

Questions:

1. Details of the number of children in accommodation who have severe intellectual disabilities and details of when these children will turn 18 and therefore need to move to adult accommodation.
2. Details of the number of places in Northern Ireland specifically for adults with severe disabilities and whether these have already been filled or are available for placement.
3. Details of any plans to create further such placements for adults with severe intellectual disabilities.
4. For each of the last 20 years, details of:
 - a) How many children with severe learning disabilities requiring accommodation turned 18 each year?
 - b) Where each individual was placed on turning 18?
5. Guidance for the transfer of children with severe learning disabilities in accommodation to suitable adult accommodation, to include guidelines re the funding of same and the interaction between the various state bodies.
6. Copy of the Trust's Business Case 24/25 and 25/26 for funding to support young people transitioning from Children to Adult Services (redacted if appropriate).
7. Copy of the Framework document prepared under Section 5 of the Health and Social Care (Reform) Act (NI) 2009.
8. Copies of any policies developed to secure the improvement of the health and social wellbeing of, and to reduce the health inequalities between people in Northern Ireland under Section 3 (a) of the 2009 Act, in particular any such policies relating to person's with severe intellectual disabilities.
9. Copies of any general policies and principles by reference to which the provision of social care to persons with severe intellectual properties.
10. Details of the priorities and objectives the Department has determined in accordance with Section 2b and Section 4 of the 2009 Order, in particular details of the priorities and objectives as they relate to persons with severe intellectual disabilities.
11. Details of any programmes and initiatives commissioned and/or developed by the Department in accordance with Section 2 (g) of the 2009 Order, which are conducive to the improvement of health inequalities between people in Northern Ireland. In particular any such programmes and initiatives relating to severe intellectual disabilities are requested.
12. Details of all premises in Northern Ireland at which facilities are available to provide accommodation and social care for individuals with severe intellectual disabilities.

Responses:

1. I can advise that this information is not held by the DoH-SPPG. Individual HSC Trusts may be able to assist this aspect of your request, please see Appendix One for contact details of the five HSC Trusts.
2. I can advise this information is not held by the DoH-SPPG. Information to assist this aspect of your request may be held by the Regulation Quality and Improvement Authority (RQIA). The following is a link to the RQIA Website: <https://www.rqia.org.uk/>
3. At present there are no plans to develop specific accommodation facilities, however DoH-SPPG will continue its practice of working with Health and Social Care Trusts (HSCTs) to identify and fund bespoke placements to individual needs and will work strategically with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive/Supporting People to inform their regional needs assessment of future Learning Disability accommodation.

The draft Learning Disability Service Model (LDSM) issued for public consultation on 19 August 2025 sets out a road map to develop Learning Disability Services in a regionally consistent manner. The LDSM sets out the Health and Social Care vision for Learning Disability Services across the following themes: Life Changes, Health and Well Being, Carers and Families, Meaningful Lives and Citizenship, Home, Mental Ill-Health and Behaviours of Distress or Concern.

Each theme including the Home theme has key outcome measures and associated actions, which are set out in a draft Strategic Delivery Plan. The overall key ambition in respect of the Home theme is that, 'People with a learning Disability will be supported to live with the highest level of independence possible'. An anticipated action noted in the draft LDSM Home section is that, 'HSCTs will periodically review the availability of placements at a population level to ensure sufficient supply of accommodation based and floating support services'. The DoH-SPPG and HSC agencies will continue to work collaboratively across government departments, agencies and independent sector to enable Strategic Needs Assessment re housing and access to a greater choice of housing options.

4. I can advise that information to inform a response to both Point a) and b) above is not held by the DoH-SPPG. Individual HSC Trusts may be able to assist this aspect of your request, please see Appendix One for contact details of the five HSC Trusts.
5. DoH-SPPG officials have collaborated with HSC Trusts to develop a draft Transition Protocol for children with a learning disability, including children with a learning disability and co-occurring autism. This draft policy has taken cognisance of the views of children, young people and their Carers as noted in research, evidence-based recommendations and relevant practice guidelines. An easy read version of the Transition Protocol has also been developed. Initial feedback from children/young people and their carers has been positive. The draft Transition Protocol has the support of Children's Services and Adult Learning Disability Services regionally. A pilot of the Transition Protocol is anticipated, with DoH-SPPG officials currently seeking potential funding sources to facilitate a pilot to test the Transition Protocol, with a view to enabling regional implementation.

Please refer to Appendix Two for a copy of the Regional Transition Protocol 2024.

Please refer to Appendix Three for a copy of a 'Guide to Moving from Children's Services to Adult Services'.

6. It is DoH-SPPG understanding that the Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT) has provided a copy of the Transition 24/25 Business Case. A Transition Business Case for 25/26 is not held.
7. Please Refer to Appendix Four for a copy of the DHSSPS Framework Document.
8. – 11.

Please see below list of policies and associated links in response to Questions 8 to 11.

- **People First Community Care in Northern Ireland in the 1990s**
Please refer to Appendix Five for a copy of People First Community Care in NI.
- **Valuing People (2001 White Paper):**
<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/+http://www.archive.official-documents.co.uk/document/cm50/5086/5086.pdf>
- **Equal Lives (2005):** [Equal Lives - Review of policy and services for people with a learning disability in Northern Ireland](#)
- **Bamford Review of Mental Health and Learning Disability (overview):**
<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/bamford-review-mental-health-and-learning-disability>
- **Bamford Published Reports:** <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/bamford-published-reports>
- **Transforming Your Care:** <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/transforming-your-care>
- **Making Life Better – Strategic Framework:** <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/making-life-better-strategic-framework-public-health>
- **Making Life Better – Strategy and Reports:** <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/making-life-better-strategy-and-reports>
- **Systems Not Structures (Bengoa Report):** <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/systems-not-structures-changing-health-and-social-care-full-report>
- **Power to People – Full Report:** <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/power-to-people-full-report.PDF>
- **Health and Wellbeing 2026: Delivering Together:** <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-and-wellbeing-2026-delivering-together>
- **NIPEC – Equity of Access and Outcome (2024):** <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/nipec-equity-access-and-outcome>
- **HSC Circular HSC (ECCU) 1/2010 (Please See Appendix Six)**
- **HSC Circular HSC (CHU) 1/2025 (Please See Appendix Seven)**

- **Programme for Government 2024-2027 ‘Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most’:** [Programme for Government 2024-2027 ‘Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most’ | The Northern Ireland Executive](#)
- **Autism Strategy 2023-2028:** [Autism Strategy 2023-2028 | Department of Health](#)
- **Mental Health Strategy 2021–2031:** [Mental Health Strategy 2021-2031 | Department of Health](#)
- **Health and Social Care Reset Plan (2025):** [Health and Social Care Reset plan | Department of Health](#)
- **A Review of Leadership & Governance at Muckamore Abbey Hospital (2020):** [A Review of Leadership & Governance at Muckamore Abbey Hospital | Department of Health](#)
- **‘We Matter’ Learning Disability Service Model 2025 (LDSM document, Service Delivery Plan and public consultation questionnaire):** [Learning Disability Service Model | Department of Health](#)

12. I can advise this information is not held by the DoH-SPPG. Information to assist this aspect of your request may be held by the Regulation Quality and Improvement Authority (RQIA). The following is a link to the RQIA Website: <https://www.rqia.org.uk/>

Appendices may be requested from the Information Management Branch (IMB) if required at the following address:

- FOI@health-ni.gov.uk

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