



Amaze is a Sussex-based charity that gives information, advice and support to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their parents and carers.

Amaze has been working in the city of Brighton and Hove for twenty years and over this time has established an excellent reputation for providing high impact, quality services to families with disabled children.

Some Amaze services are now also available to families living across East and West Sussex.



Amaze

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We are celebrating ‘Generation Amaze’ – having supported parents and carers for two decades we are now seeing the results: resilient young people, with a variety of additional needs, getting involved with the ‘Amazing Futures’ project as peer supporters, ready to support other young people like themselves.

support us into the future invest in the next generation

For Amaze’s 20th birthday year we would like to develop some new partnerships with local companies who share our values and who believe in Amaze and want to help us support the next generation of Amaze families.

You could become a financial partner in funding our Face 2 Face befriending project which offers one-to-one support to parents of babies and newly diagnosed children.

Often these parents have to deal with feelings of guilt, fear, anger and depression and they tell us Face 2 Face changes their outlook, reducing isolation and helping them see a more positive future.

£500

would pay the costs of training and supporting a young person as a peer supporter, enabling them to support a disabled young person and help them explore their options as they move into adulthood.

£1,000

would pay for 2 laptops and dongles, enabling our staff and volunteers to provide outreach services more effectively, including supporting parent carers without any other means to access information and services online.

£3,500

would cover the expenses for the team of Face 2 Face volunteers each year (including their bus fares, training and some refreshments).

£5,000

would pay towards developing a separate area on our website for young people with SEND to access information and share ideas and experiences through a range of multimedia channels and formats.

£15,000

would pay the salary of the co-ordinator for the Face 2 Face befriending project for one year. They can support a team of 20 befriender volunteers to provide one-to-one emotional and practical support to about 100 families with a child with a newly diagnosed additional need/condition.



support us into the future opportunities for young people

Or could your business provide much needed work experience, volunteering or internships to young people with additional needs?

Disabled young people are more likely to leave school with fewer qualifications and many more end up not in education, employment or training than their peers, yet have a huge amount to offer a workplace.

Sammy’s story

“Since doing the Amazing Futures programme, I have gained so much confidence and social skills. I have enjoyed the experience of learning new skills and meeting lots of new people both with and without disabilities. The skills Amaze have taught me will help me and will stay with me for life. For this I thank Amaze, and will be continuing with their peer support programme.”

Sammy Watson, a young person Peer Supporter

working with amaze some of the benefits to your business

- Enhanced corporate image among customers and the local community
- Additional marketing routes for your brand and products
- Excellent opportunities for your employees to engage in team building activities and fundraising events
- Enhanced team spirit and motivation among staff
- Make a tangible difference in on your own doorstep to a really relevant and worthy cause
- Help change lives in your local community

For more info on how your company could work with Amaze, call Nicky on 01273 234014 or email nickyb@amazebrighton.org.uk



**celebrating twenty years
and our first generation of
amazing young lives**



Carole's story

My name is Carole and I have a 6-year-old son, Dexter, who has Angelman syndrome, a rare genetic condition. Three years ago I received my son's life changing diagnosis.

Having a befriender and someone who understood made an immediate difference. My befriender visited every week for a year and offered emotional and practical support at a time when I was shaken to the very core.

Last year I decided to train as a befriender. It was a way to give back, but I also found it empowering to support others in a similar situation.

"It's so important to have someone who reaches out and brings you back from your worries, because you can so easily close, like an oyster, and withdraw."

we have a lot to celebrate!

1997

Amaze was founded in 1997 by bringing together two parent carer groups.

> Now over 50 per cent of staff and volunteers are parent carers and Amaze also employs two young people with additional needs.

2001

When Amaze took over Brighton and Hove's Disability Register in 2001, it held details of 271 disabled children.

> **The Compass Register** (as it became known) now has over 2,000 children and young people signed up and enjoying the benefits of their **Compass leisure card**.

2006

In 2006 Amaze's **Helpline** was receiving 2,000 calls per year. This has gone up year on year and we still can't keep up with the demand.

> By 2017 this number has grown to over 3,500 calls per year about a range of topics including finance, education, health, social care and leisure.

2008

Amaze helped set up the **Parent Carers' Council** (PaCC) – the forum for parent carers living in Brighton and Hove. PaCC now has over 320 members and nine Parent Reps sitting on strategic boards across the city.

> Over 250 parents/carers now attend PaCC's Community Outreach Project's coffee mornings in three of the city's most deprived neighbourhoods.

2013

Amaze has embraced **new technology and social media** and in 2013 launched a new-look website which now has nearly 30,000 users each year.

> Our Facebook page is well-used with over 1,500 'likes' and we have over 2,000 followers on Twitter.

2014

In 2014 Amaze set up new **Independent Support** services in both Brighton and Hove and West Sussex.

> In 2016 Amaze began delivering Independent Support in East Sussex too, establishing itself as a Sussex-wide charity for the first time.

2016

Amaze launched **Compass West Sussex** in 2016, extending the popular scheme to children and young people aged up to 25.

> There are now over 160 offers (discounts or free entry) at a wide range of leisure venues across West Sussex and Brighton and Hove.

2017

In 2017 Amaze set up the **Amazing Futures** project. Peer supporters help young people with additional needs to consider new options as they enter adulthood. Amaze also started offering the **Face to Face Befriending** project.

invest in the next generation support us into the future

generation amaze
our work with families

generation amaze is at the heart of what we do – supporting the next generation of amazing children with special educational needs and disabilities

support our work

Amaze is more than just a charity.

It is a very special community made up of children, young people, parents, carers, dedicated professionals, trustees, volunteers and supporters of all kinds.



We have been around for 20 years.

To celebrate this we want to build relationships with organisations who love what we do and would like to be part of making the next 20 years happen.

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