**DISABILITY WORKING GROUP**

**Key Messages January 2024**

**Easy Read Format**

Members: John Marrable, Kirsten Dixon, Jaime Randhawa, Paula Waby, Te Aroha Springford,

Standing members from Te Whatu Ora Southern:

Kathryn Harkin, Jack Devereux,

Apologies: David Bainbridge-Zafar, Vanessa Taane, Kim Kennedy, Adam Hall, Jacqui Eggleton, Heather Clay, Philippa Henderson

Guests: Joy Christison, Te Whatu Ora

The Disability Working Group members met on Friday 19 January 2024.

* Jack Devereux starting a new South Island wide role from Monday 22 January 2024.

Hoping that he can still take part in this group.

Hospital has gone live with new patient information system called “South Island Patient Information Care System” (SIPICS).

This went live 25 November. Very busy in the 2 months before going live.

24/7 support being provided for users up to and after going live to provide support to teams.

Moving data to the new system was a huge piece of work, somethings that didn’t move across caused issues.

A lot more information needing to be entered up front into the system - part of this is Ministry needs that mean we need more information about the patient’s journey.

Previous system had only required the bare minimum, but hadn’t been updated so big jump in data collection has been noticed by staff.

The ability for alerts to be seen across the whole system for patients who have data of their disability recorded.

Patients’ information can be updated easily.

Hope that patients’ profiles will be able to be linked so more than one member of the family can be seen closer together.

Does the system have the need for interpreter in a profile?

Example requires an NZSL interpreter –

New system puts the “Impairment Alert” more in the face of our staff than the old system did.

Clinic list would show impairment function. Hospital profile currently not connected with Health Connect South so need to work on this.

* Sunflower Lanyard

The Sunflower Lanyard is a worldwide programme in which people can choose to wear a green lanyard with sunflowers on it which shows that they have a Hidden Disability and may need some help in support.

Also has a card which can detail what the person may need help with.

No promise that help will be given but can be considered an invitation for our staff to talk with them and provide further support.

Disability Working Group thought that this would be good to trial.

* Joy Christison - Regional Health and Wellbeing Plan – Team

Plan has been out for consultation; aware Plan is not perfect but wanting to consult widely about what is needed. In an ideal world they would go to the community first.

Priority areas - get the right resources and approaches to support planning that keeps the needs of tangata whaikaha/ disabled people at the forefront.

Support a workforce culture that is trained to understand the needs etc. of disabled people.

Deliverables – Have practices in place that makes sure that disability and accessibility is understood and address the issues facing disabled people.

Work with whaikaha to form links to disabled people and disability provider network.

Train our health workforce to increase understanding and remove the way they think of disabled people.

Maori look at whaikaha from a different angle - never from a negative view.

Comment that Deaf would use the term “Deaf” rather than disabled.

Language in the “Plan” is hard to understand and could be made easier to understand for this community.

Suggestion for Plan to be in other formats such as, NZSL and EasyRead. Replace the word “tackle unconscious bias” with the word “address” the way they think of disabled people”.

* Oamaru - access to ED and GP appointments are still a struggle. Kirsten planning to speak with the “Stronger Waitaki” group about conversation/groups for disabled community.
* Invercargill - no NZSL interpreter. Older prefer face to face as well, rather than online. Not great access to mental health for Deaf. Also looking to build bridge between Deaf and hearing through NZSL training.
* Worried about new National government and their feeling towards the “Treaty”. Limited carers support available currently. Fear in the community. Not a lot of support for parents in current groups for Maori and Pasifika parents.
* Blind/Low Vision consumers are still getting letters in print. Getting to the hospital continues to be a problem. Parking very hard. Also need assistance getting around the hospital as well - have been raising this with the New Dunedin Hospital team as well.
* Reminding community that if they are struggling to understand what the person is saying it is ok to ask them to repeat what they said.