



AUTISM & ADHD SUPPORT

for parents/carers of children with
ADHD and/or on the Autistic Spectrum

Policy on SEN Advice and Support

In line with the stated objects of Angels Support Group, Angels provides support and guidance for parents with children who have ADHD or an Autistic Spectrum Disorder. In as much as this pertains to Educational provision, Angels policy on support to parents regarding their child's SEN is as follows:

1. We will inform parents of their rights and the rights of their child under the 1996 Education Act, the 2010 Equalities Act, and the 2014 Children and Families Act, and Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0-25 years.
2. We will give accurate and neutral information on the full range of options available to parents, to help them make informed decisions about their child's education.
3. We will encourage parents to work co-operatively with their child's school or setting, and LA to best meet the needs of their child. We may suggest strategies to help support their child in school which the parent can discuss and implement in partnership with the school.
4. We will inform parents of the processes involved in assessing and meeting a child's SEN, so that they are better informed and therefore more able to work in partnership with the relevant authorities.
5. Angels are not able to suggest or show preference for any school or type of provision. We recognise that as each child's needs are individual this is a matter solely for the parents and educational professionals involved.
6. Angels will not disclose details of any individual case or particulars to any other party, as laid out in our Confidentiality Policy, other than in the form of statistics relating to a particular issue or in exceptional circumstances such as a safeguarding referral or to report a crime.
7. On occasion Angels staff may be involved in developing services, such as working with the Local Authority or Health services, and describing the experience of a family may be an important aspect of work to improve services for all families. In this instance we would ask the parents' permission for their situation or experience to be described, in an anonymised way.

8. If requested by a parent, Angels may put parents in touch with other consenting parents who are undergoing similar difficulties in the interests of parents supporting each other.
9. Angels will attend meetings as parent supporters, with schools or LEA officers at the request of parents, and may contribute as follows:
 - a. to remind participants of their rights
 - b. to suggest strategies that might help meet the child's needs
 - c. to support the parent to voice their point of view
 - d. to advocate for the parent, if requested to do so by the parent.
10. Angels will signpost parents to other relevant agencies as required, such as The Equalities and Human Rights Commission, SENDIST, OFSTED, Local Authority Services such as Specialist Advisory teams or SEN teams, SENDIASS, or national support such as IPSEA, POWHER, NAS or SOSSEN (this list is not exclusive).
11. It is Angels belief that all families should have access to the high quality services they are entitled to without having to resort to paying privately, to ensure their child's educational rights are upheld. We will support families to ensure this is the case. However in some cases it may be that for the best outcome for the child to be achieved, we would wish to advise parents that they would benefit from obtaining privately funded services such as independent reports or specialist legal advice. We are very mindful of the cost of such courses of action, so would always consider the family situation and the relative benefit alongside such advice, and encourage the family to apply for legal aid if appropriate. When signposting to privately funded services, Angels will make it clear we are not recommending or endorsing these. We would always advise parents to check that any services they may use are covered by appropriate professional bodies and qualifications.
12. Sometimes parents will request to be signposted to independent professionals such as Educational Psychologists, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists or Legal Advice such as Specialist Educational Law Solicitors. Angels will signpost parents to sites or resources where they can find relevant professionals and services but we will make it clear we are not recommending or endorsing any such services . We would always advise parents to check that any service provider they may use are covered by appropriate professional bodies and qualifications.

Approval and review schedule

This policy and procedures applies to Angels Support Group and covers any activities we run as a group. We are committed to reviewing our policy and procedures on a regular basis and when there are significant changes in legislation or to our organisation.

This policy was adopted as follows:

Date approved: May 2020

Signature of the Chair:

Date Signed:

Signature of Trustees:

Frequency policy to be reviewed: Biennial

Date policy to be reviewed: May 2022

History of changes to this policy

Date	Summary of changes
08.05.2020	Updated clause 6 and added clauses 11 & 12, minor editing to points 3, 4, and 5.