

FOR AUTHORITY TEAMS · LED BY OUR UASC LEAD

Working with unaccompanied young people: sessions for your team.

Five years after the National Transfer Scheme became mandatory, most teams still learn this work on the job. These sessions come from twenty years in Welsh leaving care teams, nearly three in the regional UASC role, and from what young people said at the 2024 and 2025 consultations. Practice sessions, not an accredited qualification.

Who they are for

Social workers and young persons advisers, support and housing support workers, team managers, and student social workers. Teams from any authority, whether or not they place with TIFA Life.

Who leads them

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

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

Working with unaccompanied young people 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 a question-and-answer session with young people who have been through it.

Formats

90-minute team session

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

Half-day workshop

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

Experience day

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

No session gives immigration advice or teaches anyone to; advice stays with solicitors and registered immigration advisers. Nothing about an identifiable young person is used without that young person's agreement.

[Ask for dates and prices](#)

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