



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



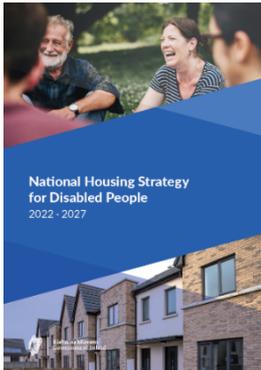
# National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027 Implementation Plan Easy-to-Read Version





## **Introduction**

This document is an easy-to-read version of the Implementation Plan for the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027.



This strategy is a plan about what is going to be done in relation to homes and support services for disabled people over the 5 years.

## **The Vision and Themes**

The vision for the new strategy explains how the strategy will build on all the work that has been done on homes and support services.



It also says that the strategy will give disabled people more choice and control over where, how and who they live with.



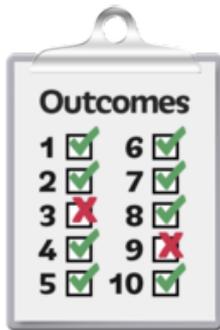
It says it will promote people being more included in their community.



## The Implementation Plan

An Implementation Plan is like an Action Plan.

It puts the strategy into action.



This Plan has **outcomes** and actions.

The **outcomes** are the goals that the Strategy wants to reach to help disabled people live independently in their community.

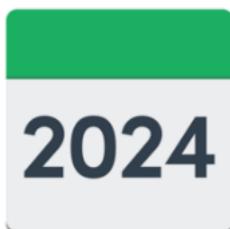


The **actions** are the things that need to be done to achieve the outcomes.

The Plan includes all the outcomes and actions that are needed to make the 6 Themes of the Strategy happen.



This Plan contains 27 outcomes and 107 actions.



The Plan will be looked at in 2024 to make sure that everything is on track and to see if new actions are needed.



## Action groups

A number of groups will be set up to help make the Plan work, such as:

- A National Implementation Subgroup



This group is in charge of getting all the outcomes and actions completed so that the Strategy will be a success.

- Housing and Disability Steering Groups



These groups already exist but the Strategy wants to make them stronger.

These groups are in every county.

They have members from organisations like:

- the local authorities,
- the HSE,
- Disabled Persons Organisations, and
- disability organisations.





They are in charge of getting actions done at a local level.

- National Thematic Advisory Groups

These groups will be set up for each Theme or Topic and will last for the whole of the Strategy.



They are made up of different types of experts who will give advice and help getting some of the actions done under their Topic.



- Regional Interagency Groups

These groups are based on the HSE Community Health Organisation (CHO) areas.



These groups bring together:

- local authorities,
- the Disability Services, and
- the Mental Health Services in the HSE.



Their job is to help the organisations to work better together.



## Monitoring of Progress

Monitoring means checking that a strategy is working.

The monitoring of the strategy will be a very important part of its success.



There will be a report completed once a year by the National Implementation Subgroup.

This report will show the progress made in the previous year across the whole country.

The report will also check each of the actions in the Plan.



At their meetings, The National Implementation Subgroup will discuss any areas where there are barriers or challenges that need to be worked on.



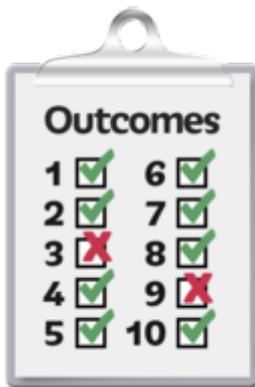
The Housing and Disability Steering Groups (HDSGs) will have to report to their Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) four times a year.

They will report on the progress of all areas of their Local Strategic Plans.



Local Strategic Plans are the plans made by all Housing and Disability Steering Groups (HDSGs) to meet the housing needs of disabled people in their area.

These reports will be checked for any issues that could be barriers to making the Local Strategic Plans happen.



## Outcomes

The Outcomes, and the types of actions that need to be taken to reach the goals, are explained below.

## Topic 1 – Accessible Housing and Communities

This topic is about making homes accessible for disabled people and making communities more accessible for everyone.



### Outcome 1.1

This outcome is about more accessible homes being provided for disabled people and using the ideas of universal design where needed.

Universal design is a set of guidelines for making housing and services accessible for all people.

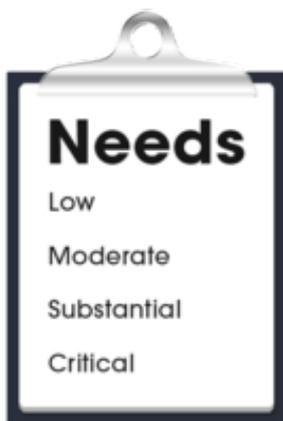


Every local authority will set targets by looking at how many people need accessible homes in their area.

There are 10 actions under this outcome that are about:



- How the local authorities and the Housing and Disability Steering Groups will look at the plans for their local authority areas and report.
- Looking at different ways homes can be provided by changing empty shops and offices into homes.
- Making sure that local authorities know the number of homes needed in their area for disabled people and ways of meeting that need.
- Setting targets for how many accessible homes local authorities need in their area and deciding what types of houses they need.



## Outcome 1.2



This outcome is about helping disabled people to find the right homes by giving them the right support.

There are 4 actions under this outcome that relate to:

- Local authorities and the HSE working together to move people into their own homes and out of congregated settings.
- Look at the idea of shared accommodation so people can choose to live with friends or family.
- The local authorities making sure that any homes offered to disabled people are accessible and meet all their needs.



## Outcome 1.3

This outcome is about new homes and communities being more accessible for disabled people.



There are 4 actions under this outcome that are about:

- Making accessibility better in the community.





- Looking at good examples of homes for disabled people in other countries.
- Looking at new technologies that could help homes become more accessible.
- Working with builders to make homes more accessible.

#### **Outcome 1.4**



This outcome is about local authorities making long term plans for the future on the homes needed in their area for disabled people.



There are 4 actions under this outcome that are about:

- Checking how many disabled people are on the social housing waiting list.
- Local authorities keeping a record of how many social homes are accessible in their area.
- Collecting information on all homes offered to disabled people.
- Having plans for people in case they have different needs in the future.





## Outcome 1.5

This outcome is about the HSE and the local authorities working together to give housing and supports so that they act in line with the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD).

There are 3 actions under this outcome that relate to:



- Understanding what funding is available for disabled people.
- HSE and other service providers looking at land they own to see what land could be used to give accessible homes.
- HSE and local authorities working together to make sure that all homes and supports are being used.



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive



## Topic 2 – Agencies working together and providing supports

This topic aims to continue to improve the way organisations such as the HSE and local authorities work together.



It is also about making sure that homes and support services can be given together at the same time.

### Outcome 2.1

This outcome is about making it easier for disabled people to get homes and support services.



There are 8 actions under this outcome that talk about things like:

- Looking at creating a new system to make sure that homes and support services can be delivered in a better way.
- Testing this new system to make sure it works.





- Looking at how disabled people get access to homes and support services and how things can be changed to make it easier for them.
- Looking at making existing support services better like the Tenancy Sustainment Officers.
- Looking at how people from the local authorities, the HSE, Approved Housing Bodies and Government Departments could work better together.



## Outcome 2.2

This outcome is about putting new ways in place that make it easier to provide homes for disabled people.



There are 5 actions under this outcome that are about:

- How the Cost of Disability in Ireland research report is linked to things like Social Housing Support, the Cost Rental Scheme, Affordable Housing Schemes and the Housing Adaptation Grant for People with Disability Scheme.





- Looking at the rules around homes and disability to see if they need to be changed to make things work better.
- Researching and creating peer support pilot schemes to test what works and then put schemes in place around the country.



- Creating a template for a contract that can be used by Approved Housing Bodies and service providers to agree how they will work together to give homes and support services.



- Working with HIQA to make sure people living in residential homes have all their rights respected.

### **Outcome 2.3**

This outcome is about the HSE and the local authorities working together to improve access to homes for disabled people.



There are 3 actions under this outcome that talk about:



- Having a housing coordinator in all local authorities.

This person will work with the Mental Health Services and Disability Services in their area.

Their job is to work with local authorities on homes and mental health support services.



- Developing and testing a **protocol** between local authorities and the HSE to make sure that people who need homes and support services get them.

A **protocol** is an agreement between services on how to do things.



- The Housing and Disability Steering Groups will do things like:
  - Look at how they run their meetings and how often they have them,
  - Look at their members to see if all groups are represented,
  - Reporting on what they are doing every three months,
  - Look at how they deal with problems,
  - Help smaller housing associations starting new projects.



## Outcome 2.4



This outcome is about local authorities, Approved Housing Bodies, the HSE and service providers working together to improve access to homes for disabled people.



They will also work together to make sure that all disabled people are able to live in the community and not in institutions or a congregated setting.

There are 2 actions under this outcome that talk about:

- The local authorities and Approved Housing Bodies working together to help people live independently in the community.



They will also give advice and support on projects and create a network of Disability Friendly Technical Advisors.

- A new group will be created and be called the Implementation Team.

One of the things this group will do is look at land owned by the HSE to see if they could be used for new homes.



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## Outcome 2.5

This outcome is about the HSE and local authorities following the Assessment and Allocation Guidelines.



The Assessment and Allocation Guidelines are the advice that must be followed when deciding if a person can get a social home and what type of home they can get.



An Ghníomhaireacht  
Tithíochta  
The Housing Agency

There are 2 actions under this outcome that talk about:

- The Housing Agency will look at the Assessment and Allocation Guidelines and make any changes needed to make them better,
- After the Housing Agency has looked at and updated the Guidelines, the local authorities must make sure that they follow them.



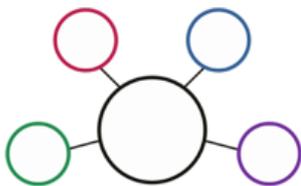
## Outcome 2.6

This outcome is about having more money available from the government for homes and support services for disabled people.



The way that money is given will also be made easier.

There are 2 actions under this outcome that talk about:



- The bigger Approved Housing Bodies will be encouraged to work with the smaller Approved Housing Bodies to make things work better.
- The HSE will look at ways to give money to service providers over a number of years so that they can make better plans to have services for disabled people.



The HSE will also give money to agencies so they can create support services more quickly.



## Topic 3 – Affordability of Housing

This topic is about making sure disabled people have access to affordable homes.



Affordable means that you can afford to buy or rent a house.

It will also look at ways to help disabled people buy their own home and rent in the private market.

### Outcome 3.1 and 3.2



This outcome is about disabled people having access to affordable housing schemes.

There are 8 actions under this outcome that are about:

- Making sure that affordable housing schemes are accessible for disabled people.
- Making information on housing schemes in accessible ways like Easy to Read.
- Allowing people to get local authority home loans and grants at the same time.





### **Outcome 3.3**

This outcome is about making sure that the government grants are right and that it is clear what they cover the cost of.

There are 2 actions under this outcome that are about:



- Looking at housing grants.
- Reducing the waiting times for housing grants.



## Topic 4 – Communication and Access to Information

This topic is about communication and the access to information.



Being able to communicate is important in every part of life.

This includes making information in accessible ways to help you understand.

### Outcome 4.1



This outcome is about making sure that organisations have their information about homes as accessible as possible.

There are 4 actions under this outcome that are about:



- The Housing Agency will publish a strategy for organisations on accessible information and communication to meet everyone's needs.



Local authorities, Approved Housing Bodies and the HSE will look at all their documents and see which ones need to be made more accessible.



They will get help from disabled people and the Housing Disability Steering Groups (HDSGs) to do this.

- The local authorities and the HDSGs will work to make disabled people more aware of their options for homes.

Application for SOCIAL HOUSING SUPPORT

Application to: [text box]

Important: Please Read The Following Information Carefully

1. Please ensure you have answered all of the questions in this application form, please also attach to the housing authority or housing provider a copy of your local authority or your local council's Information Centre leaflet.
2. When filling out this form, please make sure to refer clearly to what your application can be processed at speed or possible.
3. Make sure you have answered all of the questions fully when they are relevant to you. If you do not fully answer all the questions relevant to you, you might not get the correct priority for housing or you may not be able to return the form to you, and it will not be processed.
4. Your rights are fully subject under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which is not a right to own your application. If you have any queries regarding your rights under GDPR, you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for more information.
5. This application cannot be completed without a Personal Public Service Number (PPSN) for all members of the household included on the application form. If you are not aware of the PPSN for any member of the household, you should contact the relevant authority for more information on how to obtain a PPSN.

For example, telling people how important it is to apply for social housing support early.

### Outcome 4.2



This outcome is about having better communication between disabled people and state agencies about their homes and support services options.

There are 5 actions under this outcome that talk about:

- Disabled people are to be consulted with about any new housing schemes to make sure they are accessible for disabled people.





- Local authorities will give information on how disabled people can apply for homes and support services.
- Public Participation Networks will help communicate information on disability, homes, and community issues.



- Local authorities will tell disabled people each year, where they are on the housing list.
- Local authorities will see if they can put in place an online system so that people can apply online and view their application for Social Housing Support.



### **Outcome 4.3**

This outcome is about people being supported to speak with services and local authorities.

There are 4 actions under this outcome that talk about:



- Disabled Persons Organisations taking part in all consultations on housing.
- Have a contact person for disabled people in all local authorities.



- Have a contact person for disabled people for home support in each Community Health Organisation (CHO) area.
- Local authorities will check to see if their Choice Based Letting system on their website is accessible and make changes to it if it is not.

Choice based lettings lets you look at what social homes are available online from your local authority and lets you say if you're interested in one.



#### **Outcome 4.4**

This outcome is about having all information that is in an accessible format available in the one place.

There is 1 action under this outcome that is about:



- The Housing Agency will design and make a website that has all information on homes and support matters.



## Outcome 4.5

This outcome is about making the sharing of information between services and state agencies better.

There are 5 actions under this outcome that talk about:



- Create policies about sharing information between organisations.
- Making it clear to organisations what type of information can be shared between organisations to help them to give homes and support services for disabled people.



This will help local authorities and the HSE to improve their plans for giving homes and support services to disabled people.

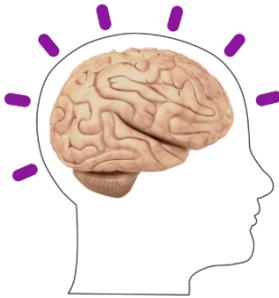


- Each year, collect information about the needs of disabled people to help plan better.
- The HDSGs will look at what services are available in their areas for things like homes, health and community.



## Topic 5 – Increase Understanding in Organisations

This topic is about helping people in organisations to understand and know more about disability.



This means helping people in the homes sector to know more about disability.

It also means helping people in the health sector to know more about homes.

It also involves helping people to understand the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act.



### Outcome 5.1

This outcome is about local authorities, the HSE and Approved Housing Bodies having the skills and knowledge to have the right services and information for disabled people.

There are 6 actions under this outcome that are about:

- Making more training programmes for local authorities and Approved Housing Body staff.





- Having the training based on the social model of disabilities and focusing on the voice of disabled people.
- Having shared learning days for local authorities and disability services.



### **Outcome 5.2**

This outcome is about organisations like the local authorities and the Housing and Disability Steering Groups having good knowledge and skills about disability issues.



There is 1 action under this outcome that is about:

- Develop an information and communication strategy for local authorities.

### **Outcome 5.3**



This outcome is about organisations like the HSE, local authorities and Approved Housing Bodies understanding what each other's role is so that they can give better services to disabled people.



There are 2 actions under this outcome that are about:

- Giving training to HSE, local authorities, and Approved Housing Bodies to make sure all staff know the things that need to be done.
- Creating guidelines that tell organisations what their responsibilities are.



Number 64 of 2015

Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015

### **Outcome 5.4**

This outcome is about the local authority and Approved Housing Body staff making the changes they need to under the Assisted Decision-Making Act 2015.



There are 3 actions under this outcome that are about:

- Giving training on the changes that will need to be made under the Assisted Decision-Making Act 2015.
- Giving guidelines for local authorities and Approved Housing Bodies on the Assisted Decision-Making Act 2015.
- Making sure all staff know about the Assisted Decision-Making Act 2015.





## Topic 6 – Connecting the Strategies

This topic is about making sure that all Government strategies and policies promote the rights of disabled people to get a home, like the UNCRPD explains.

This will make sure that the new National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 – 2027 supports other strategies such as:

- The Sharing the Vision national mental health strategy, and
- The Time to Move on From Congregated Settings strategy for decongregation.

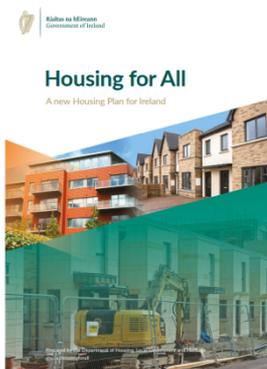


### Outcome 6.1

This outcome is about making sure the local authority action plans, the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027 and Housing for All are in line with each other.

There are 2 actions under this outcome that deal with:

- Look at the actions under Housing for All and implementing the actions that are the same.





- Making sure that the HSE and local authorities are publishing reports every year on how they are dealing with equality and human rights issues.
- Look at the Plan in 2024.

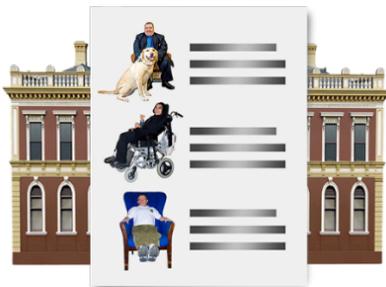
## Outcome 6.2



Time to Move on from Congregated Settings  
A Strategy for Community Inclusion

This outcome is about the two strategies, Sharing the Vision and A Time to Move on from Congregated Settings and how they will inform the new National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027 and the Plan.

Report of the Working Group on  
Congregated Settings  
Health Service Executive  
June 2011



There are 8 actions under this outcome that deal with:

- Allowing the people who move from congregated settings to be put on a transfer list if there is a change in the persons will and preference.



- Including the views and voices of disabled people in Regional Homelessness Action Plans.
- Develop a clear and detailed plan to move people with mental health disabilities out of congregated settings if they should not be there.



- Making sure that recommendations 67 and 68 from the Sharing the Vision strategy are delivered.
- The local authorities and the HSE will look at how they do things to make sure they are doing what the strategies say.



### Outcome 6.3

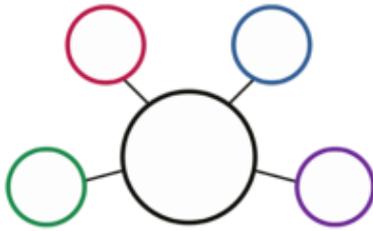
This outcome is about the Plan using knowledge from the Disability Capacity Review to 2032 and from the Wasted Lives report.

There are 4 actions under this outcome that deal with:

- Work on the actions in the plan for the Disability Capacity Review to 2032.
- Making sure that there is a person-centred approach when moving people into communities.



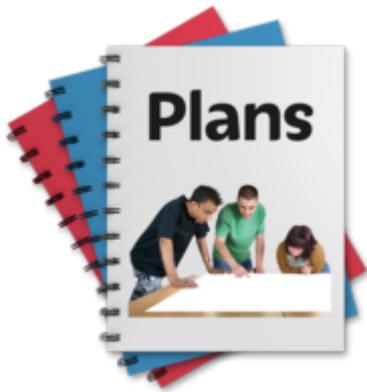
## Outcome 6.4



This outcome is about all government strategies fitting together to promote the rights of disabled people so that housing is not looked at on its own.

There are 5 actions under this outcome that deal with:

- Monitoring the National Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027 and the Plan.
- Connecting policies and government priorities at a local and national level to make sure any rules do not make things harder for disabled people to living independently.
- Encourage future policies and strategies to consider the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027.
- The Department of Housing will help to develop the UNCRPD Accessibility Action Plan.





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