

THERAPEUTIC SIBLING OPTION PLACEMENT

In a Therapeutic Sibling Option Placement (TSOP), Children and Young People are cared for by permanent authorised live-in carers who provide 24 hour care seven days a week in a home provided and maintained by the Service Provider. The carers primary role is to provide a safe, structured, nurturing and supportive environment to meet the emotional and physical needs of the children and young people. TSOP involves a minimum of three children who are part of a sibling/relative group.

TSOP Carers must be Authorised Carers and can be single individuals or a partnered couple, including kinship carers. Carers must be consistently available to meet the needs of the children or young people. This means that they must be available at any time to provide direct care for the children or young people, for example if they are unable to attend school or have appointments. The complexity and needs of these children and young people mean that the carer's primary role is to look after the child or young person. If they are employed, they will need flexible arrangements to support this role.

Authorised Carers must receive ongoing training, access to specialist support practitioners and services and receive regular respite. Respite must be provided by consistent Authorised Carers. The continuity provided by these carers increases stability and a sense of belonging by creating an environment that is safe, home-like and predictable. Carer expenses are reimbursed by the service provider.

Each child or young person in a TSOP placement must be allocated a caseworker to ensure that their individual goals are incorporated in their case plan and that their individual needs are met in the placement.

Therapeutic Specialists support the caseworkers, Care Team, carers and respite carers to formulate and implement the therapeutic aspects of the children and young people's case plans and facilitate access to specialist services. They must ensure that the carers, including respite carers, have a thorough understanding of and commitment to the guiding philosophy of therapeutic care.