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Out of Amaze - July 2022



Welcome to our July e-newsletter

As summer gets into full swing, we've brought you a quick update with the latest in Amaze news, services and useful info.

This issue includes:

- A fond farewell to CEO Rachel Travers
- Amaze awarded SENDIASS contracts
- Amaze thanks businesses across Sussex for their support
- Latest offers from Compass
- Amazing Futures summer programme for young people with SEND

- Mental health support over the summer
- Face 2 Face support over the summer and new 16-25 group
- PaCC survey about Amaze's NDP family support service
- Latest from PaCC
- Workshops and events
- Volunteering with Amaze
- Amaze report on the impact of the pandemic on parent carers

Enjoy – and have a great summer!

Latest news



All change at Amaze

We're saying a fond farewell to **Rachel Travers**, Amaze's Chief Executive Officer, as she steps down from her role after 13 years at the helm.

We thank Rachel for her hard work in developing Amaze, we are grateful for her incredible leadership, and we celebrate her lasting impact on families with disabled children in Sussex. She will be very much missed and we wish her every success in her new role as Director of the Rainforest Trust UK.

Following a restructure, **Sally Polanski** will be taking over as the new CEO from September. Sally has been working as the Amaze Deputy CEO for three years and was CEO of Community Works in Brighton for a decade before this.

[Learn more >](#)



Amaze awarded SENDIASS contracts

We are delighted to confirm that **Amaze has been awarded the contracts** to continue to provide the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS), in both Brighton & Hove and East Sussex, for **another three years**. This will provide stability for parent carers and young people accessing support, as well as for Amaze. The contracts are commissioned by a partnership of Brighton & Hove City Council and East Sussex County Council and the two local Clinical Commissioning Groups.

We're glad to be able to plan for the future for SENDIASS, as the advice line is currently getting very high numbers of calls and emails. They will get back to everyone but please expect a bit of a wait.

[SENDIASS advice line >](#)

Amaze thanks businesses across Sussex for their support

Read about the amazing local businesses who are supporting our vital work with families with disabled children in Sussex, including sweet shop Dead Sweet and the Grand Hotel Brighton, who've raised **an incredible £14,625 and £16,250** respectively! Plus learn about how Eastbourne Morrisons are helping young people from our Amazing Futures groups **learn useful work skills**.

If your workplace or community group might be able to help support Amaze, we'd love to hear from you! Email us at fundraising@amazesussex.org.uk or call us on 01273 234014 for a chat.

[Learn more >](#)



Latest offers from Compass

We've got some great new offers for you, including an **outdoor treasure hunt** at Puzzle Parade, test your powers of deduction at **Pier Pressure Escape Rooms** and we're working with **Brighton Toy Museum** to trial early opening SEND sessions for Compass families.

The **inclusive family fun days** at Moulsecoomb Leisure Centre continue on the last Sunday of the month, and **St Luke's Swimming Pool** continues to hold free SEND sessions every Saturday 3-4pm.

Follow our social media to make sure you don't miss out on new offers, competitions and fun stuff: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)

[Find offers >](#)

Amazing Futures summer programme for young people with SEND

This summer our Amazing Futures groups for young people with SEND have loads of **outdoors fun** and games planned in parks across Brighton & Hove, plus weekly **art workshops** at Community Base. View our programme of planned [activities for July and August](#).

Contact Sue at sue@amazesussex.org.uk or 07483 111648 if you're interested and want to know more.

[Find out more >](#)



Mental health support over the summer

Whilst many of us are looking forward to the summer holidays, others will be **feeling anxious** about having their children and young people at home for six weeks without the structure and support of school.

If you or your child are **struggling over the summer**, here's where to go for help:

[Learn more >](#)



Face 2 Face support over the summer

Here's what's coming up with our Face 2 Face peer support project, including support over the summer, a **new group** starting September for parent carers of 16 to 25 year olds, and our upcoming **Family Fun Day** event (details below).

We're also looking for more parent carers who might be interested in joining our friendly team of **volunteer befrienders**,



PaCC survey about Amaze's NDP family support service

Can you spare a few minutes to help **shape the [NDP Family Training and Navigation service](#)** for families with children and young people on the neurodevelopmental pathway? (i.e. who are awaiting, undergoing or have completed assessment for **autism, ADHD or tics/Tourette syndrome**)

In this survey PaCC asks you about what works (your positive experiences); what

and using your knowledge and experience as a parent carer to help support other parent carers. We have a free online training course for volunteers starting **Wednesday 14 September**.

[Read more >](#)

doesn't work (your negative experiences); and what is needed (what you think is needed to improve family support in the future).

The survey will be open till **31 July**.

[Take the survey >](#)



PaCC round-up - July 2022

Lots of PaCC news this issue, including **four new steering group members**, a second **Hidden Children** surgery, in-person events such as a **PaCConnect** on the neurodevelopmental pathway (NDP), and the **safe space** we hosted for disabled or neurodivergent parent carers, plus much more...

[Read PaCC update >](#)

Workshops and events



How to claim DLA

This free workshop led by Lizzie Batten will help you identify whether your child is likely to get Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and help you make a strong claim. The workshop takes place on **Weds 13 July** from 10.30am to 12 noon.

[Book now >](#)



SEN support in school

A free workshop for parents who are worried about the progress their child is making at school (where the child doesn't have an EHC plan). The session takes place on **Thurs 29 September** from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

[Book now >](#)



Face 2 Face Family Fun Day

We're hosting a fun event for the whole family at Extratime in Portslade on **Weds 27 July** from 10am to 2pm. Keep an eye on our social media for more info soon! Open to all Face 2 Face families from East Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

[Book tickets >](#)

For a full list of Amaze workshops, visit our [Eventbrite](#) page.

Volunteering with Amaze

Have you ever thought of volunteering with Amaze? We have training courses coming up in the autumn for two interesting and rewarding volunteer roles, so it is the ideal moment to express an interest.

SENDIASS volunteers help families who use our information and advice service, giving hands on help at meetings and with reports and forms or helping out with our busy advice line. Contact liam@amazesussex.org.uk

Face 2 Face Befrienders offer support through one-to-one befriending and by helping make our Face 2 Face parent groups warm, safe and supportive. Contact marie@amazesussex.org.uk





Amaze report on the impact of the pandemic on parent carers

Amaze was funded by the NHS earlier this year to evaluate the **impact of the pandemic** on parent carers. We're so grateful to everyone who shared their views and experiences; our findings will be incorporated into a **national report** about carers more widely, but we're now able to share our specific findings with you.

The report explores how families have been affected, how services could have done better, and your ideas on how to ensure things are better in the future.

Read on for a **summary of our findings**, as well as a link to the full report:

[Read more >](#)

Enjoyed this newsletter?

If the newsletter has been a good read, and you can afford to give back, please make a donation and 'pay it forward' so we can help another family. Thank you.

Donate online: www.justgiving.com/amaze/donate

Donate by text: To donate £5, please text AMAZE 5 to 70085 (texts cost £5 + one standard rate message).

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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

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