

A. WELFARE FOR PERSONS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

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POLICY GOALS AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENT

Plan for disability policy

Since 2000 Sweden has had a national plan for disability policy (Govt. bill 1999/2000:79). The plan stresses that disability policy is about citizenship rather than merely care and nursing. Not everyone with a disability needs this help. Yet all citizens have certain rights. The policy may be illustrated briefly in the goals agreed by Parliament. These are:

- ?? Accessibility of a social community based on diversity
- ?? Full participation in community life for persons with disabilities and equality of opportunity concerning living conditions
- ?? Conditions which facilitate independence and self-determination.

Sweden strives to enable persons with disabilities to participate fully in society. To ensure this the disability policy proposed in the legislation is based on, and should operate from, the perspective of citizenship. In comparison with earlier practice, based on a care perspective, it is clear that Sweden is now tending to stress *equality of opportunity* for people with disabilities, thereby enabling them to play a full part in community life.

United Nations Standard Rules

In 1989 the Swedish Government was influential in taking the initiative, at the United Nations, to bring about international rules safeguarding the right to participation and equal opportunity for persons with disabilities. This led in 1993 to the adoption by the General Assembly of the document "Standard Rules for safeguarding participation and equal opportunity for people with disabilities". The document comprises 22 rules covering, among other issues, the right to work and accessibility to society. The rules are not binding upon member-states but have significantly influenced the character of many nations' disability policies.

Sweden has approximately 9,0 million inhabitants. The choice of definition of disability affects the size of the group considered to have a disability, so there is no definite answer to the question as to how many people with disabilities there are. In their national surveys of living conditions, Statistics Sweden employs a definition based on functional ability. According to their criteria, around 1.3 million people aged from 16–85 are disabled, of whom 700.000 are of working age (16–64). Consequently, a large proportion of disabled people are aged 65 or older.

If instead we use one of the administrative definitions underlying the entitlement to special benefits from the community, the numbers are found to be lower. In December

2001 just over 100.000 people received disability support from the social insurance system. Another example, taken from the municipal services, estimates that over 47.000 people receive support under the provisions of the Act on Support and Services for Certain Disabled Persons (LSS 1993:387) (RFV, 2002a). In practice, these two categories overlap. People who receive social insurance support may receive support under the Support and Services Act at the same time.

The Authority responsible for the provision of Special Support

Many people with disabilities require no special support. A well-functioning community, with good accessibility to the physical and social environment, may be all that is needed. For those persons who need support as a consequence of their disability, various kinds are available.

Responsibility for such support is divided between the municipality, the county and the state. Different laws and ordinances regulate each authority's responsibility.

Authority	Main responsibility	Important laws/ordinances
Municipality	Basic responsibility for all citizens and their living conditions	?? Social Services Act (SoL, 2001:453) ?? Act on Support and Services for Certain Disabled Persons (LSS 1993:387) ?? Act on Municipal Transport Services for Elderly and Disabled Persons (1997:736)
County	Certain special (expert) measures	?? Health Services Act (1982:763)
State/social insurance	Financial support and compensation for additional costs	?? National Insurance Act (1962:381) ?? Act on Disability Allowance and Care Allowance (1998:703) ?? Assistance Benefit Act (1993:389) ?? Ordinance regarding Car Allowance for Persons with Disabilities (1998:890)
State/labour market	Assist people with disabilities to obtain or to keep a job	?? Ordinance regarding Special Measures for People with Occupational Disabilities (2000:630)

Thus the division of responsibility between different authorities can be seen as one way of realising the idea of integrating people with disabilities into the community.

This is referred to as the *principle of responsibility and financing*. The principle implies that all social sectors should plan and conduct their activities so that they are accessible to all citizens, irrespective of whether they have a disability or not. The underlying principle is that each area of society should take its responsibility for issues concerning people with disabilities.

The principle also means that the support given to people with disabilities should be

integrated with general local-government services rather than being administered by a special “disability authority”. This is an important concept. People with disabilities should not be separated from the rest of the population but should be able to avail of the same authorities as all others in order to have their needs for support and service met.

The municipality

Municipalities have the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that citizens living within their borders obtain the support and help they need. The municipality represents the basis of the support offered, by the community, to people with disabilities. For example, it is here that responsibility lies for seeing that people with disabilities obtain housing which is adapted to the requirements of their disability. The municipality is also responsible for ensuring that people with disabilities receive the personal support they need, round the clock. This may be anything from getting in and out of bed to following one's leisure interests. The following are some examples of support that can be obtained via the municipality:

- ?? Home adaptation
- ?? Transport services
- ?? Organised daily activities
- ?? Home help services
- ?? Service accommodation
- ?? Personal assistance

Two important laws govern the tasks of the municipality in this field. The first is the Social Services Act (SoL), (2001:453) which regulates large parts of the municipal social services, including the care of the elderly and of people with disabilities. The Social Services Act obliges the municipality to ensure that people with disabilities can live as others do: the municipality should facilitate their participation on equal terms and provide the support they require.

The other important law in the municipal area is the Act on Support and Services for Certain Disabled Persons (1993:387) (LSS). This law was introduced in 1994 and may be seen as a supplement to the Social Services Act. While measures under the Social Services Act should in principle be available to all who need them, the LSS Act follows a narrower definition of who should be eligible for these measures. A further important difference between the Social Services Act and the LSS Act is that the latter has considerably stronger elements of rights legislation. A law of rights *guarantees* a citizen specific benefits, given that he or she meets certain criteria. Further, the LSS Act and the Social Services Act also differ with regard to what they seek to achieve. While the goal of LSS is for persons with disabilities to enjoy *good* conditions of life, support under the Social Services Act is intended to ensure a *reasonable* level of existence.

The following three groups are entitled to support under the LSS Act:

1. Persons with learning difficulties, autism or autism-like conditions
2. Persons acquiring, in adulthood, permanent and significant intellectual disabilities in consequence of external violence or somatic disease
3. Persons with other permanent physical or intellectual disabilities clearly not related to normal aging, if the disabilities are extensive and cause major difficulties in daily life and hence a comprehensive need for support or service.

The county

The role of the Swedish county in the support system regarding people with disabilities includes the provision of ordinary health care, habilitation, technical aids and interpreters. The county is also responsible, under the LSS Act, for a special service termed counselling and support. Basically, this service consists of providing expert support for especially for people with disabilities. This service includes support from, for example, social workers, physio- and occupational therapists or psychologists. The organisation in the county is often divided into various administrative units, or clinics. For example clinics which are organised on the basis of the medical speciality for which they are responsible. Examples of such specialisation of county support are habilitation, technical aids, interpreter services as well as counselling and support.

Most county activities are, however, regulated by the Health Services Act. This Act stipulates that the county must provide good health services for all residents in its area. The goal of Swedish health care according to the Health Services Act is "good health and care on equal terms for the whole population". More specifically, this means that the county council, as well as offering medical care, must meet the need for habilitation and rehabilitation, technical aids for persons with disability and interpreter services for people who are congenitally deaf, deaf and blind, those who have acquired deafness or have impaired hearing. The county has thereby an important role in the provision of support to persons disabilities, demanding the provision of support for relatively well-defined measures.

The state

Labour market authorities

The labour market authorities are responsible for ensuring that people with disability, and consequently limited working ability, gain access to the labour market and that, where necessary, the actual working environment is adapted so as to facilitate the person to continue in work.

Social insurance support to people with disabilities

Social insurance is a factor which concerns the lives of practically all citizens, and which is of great importance for their security and welfare. Every citizen is legally entitled to insurance benefits and allowances in various situations of life. The national social insurance system administers one aspect of the support which society provides for people with disabilities. For daily maintenance support, measures such as a temporary disability pension may be applicable. From 2003 these measures have been replaced by certain sickness benefits and activity compensation schemes.

Apart from a general maintenance support, four benefits are earmarked for persons with disabilities. Their main purpose is to cover various forms of additional expense which a specific disability may entail. These are disability benefit, care allowance, car allowance and assistance allowance.

Disability pension and temporary disability pension

Disability pension, and its time-limited form, termed temporary disability pension, have long been granted to people who, for medical reasons (mental or somatic), are incapable

of work. Disability pension has therefore been an important source of maintenance for people with impaired working ability. Disability pension has been granted if the impaired working ability is expected to be permanent, whereas the temporary form has been granted if there is reason to believe that working ability can be gained or regained. The system of disability pension and temporary disability pension has been an important element in the Swedish welfare system, covering the whole population from youth to pensionable age (16-64 years).

These rules have remained essentially the same since they were introduced in the early 1960s. However, from 2003, a new system which is more in keeping with the times has been introduced which differentiates between “sickness benefits” and “activity benefits”. Sickness benefits have come to replace the disability pension, but cannot be granted until the person has reached 30 years of age. The activity benefit is a newly introduced system for young people entering the social insurance system, the aim being to diminish the risk for a passive long-term dependence on benefits, and instead encourage the individual’s own ability to provide for him- or herself.

Activity Benefits

The system of activity compensation or benefits was introduced on 1 January 2003 for people aged 19 to 29. It is intended to encourage the recipient to become and remain active without affecting their financial security. The aim is for people who enter the social insurance system at a young age to be given the incentive to increase their independence and create active lives for themselves. It can also lead to increased self-sufficiency. Examples are courses, hobby activities and sports. The intention is that the individual should govern the choice of activities, while the Insurance Office should act by supporting the individual through planning and coordinating activities. An activity benefit is time-limited and can be granted for at most three years at a time.

Disability Allowance

A disability allowance can be granted to persons with impaired functional ability who need practical help to manage their daily lives or who, due to the disability, incur large extra expense. The allowance is age-limited, being granted at age 19 at the earliest (from 2003); and the disability must have arisen before the person reaches 65 years.

Care Allowance

A care allowance is granted to parents caring for a seriously ill or disabled child. The care allowance has two purposes: payment towards the care and supervision exercised by a parent and compensation for the additional costs entailed by the child’s illness or disability. The care allowance may also represent compensation for part of the loss of income the child’s need of care and supervision may entail if a parent must stay away from paid employment partly or entirely.

Car Allowance

The purpose of the car allowance is to help with the purchase of a car or other motor vehicle for persons with disabilities who cannot use public transport. The car allowance can thus be seen partly as compensation for shortcomings in the accessibility of today’s transport services.

Assistance Allowance

Introduced in 1994, the assistance allowance is the youngest of the four special forms of support. Its purpose is to make it financially possible for people with severe disabilities to appoint, themselves or through a provider, a personal assistant. The idea of personal

assistance is to create support as far as possible adapted to the individual and to optimise the person's influence over how the support is arranged, and who provides it. This is often achieved by, for example, the person himself or herself being the assistant's 'supervisor'. The target group for the assistance allowance is the same as that for measures under the LSS Act .

The allowance is granted in the form of a number of assistance hours which the person may use within a certain period. In 2003 an hour was worth SEK 198. There is no ceiling, i.e. the number of hours can theoretically be unlimited where people with severe injuries or diseases may need several assistants at the same time. The municipality pays for the first twenty assistance hours per week, while the state, i.e. the social insurance system, pays for assistance hours exceeding twenty hours per week.

Figure 3:2. An example of the contributions to a person with a disability, from the various services organizations in the welfare society [in the attachment](#).-

Financing of services

The financial outlay for the municipality and the county is covered mainly through local taxation. It is usual in Sweden that expenditure can be supplemented by state subsidies and from individual fees. Lidingö, however, does not qualify for a state subsidy as the basis for revenue is so high that the municipality instead pays an equalisation contribution to other municipalities.

Social insurance is financed through social contributions, general pension contribution, state old-age pension contributions, taxes and returns from funds. The social contributions are based on employer contributions (32,86%) and individual contributions (31.01%). The employer contribution is paid by the employer, whereas the individual contribution is made by the person who has general National Insurance based on a working income.

Health insurance fees are transferred to the state to finance the cost of the health services.

Another source of financing is VAT - Value-added tax. The legislation regarding value-added tax (1994:2000) refers to the general rule of sales taxation for the exchange of goods and services. Some areas are exempted from the main rule, that is to say are taxfree, for example education, health services, and social services. The tax level applied is usually 25%. Two additional percentage rates, 12% and 6%, can be applied in special cases.

How a good life and quality of life can be guaranteed

The most important factors for guaranteeing a good life for persons with a disability are:

- ?? Influence over one's own life
- ?? Personally adapted support
- ?? The involvement of, and consideration for, the views of parents, guardians or advocates
- ?? The facilitation of integration in society
- ?? The opportunity to express complaints to the service provider, local authorities, politicians and the right to appeal.

As most of the provisions for persons with a disability are to-day expressed as rights, the person can appeal to a civil court to have his case tried. The initial appeal is made to the County Court, thereafter to the Court of Appeal and finally to the Supreme Administrative Court.

B. THE ORGANISATION OF LIDINGÖ MUNICIPALITY

Introduction

Local self-government is a longstanding tradition in Sweden and of fundamental constitutional significance. The principle of local self-government has been enshrined in the Constitution as an integral part of democratic government in Sweden. Sweden has also ratified the European Charter of Local Self-Government. Local self-government is exercised at both local and regional level by the municipalities and county councils, which are respectively responsible for vital public services in a variety of welfare sectors.

Municipal responsibilities, for example, include basic schooling, child care amenities and caring services for the elderly. Recreational and cultural activities are also important municipal concerns. On the technical side, municipalities are responsible, for example, for water supply and sewerage, rescue services and refuse disposal.

County responsibilities centre mainly on public health and medical services, but counties also have other important duties, e.g. in connection with public transport and regional cultural institutions. The “democratic rules of the game” for municipalities and counties are laid down in the Local Government Act.

Figure “Organization LIDINGÖ STAD” and Figure 5:2. The net costs of the departments of Lidingö in the attachment.

The Municipal Council

The Municipal Council is the highest decision making level and has 51 members from 8 political parties. The Council is responsible for issues concerning budget, taxation and other important matters. It is also responsible for deciding which control mechanism for the authority are imposed. It is also the task of the Council to appoint representatives to the Municipal Executive committees and boards. The Municipal Council meets once a month in the Town Hall. The meetings are open to the public and debates are transmitted on the local radio.

The Municipal Executive Committee

The Municipal Committee is responsible for the development and financial status of the municipality. The Committee is responsible for leading, co-ordinating and the following-up of the affairs of the municipality. The Committee should also express its opinion in all matters prior to decisions being made by the Municipal Council. The committee is composed of eleven representatives under the leadership of a chairman.

Boards and committees

It is the responsibility of the municipalities Boards and Committees to carry out measures within their respective speciality.

Civil servants

Responsibility for implementing political decisions carrying out the affairs of the municipality involves 2.500 employees. The majority work within the services for the elderly and persons with a disability as well as education and pre-school activities. Approximately 75% of the employees are women.

THE COMMITTEE FOR SERVICES TO THE ELDERLY AND THE DISABLED

Figure 5:3 in the attachment. The Department for Services to the Elderly and the Disabled. The upper part of the figure represents the purchasing of services while the lower part ("Siggebogården"/Rehabilitation) represents the delivery of services.

The committee

The committees within the municipality, each within their different fields, shall ensure that the activities are conducted in accordance with the goals and guidelines decided on by the Lidingö Administrative Board and with regard for the provisions applicable to the various activities. They shall also ensure that internal control is sufficient and that the activities are otherwise carried out in a satisfactory manner.

The Committee for Services to the Elderly and the Disabled is responsible for fulfilling Lidingö's obligations to meet the need for care, support, habilitation and rehabilitation of the elderly and those with disabilities according to the Social Services Act, (SOL) the Health Services Act (HSL) and the Act on Support and Services for Certain Disabled Persons (LSS). This responsibility applies to both the activities run by the municipality itself and those carried out by contract. In addition the Committee is responsible for the planning, follow-up and evaluation of the services based on the agreed principal goals and the budget limit allocated to the committee.

The department

The department consists of a head of administration, a staff administrative group (including a head of development, activity evaluator, staff officer and planning secretary), a senior nurse, a finance group, a needs assessment group and seven executive units. The department's activities are organised in seven working areas: Rehabilitation, Nursing Home, Högsåtra-Frimurarhemmet Service House, Siggebogården and Tor Service House, Department for Special Services (OSS), Home Help Service, and Social psychiatry.

Exercise of Public Authority

The Social Services Act regulates the services and how they are applied to meet the needs for care, support and rehabilitation of the elderly. According to Sol §2 the municipality has the ultimate responsibility for seeing all those resident in the

municipality receive the support and help they require. To guarantee the residents the support and help they need the public authority, by way of an assessment officer makes an individual decision based on the person's need for care and support. Those who cannot provide for themselves, or can have their needs met in another way, have a right to assistance (SoL ch. 4, 1§) . All assistance is personal and the individual has the right to appeal against a negative decision. The assistance for the individual should be arranged and implemented in close cooperation with the person concerned (SoL ch. 3, 5§).

Although the Act on Support and Services for Certain Disabled Persons (LSS) contains detailed regulations regarding special support and service for the persons who are included in the group qualified for assistance according to this law, it does not imply any limitation in their rights to avail of other legislation. The intention of the law is that the individual person, through these measures, is guaranteed good conditions of life. The assistance should be permanent and coordinated. It should be adapted to the recipient's individual needs and arranged so as to be easily accessible to the user, and facilitate the person's ability to live an independent life.

The measures made available through the legislation are the following:

1. advice and other personal support that requires special knowledge about problems and conditions governing the life of a person with major and permanent functional impairments,
2. help from a personal assistant or financial support for reasonable costs for such help to the extent that the need for financial support is not covered by assistance benefit pursuant to the Assistance Benefit Act (1993:389),
3. escort service,
4. help from a personal contact,
5. relief service in the home,
6. short stay away from the home,
7. short period of supervision for schoolchildren over the age of 12 outside their own home in conjunction with the school day and during the holidays,
8. arrangements for living in a family home or in residential arrangements with special service for children and young people who need to live away from their parental home,
9. residential arrangements with special service for adults or some other specially adapted residential arrangements for adults,
10. daily activities for people of a working age who have no gainful employment nor are doing a training.

The number of persons currently receiving services according to LSS is 265, for whom 3 LSS-assessment officers are responsible. The task of this group is to decide which support and service the person is entitled to, and to ensure that their needs are conveyed to the department of special services, which in turn is responsible for implementation.

Ekonomi and financing **Budget**

The goals and organisation of the economic administration in municipalities and counties are laid down in the Local Government Act chapter 8 "Economic administration". It is here stipulated that the municipalities and counties shall have good economic management of their activities and that these be carried out in accordance with relevant legal procedures.

The budget and its composition

Municipalities and counties are required to present an annual budget for the coming fiscal year. According to law (1997:615) the budget should be drawn up in such a way that income exceeds expenditure. The budget should contain a plan of activities and for the economic management for the current fiscal year. The plan should indicate the rate of taxation and the funding allocations. The plan shall also show how expenditure is to be financed and what the economic status is expected to be at the end of the fiscal year.

If expenditure for a particular financial year exceeds income, the deficit shall be adjusted and the net equity as entered in the balance sheet restored during the two succeeding years. A decision concerning such adjustment shall be made in the budget not later than the second year after the year in which the deficit occurred. The budget shall also contain an economic plan for a three-year period. The fiscal year shall always constitute the first year of this period.

The budgeting process

The Municipal Executive Committee decides the date by which other committees should submit their separate budget proposals to the executive committee. The budgeting process begins therefore when the Committee for Services to the Eldery and the Disabled receives the goals and guidelines from the executive committee, including the agreed amount of money reserved for these activities. During the spring period the department drafts their budget proposal for submittal to the executive committee. The task of the executive committee is then to decide whether it is necessary to adjust the guidelines, including the financial framework, or whether it is possible to carry out all the activities according to the guidelines, thereby deciding whether the budgeting process should/can continue as suggested. Following this the budget will be finally proposed by the executive committee.

Each department should, by 12 May, submit to the Municipal Executive Committee the proposed budget and investment plan, these being within the framework of the directives, and the proposed financial limits. Prior to this the department, including both those responsible for the exercise of public authority, and its implementation, and the administration, should have surveyed the potential and expected needs for the coming year, and requested any additional funding thought necessary to cover expenditure going beyond the allocated framework. The process concerning the annual budget covers a period of around 3 months. Apart from the participation of the employees in the municipality, other interest groups such as the parents organisations are involved in order to better understand the needs of those concerned.

The Municipal Executive Committee will, on 10 June, and based on the suggested budget prepared by the department, make its decision with regard to any additional directives to the different boards and committees.

The proposed budget submitted to the Municipal Executive Committee should, in addition to the profit and loss account for the committee also include a proposal regarding any adjustments necessary in order to keep within the decided financial framework, and a presentation of the consequences of any proposed measures to be taken. The various boards are committed to submit a complete budget proposal to the Municipal Executive Committee by 25 August. Throughout this period a political debate and negotiations can take place within the various committees, boards and the town council. The various political

parties represented in these different authorities can, in addition to the proposal from the Executive Committee, also present their own budget proposal.

A budget should be drafted by the Executive Committee before the end of October. If there are special reasons for so doing, the budget may be drafted in November. If so, the Executive Committee must propose, before the end of October, the rate of taxation for the municipal or county tax to be included in the preliminary income tax for the following year.

The budget is adopted by the Town Council before the end of November. In years when elections have been held throughout the country the budget shall be adopted by the newly elected council.

The budget drafted by the executive committee shall be made available to the general public as from the announcement of the council meeting at which the budget is to be adopted. The location where the draft budget is made available should be stated in the announcement.

Spending decision during the fiscal year

If the council decides on an item of expenditure in the course of the fiscal year, the decision should also include an indication as to how the expenditure is to be financed.

The goals of the Municipality

The Municipal Executive Committee stipulates, at the time when the budget is approved, what are the overall goals for the activities to be carried out. These are presented without any direct organisational connection. An overall goal can therefore be related to several different municipal bodies. When the Municipal Council approved the budget for 2003 it decided on the following overall goal:

“The goal for the municipality’s public activities is to meet the needs of the residents of Lidingö with regard to services which are required by the individual, and which are not available in another form. Such services should be characterised by their quality, and carried out with competence and financial discernment. The residents should have the greatest possible freedom of choice regarding the required service. The town should therefore, within all areas of service, seek to allow for alternative forms of production and provision.

The exercise of public authority should be correct and effective, and characterised by a good service attitude. The scope of municipal services should not be greater than that they can be financed by fees, state subsidies and municipal taxation based on low impositions.”

The overall goals for services to the elderly and persons with disability, as decided by the Municipal Council, are as follows:

- ?? stimulate the elderly and persons with disability, to live in their own homes so long as they wish, and as long as it is possible.
- ?? offer appropriate alternative forms of housing
- ?? offer necessary care and service to those who need it
- ?? assist in making life active and meaningful for the elderly, and for persons with disability .

Annual report

Book-keeping and accounting

The executive committee and other committees shall keep continuous accounts of the funds which they administer. More detailed provisions concerning the accounting records of municipalities and county councils are contained in the Local Government Accounting Records Act (1997:614).

The executive committee decides the latest date by which other committees are to report to the executive committee on their financial administration for the previous fiscal year. As described above the Council adopts the budget and the goals each year. The executive committee is responsible for following up the goals, and the economic result during the fiscal year, and for summarising them in the annual report at the end of the fiscal year. The Committee for Services to the Elderly and the Disabled has to prepare the annual report before February 14, the year after the fiscal year, in order to send it to the Executive Committee

After receiving the accounts of other committees, the Executive Committee should conclude the accounts in an annual report. The annual report should be presented to the Council and the auditors as soon as possible and not later than 15 April of the year following the year to which the report refers. The annual report shall be approved by the Council. The annual report is to be kept available to the general public as from the announcement of the Council meeting at which the annual report is to be approved. The place where the annual report is kept available should be made public.

Finances in figures

The net costs for Services to the Elderly and the Disabled is 487.8 million SEK (53,0 million EUR, 1 EUR = 9,15 SEK) and is financed by municipal taxation distributed in the final accounts for 2002 according to Fig. 5:4 in the attachment.

Their activities for Special Services were 98,6 million SEK (10,7 million EUR) or 20 %. In addition 11,6 million SEK (1,3 million EUR) was spent on administration and management.

CONCLUSIONS

The principle of *responsibility and financing* is underlying the idea that different authorities administer different parts of the support provided to persons with disabilities. The intention is that persons with disabilities should apply to the same authorities as everyone else in the different contexts, instead of their needs being separated from other people's.

The emerging picture is one of a support system that appears relatively clear and logically arranged. The municipality, which is closest to the citizen, should be responsible for the citizen's basic security in the form of support and service. The county should supplement this by providing expert competence through medical care and habilitation/rehabilitation. In addition, the labour market authorities should employ their competence to make it easier for disabled people to go out to work. Lastly, the social insurance system should provide compensation for the costs that a disability can entail

But how the system works in practice must be judged in terms of how it helps the people for whom it is intended. As we have seen, in this presentation, the system consists not only of three responsible authorities; each authority is also divided into various sectors. Moreover, certain additional measures have been added but are administered outside the respective authorities while linked to their support measures. Examples are the provision of personal assistance, or companies that carry out special modifications to vehicles.

Our experience is based on the “Study of Living Conditions” mde by the National Social Insurance Board and shows that people´s experience of contact with the system, and its officials, reveal the following problems:

- ?? It is hard to find relevant information
- ?? You have to be able to take the initiative and formulate your needs
- ?? You have to be able to appeal and fight for your rights
- ?? The system is complicated and bureaucratic
- ?? Coordination among different authorities is poor.

Much remains before equality of living conditions between persons with disabilities and the rest of the population becomes a fact. The educational level is lower for persons with a disability, as is employment insurance. In addition there is a lack of financial security among many of those persons who receive social insurance intended as support to persons with a disability. This means that persons with a disability are excluded from several of the aspects of a persons life which generates independence.

It is clear that our society is still not fully complete and that simplicity is still not foremost. More work is required if all persons are to have the same conditions and the same opportunities to participate in society, irrespective of whether they have a disability or not. The process of change requires longterm approaches, committment and knowledge.

AUTHORITY	MAIN RESPONSIBILITY	IMPORTANT LAWS/ORDINANCES
MUNICIPALITY	Basic responsibility for all citizens and their living conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Social Services Act (SoL, 2001:453) · Act on Support and Services for Certain Disabled Persons (LSS 1993:387) · Act on Municipal Transport Services for Elderly and Disabled Persons (1997:736)
COUNTY	Certain special (expert) measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Health Services Act (1982:763)
STATE / SOCIAL INSURANCE	Financial support and compensation for additional costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · National Insurance Act (1962:381) · Act on Disability Allowance and Care Allowance (1998:703) · Assistance Benefit Act (1993:389) · Ordinance regarding Car Allowance for Persons with Disabilities (1998:890)
STATE / LABOUR MARKET	Assist people with disabilities to obtain or to keep a job	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Ordinance regarding Special Measures for People with Occupational Disabilities (2000:630)

Figure 3:1. The relationship between authority, its main responsibility and the important laws which govern their task in the Swedish welfare society.

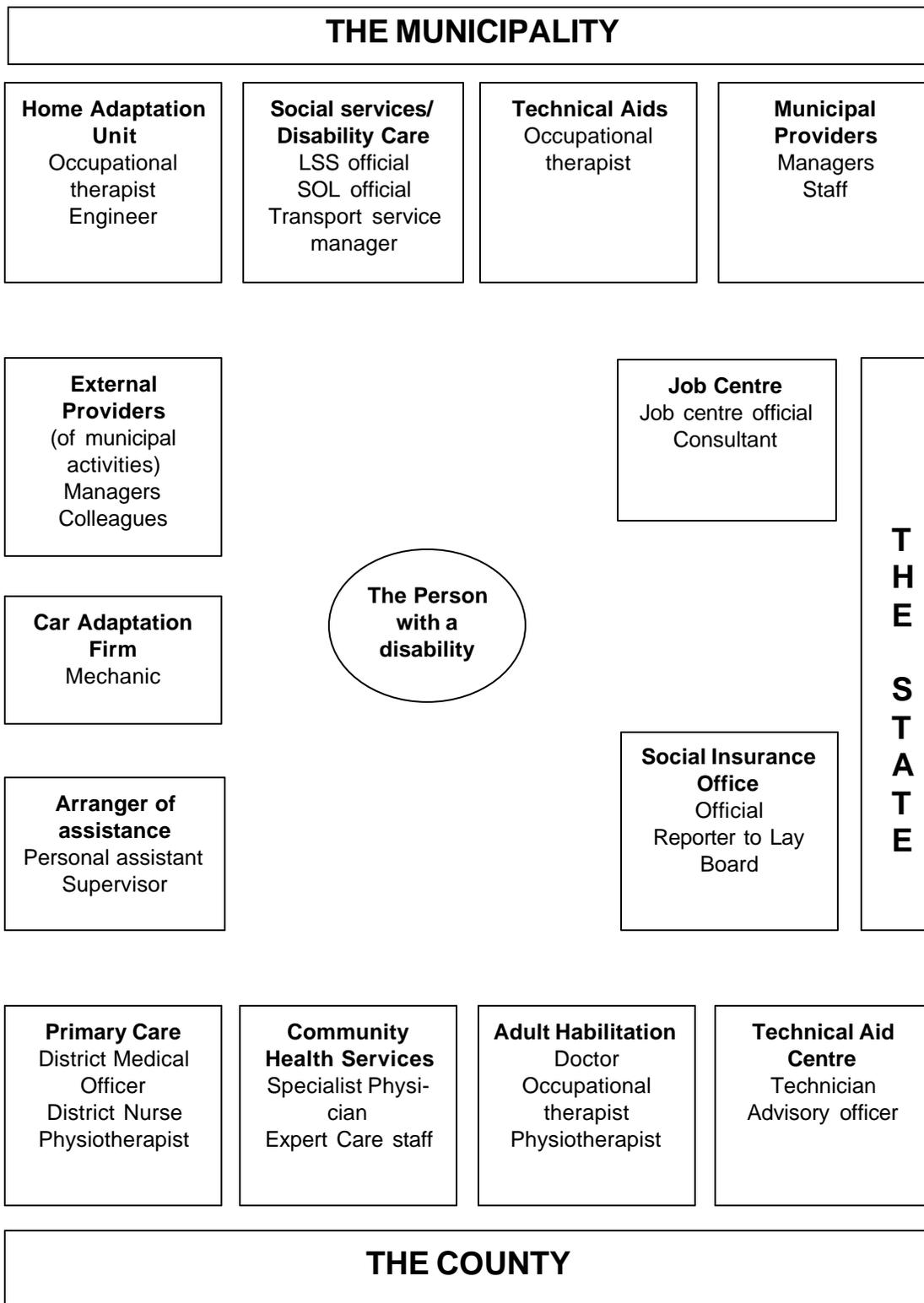
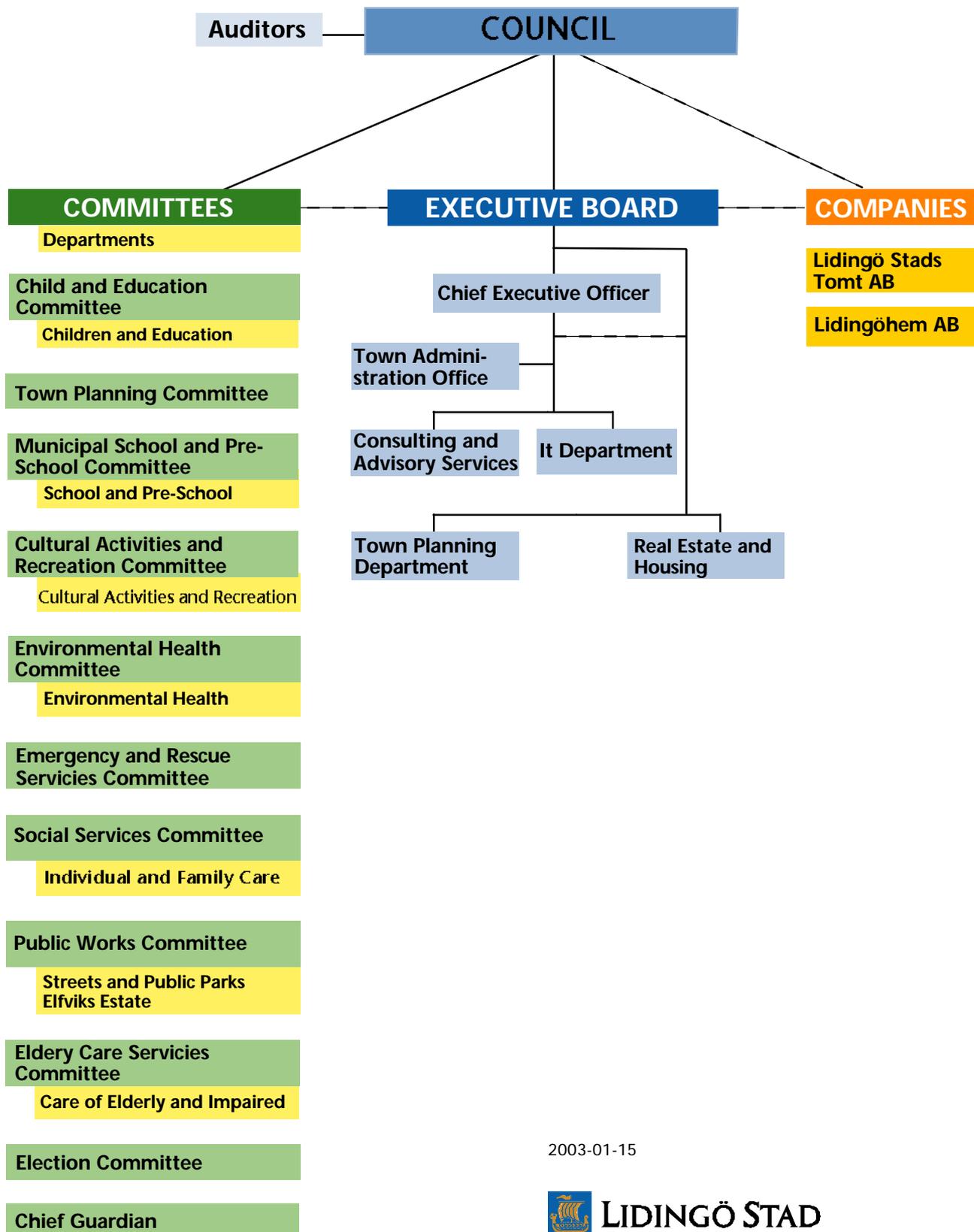


Figure 3:2. An example of the contributions to a person with a disability, from the various services organizations in the welfare society.

ORGANIZATION Lidingö stad



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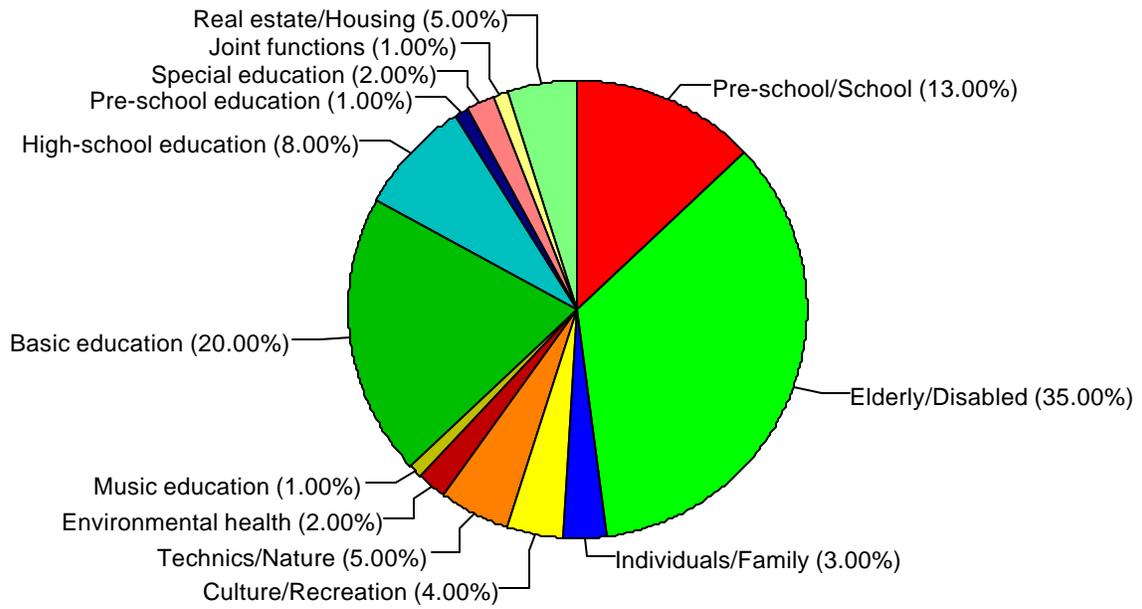


Figure 5.2. The net costs of the departments of Lidingö.

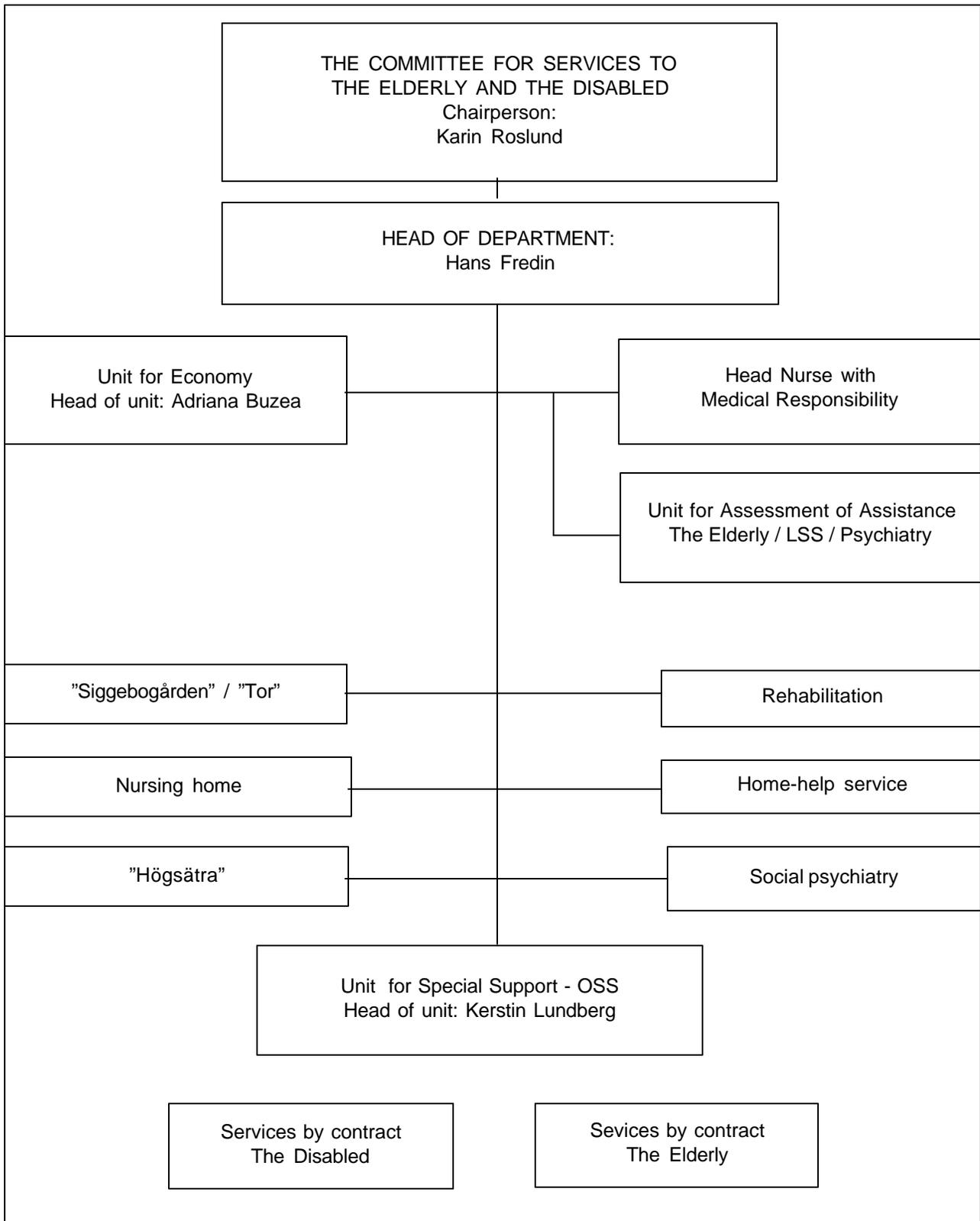


Figure 5:3. The Department for Services to the Elderly and the Disabled. The upper part of the figure represents the purchasing of services while the lower part (“Siggebogården”/Rehabilitation) represents the delivery of services.

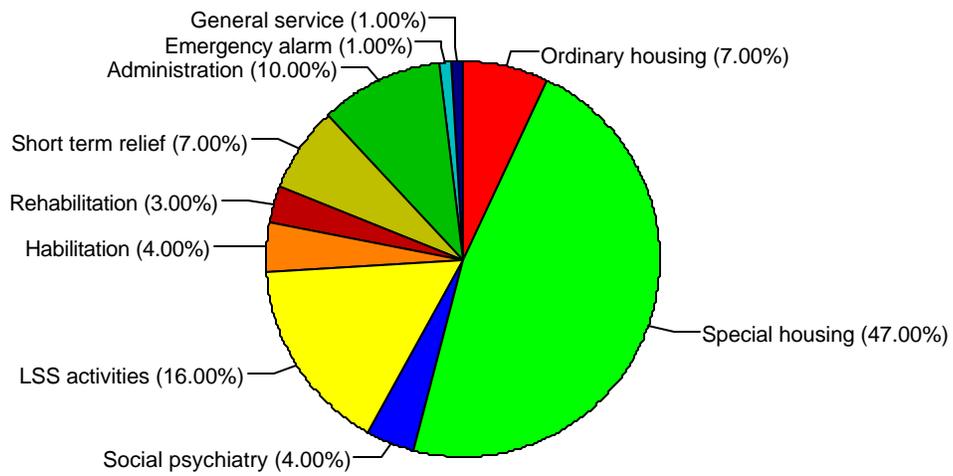


Figure 5:4. The Department of Services to the Elderly and the Disabled, as regards the relative size of its services based on net costs.