

**NOTES OF THE
DISABILITY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING HELD AT CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL,
53 HEREFORD STREET, GROUND FLOOR, On Tuesday 20 October 2015 at 10 am**

Present: Allison Nichols-Dunsmuir (Health in All Policies, CDHB), Simon Atkinson, Anna Mitchell, Gail Payne (Metropolitan Community Advisor, Disability Portfolio, CCC), Adele Wilkinson and Robert Watts

Apologies: Rachel Mullins (CCC Inclusive Communities) and Doreen McCoard.

Facilitator: Gail Payne

Discussion from previous meeting Notes: Request for the Council's traffic manager from September meeting to return in November to further discuss free-turn crossings where people can get 'stranded' in the centre due to being unable to see the cycles or cars with the free turn.

DAG 2016 membership recruitment: A report will go to the November meeting of CHED (community, housing, economic development committee) requesting endorsement to refresh the DAG's objectives and appointment process. The objectives remain the same and the report was discussed and agreed upon by the DAG members. It was agreed that future DAG members will not represent specific disability sectors, and will not be nominated by those sectors, and it was acknowledged that this nomination process had not been followed for more than five years. New vacancies will be advertised through key networks and organisations in the disability community, and an appointments committee will be formed consisting of three appropriate members from the disability community, and relevant staff. Once the new DAG members have been appointed, future vacancies will be interviewed for, and appointed by, an appointments sub-committee from the DAG itself, with staff.

There may be times when the Council and the DAG co-opts a member in order to meet a specific need in the group.

It is planned in the future to adhere to the current condition that appointments are for a two year term, with right of renewal for a further term.

International day of persons with disabilities 3rd December: DAG members agreed it was important to support events led by other organisations to celebrate the day, such as: DPA lunch, EDLG art work. Members to bring a list of what other organisations are doing, to celebrate the day, to the next DAG meeting.

The Council will put a message about the day on its public screen in the foyer, and also on its social media sites.

Events for All project launch will be discussed at the next DAG meeting.

UN convention and local government: The DAG discussed the convention's monitoring mechanism (through the office for disability issues) and the Council's role in implementing this high level measurement too. The fact that almost 25% of the population identify as having a disability makes disability issues important for local government agendas.

The DAG advises the Council about how to implement it equity and access for people with disability issues, and Council staff maintain awareness about key issues arising from the NZ Disability Strategy. The DAG has an important role to support Council to help developers to think about long-term gains. Buildings that are fully accessible now will be resilient for the future as the population ages and changes.

DAG work plan 2016: Allison led a work planning session that included:

1. Transition - the importance of DAG members receiving orientation to the role, and the process for Councils main link staff to be clear about the DAG's role and purpose.
2. Processes - it was agreed to hold an annual disability sector forum, to make submissions, to advise Council units on policies and initiatives, and to participate in Ward meetings.
3. Major topics to provide advice on included: the rebuild, communications, sport recreation and leisure, libraries events, housing, roads and footpaths, transportation, events.
4. Outputs - staff guide for best practice communication with disabled citizens, accessible map, web accessibility, community profile, and guidance for community board plans.

General Business:

- Location of bus stop at Burwood hospital was raised at DPA AGM - Gail and Allison agreed to follow up.
- Halswell Library tour - aim for December meeting

NGO recovery issues research - discussion with researcher Dr Chrys Horn

MHERC reported that since the earthquakes it is delivering 8x the amount of education work, its annual contacts have increased from 18,000 to 67,000, revenue has increased by 50% and staff by one third, there has been a huge increase in appetite from workplaces for information about mental health and addictions, brief intervention skills training has increased significantly in order to prevent escalation of ill-health, five ways to wellbeing is promoted, huge increase in the number of organisations that MHERC is collaborating with, the much greater community interest in mental health wellbeing is a positive.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 17 November 2015 at 10 am at Christchurch City Council, 53 Hereford Street