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Small Supports: The What? The Why? The How?

Thursday 6 November 2025

With Neil Crowther and guests



Small Supports
An **NDTi** programme

Foundations in the closure of institutions



It is often said, you must know the past to understand the present, and you need to learn the lessons from the past so as not to make the same mistakes again.

The first **small support organisation**, '*Inclusion Glasgow*' grew from the closure of Lennox castle, an institution for people with intellectual disabilities near Glasgow, Scotland

Read more in this EASPD funded report [HERE](#)

Small Support Organisations

- **Voice:** The person and their loved ones are at the centre – *No Compromise*
- **Relationships:** Investing in positive and supportive relationships
- **Connection:** Matching a team of people with the person
- **Home:** ‘A home of my own’ – Supported Living

Small Support Organisations

- Supporting people with intellectual disabilities, autistic people, people with enduring mental health support needs many of whom have complicated physical impairments/medical support needs.
- A commitment to stay **small** and **local**
- A foundation of **human rights, inclusion** and **being person centred**
- Person centred support plan – personal budget funding
- A flat management structure – everyone knows everyone

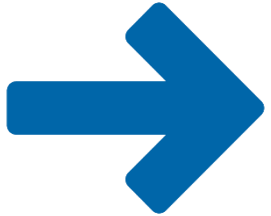
The [NDTi Small Supports Programme](#) supports new organisations to set up, start supporting people and to become sustainable.

For people this means....



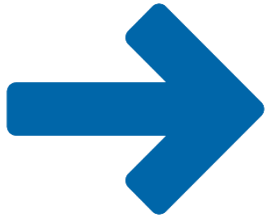
For Hughie....

Twenty years ago, when Hughie moved out, he had 24/7 support ...he now lives with his girlfriend and sees a support worker for a cup of tea for an hour a week



For Mark....

Mark moved out with 2:1 support, fifteen months later he has 1:1 support, a volunteer job, a garden and time to go magnet fishing, in his words he is living his best life



For Dean....

Dean, who had lived on the streets after many failed 'placements', had a dream, he wanted to be able to see wind turbines from his bedroom window ...he can and he is very happy in his home

The evidence is clear....

- Better lives and improved well-being
 - Nine people all reporting in their own words how much their life has improved, how they feel happier and really appreciate their support team
 - Well-being scores improving from an average of 2.6 to 8.3 across 9 people (WELBY Scale)
 - Economic impact – an efficiency of £750,000 per year
- Reduction in support costs
 - For 9 people an average of £28,000 reduction in cost
- Economic impact
 - improved well-being = £750,000 per year efficiency
 - Reduction in incidents for 6 people = £950,000 efficiency per year across all local services

Independent living is for all....

([UNCRPD Article 19 – The Right to Live Independently and to be included in the Community](#))

No-one needs to be left behind!

Person-centred, local and small solutions provide the support
to make this true for everyone

Thank you...



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**Person centred, Local, Small
Solutions**

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