

PRESS RELEASE

Brighton, United Kingdom

1 June, 2018

England's first ever Disability Pride event is back!

- Parade along Brighton promenade at 11:30am, led by Unified Rhythm – a carnival band with over 80% disabled members
- Opening by Alison Lapper MBE; Councillor Dee Simson, Mayor of Brighton & Hove; and Jenny Skelton, Chair of Disability Pride at 12:00 noon
- Live music, acts, performances, and speeches from disabled people; work from disabled artists; and stalls
- Join us on 14th July 2018 on Hove Lawns, Brighton



Disability Pride Brighton is delighted to announce their second annual festival. The 2018 celebration will take place on Saturday 14th July 2018 on Hove Lawns from 12:00 noon to 19:30. The event is organised to raise awareness of the diversity and value of disabled people with all (visible and invisible) impairments or conditions and is organised by a diverse Committee of disabled people.

“We want to celebrate our identities and feel less isolated in the city, as well as engage with non-disabled people, by hosting a great day out for all!” says Jenny Skelton, Chair.

Disability Pride Brighton was the first Disability Pride event in England and held its inaugural event in July 2017, attracting over 2,000 attendees.

The 2018 event will begin with a short parade along the promenade at 11:30, led by Unified Rhythm – a carnival band with over 80% disabled members. The event will then be officially opened by Alison Lapper MBE; Councillor Dee Simson, Mayor of Brighton & Hove; and Jenny Skelton, Chair of Disability Pride.

Throughout the day, there will be live music, acts, performances, and speeches from disabled people; work from disabled artists; and stalls from organisations who offer support or activities to local people and families, friends, and carers who are part of this diverse community.

The idea came from disabled Brighton mum, Jenny Skelton, who also has three adopted children with various impairments. Since last year, the group has grown significantly and has now launched a supported volunteering programme so that more people with both visible and invisible impairments or conditions can get involved and help break down barriers.

Richard Lane, Head of Communications at disability charity Scope, said:

“We are delighted to support Disability Pride. Last year’s event was a smash hit, and we’re sure that this year is going to be even bigger and better.

“Disability Pride is invaluable, it brings disabled and non-disabled people together to change and challenge negative attitudes and perceptions.

“Disability rights have come a long way in Britain, but we know that disabled people still face barriers in too many areas of life.

“We hope this event allows people to celebrate what’s been achieved and to keep building a community to fight these challenges. Happy Pride to everyone celebrating!”

Funding has so far come from Sussex Community Foundation and Brighton & Hove Buses. The project is also supported by the Local People projects in Brighton and Hove, both of which are supported by Scope and funded by People’s Health Trust using money raised by HealthWish through The Health Lottery. The project has also received investment from People’s Health Trust’s

Active Communities programme.

We hope that you can join us on 14 July, 2018 on Hove Lawns!

More information can be found at www.disabilitypridebrighton.com and <https://www.facebook.com/DisabilityPrideBrighton/>

We will shortly be adding more information about onsite facilities and access, transport to and from the event, performers, artists, supporting organisations, and other useful information about participation, so please stay tuned!

ENDS

Further photos and interviews available on request.

Contacts

For press enquiries, contact: media@disabilitypridebrighton.com or 07973 774691.

For participation and/or general enquiries, contact: hello@disabilitypridebrighton.com

Notes to Editors:

About Disability Pride Brighton

Disability Pride Brighton is a constituted community group of disabled people in Sussex, who came together after a Facebook post by Jenny Skelton about a disability discrimination incident in Brighton went viral. They collectively organised the first Disability Pride festival in England and continue to do so, for anyone with any disability plus friends, family, unpaid carers, professionals, and allies. The festival is now an annual disabled-led event, for everyone in the community who wants to help people with physical or mental impairments or conditions of any kind to celebrate.

Please note that Disability Pride Brighton is not a specific event only for the disabled LGBTQ+ community, as we are often asked about this. All disabled people and allies, with any identity and background, are welcome. We are called Disability Pride as part of a wider movement of other international Disability Pride organisations.

www.disabilitypridebrighton.com

About Disability Pride Brighton's volunteering and buddying scheme

Disability Pride Brighton has now launched a two-year volunteering and buddying scheme, after a successful funding application to People's Health Trust, using money raised by HealthWish through The Health Lottery. If you are interested in volunteering or for more information, please contact:

harriet.oliver@disabilitypridebrighton.com or chair@disabilitypridebrighton.com.