

# Anti-bullying Network – a pilot in Corporate Resources

**The council considers that any form of bullying and harassment at work is unacceptable and it is committed to challenging the problem.**

**The anti-bullying network aims to improve support for staff who feel they are affected by bullying. We're running this as a pilot in the Corporate Resources directorate. If the pilot is successful, it will go council-wide in January 2009.**

If you're in Corporate Resources and want to use the network, you can contact any of the volunteers by telephone or email. They will arrange a confidential meeting space and agree a time and date to meet you.

The volunteers come from a variety of backgrounds so that you can speak to someone outside your own working environment. They will:

- give you short-term support (up to two sessions)
- provide a confidential space where you can talk through your concern
- listen to you
- make you aware of the choices and other support facilities available to you
- support you in resolving the problem.

## The Volunteers

### **Cheryl Brown, Team Leader, Contact Islington. Ext 1895.**

Cheryl says:

“Working in a big department, I have seen first hand how difficult professional relationships can be at times. I can certainly understand how actions can be interpreted as bullying, and have seen individuals feel as if they have no one to turn to. I want to be part of a team that is there to listen and help make individuals aware of the options available to them. We generally spend a large amount of time at work and anything that I can do to contribute to a better working life, I would like to be part off.”

### **Steve Inkip, Litigation Lawyer. Ext 3129.**

In recommending Steve for this role, his line manager emphasised his strong interpersonal skills and ability to make people feel at ease. Steve feels that his role as a lawyer has helped him to be objective and develop good listening skills.

### **Peter Magbadelo, Principal Technical Officer, Noise Pollution and Animal Welfare. Ext 3473.**

Peter says:

“I am a good listener and find it easy to get along with people. I believe my ability to be objective and my firm conviction that people generally have the answers within them to life’s problems and challenges will be a great asset in helping people make the right choices. I am effective in maintaining confidentiality and empathise with people in difficult circumstances. I have very good people skills and I am competent in giving effective feedback. I value and respect different approaches to problem solving and I am of a mature and non-judgemental disposition.”

### **Terry Smith, Customer Services Officer, Revenues and Benefits. Ext 3473.**

Terry says:

“I have always been interested in the welfare of staff at work, ensuring that the workplace is free from bullying, harassment, discrimination and that everyone is treated with fairness, respect and dignity. Outside of work, I have always challenged discriminatory practices. I am involved in community and church activities and promoting human rights awareness among young people.”

Terry will not be available as a volunteer during August 2008.

**Val Brown Beckford, Service Development Training Officer for Parking and CCTV Services. Ext 6194.**

Val has many years' experience as a trainer and has developed excellent interpersonal and listening skills. She is fully committed to challenging bullying at work.

She will be available as a volunteer from 28 July onwards.

**For further information or if you have any comments, please contact Julie Utko, HR Business Partner on ext 2027.**