



introducing ART

OUT OF AMAZE

Amaze is an independent, Brighton based, parent-led charity. It supports parents and carers of children and young people with any disability, complex health or special educational need, aged 0-19 years. By offering one point of access, the organisation provides information, advice and support that aims to bridge the gap between service provision and the issues and challenges faced by parents raising their children.

The organisation's work is arranged into 8 distinctive but overlapping areas:

- Telephone Helpline
- Individual casework support for education issues
- Individual help to complete Disability Living Allowance and related benefits applications
- Information and publications such as newsletters, booklets, fact sheets, website
- Consultation and development work to influence service planning and improvement
- The Compass (the city's database of children with special needs) and Leisure Card
- Transition project for parents of young people aged 14+ preparing for life after school
- **Amaze Research and Training (ART)** which offers a training programme of workshops, conferences and parent support courses, as well as participatory research project work.

ART was launched in 2007. It uses the experience the organisation has gathered over the last 15 years working alongside parents, to pinpoint best practice and make research and training accessible and useful to parents and practitioners. By linking theory, research findings and the experience held by parent carers and practitioners, it works to find solutions to the challenges children and families are facing in their real lives.

ART offers a training, research, advice and consultancy service locally, regionally and nationally. Training contracts have included work with Carers UK; the Out of School Childcare and Play Training Programme for the Brighton and Hove Children and Young People's Trust; the DfES and DoH Early Support Programme; the DfES Early Intervention Parenting Pathfinder and the National Association of Parenting Practitioners. We have recently assisted the DCFS with family consultations, were selected to join the NHS Institute of Patient and Public Involvement Preferred Supplier List in 2008 and are currently working with a number of local authorities and parent groups across the country to empower and equip parents to participate in planning and decision making forums.

Our work with the University of Brighton's Community University Partnership Programme includes delivering modules on *User Involvement*, *'Family Perspectives'*, *Families Of Children With Complex Needs* and *Becoming A Resilient Practitioner* to undergraduate and post graduate students and social care and health practitioners.

ART CAPACITY AND STAFFING

Amaze employs ten part-time staff and ART operates with help from a pool of Associates, employed on a sessional basis. Our experienced trainers are well used to dealing with the dynamics of mixed parent practitioner groups as well as parent carers used to fighting for services for their own child and the different challenge of learning to represent a wider group of families and work in a team. Our preference is to co-deliver training with parents to ensure the highest quality delivery in this complex arena. However we will provide a single experienced trainer if preferred.

ART TRAINING

Courses and workshops are designed to meet the needs of each organisation and planned by Kim Aumann (ART Director) and Carrie Britton (Senior Associate). Kim and Carrie have delivered information sessions for parent and professional audiences for the past 15 years. They also designed the parent support course, *Insiders' Guide To Bringing Up Children With Special Needs* and train teams of parents and professionals to co-facilitate the courses.

Kim has 25 years experience as a community worker, parent support practitioner and manager of third sector organizations. She led the development of Amaze from the outset and has worked with parent carers for the past 17 years. She is a Visiting Fellow with the Faculty of Health, University of Brighton and works closely with the School of Nursing and Midwifery, facilitating the involvement of parents in the development of resilient approaches to supporting children and families.

Carrie worked as an Occupational Therapist prior to her oldest daughter developing juvenile arthritis. She completed her PhD research study '*Families' Experience of the Management of Juvenile Arthritis In the Home: Views from the Inside*' in 2002 and continues to be a Visiting Fellow of the University of Brighton. She went on to found and manage CHOICES for Families of Children with Arthritis, an award winning parent support charity from 2002-08. Her handbook also won a national award. She now works in a range of capacities to improve the design, delivery and standards of services for families of children with disabilities or long term illness.

ESTIMATED COSTS

These are provided as a *guide only* and are negotiated individually with each organisation.

One day course

To include negotiation re course content,
trainer fees, course materials, administration
Travel, accommodation, subsistence expenses

One trainer

£400-£600
tbc

Two Co-trainers

£700-£1200
tbc

The above costs assume that the host organisation will secure and manage bookings, arrange an appropriate venue and refreshments, provide basic training equipment and administer any reimbursement of travel and child care costs for course participants. Co-trainers are assumed for workshops and participatory sessions for groups attracting 20 participants or more.

Please see the attached *Outline of Training* which we hope gives you some insight into what we can offer, however it is just a sample of a range of sessions that we have developed. Bespoke sessions can be designed to match the particular needs of each organisation or parent group. If you have any further enquiry, please contact Kim.

Kim Aumann (Director ART)
kim@amazebrighton.org.uk
Tel: 01273 234020 / Mob: 07906 845424

Dr Carrie Britton (PhD., MSc., Dip. C.O.T.)
Carriebritton08@googlemail.com
Tel: 01273 430219