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## Out of Amaze - Feb 2025



Welcome to our February newsletter

We're pleased to bring you our latest Amaze news plus details of:

- Our groups for parent carers
- Getting support for your child's SEND in school or college
- Our NEW Amaze website for young people
- Young people's groups
- Half term swimming session for young people with SEND
- Carers Card
- PaCC latest
- Upcoming SENDIASS workshops
- The BIG Cheer and more!

## Latest news



### *Tough times: how Amaze plans to keep supporting families this year and beyond*

Amaze CEO, Sally Polanski, outlines the ongoing pressures on our funding that will affect some Amaze services this year, and explains our longer term strategy for continuing to support local families with children and young people with SEND.

[Amaze's future plans >](#)



### *NHS England celebrates ND Family Support Service*

Our ND Family Support Service has just been recognised as an example of good partnership working between health services and the voluntary sector the **NHS England Best Practice Health Partnership in SEND Celebration** on 13 February. Service manager, Sav, who attended the celebration in Sheffield tells us why our support for families waiting for assessment for neuro-differences is so needed.

[NHS recognition >](#)



## Join our groups for parents & carers

Would you like meet other parents who get what it's like to have a child with additional needs? Amaze runs lots of friendly, drop-in groups across Brighton & Hove, together with our local parent carer forum, and we'd love you to join us. Our in-person groups include:

- a monthly Breakfast Club at Al Campo lounge on London Road
- a monthly Dads group at the Stoneham pub in Hove
- monthly coffee mornings in Moulsecoomb & Bevendean, Whitehawk and Hangleton & Portslade
- our Parents Like Us group for parents of 16-25s with SEND that meets in Hove

If you can't come to a group, we are starting to run online meet ups in the evening and we have lots of WhatsApp groups, including groups for parents of autistic children, for grandparents & kinship carers or parents of children with complex needs.

You can get details of the dates and times for all our groups on the [Events](#) page of our website. Or email [parentgroups@amazesussex.org.uk](mailto:parentgroups@amazesussex.org.uk) for more information.

Join a group >

# Help with getting the right support in school or college for your child's SEND

Our SENDIASS advice team can help you understand your rights around SEND education and give you advice on how to work with your child's school or college to make sure they are getting the right support.



## *Online info and resources*

The [Education](#) section of our website has pages on SEN Support, EHCPs, exclusions, appeals, bullying, choosing a school and transport to school. You can also download our education fact sheets plus in-depth, step by step guides to every stage of the EHCP process.

[Get education advice >](#)



## *Regular Zoom workshops*

We run regular, **free Zoom workshops** on SEN support in school, EHC assessment and plans and making the most of annual reviews of your child's EHCP. If you can't make a live session, you can watch video recordings of most of our SENDIASS workshops, at your leisure, on our Youtube Channel.

[Book a workshop >](#)

## *SENDIASS advice line*

If you have read our resources or booked a workshop but still need more individual advice, you can speak to someone on our SENDIASS advice line. Email [sendiass@amazesussex.org.uk](mailto:sendiass@amazesussex.org.uk), call 01273 772289 or complete the [registration form](#) on our website.



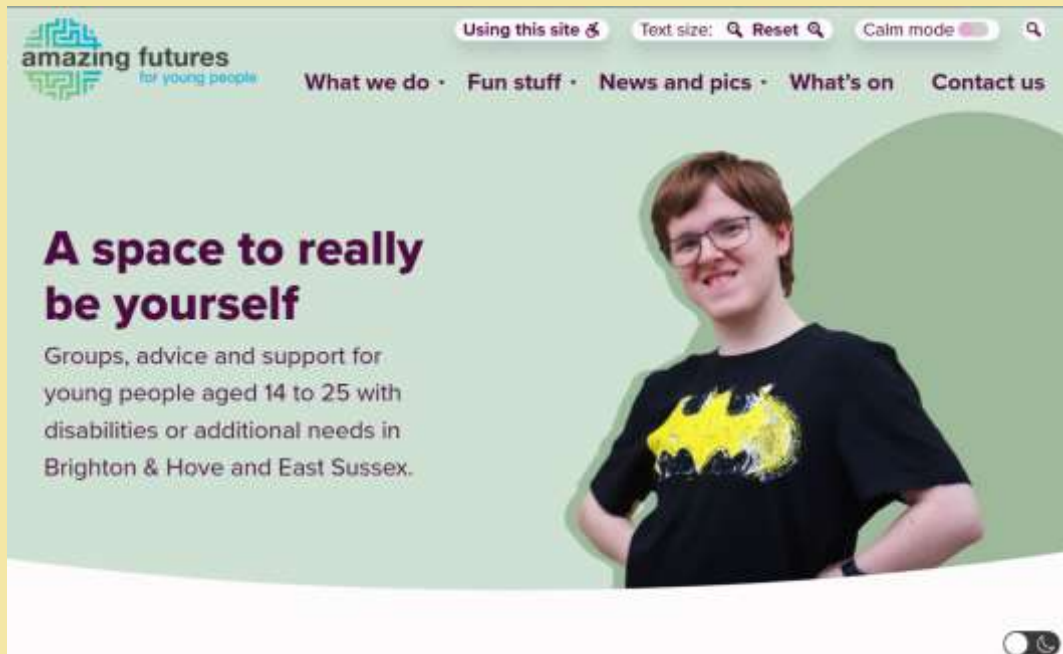


## What if your child is not in school?

If your child or young person is unable to attend school because of their additional needs, Amaze can offer you advice about your rights and responsibilities, and suggest ways to manage the situation. We have a web page all about children not in school, plus fact sheets and a page of tips for when your child won't go to school.



[Home education advice >](#)



## Young people's website goes live!

We're thrilled to announce that after much development and consultation with young people, we will be launching our Amazing Futures website for young people with SEND at the end of the month!

The website will include accessible information about all our groups and services for young people, advice and information on topics like mental

health, employment and volunteering, relationships and more, plus fun stuff like quizzes, jokes, and recipes.

The website has been designed with accessibility in mind, with features like a relaxed colour mode toggle, large text and text size controls, dark mode option, and most pages can be displayed in Easy Read or regular text.

In the weeks following the launch we'll be holding user testing sessions with young people, both in-person and via video calls. This will allow us to fine tune the site to ensure it's as good as possible, and meeting young people's needs. If your young person previously signed up to get involved with user testing, they can expect to hear from us in the next few weeks.

Any young people aged 14 to 25 in Brighton & Hove or East Sussex with any kind of SEND who would like to get involved are invited to [email our comms team](#).

[Visit our young people's website >](#)



## Amazing Futures groups in Brighton

*for young people with SEND aged 14-25*

We run a range of regular groups for young people in Brighton where you can make new friends, play games, or have fun doing things like arts & crafts, playing board games, going for walks or taking part in sports activities. All our upcoming groups are listed on the Events section of our website

[Find a group >](#)



## FREE Half term swimming session for young people with SEND

If your young person attends Amazing Futures, they can join us for a FREE swimming session this February half term at the Prince Regent pool in the city centre. The session will run on **Weds 19 February from 2.45 to 3.45pm**. If they would like to come along, or have any questions, email the [Amazing Futures team](#). Spaces are very limited so please get in touch to book a spot asap.

We are sorry that we are not staffed to offer one to one support for this activity, but young people who need help in the pool or with changing are welcome with a PA.

[Find out more >](#)



**What would you do  
with £25,000?**

You could win when you  
join the Amaze Lottery

A young woman with long dark hair, wearing a yellow t-shirt and a red and white plaid shirt, is celebrating with her arms raised in a 'V' shape, smiling broadly. The background is a solid green color.

Imagine receiving the news that you've won £25,000! It could happen

With the Amaze Lottery, you're in with a chance of winning one of four amazing prizes *every week*. That means if you win the largest prize, you could be £25,000 richer.

You can join from just £1 per week. At least 50p in every pound goes towards supporting families with disabled children in Sussex.

[Sign up for the lottery >](#)



## Got your Carers Card yet?

Did you know that if your child has a Brighton & Hove [Compass Card](#) and you are living in the city, you automatically qualify for a Carers' Card from Brighton & Hove City Council. The card gives you access to discounts and offers designed to look after your health and wellbeing.

Find out how to apply on the [Carers Card page of our website](#). There also a dedicated [offers page](#), where you can check out what's on offer from theatres and cafes to natural health centres, transport companies and more.



[Get a Carers Card >](#)



## Big Cheer raises the roof again!

Our annual Big Cheer comedy night was a rip roaring success, **raising almost £7k** for Amaze (and that's not even counting the live stream). We were blessed with a fantastic line up, assembled by our brilliant patron and host, Angela Barnes. Huge thanks to her and to James Ellis, Rosie Jones, Joanne McNally, Mark Simmons and Joe Wilkinson, who all gave their time and talent for free. And to ex-Amazing Futures intern, Pagane, who started the whole night off so brilliantly. See you all next year!



## Brighton & Hove Parent Carers' Council (PaCC)

In this latest update from PaCC, you can read more about their recent secondary school admissions listening event and their ongoing work on Autism in Schools and the Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools projects.

There's also a date for the upcoming PaCC Awards, news about a PaCC restructure and more...

[Read PaCC's update >](#)

# Upcoming workshops



## *How to claim PIP*

This free evening 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.

Our next two Zoom workshops take place on **Thurs 19 Feb** and **Thurs 2 April** from **7pm to 9pm**.

PIP workshop:  
Book now >



## *Making the most of Annual Reviews of your child's EHCP*

This free SENDIASS Zoom workshop helps you prepare for the next annual review of your child's Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan.

The session takes place on **Weds 5 March** from **10.30am to 12pm**.

Annual Review workshop:  
Book now >



## *Getting support for my child's SEN 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).

Our next workshop takes place on **Fri 28 March** from **10.30am to 12pm**.

SEN support workshop:  
Book now >

Book any of our workshops via the [Events](#) page of our website. You can also find recordings of some of our workshops on our [YouTube channel](#).

## Did you know you can raise money for Amaze for free while you shop?

We're signed up to easyfundraising, which means **you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online**. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! These donations really mount up and **make a BIG difference to us**, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment

to sign up and support us. It's **completely FREE** and **only takes a moment**.

[Join easyfundraising >](#)

## Join our Facebook noticeboard!

If you're a Facebook user, make sure you follow the [Amaze SEND Noticeboard](#). This is where you will find information about SEND services, events and activities across Brighton & Hove and the surrounding areas (not just Amaze's), as well as any new or updated Compass Card offers. We'll also post on here about any Compass freebies and fun days that you might be interested in.



### 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.

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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 [comms@amazesussex.org.uk](mailto:comms@amazesussex.org.uk)