

Proposed Terms of Reference and Membership of Group to prepare 3-year Action Plan on disability based on Disability Capacity Review

There is a commitment in the programme for Government to work towards implementing the most recent Disability Capacity Review - *Disability Capacity Review to 2032 - A Review of Disability Social Care Demand and Capacity Requirements up to 2032*

Arising from that report, the Government has agreed that the Minister for Health will prepare an implementation action plan for consideration by the Cabinet Sub Committee on Social Affairs and Equality. It is understood the Government wants to see an initial three-year Action Plan prepared.

A Framework for that Action Plan has been developed and is being published alongside the Disability Capacity Review in July.

It is now proposed to establish an inter-departmental Working Group at senior level, including HSE membership, to progress the development of a draft Action Plan for submission to the Cabinet Sub Committee with a view to finalising the Action Plan by December 2021. The Working Group will present recommended options to the Cabinet Sub Committee for their decision.

Proposed Terms of Reference

1. To develop a detailed whole of government Action Plan on disability social care services, in the context of longer-term planning as set out in the *Review of Disability Social Care Demand and Capacity Requirements to 2032*, and based on the *Framework Action Plan*. This Action Plan is to cover the period 2022-25 (incorporating resource allocation and service decisions to be announced in the 2022 Budget and Estimates). A draft Action Plan setting options for consideration by the Cabinet SubCommittee on Equality and Social Policy will be submitted by the Group to that SubCommittee by end November 2021, with a view to their signing off on a finalised Action Plan by December 2021.
2. The Committee will undertake
 - a. A consultation exercise with people with disabilities, consisting of an on-line or in-person consultation event depending on public health advice at the time, led by the Minister of State for Disability, and focused consultation with hard-to-reach groups
 - b. Analysis of the best geographic spread for new developments, drawing on standardised assessments, consideration of current location of services and any gaps, transport links, and equitable deployment of resources where needs are most urgent
 - c. Arrangements for co-ordination of housing provision and HSE-funded residential care supports
 - d. A policy review and consultation exercise in relation to respite provision, to ensure resources are deployed in a cost-effective way where they will deliver most impact for the funding involved
 - e. Consideration of the strategic options outlined in the Disability Capacity Review, including an evaluation of the effectiveness of intensive support packages for vulnerable individuals and families, of alternative support options for school-leavers, and strengthening of early intervention
 - f. Workforce planning and key skills requirements
 - g. Detailed consideration of a multi-annual funding package.

- h. An assessment of the role of other Departments in supporting the delivery of HSE-funded disability supports.
3. The Action Plan will develop indicative quantitative targets, and indicative budgets on a year by year and a regional basis, in the post-Covid environment, for
- provision of additional disability housing capacity
 - day service places
 - respite hours
 - Personal Assistant hours
 - WTE staffing requirements including for therapies
 - required third level training places for the mix of skills and therapy disciplines

and will present options to the Cabinet SubCommittee for their consideration in that regard

4. Terms of Engagement/Operational Arrangements

4.1 Members of the Working Group will represent their Departments/HSE as appropriate, and will have sufficient expertise, seniority, and authority to make decisions.

4.2 The Minister of State for Disability will attend on an ex-officio basis

4.3 Members of the Working Group will attend all meetings of the group, and will have read any papers in advance. They will undertake any necessary consultations within their Department or with their stakeholders in order to make a timely contribution to group decisions. In the event that a member cannot attend for unavoidable reasons, another Departmental representative who is well-briefed and authorised to make decisions will attend in their stead

4.4 The Department of Health will be responsible for drafting the final document for submission to the Cabinet SubCommittee, and will provide the Secretariat to the Group. Members of the Working Group will co-operate with the secretariat in providing access to sources of data and to relevant expertise within their organisations to facilitate the work of drafting the Action Plan

4.5 The Group will set out a schedule of work and proposed meeting arrangements and dates.

- The group will meet approximately once per 2 weeks (this schedule may be subject to change)
- Meetings will take place initially on-line via Teams, but may resume in person, generally in the Department of Health HQ in Miesian Plaza, Dublin, as public health advice permits

4.6 Sub-groups consisting of persons outside of the core membership may be appointed to examine particular elements of the overall draft Action Plan, such as in areas of transport and education

4.7 The Minutes of the previous meeting, along with the meeting agenda, and any other papers, will be circulated by the Secretariat in advance, generally at least 3 working days in advance of each meeting

4.8 The Minister of State for Disability will be kept apprised by the Chair and secretariat on the progress of the Working Group

4.89 Third parties may be invited to give presentations to the Working Group

Proposed membership of group

Department of Health (Disability Unit)	Eithne Fitzgerald (Chair)
Department of Health (mainstream health service planning)	
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration, & Youth	
Department of Housing	
Department of Further and Higher Education	
Department of Social Protection	
Department of Public Expenditure and Reform	
Health Service Executive	

The Minister of State for Disability will attend meetings of the group on an ex officio basis