

Compass Card – accessing leisure in exchange for information

Amaze, Brighton & Hove : <http://www.amazebrighton.org.uk/>

Local authorities are meant to have a register of disabled children in their area to support planning services. In Brighton the local authority fund Amaze, a local charity and parent forum that specialises in providing advice and support to parents of children with special needs, and manage a database called The Compass. The database provides anonymous information to local service providers and policy makers about children with disabilities and special educational needs living or going to school in Brighton & Hove.

**Outcomes:**

Registering on The Compass gives families a voice in shaping local services and means that Amaze keeps families up-to-date on issues and services that matter to them, via the Amaze newsletter and targeted mailouts. Once a child is registered on The Compass, they also receive a Compass Card which entitles families to a range of leisure discounts and free offers across Brighton & Hove.

**Why it works:**

The Compass is the only local register of children with disabilities and administers the database on behalf of the city's Children & Young People's Trust (CYPT). Being independent from any of the statutory agencies, families are more willing to engage and share information with Compass, via Amaze. The Compass can supply anonymous data to other agencies, including the local authority and also pass on useful and relevant information to families registered on the database. The Compass Card is a huge incentive to sign up and currently there are over 1300 members with up-to-date records on the database.