

Camden
Women's
Forum

Camden Women's Forum

Women Into Work Inquiry Report 2025 to 2026



Camden

Camden Women's Forum

About us

The Camden Women's Forum works to improve life for women and girls in Camden

We want to make sure all women and girls can



- live safely



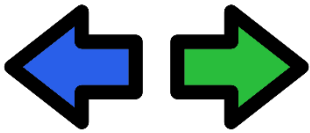
- study, work, and visit Camden without feeling scared



- have the same chances as everyone else



- be treated fairly and equally



We are independent

We are not part of Camden Council



Camden Council supports us by

- collecting information
- helping us understand the data
- helping share what we learn



We listen to women's real-life experiences

Women from across Camden tell us what their lives are like



We listen carefully to what women say then make suggestions to help improve



- local decisions made by Camden Council



- national decisions made by the Government



What we focused on this year

This year we looked at how to make Camden a place where women can do well

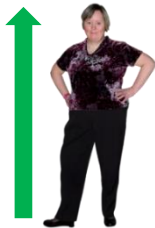


- in work
- in learning
- in community life



Women told us about

- finding good jobs that are flexible
- balancing work and caring for family
- going back to work after time away
- building confidence



Women said support is good, but could be better



Their ideas helped us make our recommendations



We made recommendations for

- Camden Council



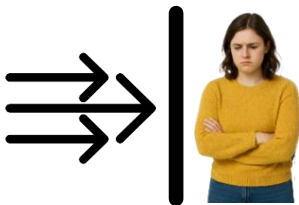
- local organisations



- and national government



Why this work matters



Many women want to work, learn, or train but they face barriers that make this hard



Women want to take part, but the system makes things hard for them



Women told us that

- childcare is too expensive or hard to arrange



- jobs are often not flexible enough



- some women are caring for children or family members



- some women have health or mental health needs



Because of this, women can miss out on

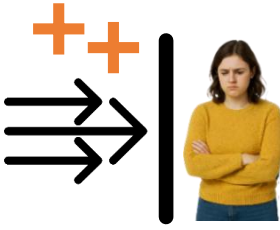
- jobs



- training



- and chances to earn more money

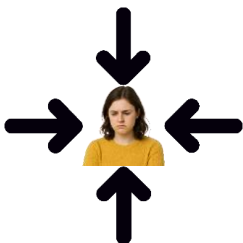


Some women face extra barriers



Women told us that some groups face extra challenges, this includes

- women in temporary housing
- disabled and neurodivergent women
- women with health needs
- women with caring responsibilities
- migrant and refugee women
- and women with limited English



Women often face more than **1** barrier at a time, so they need support that is joined up and easy to access



1 What Camden Council can do



Camden Council can

- give better support to women starting or returning to work



- join up job, learning, and childcare services



- have a Good Work Camden worker for women in temporary housing



- make disability support easier to find



- continue language and skills classes



- offer small business training



- share digital help more clearly



Camden Council should also

- lead by example on flexible working



- encourage employers to join the Inclusive Business Network



- encourage trial days instead of interviews



Listen to women

- by creating a Women's Peer Support Forum



- and sharing women's success stories



Camden should support women into mainly male jobs by

- creating projects in areas like technology, construction, and trades jobs



- working with employers in science, green, and technical jobs



Communication should be improved by

- creating 1 easy guide to support, training, childcare, and benefits



- sharing information in schools and community spaces



- using **word of mouth** as well as digital tools
 - **word of mouth** means people tell each other about something



2 What local organisations can do



Local organisations can

- share information about training and childcare in **1** place



- help women who face the biggest barriers to work



- donate laptops or tablets



- work together on training linked to real jobs



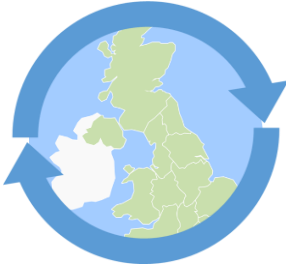
- provide meaningful work experience and volunteering



- advertise jobs as flexible where possible

- use practical assessments instead of formal interviews

- use technology and AI in a fair way



3 National recommendations

National government should



- learn from Good Work Camden to make Jobcentre Plus better



- fund return-to-work programmes
- lower childcare costs



- offer flexible apprenticeships
- protect entry level jobs



- give **gig workers** the same basic rights as other workers – gig workers include delivery riders and Uber drivers



Health matters

Health can affect a woman's ability to work

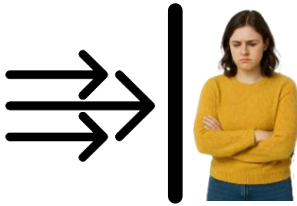
This includes

- mental health
- menopause
- long-term conditions
- disability or neurodivergence



Women need

- understanding
- flexible work
- joined up support



Some barriers are national and not controlled by Camden



Women said rules around benefits and childcare costs make working difficult



This is why we have made recommendations to both Camden Council and national government



By listening to women and working together, Camden can help more women move into secure and meaningful work and set an example for others across the country



Contact us at
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