

TÚSLA

An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Quarterly Service Performance and Activity Report

QUARTER 4 2017

An abstract graphic consisting of several dashed lines of varying colors (white, light grey, and dark grey) that intersect and form a network of points. Each intersection point is marked with a small circle, also in varying colors. The lines and circles are scattered across the lower half of the cover, creating a sense of movement and connectivity.

Quality Assurance Directorate

Adoption

- 167 new applications to commence tracing for a searched person in Q4 2017; 922 received in 2017
- 729 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q4 2017; down 99 (12%) on Q3. Fewest number for the period Q1 2017 – Q4 2017.
- All but one service meeting the target of eight weeks or less from time of application to provision of non-identifying information
- 52 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received in Q4 2017; 190 received in 2017
- 35 new children were referred for adoption in Q4 2017; 177 referred in 2017
- 43 completed adoption assessments presented to Local Adoption Committees in Q4 2017; 152 presented in 2017

Foster Carers

- 4,384 foster carers on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q4 2017; 59 fewer than Q3 2017 and 153 fewer than Q4 2016
- 80% (n=1,152/1,443) of relative foster carers approved against a target of 80%
- 93% (n=2,551) of general foster carers had an allocated link (target 90%). A total of 205 awaiting; down 30 on Q3
- 87% (n=1,003) of approved relative foster carers had an allocated link worker (target of 85%), Total of 149 awaiting allocation; up 12 on Q3
- 291 unapproved relative foster carer; down 11 on Q3
- 251 (80% of the unapproved relative foster carers) had a child placed with them for longer than 12 week
- 88% (n=221) of unapproved relative foster carers with a child placed > 12 weeks had an allocated link (social) worker; up eight percentage points on Q3. Total of 30 carers awaiting in three areas (Cork (23), DSW/K/WW (5) and MidWest (2)).

3.3 ADOPTION SERVICES

KEY FACTS

- 167 new applications to commence tracing for a searched person in Q4 2017; 922 received in 2017
- 729 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q4 2017; down 99 (12%) on Q3. Fewest number for the period Q1 2017 – Q4 2017.
- All but one service meeting the target of eight weeks or less from time of application to provision of non-identifying information
- 52 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received in Q4 2017; 190 received in 2017
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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 operates on a non-statutory basis within the wider legal framework of the Adoption Acts and assists each of these categories of person with their information and tracing enquiries.

- 228 new enquiries regarding information and tracing received in Q4 2017 bringing the total number of enquiries for 2017 to 1,495.
- 167 new applications to commence tracing of a searched person received in Q4 2017 bringing the total number of new applications for 2017 to 922.
- 729 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q4 2017; down 99 (12%) on Q3 2017 and the fewest number for the period Q1 2017 – Q4 2017 (Table 17).
- Highest number of applicants (n=335; 46%) were awaiting a service in the Cork/Kerry area. This is due to the majority of files being held in this area.
- All services reported a decrease from Q3 2017 in the number of applicants awaiting.

120 -

Table 17: Number of applicants awaiting an information and tracing service

| Service Area | No waiting Q4 2016 | No waiting Q1 2017 | No waiting Q2 2017 | No waiting Q3 2017 | No waiting Q4 2017 | Δ (+/-) Q4 v Q3 |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Dublin Mid Leinster Dublin North East <i>These two services are combined for applications waiting</i> | 221 | 277 | 216 | 247 | 237 | -10 |
| Cork/Kerry | 304 | 335 | 351 | 350 | 335 | -15 |
| CW/KK/ST/W/D/WX | 62 | 63 | 60 | 70 | 46 | -24 |
| Midwest | 14 | 23 | 26 | 40 | 24 | -16 |
| Galway/Roscommon | 33 | 44 | 37 | 53 | 38 | -15 |
| Mayo | 7 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 2 | -1 |
| Donegal/SLWC | 49 | 63 | 60 | 65 | 47 | -18 |
| National | 690 | 805 | 754 | 828 | 729 | -99 |

- At the end of Q4 2017, all services except Donegal/SLWC were meeting the target of eight weeks or less for the length of time from application (production of ID) to the provision of non-identifying (Table 18). The waiting time in this area (although 16 weeks) is down 4 weeks on Q3 2017. The service is working with HR to address staffing deficits in this area.

Table 18: Length of time (weeks) from application to the provision of non-identifying information

| Area | Length of Time (weeks) Q4 2016 | Length of Time (weeks) Q1 2017 | Length of Time (weeks) Q2 2017 | Length of Time (weeks) Q3 2017 | Length of Time (weeks) Q4 2017 |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Dublin Mid Leinster | 10 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Dublin North East | 4 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 4 |
| Cork/Kerry | 4 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 8 |
| CW/KK/ST/W/D/WX | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Midwest | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Galway/Roscommon | 8 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Mayo | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Donegal/SLWC | 8 | 8 | 6 | 20 | 16 |

- At the end of Q4 2017:
 - the length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for priority 1 applications ranged from 1 month to 12 months against a target of 3 months or less (Table 19). Five of the eight services are meeting the target.
 - the length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for priority 2 applications ranged from 6 weeks to 9 months against a target of 6 months or less. All services but two services (Dublin North East and the MidWest) are meeting this target (Table 19).
 - the length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for all other applications ranged from 3 months to 30 months against a target of 12 months or less. All but two services (Dublin North East and Cork/Kerry) are meeting this target (Table 19).

Table 19: Length of time (months) from application to allocation of a social worker, by priority type

| Area | Priority 1 Applications Waiting time (mths) | Priority 2 Applications Waiting time (mths) | All other Applications (mths) |
|----------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|
| Dublin Mid Leinster | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Dublin North East | 4 | 8 | 23 |
| Cork/Kerry | 12 | 6 weeks | 30 |
| CW/KK/STWD/WX | 3 | 3 | 12 |
| Midwest | 3 | 9 | 12 |
| Galway/Roscommon | 1 | 3 | 6 |
| Mayo | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Donegal/Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan | 4 | 6 | 12 |

3.3.2 Adoption Assessments

- 52 receipted completed applications for adoption (all types) received during Q4 2017 bringing the total for 2017 to 190 (Table 20). Almost half (48%; 92) were for inter-country adoption followed by step-parent adoption accounting for almost a further quarter (23%; 43).

Table 20: Number of receipted completed adoption application packs received in the quarter

| Area | # Q1 2017 | # Q2 2017 | # Q3 2017 | # Q4 2017 | Total (YTD) |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Fostering to Adoption | 5 | 4 | 9 | 9 | 27 |
| Inter-Country Adoption | 22 | 25 | 18 | 27 | 92 |
| Domestic Adoption | 10 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 28 |
| Step-parent adoption | 10 | 12 | 9 | 12 | 43 |
| Total | 47 | 50 | 41 | 52 | 190 |

- 35 new children were referred for adoption in Q4 2017 bringing the total for 2017 to 177 (Table 21). The highest number (n=79; 45%) were for step-parent adoption, followed closely by fostering to adoption (n=76; 43%).

Table 21: Number of new children referred for adoption in the quarter

| Area | # Q1 2017 | # Q2 2017 | # Q3 2017 | # Q4 2017 | Total (YTD) |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Fostering to Adoption | 14 | 8 | 34 | 20 | 76 |
| Domestic Adoption | 12 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 22 |
| Step-parent adoption | 23 | 31 | 12 | 13 | 79 |
| Total | 49 | 44 | 49 | 35 | 177 |

- 43 completed assessments (all types) were presented to Local Adoption Committees during Q4 2017 bringing the total for 2017 to 152 (Table 22). The highest number of assessments were for inter-country adoption (n=71; 47%) followed by step-parent adoption (n=42; 28%).

Table 22: Completed assessments presented to Local Adoption Committees, by type

| Area | # Q1 2017 | # Q2 2017 | # Q3 2017 | # Q4 2017 | Total (YTD) |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Fostering to Adoption | 3 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 19 |
| Inter-Country Adoption | 13 | 22 | 17 | 19 | 71 |
| Domestic Adoption | 7 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 20 |
| Step-parent adoption | 9 | 10 | 12 | 11 | 42 |
| Total | 32 | 43 | 34 | 43 | 152 |