Tennis Foundation’s Survey & Plans for 2017
Journey of the network programme

- **2012 YouGov survey**
  - Lack of profile – \( \frac{3}{4} \) of disabled people didn’t know of a TC near to them
  - Negative perceptions – too fast, too hard, too expensive
  - Charismatic individuals have contributed to engaging & retention of players
- **2012 – 2013** Disability Tennis Hubs
- **2013 – 2016** Disability Tennis Networks
- **Present** - Sport England proposal
Survey methods

Online survey (24th May – 24th June 2016)

- 127 tennis players and parents (participants in Tennis Foundation activities)
  - 85 were players aged 16+
  - 42 were parents/guardians/relatives/carers of players
- 97 tennis coaches, 65 reported coaching disabled people
- 45 venue staff

Ethnographic site visits (July 2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Type of session</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surbiton</td>
<td>Learning disability tennis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrewsbury</td>
<td>Wheelchair tennis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grantham</td>
<td>Wheelchair tennis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sussex</td>
<td>Visually impaired tennis</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Survey results

- Focusing on Sport England/DCMS 5 Key Outcomes:
  - Physical Wellbeing
  - Mental Wellbeing
  - Individual Development
  - Social & Community Development
  - Economic Development
Tennis brings 1 in 5 out of inactivity

36% would **miss the Chief Medical Officer’s guidelines** (150 minutes or more high or medium intensity activity) if not playing tennis.

20% – “**inactive**” if playing tennis and walking were not included.
Tennis has shown to Increase Mental Health Wellbeing

% feeling more...

HAPPY (68%)
CONFIDENT (64%)
CONNECTED (56%)

% feeling less...
LESS FRUSTRATED (46%)
LESS STRESSED (47%)

“I’m a lot calmer. It’s very good for your mental health as well. You can just go out there and blast as many tennis balls as you need. At the end of the session you feel like you’ve done something as well. You have this massive sense of accomplishment at the end of each session.”
Player, wheelchair tennis, Grantham

“He has friends here which he values hugely and he thinks that he can do stuff. This is an environment in which he feels relatively comfortable. He’s much more confident.”
Player’s parent, learning disability tennis, Surbiton
Tennis helping to support Independence & Belonging

% feeling less...
- ISOLATED (63%)

% saying it has had a positive impact on their...
- SOCIAL SUPPORT NETWORK (84%)
- SELF CONFIDENCE (91%)

"I can get there independently. Chuck my things out the car, roll on to court and go and play. That’s what tennis gives you, that independence."
Player, wheelchair tennis, Shrewsbury

"For the first time he felt entitled to watch some of it [Wimbledon]. He never has before. It really was 'I have an interest'."
Player's parent, learning disability tennis, Surbiton
Current barriers to participation

64% of players say they are members of a tennis club

"You have to work out which bit am I appropriate to, which bit fits me? It [the Tennis Foundation website] gave me the wobbles when I looked at it those years ago."
Player, wheelchair tennis, Shrewsbury

Biggest barriers to participation

Finding players of a similar ability (38%)
Cost of lessons (27%)
Travel to the venue (25%)
How can we support venues to be accessible?

How to make venues more accessible

% saying the following

- Better signage for visually impaired individuals: 36%
- Ramp access to sports facilities: 31%
- Hearing loops made available: 24%
- Accessible toilets: 24%
- Accessible changing rooms: 20%
- Ramp access to other facilities: 16%
- Lifts: 9%
Competition

A third of players have never competed

Playing in tournaments

- Yes - every few months or more often (25%)
- Yes - a few times a year (20%)
- Yes - around once a year (9%)
- Yes - but not in the past year (10%)
- Never (36%)
Barriers to competition?

Biggest barriers to participating in competitions

- Not enough taking place nearby (43%)
- Too expensive (27%)
- Do not have time to play (26%)
Recommendations from networks

Tennis Foundation is having a genuine, positive impact for its’ players

TO CONTINUE AND EXPAND YOUR SUCCESS:
MAKE IT EASY, MAKE IT SIMPLE, MAKE IT HEARD ABOUT

- Increase **awareness, promote programmes and competitions**
  - eg. through schools and local networks, centralised list & easier sign up process, clearer website

- **Support** venues and centres (and competitions) with accessibility

- **Badges** to help incentivise and celebrate progression

- **Funding** for VI tennis balls
Tennis Foundation 2017 suggested plans

- Continue with the network programme
- Club engagement – focused & engaged venues in partnership with LTA
- Develop junior WC tennis - supporting pilot venues
- Coaching & Workforce
- Develop a more inclusive competition framework for four impairment groups
Thank you for listening