

History of BOSP

BOSP improves the lives of children and young adults with complex disabilities or life-limiting conditions and their families by providing high-quality, fun, educational activities, support and respite care.

We are dedicated to improving the lives of children and young adults with disabilities through fully supported social activities, whilst relieving family pressures by providing much needed support away from the home.



Originally known as Brentwood Opportunities for Special People, the charity was formed in 1991 by a group of parents of children with disabilities. Its original purpose was to support parents and carers by providing a meeting place while entertaining the disabled child with hall-based activities. Within a few years this support group had evolved to enable the parents to leave their children in the care of Playworkers and volunteers. In 2005 BOSP changed its name and acquired limited company status. In 2009 BOSP became Ofsted registered. Today BOSP is known for the high-quality care and support it provides. In 2013/14 our work was recognised as Outstanding by Ofsted. In 2019 we changed name once again to Brighter Opportunities for Special People, to reflect our evolving programme of services for those up to 25 years, and that we offer much more than a free-play minding service.

We support children and young people with any type of disability, from Asperger's and moderate learning disabilities to those with complex disabilities or life-limiting illnesses. They are vulnerable and extremely marginalised in society. Those with profound physical disabilities, require specialist feeding or have challenging behaviour are unable to access activities that are readily available to their peers, and this can have a huge impact on their social and emotional development. Disabled children and young adults however have the same needs as other children and they value sport, play and youth activities just the same. Such group activities are essential to their well-being.

Supporting children and young adults with complex medical/behavioural conditions necessitates the need to employ and train specialist staff and support workers. Due to the increased costs associated with this, many providers are reluctant or unable to provide equal access services, resulting in disabled and very ill children with the highest needs being disadvantaged further as the availability of suitable clubs is reduced.

Our clubs are quite unique in South Essex and very important to families as they have expressed that they want 'proper' respite away from their home along with inclusive activities for their child/young adult within the community.

Many of our staff, support workers and volunteers have lived experience of disabilities. We truly understand the needs of our beneficiaries and the challenges that caring for a disabled child/young adult brings and are dedicated to improving their lives with fully supported social activities.

Accessibility for children, parent carers and visitors

All of our venues are accessible for wheelchair users, including The BOSP Office. We also have staff and support workers trained in BSL (British Sign Language).