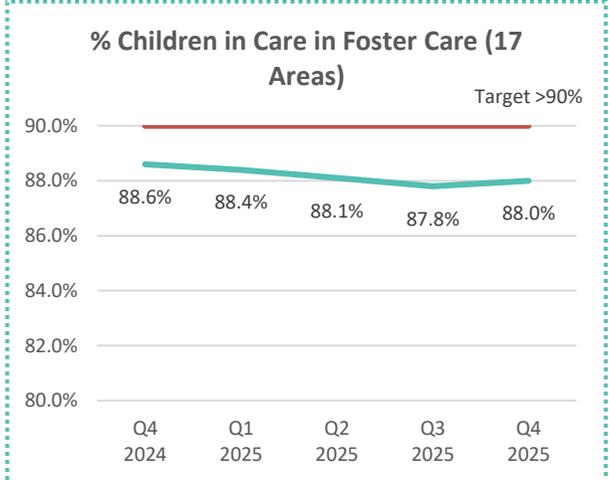
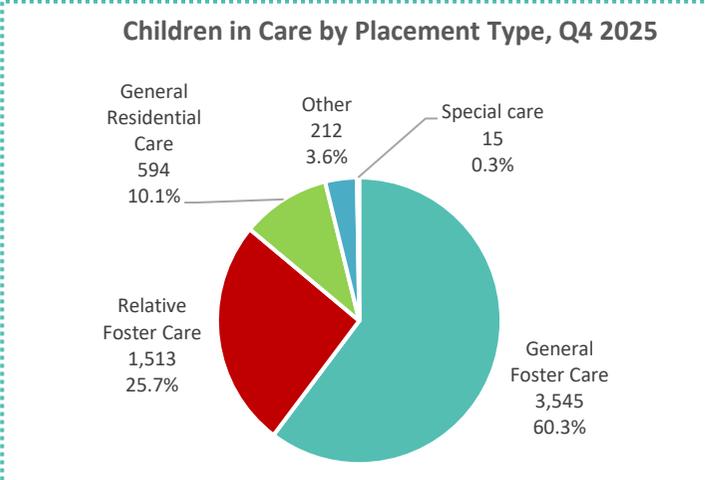
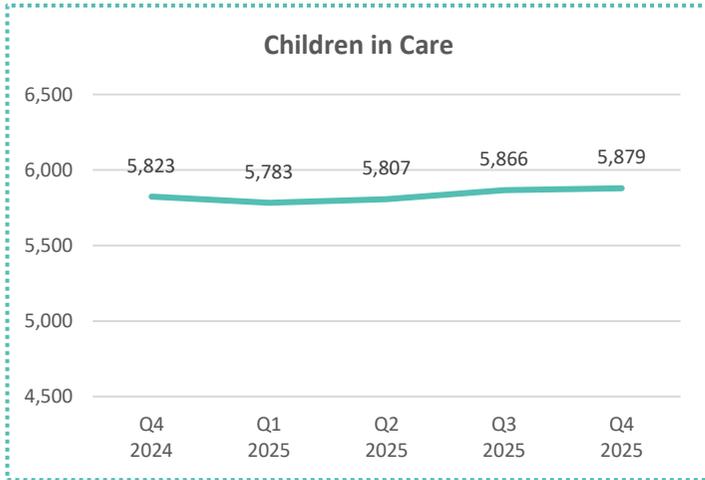
### Cases Awaiting Allocation by Priority Level

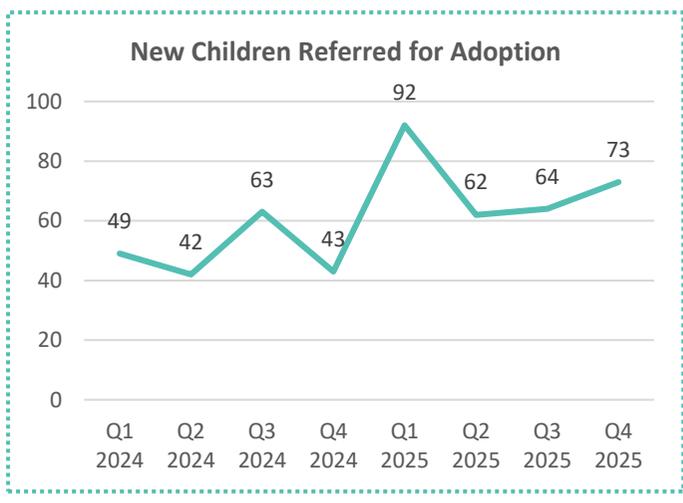
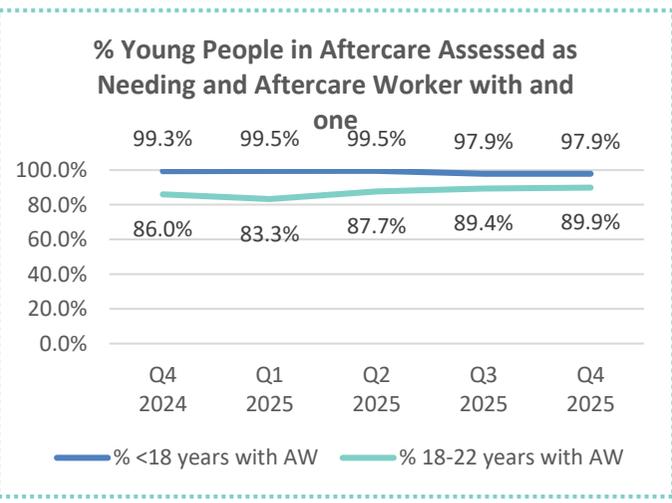
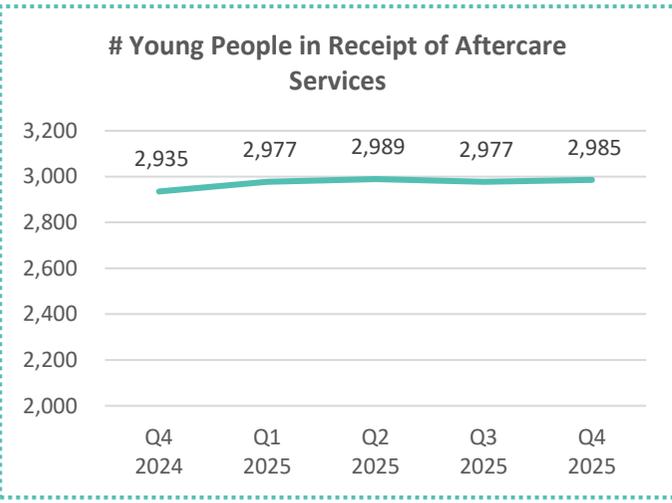
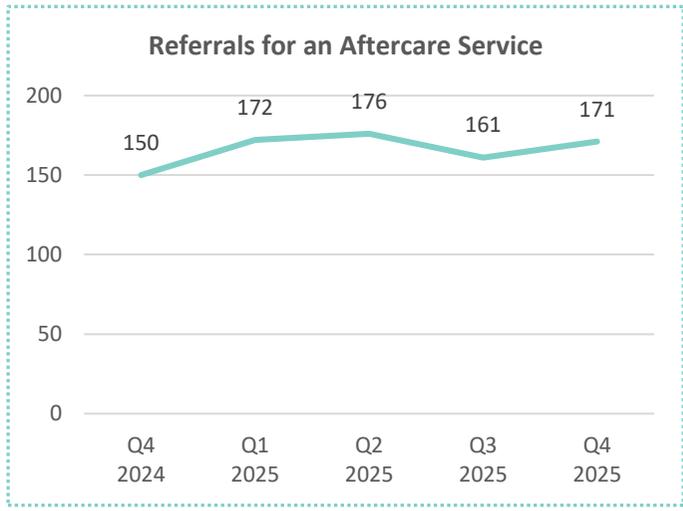
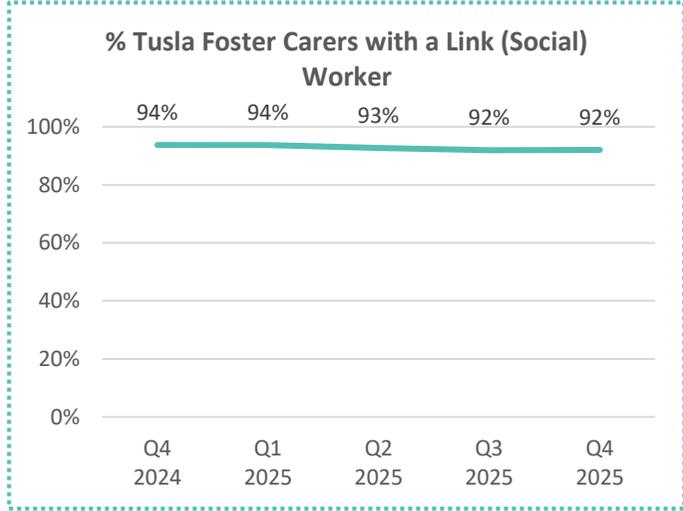
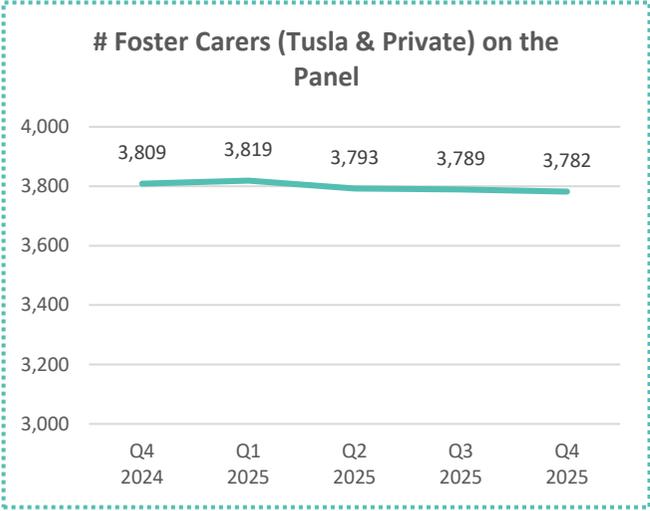


### Children 'Active' on the CPNS

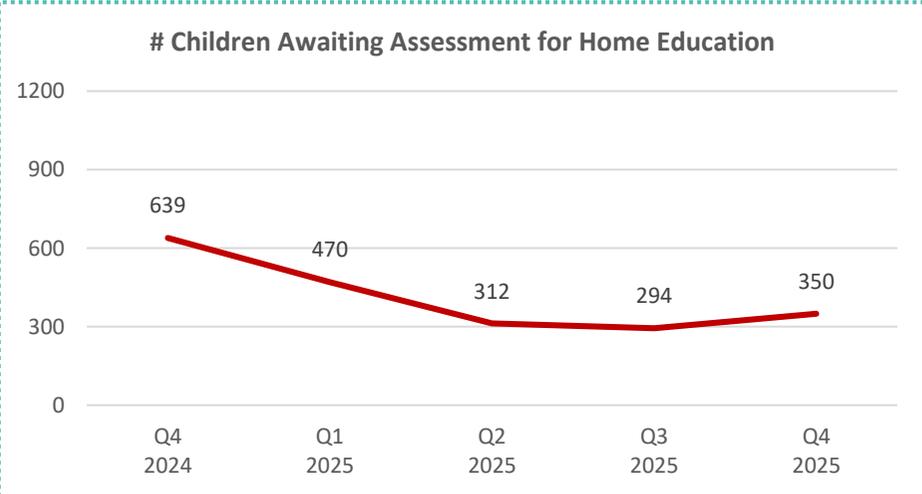
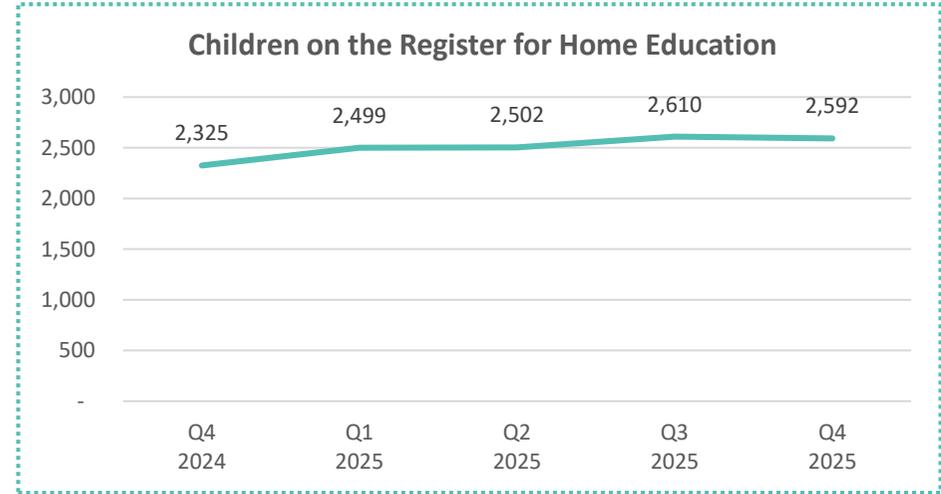
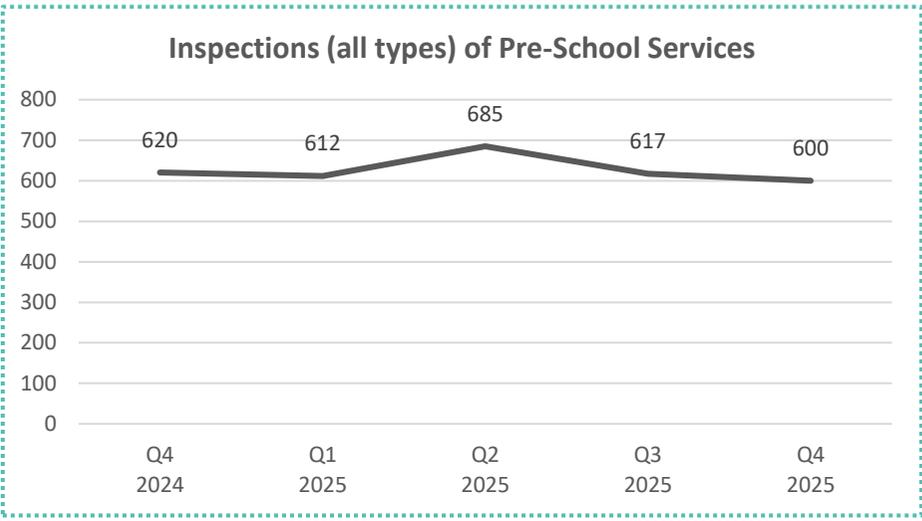
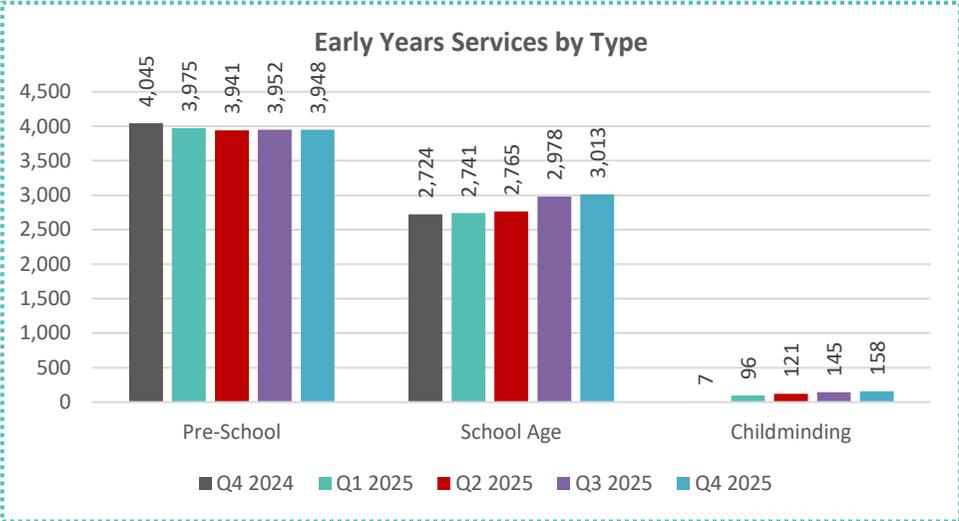


# ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

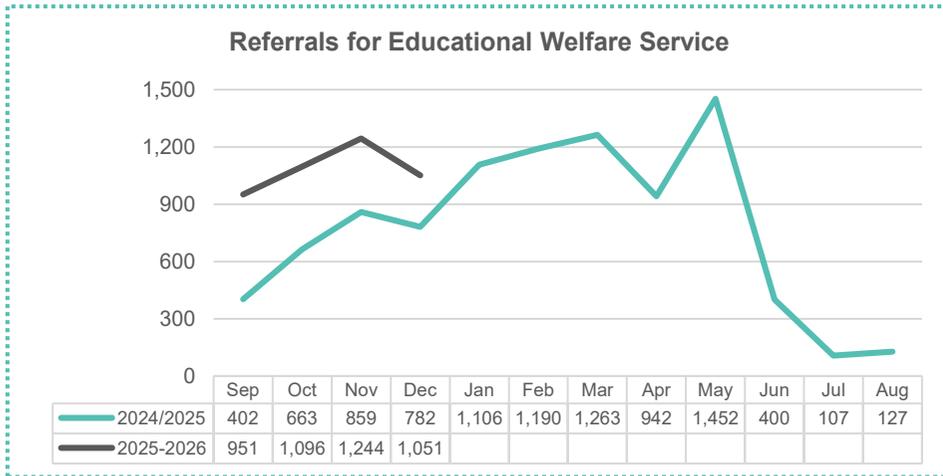




# CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

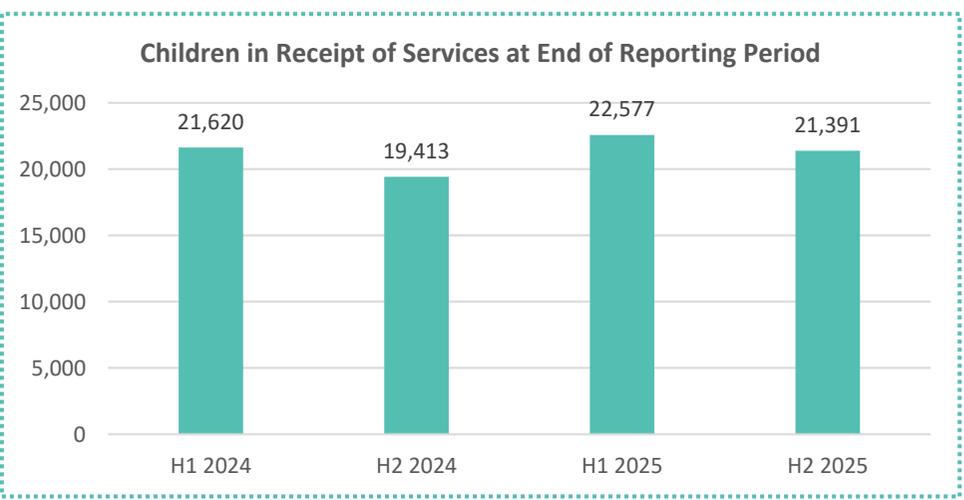
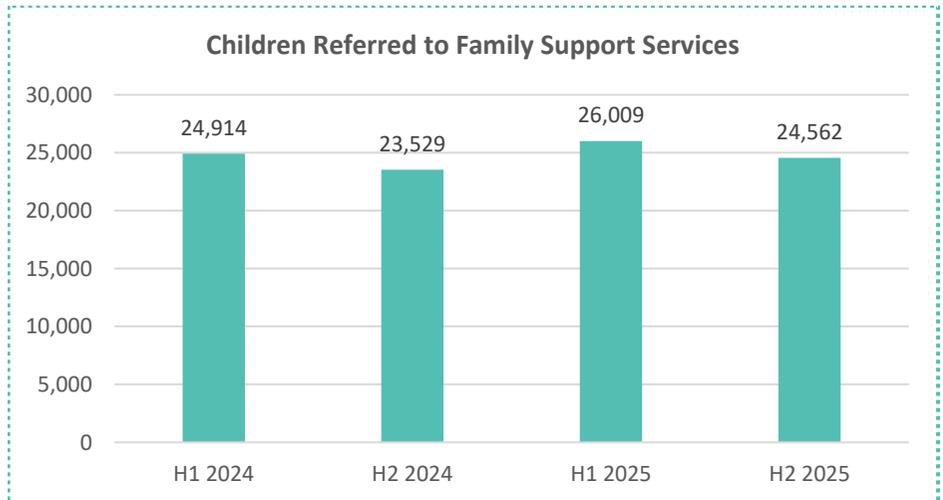


# TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

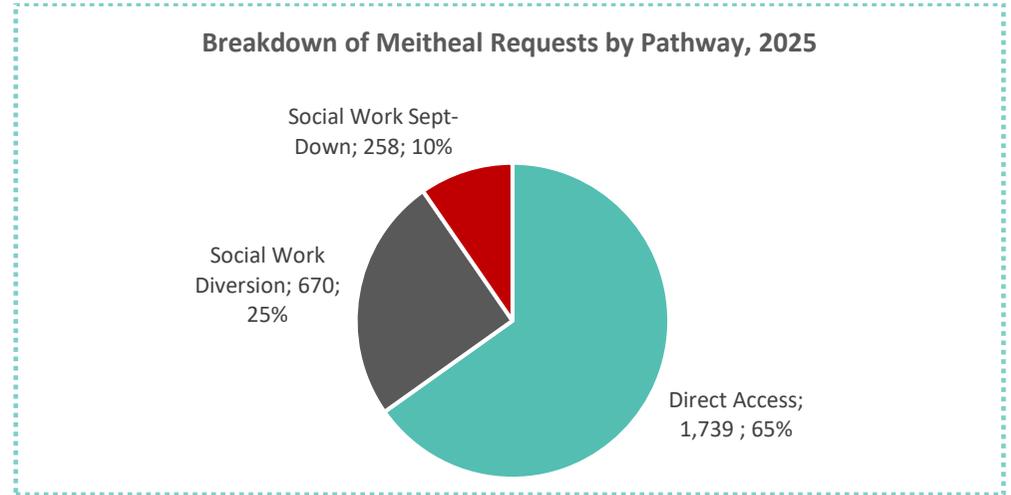
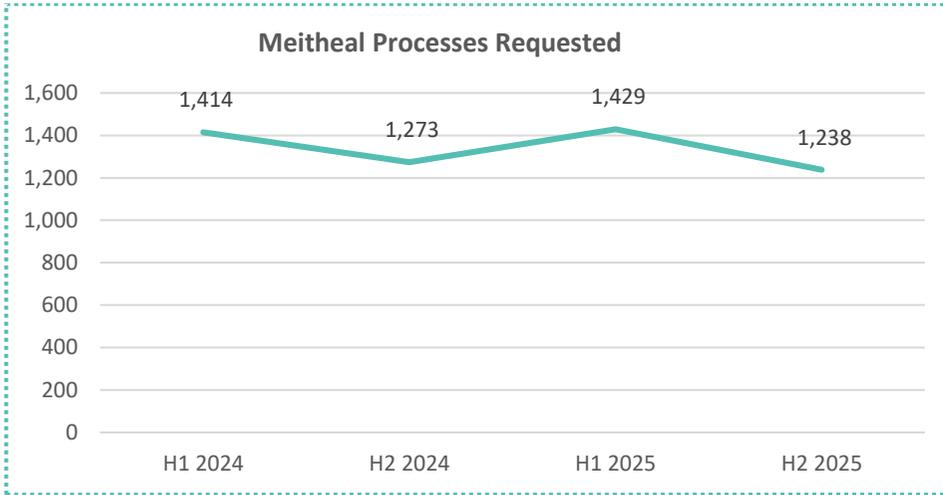


# FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

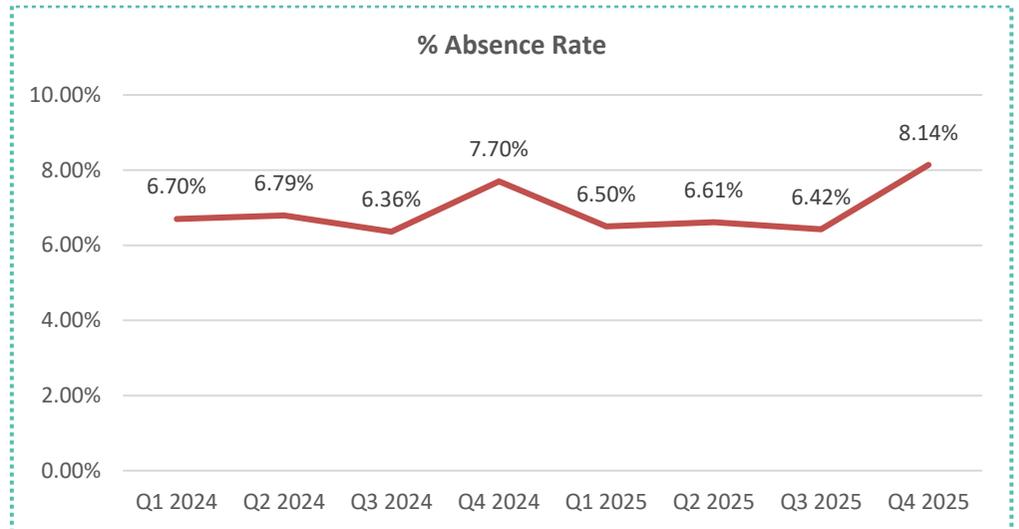
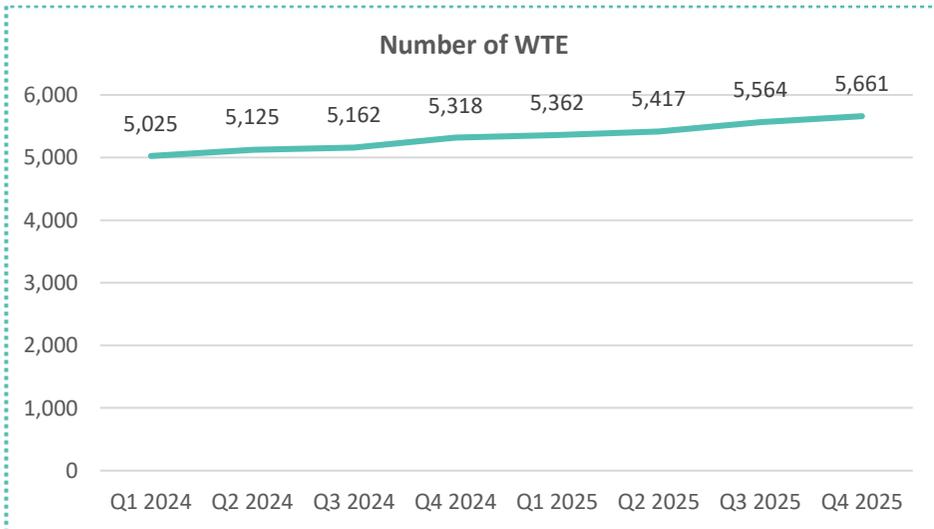
Family Support Services (data reported bi-annually, Q2 and Q4)



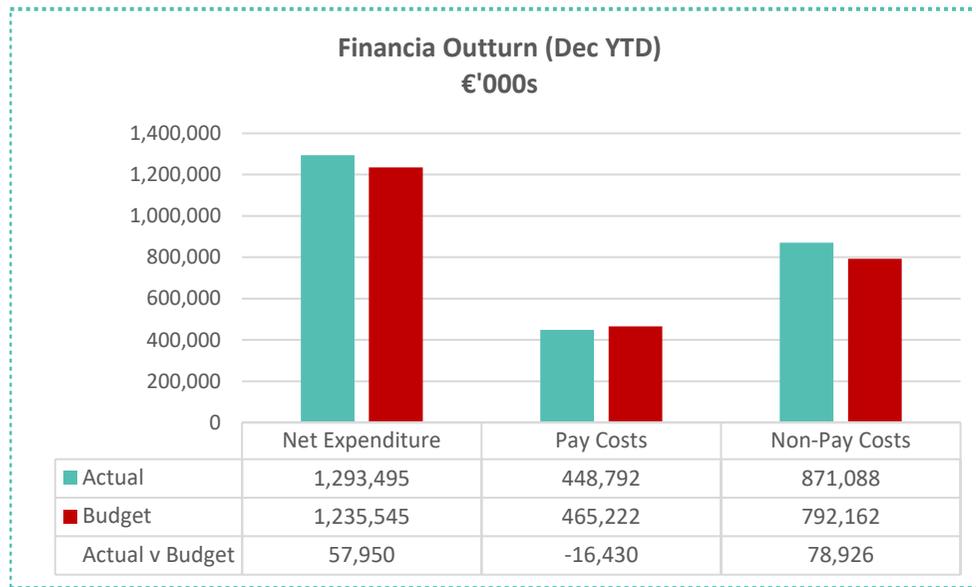
## Meitheal (data reported bi-annually, Q2 and Q4)



## PEOPLE & CHANGE



# FINANCE



## 2.0 CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

### Key Facts

- **106,444 referrals** to Child Protection and Welfare Services in 2025, 9,778 (10%) more than 2024 (96,666).
- **55.5% (59,098)** of referrals for 2025 were for **welfare concerns**, **43.6% (46,365)** were for **abuse/neglect**, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining <1% (981) of referrals.
- Most **common source of referrals for 2025 was members of An Garda Síochána** accounting for **34% (35,940) of referrals**, followed to a lesser extent by teachers (12%; 12,663), safeguarding officers (11%; 11,904) and social workers (10%; 10,919). Mandated persons accounted for 90% (96,177) of all sources.
- **58% (15,232/26,064\*)** of referrals for Q3 2025 were **closed following screening**. *\*Note: data not available for 71 referrals.*
- 56% (8,482) of referrals were closed following screening, as assessment / safety planning was already ongoing, while a further 6% (952) were diverted to Tusla's Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) services and 2% (312) were diverted to another agency. Some 34% (5,189) were closed with no further action required.
- **25% (6,623/26,064)** of referrals for Q3 2025 **progressed** to the next stage of the referral process – **the preliminary enquiry stage**. The remaining referrals (16%; 4,209) were either at the screening stage, awaiting closure following screening, or another process stage, when the data was extracted for reporting.
- At the time the data for Q3 2025 was extracted for reporting, **99% (6,534/6,623) of preliminary enquiries were completed**.
- Of the preliminary enquiries completed, 45% (2,936) required no further action; 35% (2,264) required an initial assessment, while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 5% (359) of cases. Some 9% (581) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS.
- At the time the Q3 2025 data was extracted for reporting, **60% (1,367/2,264) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were completed**.
- 48% (661) of initial assessments completed were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. Of these, 71% (468) required no further action, 15% (97) were diverted to another agency for a service, 10% (65) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service, while the remaining 10% (31) were closed as assessment/safety planning already ongoing.
- 30% (414) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 16% (218) required a children protection response / child protection conference and 4% (52) 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

We normally report on referral data one quarter in arrears (e.g., Q3 data appears in the Q4 report) to allow time for referrals to progress through the preliminary enquiry and initial assessment stages. However, you will notice some Q4 2025 data included below. This is due to implementation, on 1 January 2026, of a major reform programme aimed at improving services delivered to children, young people and their families.

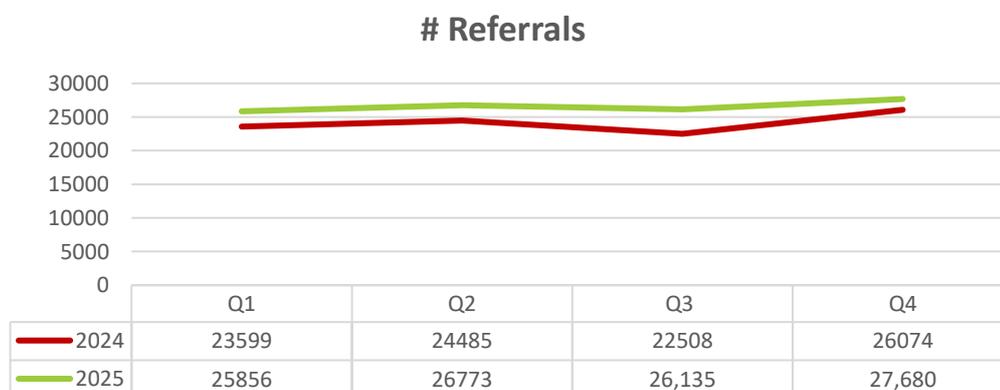
As part of this reform, the previous 17 geographical were replaced by 30 networks configured into six regions. Each network was indexed using Central Statistics Office demographic data (population size, disadvantage and deprivation) to ensure they are comparable in size and staffing. This creates equitable access to services regardless of location.

Because of this structural change, data extracted from our case management system (TCM) from 1 January 2026 onward cannot be aligned with area-level data from before that date. This affects any activity occurring in 2026 relating to referrals received in 2025. To address this, we extracted Q3 and Q4 2025 referral type, source and area data on 31 December 2025. This provides us with a complete area level picture for 2025 on the number, type and source of referrals. However, only national level referral process data for Q3 2025 is available in this report. This data was extracted on the 16 February 2026. Q4 2025 referral process data will be extracted at the end of April 2026.

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

#### Number of Referrals

- 106,444 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services in 2025<sup>1</sup>, 9,778 (10%) more than 2024 (96,666).



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

- 55.5% (59,098) of referrals for 2025 were for welfare concerns, 43.6% (46,365) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining <1% (981) of referrals (Tables 1 and 2).

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

Primary Report Type	% Q1 2025	% Q2 2025	% Q3 2025	% Q4 2025	% 2025
Welfare	59.4%	55.3%	55.0%	52.7%	55.5%
Emotional abuse	18.7%	18.3%	21.3%	20.0%	19.6%
Neglect	5.8%	7.4%	6.8%	7.4%	6.8%
Physical abuse	10.3%	12.0%	10.4%	12.0%	11.2%
Sexual abuse	5.5%	6.5%	6.0%	5.5%	5.9%
Not recorded	0.3%	0.5%	0.5%	2.3%	0.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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

Primary Report Type	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	2025
Welfare	15,354	14,796	14,362	14,586	<b>59,098</b>
Emotional abuse	4,846	4,902	5,577	5,548	<b>20,873</b>
Neglect	1,487	1,981	1,771	2,039	<b>7,278</b>
Physical abuse	2,652	3,213	2,730	3,332	<b>11,927</b>
Sexual abuse	1,429	1,750	1,572	1,536	<b>6,287</b>
Not recorded	88	131	123	639	<b>981</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,856</b>	<b>26,773</b>	<b>26,135</b>	<b>27,680</b>	<b>106,444</b>

## Referrals by Area

- The number of referrals for 2025 equates to about 87.4 referrals per 1,000 population under 18 years. *Note, the actual number of children referred is likely to be fewer as more than one referral can be received in relation to a child.* The rate of referrals ranges from about 51 per 1,000 (Dublin South East/Wicklow) to 132 per 1,000 (Dublin North City). Seven areas reported a rate equal to or higher than the national average of 87.4/1,000.
- The highest number of referrals for 2025 was reported by Midlands (10,316), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (10,286), Dublin North (10,142) and Cork (9,653). The fewest number was reported by Mayo (1,636) followed by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (1,672) and Kerry (2,460). A breakdown of referrals by area is presented in Table 3 below.

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

Area	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	2025	0-17 yrs pop	2025 YTD Rate / 1000
Dublin South Central	2,168	1,858	1,918	1,904	<b>7,848</b>	70,259	111.7
DSE/WW	1,095	1,193	1,103	1,203	<b>4,594</b>	91,047	50.5
DSW/K/WW	2,439	2,669	2,376	2,802	<b>10,286</b>	108,927	94.4
Midlands	2,580	2,668	2,387	2,681	<b>10,316</b>	80,962	127.4
Dublin North City	1,524	1,671	1,589	1,662	<b>6,446</b>	48,909	131.8
Dublin North	2,399	2,621	2,422	2,700	<b>10,142</b>	104,281	97.3
Louth / Meath	2,104	1,976	1,920	2,113	<b>8,113</b>	96,531	84.0
Cavan / Monaghan	756	841	783	817	<b>3,197</b>	37,336	85.6

Cork	2,203	2,516	2,384	2,550	<b>9,653</b>	136,786	70.6
Kerry	568	650	616	626	<b>2,460</b>	34,994	70.3
CW/K/ST	1,304	1,404	1,581	1,396	<b>5,685</b>	62,366	91.2
Waterford/Wexford	1,942	1,885	1,958	1,866	<b>7,651</b>	69,239	110.5
Mid West	2,059	2,014	2,047	2,179	<b>8,299</b>	96,764	85.8
Galway/Roscommon	1,199	1,276	1,318	1,325	<b>5,118</b>	81,799	62.6
Mayo	452	394	370	420	<b>1,636</b>	31,911	51.3
Donegal	717	722	959	930	<b>3,328</b>	42,144	79.0
SLWC	347	415	404	506	<b>1,672</b>	24,312	68.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,856</b>	<b>26,773</b>	<b>26,135</b>	<b>27,680</b>	<b>106,444</b>	<b>1,218,567</b>	<b>87.4</b>

Population (0-17 years) based on Census 2022

## Source of Referrals

- The most common source of referrals for 2025 was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 34% (35,940) of referrals, followed to a lesser extent by teachers (12%; 12,663), safeguarding officers (11%; 11,904) and social workers (10%; 10,919). Mandated persons accounted for 90% (96,177) of all sources. The source of all referrals is presented in Table 4 below.

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

Source	2025	% Total 2025
<b>An Garda Síochána</b>	<b>35,940</b>	<b>33.76%</b>
<b>Teacher</b>	<b>12,663</b>	<b>11.90%</b>
<b>Safeguarding officer,</b>	<b>11,904</b>	<b>11.18%</b>
<b>Social worker</b>	<b>10,919</b>	<b>10.26%</b>
<b>Social care worker</b>	<b>5,637</b>	<b>5.30%</b>
Anonymous	3,803	3.57%
Medical practitioner	3,481	3.27%
Parent / Guardian	3,243	3.05%
Nurse/midwife	3,030	2.85%
Manager of Domestic Violence Shelter	2,226	2.09%
Psychologist	1,959	1.84%
Psychotherapist	1,744	1.64%
Youth worker	1,744	1.64%
Manager of homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility	1,275	1.20%
Not specified	1,113	1.05%
Other Family Member	946	0.89%
Manager of Asylum Seeker accommodation (Direct provision) Centre	698	0.66%
Courts - Section 20 Child Care Act 1991)	496	0.47%
Probation officer	491	0.46%
Member of the public	353	0.33%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	349	0.33%
Person responsible for the care or management of a youth work service	345	0.32%
Occupational therapist	300	0.28%
Speech and language therapist	257	0.24%
Person carrying on a pre-school service	249	0.23%

Self	227	0.21%
Physiotherapist	164	0.15%
Guardian Ad Litem	163	0.15%
Addiction counsellor	155	0.15%
Emergency medical technician	149	0.14%
Foster carer registered with the Agency	116	0.11%
Other	114	0.11%
Other Court Request	67	0.06%
Director of any institution where a child is detained by an order of a court	39	0.04%
Manager of a language school or other recreational school	28	0.03%
Immigration Services	24	0.02%
Member of the Clergy	14	0.01%
Dentist	13	0.01%
Courts - Section 47 Child Care Act 1991	6	0.01%
<b>Total</b>	<b>106,444</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Mandated Reports

- 36% (38,830/106,444) of referrals for 2025 were mandated reports.
- A breakdown of mandated reports by primary report type is presented in Table 5 below.

**Table 5: Mandated reports by primary report type**

Primary Report Type	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	2025	% Total 2025
Physical Abuse	2,338	2,720	2,316	2,974	<b>10,348</b>	27%
Emotional Abuse	3,927	3,973	4,516	4,573	<b>16,989</b>	44%
Sexual Abuse	1,323	1,572	1,435	1,418	<b>5,748</b>	15%
Neglect	1,143	1,582	1,354	1,666	<b>5,745</b>	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,731</b>	<b>9,847</b>	<b>9,621</b>	<b>10,631</b>	<b>38,830</b>	<b>100%</b>

- A breakdown of mandated reports by area is presented in Table 6 below. The number of mandated reports for 2025 ranges from 655 (1.7%) (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) to 4,793 (12%) (Dublin North).

**Table 6: Mandated reports by area**

Area	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	2025	% Total 2025
Dublin South Central	867	739	780	752	<b>3,138</b>	8.1%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	431	475	532	577	<b>2,015</b>	5.2%
DSW/K/WW	651	754	609	993	<b>3,007</b>	7.7%
Midlands	788	948	827	1010	<b>3,573</b>	9.2%
Dublin North City	594	647	631	744	<b>2,616</b>	6.7%
Dublin North	1022	1203	1229	1339	<b>4,793</b>	12.3%
Louth/Meath	894	938	878	914	<b>3,624</b>	9.3%
Cavan/Monaghan	252	294	295	302	<b>1,143</b>	2.9%
Cork	646	808	786	845	<b>3,085</b>	7.9%
Kerry	142	213	201	202	<b>758</b>	2.0%
CW/K/ST	447	641	745	732	<b>2,565</b>	6.6%
Waterford/Wexford	396	499	381	408	<b>1,684</b>	4.3%

Mid West	600	626	611	581	<b>2,418</b>	6.2%
Galway/Roscommon	402	431	429	420	<b>1,682</b>	4.3%
Mayo	200	212	183	217	<b>812</b>	2.1%
Donegal	280	243	335	404	<b>1,262</b>	3.3%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	119	176	169	191	<b>655</b>	1.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,731</b>	<b>9,847</b>	<b>9,621</b>	<b>10,631</b>	<b>38,830</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

- A breakdown of source of mandated reports for 2025 is presented in Table 7 below. The most common source of reports was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 39% (15,224) of all mandated reports, followed to a lesser extent by teachers (15%; 5,733), safeguarding officers (12%; 4,799) and social workers (9%; 3,670).

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

Source	2025	% Total
<b>Member of An Garda Síochána</b>	<b>15,224</b>	<b>39.21%</b>
<b>Teacher</b>	<b>5,733</b>	<b>14.76%</b>
<b>A safeguarding officer</b>	<b>4,799</b>	<b>12.36%</b>
<b>Social worker</b>	<b>3,670</b>	<b>9.45%</b>
Social care worker	2,001	5.15%
Medical practitioner	1,204	3.10%
Manager of Domestic Violence Shelter	1,060	2.73%
Psychologist	977	2.52%
Psychotherapist	947	2.44%
Nurse/midwife	814	2.10%
Youth worker	647	1.67%
Manager of homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility	329	0.85%
Manager of Asylum Seeker accommodation (Direct provision) Centre	208	0.54%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	152	0.39%
Person responsible for the care or management of a youth work service	148	0.38%
Speech and language therapist	127	0.33%
Occupational therapist	109	0.28%
Probation Officer	105	0.27%
Guardian Ad Litem	101	0.26%
A person carrying on a pre-school service	99	0.25%
Physiotherapist	89	0.23%
Addiction counsellor	68	0.18%
Foster carer registered with the Agency	65	0.17%
Emergency medical technician	61	0.16%
Not specified	53	0.14%
Director of any institution where a child is detained by an order of a court	14	0.04%
Manager of a language school or other recreational school	12	0.03%
Member of the Clergy	9	0.02%
Dentist	5	0.01%
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,830</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

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

## Referral Process

- 58% (15,232/26,064\*) of referrals for Q3 2025 were closed following screening. *\*Note: data not available for 71 referrals.*
- 25% (6,623/26,064) of referrals for Q3 2025 progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage. The remaining referrals (16%; 4,209) were either at the screening stage, awaiting closure following screening, or another process stage, when the data was extracted for reporting.
- 56% (8,482) of referrals were closed following screening, as assessment / safety planning was already ongoing, while a further 6% (952) were diverted to Tusla’s Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) services and 2% (312) were diverted to another agency. Some 34% (5,189) were closed with no further action required.

**Table 8: Outcome of referrals closed following screening**

Outcome of referrals closed	Q3 2025	% Total
No further action - close	5,189	34.07%
No further action – close, assessment / safety planning ongoing	8,482	55.69%
Divert to another agency - close	312	2.05%
Divert to PPFS - close	952	6.25%
Other / Not recorded	297	1.95%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,232</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Preliminary Enquiries

- At the time the data for Q3 2025 was extracted for reporting, 99% (6,534/6,623) of preliminary enquiries were completed.
- 11% (723) of preliminary enquiries that were completed within 5 working days.
- Of the preliminary enquiries completed, 45% (2,936) required no further action; 35% (2,264) required an initial assessment, while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 5% (359) of cases. Some 9% (581) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS.

**Table 9: Outcomes from preliminary enquiries**

Outcomes from preliminary enquiry	Q3 2025	% Total
No Further Action (NFA) - Close	2,936	44.93%
No Further Action (NFA) - Close, Assessment/Safety Planning Ongoing	359	5.49%
Divert to PPFS - Close	350	5.36%
Divert to Another Agency - Close	581	8.89%
Initial Assessment	2,264	34.65%
Other	44	0.67%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,534</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Initial Assessments

- At the time the Q3 2025 data was extracted for reporting, 60% (1,367/2,264) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were completed.
- 30% (410) of initial assessments completed were completed within 40 days of receipt of referral.
- 48% (661) the initial assessments completed were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. Of these 71% (468) required no further action, 15% (97) were diverted to another agency for a service, 10% (65) were diverted to Tusla PPFs service, while the remaining 10% (31) were closed as assessment/safety planning already ongoing.
- 30% (414) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 16% (218) required a children protection response / child protection conference and 4% (52) required admission to care.

**Table 10: Breakdown of the outcome of initial assessments, Q3 2025**

Outcomes from initial assessments	Q3 2025	% Total
No Further Action (NFA) - Close	468	34.24%
No Further Action (NFA) - Close, Assessment/Safety Planning Ongoing	31	2.27%
Divert to Another Agency - Close	97	7.10%
Divert to PPFs - Close	65	4.75%
Child Protection / CPC Safety Planning	218	15.95%
Safety Planning	414	30.29%
Admission to Care	52	3.80%
Other	22	1.61%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,367</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 2.2 NATIONAL OUT OF HOURS SERVICES

- Tusla National Out of Hours Service (NOHS) received 438 new referrals in Q4 2025. This brings to 1,795 the number of referrals for 2025.

	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	2025 YTD
# Referrals	425	443	489	<b>438</b>	<b>1,795</b>

- The NOHS placed 218 children in Q4 2025. This brings to 902 the number of children placed for 2025. *Figures include children who may have been placed more than once.*
- A breakdown of children placed for each Tusla area is presented in the table below. Included in the table is the number of children from Ukraine and separated children seeking international protection who were placed.

	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	2025 YTD	% Total
UKRAINE	22	6	59	22	<b>109</b>	12.1%
Dublin North City	17	37	27	22	<b>103</b>	11.4%
Dublin South West/Kildare West Wicklow	24	32	10	27	<b>93</b>	10.3%
SCSIP	12	9	23	29	<b>73</b>	8.1%
Dublin North	24	21	12	13	<b>70</b>	7.8%
Dublin South Central	11	17	24	16	<b>68</b>	7.5%
Cork	8	16	28	11	<b>63</b>	7.0%
Louth/Meath	12	13	6	18	<b>49</b>	5.4%
Midlands	11	17	15	5	<b>48</b>	5.3%
Midwest	10	18	9	9	<b>46</b>	5.1%
Dublin South/East Wicklow	9	11	11	8	<b>39</b>	4.3%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	7	9	7	8	<b>31</b>	3.4%
Galway/Roscommon	5	8	3	9	<b>25</b>	2.8%
Waterford/Wexford	4	7	3	7	<b>21</b>	2.3%
Cavan/Monaghan	0	7	5	7	<b>19</b>	2.1%
Donegal	3	9	1	4	<b>17</b>	1.9%
Kerry	6	0	5	1	<b>12</b>	1.3%
Sligo,/Leitrim/ West Cavan	2	3	4	2	<b>11</b>	1.2%
Mayo	0	1	4	0	<b>5</b>	0.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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

### Key Facts

- **23,612 cases open to social work** nationally at the end of Q4 2025, 377 (2%) fewer than Q3 2025 (23,989) and 773 (3%) more than Q4 2024 (22,839).
- **77% (18,214) of open cases were allocated** to a case worker at the end of Q4 2025, down three percentage points from Q3 2025 (80%).
- **5,398 (23%) cases were awaiting allocation**, 530 (11%) more than Q3 2025 (4,868) and 392 (7%) fewer than Q4 2024 (5,790).
- Six areas account for 74% (4,011) of cases awaiting allocation, Cork (1,066), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (995), Dublin South Central (879), Midlands (416), Louth/Meath (335) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (320).
- **4% (232) of cases awaiting allocation** at the end of Q4 2025 were categorised as **high priority**, 16 (6%) fewer than Q3 2025 (248) and 291 (56%) fewer than Q4 2024 (523).
- 69% (3,708) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 26% (1,380) were low priority while the remaining 1% (78) were awaiting categorisation.
- **68% (3,652) of cases awaiting allocation** at the end of Q4 2025 were **waiting three months or less** and of these 51% (1,874) were waiting less than one month.
- 93% (214) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2025 were waiting 3 months or less and of these 62% (132) were waiting less than one month.

### 2.3.1 Open Cases

- 23,612 cases open<sup>2</sup> to social work nationally at the end of Q4 2025, 377 (2%) fewer than Q3 2025 (23,989) and 773 (3%) more than Q4 2024 (22,839).

Number of open cases at quarter end



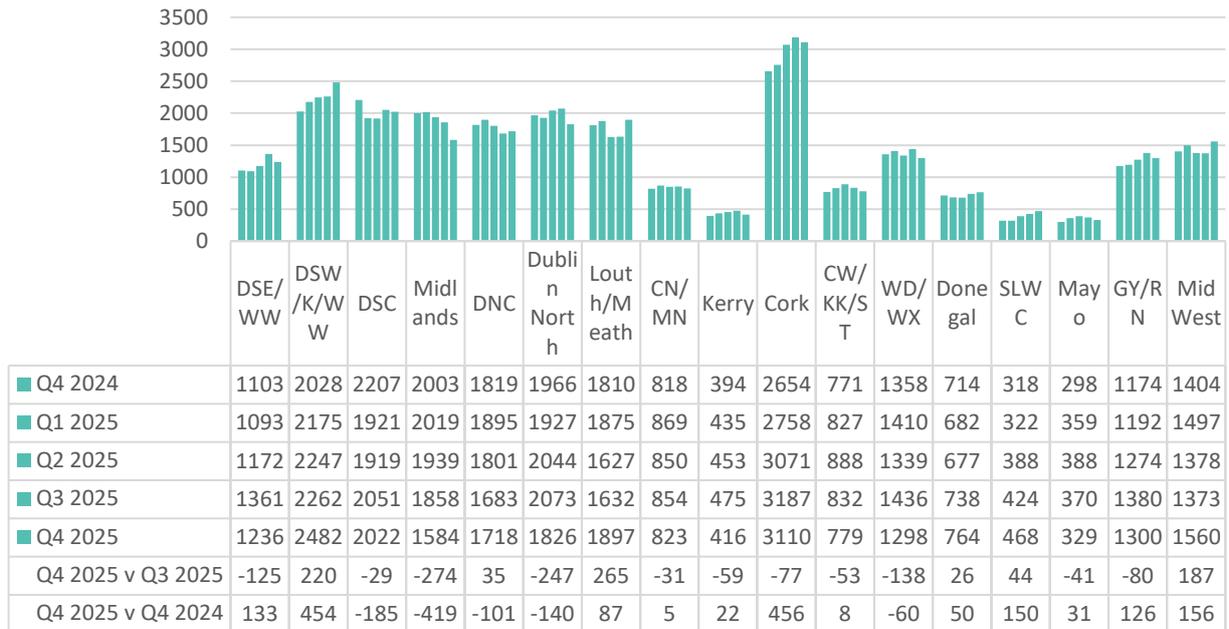
- The number of open cases ranged from 3,110 (13%) in Cork to 329 (1%) in Mayo. Eight of the 17 areas had between 1,000 and 2,000 cases; a further six areas had fewer than 1,000

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

cases while the remaining three areas (Cork, Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow, and Dublin South Central) had in excess of 2,000 cases.

- 6 of the 17 areas reported an increase in open cases from Q3 2025. The largest increases were reported by Louth/Meath (up 265), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 220) and Midwest (up 187)
- Of the 11 areas that reported a decrease, the largest decreases were reported by Midlands (down 274) Dublin North (down 247) and Waterford/Wexford (down 138).

Number of open cases by area



### 2.3.2 Open Cases Allocated / Awaiting Allocation

- 77% (18,214) of open cases were allocated to a case worker at the end of Q4 2025, down three percentage points from Q3 2025 (80%).

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

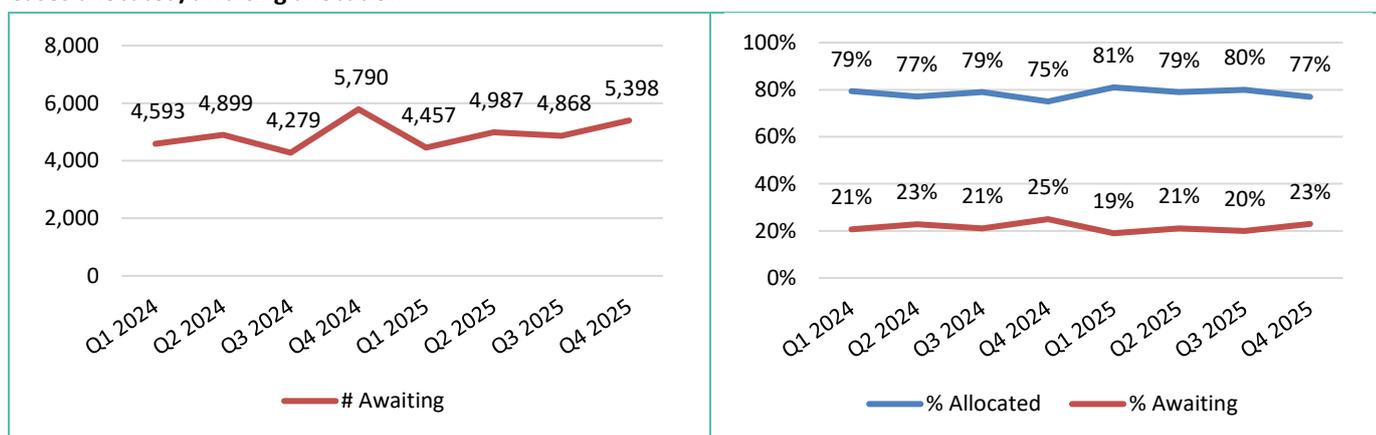
- Of the cases allocated (18,214) at the end of Q4 2025, 82% (14,928) were allocated to a social worker and 18% (3,286) were allocated to a another professional (see table below)

### Breakdown of allocated cases by allocated to a social worker / another professional and area, Q4 2025

Area	Allocated Social Worker	Allocated Other Professional	Total	%		Total
				Allocated Social Worker	% Allocated Other Professional	
Dublin South East/Wicklow	742	174	916	81%	19%	100%
DSW/K/WW	1,004	483	1,487	68%	32%	100%
Dublin South Central	880	263	1,143	77%	23%	100%
Midlands	931	237	1,168	80%	20%	100%
Dublin North City	1,262	205	1,467	86%	14%	100%
Dublin North	1,339	205	1,544	87%	13%	100%
Louth/Meath	1,188	374	1,562	76%	24%	100%
Cavan/Monaghan	486	200	686	71%	29%	100%
Kerry	333	77	410	81%	19%	100%
Cork	1,877	167	2,044	92%	8%	100%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	433	236	669	65%	35%	100%
Waterford/Wexford	833	234	1,067	78%	22%	100%
Donegal	538	75	613	88%	12%	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	445	12	457	97%	3%	100%
Mayo	307	21	328	94%	6%	100%
Galway/Roscommon	1251	44	1,295	97%	3%	100%
Mid West	1079	279	1,358	79%	21%	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,928</b>	<b>3,286</b>	<b>18,214</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>100%</b>

- 5,398 (23%) cases were awaiting allocation, 530 (11%) more than Q3 2025 (4,868) and 392 (7%) fewer than Q4 2024 (5,790).
- 49% (2,665) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2025 were “active” on a duty system<sup>3</sup>.

### Cases allocated/awaiting allocation

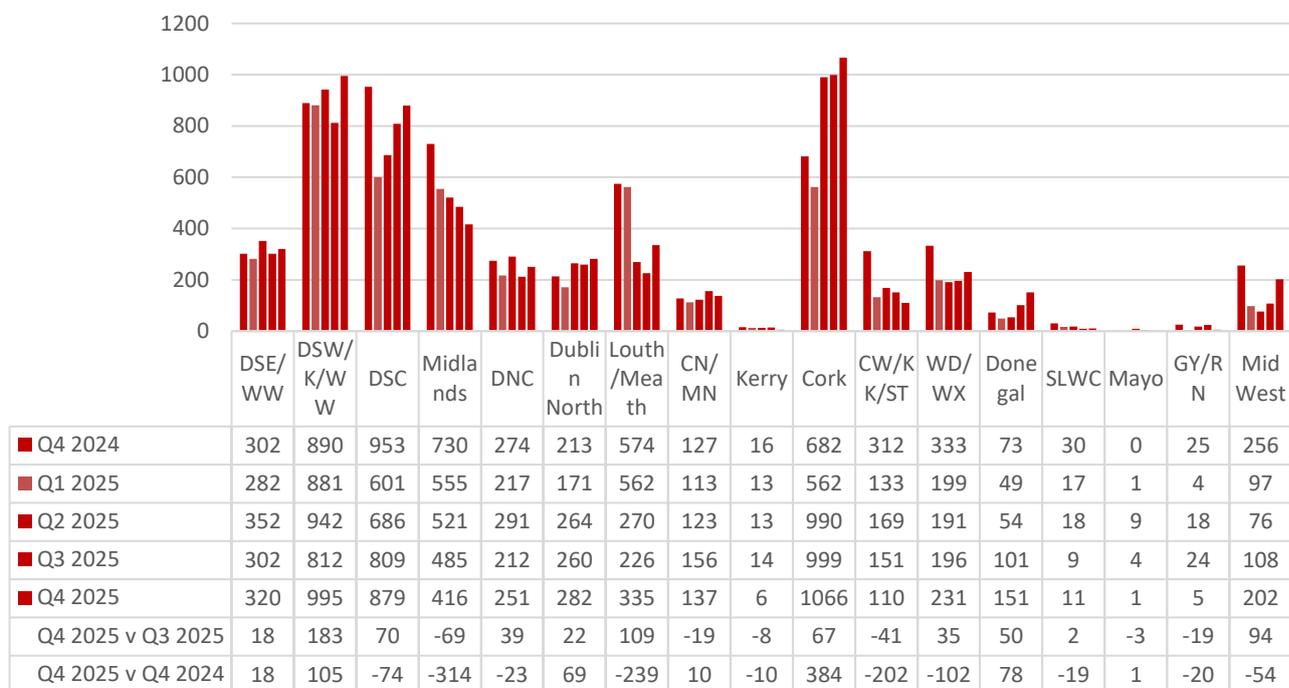


- Cork reported the highest number of cases awaiting allocation (1,066) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (995), Dublin South Central (879), Midlands (416), Louth/Meath (335) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (320). These six areas account for 74% (4,011) of cases awaiting allocation.

<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.

- 11 of the 17 areas reported an increase in cases awaiting allocation from Q3 2025 with the largest increases reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 183), Louth/Meath (up 109) and Midwest (up 94).
- 6 of the 17 areas reported a decrease in cases awaiting allocation from Q3 2025 with the largest decreases reported by Midlands (down 69), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 41), Galway/Roscommon (down 19) and Cavan/Monaghan (down 19).

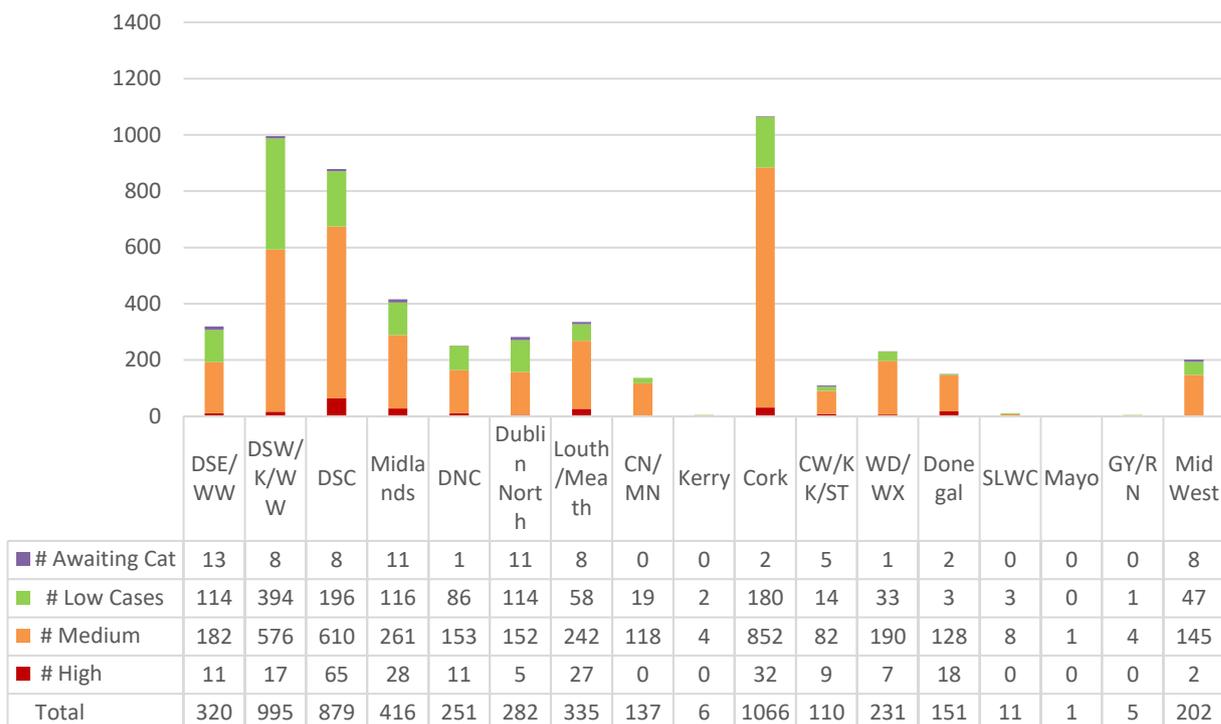
**Number of open cases awaiting allocation by area**



### 2.3.3 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Priority Level

- 4% (232) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2025 were categorised as high priority, 16 (6%) fewer than Q3 2025 (248) and 291 (56%) fewer than Q4 2024 (523).
- 69% (3,708) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 26% (1,380) were low priority while the remaining 1% (78) were awaiting categorisation.
- The highest numbers of high priority cases were reported by Dublin South Central (65), Cork (32), Midlands (28), Louth/Meath (27) and Donegal (18). These five areas reported 73% (170) of all high priority cases awaiting allocation.

### Number of cases awaiting allocation by priority



### 2.3.4 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Waiting Time

- 68% (3,652) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2025 were waiting three months or less and of these 51% (1,874) were waiting less than one month.
- 93% (214) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2025 were waiting 3 months or less and of these 62% (132) were waiting less than one month.

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

Time Waiting	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q1 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025
<1 month	1,922 (33%)	1,841 (41.3%)	1,799 (36%)	1,981 (41%)	<b>1,874 (35%)</b>
1-3 months	2,098 (36%)	1,595 (35.8%)	1,850 (37%)	1,327 (27%)	<b>1,778 (33%)</b>
>3 months	1,770 (31%)	1,021 (22.9%)	1,336 (27%)	1,536 (32%)	<b>1,722 (32%)</b>
Total	<b>5,790 (100%)</b>	<b>4,457 (100%)</b>	<b>4,985 (100%)*</b>	<b>4,844 (100%)*</b>	<b>5,374 (100%)*</b>

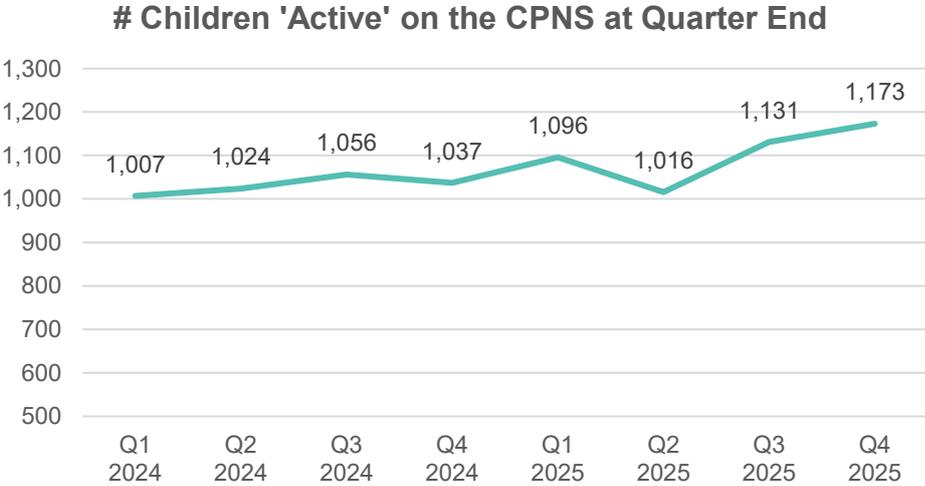
\*Length of time awaiting not available for two cases for Q2 2025, 24 cases for Q3 2025 and 24 cases for Q4 2025.

## 2.4 CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

**KEY FACTS**

- **1,173 children listed as ‘active’** on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of Q4 2025, 42 (4%) more than Q3 2025 (1,131) and 136 (13%) more than Q4 2024 (1,037). The number of children ‘active’ at the end of Q4 2025 is the highest number for all quarters Q1 2024 – Q4 2025.
- **80% (938/1,173) of children were listed as ‘active’ for no longer than 12 months**, down slightly from 82% (927/1,131) at the end of Q3 2025.
- **11% (134/1,173) of children were listed as ‘active’ for > 18 months**, up from 9% (100/1,131) at the end of Q3 2025.
- **98% (1,155) of children ‘active’ had an allocated social worker**, 18 children were awaiting allocation to a social worker, of which 11 were allocated to another professional. Thirteen of the 18 children were subsequently allocated to a social worker. The remaining five cases are allocated to another professional.

- 1,173 children listed as ‘active’ on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)<sup>4</sup> at the end of Q4 2025, 42 (4%) more than Q3 2025 (1,131) and 136 (13%) more than Q4 2024 (1,037). The number of children ‘active’ at the end of Q4 2025 is the highest number for all quarters Q1 2024 – Q4 2025.



- The number listed as ‘active’ equates to about 10 children per 10,000 under 18 years and ranges from 3.7/10,000 in Dublin South East/Wicklow to 19.4/10,000 in Dublin North City, more than double the national average. Seven areas reported a rate equal to or higher than the national average.

<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.

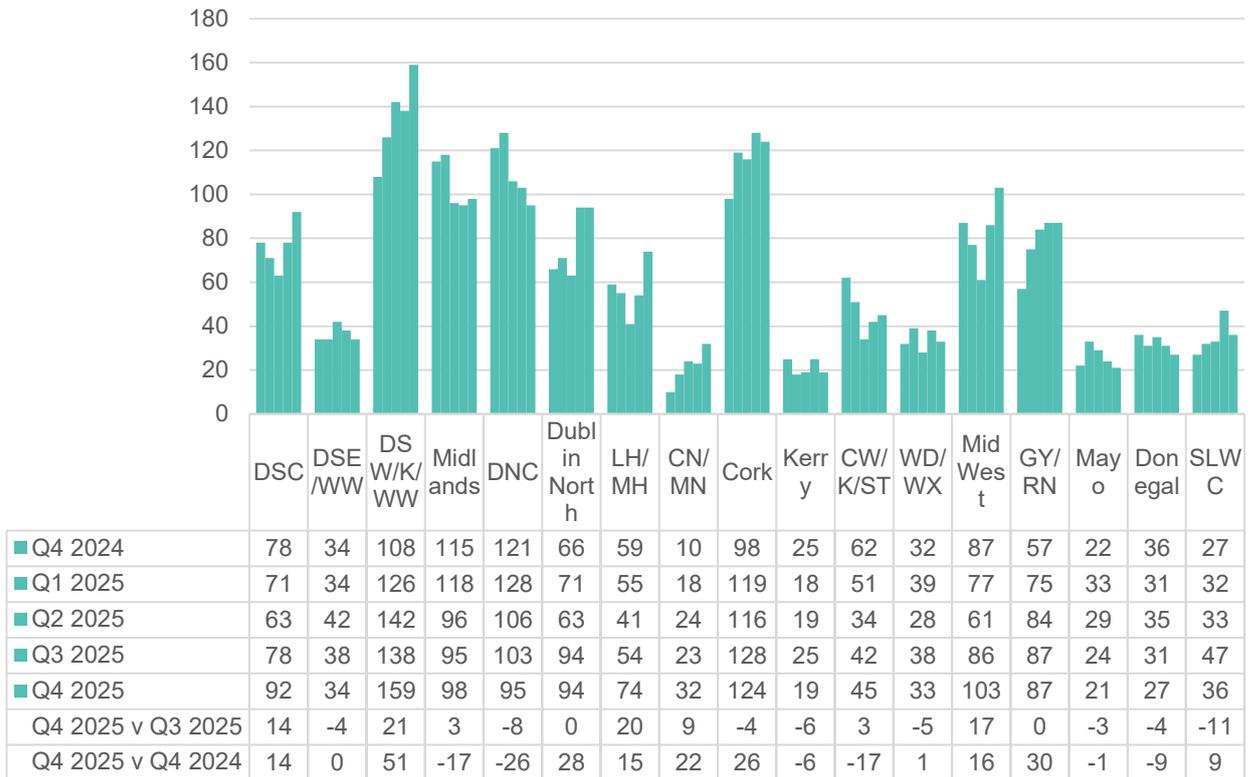
- Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow reported the highest number (159) of children ‘active’, followed by Cork (124) and Midwest (103).

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

Area	Q4 2025	Population	Rate/10,000
Dublin North City	95	48909	19.4
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	36	24312	14.8
Dublin South West / Kildare / West Wicklow	159	108927	14.6
Dublin South Central	92	70259	13.1
Midlands	98	80962	12.1
Midwest	103	96764	10.6
Galway / Roscommon	87	81799	10.6
Cork	124	136786	9.1
Dublin North	94	104281	9.0
Cavan / Monaghan	32	37336	8.6
Louth / Meath	74	96531	7.7
Carlow / Kilkenny / South Tipperary	45	62366	7.2
Mayo	21	31911	6.6
Donegal	27	42144	6.4
Kerry	19	34994	5.4
Waterford / Wexford	33	69239	4.8
Dublin South East / Wicklow	34	91047	3.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,173</b>	<b>1,218,567</b>	<b>9.6</b>

- 7/17 areas reported an increase in the number ‘active’ from Q3 2025. The largest increases were reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 21), Louth/Meath (up 20), Midwest (up 17) and Dublin South Central (up 14).
- 8/17 areas reported a decrease in the number ‘active’ from Q3 2025. The largest decreases were reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (down 11), Dublin North City (down 8) and Kerry (down 6). The remaining two areas (Galway/Roscommon and Dublin North) reported no change.
- 10/17 areas had more children ‘active’ at the end of Q4 2025 than at the end of Q4 2024. Largest increases reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 51), Galway/Roscommon (up 30), Dublin North (up 28) and Cork (up 26).
- 6/17 areas had fewer children ‘active’ at the end of Q4 2025 than at the end of Q4 2024. Largest decreases reported by Dublin North City (down 26), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 17) and Midlands (down 17). The remaining area (Dublin South East/Wicklow) reported no change.

### # Children 'Active' by Area



- 58% (680/1,173) of children listed as 'active' at the end of Q4 2025 were listed for 0-6 months, down slightly from 61% (690/1,131) at the end of Q3 2025.
- 80% (938/1,173) of children were listed as 'active' for no longer than 12 months, down slightly from 82% (927/1,131) at the end of Q3 2025.
- 11% (134/1,173) of children were listed as 'active' for > 18 months, up from 9% (100/1,131) at the end of Q3 2025.
- The areas reporting the largest number of children 'active' for > 18 months were, Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (30), Dublin North City (24), Cork (16) and Midwest (16). These four areas account for 64% (86) of children 'active' for >18 months.
- Ten areas had five or fewer children 'active' for >18 months, with one of these areas (Cavan/Monaghan) reporting none.
- 98% (1,155) of children 'active' had an allocated social worker, 18 children were awaiting allocation to a social worker, of which 11 were allocated to another professional. Thirteen of the 18 children were subsequently allocated to a social worker. The remaining five cases are allocated to another professional.

## 3.0 ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

### KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

#### 3.1 Children in Care (Foster Care / Residential Care)

#### 3.2 Aftercare

#### 3.3 Adoption

#### 3.4 Foster Carers

### 3.1 CHILDREN IN CARE (FOSTER CARE / RESIDENTIAL CARE)

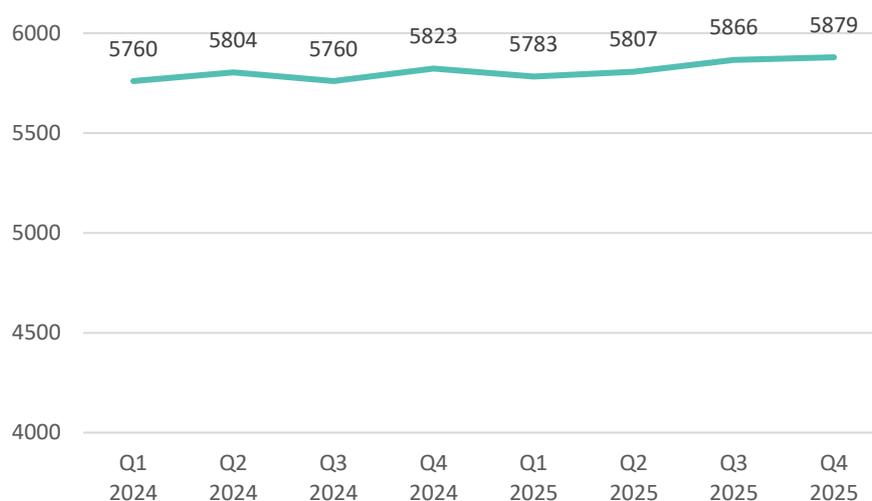
#### KEY FACTS

- **5,879 children in care at the end of Q4 2025**, 13 (1%) more than Q3 2025 (5,866) and 56 (1%) more than Q4 2024 (5,866). This figure (5,866) includes 150 children reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.
- **86.0% (5,058) of children in care (17 Areas + SCSIP) were in foster care (general, relative)** at the end of Q4 2025 and 10.3% (609) were in a residential care (general and special care) placement. The remaining 3.6% (212) of children were in “Other” care placements. *“Other” includes at home under a care order, supported lodgings, detention centre, disability unit, hospital, special emergency arrangement, not specified etc.*
- Across the 17 Areas, **88% (5,042/5,729) of children were in foster care**, 8.4% (484) were in residential care and the remaining 3.5% (203) were in “other” care placements.
- **1,130 (19%) children in care at the end of Q4 2025 were in placements with private providers**, 15 (1%) more than Q3 2025 (1,115) and 115 (11%) more than Q4 2024 (1,015).
- **98% (5,777) of children in care at the end of Q4 2025 had an allocated worker**. A total of 102 children were awaiting allocation of worker at the end of Q4 2025, 20 (20%) more than Q3 2025 (82).
- **84% (4,924) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan**, up one percentage point from Q3 2025 (83%). A total of 955 (16%) of children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 44 (4%) fewer than Q3 2025 (999).
- **95% (3,512/3,709) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education** at the end of Q4 2025.
- **93% (935/1,009) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education** at the end of Q4 2025.

#### 3.1.1 Number of Children in Care

- 5,879 children in care at the end of Q4 2025, 13 (1%) more than Q3 2025 (5,866) and 56 (1%) more than Q4 2024 (5,866). *This figure (5,866) includes 150 children reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.*

## Number of Children in Care



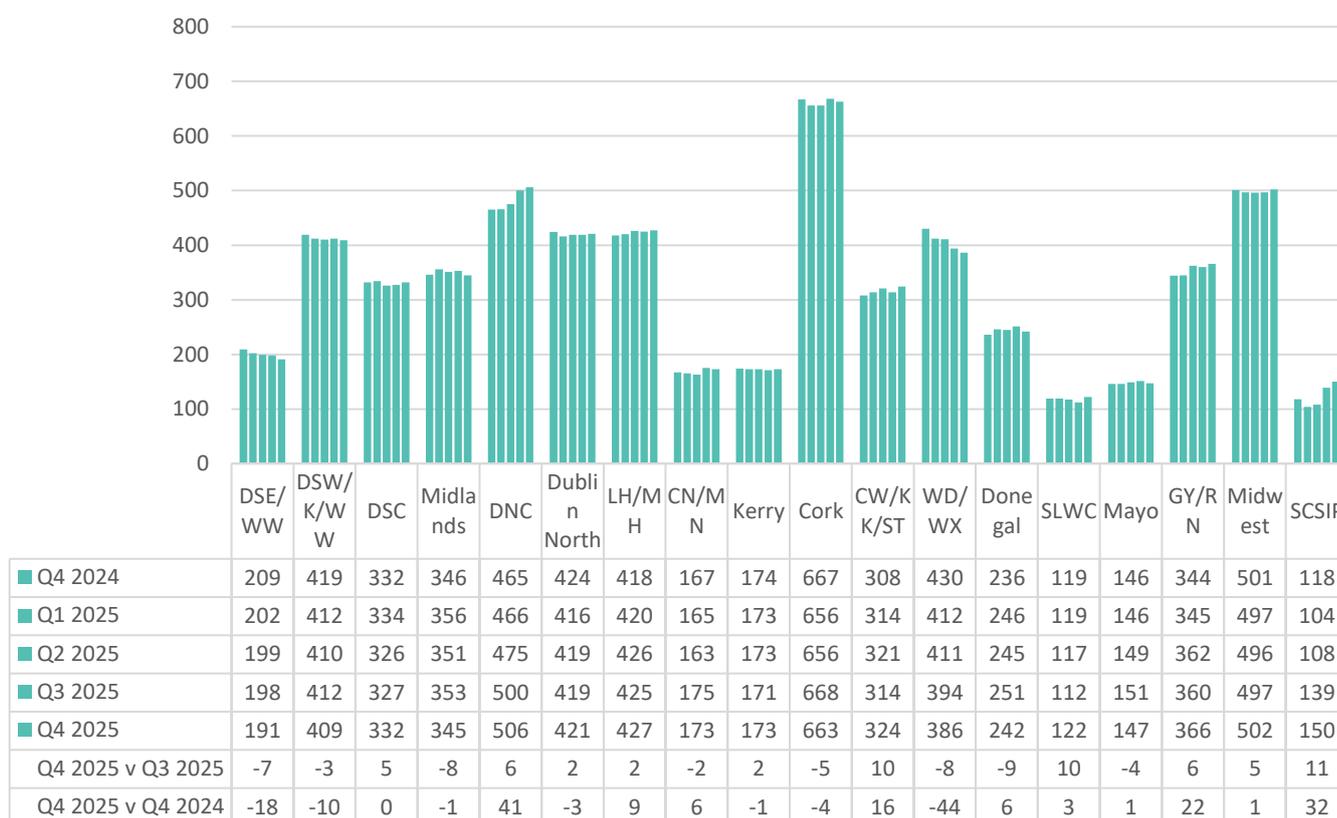
- Across the 17 areas the number of children in care ranged from 663 in Cork to 122 in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan.
- Dublin North City reported the highest rate of children in care per 1,000 population under 18 years (10.3), more than double the national rate (4.7), followed by Donegal (5.7) and Waterford/Wexford (5.6). Lowest rate reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (2.1) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (3.8) and Dublin North (4.0).

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

Area	# Children in care Q4 2025	0-17 population (Census 2022)	No of CIC/1,000 population 0-17
Dublin North City	506	48,909	10.3
Donegal	242	42,144	5.7
Waterford/Wexford	386	69,239	5.6
CW/KK/ST	324	62,366	5.2
Midwest	502	96,764	5.2
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	122	24,312	5.0
Kerry	173	34,994	4.9
Cork	663	136,786	4.8
Dublin South Central	332	70,259	4.7
Cavan/Monaghan	173	37,336	4.6
Mayo	147	31,911	4.6
Galway/Roscommon	366	81,799	4.5
Louth/Meath	427	96,531	4.4
Midlands	345	80,962	4.3
Dublin North	421	104,281	4.0
DSW/K/WW	409	108,927	3.8
Dublin South East/Wicklow	191	91,047	2.1
<b>Total Areas</b>	<b>5,729</b>	<b>1,218,567</b>	<b>4.7</b>

- 9 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported an increase in children in care from Q3 2025. Largest increases reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (up 11), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (up 10) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (up 10).
- 8 areas reported a decrease from Q3 2025, with the largest decreases reported by Donegal (down 9), Waterford/Wexford (down 8) and Midlands (down 8).
- 9 areas along with the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection had more children in care at the end of Q4 2025 than at the end of Q4 2024. Largest increases reported by Dublin North City (up 41), Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (up 32) and Galway/Roscommon (up 22).
- 7 areas reported a decrease with the largest decreases reported by Waterford/Wexford (down 44), Dublin South East/Wicklow (down 18) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (down 10). The remaining areas (Dublin South Central) reported no change.

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



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

- 86.0% (5,058) of children in care (17 Areas + SCSIP) were in foster care (general, relative) at the end of Q4 2025 and 10.3% (609) were in a residential care (general and special care) placement. The remaining 3.6% (212) of children were in “Other” care placements. “Other” includes at home under a care order, supported lodgings, detention centre, disability unit, hospital, special emergency arrangement, not specified etc.

- Across the 17 Areas, 88% (5,042/5,729) of children were in foster care, 8.4% (484) were in residential care and the remaining 3.5% (203) were in “other” care placements.

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

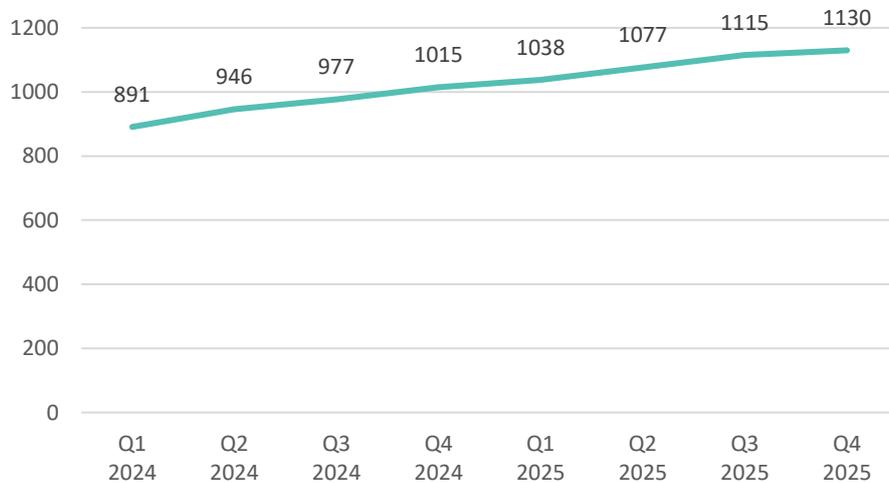
	Foster Care General	Δ+/- prev Q	Foster Care Relative	Δ+/- prev Q	Residential Care Gen	Δ+/- prev Q	Residential Special	Δ+/- prev Q	Other Care	Δ+/- prev Q	Total	Δ+/- prev Q
<b>Q4 2024</b>	3,578	0	1,499	+42	530	+44	13	-2	203	-21	<b>5,823</b>	+63
<b>Q1 2025</b>	3,540	-38	1,501	+2	538	+8	14	+1	190	-13	<b>5,783</b>	-40
<b>Q2 2025</b>	3,560	+20	1,483	-18	542	+4	14	0	208	+18	<b>5,807</b>	+24
<b>Q3 2025</b>	3,541	-19	1,505	+22	584	+42	14	0	222	+14	5,866	+59
<b>Q4 2025</b>	<b>3,545</b>	+4	<b>1,513</b>	+8	<b>594</b>	+10	<b>15</b>	+1	<b>212</b>	-10	<b>5,879</b>	<b>+13</b>

- 17 (0.3%) children were in out of State placements at the end of Q4 2025, one more than Q3 2025 (16). These children are included in the figures for the various care types set out in the table above.

### 3.1.3 Children in Placements with Private Providers

- 1,130 (19%) children in care at the end of Q4 2025 were in placements with private providers<sup>5</sup>, 15 (1%) more than Q3 2025 (1,115) and 115 (11%) more than Q4 2024 (1,015).

Number of children in placements with private providers

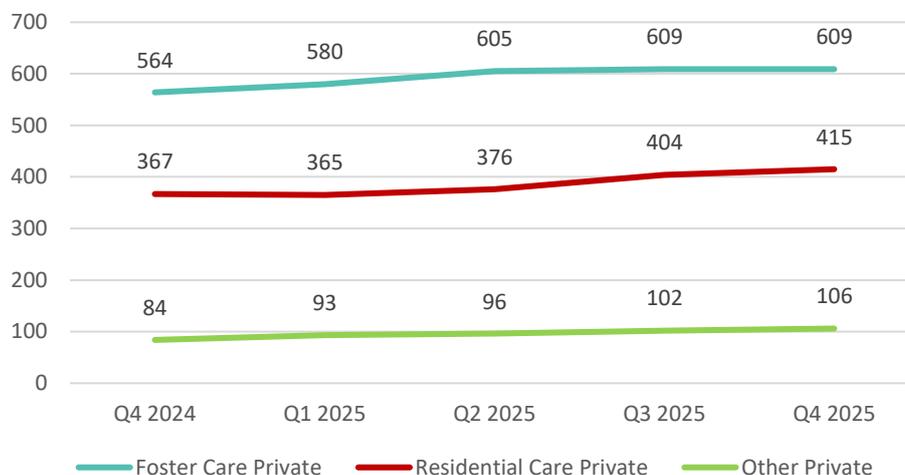


- 54% (609) of children in placements with private providers were in foster care, no change from Q3 2025 and up 45 (8%) from Q4 2024 (564).
- 37% (415) were in residential placements, 11 (3%) more than Q3 2025 (404) and 48 (13%) more than Q4 2024 (367).

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

- The remaining 9% (106) were in “Other” care placements, up 4 (4%) from Q3 2025 (102) and 22 (26%) from Q4 2024 (84). “Other” care placements include disability units, mental health units, drugs and alcohol rehabilitation centres etc.

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



- The highest number of children in care in placements with private providers is reported by Dublin North City (165) followed by Dublin North (123), Dublin South West/Kildare West Wicklow (122), Dublin South Central (120), the Service for SCSIP (117) and Midlands (102). These five areas and the Service for SCSIP account for 66% (749) of all children in placements with private providers.
- 8 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported an increase from Q3 2025 in children in placements with private providers with the largest increases reported by the Service for SCSIP (up 15) and Dublin North City (up 13).

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

Area	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q4 v Q3
Dublin North City	129	138	141	152	<b>165</b>	13
Dublin North	122	122	126	124	<b>123</b>	-1
DSW/K/WW	118	112	123	125	<b>122</b>	-3
Dublin South Central	113	118	116	118	<b>120</b>	2
SCSIP	72	67	73	102	<b>117</b>	15
Midlands	87	97	105	107	<b>102</b>	-5
Cork	55	60	65	67	<b>69</b>	2
Louth/Meath	53	52	53	54	<b>50</b>	-4
Waterford/Wexford	53	51	56	49	<b>47</b>	-2
Dublin South East/Wicklow	52	50	46	45	<b>44</b>	-1
Mid West	41	40	44	43	<b>44</b>	1
Kerry	33	32	34	34	<b>35</b>	1
Donegal	22	28	30	30	<b>25</b>	-5
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	25	27	25	25	<b>24</b>	-1
Galway/Roscommon	16	19	16	17	<b>17</b>	0
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	14	15	15	12	<b>13</b>	1

Cavan/Monaghan	9	8	7	8	9	1
Mayo	1	2	2	3	4	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>1,038</b>	<b>1,077</b>	<b>1,115</b>	<b>1,130</b>	<b>15</b>

### 3.1.4 Children in Care with an Allocated Worker

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

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

- 98% (5,777) of children in care at the end of Q4 2025 had an allocated worker.
- 102 children were awaiting allocation of worker at the end of Q4 2025, 20 (24%) more than Q3 2025 (82).

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

Care Type	CIC Q3 2025	Allocated Q3 2025	% Allocated Q3 2025	CIC Q4 2025	Allocated Q4 2025	% Allocated Q4 2025
Foster Care (General)	3,541	3,498	99%	3,545	3,495	99%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,505	1,479	98%	1,513	1,489	98%
Residential Care (General)	584	574	98%	594	573	96%
Residential Special Care	14	14	100%	15	15	100%
Other Placements	222	219	99%	212	205	97%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,866</b>	<b>5,784</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>5,879</b>	<b>5,777</b>	<b>98%</b>

- 89% (5,165) of children allocated were allocated to a social worker and 11% (612) were allocated to another professional. A breakdown of children allocated by role type and area is presented in the table below.

Area	Allocated SW Q4 2025	% Allocated SW Q4 2025	Allocated OP Q4 2025	% Allocated OP Q4 2025	Total Allocated Q4 2025
Dublin South East/Wicklow	184	96.3%	7	4%	191
DSW/K/WW	312	83.0%	64	17%	376
Dublin South Central	306	95.0%	16	5%	322
Midlands	318	92.2%	27	8%	345
Dublin North City	462	91.3%	44	9%	506
Dublin North	385	91.7%	35	8%	420
Louth/Meath	346	84.6%	63	15%	409
Cavan/Monaghan	164	94.8%	9	5%	173
Kerry	162	93.6%	11	6%	173
Cork	655	100.0%	0	0%	655
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	188	58.0%	136	42%	324
Waterford/Wexford	326	85.1%	57	15%	383

Donegal	222	92.5%	18	8%	240
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	122	100.0%	0	0%	122
Mayo	147	100.0%	0	0%	147
Galway/Roscommon	357	98.3%	6	2%	363
Mid West	382	76.2%	119	24%	501
SCSIP	127	100.0%	0	0%	127
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,165</b>	<b>89.4%</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>5,777</b>

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

Area	No in Care Q4 2025	No Allocated Q4 2025	% Allocated Q4 2025	# Awaiting Allocation Q4 2025
Dublin South East/Wicklow	191	191	100.0%	0
Midlands	345	345	100.0%	0
Dublin North City	506	506	100.0%	0
Cavan/Monaghan	173	173	100.0%	0
Kerry	173	173	100.0%	0
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	324	324	100.0%	0
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	122	122	100.0%	0
Mayo	147	147	100.0%	0
Mid West	502	501	99.8%	1
Dublin North	421	420	99.8%	1
Waterford/Wexford	386	383	99.2%	3
Galway/Roscommon	366	363	99.2%	3
Donegal	242	240	99.2%	2
Cork	663	655	98.8%	8
Dublin South Central	332	322	97.0%	10
Louth/Meath	427	409	95.8%	18
DSW/K/WW	409	376	91.9%	33
SCSIP	150	127	84.7%	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,879</b>	<b>5,777</b>	<b>98.3%</b>	<b>102</b>

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

- 84% (4,924) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan, up one percentage point from Q3 2025 (83%).
- A total of 955 (16%) of children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 44 (4%) fewer than Q3 2025 (999).

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

Care Type	CIC Q3 2025	No. with UTD CP Q3 2025	% with UTD CP Q3 2025	CIC Q4 2025	No. with UTD CP Q4 2025	% with UTD CP Q4 2025
Foster Care General	3,541	3,032	86%	3,545	3,086	87%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,505	1,230	82%	1,513	1,243	82%
Residential Care General	584	451	77%	594	455	77%
Residential Special Care	14	11	79%	15	8	53%
Other Placements	222	143	64%	212	132	62%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,866</b>	<b>4,867</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>5,879</b>	<b>4,924</b>	<b>84%</b>

- The percentage of children with an up-to-date care plan ranged from 98% (Midlands) to 71% (Dublin South East/Wicklow).
- The areas with the highest numbers of children awaiting an up-to-date plan are Dublin North City (116; 23%), Midwest (98; 20%), Cork (91; 14%) and Dublin North (87; 21%).

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

Area	No in Care Q4 2025	No with a care plan Q4 2025	% with a care plan Q4 2025	# Awaiting a Plan
Midlands	345	337	98%	8
Donegal	242	227	94%	15
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	324	299	92%	25
Waterford/Wexford	386	353	91%	33
Cavan/Monaghan	173	152	88%	21
Cork	663	572	86%	91
Galway/Roscommon	366	310	85%	56
Kerry	173	143	83%	30
Mayo	147	121	82%	26
Louth/Meath	427	351	82%	76
DSW/K/WW	409	335	82%	74
Mid West	502	404	80%	98
Dublin North	421	334	79%	87
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	122	96	79%	26
Dublin North City	506	390	77%	116
Dublin South Central	332	252	76%	80
SCSIP	150	112	75%	38
Dublin South East/Wicklow	191	136	71%	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,879</b>	<b>4,924</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>955</b>

### 3.1.6 Children in Care in Education

- 95% (3,512/3,709) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education at the end of Q4 2025.
- All but three area (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan, Dublin North City and Dublin South Central) reported 90% or higher with one area (Mayo) reporting 100%.

- 69% (2,419) of children 6-15 years were in primary school, 26% (917) were in post primary school and 4% (128) were in special education. There were a further 48 (1%) spread across boarding school, education training facility, home tuition, pre-school and Other (not specified).
- 93% (935/1,009) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of Q4 2025.
- 15/17 areas reporting 90% or higher.
- 87% (809) of young people 16 & 17 years were in post primary school, 7% (62) were in special education and 5% (42) were attending an educational training facility. There were a further 22 (2%) spread across boarding school, home tuition and other (not specified).

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

Area	No of CIC 6-15 years Q4 2025	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q4 2025	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q4 2025
Mayo	95	95	100%
Waterford/Wexford	240	239	99.6%
Cavan/Monaghan	119	118	99%
Mid West	334	331	99%
Midlands	238	235	99%
Dublin North	290	285	98%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	207	203	98%
Donegal	150	146	97%
Louth/Meath	299	287	96%
Galway/Roscommon	243	232	95%
Kerry	104	99	95%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	118	110	93%
Cork	435	392	90%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	248	223	90%
Dublin South Central	212	187	88%
Dublin North City	294	258	88%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	83	72	87%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,709</b>	<b>3,512</b>	<b>95%</b>

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

Area	No of CIC 16-17 yrs Q4 2025	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q4 2025	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q4 2025
Mid West	84	83	99%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	34	33	97%
Midlands	51	49	96%
Mayo	21	20	95%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	56	53	95%
Waterford/Wexford	71	67	94%
Galway/Roscommon	70	66	94%

Kerry	33	31	94%
Louth/Meath	72	67	93%
Dublin North City	81	75	93%
Cavan/Monaghan	27	25	93%
Dublin North	74	68	92%
Cork	132	120	91%
Dublin South Central	60	54	90%
Donegal	40	36	90%
DSW/K/WW	84	72	86%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	19	16	84%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,009</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>93%</b>

## 3.2 AFTERCARE

### KEY FACTS

- **171 referrals for an aftercare service in Q4 2025.** This brings to at least 680 the number of referrals for 2025, 100 (17%) more than the same period in 2024 (580).
- **2,985 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q4 2025,** 8 (<1%) more than Q3 2025 (2,977) and 50 (2%) more than Q4 2024 (2,935). *Figures include young persons < 18 years and those 18-22 years inclusive.*
- **84% (1,858/2,214) of those 18-22 years** inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q4 2025 **were in education/accredited training.**
- Almost half (43.5%; 963) of young people 18 – 22 years (2,214) in receipt of aftercare services had remained living with their carers. A further 8% (174) had returned home to parents/family while one in five (22.8%; 504) was in independent living arrangements. Some 7.5% (165) were homeless.
- **78% (2,317)** of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q4 2025 had an **aftercare plan**, no change from Q3 2025. A total of 668 were awaiting a plan, 20 (3%) more than Q3 2025 (648).
- 93% (2,147/2,317) of those with an aftercare plan were assessed as needing an aftercare worker.
- **91% (1,946/2,147) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker** at the end of Q4 2025, up one percentage points from Q3 2025 (90%). A total of 201 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q4 2025, 12 (6%) fewer than Q3 2025 (213).
- **98% (190/194) of young people < 18 years** assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an **aftercare worker** at the end of Q4 2025.
- **90% (1,756/1,953) of 18–22-year-olds** assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an **aftercare worker** at the end of Q4 2025.

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

- 171 referrals for an aftercare service in Q4 2025. This brings to at least 680 the number of referrals for 2025, 100 (17%) more than the same period in 2024 (580).
- 93% (159) of referrals for Q4 2025 were eligible for an assessment of need.
- Of those eligible for an assessment of need 99% (157) were <18 years and in care; the remaining two were 18-20 years.
- 79 assessments of need were completed in Q4 2025. This brings to 425 the number of assessments completed in 2025, 13 (3%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (438)
- A breakdown of referrals by area is presented in the table below.

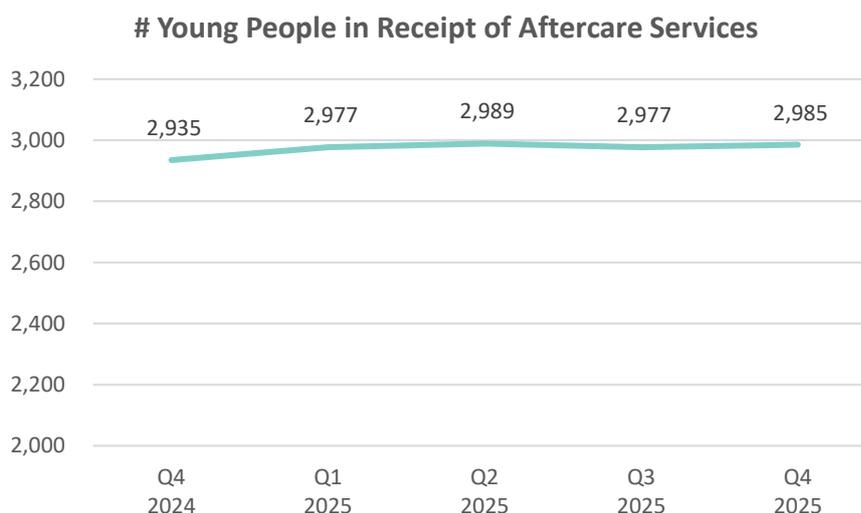
**Table: Referrals for an Aftercare Service by Area**

Area	2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	2025 YTD
Dublin South Central	30	7	7	7	12	33
Dublin South East/Wicklow	24	5	1	7	12	25
DSW/K/WW	47	8	16	15	7	46
Midlands	21	6	7	5	13	31
Dublin North City	45	21	7	10	11	49
Dublin North	25	4	11	6	15	36
Louth/Meath	30	1	5	2	3	11
Cavan/Monaghan	22	5	4	1	7	17
Cork	64	25*	11*	18	20	74
Kerry	17	9	4	3	5	21
CW/K/ST	36	6	7	4	5	22
Waterford/Wexford	40	17*	9	8	12	46
Mid West	42	5	9	12	17	43
Galway/Roscommon	40	2	10	6	6	24
Mayo	8	4	3	4	2	13
Donegal	12	10	10	6	2	28
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	14	3	2	2	0	7
SCSIP Service	63	34	53	45	22	154
<b>Total</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>172*</b>	<b>176*</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>680</b>

\*Revised from previously reported

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

- 2,985 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q4 2025, 8 (<1%) more than Q3 2025 (2,977) and 50 (2%) more than Q4 2024 (2,935). *Figures include young persons < 18 years and those 18-22 years inclusive.*



- Highest number of adults/young people in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q4 2025 reported by Cork (363) followed by the Service for SCSIP (278) and Dublin North City (267). Fewest number reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (49) followed by Mayo (66) and Cavan /Monaghan (70).

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q4 2024	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q1 2025	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q2 2025	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q3 2025	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q4 2025
Dublin South Central	209	213	175	177	<b>172</b>
DSE/WW	135	123	118	125	<b>134</b>
DSW/K/WW	215	216	221	217	<b>207</b>
Midlands	129	129	126	118	<b>114</b>
Dublin North City	249	262	266	269	<b>267</b>
Dublin North	182	184	177	215	<b>176</b>
Louth/Meath	153	134	146	134	<b>130</b>
Cavan/Monaghan	77	79	79	67	<b>70</b>
Cork	365	388	360	368	<b>363</b>
Kerry	87	93	94	93	<b>96</b>
CW/K/ST	164	158	144	108	<b>138</b>
Waterford/Wexford	161	193**	207**	207**	<b>213</b>
Mid West	226	230	230	228	<b>228</b>
Galway/Roscommon	208	197	200	181	<b>178</b>
Mayo	67	68	71	68	<b>66</b>
Donegal	96	95	92	102	<b>106</b>
SLWC	50	48	47	46	<b>49</b>
SCSIP Service	162	167	236*	254	<b>278</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,935</b>	<b>2,977*</b>	<b>2,989*</b>	<b>2,977*</b>	<b>2,985</b>

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

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

- 55% (1,649) of those in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q4 2025 (2,985) were 18 – 20 years inclusive and of these 82% (1,345) were in education/accredited training, up three percentage points from Q3 2025 (table below).
- 12 of the 17 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported at least seven out of 10 young people (18-20 years) in receipt of aftercare services in education/accredited training. Two areas (Dublin North City and Mayo) and the Service for SCSIP reported 100%.
- Rates reported by Waterford/Wexford (63%), Dublin North (66%) and Louth/Meath (67%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# 18-20 years Q3 2025	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 18-20 years Q4 2025	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
Dublin South Central	100	65	<b>65%</b>	99	67	68%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	72	54	<b>75%</b>	68	54	79%
DSW/K/WW	116	80	<b>69%</b>	111	77	69%
Midlands	64	51	<b>80%</b>	58	47	81%
Dublin North City	119	89	<b>75%</b>	111	111	100%
Dublin North	90	65	<b>72%</b>	87	57	66%

Louth/Meath	85	54	64%	85	57	67%
Cavan/Monaghan	41	26	63%	41	30	73%
Cork	195	158	81%	184	152	83%
Kerry	48	36	75%	44	35	80%
CW/K/ST	76	76	100%	67	60	90%
Waterford/Wexford	110*	75	68%	123	78	63%
Mid West	145	128	88%	144	134	93%
Galway/Roscommon	95	76	80%	101	82	81%
Mayo	31	31	100%	33	33	100%
Donegal	53	45	85%	58	44	76%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	25	19	76%	28	20	71%
SCSIP Service	183	176	96%	207	207	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,648*</b>	<b>1,304</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>1,649</b>	<b>1,345</b>	<b>82%</b>

\*Revised from previously reported

- The highest number of those in education/accredited training were in second level (369; 27%) followed by vocational training (258; 19%).

	# 18-20 years in education/accredited Training Q4 2025	%
<b>Second Level</b>	369	27%
<b>Vocational Training</b>	258	19%
<b>PLCs</b>	229	17%
<b>Third Level College / University</b>	244	18%
<b>Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)</b>	123	9%
<b>Other</b>	122	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,345</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

- 19% (565) of those in receipt of an aftercare service (2,985) were 21 – 22 years inclusive and of these 91% (513) were in education/accredited training, an increase of nine percentage points from Q3 2025 (82%).
- 16 of the 17 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported 70% or higher with six of the areas and the Service for SCSIP reporting 100%. Rates reported by Louth/Meath (67%) and Galway/Roscommon (79%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# 21-22 years Q3 2025	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 21-22 years Q4 2025	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
Dublin South Central	21	18	86%	17	15	88%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	24	24	100%	26	26	100%
DSW/K/WW	32	27	84%	30	27	90%
Midlands	24	24	100%	23	23	100%
Dublin North City	85	43	51%	90	90	100%
Dublin North	34	28	82%	28	25	89%
Louth/Meath	22	16	73%	30	20	67%
Cavan/Monaghan	8	5	63%	11	9	82%

Cork	70	47	67%	65	52	80%
Kerry	17	15	88%	22	19	86%
CW/K/ST	20	20	100%	20	19	95%
Waterford/Wexford	28*	27*	96%*	21	20	95%
Mid West	34	34	100%	39	36	92%
Galway/Roscommon	60	46	77%	53	42	79%
Mayo	23	23	100%	23	23	100%
Donegal	20	20	100%	15	15	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	11	10	91%	5	5	100%
SCSIP Service	53	52	98%	47	47	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>586*</b>	<b>479*</b>	<b>82%*</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>91%</b>

*\*Revised from previously reported*

- 39% (201) of those in education/accredited training were in third level colleges with a further 20% (102) in PLCs, 15% (77) in accredited training and 13% (69) in vocational training.

	# 21-22 years in education/accredited Training Q4 2025	%
Second Level	13	3%
Vocational Training	69	13%
PLCs	102	20%
Third Level College / University	201	39%
Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)	77	15%
Other	51	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

- Almost half (43.5%; 963) of young people 18 – 22 years (2,214) in receipt of aftercare services had remained living with their carers. A further 8% (174) had returned home to parents/family while one in five (22.8%; 504) was in independent living arrangements. Some 7.5% (165) were homeless.

Accommodation	# 18-22 placement type Q4 2025	%
Residential Care Placement	170	7.7%
Remained with Carers	963	43.5%
Independent Living	504	22.8%
Designated Care Leavers Accommodation	37	1.7%
At home	174	7.9%
Supported Lodgings	44	2.0%
Homeless	165	7.5%
Other	157	7.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,214</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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

- 78% (2,317) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q4 2025 had an aftercare plan, no change from Q3 2025. A total of 668 were awaiting a plan, 20 (3%) more than Q3 2025 (648).
- 8 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported a percentage equal to or higher the national average of 78%. Rates reported by Cork (67%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (71%), Dublin South Central (71%), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (72%), Dublin North City (72%) and Kerry (73%) lower than all other areas.
- 95% (2,093/2,214) of those 18-22 years in receipt of an aftercare service had a plan. 29% (224/771) of those <18 years had a plan.

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q3 2025	# with an Aftercare Plan Q3 2025	% with an Aftercare Plan Q3 2025	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q4 2025	# with an Aftercare Plan Q4 2025	% with an Aftercare Plan Q4 2025
Dublin South Central	177	132	75%	172	122	71%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	125	120	96%	134	121	90%
DSW/K/WW	217	162	75%	207	146	71%
Midlands	118	107	91%	114	103	90%
Dublin North City	269	197	73%	267	193	72%
Dublin North	215	129	60%	176	134	76%
Louth/Meath	134	88	66%	130	98	75%
Cavan/Monaghan	67	61	91%	70	64	91%
Cork	368	259	70%	363	244	67%
Kerry	93	69	74%	96	70	73%
CW/K/ST	108	105	97%	138	99	72%
Waterford/Wexford	207*	165*	80%*	213	168	79%
Mid West	228	189	83%	228	210	92%
Galway/Roscommon	181	147	81%	178	144	81%
Mayo	68	68	100%	66	66	100%
Donegal	102	80	78%	106	80	75%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	46	40	87%	49	38	78%
SCSIP Service	254	211	83%	278	217	78%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,977*</b>	<b>2,329*</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>2,985</b>	<b>2,317</b>	<b>78%</b>

\*Revised from previously reported

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

- 93% (2,147/2,317) of those with an aftercare plan were assessed as needing an aftercare worker. The percentage with an aftercare plan assessed as needing an aftercare worker ranged from 69% to 100% in 11 areas. The Service for SCSIP also reported 100%.
- Percentages reported by Midwest (69%), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (72%) and Waterford/Wexford (79%) lower than all other areas. *Some areas advised that young*

persons/adults who are settled and doing well are moved to the drop-in service (i.e., assessed as not needing an allocated aftercare worker). With a reduction in staff this allows the service to prioritise those with greatest need for allocation to an aftercare worker.

- 91% (1,946/2,147) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q4 2025, up one percentage points from Q3 2025 (90%). A total of 201 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q4 2025, 12 (6%) fewer than Q3 2025 (213).
- 98% (190/194) of young people < 18 years assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q4 2025.
- 90% (1,756/1,953) of 18–22-year-olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q4 2025.
- 10 areas reported 100%. Rates reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (61%), Dublin South Central (63%) and Service for SCSIP (79%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# with a Plan Q4 2025	# Needing AW Q4 2025	% Needing AW Q4 2025	# with an Allocated AW Q4 2025	% with an AW Q4 2025	% with an AW Q3 2025
Dublin South Central	122	122	100%	77	63%	61%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	121	121	100%	121	100%	100%
DSW/K/WW	146	134	92%	82	61%	60%
Midlands	103	82	80%	82	100%	100%
Dublin North City	193	193	100%	193	100%	100%
Dublin North	134	134	100%	112	84%	78%
Louth/Meath	98	98	100%	96	98%	100%
Cavan/Monaghan	64	64	100%	64	100%	100%
Cork	244	235	96%	222	94%	93%
Kerry	70	70	100%	70	100%	100%
CW/K/ST	99	71	72%	61	86%	62%
Waterford/Wexford	168	133	79%	133	100%	100%
Mid West	210	145	69%	133	92%	91%
Galway/Roscommon	144	144	100%	144	100%	100%
Mayo	66	66	100%	66	100%	100%
Donegal	80	80	100%	80	100%	90%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	38	38	100%	38	100%	100%
SCSIP Service	217	217	100%	172	79%	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,317</b>	<b>2,147</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>1,946</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>90%</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.

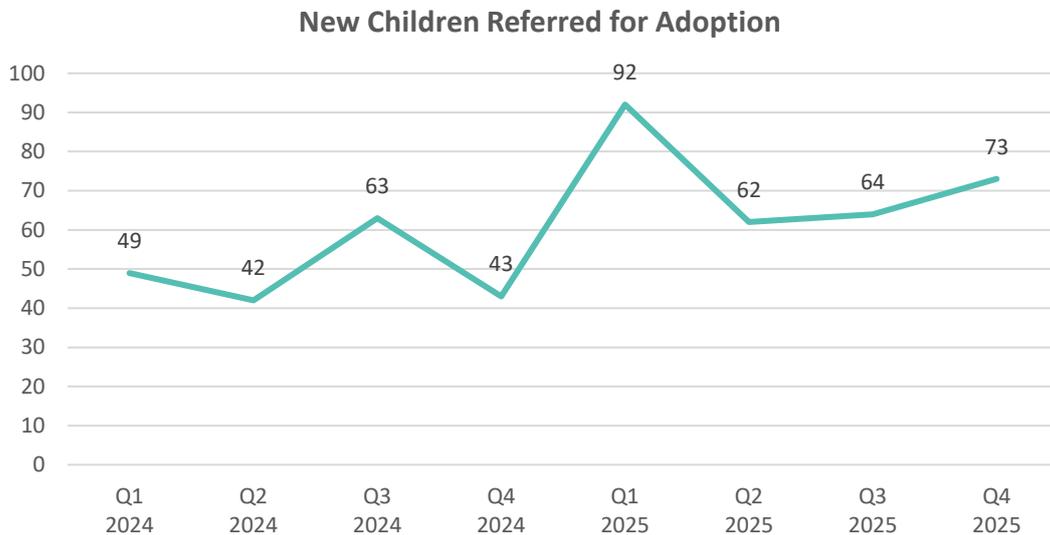
### 3.3 ADOPTION SERVICES

#### KEY FACTS

- 73 new children referred for adoption during Q4 2025. This brings to **291 the number of children referred for adoption in 2025**, 94 (48%) more than 2024 (197).
- 56 completed initial assessments awaiting allocation to a social worker for full assessment at the end of Q4 2025. Of those awaiting, 18 (32%) were waiting for 0-8 weeks, 8 (14%) were waiting between 8 and 16 weeks (inclusive) while the remaining 30 (54%) were waiting more than 16 weeks.

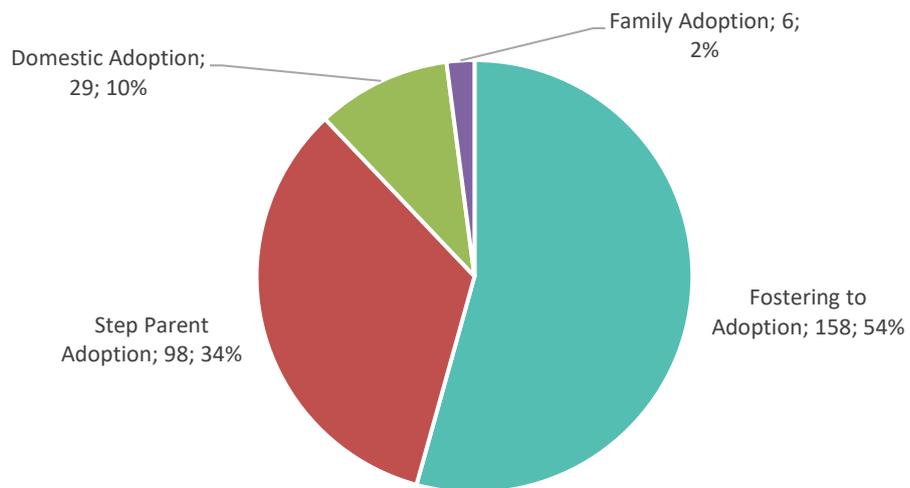
#### 3.3.1 Adoption Assessments

- 73 new children referred for adoption during Q4 2025. This brings to 291 the number of children referred for adoption in 2025, 94 (48%) more than 2024 (197).



- Half (158; 54%) of children referred for adoption in 2025 were referred for fostering to adoption with a further 34% (98) referred for step-parent adoption and 10% (29) referred for infant domestic adoption. A breakdown of children referred for 2025 by type is presented in the chart below.

### Breakdown of New Children Referred for Adoption by Type, 2025



- 56 completed initial assessments awaiting allocation to a social worker for full assessment at the end of Q4 2025.
- Of those awaiting, 18 (32%) were waiting for 0-8 weeks, 8 (14%) were waiting between 8 and 16 weeks (inclusive) while the remaining 30 (54%) were waiting more than 16 weeks.

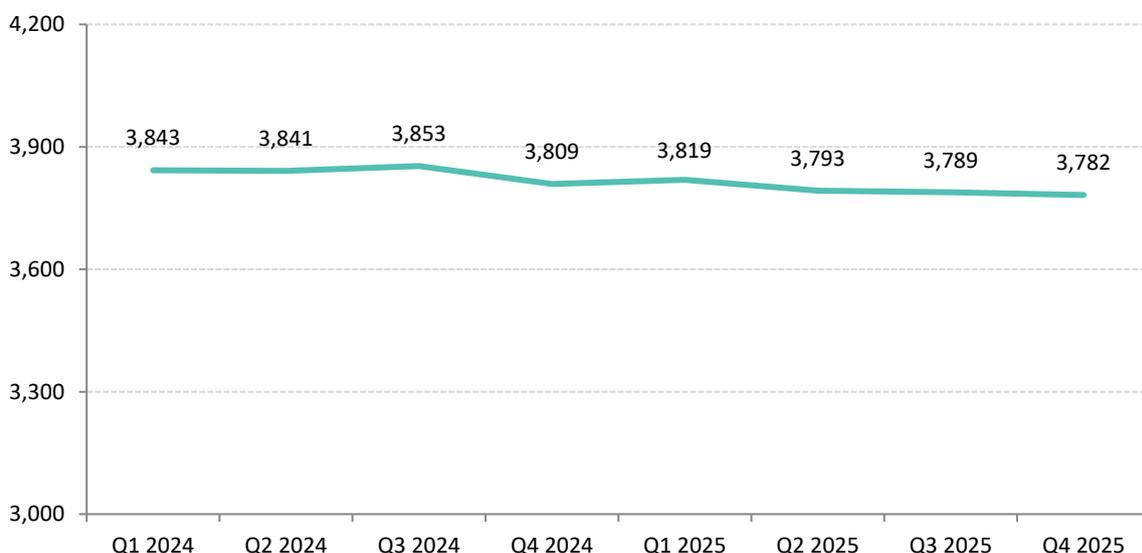
### 3.4 FOSTER CARERS

#### KEY FACTS

- **3,782 foster carers** (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) **on the panel** of approved foster carers at the end of Q4 2025, 7 (<1%) fewer than Q3 2025 (3,789) and 27 (1%) fewer than Q4 2024 (3,809).
- 56 Tusla foster carers (25 general & 31 relative) and 12 private foster carers approved in Q4 2025. This brings to at least **223 the number of Tusla foster carers** (110 general and 113 relative) and **43 private foster carers approved** in 2025. A total of 211 Tusla foster carers (104 general and 107 relative) and 34 private foster carers approved in 2024.
- **84 applications for general foster care** and **168 applications for relative foster care in progress** at the end of Q4 2025.
- **91% (1,953) of general foster carers** on the panel had an **allocated link (social) worker** at the end of Q4 2025, no change from Q3 2024 (91%).
- 193 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker, 11 (5%) fewer than Q3 2025 (204).
- **94% (909) of relative foster carers** on the panel had an **allocated link (social) worker** at the end of Q4 2025, down one percentage point from Q3 2025.
- 53 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q4 2025, six more than Q3 2025 (47).
- **97% (218) of unapproved relative foster carers** who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks had an **allocated link (social) worker**. Six carers were awaiting a link worker, no change from Q3 2025. The six carers were reported across three areas.

#### 3.4.1 Number of foster carers

- 3,782 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q4 2025, 7 (<1%) fewer than Q3 2025 (3,789) and 27 (1%) fewer than Q4 2024 (3,809). *Increase between Q2 and Q3 2024 partly explained by validation of the foster carers register in one area.*



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

- 280 unapproved relative foster carers at the end of Q4 2025 of which 80% (224) had a child placed for >12 weeks. 77% (962/1,242) of relative foster carers are approved.
- 57% (2,146) of all approved foster carers are general foster carers. Relative foster carers (approved) account for a further 25% (962), while private foster carers account for the remaining 18% (674).
- The number of general foster carers (2,146) is down 25 (1%) from Q3 2025 (2,171) and 45 (2%) from Q4 2024 (2,191).
- Relative foster carers (962) are up 14 (<1%) from Q3 2025 (948) and down 1 (<1%) from Q4 2024 (963).
- Private foster carers (674) are up 4 (<1%) from Q3 2025 (670) and up 19 (3%) from Q4 2024 (655).

#### Breakdown of foster carers by type

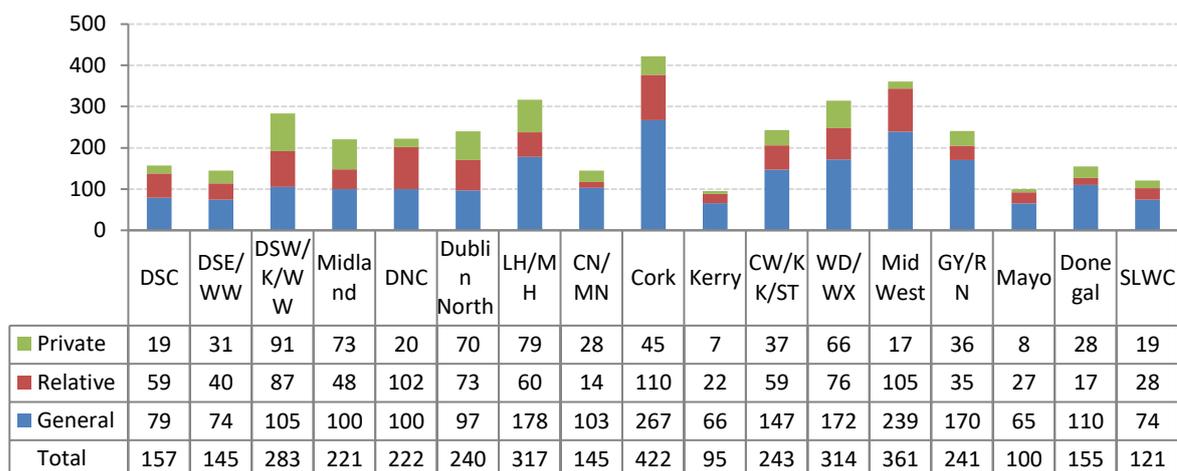
Foster Carers	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Δ (+/-) Q4 v Q3
General (Approved)	2,191	2,194	2,173	2,171	<b>2,146</b>	-25
Relative (Approved)	963	966	957	948	<b>962</b>	+14
Private (Approved)	655	659	663	670	<b>674</b>	+4
<b>Total Approved</b>	<b>3,809</b>	<b>3,819</b>	<b>3,793</b>	<b>3,789</b>	<b>3,782</b>	<b>-7</b>
Relative (Unapproved)	244	275	290	268	<b>280</b>	+12

### 3.4.2 Number of foster carers approved during the reporting period

- 56 Tusla foster carers (25 general & 31 relative) and 12 private foster carers approved in Q4 2025. This brings to at least 223 the number of Tusla foster carers (110 general and 113 relative) and 43 private foster carers approved in 2025. A total of 211 Tusla foster carers (104 general and 107 relative) and 34 private foster carers approved in 2024.
- 84 applications for general foster care and 168 applications for relative foster care in progress at the end of Q4 2025.

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

- The number of foster carers approved (all types) and on the panel at the end of Q4 2025, ranged from 422 in Cork to 95 in Kerry.



#### Foster carers approved by type and area on the panel of approved foster carers, Q4 2025

- 7 areas reported an increase from Q3 2025 in the number of foster carers on the panel. Largest increases reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (up 7), Louth/Meath (up 7), Kerry (up 3) and Donegal (up 3).
- 7 areas reported a decrease from Q3 2025. Largest decreases were reported by Midlands (down 10), Midwest (down 6) and Cork (down 6).
- The remaining three areas, (Dublin South Central, Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary and Mayo) reported no change.

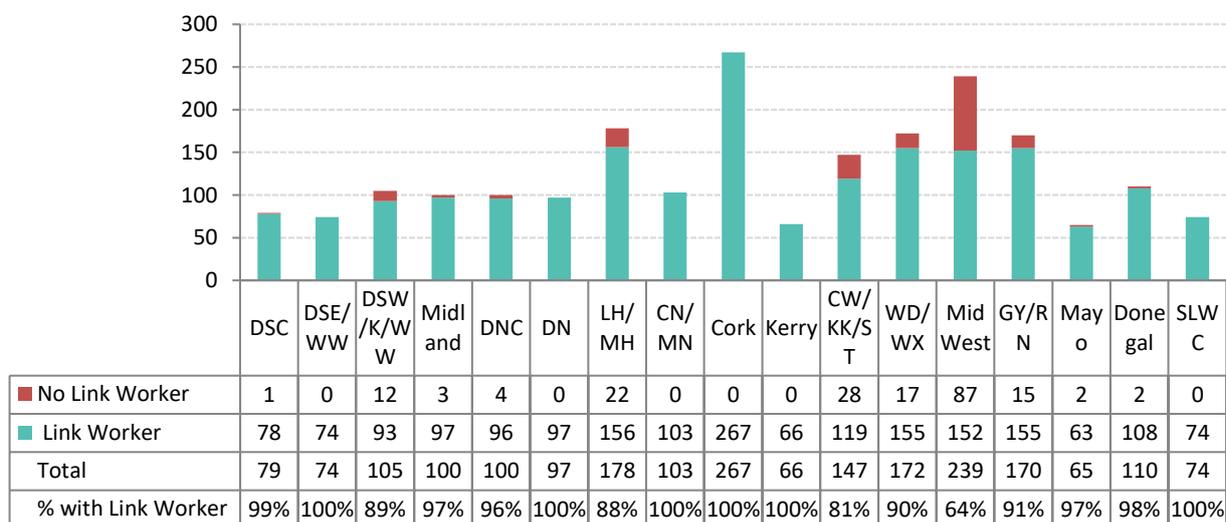
#### Area breakdown of approved foster carers (all types)

Area	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q4 2024	Q4 2025	Δ (+/-) Q4 2025 v Q3 2025
Dublin South Central	161	161	158	157	<b>157</b>	0
Dublin South East/Wicklow	147	147	134	138	<b>145</b>	7
DSW/K/WW	298	296	292	285	<b>283</b>	-2
Midlands	231	235	231	231	<b>221</b>	-10
Dublin North City	219	226	226	221	<b>222</b>	+1
Dublin North	232	234	236	241	<b>240</b>	-1
Louth/Meath	302	308	311	310	<b>317</b>	7
Cavan/Monaghan	139	139	143	144	<b>145</b>	1
Cork	444	433	430	428	<b>422</b>	-6
Kerry	91	93	93	92	<b>95</b>	3
CW/K/ST	230	235	239	243	<b>243</b>	0
Waterford/Wexford	317	318	318	317	<b>314</b>	-3
Mid West	378	375	375	367	<b>361</b>	-6
Galway/Roscommon	247	251	248	244	<b>241</b>	-3
Mayo	99	100	101	100	<b>100</b>	0
Donegal	145	142	145	152	<b>155</b>	3
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	129	126	113	119	<b>121</b>	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,809</b>	<b>3,819</b>	<b>3,793</b>	<b>3,789</b>	<b>3,782</b>	<b>-7</b>

- 91% (1,953) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q4 2025, no change from Q3 2024 (91%).
- 193 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker, 11 (5%) fewer than Q3 2025 (204).
- 13/17 areas reported 90% or higher with six of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by Midwest (64%) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (81%) lower than all other areas.
- Midwest has the highest number of general foster carers awaiting an allocated link worker (87) followed by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (28) and Louth/Meath (22).

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

Area	With LW Q3 2025	Awaiting LW Q3 2025	% With LW Q3 2025	With LW Q4 2025	Awaiting LW Q4 2025	% With LW Q4 2025	Δ Awaiting LW Q4 v Q3
Dublin South Central	78	1	99%	78	1	99%	0
Dublin South East/Wicklow	74	0	100%	74	0	100%	0
DSW/K/WW	86	25	77%	93	12	89%	-13
Midlands	99	8	93%	97	3	97%	-5
Dublin North City	104	6	95%	96	4	96%	-2
Dublin North	97	0	100%	97	0	100%	0
Louth/Meath	154	24	87%	156	22	88%	-2
Cavan/Monaghan	101	0	100%	103	0	100%	0
Cork	252	20	93%	267	0	100%	-20
Kerry	63	0	100%	66	0	100%	0
CW/K/ST	108	38	74%	119	28	81%	-10
Waterford/Wexford	158	16	91%	155	17	90%	1
Mid West	220	19	92%	152	87	64%	68
Galway/Roscommon	157	18	90%	155	15	91%	-3
Mayo	63	2	97%	63	2	97%	0
Donegal	81	27	75%	108	2	98%	-25
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	72	0	100%	74	0	100%	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,967</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>1,953</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>-11</b>

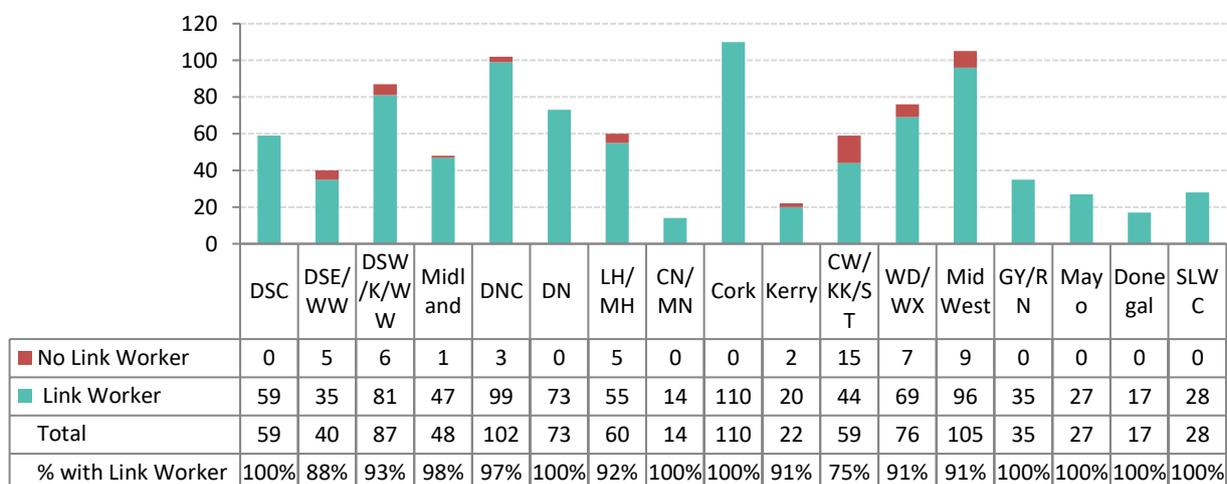


**General foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting a link (social worker), Q4 2025**

- 94% (909) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q4 2025, down one percentage point from Q3 2025.
- 53 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q4 2025, six more than Q3 2025 (47).
- 15/17 areas reported a percentage of 90% or higher with eight of these areas reporting 100%. Rate reported by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (75%) lower than all other areas.
- Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary reported the highest number of relative foster carers on the panel awaiting a link (social) worker (15) followed by Midwest (9).

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

Area	With LW Q3 2025	Awaiting LW Q3 2025	% With LW Q3 2025	With LW Q4 2025	Awaiting LW Q4 2025	% With LW Q4 2025	Δ +/- No. Awaiting LW Q4 v Q3
Dublin South Central	58	0	100%	59	0	100%	0
Dublin South East/Wicklow	35	0	100%	35	5	88%	5
DSW/K/WW	80	4	95%	81	6	93%	2
Midlands	53	0	100%	47	1	98%	1
Dublin North City	92	0	100%	99	3	97%	3
Dublin North	74	0	100%	73	0	100%	0
Louth/Meath	53	1	98%	55	5	92%	4
Cavan/Monaghan	15	0	100%	14	0	100%	0
Cork	107	4	96%	110	0	100%	-4
Kerry	22	0	100%	20	2	91%	2
CW/K/ST	37	22	63%	44	15	75%	-7
Waterford/Wexford	74	1	99%	69	7	91%	6
Mid West	97	11	90%	96	9	91%	-2
Galway/Roscommon	35	0	100%	35	0	100%	0
Mayo	27	0	100%	27	0	100%	0
Donegal	14	4	78%	17	0	100%	-4
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	28	0	100%	28	0	100%	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>6</b>



Relative foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting allocated link Q4 2025

### 3.4.4 Foster carers (relative) unapproved

- 280 relative foster carers were unapproved at the end of Q4 2025, 12 (4%) more than Q3 2025 (268).
- Of these, 224 (80%) had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks; 14 (7%) more than Q3 2025 (210).
- 97% (218) of unapproved relative foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks had an allocated link (social) worker. Six carers were awaiting a link worker, no change from Q3 2025. The six carers were reported across three areas.

#### Breakdown of relative foster carers not approved

Unapproved Relative Foster Carers	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Δ (+/-) Q4 2025 v Q3 2025
<b>No. unapproved</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>280</b>	+12
<b>No (%) with a child &gt; 12 weeks</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>224</b>	+14
	83%	79%	76%	78%	80%	
<b>Child &gt; 12 weeks and have a Link Worker</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>218</b>	+14
	97%	96%	96%	97%	97%	
<b>Child &gt; 12 weeks AWAITING Link Worker</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	0

## 1.0 CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

### KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

#### 4.1 Early Years Inspectorate

#### 4.2 Alternative Education Assessment & Registration Service

#### 4.3 Alternative Care Inspection & Monitoring Service

### 4.1 EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

#### KEY FACTS

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

- **7,119 early years services on the national register** at the end of Q4 2025, 343 (5%) more than Q4 2024 (6,776). Breakdown of services for Q4 2025 as follows: pre-school (3,948; 55%); school age (3,013; 42%) and childminding (158; 2%).
- **600 inspections (all types) of pre-school services carried out in Q4 2025.** This brings to 2,514 the number of inspections for 2025, 198 (9%) more than 2024 (2,316).
- **114 applications to become as a new service received** by the EYI in Q4 2025. This brings to 751 the number of applications received in 2025, 191 (34%) more than 2024 (560). Breakdown of applications for 2025 as follows: pre-school (144; 19%); school age (504; 67%); child-minding (103; 14%).
- **90 applications to register as a new service approved** by the EYI in Q4 2025. This brings to 535 the number of applications approved in 2025, 105 (24%) more than 2024 (430). Breakdown of applications approved for 2025 as follows: pre-school (66; 12%); school age (380; 71%); child-minding (89; 17%).
- **One early years' service application refused** by the EYI in 2025. One service refused in 2024.
- **555 change in circumstances notifications processed** by the EYI in Q4 2025. This brings to 2,396 the number processed in 2025, 484 (25%) more than 2024 (1,912).
- **171 unsolicited information submissions received** by the EYI in 2025. This brings to 704 the number of submissions received in 2025, 244 (53%) more than 2024 (460).
- **One early years' service prosecuted** by the EYI in 2025. One service prosecuted in 2024.
- **40 early years services closed in Q4 2025.** This brings to 186 the number of services that closed in 2025, one more than 2024 (185). A breakdown of services closed in 2025 as follows: pre-school services (102; 55%); school age services (77; 41%); childminding (7; 4%).
- **No early years' service removed from the register** in 2025. No service removed in 2024.

### 4.1.1 Activity Data

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

Early Years Services (EYS) on the EYI Register	2024 Outturn	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	2025 Outturn	Q4 2025 v Q3 2025	Outturn 2025 v 2024
<b>Pre-school services</b> recorded on the national register	<b>4,045</b>	3,975	3,941	3,952	<b>3,948</b>	<b>3,948</b>	-4	-97
<b>School age services</b> recorded on the national register [New for 2025]	<b>2,724</b>	2,741	2,765	2,978	<b>3,013</b>	<b>3,013</b>	+35	+289
<b>Childminding services</b> recorded on the national register [New for 2025]	<b>7</b>	96	121	145	<b>158</b>	<b>158</b>	+13	+151
<b>Total number of services on the national register</b>	<b>6,776</b>	<b>6,812</b>	<b>6,827</b>	<b>7,075</b>	<b>7,119</b>	<b>7,119</b>	<b>+44</b>	<b>+343</b>
Registration Renewal	2024 Outturn	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	2025 Outturn	Q4 2025 v Q3 2025	Outturn 2025 v 2024
Number of EYS due to renew their registration in the reporting period [New for 2025]	<b>1,306</b>	85	50	382	<b>3,596</b>	<b>4,113</b>	+3,214	+2,807
Number of EYS that successfully completed registration renewal in the reporting period [New for 2025]	<b>1,196</b>	78	46	356	<b>3,443</b>	<b>3,923</b>	+3,087	+2,727
Inspections Carried Out	2024 Outturn	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	2025 Outturn	Q4 2025 v Q3 2025	Outturn 2025 v 2024
<b>Inspections of pre-school services</b> carried out during the reporting period	<b>2,316</b>	612	685	617	<b>600</b>	<b>2,514</b>	+17	+198
<b>Pre-registration inspections (PRI)</b> carried out in respect of proposed new pre-school services during the reporting period [New for 2025]	<b>98</b>	3	9	41	<b>11</b>	<b>64</b>	-30	-34

<b>Fit for purpose (FFP) inspections</b> carried out in respect of proposed change in circumstances submitted by pre-school services during the reporting period [New for 2025]	<b>196</b>	23	44	100	<b>33</b>	<b>200</b>	-67	+4
<b>Pre-school inspections</b> carried out in relation to <b>concerns received</b> during the reporting period [New for 2025]	<b>127</b>	18	34	33	<b>35</b>	<b>120</b>	+2	-7
<b>Initial inspections</b> (first inspection following registration conducted with 3 months of operation) carried out in pre-school services during the reporting period [New for 2025]	<b>83</b>	20	6	6	<b>36</b>	<b>68</b>	+30	-15
<b>School age inspections</b> carried out during the reporting period [New for 2025]	<b>157</b>	15	9	11	<b>25</b>	<b>60</b>	+14	-97
<b>Childminding pre-registration assessments</b> (PRAs) carried out during the reporting period [New for 2025]	<b>7</b>	21	26	25	<b>13</b>	<b>85</b>	-12	+78
Number of notifications of <b>incidents notified to the inspector</b> within remit (for example where a child has been hurt in an Early Years' Service)	<b>704</b>	143	137	115	<b>205</b>	<b>600</b>	+90	-104
<b>Registration/Change in Circumstances</b>	<b>2024 Outturn</b>	<b>Q1 2025</b>	<b>Q2 2025</b>	<b>Q3 2025</b>	<b>Q4 2025</b>	<b>2025 Outturn</b>	<b>Q4 2025 v Q3 2025</b>	<b>Outturn 2025 v 2024</b>
Applications to become a new <b>pre-school service</b> [Name Change]	<b>136</b>	16	72	40	<b>16</b>	<b>144</b>	-24	+8
Applications to become a new <b>school age service</b> [New for 2025]	<b>410</b>	78	226	122	<b>78</b>	<b>504</b>	-44	+94
Applications to become a new <b>childminding service</b> [New for 2025]	<b>14</b>	30	25	28	<b>20</b>	<b>103</b>	-8	+89

<b>Total applications received</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>323</b>	190	<b>114</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>-76</b>	<b>+191</b>
New registration applications approved to become a <b>pre-school service</b>	<b>96</b>	4	5	40	<b>17</b>	<b>66</b>	-23	-30
New registration applications approved to become a <b>school age service</b> [New for 2025]	<b>327</b>	36	42	243	<b>59</b>	<b>380</b>	-184	+53
New registration applications approved to become a <b>childminding service</b> [New for 2025]	<b>7</b>	22	27	26	<b>14</b>	<b>89</b>	-12	+82
<b>Total number of applications approved</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>-219</b>	<b>+105</b>
Number of <b>new applications</b> to become an early years' service that have been <b>refused</b> registration by the EYI in the reporting period	<b>1</b>	0	0	0	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	+1	<b>0</b>
Number of <b>change in circumstance notifications</b> processed by the EYI (for example where an early years' service increases the number of children they can cater for)	<b>1,912</b>	509	464	868	<b>555</b>	<b>2,396</b>	-313	+484
<b>Concerns/Prosecutions</b>	<b>2024 Outturn</b>	<b>Q1 2025</b>	<b>Q2 2025</b>	<b>Q3 2025</b>	<b>Q4 2025</b>	<b>2025 Outturn</b>	<b>Q4 2025 v Q3 2025</b>	<b>Outturn 2025 v 2024</b>
Number of <b>unsolicited information submissions</b> received by the EYI to identify commonalities and trends over a period of time	<b>460</b>	118	202	213	<b>171</b>	<b>704</b>	-42	+244
Number of <b>EYS that have been prosecuted</b> by the EYI for breach of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016	<b>1</b>	0	0	0	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	+1	<b>0</b>

Closures	2024 Outturn	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	2025 Outturn	Q4 2025 v Q3 2025	Outturn 2025 v 2024
Number of <b>pre-school services</b> that have <b>closed</b> during the reporting period <i>(does not include services closed by Tusla under the de-registration process)</i>	95	13	39	29	21	102	-8	+7
Number of <b>school age services</b> that have <b>closed</b> during the reporting period <i>(does not include services closed by Tusla under the de-registration process)</i> [New for 2025]	90	14	20	25	18	77	-7	-13
Number of <b>childminding services</b> that have <b>closed</b> during the reporting period <i>(does not include services closed by Tusla under the de-registration process)</i> [New for 2025]	0	2	2	2	1	7	-1	+7
<b>Total closures</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>-16</b>	<b>+1</b>
Number of EYS removed from the National Register (de-registered) by the EYI during the reporting period	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*\*Revised from previously reported*

## 4.2 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT & REGISTRATION SERVICE

### Key Facts

#### Home Education

- **2,592 children on the register for home education** at the end of Q4 2025, 18 (<1%) fewer than Q3 2025 (2,610) but 267 (11%) more than Q4 2024 (2,325).
- **573 applications received** for home education during Q4 2025. This brings to 1,889 the number of applications received for 2025, 623 (49%) more than 2024 (1,266).
- **383 assessments (all types) for home education carried out** in Q4 2025. This brings to 1,492 the number of assessments carried in 2025, 189 (15%) more than 2024 (1,303)
- **172 children registered for home education** in Q4 2025. This brings to 924 the number of children registered in 2025, 65 (8%) more than the same period in 2024 (859).
- **350 children on a waiting list for assessment** at the end of Q4 2025, 56 (19%) more than Q3 2025 (294) but 289 (45%) fewer than Q4 2024 (639).

#### Independent Schools

- **63 assessed and approved independent schools** at the end of Q4 2025, four more than Q4 2024 (59).
- **6,381 children enrolled in independent schools**, of which 84% (5,351) are registered on the Section 14 register. The remaining 16% (1,030) were not registered. Reasons for these children not being registered include, application not submitted, consent not in place, certified documentation not provided.
- **1,201 applications received** during Q4 2025. This brings to 2,174 the number of applications received for 2025, 97 (5%) more than 2024 (2,077).
- **13 school assessment carried out in Q4 2025**. This brings to 21 the number of assessments carried out in 2025, 8 (28%) fewer than 2024 (29).
- **No school assessment due** at the end of Q4 2025.

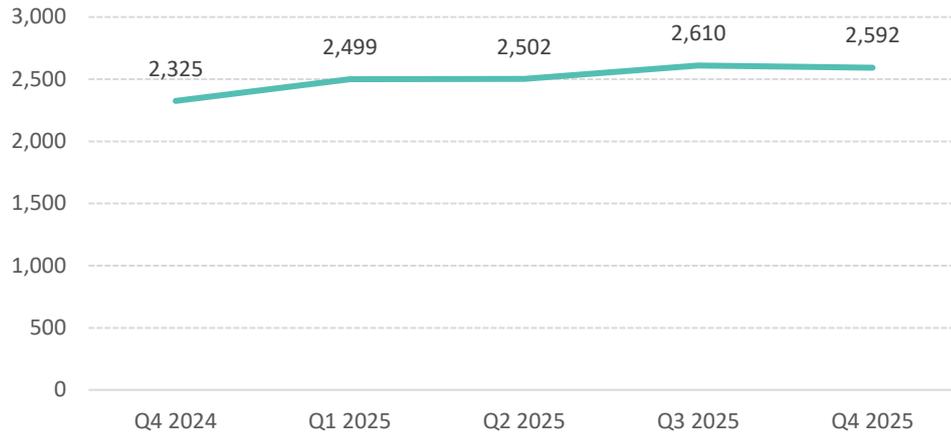
### Home Education

- 2,592 children on the register for home education at the end of Q4 2025, 18 (<1%) fewer than Q3 2025 (2,610) but 267 (11%) more than Q4 2024 (2,325)<sup>6</sup>.
- 17% (428) of children on the register at the end of Q4 2025 have special educational needs.

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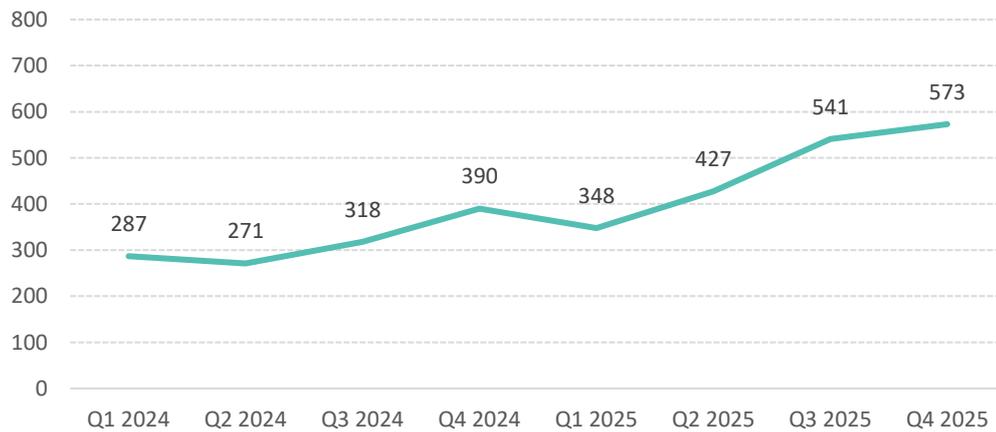
<sup>6</sup> As outlined in a recently published regulatory notice (AEARS – RN01.1), children and young people aged 16+ who meet specific criteria, as outlined in the notice, will automatically cease to be included on the section 14 register. In response to the notice, 475 children who met these criteria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

### # Children on Register for Home Education



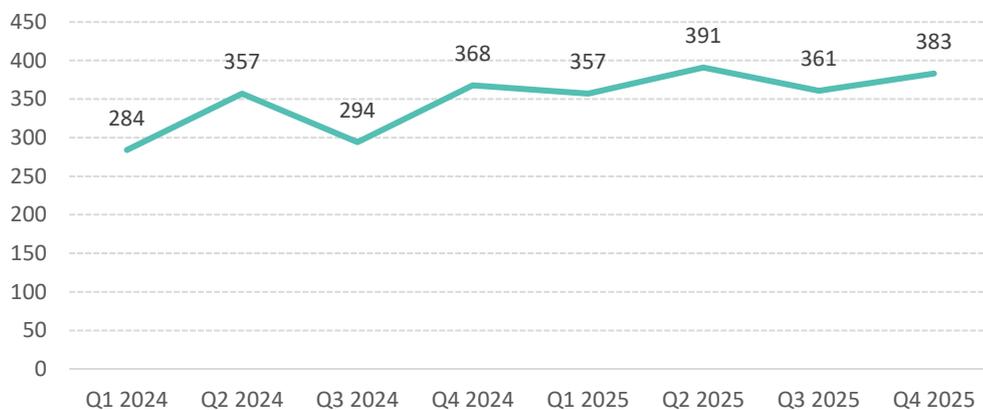
- 573 applications<sup>7</sup> received for home education during Q4 2025. This brings to 1,889 the number of applications received for 2025, 623 (49%) more than 2024 (1,266).

### # Applications for Home Education



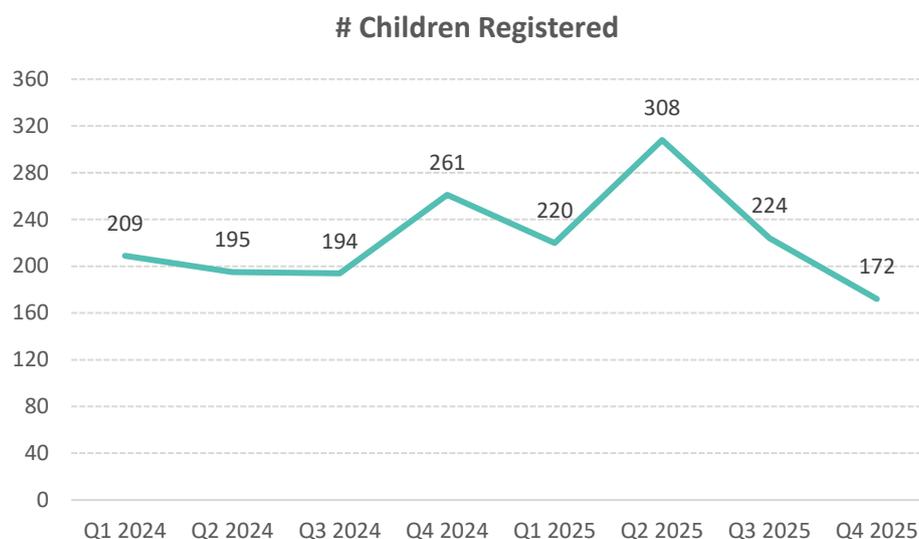
- 383 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q4 2025. This brings to 1,492 the number of assessments carried in 2025, 189 (15%) more than 2024 (1,303).

### # Assessments Done

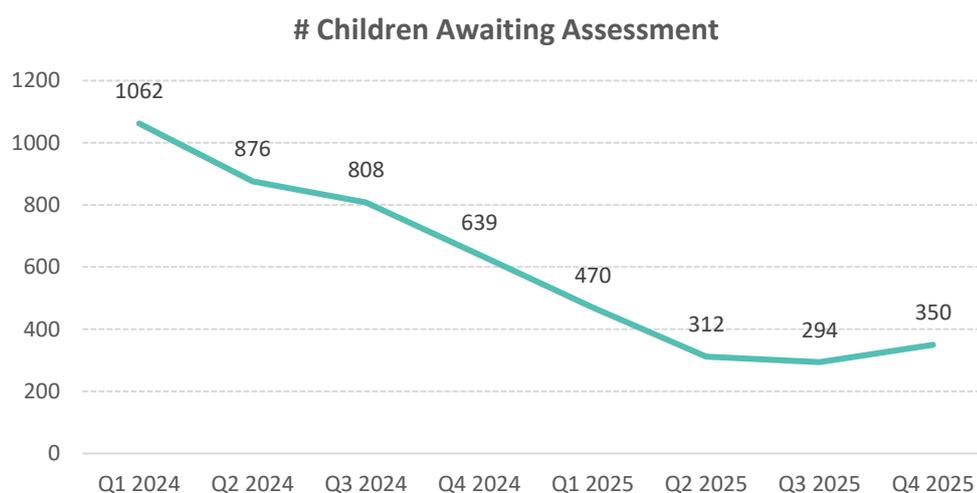


<sup>7</sup> The figure for applications includes valid and invalid applications

- 172 children registered for home education<sup>8</sup> in Q4 2025. This brings to 924 the number of children registered in 2025, 65 (8%) more than the same period in 2024 (859).



- 350 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q4 2025, 56 (19%) more than Q3 2025 (294) but 289 (45%) fewer than Q4 2024 (639).



- 190 children removed from the register in Q4 2025. Of the children removed from the register in Q4 2025, 63 (33%) were over 16 years, 101 (53%) returned to school, 23 (12%) left the jurisdiction while the remaining 3 (1.6%) left for other reasons.

### Independent Schools

- 63 assessed and approved independent schools at the end of Q4 2025, four more than Q4 2024 (59).
- 6,381 children enrolled in independent schools, of which 84% (5,351) are registered on the Section 14 register. The remaining 16% (1,030) were not registered. Reasons for these children

<sup>8</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

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

- 1,201 applications received during Q4 2025. This brings to 2,174 the number of applications received for 2025, 97 (5%) more than 2024 (2,077).
- 13 school assessment carried out in Q4 2025. This brings to 21 the number of assessments carried out in 2025, 8 (28%) fewer than 2024 (29).
- No school assessment due at the end of Q4 2025.

### 4.3 ALTERNATIVE CARE INSPECTION & MONITORING SERVICES

#### Key Facts

- **243 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q4 2025**, 11 (5%) more than Q3 2025 (232) and 47 (24%) more than Q4 2024 (196).
- 63 inspections (all types) conducted in Q4 2025. This brings to **264 the number of inspections for 2025**, 46 (21%) more than 2024 (218).
- **5 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q4 2025**, no change from Q3 2025. Two monitoring visits conducted in Q3 2025. **Five monitoring visits** carried out in 2025.

#### Non-Statutory Children’s Residential Centres

- 243 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q4 2025, 11 (5%) more than Q3 2025 (232) and 47 (24%) more than Q4 2024 (196).
- 63 inspections (all types) conducted in Q4 2025. This brings to 264 the number of inspections for 2025, 46 (21%) more than 2024 (218).

#### Inspections of Non-Statutory Residential Services

Inspections by Type	2024					2025
	Outturn	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Outturn
New Registration Inspection Visit (onsite)	41	10	22	10	13	55
Thematic Inspection announced (on-site)	111	18	26	8	18	70
Thematic Inspection unannounced (on site)	66	16	8	20	5	49
No of Escalations subject to Onsite Inspection	-	2	1	3	2	8
No of Escalations subject to Desktop Review	-	18	14	25	25	82
<b>Total Inspections</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>264</b>

#### Non-Statutory Foster Care Service

- 5 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q4 2025, no change from Q3 2025. Two monitoring visits conducted in Q3 2025. Five monitoring visits carried out in 2025.

## 5 TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

### KEY FACTS

#### Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2025 – August 2026

- **4,342 referrals received** during the first four months of the academic year 2025/26.
- **9,079 cases open** to educational welfare officers at the **end of December 2025**. Of these, **57% (5,186) were allocated** and **43% (3,893) were on a waiting list** for allocation.
- **143 school attendance notices (SANs) issued** during the first four months of the academic year 2025/26, 117 (45%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (260). SANs were issued in respect of 111 children, 78 (41%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (189).
- **24 summonses issued** during the first four months of the academic year 2025/26, 30 (56%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (54). The summonses were in respect of 19 children, 22 (54%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (41).
- **183 Section 24 meetings convened** by EWOs during the first four months of the academic year 2025/26, 93 (103%) more than the previous academic year (90).
- **2,919 educational welfare conferences convened** during the first four months of the academic year 2025/26 (*new metric*)
- **721 school attendance clinics convened** during the first four months of the academic year 2025/26 (*new metric*).

#### Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2025 – August 2026

*Note: Tusla Education Support Services (Tess) reviewed its metrics in advance of the 2025/26 academic year. This resulted in some definitions being refined, a small number of new metrics being introduced and a small number being stood down.*

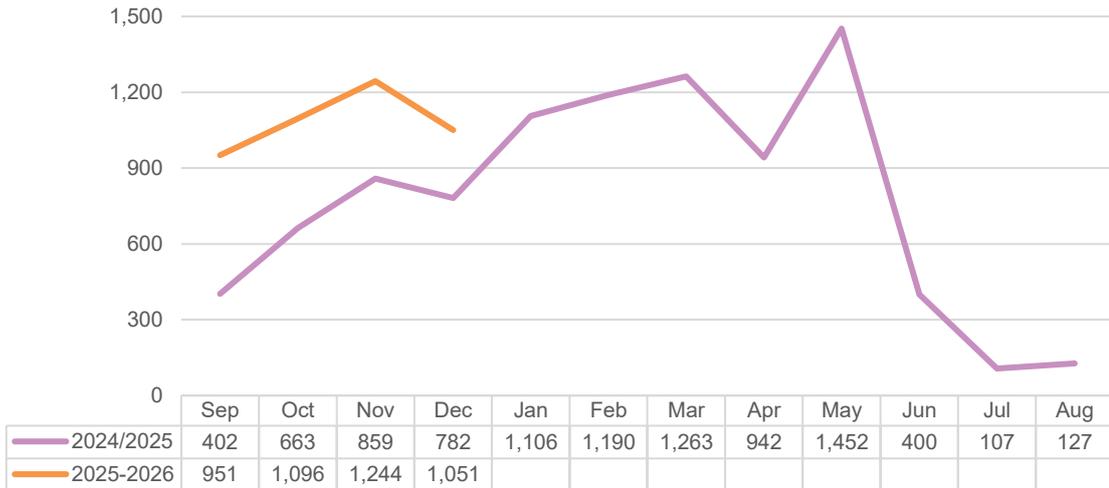
- **4,342 referrals<sup>9</sup> received** during the first four months of the academic year 2025/26.
- **640 cases screened out** by educational welfare officers during the first four months of the academic year 2025/26.
- **4,086 cases allocated** to educational welfare officers during the first four months of the academic year 2025/26.
- **4,153 cases closed** by educational welfare officers during the first four months of the academic year 2025/26.

Metric	Sept 2024 - Dec 2024	Sept 2025 – Dec 2025	Δ
# Referrals Received	2,706*	4,342	-
# Cases Screened Out	664*	640	-
# Cases Allocated	1,835*	4,086	-
# Cases Closed	1,795*	4,153	-

*\* The data for the academic year 2025/26 is not comparable with the previous academic year due to a change in the definition of the count of referrals from referrals screened to referrals received. The Service also introduced a new team (Children Missing in Education Team) and launched a school attendance campaign in September 2025.*

<sup>9</sup> A referral is a report of ongoing concern about a child's school attendance and is submitted on an EWS referral form through the Tusla portal, by post or via email. It initiates the statutory EWS process of assessment and intervention. A referral can be made by schools, other agencies and parents for a student who is aged between 6 and 16 years and who has not yet completed 3 years of post-primary education whichever comes later.

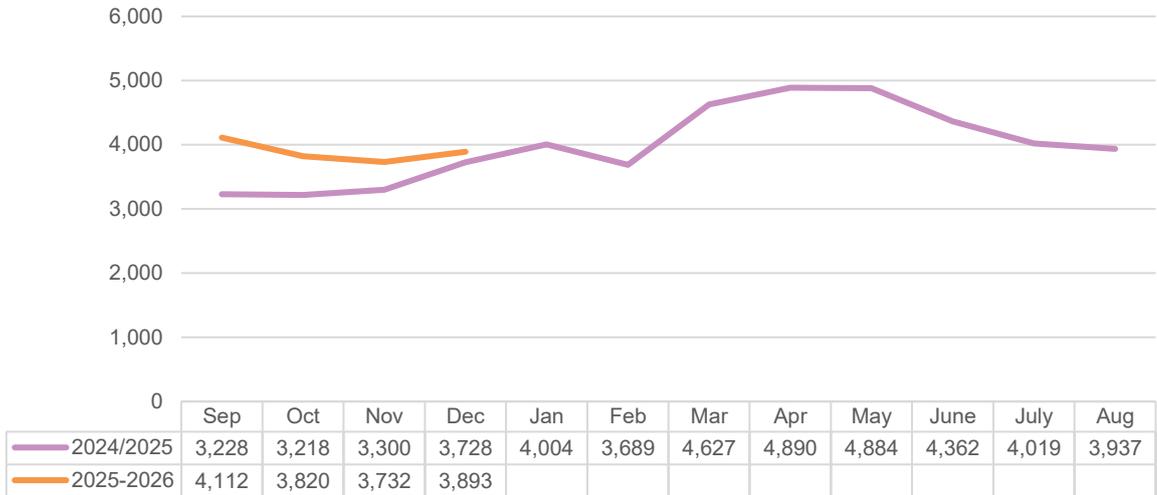
Referrals for Educational Welfare Service



- **9,079 cases open** to educational welfare officers at the **end of December 2025**.
- Of these, **57% (5,186) were allocated** and **43% (3,893)** were on a **waiting list** for allocation.
- 165 (4%) more cases on a waiting list for allocation at the end of December 2025 than at the end of December 2024 (3,728).
- 150 (4%) cases on a waiting list at the end of December 2025 received an intervention during December 2025.

Metric	Dec 2024	Dec 2025	Δ
# Cases Open (Dec 2025)	-	9,079	-
# Cases Allocated (Dec 2025)	-	5,186	-
% Open Cases Allocated (Dec 2025)	-	57%	-
# Cases on Waiting List (Dec 2025)	3,728	3,893	+165 (4%)
% Open Cases on Waiting List (Dec 2025)	-	43%	-
Cases on waiting list that received an intervention (Dec 2025)	-	150	-

# Cases on a Waiting List at Month End



- **143 school attendance notices (SANs) issued** during the first four months of the academic year 2025/26, 117 (45%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (260). SANs were issued in respect of 111 children, 78 (41%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (189).
- **24 summonses issued** during the first four months of the academic year 2025/26, 30 (56%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (54). The summonses were in respect of 19 children, 22 (54%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (41).
- **183 Section 24<sup>10</sup> meetings convened** by EWOs during the first four months of the academic year 2025/26, 93 (103%) more than the previous academic year (90).
- **2,919 educational welfare conferences convened** during the first four months of the academic year 2025/26 (*new metric*)
- **721 school attendance clinics convened** during the first four months of the academic year 2025/26 (*new metric*).

<sup>10</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—
  - (a) make all reasonable efforts to consult with the principal of the school concerned or a person nominated by him or her, the student concerned and his or her parents, and such other persons as the educational welfare officer considers appropriate, and
  - (b) convene a meeting attended by him or her of such of those persons as agree to attend such meeting.

Metric	Sept 2024 – Dec 2024	Sept 2025 – Dec 2025	Δ
School Attendance Notices Issues	260	143	-117 (45%)
SANs - individual children involved	189	111	-78 (41%)
Summonses Issued	54	24	-30 (56%)
Summonses – individual children involved	41	19	-22 (54%)
Section 24 Meetings Convened	90	183	+93 (103%)
Educational Welfare Conferences Convened	-	2,919	-
School Attendance Clinics Convened	-	721	-

## 6 FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

### KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

#### 6.1 Family Support Services

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

### 6.1 FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES<sup>11</sup>

#### KEY FACTS

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

- **383 family support providers commissioned** (H2 2025).
- 90% (344) of services commissioned provided data for H2 2025. Response rates ranged from 25% to 100% in eight areas.
- **At least 21,391 children were in receipt of family support services** at the end of 2025. This equates to almost 2% of children (0-17 years).
- At least **50,571 children referred to family support services** in 2025.
- The most common source of referrals for 2025 was Parents/Guardians, accounting for 27% (13,594) of referrals followed by Tusla social workers (26%; 13,064), schools (12%; 5,864) and HSE Officers (9%; 4,529).
- **69% (34,891) of children referred to family support services in 2025 received a service in 2025.** The percentage who received a service ranged from 92% (Kerry) to 34% (Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow). Eleven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 69%.

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

#### 6.1.1 Family Support Providers

- 383 family support providers commissioned (H2 2025).
- 90% (344) of services commissioned provided data for H2 2025.
- Response rates ranged from 25% to 100% in eight areas.

##### Family Support Services Commissioned by Areas

Area	# FSS Commissioned H2 2025	# External to Tusla	# Internal to Tusla	# that provided data	% that provided data
Dublin South Central	29	27	2	29	100%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	15	12	3	13	87%
DSW/K/WW	25	20	5	22	88%
Midlands	4	4	0	1	25%
Dublin North City	51	44	7	48	94%
Dublin North	24	23	1	23	96%
Louth/Meath	23	18	5	21	91%

<sup>11</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.

Cavan/Monaghan	18	16	2	18	100%
Cork	40	38	2	25	63%
Kerry	17	17	0	17	100%
CW/K/ST	34	32	2	27	79%
Waterford/Wexford	23	20	3	20	87%
Mid West	32	30	2	32	100%
Galway/Roscommon	12	12	0	12	100%
Mayo	12	12	0	12	100%
Donegal	12	11	1	12	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	12	12	0	12	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>90%</b>

### 6.1.2 Children in Receipt of Family Support Services

- At least 21,391 children were in receipt of family support services at the end of 2025. This equates to almost 2% of children (0-17 years).
- Highest rates reported by Donegal (5.9%), Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (4.8%) and Dublin North City (4.3%). Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 1.8%.
- Highest numbers of children in receipt of family support services reported by Donegal (2,471; 12%), Dublin North City (2,110; 10%) and Midwest (1,974; 9%). Fewest number reported by Midlands (144; 1%), Mayo (424; 2%) and Kerry (485; 2%).

#### Children in receipt of Family Support Services

Area	Children in receipt of FSS end of 2024	Children in receipt of FSS end of 2025	% Total 2025	Population 0-17 years	Rate / 100 children
Dublin South Central	1,540	<b>1,540</b>	7%	70,259	<b>2.2%</b>
Dublin South East/Wicklow	701	<b>612</b>	3%	91,047	<b>0.7%</b>
DSW/K/WW	645*	<b>1,862</b>	9%	108,927	<b>1.7%</b>
Midlands	236	<b>144</b>	1%	80,962	<b>0.2%</b>
Dublin North City	1,926	<b>2,110</b>	10%	48,909	<b>4.3%</b>
Dublin North	1,050	<b>1,556</b>	7%	104,281	<b>1.5%</b>
Louth/Meath	1,232	<b>1,449</b>	7%	96,531	<b>1.5%</b>
Cavan/Monaghan	560	<b>642</b>	3%	37,336	<b>1.7%</b>
Cork	1,217	<b>1,024</b>	5%	136,786	<b>0.7%</b>
Kerry	1,133	<b>485</b>	2%	34,994	<b>1.4%</b>
CW/KK/ST	1,595	<b>1,478</b>	7%	62,366	<b>2.4%</b>
Waterford/Wexford	747	<b>794</b>	4%	69,239	<b>1.1%</b>
MidWest	1,720	<b>1,974</b>	9%	96,764	<b>2.0%</b>
Galway/Roscommon	1,591	<b>1,650</b>	8%	81,799	<b>2.0%</b>
Mayo	486	<b>424</b>	2%	31,911	<b>1.3%</b>
Donegal	1,905	<b>2,471</b>	12%	42,144	<b>5.9%</b>
SLWC	1,129	<b>1,176</b>	5%	24,312	<b>4.8%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,413</b>	<b>21,391</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,218,567</b>	<b>1.8%</b>

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

### 6.1.3 Children Referred to Family Support Services

- At least 50,571 children referred to family support services in 2025.
- The highest rate of referrals for 2025 was reported by Dublin North City (11%) followed by Donegal (11%) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (7%). The lowest rate was reported by Midlands (1%) followed by Dublin South East/Wicklow (2%) and Cork (2%).
- The highest number of children referred in 2025 was reported by Dublin North City (5,175; 10%) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (5,036; 10%), Donegal (4,456; 9%) and Dublin North (4,158). The fewest number was reported by Midlands (435; 1%) followed by Mayo (1,032; 2%).

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

Area	Total Referrals 2024	Total Referrals 2025	% Total 2025	Population 0-17 years (Census 2016)	Rate / 100 children
Dublin South Central	4,263	3,672	7%	70,259	5%
DSE/WW	1,840	1,962	4%	91,047	2%
DSW/K/WW	3,258	5,036	10%	108,927	5%
Midlands	569	435	1%	80,962	1%
Dublin North City	5,426	5,175	10%	48,909	11%
Dublin North	2,545	4,158	8%	104,281	4%
Louth/Meath	2,489	2,978	6%	96,531	3%
Cavan/Monaghan	1,718	1,964	4%	37,336	5%
Cork	3,865	3,279	6%	136,786	2%
Kerry	2,058	1,369	3%	34,994	4%
CW/K/ST	3,245	3,219	6%	62,366	5%
Waterford/Wexford	3,616	3,546	7%	69,239	5%
Mid West	3,236	3,350	7%	96,764	3%
Galway/Roscommon	3,005	3,225	6%	81,799	4%
Mayo	1,191	1,032	2%	31,911	3%
Donegal	4,224	4,456	9%	42,144	11%
SLWC	1,895	1,715	3%	24,312	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>48,443</b>	<b>50,571</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,218,567</b>	<b>4%</b>

### 6.1.4 Source of Referrals

- The most common source of referrals for 2025 was Parents/Guardians, accounting for 27% (13,594) of referrals followed by Tusla social workers (26%; 13,064), schools (12%; 5,864) and HSE Officers (9%; 4,529).

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

Source	Total Referrals 2024	Total Referrals 2025	% Total 2025
Parent/Guardian	14,909	13,594	27%
Tusla Social Workers	11,771	13,064	26%
Schools	5,364	5,864	12%
HSE Officers	4,589	4,529	9%

Other	3,268	<b>4,194</b>	8%
Other Tulsa Officers	2,972	<b>3,049</b>	6%
Child/Young Person	2,293	<b>2,697</b>	5%
Voluntary Agency	2,133	<b>2,415</b>	5%
GP	508	<b>589</b>	1%
Other Family Member	468	<b>430</b>	1%
AGS	168	<b>146</b>	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>48,443</b>	<b>50,571</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 6.1.5 Children who received a service

- 69% (34,891) of children referred to family support services in 2025 received a service in 2025. The percentage who received a service ranged from 92% (Kerry) to 34% (Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow). Eleven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 69%.

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

Area	Referrals 2025	Of number referred, number who received a service	% who rec'd a service
Dublin South Central	3,672	2,572	70%
DSE/WW	1,962	950	48%
DSW/K/WW	5,036	1,723	34%
Midlands	435	237	54%
Dublin North City	5,175	3,598	70%
Dublin North	4,158	2,989	72%
Louth/Meath	2,978	1,966	66%
Cavan/Monaghan	1,964	1,770	90%
Cork	3,279	2,454	75%
Kerry	1,369	1,265	92%
CW/K/ST	3,219	2,460	76%
Waterford/Wexford	3,546	2,368	67%
Mid West	3,350	2,138	64%
Galway/Roscommon	3,225	2,566	80%
Mayo	1,032	866	84%
Donegal	4,456	3,556	80%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	1,715	1,413	82%
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,571</b>	<b>34,891</b>	<b>69%</b>

- Of the 34,891 children referred to family support services in 2025 who received a service,
  - 4.4% (1,536) were subject of a child in care plan
  - 8.8% (3,059) were subject of a Tusla Child Protection & Welfare Safety Plan
  - 5.3% (1,858) were subject of a Meitheal Support Plan
  - 44.4% (15,501) were subject of a Single Agency Response.

## 6.2 MEITHEAL

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

### KEY FACTS

- **2,667 Meitheal processes requested in 2025**, 20 (1%) fewer than the same period in 2024 (2,687).
- The **most common pathway** for requests received during 2025 was **“Direct Access” accounting for 65% (1,739) of requests**. “Social Work Diversion” accounted for a further 25% (670) while “Social Work Step-Down” accounted for 10% (258) of requests.
- Of the requests where the pathway was ‘Direct Access’ 24% (410/1,739) were previously known to social work (based on data from 15/17 areas for H1 and 17/17 areas for H2).
- **67% (1,788/2,667)** of Meitheal requests received in 2025 **proceeded to Stage 2** (Discussion Stage).
- **1,592 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2** in 2025.
- 50% (795) of processes reaching completion of Stage 2 proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting).
- **2,236 Meitheal processes were closed** during 2025.
- 39% (874) of all Meitheal processes were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1); 26% (582) were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2 Discussion Stage); 9% (201) were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3); 26% (579) were closed post-delivery.
- **114 Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) operating** at the end of 2025 with none planned in development.

### 6.2.1 Meitheal Processes Requested

- 2,667 Meitheal processes requested in 2025, 20 (1%) fewer than the same period in 2024 (2,687).
- The number of requests reported for 2025 ranged from 33 (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) to 699 (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary).

### Meitheal processes requested

Area	Total Requested 2024	Total Requested H1 2025	Total Requested H2 2025	Total Requested 2025	% Total 2025
Dublin South Central	60	42	20	62	2.3%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	106	53	29	82	3.1%
DSW/K/WW	151	65	46	111	4.2%
Midlands	112	51	22	73	2.7%
Dublin North City	49	31	42	73	2.7%
Dublin North	71	42	40	82	3.1%
Louth/Meath	122	38	55	93	3.5%
Cavan/Monaghan	240	123	88	211	7.9%
Cork	243	128	140	268	10.0%
Kerry	194	124	125	249	9.3%
CW/K/ST	586	333	366	699	26.2%
Waterford/Wexford	412	215	135	350	13.1%
Mid West	105	65	46	111	4.2%
Galway/Roscommon	82	44	23	67	2.5%
Mayo	44	30	16	46	1.7%
Donegal	56	31	26	57	2.1%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	54	14	19	33	1.2%
<b>National</b>	<b>2,687</b>	<b>1,429</b>	<b>1,238</b>	<b>2,667</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

- The most common pathway for requests received during 2025 was “Direct Access” accounting for 65% (1,739) of requests. “Social Work Diversion” accounted for a further 25% (670) while “Social Work Step-Down” accounted for 10% (258) of requests.
- Of the requests where the pathway was ‘Direct Access’ 24% (410/1,739) were previously known to social work (based on data from 15/17 areas for H1 and 17/17 areas for H2).
- A breakdown of requests received for 2025 by pathway is presented in the table below.

### Access Pathway for Meitheal Requests 2025

Area	# Requested 2025	Of the total number of Meitheal requests:					
		Direct Access	% Direct Access	Social Work Diversion	% SW Diversion	Social Work Step-Down	% Step-Down
Dublin South Central	62	46	74%	13	21%	3	5%
DSE/WW	82	74	90%	5	6%	3	4%
DSW/K/WW	111	95	86%	8	7%	8	7%
Midlands	73	66	90%	5	7%	2	3%
Dublin North City	73	57	78%	15	21%	1	1%
Dublin North	82	67	82%	10	12%	5	6%
Louth/Meath	93	56	60%	35	38%	2	2%
Cavan/Monaghan	211	114	54%	60	28%	37	18%

Cork	268	186	69%	6	2%	76	28%
Kerry	249	117	47%	100	40%	32	13%
CW/K/ST	699	337	48%	298	43%	64	9%
Waterford/Wexford	350	248	71%	99	28%	3	1%
Mid West	111	102	92%	3	3%	6	5%
Galway/Roscommon	67	63	94%	2	3%	2	3%
Mayo	46	39	85%	4	9%	3	7%
Donegal	57	45	79%	4	7%	8	14%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	33	27	82%	3	9%	3	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,667</b>	<b>1,739</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>10%</b>

### 6.2.2 Meitheal Processes Proceeding to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage)

- 67% (1,788/2,667) of Meitheal requests received in 2025 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage).
- The percentage of requests proceeding to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage) ranged from 21% (Cavan/Monaghan) to 100% (Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow). Twelve areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 67%.

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

Area	# Requested 2025	# that proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage 2)	% that Proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage 2)
Dublin South Central	62	56	90%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	82	77	94%
DSW/K/WW	111	111	100%
Midlands	73	58	79%
Dublin North City	73	63	86%
Dublin North	82	51	62%
Louth/Meath	93	86	92%
Cavan/Monaghan	211	44	21%
Cork	268	249	93%
Kerry	249	135	54%
CW/K/ST	699	401	57%
Waterford/Wexford	350	196	56%
Mid West	111	87	78%
Galway/Roscommon	67	56	84%
Mayo	46	34	74%
Donegal	57	52	91%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	33	32	97%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,667</b>	<b>1,788</b>	<b>67%</b>

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

- 1,592 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 in 2025.
- 50% (795) of processes reaching completion of Stage 2 proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting). The percentage of processes that proceeded to delivery ranged from 100% (26/26) Donegal to 14% (18/129) in Waterford/Wexford. Twelve areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 50%.
- 36% (573) were referred for a single agency response. The percentage of processes referred for a single agency response ranged from 82% (106/129) in Waterford/Wexford to 0% in five areas. Four areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 36%.
- 3% (44) of processes were referred to social work (stepped – up). The percentage of processes referred to social work ranged from 7% (4/55) in Dublin North City and Sligo/Leitrim West Cavan (2/30) to 0% in five areas. Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 3%.
- 11% (180) of processes were closed. The percentage of processes closed ranged from 46% (83/182) in Kerry to none in one area (Donegal). Four areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average (11%).

Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two, 2025

Area	# Reaching Completion of Stage 2 2025	Proceeded to Delivery	%	Referred to Social Work	%	Referred to a Single Agency Response	%	Closed	%
DSC	53	49	92%	1	2%	1	2%	2	4%
DSE/WW	65	59	91%	1	2%	0	0%	5	8%
DSW/K/WW	89	81	91%	0	0%	0	0%	8	9%
Midlands	66	57	86%	0	0%	7	11%	2	3%
DNC	55	46	84%	4	7%	2	4%	3	5%
Dublin North	74	31	42%	3	4%	27	36%	13	18%
LH/MH	71	47	66%	2	3%	20	28%	2	3%
CN/MN	203	39	19%	7	3%	143	70%	14	7%
Cork	96	67	70%	2	2%	7	7%	20	21%
Kerry	182	44	24%	9	5%	46	25%	83	46%
CW/KK/ST	286	58	20%	11	4%	208	73%	9	3%
WD/WX	129	18	14%	1	1%	106	82%	4	3%
MidWest	66	63	95%	0	0%	0	0%	3	5%
GY/RN	59	50	85%	1	2%	4	7%	4	7%
Mayo	42	33	79%	0	0%	2	5%	7	17%
Donegal	26	26	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
SLWC	30	27	90%	2	7%	0	0%	1	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,592</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>11%</b>

## 6.2.4 Meitheal Processes Closed

- 2,236 Meitheal processes were closed during 2025. The number of processes closed ranged from 754 (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary) to 19 (Dublin South Central).
- 39% (874) of all Meitheal processes were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1). The percentage closed following submission of a Meitheal request form ranged from 63% (34/54) in Cork to 11% (8/70) in Galway/Roscommon. Four areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 39%.
- 26% (582) of Meitheal processes were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2 Discussion Stage). The percentage closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form ranged from 82% (114/139) in Cavan/Monaghan to 5% (5/98) in Midwest. Three areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average (26%).
- 9% (201) of Meitheal processes were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3). The percentage closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings ranged from 42% (8/19) in Dublin South Central to 3% (10/349) in Waterford/Wexford. Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 9%.
- 26% (579) of Meitheal processes were closed post-delivery. The percentage closed post-delivery ranged from 63% (45/72) in Dublin South East/Wicklow area to 3% (4/139) in Cavan/Monaghan. Thirteen areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 26%.

### Number of Meitheals closed 2025

Area	Total number of Meitheals closed 2025	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	19	3	16%	3	16%	8	42%	5	26%
DSE/WW	72	9	13%	7	10%	11	15%	45	63%
DSW/K/WW	139	30	22%	23	17%	7	5%	79	57%
Midlands	29	9	31%	4	14%	12	41%	4	14%
DNC	56	17	30%	6	11%	10	18%	23	41%
Dublin North	43	15	35%	7	16%	6	14%	15	35%
LH/MH	34	10	29%	12	35%	1	3%	11	32%
CN/MN	139	17	12%	114	82%	4	3%	4	3%
Cork	54	34	63%	13	24%	4	7%	3	6%
Kerry	245	131	53%	29	12%	17	7%	68	28%
CW/KK/ST	754	394	52%	284	38%	24	3%	52	7%
WD/WX	349	143	41%	55	16%	10	3%	141	40%
MidWest	98	20	20%	5	5%	22	22%	51	52%

<b>GY/RN</b>	70	8	11%	10	14%	18	26%	34	49%
<b>Mayo</b>	38	7	18%	4	11%	14	37%	13	34%
<b>Donegal</b>	53	11	21%	3	6%	21	40%	18	34%
<b>SLWC</b>	44	16	36%	3	7%	12	27%	13	30%
<b>National</b>	<b>2,236</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>26%</b>

### 6.2.5 Child and Family Support Networks

- 114 Child and Family Support Networks<sup>12</sup> (CFSN) operating at the end of 2025 with none planned in development.

#### Child and Family Support Networks operating and planned

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

<sup>12</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

# 7 PEOPLE & CHANGE

## KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

### 7.1 Workforce Position

### 7.2 Absence Rate

### 7.3 Social Work Staff

### 7.5 Workforce Learning and Development

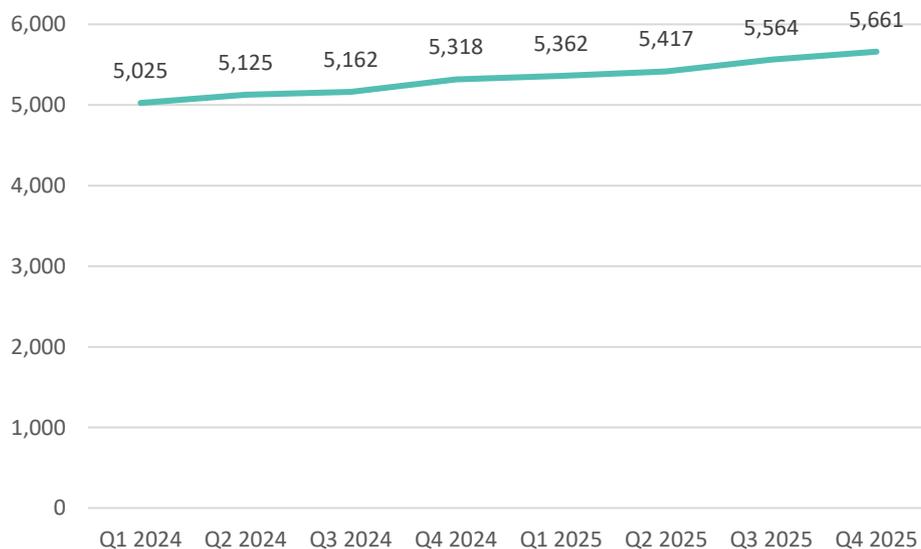
#### KEY FACTS

- **5,661 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff** (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end 2025, 97 (2%) more than Q3 2025 (5,564) and 343 (6%) more than Q4 2024 (5,318).
- **814 new staff joined Tusla** (came onto Tusla's payroll) in 2025, 25 (3%) fewer than 2024 (839).
- **409 staff left Tusla** (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in 2025, 10 (2%) fewer than 2024 (419).
- **109 staff retired** in 2025, 10 (8%) fewer than 2024 (119).
- At the end of Q4 2025, the **overall absence rate for the Agency was 8.14%**, up from 6.42% at the end of Q3 2025, and 7.7% at the end of Q4 2024.
  - e-learning training activity: 8,610 completions were achieved in Q4 2025
  - Classroom training: 3,161 participants attended in Q4 2025.

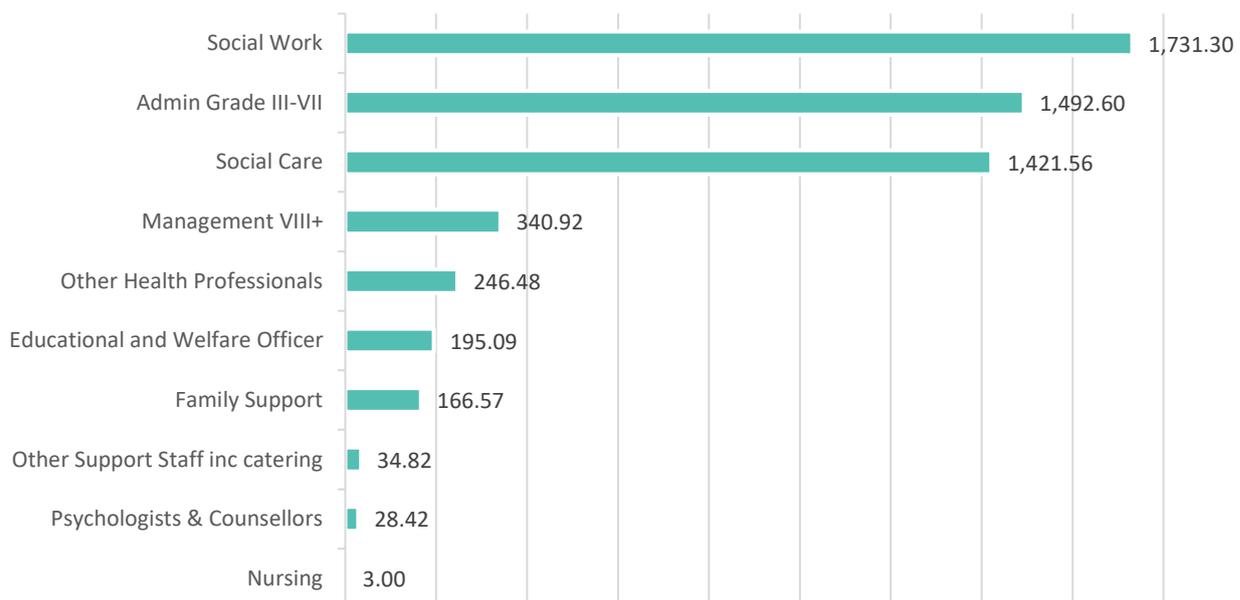
### 7.1 Workforce Position

- 5,661 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end 2025, 97 (2%) more than Q3 2025 (5,564) and 343 (6%) more than Q4 2024 (5,318).

Total Staff Employed (WTE), by quarter



- Social workers are the largest category of staff employed by the Agency, accounting for 30.6% (1,731.30) of total staff (WTE) employed at the end of 2025, followed by administrative staff (Grade III – VII) accounting for 26% (1,492.60) and social care staff accounting for 25.1% (1,421.56). Management (Grade VIII+) account for 6.0% (340.92) of the workforce.



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

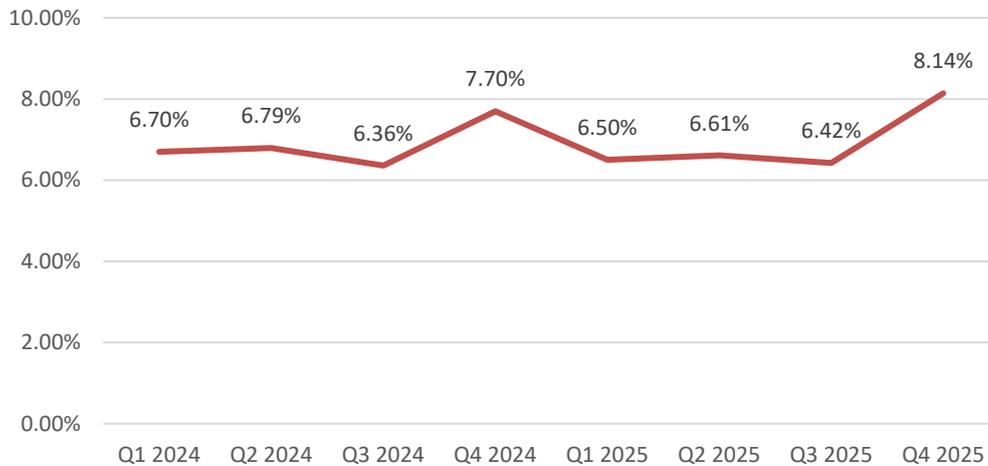
**Breakdown of staff (WTE) by category**

Staffing by Category	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q4 2025 v Q3 2025	Q4 2025 v Q4 2024
Social Work	1,678.50	1,674.03	1,665.57	1,701.40	1,731.30	29.90	52.80
Social Care	1,355.03	1,401.32	1,407.66	1,424.58	1,421.56	-3.02	66.53
Admin Grade III-VII	1,349.85	1,350.46	1,375.54	1,448.57	1,492.60	44.03	142.75
Family Support	173.85	161.95	175.82	177.92	166.57	-11.35	-7.28
Management VIII+	306.66	304.65	313.95	323.35	340.92	17.57	34.26
Educational & Welfare Officer	152.55	160.69	169.38	185.09	195.09	10.00	42.54
Other Support Staff	34.59	33.58	34.58	34.94	34.82	-0.12	0.23
Nursing	3.58	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	-0.58
Psychologists & Counsellors	28.38	29.75	27.78	26.67	28.42	1.75	0.04
Other Health Professionals	235.45	242.10	243.49	238.79	246.48	7.69	11.03
<b>Total Staffing</b>	<b>5,318</b>	<b>5,362</b>	<b>5,416.77</b>	<b>5,564.3</b>	<b>5,660.76</b>	<b>96.46</b>	<b>342.76</b>

- 814 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla’s payroll) in 2025, 25 (3%) fewer than 2024 (839).
- 409 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in 2025, 10 (2%) fewer than 2024 (419).
- 109 staff retired in 2025, 10 (8%) fewer than 2024 (119).
- 153 (3%) staff were on maternity leave (paid and unpaid) at the end of 2025.

## 7.2 Absence Rate

- At the end of Q4 2025, the overall absence rate for the Agency was 8.14%, up from 6.42% at the end of Q3 2025, and 7.7% at the end of Q4 2024.



- The highest absence rate was reported for social care staff at 11.28%. The rate for Residential Services (11.44%) (data not shown), is 3.3 percentage points higher than the overall rate of 8.14%. The overall absence rate excluding Residential Services is 7.4%.

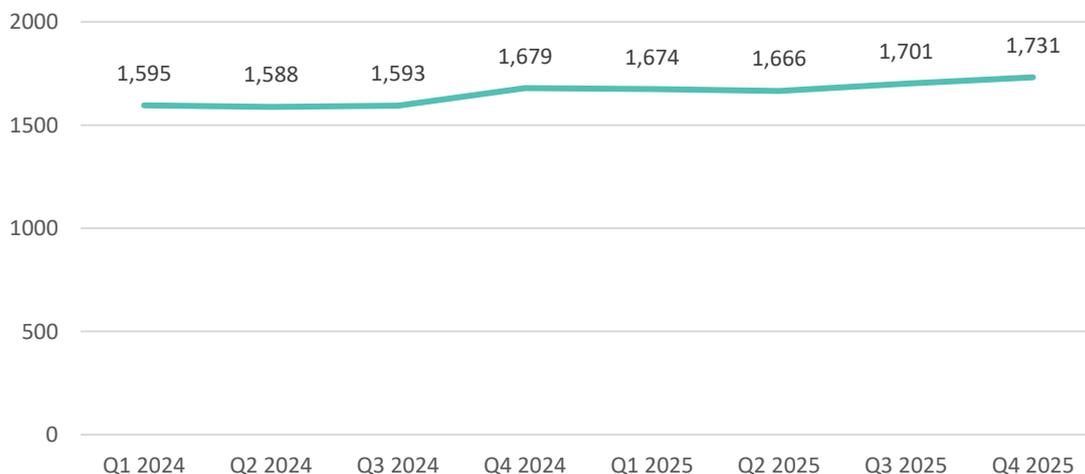
### Absence rate by staff grade

Staff Grade	Absence Rate Q4 2024	Absence Rate Q1 2025	Absence Rate Q2 2025	Absence Rate Q3 2025	Absence Rate Q4 2025
Social Work	6.64%	5.93%	6.17%	5.76%	<b>7.85%</b>
Social Care	10.94%	8.69%	9.72%	9.63%	<b>11.28%</b>
All other grades	6.15%	5.38%	4.81%	4.87%	<b>6.23%</b>

## 7.3 Social Work Staff (WTE)

- 1,731.3 whole time equivalent (WTE) social work staff (all grades and excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q4 2025, 29.9 (2%) more than at the end of Q3 2025 (1,701.4) and 52.8 (3%) more than Q4 2024 (1,678.5)

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



- 236 social workers joined Tusla (came onto Tusla’s payroll) in 2025, 10 (4%) more than 2024 (226).
- 169 social workers left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks excluding retirements) in 2025, 4 (2%) more than 2024 (165).
- 22 social workers retired in 2025, 5 (19%) fewer than 2024 (27).
- 74 (4%) social workers were on maternity leave (paid and unpaid) at the end of 2025.
- A breakdown of the number of social workers (all grades) employed at the end of each quarter Q4 2024 to Q4 2025 by area is presented in the table below.

**Breakdown of social work staff (WTE) by area Q4 2024 – Q4 2025**

	Social Work (WTE)				
Area	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025
DSC	81.51	78.31	77.07	82.38	86.02
DSE/WW	78.65	77.22	75.54	80.49	82.76
DSW/K/WW	100.23	103.61	105.96	106.98	112.05
Midlands	97.02	95.27	97.6	99.75	100.37
Regional Services DML	17.84	14.96	16.26	16.05	16.99
<b>DML Total</b>	<b>375.25</b>	<b>369.37</b>	<b>372.43</b>	<b>385.65</b>	<b>398.19</b>
CN/MN	50.41	49.41	47.84	48.62	48.57
DNC	81.6	83.35	87.29	97.6	102.26
LH/MH	95.83	95.11	98.8	98.1	104
Dublin North	88.19	95.89	90.64	98.4	99.66
Regional Services DNE	14.28	13.06	15.85	16.12	16.31
<b>DNE Total</b>	<b>330.31</b>	<b>336.82</b>	<b>340.42</b>	<b>358.84</b>	<b>370.8</b>
CW/KK/ST	65.85	60.81	57.27	58.96	58.99
Cork	194.97	192.9	188.75	179.81	187.05
Kerry	37.51	37.28	37.49	33.45	36.51
WD/WX	97.46	94.56	97.46	100.7	97.66
Regional Services South	6.79	7.22	8.41	9.81	9.61
<b>South Total</b>	<b>402.58</b>	<b>392.77</b>	<b>389.38</b>	<b>382.73</b>	<b>389.82</b>
Donegal	81.12	79.54	73.91	70.37	68.26
GY/RN	105.11	105.77	100.96	103.07	102.81
Mayo	39.69	37.93	36.96	37.96	41.55
Mid West	98.89	101.6	102.11	105.12	106.5
SLWC	43.08	42.32	40.97	38.92	45.19
Regional Services West	18.63	18.63	18.98	17.79	19.49
<b>West Total</b>	<b>386.52</b>	<b>385.79</b>	<b>373.89</b>	<b>373.23</b>	<b>383.8</b>
Residential DML					
Residential DNE	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6
Residential West					
Residential South	1	1	1	1	1

<b>National residential</b>	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Residential Services</b>	5	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6
<b>Corporate</b>	179.24	184.68	184.85	196.35	184.09
<b>Corporate</b>	179.24	184.68	184.85	196.35	184.09
<b>Total</b>	1,678.5	1,674.03	1,665.57	1,701.4	1,731.3

## 7.4 Workforce Learning and Development (WLD)

- Table 1 shows classroom training attendance for Q4 2025 (3,161 completions)
- Table 2 shows E-learning activity for Q4 2025 (8,610 completions)
- The most attended classroom training during Q4 2025 was ‘TCM for Family Support, Phase 1’ with 408 completions followed by ‘Tusla Manual Handling’ training at 325 completions.
- The most popular E-learning module during Q4 2025 was ‘Implementing Children First in Tusla’ with 1,035 completions followed by ‘An Introduction to Children First’ with 1,026 completions.

**Table 1: Classroom Training, Q4 2025**

Name of Module	Total Completions
TCM for Family Support Phase 1	408
Tusla Manual Handling Training	325
Therapeutic Crisis Intervention Refresher Training	300
Sharing Personal Data Safely	154
Neurodiversity Awareness and Inclusion Module 1	147
Cumulative Harm	144
Working with Dom Violence, Abuse and Coercive Control	94
Induction Day	91
Violence Harassment & Aggression (VHA) - Tusla (Classroom Training)	89
TCM for Family Support Phase 2	88
TCM (Classroom) Training for Child Protection and Alternative Care Staff	78
Joint AGS Tusla Training Event	72
CASP V2 Full Day in Person Training 2025	67
National Briefing Assisted Decision Making	61
Court Skills in Practice - Mock court session for educational welfare cases	60
Everyday Personal Effectiveness Programme Values in Action	51
Ligature Knife & Ligature Audits Training - Tusla	47
Supporting Performance and Development 304	42
MECPATHS	41
TCI Core	39
AMBIT	37
First Aid Refresher Response Course (PHECC)	35
Tusla Coaching Skills Programme	33
Autism CPD Session	32

WellTree Refresher Training - Tusla	32
Children who have sexually harmed: Considerations and Safety Planning	28
First Aid Response Course (PHECC) (3 Day)	28
Diversity in Modern Ireland	26
Navigating the Journey Together	25
Welltree Module 5: Welltree Outcomes Framework within residential childcare - Tusla	25
Reflective Writing in Practice	24
Home Visiting	22
Medication Management - Error prevention training	22
Welltree Module 4: Wellbeing informed practice within residential childcare	22
Meitheal Tusla Led Early Intervention Model	20
TCM Workshop for CRS	20
Welltree module 1-3	20
Welltree Module 3: Risk Informed Practice within residential childcare	20
CASP Data Protection	19
Child and Youth Participation: Modules 2 & 3	18
Building Confidence in Analysis and Safety Planning in cases of CSA	16
Interview Skills Training (Children)	16
Resilience and Self Care Training	15
Resistance and Engaging with Families	15
Tusla Intake Eligibility Procedure for SCSIP	15
Attachment Step 2	13
Metheal Train the Trainer	13
Shame Sensitive Practice	13
Professional Management of Challenging Behaviour	12
Enhanced Coaching Skills	11
Management: An Introduction for First Time Managers - Virtual Classroom	11
Youth Mental Health First Aid	11
Foster Carers-A guide to allegations	10
Safetalk	9
Applied Training Complaint Review Officer	8
Hidden Harm	8
MS Excel Intermediate	8
Supervision Skills for Supervisors Refresher	8
Applied Complaint Officer Training	7
Office for Legal Services, Briefings 2025	7
Presentation and Facilitation Skills	7
Solihill Foundation Training	7
WellTree Introductory Module	7
Meitheal Chair	5
Supervision Skills for Supervisors Module 2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,161</b>

**Table 2: E-Learning Q4 2025**

Name of Module	Total Completions
Implementing Children First in Tusla	1,035
An Introduction to Children First	1,026
Data Protection in Tusla	1,019
Tusla Employee Health and Safety Awareness Training	732
Incident Management - Tusla	690
Complaint handling in Tusla. (Module 1)	615
Freedom of Information: An Introduction to the FOI Act	593
Children First in Action - Tusla's response to a Child Protection & Welfare Concern	531
Tusla Case Management: Fundamentals of the TCM System Online	490
Violence, Harassment and Aggression (VHA) Online - Tusla	382
All about claiming Travel, Subsistence and other Staff Costs	377
Child Sexual Exploitation - Tusla	294
Medication Management in Children's Residential Services - Tusla	144
TCM for Child Protection, Welfare and Alternative Care (CPAC) - Tusla Online	101
Complaint handling in Tusla. Understanding Complaint Investigations ( Module2)	98
Organisational Risk Management - Tusla	65
Violence, Harassment and Aggression - Children's Residential Centres (CRS)	52
Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) - Tusla	50
Health and Safety Management: Introduction for Line Managers	48
Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence - An Introduction - Tusla	38
Attachment in Tusla Practice Step 1 - Online eLearning module	36
Barnahus - An Introduction (Tusla)	33
Hidden Harm: The Impact of Parental Alcohol and other Drug use	30
Minute Taking: An Introduction - Tusla	28
Module 3 : Using NIMS for the Management of Complaints - Tusla	23
An Introduction to Parental Participation for all staff	21
An Introduction to Tusla's Approach to Commissioning	12
Meitheal Briefing - Tusla	12
Parental Participation in Practice	10
De-escalation Skills for Redeployed Staff to Residential Services - Tusla	9
Induction to Children's Residential Services in Tusla	7
Revised Standard Business Processes on NCCIS - Tusla	6
Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)- An Introduction - eLearning for ALL STAFF - Tusla	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,610</b>

## 8 FINANCE

### KEY FACTS

- The outturn for 2025 is an overspend of €58 million
- Net expenditure is €1.29 billion against an initial revenue budget allocation of €1.23 billion.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €16.4 million
- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget year to date by €78.9 million

### Financial Performance

- The outturn for 2025 is an overspend of €58 million
- Net expenditure is €1.29 billion against an initial revenue budget allocation of €1.23 billion.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €16.4 million.

#### Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	Dec 2026			% Variance
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Act vs Budget
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€
<b>Pay costs</b>	448,792	465,222	-16,430	(4%)

- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget year to date by €78.9 million (10%).

#### Non-Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	Dec 2026			% Variance
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Act vs Budget
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€
<b>Non pay costs</b>	871,088	792,162	78,926	10%

## APPENDIX I

### ABBREVIATIONS

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

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