LCR Queer Town Hall

Pride in the Community

A REPORT FROM SAHIR:

Sahir
WELL+PROUD

Introduction

In our recent Queer Town Hall meeting you, our wonderful LGBTQ+ community, came together to delve into the theme of “Pride in the Community,” a topic nominated by several attendees at our pilot Queer Town Hall.

Pride holds significant meaning for many within our community, symbolising not just celebration but also resilience and authenticity. It was evident from our discussions that Pride means different things to different people, yet it remains a unifying force.

Amid ongoing social and political struggles, numerous voices emphasised the enduring significance of Pride as a form of protest. In the face of persistent challenges to LGBTQ+ rights and visibility, the symbolic and activist dimensions of Pride events remain vital for advocating equality and acceptance.

The event welcomed representatives from Sefton Pride, as well as the newly formed Knowsley Pride, adding a vibrant spectrum of voices to the gathering. Although representatives from the volunteer-led St. Helen’s Pride were unable to join in person, their supportive spirit resonated from afar. The absence of LCR Pride Foundation was noted with disappointment and frustration by both organisers and attendees.

The event fostered an atmosphere of cooperation and camaraderie, highlighting the commitment of all present to celebrate and advocate for LGBTQ+ communities.

While the conversations throughout the evening were overwhelmingly positive, they also underscored the challenges we face as a community. One key takeaway was the recognition that Pride is not something we passively participate in, but rather something we actively shape and own as a collective.

There was consensus that we must lead the change we want to see in Pride, empowering each other to drive initiatives forward and support one another in our journey towards greater inclusivity and acceptance. The Town Hall ended on a hopeful note, highlighting our collective commitment to building a more vibrant and inclusive community.

Purpose & Goals

The purpose of our Queer Town Hall is to create a safe and inclusive space for members of the LGBTQ+ community across the Liverpool City Region to come together, share experiences, discuss important issues, and collaborate on solutions. Our goal is to foster a sense of community empowerment, advocacy, and support, while addressing the diverse needs and concerns of queer individuals.

Key Objectives:

- Facilitate open and respectful dialogue: Encourage participants to express themselves freely, share personal stories, and engage in constructive discussions about LGBTQ+ rights, challenges, and triumphs.
- Raise awareness and educate: Provide educational resources, workshops, and guest speakers to increase understanding of LGBTQ+ identities, histories, and current issues, promoting empathy and allyship among attendees.
- Amplify marginalised voices: Prioritise the inclusion of intersectional perspectives, voices from marginalised communities within the LGBTQ+ spectrum, and individuals with diverse experiences to ensure that all voices are heard and valued.
- Build community connections: Foster connections and solidarity among LGBTQ+ individuals, allies, organisations, and community leaders, facilitating networking opportunities and partnerships to strengthen our collective impact.
- Advocate for change: Identify key issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community locally and nationally, develop effective advocacy efforts, and mobilise participants to act towards achieving equality, justice, and liberation for all queer people.

Through these objectives, our Queer Town Hall seeks to empower LGBTQ+ individuals and allies to create positive change, foster a sense of belonging, and build a more inclusive society where everyone can live authentically and thrive.

Our recent Queer Town Hall aimed to boost Pride within the Community with a broad and inclusive approach. We focussed on discussions around:

- Making Pride events more welcoming and diverse by exploring ways to increase accessibility.
- Building connections and support among LGBTQ+ individuals and allies, fostering unity.
- Giving a louder voice to marginalised community members, ensuring their perspectives are valued.
- Providing robust opportunities for LGBTQ+ creatives and performers to shine.
- Promoting activism that recognises intersecting identities.
- Acknowledging and remembering those we have lost and those who paved the way for LGBTQ+ rights (locally and globally).
- Celebrating the diverse and resilient LGBTQ+ community.

Event Overview

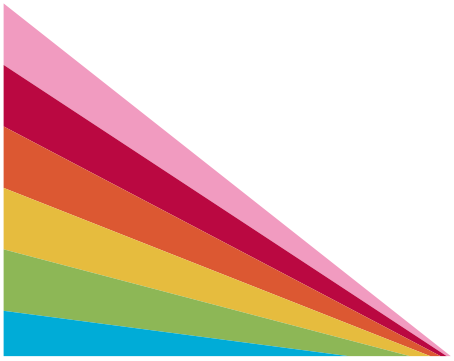
Hosted at the Brink, a brilliant ‘dry’ venue in the heart of Liverpool City Centre, on Wednesday 6th April, our Queer Town hall brought together over 70 individuals from diverse backgrounds and walks of life.

The evening commenced with a warm introduction from Mike Skeggs from The Collective Network CIC, who had kindly volunteered to compere the evening, alongside Sahir CEO Ant Hopkinson. Attendees received an overview of the evening’s purpose, which centred on a discussion about Pride in the Community. It was clarified that we would delve into this theme through four specific discussion topics:

- **Pride as a protest**
- **Upholding a community-centred approach to Pride**
- **Enhancing accessibility for Pride celebrations and demonstrations**
- **Pride’s contribution to supporting LGBTQ+ charities, community groups, and queer-owned businesses**

Pride Event Organisers in attendance, had the opportunity to share an update on their respective events and plans for the future. A statement from LCR Pride Foundation covering their decision to not attend the Queer Town Hall was read out. To provide context to this statement previous official correspondence between LCR Pride Foundation and Sahir was also shared. Attendees expressed their concern and frustration with regards to the absence of LCR Pride Foundation.

The event quickly gained momentum with an abundance of energy and enthusiasm. Attendees were eager to network and engage in discussions about Pride.



“Having attended both the pilot and the inaugural Queer Town Halls it has been a privilege to see the community coming together to share rich discussion and passion about what we want and need across the Liverpool City Region. It has certainly inspired many ideas and I look forward to seeing how these begin to take shape.

The QTH has proven that there is a desire from all parts of our beautiful and diverse LGBTQ+ community to collaborate for the greater good of us all and I for one can’t wait to see more events like these taking place throughout the year.”
Emma Miller-McCaffrey. Head of Relationships. Diversity Role Models

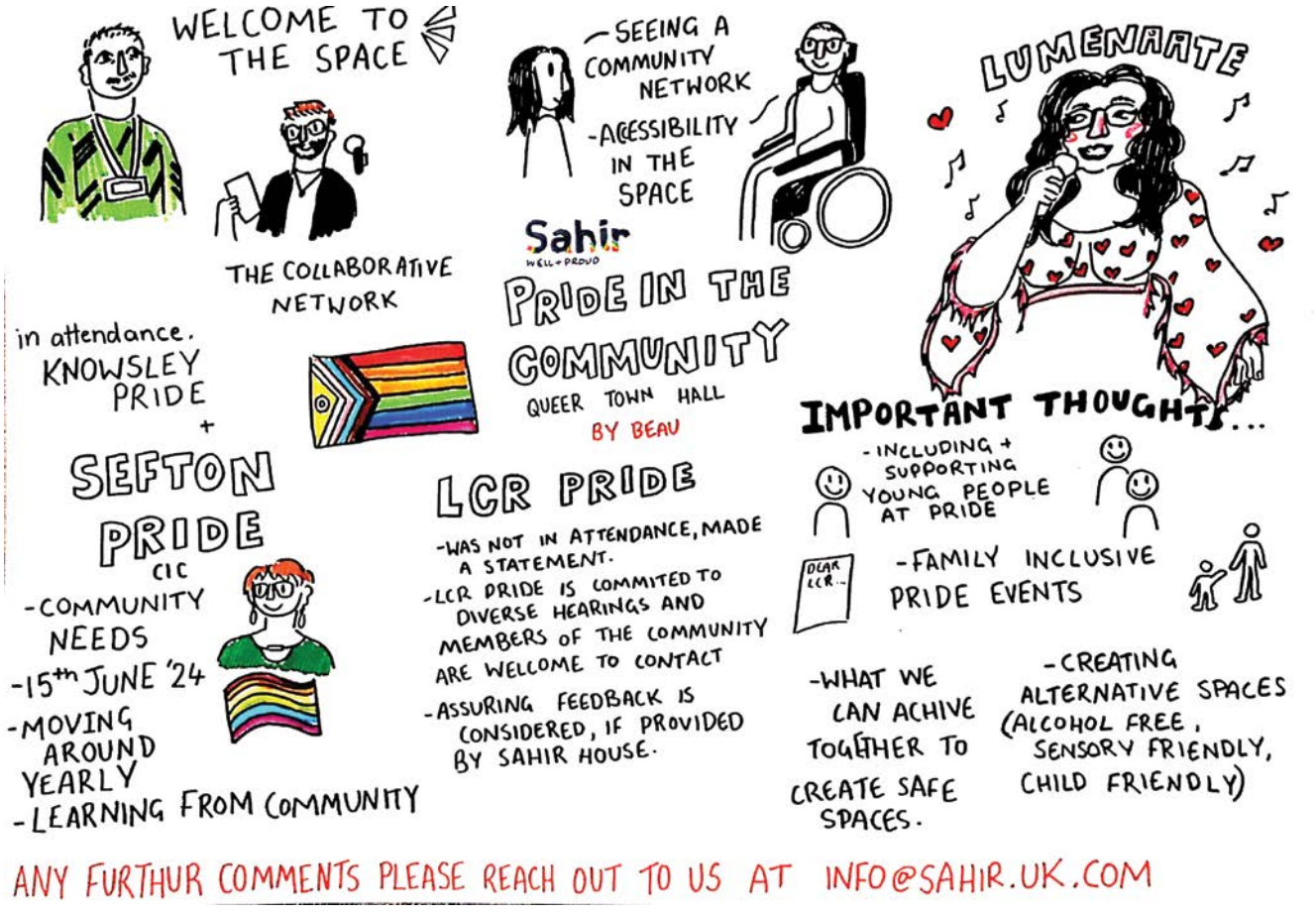
Attendees were randomly allocated tables and were given the opportunity to participate in timed conversations on each of the evening's discussion topics. It was evident throughout that conversations were lively and fruitful. Many attendees took notes, which have been integrated into this document. Breakout discussions were consolidated into a large group exchange where community members focused on key points, calls to action, suggestions, and concerns.

In addition to an open "dry" bar, all attendees were treated to a delicious assortment of cakes, along with coffee and tea. The event showcased poetry and musical performances by Lumenaate, a talented queer singer-songwriter and creative from Merseyside, who contributed to the uplifting atmosphere. Beau from Comics Youth CIC also joined us to create the visually engaging minutes that punctuate this report.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our volunteers, Mark and Marc, who facilitated the evening, and to Pierce for generously offering his BSL interpreting skills.

Just like our first Queer Town Hall, attendees were encouraged to exchange contact information, share resources, and pledge to maintain collaboration and act beyond the event.

"The Queer Town Hall was fantastic! Loved volunteering and can't wait for the next one!"
QTH Attendee



Key Takeaways

Our Queer Town Hall event generated a wealth of insights, perspectives, and recommendations from attendees. Discussions were lively and challenging but overwhelming constructive and focussed on positive change.

Key takeaways

Embracing Pride as a protest:

- We must do more to recognise Pride's roots as a protest movement, emphasising the ongoing need for activism and advocacy to address systemic issues facing the LGBTQ+ community.
- We must do more to engage in local and national LGBTQ+ activism efforts, such as advocating for LGBTQ+ rights legislation or supporting grassroots organisations working for social change.
- We must be mindful of the importance of intersectional activism - recognising the interconnectedness of LGBTQ+ rights with other social justice movements, such as racial justice and gender equality.

Upholding a community-centred approach to Pride:

- We must advocate for Pride events that prioritise the voices and needs of our local LGBTQ+ community, including marginalised and underrepresented groups.
- We encourage Pride Event Organisers to more comprehensively involve community members in their planning and decision-making processes, ensuring events are inclusive, welcoming, and representative of diverse identities and experiences.
- We highlight the importance of centring the experiences of transgender and non-binary individuals, people of colour, and other marginalised communities within the LGBTQ+ umbrella.

Enhancing accessibility for Pride celebrations and demonstrations:

- Pride Event Organisers ought to proactively consult with disability advocates and community members to identify and address barriers to accessibility.
- Practical steps that improve accessibility at Pride events should be prioritised – including providing accessible transportation options, offering quiet spaces for individuals with sensory sensitivities, and ensuring venues are wheelchair accessible.
- The importance of language accessibility in events and Pride initiatives is often underestimated. It's crucial to make the inclusion of features like BSL interpretation and multilingual materials standard practice.
- Financial inclusion is a noted as a significant barrier to accessing Pride for more many vulnerable and underserved aspects of our community.

Supporting LGBTQ+ charities, community groups, and queer-owned businesses:

- We underline the importance of Pride events being positioned to help support and shine a spotlight LGBTQ+ organisations who play a vital role in providing resources, services, and spaces for the community.
- We must do more to frequent queer-owned businesses, volunteer with LGBTQ+ charities, and donate to community organisations that support LGBTQ+ individuals. Not just during Pride month.
- We must continue to discuss strategies for building stronger and more authentic partnerships between Pride Event Organisers and local LGBTQ+ groups to amplify support and resources within the community.

Discussion Highlights

We are Pride:

Together, we delved into the essence of Pride. Our discussions underscored Pride as more than just a term or a singular annual event. We agreed that Pride embodies the struggles and successes of our collective journey. We explored how Pride serves as a platform for our shared history, amplifying our voices and addressing issues dear to us. Through dialogue, we celebrated the diversity within our community while emphasising the unity that binds us together.

Remembering our history:

In our conversations, we revisited the Liverpool City Region's remarkable LGBTQ+ history, recognising the resilience and activism that have defined our community for over five decades. Together, we honoured those who bravely faced the HIV/AIDS crisis and those who continue to support individuals living with HIV today. We reflected on the pivotal protests against Section 28 and paid tribute to the memory of Michael Causer, acknowledging the challenges we have overcome and those we still face.

Leading the change, we want to see:

Together, we explored our role as catalysts for change within our community and society. Through dialogue and shared insights, we identified opportunities to advocate for inclusive policies and challenge systemic discrimination. We affirmed our commitment to leading by example, driving progress and creating a more equitable future for all. We agreed that we must lead the change we want to see in our community.

Fostering collaboration and solidarity:

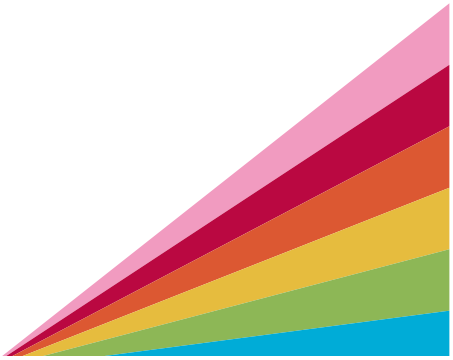
Our discussions highlighted the importance of collaboration and solidarity within the LGBTQ+ community. Together, we recognised the strength that comes from forging alliances across diverse backgrounds and identities. We were very honest in noting the fractures and factions prevalent across our community. We committed to standing together in solidarity, amplifying our voices, and confronting shared challenges as one united community.

Supporting LGBTQ+ Youth:

Together, we addressed the importance of supporting LGBTQ+ youth and providing them with the resources they need to thrive. Many of us lamented about the lack of investment in LGBTQ+ youth projects, initiatives and services. Many of us also championed the amazing work some of our local organisations are doing despite immense difficulties. Through dialogue and shared experiences, we explored ways to create safe spaces, offer mentorship, and advocate for inclusive education and healthcare. We affirmed our commitment to empowering LGBTQ+ youth and ensuring they have the support they need to reach their full potential.

Championing local queer artists and performers:

In our conversations, we applauded the invaluable contributions of local queer artists and performers to our cultural landscape. We celebrated the incredible talent and passion present across the Liverpool City Region. Together, we recognised the power of art as a tool for expression and activism within our community. We discussed ways to champion their talents and support their endeavours, fostering visibility, representation, and dialogue within our community and beyond.



Community Voices

Throughout the pilot event, attendees shared a range of perspectives, experiences, and feedback regarding their relationship with Pride and what it means to them.

The notes below are transcribed from note cards collected during the event, corresponding to each of the key themes we discussed.

Pride is a Protest

"Pride is both a protest and a celebration. Celebrating how far we have come, and raising awareness about issues we face today like self ID and conversation therapy."

"Let's be clear about what we're standing up for during Pride."

"At Pride, everyone should feel safe and uplifted."

"Your identity matters at Pride."

"Pride should be a safe positive environment."

"Let's open up and share our thoughts and ideas proactively."

"Pride is about changing hearts, minds, and society."

"We're fighting for the right to be ourselves at Pride."

"We need to keep the spirit of Pride alive all year long."

"Sadly, hate crimes are on the rise."

"Our community's history is worth remembering and sharing."

"Do our young people grasp the protest side of Pride? How can we help them see it?"

"The religious block at Liverpool Pride is worrying."

"We shouldn't shy away from discussing today's politics at Pride."

"Pride speakers should speak to all of us."

"We need better communication within our community about Pride."

"Don't put our LGBTQ+ charities behind the Police and big businesses during the March!"

Maintaining a community-centred approach to Pride

"Pride is a community event. Let's Do It!!!"

"Should Pride be political, non-political, or both? I think it should be a mix of both."

"Utilising council or free community spaces for Pride events is a great idea. It makes them more accessible to everyone."

"Sharing knowledge of inclusion practices is key. We want everyone to feel welcome at Pride."

"Training the community to organise events themselves would make Pride truly community-driven."

"We need Pride events for families."

"We need more advertising around Pride, especially on the Wirral."

"Celebrating Pride History Month would be a meaningful way to reflect on our progress."

"We need a Silver Pride for older LGBTQ+ individuals."

"Veterans Pride is a great addition to our Pride calendar."

"Creating a network to share LGBTQ+ resources would be a smart move."

"Including more local talent in Pride events would showcase our community's diversity."

"We need to remember Michael Causer."

"Why is there no Youth Zone at Pride?"

"Could we arrange a group with other cities to discuss their events?"

General Points

"Can we establish a directory encompassing all queer bars, restaurants, cafes, and businesses, distributed via email or leaflets."

"Can we create a directory or network that connects all organisations and businesses."

"Businesses need to be more invested in Pride if they use our flag."

"Businesses using our flag should donate towards local LGBTQ+ charities"

Improving accessibility for Pride celebrations and demonstrations

"People with accessibility needs should be consulted."

"Pride should be affordable for everyone."

"We should make the most of our community and commercial connections."

"Pride is more than just club culture."

"What community spaces can we use?"

"Can we provide quiet spaces and counselling?"

"Revisit Stanley Street use."

"A centralised volunteer system could be established for outreach when needed."

"Use Stanley Street more."

"Ensure events are easily accessible by public transport."

"A dedicated community hall style space during Pride would be great."

"A notebook for events would help."

"Make Pride events disabled-friendly."

"Mental health support should be available. Sound Out."

"Physical accessibility in our Pride Quarter in Liverpool is NOT walkable or disabled friendly."

"Can we have notice boards to inform where events are taking place and at what time."

"Involve disabled people in planning events."

"Let's have someone with disability needs conduct an audit to assess the accessibility of all Pride venues."

"Venues should have some sort of advertising to let the community know what access they have."

"More wellbeing support at Pride is needed."

"Not so much alcohol focused. Could there be an alcohol-free zone, with the same positive energy pride brings?"

"More family days and events please. Drag story time and kids sing along."

Pride's role in championing LGBTQ+ charities, community groups, and queer-owned businesses

"Every Pride event should stand behind our local LGBTQ+ charities."

"We need to remember our history."

"All charities, not just LGBTQ+ charities, should be included."

"LCR Pride should financially support smaller Pride events."

"Pride could engage gay-owned businesses to sponsor youth areas."

"Could pride be a ticketed event?"

"Tickets could be priced at £5, with free admission for those under 18."

"If people knew that ticket proceeds were supporting local LGBTQ+ charities, they'd be more inclined to buy them."

"Some agencies have felt supported by LCR Pride in the past. However, other organisations, especially those supporting young people and families, feel left out."

"Consider setting up a market with organisations like Citizens Advice."

"Encourage charity-to-charity and business-to-business sharing of knowledge and skills."

"Introduce a loyalty card for LGBTQ+ businesses that gives users rewards, with charities and businesses contributing."

"Explore potential partnerships with the Council."

"Seek financial contributions from local businesses for local LGBTQ+ charities not for Pride events."

"Utilise the multi-functional space on Stanley Street to its fullest potential."

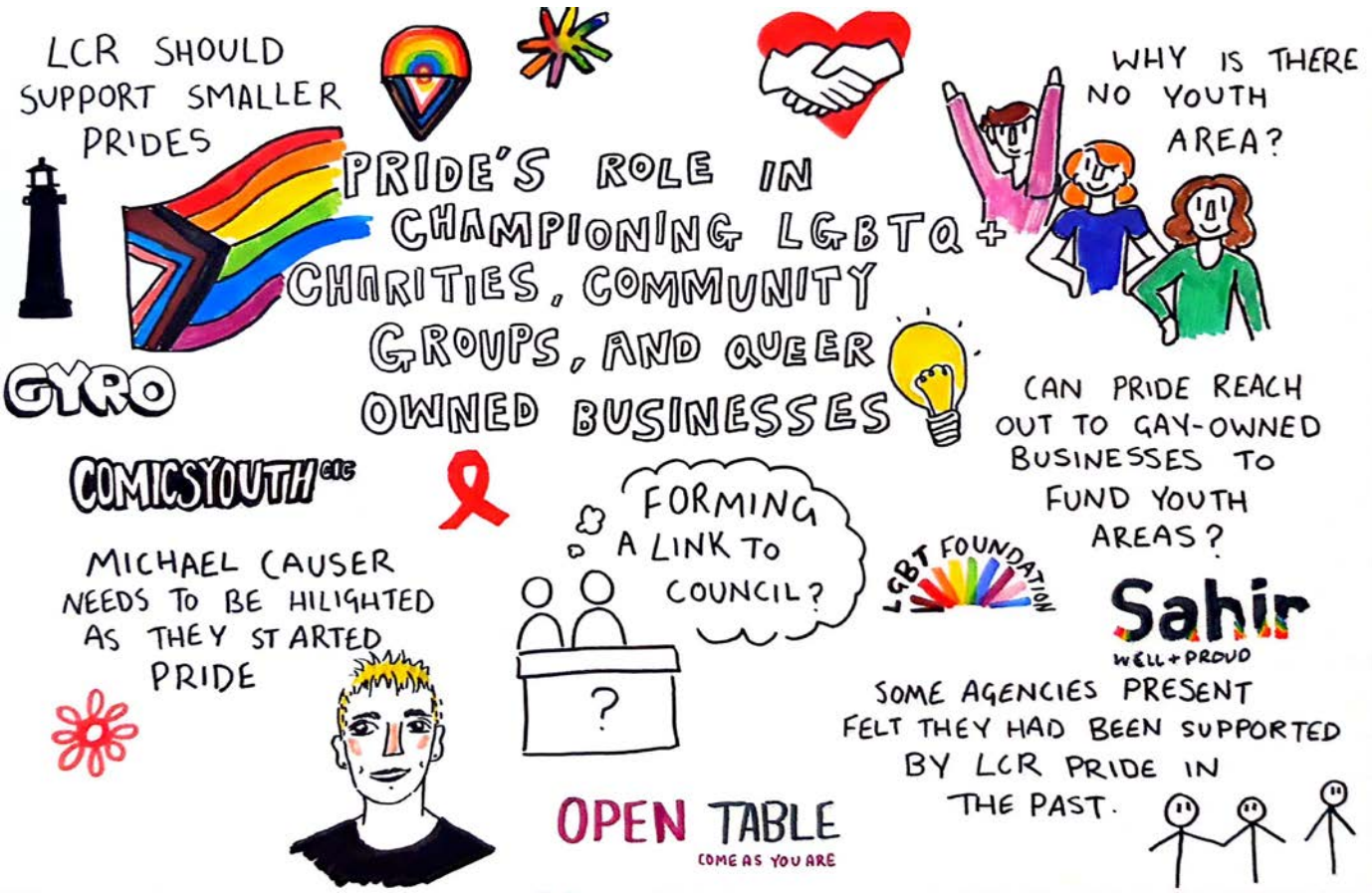
"Look at other Prides. What do they do that we don't?"

"Business e.g. bars and clubs should give back a percentage of their revenue created over Pride back in to the community. Whether it be a contribution to charities within the community or the Council asking for a percentage of revenue over the Pride period."

"Support businesses that support us."

Support friendly places: places that support us should get support back."

Recommendations



Pride Event Organisers

- **Empower March Participation:** Ensure that the Pride march remains a central and empowered aspect of the event, providing a platform for individuals and groups to express their activism and advocate for LGBTQ+ rights. Encourage diverse participation and amplify the voices of marginalised groups.
- **Lead with Local LGBTQ+ Representation:** Ensure local LGBTQ+ charities, groups, and organisations take the lead in Pride marches, showcasing their work and priorities at the forefront of the event.
- **Establish a Protest Zone:** Designate a specific area within Pride events where individuals and groups can peacefully protest, ensuring that the tradition of activism and protest is honoured and maintained.
- **Accessibility Audit:** Conduct a thorough accessibility audit of Pride event venues and activities, including but not limited to wheelchair access, sign language interpreters, quiet spaces for sensory needs, and accessible transportation options. Be transparent with audit findings and necessary implement improvements.
- **Community Consultation Sessions:** Organise community consultation sessions leading up to Pride where individuals and groups can voice their opinions, concerns, and suggestions. Actively listen to feedback and incorporate it into event planning to ensure that people feel heard and valued.
- **Community Advisory Board:** Form a Pride Community Advisory Board comprising diverse voices from the LGBTQ+ community to provide feedback, suggestions, and guidance on event planning and execution. This ensures that Pride remains community-centred and reflects the needs and desires of its constituents.

- **Charity & Business Partnerships:** Forge more formal partnerships with local LGBTQ+ charities and businesses, providing them with opportunities to showcase their work and offerings during Pride. Allocate space for charity booths and prioritise the involvement of LGBTQ+ owned businesses in vendor selection.
- **Diverse Programming**: Diversify event programming to more authentically encompass various facets of the LGBTQ+ community, including but not limited to different gender identities, sexual orientations, racial and ethnic backgrounds, abilities, and ages. Incorporate panels, workshops, performances, and activities that represent and celebrate this diversity.
- **Prioritise Local Artists & Performers:** Commission and feature local LGBTQ+ artists and performers prominently throughout the Pride event, celebrating their talent and contributions to the community.
- **Historical Exhibits & Talks**: Incorporate educational elements into the event to honour and remember the history of the LGBTQ+ rights movement and most importantly the Liverpool City Region's unique LGBTQ+ history. This can include historical exhibits, talks by activists and historians, and interactive displays that highlight significant milestones and struggles faced by the community.
- **Documentation and Archiving:** Document the event through various mediums such as photographs, videos, and written accounts. Establish an archival system to preserve these records for future generations, ensuring that the history and legacy of Pride are not forgotten. Additionally, include opportunities for attendees to contribute their own stories and memories to the archive.
- **Youth Involvement:** Actively engage and empower LGBTQ+ youth in all aspects of Pride planning and execution, including but not limited to programming, outreach, and leadership roles. Provide platforms for youth-led initiatives, workshops, and performances to amplify their voices and perspectives within the broader LGBTQ+ community.
- **Revisit Use of Stanley Street:** Consider revisiting the use of Stanley Street as a central hub for Pride events.

Recommendations

Our Community

- **Host Your Own Pride Events:** Take the lead in organising your own Pride events. Whether it is a mini street parade, a pub quiz night, a film screening, or something a bit substantial, by organising grassroots initiatives, you can strengthen community bonds, raise awareness, and showcase the rich tapestry of LGBTQ+ culture across the Liverpool City Region.
- **Collaborate with Pride Organisers:** Reach out to Pride event organisers to offer support and collaboration. Share your ideas, resources, and skills to contribute to the planning and execution of Pride events. By working together, we can create more inclusive and vibrant celebrations that reflect the diversity of the LGBTQ+ community.
- **Donate to Local LGBTQ+ Charities:** Donate to local LGBTQ+ charities and organisations that provide essential services and support to the community. Whether it is financial contributions, volunteer work, or donating goods, your support can make a significant impact on the lives of LGBTQ+ individuals in your area.
- **Donate to Pride Events:** Contribute financially to Pride events through donations or sponsorship opportunities. Your support helps cover event costs, ensures accessibility, and allows organisers to host diverse programming that reflects the needs and interests of the LGBTQ+ community.
- **Organise Community Fundraisers**: Host fundraisers and events to raise money for local LGBTQ+ charities. Whether it is a bake sale, a drag show, or a community art auction, organising your own events can help generate funds and awareness for important causes while fostering a sense of community spirit.

- **Actively Support Pride Events:** Attend Pride events in your community and actively participate in the festivities. Show your support by volunteering your time, promoting events on social media, and encouraging friends and family to join in. Your presence and enthusiasm help create a sense of unity and solidarity within the LGBTQ+ community.
- **Promote Diversity & Inclusion:** Continue to advocate for diversity and inclusion within Pride events by encouraging organisers to amplify marginalised voices and prioritise representation from all segments of the LGBTQ+ community.
- **Engage in Advocacy Efforts:** Get involved in advocacy efforts to support LGBTQ+ rights and equality. Whether it is lobbying policymakers, participating in rallies and marches, or signing petitions, your voice and activism can help advance social change and create a more inclusive society for all.
- **Educate & Raise Awareness:** Take the initiative to educate yourself and others about LGBTQ+ issues, history, and experiences. Share resources, host educational workshops, and engage in dialogue to raise awareness and promote understanding within your community.
- **Create Safe Spaces:** Foster a culture of inclusivity and acceptance within your own social circles and community spaces. Be an ally to LGBTQ+ individuals by listening to their experiences, challenging discrimination and prejudice, and creating safe and supportive environments where everyone feels welcome and respected.
- **Celebrate Pride Year-Round:** Extend the spirit of Pride by continuing to celebrate and support LGBTQ+ communities throughout the year. Attend events, use LGBTQ+-owned businesses, and engage in ongoing efforts to promote equality and inclusion for all.

Actions taken away by Sahir

In response to community feedback and requests, Sahir has committed to:

1. Organising more community discussions on important matters.

    - We have introduced our ‘Let’s Talk About’ initiative, which facilitates shorter, direct conversations in a safe and inclusive environment. Recent discussions include “Let’s Talk About the Cass Review” and “Let’s Talk About Rwanda (The Safety of Rwanda: Asylum & Immigration Act 2024).”

    - We have promised that if the community shows enough interest and is willing to help raise funds, we will aim to have Queer Town Hall meetings every month instead of every three months.

2. Integrating a new LGBTQ+ directory into our new website, providing a platform for local LGBTQ+ charities, groups, organisations, and businesses to connect and showcase their offerings. Our new website will be launched before July.

3. Organising an accessible and alcohol-free Pride event in central Liverpool following the Pride march on Saturday, 27th July. Further details will be provided soon

4. Seeking interest in hosting a ‘Big Gay Sports Day’ during Pride season, with as many LGBTQ+ sports clubs from the Liverpool City Region as we can gather. Keep an eye out for updates!

Forthcoming Events & Signposting

Forthcoming events

The Collaborative Network Event
LGBTQIA+ Wellbeing in the City
6th June 6.30pm – 8.30pm @ The Brink

Sahir Accessible Pride Event
27th July 2pm – TBC @ The Brink
More details to come – keep an eye on our socials!

Sefton Pride
Saturday 15th June 2024
More details to come – keep an eye on socials!

New Brighton Pride
Saturday 24th August 2024
More details to come – keep an eye on socials!

The following events are still to be confirmed…
Liverpool Trans Pride 2024
Trans Day of Remembrance 2024
LGBTQ+ Veterans Pride 2025

Signposting

Diversity Role Models
If you would like to become a volunteer role model, or facilitator, with Diversity Role Models and make a difference in schools across the North West by sharing your personal lived experience then head to their volunteering page on the website to find out more information
www.diversityrolemodels.org/volunteer

IN Club
The IN Club is Liverpool's first openly inclusive networking group, with a sole purpose of bringing business owners, professionals, charities and public sector employees in the LGBTQIA+ Community together with their allies and supporters. If you would like more information on their upcoming events, please head to their Facebook page
https://www.facebook.com/inclubliverpool/

Spirit Level
Hosting a regular peer support group in the Liverpool City Centre, Spirit Level offers a friendly home for trans, queer, intersex and androgyne people, the gender-variant and gender-questioning. They are also welcome to the friends, families, carers and supporters of trans people and the trans community. More information regarding their support groups and resources can be found on their website **https://spiritlevel.org.uk/**

GYRO
GYRO is a collection of youth groups (separated by age) for young people who identify themselves as: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Trans*, or who are Questioning their sexuality or gender identity (LGBTQ+). You can find out more information on their website
https://www.ypas.org.uk/what-we-do/well-being-services/gyro/

Trans Support Service (TSS)
Trans Support Services is provided by Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust, supporting transgender, and gender non-conforming people aged 18 upwards living in Liverpool, Sefton, and Knowsley. More information on their services and how to access can be found here
https://www.merseycare.nhs.uk/our-services/liverpool/trans-support-service

Resources & Support

Resources for LGBTQ+ individuals in the Liverpool City Region who may have been the victim of a crime or hate incident:

Sahir House

Sahir House offers support services specifically tailored to the LGBTQ+ community, including 1:1 practical support, confidential counselling, advocacy, peer support and, community engagement.

Phone: 0151 673 1972
Email: info@sahir.uk.com
Website: https://sahir.org.uk

Galop

Galop provides support for LGBTQ+ people who have experienced hate crimes, domestic abuse, and sexual violence. They offer advice, advocacy, and assistance in reporting incidents.

National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0800 999 5428
Email: help@galop.org.uk
Website: https://galop.org.uk

Citizens Advice Liverpool

Citizens Advice Liverpool offers support and advice to individuals who have experienced hate incidents or crimes, including LGBTQ+ individuals. They can provide information on legal rights, options for recourse, and practical assistance.

Phone: 0151 522 1400 ext. 5006
Email: lgbthatecrime@caliverpool.org.uk
Website: https://www.citizensadviceliverpool.org.uk

Axess. - Butterfly Clinic

The Butterfly clinic is the axess sexual health clinic for trans and non-binary folk.

Phone: 0300 323 1300
Email: butterfly@liverpoolft.nhs.uk
Website: https://www.axess.clinic/axess-services/butterfly-clinic/

YPAS GYRO

GYRO is a collection of youth groups (separated by age) for young people who identify themselves as: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Trans*, or who are Questioning their sexuality or gender identity (LGBTQ+).

Phone: 0151 702 6087
Email: gyro@ypas.org.uk
Website: https://www.ypas.org.uk/what-we-do/well-being-services/gyro/

The Collaborative Network

The Collaborative Network CIC is a subscription-based community support network and sign-posting service that connects businesses, business leaders and employees together with other professional services to allow an LGBTQ+ focused approach regarding LGBTQ+ matters which arise in the workplace

Email: info@thecollaborativenetwork.co.uk
Website: https://www.thecollaborativenetwork.co.uk/

Fighting With Pride

Fighting With Pride (FWP) is a military charity, created on the 20th anniversary of the complete lifting of the ban on LGBT+ service – the 'gay ban'. Created to support LGBT+ Veterans, serving personnel and their families, particularly those who were affected by the 'gay ban', ultimately lifted on 12th January 2000.

Email: info@fightingwithpride.org.uk
Website: https://www.fightingwithpride.org.uk/

Switchboard LGBTQ+ Helpline

Switchboard LGBT+ Helpline is the national LGBTQIA+ support line, and offers support for anyone, anywhere in the country, at any point in their journey discussing anything related to sexuality and gender identity.

Phone: 0800 0119 100 E
mail: hello@switchboard.lgbt
Website: https://switchboard.lgbt/how-we-can-help

Mermaids

Mermaids is a support service which supports trans, non-binary and gender questioning children and young people, and the important people in their lives.

Phone: 0808 801 0400
Website: https://mermaidsuk.org.uk/

Conclusion

It was truly heart-warming to witness the turnout of our community members at the Queer Town Hall, coming together to discuss “Pride in the Community”. A big thank you to everyone who took the time to be part of this evening and engage in the meaningful conversations we had. Your presence and contributions made this gathering truly special and worthwhile.

Throughout the event, participants engaged in meaningful dialogue, sharing personal stories and fostering a sense of solidarity. It was evident that the topics discussed resonated deeply with attendees, sparking thoughtful reflections and calls to action.

As we reflect on the discussions and outcomes, it is clear that the Town Hall has laid a foundation for ongoing dialogue and collaboration. Moving forward, we must harness this momentum to drive positive change and strengthen our community’s bonds.

While challenges remain, the Town Hall served as a reminder of the resilience and determination within our community. By continuing to amplify marginalised voices and advocating for inclusivity, we can build a more equitable and supportive community for all.

Sahir remains readily available to support individuals and groups within our community whenever needed. Please do n0t hesitate to reach out if you require assistance, wish to explore new ideas or initiatives, or are interested in collaboration. Your input and involvement are invaluable to us.

HELP US BE THERE

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