

A
**BUDGET
FOR
CHANGE**



FOR A HEALTH SERVICE THAT WORKS

Sinn Féin Alternative Budget for Health 2022







**BUISÉAD
AR SON
AN
ATHRAITHE**



DO CHÓRAS SLÁINTE INFHEIDHME

Buiséad Roghnach Sláinte Shinn Féin 2022



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CONTENTS

Priority Measures	6
Introduction	8
Funding	9
Réamhrá	10
Achieving an Irish National Health Service	12
▶ Delivering on Health Strategies	13
▶ Cancer and Cardiovascular Disease	14
Accessible Healthcare: Tackling Waiting Lists and Boosting Hospital Capacity	15
▶ Sinn Féin’s Healthcare Bed and Staff Plan	17
Affordable Healthcare: Reducing the Cost on Workers and Families	18
Investing in Primary and Community Services	19
▶ Improving Social Care Standards	20
Addressing the Mental Health Crisis	21
Empowering People with Disabilities	22
Supporting Older People	23
Fighting Addiction, Resourcing Recovery	24
Innovation, Research, and Healthcare Modernisation	25
Welfare at Work and Workforce Planning	26
Sinn Féin’s New Measure Proposals in Health for 2022	27
▶ Current Expenditure Measures	27
▶ Capital Expenditure Measures	29

Priority Measures

Sinn Féin is proposing €1.4 billion in new measures for Health in 2022. This is comprised of €757m of current spending and €647m in capital or one-off spending. We would reset relations between the public, healthcare workers, and the State to place dignity, respect, and fairness at the heart of healthcare and labour relations.

Our solutions include:

- ⚙️ €745m increase to core Health funding, and €12 million one-off emergency Mental Health funding, to hire more than 6,500 staff needed to tackle waiting lists, open new beds with safe staffing levels, and deliver health and social care in the community,
- ⚙️ €322.76m for 828 new-build public beds, including 600 rapid build acute inpatient beds, to boost capacity,
- ⚙️ €197m for expanding primary and community healthcare, including 50 more public health consultants for population health planning and needs assessment, and major expansions in primary and community services,
- ⚙️ €150m for a hospital theatre expansion and equipment fund to modernise and upgrade healthcare delivery including diagnostics,
- ⚙️ €131m for disability and older person services to deliver more than 1.5m additional home support hours, 500,000 personal assistance hours, deliver on decongregation, and more,
- ⚙️ €120m every year for 10 years to roll out universal GP care and remove private healthcare from public hospitals,
- ⚙️ €113m for mental health services, including universal counselling and expanding primary mental health services and CAMHS,
- ⚙️ €109m to directly reduce the cost of healthcare on workers and families and boost access to new drugs and treatments,
- ⚙️ €105m in health strategies, including new strategies in CVD and rare diseases, major capital investment in maternity services, and boosting all-island health alignment and cooperation,
- ⚙️ €75m for eHealth modernisation to deliver accountability, transparency, and efficiency in health, such as new financial and procurement systems, a centralised referral system, and an integrated waiting list management system,
- ⚙️ €42m for tackling cancer and €10m for cardiovascular disease to reduce mortality and increase population health and quality of life.

Table 1. Overview of Expenditure Proposals

	Current (€m)	Capital (€m)	Total (€m)
Totals	757.15	647.67	1404.83
Delivering on Health Strategies	56.00	50.00	106.00
Tackling Waiting Lists, Boosting Hospital Capacity	252.92	426.00	678.92
Reducing the Cost on Workers and Families	109.23	0.00	109.23
Investing in Primary and Community Services	170.23	27.50	197.73
Improving Social Care Standards	5.00	0.00	5.00
Addressing the Mental Health Crisis	75.44	38.35	113.79
Empowering People with Disabilities	45.89	66.00	111.89
Supporting Older People	8.49	10.51	19.00
Fighting Addiction, Resourcing Recovery	16.16	29.31	45.47
Innovation, Research, and Healthcare Modernisation	5.00	0.00	5.00
€75m investment in eHealth provided for in pre-committed expenditure levels			
Welfare at Work and Workforce Planning	12.80	0.00	12.80



Introduction

To build a Health Service that works, Sinn Féin would target the investment where it is needed most by prioritising children and the most severe waiting lists.

To boost hospital capacity to tackle waiting lists, we would deliver an additional 4,000 acute inpatient beds by 2028 starting with an additional 600 funded in Budget 2022.

We would also fund 34 additional critical care beds, 50 inpatient neuro-rehabilitation beds, and 248 new specialist community beds above Government commitments for 2022.

Additional public capacity would be freed up as we remove private healthcare from public hospitals over two terms of Government, starting next year.

Sinn Féin recognises that investing in community services is central to making healthcare work better and cut wait times, and we would invest nearly €200m on improving the accessibility of primary and community care.

We would ramp up investment in mental health services by more than €110m, including universal counselling. This is more important than ever in the wake of the pandemic and the isolation faced by so many people, young and old.

We would empower people with disabilities through independent living, personal assistance, and early childhood intervention, and by respecting their rights.

Sinn Féin would invest in recovery and wellbeing for people with addictions through a community-led rehabilitation model.

We would support older people to live comfortably at home and protect people at risk of abuse or neglect through new quality and accountability standards in social care.

And we would support children and young families by investing in community healthcare, including nursing and therapy staff, particularly for children with disabilities.

Fundamentally, we need to reset the health service's relationship with healthcare workers. We need to show them the respect which they deserve.

That starts with recognising the heroic efforts of frontline workers during the pandemic with more than a clap on the back. Government must acknowledge the claims lodged jointly by healthcare trade unions and authorise the HSE to engage meaningfully with a resolution this year.

That must also include a plan to build a better health service, reach safe staffing levels and honour commitments to fair pay and fair hours for workers and fair allowances for students on wards. Never again should they be left with a health service that does not work for them.

Starting immediately, we set out a 10-year funding plan for moving to an Irish National Health Service which can tackle waiting times and reduce the cost of healthcare.



We would tackle geographic health inequalities and align health systems across the island for deeper cooperation and integration.

We would recruit 50 more public health consultants next year to boost public health departments and enable them to take a lead role in population health planning and needs assessment.

This would include a major investment of €225m in theatre expansion, equipment for diagnostics and procedures, and modernising information systems. Individual health identifiers, a centralised referral system, and an integrated waiting list management system are among our top priorities.

We would also put a major focus on reducing the cost of healthcare as we phase out various hospital and pharmacy charges to remove a costly burden from patients and their families.

The Government's Budget will not provide for positive change. It will simply be what is required for the system to standstill. Waiting lists will continue to grow.

We are proposing additional expenditure of €1,404.83m on health and social care in 2022 to deliver the change that people voted for in February 2020.

This is the scale of investment needed if we are serious about making healthcare work for patients and staff.

Funding

For a Health Service that Works is about funding common sense ideas that are practical, realistic, and deliverable.

The sum of measures we are proposing in this Alternative Budget represent €757.15m in current expenditure and €647.67m on capital or one-off spending.

It is funded by sustainable fiscal policy as outlined in our *Alternative Budget 2022*.

We are fully committed to the full implementation of all Budget 2021 measures, core expenditure commitments, and other pre-committed expenditure items relating to pay, demographics, carryover, ELS, and other non-pay pressures.

We are committed to the full delivery of €75m investment in eHealth modernisation in particular as promised in the Recovery and Resilience Plan.

Réamhrá

Chun Seirbhís Shláinte infheidhme a fhorbairt, dhíreodh Sinn Féin an infheistiú ar na réimsí sa chóras ina bhfuil an gá is mó leis. Thosóimís le cúram do leanaí agus leis na liostaí feithimh is tromchúisí.

Chun dul i ngleic leis na liostaí feithimh, chaithfí cur le hachmhainn ospidéal. Chuirfimis ceithre mhíle leaba breise ar fáil d'othair chónaithe roimh 2028. Thosóimís le maoiniú do shé chéad leaba sa bhreis i gCáinainéis 2022.

Leis sin chuirfí maoiniú ar fáil do cheithre leaba cúraim chriticiúil 's tríocha, caoga leaba d'othair néara-athshlánúcháin agus dhá chéad daichead 's a hocht leaba speisialtacht pobail níos mó ná mar atá geallta ag an Rialtas do 2022.

Shaorófaí achmhainn phobail bhreise trí fáil réidh le cúram sláinte príobháideach ó ospidéal phoiblí, dhéanfaí é sin thar dhá théarma rialtais, ag tosú i 2022.

Aithníonn Sinn Féin cé chomh lárnach is atá infheistíocht sna seirbhísí pobail chun feabhas a chur le hoibríocht an chórais chúraim-shláinte agus chun amanna feithimh a laghdú, agus chuirfimis beagnach dhá mhilliún euro d'infheistíocht ar fáil lena chinntiú go mbeadh teacht ag othair ar chúram sláinte príomhúil agus chúram sláinte pobail

Chuirfimis níos mó ná céad 's a deich milliún euro d'infheistíocht leis na seirbhísí meabharshláinte, comhairleoireacht uilíoch san áireamh. De bharr na paindéime, agus go háirithe an leithlisiú agus an t-uaigneas a bhain léi, d'óg agus aosta, tá sé seo níos tábhachtaí ná riamh

Thabharfaimís cumhacht do dhaoine faoi mhíchumais trí maireachtáil neamhspleách, cúnamh pearsanta agus idirghabháil luathbhliana a fhorbairt, agus trí mheas a thaispeáint dá gcuid cearta.

D'infheisteodh Sinn Féin i dtéarnamh agus i bhfolláine do dhaoine a bhfuil andúil acu trí mhúnla athshlánaithe faoi threoir an phobail.

Thabharfaimís tacaíocht do dhaoine aosta maireachtáil go compórdach sa bhaile, agus cosaint do dhaoine atá i mbaol mí-úsáide nó neamairt le hardchaighdeán nua freagrachta sa chúram sóisialta.

Thacódh Sinn Féin le leanaí agus teaghlaigh óga trí infheistiú a dhéanamh i gcúram sláinte phobail, oibríthe altránais agus teiripe san áireamh, go háirithe do leanaí faoi mhíchumais.

Ar an gcéad dul síos, ní mór dúinn an caidreamh idir an tseirbhís sláinte agus oibríthe cúraim sláinte a athdheisiú. Ní mór dúinn an meas atá tuilte acu a léiriú dóibh. Tosaíonn sé sin le leibhéal sábhailte fóirne, pá cothrom agus uaireanta cothroma, agus cothrom na Féinne ó thaobh líuntais do mhic léinn de sna bardaí.

Láithreach bonn, thosóimís ag leagadh amach plean maonaithe 10-bliana chun bogadh i dtreo Seirbhís Sláinte Náisiúnta Éireannach ar féidir léi dul i ngleic le huaireanta feithimh, agus costas an chúraim sláinte a laghdú.



Rachaimís i ngleic le neamhionannais shláinte tíreolaíocha, agus dhéanfaimís corais shláinte fud fad an oileáin a ailíniú ar son comhoibriú agus comhtháthú níos doimhne.

San áireamh anseo bheadh ollinfheistíocht, dhá chéad fiche 's a cúig mhilliún euro, i bhforbairt na n-obrádlanna, trealamh diagnóisic agus gnáthaimh, agus chun córais faisnéise a nuachóiriú. I measc ár bpríomhthosaíochtaí, tá aitheantóirí uathúla sláinte, córas láraithe atreorúcháin, agus córas comhtháite bainistíochta do liostaí feithimh.

Anuas ar sin, chuirfimid béim mhór ar laghdú chostais an chúraim sláinte agus muid ag cur deiridh le roinnt táillí ospidéal agus potaigéarachta de réir a chéile, chun tromualach a bhaint ó othair agus a gclanna.

Ní chuirfidh Cáinainéis an Rialtais athrú dearfach ar fáil. Ní bheidh ann, i ndáiríre, ach an bunmhéid a theastófar chun an córas a choinneáil mar atá. Leanfaidh liostaí feithimh ag fás.

Táimid ag moladh caiteachas breise de €1,404.83m ar chúram sláinte agus sóisialta sa bhliain 2022. I Mí Feabhra 2020, léirigh muintir na hÉireann go raibh athrú suntasach ag teastáil uathu - chuirfeadh na moltaí seo an t-athrú sin ar fáil.

Seo scála an infheistíochta atá ag teastáil má táimid dáiríre faoi leasú an chórais chúraim sláinte má tá sé chun feidhmiú, mar ba chóir, d'othair agus do fhoireann an chórais.



Achieving an Irish National Health Service

Sinn Féin's priority in health is to deliver an Irish National Health Service which ends the two-tier health system and delivers timely health and social care.

We must address the major barriers to using health and social care services in Ireland – affordability and accessibility.

The public health system, which currently services private patients on demand, is not accessible to the public because of long waiting lists.

Wider health and social care services are not affordable which leads many people to avoid seeing a GP or a dentist when they need to.

The *Sláintecare* consensus has failed to deliver meaningful change for workers and families because it is a myth. There is no consensus.

It has only given cover to conservative parties who do not agree with the basic principle that healthcare is a right, not a privilege.

They have failed to implement *Sláintecare* because they do not believe in it.

This is holding up the radical change needed to deliver universal healthcare free at the point of use with an expansion of free GP care and waiting lists of no longer than 12 weeks for an inpatient procedure, 10 weeks for an outpatient appointment and ten days for a diagnostic test.

In 2022, a Sinn Féin Government would invest more than €1.4 billion to kickstart delivery of an Irish National Health Service.

We need to push ahead with reforms in primary and community care to reduce pressure on hospitals in tandem with capacity boosting measures. That means getting serious about universal primary care and removing private healthcare from public hospitals.

We will invest €1.2 billion over 2 terms of Government to roll out universal GP care and remove private healthcare from public hospitals starting with €120m in 2022.

Table 2. Delivering on Health Strategies

	Current €56m	Capital €50m	Total €106m
New Health Strategies			
Cardiovascular Strategy	10	0	10.00
Rare Diseases Strategy	0.33	0	0.33
Genomics Strategy	0.33	0	0.33
Carers Strategy	5	0	0.34
Autism Action Plan			5.00
Priority Strategies for Investment			
Cancer Strategy	20	0	20.00
Maternity Strategy	10	50	60.00
Trauma Strategy	5	0	5.00
Dementia Strategy	5	0	5.00
Palliative Care Strategy	0	0	*
Neuro-Rehabilitation Strategy	0	0	*

**cost provided under specific bed and community measures*

Delivering on Health Strategies

The Department of Health has more than 35 Health Strategies for improving health services and outcomes, but to date many of these have been poorly resourced.

Policy has been published by Ministers intent on self-promotion rather than service improvement.

Sinn Féin would spend an additional €106m in 2022 to implement Health Strategies, including a new Autism Action Plan.

We would prioritise major investment in the Cancer Strategy and the Maternity Strategy, as well as the Neuro-Rehabilitation Strategy, Trauma Strategy, Dementia Strategy, and Palliative Care Strategy.

For example, we would action the Neuro-Rehabilitation Strategy by funding the delivery of 150 neuro-rehabilitation beds over 3 years and the delivery of a community neuro-rehabilitation team in every Community Healthcare Organisation area. We would continue to increase public palliative care beds in increments to reach universal palliative care.

We would expand newborn screening for rare diseases to first reach and then exceed the European average as part of our new Rare Diseases Strategy. Developing national networks, and access to care and support, as well as innovative treatments and new medicines, would be a major focus of this Strategy.

We would provide funding to join up national strategies on an all-island basis where practical, such as in the fields of cardiac services, cancer care, rare diseases, acute mental health services, orthopaedic services, otolaryngology (ENT) and cystic fibrosis services.

Strategies would also be developed to provide access to cross-border healthcare in border communities as health systems align with reforms towards an Irish National Health Service.

We would also develop new Strategies for Cardiovascular Diseases, Rare Diseases, and Genomics.

Cancer and Cardiovascular Disease

Together, cancers and cardiovascular diseases accounted for more than 60% of deaths annually across Ireland before the pandemic.

The rate of mortality from such diseases can be reduced by investment in preventative healthcare, awareness, early diagnosis and screening, community supports, and treatment services.

We would allocate €42m directly to cancer services and €10m to kickstart change in cardiovascular services.

Sinn Féin would invest €20m in the National Cancer Strategy to ensure continued improvements across the island in cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

We would allocate a further €22m across revenue and capital funding to cancer screening services to improve access and capacity, prioritising CervicalCheck.

Learning from the successes and failures of the Cancer Strategy, Sinn Féin would work across Departments, stakeholders, and with the Executive to develop an all-island Cardiovascular Disease Policy and Strategy.

We would allocate €10m towards initial actions next year, such as a hypertension awareness campaign, rolling out new standards for health screening and primary care check-ups, developing patient registers across CVDs, and expanding access to echocardiography.

The All-Island Congenital Heart Disease Network, the North-West Cancer Centre, and 24/7 cross-border PPCI services for the North-West at Altnagelvin in Derry are all examples of existing all-island cooperation and integration in these areas.

Table 3. Reducing Mortality from Cancer and CVD

	Current €42m	Capital €10m	Total €52m
⚙ Implementing Cancer Strategy	20	0	20
⚙ Implement New Cardiovascular Policy and Strategy	10	0	10
⚙ Investing in Cancer Screening	12	10	22
⚙ Awareness Campaign for Hypertension through Strategy	0	0	0
⚙ Expanding Diagnostic and Treatment Capacity	0	0	*

*provided via Theatre Expansion and Equipment Fund

Accessible Healthcare: Tackling Waiting Lists and Boosting Hospital Capacity

We will make healthcare accessible by cutting waiting lists and boosting capacity.

There are more than 900,000 people on hospital waiting lists, including 98,000 children, with nearly 150,000 people waiting for treatment in hospital.

More than 200,000 people are waiting more than 18+ months for an appointment or a procedure, including 31,000+ children.

There are also 204,000 more people waiting on access to radiology diagnostics such as CT, MRI, and ultrasound scans.

That is not to mention the regular scheduling disruptions and cancellation of elective surgeries caused by Emergency Department overflows and staffing shortages.

Table 4. Expanding Hospital Capacity

	Current €252.92m	Capital €426m	Total €678.92m
⚙️ 600 more acute inpatient beds	144.22	225	369.22
⚙️ 34 more critical care beds	12.7	51	63.7
⚙️ Negotiate public-only consultant contracts and pay equality	26	0	26
⚙️ Phase out private leasing of public hospital beds	70	0	70
⚙️ Delivery on pre-committed eHealth reforms	0	0	0
⚙️ Theatre Expansion and Equipment Fund	0	150	150

We have a plan to deliver more than 4,000 additional public hospital beds by 2028 starting with 600 acute inpatient beds over and above the Government’s targets for next year.

We have proposed a €150m fund for expanding hospital theatre and diagnostic capacity to deliver more public treatment in public hospitals for public patients.

This is what healthcare professionals are telling us they need – the tools to do the work.

We would target investment next year to make healthcare modern and drive on the implementation of eHealth reforms such as individual health identifiers, a centralised referral system, and an integrated waiting list management system.

In hiring consultants, we would prioritise paediatric disciplines and the areas of longest wait times such as orthopaedics and ENT.

Importantly, we would phase out private healthcare in public hospitals over 10 years. This will free up beds and staff to deliver more care to public patients in public hospitals.

Table 5. Acute Inpatient Beds

Baseline 2020	10,730
Budget 2021	1,152
<i>Est. Deliverable</i>	998
<i>Not Delivered</i>	154
Additional Acute beds	600
Inpatient Neuro-Rehab beds	50
New Baseline 2022	12,532
Target by 2028	14,500

Table 6. Adult Critical Care Beds

Baseline 2020	255
Budget 2021	66
Sinn Féin Additional	34
New Baseline 2022	355
Target by 2025	430

Sinn Féin's Healthcare Bed and Staff Plan

In 2022, Sinn Féin would fund and open an additional 1,546 healthcare beds, including 828 new build public beds and 718 pre-committed public or new leased beds.

This includes 600 new acute beds, 34 critical care hospital beds, 50 inpatient neuro-rehabilitation beds, 50 mental health beds, 30 palliative care beds, 24 medical detoxification beds, and 40 recovery and rehabilitation beds.

We would lease the remaining 80 rehabilitation beds and 24 medical detox beds and phase out reliance on leasing over 3 years. We would ensure the opening of 614 beds committed for 2021 which were not opened this year.

We would recruit upwards of an additional 6,500 acute and community staff to support this expansion and work towards safe staffing levels.

Table 7: Sinn Féin 2022 Beds Plan by classification

Total	1,546
Rapid build acute inpatient beds	600
Acute inpatient beds unopened in 2021	154
Critical care beds	34
Neuro-Rehabilitation beds	50
Mental health beds	50
Palliative care beds	30
Recovery and rehabilitation beds	120
Medical detoxification beds	48
Community Beds unopened in 2021	434
Sub-Acute Hospital Beds unopened in 2021	26

Affordable Healthcare: Reducing the Cost on Workers and Families

A National Health Service would remove the barriers of high fees for accessing healthcare. Direct payments for GP services would be phased out in the rollout of universal primary care.

Not only would it remove the need to pay for private health insurance, but it would also diminish the barrier of private consultation fees for most primary and community health and social care services.

Sinn Féin would roll out universal contraception for women aged 17-25 in 2022 through community pharmacies.

We would make hospital healthcare less burdensome on families by phasing out hospital inpatient and car parking charges within 4 years.

We would reduce the cost of medicines for everyone by abolishing prescription charges for over 70s and reducing the Drugs Payment Scheme threshold initially from €114 to €100 in 2022 and phasing out prescription charges for all others over 3 years.

Sinn Féin would also make significant investments in access to new medicines by providing an additional €25m next year for a Special Medicines Fund for new medicines and rare disease treatments.

We would ringfence a further €25m for an Innovation Fund which would enable patient access to qualifying treatments and trials.

Table 8. Reducing the Cost of Healthcare

	Current €109.23m	Capital €0m	Total €109.23m
⚙️ Abolish prescription charges for over 70s and phase out for under 70s over 3 years	24.6	0	24.6
⚙️ Reduce the Drugs Payment Scheme threshold initially to €100 from €114	10.2	0	10.2
⚙️ Phase out car parking charges in public hospitals over 4 years	5.63	0	5.63
⚙️ Abolish inpatient charges for public patients over a 3 year period	10.2	0	10.2
⚙️ Phase in universal primary care and free GP care over 2 terms of Government	0*	0	0*
⚙️ Roll out universal contraception prioritising women aged 17-25 in 2022	8.6	0	8.6
⚙️ Ringfence funding for a New Drugs Fund including an Innovation Fund	50	0	50

*Funding provided via Primary and Community Services

Investing in Primary and Community Services

Care in the community must be reformed through public primary and community care service to deliver care closer to home.

This will also reduce the burden on acute hospitals and deliver care in more appropriate settings.

Sinn Féin would deliver universal GP care over 2 terms of Government as a basis for universal primary care.

We would also expand public dentistry capacity by hiring 160 public dental staff, including dentists, hygienists, and technicians. This would support the rollout of dental screening in schools as well as access to dentists for medical card holders.

It is vital that we deliver a truly public primary and community care service with new public infrastructure and public-only contracts.

Table 9. Investing Primary and Community Services

	Current €170.23m	Capital €27.5m	Total €197.73m
⚙️ Rollout free GP care over 10 years, starting with children	50	0	50
⚙️ Recruit an additional 150 community OTs, SLTs, and physiotherapists	6.94	0	6.94
⚙️ Deliver 150 additional therapists for children with disabilities	0*	0	0*
⚙️ Deliver 150 additional specialist neuro-rehabilitation beds over 3 years	7.72	17.5	25.22
⚙️ Recruit a Neuro-Rehabilitation Team in each CHO	25.18	0	25.18
⚙️ Increase investment in the Healthy Ireland Fund	2.5	0	2.5
⚙️ Recruit 7 eye clinic liaison officers	0.49	0	0.49
⚙️ Hire 160 dentists and supporting staff to expand public dentistry and dental screening in schools	7.44	0	7.44
⚙️ Deliver an additional 1.5m home support hours	38.16	0	38.16
⚙️ Invest in Community Intervention, Chronic Disease Management, and Community Paramedicine Teams	10	0	10
⚙️ Invest in cancer screening services, prioritising CervicalCheck	12	10	22
⚙️ Enhance Public Health Depts with 50 more Public Health Consultants next year	8.81	0	8.81

*Funding provided via Disability Services

We would hire an additional 300 community occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, and physiotherapists, prioritising the needs of children with disabilities.

Services for older people and people with chronic and lifelong conditions can be further enhanced through additional investment in community intervention teams and chronic disease management teams across all counties.

Improving Social Care Standards

In early September 2021, Sinn Féin launched a policy paper entitled *Quality Care for All: Standards and Accountability in Social Care*.

In 2022, we would fund the measures outlined in this document, including adult safeguarding, an expansion of HIQA’s remit and capacity, and establishing a new Officer of the Chief Health and Social Care Professional in the Department of Health.

Table 10. Improving Social Care Standards

	Current €5.00m	Capital €0m	Total €5.00m
⚙️ Implement Sinn Féin’s <i>Quality Care for All</i> standards and safeguarding policy	5	0	5
⚙️ Implement Nursing Home Expert Panel Report	0	0	0

Addressing the Mental Health Crisis

The State is in the grips of a mental health crisis. This crisis demands an emergency response and substantial, ongoing funding commitments.

Frontline community and voluntary service providers are struggling with the unprecedented demand for mental healthcare in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

First-time service users are increasing rapidly year-on-year while waiting lists for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and Primary Care Psychology Services exceed 10,000.

This is not sustainable. We would increase core funding for mental health services by €63.24m with an additional €38.35m for capital spending on mental health services, including 50 more mental health beds in approved centres.

Table 11. Addressing the Mental Health Crisis

	Current €75.44m	Capital €38.35m	Total €113.79m
⚙️ Recruit 276 Psychologists over 18 months to boost CAMHS and primary mental health capacity	8.53	0	8.53
⚙️ Employ a Community Psychiatric Nurse in each Primary Care Centre	3.1	0	3.1
⚙️ 8 Additional Adult Eating Disorder Teams	7.5	0	7.5
⚙️ Universal Counselling within Primary Care Services	22.8	0	22.8
⚙️ Increase investment in CAMHS to move towards a consistent seven-day week outpatient model	8.5	0	8.5
⚙️ Increase funding to homeless mental health services like ACCESS Dublin	0.23	0	0.23
⚙️ Implement a Dual Diagnosis IT System	0	0	0
⚙️ Deliver 50 additional mental health beds	8	18.75	26.75
⚙️ Develop multi-agency triage teams for 24/7 crisis de-escalation	2.2	4.6	6.8
⚙️ Establish an independent advocacy service for mental health users	0.88	0	0.88
⚙️ Establish a state-wide perinatal service and develop an all-island model	1.5	12	13.5
⚙️ Invest in other emergency measures responding to pandemic challenges	12.2	3	15.2

We would hire more than 1,100 psychologists, counsellors, community psychiatric nurses, and more across primary, community, and acute mental health services including Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

Sinn Féin would put a major focus on expanding access to both primary/community and acute mental health services.

In 2022, we would implement a range of measures which underpin Sharing the Vision and its predecessor Vision for Change, both of which the Government failed to fund, much like Sláintecare.

Empowering People with Disabilities

In its evidence to the Oireachtas Special Committee on Covid-19 on the 17th July 2020 the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission told members that “significant gaps and vulnerabilities in policy and services have resulted in a disproportionate impact [of the pandemic] on people with disabilities.”

The Commission also warned that unless “law, practice, and policy underpinning the rights of people with disabilities is made more resilient” people with disabilities will continue to see their rights weakened when future crises arise.

Sinn Féin is committed to making rights real for all persons with disabilities, consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). We will mainstream their rights, live up to our legal and international obligations and critically we will provide the level of investment needed to place services and supports on a sustainable footing for the long-term.

We would increase core revenue funding directly to Disability Services by €46m alongside an additional €66m capital spend in 2022.

Services and supports for people with disabilities would also receive funding increases through other service sections, such as implementing an Autism Action Plan, expanding acute and community healthcare services, delivering 1.5m additional home support hours, abolishing prescription charges, and investing in National Strategies.

Table 12. Empowering People with Disabilities

	Current €45.89m	Capital €66m	Total €111.89m
⚙️ Deliver 500,000 additional PA hours	12.5	0	12.5
⚙️ Increase the number of respite houses in each CHO to increase overnight respite hours by 10,400 and provide a further 214 intensive support packages.	11	0	11
⚙️ Update and Publish a New Carers Strategy based on our Charter for Carers	0*	0	0*
⚙️ Deliver decongregation for 300 people with intellectual disabilities every year until complete	8.54	40	48.54
⚙️ Move 100 people under 65 out of nursing homes to assisted living	8	16	24
⚙️ Recruit 150 additional therapists for Childrens Disability Network Teams	5.85	0	5.85
⚙️ Fund physical capacity expansion for day services for IPC compliance	0	10	10
⚙️ Develop and implement an Autism Action Plan	0*	0	0*
*Funded via Health Strategies			

Supporting Older People

Older people in particular faced through long periods of isolation during the pandemic.

This was particularly acute for those living alone, those who had lost home support services, and those in some residential facilities where severe isolation occurred due to chronic understaffing and poor infrastructure.

Sinn Féin has addressed some of the major challenges in social care in our policy *Quality Care for All: Standards and Accountability in Social Care*, including why we need and would resource a public inquiry.

In terms of further investment in Services for Older People, we have provided for an additional 1.5 million home support hours to be allocated across services for older people and people with disability through community services.

We would provide more than €4m in funding to sustain an Office of the Ombudsman for Older People, research on dementia, and supports for younger onset dementia.

Along with statutory safeguarding, improved quality and governance standards, and wider investment in regulatory bodies and health infrastructure, the quality of health and social care more generally would increase, leading to significant benefits for older people.

That is not to mention the reduced cost of healthcare through changes to the cost of hospital stays, medicines, access to new drugs and therapies, as well as an expansion in community-based healthcare to keep people out of acute hospitals.

We would also invest in 30 new palliative care beds in 2022 as we move towards universal palliative care which addresses geographic and socio-economic health inequalities.

Table 13. Supporting Older People

	Current €8.49m	Capital €10.51m	Total €19.00m
⚙️ Create an Ombudsman for Older People	2.5	0	2.5
⚙️ Invest in younger onset dementia supports	1	0	1
⚙️ Invest in Dementia Research	1	0	1
⚙️ Deliver 30 new public palliative care beds	3.99	10.51	14.5

Fighting Addiction, Resourcing Recovery

Sinn Féin believes in a community-led, rehabilitation and recovery-focussed model for fighting addiction.

Sinn Féin believes that those working on the frontline in the addiction sector are best placed to implement programmes and initiatives that will benefit individuals and families battling addiction.

We would ringfence funding specifically for Local and Regional Drug and Alcohol Taskforces and move toward a sustainable, community-led model supported by robust primary and community services with wraparound services.

We will be there to support communities to recover from the harm addiction has caused to them. We have listened to service providers and users and we know that the people on the ground, day in and day out, are the experts.

Table 14. Fighting Addiction, Resourcing Recovery

	Current €16.16m	Capital €29.31m	Total €45.47m
⚙️ Re-open 120 recovery rehabilitation beds in public facilities over 3 years	2.08	0	2.08
⚙️ Re-open 48 medical detoxification beds in public facilities over 2 years	2.7	0	2.7
⚙️ Waive addiction assessment fees	0.12	0	0.12
⚙️ Implement a Dual Diagnosis IT System	0	0	0
⚙️ Implement Sinn Féin’s 5-year Community Addiction Plan	11.25	6.91	18.16
⚙️ Phase out reliance on privately leased beds with replacement public beds (40 recovery and 24 medical detox beds in 2022)	0	22.4	22.4

We would reverse cuts to medical detoxification beds and rehabilitation beds to reduce wait times for these services.

Additionally, we would waive assessment fees for addiction treatment as we move to a universal healthcare model.

We would invest in Dual Diagnosis services, ensure more seamless referral across and integration of services where appropriate, and implement integrated IT systems.

We would fully resource our 5-year Community Addiction and Recovery Strategy, published in June 2021, to fight addiction and resource a community-led recovery model.

Innovation, Research, and Healthcare Modernisation

Sinn Féin would invest in high-tech healthcare, including new and innovative medicines and research as well as eHealth information systems.

We would substantially increase funding to research programmes through the Health Research Board, the Institute of Public Health, and the Women’s Health Task Force.

We would ensure funding certainty for eHealth modernisation to drive on the implementation of crucial reforms such as unique patient identifiers, a centralised referral system, and an integrated waiting list management system.

We are committed to the full delivery of €75m investment in eHealth modernisation in particular as promised in the Recovery and Resilience Plan.

We would target investment next year to make healthcare modern and drive on the implementation of eHealth reforms such as individual health identifiers, a centralised referral system, and an integrated waiting list management system.

Table 15. Innovation, Research, and Healthcare Modernisation

	Current €5m	Capital €75m	Total €80m
⚙ Health Research Board	2	0	2
⚙ Institute of Public Health in Ireland	1.5	0	1.5
⚙ Women’s Health Task Force	1.5	0	1.5
⚙ Full delivery of Recovery and Resilience eHealth commitments	0	75*	75

*Recovery and Resilience pre-committed funding

Welfare at Work and Workforce Planning

Healthcare is about people treating people. We need to value the work of those in our healthcare system.

Fairness must be the guiding principle for labour relations. There needs to be a reset of relations between healthcare workers and the health service.

That starts with recognising the heroic efforts of frontline workers during the pandemic with more than a clap on the back. Government must acknowledge the claims lodged jointly by healthcare trade unions and authorise the HSE to engage meaningfully with a resolution this year.

That must also include a plan to build a better health service, reach safe staffing levels and honour commitments to fair pay and fair hours for workers and fair allowances for students on wards. Never again should they be left with a health service that does not work for them.

We would negotiate a fair settlement to the ongoing pay disputes between new entrant consultants and the health service as part of negotiations for a new public-only consultant contract.

We would ensure fair pay for community and voluntary sector workers.

We would engage in proactive workforce planning to boost the number of doctors working in the health service, starting with 180 additional medical intern places and 50 additional GP trainee places in 2022.

We would pay fair allowances to student nurses and midwives. Provision for this will be indicated in our main *Alternative Budget* document.

Table 16. Welfare at Work and Workforce Planning

	Current €12.8m	Capital €0m	Total €12.8m
⚙️ Mental health supports for workers	2	0	2
⚙️ Expand medical intern training posts by 180	7.5	0	7.5
⚙️ Fair allowances for students	0	0	0*
⚙️ Fair pay for community and voluntary sector workers	0	0	0*
⚙️ Increase GP trainee intake by 50	3.3	0	3.3

*To be provided for in primary Alternative Budget allocations

Sinn Féin's New Measure Proposals in Health for 2022

Current Expenditure Measures

Table 17. Current Expenditure

Total (€m)	€757.15m*
600 rapid build acute inpatient beds	144.23
34 critical care beds	12.70
50 neuro-rehabilitation beds	7.72
50 additional mental health beds	8.00
30 new public palliative care beds	3.99
Re-open 120 recovery rehabilitation beds and move to public facilities over 3 years	2.08
Re-open 48 medical detoxification beds and move to public facilities over 2 years	2.70
50 Public Health Consultants	8.81
150 community OTs, SLTs, physiotherapists	6.94
160 dental staff including dentists, technicians, hygienists	7.44
150 additional therapists for Children's Disability Network Teams	5.85
7 eye clinic liaison officers	0.49
Psychologists for CAMHS and Primary Care	8.53
Additional Adult Eating Disorder Teams	7.50
Rolling out Universal Counselling	22.80
Community psychiatric nurses in each Primary Care Centre	3.10
1.5m additional home support hours	38.16
500,000 additional PA hours	12.50
Expand medical intern training posts by 180	7.50
Increase GP trainee intake by 50	3.30
Roll out universal GP care over 10 years, year 1	50.00
Fair pay arrangements for Consultants	26.00
Remove private healthcare from public hospitals over 10 years, year 1	70.00
Neuro-Rehabilitation Team in each CHO	25.18
Investing in research and population health	8.50
Community Intervention, Chronic Disease Management, and Paramedicine Teams	10.00



Cancer screening services	12.00
Expanding new-born screening services	1.00
Improving Social Care	5.00
Cancer Strategy	20.00
Cardiovascular Strategy	10.00
Maternity Strategy	10.00
Trauma Strategy	5.00
Dementia Strategy	5.00
Carers Strategy	0.34
All-island Rare Diseases Strategy	0.33
All-island Genomics Strategy	0.33
Autism Action Plan	5.00
Abolish prescription charges for over 70s and reduce for under 70	24.60
Reduce the Drugs Payment Scheme threshold to €100 from €114	10.20
Phase out car parking charges in public hospitals over 4 years	5.63
Abolish statutory public inpatient charges over 3 years	10.20
Roll out universal contraception for women aged 17-25	8.60
New Drugs Fund and Innovation Fund	50.00
Mental health supports for workers	2.00
Moving CAMHS towards a seven-day week outpatient model	8.50
Funding increase to homeless mental health services	0.23
Multi Agency Triage and Crisis De-Escalation Teams	2.20
Upgrading Approved Mental Health Centres	0.00
An Independent Advocacy Service for Mental Health Service Users	0.88
A State-wide Perinatal Service	1.50
Emergency Covid Mental Health measures	12.20
An additional respite house in each CHO	11.00
Decongregation for 300 people with intellectual disabilities	8.54
Move 100 people under 65 out of nursing homes to assisted living	8.00
Ombudsman for Older People	2.50
Younger Onset Dementia supports	1.00
Waive all addiction assessment fees	0.12
5-Year Community Addiction Plan	11.25

*Figures may differ slightly in this document from Alternative Budget 2022 due to rounding.



Capital Expenditure Measures

Table 18. Capital Expenditure

Total	€647.67m
600 rapid build acute inpatient beds	225.00
34 critical care beds	51.00
50 neuro-rehabilitation beds	17.50
50 mental health beds	18.75
30 public palliative care beds	10.51
40 recovery rehabilitation beds	14.00
24 medical detoxification beds	8.40
Theatre Expansion and Equipment fund	150.00
Cancer screening services	10.00
National Maternity Strategy	50.00
Multi Agency Triage Teams	4.60
Upgrading Approved Mental Health Centres	3.00
State-wide Perinatal Service	12.00
Decongregation for 300 people with intellectual disabilities	40.00
100 additional residential places	16.00
Ensure day service centres are IPC compliant	10.00
5-Year Community Addiction Plan	6.91







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