

### **Disabled Staff Forum:**

Chair: Frank West (ext 7564) Co-Chaired by Andrew Smith 07984 027 501 and Carol Farnum (ext 0710)

If you are unable to attend a meeting but want to raise an issue you can contact your Directorate Equalities Liaison Officer (DELO) who can act on your behalf.

### **Adult, Health and Well-Being**

Emdad Haque (ext 2253)

### **Communities, Localities and Culture**

Coreen Ung (ext 4699)

### **Chief Executives**

Hafsha Ali (ext 4762)

### **Children's Services**

Isabelle Colombeau (ext 4723)

### **Development and Renewal**

Hugh Chamber (ext 4063)

# Staff Equality Forums

**The Staff Forum are facilitated by the Diversity and Equalities Team.**

**For further information please call either Hannah Bailey (ext 3070) or Nojmul Hussain (ext 4454).**

Dates and minute of meetings can be found on the intranet: [http://towernet/Intranet/staff\\_services/equalities\\_\\_diversity/staff\\_equality\\_forums.aspx](http://towernet/Intranet/staff_services/equalities__diversity/staff_equality_forums.aspx)

**The London Borough of Tower Hamlets is proud to be at Level 5 of the Equality Standard, that's the highest equality mark for local authorities. Meeting the needs of the Council's workforce is a key priority.**

That's where the Forums play a big part – they are a means of listening to and consulting with employees. The Council's Disabled, Black AND other Ethnic Minority (BME) and Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender (LGBT) Forums have contributed to service improvements and key issues raised are reported to Corporate Equalities Steering Group.

### **When do the Forums meet and what do they discuss?**

Staff Forum meetings take place quarterly for two hours and discuss a range of important topics. The Forums have developed structured work programmes to discuss key topics. For example, the BME Forum have reviewed the Council's Workforce to Reflect the Community Strategy, the LGBT Forum is exploring ways to improve the Council's LGBT equality training and the Council's Disabled Staff Forum are working with Facilities Management to improve disabled parking facilities at Council buildings.

The Forum is also a place where you can meet other staff from across the Council to share experiences and issues and half an hour is set aside at the LGBT and BME Forums to discuss confidential information.

### **Is anyone allowed to join and attend during work hours?**

Staff who describe themselves belonging to the BME, LGBT or disabled community are eligible to attend during business hours with the consent of their line manager. Managers are encouraged to support staff wishing to participate.

### **Who are the Forums' Chairs and where can I get further information?**

The Forums' Chairs would be more than happy to speak to staff wanting to find out more about the Forums. If you are unable to attend a meeting and want to raise any issue you can contact the Chairs of the Forums.

### **What happens to issues raised by the Forum?**

Key issues discussed are fed back to monthly Corporate Equalities Steering Group meetings which is Chaired by the Council's Chief Executive. The Directorate Equalities Liaison Officers also report back to their Directorate Equalities Focus Group. Staff Forum recommendations on how to improve services are taken on board at these meetings.

#### **The LGBT Forum:**

Co-Chaired by Angie Bates (ext 0364) and Michael Dolphin (ext 6115).

#### **The BME Forum:**

Chair: Shila Thakor (ext 4837)