

A Review of Disability Services What services will be needed up to 2032?



This is a summary report

What is this report about?

This report looks at disability services in Ireland.

It looks at how they are now and how they might be in the future.

It looks at the number of people with disabilities in Ireland.

It looks at their ages and their needs.

It says what disability services cost.

Most people with a disability use health and social services in the community. For example, GP, dentist, or hospital.

There are also special services for people with extra needs.

For example, day services, respite, therapy, home help, personal assistance, and houses with support staff.

People with disabilities in Ireland

The number of people with disabilities in Ireland will change between now and 2032.

We think the number of people at different ages will change too.

More young adults will need day service places.

There will be more older people with disabilities.

This means more residential services will be needed.

A lot of people with disabilities are not getting the services they need.

Some get no service.

Others have only some of their needs met.

The Government will need to spend a lot more money to deal with the change in numbers and ages, and to meet needs.

At the very least, the Government would need to spend about a quarter more than we do now.

That's around an extra €550 million a year.

If we do better and give more supports, the Government would need to spend about half more than we do now.

At most, that's around an extra €1,000 million a year.

This report looks at what needs to be done under six main headings.

It looks at the money that we think needs to be spent and how we worked out these numbers.

Residential supports

A lot of people with disabilities need residential supports.

Most people in residential services have an intellectual disability.

Most people with intellectual disabilities need residential support when their parents can no longer care for them at home.

More residential places and housing supports will be needed to meet the demand.

It will cost more money every year to give these supports.

The lowest it will cost is €320 million extra a year by 2032.

This will meet the most urgent needs.

If we do better and have more residential places, it will cost up to €550 million more every year.

We also need money to buy or build extra houses and apartments. There is a plan to move people living in large disability centres to ordinary homes in the community.

The cost depends on whether we just meet the most urgent needs or we do better than that.

The extra cost of these houses would be between €500 million and €1,000 million a year between now and 2032.

Day services

There are different day programmes to support adults with disabilities.

These run from Monday to Friday each week.

For example, day services, training, or work programmes.

Many young people with a disability go to adult day services or training when they leave school.

Some people who become disabled when they are adults also go to these services.

Some young people go on a training programme for a few years before they go to a day service.

Some people spend most of their life in a day service.

More school leavers will need day service places in the next ten years.

This is because lots of babies were born in the early 2000s so there are more young adults with disabilities now.

We think that more people will go into day services between now and 2032 than will leave them.

This means we will need more places.

There are around 600 people who have no day service.

Hundreds of people only have a day service some days in the week.

Each new place in a day service costs €25,000 a year.

Overall, we will need to spend between €90 million and €280 million more on day services by 2032.

Therapy services

Therapy services are very important in the care and support of people with disabilities.

Lots of adults and children don't get the therapy services they need, or don't get all of the therapy they need.

Some people need therapy if they get a disability after an injury or illness.

It can be hard to get this therapy at the right time.

People with different disabilities need different therapies.

People of different ages need different therapies.

By 2032, the total number of children in Ireland will go down.

However, there are so many children on a waiting list for therapy now, we will still need more children's therapy services in the future.

The number of adults with a disability will go up.

People with an intellectual disability need:

- More dietician services
- More psychology services
- More occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, and physiotherapy
- More social work supports.

Overall, there will be more demand for therapy services between now and 2032.

We need to spend €50 million more each year on disability therapy services.

A report called the National Neurorehabilitation Strategy says we need more therapy services in the community.

These are for people who have an accident or a stroke.

We think this would cost an extra €25 million a year.

Home support and Personal Assistant services

We do not have clear information on the number of people that need home care and Personal Assistant supports.

Some people have no service but need one.

Some people have a few hours support but need more.

We think it could cost €30 million more a year to give people what they need.

The changes in numbers and ages of people mean that we will need to spend:

- An extra €4 million a year by 2022
- An extra €10 million a year by 2027
- An extra €15 million a year by 2032.

Respite and short breaks

Respite is an important support for people with disabilities, their families, and carers.

The amount of respite we need will change if there are more residential places.

People living in residential services do not usually use respite.

If there are more residential places, less people will be living at home with their families.

More people with disabilities may need respite than our numbers and information show.

The costs could be more than €20 million a year.

Community supports

There are lots of different community support and advice services.

If the number and age of people with disabilities change, we would need to spend €9 million a year by 2032.

This is to keep community services and supports at the same level we have in 2020.

What this review said

This review looks at the changes that will happen in the number and ages of people with disabilities in Ireland.

It looks at the needs of people with disabilities now and in the future.

For a lot of disability services, we have a good idea how much more we will need to spend in the future.

But sometimes it's hard to see ahead.

That's why we have said what is the most we are going to need to spend, and what is the least.

We need to spend extra money because we will have more people with disabilities by 2032.

We know some people are not getting the services they need now.

If no action is taken, this problem will get worse.

This would not be good for people with disabilities or their families.

This Easy to Read Report was put together by the Department of Health with the help of ACE Communication.

Experts by Experience helped to put this Report together.

