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PARENTS

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

SUPPORTERS

## Out of Amaze - March 2021



## Welcome to our spring e-newsletter

This week marks the anniversary of the first lockdown, when we began what would become such an extraordinarily challenging year for us all. As we inch out of lockdown 3, my [spring round-up](#) tells you about all the ways we're working to ensure that

children and young people with SEND and their families get the support they need to readjust, recover and thrive. This includes our involvement with the Disabled Children's Partnership campaign for a Covid catch-up plan for disabled children, and our work to ensure parent carers in Sussex are offered a vaccination, if they want one.

This newsletter is stuffed with useful info about the return to school, our brilliant Amazing Futures and Face 2 Face groups resuming, holiday schemes, free SEND workshops and more. You can find out about a new pathway to diagnosis and assessment for children with neurodevelopmental conditions, and work Amaze is undertaking to tackle racism.

And finally, don't forget to book tickets for our BIG CHEER UP online comedy event - it promises to be a really great night in.

*Rachel Travers, Amaze CEO.*

**Online Comedy Spectacular BIG CHEER UP for Amaze!**  
Friday 23 April 8pm to 10pm Tickets £8 (Compass Concessions £6)  
All proceeds to charity Amaze, for families with disabled children

amaze helping you through

Joe Wilkinson

Angela Barnes

Maisie Adam

Rosie Jones

Desiree Burch

Russell Kane

Mark Watson

Enjoy this evening to raise all our spirits whilst raising vital funds In association with NextUp Comedy

## BIG Cheer Up for Amaze - have a laugh and raise funds

We all need a laugh after an incredibly challenging year, so join us for an incredible evening of **online comedy**, whilst raising vital funds for Amaze! Featuring some of the best names in the UK comedy circuit (thanks to NextUp Comedy), you'll LOL to none other than Angela Barnes, Joe Wilkinson, Maisie Adams, Rosie Jones, Russell Kane and Mark Watson. Standard tickets are £8 per household, Compass Card families £6. Age 14+

[Book tickets now >](#)

## Latest news



### Vaccines for parent carers

Since the last issue, we've been working flat out with other carers' organisations and the local health service to ensure that as many parent carers as possible are invited for a **covid-19 vaccination**, if they want one. Recent supply issues mean there may be fewer 'first vaccination' appointments available for a while, but it's still worth trying to book if you are eligible.

[Get vaccination info ›](#)



### Back at school with SEND

The **return to the classroom** (or otherwise) has inevitably raised a lot of issues for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their families. We round up the latest guidance on the things that are worrying you or your child, including **masks, lateral flow tests, attendance and support**.

[Read more ›](#)

### WhatsApp - a 'lifeline' whilst we can't meet up

One unexpected positive from the pandemic has been watching our **Face 2 Face parent carer WhatsApp groups** go from strength to strength.

We spoke to some of the parents who are in the WhatsApp groups about what they get out of the digital community. Read all about our [Face 2 Face WhatsApp groups](#)



## For young people



### Amazing Futures groups are meeting up again

Since schools returned, our Amazing Futures groups **for young people aged 14 to 25 with SEND** are back to meeting face-to-face in small groups! We have loads on offer, including games, art, seafront walks, an LGBTQIAU group, and so much more.

[Join our groups >](#)



### Amazine - Issue #7 Spring edition

The March issue of **Amazine**, our **e-zine** created by and **for young people with additional needs**, is out now. It includes advice on vaccinations and testing, sporty features on Couch to 5k, Zoom yoga and TREC, as well as step by step recipes, arts and crafts and more.

[Read Amazine >](#)

### Improving the neurodevelopmental pathway

Sue Miller from Sussex NHS Commissioners gives an update on how Amaze, PaCC and other local organisations have been working with Brighton & Hove City Council and NHS Brighton & Hove CCG to **develop the route to assessment, diagnosis and support for children and young people with neurodevelopmental disorders like autism, ADHD and Tourettes.**

[Read more >](#)



# FREE workshops for parent carers



## Triple P Stepping Stones: behaviour

There's still a few spaces left on our Triple P Stepping Stones workshop on **strategies for dealing with behaviour that challenges**, for parent carers of children with SEND aged 11 or 12. **Weds 31 March** from 10.30am to 12 midday.

[Book a place >](#)



## EHC needs assessments

This free **SENDIASS workshop** is for parent carers who are going through the EHC needs assessment process, or are considering requesting an assessment for their child. The Zoom workshop takes place on **Mon 26 April** from 10.30am to 1pm.

[Book a place >](#)



## Making claims for DLA and PIP

In April and May, Amaze is running a series of **Zoom workshops** for parent carers in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex about **claiming disability benefits DLA & PIP**. The workshops are led by Lizzie Batten who manages Amaze's benefits service.

[Get details >](#)

## Amaze's commitment to tackling racism

The brutal death of George Floyd in the summer of 2020 and subsequent Black Lives Matter protests brought institutional racism into the spotlight across the globe. The Covid-19 pandemic has also highlighted health inequalities between different communities. In response, Amaze is making it a priority to consider how race and disability combine for many families in Sussex, and how this impacts their experiences of SEND services, including our own. [Read about Amaze's role in tackling racism.](#)



## Update from Brighton & Hove PaCC

This issue, Brighton & Hove Parent Carers' Council celebrates all the amazing [PaCC Award winners](#) who helped support our families in 2020. You can also read about the launch of the new [SEND Strategy for 2021-2026](#)

and the work PaCC has been doing to help shape local services for children and young people with SEND.



[Read PaCC update >](#)



## Stay up-to-date with Compass Card offers

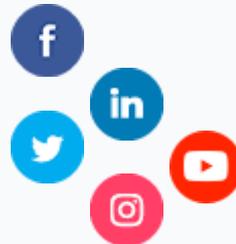
With the government roadmap out of lockdown underway, we can start preparing for [Compass Card](#) families to get back out and about and enjoying the leisure discounts the card has to offer. Our Compass Card [‘Easy does it’ guide](#) will be updated as and when we get news from our leisure partners, so keep checking back for the latest.



## Need ideas for the Easter holidays?

The Easter holidays are nearly upon us and if, like us, you haven't got round to organising any holiday childcare or activities yet, here's a handy [guide to inclusive clubs and activities](#) in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex running over Easter.

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This is the Brighton & Hove version of our newsletter. If you would prefer to receive the East Sussex version, please email [charlotte@amazesussex.org.uk](mailto:charlotte@amazesussex.org.uk)