



Oifig an Stiúrthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta, An Chéad
Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15, Áras Phlásóg na Rós,
Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile, Páirc
Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an
Treoigh, Luimneach

Office of the Assistant National
Director, National Disability Team,
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,
Roselawn House, University Business
Complex, National Technology Park,
Castletroy, Limerick.

16th September 2025

Deputy Matt Carthy,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: matt.carthy@oireachtas.ie

PQ: 46306/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the supports available for the establishment of new independent living centres; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Carthy,

Thank you for your Parliamentary Question referenced above, which has been forwarded to me for direct reply.

Wherever possible, people with disabilities are supported to live in the community and to access mainstream health and social care services. Specialist disability services focus on providing supports to people with more complex disabilities, and to complement the mainstream health and social care services provided to people with disabilities alongside the rest of the population. The development of specialist services is underpinned by some key principles including:

- Rights-based services aligned with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Services provided in the community where people live
- Early intervention to maximise people's capacities
- Person-centred services supporting people's choice and control
- A strengths-based approach, recognising and supporting the inherent abilities of people with disabilities
- Coherent and integrated services and supports
- Services that are equitable and consistent
- Prioritisation on the basis of assessed need
- Services provided by interdisciplinary teams, networked regionally with other teams, and supported by enhanced services and supports where necessary.

The principle of 'mainstream first' requires that HSE-led services are developed in the context of supporting actions by Government departments in the areas of housing, transport, education, including higher education, employment and social protection.

The independent living philosophy underpinning the Personal Assistant Service concurs with the approach that people with a disability should be empowered to live independently. The philosophy of independent living espouses living like everyone else, i.e. having the right to self-determination, to exert control over one's life, to have opportunities to make decisions, take responsibility and to pursue activities of one's own choosing, regardless of disability.

Centres for independent living offer aspects of non-medical support to people with disabilities. These support needs vary depending on the centre and also from person to person and, as a result, can evolve and change in assisting the individual to lead an independent life. Currently there are approximately 17 not for profit centres for independent living in receipt of funding from the HSE throughout the country.

With regard to the supports available for the establishment of new independent living centres, in the absence of more specific information, the proposed organisation should contact their local Health Service area with a business proposal setting out its objectives and the supports that it intends to provide to people with disabilities.



For the local Healthcare areas please see:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/lho/>

In addition, the proposed service can make contact with the Independent Living Movement Ireland for further information and advice.

Please see:

<https://ilmi.ie/about-ilmi/>

Yours Sincerely,

Tom McGuirk,
General Manager, Disability Services, Access & Integration