

## Together Women Project Bradford Centre

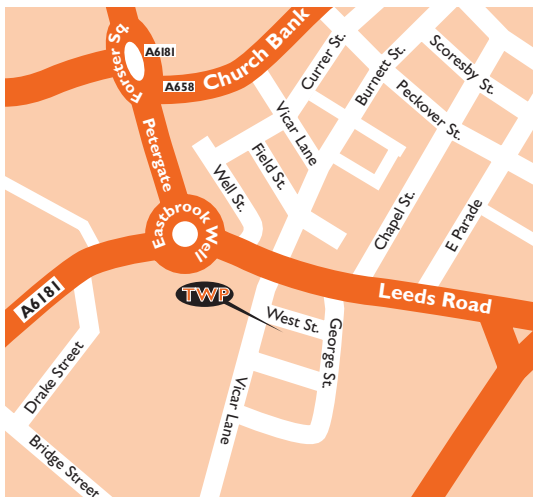
East Wing, First Floor

Broadacre House Annexe

George Street

Bradford BD1 5AA

Telephone: 0845 31 00 197



## Together Women Project Leeds Centre

Tennant Hall

Blenheim Grove

Leeds LS2 9ET

Telephone 0845 31 00 194



## Did receiving this caution help you?

The conditional caution to refer women through to a Together Women Project Centre is a new scheme being tried in three areas.

We would really like to hear whether you think the scheme helped you and what you thought about the centre. If you would be happy to talk to someone about this, please let the centre pass on your contact details so a female researcher can contact you. The details of the crime you committed or other personal information you have discussed with staff at the centre will not be passed on.

Time and date of appointment:

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# Conditional Cautions and women offenders



This leaflet explains what a Conditional Caution is and the special condition that is available to some women offenders.

The fact that you have been given this leaflet does not guarantee that you will be offered a Conditional Caution.

This leaflet does not affect your right to get free, independent legal advice.

## What is a Conditional Caution?

A Conditional Caution is a way of dealing with some offences which does not involve going to court.

A Conditional Caution is an agreement between you, the Police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). If you agree to comply with the conditions, the Police and CPS will agree not to charge you.

You must admit the offence and agree to the conditions.

**If you fail to comply, you may be prosecuted for the original offence.**

## There are two types of conditions:

A REHABILITATIVE CONDITION aims to help you change your behaviour so that you do not commit more crimes. For example, this might include attending drug and alcohol awareness sessions, or sessions on managing debt.

A REPARATIVE CONDITION aims to help you repair the harm you have caused, either to a person or a local community. For example, this might include you paying for the damage you have caused.

In your area a specialist condition can be offered to some women offenders.

## What is the specialist condition for women offenders all about?

In your area there is a specialist condition for women offenders. If you are eligible for the condition and accept it, you would have to go to your local Together Women Project Centre for a needs assessment.

To comply with the condition, you must attend the centre at the time and date given to you by Police and the CPS and you must co-operate with staff at the centre. This single appointment might be all that is needed to complete the assessment, or you might need to come back to the centre at another time arranged with you by the centre staff. In order to complete the condition of your caution you will need to attend all meetings arranged until the assessment is completed. This could take up to eight hours in total.

The Together Women Project will work with you to assess your own personal needs and agree with you a programme of support. This might include counselling for a range of issues including family problems or drug and alcohol misuse, or it might be more practical support such as help to improve your maths, English or computer skills. Although you will have to attend the needs assessment (because it is a condition of your caution) it will be up to you whether you take advantage of the other courses and help the centre offers.

The Together Women Project offers a safe and confidential place for you to address some of the issues that led you to commit a crime and to learn new skills that can help prevent you from re-offending in the future.

The project is open to women only and childcare is available. Travel expenses can also be provided. Any information you share with staff at the centre is confidential and will not be passed to the Police or CPS.

## Why would I accept a Conditional Caution?

By accepting a Conditional Caution, you can get help and support to stop offending before things get worse.

If you accept a Conditional Caution and comply with the conditions, that will be an end to the matter. You will not be charged and will not have to go to court.

A Conditional Caution is NOT a criminal conviction but it will go on your Police National Computer (PNC) record and it could affect the way you are dealt with if you get into trouble again.

In some circumstances (for example if you are applying for a job working with children) you or the Police may have to disclose details of your Conditional Caution to other agencies, including your future employers. This could stop you getting the job.

## What if I don't complete the conditions?

If you don't keep your side of the agreement, the Police and CPS might decide to prosecute you for the original offence and you will have to go to court.

By accepting a Conditional Caution you are admitting to the offence. That means if you don't comply with the conditions and have to go to court, your admission might be used in evidence against you.