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Out of Amaze - June 2023



Welcome to our June newsletter

Summer is on its way, so nearly time to bust out the sunscreen and flip flops! Or for some of us, time to start planning how we will get through the long summer holidays until term starts again... Wherever you're at, we're pleased to bring you this update with the latest in Amaze news, services and useful information.

This issues includes:

- Amaze's new weekly lottery - win up to £25,000
- Ofsted inspection report
- Join the Amaze team
- updated 'behaviour' fact sheet
- parent carer groups and support over the summer
- volunteer befrienders wanted
- free Face 2 Face family fun day
- join Amaze at Brighton Pride
- how your feedback has shaped our website plans so far
- Pagane's experience as an Amaze youth voice worker
- Noah's starring role in Disney Peter Pan movie
- key numbers from the past year

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

Latest news



Amaze's new weekly lottery with £25,000 jackpot

We are delighted to announce that Amaze has launched a new weekly lottery! Players have the chance of winning a **£25,000 jackpot** whilst helping us fund our vital work helping families in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex.

[New weekly lottery >](#)

Ofsted and CQC local area SEND inspection report

A few months ago, we shared that preparations were underway for a **local area SEND inspection** of arrangements for children and young people with SEND, in both Brighton & Hove and East Sussex.

The Brighton & Hove inspection by Ofsted and the CQC was completed in March, and the outcome **report was published on 31 May**.

Here we share the report, as well as some reflections on the process and outcome.

[Ofsted report >](#)



Join the Amaze team

We're currently recruiting for a **Fundraiser** (Apply by 9am Wednesday 14th June.) and an **Adviser – Family Training and Navigation Worker** (Apply by 5pm Monday 19th June.)

Check out the job ads (linked above) for more info on what the roles entail, what we're looking for in a candidate, and our great staff benefits!



Updated 'behaviour' fact sheet

All children sometimes behave in ways that their parents can find **a bit of a challenge**. For some children with special educational needs or disability (SEND) this can be more serious because of the impact it has on them and the people around them.

We've updated our 'behaviour' fact sheet. Get tips on things that can help you, and things that can help your child, if they experience **distressed behaviour** or behaviours that challenge the people around them. Plus info on services that might be able to help, and links to further reading.

['Behaviour' fact sheet >](#)

Face 2 Face befriending project



Groups and support over the summer

Our parent carer **coffee mornings will not meet** during the school summer holidays, but we'll still be available for peer support through our **WhatsApp groups** and the new [closed, private Facebook group](#).

You will be asked a couple of questions when you join to verify that you are part of the Face 2 Face project. It's a great place to share information and get to know other parents.

[Parent carer groups >](#)



Call for volunteers

We're on the lookout for more **parent carer volunteers** to train up as Face 2 Face befrienders.

If you have an hour or two to spare a week and have the knowledge and experience to **support other families**, then why not check out our webpage with everything you need to know about [being a befriender](#).

The **training** is free of charge and will set you up with the right skills to become part of a close-knit team of parent carers supporting others on their SEND journeys.

[Volunteer as a befriender >](#)



Free Face 2 Face family fun day this August

Once again, this summer the Face 2 Face team are putting on a fabulous, family fun day! It will take place on **Saturday 5 August, 11am to 3pm** at Extratime in Portslade.

Expect heaps of fun, with plenty of activities on offer, including arts & crafts, **Go Kid Music**, **Parable Dance** and the ever popular **Animazing!**

There will be more fun stuff announced nearer the time, so keep an eye on our social media pages for information on how to book.

[Follow us on Facebook >](#)

Latest from fundraising

Read the latest from our fundraising team, including our **new weekly lottery**, with the chance to win £25,000!

We're also pleased to share that we've secured funding from the **Sussex Masons** to create **two new dedicated websites**, one for parent carers and one for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Read on for more from our fundraising team, including the Berwick Inn's upcoming **pub quiz and raffle** for Amaze, our partnership with **Paula Rose Manhattan**, and more.

[Latest from fundraising >](#)



(newsletter continues below)



join Amaze at

**Brighton
PRIDE**

Call out to Amaze families and young people:
if you or someone in your family are LGBTQIA,
we'd love you to join us in the parade!

 Sat 5 August from 11am
Meeting at Hove Lawns

Want to join us?
Contact Sue on **07483 111648** or
email sue@amazesussex.org.uk

Got mobility issues?
Get in touch.



Join Amaze in the Brighton Pride parade

We had a fantastic time taking part in the **Brighton Pride parade** for the first time last year - this year we want to go bigger! We'd love for as many Amaze families and young people as possible to join us (from both Brighton & Hove and East Sussex!) **If you or someone in your family are LGBTQIA+**, we'd like to invite you to join us in the parade.

This year we've got our hands on a **campervan**, so if you have mobility difficulties and may have trouble walking or using your wheelchair the whole route, please do let us know. There will be **limited spots** available though, so it'll be first come first served. Please note, the campervan is not adapted, so will unfortunately not be accessible to everyone. Please contact us if you need more information.

If you're interested in joining us, please get in touch - call/text Sue on **07483 11648** or [email Sue](mailto:sue@amazesussex.org.uk).



Get summer ready with your Compass Card

With the long summer holiday round the corner, now is the time to renew or [register for your Compass Card](#). The Compass Card team are really busy processing renewals and new registrations, and it's currently taking **five to six weeks** to process them, so please be patient with us. We will get your card out to you as soon as possible!

With costs on the increase, there's never been a more important time to have a Compass Card and get some great deals on leisure. Did you know that **Freedom Leisure** in Brighton have an amazing offer where the Compass Card holder, one carer and up to three others go **completely free of charge**? Or if older card holders prefer to go without their carer, they and one friend go free.

As always, we'll be adding some new offers and giving away some freebies too! Keep a look out on the [Compass Card offers](#) page for all new offer updates. If you have a **favourite venue** that you think would make a fantastic Compass Card offer, let us know by dropping us a note via the [Compass contact us](#) page.

And finally, one to pop in your diary: our **FREE Compass Card family fun day** is taking place from **11am to 3pm** on **Wednesday 30 August** at Moulsecoomb Leisure Centre.

You can keep up to date with all things Compass on our social media pages (below), as well as checking out the offers on our offers page and free Compass Card app.

[Compass Facebook](#) | [Compass Twitter](#) | [Compass Instagram](#)

[Find Compass offers >](#)



Latest from the Parent Carers' Council

PaCC's latest blog posts include PaCC Rep Pippa Hodge's [reflections on the Ofsted inspection](#), the outcomes of the [Learning Disability Consultation](#), updates on our recent PaCConnect on the [Inclusion Charter](#), and our online [Transitions Workshop](#), [meet Stef](#), our new parent carer forum support worker, and announcing the [PaCC Winners](#) and date for the Awards!

[PaCC round-up](#)



Amaze's website development – how your feedback has shaped our plans so far

Huge thanks to all those parents and carers who responded to our survey in March asking for feedback on our website, and an extra loud shout out to the four parents who did in-depth **user testing** with us via Zoom too.

All your insights were so helpful and we harvested lots of **great ideas for the new site**, which we'll be developing over the year. Read on for more about [how your feedback has shaped our thinking](#).

Young people



Pagane's experience of being a young people's voice worker at Amaze

We recently said a very fond farewell to **Pagane Gacheva**, our Brighton & Hove youth voice worker. She crammed in an immense amount into her time here, and she shares some of the highlights, and her thoughts on what she learned and achieved. She also shares some of the ways she used her lived experience as an **autistic young person** to contribute to a number of projects.

[Pagane's time at Amaze >](#)



Noah's starring role in Disney Peter Pan movie

Amaze is delighted to be able to share an interview with local young actor, **Noah Matthews Matofsky**, who is starring as Lost Boy, 'Slightly', in the latest Disney live action family film, 'Peter Pan & Wendy'.

Noah's family has used Amaze services over the years, and Noah was happy to take some time out of his busy schedule to answer a few questions.

[Noah's interview >](#)

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 **Weds 21 June** from **10.30am to 12.30pm**.

EHC workshop:
book now >



Creative workshop for parent carers

A wellbeing workshop for parent carers where you will get to create unique handmade frames using wool and mixed yarns.

This relaxed, friendly in-person session will take place on **Fri 16 June** from **10am to 12pm** at **Community Base**.

Creative workshop:
book now >



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 Zoom workshop takes place on **Thurs 13 July** from **10.30am to 12pm**.

DLA workshop:
book now >

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



Key numbers from the past year

Having just completed our annual reporting for 2022/23, we wanted to share some of the numbers that tell **the story of Amaze services** and how they are delivered and used.

Key numbers from the past year >

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 with JustGiving](#)

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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