

## Steven Aliss – The place to be yourself

Santander is a place where everyone can be themselves and we encourage this in our communities too, through sponsorship and celebration of events like Pride.

It was something so appealing to **Steven Aliss, Customer Experience Advisor**, that he applied for a role with us as soon as the right opportunity came up.

When our employees reflect our customers, we know we have a greater chance of serving their needs.

Steven said: "Pride is an incredibly important event for me – without Exmouth Pride, I'd never have met my boyfriend. It was a moment that has changed my life forever in an amazing way.

"During Pride last year, I saw the sponsorship sticker in the window of the local Exmouth Santander branch and was really intrigued to see such a big company supporting what's a relatively small event. This really showed me it was more than just a token gesture.

### Communities >>

"Sponsoring large Pride events is an admirable thing to do, but I believe Santander's sponsorship of small events is really fantastic. These events are so important for the communities they serve because they're safe spaces for people to come out and truly be themselves."

Steven added: "Shortly after Pride, a job opportunity arose at the Exmouth branch and having seen the Pride sponsorship and the giant Pride sticker in the branch window, I couldn't apply fast enough.

"My main rationale was because I knew that if I got the job, I'd be working somewhere where I know I'm safe, valued and I don't have to hide any part of me.

"Being able to wear my Santander Pride flame badge proudly and to work with individuals and for a business that accept me for who I am is an amazing feeling."

