



An Ghníomhaireacht um  
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach  
Child and Family Agency

# Quarterly Service Performance and Activity Report

QUARTER 3 2019



Quality Assurance Directorate

# CONTENTS

<b>CONTENTS .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1.0 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.0 CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES.....</b>	<b>10</b>
2.1 Referrals (Child Welfare and Child Abuse/Neglect) .....	10
2.2 Social Work Activity Data (Child Protection & Welfare) .....	21
2.3 Child Protection Notification System .....	27
2.4 National Out Of Hours Service .....	31
<b>3.0 ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES .....</b>	<b>33</b>
3.1 Children in Care (Foster care / Residential care).....	33
3.2 Aftercare .....	43
3.3 Adoption services .....	49
3.4 Foster carers .....	52
<b>4.0 REGULATORY FUNCTIONS .....</b>	<b>58</b>
4.1 Early Years Inspectorate .....	58
4.2 Alternative Education Regulation .....	62
4.3 Non Statutory Alternative Care Services.....	66
<b>5.0 TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES.....</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>6.0 FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES.....</b>	<b>72</b>
6.1 Family Support Services .....	72
6.2 Meitheal .....	78
<b>7.0 HUMAN RESOURCES .....</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>8.0 FINANCE .....</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>APPENDIX I.....</b>	<b>93</b>

## 1.0 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

This report provides an update on the performance and activity of Tusla services at the end of Q3 2019. It is structured around key performance and activity measures included in the Agency's Business Plan. The data presented was provided by services and refers to the latest performance and activity information available at this time. **These data can change from data previously published due to the ongoing validation of data.**

The summary by service type set out below provides an overview of the Q3 2019 position regarding activity and performance.

### CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

#### Referrals

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

- 15,401 referrals in Q2 2019, 13 more than Q1 2019 and 922 (6%) more than Q2 2018. Highest number for all quarters Q1 2014 – Q3 2019.
- 56% (8,560) of referrals were for welfare concerns; 785 (10%) more than Q1 2019 (8,560) and 793 (10%) more than Q2 2018 (7,767). Highest percentage since Q1 2018.
- 44% (6,841) were concerns of abuse; 772 (10%) fewer than Q2 2019, but higher than all quarters Q1 2014 – Q4 2018.
- 99% (14,258) of referrals for Q2 2019 had a preliminary enquiry carried out. Based on data for 16 areas. Comparison with previous quarters not meaningful due to incomplete data for previous quarters.
- 27% (3,833/14,258) of preliminary enquiries were done within 5 working days. Based on data for 16 areas.
- 16% (2,262/14,258) of referrals that had a preliminary enquiry required an initial assessment. Based on data for 16 areas. Comparison with previous quarters not meaningful due to incomplete data for previous quarters.
- 17% (383/2,262) of initial assessments were done within 40 working days
- 'No further action' was recorded in 46% (578) of cases where outcome was provided

#### Social Work Activity Data

- 25,341 cases open to social work at the end of Q3 2019; 123 more than Q2 2019
- 80% (20,229) of open cases allocated to named social worker; up three percentage points from Q2 2019
- 5,112 cases were awaiting allocation; 647 (11%) fewer than Q2 2019 (5,759) and 1,320 (21%) fewer than December 2018 when a high of 6,432 was reported.
- 634 (12%) of the cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2019 were categorised as 'high priority'; 357 (36%) fewer than Q2 2019 (991) and the fewest number for the period Q1 2017 – Q3 2019.
- 55% (2,834) of all cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2019 were waiting less than 3 months.

### **Child Protection Notification System**

- 981 children listed as 'active' on the CPNS at the end of Q3 2019; 63 more than Q2 2019, second consecutive increase
- 88% (862) of children listed as "active" were listed for no longer than 18 months
- All but four children listed as "active" at the end of Q3 2019 had an allocated social worker.

### **National Out of Hours Service**

- 530 referrals to the National Out of Hours Service in Q3 2019; 28 (6%) more than Q2 2019 (502) and 19 more than Q3 2018 (511)
- 147 children were placed by the National Out of Hours Service in Q3 2019; five more than Q2 2019 (142) and five fewer than Q3 2018 (152 combined figure for Crisis Intervention Service and Emergency Out of Hours Service including service in Cork)

### **Children in Care**

- 5,983 children in care at the end of Q3 2019; 34 fewer than Q2 2019 (6,017) and 90 fewer than Q3 2018. *Decrease partly explained by validation in one area which reduced the number of children in care in this area.*
- 684 children in private placements; 21 more than Q2 2019 (663) and 43 more than Q3 2018 (641); highest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q2 2019.
- 92% (5,511/5,983) of children in care had an allocated social worker at the end of Q3 2019; up two percentage points from Q2 2019
- 472 children were awaiting allocation of a social worker; 149 (24%) fewer than Q2 2019 (621). Highest number in the Midwest (74, down 74 from Q2) followed by CW/KK/ST (72, down 40 from Q2) and Dublin North (71, up 7 from Q2).
- 92% (5,498/5,983) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan, up three percentage points from Q2 2019
- 485 children did not have an up-to-date care plan, 161 (25%) fewer than Q2 2019 (646). Highest number of children in Cork (227, down 96 from Q2) followed by Midwest (70, down 39 from Q2) and DSW/K/WW (43, down 5 from Q2). *Data for Cork is undergoing validation and needs to be interpreted with care*

### **Aftercare**

- 2,700 young persons/adults in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q3 2019, 41 more than Q2 2019 (2,659)
- 76% (1,573/2,072) of those 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service were in education/accredited training.
- 82% (2,205) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services had an aftercare plan, down one percentage point from Q2 2019. Seven areas along with the SWTSCSA reported a percentage equal to or above the national average of 82%. Rates reported by Donegal (57%), Kerry (62%), DSW/K/WW (64%), CW/K/ST (66%) and Dublin South Central (67%) lower than all other areas
- 89% (1,824/2,038) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker, down one percentage point from Q2 2019. Twelve areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 89% with nine of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by DSW/K/WW (59%), CW/KK/ST (73%), GY/RN (74%) and Dublin South Central (79%) lower than all other areas.

### **Adoption**

- 657 new enquiries regarding information and tracing received in Q3 2019, 79 more than Q2 2019. Brings to 1,934 the number for the first nine months of 2019, double the number for the same period in 2018 (969)
- 186 new applications to commence tracing received in Q3 2019. Brings to 656 the number for the first nine months of 2019, 32 (5%) fewer than the same period in 2018.
- 729 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q3 2019; 32 more than Q2 2019 (697)
- 63 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received during Q3 2019. Brings to 155 the number for the first nine months of 2019, seven fewer than the same period in 2018 (162).
- 56 new children were referred for adoption in Q3 2019. Brings to 139 the number for the first nine months of 2019, nine fewer than the same period in 2018 (148).
- 45 completed assessments (all types) were presented to Local Adoption Committees during Q3 2019. Brings to 115 the number for the first nine months of 2019, ten more than the same period in 2018 (105).

### Foster Carers

- 4,203 foster carers on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q3 2019, 51 fewer than Q2 2019 (4,254) and the fewest number for the period Q1 2018 – Q3 2019
- 81% (1,103/1,359) of relative foster carers approved against a target of 80%
- 93% (2,398) of general foster carers had an allocated link worker (target 90%); 176 awaiting a link work, 50 fewer than Q2 2019 (226). Rates reported by DSW/K/WW (83%), Midlands (84%) and DSE/WW (86%) lower than all other areas.
- 90% (995) of approved relative foster carers had an allocated link worker (target of 85%); 108 awaiting a link worker, 32 fewer than Q2 2019. Rates reported by DSW/K/WW (71%), Midlands (76%) and Cork (78%) lower than all other areas. *Cork area advised that the increase is due to particular staffing issues which are being addressed.*
- 256 unapproved relative foster carers; three more than Q2 2019
- 223 (87%) of the unapproved relative foster carers had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks, 16 more than Q2 2019.
- 98% (218) had an allocated link worker, up five percentage points from Q2 2019; 5 awaiting allocation across three areas.

### Early Years Inspectorate

- 4,353 EYS on the register nationally at the end of Q3 2019; fewest number for the period Q1 2018 – Q3 2019
- 506 EYS inspections (all types) carried out during Q3 2019. Brings to 1,795 the number of inspections for the first nine months of 2019, 145 (7%) fewer than the same period in 2018 (1,940).
- 101 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q3 2019, bringing the number for the first nine months of 2019 to 301, some 119 (65%) more than the same period in 2018 (182)
- 214 unsolicited information submissions received by the Inspectorate during Q3 2019, 127 (146%) more than Q2 2019 and the highest number for the period Q1 2018 – Q3 2019. Brings to 439 the number received for the first nine months of 2019, 150 (52%) more than the same period in 2018 (289).
- Three services removed from the national register in the first nine months of 2019.

### Non-Statutory Alternative Care Services

- 129 non-statutory residential centres at the end of Q3 2019; no change from Q2 2019
- 26 inspections (all types and onsite) conducted in Q3 2019; 10 fewer than Q2 2019. Brings to 99 the number of inspections for the nine months to the end of Sept 2019, 11 more than the same period in 2018 (88).

## Alternative Education Regulation

### Home Education

- 1,483 children on the register for home education at the end of Q3 2019; highest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q3 2019
- 174 applications received for home education during Q3 2019. Brings to 457 the number of applications for the first nine months of 2019, two fewer than the same period in 2018 (459).
- 642 children awaiting a preliminary assessment for registration at the end of Q3 2019, 93 more than Q2 2019 and highest number for period Q1 2019 – Q3 2019 (*not comparable with previous quarters due to a change in the metric*).
- 470 registered children awaiting a review at the end of Q3 2019; fewest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q3 2019.

### Independent Schools

- 5,915 children attending 49 assessed schools at the end of Q3 2019
- 3 schools awaiting assessment and 7 schools awaiting a review at the end of Q3 2019

## Tusla Education Support Services

### Academic Year Sept – 2018 – Aug 2019

- 6,310 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers in the academic year Sept 2018 – Aug 2019, 360 (5%), fewer than the previous year (6,670)
- 2,017 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of the academic year, 353 (21%) more than the previous year (1,664)
- 3,136 new individual children worked with in the academic year, 115 (4%) more than the previous year (3,021)
- 6,291 individual children worked with in the academic year, 157 (3%) more than the previous year (6,134)
- 672 school attendance notices (SANs) issued by EWS in the academic year, 68 (9%) fewer than the previous year (740).
- 155 summonses issued by EWS in the academic year, 20 (11%) fewer than the previous year (175).
- 334 Section 24 meetings convened by EWOs in the academic year, 91 (37%) more than the previous year (243)
- 1,681 screened referrals on a **waiting list at the end of September 2019**, fourth consecutive monthly decrease and fewest number since December 2018. The number of referrals on the waiting list has fallen 41% (1,157) since May 2019 (2,838).

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

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

- At least 17,879 children in receipt of family support services at the end of Q2 2019 (based on 86% response rate)
- At least 18,168 children referred to family support services in the first six months of 2019
- 67% (12,093) of children referred to family support services in the first six months of 2019 received a service, down five percentage points from the last six months of 2018 (72%;12,286). The percentage who received a service ranged from 42% two areas (Dublin South Central and DSW/K/WW) to 92% in the CW/KK/ST.

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

- 1,275 Meitheal processes requested in the first six months of 2019; 343 (37%) more than the previous six months (932).
- 71% (903) of requests requested through Direct Access, 18% (235) requested through Social Work Diversion and 11% (137) Social Work Step Down
- 75% (953) of Meitheal processes requested proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage)
- 707 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 in the first six months of 2019; 59% (415) of these proceeded to Stage 3 (Delivery)
- 844 Meitheal processes were closed in the first six months of 2019; 39% (329) were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form; 27% (230) closed following completion of Stage 2 (Discussion); 10% (84) closed following commencement of Stage 3 (Delivery) and 24% (201) closed post- delivery.
- 114 Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) operating at the end of June 2019, with a further 20 planned.

### **Human Resources**

- 4,025 (WTE) employed by the Agency at the end of Q2 2019; 32 more than Q2 2019 and 224 (6%) more than Q3 2018. Highest number for the period Sept 2018 – Sept 2019.
- 389 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first nine months of 2019
- 238 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, retirements) in the first nine months of 2019
- 160 staff on maternity leave at the end of August 2019
- 5.33% absence rate (August 2019)
- 108 class-room based courses run by Workforce Learning & Development during Q3 2019 at which 1,642 persons attended. There were 3,639 completions of online training targeted at Tusla staff.



## **Finance**

- The financial outturn for the year to date (Sept 2019) is an over-spend of €18.254 million
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €4.329 million
- Non pay costs are over-spent against budget by €24.527 million
- Key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €23.247 million over budget
- 49% (€10.889 million) of legal expenditure (€22.342 million) was on guardians ad litem (GALs), including GAL's solicitors and counsel.

## 2.0 CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

### KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

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

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

#### Key Facts

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

- 15,401 referrals in Q2 2019, 13 more than Q1 2019 and 922 (6%) more than Q2 2018. Highest number for all quarters Q1 2014 – Q3 2019.
- 56% (8,560) of referrals were for welfare concerns; 785 (10%) more than Q1 2019 (8,560) and 793 (10%) more than Q2 2018 (7,767). Highest percentage since Q1 2018.
- 44% (6,841) were concerns of abuse; 772 (10%) fewer than Q2 2019, but higher than all quarters Q1 2014 – Q4 2018.
- 99% (14,258) of referrals for Q2 2019 had a preliminary enquiry carried out. *Based on data for 16 areas. Comparison with previous quarters not meaningful due to incomplete data for previous quarters.*
- 27% (3,833/14,258) of preliminary enquiries were done within 5 working days. *Based on data for 16 areas.*
- 16% (2,262/14,258) of referrals that had a preliminary enquiry required an initial assessment. *Based on data for 16 areas. Comparison with previous quarters not meaningful due to incomplete data for previous quarters.*
- 17% (383/2,262) of initial assessments were done within 40 working days
- 'No further action' was recorded in 46% (578) of cases where outcome was provided

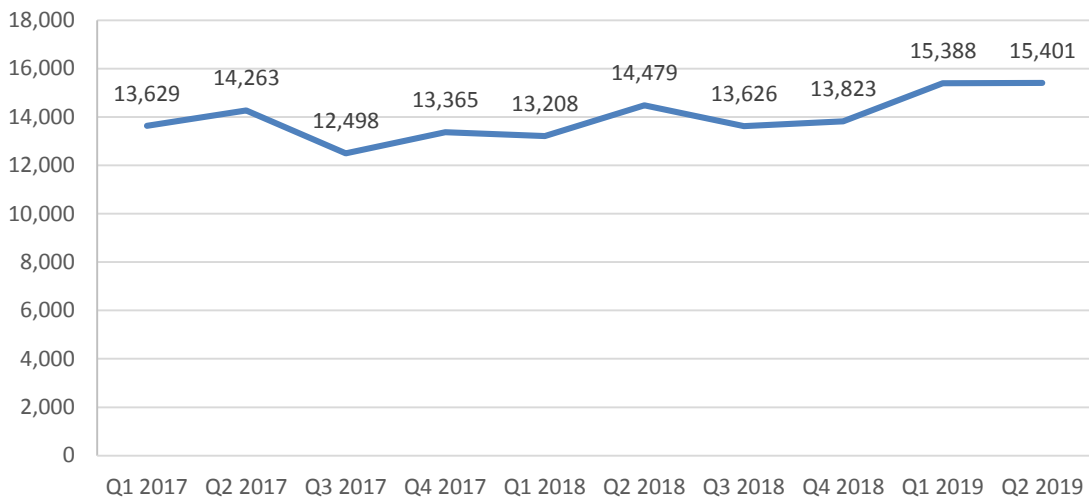
#### Number of Referrals Q2 2019

- 15,401 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Service during Q2 2019<sup>1</sup>; 13 more than Q1 2019 and 922 (6%) more than Q2 2018. Highest number for all quarters Q1 2014 – Q2 2019.

---

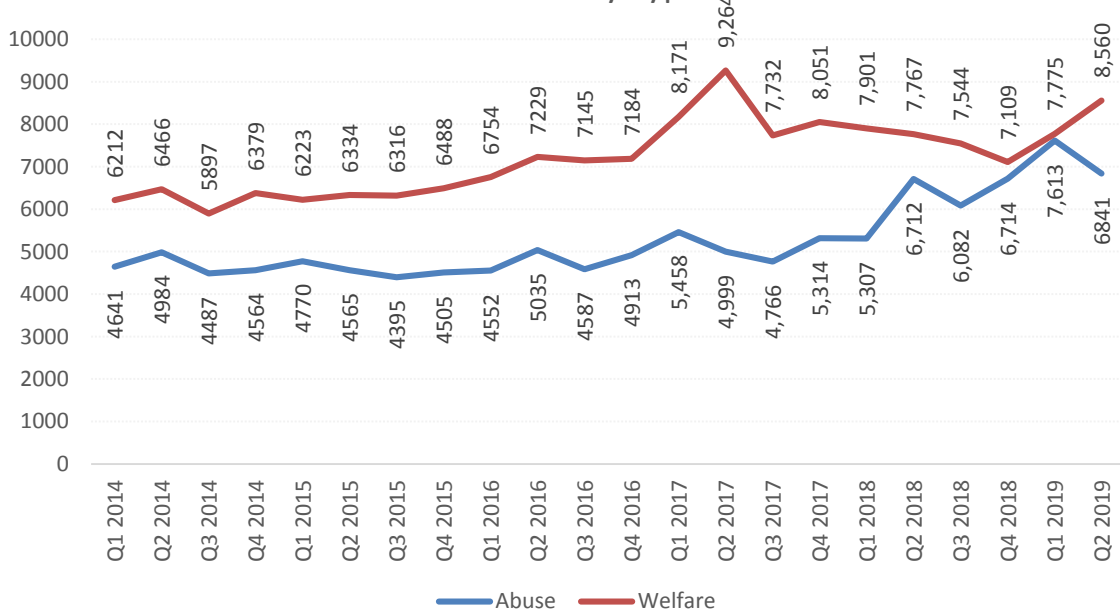
<sup>1</sup> Data on referrals are reported quarterly in arrears.

### Number of Referrals

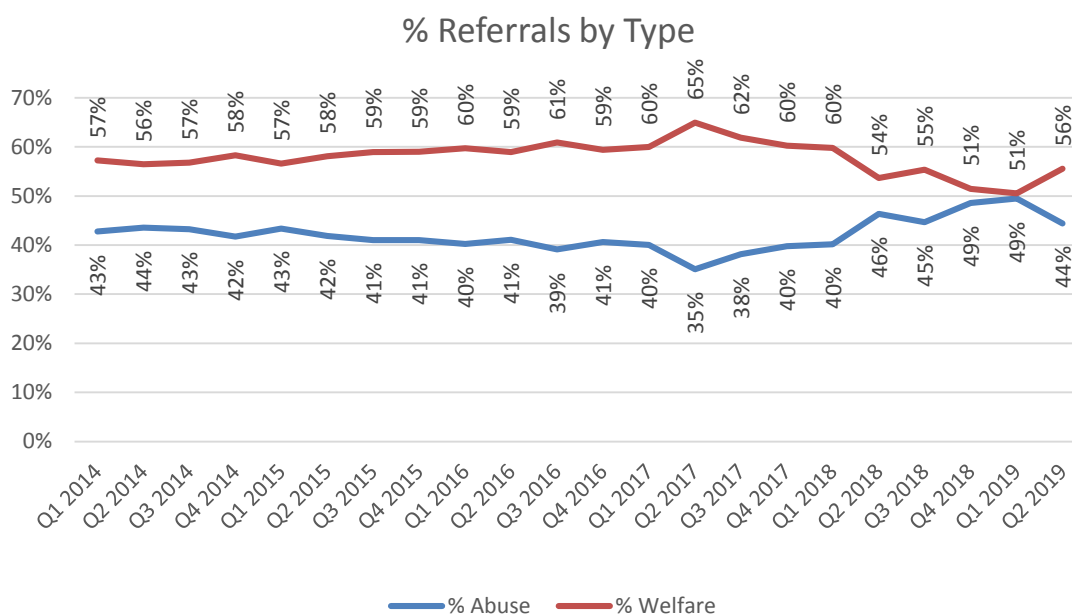


- 56% (8,560) of referrals were for welfare concerns; 785 (10%) more than Q1 2019 (8,560) and 793 (10%) more than Q2 2018 (7,767). This is the second consecutive increase following four consecutive decreases and is the second highest number for the period Q1 2014 – Q2 2019.
- 44% (6,841) were concerns of abuse; 772 (10%) fewer than Q2 2019, but higher than all quarters Q1 2014 – Q4 2018.

### Referrals by Type



- Percentage of welfare referrals up five percentage points from Q1 2019, highest percentage since Q1 2018.



## Referrals by Area

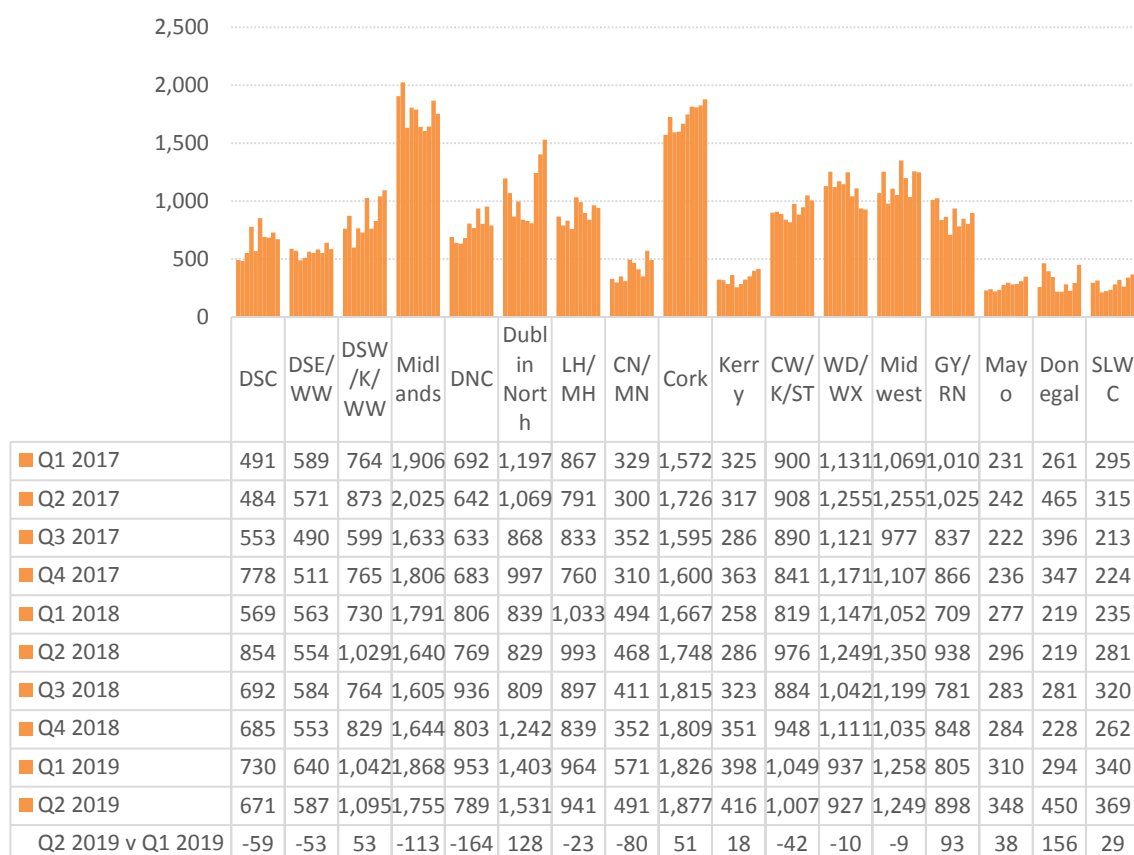
- 15,401 referrals equates to about 13 referrals per 1,000 population under 18 years. The rate of referrals ranged from 22 per 1,000 in the Midlands, almost double the national rate to 7 per 1,000 in Dublin South East/Wicklow. Other areas with higher than average rates include, Dublin North City, Dublin North, CN/MN, Cork, CW/KK/ST, WD/WX , Midwest and SLWC.
- Highest number of referrals reported by the Cork (1,877) followed by Midlands (1,755) and Dublin North (1,531). Fewest number reported by Mayo (348).

Area	# Q2 2018	# Q3 2018	# Q4 2018	# Q1 2019	# Q2 2019	Δ+/- Q2 v Q1	Population	Rate
DSC	854 <sup>#</sup>	692	685	730	<b>671</b>	-59	65,564	10.2
DSE/WW	554	584	553	640	<b>587</b>	-53	86,810	6.8
DSW/K/WW	1,029	764	829	1042	<b>1095</b>	53	108,186	10.1
Midlands	1,640	1,605	1644	1868	<b>1755</b>	-113	80,193	21.9
DNC	769	936	803	953	<b>789</b>	-164	44,927	17.6
Dublin North	829	809	1242	1403	<b>1531</b>	128	100,654	15.2
LH/MH	993	897	839	964	<b>941</b>	-23	93,093	10.1
CN/MN	468	411	352	571	<b>491</b>	-80	36,446	13.5
Cork	1,748	1,815	1809	1826	<b>1877</b>	51	134,015	14.0
Kerry	286	323	351	398	<b>416</b>	18	34,527	12.0
CW/KK/ST	976	884	948	1049	<b>1007</b>	-42	63,009	16.0
WD/WX	1,249*	1,042	1111	937	<b>927</b>	-10	68,513	13.5
MidWest	1,350	1,199	1035	1258	<b>1249</b>	-9	96,266	13.0
GY/RN	938	781	848	805	<b>898</b>	93	79,912	11.2
Mayo	296	283	284	310	<b>348</b>	38	31,968	10.9
Donegal	219	281	228	294	<b>450</b>	156	42,865	10.5
SLWC	281	320	262	340	<b>369</b>	29	23,554	15.7
<b>National</b>	<b>14,479</b>	<b>13,626</b>	<b>13,823</b>	<b>15,388</b>	<b>15,401</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1,190,502</b>	<b>12.9</b>

\* Q2 2018 data for WD/WX are undergoing validation

- Eight areas reported an increase in referrals from Q1 2019. Largest increase reported by Donegal (156) followed by Dublin North (128) and Galway/Roscommon (93). Largest decrease reported by Dublin North City (164) followed by Midlands (113).

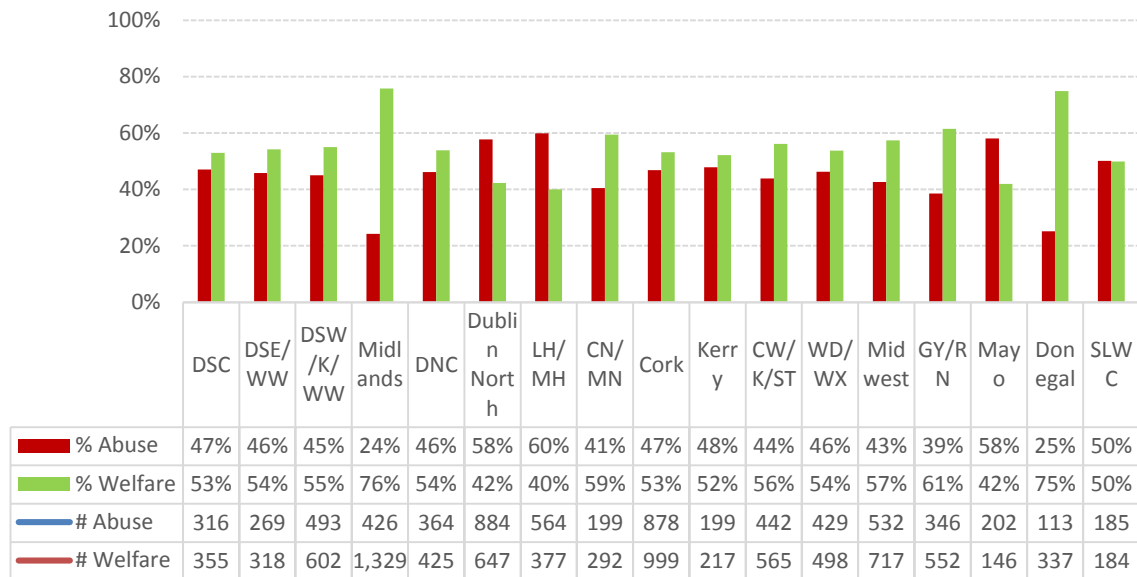
Referrals by Area



### Referrals by Area and Type

- An area breakdown of referrals by type (abuse / welfare) for Q2 2019 is presented in the chart below.
- Nationally, there was 44:56 split between referrals of abuse/neglect and welfare. This varied across the areas and ranged from a 60:40 split for LH/MH to a 24:76 split for the Midlands. Twelve areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 44% for abuse (Dublin South Central, Dublin South East/Wicklow, Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow, Dublin North City, Dublin North, LH/MH, Cork, Kerry, CW/KK/ST, Waterford/Wexford, Mayo and SLWC).

% Breakdown of Referrals by Type Q2 2019



### Preliminary Enquiry and Initial Assessment

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

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

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

The outcome of this step will be either:

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

Timeline for the preliminary enquiry is 5 days.

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

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

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

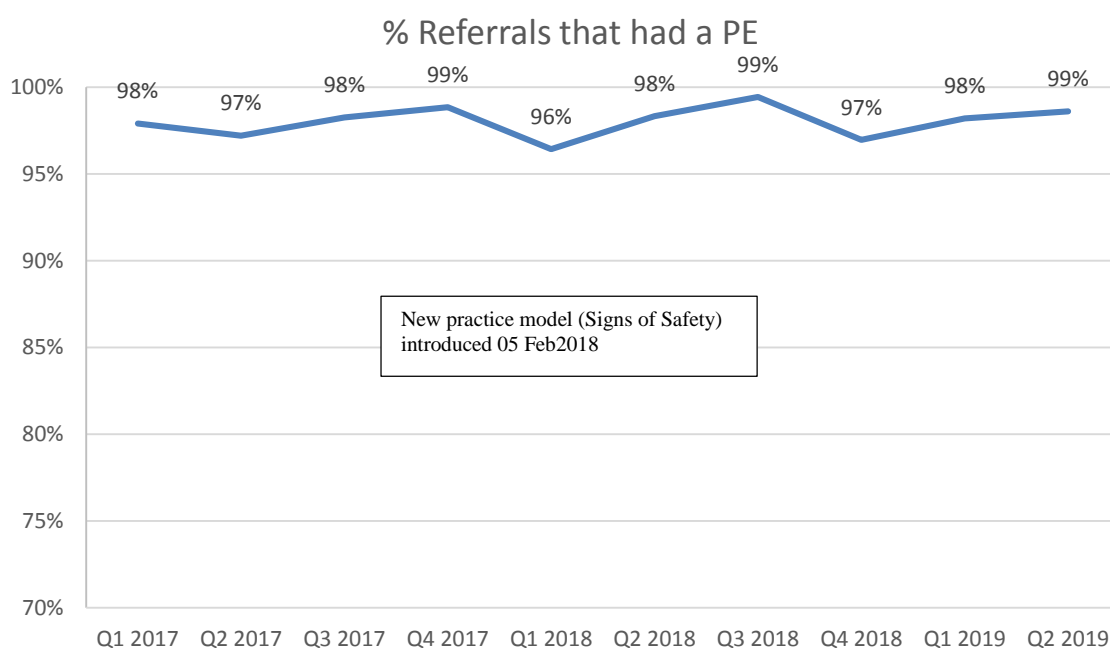
- If the referral can be closed or diverted to an early intervention response that doesn't require Tusla Social Work intervention and can be diverted to a needs led approach like Meitheal.

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

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

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

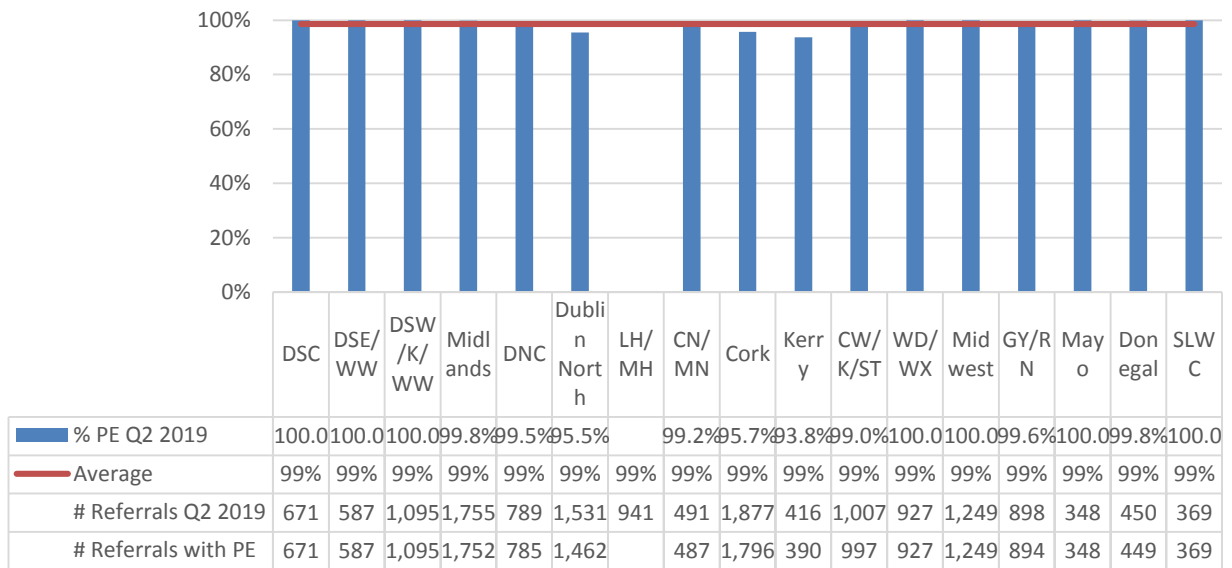
- 99% (14,258/14,460) of referrals for Q2 2019 had a preliminary enquiry carried out. *Based on data for 16 areas – data for LH/MH undergoing validation*



Q1 2018 – Q2 2019 – based on data for 16 areas (Louth/Meath undergoing validation).

- The percentage of referrals that had a preliminary enquiry ranged from 94% to 100%. 7/16 areas reported 100%.

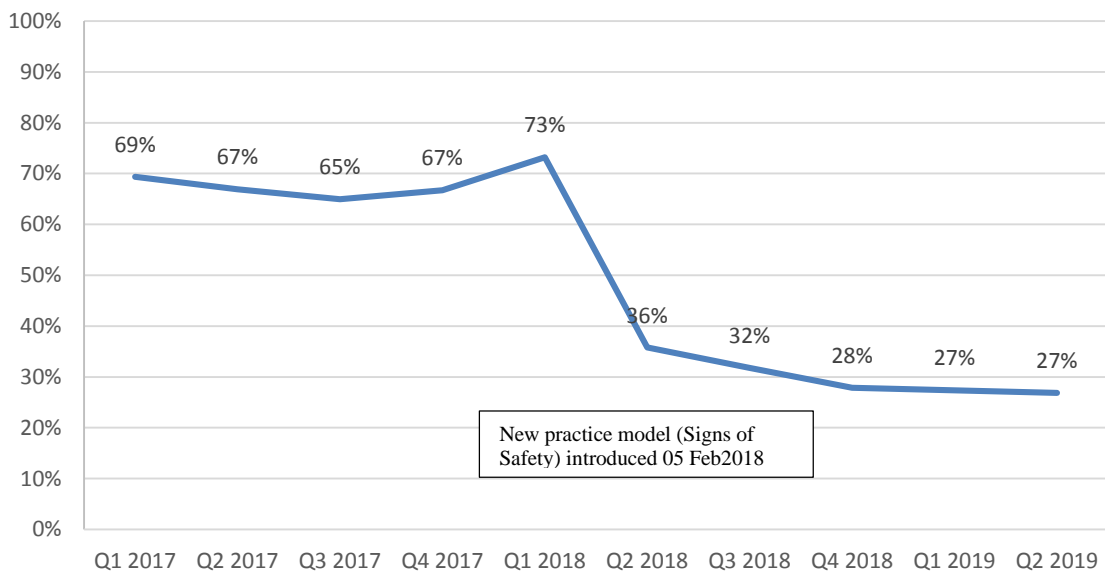
### % referrals that had a preliminary enquiry



Due to rounding Midlands, Galway/Roscommon and Donegal showing 100% above

- 27% (3,833/14,258) of preliminary enquiries were done within 5 working days. Based on data for 16 areas – data for LH/MH undergoing validation

### % PEs completed within 24 hours / 5 days

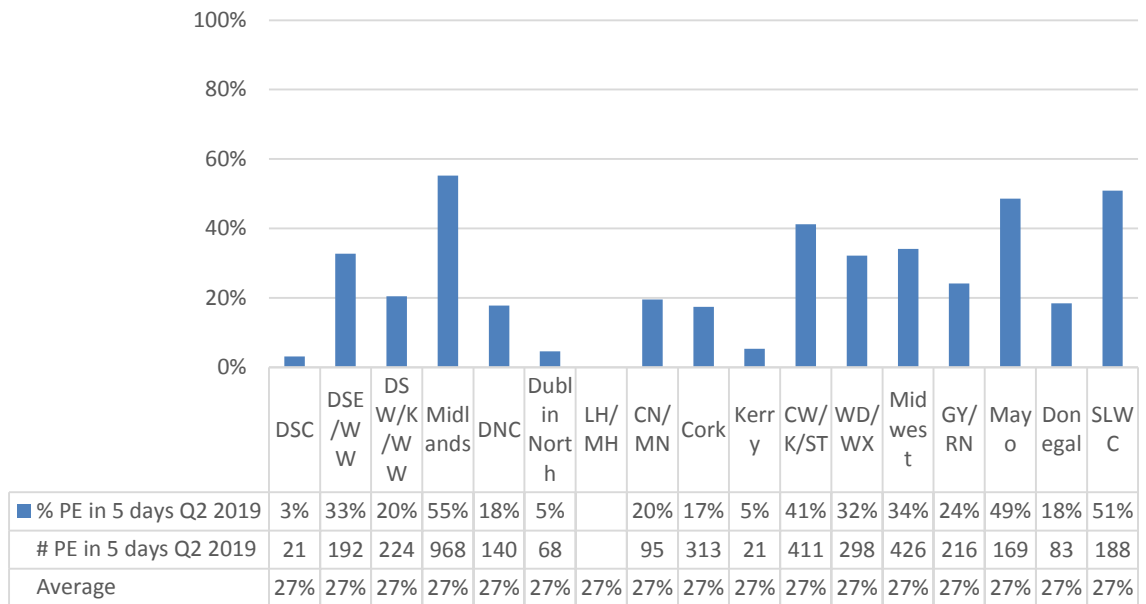


Q1 & Q2 2019 – based on data for 16 areas (Louth/Meath data undergoing validation). Q1 2018 – based on data for 10 areas, Q2 2018 based on data for 15 areas, Q3 – Q4 2018 based on data for 16 areas. Q4 2017 based on data for 15 areas.

- The percentage of preliminary enquiries done within 5 days ranged from 55% (968/1,752) (Midlands) to 3% (21/671) (Dublin South Central). Seven areas reported a percentage higher than the national average of 27%.

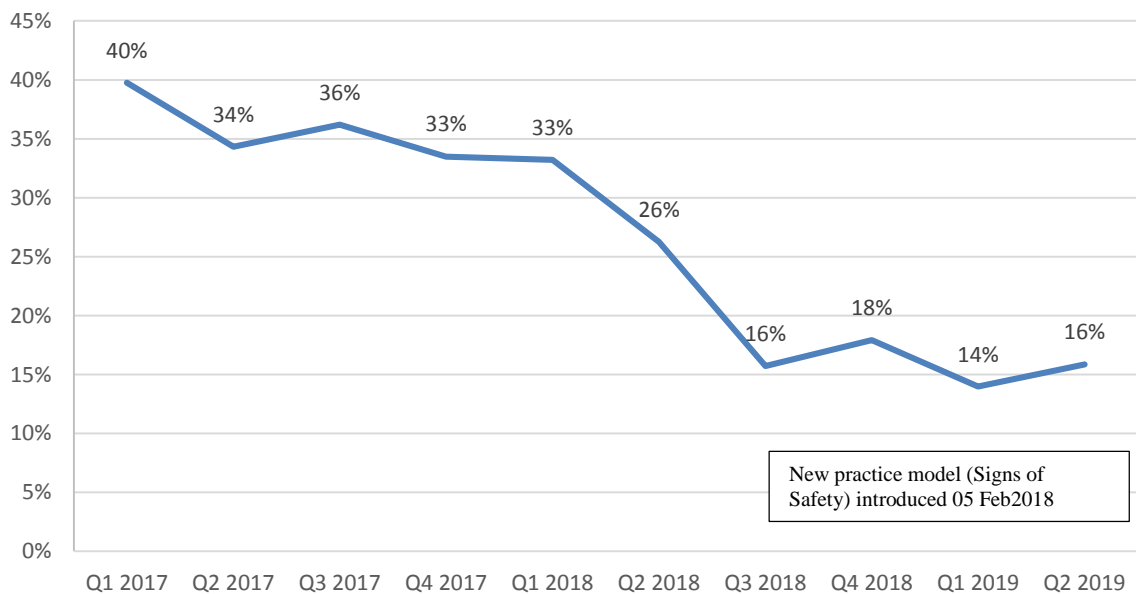


### % preliminary enquiries completed within 5 working days



- 16% (2,262/14,258) of referrals that had a preliminary enquiry required an initial assessment. *Based on data for 16 areas – data for LH/MH undergoing validation.*

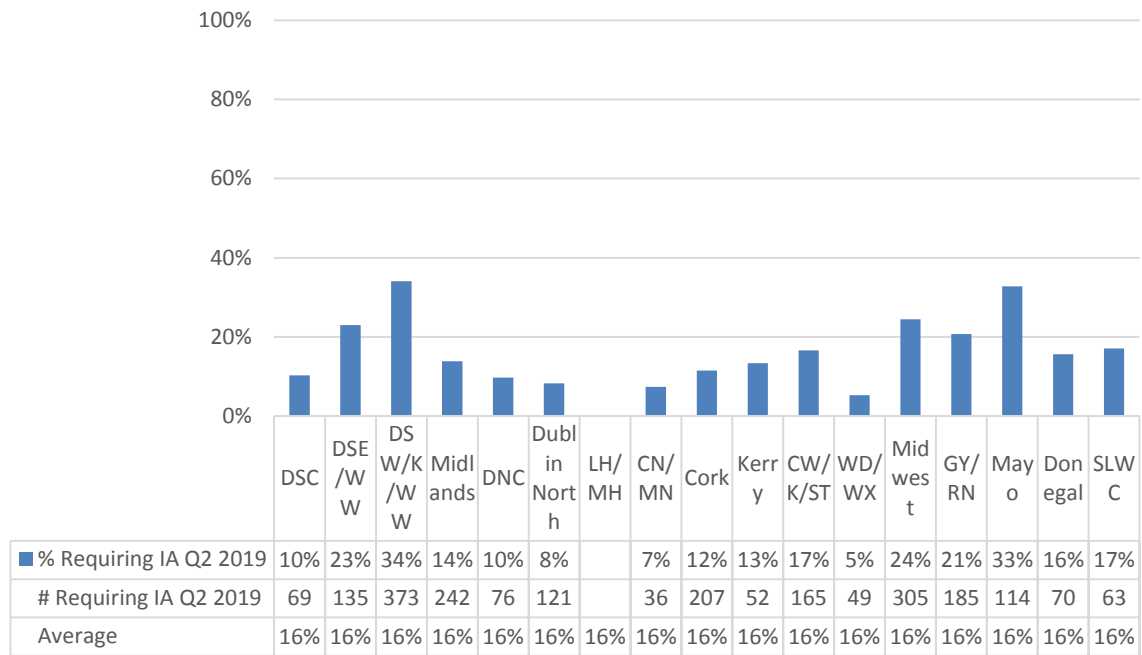
### % Referrals that required an IA



Q2 2019 based on data for 16 areas (data for LH/MH undergoing validation) Q1 2019 – based on data for 15 areas (Louth/Meath and DNC undergoing validation). Q1 2018 – based on data for 16 areas, Q2 2018 based on data for 15 areas, Q3 – Q4 2018 based on data for 14 areas. Data for Q3 2018 revised from previously reported.

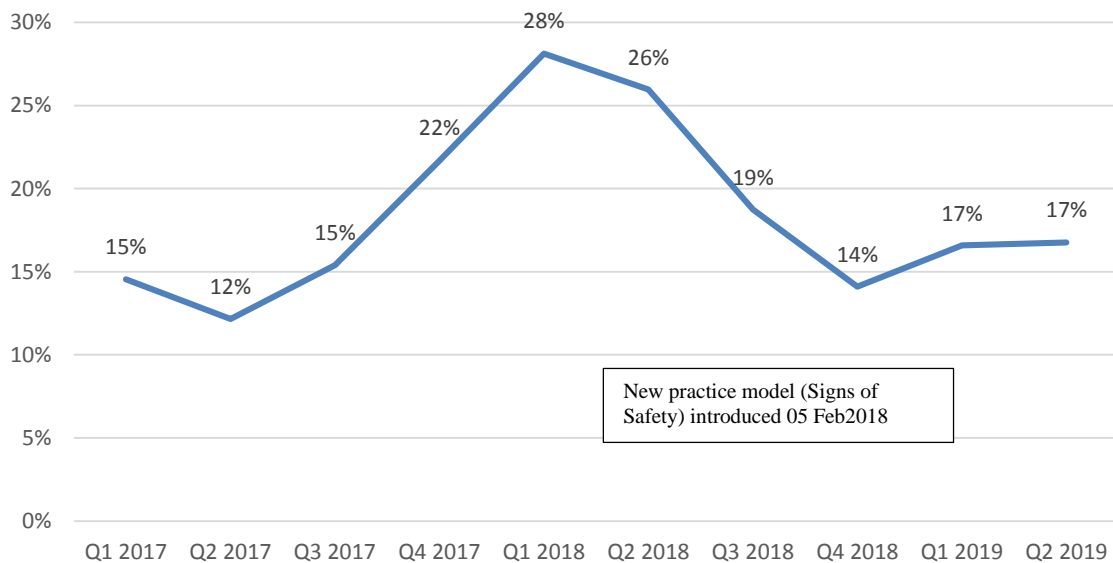
- The percentage of referrals requiring an initial assessment following a preliminary enquiry ranged from 5% (49/927) (WD/WX) to 34% (373/1,095) (DSW/K/WW). Eight areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 16%.

### % Referrals that required an Initial Assessment



- 17% (383/2,262) of initial assessments were done within 40 working days.

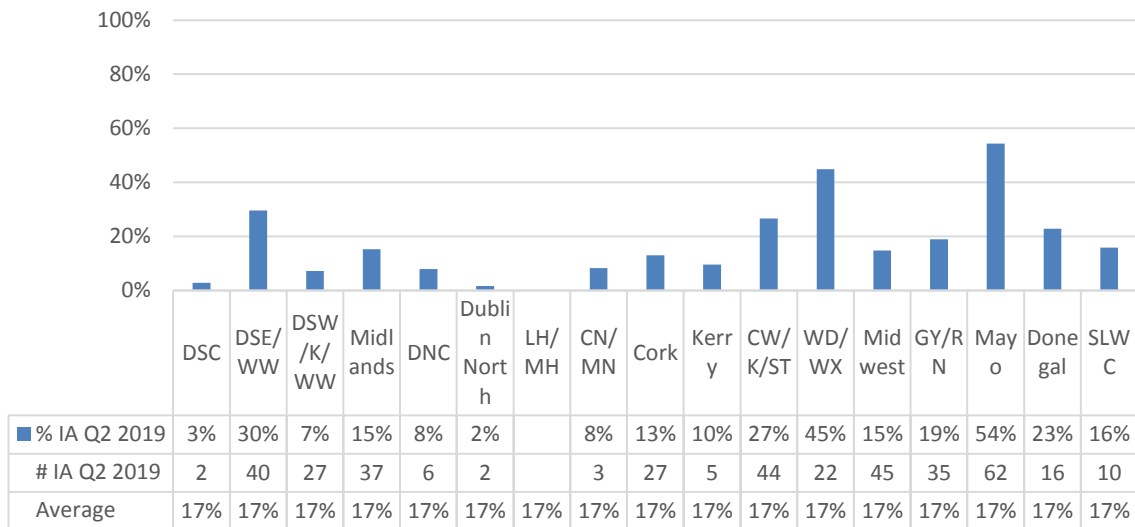
### % Initial assessments completed within 40 working days



Q2 2019 based on data for 16 areas (data for LH/MH undergoing validation). Q1 2019 – based on data for 15 areas (Louth/Meath and DNC undergoing validation). Q1 2018 – based on data for 16 areas, Q2 2018 based on data for 15 areas, Q3 – Q4 2018 based on data for 14 areas. Data for Q3 2018 revised from previously reported.

- The percentage of initial assessments done within 40 days ranged from 54% (62/114) (Mayo) to 2% (2/121) (Dublin North). Six areas reported a percentage equal to or above the national average of 17%.

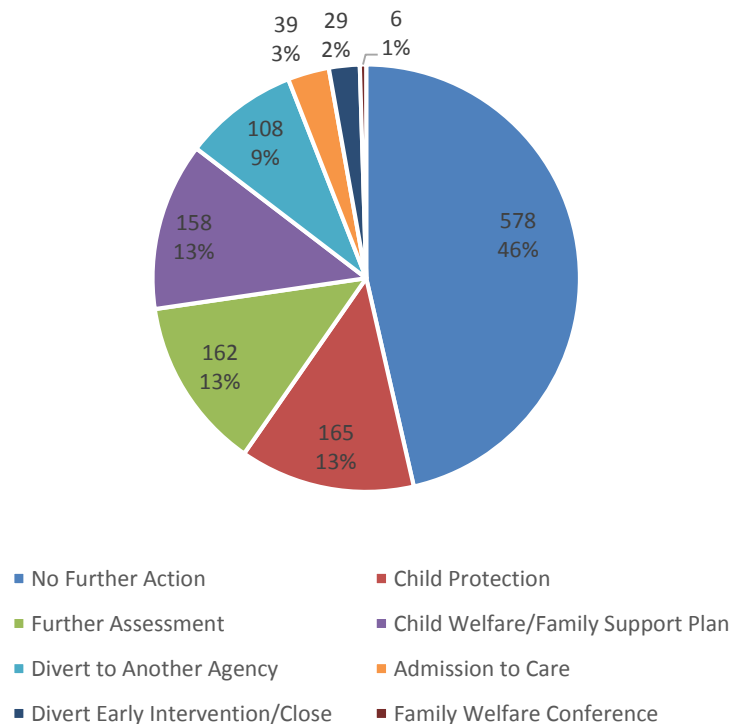
### % initial assessments completed within 40 working days



- The outcome of initial assessment was recorded for 1,245 referrals (Q2 2019)
- ‘No further action’ was recorded in 46% (578/1,245) of cases.
- “Child protection” was recorded for 13% (165) while 39 (3%) children required admission to care.
- Some 2% (29) cases were diverted for an early intervention response.

### Breakdown of actions recorded following initial assessment

#### Outcome of Initial Assessment



## Summary Table Q2 2019

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

Data for Louth/Meath undergoing validation

## Summary Table Q1 2019

	# Referrals	# With PE	% with PE	# within 5 days	% within 5 days	# requiring IA	% requiring IA	# within 40 days	% within 40 days
DSC	730	730	100%	73	10%	171	23%	13	8%
DSE/WW	640	637	100%	191	30%	145	23%	24	17%
DSW/K/WW	1,042	1,042	100%	260	25%	225	22%	22	10%
Midlands*	1,868	1,855	99%	978	53%	186	10%	10	5%
DNC	953	953	100%	481	50%				
Dublin North*	1,403	1,331	95%	70	5%	69	5%	2	3%
LH/MH	964								
CN/MN	571	555	97%	137	25%	36	6%	3	8%
Cork	1,826	1,693	93%	238	14%	210	12%	24	11%
Kerry	398	389	98%	34	9%	71	18%	11	15%
CW/K/ST	1,049	1,044	100%	304	29%	145	14%	50	34%
WD/WX	937	936	100%	241	26%	68	7%	34	50%
Mid West	1,258	1,258	100%	428	34%	228	18%	67	29%
GY/RN	805	800	99%	58	7%	120	15%	26	22%
Mayo	310	310	100%	126	41%	64	21%	10	16%
Donegal	294	293	100%	34	12%	42	14%	3	7%
SLWC	340	339	100%	219	65%	66	19%	7	11%
<b>National</b>	<b>15,388</b>	<b>14,165</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>3,872</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>1,846</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>17%</b>

\*Q1 2019 data for Louth/Meath and Dublin North City under-going validation. Number excluded from the denominator where numerator is not available. Data for % with PE for Dublin South East/Wicklow, CW/KK/ST, WD/WX, Donegal and SLWC showing 100% above due to rounding.

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

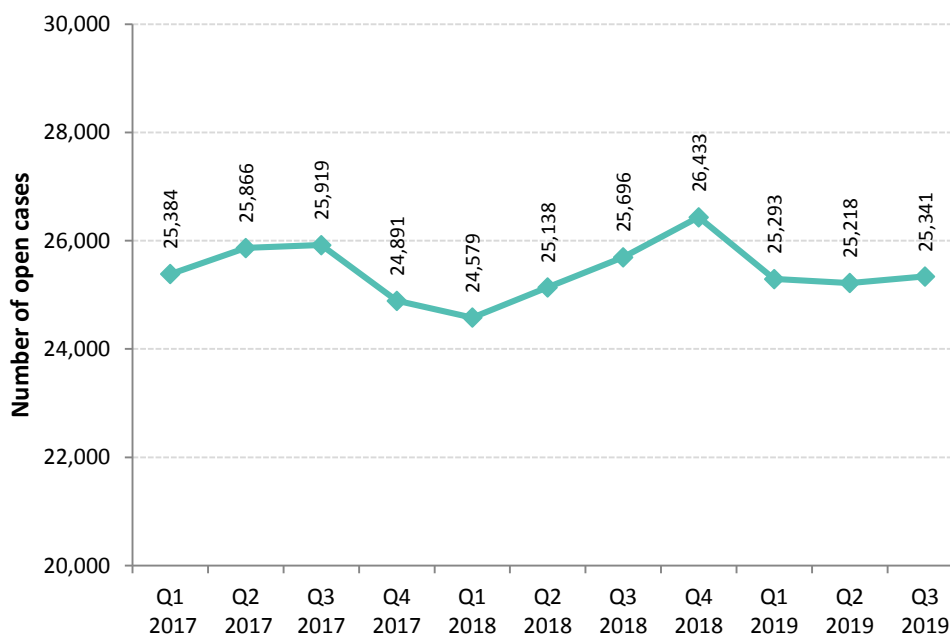
### Key Facts

- 25,341 cases open to social work at the end of Q3 2019; 123 more than Q2 2019
- 80% (20,229) of open cases allocated to named social worker; up three percentage points from Q2 2019
- 5,112 cases were awaiting allocation; 647 (11%) fewer than Q2 2019 (5,759) and 1,320 (21%) fewer than December 2018 when a high of 6,432 was reported.
- 634 (12%) of the cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2019 were categorised as 'high priority'; 357 (36%) fewer than Q2 2019 (991) and the fewest number for the period Q1 2017 – Q3 2019.
- 55% (2,834) of all cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2019 were waiting less than 3 months.

### 2.2.1 Open Cases

- 25,341 cases open<sup>2</sup> to social work nationally at the end of Q3 2019; 123 more than Q2 2019

Number of open cases by quarter



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

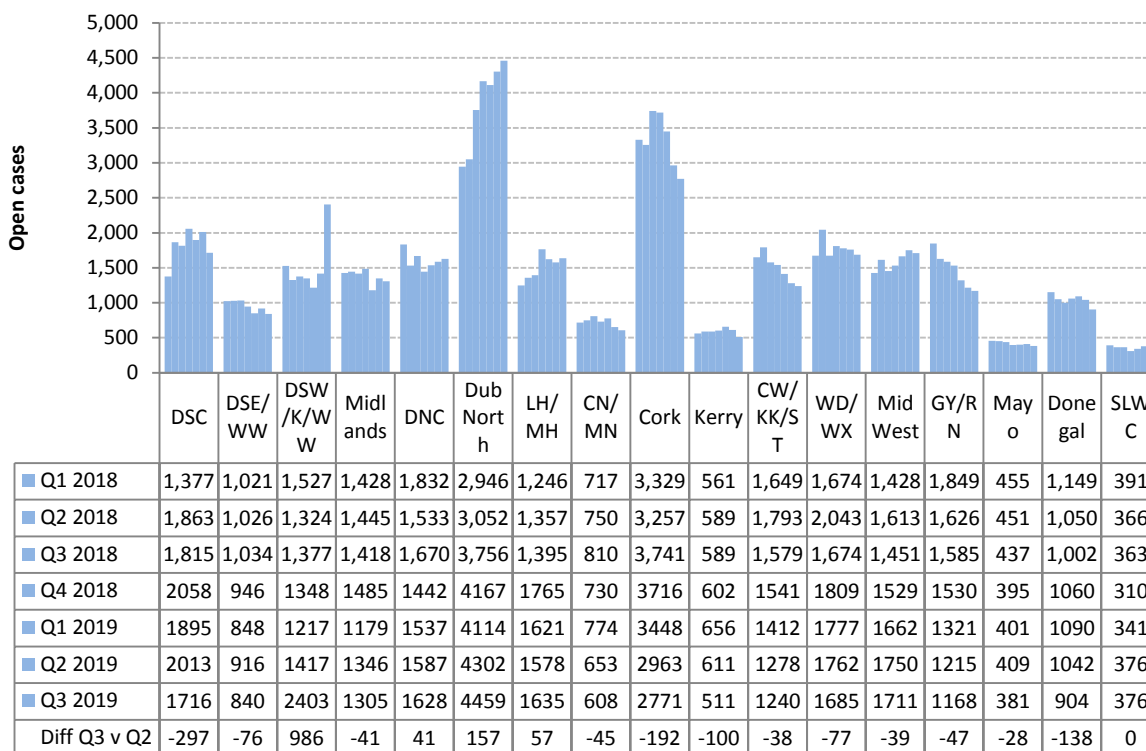
- The number of open cases ranged from 4,459 (18%) in Dublin North to 376 (1%) in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan with an average of 1,491 per area. Eight of the 17 areas had between 1,000 and 2,000 cases; six areas had fewer than 1,000 cases while the

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

remaining three areas (DSW/K/WW, Dublin North and Cork) had in excess of 2,000 cases.

- 12 areas reported a decrease in open cases from Q2 2019. The largest increase was reported by Dublin South Central (down 297) followed by Cork (down 192).
- DSW/K/WW reported the largest increase (up 986)<sup>3</sup> followed by Dublin North (up 157)

**Number of open cases by area**



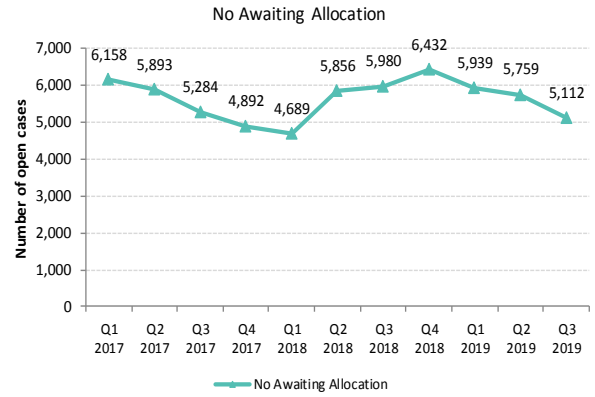
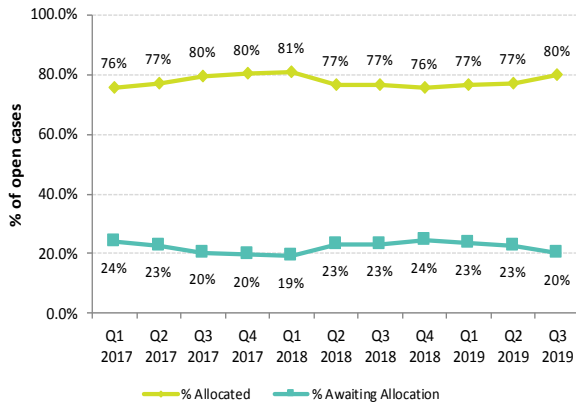
## 2.2.2 Open Cases Allocated / Awaiting Allocation

- 80% (20,229/25,341) of open cases were allocated to a named social worker at the end of Q3 2019; up three percentage points from Q2 2019 (77%).
- 5,112 (20%) cases were awaiting allocation; 647 (11%) fewer than Q2 2019 (5,759) and 1,320 (21%) fewer than December 2018 when a high of 6,432 was reported. At least 15% (744) of cases awaiting allocation were “active” on a duty system<sup>4</sup>. *Figure based on returns from 14 areas.*

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

<sup>4</sup> A case awaiting allocation may be “active” on a “duty” system. This means that there are actions being undertaken by a dedicated duty team or rotating social workers on a duty roster to progress the protection and welfare of the child. Examples of actions being undertaken include telephone calls relating to the concern, visits to see children, completing initial assessments and child in care reviews or care plans. The actions undertaken must have occurred within the monthly MTP reporting period. There must be evidence of actions progressing the protection and welfare of the child and not simply a management review of a file. These cases will form a separate category on the MTP returns template under cases awaiting allocation.

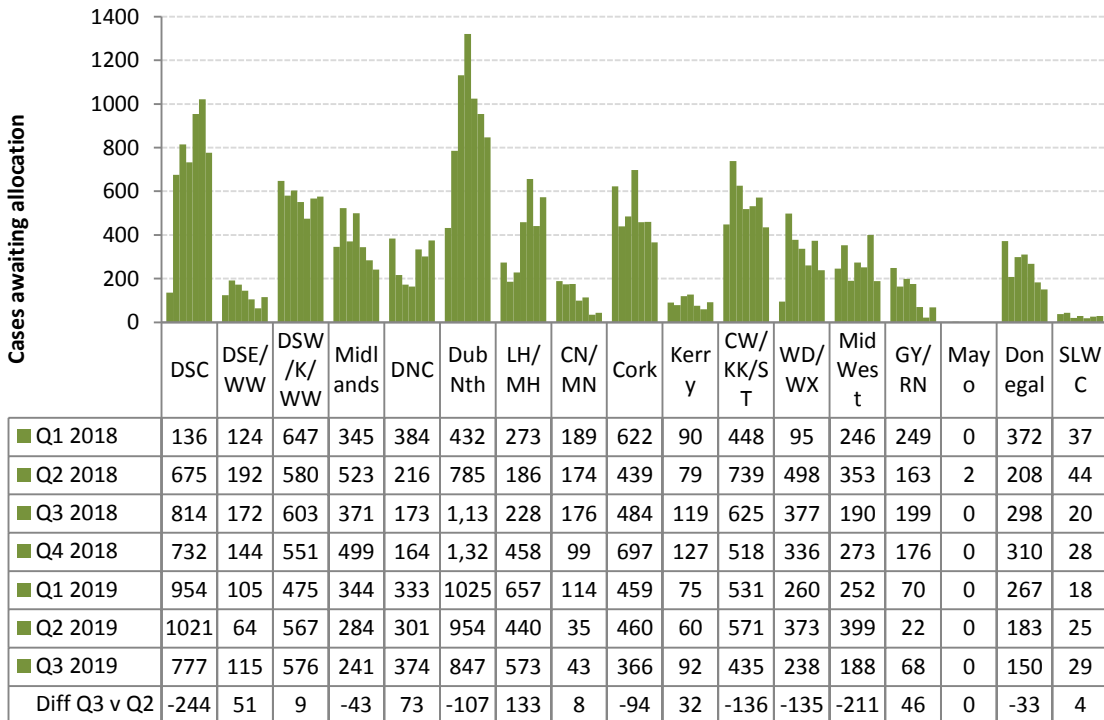
### Cases allocated/awaiting allocation



Data for Q1 2018 are incomplete

- Dublin North reported the highest number of cases awaiting allocation (847) followed by Dublin South Central (777), DSW/K/WW (576), Louth/Meath (573) and CW/KK/ST (435). 63% (3,208) of cases awaiting allocation are reported by these five areas.
- One area (Mayo) has no cases awaiting allocation.
- 8 areas reported a decrease from Q2 2019 in the number of cases awaiting allocation. Dublin South Central reported the largest decrease (down 244) followed by Midwest (down 211), CW/KK/ST (down 136) and WD/WX (down 135)
- 8 areas reported an increase from Q2 2019. The largest increase was reported by Louth/Meath (up 133) followed by Dublin North City (up 73) and DSE/WW (up 51).

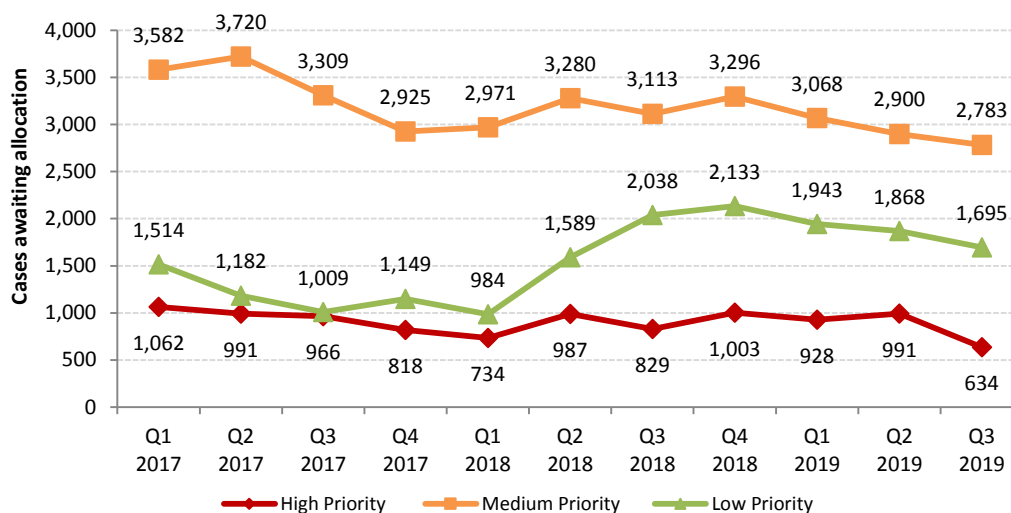
### Number of open cases awaiting allocation by area



## 2.2.3 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Priority Level<sup>5</sup>

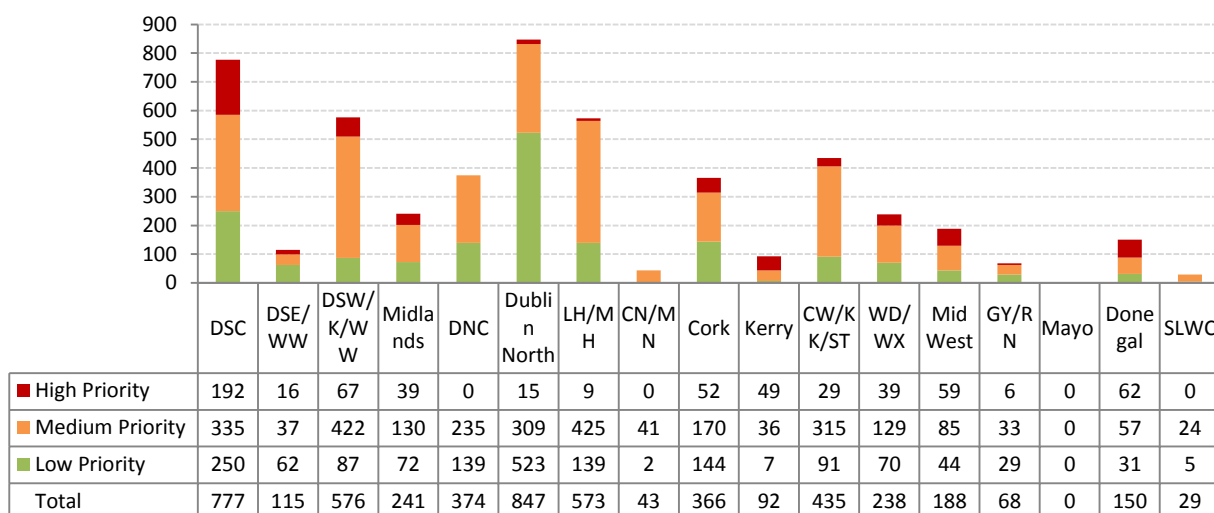
- 634 (12%) of the cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2019 were categorised as ‘high priority’; 357 (36%) fewer than Q2 2019 (991) and the fewest number for the period Q1 2017 – Q3 2019.
- 54% of cases (2,783) awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2019 were categorised as ‘medium priority’ while the remaining 33% (1,695) were categorised as ‘low priority’.

Cases awaiting allocation by priority level



- Dublin South Central reported the highest number (192) of ‘high priority’ cases awaiting allocation, followed by DSW/K/WW (67), Donegal (62) and Midwest (59). 60% (380) of high priority cases reported by four areas.

Area breakdown of cases awaiting allocation by priority level Q3 2019



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



## 2.2.4 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Waiting Time

- 62% (390/634) of cases categorised as ‘high priority’ awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2019 were waiting less than 3 months.
- 54% (1,497/2,783) of cases categorised as ‘medium priority’ were waiting less than 3 months at the end of Q3 2019.
- 56% (947/1,695) of cases categorised as ‘low priority’ were waiting less than 3 months at the end of Q3 2019.
- 55% (2,834) of all cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2019 were waiting less than 3 months.

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

<b>High Priority / Time Waiting</b>	<b>Q3 2018</b>	<b>Q4 2018</b>	<b>Q1 2019</b>	<b>Q2 2019</b>	<b>Q3 2019</b>
<1 month	259	239	269	289	209
1-3 months	244	256	238	344	181
>3 months	326	508	421	358	244
<b>Total</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>634</b>
<b>Medium Priority / Time Waiting</b>	<b>Q3 2018</b>	<b>Q4 2018</b>	<b>Q1 2019</b>	<b>Q2 2019</b>	<b>Q3 2019</b>
<1 month	560	743	745	729	703
1-3 months	947	968	796	901	794
>3 months	1606	1,585	1,527	1,270	1,286
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,113</b>	<b>3,296</b>	<b>3,068</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>2,783</b>
<b>Low Priority / Time Waiting</b>	<b>Q3 2018</b>	<b>Q4 2018</b>	<b>Q1 2019</b>	<b>Q2 2019</b>	<b>Q3 2019</b>
<1 month	579	479	476	398	495
1-3 months	624	683	499	578	452
>3 months	835	971	968	892	748
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,038</b>	<b>2,133</b>	<b>1,943</b>	<b>1,868</b>	<b>1,695</b>

## Summary Table Q3 2019

	# Referrals Q2 2019	# Open cases	# Unallocated cases	% open cases unallocated	# high priority cases unallocated	% Unallocated cases high priority
<b>DML</b>	<b>4,108</b>	<b>6,264</b>	<b>1,709</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>18%</b>
DSC	671	1,716	777	45%	192	25%
DSE/WW	587	840	115	14%	16	14%
DSW/K/WW	1,095	2,403	576	24%	67	12%
Midlands	1,755	1,305	241	18%	39	16%
<b>DNE</b>	<b>3,752</b>	<b>8,330</b>	<b>1,837</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1%</b>
DNC	789	1,628	374	23%	0	-
Dublin North	1,531	4,459	847	19%	15	2%
LH/MH	941	1,635	573	35%	9	2%
CN/MN	491	608	43	7%	0	-
<b>South</b>	<b>4,227</b>	<b>6,207</b>	<b>1,131</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>15%</b>
Cork	1,877	2,771	366	13%	52	14%
Kerry	416	511	92	18%	49	53%
CW/K/ST	1,007	1,240	435	35%	29	7%
WD/WX	927	1,685	238	14%	39	16%
<b>West</b>	<b>3,314</b>	<b>4,540</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>29%</b>
Mid West	1,249	1,711	188	11%	59	31%
GY/RN	898	1,168	68	6%	6	9%
Mayo	348	381	0	0%	0	0%
Donegal	450	904	150	17%	62	42%
SLWC	369	376	29	8%	0	0%
<b>National</b>	<b>15,401</b>	<b>25,314</b>	<b>5,112</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>12%</b>

Referrals are reported quarterly in arrears

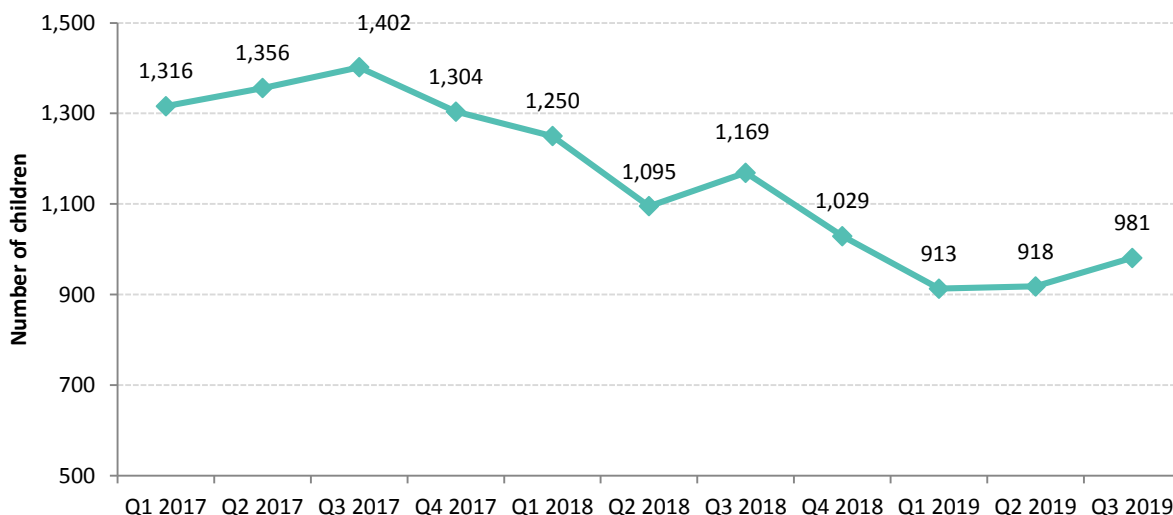
## 2.3 CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

### KEY FACTS

- 981 children listed as ‘active’ on the CPNS at the end of Q3 2019; 63 more than Q2 2019, second consecutive increase
- 88% (862) of children listed as “active” were listed for no longer than 18 months
- All but four children listed as “active” at the end of Q3 2019 had an allocated social worker.

- 981 children listed as ‘active’ on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)<sup>6</sup> at the end of Q3 2019, 63 more than Q2 2019, second consecutive increase after two consecutive decreases.

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



- The number listed as “active” equates to about eight children per 10,000 population under 18 years and ranges from 2.4/10,000 population in Dublin South East/Wicklow to 14.4/10,000 in Mayo.
- Cork, DSW/K/WW and Dublin North with higher proportions of the under 18 population reported rates below the national average.
- MidWest reported the highest number (105) of children “active”, followed by Cork (104) and Waterford/Wexford (96). Dublin South East/Wicklow reported the fewest number (21) followed by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (22).

<sup>6</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.

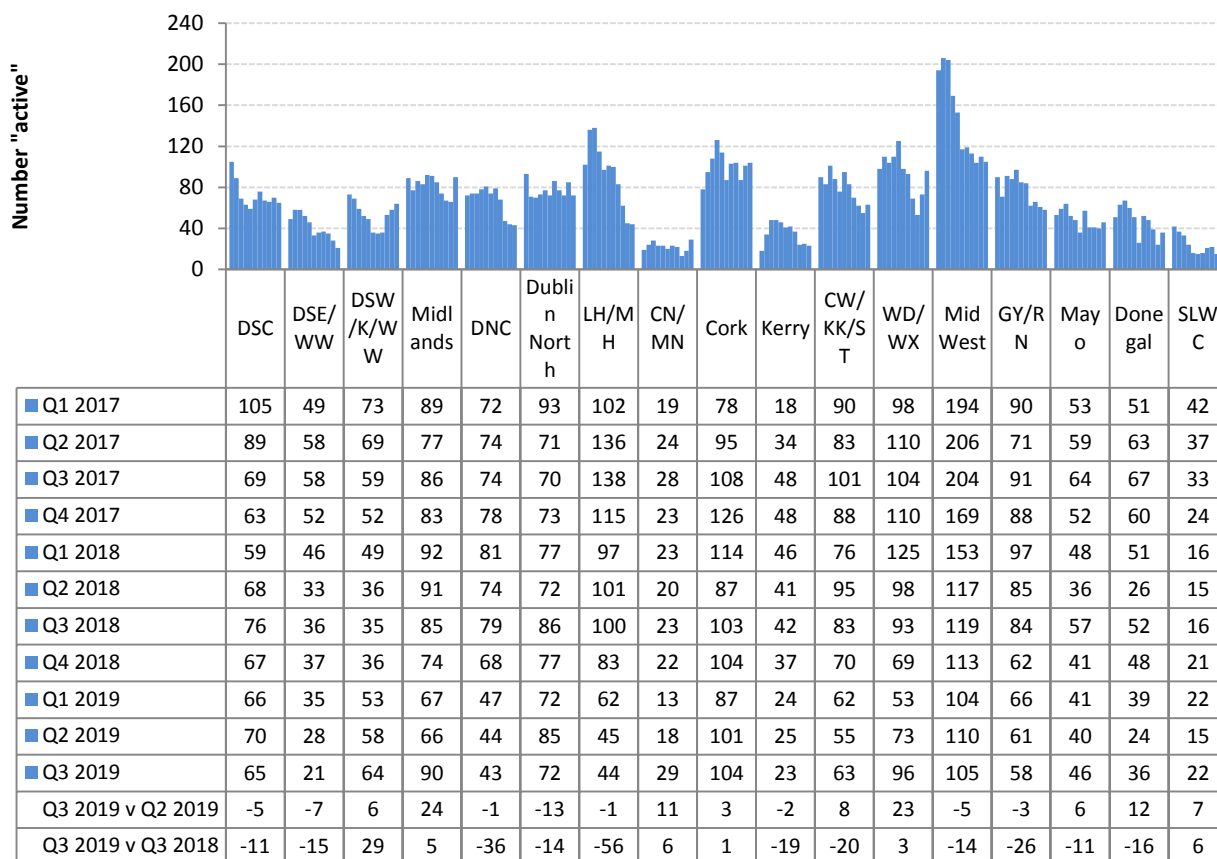
**Children listed as 'active' on CPNS per 10,000 population 0-17 years**

<b>Area</b>	<b># Q3 2019</b>	<b>Population 0-17 years</b>	<b>Rate / 10,000 pop</b>
DSC	65	65,564	9.9
DSE/WW	21	86,810	2.4
DSW/K/WW	64	108,186	5.9
Midlands	90	80,193	11.2
DNC	43	44,927	9.6
Dublin North	72	100,654	7.2
LH/MH	44	93,093	4.7
CN/MN	29	36,446	8.0
Cork	104	134,015	7.8
Kerry	23	34,527	6.7
CW/KK/ST	63	63,009	10.0
WD/WX	96	68,513	14.0
Mid West	105	96,266	10.9
GY/RN	58	79,912	7.3
Mayo	46	31,968	14.4
Donegal	36	42,865	8.4
SLWC	22	23,554	9.3
<b>National</b>	<b>981</b>	<b>1,190,502</b>	<b>8.2</b>

Population: Census 2016

- 9/17 areas reported an increase from Q2 2019. The largest increase was reported by Midlands (up 24) followed by Waterford/Wexford (up 23) and Cavan/Monaghan (up 11). The largest decrease was reported by Dublin North (down 13) followed by Dublin South East/Wicklow (down 7).
- 11/17 areas had fewer cases active at the end of Q3 2019 than Q3 2018. Largest decrease reported by Louth/Meath (down 56) followed by Dublin North City (down 36) and Galway/Roscommon (down 26). Largest increase reported by DSW/K/WW (up 29), followed by Cavan/Monaghan and Sligo/Leitrim/Wet Cavan, both up six.

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



- 55% (539) of children listed as “active” at the end of Q3 2019 were listed for 0-6 months; up seven percentage points on Q2 2019 (48%; 440)
- 7% (68) were listed for > 24 months, no change from Q2 2019 (7%; 65).
- Listed for >24 months: highest percentage (27%; 6/22) reported by Sligo/Leitrim/Roscommon followed by Dublin North City (26%; 11/43) and Dublin South Central (17%; 11/65). Two areas (Kerry and Donegal) reported no child listed as active for >24 months.
- Listed for < 6 months: highest percentage (86%; 25/29) reported by Cavan/Monaghan followed by WD/WX (67%; 64/96) and Midlands (63%; 57/90).  
Lowest percentage reported by Mayo (41%; 19/46). Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 55%.

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

	0-6	% 0-6	7-12	% 7-12	12-18	% 12-18	18-24	% 18-24	>24	% > 24	Total
DSC	39	60%	5	8%	7	11%	3	5%	11	17%	65
DSE/WW	9	43%	0	0%	3	14%	6	29%	3	14%	21
DSW/K/WW	29	45%	28	44%	3	5%	1	2%	3	5%	64
Midlands	57	63%	22	24%	1	1%	5	6%	5	6%	90
DNC	20	47%	6	14%	3	7%	3	7%	11	26%	43
Dublin North	36	50%	10	14%	18	25%	4	6%	4	6%	72
LH/MH	19	43%	14	32%	3	7%	6	14%	2	5%	44
CN/MN	25	86%	1	3%	0	0%	1	3%	2	7%	29
Cork	64	62%	23	22%	12	12%	0	0%	5	5%	104
Kerry	12	52%	11	48%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	23
CW/KK/ST	37	59%	19	30%	3	5%	2	3%	2	3%	63
WD/WX	64	67%	19	20%	4	4%	3	3%	6	6%	96
Mid West	45	43%	22	21%	25	24%	9	9%	4	4%	105
GY/RN	31	53%	13	22%	7	12%	6	10%	1	2%	58
Mayo	19	41%	15	33%	8	17%	1	2%	3	7%	46
Donegal	22	61%	1	3%	13	36%	0	0%	0	0%	36
SLWC	11	50%	4	18%	0	0%	1	5%	6	27%	22
<b>National</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>981</b>

- All children listed as “active” at the end of Q3 2019 had an allocated social worker.
- 55 children listed as active at the end of Q3 2019 were reactivated on the CPNS (i.e., their status changed from ‘inactive’ to ‘active’) during Q3 2019. Highest number reported by Waterford/Wexford (13) followed by Galway/Roscommon (9) and Midlands (7).

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

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

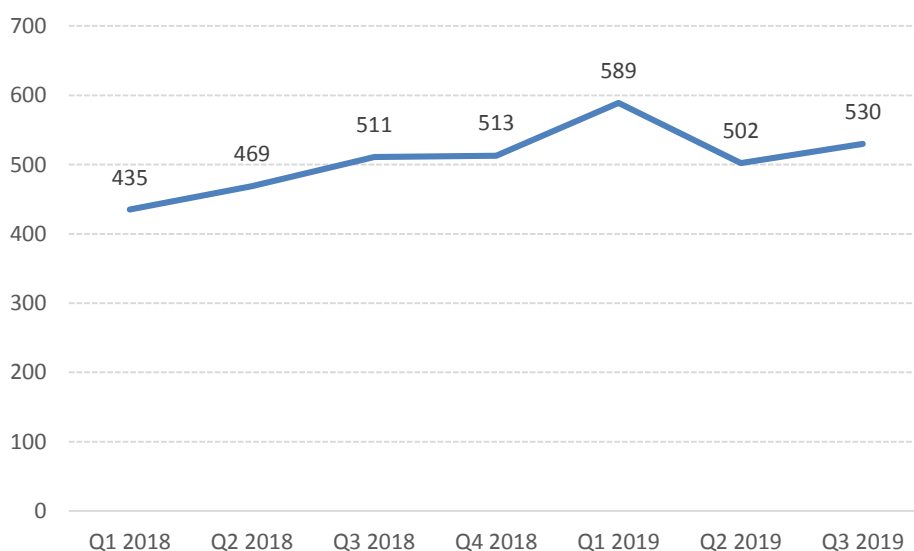
## 2.4 NATIONAL OUT OF HOURS SERVICE

### KEY FACTS

- 530 referrals to the National Out of Hours Service in Q3 2019; 28 (6%) more than Q2 2019 (502) and 19 more than Q3 2018 (511)
- 147 children were placed by the National Out of Hours Service in Q3 2019; five more than Q2 2019 (142) and five fewer than Q3 2018 (152)

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

- 530 referrals to the National Out of Hours Service in Q3 2019; 28 (6%) more than Q2 2019 and 19 more than Q3 2018 (511 combined figure for Crisis Intervention Service and Emergency Out of Hours Service including service in Cork).



- The highest number of referrals was reported by DSW/K/WW (64), followed by Dublin South Central (55), Dublin North (52), Cork (51) and Dublin North City (50). Fewest number reported by Mayo, SLWC and Donegal, all reporting four referrals.
- 147 children placed by the National Out of Hours Service in Q3 2019; five more than Q2 2019 (142) and five fewer than Q3 2018 (152).
- 1,147 nights accommodation supplied by the National Out of Hours Service in Q3 2019, 143 (14%) more than Q2 2019 (1,004) and 250 (28%) more than Q3 2018 (897).

## Referrals to the National Out of Hours Service

Area	# Referrals Q2 2019	# Children Placed Q2 2019	# Nights' Accommodati on supplied O3 2019	# Referrals Q3 2019	# Children Placed Q3 2019	# Nights' Accommodati on supplied O3 2019
Dublin South Central	46	17	328	55	15	372
DSE/WW	16	2	89	23	6	121
DSW/K/WW	63	16	111	64	13	63
Midlands	34	13	58	48	12	35
Dublin North City	44	11	103	50	15	58
Dublin North	62	6	38	52	13	154
Louth/Meath	30	7	16	31	5	6
Cavan/Monaghan	7	6	12	13	5	10
Cork	47	14	50	51	15	47
Kerry	17	2	2	9	3	16
CW/KK/ST	14	6	16	21	5	10
WD/WX	23	4	8	27	7	21
Midwest	49	16	41	33	10	21
GY/RN	12	4	4	22	8	13
Mayo	3	0	0	4	0	0
Donegal	10	3	5	4	2	2
SLWC	3	1	2	4	0	0
SWTSCSA	17	9	10	10	4	4
Other Referral Sources	5	5	111	9	9	194
<b>Total</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>1,004</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>1,147</b>



## 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)

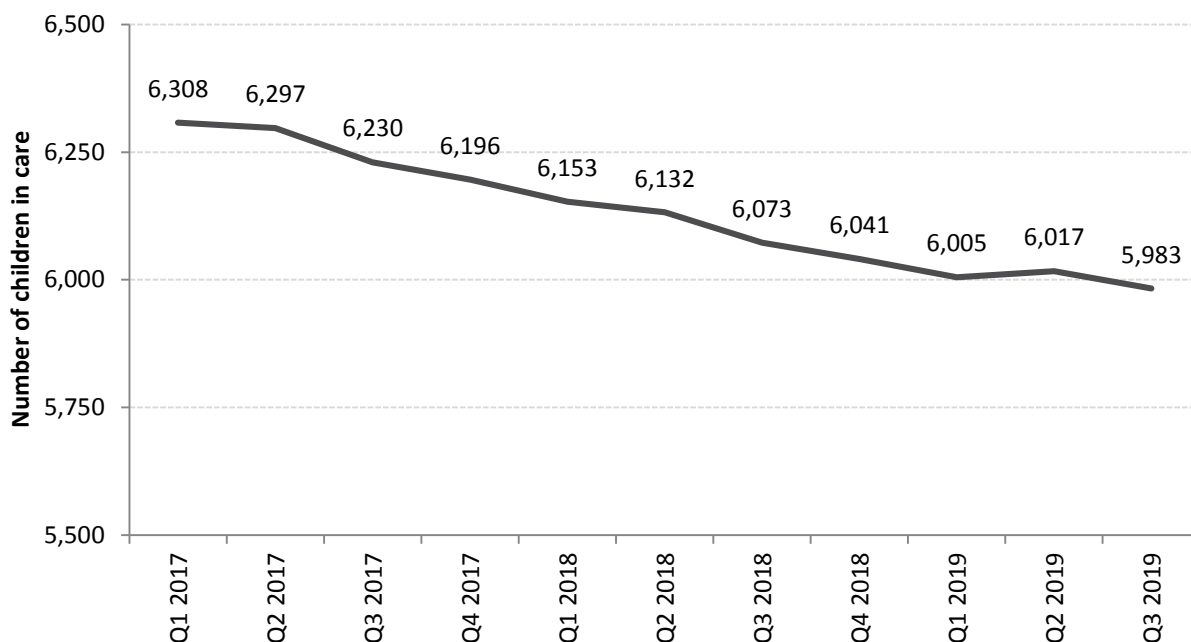
#### KEY FACTS

- 5,983 children in care at the end of Q3 2019; 34 fewer than Q2 2019 (6,017) and 90 fewer than Q3 2018. *Decrease partly explained by validation in one area which reduced the number of children in care in this area.*
- 684 children in private placements; 21 more than Q2 2019 (663) and 43 more than Q3 2018 (641); highest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q2 2019.
- 92% (5,511/5,983) of children in care had an allocated social worker at the end of Q3 2019; up two percentage points from Q2 2019
- 472 children were awaiting allocation of a social worker; 149 (24%) fewer than Q2 2019 (621). Highest number in the Midwest (74, down 74 from Q2) followed by CW/KK/ST (72, down 40 from Q2) and Dublin North (71, up 7 from Q2).
- 92% (5,498/5,983) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan, up three percentage points from Q2 2019
- 485 children did not have an up-to-date care plan, 161 (25%) fewer than Q2 2019 (646). Highest number of children in Cork (227, down 96 from Q2) followed by Midwest (70, down 39 from Q2) and DSW/K/WW (43, down 5 from Q2). *Data for Cork is undergoing validation and needs to be interpreted with care.*

#### 3.1.1 Number of Children in Care

- 5,983 children in care at the end of Q3 2019; 34 fewer than Q2 2019 (6,017) and 90 fewer than Q3 2018 (6,073); fewest number for the period Q1 2017 – Q3 2019. *Decrease partly explained by validation in one area which reduced the number of children in care in this area.*
- This figure (5,983) includes 65 children under the Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum (SWTSCSA); 10 more than Q2 2019 (55).

### Number of children in care by quarter



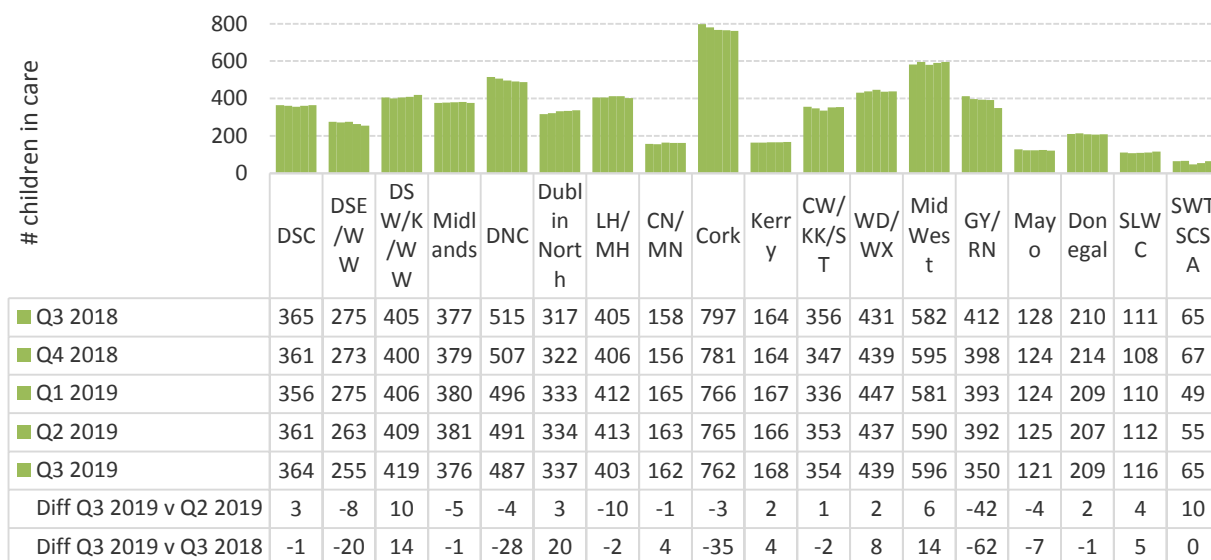
- Across the 17 areas the number of children in care ranged from 762 in Cork to 116 in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan.
- Dublin North City reported the highest rate of children in care per 1,000 population under 18 years (10.8/1,000), more than double the national rate, followed by WD/WX (6.4/1,000) and MidWest (6.2/1,000) while Dublin South East / Wicklow reported the lowest rate at 2.9/1,000 population followed by Dublin North (3.3/1,000).

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

Area	0-17 population (Census 2016)	No CIC Q3 2019	No of CIC/1,000 population 0-17
DSC	65,564	364	5.6
DSE/WW	86,810	255	2.9
DSW/KWW	108,186	419	3.9
Midlands	80,193	376	4.7
DNC	44,927	487	10.8
Dublin North	100,654	337	3.3
LH/MH	93,093	403	4.3
CN/MN	36,446	162	4.4
Cork	134,015	762	5.7
Kerry	34,527	168	4.9
CW/KK/ST	63,009	354	5.6
WD/WX	68,513	439	6.4
Mid West	96,266	596	6.2
GY/RN	79,912	350	4.4
Mayo	31,968	121	3.8
Donegal	42,865	209	4.9
SLWC	23,554	116	4.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,190,502</b>	<b>5,918</b>	<b>5.0</b>

- 9 areas along with the SWTSCSA reported an increase in children in care from Q2 2019. Largest increase reported by the DSW/K/WW and SWTSCSA (both up 10) followed by Midwest (up 6).
- 8 areas reported a decrease in children in care from Q2 2019. Largest decrease was reported by Galway/Roscommon (down 42) followed by Louth/Meath (down 10). *Galway/Roscommon advised that the number of children in care in this area is decreased due to validation of data that occurred locally.*
- 10 areas had fewer children in care at the end of Q3 2019 than Q3 2018. Largest decrease reported by Galway/Roscommon (down 62), followed by Cork (down 35) and Dublin North City (down 28).
- Of the seven areas that reported an increase, Dublin North reported the largest increase (up 20) followed by DSW/K/WW and Midwest, both up 14.

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



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

- 91% (5,474) of children in care were in foster care (general and relative) at the end of Q3 2019 and 7% (401) were in a residential (general and special care) placement.

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

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

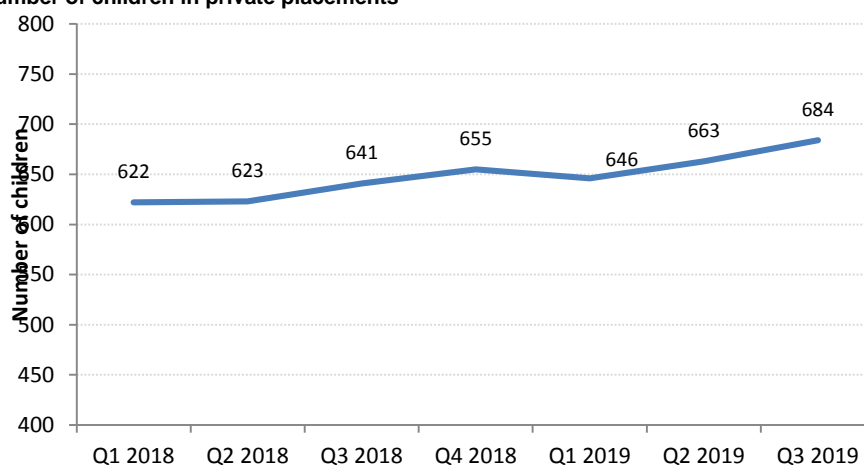
FC Gen = Foster Care General; FC Rel = Foster Care with Relatives; Res Care Gen = Residential Care General; Res Care Spec = Residential Care Special; CIC = Children in care

- 23 (0.38%) children were in out of State placements at the end of Q3 2019; no change from Q2 2019. *These children are included in the figures for the various care types set out in the table above.*
- Six children in residential care were in a single care placement at the end of Q3 2019; one more than Q2 2019.
- 79 children were in respite care (from home) at the end of Q3 2019, 81 in respite care (from home) at the end of Q2 2019.

### 3.1.3 Children in Private Placements

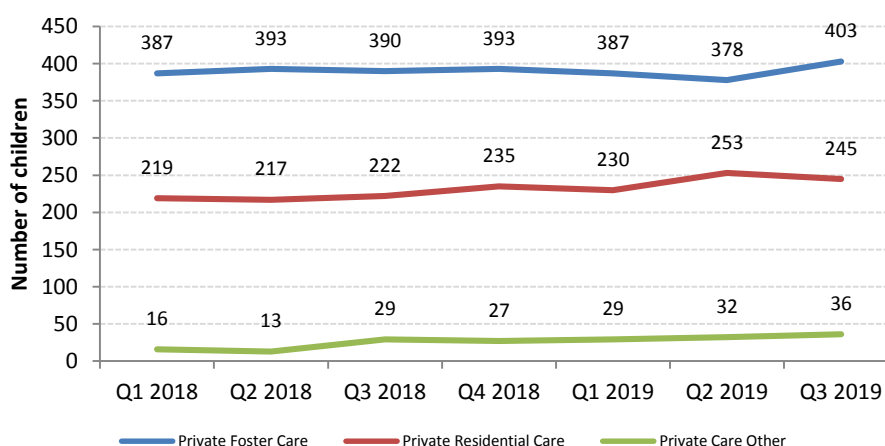
- 684 (11.4%) children in care at the end of Q3 2019 were in private placements<sup>7</sup>; 21 more than Q2 2019 and 43 more than Q3 2018; highest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q3 2019. This figure (684) includes 41 children in care under the SWTSCSA, three more than Q2 2019.

Number of children in private placements



- 59% (403) of children in private placements were in private foster care and 36% (245) were in private residential placements.
- The number of children in private foster care placements (403) is up 25 from Q2 2019, highest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q3 2019
- The number of children in private residential placements (245) is down eight from Q2 2019.

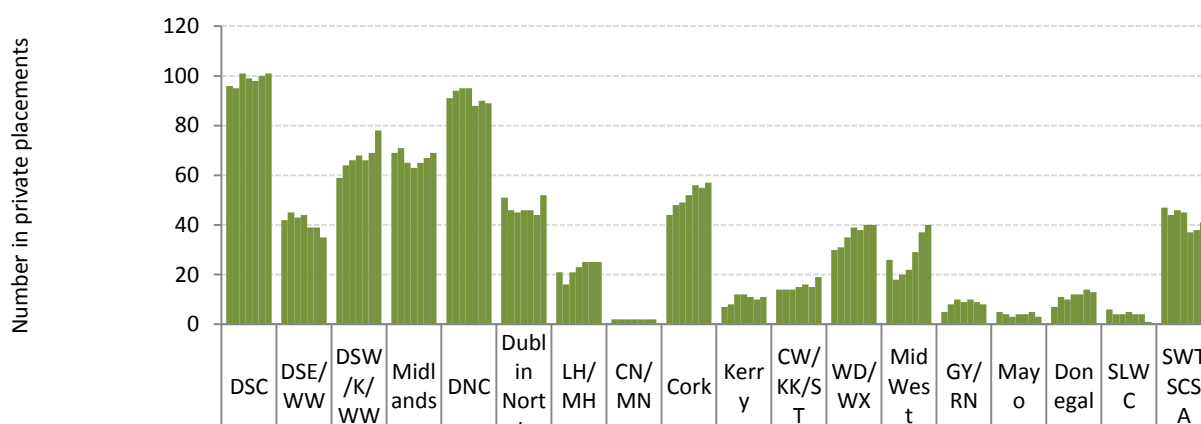
Number of children in private placements by care type



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

- Dublin South Central (101) followed by Dublin North City (89), DSW/K/WW (78) and Midlands (69) reported the highest numbers of children in private placements in Q3 2019. SLWC reported the fewest number (1).
- 8 areas along with the SWTSCSA reported an increase in private placements from Q2 2019. The largest increase was reported by DSW/K/WW (up 9) followed by Dublin North (up 8). Largest decrease reported by Dublin South East / Wicklow (down 4). Three areas (LH/MH, CN/MN, WD/WX) reported no change from Q2 2019.
- 9 areas had more children in private placements at the end of Q3 2019 than Q3 2018. The largest increases were reported by Midwest (up 20) and DSW/K/WW (up 12).

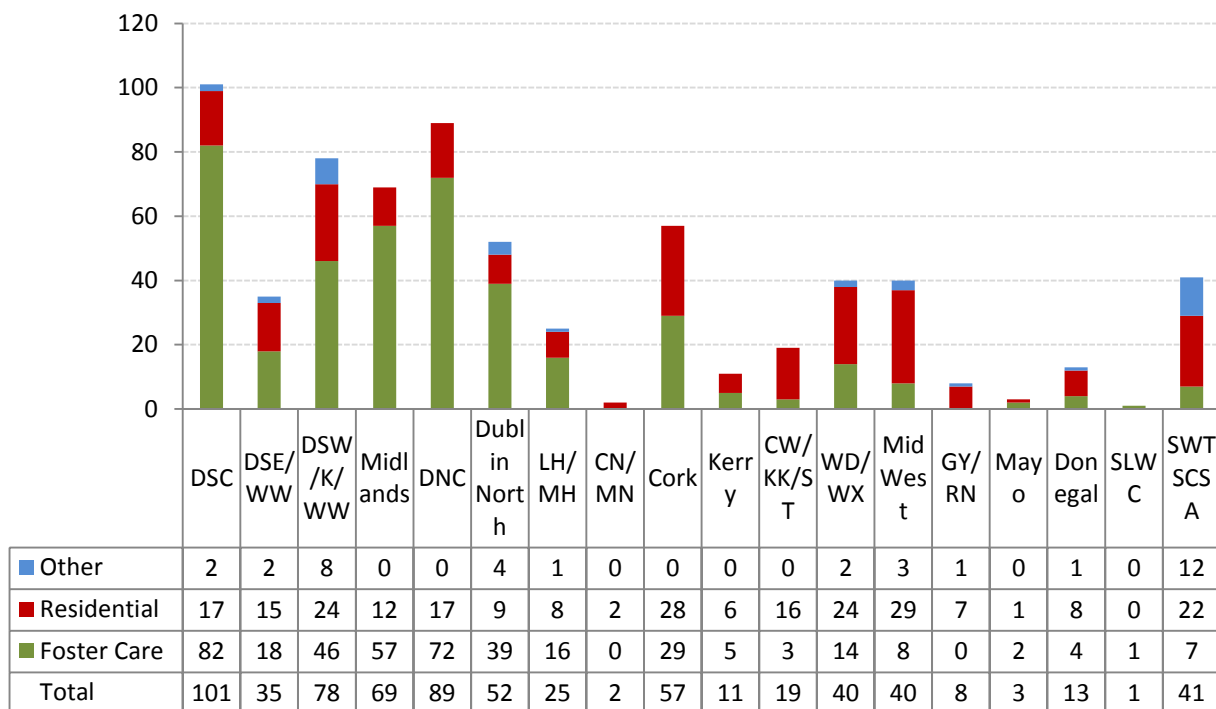
#### Number of children in private placements by area



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

- The highest number of children in private residential placements was reported by Midwest (29) followed by Cork (28), DSW/K/WW (24), WD/WX (24) and SWTSCSA (22). SLWC reported none.
- Dublin South Central reported the highest number of children in private foster care placements (82) followed by Dublin North City (72), Midlands (57), DSW/K/WW (46) and Dublin North (39). Seventy-three percent (296/403) of children in private foster care placements are reported by these five areas. Cavan/Monaghan and Galway/Roscommon reported no children in private foster care placements.

### Number of children in private placements by care type Q3 2019



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

- 92% (5,511/5,983) of children in care nationally had an allocated social worker (against a target of 100%) at the end of Q3 2019; up two percentage points from Q2 2019
- 472 children were awaiting allocation of a social worker; 149 (24%) fewer than Q2 2019 (621)

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

Care Type	CIC	No with SW	% with SW	CIC	No with SW	% with SW
	Q2 2019	Q2 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q3 2019	Q3 2019
Foster Care (General)	3,965	3,593	91%	3,921	3,634	93%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,556	1,325	85%	1,553	1,383	89%
Residential Care (General)	387	375	97%	386	375	97%
Residential Special Care	13	13	100%	15	15	100%
Other Placements	96	90	94%	108	104	96%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,017</b>	<b>5,396</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>5,983</b>	<b>5,511</b>	<b>92%</b>

- Four areas along with Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum met the target of 100% of children in care with an allocated social worker. Six areas reported less than 90% with Dublin North reporting the lowest percentage at 79% followed by CW/KK/ST at 80%.
- The area with the highest number of children awaiting an allocated social worker is Midwest (74, down 74 from Q2 2019) followed by CW/KK/ST (72, down 40 from Q2 2019) and Dublin North (71, up 7 from Q2 2019)

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

Area	No in Care Q2 2019	No with an allocated SW Q2 2019	% with an allocated SW Q2 2019	No in Care Q3 2019	No with an allocated SW Q3 2019	% with an allocated SW Q3 2019	+/- Q3 2018 v Q2 2019
DSC	361	321	89%	364	319	88%	-1%
DSE/WW	263	255	97%	255	250	98%	1%
DSW/K/WW	409	322	79%	419	363	87%	8%
Midlands	381	334	88%	376	333	89%	1%
DNC	491	438	89%	487	462	95%	6%
Dublin North	334	270	81%	337	266	79%	-2%
LH/MH	413	378	92%	403	388	96%	5%
CN/MN	163	163	100%	162	162	100%	0%
Cork	765	765	100%	762	742	97%	-3%
Kerry	166	166	100%	168	165	98%	-2%
CW/KK/ST	353	241	68%	354	282	80%	11%
WD/WX	437	410	94%	439	408	93%	-1%
Mid West	590	442	75%	596	522	88%	13%
GY/RN	392	392	100%	350	338	97%	-3%
Mayo	125	125	100%	121	121	100%	0%
Donegal	207	207	100%	209	209	100%	0%
SLWC	112	112	100%	116	116	100%	0%
SWTSCSA	55	55	100%	65	65	100%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6017</b>	<b>5396</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>5983</b>	<b>5511</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>2%</b>

### 3.1.5 Children in Care with a Care Plan

- 92% (5,498/5,983) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan against a target of 90%, up three percentage points from Q2 2019 (89%).
- 485 children did not have an up-to-date care plan, 161 (25%) fewer than Q2 2019 (646).

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

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

Care Type	CIC	No with CP	% with CP	CIC	No with CP	% with CP
	Q2 2019	Q2 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q3 2019	Q3 2019
Foster Care General	3,965	3,530	89%	3,921	3,578	91%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,556	1,370	88%	1,553	1,421	92%
Residential Care General	387	372	96%	386	379	98%
Residential Special Care	13	13	100%	15	15	100%
Other Placements	96	86	90%	108	105	97%
<b>National</b>	<b>6,017</b>	<b>5,371</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>5,983</b>	<b>5,498</b>	<b>92%</b>

- 14 areas along with Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum met the target of 90% of children in care with an up-to-date care plan. Rates reported by Cork (70%) and SLWC (87%) lower than all other areas.
- Cork has the highest number of children in care awaiting an up-to-date care plan (227, down 96 from Q2 2019) followed by Midwest (70, down 39 from Q2 2019) and DSW/K/WW (43, down 5 from Q2 2019). *Data for Cork is undergoing validation and needs to be interpreted with caution.*

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

Area	No in Care Q2 2019	No with a care plan Q2 2019	% with a care plan Q2 2019	No in Care Q3 2019	No with a care plan Q3 2019	% with a care plan Q3 2019	+/- Q3 2019 v Q3 2019
DSC	361	323	89%	364	338	93%	3%
DSE/WW	263	256	97%	255	249	98%	0%
DSW/K/WW	409	361	88%	419	376	90%	1%
Midlands	381	381	100%	376	376	100%	0%
DNC	491	461	94%	487	476	98%	4%
Dublin North	334	318	95%	337	329	98%	2%
LH/MH	413	403	98%	403	383	95%	-3%
CN/MN	163	158	97%	162	149	92%	-5%
Cork	765	442	58%	762	535	70%	12%
Kerry	166	156	94%	168	162	96%	2%
CW/KK/ST	353	330	93%	354	342	97%	3%
WD/WX	437	437	100%	439	429	98%	-2%
Mid West	590	481	82%	596	526	88%	7%
GY/RN	392	392	100%	350	336	96%	-4%
Mayo	125	125	100%	121	119	98%	-2%
Donegal	207	203	98%	209	207	99%	1%
SLWC	112	89	79%	116	101	87%	8%
SWTSCSA	55	55	100%	65	65	100%	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,017</b>	<b>5,371</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>5,983</b>	<b>5,498</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>3%</b>

Data for Cork undergoing validation

#### 3.1.6 Children in Care in Education

- 97% (3,694/3,820) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education at the end of Q3 2019. *Note: this figure does not include children in care under the care of Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum.*
- 15/17 areas reporting 95% or higher. Lowest percentage reported by the Midlands area (85.6%)
- 93% (997/1,067) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of Q3 2019. *Note: this figure does not include children in care under the care of Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum.*



- 14/17 areas reporting 90% or higher with two of these areas reporting 100%. Lowest percentages reported by Midlands (82.1%) and CW/KK/ST (88.9%).

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

Area	No of CIC 6-15 years Q2 2019	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q2 2019	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q2 2019	No of CIC 6-15 years Q3 2019	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q3 2019	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q3 2019	+/- Q3 2019 v Q2 2019
DSC	241	217	90.0%	240	217	90.4%	0.4%
DSE/WW	169	168	99.4%	163	161	98.8%	-0.6%
DSW/K/WW	270	261	96.7%	279	267	95.7%	-1.0%
Midlands	226	188	83.2%	222	190	85.6%	+2.4%
DNC	330	321	97.3%	324	313	96.6%	-0.7%
Dublin North	204	196	96.1%	208	201	96.6%	0.6%
LH/MH	245	237	96.7%	236	226	95.8%	-1.0%
CN/MN	100	100	100.0%	93	91	97.8%	-2.2%
Cork	521	495	95.0%	542	532	98.2%	3.1%
Kerry	114	109	95.6%	114	112	98.2%	2.6%
CW/KK/ST	215	205	95.3%	215	208	96.7%	1.4%
WD/WX	280	279	99.6%	274	273	99.6%	0.0%
Mid West	391	385	98.5%	375	373	99.5%	1.0%
GY/RN	263	259	98.5%	240	238	99.2%	0.7%
Mayo	72	71	98.6%	73	72	98.6%	0.0%
Donegal	141	135	95.7%	142	141	99.3%	3.6%
SLWC	71	71	100.0%	80	79	98.8%	-1.3%
National	<b>3,853</b>	<b>3,697</b>	<b>96.0%</b>	<b>3,820</b>	<b>3,694</b>	<b>96.7%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>

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

Area	No of CIC 16-17 yrs Q2 2019	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q2 2019	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q2 2019	No of CIC 16-17 yrs Q3 2019	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q3 2019	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q3 2019	+/- Q3 2019 v Q2 2019
DSC	70	64	91.4%	70	64	91.4%	0.0%
DSE/WW	56	53	94.6%	55	51	92.7%	-1.9%
DSW/K/WW	81	80	98.8%	79	78	98.7%	0.0%
Midlands	56	43	76.8%	56	46	82.1%	5.3%
DNC	96	90	93.8%	99	94	94.9%	1.2%
Dublin North	68	64	94.1%	69	62	89.9%	-4.3%
LH/MH	54	50	92.6%	61	55	90.2%	-2.4%
CN/MN	26	24	92.3%	31	28	90.3%	-2.0%
Cork	140	133	95.0%	135	128	94.8%	-0.2%
Kerry	29	24	82.8%	33	30	90.9%	8.2%
CW/KK/ST	62	51	82.3%	63	56	88.9%	6.6%
WD/WX	72	66	91.7%	77	75	97.4%	5.7%
Mid West	100	93	93.0%	102	96	94.1%	1.1%
GY/RN	68	59	86.8%	68	66	97.1%	10.3%

Mayo	26	23	88.5%	24	23	95.8%	7.4%
Donegal	30	27	90.0%	30	30	100.0%	10.0%
SLWC	17	16	94.1%	15	15	100.0%	5.9%
<b>National</b>	<b>1,051</b>	<b>960</b>	91.3%	<b>1,067</b>	<b>997</b>	<b>93.4%</b>	<b>2.1%</b>

## 3.2 AFTERCARE

### KEY FACTS

- 2,700 young persons/adults in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q3 2019, 41 more than Q2 2019 (2,659)
- 76% (1,573/2,072) of those 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service were in education/accredited training.
- 82% (2,205) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services had an aftercare plan, down one percentage point from Q2 2019. Seven areas along with the SWTSCSA reported a percentage equal to or above the national average of 82%. Rates reported by Donegal (57%), Kerry (62%), DSW/K/WW (64%), CW/K/ST (66%) and Dublin South Central (67%) lower than all other areas
- 89% (1,824/2,038) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker, down one percentage point from Q2 2019. Twelve areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 89% with nine of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by DSW/K/WW (59%), CW/KK/ST (73%), GY/RN (74%) and Dublin South Central (79%) lower than all other areas.

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

- 160 referrals in Q3 2019, bringing the total for the first nine months of 2019 to 510. Highest number reported by Dublin North City (58) followed by Cork (57). Fewest number reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (6).
- All of the referrals for Q3 2019 (160) were eligible for an assessment of need, bringing the total number eligible for the first nine months of 2019 to 507.
- Of those eligible for an assessment of need in Q3 2019, 96% (153) were < 18 years and in care, and the remaining seven were 18-20 years.
- A total of 102 assessments were completed in Q3 2019, bringing the total for the first nine months of 2019 to at least 402.

Area	# Referrals Q1 2019	# Referrals Q2 2019	# Referrals Q3 2019	Total YTD
DSC	10	12	21	43
DSE/WW	3	3	9	15
DSW/K/WW	9	5	25	39
Midlands	9	22	1	32
DNC	21	17	20	58
Dublin North	8	15	6	29
LH/MH	6	8	13	27
CN/MN	11	7	4	22
Cork	21	16	20	57
Kerry	13	2	3	18
CW/KK/ST	20	12	6	38
WD/WX	11	12	2	25
Mid West	13	15	14	42
GY/RN	7	19	7	33
Mayo	2	2	4	8
Donegal	3	6	1	10
SLWC	4	2	0	6
SWTSCSA	4	0	4	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>510</b>

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

- 2,700 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2019, 41 more than Q2 2019 and 78 more than Q1 2019. *Figure includes young persons < 18 years and those 18-22 years inclusive.*

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

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

- 59% (1,585) of those in receipt of an aftercare service were 18 – 20 years inclusive and of these 79% (1,249) were in education/accredited training.
- 14 areas along with the SWTSCSA reported at least seven out of 10 (18-20 years) in education/accredited training. Five areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by Dublin South Central (55%), DSW/K/WW (63%) and Dublin North City (68%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# 18-20 years Q2 2019	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 18-20 years Q3 2019	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
DSC	90	48	53%	101	56	55%
DSE/WW	74	60	81%	71	63	89%
DSW/K/WW	132	81	61%	130	82	63%
Midlands	69	61	88%	73	73	100%
DNC	172	91	53%	171	117	68%
Dublin North	80	56	70%	84	60	71%
LH/MH	109	71	65%	105	75	71%
CN/MN	39	39	100%	41	41	100%
Cork	203	150	74%	188	148	79%
Kerry	33	24	73%	28	21	75%
CW/KK/ST	101	73	72%	101	77	76%
WD/WX	91	61	67%	93	67	72%
Mid West	106	82	77%	118	99	84%
GY/RN	107	107	100%	108	108	100%
Mayo	31	31	100%	33	33	100%
Donegal	37	27	73%	34	27	79%
SLWC	29	29	100%	31	31	100%
SWTSCSA	73	66	90%	75	71	95%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1576</b>	<b>1157</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>1,585</b>	<b>1,249</b>	<b>79%</b>

- The highest number of those in education/accredited training were in PLCs (316; 25%) followed by closing by second level education (305; 24%)

	# 18-20 years in education/accredited Training Q3 2019	%
Second Level	305	24%
Vocational Training	133	11%
PLCs	316	25%
Third Level College / University	270	22%
Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)	143	11%
Other	82	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,249</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

- 18% (487) of those in receipt of an aftercare service were 21 – 22 years inclusive and of these 67% (324) were in education/accredited training.
- 11 areas along with the SWTSCSA reported 70% or higher with six of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by Dublin South Central (34%), WD/WX (38%), DSW/K/WW (40%) and Dublin North City (50%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# 21-22 years Q2 2019	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 21-22 years Q3 2019	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
DSC	36	14	39%	38	13	34%
DSE/WW	24	17	71%	31	22	71%
DSW/K/W W	72	30	42%	73	29	40%
Midlands	29	14	48%	34	30	88%
DNC	45	13	29%	46	23	50%
Dublin North	11	8	73%	10	8	80%
LH/MH	13	11	85%	19	11	58%
CN/MN	13	13	100%	12	12	100%
Cork	61	46	75%	44	42	95%
Kerry	9	7	78%	9	9	100%
CW/KK/ST	24	14	58%	21	13	62%
WD/WX	26	11	42%	47	18	38%
Mid West	26	17	65%	27	19	70%
GY/RN	27	27	100%	33	33	100%
Mayo	14	14	100%	11	11	100%
Donegal	7	5	71%	7	6	86%
SLWC	7	7	100%	6	6	100%
SWTSCSA	15	13	87%	19	19	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>67%</b>

- Half (161) of those in education/accredited training were in Third Level College / with a further 24% (77) in PLCs.

	# 21-22 years in education/accredited Training Q3 2019	%
Second Level	6	2%
Vocational Training	16	5%
PLCs	77	24%
Third Level College / University	161	50%
Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)	45	14%
Other	19	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

- Almost half (45%; 935) of young people 18 – 22 years in receipt of aftercare had remained living with their carers. A further 9% (194) had returned home to parents/family. One in four (26%; 540) was in independent living.

	# 18-22 placement type Q3 2019	%
Residential Care Placement	111	5%
Remained with Carers	935	45%
Independent Living	540	26%
Designated Care Leavers Accommodation	43	2%
At home	194	9%
Supported Lodgings	58	3%
Other	191	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,072</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

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

- 82% (2,205) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2019 had an aftercare plan, down one percentage point from Q2 2019
- Seven areas along with the SWTSCSA reported a percentage equal to or above the national average of 82%. Highest rates reported by Mayo (100%), SWTSCSA (100%), Midwest (99%), Dublin North City (98%), GY/RN (97%) and Midlands (93%). Rates reported by Donegal (57%), Kerry (62%), DSW/K/WW (64%), CW/K/ST (66%) and Dublin South Central (67%) lower than all other areas.
- 92% (1,914/2,072) of those 18-22 years in receipt of an aftercare service had a plan

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q2 2019	# with an Aftercare Plan Q2 2019	% with an Aftercare Plan Q2 2019	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q3 2019	# with an Aftercare Plan Q3 2019	% with an Aftercare Plan Q3 2019
DSC	143	104	73%	147	99	67%
DSE/WW	138	114	83%	149	107	72%
DSW/K/WW	248	168	68%	264	169	64%
Midlands	139	125	90%	144	134	93%
DNC	286	286	100%	281	274	98%
Dublin North	118	104	88%	127	103	81%
LH/MH	151	126	83%	154	123	80%
CN/MN	76	64	84%	81	58	72%
Cork	338	291	86%	313	250	80%
Kerry	59	40	68%	68	42	62%
CW/KK/ST	174	113	65%	174	114	66%
WD/WX	169	134	79%	175	152	87%
Mid West	185	183	99%	190	189	99%
GY/RN	159	123	77%	158	153	97%
Mayo	54	54	100%	57	57	100%
Donegal	76	44	58%	72	41	57%
SLWC	48	39	81%	47	41	87%
SWTSCSA	98	98	100%	99	99	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,659</b>	<b>2,210</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>2,205</b>	<b>82%</b>

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

- 92% (2,038) of those with an aftercare plan were assessed as needing an aftercare worker. Twelve areas along with the SWTSCSA reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 92%. Percentage reported by Midlands (71%), Cork (74%) and CW/K/ST (77%) lower than all other areas.
- 89% (1,824/2,038) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2019, down one percentage point from Q2 2019. A total of 214 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2019, up 18 from Q2 2019 (196 awaiting).
- Twelve areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 89% with nine of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by DSW/K/WW (59%), CW/KK/ST (73%), GY/RN (74%) and Dublin South Central (79%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service with a Plan Q3 2019	# with Plan Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q3 2019	% with Plan Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q3 2019	# with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q3 2019	% with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q3 2019	% with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q2 2019
DSC	99	99	100%	78	79%	74%
DSE/WW	107	107	100%	94	88%	86%
DSW/K/WW	169	169	100%	99	59%	52%
Midlands	134	95	71%	95	100%	100%
DNC	274	274	100%	249	91%	87%
Dublin North	103	103	100%	103	100%	100%
LH/MH	123	123	100%	121	98%	100%
CN/MN	58	58	100%	58	100%	100%
Cork	250	185	74%	176	95%	96%
Kerry	42	41	98%	41	100%	100%
CW/KK/ST	114	88	77%	64	73%	67%
WD/WX	152	139	91%	139	100%	100%
Mid West	189	189	100%	189	100%	100%
GY/RN	153	131	86%	97	74%	100%
Mayo	57	57	100%	57	100%	100%
Donegal	41	41	100%	41	100%	100%
SLWC	41	41	100%	41	100%	100%
SWTSCSA	99	98	99%	82	84%	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,205</b>	<b>2,038</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>1,824</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>90%</b>

### 3.2.8 Drop-in Service

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

### 3.2.9 Interagency Aftercare Steering Committee

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



### 3.3 ADOPTION SERVICES

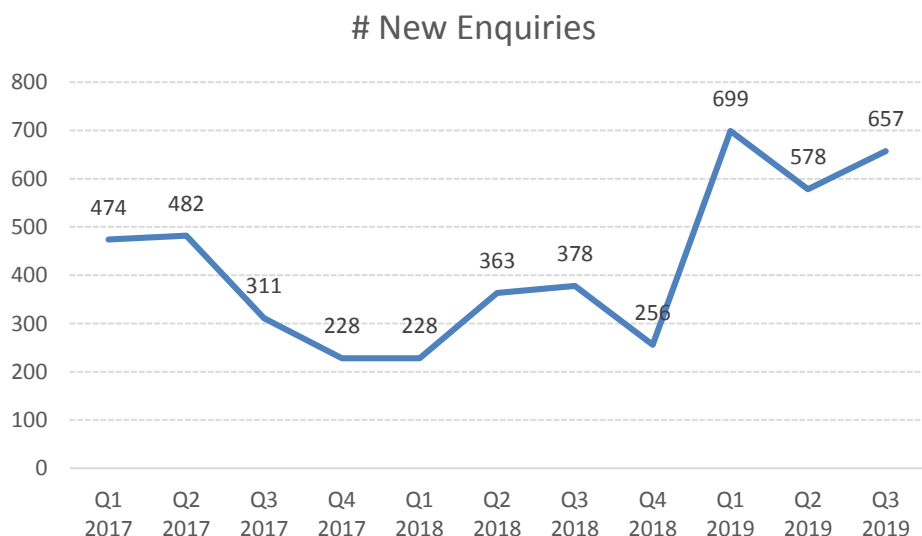
#### KEY FACTS

- 657 new enquiries regarding information and tracing received in Q3 2019, 79 more than Q2 2019. Brings to 1,934 the number for the first nine months of 2019, double the number for the same period in 2018 (969)
- 186 new applications to commence tracing received in Q3 2019. Brings to 656 the number for the first nine months of 2019, 32 (5%) fewer than the same period in 2018.
- 729 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q3 2019; 32 more than Q2 2019 (697)
- 63 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received during Q3 2019. Brings to 155 the number for the first nine months of 2019, seven fewer than the same period in 2018 (162).
- 56 new children were referred for adoption in Q3 2019. Brings to 139 the number for the first nine months of 2019, nine fewer than the same period in 2018 (148).
- 45 completed assessments (all types) were presented to Local Adoption Committees during Q3 2019. Brings to 115 the number for the first nine months of 2019, ten more than the same period in 2018 (105).

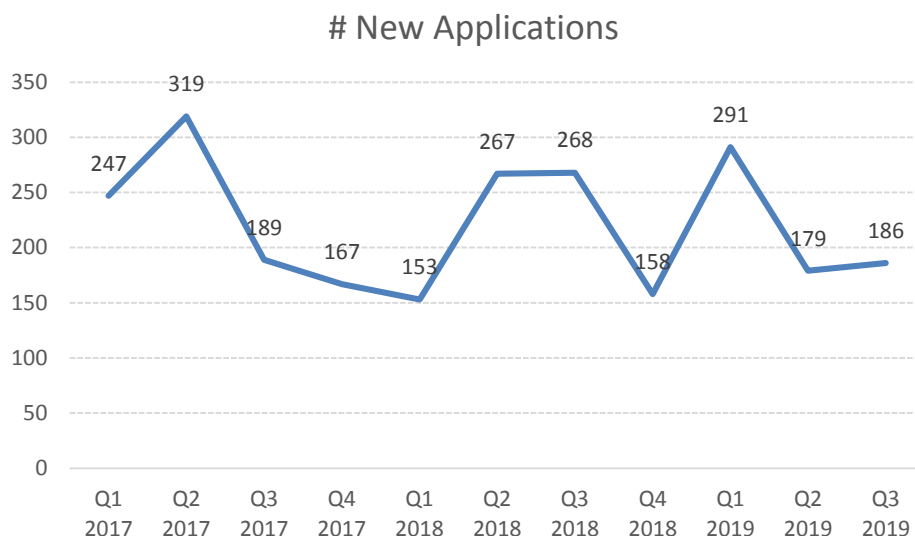
#### 3.3.1 Information and Tracing Service

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

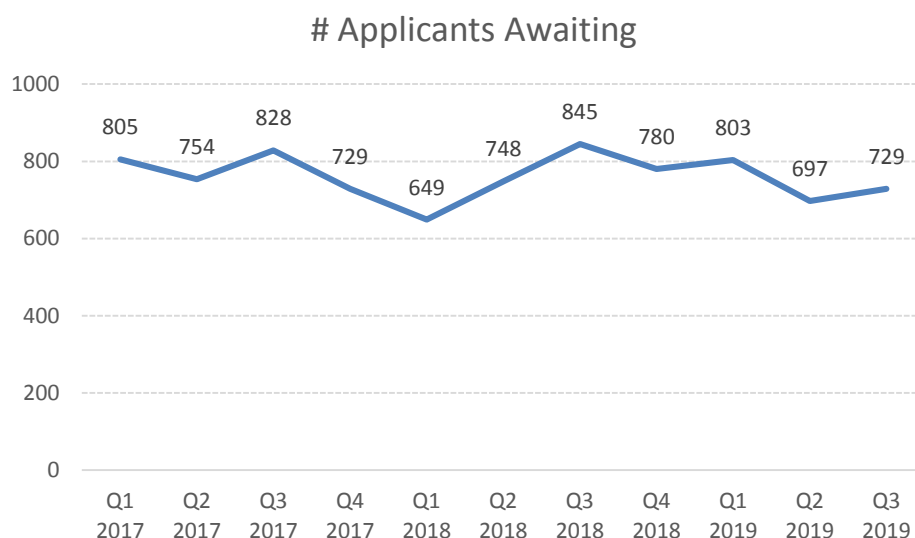
- 657 new enquiries regarding information and tracing received in Q3 2019; 79 more than Q2 2019. This brings to 1,934 the number of enquires for the first nine months of 2019, double the number received for the same period in 2018 (969).



- 186 new applications to commence tracing of a searched person received in Q3 2019; seven more than Q2 2019. This brings to 656 the number of applications for the first nine months of 2019, 32 (5%) fewer than the same period in 2018.



- 729 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q3 2019; 32 more than Q2 2019.



- At the end of Q3 2019, the length of time from application (production of ID) to the provision of personal information in line with GDPR legislation ranged from 4 weeks to 16 weeks against a target of 8 weeks; no change from Q2 2019.
- The length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for priority 1 applications ranged from 1 month to 21 months against a target of 3 months or less; no change from Q2 2019
- The length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for priority 2 applications ranged from 6 weeks to 29 months against a target of 6 months or less; no change from Q2 2019

- The length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for all other applications ranged from 11 months to 36 months against a target of 12 months or less; no change from Q2 2019

### 3.3.2 Adoption Assessments

- 63 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received during Q3 2019, 16 more than Q2 2019 and the highest number for the period Q3 2018 – Q3 2019. This brings to 155 the number of applications received for the first nine months of 2019, seven fewer than the same period in 2018 (162).

#### Number of receipted completed adoption application packs received in the quarter

Area	# Q3 2018	# Q4 2018	# Q1 2019	# Q2 2019	# Q3 2019
Fostering to Adoption	3	7	4	7	10
Inter-Country Adoption	14	12	15	10	17
Domestic Adoption	10	8	8	7	6
Step-parent adoption	18	23	18	23	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>63</b>

- 56 new children were referred for adoption in Q3 2019; eight more than Q2 2019 and the highest number for the period Q3 2018 – Q3 2019. This brings to 139 the number of new children referred in the first nine months of 2019, nine fewer than the same period in 2018 (148).

#### Number of new children referred for adoption in the quarter

Area	# Q3 2018	# Q4 2018	# Q1 2019	# Q2 2019	# Q3 2019
Fostering to Adoption	6	10	6	16	14
Domestic Adoption	5	1	1	5	11
Step-parent adoption	36	38	28	27	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>56</b>

- 45 completed assessments (all types) were presented to Local Adoption Committees during Q3 2019, three more than Q2 2019. This brings to 115 the number of assessments presented for the first nine months of 2019, ten more than the same period in 2018 (105).

#### Completed assessments presented to Local Adoption Committees, by type

Area	# Q3 2018	# Q4 2018	# Q1 2019	# Q2 2019	# Q3 2019
Fostering to Adoption	10	11	5	8	8
Inter-Country Adoption	7	15	8	12	12
Domestic Adoption	1	6	4	10	6
Step-parent adoption	6	14	11	12	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>45</b>

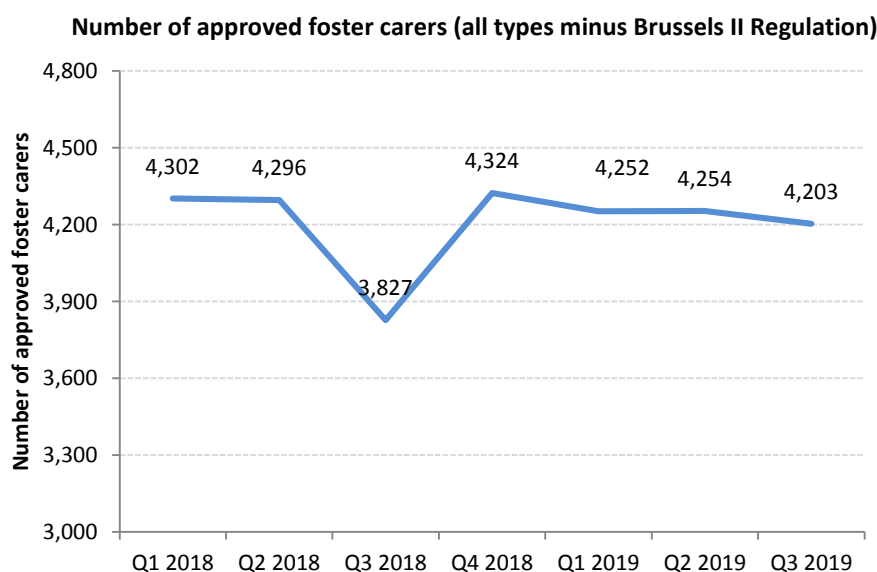
## 3.4 FOSTER CARERS

### KEY FACTS

- 4,203 foster carers on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q3 2019, 51 fewer than Q2 2019 (4,254) and the fewest number for the period Q1 2018 – Q3 2019
- 81% (1,103/1,359) of relative foster carers approved against a target of 80%
- 93% (2,398) of general foster carers had an allocated link worker (target 90%); 176 awaiting a link work, 50 fewer than Q2 2019 (226). Rates reported by DSW/K/WW (83%), Midlands (84%) and DSE/WW (86%) lower than all other areas.
- 90% (995) of approved relative foster carers had an allocated link worker (target of 85%); 108 awaiting a link worker, 32 fewer than Q2 2019. Rates reported by DSW/K/WW (71%), Midlands (76%) and Cork (78%) lower than all other areas. *Cork area advised that the increase is due to particular staffing issues which are being addressed.*
- 256 unapproved relative foster carers; three more than Q2 2019
- 223 (87%) of the unapproved relative foster carers had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks, 16 more than Q2 2019.
- 98% (218) had an allocated link worker, up five percentage points from Q2 2019; 5 awaiting allocation across three areas.

### 3.4.1 Number of foster carers

- 4,203 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q3 2019; 51 fewer than Q2 2019 and the fewest number for the period Q1 2018 – Q3 2019
- 256 unapproved relative foster carers of which 87% (223) had a child placed for >12 weeks. Eighty-one percent (1,103/1,359) of relative foster carers are approved against a target of 80%.



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

- 61% (2,574) of all approved foster carers are general foster carers. Relative foster carers (approved) account for a further 26% (1,103) while private foster carers account for the remaining 13% (526).

#### Breakdown of foster carers by type

	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Δ (+/-) Q3 2019 v Q2 2019
<b>Foster Carers</b>					
<b>General (Approved)</b>	2,675	2,619	2,631	2,574	-57
<b>Relative (Approved)</b>	1,146	1,116	1,104	1,103	-1
<b>Private (Approved)</b>	503	517	519	526	+7
<b>Total Approved</b>	4,324	4,252	4,254	4,203	-51
<b>Relative (Unapproved)</b>	257	250	253	256	+3

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

- The number of foster carers approved (all types) and on the panel ranged from 493 in Cork to 88 in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan at the end of Q3 2019.

#### Foster carers approved by type and area on the panel of approved foster carers, Q3 2019

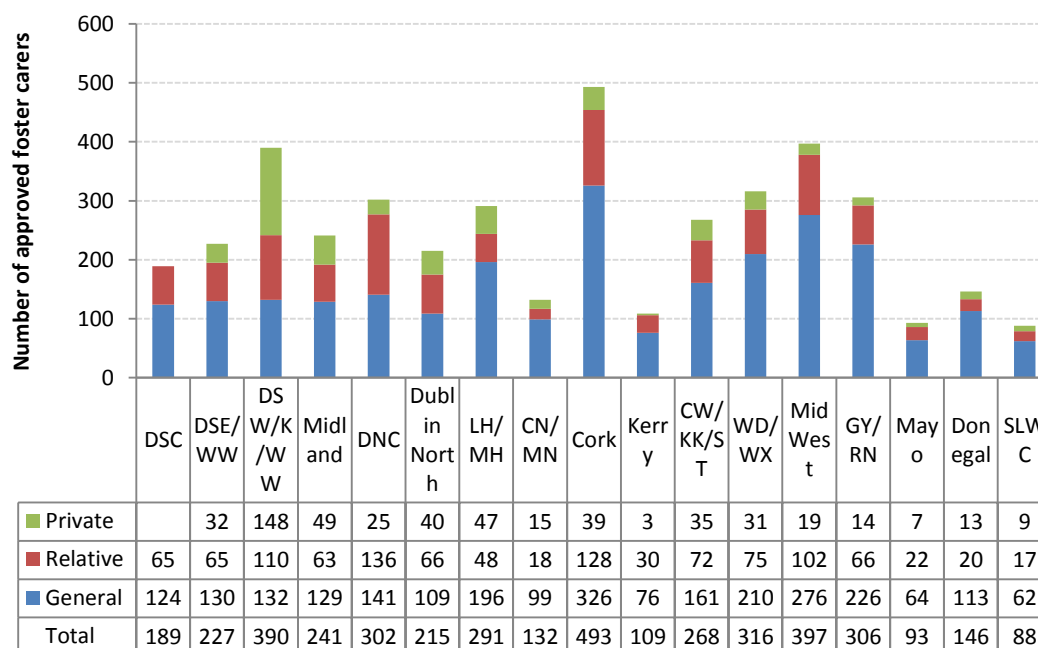


Figure for private carers provided by DSW/KWW includes private carers for Dublin South Central.

Number of general foster carers reported by Cork undergoing validation

- Six areas reported an increase from Q2 2019 in the number of foster carers approved and on the panel. The highest increase was reported by GY/RN (up 8) followed by Cork (up 6).
- Nine areas reported a decrease from Q2 2019. The largest decreases were reported by Midwest (down 28) followed by Mayo (down 10). Two areas (DSE/WW and Kerry) reported no change from Q2 2019.

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

Area	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Δ (+/-) Q3 2019 v Q2 2019
DSC	215	189	193	189	-4
DSE/WW	227	234	227	227	0
DSW/K/WW	401	397	388	390	2
Midland	244	247	249	241	-8
DNC	310	297	301	302	1
Dublin North	241	228	221	215	-6
LH/MH	284	294	299	291	-8
CN/MN	134	121	133	132	-1
Cork	496	488	487	493	6
Kerry	105	106	109	109	0
CW/KK/ST	294	293	273	268	-5
WD/WX	318	316	318	316	-2
MidWest	426	418	425	397	-28
GY/RN	300	288	298	306	8
Mayo	102	103	103	93	-10
Donegal	140	146	144	146	2
SLWC	87	87	86	88	2
<b>National</b>	<b>4,324</b>	<b>4,252</b>	<b>4,254</b>	<b>4,203</b>	<b>-51</b>

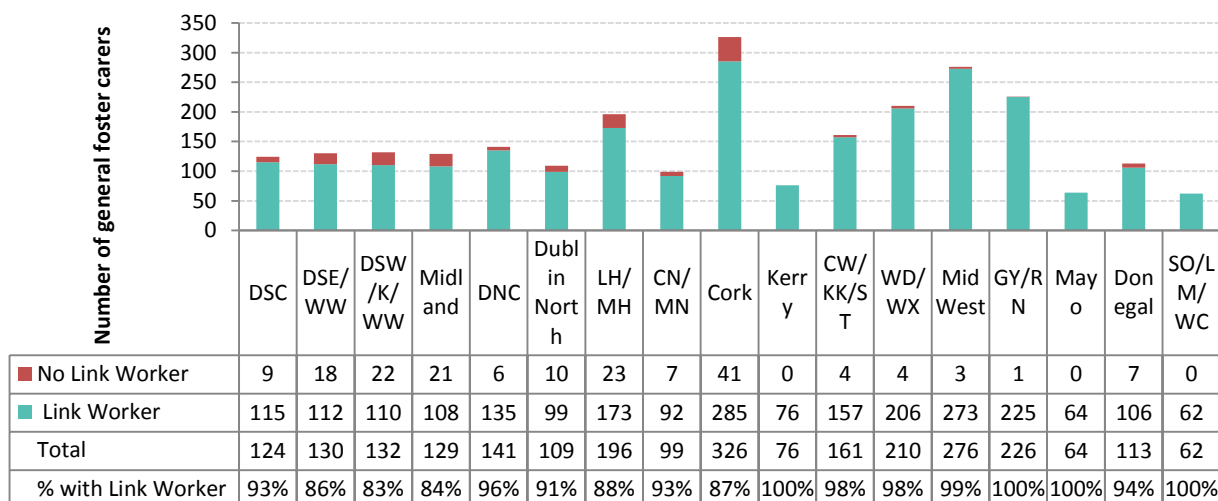
- 93% (2,398) of general foster carers approved and on the Panel had an allocated link (social) worker against a target of 90% at the end of Q3 2019, up two percentage points from Q2 2019
- 176 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker; 50 (22%) fewer than Q2 2019
- 12 areas reported a percentage of 90% or higher with three of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by DSW/K/WW (83%), Midlands (84%) and DSE/WW (86%) lower than all other areas.
- Eight areas reported a decrease in general foster carers awaiting an allocated link worker from Q2 2019. The largest decrease was reported by Midwest (down 64) followed by Midlands (down 10), DSE/WW (down 9) and Mayo (down 9).
- Cork reported the highest increase (up 41) followed by Dublin South Central (up 6). *Cork area advised that the increase is due to particular staffing issues which are being addressed.*
- Cork has the highest number of general foster carers awaiting a link worker (41) followed by LH/MH (23), DSW/K/WW (22) and Midlands (21).

**General foster carers (approved) with/awaiting link social worker, Q2 2019 – Q3 2019**

Area	With Link Worker Q2 2019	Awaiting Link Worker Q2 2019	% With Link Worker Q2 2019	With Link Worker Q3 2019	Awaiting Link Worker Q3 2019	% With Link Worker Q3 2019	Δ +/- No. Awaiting Link Worker Q3 2019 v Q2 2019
DSC	124	3	98%	115	9	93%	6
DSE/WW	105	27	80%	112	18	86%	-9
DSW/K/WW	110	22	83%	110	22	83%	0
Midland	116	31	79%	108	21	84%	-10
DNC	135	7	95%	135	6	96%	-1
Dub North	104	10	91%	99	10	91%	0
LH/MH	165	28	85%	173	23	88%	-5
CN/MN	92	8	92%	92	7	93%	-1
Cork	327	0	100%	285	41	87%	41
Kerry	76	0	100%	76	0	100%	0
CW/KK/ST	162	7	96%	157	4	98%	-3
WD/WX	213	0	100%	206	4	98%	4
MidWest	222	67	77%	273	3	99%	-64
GY/RN	226	0	100%	225	1	100%	1
Mayo	59	9	87%	64	0	100%	-9
Donegal	107	7	94%	106	7	94%	0
S/L/WC	62	0	100%	62	0	100%	0
<b>National</b>	<b>2,405</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>2,398</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>-50</b>

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

**General foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting a link (social worker), Q3 2019**



Galway/Roscommon showing 100% due to rounding

- 90% (995) of relative foster carers approved and on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q3 2019 against a target of 85%; up three percentage points from Q2 2019
- 108 were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q3 2019; 32 fewer than Q2 2019.
- 13 areas reported a percentage of 85% (target) or higher with six of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by DSW/K/WW (71%), Midlands (76%) and Cork (78%) lower than all

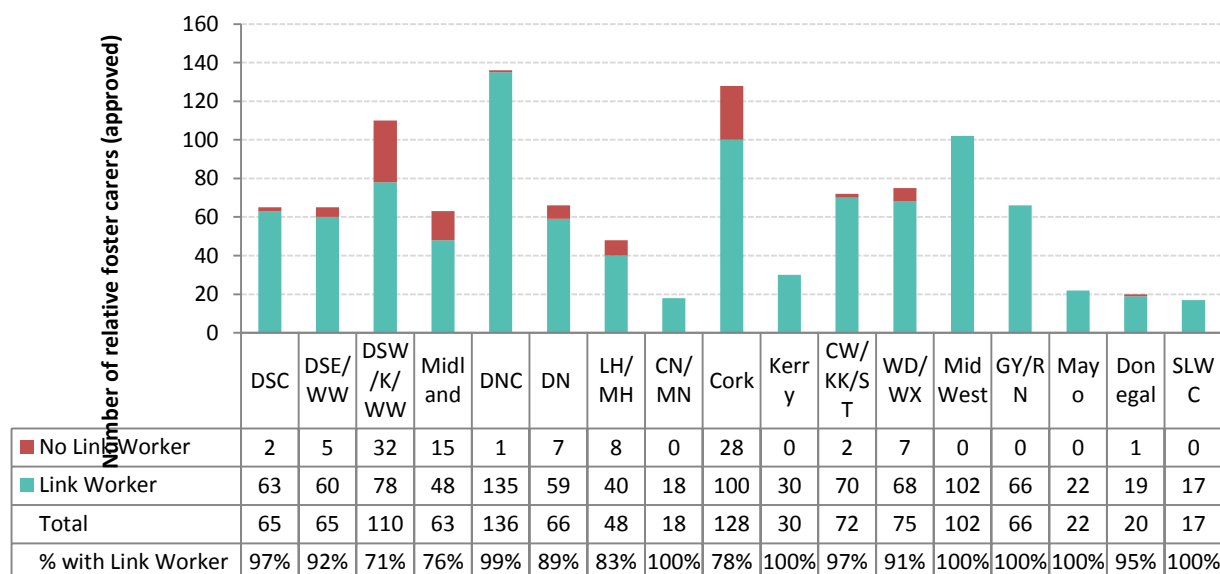
other areas. *Cork area advised that the increase is due to particular staffing issues which are being addressed.*

- DSW/K/WW reported the highest number of relative foster carers awaiting a link worker (32) followed by Cork (28) and Midlands (15).
- Eight areas reported a decrease in the number awaiting from Q2 2019; largest decrease reported by Midwest (down 30) followed by DSE/WW (down 19). Cork reported the largest increase (up 28) followed by Midlands and WD/WX, both up 6.

#### Relative foster carers (approved) with/awaiting link social worker, Q2 2019 – Q3 2019

Area	With Link Worker Q2 2019	Awaiting Link Worker Q2 2019	% With Link Worker Q2 2019	With Link Worker Q3 2019	Awaiting Link Worker Q3 2019	% With Link Worker Q3 2019	Δ +/- No. Awaiting Link Worker Q3 2019 v Q2 2019
DSC	65	1	98%	63	2	97%	1
DSE/WW	39	24	62%	60	5	92%	-19
DSW/K/WW	72	36	67%	78	32	71%	-4
Midland	44	9	83%	48	15	76%	6
DNC	135	0	100%	135	1	99%	1
Dublin North	62	5	93%	59	7	89%	2
LH/MH	42	11	79%	40	8	83%	-3
CN/MN	16	2	89%	18	0	100%	-2
Cork	122	0	100%	100	28	78%	28
Kerry	30	0	100%	30	0	100%	0
CW/KK/ST	68	5	93%	70	2	97%	-3
WD/WX	75	1	99%	68	7	91%	6
MidWest	86	30	74%	102	0	100%	-30
GY/RN	52	12	81%	66	0	100%	-12
Mayo	24	3	89%	22	0	100%	-3
Donegal	17	1	94%	19	1	95%	0
S/L/WC	15	0	100%	17	0	100%	0
<b>National</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>-32</b>

#### Relative foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting allocated link Q3 2019





### 3.4.3 Foster carers (relative) unapproved

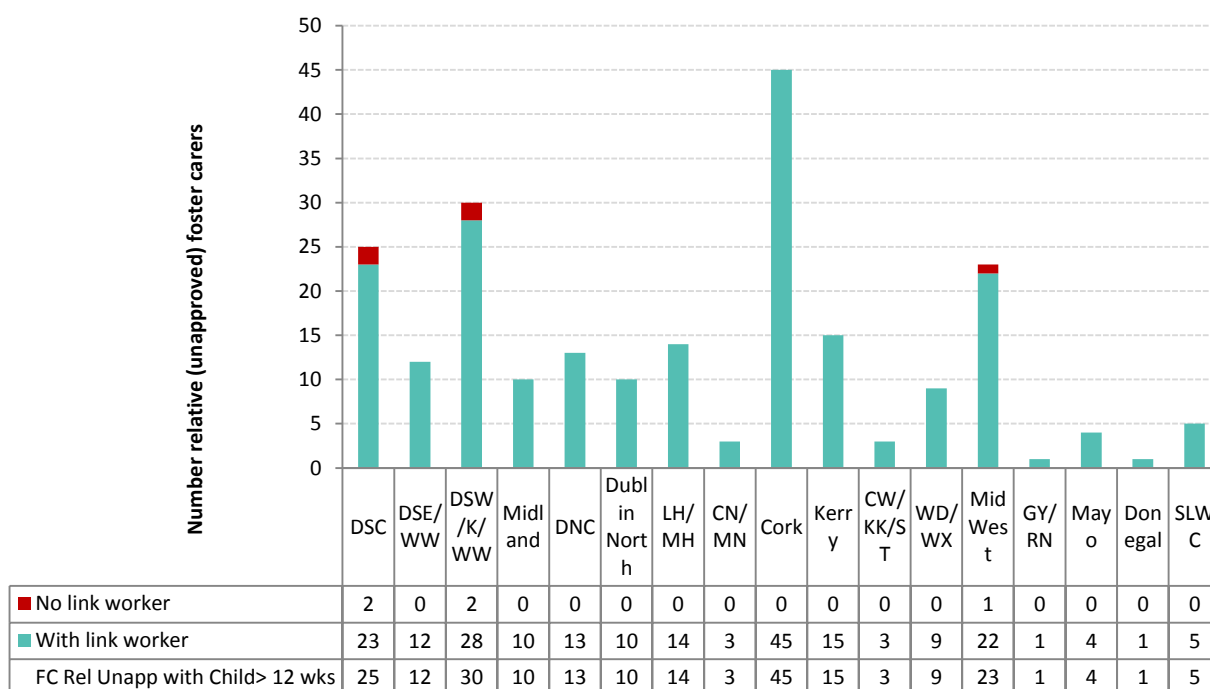
- 256 relative foster carers unapproved at the end of Q3 2019; three more than Q2 2019
- Of these 223 (87%) had a child placed with them for longer than 12 week; 16 more than Q2 2019
- Of the 223 foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks, 98% (218) had an allocated link (social), up five percentage points from Q2 2019.
- 5 unapproved carers were awaiting allocation of a link worker; nine fewer than Q2 2019 and the fewest number for the period Q4 2018 – Q3 2019. The five cases were reported by three areas, Dublin South Central (2), DSW/K/WW (2) and Midwest (1).

#### Breakdown of foster carers not approved

Unapproved Relative Foster Carers	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Δ (+/-) Q3 2019 v Q2 2019
No. unapproved	257	250	253	256	+3
No (%) with a child > 12 weeks	231 (90%)	221 (88%)	207 (82%)	223 (87%)	+16
Child > 12 weeks and have a Link Worker	193 (84%)	199 (90%)	193 (93%)	218 (98%)	+25
Child > 12 weeks AWAITING Link Worker	38	22	14	5	-9

\*Data for Q3 includes data for Cork

#### Relative foster carers UNAPPROVED with a child > 12 weeks, with/awaiting a link worker, Q3 2019



## 4.0 REGULATORY FUNCTIONS

### KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

#### 4.1 Early Years Inspectorate

#### 4.2 Alternative Education Regulation

#### 4.3 Non-Statutory Alternative Care Services

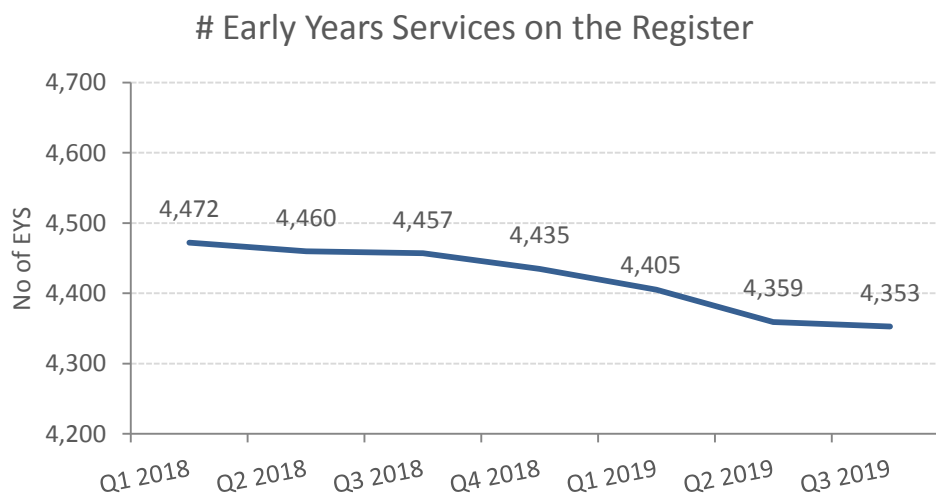
### 4.1 EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

#### KEY FACTS

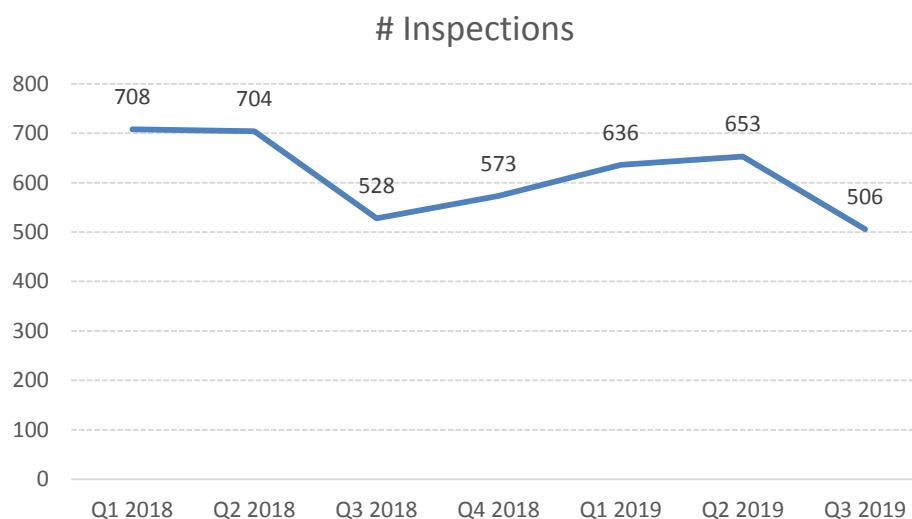
- 4,353 EYS on the register nationally at the end of Q3 2019; fewest number for the period Q1 2018 – Q3 2019
- 506 EYS inspections (all types) carried out during Q3 2019. Brings to 1,795 the number of inspections for the first nine months of 2019, 145 (7%) fewer than the same period in 2018 (1,940).
- 101 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q3 2019, bringing the number for the first nine months of 2019 to 301, some 119 (65%) more than the same period in 2018 (182)
- 214 unsolicited information submissions received by the Inspectorate during Q3 2019, 127 (146%) more than Q2 2019 and the highest number for the period Q1 2018 – Q3 2019. Brings to 439 the number received for the first nine months of 2019, 150 (52%) more than the same period in 2018 (289).
- Three services removed from the national register in the first nine months of 2019.

#### 4.1.1 Activity Data

- 4,353 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q3 2019; six fewer than Q2 2019 and 104 (2%) fewer than Q3 2018; fewest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q3 2019.

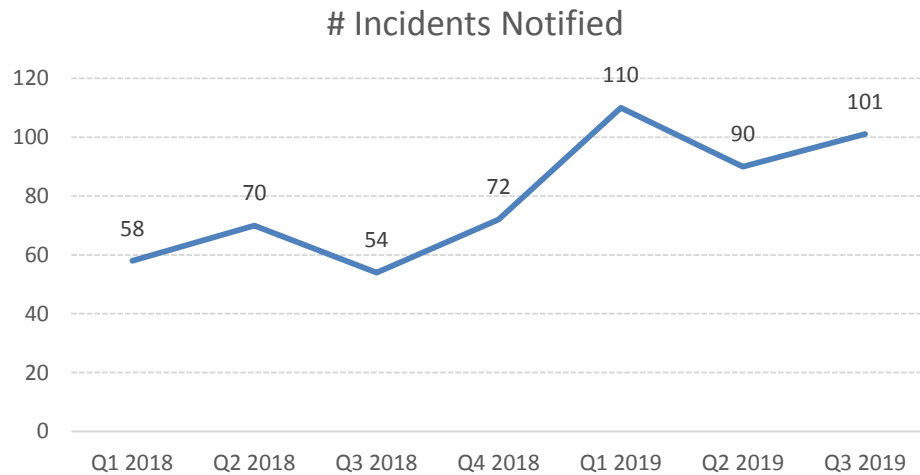


- 506 inspections (all types<sup>8</sup>) carried out in Q3 2019; 22 fewer than Q3 2018 and the fewest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q3 2019. This brings to 1,795 the number of inspections for the first nine months of 2019, 145 (7%) fewer than the same period in 2018 (1,940).

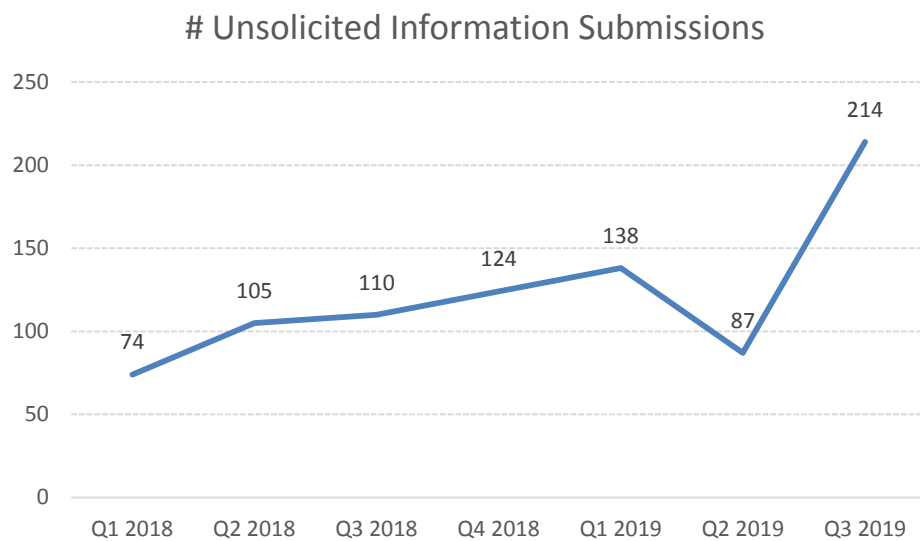


- 21 new applications to become a registered provider received by the Inspectorate in Q3 2019, bringing the figure for the first nine months of 2019 to 114, one more than the same period in 2018 (113).
- 55 new registration applications approved by the Inspectorate in Q3 2019, bringing the figure for the first nine months of 2019 to 71, three fewer than the same period in 2018 (74)
- No applications to become an EYS refused registration by the Inspectorate in the nine months of 2019.
- 421 “change in circumstances” requests received by the Inspectorate in Q3 2019, bringing the number for the first nine months of 2019 to 1,064, some 60 (6%) more than the same period in 2018 (1,004)
- 101 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q3 2019, bringing the number for the first nine months of 2019 to 301, some 119 (65%) more than the same period in 2018 (182)

<sup>8</sup> Includes initial, follow up, complaints, focused inspections or fit for purpose inspections

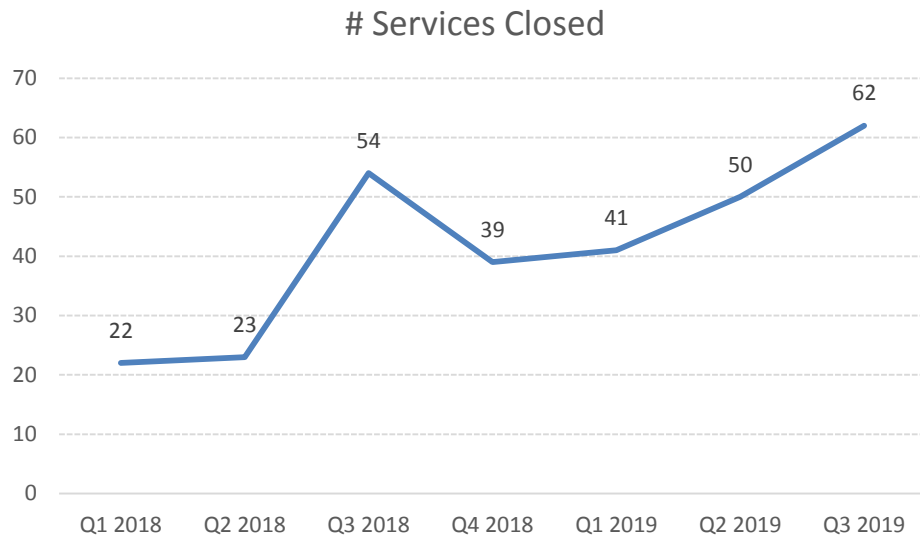


- 214 unsolicited information submissions<sup>9</sup> received by the Inspectorate during Q3 2019, 127 (146%) more than Q2 2019 and the highest number for the period Q1 2018 – Q3 2019. This brings to 439 the number received for the first nine months of 2019, 150 (52%) more than the same period in 2018 (289).



- No prosecution of EYS taken by Tusla during the first nine months of 2019.
- 62 services were found to have closed in Q3 2019, bringing the number for the first nine months of 2019 to 153, some 54 (55%) more than the same period in 2018 (99).

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



- Three services removed from the national register in the first nine months of 2019.

## 4.2 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION REGULATION

### Key Facts

#### Home Education

- 1,483 children on the register for home education at the end of Q3 2019; highest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q3 2019
- 174 applications received for home education during Q3 2019. Brings to 457 the number of applications for the first nine months of 2019, two fewer than the same period in 2018 (459).
- 642 children awaiting a preliminary assessment for registration at the end of Q3 2019, 93 more than Q2 2019 and highest number for period Q1 2019 – Q3 2019 (*not comparable with previous quarters due to a change in the metric*).
- 470 registered children awaiting a review at the end of Q3 2019; fewest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q3 2019.

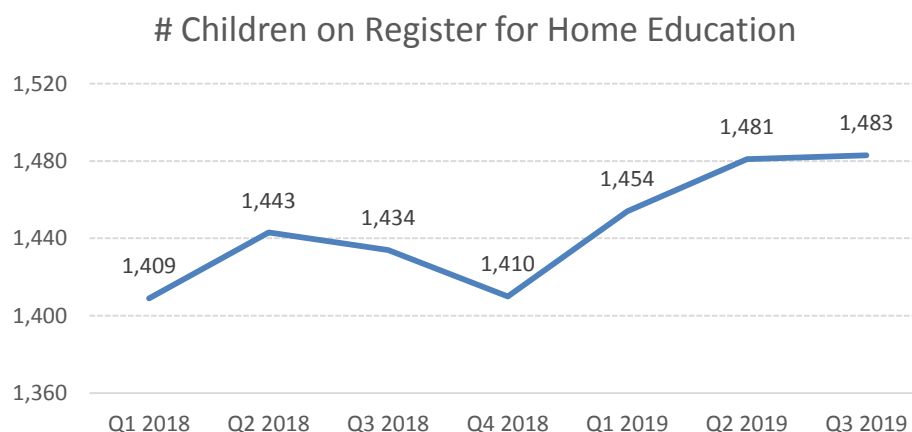
#### Independent Schools

- 5,915 children attending 49 assessed schools at the end of Q3 2019
- 3 schools awaiting assessment and 7 schools awaiting a review at the end of Q3 2019

Under Section 14 of the Education (Welfare)<sup>10</sup> Act 2000

#### Home Education

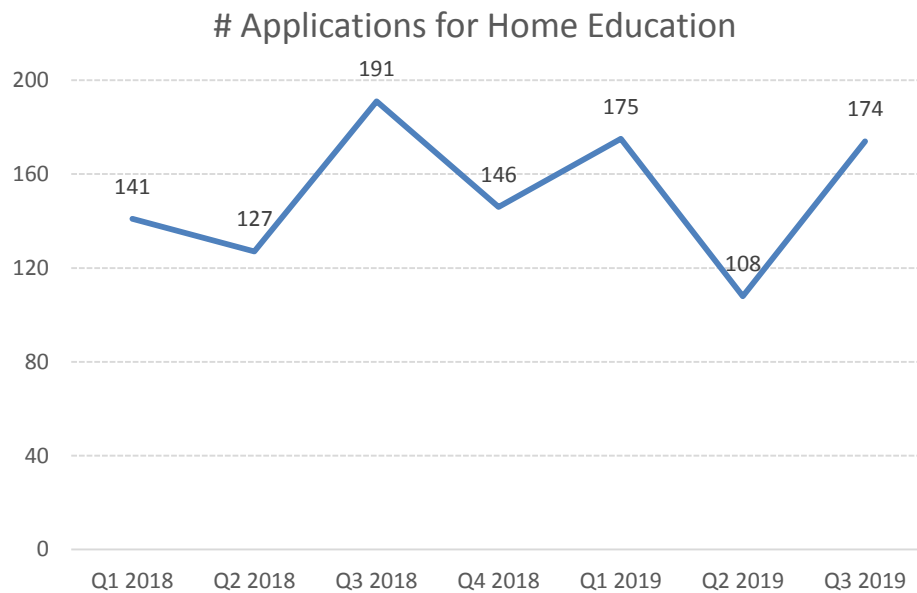
- 1,483 children on the register for home education at the end of Q3 2019; two more than Q2 2019 and the highest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q3 2019.



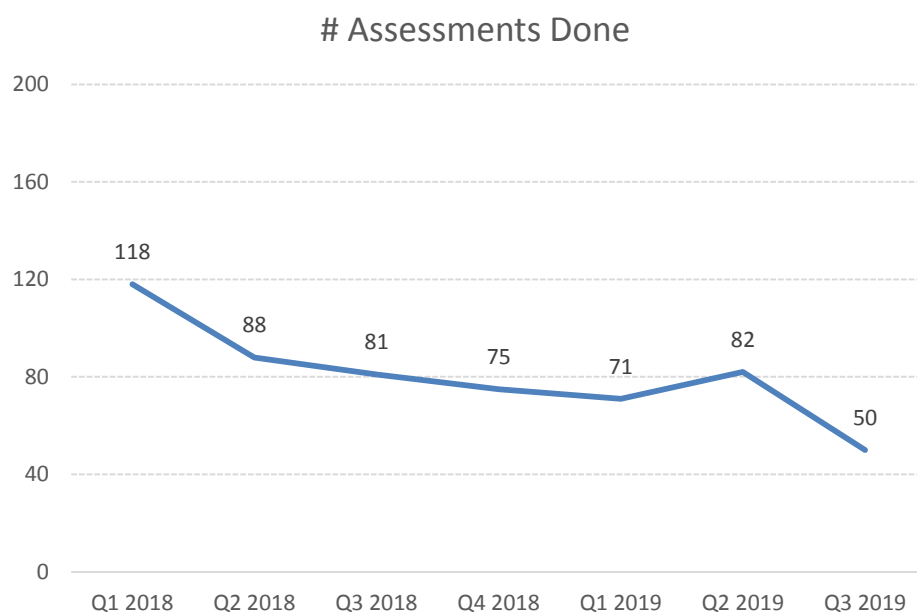
<sup>10</sup> Section 14 Education (Welfare) Act 2000 14.—(1) The Board shall, on the commencement of this section, cause to be established and maintained a register of all children in receipt of education in a place other than a recognised school (hereafter in this section referred to as “the register”). (2) Subject to subsection (3), where a parent chooses to educate, or have educated, his or her child in a place other than a recognised school he or she shall, in accordance with this section, apply to the Board to have the child concerned registered in the register.

(5) As soon as practicable after an application under this section is received by the Board, the Board shall, for the purpose of determining whether the child is receiving a certain minimum education, cause an authorised person to carry out, in consultation with the parent who made the application, an assessment of—...

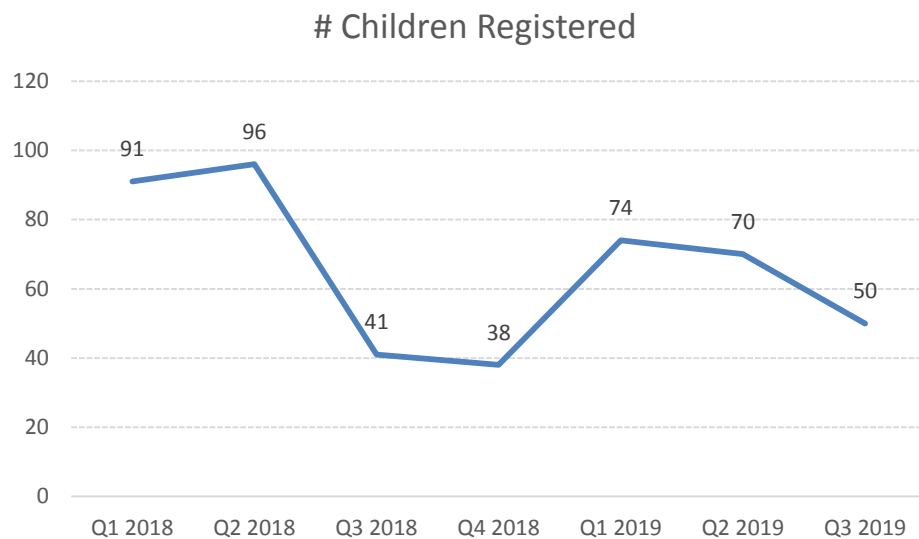
- 20% (290) of children on the register have special educational needs; six more than Q2 2019
- 174 applications received for home education during Q3 2019, 66 more than Q2 2019 (108). This brings to 457 the number of applications for the first nine months of 2019, two fewer than the same period in 2018 (459).
- 22% (102) of all applications for the first nine months were for children with special educational needs.



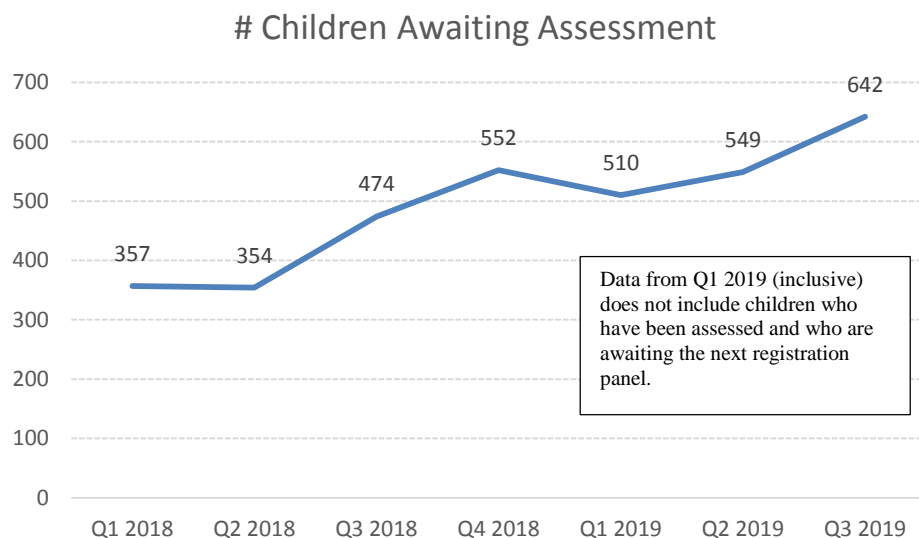
- 50 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q3 2019, 32 fewer than Q2 2019 (82) and the fewest number for the period Q1 2018 – Q3 2019. This brings to 203 the number of assessments done for the first nine months of 2019, 84 (29%) fewer than the same period in 2018 (287).



- 50 children registered for home education<sup>11</sup> in Q3 2019; 20 fewer than Q2 2019 (70). This brings to 194 the number registered for the first nine months of 2019, 34 (15%) fewer than the same period in 2018 (228).



- 642 children awaiting a preliminary assessment for registration at the end of Q3 2019, 93 more than Q2 2019 and the highest number for the period Q1 2019 – Q3 2019. Data not comparable with data prior to Q1 2019 - *data from Q1 2019 (inclusive) does not include children who have been assessed and who are awaiting the next registration panel.*

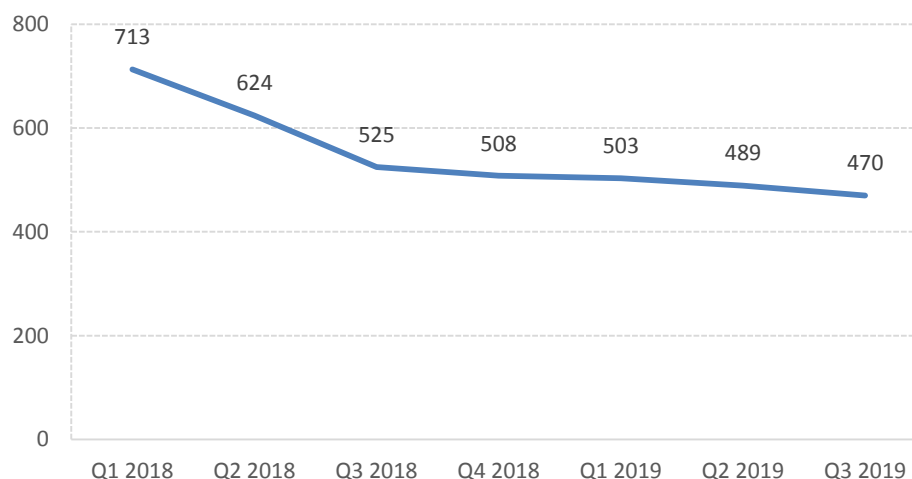


- 470 registered children awaiting a review at the end of Q3 2019; fewest number for all quarters Q1 2018 – Q3 2019. Of these (470), 66 have been allocated to an assessor for review, while the remaining 404 are unallocated.

<sup>11</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



## # Children Awaiting a Review



- 3 children were refused registration for home education in Q3 2019. This brings to 20 the number refused in the first nine months of 2019.
- There were seven appeals made against decisions not to register in the first nine months of 2019.
- 50 children removed from the register in Q3 2019. Breakdown of the 50 is as follows: 26 turned 18 years; 10 returned to school, 11 left Ireland and 3 de-registered. This brings to 123 the number removed from the register in the first nine months of 2019.

### **Independent Schools**

- 5,915 children attending 49 assessed schools at the end of Q3 2019
- 17 new children's applications for education in independent schools received in Q3 2019. This brings to 222 the number received for the first nine months of 2019.
- 319 children registered<sup>12</sup> during Q3 2019. This brings to 1,362 the number of children registered in the first nine months of 2019.
- No child refused registration in Q3 2019
- 1,088 children awaiting registration at the end of Q3 2019, 47 more than Q2 2019 – *due to issues relating to internal capacity or where information is awaited from the parents e.g., birth certs, signed application form*
- 62 children removed from the register during Q3 2019, bringing the number for the first nine months of 2019 to 832– *children are automatically removed from the register when they reach 18 years. No capacity to follow-up children who move to a new school.*
- 3 schools awaiting an assessment and 7 schools awaiting a review at the end of Q3 2019. Schools awaiting a review have been allocated to an assessor for review.

<sup>12</sup> Number of children registered includes the processing of applications forms received in previous months. Once a school has been assessed children are registered automatically once parents have supplied all required documentation

### 4.3 NON STATUTORY ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

#### Key Facts

- 129 non-statutory residential centres at the end of Q3 2019; no change from Q2 2019
- 26 inspections (all types and onsite) conducted in Q3 2019; 10 fewer than Q2 2019. Brings to 99 the number of inspections for the nine months to the end of Sept 2019, 11 more than the same period in 2018 (88).

#### Non Statutory Children’s Residential Centres

- 129 non-statutory residential centres at the end of Q3 2019; no change from Q2 2019
- 26 inspections (all types and onsite) conducted in Q3 2019; 10 fewer than Q2 2019. This brings to 99 the number of inspections for the nine months to the end of Sept 2019, 11 more than the same period in 2018 (88).

#### Inspections of Non Statutory Residential Services

Inspections by Type	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Total
Thematic Inspection (announced)	13	13	14	40
Thematic Inspection (unannounced)	16	11	9	36
Lead Inspector Agency Visit	4	7	0	11
New Registration Inspection Visit	4	5	3	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>99</b>

## 5.0 TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

### KEY FACTS (Academic Year Sept – 2018 – Aug 2019)

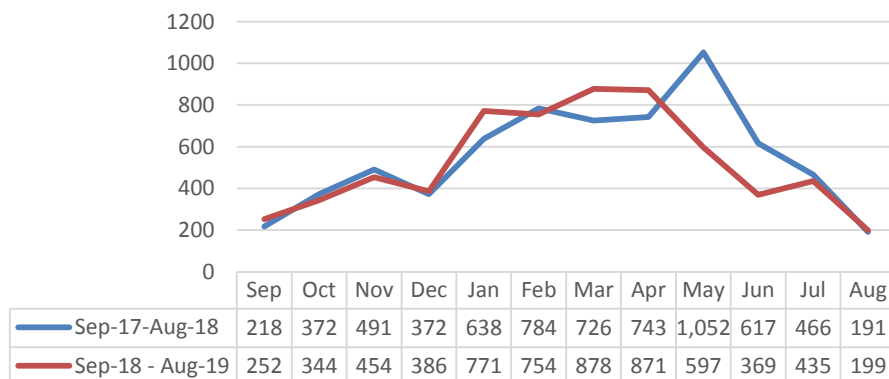
- 6,310 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers in the academic year Sept 2018 – Aug 2019, 360 (5%), fewer than the previous year (6,670)
- 2,017 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of the academic year, 353 (21%) more than the previous year (1,664)
- 3,136 new individual children worked with in the academic year, 115 (4%) more than the previous year (3,021)
- 6,291 individual children worked with in the academic year, 157 (3%) more than the previous year (6,134)
- 672 school attendance notices (SANs) issued by EWS in the academic year, 68 (9%) fewer than the previous year (740).
- 155 summonses issued by EWS in the academic year, 20 (11%) fewer than the previous year (175).
- 334 Section 24 meetings convened by EWOs in the academic year, 91 (37%) more than the previous year (243)
- 1,681 screened referrals on a **waiting list at the end of September 2019**, fourth consecutive monthly decrease and fewest number since December 2018. The number of referrals on the waiting list has fallen 41% (1,157) since May 2019 (2,838).

### Referrals<sup>13</sup>

#### Academic Year September 2018 – August 2019

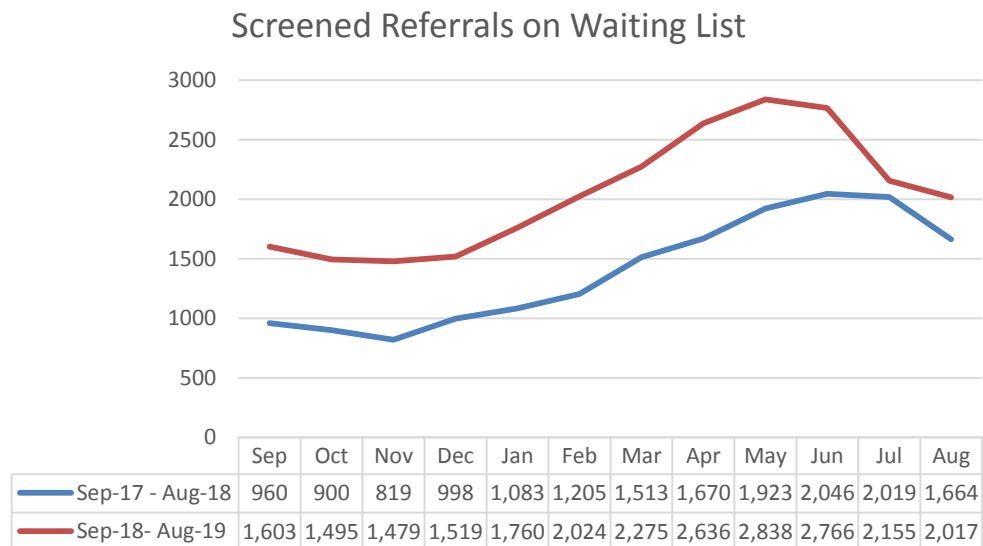
- 6,310 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers in the academic year Sept 2018 – Aug 2019, 360 (5%), fewer than the previous academic year (6,670).

Referrals Screened



<sup>13</sup> A referral is a written notification of concern to EWS from a school, a parent, agency or concerned citizen in relation to the educational welfare of a named child. Referrals are then screened against a set of criteria by the Senior Educational Welfare Officer and a decision is made as to whether to proceed and open a case in relation this named child, or placed on a waiting list if there is an EWS capacity issue.

- 3,125 referrals allocated to educational welfare officers (EWOs) in the academic year Sept 2018 – Aug 2019, 148 (5%) more than the previous academic year (2,977) .
- 2,026 referrals screened out / required no further action in the academic year Sept 2018 – Aug 2019, 117 (6%) more than the previous academic year (1,909).
- 2,017 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of the academic year Sept 2018 – Aug 2019, 353 (21%) more than the previous academic year (1,664) .



### Open Cases / Cases Worked

- 3,136 new individual children worked with in the academic year Sept 2018 – Aug 2019, 115 (4%) more than the previous academic year (3,021)
- 6,291 individual children worked with in the academic year Sept 2018 – Aug 2019, 157 (3%) more than the previous academic year (6,134)
- 3,942 new cases assigned to EWOs in the academic year Sept 2018 – Aug 2019, 17 more than the previous academic year (3,925)
- 4,111 cases closed in the academic year Sept 2018 – Aug 2019, 228 (6%) more than the previous academic year (3,883)

	Sept 2017 – Aug 2018	Sept 2018 – Aug 2019	Δ
# New individual children worked with	3,021	3,136	+115
# Individual children worked with	6,134	6,291	+157
# cases assigned	3,925	3,942	+17
# cases closed	3,883	4,111	+228

**School Attendance Notices and Summonses under Section 25**

- 672 school attendance notices (SANs) issued by EWS under Section 25 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000<sup>14</sup>, in the academic year Sept 2018 – Aug 2019, 68 (9%) fewer than the previous academic year (740). These notices were issued in respect of 446 individual children, 61 fewer than the previous academic year (507).
- 155 summonses issued by EWS under Section 25 of the Education (Welfare Act) 2000, in the academic year Sept 2018 – Aug 2019, 20 (11%) fewer than the previous academic year (175). These notices were issued in respect of 119 individual children, nine fewer than the previous academic year (128).
- EWOs attended 624 court cases in relation to their own cases in the academic year Sept 2018 – Aug 2019, 160 (34%) fewer than the previous academic year (464)
- 180 child protection conferences (CPC) attended by EWOs in the academic year Sept 2018 – Aug 2019, 50 (22%) fewer than the previous academic year (230)
- 334 Section 24<sup>15</sup> meetings convened by EWOs in the academic year Sept 2018 – Aug 2019, 91 (37%) more than the previous academic year (243)
- 137 official child protection and welfare referrals made by EWOs in the academic year Sept 2018 – Aug 2019, 52 (28%) fewer than the previous academic year (189)

	Sept 2017 – Aug 2018	Sep 2018 – Aug 2019	Δ
<b>School Attendance Notices Issues</b>	740	672	-68
<b>SANs - individual children involved</b>	507	446	-61
<b>Summonses Issued</b>	175	155	-20
<b>Summonses – individual children involved</b>	128	119	-9
<b>Court cases attended in relation to own cases</b>	464	624	+160
<b>Child protection conferences attended</b>	230	180	-50
<b>Section 24 meetings convened</b>	243	334	+91
<b>Child protection referrals made</b>	189	137	-52

<sup>14</sup> Section 25 Education (Welfare) Act 2000—(1) Subject to section 17(2), the Board shall, if of opinion that a parent is failing or neglecting to cause his or her child to attend a recognised school in accordance with this Act, serve a notice (hereafter in this section referred to as a ‘school attendance notice’) on such parent—(a) requiring him or her on the expiration of such period as is specified in the notice, to cause his or her child named in the notice to attend such recognised school as is specified in the notice, and there to attend on each school day that the notice is in force, and (b) informing him or her that if he or she fails to comply with a requirement under paragraph (a) he or she shall be guilty of an offence.

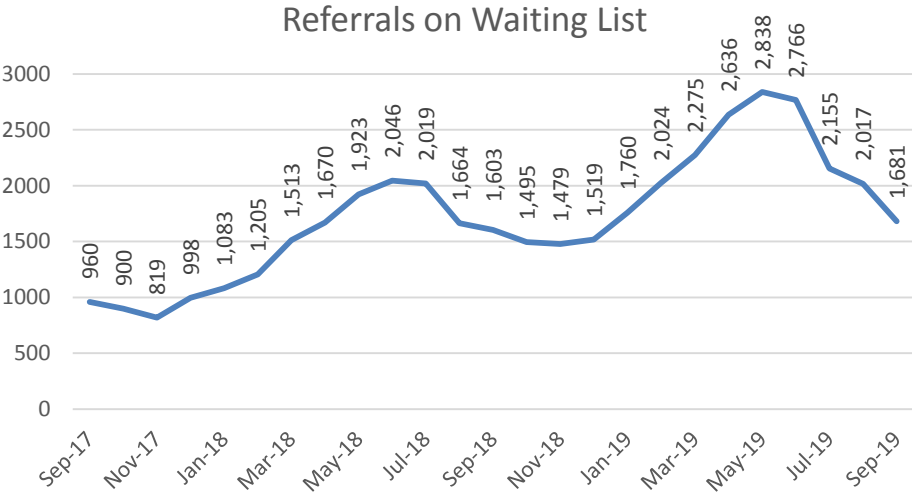
<sup>15</sup> Section 24 Education Welfare Act 2000: Where the board of management of a recognised school or a person acting on its behalf is of the opinion that a student should be expelled from that school it shall, before so expelling the student, notify the educational welfare officer to whom functions 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.

**Academic Year September 2019 -**

- 249 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers in September 2019, three fewer than Sept 2018 (252)
- 320 referrals allocated to educational welfare officers (EWOs) in September 2019, 113 (26%) fewer than Sept 2018 (433)
- 159 referrals screened out / required no further action in September 2019, nine more than September 2018 (150)
- 1,681 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of September 2019, fourth consecutive monthly decrease and fewest number since December 2018. The number of referrals on the waiting list has fallen 41% (1,157) since May 2019 (2,838).

	Sept 2018	Sept 2019	Δ
<b># Referrals screened</b>	252	249	-3
<b># Referrals allocated</b>	433	320	-113
<b># Referrals screened out</b>	150	159	+9
<b># Referrals on waiting list</b>	1,603	1,681	+78



- 492 new cases assigned to EWOs in September 2019, 75 (13%) fewer than September 2018 (567)
- 347 cases closed in September 2019, 227 (40%) fewer than September 2018 (574)
- 166 new individual children worked with in September 2019, 147 (47%) fewer than September 2018 (313)
- 3,152 children worked with this school year to date (end of Sept); 3,468 worked with at the same time last academic year.

	Sept 2018	Sept 2019	Δ
<b># New individual children worked with</b>	313	166	-147
<b># Individual children worked with</b>	3,468	3,152	-316
<b># cases assigned</b>	567	492	-75
<b># cases closed</b>	574	347	-227

- 47 SANs issued in September 2019, no change from September 2018. SANs issued in September 2019, issued in respect of 35 individual children.
- 7 summonses issued in September 2019, 14 (67%) fewer than September 2018 (21). The summonses issued in September 2019 were issued in respect of six individual children.
- 10 child protection conferences (CPC) attended by EWOs in September 2019, 10 (50%) than September 2018 (20).
- EWOs attended 36 court cases in relation to their own cases in September 2019, 31 (46%) fewer than September 2018 (67).
- 17 Section 24<sup>16</sup> meetings convened by EWOs in September 2019, three fewer than September 2019 (20).
- 7 official child protection and welfare referrals made by EWOs in September 2019, 10 fewer than September 2018 (17)

	Sept 2018	Sept 2019	Δ
<b>School Attendance Notices Issues</b>	47	47	-
<b>SANs - individual children involved</b>	32	35	+3
<b>Summonses Issued</b>	21	7	-14
<b>Summonses – individual children involved</b>	15	6	-9
<b>Court cases attended in relation to own cases</b>	67	36	-31
<b>Child protection conferences attended</b>	20	10	-10
<b>Section 24 meetings convened</b>	20	17	-3
<b>Child protection referrals made</b>	17	7	-10

<sup>16</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.

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

## 6.0 FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

### KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

#### 5.1 Family Support Services

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

### 6.1 FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES<sup>17</sup>

#### KEY FACTS

- At least 17,879 children in receipt of family support services at the end of Q2 2019 (based on 86% response rate)
- At least 18,168 children referred to family support services in the first six months of 2019
- 67% (12,093) of children referred to family support services in the first six months of 2019 received a service, down five percentage points from the last six months of 2018 (72%;12,286). The percentage who received a service ranged from 42% two areas (Dublin South Central and DSW/K/WW) to 92% in the CW/KK/ST.

#### 6.1.1 Family Support Providers

- 332 family support providers commissioned for Q1 – Q2 2019.
- 86% (286) of services provided data for Q1 – Q2 2019, ranging from 62% to 100% in six areas.

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

#### Family Support Services Commissioned by Area

Area	# Family Support Providers Commissioned Q1 – Q2 2019	# External to Tusla	# Internal to Tusla	# of services that provided data for Q1 – Q2 2019	% that provided data for Q1 – Q2 2019
DSC	26	24	2	26	100%
DSE/WW	13	11	2	13	100%
DSW/K/WW	13	10	3	10	77%
Midlands	10	6	4	9	90%
DNC	37	31	6	34	92%
Dublin North	23	21	2	20	87%
LH/MH	16	12	4	14	88%
CN/MN	19	13	6	14	74%
Cork	8	7	1	8	100%
Kerry	5	4	1	5	100%
CW/KK/ST	29	28	1	23	79%
WD/WX	30	26	4	24	80%
MidWest	35	35	0	32	91%
GY/RN	26	18	8	16	62%
Mayo	13	10	3	9	69%
Donegal	11	11	0	11	100%

<sup>17</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.



SLWC	18	18	0	18	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>86%</b>

### 6.1.2 Children in Receipt of Family Support Services

- At least 17,879 children in receipt of family support services at the end of Q2 2019. Highest number reported by Donegal (2,237) followed by Dublin North (2,080) and Dublin North City (1,506). Fewest number reported by Kerry (269) followed by Cork (297) and Mayo (349).

#### Children in receipt of Family Support Services

Area	Total number of children in receipt of a FSS at the end of Q2 2018	Total number of children in receipt of a FSS at the end of Q4 2018	Total number of children in receipt of a FSS at the end of Q2 2019
DSC	920	1,252	1,024
DSE/WW	586	835	862
DSW/K/WW	1,541	1,384	1,226
Midlands	776	865	554
DNC	1,986*	1,887	1,506
Dublin North	1,761	2,067	2,080
LH/MH	891*	849	777
CN/MN	465	469	525
Cork	264	288	297
Kerry	235	274	269
CW/KK/ST	1,057	1,034	1,108
WD/WX	806	1,039	1,168
MidWest	1,345	1,426	1,479
GY/RN	1,131	1,328	1,005
Mayo	419	411	349
Donegal	2,185	2,100	2,237
SLWC	1,401	1,508	1,413
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,769*</b>	<b>19,016</b>	<b>17,879</b>

\*Figures revised from previously published

### 6.1.3 Children Referred to Family Support Services

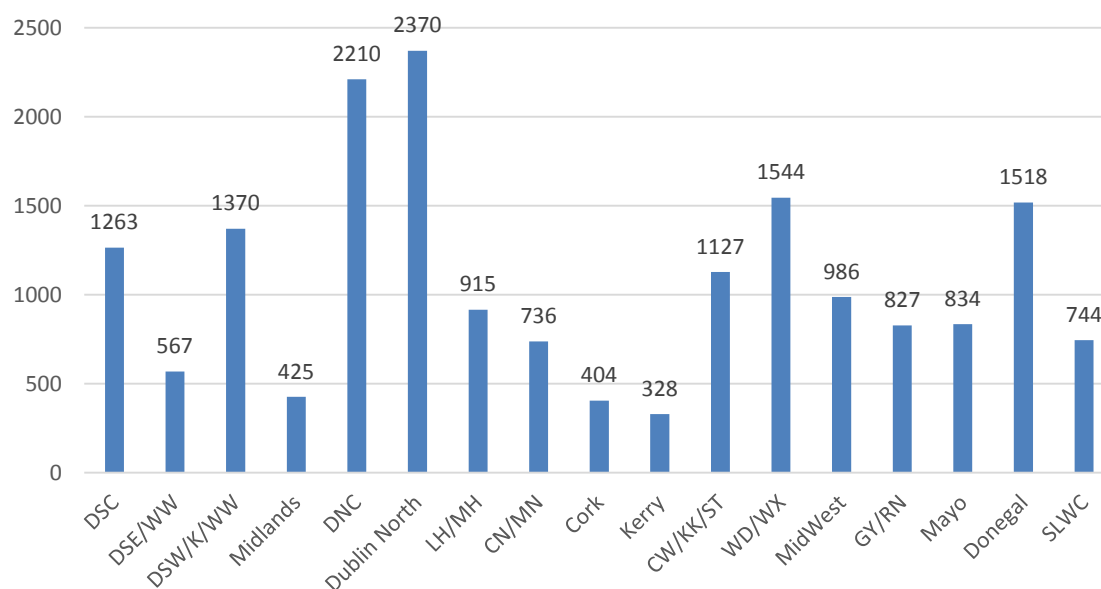
- At least 18,168 children referred to family support services in Q1-Q2 2019. The highest number of children referred was reported by Dublin North (2,370; 13%) followed by Dublin North City (2,210; 12%) and WD/WX (1,544; 8%). Fewest number reported by Kerry (328) followed by Cork (404) and Midlands (425).

### Children referred to Family Support Services by area

Area	Total number of children referred to FSS, Q1-Q2 2018	Total number of children referred to FSS, 2018	Total number of children referred to FSS, Q1-Q2 2019
DSC	1,085	2,428	1,263
DSE/WW	493	1,027	567
DSW/K/WW	1,358	2,488	1,370
Midlands	399	748	425
DNC	2,470*	4,301	2,210
Dublin North	1,364	3,508	2,370
LH/MH	879*	1,867	915
CN/MN	973	1,884	736
Cork	298	594	404
Kerry	307	625	328
CW/KK/ST	869	1,979	1,127
WD/WX	1,305	2,667	1,544
MidWest	1,083	2,141	986
GY/RN	907	1,998	827
Mayo	609	1,189	834
Donegal	1,146	2,522	1,518
SLWC	548	1,304	744
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,093*</b>	<b>33,270</b>	<b>18,168</b>

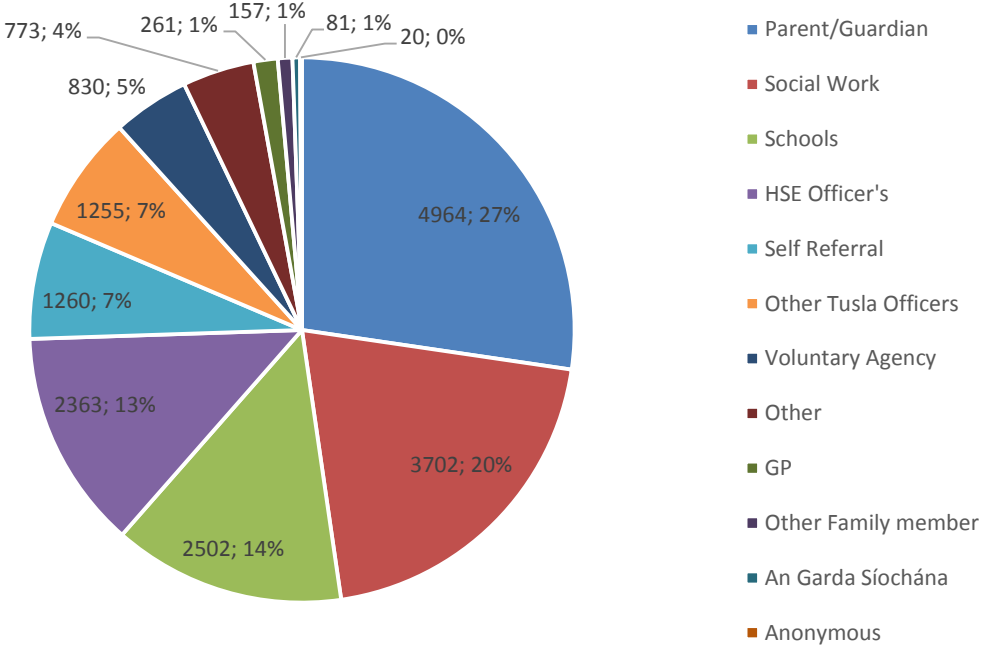
\*Figures revised from previously published

### Children referred to Family Support Services by area, Q1 – Q2 2019



- The most common source of referral in the first six months of 2019 was Parent/Guardian, accounting for more than one in four referrals (4,964; 27%) followed closely by Tusla Social Workers (3,702; 20%) and Schools (2,502; 14%).

**Children referred to Family Support Services by source of referral, Q1 2019 – Q2 2019**



Breakdown of source of referrals by area, Q1 – Q2 2019

	Social Work	Other Tusla Officers	HSE Officers	An Garda Síochána	Self - Referral	Parent/Guardian	Other Family member	GP	Voluntary Agency	Anonymous	Schools	Other	Total
DSC	249	55	173	2	12	383	15	16	65	2	122	169	1263
DSE/WW	175	23	75	0	4	158	0	11	32	0	57	32	567
DSW/K/WW	248	116	181	0	182	385	1	12	68	0	96	81	1370
Midlands	177	24	108	3	61	6	3	2	15	0	16	10	425
DNC	395	281	439	3	52	738	4	19	87	0	149	43	2210
Dublin North	399	85	286	1	50	924	76	34	143	18	270	84	2370
LH/MH	302	67	171	3	30	190	0	13	8	0	94	37	915
CN/MN	258	111	66	22	51	59	2	17	35	0	38	77	736
Cork	213	16	34	21	66	6	0	4	11	0	11	22	404
Kerry	45	20	29	6	5	134	2	29	17	0	21	20	328
CW/KK/ST	148	79	66	1	135	490	9	35	31	0	92	41	1127
WD/WX	217	111	22	4	143	482	13	8	52	0	449	43	1544
MidWest	277	37	118	7	55	219	9	15	90	0	147	12	986
GY/RN	158	87	157	3	41	179	0	15	27	0	124	36	827
Mayo	75	83	64	1	124	319	3	3	45	0	86	31	834
Donegal	150	41	245	2	189	180	16	23	61	0	585	26	1518
SLWC	216	19	129	2	60	112	4	5	43	0	145	9	744
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,702</b>	<b>1,255</b>	<b>2,363</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>4,964</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2,502</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>18,168</b>

- 67% (12,093) of children referred to family support services in the first six months of received a service, down five percentage points from the last six months of 2018 (72%;12,286). The percentage who received a service ranged from 42% two areas (Dublin South Central and DSW/K/WW) to 92% in the CW/KK/ST. In six of the 17 areas at least seven out of ten children referred received a service.
- Of the children referred to family support services who received a service 4% (541) were subject of a Child in Care Plan; 6% (732) were subject of a Tusla Social Work Child Protection Plan; 8% (990) were subject of a Tusla Social Work Family Support Plan; 6% (727) were subject of a Meitheal Support Plan while 39% (4,758) were subject of a Single Agency Family Support Plan.

**Number of children referred to Family Support Services (Q1 – Q2 2019) who received a service**

				Of the total number of children referred to FSS (Q1-Q2 2019) and received a service the number who were subject of a:				
Area	Number referred	Of number referred, number who received a service	% who rec'd a service	Child in Care Plan	Tusla Social Work Child Protection Plan	Tusla Social Work led Family Support Plan	Meitheal Support Plan	Single Agency Family Support Plan
DSC	1263	536	42%	51	49	58	30	245
DSE/WW	567	386	68%	17	26	62	31	106
DSW/K/WW	1370	581	42%	65	49	109	35	145
Midlands	425	212	50%	10	10	31	16	85
DNC	2210	1,399	63%	25	40	38	43	316
Dublin North	2370	1,673	71%	15	30	52	32	1,508
LH/MH	915	607	66%	56	81	84	26	244
CN/MN	736	373	51%	42	9	74	167	131
Cork	404	195	48%	64	90	62	2	48
Kerry	328	183	56%	11	8	12	10	36
CW/KK/ST	1127	1,033	92%	33	76	29	70	188
WD/WX	1544	1,081	70%	41	35	24	67	109
MidWest	986	662	67%	38	74	67	37	322
GY/RN	827	691	84%	8	21	34	23	283
Mayo	834	564	68%	8	16	7	34	89
Donegal	1518	1,309	86%	21	57	85	87	809
SLWC	744	608	82%	36	61	162	17	94
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,168</b>	<b>12,093</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>4,758</b>

## 6.2 MEITHEAL

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

### KEY FACTS

- 1,275 Meitheal processes requested in the first six months of 2019; 343 (37%) more than the previous six months (932).
- 71% (903) of requests requested through Direct Access, 18% (235) requested through Social Work Diversion and 11% (137) Social Work Step Down
- 75% (953) of Meitheal processes requested proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage)
- 707 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 in the first six months of 2019; 59% (415) of these proceeded to Stage 3 (Delivery)
- 844 Meitheal processes were closed in the first six months of 2019; 39% (329) were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form; 27% (230) closed following completion of Stage 2 (Discussion); 10% (84) closed following commencement of Stage 3 (Delivery) and 24% (201) closed post- delivery.
- 114 Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) operating at the end of June 2019, with a further 20 planned.

### 6.2.1 Meitheal Activity Data

- 1,275 Meitheal processes requested in Q1-Q2 2019; 343 (37%) more than the previous six months.
- Highest number of requests was reported by Dublin North (377) followed by Cork (173) and Galway/Roscommon (83). These three areas account for half (50%; 633) of all requests.
- The fewest number was reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (14) followed by Dublin South Central (25).
- Nine areas reported fewer than 50 requests, six areas reported 50-100 requests with the remaining two areas reporting more than 100 requests.

### Meitheal processes requested

Area	Total Meitheal processes Requested Q1 – Q2 2018	Total Meitheal processes Requested Q3 – Q4 2018	Total Meitheal processes Requested 2018	Total Meitheal processes Requested Q1-Q2 2019
DSC	12	6	18	25
DSE/WW	31	24	55	32
DSW/K/WW	58	21	79	58
Midlands	22	17	39	40
DNC	62	36	98	47
Dublin North	64	416	480	377
LH/MH	37	19	56	43
CN/MN	16	14	30	78
Cork	31	7	38	173
Kerry	20	27	47	37
CW/KK/ST	103	67	170	60
WD/WX	64	49	113	77
MidWest	49	39	88	48
GY/RN	170	142	312	83
Mayo	22	17	39	24
Donegal	31	21	52	59
SLWC	10	10	20	14
<b>National</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>1,734</b>	<b>1,275</b>

- For requests received in the first six months of 2019, the most common pathway was Direct Access accounting for 71% (903/1,275). Percentage for 2018 was 74% (1,291) of requests.
- Social Work Diversion accounted for a further 18% (n235) of requests. Sixty-eight percent (159) of these requests were reported by four areas (Dublin North, Cork, CW/KK/ST and WD/WX). Eleven areas reported 10 or fewer of these requests with two areas (Midwest and Galway/Roscommon) reporting none.
- Social Work Step-Down accounted for 11% (137) with 61% (83) of these requests reported by two areas (Dublin North and Cork). Thirteen areas reported 10 or fewer of these request with four areas reporting none (DSE/WW, Kerry, WD/WX and SLWC).

### Access Pathway for Meitheal Requests

Area	Total Meitheal processes Requested Q1-Q2 2019	Of the total number of Meitheal requests for 2018 the number (%) where the access pathway was:					
		Direct Access	% Direct Access	Social Work Diversion	% SW Diversion	Social Work Step-Down	% Step-Down
DSC	25	17	68%	5	20%	3	12%
DSE/WW	32	23	72%	9	28%	0	0%
DSW/K/WW	58	48	83%	6	10%	4	7%
Midlands	40	33	83%	5	13%	2	5%
DNC	47	32	68%	12	26%	3	6%
Dublin North	377	232	62%	87	23%	58	15%
LH/MH	43	20	47%	14	33%	9	21%
CN/MN	78	57	73%	8	10%	13	17%
Cork	173	122	71%	26	15%	25	14%
Kerry	37	29	78%	8	22%	0	0%
CW/KK/ST	60	38	63%	19	32%	3	5%
WD/WX	77	50	65%	27	35%	0	0%
MidWest	48	37	77%	0	0%	11	23%
GY/RN	83	82	99%	0	0%	1	1%
Mayo	24	20	83%	1	4%	3	13%
Donegal	59	56	95%	1	2%	2	3%
SLWC	14	7	50%	7	50%	0	0%
<b>National</b>	<b>1,275</b>	<b>903</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>11%</b>

- 75% (953) of Meitheal requests received in the first six months of 2019 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage).
- The percentage of requests proceeding to Stage 2 ranged from 51% (194/377) in Dublin North and CN/MN (40/78) to 100% in Kerry (37/37). Thirteen areas reported 75% or higher.

### Number of Meitheal requests received proceeding to Stage Two (Discussion Stage)

Area	Total Meitheal processes requested Q3 – Q4 2018	Of the total number of requests received the number that Proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage Two)	% that Proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage Two)	Total Meitheal processes requested Q1 – Q2 2019	Of the total number of requests received the number that Proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage Two)	% that Proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage Two)
DSC	6	5	83%	25	18	72%
DSE/WW	24	22	92%	32	31	97%
DSW/K/WW	21	19	90%	58	56	97%
Midlands	17	15	88%	40	29	73%
DNC	36	31	86%	47	45	96%
Dublin North	416	48	12%	377	194	51%
LH/MH	19	19	100%	43	43	100%
CN/MN	14	13	93%	78	40	51%



Cork	7	7	100%	173	145	84%
Kerry	27	25	93%	37	37	100%
CW/KK/ST	67	55	82%	60	45	75%
WD/WX	49	36	73%	77	60	78%
MidWest	39	36	92%	48	39	81%
GY/RN	142	131	92%	83	81	98%
Mayo	17	17	100%	24	19	79%
Donegal	21	19	90%	59	58	98%
SLWC	10	1	10%	14	13	93%
<b>National</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>1,275</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>75%</b>

- 707 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage Two in the first six months of 2019. Highest number reported by Dublin North (168) followed by Galway/Roscommon (63) and Cork (53). The fewest number was reported by SLWC (11) followed by Dublin South Central and Louth/Meath, both reporting 19.
- 59% (415) of processes reaching completion of Stage Two, proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting). The percentage of processes that proceeded to delivery ranged from 14% (24/168) in Dublin North to 100% in three areas (DSE/WW, DSW/K/WW and Kerry). Thirteen areas reported a percentage above the national average of 59%.
- 29% (202) were referred for a Single Agency Response – majority of these were reported by Dublin North (66%; 134).
- Eight (1%) processes were referred to social work (stepped – up).
- 8% (55) processes were closed – highest percentage reported by Dublin North City (38%) and Galway/Roscommon (17%).

#### Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two

Area	Number of Meitheal Processes Reaching Completion of Stage Two, Q1-Q2 2019	Of the total number of Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two (Discussion Stage) the number and percentage that									
		Proceeded to Delivery (Meitheal Support Meeting)	%	Referred to Social Work (Stepped Up)	%	Referred to a Single Agency Response	%	Closed	%	Categorised as Other	%
DSC	19	15	79%	0	0%	1	5%	2	11%	1	5%
DSE/WW	26	26	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
DSW/K/WW	39	39	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Midlands	24	17	71%	1	4%	4	17%	2	8%	0	0%
DNC	34	16	47%	1	3%	2	6%	13	38%	2	6%
Dublin North	168	24	14%	4	2%	134	80%	4	2%	2	1%
LH/MH	19	14	74%	0	0%	0	0%	5	26%	0	0%
CN/MN	27	18	67%	0	0%	1	4%	1	4%	7	26%
Cork	53	38	72%	0	0%	2	4%	3	6%	10	19%
Kerry	36	36	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
CW/KK/ST	47	16	34%	0	0%	25	53%	6	13%	0	0%
WD/WX	40	7	18%	0	0%	30	75%	3	8%	0	0%
MidWest	30	25	83%	1	3%	1	3%	3	10%	0	0%

<b>GY/RN</b>	<b>63</b>	49	78%	0	0%	0	0%	11	17%	3	5%
<b>Mayo</b>	<b>22</b>	20	91%	0	0%	1	5%	0	0%	1	5%
<b>Donegal</b>	<b>49</b>	45	92%	1	2%	1	2%	1	2%	1	2%
<b>SLWC</b>	<b>11</b>	10	91%	0	0%	0	0%	1	9%	0	0%
<b>National</b>	<b>707</b>	<b>415</b>	59%	<b>8</b>	1%	<b>202</b>	29%	<b>55</b>	8%	<b>27</b>	4%

- 844 Meitheals closed in the first six months of 2019. The highest number of closures was reported by Dublin North (316; 37%). The majority (10) of areas reported 30 or fewer closures.
- 39% (329) of Meitheals were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1) and of these 52% (171/329) were reported by Dublin North. More than half of Meitheals closed (54%; 171/316) in Dublin North were closed following submission of the Meitheal request form. Five areas reported a percentage above the national average of 39% (DSC, DNC, Dublin North, LH/MH, Cork)
- 27% (230) were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2). Sixty-one percent (141) of those closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form were reported by Dublin North. Twelve areas reported fewer than 10 with four of these areas reporting none.
- 10% (84) were closed following commencement of Meitheal Support Meetings (Stage 3). Highest number of these (15) reported by GY/RN followed by CW/KK/ST.
- 24% (201) were closed post-delivery. Highest number of reported by Galway/Roscommon (46) followed by CW/KK/ST (35). Majority of areas (11) reported 10 or fewer.

#### Number of Meitheals closed Q1 – Q2 2019

Area	Total number of Meitheals closed	Of the total number of Meitheals closed the number and % that were closed following:							
		Submission of a Meitheal Request Form	%	Completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Discussion Stage)	%	Commencement of Meitheal Support meetings (Delivery Stage)	%	Post delivery	%
DSC	5	4	80%	0	0%	1	20%	0	0%
DSE/WW	13	5	38%	0	0%	1	8%	7	54%
DSW/K/WW	31	3	10%	4	13%	11	35%	13	42%
Midlands	24	7	29%	6	25%	1	4%	10	42%
DNC	43	20	47%	7	16%	6	14%	10	23%
Dublin North	316	171	54%	141	45%	1	0%	3	1%
LH/MH	17	7	41%	4	24%	4	24%	2	12%
CN/MN	17	3	18%	0	0%	2	12%	12	71%
Cork	29	17	59%	5	17%	5	17%	2	7%
Kerry	11	0	0%	0	0%	3	27%	8	73%
CW/KK/ST	83	24	29%	10	12%	14	17%	35	42%
WD/WX	57	21	37%	26	46%	2	4%	8	14%
MidWest	43	14	33%	3	7%	8	19%	18	42%

<b>GY/RN</b>	<b>98</b>	24	24%	13	13%	15	15%	46	47%
<b>Mayo</b>	<b>27</b>	4	15%	3	11%	0	0%	20	74%
<b>Donegal</b>	<b>19</b>	5	26%	2	11%	5	26%	7	37%
<b>SLWC</b>	<b>11</b>	0	0%	6	55%	5	45%	0	0%
<b>National</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>24%</b>

## 6.2.2 Child and Family Support Networks

- 114 Child and Family Support Networks<sup>18</sup> (CFSN) operating at the end of Q2 2019; eight more than at the end of Q4 2018. A further 20 CFSNs are planned.
- Galway/Roscommon reported the highest number of networks operating (12). MidWest (2) and SLWC (3) reported the fewest.

### Child and Family Support Networks operating and planned

Area	CFSNs Operating Dec 2018	CFSNs Operating June 2018	CFSNs Planned
DSC	5	5	2
DSE/Wicklow	7	7	2
DSW/K/WW	6	9	0
Midlands	7	7	0
Dublin North City	6	6	0
Dublin North	4	4	0
Louth/Meath	5	5	0
Cavan/Monaghan	8	8	2
Cork	10	14	2
Kerry	8	8	0
CW/KK/ST	7	7	2
WD/WX	8	8	4
MidWest	2	2	6
GY/RN	12	12	0
Mayo	4	4	0
Donegal	4	5	0
SLWC	3	3	0
<b>National</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>20</b>

<sup>18</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

# 7.0 HUMAN RESOURCES

## KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

- 7.1 Workforce Position
- 7.2 Absence Rate
- 7.3 Social Work Staff
- 7.4 Residential Services
- 7.5 Workforce Learning and Development

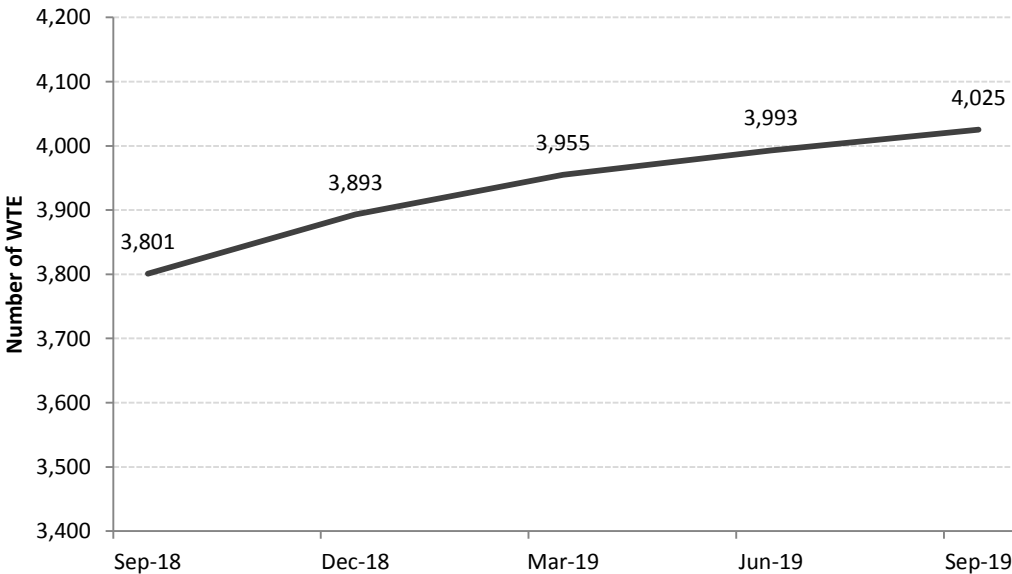
### KEY FACTS

- 4,025 (WTE) employed by the Agency at the end of Q2 2019; 32 more than Q2 2019 and 224 (6%) more than Q3 2018. Highest number for the period Sept 2018 – Sept 2019.
- 389 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla’s payroll) in the first nine months of 2019
- 238 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, retirements) in the first nine months of 2019
- 160 staff on maternity leave at the end of August 2019
- 5.33% absence rate (August 2019)
- 108 class-room based courses run by Workforce Learning & Development during Q3 2019 at which 1,642 persons attended. There were 3,639 completions of online training targeted at Tusla staff.

### 7.1 Workforce Position

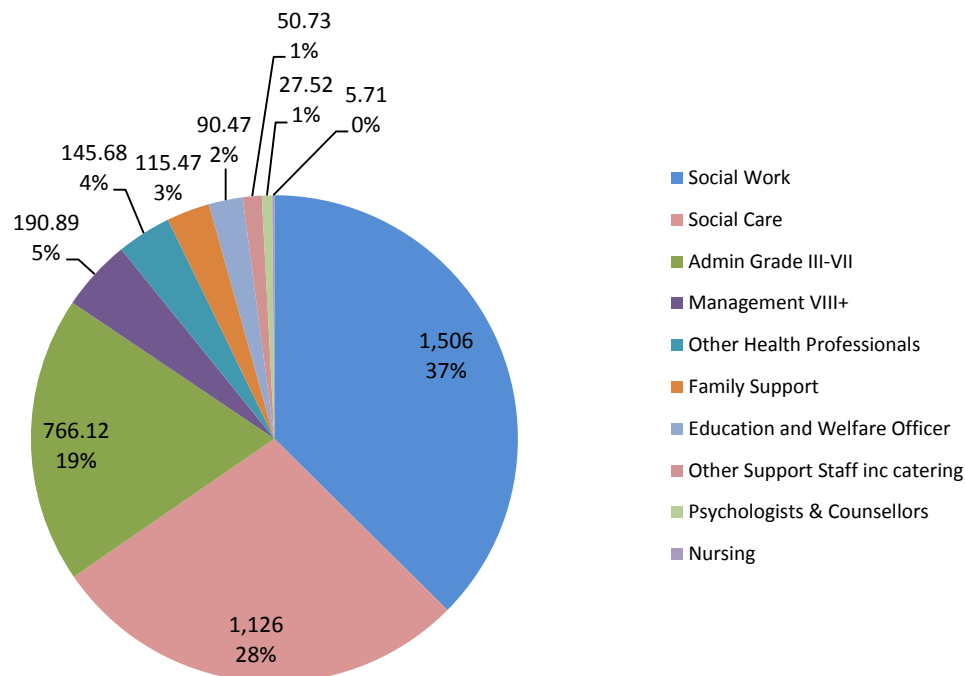
- 4,025 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q3 2019; 32 more than Q2 2019 and 224 (6%) more than Q3 2018. Highest number for the period Sept 2018 – Sept 2019.

Total Staff Employed (WTE), by quarter



- Social workers are the largest category of staff employed by the Agency, accounting for 37% (1,506) of total staff (WTE) employed at the end of Q3 2019, followed by social care staff accounting for a further 28% (1,126). Management (Grade VIII+) account for less than 5% (190.89) of the workforce.

**Breakdown of staff category (WTE), Q3 2019**



- Increase/decrease in WTEs by staff category from Q2 2019 to Q3 2019 is presented in the table below. Admin Grade III - VII experienced the highest increase in staff (up 38.83). Social care experienced the largest decrease (down 14.58).

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

Staffing by Category	Q3 2018	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Δ Q3 2019 v Q2 2019
Social Work	1,448.5	1520.86	1,506.28	-14.58
Social Care	1,112.6	1120.19	1,126.37	6.18
Admin Grade III-VII	650.75	727.29	766.12	38.83
Family Support	139.79	119.11	115.47	-3.64
Management VIII+	173.76	183.86	190.89	7.03
Educational and Welfare Officer	93.88	90.11	90.47	0.36
Other Support Staff inc catering	54.14	51.87	50.73	-1.14
Nursing	45.97	4.71	5.71	1.00
Psychologists & Counsellors	17.48	28.17	27.52	-0.65
Other Health Professionals	63.72	147.12	145.68	-1.44
<b>Total Staffing</b>	<b>3,801</b>	<b>3,993</b>	<b>4,025</b>	<b>32.24</b>

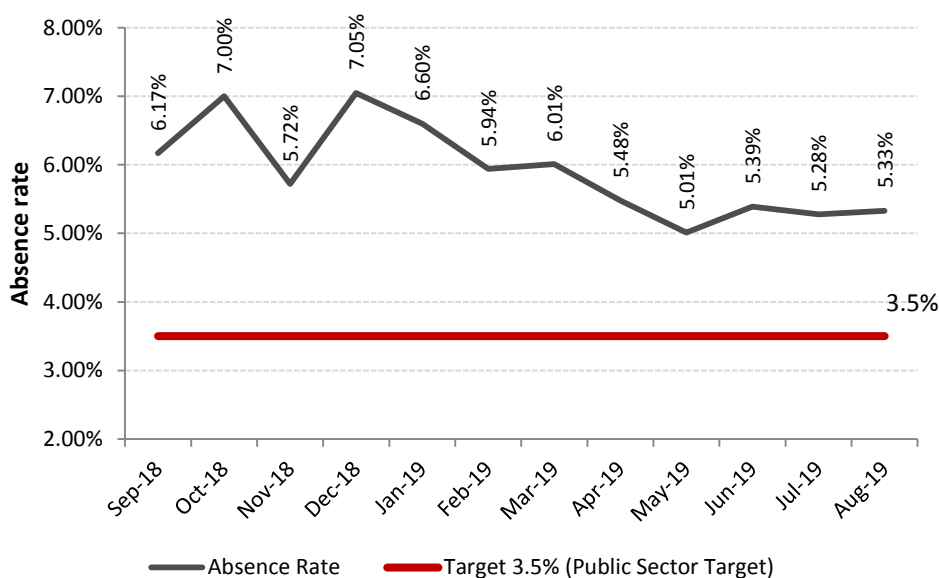
- 389 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first nine months of 2019
- 186 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in the first nine months of 2019

- 52 staff retired in in the first nine months of 2019
- 160 staff were on maternity leave at the end of August 2019.

## 7.2 Absence Rate

- At the end of August 2019<sup>19</sup> the overall absence rate for the Agency was 5.33% against a target of 3.5% (target for public sector), 0.06 percentage points lower than Q2 2019 (5.39%), and 0.84 percentage points lower than Q3 2018 (6.17%).

Overall staff absence rate by month



- The highest absence rate was reported for social care staff (8.38%). The rate for Residential Services was 9.01% (data not shown), 3.68 percentage points higher than the overall rate of 5.33%. The overall absence rate excluding Residential Services is 4.36%.

Absence rate by staff grade

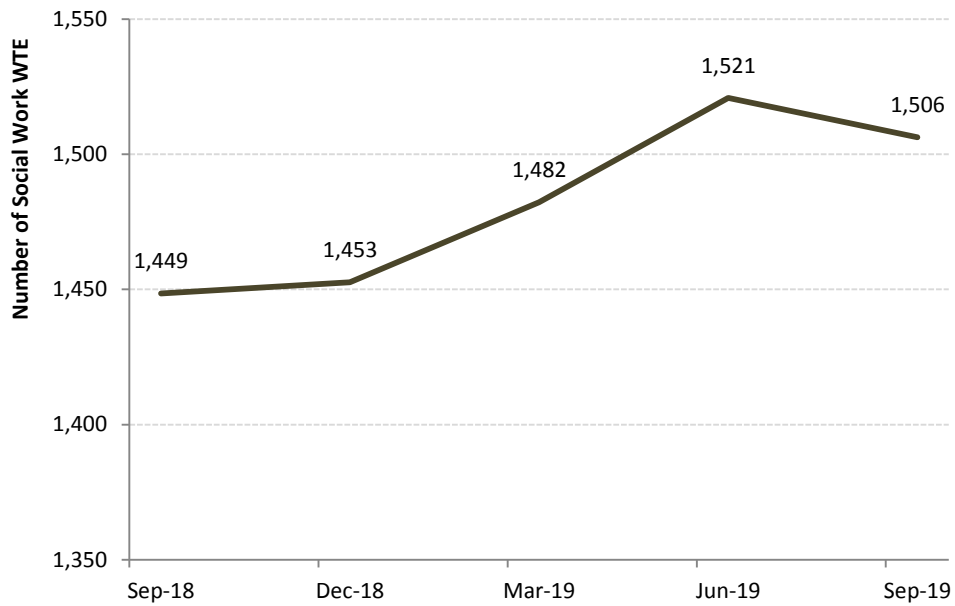
Staff Grade	Absence Rate Aug 2019
Social Work	3.63
Social Care	8.38
All other grades	4.46

## 7.3 Social Work Staff (WTE)

- 1,506.28 whole time equivalent (WTE) social work staff (all grades and excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q3 2019; 14.58 fewer than Q2 2019, and 57.78 more than more than Q3 2018 (1,448.5).

<sup>19</sup> Absence rates are reported monthly in arrears

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



- 161 social workers joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first nine months of 2019
- 83 social workers left (i.e., resigned, career breaks excluding retirements) in the nine months of 2019
- 12 social workers retired in in the first nine months of 2019
- 86 (6%) social workers were on maternity leave at the end of August 2019
- A breakdown of the number of social workers (all grades) employed at the end of each quarter Q3 2018 – Q3 2019 by area is presented in the table below.

**Breakdown of social work staff (WTE) by area Q3 2018 – Q3 2019**

	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)
Area	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019
DSC	66.46	66.23	71.61	66.05	70.43
DSE/WW	92.05	90.1	87.54	91.66	91.81
DSW/K/WW	84.91	82.54	81.78	82.66	82.82
Midlands	74.07	68.68	75.86	84.8	79.18
Regional Services DML	23.07	22.88	22.37	22.4	20.79
<b>DML Total</b>	<b>340.56</b>	<b>330.43</b>	<b>339.16</b>	<b>347.57</b>	<b>345.03</b>
CN/MN	34.75	35.71	38.71	38.33	41.34
DNC	89.34	92.66	84.96	91.49	87.42
LH/MH	77.4	81.29	80.2	82.65	86.9
Dublin North	72.66	74.25	69.67	68.87	66.87
Regional Services DNE	28.08	28.52	32.68	36.21	39.86
<b>DNE Total</b>	<b>302.33</b>	<b>312.43</b>	<b>306.22</b>	<b>317.55</b>	<b>322.39</b>
CW/KK/ST	66.27	64.06	68.33	65.16	62.69
Cork	155.17	155.98	163.93	168.31	165
Kerry	35.96	38.98	43.81	46.21	42.84
WD/WX	82.31	83.72	85.24	88.96	85.49
Regional Services South	5	5	4	4	4
<b>South Total</b>	<b>344.71</b>	<b>346.74</b>	<b>365.31</b>	<b>372.64</b>	<b>360.02</b>
Donegal	63.61	68.57	66.17	69.64	67.45
GY/RN	95.73	92.84	96.45	94.45	91.76
Mayo	35.78	36.85	35.36	38.56	42.24
Mid West	111.82	107.01	106.54	109.15	104.12
SLWC	35	37.06	40.02	41.88	42.04
Regional Services West	0.9	0.8	0.85	1	2
<b>West Total</b>	<b>342.84</b>	<b>343.13</b>	<b>345.39</b>	<b>354.68</b>	<b>349.61</b>
Residential DML	1	1	1	4.85	4.71
Residential DNE	1.89	1.89	3.78	3.81	3.56
Residential West					
Residential South	3.6	3.8	4.72	8.93	7.77
<b>Residential Services</b>	<b>6.49</b>	<b>6.69</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>17.59</b>	<b>16.04</b>
Corporate	104.24	106.4	108.86	102.95	105.32
Early Years Inspectorate	7.43	6.9	7.88	7.88	7.87
<b>Corporate</b>	<b>111.67</b>	<b>113.3</b>	<b>116.74</b>	<b>110.83</b>	<b>113.19</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,448.5</b>	<b>1,452.72</b>	<b>1,482.32</b>	<b>1,520.86</b>	<b>1,506.28</b>



#### **7.4 Workforce Learning and Development**

- During the months July to September 2019, Workforce Learning and Development (WLD) ran a total of 108 classroom-based courses for which 1,642 persons attended. A summary of the course and attendee breakdown is presented in Table 1.
- During Q3, 2019 the most frequently run course was National Child Care Information System (NCCIS) Fundamentals training with 15 sessions.
- The training with the highest number of attendees in Q3 was Signs of Safety Practice Leader Call Back Days with 137 staff attending 8 workshops.
- There were 15 courses that were categorised as 'Other' courses. These courses which constitute 13.9% of all the classroom-based courses, refer to a range of locally delivered courses that are developed in response to particular needs and requests in areas such as working with young people who have experienced trauma, domestic violence etc.
- Online training targeted at Tusla staff was completed by 3,639 people in Q3. Of completed programmes in this period, Complaints Handling in Tusla had most completions with 2,323. This was followed by Health and Safety Awareness for Tusla Staff with 529.

#### **Other Developments in Q3 2019**

- A new online training course to support the Caseload Management process was launched in September. This programme was designed and developed by WLD with other Tusla colleagues.
- An online training course on Tusla Complaints Handling was also launched in September with support from WLD.
- A draft plan was produced to guide joint training for staff of Tusla and an Garda Síochána
- A training programme to support Early Years Inspector Report writing for court procedures was developed in conjunction with Legal Services, Early Years
- Continued roll out of training on the PersonBrain model has been well received across all disciplines
- WLD continued support the work of MACES project

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

<b>WLD National Training Data - July to September 2019</b>		
<b>Classroom Based Training Module</b>	<b>Total Courses</b>	<b>Total Attendees</b>
Attachment Theory - Linking to Practice	4	40
Attachment Theory - Linking to Practice - Observation Workshop	2	13
Caseload Management - Core Training	3	28
Child and Youth Participation Training	5	78
Child and Youth Participation Training Day 2 of 2 (PPFS)	1	9
Core Court Skills	1	10
Corporate Induction National Workshop	2	56
Domestic Sexual and Gender-Based Violence - Awareness & Response	2	23
Engaging with People who Display Evasive & Difficult Behaviour in CP	1	26
Introduction to Court Skills	2	36
Legal Briefing Seminar	1	34
Legal Training Programme 2019	3	75
Meitheal Briefing	7	73
Meitheal Standardised Training Course	6	94
Meitheal Standardised Refresher Course	1	11
Minute Taking Course (DCM)	3	43
National Child Care Information System (NCCIS) Fundamentals Training	15	121
National Childcare Information System (NCCIS) Intro for Foster Carers	1	12
National Childcare Information System (NCCIS) Team Managers Training	1	4
Practice Development for Newly Appointed Social Workers	3	53
Preparing for Success: Tusla First Time Managers' Training	1	16
Recording Casenotes and Time Management	2	28
Reflective Recording and Report Writing	1	6
Resilience and Self Care Training	2	33
Signs of Safety - 2 Day Training Programme	1	68
Signs of Safety - Practice Leader Call Back Days	8	137
Staff Supervision Skills Training	1	12
The PersonBrain Model	5	61
Therapeutic Crisis Intervention - Refresher Training	8	114
Other Courses	15	328
<b>Totals</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>1642</b>
<b>Online Training Module</b>	<b>Total Completions</b>	
Caseload Management	52	
CF in Action	171	
Complaints Handling in Tusla	2323	
Health and Safety Awareness for Tusla Staff	529	
Implementing Children First	248	
Introduction to Children First (2017)	262	
Introduction to PPFS	54	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3639</b>	

## 8.0 FINANCE

### KEY FACTS

- The financial outturn for the year to date (Sept 2019) is an over-spend of €18.254 million
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €4.329 million
- Non pay costs are over-spent against budget by €24.527 million
- Key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €23.247 million over budget
- 49% (€10.889 million) of legal expenditure (€22.342 million) was on guardians ad litem (GALs), including GAL's solicitors and counsel.

### Financial Performance

- The outturn for the year to date (September 2019) is an over-spend of €18.254 million.
- The net expenditure for the period year to date is €580.257 million against a budget allocation of €562.003 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €4.329 million.

#### Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	Sept 2019 YTD			% Variance
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Act vs Budget
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Pay costs	220,770	225,100	(4,329)	(2%)

- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget by €24.527 million.

#### Non Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	Sept 2019 YTD			% Variance
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Act vs Budget
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Non pay costs	381,209	356,682	24,527	7%

- A key area of over-spend is private residential and foster care costs at €23,247 million (30%) over-spend. Placement of children in private residential and foster care services is strictly controlled through a national placement process.

### Private Residential and Foster Care Costs

Child and Family Agency	Sept 2019 YTD			% Variance Act vs Budget
	Actual	Budget	Variance	
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Private Residential & Foster Care	100,809	77,562	23,247	30%

- Legal costs incurred by the Agency account for a significant portion of the overall budget of the Agency. The financial position shows a spend of €22.342 million against a budget of €21.227 million.
- A breakdown of legal expenditure by type is presented in the table below.
- 49% (€10.889 million) of the legal spend was on guardians ad litem (GALs) including GALs solicitors and counsel.
- In terms of forecasting these data should be interpreted with caution as they are based on the individual billing pattern of persons concerned.

#### Legal Expenditure

Type	Sept 2019 €'000s
3rd Party Counsel Fees	561
3rd Party Solicitors Fees	1,140
Contracted Legal Services	7,926
Counsel fees - Tusla	1,188
Guardian ad Litem Costs	6,293
Guardian ad Litem Counsel fees	699
Guardian ad Litem Solicitors fees	3,897
General Legal Fees	283
Other	356
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>22.342</b>

# 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/KWW
Midlands	Midlands
Dublin North City	DNC
Dublin North	DN
Louth / Meath	LH/MH
Cavan / Monaghan	CN/MN
Cork	Cork
Kerry	Kerry
Carlow Kilkenny / South Tipperary	CW/KK/ST
Waterford / Wexford	WD/WX
Mid West	Mid West
Galway / Roscommon	GY/RN
Mayo	Mayo
Donegal	Donegal
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	SO/LM/WC