

The Maypole Project



The Maypole Project is a local organisation working across five London boroughs providing support to children with complex medical needs and their families, to a total catchment area of 1.5 million people, providing emotional well-being to the whole family, from diagnosis, through treatment and beyond.

An estimated 50,000 children in the UK are affected with an illness and/or disability that threatens or shortens life. Of these, approximately 2,500 live in the catchment area of Bromley, Lewisham, Lambeth, Southwark and Greenwich.

The Maypole Project help preserve the mental and physical well-being of families where there is a child or young person with a complex medical need or disability. “Our promise is to be alongside families every step of the way, creating a package of emotional support tailored to their individual needs”.

Families can access the organisation’s support from diagnosis (including ante-natal) through treatment and beyond. This support is free, ongoing, and flexible. Alongside therapeutic services, The Maypole Project offer activities and outings for children and young people (and their siblings) with complex medical needs and SEND.

Services for children:

- Play and Arts Therapy: children aged 4 to 11 and use non-directive play – play that is led by the child with the play therapist observing the various sequences and themes used by the child to communicate their experiences.
- Child and young person counselling: regular sessions that help children experience increased confidence, formation of healthy coping strategies and an improvement in familial relationships and attendance at school. This service is also provided to siblings. A diagnosis has an impact on the whole family, not just the individual child. These sessions can include group therapy as well as one to one counselling.

Services for Adults:

- Counselling and therapy: The Maypole Project’s Family Service Practitioners provide one-to-one counselling, couples therapy and group therapy to all adults affected by severe changes to their lifestyle and relationships following a diagnosis. It helps them to explore their changed and changing world in a way that enables them to move forward and make positive decisions moving forward. This support is also offered through bereavement.

- Befriending: trained by a qualified expert, volunteers form an on-going and supportive relationship over a period of time that suits the individual/family. The service has shown positive results and we have found that it enables individuals and families to increase their confidence, identify and expand opportunities surrounding them and tackle isolation.

Activities and Outings.

These activities are designed to bring children and young people together to create peer support, make friends and importantly allow parents/carers to take a well-deserved break. The activities and outings are for children and young people with complex medical needs, SEN or disability. Siblings are welcomed!

“Covid-19 has meant we have had to adapt our services. However, we are pleased to be able to offer the following activities whilst adhering to government guidelines”.

If you would like any further information contact: Support Team on Helpline@themaypoleproject.co.uk or 01689 889 889

Feedback from service users:

"Thank you for your time with Louis on this week's activities, he really loved last night's magic session & said you made him feel good. Thank you for encouraging him & boosting his confidence, we love seeing him happy & feeling chuffed!"

"I have nothing but amazing things to say about the support we have received as a family. We can't thank the staff and volunteer's enough for their patience and understanding."

"Zac absolutely loves his 121 buddy sessions. Chris never fails to amaze me on how he manages to engage Zac!"

[Watch The Maypole Project Family Stories video](#)

If you would like to know more about this charity's work, [visit their website](#)

