

Learning Disability Day Support National Connections October 2022

In October 2022 the People-Led Care Team hosted the second National Connections Group of phase 3 of the New Models for Learning Disability Day Support Collaborative. These events provide a platform to gather and promote insights around new ways of working and alternative models of day opportunities.

This report provides a summary of the organisations who presented and the key learning points from their presentations.

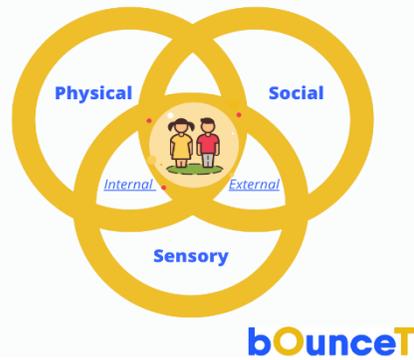
bOunceT

Callum McKinnon, BOunceT Founder & Specialist Occupational Therapist

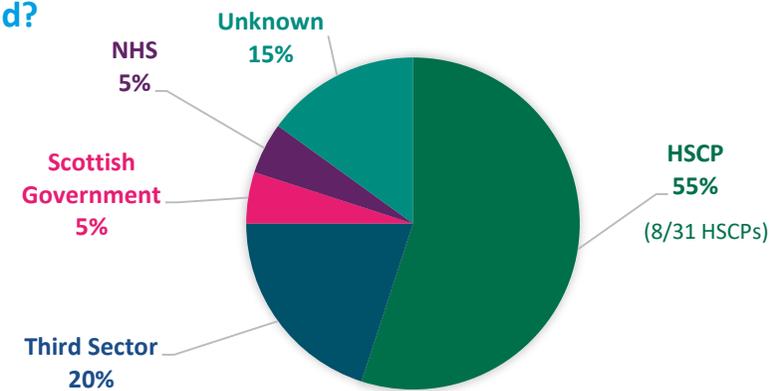
bOunceT is a 7-day a week disability service in Stirling. It aims to **improve the quality of life and participation in meaningful occupations** for children and adults with disabilities, and their family, in Scotland.

The service doesn't have an eligibility criteria. Instead it offers a tiered approach service provision:

- Specialist:** OT assessment & intervention
- Play Leader Led:** room access and assessment with play
- OT on Call:** "Help" Advice from an OT
- Family Led:** Room access, play ideas, & "meaningful" service



Who attended?



Gig Buddies

Molly Tavella, Gig Buddies Glasgow Project Coordinator

Gig Buddies is part of the [Stay up Late Campaign](#), founded by the band Heavy Load.

Heavy Load wanted to address the inequalities people with a learning disability or autism experience in accessing night time opportunities.

Gig Buddies is a project that supports people with a learning disability to **enjoy all the great things going on in their community, especially live music** through:

- Pairing people with volunteer buddies who share their passion**
- Working with partners to make local events more welcoming**



Donne the Rabbit Hole Music Festival

Learning Disability Day Support – National Connections October 2022

bOunceT and Gig Buddies are both examples of alternative support models people can access as a way of achieving their outcomes:

bOunceT – Social enterprise model

- Applying for grant funding is a continuous process, which enables fully funded or reduced-cost services, and business development.
- Can link with multiple customer streams e.g. [SDS](#), membership model, other charities and, an approved tender for a local authority.
- Developing bOunceT in a box, similar to the [Talking Mats Model](#), which can be replicated in other areas of Scotland.

Gig Buddies – Volunteering model

- Funded through the [Thera Trust](#), the [National Lottery Community Fund](#), and [West Lothian Council](#).
- All volunteers receive extensive up-to date training in supporting people with a learning disability, training can be personalised for those with more complex needs.
- Collaborates with other care providers to ensure people with more complex support needs have equal opportunity to participate.

Despite having different models of service provision, both bOunceT and Gig Buddies experience similar challenges around perceptions of what their service can offer, and how they can collaborate with HSCPs.

Frequently these challenges boil down to different perceptions of risk. But what is the risk of not doing something?

How to enable people to access alternative supports:

Individual level:

- Build your knowledge of **what opportunities there are locally**, and how people can be enabled to access them.
- Start with the person** rather than the intervention you can provide.

Organisation level:

- For service managers, consider how processes can be made less rigidly structured to **enable staff to think and work differently**.
- All leaders can create **the space for reflection** and the sharing of learning between staff, both internally, and with external collaborators.

National level:

- Policy needs to give permission and direction** around risk enablement to improve personalisation, creativity, and collaboration.
- Policy makers **share knowledge of inequality, and how it can be addressed**, across policy directorates and portfolios.

Audience Feedback

“Multi-model approach of bOunceT and the general focus of both speakers not being diagnosis dependent.”

“Gig Buddies sounds amazing and something I’d be really keen to explore in a North Ayrshire context.”

“I think this is a really good reminder that fitting in with what we already do is not what we should be aiming for.”

How to access and connect

- Access the presentation content, responses from stakeholders and our tools are resources from [our website](#)
- The next National Learning Event will take place on **24 November 2022**.
- The next National Connections Session will take place on **16 February 2023**.

You can find out more about our current progress at the [ihub website](#).