



Rialtas na hÉireann  
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# Spending Review 2021 – Social Care for People with Disabilities: Trends in Expenditure and Delivery of Services

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# Spending Review 2021 – Overview, Aims and Objectives



## Overview

- Social care services for people with disabilities covers a wide range of services, from full time residential care to home help and personal assistance. Over the six years, expenditure on these services has increased substantially from €1.53bn in 2015 to over €2.09bn in 2020.

## Aims and Objectives

- The objective of this paper is to review and reflect social care service delivery to people with disabilities in the period from 2015 to 2020 in light of an increase in public expenditure, and in advance of the planned transfer of functions, that will see responsibility for community disability services move from the Minister for Health to the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

# Spending Review 2021 – Key Findings



## Key Policy Relevant Findings

- Expenditure on social care services for people with a disability is over 11% of total gross voted current health expenditure. Expenditure on this health expenditure line totalled €2.09bn in 2020, a 37% increase in expenditure since 2015.
- Despite an increase in allocation, the last six years has seen consistent overspend on the start-of-year budget for healthcare disability services. This trend has continued in 2020 when disabilities was an estimated 2.1% (or €44 million) over the starting budget by year end.
- In 2018, more than 80% (over €1.3bn) of the expenditure in disability services was concentrated on residential and day care. Opportunities exist to strengthen the link between expenditure and activity across services and service providers, to help improve monitoring and in turn cost-effectiveness and value for money.
- In preparation for the transfer of functions, a systematic approach for data collection in the disability services sector should be put in place. This will enable better reporting on the activity and expenditure in this sector.