Jacqui:

“I can do whatever I want but that’s only possible if I have the right support.”

“At home my local council pays for a carer who helps me in and out of bed.

“I’ve heard it a lot that oh Jacqui your super independent and I’m like, I’m super independent once I’m in my wheelchair, take me out of my wheelchair and I can’t reach certain things”

“I have an issue, most care agencies will only send carers until a certain time of the night, it means I’m forced to have a very early bedtime.”

“The first suggestion was 7, and then they were so gracious and said 8 o’clock, and now it's kind of between 8.30 and 9.”

“It’s a common problem for disabled people but it can be an embarrassing one.”

“If someone wants to give me like a headlining slot which is normally at like 10 or 11 o'clock at night, I have to go do you know what can I go on like super early at like 8 o’clock. If someone has a birthday party it's the same thing I have to kind of come show my face and then once it gets to a certain time I like leave. And i think sometimes people think I’m being really rude but I have to go because if I don’t I’m not sleeping today.”

“I’m not the only one struggling to Stay Up Late”

“In Brighton a group of people with learning disabilities are fighting for their right to party. They have the same issue as me, having to leave events early because support workers don’t work late shifts. The Gig Buddies project is rebelling against that.”

Andrew:

“One of the people Michael that I know was at this pub and having a few drinks and the staff turned around to him and said it’s 9 o’clock now we’ve got to go home and it’s not fair”

Berhana:

“Gig Buddies is where your matched up with another person to go to gigs and your supported.”

Jacaqui:

“People with learning disabilities get paired with music fans who have the same taste as them. It means everyone gets to finish their pint in peace”

Harry:

“ Sometimes if we go to the bar and the restaurant and have something to eat there and go for a dance”

Andrew:

“I went to the cinema in the Komedia, and it was Star Wars episode 7, it started at 12 and I got home about half past 2 and I loved it”

Jacqui:

“Berhana never used to go out much but Gig Buddies have changed all of that”

Berhana:

“When I was younger I did spend a lot of time at home, very like, I got really down and had some really down, dark days so now I think I’m making up for it.”