

# National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027

Plain English Version



### **Disability Terminology**

Language is extremely important. There are many words and terms that are used to identify disability in Ireland and internationally. When developing this Strategy we considered disability terminology. The way these words are understood differs across different groups. This was clear during the consultation we carried out when developing this Strategy.

We received input about terminology from a number of Disabled Persons Organisations (DPOs). We also examined international good practice.

For some people, the term 'disabled people' is a source of pride and identity. They feel it recognises that disabling barriers exist within society and not within individuals. This approach is in line with the social model of disability. The social model of disability looks at how society is structured and how it disables people<sup>1</sup>. It is not based on a person's impairment. It is about the barriers that exist in terms of:

- attitudes
- policy development
- access
- lack of supports.

The social model looks at how these barriers can prevent people from taking part in society as equals, with choice and control over their lives.

For others, the term 'people with a disability' or 'people with an intellectual disability' has the same meaning. These terms are important to those who want to be recognised as a person before their disability. This Strategy will take a collaborative and inclusive approach to disability terminology. In this Strategy we use the term 'disabled people' in the title and for general use throughout the:

- strategy
- implementation plan
- related documents.

However, we will also use terms for specific groups of people, like:

- 'people with intellectual disabilities'
- 'people with psychosocial disabilities'.

We will do this in the Strategy where appropriate. This reflects how we collaborated with different groups when drawing up this Strategy. It also recognises that language evolves over time.

<sup>1</sup> See here: Social model of disability | Disability charity Scope UK for further information on the social model of disability

### Contents

Housing for All	6
The Strategy and the UNCRPD	8
Themes	10
Theme 1 – Accessible housing and communities	12
Theme 2 – Interagency collaboration and the provision of supports	14
Theme 3 – Affordability of housing	16
Theme 4 – Communication and access to information	18
Theme 5 – Knowledge, capacity, and expertise	19
Theme 6 – Strategy alignment	20
Implementation Plan	22
Implementation Structures	23



The National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability (2011-2016 (extended to 2021))

February - June 2021

#### **New Strategy Consultation Round 1**

- Online questionnaire
- Local Strategic Plans
- Organisation submissions
- Research

July - October 2021

#### **New Strategy Consultation Round 2**

- Disability Participation and Consultation Network focus groups
- Local authorities, Approved Housing Bodies, the Irish Council for Social Housing and the HSE focus groups
- The National Federation of Voluntary Service Providers focus groups

2022-2027

The National Housing Strategy for Disabled People (2022-2027)

Figure 1: Timelines for Development of the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027



Figure 2: Contributors to the Development of the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027

### 1 Introduction

In this National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027, we aim to build on the work achieved through the previous National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability (2011-2016 [NHSPWD] – extended to 2021)<sup>2</sup>.

The following departments have developed this new Strategy:

- the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
- the Department of Health (DoH)
- the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY).

They have developed it under the guiding principles of Housing for All – A New Housing Plan for Ireland. This plan documents the framework for delivering housing for disabled people through mainstream housing policy.

This Strategy sets out how the following organisations will cooperate and collaborate to deliver housing and related supports for disabled people over the next five years:

- Government departments
- State agencies
- others.

The vision for the Strategy is:

To facilitate disabled people to live independently with the appropriate choices and control over where, how and with whom they live, promoting their inclusion in the community.

To further enable equal access for disabled people to housing with integrated support services.

We agreed this vision based on feedback on the consultation we did in developing this Strategy.

Ireland is one of the few countries that has a specific Strategy for housing for disabled people. The Government is committed to providing equal access to housing for all. No one Government department or organisation can deliver the vision of the Strategy.

<sup>2</sup> Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, *National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability 2011-2016 (extended to 2021).* Accessed November 2021: gov.ie – National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability 2011-2016 (www.gov.ie)

The delivery must be done in a coordinated and collaborative way, in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

The UNCRPD is an international treaty which identifies the rights of disabled people as well as the obligations on member states to promote, protect and ensure those rights. It aims to make sure that disabled people:

- enjoy the same human rights as everyone else
- can take part fully in society by receiving the same opportunities as others.

Disabled people must be at the centre of this housing Strategy.

This Strategy is being published as part of a group of documents including an easy-toread version and an audio version. It sets out what the Government aims to do to meet the housing needs and related supports for disabled people in community settings.

The main feedback from the consultation was that disabled people want to be able to live independently. The themes in this Strategy show what we need to do to achieve this.

The Implementation Plan will be prepared and published by the end of June 2022. It will detail how the outcomes in this Strategy and further actions will be achieved.

This Strategy contains some of the initial things that will be done before we publish the Implementation Plan. The Government intends to:

- address the issues faced by disabled people accessing housing
- provide a clear signal to stakeholders that action is required immediately.

When we talk about disability we mean the following categories of disability:

- sensory
- mental health or psychosocial disabilities<sup>3</sup>
- physical
- intellectual.

During the first year of this new Strategy, we will gather more information about the housing needs of people in each category. We will do this so we can create the strategic planning needed to increase delivery of housing opportunities with related supports. This will include disabled people who do not identify with one of the above categories, like those with a dual diagnosis or Autism.

<sup>3</sup> You can find more information on psychosocial disabilities at: Accountability for the Rights of People with Psychosocial Disabilities: An Assessment of Country Reports for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – Health and Human Rights Journal (hhrjournal.org)

# 2 Housing for All

Housing for All<sup>4</sup> is the Government's housing plan to 2030. The overall aim of the housing plan for Ireland is that everyone in the State should have access to a home to buy or rent:

- at an affordable price
- built to a high standard
- in the right place
- offering a high quality of life.

The plan's vision is to have a steady supply of housing in the correct locations with economic, social, and environmental sustainability built into the system.

It is estimated that Ireland needs about 33,000 new homes each year to meet the need.

The Housing for All plan has four 'pathways'. Pathway 2 is about:

- eradicating homelessness
- increasing social housing delivery
- supporting social inclusion.

The expected result of Housing for All is to improve:

- equality of opportunity
- individual choice
- independent living for disabled people.

Local authorities need to include housing for disabled people in their Housing Delivery Action Plans. They should also take account of the needs described in the Department of Health's Disability Capacity Review to 2032 (2021)<sup>5</sup>. That review quantifies and costs future needs for disability support services, in the light of expected population change, and the needs which are yet to be met.

<sup>4</sup> Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Housing for All – a New Housing Plan for Ireland. Accessed November 2021: gov.ie – Housing for All – a New Housing Plan for Ireland (www.gov.ie)

<sup>5</sup> Department of Health, *Disability Capacity Review to 2032 – A Review of Social Care Demand and Capacity Requirements to 2032*. Accessed November 2021: gov.ie – Disability Capacity Review to 2032 – A Review of Social Care Demand and Capacity Requirements to 2032 (www.gov.ie)

Housing for All recognises the importance of the Housing and Disability Steering Groups. However, it highlights that these groups need to be stronger. It requires these groups to report every three months on how they put in place all parts of their Local Strategic Plans.

To deliver on these commitments, Housing for All sets out a number of things that must be done to meet the outcomes set out in the plan.

In addition to Housing for All, the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027 will align with other strategies and policies.



Figure 3: Strategy Alignment

# The Strategy and the UNCRPD

This Strategy is informed by The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). This is the international treaty, which promotes, protects, and ensures the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by disabled people.

The outcomes of this new national Strategy are informed by particularly relevant UNCRPD Articles, as well as the general principles of the UNCRPD. The outcomes will promote disabled people to realise their rights.

We will monitor how the new housing Strategy is put in place through the lens of the Convention.

The articles of the Convention cover a wide range of areas including:

- accessibility
- independent living
- education
- health
- employment.

#### **UNCRPD** Articles relevant to this Strategy

A number of Articles have particular relevance within this Strategy. The following statements set out how the Strategy will address the various Articles.

#### Statement of intent for Article 4.1 (f) - universal design in housing

The Strategy will promote a universal design<sup>6</sup> approach in housing.

#### Statement of intent for Article 4.3 - taking part in decision making

The Strategy will promote continued consultation and make sure disabled people can effectively take part in decision-making, through local and national fora.

#### Statement of intent for Article 9 - taking part in the community

The Strategy will promote the increased provision of:

- accessible homes in the right locations
- accessible information
- assistive technology.

It will build awareness of the need for accessible communities, and will promote people's participation in their communities.

### Statement of intent for Article 19 – living independently and being included in the community

The Strategy will promote disabled people being included in the community from a housing perspective. This will ensure that disabled people have access to housing and clearer pathways to accessing support services.

#### Statement of intent for Article 28 - equal access to housing

The Strategy will promote equal access for disabled people to public housing and provide pathways to affordable housing.

#### Statement of intent for Article 31 – collecting information

The Strategy will collect information to inform and enable the efficient coordination of housing and housing related services. This will be easily accessed and regularly published.

<sup>6 &</sup>quot;Universal design" means the design of products, environments, programmes and services to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialised design. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) Article 2 – Definitions Available here: Article 2 – Definitions | United Nations Enable

# 4 Themes

We have six themes in our Strategy (see page 11). They are founded on the standards of living independently and being included in the community. This includes promoting disabled people's inclusion in areas like:

- transport
- employment
- community
- social services
- housing.

The Government's upcoming United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) Implementation Plan will outline a cross-government and department approach to putting the Convention in place. One aspect of this will be Article 19 – Living independently and being included in the community. This Strategy aims to complement and align with this work to make sure:

- disabled people's rights are promoted
- people have access to housing.

As well as the six themes shown on the next page, the following actions will be taken to align this Strategy with Housing for All:

- Technical Advisors Each local authority will nominate Disability Friendly Housing Technical Advisors.
- Interagency collaboration Each local authority will nominate a representative from their Housing Departments to lead on the interagency collaboration.
- Housing coordinators The HSE will nominate a housing coordinator in each Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) area for both Mental Health Services and Disability Services. They will lead the interagency collaboration.
- Housing Agency's role to expand The Housing Agency's role will be expanded to:
  - take a more proactive role in making sure the Strategy actions are delivered
  - coordinate the interagency collaboration at regional and national level.

 Assisted Decision-Making Act – The Housing Agency will make sure the Assisted Decision-Making Act is put in place for the housing departments of local authorities and Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs). This includes preparing the guides and providing training.

#### This Strategy focuses on six themes:

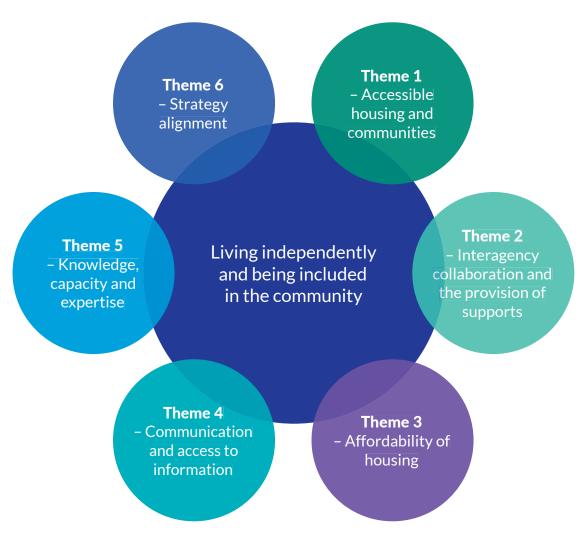


Figure 4: UNCRPD Article 19 – Living independently and being included in the community

Below we provide an overview, outcome and initial work plan for each theme.

#### Theme 1 - Accessible housing and communities

#### Theme 1 - Accessible housing and communities - Overview

This theme focuses on:

- providing accessible housing for disabled people
- promoting accessible communities
- promoting universal design for homes, as appropriate.

This theme is informed by the UNCRPD, in particular:

- Article 19: Living independently and being included in the community
- Article 9: Accessibility which aims "to enable disabled people to live independently...
  and ensure disabled people have access, on an equal basis with others, to the
  physical environment".

It is important that this theme aligns with Housing for All, in particular:

- Pathway 2: Eradicating homelessness, increasing social housing delivery and supporting social inclusion
- Pathway 3: Increasing new housing supply.

This theme highlights the different needs that arise for disabled people when it comes to accessibility for their homes and their local communities, and easy access as appropriate to:

- services
- shops
- public transport.

It also makes sure there are targets for the delivery of accessible houses.

This theme will explore how we can better use assistive technology and make sure that housing developments meet accessibility standards.

#### Theme 1 - Accessible housing and communities - Outcomes

#### More housing for disabled people

The aim is that there will be more accessible housing for disabled people. This will be done by setting specific targets for all social housing providers using a universal design<sup>7</sup> approach, where appropriate.

#### Support to avail of housing

The aim is that supports, both formal and informal, will be increased to enable disabled people to avail of housing opportunities that arise.

#### Community and developments

The aim is to make communities and housing developments more accessible for disabled people.

#### Local authority planning and collaboration

Local authorities will strategically plan for the housing needs of disabled people in their administrative area. This will involve providing housing and related supports in line with UNCRPD principles. This work will need the collaboration of the HSE and local authorities at both national and local level. It will also need appropriate funding.

#### Theme 1 – Accessible housing and communities – Initial workplan

Review Local Delivery Action Plans and use new data and research to inform policy and practice such as from the Cost of Universal Design Review. This will help us set new targets from 2023 onwards. (Universal Design is described below.) For 2022, the Local Strategic Plans have targets like:

#### Allocating dwellings

At least 15% of all dwellings allocated by a local authority must be allocated to disabled people in 2022. Appropriate health and social care supports must be put in place to allow people to take up their housing opportunities.

#### New dwellings

Ten per cent (one in 10) of new dwellings must be reserved in all general developments of 10 dwellings or more for households who qualify due to disability.

#### Wheelchair accessibility

Half of the new pipeline delivery reserved for disabled people in each local authority must be wheelchair liveable.

<sup>7</sup> Universal Design means "the design of products, environments, programmes and services to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialised design."

Pipeline delivery means new social housing schemes being submitted to the department for approval.

Wheelchair liveable means houses that are accessible for wheelchair users to live in and not just visit.

#### **Local Strategic Plans**

These plans will be reviewed by the end of 2022 to take account of the Outcomes and Actions of the new Strategy and the actions from Housing for All.

#### Co-ordinated action

Co-ordinated action between local authorities and the HSE to plan and deliver on housing targets for disabled people in the community (including decongregation). This is in line with the forthcoming Disability Services Action Plan 2022-2025.

#### **Sourcing accommodation**

Find out if it is possible to provide a service to source accommodation like that provided by the Place Finders in Homeless Services.

#### **Deliver outcomes**

Include other actions in the Implementation Plan to show how the outcomes from 'Accessible housing and communities' will be delivered.

#### Theme 2 – Interagency collaboration and the provision of supports

#### Theme 2 - Interagency collaboration and the provision of supports - Overview

Theme 2 seeks to build on the work that has already been done by strengthening collaboration and supports between the relevant agencies.

This theme includes outcomes related to improving:

- effective collaboration between local authorities and the HSF
- inter-departmental cooperation
- alignment between housing and support services
- how relevant information is shared between agencies.

#### Theme 2 – Interagency collaboration and the provision of supports – Outcomes

#### Clear pathway

Disabled people should have a clear pathway to accessing housing and support services.

#### Supportive framework

The regulatory framework should best support the delivery of housing for disabled people.

#### Collaboration

Local authorities, Approved Housing Bodies, the HSE and Service Providers work and collaborate efficiently to:

- improve access to housing for disabled people
- provide community-based residential care for disabled people
- work towards ending provision of residential care in institutional or congregated settings.

#### **Embedded guidelines**

The Assessment and Allocation Guidelines should be embedded in the policies and procedures of the local authorities and the HSE.

#### **Funding**

The coordination of capital and revenue funding for housing and related supports should have increased and improved.

### Theme 2 – Interagency collaboration and the provision of supports – Initial workplan

#### HSE and local authorities to work together

In each Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) area, for both mental health services and disability services, the named representatives from the local authority housing department will work closely with the named HSE housing coordinators.

#### Help to keep tenancies and prevent homelessness

Extend the Tenancy Sustainment role nationally through the Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) sector. They should work with local authorities and AHBs to support people with psychosocial difficulties (see page 5) or mental health difficulties so they can keep their tenancies and prevent homelessness.

#### Set up pilot projects

Examine existing models of housing and supports. Use this information to decide what would be the best types of pilot projects to set up to test how housing and support services can work together to meet the needs of disabled people.

#### HSE and housing authorities to work together

Co-ordinated action between housing authorities and the HSE to plan and deliver on housing targets for disabled people (including decongregation). (This action is in line with the forthcoming Disability Services Action Plan 2022-2025.)

#### Regulatory frameworks

Examine how the different regulatory frameworks interact with one another. Make sure that they are not a barrier to delivering housing for disabled people.

#### Peer support

Examine peer support models nationally and internationally. Develop structures to support people to live full lives within their communities. (Peer support models would involve disabled people with housing issues giving or gaining support from each other to achieve better outcomes.)

#### **Review guidelines**

Review the National Assessment and Allocation Guidelines. Update and strengthen the key messages and embed them in the policies and procedures of local authorities and the HSE.

#### Improving funding systems

Formalise a framework for multiannual funding to improve coordinating capital and revenue funding for housing and related supports.

To do this, it is necessary to revisit Key Measure 2.3 from the previous Housing Strategy for People with Disabilities (NHSPWD) 2011 to 2016 (extended to 2021).

#### Review and update protocols

The protocols (rules) developed under the previous Strategy need to be reviewed and updated by the relevant stakeholders. This is needed to make sure that they are fit for purpose and to reflect the commitment to the protocols.

#### Add more actions

Include other actions in the Implementation Plan to address delivery of the outcomes under this theme.

#### Theme 3 – Affordability of housing

#### Theme 3 – Affordability of housing – Overview

This theme focuses on enabling access to affordable housing for disabled people. It is important that disabled people are included in the provision of affordable housing. This is in keeping with Housing for All and, in particular Pathway 1 – Supporting Home Ownership and Increasing Affordability.

Disabled people in Ireland are at a high risk of poverty. There is a large percentage of disabled people living in poverty and experiencing deprivation. It is well documented that there are high costs associated with having a disability in Ireland. The current system of disability supports does not sufficiently factor this in.

This theme will examine these issues and address the challenges disabled people experience with the private sector, in terms of home ownership and private renting.

#### Theme 3 - Affordability of housing - Outcomes

#### **Affordable**

- Disabled people should have access to affordable housing schemes.
- Disabled people should be able to purchase a home or rent at an affordable price.

#### **Grant Schemes**

Grant Schemes funded by the various Government departments should be fit for purpose and be clear about areas of responsibility, including the use of technology.

#### Theme 3 - Affordability of housing - Initial workplan

#### **Set targets**

Engage with the stakeholders of the:

- Cost Rental Scheme
- Affordable Housing Schemes.

Explore the potential for target setting under each scheme as they are rolled out.

#### Study good practice

Carry out more studies of international good practice in the delivery of housing of different tenures for disabled people. Include schemes identified through the jurisdictions research<sup>8</sup>.

#### **Review Capital Assistance Scheme**

Review the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) to make sure that it is being operated to its full potential to deliver housing for disabled people. (This scheme aims to provide rented accommodation for disabled people, older people.)

#### **Examine cost of disability**

Examine the findings from the Cost of Disability research and how they relate to housing for disabled people.

#### Review terms and conditions

Review the terms and conditions of the various grant schemes with consultation.

#### Add more actions

Include other actions in the Implementation Plan. These should address how outcomes will be delivered under this theme.

<sup>8</sup> This is research done by the Housing Agency on disability and housing in other countries

#### Theme 4 - Communication and access to information

#### Theme 4 - Communication and access to information - Overview

This theme focuses on communication and access to information. The Strategy will continue to build on the information/accessibility achievements of the previous Strategy.

The Strategy recognises that communication is a two-way process. Being able to communicate is important in every part of life.

The Strategy will aim to make sure disabled people are not disadvantaged in communicating their needs and in the communication they receive. This includes providing information in a range of accessible formats and as far as is practical, using ways of communication they prefer.

#### Theme 4 - Communication and access to information - Outcomes

#### **Proactive and consistent**

A proactive and consistent approach should be in place by agencies when providing information. The Housing Agency will coordinate this.

#### Better communication with State agencies

There should be an increase in the communication between State agencies and disabled people about their housing opportunities. This is from a housing and a support perspective.

#### Support people to have enough time

Support people to have the time and opportunity to engage with services and local authorities that they need.

#### Accessible information

Information should be provided in an accessible format in the one location.

Better sharing of data so that more information can be collected and collated.

#### Theme 4 - Communication and access to information - Initial workplan

#### Awareness plan

An awareness plan to promote the Strategy will be prepared and published. (The Housing Agency will do this by the end of June 2022.)

#### Information and communication strategy

An information and communication strategy will be prepared and published by the end of September 2022. Again, The Housing Agency, will do this. This work will set out how communication will be conducted at national and local level during the lifetime of the NHSDP.

#### One-stop-shop information service

Build on housing design for all. ie by providing a one-stop-shop of information on housing and related matters. It will be managed and updated on an ongoing basis.

#### **Expand access to documents**

Provide more access to documents in all accessible formats.

#### More actions

Include other actions in the Implementation Plan to address delivery of the outcomes under this theme.

#### Theme 5 – Knowledge, capacity, and expertise

#### Theme 5 - Knowledge, capacity and expertise - Overview

To optimise housing delivery and support services for disabled people, it is important to:

- share information
- apply existing knowledge
- build on the expertise within organisations.

It is important to recognise that to provide an inclusive service to disabled people requires human resources with dedicated staff as outlined in Theme 2. Theme 5 puts forward measures to increase awareness and understanding of:

- disability within the relevant organisations
- disabled people and how they can effectively take part and be included in their communities.

This theme includes outcomes relating to the building of knowledge and expertise within the:

- housing sector on disability
- HSE on housing and disability.

It also acknowledges areas where cross-agency training is necessary. For example:

- the introduction and application of the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015
- ongoing training on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and the Public Sector Duty<sup>9</sup>.

Where appropriate and practical training will be provided by disabled people.

Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty. Accessed November 2021: gov.ie – Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty (www.gov.ie)

#### Theme 5 - Knowledge, capacity and expertise - Outcomes

#### Capacity to provide services

Local authorities, the HSE and Approved Housing Bodies should have the knowledge base, expertise, and capacity to provide services and relevant information to disabled people.

#### Integrated expertise

Knowledge and expertise about disability issues should be integrated into all relevant organisations.

#### **Greater understanding of roles**

There should be an understanding of each other's roles among the various stakeholders that results in an improved service to disabled people.

#### **Necessary changes**

Local authority and Approved Housing Body staff should put in place the changes needed to meet their obligations under the Assisted Decision-Making Act 2015.

#### Theme 5 - Knowledge, capacity and expertise - Initial workplan

#### **Training**

Training sessions will be run for stakeholders around all roles and responsibilities, creating a shared understanding of the role and responsibilities of each department and stakeholder.

The Housing Agency will prepare and deliver a training programme to local authority housing staff and staff from Approved Housing Bodies. It will cover process and the procedural changes needed to put in place the Assisted Decision-Making Act 2015.

#### Other actions

Include other actions in the Implementation Plan to address delivery of the outcomes under this theme.

#### Theme 6 - Strategy alignment

#### Theme 6 - Strategy alignment - Overview

This theme from a housing perspective focuses on making sure that all Government strategies and policies promote the rights of disabled people. It is in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). This will make sure that the new National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027 complements and supports other strategies related to disability. This includes the:

- Sharing the Vision (national mental health strategy)
- Time to Move on From Congregated Settings Strategy (for decongregation)

• The Programme for Government commitment to make progress on the need for housing with relevant supports as identified in the Disability Capacity Review to 2032.

This theme will also focus on aligning other strategies and policies, like:

- Housing for All
- the Public Sector Duty.

It is important that all strategies:

• promote the inclusion and effective participation of disabled people when strategies are being put in place.

#### Theme 6 - Strategy alignment - Outcomes

#### Housing for All

The Strategy should be underpinned by Housing for All and Local Delivery Action Plans.

#### Different strategies

The Government strategies like Sharing the Vision and A Time to Move on from Congregated Settings should complement and feed into the:

- new National Housing Strategy for Disabled People
- the associated Implementation Plan.

The Implementation Plan for this Strategy should take account of the Disability Capacity Review to 2032 and Wasted Lives Report (a report on a better future for younger people in nursing homes).

#### Alignment of strategies

There should be an alignment of strategies promoting the rights of disabled people so housing provision is fully considered and not considered in isolation.

#### Theme 6 – Strategy alignment – Initial workplan

We will start by mapping relevant policies to this Strategy in early 2022. We will do this before we publish the full Implementation Plan, and it is a very important first step.

#### Other actions

Include actions in the Implementation Plan to address delivery of the outcomes under this theme.

# 5 Implementation Plan

It is important that a detailed Implementation Plan is prepared in a timely manner after the Strategy has been published. This Plan will set out how we will achieve the outcomes in Chapter 4 of this Strategy.

The Housing Agency will prepare the Implementation Plan and publish it in Summer 2022.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage will lead a tri-departmental Working Group that will be responsible for agreeing on the Implementation Plan.

The Working Group will ask the different groups who are responsible for delivering services to take part in the group meetings on an ad hoc basis as required. This will help to get commitments from these partners on the achievement of outcomes. The group may request more information and clarity on any aspect of the Plan. The Housing Agency will provide the administration for this group.

The group will also seek commitments from the partner organisations on actions as required.

The Implementation Plan will document the actions required to achieve each outcome under the Themes in Chapter 4.

### 6 Implementation Structures

The National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 to 2027 seeks to build on the work that has been done in setting up implementation structures. It aims to bring the work of the groups to the next level. It is proposed that the following structures are set up:

- National Implementation Subgroup
- Housing and Disability Steering Groups
- National Focus Groups that will focus on each of the Strategy themes
- Regional Interagency Groups
- Meetings every two months of the dedicated disability personnel in local authorities.

A new group also is being planned. This group will create a link between central Government and local authorities on how to apply the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) at local authority level. The National Implementation Subgroup will establish the appropriate linkages to that group for housing when established.





