

Ty'r Bont Transition Service

The Tŷ'r Bont Transition Service is a unique partnership between Adult Social Services and Education based at Tŷ Gwyn Special School. It was developed in response to what local people said was important to them and is funded by Cardiff Council's Adult Social Service Directorate, with financial support from the Welsh Government Regional Integration Fund (RIF).

The Service recently won an Understanding Disability award, from the Parents Federation in Cardiff. The award was won in recognition of the impact of enhancing the post-transition local offer by developing a dedicated transition service for young people with complex support needs. The service enables young people to get support from highly skilled staff, engage in meaningful, purposeful opportunities that are important to them and develop new skills and experiences for adult life. But most importantly it allows the young people to stay local and thrive. The impact of the skilled support is showing a marked reduction in behaviours of concern and this in turn is leading to many quality-of-life gains.

The project is aimed at young people with a learning disability and complex needs. This can include people who have an Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC), a Profound and Multiple Learning Disability (PMLD), in addition to people with high health needs and significant behaviours of concern.



“We believe that a well-planned transition that is co-produced with the young person and their networks is important for any young person, but we believe this is essential for a young person with complex needs and can have long-term gains and benefits for them.”

**Julie Reed
Day Service Manger Adult Social Services**

The innovative project takes a coproduced, person-centred planning approach, working out what needs to be in place to support a smooth transition by working alongside pupils in the classroom in their final years of school to prepare them for adult life. The Tŷ'r Bont team also work in partnership with the school, the pupil's family and networks, capturing what a good adult life looks like from the perspective of the individual. The plan is unique, transferable and stays with the young person in whatever opportunities they go onto next.

Once the person has left school, some choose to access the specialist day service. The council has enhanced and developed the offer for school leavers in response to what local people fed back what is important to them. The Service offers quality, person-centred and outcome led support. This not only looks to support the young person to stay local and close to places and people who matter to them, but also provides the family or carer with the support they need to continue in their caring role.

L's Story

L left school in July 2023. In the year leading up to her leaving, the Tŷ'r Bont team worked alongside her in the classroom to gather information and co-produce a plan for her transition. L has a diagnosis of a learning disability and can frequently display episodes of intense and challenging behaviour. On leaving school,



L chose to continue accessing support from the Tŷ'r Bont team and L is responding positively to the skilled, mindful support of the team. L's plan, which was co-produced with her in her final year at school, included the need for consistent, predictable, and personalised routines/activities, ensuring that there were plenty of opportunities for L to exercise choice and control. Incidents of behaviours which can be considered challenging have already greatly reduced in frequency, duration and intensity, with L also clearly enjoying the time she spends within the service.

L's mother noted, 'how pleased' they are 'with L's transition and the way it has been planned'. It's 'so reassuring to us as parents' she added and that accessing the service had been 'the best decision' for L. Our 'confident, positive and calming approach' had 'alleviated any worries they had about such a big change'.