

[View in browser](#)



[Parents](#)

[Children and young people](#)

[Supporters](#)

Out of Amaze - Feb 2025



Welcome to our February newsletter

We're pleased to bring you all the latest Amaze news plus:

- Outcome of the East Sussex Ofsted/CQC SEND inspection
- 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
- New Dads group
- i-go offers
- ESPCF 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 >](#)



East Sussex Ofsted and CQC inspection outcome

The East Sussex Local Area Partnership, which includes East Sussex County Council and NHS Sussex, was given **the middle rating by Ofsted and CQC inspectors** following their inspection in November 2024. Read the article to find out more about the inspection and the key areas for

development identified during the inspection. Or scroll down the page to read East Sussex Parent Carer Forum's response to the report.

[Ofsted inspection >](#)



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 East Sussex, together with our local parent carer forum, and we'd love you to join us. Our regular monthly in-person groups include:

- Eastbourne group at the Kings Centre, Hampden Park
- Bexhill group at the Pelham
- Hailsham group at the Children's Centre in Vega Close
- Uckfield group at Victoria Pavilion
- Healthfield group at Union Church
- Parents Like Us group for parents of 16 to 25s with SEND at various locations across the county

Our two **newest groups** are:

- Monthly Dads group at the Old Bank Wellbeing Trust in Eastbourne
- Termly group for parents of children with complex health needs or profound learning disabilities at The Breathe Centre, Eastbourne.

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 for parents of children with mental health issues.

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 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, call 01273 772289 or complete the [registration form](#) on our website.

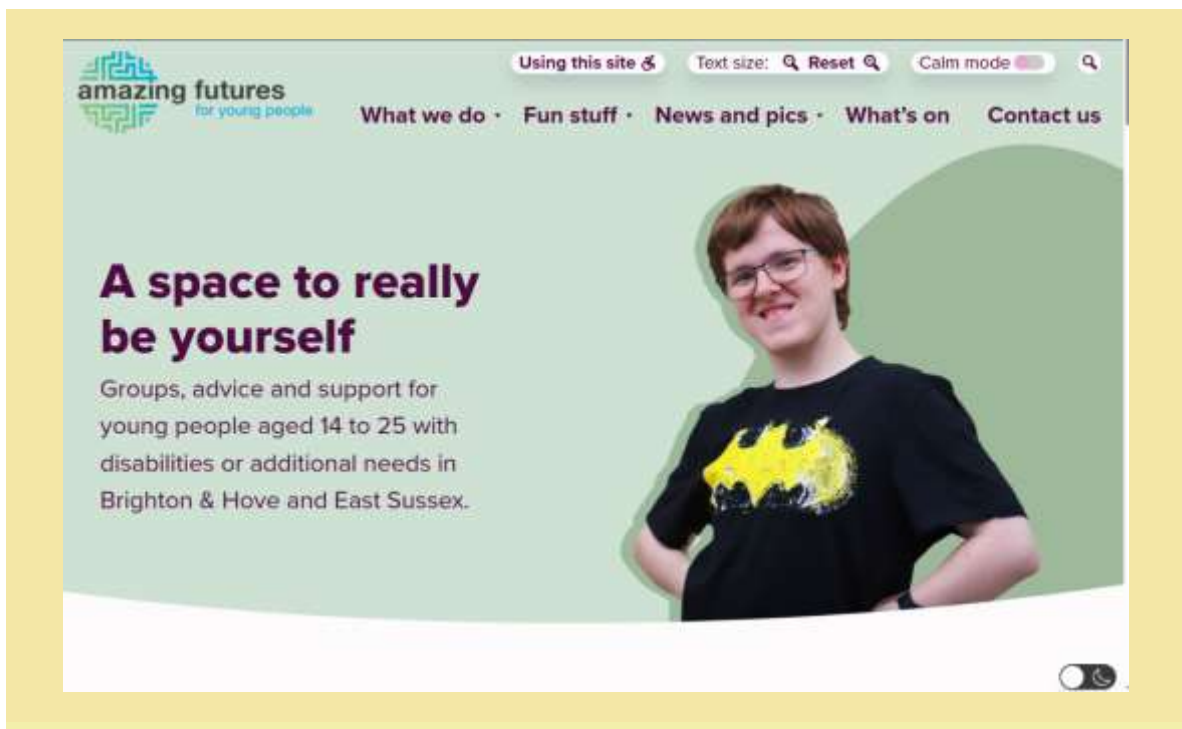


What if your child is not in school?

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 >](#)

A screenshot of the 'amazing futures' website homepage. The website has a green and white color scheme. At the top left is the logo 'amazing futures for young people'. To the right of the logo are navigation links: 'What we do', 'Fun stuff', 'News and pics', 'What's on', and 'Contact us'. At the top right, there are utility links: 'Using this site', 'Text size: Reset', and 'Calm mode'. The main content area features a large heading 'A space to really be yourself' in bold purple text. Below the heading is a paragraph: 'Groups, advice and support for young people aged 14 to 25 with disabilities or additional needs in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex.' To the right of the text is a photograph of a young man with glasses and a black t-shirt with a yellow Batman logo. At the bottom right of the page, there is a small icon of a person with a speech bubble.

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

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



Amazing Futures groups in East Sussex

for young people with SEND aged 14-25

We run a range of regular social and activity groups for young people in East Sussex where you can make friends and have fun doing things like arts & crafts, playing board games, or retro gaming.

We run groups in Bexhill, Eastbourne and Heathfield and there's a new Peacehaven group coming soon too. See the Events section of the Amaze website for details of all our groups for young people.

[Find a group >](#)



AMAZING FUTURES

HEATHFIELD GROUP

EVERY OTHER MONDAY | 4:15PM - 6:15PM

Starting Monday 27th January



Union Church, Station Road, Heathfield,
East Sussex, TN21 8LB

Our young people's social groups are for young people aged 14 to 25 with SEND or additional needs of any kind. We offer a space to be unapologetically you. Have fun, make new friends, and try different activities.

**TO JOIN THE GROUP CONTACT CHARLIE FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CHARLIE@AMAZESUSSEX.ORG.UK**

Registered charity no. 1078094



i-go offers for February half term

Don't forget to make the most of your i-go card this half term holiday. You can get discounts or freebies at loads of leisure venues across East Sussex and beyond.

The latest offers include a brilliant deal at [Bodiam Castle](#). i-go cardholders get two free carers tickets, and there's free parking. You'll also get free admission for accompanying children in your group (children aged 17 and under). Events at Bodiam in February include a dragon scavenger hunt, pooch passport, and winter wildlife spotter sheet.



[Apply for an i-go card >](#)

**What would you do
with £25,000?**

**You could win when you
join the Amaze Lottery**

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 >



Becky and Holly at the Amaze AGM 2024



Holly and Serene at iCAN

East Sussex Parent Carer Forum

ESPCF's latest [Winter 2024-25 Newsletter](#) is out now! It includes news on parent groups in schools across East Sussex, a report on mental health support in schools, and upcoming events and project updates.

You can also visit the ESPCF news page to read the joint statement from ESPCF, ESCC, and NHS Sussex [Ofsted & CQC report published - East Sussex Parents Carers Forum](#) following the publication of Ofsted's report on SEND services in East Sussex.

ESPCF newsletter >



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!



New dads group

Meets monthly in Eastbourne

A new group for dads and male carers of children with SEND is now running every **Monday**, from **6.30pm to 9.00pm**, at The Old Bank - Wellbeing Trust in Eastbourne. The next session is on **Mon 3 March**. The group is run by Amaze and a volunteer from the mental health group Mankind. Click the button for more info or watch the video to hear from dads who attend the Brighton group.

[Find out more >](#)

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.

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



This is the East Sussex version of our newsletter. If you would prefer to receive the Brighton & Hove version, please email comms@amazesussex.org.uk