



# Inclusion Ireland Review of Political Party Manifestos

## General Election 2020



### Introduction

People before Profit Alliance are a relatively new party and had three TD's in the last Dáil and sat on the opposition benches.

### 2016 Manifesto Commitments

- Access to trained advocates
- Improve access to alternatives such as Social Support, Occupational Therapy, Psychotherapy and access to art and creative therapies
- Appropriate counselling and guidance services and SNA provision for all pupils.

- Early intervention should be provided for those with Special Needs and a reversal of the 15% cut to special needs support.
- Work towards a maximum of 18:1 ratio at primary level
- The opportunity to return to education to develop skills and to learn new skills is available to all.
- Provide people with disabilities with the right to choose the services which best meet their needs
- Ensure the right of people with disabilities to live as an autonomous adult
- Introduce hate crime legislation
- Immediately ratify The United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD), without change and alter all relevant legislation in accordance with the UNCRPD.

<b>Inclusion Ireland ask 2020</b>	<b>PBP Commitment 2020</b>
<b>The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</b>	None
<b>Assisted Decision-Making</b>	None
<b>Participation of people with disabilities</b>	None
<b>Housing</b>	Referendum on a right to housing for all.  Provide people with disabilities with the right

	to choose the services which best meet their needs. Ensure the right of people with disabilities to live as autonomous adults.
<b>De-institutionalisation</b>	None
<b>Accessibility</b>	Implement regulations that ensure all homes and public buildings are accessible and built in accordance with the needs of people throughout their lifespan.
<b>Transport</b>	<p>Make all current buses wheelchair-friendly.</p> <p>Make public transport accessible for all. Equip all stations, stops and vehicles to be genuinely accessible. Train and employ staff to assist access.</p>
<b>Mental Health Services for People with Intellectual Disability</b>	Implement the progressive proposals from Vision for Change 2020. Increase the mental health budget.
<b>Cost of Disability</b>	Reverse the cuts to social welfare payments. Increase basic rates of welfare by €10 per week.
<b>Education</b>	<p>Establish a maximum class size of 18.</p> <p>Increase the numbers of special needs assistants in classrooms to the pre-crash level.</p> <p>Provide accessible education for all. Ensure all</p>

	children can access education through mainstream channels by investing in staff and facilities to make schools and communities truly inclusive.
<b>Employment</b>	None

<b>Other Disability-Related Commitments</b>	
Create a network of community primary care centres and provide free GP care for all.	
Provide proper supports for those with autism and those with dementia.	
Fund access to arts participation for those with disabilities. Create arts participation programmes in care homes.	
Provide a universal health service free at the point of delivery.	
Ensure publicly owned and funded disability services; oppose privatisation.	

<b>Commentary</b>	
<p>The PBP manifesto is disappointingly weak on disability rights with no mention of implementing the UNCRPD, consultation with people with disabilities or the Assisted Decision Making Act.</p> <p>While PBP do not directly talk about de-institutionalisation they make very strong commitments on housing. There is a promise of a referendum on a right to housing and providing disabled people with a right to choose their supports to live as autonomous adults in their own homes which are very welcome.</p> <p>PBP make welcome commitments on accessibility. They commit to accessible busses, homes,</p>	

public buildings, trains and training for staff to assist.

The PBP manifesto promises investment in free universal health care, primary care, non-specified supports to people with autism and implementation of 'Vision for Change' all of which are to be welcomed.

In education a maximum class size of 18 is promised which goes well beyond the Inclusion Ireland ask of having no child in a class of 30. There is also a welcome commitment to resourcing inclusive education. However, there is no mention of the EPSEN Act which would enshrine this in law. There is a curious commitment to increase the number of SNAs to pre-crash levels when there are almost 5000 more SNAs now than in 2011.

It is disappointing that PBP make no mention of a cost of disability payment and opt for increase to the basic rate of social welfare by €10 per week. There is also no commitment to lift people with disabilities out of poverty through providing supports into employment.

Overall PBP make some good commitments on the issues affecting people with disabilities including on housing and supports to live independently, accessibility, mental health, health care and education. It is disappointing that there is no mention of the cost of disability, employment, the EPSEN Act or ensuring rights through implementing the UNCRPD and Assisted Decision-Making Act. It is important that the party addresses the issues that are absent from their manifesto and ensures that the voices of people with disabilities and their families are heard in the next Dáil.



Rialtas na hÉireann  
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