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CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

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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
- New East Sussex NDP Family Training and Navigation service starting July
- Amazing Futures summer programme for young people with SEND

- Mental health support over the summer
- Face 2 Face support over the summer
- ESPCF survey about Amaze's NDP family support service
- Latest offers from i-go
- 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, 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 >](#)

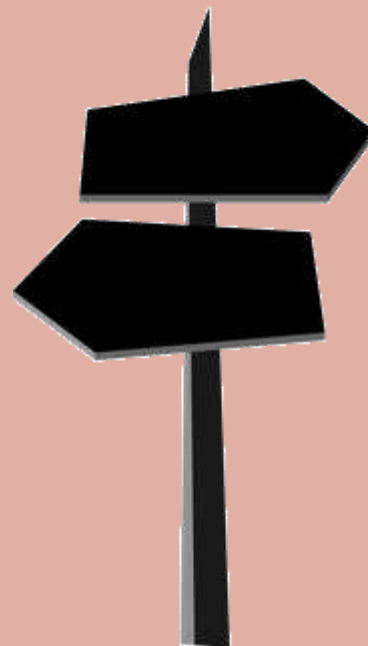


New East Sussex NDP Family Training and Navigation service starting in July

We'll be launching the navigation strand of our new **neurodevelopmental pathway** (NDP) service in late July. The service aims to support parent carers whose child or young person is **on the pathway for assessment** for autism, ADHD, tics/Tourette syndrome, foetal alcohol syndrome, learning disabilities, social communication concerns, or sensory processing disorder.

This 'navigation' part of the service will focus on **reaching out to parent carers** by phone to ensure they have access to the information they need, and they can find and take up available support for their needs and their stage on the pathway. We will also **signpost** them to key services, support groups, and good resources on common issues.

More info to follow soon - keep an eye on our social media to get updates as they happen!



Amazing Futures summer programme for young people with SEND

We have **loads of fab activities** planned this summer, including Amazing Sports park sessions, art workshops and projects, Morrisons food bank Give Back sessions, beach hang-out (weather depending), take part in the parade at Brighton Pride, and more!

View our **programme** of planned [activities for July to August](#).

Contact Claire at claire@amazesussex.org.uk or 07484 915038 if you're interested or 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** and our upcoming **Family Fun Day** (details below).



ESPCF survey about Amaze's new NDP service

ESPCF's survey closes **Sat 9 July**, so if you haven't filled it out yet, please consider taking 10 minutes to let them know what you need from the new service for families with children on the **neurodevelopmental pathway** - i.e. who are awaiting, undergoing or have

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

[Learn more >](#)

completed assessment for **autism, ADHD, tics/Tourette syndrome**, or another neurodevelopmental condition.

They haven't received many responses yet and this is an important opportunity to help shape what this service will be.

[Take the survey >](#)



i-go new offers, summer activities, SEND sessions and prizes

i-go is kicking off summer with a weekly chance to win one of six great prizes donated by our i-go partners. Check out the [i-go facebook page](#) to play 'Guess the Venue'. Then head straight to the [i-go website](#) to find out what's new including Acting Moon's The Wizard of Oz, two new monthly SEND sessions at Planet Golf, the Loxwood Medieval Joust and a Military Tattoo at Herstmonceux! Plus - lots of our i-go partners are offering additional summer activities, many included in their i-go offer. Check out [the i-go | Offers & Events page](#) for details.

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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