

A vibrant, low-key photograph of a nightclub scene. In the foreground, a person in a red jacket is partially visible on the left. In the center, a person in a black t-shirt with a colorful graphic is dancing. To the right, a person in a black jacket with a studded sleeve is dancing. The background is filled with other people and a disco ball hanging from the ceiling. The text "STAY UP LATE" is overlaid in large, bold, yellow letters with a pink outline and a yellow polka-dot pattern. Below it, the words "ANNUAL REVIEW" and "2025" are in white boxes with black text. At the bottom, a white box with black text reads "Celebrating another year of staying up late".

STAY UP LATE

ANNUAL

REVIEW

2025

Celebrating another year
of staying up late



What a year it's been! From late night gigs to sports activities, 2025 has been packed with good times, laughter and connection.

Across all our projects, we've seen more people than ever getting out, meeting new friends, and living the lives they choose.

This year we've made new matches through Gig Buddies and Sports Buddies, launched new partnerships, and continued to campaign for change - supporting people with learning disabilities and autistic people to enjoy freedom and fun in their social lives

We couldn't have done it without the amazing volunteers, funders, partners and supporters who make Stay Up Late what it is. Thank you for helping us keep the nights alive and full of joy.

Here's to another year of friendship, inclusion and staying up late!



— The Stay Up Late Team

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

New matches made 45

1-2-1 nights out enjoyed 1,680

1-2-1 sports sessions 168

New projects launched 1

Total matched pairs 140

Volunteer training sessions 9

Social events hosted 15

New partnerships 9

IMPACT ON PARTICIPANTS

100% of buddies said they have enjoyed having a Gig Buddy in 2025

87% of buddies say that they see their buddy as a friend

79% of buddies said they feel less lonely since having a buddy

79% of buddies say they feel more confident in going out since having a buddy

85% of buddies feel they have more say in their social life since having a buddy

IMPACT ON VOLUNTEERS

96% of volunteers feel that their life has been enriched since becoming a volunteer



HIGHLIGHTS & EVENTS

Monthly socials across Sussex

Stay Up Late Week

Move to a new co-working space

Amaze's women's group

Brighton University Workshop

Sunderland Care and Support training

AIMS Media Delhi webinar

Brighton MET talk

Gig Buddies Exeter launch

Social Care Protest

Dublin's first Volunteer Training

Penrith's first Volunteer Training

UCL Gig Buddies Research Project



GB DUBLIN'S FIRST VOLUNTEER TRAINING



SENSORY FRIENDLY GIG AT DALTONS, BRIGHTON

SOCIAL CARE PROTEST



GAMES SOCIAL AT PUZZLE BORED



STORIES FROM OUR COMMUNITY

Out with my Gig Buddy partner in crime at The Hope last night where we celebrated going to our 24th gig together. That's right; it's been 2 years since Michael made his debut onto the local scene and what a legend he's become eh? Many thanks to all the promoters, venues, and bands who have put him on their guest lists which has made it possible for him to get out, stay up late and party. And also to all you lovely gig-goers, photographers and bar staff who've made him feel soooo welcome. Your little chats and big hugs make him feel like he's a very important dude which he is of course. We're getting all set for next month's big night out! - Michael's buddy Graeme

STORIES FROM OUR COMMUNITY

Just wanted to let you know that Jacob was out again with Ollie at a gig in Worthing last night. As always, he came home buzzing and feeling very good about himself. Could I take a moment of your time to thank you again for arranging this. Ollie is a fantastic lad and a really excellent role model and influence for Jacob. He is emotionally intelligent and is always happy to explain and model the unspoken rules of social situations for Jacob. We are extremely grateful for his presence in Jacob's world. Thank you again. - Jacob's family member



PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

Ticketmaster

Tickets For Good

Puzzle Bored

We Out Here

Kerrang! Radio

Resident Records

Franco Manca

Speak Out

University
College London

The Hope & Ruin

- supporting accessible live music
- making gigs affordable for volunteers
- hosting our social event and comedy fundraiser
- festival tickets for buddies
- Showcasing GB for Mental Health Awareness Week
- donating money from Record Store Day sales
- supplying our volunteer training sessions with free pizza
- providing space for volunteer training sessions
- Gig Buddies research project
- Constant fundraising and support



STAFF

Katie Windsor - Operations Director

Holly Bell - Office and Finance Manager

Luke Ellis - Gig Buddies and Comms Coordinator

Malcolm Hill - Gig Buddies Coordinator

Heppni Wilkinson - Research Assistant

Jason O'Neil - Stay Up Late Assistant

Rohan Lowe - Stay Up Late Assistant

David Parker - Freelance Fundraising Consultant

TRUSTEES

Simon Hughes - Chair

Donald Reid - Treasurer

Jamie Claxton - Trustee

Bobby Sandbach - Trustee

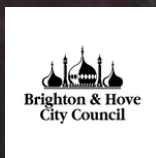
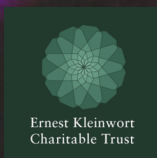
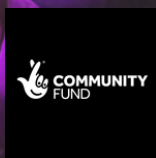
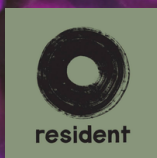
Sarah Holmes - Trustee

Leah Price-Cox - Trustee

Harri Oliver - Trustee

Will Davies - Trustee

FUNDERS



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

Looking ahead to 2026, we're excited to keep supporting people with learning disabilities to live the social lives they choose through both Gig Buddies and Sports Buddies. We'll be growing our staff team so we can create even more fantastic matches and support people to get out to the gigs, games, and social events they love. It's set to be another year full of new friendships and great nights out. Here are some of the things we're already looking forward to in the new year...

New team members

2026 Summer festivals

UCL Gig Buddies Research
Project Results

Learning Disability and
Autism Leaders Awards



A photograph of a diverse group of people at a social gathering, likely a party or event. A large, illuminated disco ball hangs from the ceiling. The scene is lit with purple and blue light. Several people in the crowd have their arms raised, some giving thumbs up. The image is framed by colorful geometric overlays: a pink triangle with a white speckle pattern in the top left, a pink triangle with white abstract lines in the top right, and a red and white striped triangle in the bottom right. A yellow rectangular box with the text 'THANK YOU' is centered over the crowd. Below it, a white rectangular box contains a message of gratitude in a typewriter font.

THANK YOU

A big thank you to all
buddies, volunteers,
staff, funders, and
supporters who make Stay
Up Late possible