

**Social
Democrats**



Disability Policy

Easy Read Version

**For the Future
It Starts Here**

#VoteSocDems

Key Points

In Government, the Social Democrats will:



Use a Rights-based approach.



Recognise Disabled Persons Organisations (DPOs), who are made up of disabled people themselves.



Apply the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD).



Have a full-time Minister for Disability to check that everyone is working together.



Give money to improve disability services.



Guarantee money to disability services into the future.



Have a cost of disability payment.



Support DPOs to be part of disability work in government.



Start a new organisation that will make sure that the needs of disabled people are met.



Have special organisations to make sure that disabled people are getting what they need from their services.



Make sure that our work protects the rights of disabled people...



improves quality of life...



and promotes independence of disabled people.



Introduction

Disabled people face many barriers in everyday life.



One million people in Ireland have a disability.



People with disabilities are more likely to live in poverty.



Are more likely to experience social exclusion.



Are more likely to not have a job.



Are more likely to have difficulties with transport.



Are more likely to have difficulties with housing.



Are more likely to have difficulties accessing education.



To meet disabled people's basic needs, between an extra €550 million and €1,000 million needs to be spent on disability services.



Progressing disability services are not meeting the needs of disabled children.



Waiting lists are too long.



Lots of children have no services.



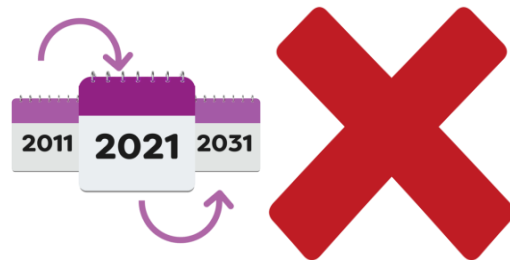
This makes family life very difficult.



In Ireland, family members provide a lot of support to disabled people and with little help.



This is not a long-term solution.



It doesn't have to be like this!



We will use a Rights-based approach.



We will recognise Disabled Persons Organisations (DPOs).



We will make sure that there is better monitoring of disability services.



Make sure that our work protects the rights...



And the quality of life...



And the independence of disabled people.



We will make sure that more money is spent on disability services.



A Rights-Based Approach

In Ireland, we signed up to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).



In Ireland, we are not yet doing everything in the UNCRPD.



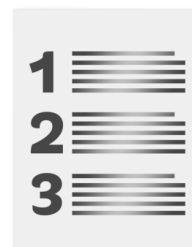
There is not yet a way that disabled people can complain to the UN about the government.



We have lots of disability policies in Ireland, but they are not all being followed.



Here are some things we need to be working on:



Clear rules for what a Disabled Persons Organisation (DPO) is, and a register of DPOs.



Money for DPOs.



DPOs to be involved in all stages of government work.



A process for DPOs to complain if they are not being listened to.



In Government, the Social Democrats would work on these areas.



Making sure services are working



Who is in charge now?



The Health Service Executive (HSE),
and



The Department of Education (NCSE)



An Chomhairle Náisiúnta um Oideachas Speisialta
National Council for Special Education

We should have a full-time Minister
for Disability to check that everyone
is working together.



We should have special organisations
to make sure that disabled people
are getting what they need from their
services.



We would have three organisations:



A Disability Inspectorate



They will say which services are doing well and what areas to improve.



A Disability Ombudsman



They will deal with complaints about disability services.



They will also investigate complaints



A Disability Authority



They will work with services to make them better.



A New Agency



The HSE is overstretched.
Acute medical services come first.



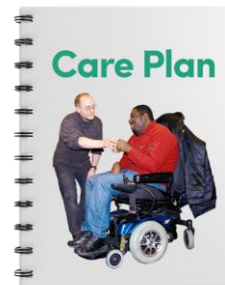
We need a new organisation to manage disability services. They will look after:



Assessments of Need



Care of disabled people.



Equipment for disabled people.



Disability Services will be their **ONLY** priority, unlike now.



This organisation should work with the HSE.



Funding for disability needs to be long term.



Funding needs to think about what disabled people need as they age.



Money for disability services needs to be guaranteed into the future, not given one year at a time.



Support should not stop when a child turns 18.



Our plan

Legislation

Make sure everyone is following the UNCRPD.



Make sure that there are enough resources for legislation to work.



We will have rules about the right to Home Care.



We will have rules about the right to personal assistance.



We will make sure disability legislation is being followed.



Supporting Autistic People

Ireland has a poor record of supporting autistic people.



There are long waiting lists for services.



Autistic people, and the parents of autistic children, should not have to run their own advocacy campaigns.



In Government we would do the following:



Follow the Autism Innovation Strategy.



Create more caseworker jobs.



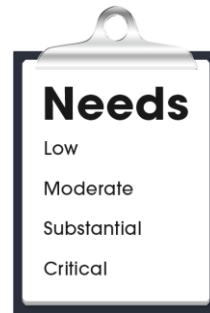
Develop a school autism training programme for all school staff.



Hire job coaches to help autistic people find jobs.



Increase funding for assessment.



Increase funding for therapies.



Update education policy.



Give more support to families, for example:



More respite.



More special needs assistants.



Give funding for adult autism assessments.



Children's Disability Services

Children with disabilities need good health care.



Children with disabilities need good education services.



Waiting lists for assessments and therapies are very long.



Without early help, children are at risk of longterm difficulties.



Many children do not have the support they need at school.



Many children do not have the right school place.



This is no longer about services not having enough money.



We need to encourage more people to work in disability services.



Workforce Planning

Finding staff to work in Health and social care services has been difficult.



The government has given money for staff.



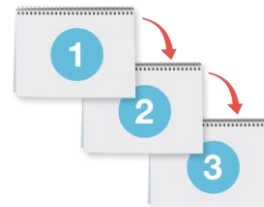
But they cannot find people to take the jobs.



Good people are leaving their jobs.



We need a plan, so that the money can be spent, and services can be given.



We need to know how many jobs there are to fill across health and social care.



And how many people we might need in the future.



We need a national group (a taskforce) that will work on this.



Section 39 Organisations

Most disability services are run by not-for-profit organisations.



They give important services to disabled people.



They find it difficult to get staff as pay is less than what the HSE gives.



More pay was agreed but this has not happened yet.



To keep people in their jobs, pay needs to be more equal.



Investing in Inclusion

Disability services do not get enough money.



Disabled people do not have everything they need to live a good life.



Money for disability services needs to be guaranteed into the future, not given one year at a time.



Staff working in disability services get paid less if they work in a not-for-profit organisation.



This makes it difficult to keep staff.



We need an organisation that just looks after the needs of disabled people, and does not have health care as its priority.



Disabled people and their families should not have to seek charity to get their needs met.



They should not have to protest to get their needs met.



The government needs to follow disability legislation.



For disabled people to be included in Ireland there needs to be better access to:



Housing



Transport



Money (income and grants)



Education



Jobs



Cost of Disability Payment

There must be a cost of disability payment.



Disabled people have more costs because of their disability.



Disabled people often live in poverty.



Payments should help get disabled people out of poverty.



Following the UNCRPD

Articles 3 and 4

We will give more money to disability services over the next ten years.



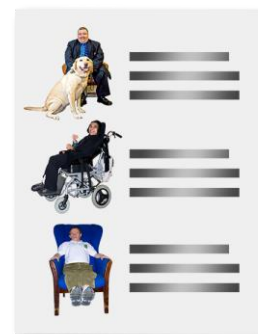
We will have a cost of disability payment.



Money for disability services needs to be guaranteed into the future, not given one year at a time.



We would set up a register of DPOs.



We would give money to DPOs.



We would include DPOs in all stages of government work.



We would make sure our consultations with you are accessible.



We would do a study to see how many people are needed to work in disability services.



We would increase university places for courses like speech and language therapy and occupational therapy.



We would make a clear plan about finding skilled people to work in disability services.



We will have rules about the right to Home Care.



We will have rules about the right to personal assistance.



Article 8

We will make sure all staff get disability awareness training.



We will keep telling people about the UNCRPD.

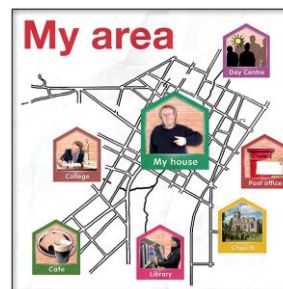


Article 9

We will make sure more people are using universal design.



We will make sure that the Design Manual of Urban and Rural Spaces (DMURS) follows the UNCRPD.



We will spend more money on public transport to make sure it is accessible.



We will help disabled people with housing...



Poverty...



... and access to health services.



Article 12

We will make sure the Assisted Decision Making Act is being followed.



We will make sure that DPOs are involved in making decisions about Decision Support Services.



Article 14

We will produce new legislation that helps disabled people.



Article 16

We will make sure that there are fair prices for disabled people.



Article 19

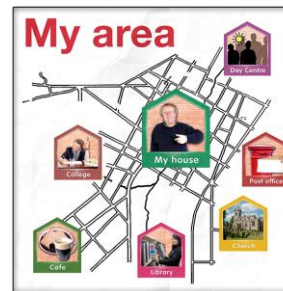
We will have rules about the right to Homecare.



We will have money for a person-centred home care scheme.



Disabled people will have equal access wherever they live in Ireland.



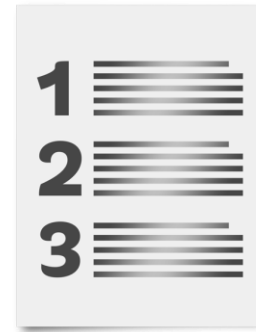
We will give more money to have more personal assistants.



We will make sure there is enough money so people under 65 do not have to live in nursing homes.



We will set a minimum target for social housing for disabled people.



We will make sure there is more wheelchair accessible social housing.



We will work with local councils to make footpaths better.



We will make it easier to get money for housing improvements.



Article 20

We will work to make transport more accessible.



This will include platforms and bus stops.



We will look at having a “taxi travel pass” for disabled people who live in rural areas.



We will increase the Free Travel Scheme.



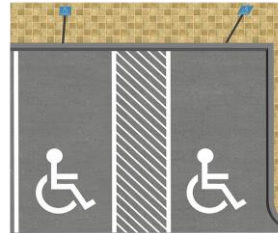
We will improve audio and visual alerts on transport.



We will change taxi rules so there are more wheelchair taxis.



We will get rid of fees for disabled parking passes where people have lifelong disabilities.



We will make sure that cycle lanes do not get in the way of disabled access.



Article 21

We will have a disability coordinator to help disabled people access services



And get information.



This should make things quicker.



Article 22

We will provide better services publicly, so less people need to find private help.



Article 24

We will give money to make a plan for inclusive schools.



We will work on education policy to make sure it follows the UNCRPD.



We will make sure there are person-centred rules about seclusion and restraint.



We will give money for staff to help disabled students take part in education.



We will include more info about additional needs in teacher training.



We will increase the number of SNAs in schools, and make their working conditions better.



We will make sure that no child is without assistive technology.



We will increase money for therapies in schools.



We will give money to Bookshare Ireland to provide accessible resources for vision-impaired students.



We will start the planning for July provision earlier in the year.



We will give jobs to more educational psychologists working in the National Educational Psychological Service.



We will make sure that all schools are accessible.



Article 25

We will make sure that not-for-profit organisations have money to pay a fair wage.



We need a national group (a taskforce) to make sure that we have enough staff in disability services.



We will make sure that Childhood Disability Network Teams have enough money, so that assessments happen quicker.



We will increase supports for sufferers of Multiple Sclerosis.



We will make sure there are community neuro-rehabilitation teams across the country.



We will increase money to reduce waiting lists for children with scoliosis.



We will improve access to primary health and rehabilitative care.



We will look at how disabled people are charged for blood tests, and medical certificates.



Article 27

We will help disabled people to get paid jobs.



We will have a target of a minimum 6 per cent employment rate for disabled people in public jobs.



We will renew the Rehabilitative Training Allowance.



We will increase funding for Sign Language Interpreting Service (SLIS) vouchers, and improve employment supports for deaf people.



We will make sure public organisations follow the Irish Sign Language Act.

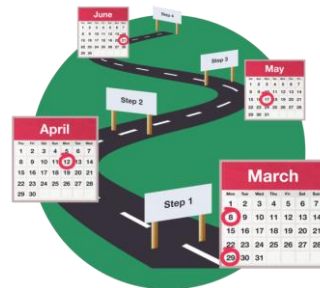


Article 28

We will have a cost of disability payment.



We will aim create ways for Disabled people to get out of poverty.



We will look at who can get the carers allowance, and we will increase the amount of pay that carers get.



We will look at all the social welfare payments to make sure that disabled people have enough money.



We will improve respite services.



Article 30

We will make sure that public places use universal design.



We will make sure that there are more accessible toilets and changing places.



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#ForTheFuture
#ItStartsHere