

Motion re Disability funding

That Dáil Éireann:

Condemns:

- The Government's Budget for 2024 which, like previous budgets, falls far short of what is required for disability services meaning that children will continue to wait too long for and go without the assessments and therapies they need, young people with disabilities will remain inappropriately placed in nursing homes, carers will continue to burnout without respite;

Notes that:

- The Disability Capacity Review was published in July 2021 and it estimated the level of residential services, day services, personal assistance and home supports, respite services, therapies and community services required out to 2032;
- The estimates for personal assistance and the proposed funding allocations were roundly criticised by Disabled Persons Organisations as inadequate to truly support independent living;
- More than two years after its publication, the Government have yet to publish a costed action plan to implement the findings of the capacity review; and
- The Government's mental health policies, Sharing the Vision and Vision for Change, indicate a need for 16 CAMHS-Intellectual Disability Teams comprising 176 staff yet only 4 teams are in place; and

Further notes that:

- The Government have yet to agree a sustainable funding model for Section 39 organisations which provide essential core services for people with disabilities on behalf of the Health Service Executive;
- That disability service providers are facing severe cost pressures which have not been addressed on a sustainable basis and which were only temporarily addressed by a non-recurring subsidy in 2023; and
- The Government have yet to ratify the Optional Protocol of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities despite commitments by Government parties to do so and previous motions agreed by Dáil Éireann calling on the Government to do so; and

Calls on the Government to:

- guarantee that the one-off payments provided to assist disability service providers to cover the ongoing high cost of delivering existing services in 2023 will be repeated for 2024,
- address the recruitment and retention crisis in disability services by making a better offer to trade unions and allocating the funding necessary to achieve pay parity for workers in Section 39 organisations,
- revise the budgetary provisions for disability services so that new monies available for improvements amount to at least €155 million next year and separately to ensure that the costs of disability and running disability services are properly provided for.
- Publish a fully costed Disability Action Plan which meets the needs of people with disabilities, including existing unmet need and expected future need, and which places disability services on a sustainable footing.