

Residential Practitioner – Short Breaks Service

Days and Waking Nights Available

About the Home

Our five-bedded Short Breaks Service provides a safe, nurturing and inclusive environment for children and young people aged 5–17 with disabilities and complex health needs. We are committed to delivering high-quality, person-centred care that promotes each child's independence, dignity, comfort and emotional wellbeing.

We support children with a wide range of needs, including physical disabilities, learning disabilities, autism, sensory processing differences and complex health conditions. Our skilled team works closely with families and professionals to ensure every short break is a positive, enjoyable and meaningful experience.

If you have a genuine passion for supporting children with additional needs—and want to make a real difference to them and their families—we invite you to apply. You'll be joining a dedicated and compassionate team who provide a warm, welcoming and accessible environment where every child is valued, understood and supported.

About the Role

As a Residential Practitioner within our Short Breaks Service, you will help create positive experiences and joyful memories for children staying with us for planned short breaks.

You will build trusting relationships, offer emotional reassurance, and support personal care, communication, health needs and social activities. Each day will involve creating fun, meaningful moments—whether through sensory play, community activities, baking, arts and crafts, or simply creating a calm and comforting space.

Many of the children we support have significant health needs, disabilities or communication differences, and may use specialist equipment or require support with mobility. Your role is vital in ensuring they feel safe, understood and genuinely cared for during their stay.

This role involves working shifts, weekends, waking nights, sleep-ins and bank holidays on a rota basis.

What Our Children Want

- Someone warm, patient and kind
- Staff who are playful and enjoy spending time with them
- People who communicate in ways that suit them—whether that's verbally, with signs, symbols or gestures

- Someone who will support them to have fun, try new things and feel part of the group
- Adults who understand their routines and help them feel safe and comfortable

What Our Children Say

“I like going in the sensory room and choosing the lights and music.”

“I enjoy going out on walks and choosing my snacks for a picnic.”

“Staying here helps me feel more confident being away from home.”

“I like staff reading me stories and helping me with my bedtime routine.”

What We Expect from You

- Provide a safe, caring and positive environment for children with disabilities and complex health needs.
- Support personal care, mobility, feeding, communication and health routines in a sensitive, respectful and child-centred way.
- Work collaboratively with families to understand each child’s routines, preferences and support needs.
- Use creativity to plan accessible, enjoyable activities tailored to each child’s abilities and interests.
- Support children to develop life skills, independence and confidence where possible.
- Be aspirational about what children can achieve and advocate for their needs.
- Promote emotional stability, sensory regulation and positive behaviour support.
- Maintain clear, accurate records and contribute to individual care plans.
- Hold natural empathy, patience and a truly caring attitude.
- Adopt a “home-from-home” approach that focuses on comfort, dignity and personalised support.

What You Can Expect from Us

- The opportunity to give children and young people with additional needs the high-quality short breaks they deserve
- Enhancements for sleep-ins, waking nights and bank holidays
- Regular supervision and reflective practice sessions
- Generous employer contributions to the Local Government Pension Scheme
- Competitive salary and pay progression
- Real Living Wage as a minimum
- Supportive carer and parental policies
- Enhanced maternity, paternity and adoption leave
- Access to Occupational Health and confidential counselling
- Supportive staff networks
- Access to Blue Light Card discounts
- Professional development and training in health procedures, disability awareness and Residential Childcare qualifications

- Clear career progression routes
- Enhanced annual leave entitlement

Location: BD21 Keighley, Bradford

Next Steps

For an informal discussion about this role, please contact **Lisa Allison** at:
lisa.allison@bradfordcft.org.uk

Bradford Children and Families Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all employees to share this commitment.

If shortlisted, you will be asked to disclose relevant information regarding any criminal history prior to interview. An Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, including a Children's Barred List check, will be required for preferred candidates.