



## BULLYING AND HARASSMENT POLICY

### 1. Introduction

As part of its overall commitment to equality of opportunity, Triple C (Liverpool) is fully committed to promoting a good and harmonious working environment where every staff member and volunteer is treated with respect and dignity and in which no worker feels threatened or intimidated because of his/her religious beliefs, gender, age, sexuality, marital status, disability, race or any other reason. The aim of this policy is to prevent bullying and/or harassment, and to provide guidance to resolve any problems and prevent recurrence.

### 2. Scope

Any form of bullying or harassment at Triple C (Liverpool) is unacceptable behaviour and will not be permitted. Sexual and racial harassment, as well as harassing a disabled person on account of disability, constitute as discrimination and are unlawful under sex discrimination, fair employment, race relations and disability legislation. Harassment may also be a civil offence, a criminal offence and it may contravene health and safety legislation.

Bullying and/or harassment detracts from an effective working environment and can affect the health, confidence, morale and performance of those affected by it, including anyone who witnesses or knows about the unwanted behaviour. This can have a direct impact on the effectiveness of Triple C (Liverpool).

Bullying and/or harassment is inappropriate behaviour at work and will be treated by Triple C (Liverpool) as misconduct, which may include gross misconduct warranting dismissal. All employees must comply with this policy.

### 3. Social Occasions

Please note that it has been established by the courts, that social occasions organised by an employer will be considered to be an extension of employment and, therefore, any acts that take place will be deemed to have taken place 'in the course of employment' and the employer will be held liable.

Even if the party takes place out of office hours and is held in an external venue, it is likely to be considered an extension of employment. If the employer pays for some, or all, of costs, this is even more likely. Equally, if a manager invites their team down to the pub after work, this is also likely to be considered an extension of employment.

### 4. Definitions

- a. Harassment** – “Harassment is unwanted conduct related to a relevant protected characteristic, which has the purpose or effect of violating an individual’s dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for that individual. The relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.” Definition taken from *Harassment The Equality Act 2010*
- b. Bullying** - Bullying is the persistent use of threatening behaviour with the aim of humiliating the recipient either publicly or privately. Such behaviour is unacceptable:
- Where it is unwanted, unreasonable and offensive to the recipient;
  - Where it is used as the basis for an employment decision;
  - Where it creates a hostile working environment.

Some examples are given below:

- Physical contact ranging from touching to serious assault;
- Verbal and written harassment through jokes, racist remarks, offensive language, gossip and slander, threats, letters;
- Visual displays of posters, graffiti, obscene gestures, emblems or any other offensive material;

- Isolation or non-cooperation at work;
- Coercion, including pressure for sexual favours;
- Intrusion by pestering, spying, following, etc;
- Belittling, degrading, demeaning, ridiculing and patronising.

It should be noted that it is the impact of the behaviour which is relevant and not the motive or intent behind it.

## **5. Complaints**

5.1 All employees have the right to work in an environment free from any form of bullying or harassment. Triple C (Liverpool) fully recognises the right of employees to complain about bullying or harassment, should it occur. A complaint must be lodged within three months from the date of the alleged act of bullying or harassment. All complaints will be dealt with seriously, promptly and confidentially.

5.2 Every effort will be made to ensure that employees making complaints, and those who give evidence or information in connection with the complaint will not be victimised. Victimisation is discrimination contrary to the Disability Discrimination Act 2010, Employment Act 2010, Race Relations Act 2010 and Sex Discrimination Act 2010. Any complaint of victimisation will be dealt with seriously, promptly and confidentially. Victimisation will result in disciplinary action and may warrant dismissal.

## **6. The Responsibilities of Staff**

6.1 All members of staff have a responsibility to help ensure a working environment in which the dignity of all staff is respected. Everyone must comply with this policy and all members of staff should ensure that their behaviour to colleagues does not cause offence and could not in any way be considered to be bullying or harassment.

6.2 All staff should discourage bullying and harassment by making it clear that they find such behaviour unacceptable, and by supporting colleagues if they suffer such treatment and are considering making a complaint. They should alert their line manager to any incident of bullying or harassment to enable Triple C (Liverpool) to deal with the matter.

## **7. Line Managers' and Supervisors Responsibilities**

7.1 Managers and supervisors have a duty to implement this policy and to make every effort to ensure that bullying and harassment does not occur, particularly in work areas for which they are responsible. Managers and supervisors have a responsibility for any incidents of bullying or harassment of which they are aware. If bullying or harassment does occur, they must effectively deal with the situation.

7.2 Managers and supervisors must:

- a) Explain the policy to their staff and take steps to promote awareness of the procedure for dealing with complaints, and to ensure that each member of staff sees a copy;
- b) Be responsive to and supportive of any member of staff who makes an allegation; provide clear advice on the procedure to be adopted; maintain confidentiality; and seek to ensure that there is no further problem of victimisation after a complaint has been resolved;
- c) Set a good example by treating all staff with dignity and respect;
- d) Be alert to unacceptable behaviour and take appropriate action;
- e) Ensure that staff know how to raise problems.
- f) Report the incident for monitoring purposes to the Chair of Trustees (or vice-chair if appropriate).

## **8. Triple C (Liverpool)'s Responsibilities**

Triple C (Liverpool) will ensure that adequate resources are made available to promote respect and dignity in the workplace and to deal effectively with complaints of bullying or harassment. This policy will be communicated to all employees to ensure that employees, managers and supervisors are aware of their responsibilities. Appropriate training will be included on induction courses. In addition, those playing an official role in any formal complaints procedure will receive appropriate training.

## **9. Review**

This policy will be reviewed every three years. Furthermore, all incidents of bullying or harassment will be monitored by the Chair of Trustees in order that the Trustees may review the effectiveness of this policy.

Policy Adopted: June 2010

Most recent review: June 2018