Cuts to Intellectual Disability Services

FACT SHEET

- The overall budget for disability services has been reduced by €159.4 million or 9.4% since 2008

- Staffing has been reduced, across the sector, by up to 15% with a significant reduction in the number of registered specialist (RNID) nursing staff employed

- The Respite Care Grant was cut by over €300 in 2013 (19%)

- The Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme was cut by 56% between 2010 and 2014

- In April 2015, 21,821 people remained on waiting lists for speech and language assessments and interventions - 5,200 children with a disability will require speech and language therapy for the first time between 2014 and 2018

- More than 15,300 people are awaiting assessment by an occupational therapist, with 2,409 children waiting for over a year*

- 28,749 people were waiting for a physiotherapy assessment in April 2015*

- There is a growing waiting list for Personal Assistant services (207) and home help services (296)*

  *It is not known how many of the people, on these waiting lists, have an intellectual disability in addition to these other disabilities

- Living with a disability in Ireland can have extra costs ranging from €207 to €276 per week

- Disability Allowance, Blind Pension, Invalidity Pension and the Carer’s Allowance were cut by an average of 4.1%

- Over 3,000 people with disabilities remain accommodated in large congregated settings with roughly only 100 per year moving to live in the community

- Supplementary Welfare Allowance cut by 5.1% in 2011

Information from Disability Federation of Ireland pre-Budget 2016 submission, A Manifesto for Community Inclusion - Inclusion Ireland, CIL & Down Syndrome Ireland and Inclusion Ireland & Down Syndrome Ireland - Pre-Budget Submission 2015.