**DISABILITY WORKING GROUP**

**Key Messages February 2023**

Members: John Marrable, Simon Fogarty, George Kerr, Te Aroha Springford,

Standing members: William Robertson, Kathryn Harkin, Jack Devereux, Vanessa Taane,

Apologies: David Bainbridge-Zafar, Heather Clay

Guests:

The Disability Working Group members met on Friday 17 October 2023.

* Members were introduced to new member, Paula Waby.
* Concern that parents are waiting a long time for diagnoses of autism – long waiting lists and families often have no funding to go privately. To be investigated.
* Positive feedback about the Manaaki service and the support they have provided whanau with children with disabilities. Request for this service to be expanded to all people with disabilities (rather than just those who are Maori/Pasifika as currently).
* Anxiety in mental health networks as a consequence of the weather up north – around what would happen if it happened here, and also prices of fresh produce etc
* Issue raised of lack of NZSL interpreters – work being done in this space to look at future sustainability as well as supporting this community now
* Accessibility Game – good feedback, however predominantly reaching Corporate and Administrative Staff. Looking at this being on request going forwards and an alternative for teams targeted towards them.
* Discussion around experiences of members going to their general practitioners for medical care and trying to understand if they might have information stored on their patient management system.
* Discussed the opportunity to include a disability-related question in the upcoming Consumer Engagement Quality Service Marker – members proposed “What is happening within the service to improve equitable access for the disabled community”?
* Rural members needed as some members coming to the end of their term. Will approach organisations throughout the district for their recommendations.