

# DISABILITY WORKING GROUP

## Key Messages November 2021

Members: John Marrable (Chair), Jasmin Taylor, Simon Fogarty, George Kerr

Standing members: Mel Warhurst, William Robertson, Kathryn Harkin

Apologies: None received

The Disability Working Group members met on Friday 12 November 2021

- Members were asked their views on the formats SDHB should use for communications around preparedness for Covid to ensure information reached all parts of the community. Key factors identified were clear and concise, high contrast, no tables, a readable PDF (with alternate text for graphics), easy-read, audio-descriptors for videos, high image use for NZSL users and an NZSL video, accessibility of media types for those who do not have access to digital mediums, a phone number for questions, ensuring that the homeless community have access to the information, potentially through radio use or a sandwich board.
- Disability awareness training has now been undertaken by 3700 staff of SDHB. A new national training programme is being used by all DHB's – "Disability Equity" which is interactive and will be mandated for all new staff as of 1 December. Concern raised about how to access all staff, particularly those who have been employed for some time – a focus on reception staff, orderly's, staff who can be the first point of contact for a consumer in the hospital environment. Also considered extending this to experienced clinical staff and specialists who may benefit from a refresher.
- SDHB is holding Disability Awareness Week from 29 Nov to 3 Dec, culminating in the International Day of the Disabled Person on the Friday. Different themes identified for each day – physical, mental, intellectual and sensory disabilities with a final celebration on the Friday. Discussed having inspiring stories of those who have disabilities who have achieved well internationally, as well as patient and staff stories.
- Ministry for Disabled People – question around what this might mean for SDHB. Emphasis on coproduction of resultant policies, with trainers with lived experience. There was hope expressed that information within the disability world would be concentrated to one key place as a central information resource. Also a hope that the Ministry would encourage DHB's to lift their game and that relevant legislation would be hastened. Important to keep health and disability separate and also a reminder that the principle and implementation of enabling good lives are quite different.
- Action plan has been ratified – now need to prioritise tasks within that plan which can be reported on each meeting, with view that plan is a fluid document.