

[View in browser](#)



[Parents](#)

[Children and young people](#)

[Supporters](#)

## 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 issue includes:

- Amaze's new weekly lottery - win up to £25,000
- New CITES website
- 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
- latest from Amazing Futures
- Noah's starring role in Disney Peter Pan movie
- key numbers from the past year

plus the latest from ESPCF, 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 >](#)



## Share what you think of new CITES website

The **Children's Integrated Therapy and Equipment Service** is a team of speech and language therapists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and assistants helping children and young people in East Sussex.

They are in the process of **updating their website** and want to hear from parents and caregivers about what you think of the changes.

They've simplified access to their universal support by making **short, helpful films** offering practical support on **therapeutic approaches**, from speech and occupational therapy, to managing emotions through self regulation. You can browse **more than 25 films** and 15 workshops, organised around their care pathways.

Please [share your feedback](#) by emailing Andrew McKechnie.

Watch CITES films >

## 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 >](#)





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 11648** or  
email [sue@amazesussex.org.uk](mailto: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 busy with your i-go Card this summer

There are loads of fab i-go **offers, events and SEND sessions** coming up this summer!

One carer goes free with an i-go card holder at the [Chequer Mead Theatre](#) in East Grinstead, so why not go to [Teddy Bear Storytime](#) on Thursday 22 June for a fun and friendly way to introduce your little ones to the theatre, whilst developing their language and social skills. Or for a magical **underwater musical adventure**, why not try [The Little Mermaid](#) on Thursday 24 August – including an exciting opportunity to meet the characters after the show!

[Encryption Escape Rooms](#) (near Lewes) are a wheelchair friendly venue who are happy to do what they can to make a visit enjoyable for all. There are three **themed escape rooms**, one indoor treasure hunt and an award-winning café, and i-go cardholders get 20% off.

Fancy getting out in the sun? [Globetrotters mini golf](#) are back at Tilgate Park all summer, until October 1st, with 25% off tickets to play, including family tickets. Or head to [Sharnfold Farm](#) to [meet Bluey and Bingo](#) from TV show Bluey on Tuesday 1 August. Carer goes free with i-go cardholder.

Finally, every Monday 10am to 11am during the school holidays, [Lewes Castle](#) is holding additional needs sessions. This is a **quiet hour at the castle** exclusively for families with additional needs to explore the castle and museum and have a go at a range of **Medieval Monday activities** in a relaxed environment. All ages welcome, and one carer goes free when accompanying an i-go card holder.

[Find i-go offers >](#)



## Latest from East Sussex Parent Carer Forum (ESPCF)

Check out the latest news from ESPCF, including: an update on **specialist respite services**; feedback from meetings on **transitions, wheelchair users forum, CAMHS parent carer sessions**; new dates for **drop-in sessions**; upcoming events on **specialist facilities** in mainstream schools and **early years support**; the latest **temperature check** results; and ongoing prep for the anticipated **Ofsted/CQC inspection**.

[ESPCF's update >](#)



## 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



### Latest from Amazing Futures in East Sussex

Check out our gallery showing off their **fabulous jellyfish costumes** for the Eastbourne carnival in May. Hear about their **new boardgames cafe club** in Hastings, and a change to the running fit group, now run by young person Lauren Murphy on Wednesdays, 3.30 to 4.30pm.

[Latest from Amazing Futures >](#)



### 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 >



### Insiders' guide to bringing up a child with ADHD

Free **five-week course** for parent carers with a child or young person under 18 who has been diagnosed with ADHD in East Sussex.

Running in Hailsham on Wednesdays, **10am to 1pm** starting on **Weds 14 June**.

ADHD course:  
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).

---

Amaze  
Community Base  
113 Queens Road  
Brighton BN1 3XG  
[info@amazesussex.org.uk](mailto:info@amazesussex.org.uk)  
[amazesussex.org.uk](http://amazesussex.org.uk)



---

This is the East Sussex version of our newsletter. If you would prefer to receive the Brighton & Hove version, please email [charlotte@amazesussex.org.uk](mailto:charlotte@amazesussex.org.uk)



© 2023 Amaze