

Disability Federation of Ireland

Budget 2021

Key Measures

Disability Health Service

- €100 million* allocated to improve disability services in the following areas:
 - Additional funding for support to resumption of Day Services to an increased average of three days per week.
 - Under Progressing Disability Services funding will be provided to increase therapeutic staff under the Children's Disability Network Team Model.
 - To promote Disability Integration Funding.
 - To support strategic development of adult disability services.
 - To establish an Innovation Fund to support the integration of people with disabilities in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, particularly Articles 19 and 30s.
 - Additional funding for Respite Services, De-congregation and Personal Assistance hours: to support families through access to respite services, support residential services, provide additional personal assistant hours, progress de-congregation and to assist people with disabilities who are currently inappropriately living in nursing home settings to move to more suitable accommodation.
 - This work is to be supported by up to 16,000 additional posts across the health sector.
 - Awaiting clarity on the breakdown of this funding.
- Additional €20 million in current year funding for voluntary disability service providers to support the Transforming Live Programme.
- Additional €150 million* to enhance community, social and primary care service including:
 - Development of Community Health Networks.
 - Development of Specialist integrated care teams such as the Integrated Care Programme for Older People (ICPOP) and Chronic Disease Management (CDM) and expanding the dementia advisor network.
- €5 million will be dedicated to the development of community-based dementia services and supports;

Disability Health Service (Continued)

- €5 million home care hours to alleviate community waiting lists. Specific provision of up to 5% of the new hours for home care related to dementia.
- Additional 1,146 acute beds.
- Increase in permanent adult critical care beds from 255 pre COVID-19 to 321 by the end of 2021.
- 1,250 community beds in 2021 to include over 600 new Rehabilitation beds.
- Implementation of the Sláintecare Public-Only Consultant Contract.
- Funding is also provided to cancer screening to create greater resilience in the cancer services pathway;
- €50 million is being made available for new drugs.
- €25 million for Healthy Ireland and the National Drugs Strategy.
- €20m is allocated to Healthy Ireland (with a particular focus on preventative measures as well as promoting health and wellbeing in disadvantaged areas).
- €10m for measures under the National Drug Strategy.
- €11m for new COVID-19 initiatives among vulnerable homeless people, including prevention, testing, self-isolation and other service provision responses.
- €10m Additional funding to support hospices and other bodies working to enhance quality of life for people facing life-limiting illness and extend support to their families.
- €210m is being provided for a new 'Access to Care' Fund to improve access to care significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- €30m for the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF).
- €58 million strategic investment in eHealth.
- €50 million for new medicines in 2021, including cancer drugs, which are already approved or in the approval pipeline.
- €1.9 billion in health to deal with Covid-19.
- Commitment to funding* is made to support:
 - Greater resilience in the cancer services pathway to minimize delayed diagnosis and protect against future COVID-19 outbreaks.
 - Facilitate improved access to services within the COVID-19 environment including investment in new processes, care pathways and infrastructure.

* Awaiting clarity on the breakdown of this funding.

Housing

- €500 million for social housing directly built by local authorities and approved housing bodies.
- €22 million for homelessness services.
- €65 million for social housing stock.
- 9,500 additional social housing to be built.
- Additional €10 million for affordable housing during 2021 and beyond.
- Additional 15,000 Housing Assistance Payments and a further 800 RAS tenancies

Income

- Increase in the Dependent Relative Tax Credit from €70 to €245.
- Increase in earnings disregard for the Disability Allowance by €20, from €120 to €140 per week - Implementation Date of June 2021.
- Carers Support Grant will increase by €150 to €1,850 per year- Implementation Date of June 2021 No increase in core social welfare payments.
- Additional €5 per week for Living Alone Allowance recipients.
- One-week Christmas bonus to be paid to pensioners, those on disability and unemployment assistance and all other regular welfare recipients.
- Fuel Allowance increase of €3.50.
- Second USC band in pay check to increase to €20,687.

Community and Social inclusion

- Additional €10 million for Covid-19 stability fund for community and voluntary organisations and charities.
- Additional €2 million to the Community Services Programme.
- Additional €1 million to the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme,
- Carbon tax increase by €7.50/tonne for the next number of budgets.
- €15 million in capital funding to support rural regeneration, town and village renewal scheme & outdoor recreation scheme.
- €5 million for digital hubs and broadband connectors in rural communities.

Employment and Education

- €2 billion to support children with special needs, includes hiring of new teachers and SNAs.
- 990 additional special needs assistants to be hired (bringing the number to 18,000).
- 403 additional teaching posts (bringing the number to 17500 special education teachers).
- Additional €5.5 million for the hot school meals programme.
- Pupil teacher ratios to be reduced to 25:1 in primary education.
- €8 million in additional current funding will be allocated to a Digital Capability Fund for Vulnerable Learners in Further Education and Training.
- €1,000 support grant fund in any contracts to be entered into for 2021 for the provision of supported employment services for jobseekers with a disability.

Children

- €2 billion for the support of children with additional and special learning needs.
- Increase in the Qualified Child payment. It will be raised by €5 per week for children over 12 and €2 per week for those under 12.
- €638 million investment in early years for both universal and targeted subsidies under the National Childcare Scheme in 2021.
- €5 million for youth services and organisations.

Taxation and Public Expenditure

- Reduced VAT rate for hospital from 13% to 9% from 1st Nov this year in the hospitality sector, until Dec 2021, to provide additional support for next year.