For local authorities and referring professionals

Unaccompanied young people: accommodation and support

Shared, solo and staffed homes for unaccompanied young people aged 16 and over in South and West Wales. Settling-in led by our UASC lead, Adina Thomas, sessions at the Studio in Swansea for any authority's young people, the same home past 18, and training for your team. Every price is from our published 2026/27 list.

60+
young people currently supported

12
Welsh authorities currently placing with TIFA Life

22
Welsh authorities have sent us referrals

At a glance

What	Price	Notes
Shared home	**£350 a week**	£50 a night. A furnished, maintained room in a matched shared home. Support hours added.
Solo home	**£595 a week**	Single occupancy. Fixed packages with 10, 20 or 40 hours of support from £840 a week.
Staffed home	**£1,195 a bed a week**	A team on site around the clock. £1,295 enhanced. £995 a bed for a whole home over 12 months.
Support	**£27 an hour**	In our homes or in accommodation your authority runs. No minimum term. £25.50 an hour from 12 weeks.
Settling-in, first weeks	**£270 a week**	Ten hours with our UASC lead: college, GP, bank, phone, solicitor, first appointments. Then down to the plan.
Past 18	**£38.50 a night**	£269.50 a week. Around £18 a night to the council where leave to remain is granted, on our worked example.
Sessions at the Studio	**£27 an hour**	Any authority's unaccompanied young people placed in or near Swansea, whoever houses them. Case note after every session.
Training and experience days	**On request**	Six sessions for authority teams, led by our UASC lead, at your offices or at the Studio.

Sleep-in £125 a night. Emergency placements carry 12.5 per cent on the first 14 nights. The written offer confirms the home, the support, inclusions, exclusions and the total charge before arrival. Full terms are in the service and cost brochure.

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Make a referral

life.tifa.co.uk/referrals · 01792 677275, answered 24 hours a day · hello@tifa.co.uk

Written response within 24 hours.
Same-day placement where safe.

Placements for unaccompanied young people aged 16 and over

Placed this week. Settled, not just housed.

Shared, solo and staffed homes across South and West Wales. Each young person is matched to the home, the people already living in it and the staff, with culture, faith, language and diet settled before the move.

Shared home

£350

a week · £50 a night

A furnished, maintained room in a matched shared home. Support added at £27 an hour.

Solo home

£595

a week · accommodation

Single occupancy where sharing is unsuitable. Add support hours, or choose a fixed package below.

Staffed home

£1,195

a bed a week

A team on site around the clock, backed by on-call management. £1,295 a bed with enhanced support.

Fixed solo packages, weekly prices — 12-week minimum term

£840 10 hours a week

£1,085 20 hours a week

£1,575 40 hours a week

Settling-in support

Ten hours a week at £27 an hour during the first weeks. Adina leads the practical work: college and ESOL enrolment, GP and dentist registration, a bank account and phone, local travel, and the solicitor and Home Office appointments, with someone beside the young person.

Hours are agreed with the social worker before support starts and step down to the plan once the young person is settled. Recorded in TIFA Connect on the day, invoiced as delivered. The same support can be delivered in accommodation your authority runs, from an hour a day.

Shared-home example	A week
Accommodation	£350
10 support hours at £27	£270
Settling-in total	**£620**
Once settled, 7 hours at £27	£189
Once settled	**£539**

What your authority receives

The Home Office pays local authorities £143 a night for each unaccompanied child under 18 (funding instructions 2026 to 2027), which is £1,001 a week. The shared home, with or without the settling-in hours, the solo home with up to ten hours a week and the whole-home staffed rate sit inside that figure. A staffed bed at the standard or enhanced rate and the twenty and forty hour solo packages are above it. A National Transfer Scheme transfer completed within five working days attracts a further £4,000 under the same instructions, for transfers to 30 November 2026. Our referral promise fits that window: a written response within 24 hours, a decision within one working day, and same-day placement where it is safe.

Sleep-in £125 a night. Emergency placements carry 12.5 per cent on the first 14 nights. The written offer confirms the home, the support, inclusions, exclusions and the total charge before arrival.

Prices from the TIFA Life 2026/27 price list. Full terms are in the service and cost brochure.

Adina, the Studio and past 18

Adina Thomas, UASC lead

Adina worked in the Neath Port Talbot leaving care team from 2010, and before that from 2002 to 2006. She was the regional UASC young persons advisor for Swansea and Neath Port Talbot from September 2023 to April 2026.

Since June 2026 her weekly Swansea drop-ins for unaccompanied young people aged 16 to 25 have been attended by young people placed by four authorities, with referrals from five. She supported the regional consultations with unaccompanied young people in 2024 and 2025. She does not give immigration advice.

The Studio, Swansea

A public café and venue run as a community space for care leavers and unaccompanied young people: drop-ins, the Welcome to Swansea course, peer mentoring and hospitality skills in a real café.

The last eight-week DJ course ended with young people performing to a crowd of 60. Barista-trained young people ran the bar.

95 Mansel Street, Swansea SA1 5TZ
Monday to Saturday, 9am to 5pm · Sunday, 10am to 4pm

Sessions with Adina: £27 an hour

For unaccompanied young people aged 16 to 25 living in or near Swansea, whoever houses them. Sessions cover letters and appointments, daily living, education, and cultural and community links. A case note follows every session. No minimum term. Adina does not give immigration advice.

For staff: training and experience days cover triple planning, the journey, cultural needs and the authority's duties, with a day shadowing the hub. Dates and prices on request through Ian.

Continuity past 18

£38.50 a night
Full accommodation charge · £269.50 a week

Around £18 a night
Illustrative council contribution where leave to remain is granted

The same home and the same people continue past the 18th birthday, agreed with the authority before the date. Post-18 provision is accommodation-led, not a staffed placement; support hours are commissioned separately at £27 an hour.

Housing-cost payments and an agreed resident contribution reduce the council's contribution, not TIFA's full charge. Both deductions are confirmed for each young person, and the contribution does not change automatically when status is granted. Where no housing-cost payment is available, the authority pays the full charge.

The Home Office pays authorities £270 a week for each eligible former unaccompanied care leaver in 2026/27: funding to the authority, not a TIFA price.

Regulatory position

TIFA Life provides supported accommodation for young people aged 16 and over. That means the home itself and the support that goes with it, helping a young person manage daily living and move towards independence. We do not provide care of the kind that requires registration with Care Inspectorate Wales under the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016, and TIFA Life is not a registered care service. Where a young person's needs would require a regulated service, we say so and decline the referral. Our governance, safeguarding, staff training and reporting arrangements are designed to meet the standards commissioners apply to regulated services.

Make a referral

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Same-day placement where safe.

The Studio, 95 Mansel Street, Swansea

Sessions at the Studio for the young people you have placed in Swansea.

Unaccompanied young people are placed in Swansea by authorities across South, Mid and West Wales, and their workers are often an hour or two away. Our UASC lead runs sessions at the Studio, our community space in the city centre, for any authority's young people aged 16 to 25, whoever houses them.

£27 an hour · no minimum term · a weekly slot, or sessions around the young person's timetable

Adina Thomas, UASC lead

Adina worked in the Neath Port Talbot leaving care team from 2010, and before that from 2002 to 2006. She was the regional UASC young persons advisor for Swansea and Neath Port Talbot from September 2023 to April 2026.

Since June 2026 her weekly Swansea drop-ins for unaccompanied young people aged 16 to 25 have been attended by young people placed by four authorities, with referrals from five. She supported the regional consultations with unaccompanied young people in 2024 and 2025. She does not give immigration advice.

How sessions work

Booking	A weekly slot, or sessions around the young person's timetable. Bookings through Ian.
Groups	Charged as group sessions, never as stacked one-to-one hours. Ask Ian for group prices.
Record	Recorded in TIFA Connect on the day, with a case note to you after every session.
Elsewhere	The same hours delivered into a placement your authority runs, from an hour a day.

What a session covers

Letters and appointments

Solicitor and Home Office letters read and explained, solicitors chased, interviews and appointments prepared for and attended where it helps. Advice itself stays with solicitors and registered immigration advisers.

Independence

Bank account, phone, bus pass, GP and dentist, college and ESOL enrolment, budgeting, cooking and keeping safe in Swansea. The Welcome to Swansea course covers a new arrival's first weeks.

Culture and community

Faith and community links, food, friendships, peer mentoring, and activities from football to the gym. Cultural awareness for the young person, and separately for your staff.

The Studio

A public café and venue run as a community space for care leavers and unaccompanied young people. The last eight-week DJ course ended with a performance to a crowd of 60, with barista-trained young people running the bar.

Visit or arrange a first session

95 Mansel Street, Swansea SA1 5TZ. Monday to Saturday 9am to 5pm, Sunday 10am to 4pm. Workers are welcome on a first visit. Commissioned sessions are separate from public café access.

Any safeguarding concern reaches our safeguarding lead and your authority the same day, by telephone first where there is immediate risk. The booking confirms the agreed work and charge.

Book a slot

Ian Gallagher · 01792 677275 · hello@tifa.co.uk · studio-swansea.com

Training and experience days for your staff: dates and prices on request.

For social workers, personal advisers, support workers and managers

Training and experience days

Five years after the National Transfer Scheme became mandatory, most teams still learn this work on the job. Six practice sessions led by Adina Thomas, for teams from any authority, whether or not they place with TIFA Life.

The sessions

01

Triple planning

The three outcomes a plan has to hold at once, a grant of leave, a refusal and a long wait, and what each means for the home, education, money and the pathway plan.

02

The journey of a child seeking sanctuary

Arrival, the intake unit, the transfer, the first weeks in a town nobody told them about, and what young people said they needed at the 2024 and 2025 consultations.

03

Meeting cultural needs

Young people from Eritrea, Sudan, Iran and Afghanistan: faith, food, language and dialect, interpreters, and the questions to ask rather than assume.

04

Day to day

Trust and communication, the first 72 hours, keeping safe from exploitation and going missing, routes into college, ESOL and health, and who is who around the young person.

05

What the authority has to do, and when

Statutory visits, the personal adviser and pathway plan once a young person has been looked after for 13 weeks, what changes at 18 and 21, and the Home Office funding behind each stage.

06

Experience day

A day shadowing the hub at the Studio in Swansea: the drop-in, the appointments, the case notes, and questions to young people who have been through it.

Formats

90-minute team session

One session, scenario based, at your offices or at the Studio.

Half-day workshop

Two or three sessions built around the cases in front of your team, with an action plan at the end.

Experience day

Session 06 at the Studio, one or two workers at a time. Dates are limited.

Led by Adina Thomas

TIFA Life's UASC lead. Twenty years in the Neath Port Talbot leaving care team, the regional UASC young persons advisor for Swansea and Neath Port Talbot from 2023 to 2026, and the weekly Swansea drop-ins since June 2026. Young people with lived experience take part where they choose to.

Dates and prices

On request. Ian handles enquiries and confirms the booking with Adina. Practice sessions, not an accredited qualification. No session gives immigration advice, and nothing about an identifiable young person is used without that young person's agreement.

Ask for dates and prices

Ian Gallagher · 01792 677275 · hello@tifa.co.uk · studio-swansea.com

The Studio, 95 Mansel Street,
Swansea SA1 5TZ

Before arrival · during the placement · data

Agreed in writing before the young person arrives.

Placements for unaccompanied young people often come together in days. These are the things you have from us in writing first, what you see during the placement, and how the record is kept.

Before arrival

The price

The home, the support hours and anything charged separately, such as a sleep-in or an emergency uplift, on one page.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for this young person in this home, including the risks of exploitation and going missing, and who holds them.

On-call cover

Who you and the young person contact out of hours, and the number that is answered 24 hours a day.

Reporting

What you receive and how often, from daily logs to the monthly report, through TIFA Connect.

Matching

We match on three things together: the home, the young people already living in it, and the staff who will work there. Culture, faith, language and diet are settled before the move. A free bed on its own does not decide it. Where a placement would not be safe for this young person or for the others in the house, we say so in writing within one working day so you can move on.

During the placement

What you see

Daily — Logs, incidents, actions and missing episodes recorded in TIFA Connect on the day and shared on the agreed cadence.

Weekly — A check-in with the young person, and a written report where the plan asks for one.

Monthly — Progress against the pathway plan: education, health, independence, immigration appointments kept.

Quarterly — A property audit of the home, recorded and available to you.

The people around the young person

A named key worker, our UASC lead for the first weeks and for sessions at the Studio, a service lead for the area, a safeguarding lead who answers the same day, and on-call management every night.

Immigration advice stays with the solicitor and advisers registered with the Immigration Advice Authority. We get the young person to the right adviser, prepare them, and go with them where it helps.

Data

TIFA Life Ltd is the data controller (ICO ZC131131). Records are held in TIFA Connect, our own platform, processed in the UK, and shared with the placing authority under an information-sharing agreement. Nothing identifying a young person goes into marketing, and session notes go only to the worker and authority responsible for that young person.

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