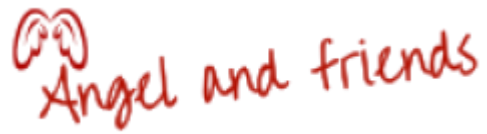


Angel and friends



'Angel and friends' is a community group in Orpington set up since March 2017 to assist SEND families new and existing encountering language, cultural and social barriers by providing information, signposting and encouraging families to get in contact with other families within the borough and also in neighbouring boroughs to reduce isolation as one of its targets and while also increasing awareness within the SEND community. As a result, 'Angel and friends' cater to a growing base of clients within the B.A.M.E (Black Asian Minority Ethnic) community. It has been an incredible experience and 'Angel and friends' feel privileged to be provided an opportunity every day to continue help SEND families in any way possible.

'Angel and friends' assist with the following:

- Providing up to date information on local events and activities for families of children with special needs and disabilities within the borough of Bromley by liaising with other community groups and charities.
- Providing emotional support to families facing challenges experienced with caring for individuals with special needs and disabilities.
- Providing a 'parents forum' online and via a drop-in session for 3 hours each week.
- Providing information and support on grant applications for families in need of a grant to fund short breaks and respite and certain emergencies.
- Signposting families who require specific information and assistance to relevant organisations and the local authority.

Aims and objectives

Aims

- To ensure that information is accessible via various means online, in person (walk in surgery sessions), by telephone (presently through a mobile contact number) and via email.
- It is Angel and friends' aim to bridge the gap between local authorities, organisations and families of individuals with special needs requiring information and emotional support equally creating a sense of belonging to a caring community therefore eliminating isolation.
- To improve and set up links and access to means which assist with the everyday challenges of caring for individuals with special needs and learning disabilities.

Objectives

- To provide a medium, a source of testimonials, experiences and advice based on real life events.

- To assist with providing information relevant and bespoke to each child in relation to issues that affect everyday living, health, education, welfare, respite, etc., also by signposting and making referrals where applicable.
- To assist with raising funds to support local community projects and activities which are needed and beneficial to both individuals with special needs and their families.
- To create an online medium that is made sustainable through participation of families of children and individuals with special needs and learning disabilities.

Testimonial

Angel and friends' help families like mine that require help in various areas, especially families with special needs. 'Angel and friends' lobby for the rights of families who experience challenges on various levels such as language, culture and social stigmas within the B.A.M.E community and beyond.

I had a situation where I required assistance with welfare, housing and education all at once and 'Angel and friends' were extremely helpful and thorough at ensuring my son and I got the assistance desperately needed, I have since recommended a couple families who have also expressed their satisfaction and gratitude, this is a service and support system needed not only within the SEND Community but also the B.A.M.E community'.

Bukola Monehin (a family that 'Angel and friends' have supported and still continue to support).



Photo of Bukola Monehin and Maria Chukwu-Nsofor
(Independent Support worker at 'Angel and friends').

If you would like to know more about this community group [visit their website](#)

Email enquiries@angelandfriends.org.uk/Telephone: 07761572370