PRIDE in Kirklees!

This year Kirklees hosted its very first Kirklees PRIDE celebration on 9 July 2022! It was a day of fun activities, celebration and live entertainment. This year, the main activities took place on King Street and at the Lawrence Batley Theatre in Huddersfield Town Centre.

Kirklees Employment Service (KES) stood proud to support the Pride event, also raising mental health awareness, promoting Richmond Fellowship and the Kirklees Employment Service.

Steve Blinston, KES Service Manager (on the right of the below photo), Karl Jackson-Lander Peer Support Co-ordinator (on the left of the photo below) and not forgetting Stanley, my Pooch, joined to support the event. Stanley was a great addition to the KES Pride team.

As you can see, Stanley was definitely standing proud! and his cuteness supported engaging people to come and say hello and open up discussions around Pride and Mental Health. **We all need a Stanley in our services!**

We heard from our local Councillor, **Will Simpson**, Cabinet Member for Culture and Greener Kirklees. He spoke about Kirklees Pride:

Pride is about challenging the hate and prejudice faced by the LGBTQ+ community, celebrating our local LGBTQ+ culture, and amplifying their voices.

This year, we are proud to be hosting events which have been organised by the council's LGBTQ+ employee network. I want to give my heartfelt thanks to them for all their hard work and dedication in making this happen.

We want to see Kirklees Pride continue to grow across our towns and villages in the years to come and to see that led by our community. Kirklees is Proud – and we make no apologies for showing it.

As well as rainbow flags, face-painting, and live music, there was a poetry and art workshop at the Lawrence Batley Theatre (LBT). As well as an evening performance of Pride in Kirklees showcasing live music and an uplifting session from Stephanie Hirst.

Kirklees Pride 2022 opened with speeches from the event organisers and elected members.

The fun continued into the Courtyard of the Lawrence Batley Theatre (LBT). Children's face painting, children's entertainment and stall holders. Also, live entertainment hour-by-hour from The Rain Queens, Slaithwaite Brass Band and other local artists.

People got a first sneak peek at Kirklees Museum and Galleries' new exhibition on The Day the World Came to Huddersfield. The exhibition looks back to 1981 when London Pride came all the way up to Huddersfield to stand with the LGBTQ+ community at the time.

By Steve Blinston

Steve, Karl and Stanley out in the community!