

**Notes that:**

- the Disability Capacity Review to 2032 which was published in July 2021 to establish the level of additional funding that would be required to address unmet need and demographic change in disability services found that additional funding of between €750million and €1,350million would be required by 2032 for disability services to address demographic change and the considerable levels of unmet need;
- the Action Plan for Disability Services 2024-2026 was published in December 2023 consisting of 68 Actions to address identified deficits and drive reform in specialist community-based disability services;
- ninety-three Children’s Disability Network Teams have been established, whose role it is to carry out assessments under the Disability Act 2005 and deliver therapeutic supports;
- the Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023-2026 was published in October 2023 which contains 60 actions to achieve quality, accessible, equitable and timely services for children with complex needs as a result of being disabled;
- the State signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in 2007 and ratified the Convention in 2018 which asserts that Disabled Person’s Organisations must be prioritised in consultations, monitoring and implementation of the Convention; and,

**Further notes that with extreme concern that:**

- the Action Plan for Disability Services 2024-2026 states that the monies allocated to disability services over the last number of budgets has not been sufficient;
- the latest HSE Children’s Disability Staff Census and Workforce Review found there was 817 staff vacancies across the CDNTs;
- section 39 staff still do not enjoy pay-parity with section 38 and HSE staff;
- the average duration of the Assessment of Needs process as of Q2 2024 was 23.72 months. This compares to 19.06 months in Q2 2020;
- 487 disabled people have been facilitated to move out of congregated settings to community living since 2020, while 174 disabled people were admitted to a congregated setting and 462 have passed away in a congregated setting during this period;
- 1,233 people under the age of 65 remain in nursing homes;

- 1,965 disabled people live with family carers over the age of 70 and have no pathway to access planned residential supports;
- Waiting lists for residential funding are increasing year on year;
- Budget 2025 only provides funding for 70 new residential places;
- Disabled people are at greater risk of poverty and deprivation
- The employment rate of disabled people in Ireland at 32% is the lowest in the EU and the disability employment gap at 44% is the highest.
- The government has failed to increase the rate of the Wage Subsidy scheme in three years, despite increases in the National Minimum Wage.
- Disabled Persons Organisations/Disabled Persons (Representative) Organisations are not adequately funded to enable them to effectively engage in research and advocacy on behalf of the disability community.

**Observes that:**

- Five Sinn Féin private members motions debated on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 in relation to disability have called for the ratification of the Optional Protocol of the UNCRPD.
- A memo was brought to the Cabinet on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024 to seek approval to ratify the Optional Protocol of the UNCRPD; 17 years after the State signed up to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)

**Mandates the Government to:**

- Set the date for the ratification of the Optional Protocol of the UNCRPD and amend the Disability Act 2005 and deliver rights-based access to services and support for people.
- Acknowledge its failure to truly recognise the additional cost of disability in Budget 2025 and rectify this mistake in the upcoming Social Welfare Miscellaneous Bill 2024 to ensure core disability-related social welfare schemes are increased by €20.
- Allocate an additional €10,000,000 to the Wage Subsidy Scheme for workers with disabilities

- Establish a ‘Community Care Access Fund’ to speed up access to mental health and disability diagnosis and interventions.
- Create more spaces in adult day services, appropriate respite and intensive home support packages for disabled children.
- End the practice of placing people under 65 in nursing homes by make greater provision for disabled people to live in appropriate accommodation by investing in decongregation, and provide housing and housing supports in the community.
- Prioritise the development of a planned pathway to residential supports for disabled people;
- Put in place a DPO/DP(R)O Training and Development Fund and also a Disability Inclusion Fund for all Local Authorities to support their specific disability inclusion requirements in line with the UN CRPD and Public Sector Duty