

Revised Care Ballot Paper

For question 1 below please select yes if you agree with each item and no if you disagree.

Carers:

1. To improve the terms and conditions of those in paid employment as carers (for children and adults):

(a) They should have a pay structure and benefits (including sick pay and pensions) that reward their level of skill and training, similar to those of teachers and nurses.

Yes

No

(b) They should have a career structure, including access to training and professional registration, which enables them to progress in their chosen area.

Yes

No

For question 2 below please select yes if you agree with each item and no if you disagree.

2. Reform Carers' Allowance by:

(a) Increasing the level of the income disregard.

Yes

No

(b) Reimbursing the costs associated with caring.

Yes

No

(c) Increasing the ceiling on the number of hours in paid work outside the home.

Yes

No

(d) Providing access to State employment and training programmes.

Yes

No

3. The State should develop an individualised pension solution for carers to ensure they have an adequate income once they reach retirement age.

Yes

No

Please note the rest of the items 4-9 will follow a similar yes/ no presentation in the Ballot paper but the boxes have not been included in this version to save space and paper.

4. Improve respite provision for carers by:

(a) Increasing the level of the Carers' Support Grant in the next Budget and keeping it under review to ensure it keeps pace with other increases in social protection payments.

(b) Providing adequate access to a range of respite services to meet individual needs.

Childcare

5. Ireland should:

- (a) Move over the next decade to a publicly funded and regulated model of quality, affordable early years and out of hours childcare.
- (b) Increase the State share of GDP spent on childcare, from the current 0.37% of GDP to 1% by 2030 in line with the UNICEF target.

6. Paid Leave for parents should:

- (a) Cover the first year of a child's life.
- (b) Be non-transferable to encourage sharing of childcare responsibility between parents.
- (c) Provide lone parents with the same total leave period as a couple.
- (d) Be incentivised by increasing payment levels to encourage increased take up.

Care for older people and persons with disabilities

7. Older people and persons with disabilities should:
 - (a) Be actively supported and resourced to live independently.
 - (b) Have access to person centred financial supports to serve their individual needs.
 - (c) Be enabled to participate as fully as possible in decisions on their care needs.
 - (d) Be facilitated if their choice is to be cared for at home.

8. Provision for those who wish to be cared for at home should be improved by:
 - (a) Providing a statutory right for payment for home care packages as well as nursing care.
 - (b) Increasing the annual home care budget to meet growing demand and reduce waiting lists.

9. Lifelong care for persons with disabilities who need it should be seamless and there should not be any break in services provided or need to reapply for support when a person turns 18.