

**Press release**

**Date: 15 November 2018**

**Islington charity needs volunteers to help support families with children who have additional needs**

Face 2 Face, an Islington based service run by the charity Family Action, is looking for people to become volunteer befrienders to help parents and carers of children with additional needs. Our volunteer befrienders provide invaluable support for parents before, after and during the processes of their child being assessed. They all have had some experience of children with additional needs and give parents the opportunity to talk through problems and feelings, suggest helpful strategies and provide a non-judgmental listening ear.

Our volunteers can offer support with children, accompany parents to appointments or to a new support group, and help with understanding some of the processes around Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Our volunteers can also advise them on the paperwork involved and help families find appropriate services and activities. Or it may be something as simple as meeting up for a coffee and a chat with someone who understands.

Nigel Lindsay, Face 2 Face Befriender Coordinator at Family Action said:

*"It is not easy when you have a child with additional needs - being able to talk to someone who has been through a similar situation and knows some of the path ahead can be a great help to parents at an earlier stage of their journey. Our volunteer befrienders tell us how rewarding it is to know they have made a real difference to the family they are supporting. They also feel they have gained useful experience and benefited from the training they are given.*

*We need more volunteers to support families in the Islington area and are looking for people who have experience of special educational needs or disabilities, are good listeners, can be encouraging and can commit to a few hours a week."*

Face 2 Face is holding information events for anyone interested in becoming a volunteer to find out more:

**Dates:** Tuesday 27 November 2018 and 15 January 2019

**Time:** 10-12 noon

**Location:** Lough Rd Childrens Centre N7 8RH

For more information please contact Nigel Lindsay by email, [IslingtonFace2Face@family-action.org.uk](mailto:IslingtonFace2Face@family-action.org.uk) or by telephone on 0796 6282 500.

**ENDS**



**For further information and interviews please contact:**

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**Notes to Editors:-**

**About Family Action**

Family Action is a charity committed to building stronger families and brighter lives by delivering innovative and effective services and support that reaches out to many of the UK's most vulnerable people. We seek to empower people and communities to address their issues and challenges through practical, financial and emotional help.

Our work is wide-ranging and includes help for parents-to-be, the provision of many Children's Centres in local communities, intensive family support, emotional health and wellbeing services, counselling, mediation and therapies, support in schools and financial grants programmes. Family Action is also recognised as a leading provider of training.

**Registered Charity Number: 264 713**

**Website: [www.family-action.org.uk](http://www.family-action.org.uk)**

**Twitter: @family\_action**

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**LinkedIn: [company/family-action](https://www.linkedin.com/company/family-action)**