

**NOTES OF THE  
DISABILITY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING HELD AT CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL,  
53 HEREFORD STREET on Tuesday 15 November 2016 at 10:00 am**

**Present:** Allison Nichols-Dunsmuir (Health in All Policies, CDHB), Gail Payne (Metropolitan Community Advisor, Disability and Older Adults Portfolio, CCC), Shane McInore, Paul Barclay, Adele Wilkinson, Debra Edmonds, Anna Mitchell, Rachel Mullins, Philippa Cosgrove, Debbie Baker, Dayl Milne, George Patena (Multicultural advisor), Kim Slack (Libraries outreach team leader).

**Apologies:**

**Facilitator:** Gail Payne

**Previous Notes, Matters Arising:**

The meeting began with a round about the impact of the Kaikoura earthquake on the disability sector in Christchurch. Some organisations had phoned clients and generally it seemed people were coping. Social media / Facebook continued to be an active source of information for many people. Some organisations found their face-to-face appointments were down in the week after the quake.

The Council's Multicultural Advisor attended the DAG meeting and discussed potential liaison with multicultural network meetings in the city.

**University of Canterbury, Alternative Format Centre**

The Alternative Format Centre specialises in converting information into an accessible format for individuals with sensory impairments. Mathematics and science texts and symbols can be converted into an accessible electronic format; and visual information such as graphs and diagrams can be converted into tactile format with captions in Braille. Videos can be captioned for students with hearing impairments.

It was discussed that universal design is often used for creating accessible places, spaces, and products for people, but information also needs to be accessible to the maximum number of people. The Alternative Format Centre's services are free and acknowledge that 'one size does not fit all.'

Opportunities for future partnerships with the Alternative Format Centre were explored.

## **Community Learning Librarian – children with dyslexia and print disabilities**

The Community Learning Librarian presented the range of library services available for families and children with print disabilities. There are a number of electronic and paper formats available to assist, and the services of a librarian can be booked for advice. Best practice guidelines were discussed.

During December and January the library's mobile van will make weekly visits to the Margaret Mahy playground.

## **General Business**

Dementia Canterbury (previously Alzheimer's Canterbury) presented its new branding and resources.

Some smaller NGOs are reporting pressure due to lack of funding, the requirements of the recent Health and Safety legislation, and Charities Services costs.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities is on 3rd December. The Cube (supported by Earthquake Disability Leadership Group, and others) is holding a 'Lets Break Out' fun run and walk.

The CDHB has received a good number of applications for the advertised positions on its Disability Steering Group.

Allison Nichols-Dunsmuir is presenting at the Canterbury West Coast Branch of the Public Health Association's event: Public Health Café. Allison's topic is: building an inclusive society; disability, public health and the rebuild. DAG members invited.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday 13 December 2016 at 10:00 am at the Mental Health Education and Resource Centre.** The last meeting for the year will include a review of the DAG's achievements in 2016, and planning for 2017.