FreedomTech
A Passport to Inclusion

Assistive Technology: A tool to independence

Next Steps – Tech Steps

18th April 2018

Tullamore

Siobhán Long
National AT Training Service
Enable Ireland

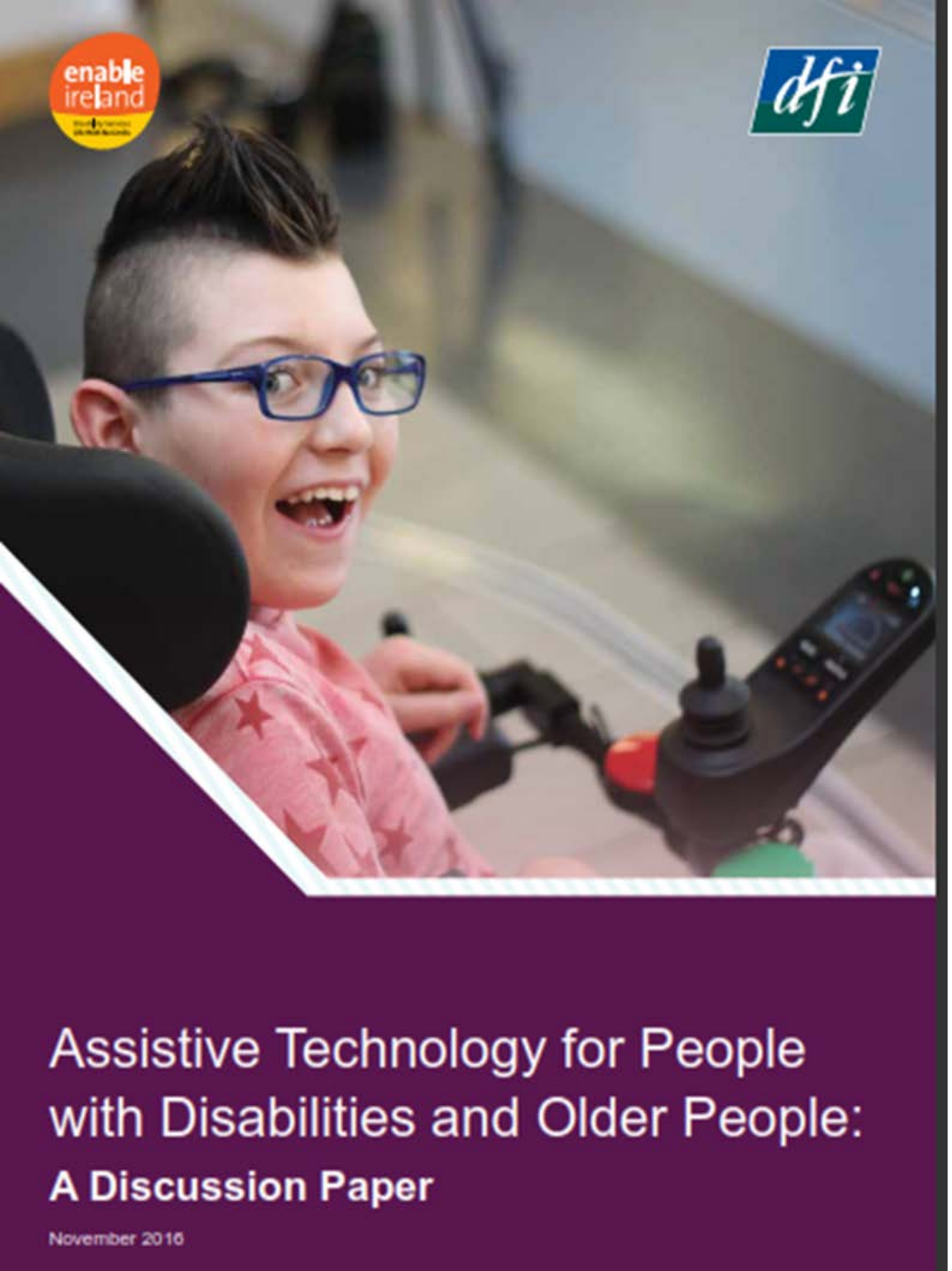
dfi

enable ireland
Disability Services
Life With No Limits

For most people, technology makes things *easier……*
For people with disabilities however, technology makes things *possible*

Incidence and Experience of Disability in Ireland: Census 2016

- **13.5%** of population have a disability (Census 2016)
- **Educational attainment:**
  - 13.7% to Primary Level only
  - 37% to Third Level (compared to 53% of general population)
- **Employment:** 78% of people with disabilities who are of working age are unemployed (compared to almost full employment for general population)
- **Residential care:** Over 44,500 people living in 'communal establishments'



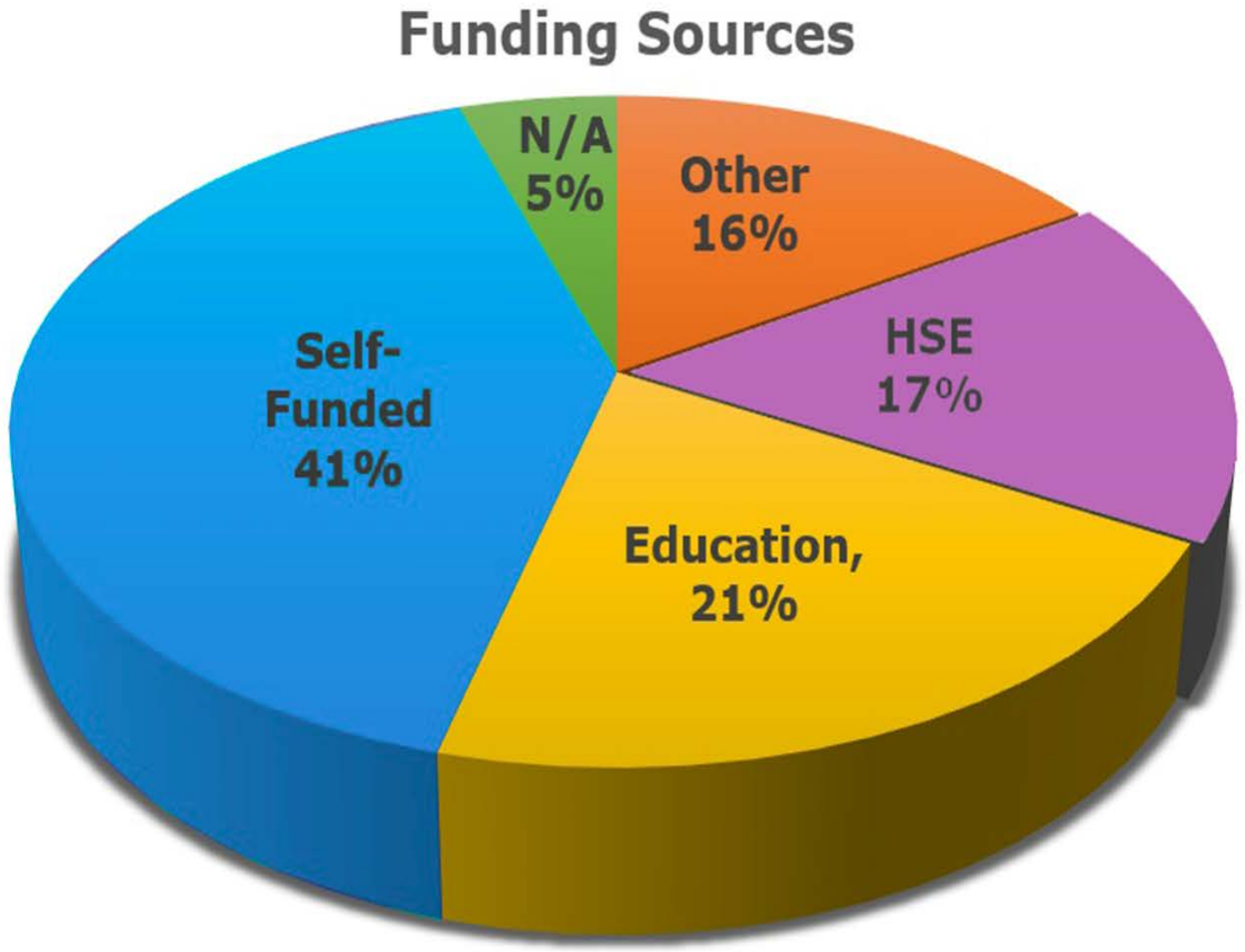
FreedomTech
A Passport to Inclusion

Assistive Technology for People with Disabilities and Older People:

A Discussion Paper (2016)

FreedomTech
A Passport to Inclusion

AT Survey 2016



FreedomTech
A Passport to Inclusion

AT Survey 2016

64% of AT cost less than €1,000

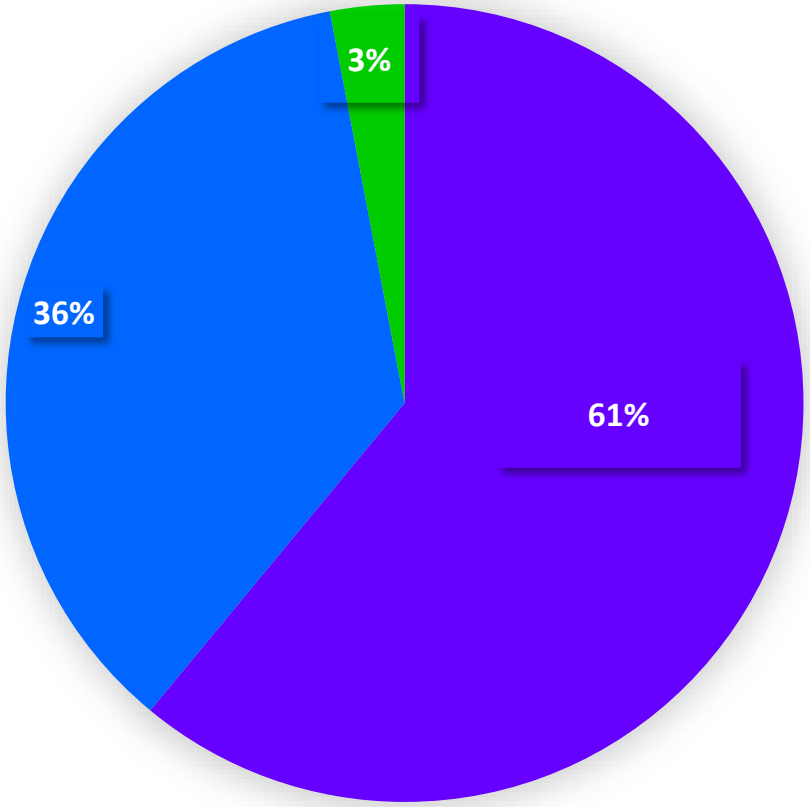
22% cost between €1001 - €3,800

14% cost more than €3801

FreedomTech
A Passport to Inclusion

AT Survey 2016

Perceived Usefulness of AT



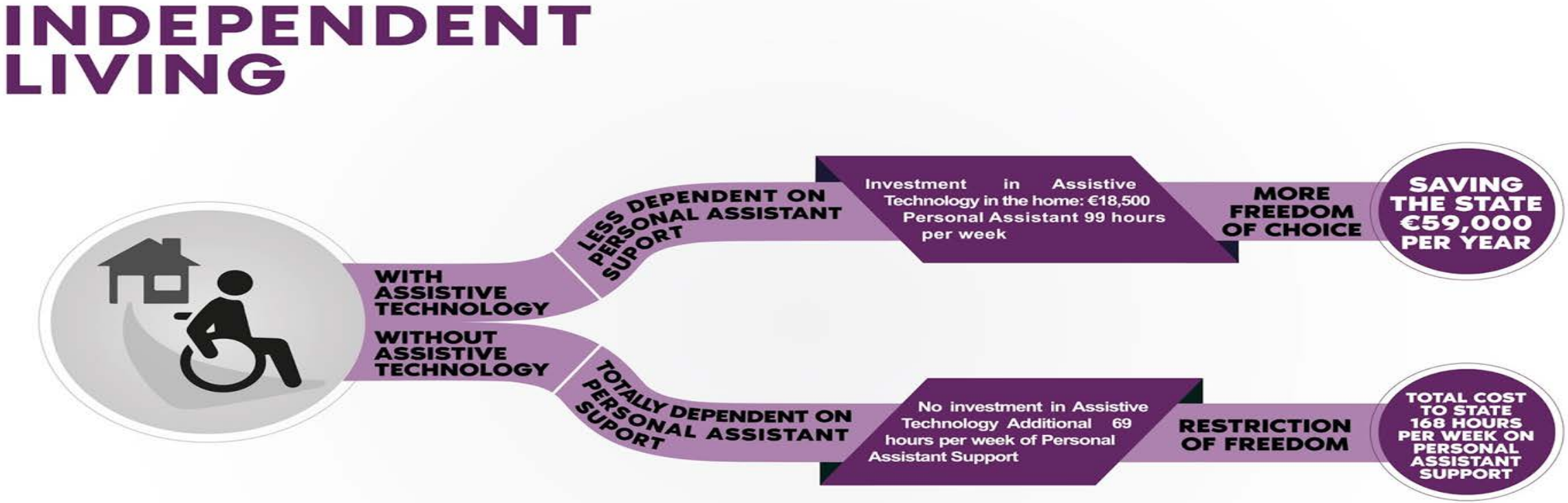
FreedomTech
A Passport to Inclusion

AT Survey 2016

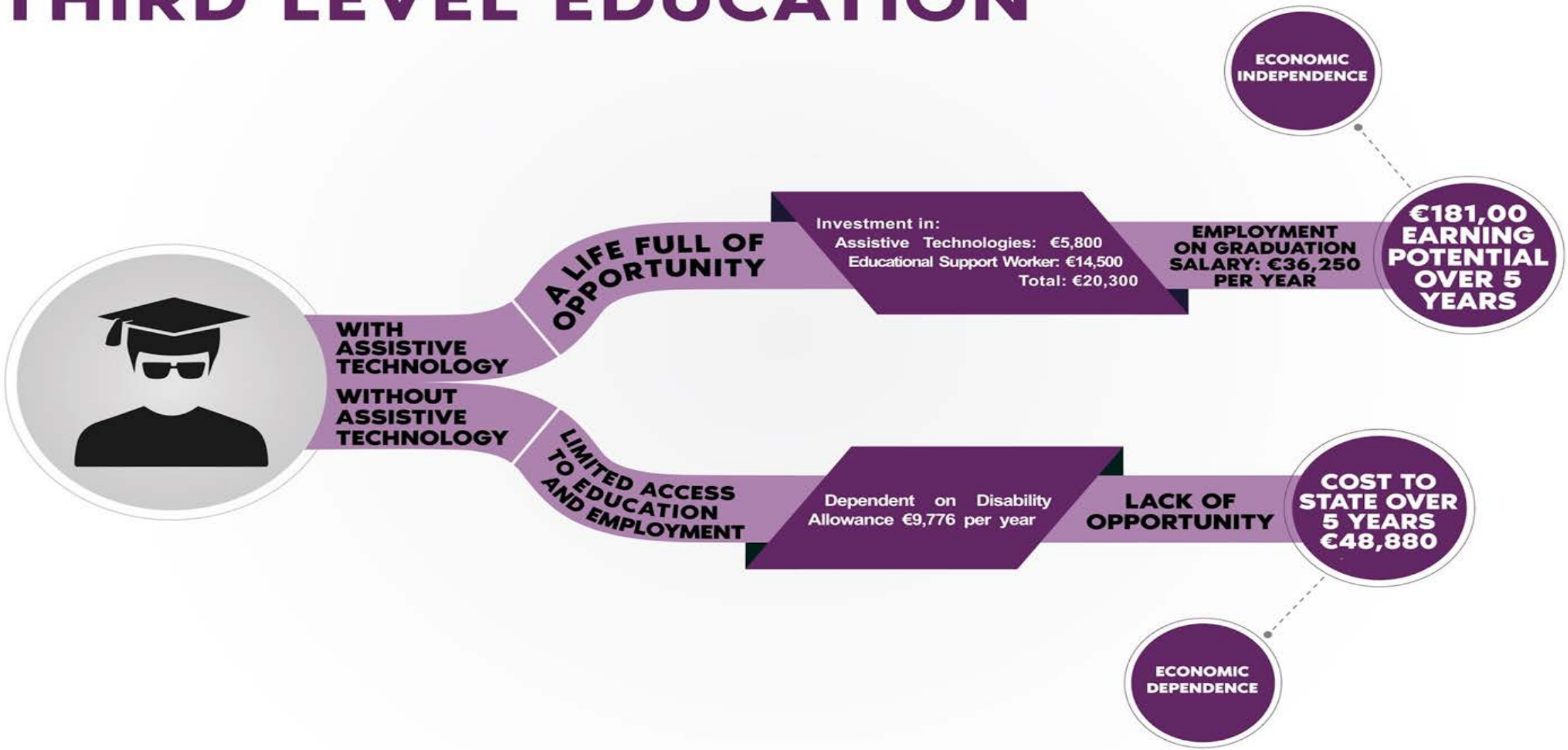
31% Did not receive adequate training in supplied AT

29% Frustrated & Disappointed due to delays in the process

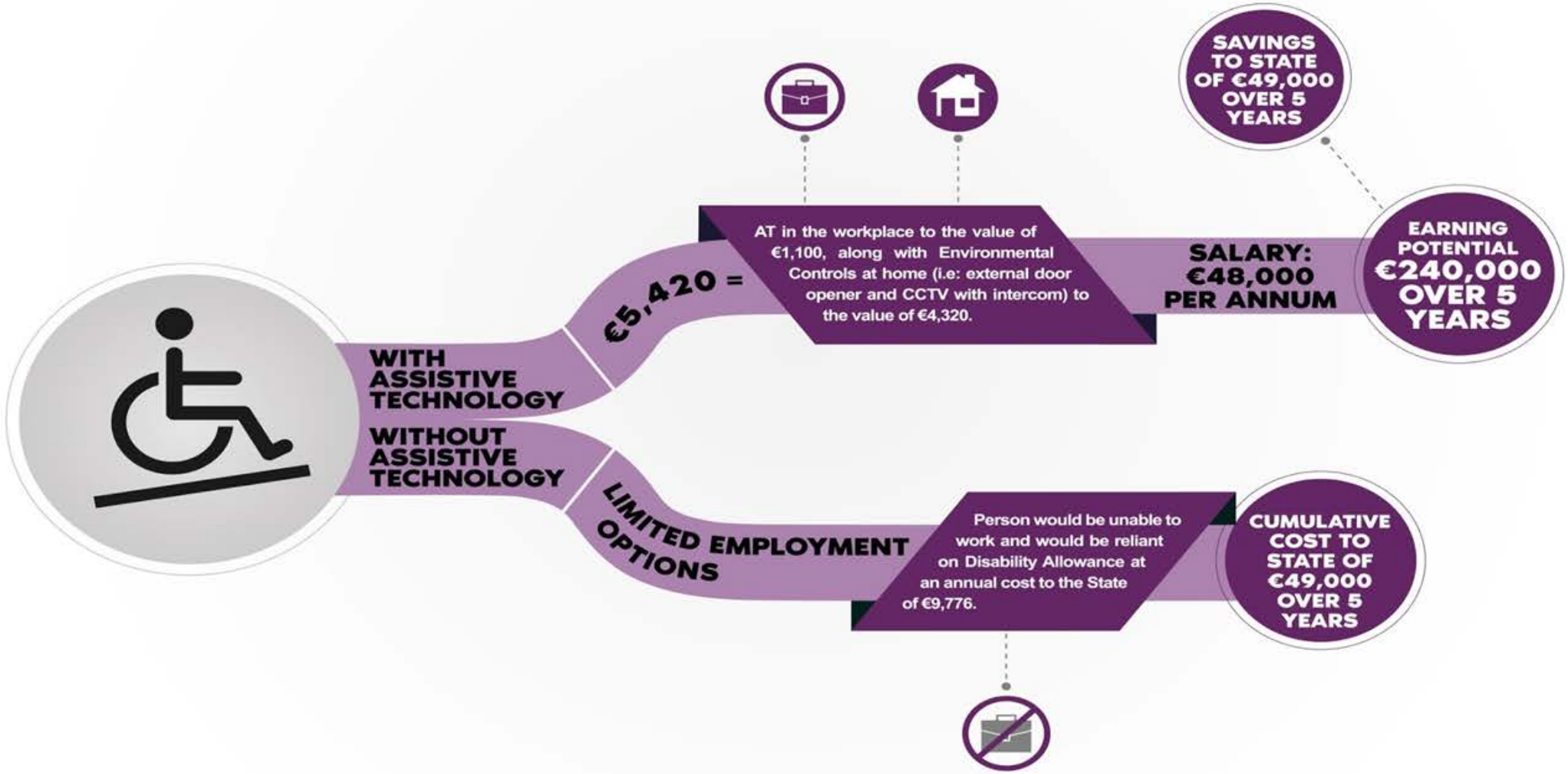
Case study: Independent Living



THIRD LEVEL EDUCATION



EMPLOYMENT


SAVINGS TO STATE OF €49,000 OVER 5 YEARS
EARNING POTENTIAL €240,000 OVER 5 YEARS
SALARY: €48,000 PER ANNUM
AT in the workplace to the value of €1,100, along with Environmental Controls at home (i.e: external door opener and CCTV with intercom) to the value of €4,320.
€5,420 =
WITH ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY
WITHOUT ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY
LIMITED EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS
Person would be unable to work and would be reliant on Disability Allowance at an annual cost to the State of €9,776.
CUMULATIVE COST TO STATE OF €49,000 OVER 5 YEARS

HSE Policy: Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People (PDS)

- 6 outcomes identified: ***Children and young people…..***
- Have a voice in matters which affect them and their views will be given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity
- Are safe
- Have friends and get on well with other people in their lives
- Learn skills to help them be independent
- Take part in home life, school life and community life

The AT Passport can play a key role in ensuring that national policy is translated into meaningful outcomes for people with disability and older people

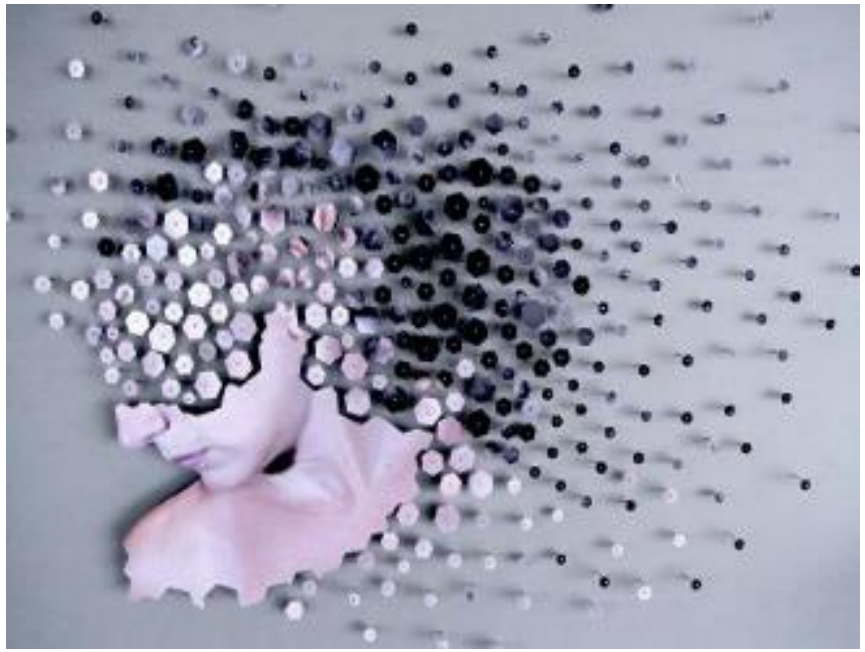
- National Disability Inclusion Strategy
- HSE:
  - Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People (PDS)
  - New Directions

- Comprehensive Employment Strategy

FreedomTech
A Passport to Inclusion

Assistive Technology Service Delivery in Ireland

- Fragmented
- Inconsistent
- Difficult to navigate
- Opaque
- Not person-centred

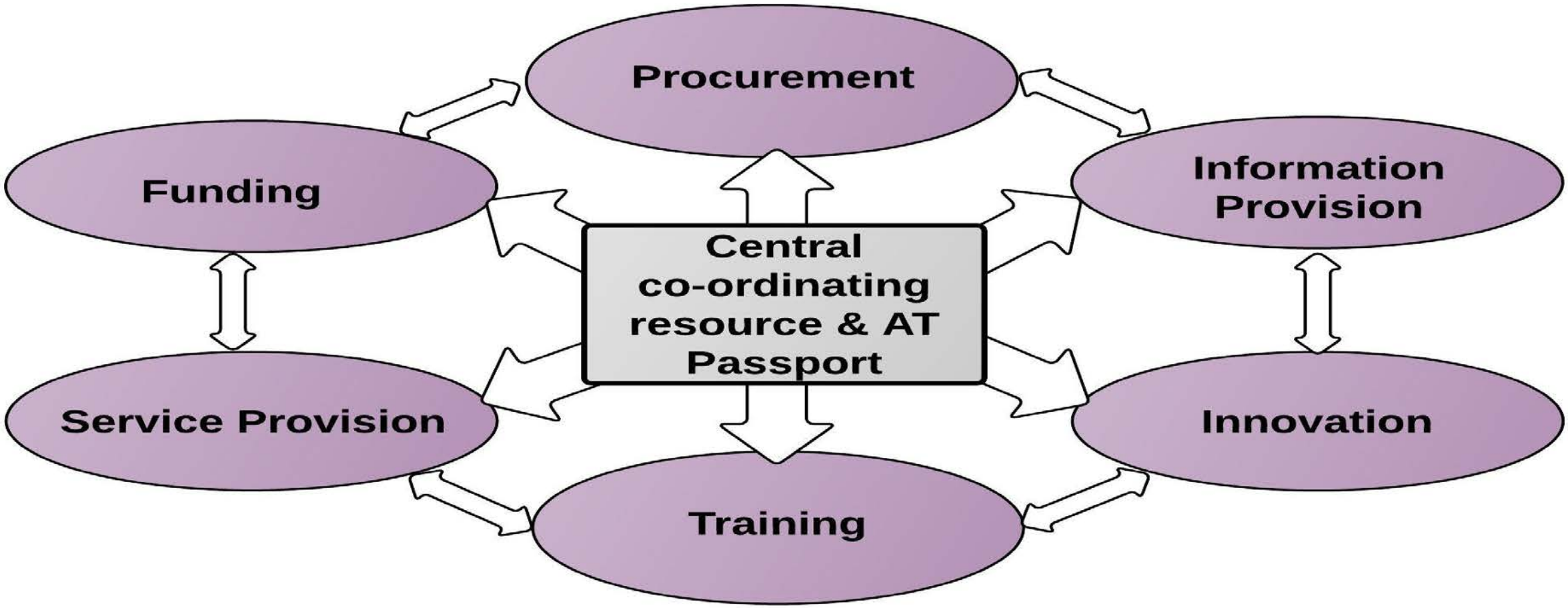


FreedomTech
A Passport to Inclusion

Key Recommendation: AT Ecosystem

FreedomTech
A Passport to Inclusion

Ecosystem of Support



FreedomTech
A Passport to Inclusion

Key Recommendation 2:

Introduce an AT Passport

FreedomTech
A Passport to Inclusion

Key features of the AT Passport

- Personal Record
- Funder Agnostic
- Location Agnostic
- Supplier Agnostic

Precedent: Electronic Health Record (EHR)

Key requirements & next steps

- **Active cross-departmental engagement with view to co-ordinating and maximising impact of current AT funding mechanisms**
- **Identification of more efficient and effective ways of supporting AT users in education, in work, at home and in their own communities**

INCREDIBLE !