



PRESS RELEASE

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Anti-Bullying Week – Taking Action Together

To help publicise Anti-Bullying Week next week (15-19 November), Torrige District Council's lead members for Children Cllr Caroline Church and for Youth Cllr Roger Johnson are helping raise awareness of the issues faced and highlighting this year's theme which is *Taking action together*.

The Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) is committed to stopping bullying in all its forms. In November each year, ABA runs Anti-Bullying Week – a high profile campaign to shine a light on the issue of bullying, the damage it can do to our children and young people, and what we can do about it.

Councillor Church said, "Anti-Bullying Week sends out a clear and positive message that bullying is neither acceptable nor inevitable. Our children are our future and as a community we must make every effort to take action together to prevent it."

Councillor Johnson added, "Bullying can take many forms - these days Cyberbullying, using mobile phones and the internet, is just as much bullying as in the old fashioned sense of the word and needs to be stamped out."

The ABA says there is no easy answer when it comes to bullying behaviour – every situation is different and requires a different approach. Children and young people who are being bullied may feel isolated and frightened, weak and powerless to make things better, and that it may be their fault. Many children who are experiencing bullying do not tell anyone.

Sue Steel, ABA National Manager, said, "Parents/carers, teachers, children and young people all have a part to play in working together to create a society where bullying is not tolerated and where we all respond to bullying quickly and appropriately. Bullying will only stop if we take action together."

The ABA website has further information on bullying such as what signs to look out for if you think your child is being bullied, advice for parents and carers and other national sources of support: www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk

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