

Appendix 6

Model for the Integrated Service for Children with Complex Needs – Paper 2

Short breaks and respite provision

1. There are three units in Leeds for children with complex needs, managed by Children and Young People's Social Care. These are Rainbow House (LS13) Pinfolds (LS15) and Acorn Lodge (LS12).
2. Rainbow House is the only short break residential unit. Pinfolds and Acorn Lodge provide shared care and full time care for children and young people with higher level needs.
3. On any one night, 12 children can stay at Rainbow House. About 80 children currently have short breaks of 35 nights on average each year. Each stay is tailored to the family's needs and can be as short as one night, up to a week and occasionally and exceptionally a little longer.
4. Rainbow House has excellent facilities which the children and young people can enjoy. Efforts are being made to ensure that these are fully utilised at times when space is free in the unit because the children and young people are in school. Young adults from the neighbouring independent living project currently make use of the sensory room. There is a potential project with a high school to use the self-help kitchen. Another project in the planning stage is to locate some of the partnership training undertaken with NHS staff and parent carers at Rainbow House so that parents and carers can be taught how to use various pieces of equipment. It is important to note that Rainbow House is subject to national minimum standards as a residential home, which limits the use that can be made of it.
5. Work is ongoing to include children with complex needs in leisure opportunities for short breaks. Often relatively small amounts of funding are sufficient to provide the support required. The emphasis is on improving the confidence of both families and professionals in universal settings, building capacity by extending the experience and understanding of staff and reducing the social barriers to inclusion.