



Doncaster Pride

Our bid to host

The UKPON Annual Conference and AGM 2019

Proposed Dates weekends of 11/10/19 or 18/10/19

Doncaster Pride – A brief history

Doncaster Pride is a well-established Pride. Our first event was held in August 2007 so we have just delivered our 11th annual event.

We were the first Pride in South Yorkshire and retain two founder members and three members of the committee remain from year one, so we have stability and we have a lot of experience.

We are a small team and we've seen our event grow from around a thousand visitor's year one to an estimated 18k visitors over the day for the 2018 event. We've had 11 Prides in 4 different locations and feel this is, in part, due to our desire to continuously improve the offer as we grow.

For us Pride isn't a once a year event - we are a registered charity and deliver a number of projects year round and in total we estimate our combined income has recently topped £1m – this includes three large National Lottery funded projects that we have delivered during our 12 years.

These are:

Schools Project Worker – we employed a Youth Worker for 3 years to work alongside our local authority Youth Service provision to specialise in LGBT+ related support, this after 3 years was continued and funded by our local authority as a mainstream post.

Doncaster 50 – a funded project that delivered a film based on fifty years being gay in Doncaster. <https://www.doncasterpride.co.uk/doncaster-50>





Gender Bender – A photography exhibition challenging gender stereotypes working with our Youth Group.

<https://www.doncasterpride.co.uk/genderproject.co.uk>

... And the latest and just about to get off the ground

Rainbow Stories - a brand new project that seeks to create a coffee table type book and online resource for LGBT+ community members aged over 40.

These projects represent our year round commitment to education and visibility for the LGBT+ community in Doncaster. This we believe valuable in terms of the projects themselves but also the bedrock of what makes our Pride strong and hugely credible to the funders, sponsors, advertisers and business community - who provide the funds to deliver the main event in August.

Education is one of the key outcomes of a great Pride but also we believe key to greater integration and improved equality here in Doncaster. We all know that equal rights don't equal equality and we feel it's our job to make sure, through education and visibility that we do what we can to positively influence the lives of the community we represent 365 days of the year.

Doncaster Pride has a chequered history – controversially being “banned” by our Elected Mayor back in 2009/10... much of this exaggerated by the media but this gave us a massive publicity boost and a worldwide reaction, we seized this opportunity and used the PR to enable us to grow and have a stronger voice locally, regionally and nationally.

Our relationship with our local authority now excellent, as is our relationship with South Yorkshire Police and statutory bodies and this we hope to be able to build into our conference should Doncaster be selected for 2019. We hope to deliver sessions in collaboration with colleagues from our local authority departments that will help us all understand a little better some of the things we get ‘tied up in’ during our planning cycle.





Our business model has changed over years and we feel we have become a commercial Pride, but we know we are very protective of our community and grass roots feel – we are a Pride for and of the people and will always be this. Our funding for Pride is now largely drawn from business sponsorship and advertising, but this is done in such a way we don't have that 'in your face' commercial feel. We believe this can help us deliver a conference and AGM that has something for everyone as we're small enough to understand but large and experienced enough to 'get it'.... Old enough to have the experience but still eager to learn and develop our skills.

We encourage you to vote Doncaster, we would love to host you all and show you our amazing town.

Click the logo to view a short video of 2018 Pride so you can see how far we've come in our 12 years!



Location

Click the logo to view a short video of Doncaster



Doncaster is the most perfectly connected town in the north of England. We are at the heart of the UK and its motorway network including 5 major motorways M18, M1, A1 (M), M62, and M180 so those travelling by car will find us easily and quickly.

Doncaster Station is a major passenger interchange on the UK's high-speed, north-south mainline (the East Coast Main Line, connecting London with Edinburgh), providing fast, frequent connections to all major UK cities





including:

- London (King's Cross) – 1 hour 30 minutes
- Sheffield - 22 minutes
- Leeds - 37 minutes
- Manchester - 1 hour 20 minutes
- Newcastle - 1 hour 23 minutes
- Birmingham - 1 hour 29 minutes
- Edinburgh – 3 hours

Doncaster Sheffield Airport is the UK's fastest growing airport outside of London and with brand new low cost routes regularly becoming available.

This we feel is a major bonus in terms of travel costs and time. As there are a huge number of smaller Prides within an hours or two travelling from Doncaster we believe a Doncaster Conference and AGM will open up opportunity for a great deal more prides to get involved.

Why now

Doncaster Pride feels we can deliver an excellent conference and AGM that will have something for everyone. We ourselves have attended every conference and as a 'smaller' Pride we believe we can put something together that will give everyone something to take away in terms of learning and knowledge.

The committee feel that the time is right to put something back into the UKPON offer as we have attended all conferences and learned a lot about the processes. To this end we will, if successful with this bid, create a new role of

Conference Co-ordinator and this person will take on – as well as their regular Pride responsibilities – the role of lead contact for all delegates and for the UKPON board, this we feel will give the conference the amount of full committee involvement required to deliver a successful weekend.

We also feel that as a team we have grown in the last few years, this in number but also in our expertise and our desire to want to be involved at a national level. This reflected in our commitment to travel to both UK Prides (Hull and





Isle of Wight) to show not only solidarity but also put Doncaster firmly on the Pride map. We have also recently become members of EPOA too as we seek to grow and develop and be a part of the wider structures that help us all to grow.

We are hugely proud of the fact the business community and the local council value us – we are the single biggest free one day event in the Doncaster calendar and have seen support grow and swell in the last 5 years particularly. WE are answerable to our sponsors but also the community and we are proud to say that we have had TWO years of not ONE negative social media comment following our event and not lost ONE sponsor.

Venue

Doncaster Civic Office

We plan to host the conference sessions in the Doncaster Council Chamber. This a purpose built room for council meetings, with all the latest technology including desk top microphones at all seats. The Council Chamber sits inside the Civic Office that is in the heart of the town centre – 10 mins walk from the railway station and close to parking as well as adjacent to the Pride site.

The use of the Chamber we will secure as part of a sponsorship deal with Doncaster Council, here's the room itself.



Doncaster Mansion House



One of only 3 Georgian Mansion Houses in the country (London, York and Doncaster) we propose to host a dinner on Saturday in the splendid surroundings of the Ballroom, complete with a meal and live entertainment. This will be followed by a private party in one of the many venues in the town centre. Please note Doncaster has currently no gay scene – this however we don't feel is a problem to the community or the conference as we have a number of supportive venues and the town is largely LGBT+ friendly.

Accommodation

As we have regular accommodation partners for the Pride event (Including Premier Inn, Hilton Garden Hotel and Mercure Danum Hotel) all within easy reach of the town centre we will put together a range of offers for delegates in partnership with these hotels. We anticipate per person room prices will be between £40 and £60 max per night. All hotels will be within walking distance



of the venues and the nightlife as well as the railway station and car parking – so once you're here you're here!

Here's an idea of the hotels available including those mentioned above and many more...



Funding

We know how difficult it is to expect volunteers to self-fund their trip to the AGM and conference but at the same time we can personally testify the great value attendance gives the individual and the team. With this in mind we have put in place a model that will seek one major sponsor and by doing this we will be able to offer **ALL** delegates a delegate rate for the weekend of the conference.

We propose that **ALL** refreshments for the full day session Saturday, Dinner Saturday night and refreshments Sunday will be provided for a one off delegate rate that will be **no more than £40 per person**. This we will seek to obtain in advance on booking and we will seek to simplify the booking process for hotel accommodation by having all discounted rates available to book by direct hyperlinks from the Doncaster Pride website.

Costs

As already indicated we appreciate the difficulty volunteers from smaller Prides find securing funding to attend, and also those that maybe aren't in the position to fund themselves – so it is our aim to make sure this conference is accessible and affordable for all.

Transport costs for anyone wishing to attend shouldn't be prohibitive and the hotel offers we intend to secure will make the weekend affordable. This





teamed with the delegate rate will also, we hope; give all committee members of all prides the opportunity to attend.

Conference Agenda

The following represents an outline of the type of conference we would like to deliver, and subject to gaining your votes this is the format we will aim to achieve along with input, guidance and advice from the UKPON board.

Friday – Welcome to Doncaster

The Elected Mayor, Civic Mayor as well as the local authority CEO will host a drinks reception at The Mansion House. Guests will be welcomed by members of the Tourism Team (Visit Doncaster) and following drinks and a brief welcome the evening will continue with a private party at a town centre venue.

Saturday – Council Chamber

Full day of conference combining the regular UKPON led sessions and a varied programme of interesting and stimulating content:

Lunch will be provided as part of the delegate package and means for those that want to cram in as much networking as possible we will provide a working lunch. This optional informal networking session would seek to buddy up team members from different prides. To achieve the best from this session we would, in advance of the conference, endeavour to establish two or three key aims from all delegates and two or three things delegates feel they could share – these will enable us to buddy delegates so that those with knowledge and those looking for particular answers can spend time together outside the formal sessions. This we hope will lead to us all leaving the event with not only learning and sharing but contacts and a go to mentors for the future.

Proposed sessions Saturday/Sunday

We would seek to host informative sessions and produce a programme of workshops that delegates can chose from. These would possibly include:





Health and Safety – drawing experience from our council H&S team and giving valuable advice and time saving tips

Council tips – we'd draw together officers from traffic management, highways, licensing etc. to give an action packed and informative insight as to how to work with your local authority to save time and achieve greater working together practices

Police – we would bring in local officers for a Q& A that would include anything from policing your pride to hate crime

Organising your pride market – we have a demonstration planned of the Doncaster Pride online booking and processing procedure.

Sponsorship - let's talk and share what works and learn from each other and we will bring in some of our sponsors to share with you what it is that keeps them happy and coming back for more

Bid writing – we would bring in our successful writer from all our major bids for a masterclass on writing a successful bid

Crowdfunding - in association with Space Hive we would look at the pros and cons of crowdfunding

Social Media – how to strike the balance between professional and personal use – a masterclass with a renowned local entrepreneur.

Doncaster Youth Group – our Doncaster based youth team will be a part of the planning and delivery of this event should it be held in Doncaster. They will be included in as many of the sessions as possible.

Doncaster Trans Mission – our very own Trans team will be an integral part of the planning and delivery of a fully inclusive event and content.

This is by no means a full list, more a flavour of what we would like to deliver you. We intend to structure the sessions to be repeated so that delegates can choose the sessions they wish to participate in. We also would like to open up one of the sessions to a general Q&A, questions being submitted in advance so





that we all go away with hopefully some knowledge and answers to those burning questions that give us all issues every year.

Summary

The entire team is behind this submission and we hope to be able to rely on your votes for Doncaster. We would love to share with you our great town, our fabulous heritage and history and a good old fashioned Yorkshire welcome awaits you all.

We want you to be able to budget and plan for the conference in advance and feel that your investment of your valuable time and money is rewarded with time and costs savings and a whole load of new knowledge and contacts.

It is our aim to make the 2019 UKPON AGM and Conference affordable, accessible and informative so that we can open up the opportunity to get involved to a wider cross section of the organisers up and down the UK.

We will communicate details with you regularly and we will provide you with loads of information about not just the event but the wider town and where's great... so whether you chose to stay with the group or wander into the unknown you're fully equipped with all you need to know about what's best in Doncaster.

Thank you for taking the time to read this bid and we hope you choose Doncaster for the venue for 2019, we certainly will do our best to make it a conference to remember!

Jenny, Trevor, Cath, John, Kevin, Rob and Liane

Doncaster Pride Team

7th October 2018

