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PARENTS

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

SUPPORTERS

## 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
- Offers and events from i-go
- Latest from Face 2 Face befriending
- Amaze celebrates Pride
- New issue of Amazine, with a new look
- Joint response to SEND review
- ESPCF 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 >](#)



## Offers and events from i-go this autumn

We've got lots of great new offers including **carer goes free at Sharnfold Farm** in Stonecross, and deals at many **Sussex Past** venues like Anne of Cleves House, Lewes Castle and Museum, Michelham Priory and Fishbourne Roman Palace.

And did you know **Brighton and Hove Buses** are offering student bus fares (about a third off standard fares) to 18 to 25 year olds who aren't studying?

Check out the [i-go offers, events and SEND sessions](#) page for details.

Looking for spooktacular Halloween events and half-term activities? You can [search for events](#) from our i-go partners on our website too.

[Find offers and events >](#)



## 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 >](#)

### 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 >](#)



## ESPCF round-up - September 2022

Catch up with the news from East Sussex Parent Carer Forum, including: help shape **short break & respite** services; your ideas for better support for families with children who have, or might have, **neurodevelopmental conditions** such as autism, ADHD, tics and learning disabilities; and hear about a lovely get-together at Knockhatch Adventure Park.

[Read ESPCF 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](http://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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