

**NOTES OF THE  
DISABILITY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING HELD AT CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL,  
53 HEREFORD STREET, GROUND FLOOR, ON Tuesday 16 June 2015 at 10 am**

**Present:** Gail Payne (Metropolitan Community Advisor, CCC), Allison Nichols-Dunsmuir (Health in All Policies, CDHB), Tracey Dorreen (Deaf/Blind Community), Simon Atkinson (People First), Anna Mitchell (Disabled Persons Association), Adele Wilkinson (Mental Health Education and Resource Centre), Robert Watts (Older Adults) and Ana Macadie (Metropolitan Community Advisor, Injury Prevention, CCC).

**Minute taker:** Gail Payne

**1. Welcome:** Gail welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Apologies:** Doreen McCoard

**3. Confirmation of last meeting minutes:** Tuesday 19 May 2015

Changes to Minutes: It was Tracey who raised the issue at Chaney's Corner; and Tracey also stated that CCTV magnifier facilities should be installed in all libraries.

**4. Matters arising from previous minutes:**

1. Safety at Pedestrian Crossings: Robert raised the issue of safety at controlled intersections where pedestrians get safely to the bay in the centre of the road, but then cannot safely leave the centre due to cars having the right to make free left turns. Robert also discussed other intersections where cars have free left turns and it is difficult for pedestrians to cross. Robert explained that if you are sight impaired it is also difficult to see cyclists approaching intersections. Robert said that policy should reflect the disability journey so that implementation plans foresee obstacles that may arise. It was agreed to further this conversation by asking a Council staff member to come to the August DAG meeting.

2. Earthquake Memorial Accessibility: The letter to CCDU (from DAG) was sent. DAG has received a reply from CCDU explaining that an accessibility audit will be undertaken during the stages of development of the earthquake memorial.

Anna and Allison were onsite to meet the Memorial's' designer on 24 May. They reported to DAG that there appeared to be four access points into the memorial of which three would be accessible. They understood that a ramp will be an integral part of the design (not an add-on), and Allison discussed with the architect if there was any thoughts of braille or an audio presentation. It is understood that Barrier Free NZ Trust had been invited to review the memorial, and Lorraine Guthrie from Barrier Free NZ Trust will be the speaker at DAG's July meeting.

## 5. Updates from Members

### Adele

- Adele discussed the significant pressures on mental health funding, the increase in referrals, and the complexity of issues for people. Adele said the sector is under pressure.
- During 2014 the Mental Health Education and Resource Centre MHERC responded to 67,000 contacts. In 2012 it responded to 30,000 contacts, and in 2013 47,000. Part of this is due to increased awareness.
- Post-earthquake research cites the rise in mental health need / demand and a rise in complexity. It states that more resources are required to respond.
- All Right campaign will continue.
- Adele discussed the potential for sleep and wellbeing workshops to be run for the disability sector. Funding would be required for the workshops and each workshop can take 25 people. Adele will discuss with EDLG.

### Tracey

- Tracey would prefer that disabled toilets were not unisex, such as they are at the bus exchange; and also discussed the types of locks on disabled toilets can be a problem in terms of people who experience claustrophobia.
- Tracey informed DAG that she would be stepping down from her DAG role after the August meeting.

### Anna

- National office DPA has new chairperson. New initiatives are planned.
- Anna attended the Blind Foundation's audio description at the Court Theatre. Very interesting and worthwhile. Volunteers are required to present the audio descriptions.
- Attended Minister Nicky Wagner report back from the Geneva UN Disabilities Convention. Appears that a person with learning disability has been elected onto the UN body for the first person time.

### Simon

- In the past month Simon attended the ECAN Total Mobility meeting; the EDLG Forum; the Housing Forum; a meeting with People First about the new Bus Exchange.
- Simon believes that disability access planning needs to be apparent throughout a process and architects should receive mandatory disability training.
- Simon discussed special buses in the UK that can take prams, wheelchairs etc.

## **6. Health in All Policies Advisor (CDHB) update – Allison Nichols-Dunsmuir**

- Allison will forward the Access to All Events workshop notes to DAG members and will continue to use DAG as a touchstone group for the project.
- Allison investigated the accessibility concerns raised by DAG about the hospital's Park 'n Ride car park. This is a public car park operated by the Council under the direction of the CDHB. It is a very temporary car park. The CDHB does not want disability car parks at Park 'n Ride car park because of the location, uneven surface etc. 90% of people surveyed about the car park were happy with the shuttle service provided. It is very hard to get to the eye clinic. The ideal is to have someone to take you to the hospital doors and then that person parks in the Park 'n Ride space.

## **7. Metropolitan Community Advisor update – Gail Payne**

- Gail discussed the excellent response to the Council's LTP consultation process.
- Gail explained the Council's community governance structure.
- DAG membership and purpose will be reviewed to reflect the needs of the city and sectors post-quakes, and to reflect to the guidelines of a two year tenure for members. Further discussion to take place.

## **8. General discussion**

- Allison raised the issue of car park building heights which are usually 2.1 metres and will not accommodate wheelchair vans etc. Allison is collecting evidence to encourage adherence to the standard of 2.5 metres. Allison explained why this is an essential part of the accessible journey - that when you get to your destination you know that you can access the car park building. Simon agreed to investigate clearance heights of car park buildings in Wellington and to send photographs to DAG.

## **9. Next Meeting: Tuesday 21 July 2015 at 10 am at Christchurch City Council, 53 Hereford Street.**

Gail cannot attend, meeting will be facilitated by Allison.

Speaker at the July meeting will be Barrier Free NZ Trust.

## **10. Meeting Closed: 12:00 pm**