# **A blue and green logo**

# **General Election 2024 - Disability Commitments in Political Party Manifestos**

# **20th November 2024: Version 3**

# **Summary**

DFI has gone through currently published General Election manifestos from the main political parties, or their General Election policy documents, to identify commitments on disability.

These are listed below in alphabetical order.

This is a live and ongoing document which will regularly be updated, so do come back to this page to access the latest version.

For information about commitments on care and carers, see our member Family Carers Ireland’s tracking [on their website](https://www.familycarers.ie/policy-lobbying/elections).

The following table details some of DFI’s priority elections asks, and which parties have included a commitment addressing the ask.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **DFI Asks**  | **Political Party** |
| Fianna Fáil  | Fine Gael  | Green Party  | Labour | People Before Profit | Sinn Féin  | Social Democrats  |
| Legal Reform  | √ | √ | √ | √ |  | √ | √ |
| Disability Ombudsman |  |  |  | √ |  | Equality Ombudsman | √ |
| Cost of Disability payment  | √Retain, increase Disability Support Grant, increase incrementally to €1000 per year | √€500 per annum | √€50 a week | √ | √€50 a week | √€20 a week, beyond €50 MESL increase | √€30 a week |
| Increase in/indexation of disability payments | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Fund Action Plan for Disability Services  | √ | √ | √ | √ |  | √ | √ |
| Personal Assistance Services  | √Additional 20,000 hours per year  | √structured system for 3rd level | √Additional 300,000 hours per year  | √Statutory right  | √Available to all who need, as a right | √Additional 354,000 hours per year | √Statutory right  |
| Personalised Budgets  | √ |  | √ | √ |  |  | √ |
| Under 65s in Nursing Homes  | √ | √ | √ | √ |  | √ | √ |
| Disability unit, Department of Health  |  |  |  |  |  | √ |  |
| Multi-annual funding for disability |  |  |  |  | √ |  | √ |
| Section 39 pay parity  | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Expand Disability Access Officer role  | √ |  |  | √ |  |  |  |
| Assistive Technology passport  | √ |  |  |  |  |  | √ |
| Housing Strategy for Disabled People |  |  |  | √ |  | √ |  |
| Reform Part M  |  |  |  | √ |  | √ | √ |
| Increase Housing Adaptation Grants  | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |

The next section details disability commitments by party. Please note that as some manifestos are quite long, we have summarised the commitments in the interests of brevity. Please check each party’s manifesto via the link provided to read all the detailed commitments.

**Asks that were in the DFI manifesto are highlighted in bold below with an asterix\***

# **Fianna Fáil**

Information taken from [Fianna Fáil manifesto](https://7358484.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/7358484/FF%20Manifesto%202024_V4_Screen%5B45%5D.pdf) and [disability policy.](https://7358484.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/7358484/FF%20Supporting%20People%20with%20a%20Disability.pdf)

**Big Picture Infrastructural Changes**

* **Publish and implement a new National Disability Strategy.\***
* **Implement a comprehensive action plan with 76 targeted measures to ensure a rights-based approach to disability is embedded throughout Irish society-** **led by the Taoiseach’s office to ensure that all government departments and the HSE implement and deliver the actions required.\***
* Establish a Disabled Persons’ Organisation (DPO) Forum.
* Redesign Census 2027 and future studies to enable detailed disability data breakdowns.
* Introduce EU Disability Awareness Cards.
* Continue to strengthen the Social Partnership model.
* **Advance the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.\***

**Legal and Regulatory Review and Changes**

* Complete the Review of the EPSEN Act and introduce necessary legislative changes.
* Establish a National Safeguarding Body.

**Improving People’s Standard of Living**

* **Work to reform and improve disability payments.\***
* **Increase the Disability Allowance, Domiciliary Care Allowance, Blind Pension and Invalidity Pension.\***
* Reform Disability Allowance into an Independent Living Allowance.
* Increase core welfare rates by at least €12 annually.
* Annually increase targeted personal tax credits for families, carers, blind people, dependent relatives, and those with additional needs.
* Widen eligibility for tax credits for those with caring responsibilities and citizens with additional needs and their families.
* Reform the Blind tax credit and examine the possibility of introducing a Deaf tax credit for congenital hearing loss.
* Adjust means test for those with a disability receiving inheritance to protect baseline social protection and medical supports.
* Extend the Fuel Allowance to additional households.
* Extend the period of a social welfare payment, following the death of a dependent, from 6 to 12 weeks.
* Continue to reform means testing in social welfare schemes to address anomalies and create greater fairness in the system.

**Reducing the Impact of Extra Cost of Disability**

* Put the Disability Support Grant on a permanent footing and increase it incrementally to €1000 per year.

**Improving Health Outcomes and Access to Health and Social Care**

*Community and voluntary sector and workforce*

* **Aim to achieve pay parity with public sector for Section 39 staff.\***
* Implement a Disability Service Sustainability Process for Section 38 and Section 39 organisations to ensure long-term viability.
* Implement signing-on and retention bonuses to attract staff to work in Disability Services.

*Specialist disability services*

* Reform how disability services are provided.
* **Continue to work towards Disability Capacity Review goals.\***
* **Provide annual funding to increase PA hours\*** by at least an additional 20,000 hours per year.
* **Continue work to end the practice of placing young people with disabilities in nursing homes.\***
* **Rollout Personalised Budgets nationally.\***
* **Deliver more home support hours.\***
* Align Disability Home Support pay rates with Older Persons rates.
* Design a statutory homecare scheme.
* **Increase investment in Adult Day Services\*** to €27m annually.
* Invest at least €15m more annually in **respite services.\***
* Increase funding for the Home Support Emergency Respite Scheme, continue to support respite houses and enhance alternative respite.
* Reform how therapies are provided, **fund a new targeted waiting list plan for therapies,\*** recruit additional therapy clinicians and assistants, and increase third-level places.
* Ensure assessment of need is done as early as possible.
* Double the number of Regional Assessment Hubs.
* Support families waiting for an Assessment of Needs to procure assessments privately.
* Establish an annual Children’s Therapies Grant Fund to support organisations and community groups.

*Mainstream health services*

* **Complete national rollout of Community Neuro-Rehabilitation Teams.\***
* Develop a new National Rehabilitation Strategy.
* Increase number of neurology nurse specialists and consultant neurologists.
* Ensure children’s hospitals have enough capacity to quickly and safely treat children with scoliosis and spina bifida.
* Eliminate the biannual review of the medical card for everyone born with a congenital condition.
* Agree Dental Treatment Service Scheme for medical card holders.
* Launch and implement the new National Rare Disease Plan.
* Improve access to Orphan Medicines.
* Expand specialist mental health services for ADHD, intellectual disabilities and others.
* Establish a Centre for Autism/ Neurodivergent Services, build on the Autism Innovation Strategy by co-developing initiatives to address service gaps, expand coverage of ‘Autism One Stop Shops’ in all regional health areas and create a public pathway for neuro-affirmative assessments and interventions for adults.
* Develop a DEIS-style programme of intensive health supports for disadvantaged communities.

**Living in the Community- Transport**

* **Expand local link services.\***
* **Support localised door-to-door services like Accessible Community Transport Southside (ACTS).\***
* Review Primary Medical Certificate criteria to include more people.
* Expand the Travel Assistance Scheme nationally.
* Launch an annual vehicle upgrade initiative for disability service providers.
* Expand the Leitrim Integrated Transport Pilot Project nationally to allow passengers with disabilities to access health care services.
* Extend the Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle Taxi Grant Scheme.
* Reduce 24-hour notice requirement for disabled rail passengers.

**Living in the Community - Disability Inclusion**

* **Expand the role of Disability Access Officers in Local Authorities.\***
* Establish a fund for Local Authorities to develop/adapt playgrounds to make them more accessible.
* Establish public sensory rooms in new libraries.
* Increase the Sensory Initiatives Grant for communities.
* Extend the Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP) to new communities.

**Living in the Community- Assistive Technology**

* + **Introduce an Assistive Technology Passport.\***

**Living in the Community- Employment**

* **Allow people with disabilities to work more hours without risking their social protection payments.\***
* Enhance employment opportunities for people with disabilities by supporting programmes like WorkAbility.
* Support individuals in accessing pathways to employment and examine the ‘ability to work’ criteria for certain payments.
* Eliminate the employment provision that permits pay reductions based on disability.
* Continue to implement Pathways to Work and develop and publish a new employment and activation strategy.
* Ensure intensive and appropriate supports are in place to support those most distant from the labour market.
* Rollout disability training for all Intreo staff.

**Living in the Community- Education**

* Extend the AIM programme supports to all children with a disability aged 0 to 3-year-olds in childcare.
* Implement a mandatory disability education module during teacher training, along with a mandatory placement in a special class or school for all student teachers.
* Rollout a national Therapy Service in Education, fund and provide therapies in schools starting with special schools, special classes and DEIS Plus schools.
* Hire more special education teachers and special needs assistants.
* Expand the availability of early intervention classes.
* Continue to expand the free-of-charge Summer Programme for students with special educational needs.
* Ensure that schools in every community have special classes and continue establishment of new special schools across the country.
* Introduce a national centralised application system for children applying for a place in a special school or special class.
* Reform Drumcondra tests to include dyslexia assessments.
* Increase secondary places for children with ASD.
* Boost the Fund for Students with Disabilities.

**Living in the Community- Culture, Art and Sports**

* Increase Sport Ireland Core Funding for sports clubs to increase the participation of people with disabilities.
* Appoint a Sport Ireland Disability Lead.
* Increase funding to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in a wider range of sports.
* Retain the Basic Income for the Artists Scheme and address access issues for disabled artists.

**A Place to Live/Housing**

* **Double the Housing Adaptation Grant and broaden eligibility.\***
* Develop a multi-year capital plan for **investment in residential and independent living housing developments.\***
* Promote shared services in independent living housing developments.

**Justice**

* Improve access for people with disabilities to participate in jury service.
* Raise the compensation limit of €15,000 for claims made under the Equal Status Act 2000.
* Work with the Law Society to create a solicitor's portal to simplify Enduring Power of Attorney applications.

# **Fine Gael**

Information taken from [Fine Gael manifesto.](https://www.finegael.ie/app/uploads/2024/11/Fine-Gael-General-Election-2024-Manifesto.pdf)

**Big Picture Infrastructural Changes**

* **Publish a new National Disability Strategy, adopting a whole-of-government approach and advances implementation of the UN CRPD.\***
* **Equality Impact Assessments of all budget processes.\***
* More open and inclusive budgetary process, moving away from the traditional focus on maintaining existing levels of service…aligning with national-wellbeing, equality and climate objectives.
* Focus on delivering the European Disability Cards.
* Step-up engagement with charitable organisations to make it easier for them to register formally as a charity; continue to update the tax code to promote charitable donations; publish a new National Volunteering Strategy; and support Rethink Ireland to provide cash grants and business supports to non-profit organisations.
* Implement a Whole-of-Government Strategy on Sustainable Development Goals.

**Legal and Regulatory Review and Changes**

* **Review the 2005 Disability Act\***.
* Support the Decision Support Service and **full implementation of the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015.\***
* **Prioritise enactment of the Mental Health Bill 2024.\***
* Put the Autism Innovation Strategy on statutory footing.

**Improving People’s Standard of Living**

* Reform the Disability Allowance Payment and remove anomalies in the current means test for the payment**. Increase the weekly payment\*** by €12 each year bringing it up to at least €300 per week over the lifetime of the next Government.
* Initiate a comprehensive review of means tests.
* Increase the Disability Allowance Capital Disregard.
* Extend schemes to help households with chronic health conditions install solar panels and restore the Warmth and Wellbeing scheme for low-income individuals with chronic respiratory conditions.
* Use revenue from the carbon tax to fund social welfare measures that support the most vulnerable, helping them manage energy costs and adapt to greener alternatives.

**Reducing the Impact of Extra Cost of Disability**

* Introduce a **permanent** €500 Annual **Cost of Disability Support Payment.\***

**Improving Health Outcomes and Access to Health and Social Care Supports**

*Community and voluntary sector and workforce*

* **Aim to achieve pay parity for staff in Section 39 organisations with the public sector.\***
* Engage with the voluntary sector through the Dialogue Forum.
* Focus on identifying solutions and actions to create both immediate and long-term workforce supply in our disability services.
* Within 100 days undertake a consultation with all relevant representative bodies to identify practical recruitment and retention initiatives, including sign up and retention payments for staff in child and adolescent mental health and children’s disability services.

*Specialist disability services*

* **Ensure implementation and renewal of the Action Plan for Disability Services 2024-2026.\***
* **Increase the number of new personal assistant hours and disability home support hours each year,\*** alongside increasing intensive support packages.
* **Increase the availability of day service places for school leavers and those graduating from Rehabilitative Training.\***
* **Create additional residential places for both adults and children.\***
* **Increase respite services, including the introduction of alternative respite options to better support families.\***
* **Continue to support people to move out of nursing homes, through ongoing implementation of the recommendations in the Ombudsman’s ‘Wasted Lives’ report.\***
* Drive implementation of the Time to Move on from Congregated Settings Strategy.
* Provide funding for private assessments of need for long waiting families and introduce a similar initiative to access therapies and mental health supports, while legislating for the National Treatment Purchase Fund to increase access in the longer term.
* Increase number of Dietitians, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Psychologists, Social Workers, and Speech and Language Therapists; Double college places in Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech and Language Therapy, and engage with third level institutions to make assessed placements in disability courses a key component in therapy training.
* Help therapy assistants qualify as therapists and encourage retired therapists to return, while increasing the number of Therapy Assistant positions through FETAC programmes.
* Ensure Autism-One-Stop-Shops in every CHO.

*Mainstream health services*

* Create a regulated, statutory home care scheme.
* Publish a national policy on adult safeguarding for the health and social care sector, strengthening existing protections.
* Introduce hospital-based patient advocates to assist parents caring for a child with a disability or a new diagnosis, helping them navigate the health service and providing information on accessing social protection income supports.
* Cap monthly costs for drugs and medicines. Undertake a full eligibility review and comparison with European norms to drive down costs for people.
* Expand newborn screening in accordance with international best practices.
* Develop and implement a national strategy to improve brain health and reduce dementia incidence.
* Publish and implement the Commission on Care for Older People report.
* Examine possibility of expanding the Chronic Disease Management Programme to include more conditions.
* Place the Dental Treatment Services Scheme on a sustainable footing; Review the Community Ophthalmic Services Medical Treatment Scheme to provide more medical and minor surgical care to medical card patients outside of the acute care setting.
* Implement progressive increases in medical card income limits.
* A range of measures in relation to paediatric spinal surgery including resourcing the Paediatric Spinal Surgery Management Unit, coordinating services across hospitals, increasing staffing and resources, utilising private hospital capacity and implementing review recommendations.
* Invest in campaigns to raise awareness and provide funding to ensure under-served groups, including people with disabilities, participate in cancer screening programmes.
* Publish and resource a new National Rare Disease Plan.
* Promote a European Health Union, focusing on key areas such as Rare Diseases, Cardiovascular Health, Mental Health.
* Create a new national palliative care policy to address the specific needs of children with life-limiting conditions
* Develop early intervention programmes for conditions such as psychosis, eating disorders, ADHD, and dual diagnoses.
* Examine and implement targeted supports for children with autism experiencing mental health challenges.

**Living in the Community- Transport**

* Extend the Free Travel Pass to children with disabilities whose family receives Domiciliary Care Allowance.
* **Increase Local Link services in rural areas\*** and work with the National Transport Authority to allow flexible pick-ups; work to integrate Local Link transport routes with health services.
* **Invest in accessible public and local transport: Ensuring operators provide safe and accessible access for all.\***
* Adopt a universal design approach in all active travel projects to ensure accessibility for everyone.
* Examine the criteria for the Primary Medical Certificate, as well as introduction of a grant scheme for necessary vehicle adaptations.

**Living in the Community- Disability Inclusion**

* Enhance library sensory spaces for inclusive community use.
* Engage at EU level to increase funding for next LEADER Programme and examine how application and bureaucracy can be simplified.
* Progressively increase funding for the Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme.
* Continue to expand the Community Services Programme to new organisations over the lifetime of the next Government.
* Continue to support and increase the places on successful local programmes such as CE, TÚS and the Rural Social Scheme.
* Collaborate with libraries and Education and Training Boards to provide accessible digital learning resources.
* Promote establishment of support groups in cities, towns, and villages for people with disabilities, including those with Autism and their families.

**Living in the Community- Employment**

* **Raise Disability Allowance income disregards.\***
* Increase the Wage Subsidy Scheme rate to 70% of the minimum wage, review the minimum hours requirement.
* **Continue to expand programmes like WorkAbility, Employability and the new Work and Access Programme.\***
* Promote training initiatives to raise awareness and understanding of disabilities.
* Improve labour market participation for disabled and disadvantaged citizens, collaborating with agencies like Business in the Community and Rehab.
* Develop a Code of Practice for hiring workers with autism.
* Work across government, civil and public services, private companies, and colleges to ensure students with disabilities have a clear path into employment, avoiding barriers.

**Living in the Community- Education**

* Increase participation in the Access and Inclusion Model for children with disabilities in early years education.
* Provide dedicated, assessed work placements in special schools and special classes as part of teacher training and include essential therapy supports in training; provide teachers and SNAs with better access to Continuous Professional Development (CPD) and ensure substitute cover.
* Complete the SNA workforce development programme, providing clarity on their role and career paths.
* In partnership with stakeholders and representative groups, create an inclusive education model and collect data to create more targeted, effective services.
* Implement recommendations from the review of the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs (EPSEN) Act.
* Hold a Citizens Assembly on Education to consider, among other issues, provision of an inclusive education for children with special educational needs.
* Ensure every school for the deaf has qualified Irish Sign Language interpreters.
* Develop a curriculum for Irish Sign Language for primary and post-primary students, including a standalone Leaving Cert subject.
* Strengthen links between mainstream and special schools to better address the specific needs of students with special educational needs, including improving information-sharing between special and post-primary schools; continuing work on EU-backed campus inclusion model; implementing guidelines for managing behaviours of concern.
* Introduce common application process at primary level for children with additional needs, building on successful Dublin 15 pilot.
* Review and improve transition supports for children transitioning to secondary, including career guidance in special schools, and enhanced career guidance facilities for students with autism.
* Supports for special schools and classes including increasing numbers, a dedicated therapy service, a multi-year capital programme, and training for schools opening new special classes.
* Increase funding to allow more schools to offer Summer Programmes for students with special needs.
* Consider additional time during State exams for students with special educational needs and ensure that those who use assistive technology can do so in exams.
* Establish Transport Managers to handle transportation for students with special needs.
* Boost access programmes for students aiming to continue to higher and further education.
* Establish a dedicated fund to support students with disabilities in higher education.
* Expand Path 4 courses across the Further and Higher Education sector, integrating students with intellectual disabilities into the student body, with access to all supports including SUSI.
* Deliver a structured, nationwide system for providing Personal Assistants in third-level institutions.
* Prioritise funding for inclusive research and ensure institutions have the necessary supports for faculty and researchers with disabilities.

**Living in the Community- Culture, Art and Sports**

* Adopt a cross-government approach to raise sports participation among people with disabilities.
* Recognise sports projects that use universal design to foster inclusive participation.
* Expand support for para-sports and special-needs programmes by providing grants to clubs.

**A Place to Live/Housing**

* Proceed with a 30% **increase in the grant limits\*** and a 25% **increase in the income thresholds\*** for the **Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability Scheme**.
* Mandate local authorities to find suitable sites for housing specifically designed for older adults, ensuring accessible options within local communities.

# **Green Party**

Information taken from the [Green’s Party Manifesto](https://www.greenparty.ie/sites/default/files/2024-11/Manifesto%20GE%202024.pdf).

**Big Picture Infrastructural Changes**

* **Implement the new National Disability Strategy.\***
* Implement a ten-year workforce strategy for disability.
* **Increase funding by 25% in the first year and by 15% in every subsequent year for community-based disability services in line with the Action Plan for Disability Services.\***
* Establish a Disability Information and Support Centre in every Community Health Organisation as a one-stop-shop.
* Put the Autism Innovation Strategy on statutory footing.
* Ensure that the HSE, private service providers and the Department of Education collate all relevant data on autism. Request CSO to include a question on autism in the next census.

**Legal and Regulatory Review and Changes**

* **Review the Disability Act 2005,\*** with a focus on the assessment of need process to streamline access to health and education supports.

**Improving People’s Standard of Living**

* Reform the operation of the Social Welfare Appeals Office.
* Establish a centralised means-testing agency to determine eligibility for supports across a range of sectors.
* Prioritise **increases to Disability Allowance and Carer’s Allowance\*** in annual budget negotiations.

**Reducing the Impact of Extra Cost of Disability**

* **Introduce a new €50/week Cost of Disability payment.\***

**Improving Health Outcomes and Access to Health and Social Care Supports**

*Specialist Disability Services*

* **Seek to end the practice of under-65s being placed in nursing homes.\***
* **Support independence among people with a disability by increasing the number of personal assistant hours by 300,000 per year.\***
* **Complete and evaluate the personalised budgeting pilot and make decisions about further implementation of a personalised budgeting policy.\***
* Introduce a statutory support scheme for home support services.
* **Support parity of pay between Section 38 and Section 39 workers.\***

*Mainstream Health Services*

* Review the Long-Term Illness Scheme.
* End the situation whereby children with dual diagnoses who experience both mental health issues and have a disability such as autism are denied access to mental health services.

**Living in the Community - Transport**

* Invest in accessible train and bus stations.
* Ensure that the principle of universal design is front and centre when putting new transport infrastructure in place. This will include:
	+ Adopting an access-for-all approach to transport and spatial planning, urban design and the built environment.
	+ Streamlining and improving access to mobility aids, adaptive wheelchairs and non-standard cycles
	+ Expanding Dublin City Council’s ‘continuous footpaths’ pilot, ensuring pedestrians can move along without a drop in pavement height.
	+ Enforcing disability parking rules, providing additional disabled car parking spaces, and ensuring access to towns and villages to those who need it.
* Introduce a new monthly subsidy for people who are blind or vision impaired to cover taxis and other private travel expenses
* Expand the current pilot on mobility and orientation in schools across the country.

**Living in the Community- Education**

* Increase hours under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) to ensure all children with disabilities can access early years education.
* Increase capital investment for the Department of Education to provide for new primary and secondary schools, and new ASD/special education classes attached to mainstream schools.
* Ensure that every child has access to mental health supports
* Ensure better planning of the need for ASD/special education classes at primary and secondary level and for special schools.
* Fund SNA in every classroom with a child who has additional needs.
* Complete the review of EPSEN Act 2004.
* Improve the provision of special education training within teacher training courses.
* Enhance the ability of the NCSE to directly support teachers working in special schools and ASD/special education classes.
* Ensure that additional therapeutic interventions supporting education and health outcomes are provided by Children’s Disability Network Teams onsite in all special schools.

**Living in the Community- Culture, Art and Sports**

* Develop an updated national play policy with particular focus on creating inclusive play spaces for children with disabilities.
* Work to improve access to sporting infrastructure for those with disabilities via the Changing Places and other schemes.

**A Place to Live/Housing**

* Support and fund Approved Housing Bodies that provide tailored housing solutions to people with disabilities.
* **Raise the upper limit on the Housing Adaptation Grant to match construction cost inflation.\***

# **Labour Party**

Information taken from Labour Party [manifesto](https://labour.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Labour-Manifesto-2024-Building-Better-Together.pdf),

**Big Picture Infrastructural Changes**

* **Implement the National Strategy for People with Disabilities\***
* **Establish a new office of the Disability Ombudsman\***
* **Ensure all legislation and budgets are disability and equality proofed.\***
* Establish a Joint Committee on Constitutional Change to consider proposed wording for amendments on allowing for positive discrimination to combat inequality for those with disabilities.

**Legal and Regulatory Review and Changes**

* **Strengthen and adequately fund the National Advocacy Service and place it on a statutory footing.\***
* **Ringfence multi-annual funding for Disabled Persons Organisations (DPOs) to build capacity and self-advocacy\***
* **Reform the Disability Act\*** through lens of UN CRPD.
* Ensure the review of the Equality Acts addresses disability discrimination.
* **Address the failure to commence parts of the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act.**\*
* **Expand the role of local authority Disability Access and Equality Officers as full-time positions.\***
* Implement recommendations of Joint Oireachtas Committee on Autism.

**Improving People’s Standard of Living**

* **Annual indexation of social welfare payments and benefits to reflect increases in the cost of living. \***
* Develop a new, integrated single taxable benefit to replace existing disability social welfare schemes and income disregard system.

**Reducing the Impact of Extra Cost of Disability**

* **Introduce a Cost of Disability payment.**\*,

**Improving Health Outcomes and Access to Health and Social Care Supports**

*Community and voluntary sector and workforce*

* **Resource the community and voluntary sector, bring the terms and conditions of staff in Section 39 bodies in line with the public service through pay parity.\***

*Specialist disability services*

* Carry out an immediate review of the Disability Action Plan funding in place for 2025 to **ensure essential services covering residential care, day services, PA services and home support, neurorehabilitation, respite care, and therapy services including Children’s Disability Network Teams are resourced\*** as required.
* **Review the outcome of the pilot personalised budget project** **with the objective of expanding the scheme with a dedicated budget office in each regional health area.\***
* Provide a statutory right to home support and personal assistant services.
* **Ensure individuals under 65 are moved out of nursing homes.\***
* End delays in access to mental health and disability services for children and young people.
* For children’s disability services, train more therapists and specialists, and ringfence the funding needed to hire future staff.
* Invest in a waiting list initiative to provide outsourced diagnostic assessments for children waiting longest and put in place a process for reimbursing parents who must resort to private therapies and assessments.
* Develop an adult neurodiversity diagnosis and support service pathway.

*Mainstream health services*

* **Implement the Neurorehabilitation Strategy and fully staff community teams in each health region\***
* Expand provision of medical cards including to anyone with a serious disability.
* Fully implement the National Stroke Strategy, and resource acute stroke units and community services, rehabilitation, and patient support.
* Set up a taskforce to develop a ten-year National Diabetes Strategy.

**Living in the Community- Transport**

* Expand the Dublin Bus Travel Assistance Scheme nationally.
* Ensure all public transport services are wheelchair accessible with a multi-annual capital investment plan to address shortcomings in train and bus stations and introduce mandatory accessibility design standards for transport infrastructure.
* Review the stringent regulations governing the Disabled Drivers and Disabled Passengers tax relief scheme and **introduce a new Transport Support Scheme.\***
* Maintain the free travel scheme, and ensure it is available on all licensed bus services.

**Living in the Community- Assistive Technology**

* Provide increased resources for assistive technology.

**Living in the Community- Employment**

* Introduce a new, resourced Comprehensive Employment Strategy for people with disabilities.
* Reform the Wage Subsidy Scheme, Reasonable Accommodation Fund, and the Disability Awareness Support Scheme.
* Meet the public sector recruitment target of 6%, extend to bodies in receipt of public funding, and set a long-term goal of raising further.
* Put in place greater supports for people with disabilities who wish to participate in the workplace.
* Ensure public sector bodies take on more apprentices and increase participation by women and people with disabilities.

**Living in the Community- Education**

* Ensure every child has access to the assistive technology they need.
* Introduce an Autism Guarantee to secure an appropriate school place for every child
* Update the EPSEN Act and introduce a right to assessment of educational needs and individual education plans. The EPSEN Act will need to be amended and then finally **commenced.\***
* Provide sufficient current and capital funding to meet demand for special school places and classes integrated in mainstream schools and ensure school designs are fully accessible and take sensory processing into account.
* Change the resource allocation model for special education teachers to ensure greater information on complex needs is considered.
* Expand the Educational Therapy Support Service through the National Council for Special Education for more in-school therapists.
* Invest in child-centred SNA provision.
* Undertake an Autism Audit of all schools and provide Autism CPD training to school staff.
* Increase funding for the Summer Programme so that no child with additional needs is left without a place.
* Provide additional time and supports in State exams for young people with dyslexia and other learning challenges.
* Expand the Access and Inclusion Model beyond pre-school so that children with disabilities are supported at both early years and in school age care.

**Living in the Community- Culture, Art and Sports**

* Provide dedicated increased funding for disability sporting organisations, Special Olympics Ireland, and the Paralympics, and ensure funding for autism friendly spaces in public sporting and recreational facilities.
* At all public sporting grounds/facilities ensure that combined toilet, shower and changing rooms are designed, and available for use by people with complex and multiple impairments or other disabilities.

**A Place to Live/Housing**

* **Fully implement the National Housing Strategy for Disabled people\***
* **Ringfence** 10% of **social and affordable housing for people with disabilities with universal design standards and fully wheelchair accessible housing.\***
* **Increase maximum awards under the Housing Adaptation Grant\*** to €60,000 and index income limits to wage growth.
* **Reform Part M building regulations** **to require wheelchair liveable housing, and more universally designed homes.**\*
* **Ensure individuals under 65 are moved out of nursing homes.\***

**Justice**

* Ensure a State Apology is provided to Thalidomide survivors with statutory supports and a fair compensation system

# **People Before Profit**

Information taken from People Before Profit [disability manifesto](https://www.pbp.ie/policies/a-manifesto-for-disability-justice/) and [manifesto.](https://www.pbp.ie/ge24/manifesto/)

**Big Picture Infrastructural Changes**

* Introduce a constitutional amendment to assert equality for disabled people and to guarantee the right to the supports needed to fully engage in society as a basic democratic right.
* **Fully implement the UN CRPD, including Optional Protocol.\***
* Develop a plan to address the shortage of Irish Sign Language translators.

**Improving People’s Standard of Living**

* **Abolish means testing for all disability-related payments, including Carer’s Allowance, Disability Allowance, Blind Pensions and Invalidity Pension.\***

**Reducing the Impact of Extra Cost of Disability**

* **Provide universal payments that cover the real costs of disability- begin by immediately increasing all weekly disability payments to €350 a week, to include a €50 cost of disability payment.\***

**Improving Health Outcomes and Access to Health and Social Care Supports**

*Community and voluntary sector and workforce*

* **Implement a comprehensive plan for staff retention across the relevant services addressing, in particular, pay and conditions: end the discrimination against Section 39 workers.\***
* Incorporate community and voluntary sector disability services and personal assistants into the public sector to ensure consistency of services across the country, secure multi-annual funding for services and jobs, and better pay and conditions.
* Develop comprehensive workforce planning across disability, healthcare and social care based on the level of need, with a focus on expanding training and education, and improving pay and conditions to address the recruitment and retention crisis.

*Specialist disability services*

* **Massively expand personal assistance hours, to make available to all who need it as a right - to enable them to study, work, socialise and live a full life.\***
* Introduce a legal right to homecare.
* Introduce an annual entitlement to 30 days’ respite.
* Introduce a centralised registration database for people with disabilities, holding records of medical and social support needs.
* Immediately hire 375 additional clinicians to clear autism waiting list assessments.
* Establish a centralised database from the moment a child is diagnosed to provide better data tracking and forward planning and a seamless transition to adult services and supports.
* Introduce emergency measures to ensure full staffing of Children’s Disability Network Teams and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, including speeding up the recruitment and recognition of the qualifications of international candidates for therapists.
* Double the number of places in universities for therapeutic courses.

*Mainstream health services*

* Introduce a single tier free universal health service
* Take private healthcare into public ownership.
* Eliminate the Drug Payment Threshold, making prescription drugs free.

**Living in the Community- Transport**

* Invest in our public transport system so buses can accommodate more than one wheelchair user at a time.
* Remove the need for wheelchair users to give notice of inter-county travel by bus.
* Ensure all stops, platforms and entry points are fully accessible. Invest in regular maintenance of lifts.
* Provide public on-demand accessible personal transport services free of charge for disabled people. Until such services are fully up and running, provide a Mobility Allowance to cover taxi costs.
* Expand funding for vehicle adaptation and running costs.
* Abolish fees for Disabled Person’s Parking Cards.
* Abolish public transport fares and expand service frequency and coverage.
* Involve disabled people’s organisations and disability rights advocates in consultation at all levels on transport.

**Living in the Community- Disability Inclusion**

* Ensure all government buildings and buildings open to the public are accessible and have changing places.

**Living in the Community- Assistive Technology**

* **Increase funding for assistive devices and technology to ensure prompt availability to all who require them.\***

**Living in the Community- Education**

* Ensure that all schools and third level institutions are completely accessible with proper toileting facilities.
* Immediately increase the number of Special Needs Assistants by 2000 and Special Education Teachers by 1000.
* Ensure that every school in the State has an autism class and every school offers a summer programme.
* Provide additional support to help students with additional needs with Irish.

**A Place to Live/Housing**

* **Ensure that all public housing developments are of an accessible design and are fully disability proofed.\***
* **Expand the Housing Adaptation grant schemes and increase funding to clear waiting lists and ensure access for all.\***

# **Sinn Féin**

Information taken from Sinn Féin [manifesto,](https://vote.sinnfein.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/SinnFeinManifesto2024.pdf) [health policy](https://health.sinnfein.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/A_Prescription_For_Change.pdf), [housing policy](https://housing.sinnfein.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/AHomeOfYourOwn.pdf).

**Big Picture Infrastructural Changes**

* **Work systematically towards full compliance with UN CRPD.\***
* Provide funding to DPROs for training and development.
* Implement the Autism Innovation Strategy, work towards implementation of Committee on Autism Final Report recommendations, and develop further policies that support neurodiversity.
* Establish a dedicated Equality Ombudsman and expand Ombudsman’s role, remit and powers.
* Work with relevant stakeholders and citizens organisations to develop mechanisms to increase the participation of disabled people in politics and all levels of decision-making.
* Champion creation of a new UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons.

**Legal and Regulatory Review and Changes**

* **Review the Disability Act 2005 and EPSEN Act 2004 and ensure the State is complaint with existing disability and equality legislation.\***
* **Reform the Mental Health Act.\***
* Enact adult safeguarding legislation and establish a safeguarding authority.
* Legislate to allow for solicitors to assist with Enduring Powers of Attorney applications to the Decision Support Service.

**Improving People’s Standard of Living**

* **Increase Disability Allowance, the Blind Pension and Invalidity Pension\*** by €70 – a €50 increase to meet a Minimum Essential Standard of Living (MESL), and a further €20 to begin to address Cost of Disability.
* Establish a Social Welfare Adequacy Commission to provide objective, evidence based annual recommendations on adjustments to payment rates- with principal function of examining minimum income required to secure a MESL. Membership would include representation from those impacted by budgetary decisions.
* Add socioeconomic discrimination as a ground of discrimination into equality legislation.

**Reducing the Impact of Extra Cost of Disability**

* Ensure higher rates beyond MESL for persons on certain schemes, recognising the additional cost of disability (see above – a €20 increase above MESL to start to address Cost of Disability).

**Improving Health Outcomes and Access to Health and Social Care Supports**

*Community and voluntary sector and workforce*

* **End pay disparities between core service provider Section 39 organisations and the HSE.\***

*Specialist disability services*

* Over 5 years, commit €829m additional current expenditure and €659m additional capital expenditure to improve disability services.
* **Double the number of Personal Assistance hours over a term of Government by increasing them by 354,000 every year.\***
* **Provide an additional 1.5 million disability home care hours\*** including needs-based access to intensive home care packages.
* Legislate for statutory home care scheme recognising levels of care.
* Enact the Health (Amendment) (Licensing of Professional Home Support Providers) Bill and new regulations for home support providers.
* **Provide over 3,000 additional appropriate residential places.\***
* **Progress de-congregation to support independent living, and prioritise the transfer of younger people with disabilities who have been inappropriately placed in nursing homes.\***
* **Expand the number of day services places by 4,000.\***
* **Double investment in respite services over the term of government to deliver a range of additional services.\***
* Develop a common, compliant, and efficient process for assessment of need under the Disability Act.
* Conduct an evidence-based and independent review of the service delivery model for children’s disability services.
* Fully fund Children’s Disability Network Teams, and develop and resource a comprehensive workforce plan to fully staff them.
* Temporarily fund access to community and private psychology and therapy services, particularly for those waiting longest, working to phase out reliance on private providers as public capacity is built up.

*Mainstream health services*

* **Senior policy official with responsibility for disability in Department of Health to improve access in mainstream services and improve coordination with Department of Disability.\***
* **Develop mainstream services which are accessible to all, and implement a workforce plan to reduce waiting lists.\***
* **Deliver multidisciplinary community neuro-rehabilitation teams and complementary community sector services.\***
* Further develop neuro-rehabilitation services including acute beds, transitional units, community services, vocational rehabilitation etc.
* Support professional patient advocacy and complete the Patient Voice Partner Voice Policy.
* Publish a framework for engagement with and supporting patient advocates which includes decision-making, a complaints procedure, and a formalised role for patient advocates.
* Deliver a State apology to Thalidomide Survivors and ensure access to the necessary lifelong health and social care supports.
* Deliver free prescription medicines for all households, abolish prescription charges for medical card holders, and deliver median income medical cards.
* Develop a modern home care scheme, and work with home care workers to improve career development, recruitment, and retention.
* Mandate the Commission on Care to develop a care strategy and funding model for aging and older people.
* Develop a landmark public GP contract and expand multidisciplinary primary care teams.
* Expand access to Chronic Disease Management Programmes on a universal basis to those with specified conditions.
* Deliver 17 CAMHS-ID teams.
* Embed mental health and wellbeing in community services for minority groups, marginalised people, and older people.
* Develop population-based budgets and mandate each health region to develop a population-based care and capacity plan to inform strategic investment and workforce planning.
* Urgently complete and publish a new Rare Disease Strategy and Implementation Plan. Improve and expand rare disease care pathways rooted in coordinated care and community services.
* Fund specialist home care and support for those who need it, such as people with EB.
* Expand the Newborn Bloodspot Screening Programme.

**Living in the Community- Transport**

* **Invest in the expansion of Connecting Ireland (Local Link) bus schemes.\***
* Deliver a €102m capital programme to **make all public transport wheelchair accessible.\***
* Deliver a capital programme to make all bus stations, train stations and platforms, and bus stops wheelchair accessible.
* Introduce tiered grant-based supports for the purchase, adaptation and operation of private cars and allowances for the use of taxis.
* Reform Disabled Drivers and Passengers Scheme. Cost: €19m.

**Living in the Community- Disability Inclusion**

* **Create a Disability Inclusion Fund for all local authorities to support their specific disability inclusion requirements in line with the UNCRPD and Public Sector Duty.\***
* Increasing funding for programmes such as SICAP and LEADER, and public participation networks.

**Living in the Community- Employment**

* Increase investment in the Wage Subsidy scheme and roll-out career supports for young people with disabilities across the country based on the Walk PEER model- combined cost of €16m annually.

**Living in the Community- Education**

* Invest an additional €583.7m current and €60m capital to deliver on Special Education Needs priorities.
* Examine extension of the Access and Inclusion Model beyond ECCE hours and commit to a review of AIM for younger ages outside of ECCE programme.
* Amend the EPSEN Act to require the NCSE and Department of Education to properly forecast and plan for the number of school places needed for children with special educational needs.
* Bring forward and enact a new rights-based Education Bill and allocate the resources necessary to implement it through increased Education, Health and Disability Budgets- including making it mandatory for the Department’s Inspectorate to report on the implementation of Individual Education Plans.
* Provide for a reduction to the pupil teacher ratio with a focus on the most overcrowded classrooms.
* Provide the NCSE with greater powers to ensure sufficient, appropriate school places and classes, and the needs of children are met alongside robust appeals mechanisms.
* Recruit additional educational psychologists along with greater administrative support.
* Fund recruitment of 1,000 additional Special Education Teachers and 1,300 additional SNAs on average per annum.
* Reform reasonable accommodation scheme for state exams.
* Ensure the latest approaches to special education are included in initial teacher training and continuing professional development.
* Improve and reverse cuts to the Summer Programme.
* Revise the allocation of special education teaching hours to include complex needs.
* Introduce Irish Sign Language as a leaving certificate subject in 2025.
* Introduce systems to monitor the academic attainment of children who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind or visually impaired.
* Replace current framework for Irish exemptions with a new inclusive approach, in consultation with groups representing people with learning difficulties, special educational needs and immigrant students.
* Extend the “Fund for Students” with a Disability (FSD) across Further Education and Training, so that it applies to all FET courses, not just PLCs. Cost: additional €5m.

**Living in the Community- Culture, Arts and Sports**

* Expand Catherine’s Law to exempt Disabled Artists from having arts bursaries and awards count against their social protection entitlements.

**A Place to Live/Housing**

* Comprehensive mid-way review of the impact of the Housing Strategy for Disabled People, 2022-2027, and extension of the Strategy to 2029.
* **Initiate a comprehensive review of Part M of the Building Regulations, with purpose of ensuring appropriate number of wheelchair liveable housing.\***
* Double **funding for the housing adaptation grants\*** to €50 million a year. **Consider issues of eligibility, thresholds and grant limits.\***
* More than 10% of **all new social and affordable homes to be suitable for people with a disability including wheelchair liveability.\***
* Each Local Authority public housing delivery plan to include a detailed housing needs demand assessment including assessment of type and number of new homes for people with disabilities required.
* **Ensure that over time all new housing developments (public and private) have an appropriate minimum number of homes designed to meet the needs of people with disabilities.\***
* Revise national and local housing needs assessments, including assessment of existing unmet demand, projected population growth and number of homes for people with disabilities needed.
* Allow Local Authorities to purchase vacant disability adapted second hand properties as per current rules; Over five years, fund acquisition of 1,000 vacant one bed, four bed and disability adapted properties for households in emergency accommodation or at risk of homelessness.
* Amend the Planning and Development Act related to the provision of housing for people with disabilities and for Travellers.
* Support **adoption of Universal Design\*** to meet needs of older people.
* Support Local Authorities and Approved Housing Bodies to run open competitions for signature buildings, promoting new architectural responses to contemporary challenges such as universal design.
* Increase the availability of age friendly homes.
* Ensure that no one sleeps rough for lack of accessible, safe and appropriate emergency accommodation.

# **Social Democrats**

Based on [Social Democrats Disability Policy](https://www.socialdemocrats.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/DisabilityOnline.pdf) and the [Social Democrats Manifesto](https://www.socialdemocrats.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/GEManifesto2024.pdf). Please refer to disability policy for full commitments.

**Big Picture Infrastructural Changes**

* A full Cabinet Minister for Disability.
* A new Disability Inspectorate to carry out enquiries on all aspects of disability services within organisations receiving state funding.
* **A new Disability Ombudsman\*** to deal with complaints made by members of the public, politicians, state bodies and DPOs. This Ombudsman should have the ability to launch its own investigations if necessary, and the ability to compel enforcement of its rulings.
* A revised Disability Authority to oversee the performance of organisations receiving state funding for the provision of services and supports to disabled people.
* **Independent funding and a framework for the involvement of DPOs in the early stages of the legislative and policy processes.\*,** including a clear definition and registry of DPOs.
* A separate organisation should be set up within, or in parallel with, the HSE to assume responsibility for assessment of needs, care, and provision of equipment for disabled people. This organisation should receive multi-annual budgets.
* Create a clear action plan with budget lines and timelines for the **implementation,** monitoring, reporting, and **enforcement of the UNCRPD.\***

**Legal and Regulatory Review and Changes**

* **Fully commence the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015.\***
* **Fulfil the provision in the Citizen’s Information Act 2007 for a statutory advocacy service, which has never been commenced.\***
* **Review and reform Disability Act through the lens of the UNCRPD.\***
* Pass new legislation, including on the deprivation of liberty.
* **Fully commence EPSEN Act 2004 and Irish Sign Language Act 2017.\***

**Improving Health Outcomes and Access to Health and Social Care Supports**

*Community and voluntary sector and workforce*

* **Begin a process of creating parity of treatment for staff delivering services in HSE-funded organisations.\***
* **Put a sustainable multi-annual funding model in place for the community and voluntary sector.\***
* A cross-departmental Workforce Planning Strategy to ensure allocated funding can be spent and service delivery is not hindered by capacity constraints.
* Establish a National Workforce Task Force to address short term and medium-term needs of our Health and Social Care sector.

*Specialist disability services*

* **Sufficient investment is required to deliver services identified by the Disability Capacity Review. This includes building and strengthening comprehensive critical supports in the community such as personal assistant and home care services; respite; day services; residential services; multidisciplinary therapy services, and a wide range of community supports.\***
* **Increase funding to essential services that would help vindicate the right to independent living, including Personal Assistant Services (PAS), home supports, and personalised budgets.\***
* Introduce a statutory right to Home Care and to Personal Assistance.
* **Create a comprehensive funding mechanism for personalised budgets\*** as a way of moving forward from institutional /group housing provision.
* **Aim to end institutionalisation for disabled people, with sufficient funding to support the de-congregation process and move people under-65 living in nursing and to deliver sufficient fully accessible housing and the necessary support provision (including social care packages) for those who wish to live independently.\***
* Children with disabilities need well-resourced public health and education services. The main problem is no longer funding - there is an urgent need for strategic work force planning.
* The manifesto contains a number of commitments on autism, including in the area of early intervention, education, employment, community inclusion, diagnostic and therapeutic services, amongst others.

**Improving People’s Standard of Living**

* **Create a pathway, informed by the Cost of Disability in Ireland report, so that by a combination of the Disability Allowance and Cost of Disability payments, disabled people are brought above the poverty line and to the Minimum Essential Standard of Living.\***

**Reducing the Impact of Extra Cost of Disability**

* Bring in €30 per week **Cost of Disability Payment\*** as a starting point.

**Living in the Community - Transport**

* **Introduce schemes to replace the Motorised Transport Grant and Mobility Allowance, based on individual needs.\***
* Improve regulations and funding conditions so that access for disabled people to buses, trains, and taxis is vastly improved.
* **Make our public and private transport system fully accessible in terms of fleet, stops, platforms and other access points.\***
* Expand the Free Travel Scheme to include more groups who cannot drive due to restrictions imposed by the State.
* Ensure urban planning processes take account of the Hierarchy of Road users, and that people with mobility or sensory impairments have sufficient opportunity to contribute to new public space design.

**Living in the Community - Disability Inclusion**

* Work at a local authority level to improve the quality of footpaths, to ensure improved mobility for all.

**Living in the Community - Assistive Technology**

* **Introduce an Assistive Technology Passport.\***
* Change how assistive technology is funded and approved. All disabled people should have access to communication, mobility and other assistive technologies in a timely manner.

**Living in the Community – Employment**

* **Work to end barriers to disabled people entering or remaining within the paid workforce such as inadequate educational provision, continuing benefit traps, and discriminatory access rules and attitudes. This may include retaining access to medical cards and essential disability benefits while employed.\***
* Ensure that the 6% employment rate target for disabled people for public bodies is fully implemented
* Create proper pathways for career advancement, so that disabled people are not permanently employed in entry level positions in the public sector with no prospect of promotion.
* Improve funding under the Wage Subsidy Scheme and link rates to changes in the National Minimum Wage.

**Living in the Community - Education**

* Revise the EPSEN Act and invest in its provisions.
* Develop a roadmap on Special Education and Inclusive Education and push for the realisation of an inclusive education model where

all children attend school together.

* Fund the rollout of the NCSE’s An Inclusive Education for an Inclusive Society.
* Conduct a full review of the Department of Education’s guidelines for students with disabilities in line with the UNCRPD.
* Increase the number of Special Needs Assistants, and improve their employment conditions.

**Living in the Community- Culture, Art and Sports**

* Expand the number of playgrounds, pools, gyms, parks and green spaces, and venues that feature universal design.
* Ensure that all future recreational projects include accessible changing facilities – accessible toilets which include a hoist, adult sized changing bench, and larger space for additional assistants.
* Reform the basic income for artists so it does not exclude artists with disabilities

**A Place to Live/Housing**

* **Put in place a fit-for-purpose planning infrastructure and a stream of additional supports for disabled people to deal with housing, health access, and other areas of concern.\***
* **Provide sufficient funding to move people from congregated settings to a home of their own in the community, including the over 1,300 people under-65 living in nursing homes.\***
* Ensure that disabled people who live at home with their families are supported to move into a home of their own, particularly those living with family carers aged 70 or over.
* **Set a minimum target for social housing universal design standards, and ensure that every social housing pipeline project demonstrates inclusion of a minimum of fully wheelchair-liveable housing.\***
* Ensure local authorities review social housing lists and identify the number of people/households requiring wheelchair-liveable housing.
* **Change Part M of building regulations to include wheelchair-liveable housing.\***
* **Improve access to, and benefits under, Housing Adaptation schemes, and improve funding for assistive devices.\***
* Assess ways in which local authorities could help disabled people with the maintenance of their homes.