**DISABILITY WORKING GROUP**

**Key Messages February 2023 – Easy Read**

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.
* Issues that parents are waiting a long time for autism to be identified – long waiting lists and families often have no funding to go privately. To be looked into.
* Positive feedback about the Manaaki service and the support they have provided whanau with children with disabilities. Request for this service to be spread to all people with disabilities (rather than just those who are Maori/Pasifika as currently).
* Concern in mental health networks due to the recent weather up north – around what would happen if it happened here, and also prices of fresh food etc
* Issue raised on lack of NZSL interpreters – work being done in this space to look at future ability to ensure more interpreters are trained as well as supporting this community now
* Accessibility Game – good feedback, however mainly reaching Management and Administrative Staff. Looking at this being on request going forwards and a different style for each team.
* Talk around experiences of members going to their local doctor for medical care and trying to understand if they might have information stored on their conputer system.
* Talked about the opportunity to include a disability-related question in the upcoming Consumer Engagement Quality Service Marker – members suggested “What is happening within the service to improve equitable access for the disabled community”?
* Rural (country) members needed as some working group members coming to the end of their term. Will approach organisations throughout the district for their suggestions of possible members