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ChildVision Budget 2027 Advocacy Toolkit

Helping Families, Stakeholders, and Supporters Make a Difference

This toolkit is designed to help parents, families, staff, alumni, volunteers, supporters and stakeholders advocate for ChildVision's Budget 2027 priorities.

As part of our ongoing advocacy efforts on behalf of children and young people with visual impairment, we are writing to share ChildVision's Budget Submission and to ask for your support in raising awareness of the urgent need for investment in specialist services.

Enclosed with this communication you will find:

- A copy of ChildVision's Budget Submission to Government.
- Template letters that can be sent to local TDs and elected representatives.
- Key discussion points and suggested messages that may be useful if you meet politicians while they are canvassing or attending local events.

We encourage parents, families, friends, staff, supporters and stakeholders to engage with local representatives and highlight the importance of:

- Increased investment in specialist visual impairment services.
- Reducing waiting times for low vision and psychology supports.
- Establishing a national diagnostic pathway for CVI.
- Ensuring children and young people with visual impairment can access timely, appropriate and equitable services regardless of where they live.

Every conversation helps to raise awareness of the challenges facing children with visual impairment and the growing demand for specialist services.

Thank you for your continued support and advocacy on behalf of the children and families we serve.

Kind regards,
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What We Are Asking You To Do

Action 1: Email Your TD

Email your local TD and ask them to support ChildVision's Budget 2027 proposals.
Find your TD: https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/members/

Action 2: Share Your Story

Tell your TD:

- How ChildVision has helped your child or family.
- How long you waited for services.
- Why specialist vision services matter.
- Why Government investment is needed.

Personal stories are often the most powerful advocacy tool available. Policymakers respond strongly to lived experience alongside data.

Action 3: Invite Your TD to ChildVision

Ask your TD to:

- Visit ChildVision.
- Meet families.
- See services in action.
- Learn about the growing demand for specialist support.

Site visits are widely recognised as one of the most effective ways for policymakers to understand service impact.

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Template Letter to TDs

Subject: Please Support ChildVision in Budget 2027

Dear Deputy [Name],

I am writing as a constituent and as a supporter of ChildVision, Ireland's only dedicated centre for children with visual impairments, some of whom also have profound sensory impairments and additional disabilities.

ChildVision's Budget 2027 proposals address urgent gaps in services that are affecting children and families across Ireland.

Since 2023, ChildVision's national clinical caseload has increased by 360%, while waiting lists for some specialist services now exceed 24 months. There is also currently no formal national diagnostic pathway for Cerebral Visual Impairment (CVI), despite increasing numbers of children requiring assessment and support.

ChildVision is seeking Government investment in:

- A national diagnostic pathway for CVI (€136,330)
- A specialist low vision clinic in the West of Ireland (€307,143)
- Additional specialist clinical staff in Dublin (€307,143)
- A WISE Employment Programme supporting adults with visual impairments into employment (€451,000)

As someone who has seen the impact of ChildVision's work, I know these services make a real difference to children, young people and families.

I would be grateful if you would:

1. Support ChildVision's Budget 2027 proposals.
2. Raise these issues with the Ministers for Health, Public Expenditure and Finance.
3. Champion the importance of specialist vision services within your parliamentary party and in the Oireachtas.
4. Visit ChildVision to meet families and learn more about the organisation's work.

Thank you for your consideration and your support for children and young people with visual impairments.

Yours sincerely,
[Name]
[Address]
[Constituency]
[Phone/Email]

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Frequently asked questions

Why are you asking people to contact TDs?

Budget decisions are influenced by elected representatives hearing directly from constituents. When families and supporters speak up, politicians listen.

What should I say?

Keep it simple:

- Who you are
- Your connection to ChildVision
- Why the services matter
- Ask the TD to support ChildVision in Budget 2027

Do personal stories matter?

Yes. Advocacy research consistently shows that combining facts with lived experience is one of the most effective ways of influencing decision makers.

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DID YOU KNOW?

01 ChildVision's national clinical caseload has increased by 360% since 2023.

02 Some specialist waiting lists exceed 24 months.

03 Cerebral Visual Impairment (CVI) is now the leading cause of childhood blindness in the western world

04 ChildVision completed 89 national assessments in Q1 2026, with each assessment requiring an average of five appointments.

05 ChildVision provided 487 clinical sessions to campus-based students during Q1 2026

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