



Ministry of
JUSTICE

National Offender
Management Service



London
Probation Trust

Senior Attendance Centres for Women

Information for Sentencers

In January 2011, London Probation Trust opened a Senior Attendance Centre specifically for women in Camden – the first of its kind in the country. This was followed by two more Women’s Senior Attendance Centres in London – one in Lewisham and one in Ealing (opening 28 January 2012).

What are the benefits of separate Senior Attendance Centres for Women?

As women are a minority in the criminal justice system, Attendance Centres are attended predominantly by men, and the activities at the centres can fail to meet the needs of the women who do attend. A centre specifically for women can provide a safe, all female environment and offer interventions that address the reasons that women find themselves in trouble with the law.

Instruction provided within an Attendance Centre is designed to encourage attitudes and lifestyles that foster responsible and productive lives in the community. As research shows that women have different pathways to offending than their male counterparts the material that will be used at the Attendance Centre for women will reflect this. The activities will also be led by facilitators who are experienced in working with female offenders. In addition the women will be linked up to the voluntary sector support networks in the community that can assist them with any issues that may be a factor in their offending.

Whereas most existing Attendance Centres open on a fortnightly basis, the Women’s Attendance Centres open weekly, enabling all women to start attending promptly, the first Saturday after their sentence.

How are Senior Attendance Centres used?

Offenders may be ordered to attend for between 12 and 36 hours as an Attendance Centre Requirement within a Community Order or through an Attendance Centre Order made for non-payment of financial penalties.

Those ordered to attend are punished through being deprived of premium leisure time for a period of three hours, on a Saturday until the sentence is completed. Travel time does not count toward the hours ordered.

Who is Suitable for a Senior Attendance Centre for Women requirement?

Female offenders aged 18 – 24, living within 90 minutes travel of the Attendance Centres in Camden and Lewisham are suitable if they have been convicted of offences which warrant a low level community penalty (or non-payment of fines/breach of Community Order) and they do not pose a significant risk of harm to the public.

Offenders not suitable for a Senior Attendance Centre order are those convicted of sexual or other than minor violent offences and those unable to tolerate a group setting.

Locations of Senior Attendance Centres for Women Offenders

The centres are located at London Probation Trust's Women's Centre in Camden, at the Lewisham Probation Office and the Ealing Probation Office every Saturday. Fares are reimbursed for those women who are on benefits at the discretion of the Officer In Charge.

Camden Women's Centre
199 Arlington Road
NW1 7HA

Lewisham Probation Office
208 Lewisham High St
SE13 6JP

Ealing Probation Office
Leeland House
Leeland Road
W13 9HH.

For more information please contact:

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