

People with disabilities and their families are **in crisis**

What do candidates and parties need to do?

1. Address unmet needs:

- Long waiting lists for children's services
- No system for people to access residential supports outside emergencies
- 2500 people remain living in institutions
- Over 1250 parents aged 70 and over (400 aged 80+) are primary carers for adults with ID living in the family home
- **People with disabilities are not living lives of their choosing**

2. Uphold Disability Rights:

- It is time for **implementation** of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- We need a **Minister at Cabinet level** and an **Oireachtas Committee on Disability** to oversee implementation across all Departments

3. Invest in supports:

- **Investment is urgently required to address needs and uphold rights**
- The Government's own figures indicate the need for an investment of **€211million per annum for 5 years** to begin to address these rights and needs
- However, this January disability services were informed of a **€20million cut to their budgets. This cut must be reversed**

These 3 priorities must become commitments in the Programme for Government

Why is this crisis happening?

- There have been successive cuts to disability services. These have not been reversed.
- The costs of insurance and compliance have risen.
- The number of citizens with disabilities in our population requiring supports has increased.
- Happily, people are living longer. As they do, many have changing needs requiring additional support.
- Because of these factors, many service providers are operating in deficit positions with the future continuation of their services at risk.
- Section 39 agencies have not had pay restoration, leading to severe difficulties in recruitment and retention. This directly affects their capacity to provide support to people with disabilities.

“ I will never know if early intervention would have worked for my daughter, she aged out of the service while still on the waiting list ”

Father

“ I want to live on my own and move out of my parent’s house. I can’t get any support to live independently ”

Woman aged 42 living in the family home.

“ I dropped my son off at his day service knowing I would not be picking him up and he would not be coming home to live with me. I couldn’t cope any longer ”

Mother of a young man with ID,
who is now in emergency residential support.

#disabilityrights

#disabilityGE2020

#disabilityfundingcrisis