

Case Study: Transition Planning to Adult Services – Teia Stapleton

Background

Teia Stapleton, born 7 October 2008, is a young person supported by Children's Services who is approaching adulthood and requires a planned transition into Adult Services. Initial transition discussions began in late 2025, with a clear intention to ensure early engagement with Adult Social Care and appropriate placement planning. At this stage, a Shared Lives arrangement was identified as a potential long-term option, subject to assessment of Teia's needs and preferences.

Early Transition Planning

In December 2025, communication between Children's and Adult Services confirmed that Paula Williams, Adult Social Worker, would begin the transition process following the Christmas period. This included plans to meet with Teia, undertake an initial assessment, and explore placement options. It was agreed that, should Shared Lives be appropriate, a referral would be made six months prior to Teia's eighteenth birthday to support a smooth transition.

By February 2026, professionals began to identify emerging challenges. Teia was not consistently engaging with support or structured daytime opportunities, raising concerns about her readiness to participate in planning. In discussions between Children's Services and Paula Williams, it was acknowledged that while Shared Lives had previously been considered, this option may not be viable due to Teia's current difficulties managing boundaries and self-regulation within her foster placement and in the community.

Escalation of Placement Concerns

In March 2026, the situation became more urgent when Teia's foster carer indicated they were considering giving notice. This increased the need to identify alternative accommodation quickly, while continuing to plan for adulthood. Updates were shared promptly with Adult Services to ensure joint awareness and oversight.

A joint visit was subsequently arranged involving Children's Services, Adult Services, and 16+ team representatives to explore a supported living provision at Old Bank House in Dowlais. This visit formed part of a proactive effort to identify realistic and sustainable placement options aligned with Teia's needs. While an additional high-needs provision in Aberdare was also identified, professionals collectively agreed that it would not be suitable for Teia.

Exploring Suitable Placements

Further discussions took place between Paula Williams and the provider at Old Bank House regarding the possibility of accommodating Teia prior to her eighteenth birthday through a variation order. This demonstrated flexibility and creative planning in response to the urgency of her placement needs.

Teia subsequently visited Old Bank House with her social worker on 25 March 2026. Feedback from this visit was positive, with Teia expressing that she liked the flat and had a favourable

impression of the setting. This was an important step in ensuring that her views and wishes were central to planning.

Ongoing Multi-Agency Work and Increased Risks

Throughout May and June 2026, joint working between Children's and Adult Services continued. Updates were regularly shared, including at statutory reviews, to maintain a coordinated approach. However, during this time, Teia's circumstances became increasingly complex, with a rise in missing episodes and ongoing concerns regarding her engagement.

A multidisciplinary meeting held on 5 June 2026 highlighted the significance of multiple simultaneous transitions for Teia, including her move to Adult Services and changes in how her care and finances would be managed. Paula Williams emphasised the importance of Teia engaging with professionals to enable meaningful assessments of her capacity and support needs, noting that these assessments could not be completed effectively without her cooperation.

Progressing Adult Services Assessment

Adult Services confirmed in early June 2026 that they were ready to progress joint working arrangements, specifically to assess Teia's capacity in relation to finances and her broader care and support needs. An initial joint visit was scheduled for 12 June 2026 to begin this process and strengthen engagement.

Current Position and Learning

At the point of this case study (June 2026), transition planning for Teia remains ongoing. While there has been clear evidence of early planning, multi-agency collaboration, and exploration of creative placement solutions, the case highlights the impact that fluctuating engagement and increasing risk factors can have on transition processes.

Key learning points from this case include:

- The importance of **early and consistent joint working** between Children's and Adult Services
- The need for **flexibility in planning**, particularly when initial pathways (e.g. Shared Lives) become less viable
- The value of **incorporating the young person's views**, demonstrated through placement visits
- The impact of **instability and disengagement** on the ability to complete timely assessments and planning
- The importance of **coordinated multi-agency responses** where risks escalate alongside transition demands