Annual Review on the Adequacy of Child Care and Family Support Services Available – 2021

1 Referrals to Child Protection & Welfare Services

- **73,069** referrals in **2021**, **5% (3,357)** more than **2020**.
- **6** referrals for every **100** children living in Ireland
- **52% (37,758)** welfare concerns, **35% (25,292)** child protection concerns, **14% (10,019)** not recorded*
- **2** in **5** referrals from gardaí – most common source of referrals

2 Cases open to social work

- **21,248** open cases** at the end of **2021**
- **<2%** of the child population being assessed or in receipt of a social work service from Tusla
- **77% (16,441)** of cases allocated to a named social worker
- **4,807** cases awaiting allocation, **568 (13%)** more than **2020**
- **<1** in **10** cases awaiting allocation high priority **62% (2,985)** of cases awaiting allocation were "active on duty***

3 Children "active" on the CPNS

- **983** children "active" on the CPNS - Child Protection Notification System at year end; **44 (5%)** more than **2020**
- **83%** of children "active" were active for no longer than **12** months

4 National Out of Hours Service

2,718 referrals to the National Out of Hours Service, **437 (19%)** more than **2020**. Increasing trend

5 First time admissions to care

- **792** children came into care for the first-time in **2021**, **104 (15%)** more than **2020**
- Equivalent to about **7/10,000** children under **18** years

6 Total admissions to care

- **962** admissions to care in **2021**; **74 (8%)** more than **2020**
- **28% (273)** of admissions were **15-17** years
- **46% (442)** of admissions were under a court order; **54% (520)** were voluntary (agreement with parents/guardians)
- Neglect is the most common reason for admission **(39%; 373)**

7 Children in care

- **5,863** children in care at year end
- Equivalent to about **5/1,000** children under 18 years
- **90% (5,272)** of children were in foster care
- **79% (4,626)** were under a court order, **21% (1,237)** were voluntary (agreement with parents/guardians)
- **13% (785)** of children were with private providers, **56 (8%)** more than **2020**. Increasing trend
- **95%** of children **6-15** years and **93%** of **16-17** year olds were in full-time education (in accordance with their care plan)

8 Discharges from care

- **970** discharges from care in **2021**, **34 (3%)** fewer than **2020**
- **55% (531)** of discharges were young people turning **18** years
- **47% (454)** of discharges were to home/extended family; **34% (325)** remained with foster family

9 Foster carers

- **4,039** foster carers on the panel of approved foster carers at year end, four more than **2020**
- **219** general and relative foster carers approved in **2021**, seven fewer than **2020**
- **9** out of **10** foster carers had a link (social) worker at year end

10 Aftercare

- **3,059** young people in receipt of aftercare services at year end, **116 (4%)** more than **2020**. Increasing trend
- **76% (1,788)** of **18-22** year olds in receipt of aftercare services were in education/accredited training
- **96% (2,247)** of **18-22** year olds in receipt of aftercare services had an aftercare plan
- **94% (2,080)** of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had one

11 Adoption Services

- **199** applications for assessment as adoptive parents, **41 (26%)** more than **2020**
- Most common application was for step-parent adoption **(33%; 65)**
- **208** children referred for adoption, **12 (6%)** more than **2020**

Family Support Services 12

- At least **32,473** children referred to family support services in **2021#**; **17,075** children in receipt of family support service at year end
- Equivalent to about **3%** of children under **18** years referred
- **73% (23,807)** of children referred in **2021**, received a service
- **2,373** Meitheal processes requested in **2021**, **86 (4%)** more than **2020**; **(2,287)**

13 Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection

- **152** referrals, **72 (90%)** more than **2020**
- **98** children placed in care, **47 (92%)** more than **2020**
- **86** children in care at year end
- **118** young people in receipt of aftercare services at year end, **10** more than **2020**

* Percentages not totalling 100% due to rounding. Fractions of 0.5 and above are rounded up while fractions below 0.5 are rounded down.

** Open cases include all children going through preliminary enquiry /assessment process, children requiring social work support including children on the CPNS and children in care.

*** Active on duty means cases being progressed by dedicated duty teams or rotating social workers on a duty roster e.g., children being visited, initial assessments being completed, child in care reviews taking place.

\# Based on a response rate of 80%.

TUSLA
An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency