Our Impact 2024-2025

together women



“Together Women is a centre of safe space. Support. You are believed and understood"

Welcome to Together Women

Every year, thousands of women turn to Together Women in moments of crisis. We provide trauma-informed, women-centred support that helps women stay safe, rebuild their lives and avoid deeper involvement with the Criminal Justice System.

We operate a strong, region-wide network of women's centres across Yorkshire and Humberside with sites in Leeds, Bradford, Sheffield and Hull, hubs in Huddersfield, Halifax and Wakefield, and the UK's only in-custody women's centre within HMP New Hall. Our remote and outreach provisions ensure that women can access specialist support across the region, including parts of the Northwest and Northeast.

Our Objectives

Together Women exists to reduce women and girls' contact with the criminal justice system and to address the root causes of harm, disadvantage, and inequality. We do this by:

1. Providing individualised, trauma-informed support
2. Offering safe, women-only spaces for healing and stability
3. Delivering community-based alternatives to custody and prosecution
4. Amplifying women's voices through peer-led support and leadership opportunities
5. Advocating for system change through evidence, lived experience, and partnership



A Message from our CEO and Chair of the Board of Trustees



Rokaiya Khan
Chief Executive Officer



Claire Vilarrubi
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Throughout the 2024/25 financial year, here at Together Women, we continued to do what we do best, stand alongside women and girls with consistency, compassion, and conviction, even as the systems around them strain under pressure.

A change in government brought renewed political attention to issues we've been raising for two decades: that the criminal justice system does not work for women, and that community-based support must be the foundation for change.

For the first time in years, we heard policymakers echo what women and women's charities like ours have been saying for decades, that safety, stability and support don't come from short sentences or crowded prisons, but from well-funded, gender-responsive services rooted in trust and dignity.

We strongly welcomed the announcement of the Women's Justice Board, a long-overdue commitment to coordinated, strategic oversight of women's justice. Alongside this, the government's review of sentencing policy gave us another opportunity to speak up for women, and we worked with partners across the country to feed into consultations and highlight the urgent need for reform.

This year wasn't without challenge. But it brought clarity. Together Women remains grounded in what we know works: listening to women, responding with care, and working in partnership to push for the systemic change they deserve.

- Rokaiya Khan & Claire Vilarrubi

Impact and Engagement
An Overview

In 2024-25, almost 3000 women accessed support through Together Women.

2985
women supported by women

Our Women's Centres remained a lifeline for women, acting as safe spaces where trust is built, stories are heard, and strength and stability take root. This trust translated into sustained engagement, with 94% of women choosing to continue working with us beyond their first contact.

Our teams supported women to avoid ever coming into contact with the justice system, and if they already had, to support them without judgement to move away from involvement in the future. Our work is grounded in listening to women, responding with care, and working in partnership.

Our support covers housing, mental health and wellbeing, domestic abuse, sexual violence, addiction support and recovery, finances and debt, parenting and relationships, employment and training, and building community connection.

Most women were referred to us via our Community Rehabilitation Services contract, with their involvement with the criminal justice system shaped by deep-rooted experiences of trauma, inequality and unmet needs.

Despite rising levels of need and increasing complexity, women achieved an incredible 76% of their identified outcomes, highlighting women's resilience and determination to get back on track.

"I don't know where I'd be without Together Women"



A Year in Numbers

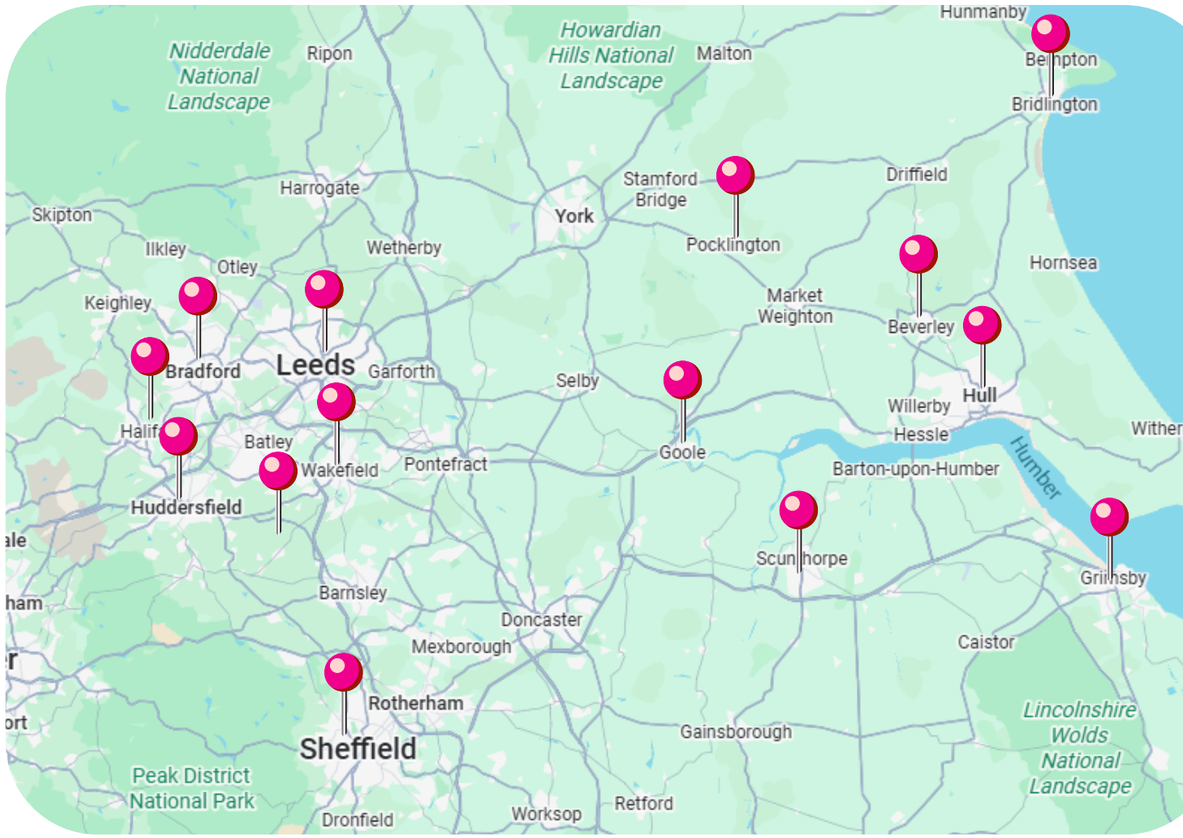
Throughout 2024-25, Together Women supported 2985 women to complete 21,920 sessions, a 22% increase on last year. Across our Women's Centres, we supported women to set goals, make informed decisions and navigate complex challenges.

Safety and stability continued to be central to our work. In Bradford, women accessed specialist IDVA support to process trauma and take steps towards safety and control. Through our Somewhere Safe to Live partnership, women sustained longer periods of stable housing, collectively spending 4,020 days in safe, secure accommodation, creating the foundation needed for recovery and independence.

Financial resilience and independence were strengthened through person-centred interventions. In partnership with the Smallwood Trust, 77 women secured vital grants, securing funding for essential household items, education, transport and employment costs.

Routes into employment and longer-term independence were expanded through our Empower to Employ project. 54 survivors of domestic abuse progressed towards work readiness, with 12 supported into employment, and partnerships established with 18 local employers, strengthening pathways to sustainable futures.

On the Map



Inside HMP New Hall

In custody, women facing complex challenges engaged in over 3,000 support sessions, including counselling and specialist IDVA provision. This work provided vital space to process trauma, strengthen wellbeing, and plan for life beyond custody while navigating the Criminal Justice System.



Sarah’s Story

When Sarah* first walked through our doors she was living with PTSD and frequent panic attacks, and was facing serious financial difficulties. As part of her probation order, she was assessed with a moderate risk of reoffending, which made her feel totally overwhelmed for what the future might hold.

Sarah was supported at one of our Women’s Centres via emotional management groups, giving her the confidence to begin counselling sessions, something she had previously been too anxious to consider.

Counselling became a turning point for Sarah. Over time, she reported feeling calmer, more in control and better able to cope with every day life. She described having a ‘clear head’ and experienced significantly fewer panic attacks. The stress that once dominated her life began to ease.

As her wellbeing improved, Sarah took more steps to stabilise her life with her Together Women Keyworker by her side. She increased her income, cleared her debt and reduced her risk of reoffending from moderate to low.

Sarah’s confidence grew so much, she no longer felt like giving up when things became difficult. With improved mental health and renewed self-belief, Sarah is now pursuing employment - a step that once felt totally out of reach for her.

Sarah’s story shows how gender-responsive, trauma-informed support reduces women’s risks and improves women’s strength and wellbeing, highlighting what women can achieve with time, trust, safety and choice.

*To protect her privacy and safety, the name and image used in this case study have been changed

Early Intervention and Diversion

During the year, women in Leeds, Hull, Bradford and Sheffield accessed support from our Early Intervention and Diversion team, who are embedded within police stations, courts and the community to develop trusting relationships with women, to provide trauma-informed interventions at critical points to reduce cycles of offending and advocate for alternatives to prison. The impact over this period was profound, with many women taking steps towards stability and safety.

Other Partnerships

Partnership working is core to Together Women's work, our entire approach is built around providing one stop support so that women can access all the support they need.

Throughout 2024/25, 115 women accessed faith-sensitive support from our Muslim Women Specialist Key Worker in partnership with Khidmat Centres. The co-location of a specialist Accommodation Advisor saw 62 women with highly complex housing needs referred for support to help them navigate systems and plan for safer, more stable futures.

Our partnership with Lincolnshire Action Trust was paramount throughout the year, providing support to 92 women residing in geographically isolated/remote locations across Lincolnshire, who otherwise would have had no access to services.

Mentoring and Advocacy Service

Women across the North of England continued to engage with our Mentoring and Advocacy Service (MAS), which delivers a gender-specific approach for women in the Criminal Justice System screened onto the Offender Personality Disorder Pathway. The renewal of this service for a further five years reflects the strength of the model, the expertise of our team, and the commitment and resilience of the women we support.

Rape and Sexual Violence Support

Survivors of rape/sexual violence were supported by specialists through our continued partnership with SARSVL (Support After Rape and Sexual Violence), accessing 122 counselling sessions to process trauma, rebuild safety and takes steps towards recovery at their own pace.

The feedback from these sessions speaks for itself:

> "This service has been a safe place for me to share my past traumatic experiences, without judgement or shame … I came through probation, but it's been a light at the end of the tunnel."

> "I now feel like I've got the tools to cope, I'm looking forward to the future, finally I can leave the house alone."

The Effective Women's Centres Partnership

The work of our Effective Women's Centres (EWC) project team continued to make significant progress this year, where use of the Women's Risk Needs Assessment (WRNA) allowed us to contribute to research around the gender-specific reasons women come into contact with the criminal justice system.

The EWC team continued to lead the transformation of our assessment tools and data-driven culture, embedding the WRNA for women in criminal justice, which supports women to understand their risks and strengths.

Following a review of our data, The Ministry of Justice concluded that women who received gender-specific support from Together Women are less likely to reoffend, reoffend less frequently and take longer to reoffend. More proof of what we already know, that Women's Centres work to move women away from the justice system, and back with their families and communities

Across our work, every number tells a story, a story of a woman who is listened to and believed, whose strengths are supported and recognised, whose risks are reduced, needs are met, and past traumas are seen, heard and supported.





“If I knew there was a place like this, I would have been here years ago”

together women

Women’s Insight and Lived Experience

This year, women’s voices continued to shape our understanding of what works and where systems fail. Throughout 2024-25, we gathered vital insight, with 50 women taking part in 21 focus groups to share their experiences of the criminal justice system and the impact of Women’s Centres and the support they received.

93% described Women’s Centres as a ‘safe space’

85% felt their needs are adequately addressed through Women’s Centre interventions

To ensure women’s voices are not only heard but are the driving force of our future, we developed a Lived Experience Advisory Board who have already started to work on external consultation opportunities to share their experiences to affect change. They are proudly named ‘Together Women’s Voices for Justice Collective’. This is their misson statement:

“We are a group of compassionate, strong, independent, supportive, unbreakable, understanding women. We have experience of the issues faced as a woman in the criminal justice system, experiencing the fear, misjudgement and disbelief that comes with this.”

> "I believe without the Women's Centre I would have reoffended already...centre provides techniques to stay out of the criminal justice system. Life lessons"

> “Early doors support is crucial to break the cycle of offending - “Trauma, abuse, leads to addiction, leads to shoplifting...we need to support women out of this”



“This centre gives hope and inspires women and that’s what it’s about”

together women

What's next for Together Women?

As we look to the future, our commitment remains the same. To continue to deliver high-quality, holistic gender-responsive support for women and girls, and we will continue working closely with the JABBS Foundation for Women and Girls and the Effective Women's Centre Partnership to co-design transformative justice approaches with and for women.

We have secured a seven year contract to continue delivering the Mentoring and Advocacy Service (MAS), reflecting the confidence instilled in Together Women to provide long term support and care for women with some of the most complex needs in the justice system. Many of our other contracts have also been extended while government departments await the outcome of the next spending review. Funders have expressed a strong desire to maintain partnership with Together Women, and we are already working closely with commissioners to shape the next phase of service delivery in line with national priorities and local needs.

Internally, we have committed to expanding our Leeds Women's Centre to a new, larger, accessible space which will create a space better suited to the needs of the women we support as well as strengthen our partnership work locally.

Despite uncertainty in the wider funding landscape, Together Women enters the next financial year with confidence, clarity, and strong partnerships, continuing to deliver high quality support while shaping the future of women's justice.

We're turning 20!

2026 will mark twenty years of Together Women. From a pilot project to supporting thousands of women supported through navigating the criminal justice system, escaping an abusive partner, the uncertainty of unemployment and everything in between.

We're currently supporting more women than ever before. While this milestone is one worth celebrating, it also reflects a reality we wish didn't exist. More women than ever need specialist, gender-responsive, trauma-informed support to stay safe, feel strong and rebuild their lives.

Can you support us?

Year on year we're seeing a rise in women turning to us for support.

Stretched public services, paired with a rise in the complexity and trauma women are battling means that we need you now more than ever.

By giving to Together Women, you're supporting safe spaces, trauma-informed support, and practical tools to help the most vulnerable women in our communities, regain control of their own lives. From securing housing to finding employment, escaping unhealthy relationships and keeping out of prison, your generosity makes it possible.

We're experiencing a higher demand than ever for our services, and we need your help to ensure we continue to never turn a woman away.

£5

Can fund arts and craft supplies for women to enjoy

£20

Can provide a phone and SIM card for a woman escaping domestic abuse

£50

Can give a woman access to trauma-informed counselling

£100

Can provide white goods for a woman who has secured stable housing

Thank you

together women

“I feel a lot more positive and I’m looking forward to the future now. Together Women has been my lifeline for the past couple of months. They have helped me more than they can imagine”

together women

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