

THERAPEUTIC HOME BASED CARE

Therapeutic Home Based Care (THBC) is a flexible service type that involves the provision of 1:1 home-based care to high needs children and young people aged 12 years or over. THBC differs from foster care as the children and young people receive the therapeutic services offered within ITC. Examples of why a child or young person may require THBC includes: disability, high medical needs, specialised behaviour support required or sexualised behaviour.

THBC must be provided by permanent, authorised live-in carer/s in their own home or in a home provided and maintained by the Service Provider. Consistency and stability of carers is necessary to support attachment, stability and a sense of belonging by creating an environment that is safe, home-like and predictable.

Carers need to be Authorised Carers and can be single individuals or a partnered couple, including kinship carers. They will be required to meet the minimum qualifications and training requirements.

The carers allowance will reflect the higher needs of the children and young people. Carers must be available to meet the high and complex 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.

THBC carers must also receive regular respite. Respite must be provided by consistent Authorised Carers.

Placement matching is central to the THBC program and must always include robust and joint decision making with children and young people.

Therapeutic Specialists must support the carers, respite carers, caseworkers and care team 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 have a thorough understanding of and commitment to the guiding philosophy of therapeutic care.