

Ireland ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2018

But many people with intellectual disabilities and autism, and their families are not experiencing these rights in their everyday lives.



National Federation of
Voluntary Service Providers

Supporting people with intellectual disability (CLG)

Our members share how this is impacting people, their families, and the supports provided:

As a person with an intellectual disability or autism:

- Many people don't have the supports they need to live in their own home, or access to a plan for those supports in the future.
- It is harder to get a job, many people with disabilities would like to work with the right supports.
- Employers need the right supports to give people with disabilities a job.
- It is harder to get healthcare in the community for people who get supports from a disability service.

As a parent or family member of a person with intellectual disability or autism:

- I can't access timely diagnosis or early intervention to support my child to reach their full potential.
- I don't see my son or daughter having the same opportunities as my other adult children to live in their own home, to be included in life, to have support to get employment and education.
- I can't rest easy without knowing that there is a plan for my son or daughter's future – I don't know where they will live and who will provide support when I can no longer do so.
- I'm struggling to access a break or respite when I need these supports.

As an organisation providing disability services:

- Many are experiencing a crisis of sustainability.
- Increasing costs are not being fully funded, leaving many organisations in deficit or struggling to provide the quality of service people need.
- Examples of rising costs include the changing needs of the people supported; regulatory requirements; pay costs; and inflation.
- Underfunding of rising costs is destabilising the capacity of services to meet the urgent needs and rights of people with intellectual disabilities and autism.

What we need YOU TO DO for people with intellectual disabilities and autism during this election campaign?

How are you planning with me and my family?

1. Make access to timely diagnosis, early intervention and staffing of children's disability teams a key priority for Government.
2. Implement the **Action Plan for Disability Services** and introduce a fully **resourced, planned and co-ordinated** approach to providing housing and supports to live in the community, and access to employment and education.
3. Invest in innovation and Assistive Technology to support my independence.

” I need a life-long plan

How can I be included in the healthcare supports that I need?

4. Many people with intellectual disability experience early aging – introduce planned, adequate resources for changing needs.
5. Make sure that I am entitled to access mainstream community health services – this is often not the case for people accessing disability services.

How will you sustain my supports?

6. Ensure a focus on disability in all Departments and continue the Cabinet Committee on Disability in the next Programme for Government.
7. Address the crisis in sustainability of disability services to ensure there is capacity to provide the required supports.
8. Fund the cost of meeting nationally agreed pay awards and pay parity for all staff in disability services.

We need you to actively progress inclusion of these key priorities in your manifesto and the Programme for Government. Contact info@fedvol.ie to access further information and to let us know how you are progressing these priorities.