



Buddies for All – Referral criteria

Buddies for All is a social and leisure buddying scheme that supports disabled people with all social and leisure activities in London. We offer support to people with physical, sensory and hidden disabilities, such as chronic illnesses or neurological conditions, currently aged 18-65. However, as our organisation develops, it is our aim to provide a buddy to as many disabled people as possible, at our discretion based on the capabilities of our volunteers.

You can make a referral if you or someone you know would benefit from the support of a volunteer buddy and the opportunity to attend social or leisure events together.

We do not currently accept referrals from individuals who are not considered disabled or meet our age criteria.

Please also note that our buddies are not carers or qualified health and support professionals of any kind.

They are volunteers who wish to make a difference to the lives of disabled people outside of their medical or care needs. If we feel that a referral falls into any of these criteria's, we will call the referrer to discuss the client's requirements. We may suggest working in partnership with another organisation such as a mental health provider or relevant disability organisation to fully understand and meet the needs of the client. We can also signpost the individual to another service better suited to their needs, if we do not have the necessary expertise to support them fully.

All our volunteer buddies are interviewed and must undertake an enhanced DBS check before being matched with a client.

What Buddies for All does not provide:

- *A care service* e.g., support with a client's toileting requirements when at home or in the community

- *A personal assistant service e.g., support with personal care, or household tasks*
- *A personal escort service e.g., driving a client to hospital appointments or other activities that are not social or leisure focused*
- *A support worker service e.g., requiring the buddy to support the client in their voluntary or paid work or providing advice or support around sourcing NHS prescriptions*
- *An advocacy support e.g., sending any emails or written correspondence to an individual or business*
- *A dating service - We are not a dating service and do not provide advice in this area*
- *Support for an illegal activity e.g., the use of recreational drugs to help manage an individual's condition / impairment*

To reiterate we will not provide a service for individuals such as attending hospital appointments or any other activity, which is not social or leisure focused.

What Buddies for All does provide:

- Telephone buddies
- Video buddies
- Face to Face support buddies - for social and leisure activities only (Examples are shown below).

Please note that unless otherwise agreed with Buddies for All or the buddy themselves, the client is required to pay any out-of-pocket expenses when attending all social or leisure activities with the buddy. This could include (but is not limited to) any entry or travel costs related to any trip or event that the buddy attends with the client.

Additionally, if a client is attending an event where a companion ticket is purchased, it is assumed this ticket will be given to the buddy in exchange for this support at specified events (subject to the event's terms and conditions) as the buddy can usually attend with the client's companion ticket free of charge.