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Out of Amaze - March 2023



Welcome to our March newsletter

Spring is nearly here, and we're enjoying the ability to get out and about more as the weather warms up. We're pleased to bring you this update with the latest in Amaze news, services and useful information.

This issue includes:

- government publishes SEND improvement plan
- upcoming SEND Ofsted inspections
- Amaze mental health support for our children and young people
- updated neurodevelopmental fact sheets (autism, ADHD & more)
- round-up of Amaze parent carer groups
- latest from fundraising: Amaze wins short breaks contract, calling all cyclists, cross-channel swim for Amaze, and more
- New Amazing Futures careers video
- chances to win adult-sized Raleigh bicycle or free family ticket to Drusillas

plus the latest from the Compass Card, PaCC, upcoming workshops, and more.

Latest news



Government publishes SEND improvement plan

This week, the government finally published its **SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan**, in response to the Green Paper published in March 2022.

We haven't had time to get our heads around all the detail yet but here's a summary of the key announcements, and links to further information.

[SEND improvement plan >](#)



Upcoming SEND Ofsted inspections

Preparations are underway in both Brighton & Hove and East Sussex for a **local area Ofsted inspection** of arrangements for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The inspection is likely to start in the next few months, and families will have the opportunity to share their views.

[SEND Ofsted inspections >](#)



Responding to the rising mental health needs of our children and young people

Learn about what Amaze is doing to support the **mental health needs** of our children and young people.

We've been successful in securing some additional (very time-limited) funding to increase our mental health support for families, through our Amazing Futures and Face 2 Face services. Read on to learn more:

[Amaze mental health support >](#)



Win one of five adult sized Raleigh bicycles!

We are thrilled to be able to offer Amaze families the chance to win one of five top of the range adult-sized Raleigh bicycles donated to us by o3e, a locally based team building and events company.

Tickets cost just £2 each and you can purchase as many as you want to increase your chances of winning!

This raffle is only open to young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) aged 18+ and parent carers who have used Amaze services.

[Enter our raffle to win a Raleigh bike >](#)

SEND resources



Updated neurodevelopmental fact sheets

Amaze has recently updated its fact sheets about neurodevelopmental conditions including **autism, ADHD, DCD/dyspraxia and sensory processing**.

The content was redeveloped together with parent carers and people with lived experience of neurodiversity, and we've updated all the signposting links so that they now point you to relevant services across Brighton & Hove and East Sussex.

[Read our fact sheets >](#)



New practical advice resources online from Brighton & Hove and East Sussex

Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust has produced a great new set of **Occupational Therapy Sensory Videos** for families with children and young people with sensory issues. There are explanatory videos such as 'What is sensory processing?' and 'Sensory modulation', as well as practical advice videos about 'Calming strategies', 'Alerting strategies' and issues like chewing, hair care, nail care, smells, etc.

East Sussex School Health and Children's Integrated Therapy and Equipment Service's new website is also packed with **useful advice about specific conditions** such as Down syndrome, autism, sensory processing difficulties or topics like eating and drinking, sleeping, mobility and more.



Amaze parent carer groups

Would you like to meet up with other parent carers of children with additional needs? Not sure what's out there that's near to you? We've put together a handy flyer that lists all our parent carer support groups in Brighton & Hove.

Dates and times may vary, so email marie@amazesussex.org.uk for the latest info or visit [groups and befriending for parent carers](#) of children with SEND.

[View parent carer groups flyer >](#)



Fundraising: Amaze wins East Sussex short breaks contract, calling all cyclists, and more.

We've got the latest news from our fundraising team, including the very welcome news that Amaze was successful in winning an **East Sussex short breaks contract** to provide peer support to young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in East Sussex for the next three years.

We're also **looking for cyclists** who might be interested in helping raise much needed funds for Amaze by taking part in one of three RideLondon events taking place on Sunday, 28 May 2023.

Read on for more info, or get in touch: email fundraising@amazesussex.org.uk or call us on **01273 234020**.

[Latest from fundraising >](#)

Cross channel swim for Amaze, plus 65km swim round Jersey!

In September this year, parent carer Will Ellis is raising money for Amaze doing a [solo swim 65 km around Jersey](#). As if that wasn't enough, he's following it up with a solo cross Channel swim next year!



[Read Will's story and sponsor his swim >](#)



Leap into spring with your Compass Card

As the evenings get lighter and we start spending a bit more time outside, now is the time to open your free [Compass Card app](#) and see the fantastic offers and discounts for card holders. There really is something for everyone, ranging from football fun with [Albion in the Community](#) to [beach volleyball](#) at Yellowwave.

Excitingly we are starting to plan a free spring **Compass Card Family Fun day**. It's in the early planning stages at the moment but as soon as we have a date, we will let you know in our e-newsletter and on our social media pages.

Regular **SEND activities across the city** continue and include SEND exclusive early opening at Brighton Toy Museum, Moulsecoomb Leisure Centre Family Fun Days and SEND exclusive swimming sessions at St Luke's Swimming Pool. All the information you need can be found on the [Compass news and events](#) page.

You can keep up to date with all things Compass on our social media pages ([Compass Facebook](#) | [Compass Twitter](#) | [Compass Instagram](#)) as well as checking out the offers on our offer's page and free Compass Card app.

[Find Compass offers >](#)



Latest from the Parent Carers' Council

PaCC's latest blog posts include the full lowdown on the recent [Home to School Transport PaCConnect](#), news on the [Dynamic Support Register](#) focus group, find out when the next online [PaCC 'school' workshop](#) (formerly PaCC Surgery) is, learn about the new [keyworker service](#), and a call for [nominations for the annual PaCC Awards!](#)

[Read PaCC's update](#)

Young people



New Amazing Futures careers video

Check out this fab new short video (3 min) about our **Amazing Futures careers service** for young people with additional needs in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex.

Learn about how we support young people aged 14 to 25 who are thinking about their next steps, and meet Dara, who runs the service.

The video was **created by Rory**, a talented young film-maker who's been receiving support from Amazing Futures careers.

For more info about Amazing Futures careers support, email AFcareers@amazesussex.org.uk or call Dara on **07458 345903**.

[Watch careers video >](#)



Carousel is looking for young people to join their media team

Carousel is looking for **young people aged 18 to 25** who are interested in learning camera work, editing, graphics, and sound design.

View [Carousel's flyer](#), or to find out more, email kitty.wallace@carousel.org.uk.

Carousel champions the rights of artists with a learning disability to flourish and be celebrated.

Check out **Carousel TV** (on Youtube), produced by and starring learning disabled and autistic talent:

[Watch Carousel TV >](#)

THE INCREDIBLES SEND CLUB
FUN, FRIENDSHIP AND FOOD
 EVERY **TUESDAY**, 4:30-6:30PM AGE 14-25 YEARS
 ST RICHARD'S COMMUNITY CENTRE
 EGMONT ROAD, HOVE BN3 7FP

hkpyouthteam
 youth@hkproject.org.uk
 Joanna 07579 770960

The Hangleton & Knoll Project
 Working for a better community

Free SENDIASS workshops



EHC needs assessments

Parent carers who are going through the EHC needs assessment process (or are considering requesting an assessment for their child) should check out this free Zoom workshop on **Tues 25 April** from **10.30am to 12.30pm**.

EHC needs assessments workshop: book now >



SEN support in school

A free Zoom 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 **Tues 7 March** from **10.30am to 12.30pm**.

SEN support in school workshop: book now >



How to claim PIP

This free workshop led by Lizzie Batten will help you identify whether your child is likely to get Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and help you make a strong claim.

The Zoom workshop takes place on **Thurs 16 March** from **7pm to 9pm**.

PIP workshop: book now >

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



William's art exhibition

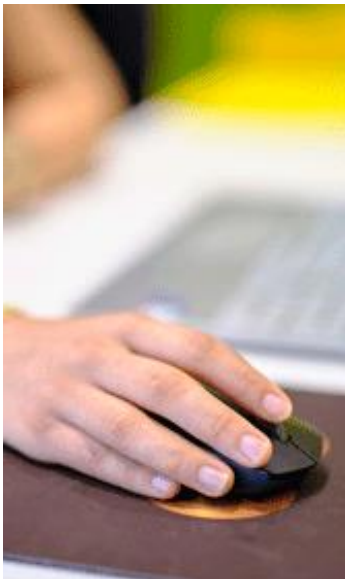
We're always happy to hear how young people we've worked with in the past are getting on so we're thrilled to share William's upcoming art exhibition.

William has had a love of art since a young child, appreciating other artists' work and creating his own. He creates abstract paintings with layers of acrylic paint, water colours or ink, and using various tools to explore different textures.



He is exhibiting his art during the **Artist Open Houses** in May 2023 at 9 Wilbury Villas, Hove, BN3 6GB.

His home and art studio will be open from **11am to 4pm** on **7, 8, 14, 20, 21, 26 and 27 May**. Refreshments provided.



Tell us what you think of the Amaze website and you could win a family ticket to Drusillas!

Have you got five minutes to complete a **short survey** about Amaze's website? We are planning to update and improve our website this year and we want to know whether you use it, what you like about it and what you don't.

It really shouldn't take you more than five minutes and if you give us your email address, we'll enter you into a draw to win one of two **free family tickets to Drusillas!**

[Complete survey >](#)

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).

Amaze
Community Base
113 Queens Road
Brighton BN1 3XG
info@amazesussex.org.uk
amazesussex.org.uk



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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