



## Case Study: Emily, 2

### Background

Two year old Emily hadn't had an easy start in life. She had been witness to a history of domestic abuse which had led to the separation of her parents. Mum had ended her volatile relationship with Emily's father following an incident where she and Emily had been forced to seek refuge at a safe house.

Since leaving the safe house the family had been living in a housing association property and settling into a new area.

However, Mum had been experiencing some financial difficulties since leaving Emily's father. She knew that she and Emily were safer now, but she was also feeling socially isolated, she didn't know many other parents and lacked a support network.

### TAF process

The family had been known to Children's Services and had received support to seek refuge at the safe house. Although that service was no longer required, the family's social worker knew that the family still needed support to help them get back on their feet and so decided to step the case down into the TAF process.

Emily's case was discussed at the next area TAF Panel, where a range of agencies came together to suggest ways in which the family could be assisted.

Priorities included helping Emily's mum to overcome her social isolation and build links in her community. The panel referred her to a young parents' group so that she could meet other parents in her area. One of the panel

members agreed to look into what else was available in the community. The panel also agreed on financial support for mum to help her access local services, including securing a nursery placement for Emily.

A Team Around the Family was put together for Emily and her mum, drawing together professionals who could offer specific support. These included Hafan Cymru and Action for Children. An action plan was drawn up at the family's initial TAF meeting so that all of the agencies involved could co-ordinate their work.

At TAF review meetings, the team were able to discuss how things were going for the family and make referrals to other services where there were still gaps in support. Mum commented:

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*"I'm very happy with the way the meetings are going - it's nice to wake up and feel supported and that there are people out there who want to help me."*

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### Outcomes

After four TAF meetings, mum and the Team Around the Family agreed that all the actions on Emily's action plan had been completed. Mum feels that she's more integrated into her community and that more aware of all the everyday support available to her and Emily.

Emily is regularly attending playgroup, and may in the future have play therapy to help deal with issues arising from her past. Mum is also considering counselling. Mum said she was very thankful for all the support provided by the Team Around the Family and the TAF Panel.

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