

**Tackling the health crisis -
Investing in home
help and care**



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SUPPORT FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Home care delivered in the home is the preferred form of care for most older people and their families. Indeed, the vast majority of older people want to live independently in their home for as long as possible.

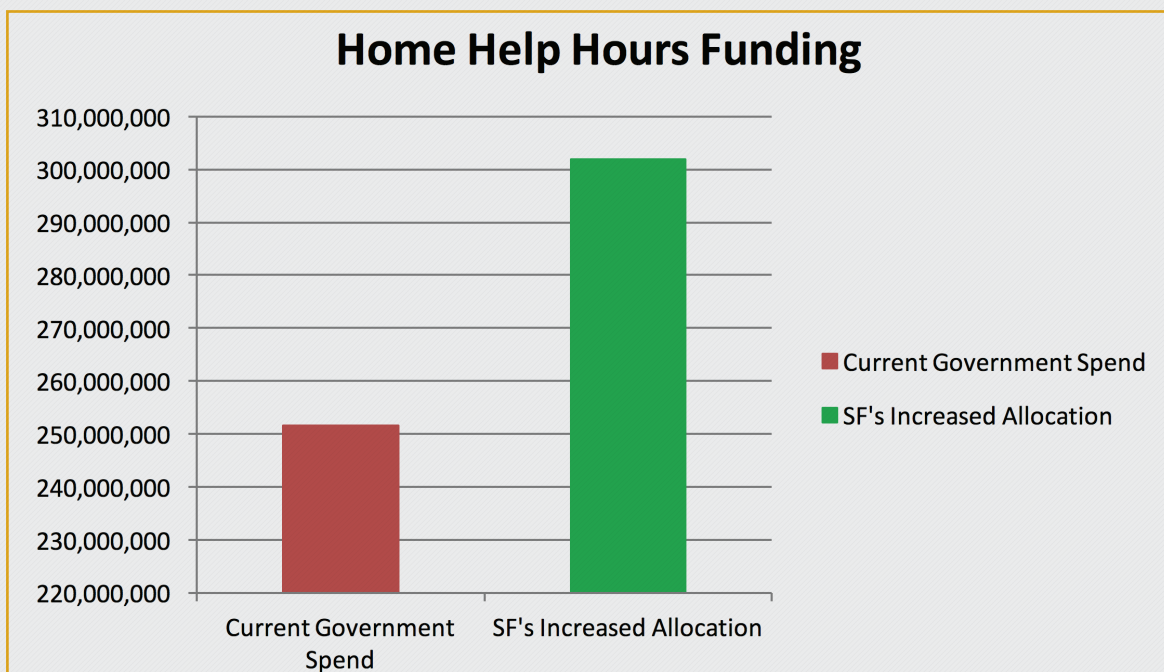
Sinn Féin are dedicated to the provision of healthcare services and social care services with equal access for all and based on need. This right is especially relevant for older people and the provision of support for older people.

Sinn Féin is committed to ensuring that our older people can live with the dignity and respect they deserve. Therefore, we see it as fundamentally important that older people can live independently for as long as possible.

DELIVERING FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Unfortunately, due to a lack of adequate step-down facilities, home care packages, and home help some older people are either left stuck in hospitals or forced into residential facilities when they could return home if the correct care was provided.

Not only is this situation unfair to those people, who are eager to return home, but it also has the knock on effect of contributing to the trolley and waiting list crises as beds are occupied by those who want to, and are ready to, return home if only adequate home help or home care packages were available.



Sinn Féin believes that immediate action is required to ensure that people can access appropriate care and stay at home or return home. This will have huge benefits for those who receive home help and home care, their families and friends, and for the health service as a whole. It is for this reason that we see it as a priority.

Therefore, Sinn Féin would increase home help hours by 20 per cent resulting in **2.1 million additional home help hours.**

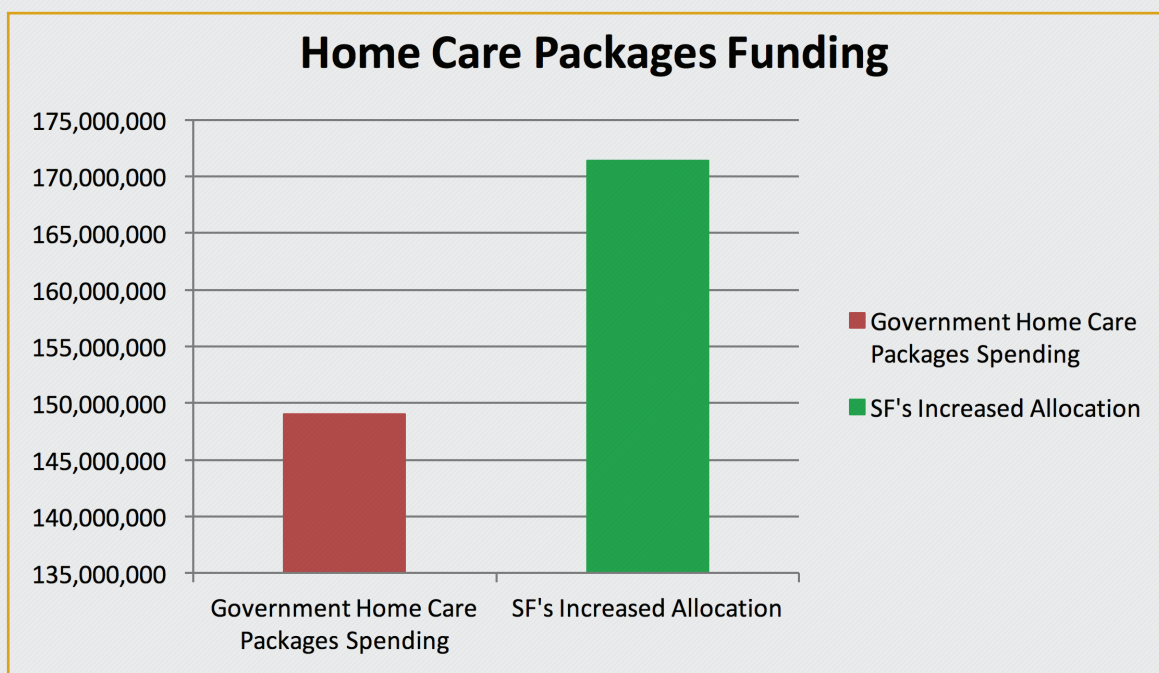
We are keenly aware that people and families have variety of needs and that home care packages are equally essential.

As a result we also propose to increase home care packages by 15 per cent which would mean **2,485 extra home care packages.**

These measures which constitute an **€72.65 million investment in our older people** would go some way to delivering for them and their families and ensure that they can live with the dignity and respect they have earned and which they deserve.

Not only are these measures the fair and decent thing to do, but they make sense financially as the knock on effect is that they would alleviate pressure on acute hospital services as beds would be freed up thus reducing the trolley and waiting list crises.

Our older people deserve such measures and Sinn Féin is on their side.





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