Health Information and Quality Authority
An tÚdarás Um Fhaisnéis agus Cáilíocht Sláinte

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

ANNUAL OVERVIEW REPORT 2020

INSPECTIONS

- Service area inspections: 2
- Statutory foster care: 6
- Special care units: 5
- Child protection and welfare: 9
- Residential care centres: 20
- Non-statutory foster care: 1
- Detention Campus: 1

44 inspections

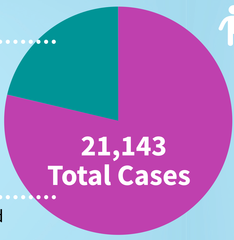
FINDINGS

1. Governance and management practices had improved, with further progress needed to improve the timeliness of children's access to services.
2. Risk management systems do not always contribute to safer services for children.
3. Shortcomings in monitoring and oversight systems resulted in poor management of waitlists.
4. Services need to attract more social workers and foster carers to increase service capacity and reduce the number of children on waiting lists.

CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE

4,239
20.4% of children without a social worker

16,904
79.5% of children allocated a social worker



FOSTER CARE

- **7** service areas inspected
- **800** questionnaires received from children in care
- **11** foster care homes visited

Inspectors met with 141 children, foster carers and parents.

- **5,340** children in foster care at the end of 2020
- **1,511** children in foster care with relatives
- **3,829** children in general foster care

CHILDREN'S VOICES

"Everything has changed... much better now."

"This place has supported me and done a lot for me."

"I learned how to stand up for myself."

"[The social worker] cares and listens to me, wants to know what I think, listens to what I want."

OUT ON INSPECTION

1,041 Children engaged with during inspections

- **914** in foster care
- **60** in residential care
- **43** in child protection and welfare services
- **13** in special care units
- **11** in Oberstown Children Detention Campus