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Out of Amaze - February 2024



Welcome to our February newsletter

We're pleased to bring you our first newsletter of 2024, with the latest SEND news from Amaze and others. This issue includes:

- Help us test our new website
- SEND reforms Change Programme rollout
- SEND advice videos

- Home education resources
- "Raising teens: neurodiversity" podcast
- Take part in the mini mile
- Become an Amaze champion
- Face 2 Face groups and events
- Volunteer with Face 2 Face
- Amazing Futures talent show
- New keyworkers service
- Support for families around neurodevelopmental conditions
- Latest from the Speech and Language Therapy service
- Join our lottery
- Impact Report 2022/23

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

Are you a young person with SEND? Visit our Amazing Futures site for young people.

amaze
holding you through

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Education ▾ Benefits & money ▾ Diagnosis & health ▾ Early years ▾ Support for your family ▾ Planning for adulthood ▾

Supporting families with disabled children and young people in Sussex

Amaze is for any family in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex, with any diagnosis, or no diagnosis at all.

Learn more about us

Translate ▾

Can you help us test our new website?

Amaze is close to launching its **brand new website**. We really need **parent carers views** on its content and style so that we can make sure the site is as good as it can be. Could you be one of our user testers? It shouldn't take more than half an hour and can be done **digitally or in person**. If you are interested, please [email Charlotte](#).



SEND reforms Change Programme rollout

Over the next two years, as part of the **South East Change Programme Partnership**, Brighton & Hove and East Sussex will be helping **test proposed reforms** from the government's SEND Improvement Plan, published in March 2023.

Learn more about the [plan to test the proposed reforms](#), including how parent carers will be involved in the process.



SEND advice videos

Do you find it hard to attend our workshops due to work or other commitments? Our Amaze Youtube channel features **recordings of some of most popular Zoom workshops** as well as shorter advice videos on SEND issues including getting support in school, EHCPs, part-time timetables and more.

See our [SEND advice video playlist](#) and subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#) to get notifications of new uploads as they happen.



Home education resources

Is your child or young person not in school? Are you educating them at home? Are you unsure of your rights and responsibilities?

Amaze produces **three companion fact sheets** that aim to address the most frequently asked questions on home education to our SENDIASS advice line: [Emotionally Based School Avoidance](#), [Elective Home Education](#) and [Education Other Than At School](#). Or visit our [fact sheets page](#) for more resources.



Raising teens: neurodiversity podcast

Check out this **in-depth podcast** exploring the experiences of neurodivergent young people and how their families can support them. Hear directly from neurodivergent young people sharing their thoughts and experiences, as well as from guest experts including **our very own Sav**, Amaze's NDP family training service manager.

Listen to podcast 



Take part in the mini mile

The **Brighton Marathon Weekend mini mile** is back! This year, they are particularly enthusiastic for SEND families to take part. This one mile run around Preston Park is **free for children** to join, and they're happy for children to be assisted or go slower.

If your child takes part, could you **fundraise for Amaze**? You can [set up your fundraising page for Amaze](#) today here.

You can find out more about the mini mile by clicking the button below. You can also find out more about how to [join team Amaze at the Marathon Weekend](#) in the marathon or the 10k here.

Take part in the mini mile >

Become an Amaze champion

Do you have a few hours a month to give to Amaze? We are looking for [volunteer community champions](#) to join us.

We are looking for 'Community Champions' to support our **fundraising and marketing** team. Your role will be to help more people find out about Amaze and help raise money for what we do. You could be helping at **fundraising events** or even organising events (like pub quizzes) yourself!



Face 2 Face groups and events

The Face 2 Face parent carer coffee mornings have restarted for 2024, with a choice of **12 groups across Brighton & Hove and East Sussex!** We trialled a meet-up for parent carers of 16 to 25 year olds in Eastbourne before Christmas, and will be holding one in Uckfield in the next month or two as well.

In addition to our in-person groups, we also have several **WhatsApp peer support groups**, and a private Facebook group. When you sign up to [join our Facebook group](#) you'll be asked a couple of questions to verify that you're part of the Face 2 Face project.

If you'd like to join one of our in-person or WhatsApp groups, find out more on the Amaze website: [Face 2 Face befriending and groups](#).

We also frequently hold **wellbeing events and activities** like relaxation workshops, gentle walks, singing for wellbeing, and more. You'll be able to book onto these events through [Eventbrite](#), and we'll announce them on the [Amaze Facebook](#) page, so keep an eye out!



Volunteer with Face 2 Face

We're on the lookout for more parent carer volunteers to train up as **Face 2 Face befrienders**. Do you have an hour or two to spare a week and have the knowledge and experience to support other families? Check out how to [become a Face 2 Face 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.



Amazing Futures talent show and leaving party

Amazing Future's always-popular Talent Show **for young people with SEND aged 14 to 25 in Brighton & Hove** is coming up on Thursday 28 March (see flyer below). This year the show will also be doubling as a **leaving party for Sue Winter**, Amazing Futures (Brighton) manager, who is leaving us after almost 22 years at Amaze, and will be greatly missed! Any young people Sue's worked with over the years are very welcome to come along, even if they don't want to perform, just contact Sue.

Learn more about [Amazing Futures groups](#), including **upcoming sessions and activities**.

Do you want to be in
our Amazing Futures

TALENT SHOW ?



Thursday 28th March



7:30pm - 9:00pm



Community Base, Conference room
113 Queen's Road, Brighton BN1 3XG

Please contact Sue if you would like to be in
the talent show



amazing futures
for young people

Sue@Amazesussex.org.uk

07483 111648



Latest from the Parent Carers' Council

In PaCC's February round-up, read about:

- emotionally based school avoidance
- the newly opened family hubs
- their social care report about short breaks
- PaCC's work around neurodiversity

Plus, add the date for the ever-popular PaCC Awards to your diary and find out more about what's in store.

[PaCC round-up >](#)



Support for families around neurodevelopmental conditions

Amaze now has **more secure funding from NHS Sussex** to offer support for families with a child or young person on the local **neurodevelopmental pathway (NDP)** in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

Read on to learn about Amaze's [support for families around neurodevelopmental conditions](#) like **autism, ADHD and tics/Tourettes**.

New keyworkers service in Brighton & Hove

A new keyworkers service has recently launched in Brighton and Hove. It's aimed at children and young people **aged 0 to 25 who are autistic or have a learning disability**, who are at risk of mental health hospital admission or are already in an inpatient setting.

Read on to learn about the [keyworker service](#), including the aims of the service, how they will help children and young people and their families, and who will be eligible.



Latest from the Speech and Language Therapy service

The Speech and Language Therapy Service in Brighton & Hove is welcoming **new speech and language therapists** into the service this term. They will be working with children and young people with speech, language and communication needs in mainstream schools.

The service is currently hosting four **speech and language therapy students** on their clinical placements, providing valuable support for the team, with the hope that they will come back to work for the service when they have qualified.

Alongside this they are reviewing and **refreshing their website pages**, including updating their links to websites that provide parents, carers and young people with information and ideas about speech, language and

communication differences. Amaze will share their updated website on our social media when it is ready.

If you would like to contact the Speech and Language Therapy Service in Brighton & Hove, please ring their main office on **01273 242079**.

Free parent carer workshops



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 **Weds 6 March** from **10.30am to 12.30pm**.

[SEN support workshop: book now >](#)



Planning for the future

This free wills and trusts webinar in partnership with Renaissance Legal will help you safeguard your child's future.

We aren't able to run this workshop very frequently and this info really is invaluable, so it's worth jumping on this one!

This Zoom workshop takes place on **Thurs 29 February** from **10am to 11.30am**.

[Wills & trusts 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 22 February** from **10.30am to 12pm**.

[DLA workshop: book now >](#)

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



Compass Card offers this half term

Looking for **something to do in half-term**? Here's a few ideas to get you out of the house. [Worthing Ice Rink](#) is open until Sun 18 Feb and is wheelchair accessible - Compass Card holders can take one carer free of charge. High Sports at Withdean Sports Centre offer a [10% discount on climbing facilities](#) for Compass Card holders, including para climbing and climbing for wheelchair users. Or for something a little less active, chill out with games and a 10% food and drink discount at [Puzzle Bored](#). There's also great offers to be found on farms, museums, soft play, swimming and much, much more.

In December we gave away **50 free tickets to Christmas shows** - huge thanks to our Compass Card partners for donating tickets! If you were one of the lucky winners, we'd love to see some photos and hear all about your visit - [email Marie](#).

Sundae Club at Komed kindly gives us four family tickets every month for Compass Card holders, so make sure you read your Compass News e-newsletter when it arrives for details of how to enter!

Keep up to date with all things Compass on our social media pages, as well as on our offers page and free Compass Card app.

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

[Find Compass offers >](#)

Join our lottery

You can support Amaze from a little over **£1 a week** by joining our weekly lottery.

With our lottery, we both have the chance to win. Lottery players are in with a chance of winning **up to £25,000** every week, all while raising funds to help Amaze keep running.

Every lottery number means that we can continue to provide **vital support to families** like you across Sussex.



[Start playing today >](#)



Impact Report 2022/23

Want to know about the **impact Amaze has on the lives of SEND families** in Sussex?

Download our latest Impact Report to find out about our achievements and challenges in the last year, plus our plans for the future.

[Impact Report 2022/23 >](#)

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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