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Out of Amaze - September 2022



Welcome to our September e-newsletter

The temperature's finally come down and the kids are back at school – autumn's here! We're pleased to bring you this update with the latest in Amaze news, services and useful information.

This issue includes:

- New staff and structure
- Celebrating 25 years of Amaze
- SENDIASS stays at Amaze
- School exclusions: SENDIASS explains
- New resources on elective home education, EOTAS and school avoidance
- Calling all runners and cyclists
- Offers and competitions from Compass
- Latest from Face 2 Face befriending
- Amaze celebrates Pride
- Call out for volunteers aged 18-25
- New issue of Amazine, with a new look
- Joint response to SEND review
- PaCC round-up
- Amaze workshops and events

Enjoy!

Latest news



New staff and structure

Our **new CEO, Sally Polanski**, takes over from Rachel Travers this month.

Rachel was at the helm for 13 years but the four years Sally has spent as Deputy CEO at Amaze means we have a reassuring sense of continuity even amidst the change.

This new term sees quite a few **staff changes** at Amaze, with existing employees moving on to new roles or new team members joining us to help grow our developing services.

[Learn more >](#)



Celebrating 25 years of Amaze

Amaze is celebrating our **25th anniversary** this year!

We've got loads planned to mark the occasion, including a free 25th anniversary event, Amazing Bakes cookbook (the perfect Christmas present!), and we'll be launching a fundraising campaign to help us support more young people with SEND to succeed in education and employment.

Young people at the groups are involved in the campaign, **creating designs** for tote bags and cards, and learning new skills in the process.

[Learn more >](#)



SENDIASS stays at Amaze

We are delighted to say Amaze was successful in winning the contract to provide families in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove with **information, advice and support** (IAS) on special educational needs and disability (SEND) for the next three years.

The SENDIASS team has been reshaped to match the new contract and level of funding, but the service will not feel too different for you, our users. Read on to learn about the **different levels of service** we offer, depending on your needs.

[Learn more >](#)

SENDIASS



School exclusions: what parents of children with SEND need to know

It is a sad fact that children with SEND are **more at risk of being excluded** from school than children without additional needs.

The SENDIASS advice line hears all too often from parents saying their child with SEND has been excluded.

Read on to **understand more about exclusions** and what the SENDIASS team advises if this happens to your child.

This detailed resource includes information on what an exclusion is; the process involved; what to do if your child is excluded; informal exclusions and part-time timetables; and more.

[Read more >](#)



New SENDIASS resources on home education, EOTAS and school avoidance

From calls to our advice line, we know that **families need more information** about home education.

Our SENDIASS team has created **three brand new fact sheets** on Elective Home Education (EHE), Education Other Than at School (EOTAS) and School Avoidance and Attendance Issues.

They explain the **differences between EOTAS and EHE**, including the legal differences, and summarise what parent carers need to know about **home education for children with SEND**, whether they have an education, health and care (EHC) plan or not. They also include lots of helpful resources for further information.

[Read our fact sheets >](#)



Calling all runners and cyclists!

For those of you up for a challenge we have charity places for the **Brighton Half Marathon** taking place on 26 February 2023 and **Brighton Marathon** on 2 April 2023. We also have places for **Brighton Marathon Ride** (the cycle ride which takes place before the Marathon).

Whether this is your first time entering a race or you are a seasoned runner, we would love to have you as part of Team Amaze! This also goes for anyone who has their own place. Our fundraising team will be on hand to **support you** every step of the way.

Email us at fundraising@amazesussex.org.uk or call us on **01273 234014** to find out more.

Email us >

#CompassSummerCompetition

**WIN A
POOL PARTY!**

**...at St Luke's Swimming Pool,
Brighton**

#BackToSchool

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where you matter.

Latest news from the Compass team

Phew, we made it through the summer! Hopefully your Compass Card helped to ease the financial burden.

We're always looking out for new offers and fun stuff to do in and around the city, and are thrilled to partner with [Globalbs at the Marina](#) for 10% off adventure golf courses and carnival games. [Brighton Toy Museum](#) are continuing to hold their 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](#) continue to hold their free SEND sessions every Saturday from 3pm to 4pm.

You may have seen our **#CompassSummerCompetitions** social media campaign, where we've given away dozens of free entry tickets to Compass Card holders. But we've saved the best 'til last with our **#BackToSchool** competition!

One lucky card holder will **win a pool party** for up to 30 people at St. Luke's Swimming Pool - like, share and comment on our Facebook or Instagram post to be in with a chance of winning. The competition is running until Friday 23 September - good luck!

Stay up to date with all things Compass on our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

[Find offers >](#)



Latest from Face 2 Face befriending

Our Face 2 Face befriending project is busy as ever this autumn! Our **parent carer support groups** are back after the summer break, plus learn about our new group for parent carers of **16 to 25** year olds, and our work with the Neurodevelopmental Pathway (NDP) Family Training and Navigation Service.

We also have a free training programme for new **volunteer befrienders** starting soon, so now's the perfect time to think about whether you could get involved and use your hard-won skills and knowledge to help other parent carers.

[Read more >](#)

Young people



Amaze celebrates Pride

Young People's Voice Intern, Pagane Gacheva, tells us all about the fantastic time Amaze had at **Brighton Pride** this year, and why it's important the voices of young people with SEND are heard in the LGBTQIA+ community.

[Read on >](#)



Call out for volunteers

We're looking for more young people to join our friendly team of volunteer peer supporters in Brighton & Hove. Peer supporters volunteer at our peer support activity groups.

You must be aged **18-25** and either have **additional needs** yourself, or have had experiences that help you understand what it's like to have additional needs. You must live in **Brighton & Hove**.

We provide free training, starting **4th October**.

[Learn more and get in touch >](#)

New issue of Amazine

The latest issue of our **young people's e-zine**, Amazine, is here - now with a fresh new look!

Andre tells us about befriending a squirrel through The Wild Mind Project, Bobby recommends some great lesbian films, Jordan tells us about a trip to Madame Tussauds, and Charlotte shares pictures of her new puppy Luna.

You can also read about all the brilliant things our **Amazing Futures groups** have been getting up to!

[Read the Amazine >](#)



Amaze, ESPCF and PaCC have their say on the SEND Review

On 29 March the government published the **SEND Review: Right support, right place, right time**, a consultation on the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and alternative provision (AP) system in England. The consultation set out proposed reforms to the SEND and AP system

Amaze, PaCC and ESPCF prepared a **joint response** to the review, based on the insights we've already received from your feedback.

[Read the joint response >](#)



PaCC round-up - September 2022

PaCC has updates for you on [Home to School Transport](#), and [increased capacity within the council SEN team](#), and you can read more about their work with the council on increasing the number of [specialist places for autistic children](#) and young people.

They've also been busy recruiting, so please meet Leila Erin-Jenkins and Vanessa De Guzman (pictured above), who are joining the PaCC team as Engagement Workers. You can also read a [profile on Victoria Captain Johnson-Kio](#), one of the new PaCC steering group reps.

Finally, this is the last PaCC round-up from Chair Diana Boyd, as she's moving on to pastures new, taking a job as Family Carer Advisor to the national SEND team at NHS England. Current Vice-Chair Becky Robinson will be taking over as PaCC Chair.

[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 19 October** 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 >](#)



Preparation for adulthood

This free SENDIASS Zoom workshop is for parent carers of young people with SEND in Year 9 and above with an EHC plan. On **Mon 17 October** from 10.30am to 12.30pm, it covers health, education, employment, housing and more.

[Book tickets >](#)

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

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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