

Why have I been asked to attend an interview under caution?

The Council has asked you to attend an interview under caution because it believes that you have committed a criminal offence.

This does not mean that the Council believes that you are guilty and will prosecute you, it means that the evidence the Council has obtained so far suggests that you may have committed an offence.

The interview is held in order to give you the opportunity to provide an explanation of the events that have occurred, although should evidence emerge during the interview that you have committed an offence, you may be prosecuted.

Do I have to attend an interview?

No, you do not have to attend. However, this will not prevent the Council from taking further action, for example, prosecuting you in the Criminal Courts. The interview is your opportunity to answer the allegation against you.

Who can come to the interview with me?

Anyone who is not connected to the investigation can attend the interview with you. This person could be a friend, Social Worker or relative. If that person is not a legal advisor/solicitor, they are there for moral support only and cannot answer questions on your behalf. You are entitled by law to have a legal advisor/solicitor present during the interview. You can appoint your own solicitor/legal advisor or your local Citizens' Advice Bureau may be able to assist you.

Please note that the Council does not have childcare facilities and you will not be interviewed if you have a dependant child with you at the time of the interview.

If you have a severe hearing impediment or English is not your first language and you have difficulty in reading and understanding English, the Council will provide a translator at no cost to you. Please let the Council know in advance of your interview so we can make the necessary arrangements.

What happens at the interview?

When you enter the interview room, two cassette tapes will be unsealed from their packaging in front of you and placed into a tape recorder. The tape recorder will then be switched on and will start to record the interview.

Before you are asked any questions, the Council's Officers will explain a number of things to you, including:-

- That the interview is being tape recorded;
- That the interview is being conducted in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and that a copy of the Codes of Practice for the Act are available for you to consult at any time;

- You will be cautioned and advised of your rights. You are not under arrest and can leave the interview at any time;
- Advise you that you are entitled to have a legal advisor/solicitor present if you do not already have one;
- Explaining why you have been asked to attend the interview.

You will then be asked questions regarding the allegation. The Council's Officers have a duty to establish the facts of the case and are not bound to accept the first answer you give.

At the end of the interview you will be asked to sign a paper seal which will be used to seal one of the tapes. You will be given a form explaining how you can have access to a tape of the interview. You will also be given a leaflet explaining what happens following your interview.

