

25 September 2025

Allocation for Commissioned Social/Recreational Opportunities for Disabled Children

Please provide, for the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24, and 2024/25 (and 2025/26 budget if available):

1. Allocation and expenditure

- **The total amount of money allocated and spent by Belfast HSC Trust on commissioned services that provide social, recreational, leisure, or community participation opportunities for children and young people with disabilities.**
- **If this spend is not separately recorded, please provide the nearest available categories or internal budget lines under which this type of provision sits (for example “family support – day opportunities” or “day short breaks”).**
- **If these services are funded within broader headings (e.g. “short breaks” or “family support”), please confirm this and provide whatever breakdown or explanatory notes are held.**

Belfast Trust commissions a range of services to provide support to families open to the Children with Disability Service. Many of these services provide a range of opportunities to children/young people which often overlap in respect of the categories above. Therefore they cannot be defined under the headings in the question asked and are referenced under the heading of Family Support Services. These Family Support Services include, for example; nursery provision, summer scheme, day short breaks, befriending, youth groups with some providers providing a variety of services.

Total amount of money allocated for contracted commissioned family support services held within the Children with Disabilities is as follows;

Year	Allocation
2022-2023	£766,268
2023-2024	£817,768
2024-2025	£877,968
2025-2026	£958,921

Please note – the total amount for 2025/2026 is subject to change and continue to be subject to review.

In relation to expenditure, commissioned services are paid via a payment schedule or via invoice. It is not possible to provide the total amount of expenditure for invoiced services, as this would require a manual trawl of individual children/young

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people open to the service and backdating same to the years requested. This would exceed the time limit.

2. Policy and commissioning criteria

- **Any policies, guidance, or commissioning criteria the Trust applies when deciding how to allocate funding for these services.**
- **In particular, please include how the Trust considers the needs of children with profound and multiple learning disabilities, non-ambulant children, or those requiring 1:1 or 2:1 support.**

The Trust continues to be live to demand and capacity for children within the Belfast Trust and this informs the ongoing commissioning of services to help ensure that services for children with disabilities are available and meet identified needs insofar as is possible. The Trust considers the needs of children across the disability spectrum who require varying levels of support and current commissioned services provide services to children with a wide range of complex disabilities. Reviews are held with commissioned services to ensure that they continue to meet the identified needs and are operating within the parameters of their own operating guidelines, any registration and regulation requirements as well as their contract.

A child's needs are considered via assessment under the UNOCINI framework. This is a holistic assessment that considers the child needs, which includes their diagnosis, their disabilities, presentation, behaviours, strengths, challenges, family and extended family support. This assessment engages parents / carers / extended families and other professionals involved with the family. If there is an assessed need, agreed by social worker and senior social worker, this is then presented to Allocation and Resource Panel. This considers all support available, dependent upon the assessment undertaken. Services / supports / resources are considered and explored as part of this assessment process, which can include a range of support services, including commissioned services

3. Equality and impact assessments

Any Section 75 screenings, Equality Impact Assessments (EQIAs), or other statutory assessments carried out in relation to the commissioning of social/recreational opportunities for disabled children.

The Trust continues to review capacity, demand and projections for continued delivery of service provision to meet the needs of children with a disability. Services are commissioned in line with need and demand. As noted above, these services are commissioned and reviewed in line with their operating guidelines, any registration or regulation requirements and the terms of their contract.