**Summary of Key Disability Budgets Points (16:00, 10/10/17)**

**DFI - Disability and Budget 2018**

**Version - 10/10/17 at 17.00**

**Income**

* Telephone allowance of €2.50/week for those on fuel allowance and living alone allowance. No discussion of what kind of phone this would cover.
* Increase in Disability Payments of €5/week
* Extend the fuel allowance season by 1 week.
* Increased funding for the Free Travel Scheme

**Health**

* Prescription charge for those on the medical card reduced to €2, monthly cap reduced to €20.
* Monthly threshold for Drug payment scheme reduced from €144 to €134.
* €55million increase in NTPF.
* €90 Million for an access plan to help people access care.
* €40 million for increased investment in primary care. No details as of yet.
* €15 Million for transition programmes for school leavers with disabilities
* €35 million for Mental Health, to implement the Vision for Change
* 1,800 front-line health service personnel to be recruited across the acute, mental health, disability, primary and community care sectors

**Education**

* 10 NEPS psychologists will be recruited in 2018.
* €2 million for a pilot scheme for in-school speech and language therapy.
* 100 extra teachers for implement of the new special education teaching model
* 230 extra teachers in special school and special classes
* 1,000 new SNAs

**Housing**

* Up to 400 homes to be provided in 2018 for people with specific needs.
* Funding for housing adaptation grants increased to €53 million to fund up to 11,000 grants for people with disabilities and older people.
* €1.9 billion allocated overall to housing.
* 3,800 new social houses to be in 2018 by approved housing bodies and local authorities.
* €149m on the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme.
* €18m increase in homeless services to over €116m.
* Plans to accelerate social housing delivery from 2019.
* €500m extra to result in 3,000 extra new build social houses by 2021.
* Extra €75m funding to Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund, phase two.
* €750m funding available for commercial investment in housing.

**Other**

* €3 million in funding for the Decision Support Service, a key part of the Assisted Decision Making Act 2015.
* €1 million additional funding to the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme.
* Further investment in Family Resource Centres