

18/07/2018

DG Pride 2018

We are very sorry to hear that DG Pride 2018 has been cancelled and are deeply saddened for the local LGBTQI community.

D&G LGBT Plus has a 3 year strategic plan, which includes a commitment to deliver Pride events. We delivered Pride in our Community 2017 as a forerunner to a larger Pride event in 2018. We set up steering groups and involved members of the community to reflect the needs of the wider community and to achieve what we hoped would be a fun and inclusive event for all LGBTQI people, their supporters and allies.

The organiser of DG Pride initially worked with and was sponsored by D&G LGBT Plus to attend a UK Pride Organisers Network Conference in Cardiff to explore the delivery of Pride events. However, unknown to us, they set up another charity to deliver on these.

Regardless of political or personal agendas D&G LGBT Plus have always reached out to DG Pride to build a unified approach recognising the amount of different skills and organisations required to make such a large and diverse event happen. When DG Pride announced their plans for a Pride 2018 event, though initially disappointed at not being included, we rallied behind them and were fully supportive. We looked forward to the possibility of working with them.

Having had no communication from DG Pride, and with the limited information we had, we began to organise a series of events to compliment DG Pride 2018. During this time, we continued to seek engagement with DG Pride.

We were concerned when two DG Pride fundraisers were cancelled at short notice and we found ourselves responding to the anxiety of the LGBTQI community around the lack of inclusion, communication and worries that their event would be cancelled. We again approached DG Pride at this point and they were unwilling to work together to undertake any community engagement to respond to and build upon this feedback.

We believe Pride is about embracing equality and diversity and as such should be open and suitable to all LGBTQI people, their supporters, allies and others affected by minority issues. We are moving ahead with our plans for a complimentary programme of Pride 2018 events and hope that we can announce an enhancement to these over the coming weeks to avoid further disappointment to the LGBTQI community of Dumfries & Galloway and beyond.

Kindest Regards

D&G LGBT Plus