

Overview

- The National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 – 2027 (NHSDP) sets out the vision for the cooperation and collaboration of Government departments, state agencies and others in delivering housing and the related supports for disabled people.
- The overall aim of our new housing plan for Ireland is that everyone in the State should have access to a home to purchase or rent at an affordable price, built to a high standard and in the right place, offering a high quality of life.
- This Government is deeply committed to ensuring that people with disabilities are supported and encouraged to live independently.
- Ireland is one of a few countries that has a specific strategy for housing for disabled People.
- The Vision for the Strategy is:
 - To facilitate disabled people to live independently with the appropriate choices and control over where, how and with whom they live, promoting their inclusion in the community.
 - To further enable equal access for disabled people to housing with integrated support services.
- The coordination and alignment of housing provision with the delivery of health and social care supports is central to this Strategy.
- The overarching vision of the Strategy, driven by the feedback to the consultation is to facilitate independent living and be included in their communities.
- 1,900 to 3,900 additional places for people with disabilities will be required to meet demographic demand and unmet need within the next ten years, over and above those homes required for people moving from congregated settings.
- This Strategy, combined with the forthcoming *Disability Services Action Plan 2022-2025*, will ensure the delivery of appropriate housing and health supports.
- States Parties recognise the right of persons with disabilities to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing and housing.
- The Strategy will promote the purposes of Article 4(1)(f) through the inclusion of a Universal Design approach to housing.

- The implementation of the new housing Strategy will be monitored through the lens of the UNCRPD.



- The most important UNCRPD Article for housing is Article 19 – Living independently and being included in the community.
- The Strategy will promote the purposes of Article 19:
 - through the increased provision of accessible homes in the right locations, accessible information and assistive technology, and building awareness of the need for accessible communities, thereby promoting people’s participation in their communities.
 - ensuring that disabled people have equal access to housing and clearer pathways to accessing support services, promoting their inclusion in the community from a housing perspective.
 - Persons with disabilities have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live.
 - Persons with disabilities have access to a range of in-home, residential and other community support services.
- The Strategy will promote the purposes of Article 28:
 - by ensuring disabled people have equal access to public housing and providing pathways to affordable housing.
- The Strategy will promote the purposes of Article 31:
 - by collecting data to inform and enable the efficient coordination of housing and housing related services, that will be easily accessed and regularly published.
- In addition to the themes, the following provisions will be made to address other issues raised during the consultation process and to align this Strategy clearly to Housing for All
 - Each local authority will nominate Disability-Friendly Housing Technical Advisors.
 - Each local authority will nominate a representative from their Housing Departments to lead on the interagency collaboration.
 - The HSE will nominate a housing coordinator in each Community Health Organisation (CHO) area for both Mental Health Services and Disability Services to lead on the interagency collaboration.
 - The Housing Agency’s role will be expanded to take a more proactive role in ensuring the delivery of the actions under the Strategy and to coordinate the interagency collaboration at regional and national level.
 - The Housing Agency will be tasked with ensuring the smooth implementation of the Assisted Decision-Making Act^{s4} for the housing

departments of local authorities and Approved Housing Bodies, including the preparation of guides and provision of training.



Disability in Ireland

- Census of Population 2016, there were a total of 643,131 people who stated they had a disability (13.5% of the population)
- One in ten people in Ireland under the age of 45 are disabled and rising to over 20% by the age of 60.
- In 2016, 92.9% of disabled people were living in private households.
- The 2016 census recorded 1,817 homeless persons with some form of disability in Ireland.
- 44,431 disabled people were enumerated in communal establishments.
- Assistive products have the potential to support independent living for disabled people.
- Single person households make up the largest household composition group among all those qualified for social housing.
- In 2020 this became the majority category, with 52% of all households on the waiting list comprising of one adult only.

Housing for All

- The overall aim of the housing plan for Ireland is that everyone in the State should have access to a home to purchase or rent at an affordable price, built to a high standard and in the right place, offering a high quality of life.
- The plan's vision is to have a steady supply of housing in the correct locations with economic, social and environmental sustainability.
- Under the guiding principle of Housing for All and underpinned by the new Strategy, we must work to deliver appropriately designed and specified housing for people with a disability, in line with the vision and principles of universal design.

- The requirement for local authorities to include housing for disabled people in their Housing Delivery Action Plans will give a focus to the strategic planning.



Disability Capacity Review to 2032

Homes in Ordinary Places

- According to the report, the main model of disability residential care/support provision is now in supported housing in the community.
- Most are in community group homes where a number of disabled people live together, supported by staff.
- it is now policy that no more than four disabled people would share a home in any new housing.
- Government policy and compliance with Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, there is a continuing programme to support those living in congregated disability settings to move to ordinary homes in the community.
- the number of people with intellectual disabilities aged 55 or over expected to increase by 25 percent by 2032.
- the central demographic forecast would require approximately an additional 1,100 residential places by 2032.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)

- Ireland ratified the UNCRPD in 2018.
- The Programme for Government which was published in 2020 commits to establishing a UNCRPD Implementation Plan.
- Article 4.3 The UNCRPD requires State parties to actively involve disabled people in policy development.
- This Plan will coordinate and monitor progress on implementing the UNCRPD across Government departments.
- The UN has published a guidebook 'Handbook for Parliamentarians on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Strategy Topics

- The new strategy has 6 themes:
 - Accessible Housing and Communities
 - Agencies working together and providing supports
 - Affordability of Housing
 - Communication and Access to Information
 - Increase Understanding in Organisations
 - Connecting the Strategies

Accessible Housing and Communities

- This theme focuses on the provision of accessible housing for disabled people and the promotion of accessible communities and universally designed homes.
- It is informed by the UNCRPD and, in particular , Article 19
- Aligning with Housing for All through:
 - **Pathway 2** – Eradicating Homelessness, Increasing Social Housing Delivery and Supporting Social Inclusion, and
 - **Pathway 3** – Increasing New Housing Supply
 - Review Local Delivery Action Plans and with the benefit of new data and research, e.g. the Cost of Universal Design Review by the NDA to inform policy and practice, set appropriate targets for provision and allocation from 2023 onwards.
- For 2022, local authorities have set their targets in Local Strategic Plans including such targets as:
 - 15% of all allocations of dwellings by a local authority being allocated to disabled people and appropriate health and social care being put in place to allow people to take up their housing opportunities.
 - 10% of new dwellings in all general social housing⁵⁶ developments of 10 dwellings or more being reserved for households qualified under a basis of need of disability.
 - 50% of the new pipeline delivery⁵⁷ being reserved for disabled people in each LA being wheelchair liveable i.e. meeting Centre for Excellence in Universal Design UD Home recommendations.

- These Local Strategic Plans will be reviewed during 2022 to take account of the outcomes and actions of the new Strategy and its Implementation Plan and to align with Local Delivery Action Plans and other actions from Housing for All.
- Co-ordinated action between local authorities and the HSE to plan and deliver on housing targets for disabled people in the community (including decongregation) in line with the forthcoming Disability Services Action Plan 2022-2025.
- Examine the possibility of the provision of a service in sourcing accommodation similar to that of the Place Finders in Homeless Services.

Interagency Collaboration and the Provision of Supports

- This theme seeks to build on the work that has already been done by strengthening these structures and by improving collaboration between the relevant agencies.
- Local authorities and the HSE work and collaborate efficiently, improving access to housing for disabled people.
- Each local authority's nominated representative from their Housing Departments will work closely with the HSE nominated housing coordinators in each CHO area for both Mental Health Services and Disability Service.
- Plan and deliver on housing targets for disabled people (including decongregation) in line with the forthcoming Disability Services Action Plan 2022-2025 through co-ordinated action between housing authorities and HSE

Affordability of Housing

- This theme focuses on enabling access to affordable housing for disabled people.
- Housing for All and, in particular, **Pathway 1**- Supporting Home Ownership and Increasing Affordability.
- Engage with the stakeholders to the Cost Rental Scheme and Affordable Housing Schemes⁵⁸ to explore the potential for target setting under each scheme as they are rolled out.
- Review the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) to ensure that it is being operated to its full potential to deliver housing for disabled people.
- Examine the findings from the Cost of Disability research and how they relate to housing for disabled people.

Communication and Access to Information

- This theme focuses on communication and the access to information.
- A proactive and consistent approach is taken by agencies in the provision of information which is coordinated by The Housing Agency.
- Build on housingdesignforall.ie by providing a one stop shop of information on housing and related matters which will be managed and updated on an ongoing basis.

Knowledge, Capacity and Expertise

- To optimise housing delivery and support services for disabled people, it is important to share information, to apply existing knowledge and to build upon the expertise within organisations.
- It is important to recognise that the capacity to deliver an inclusive service to disabled people requires human resources with dedicated staff.
- Knowledge and expertise regarding disability issues are integrated into all relevant Organisations.
- Prepare and deliver a training programme to local authority housing staff and staff from Approved Housing Bodies on process and procedural changes required to implement the Assisted Decision-Making Act 2015

Strategic Alignment

- This theme places a focus on ensuring that all Government strategies and policies from a housing perspective promote the rights of disabled people, in line with the UNCRPD
- Complements and supports other strategies related to disability, such as the Sharing the Vision and the Time to Move on From Congregated Settings Strategy and Housing for All, and the new Local Delivery Action Plans.
- The Housing Agency will be tasked with preparing the Implementation Plan.
- This Strategy requires a dedicated disability resource within the housing department of each local authority who will be responsible for the coordination of the interagency collaboration.