

This Easy-to-Read booklet is to read with
our video about the National Housing
Strategy for Disabled People



Inclusion Ireland

The National Association for People
with an Intellectual Disability.

**The National Housing
Strategy for Disabled People**

2022-2027



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

www.inclusionireland.ie/housing



Inclusion Ireland Video Guide to the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027



The National Housing Strategy for Disabled People was launched in January 2022.



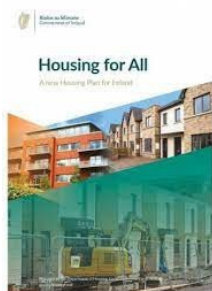
A strategy is a plan made by the Government that tells us what they are going to do.

The Housing Strategy for Disabled People will happen over the next five years.



The Housing Strategy is in four parts:

- What has been done
- Where we are now
- Where we want to get to
- How we will get there



The strategy was guided by the Housing for All Policy: A New Housing Plan for Ireland, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



Article 19 of the Convention says that disabled people have a right to live independently and live in the community with all the supports necessary to make that happen.



Several Government Departments worked together with The Housing Agency to make the strategy. This was so that all things to do with housing for disabled people could be included.



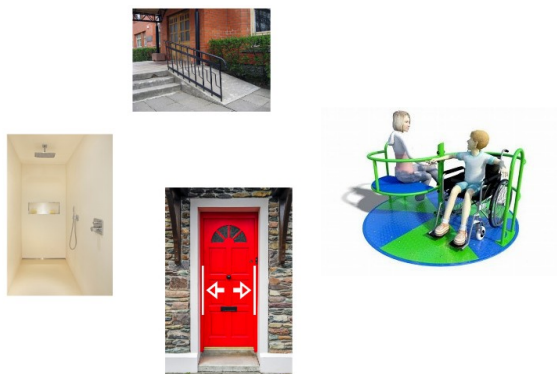
The Housing agency talked to lots of people involved in housing over 8 months to make sure that the choices and voices of disabled people could be heard.

1. What is a strategy?

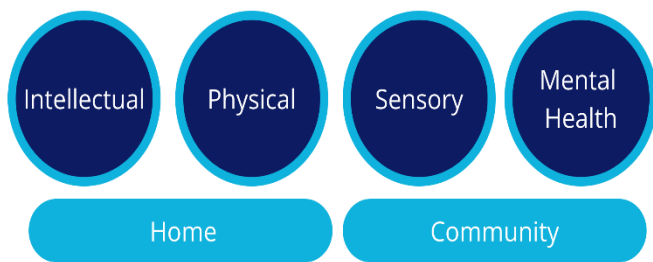
2. Who has the right to choose where and how they live, and with who they want to live with?



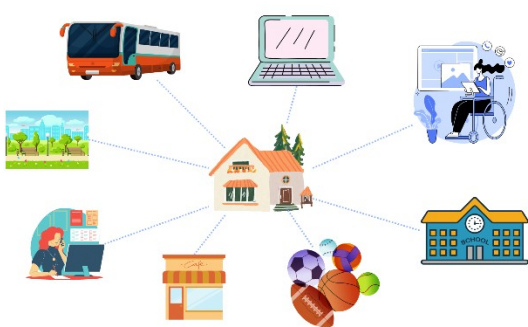
Once all the information was gathered, they could see that it all fell into six different themes.



The first theme is Accessible Housing and Communities.



People with intellectual, physical, sensory and mental health disabilities all experience access barriers in the home and their communities.



Access to your community can include lots of things like transport, friends, education and more. Also, your home must be accessible so that everything in it can be used and enjoyed by you.



Think about your own home and community. Are there any ways that it could be made better for you so that you could use and enjoy it more?



The next theme is called Interagency Collaboration and the Provision of Supports. This means that all the people who provide the supports you need to live in your community work and plan together.



The different groups and people involved in housing and supported independent living all meet together in what is called Housing Disability Steering Groups.



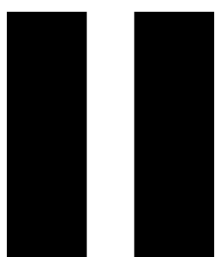
They talk about how they can work together to address any housing issues in their local area. These groups can include people from:

- HSE
- Approved Housing Bodies and Disability Support Providers
- Disabled People's Organisations
- Self-advocates.



At Inclusion Ireland we think it is important that every Housing Disability Steering Group has at least one person who has an intellectual disability sitting on it so that their voices and choices can be heard.

- **Who do we need to think about when we think about accessibility?**
- **Can you name someone who might sit on a local Housing Disability Steering Group?**
- **Can people with an intellectual disability sit on a Disability Housing Steering group?**



You might like to pause now for a short break.



Theme 3 is Affordability of housing.



There are reasons why it is harder for people with an intellectual disability to afford housing.



For example, it can be harder to get a job than for other people and you can only work a certain amount of time before it affects any allowances you may get.



The cost of renting a place of your own can be very high.

Disabled people face living costs that are higher than other people's.



Grants and assistance schemes for social housing support can be difficult to get and have strict means tests with a long application process.



The next theme (Theme 4) is all about Communication and Access to Information.





An Ghníomhaireacht
Tithíochta
The Housing Agency



The Housing Agency will make sure that information is accessible and always available to disabled people about all things to do with housing and supports for living independently.



The Housing Agency will also make sure that you have the chance to ask questions when you need and have your voices heard.

They will make sure that you are given the time you need to do this and make sure the process is accessible to you.

Questions



1. What do you think about it?

☐ Good

☐ Bad

☒ Not sure



What might make it easier for you to ask questions? What kind of questions might you ask?

- Can you give one reason why it might be harder for a person with an intellectual disability to afford their own place?
- What might the government do to help you afford your own place?
- Who is going to help to make information easier to get for disabled people?



Theme 5 is Knowledge, Capacity and Expertise.



Everyone involved in housing for disabled people and supporting people to live independently in the community must never stop learning.

They should share what they have learned with each other and the whole community.



Decision



There are lots of things that people could share information and knowledge about that would help others learn how to support disabled people better such as accessibility, education issues, decision making, communicating...and more!

What would you like the community to know about your life?

What would you like people to learn more about?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about in your community?





Theme 6 is the last theme, and it is called Strategy Alignment.



All of the guidelines, policies and laws made about anything to do with housing or living independently should work well together and approach issues in the same way.

- **Theme 5 says that all of the organisations and people need to keep learning and sharing what they know but who should they share it with?**
- **Can you think of how they might do that?**
- **What should all of the government's rules and guidelines do?**
- **Do you have any questions that you would to ask?**



NOTES

Write anything you like
here!



For more information about housing and supported independent living check out the housing section on our website.

You can find it at www.inclusionireland.ie/housing

Inclusion Ireland works towards the full inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities by supporting people to have their voices heard and advocating for rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD).



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