NHS Ayrshire & Arran staff pledge never to be bystanders

NHS Ayrshire & Arran employees have been showing their support for a campaign against the use of bullying and teasing language. Stonewall’s ‘No bystanders’ campaign, which was launched to tackle homophobic bullying and abuse, asks people to sign up to the following pledge:

“I will never be a bystander to bullying and teasing language. If I hear it, I will call it out and if I can, I will stop it. By adding my name I promise to stand up for fairness, kindness and never be a bystander.”

John Burns, NHS Ayrshire & Arran’s Chief Executive, was first to sign the pledge within the Health Board – closely followed by a number of departments and individual members of staff.

Mr Burns explains: “The campaign’s aim closely reflects our Board’s commitment to having an open, fair and just culture and is in line with our organisational values of being caring, safe and respectful.

“The campaign highlights the damaging effect of abusive language and behaviour across our society, and is designed to make us think about how we, as individuals and as an organisation, have a responsibility to challenge it.”

Elaine Savory, Equality and Diversity Adviser, adds: “We chose to back this campaign as part of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) History Month which takes place every February. It provides the ideal opportunity for us all to stop and reflect on our personal duty to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and treat everyone with dignity and respect.”
“We’re delighted that staff have taken the pledge and would urge as many other people as possible to sign up. The No bystanders commitment is simple - whenever you hear or see bullying or discriminatory behaviour, be it in the workplace or in the community, you will call it out, and if you can, you will stop it either directly or by reporting the incident.”

To find out more and sign the pledge, go [nobystanders.org.uk](http://nobystanders.org.uk).

NHS Ayrshire & Arran has also been showing support for LGBT History Month by flying a rainbow flag at the entrance to University Hospital Ayr throughout February.

Ends

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Photographs:

- John_Burns – Chief Executive, John Burns, pledges his support to the No bystanders campaign
- LGBT_champs – NHS Ayrshire & Arran’s LGBT champions signed up to support the campaign
- 180215Rainbow4 – The rainbow flag flies high at University Hospital Ayr to mark LGBT History Month

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