



Horowhenua 
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Live Well Horowhenua Horowhenua Access and Inclusion Plan

2017 - 2020



Vision

**“An inclusive Horowhenua
where all people can live
well and access and enjoy
opportunities to fulfil their
potential, prosper and
participate in all aspects of
social, economic, political
and cultural life”**

Introduction

The Horowhenua District has a changing and increasingly diverse population

- New Zealand’s population and that of the District is changing.
- The median age of the Horowhenua population is increasing.
- The proportion of older people (those aged 65 years and over) is increasing.
- The region has a higher than national average percentage of people who identify as disabled.
- Our population has become more diverse in terms of ethnicity, culture, sexual and gender identities, religion, values, languages spoken and family structure.
- Given this diversity, planning needs to be deliberate and considered to affect equity of opportunity and equality of outcomes.

Diverse identities need to be acknowledged and intentionally included in decision making and actions taken to incorporate these perspectives in our Community planning and development.

This Access and Inclusion Plan has been developed and confirmed by the collaborative that comprises the Horowhenua District Council Access and Inclusion Forum. It has also been endorsed by the Community Wellbeing Committee of Horowhenua District Council.

The Access and Inclusion Action plan seeks to provide a results based approach to inclusion over the next 3 years (2017 to 2020).

To achieve the best social inclusion and accessibility outcomes, Horowhenua needs the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders to take a collective approach to the adoption of community led Access and Inclusion planning in the District.



History

Since 2013 Horowhenua District Council has overseen the running of the Horowhenua Disability Leadership Forum and the Disability Action Plan.

As part of the 2017 review process it was decided that going forward, the Disability Leadership Forum will be renamed the Access and Inclusion Forum.

The Role and Purpose of the Access and Inclusion Forum

The Access and Inclusion Forum will report to the Community Wellbeing Committee of Horowhenua District Council on progress made toward identified objectives, as well as keeping the wider community updated with progress towards the achievement of community led inclusion across the district.

The key purpose of the Horowhenua Access and Inclusion Action Plan is to serve as a guide and a work plan for the Access and Inclusion Forum in championing inclusion for people of all ages and ethnicities across the District. The action plan; and therefore the Access and Inclusion Forum, serves to ensure every person in the district is included, and in so doing improves their quality of life, which in turn contributes to the achievement of the overall vision for Community Wellbeing in Horowhenua; namely to live well and thrive.

Timeframe

This strategy has a 3 year span and will next be reviewed in 2020. Over the same time period different initiatives and projects will be implemented that relate to the Access and Inclusion Action Plan.









These initiatives may involve the collaboration with the Community Wellbeing Committee and its other community forums such as the Older Persons Network, Arts Culture and Heritage Forum, Education Horowhenua, Youth Network and Youth Voice.

What documents guided this Access and Inclusion Plan?

The NZ Disability Strategy(2016 to 2026) and its foundational documents: the United Nations Convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Treaty of Waitangi

The Horowhenua District Council used the New Zealand 2016 to 2026 Disability Strategy and the Waitangi principles as the point of departure for the review of the forum and its' plan objectives. The New Zealand Disability Strategy (which was published in November 2016) uses the United Nations Convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities (of which New Zealand is a signatory to), as the founding document for the New Zealand Disability Strategy.

Key outcomes identified in the NZ Disability strategy

-  **Outcome 1 – Education** We get an excellent education and achieve our potential throughout our lives.
-  **Outcome 2 – Employment and economic security** We have security in our economic situation and can achieve our full potential.
-  **Outcome 3 – Health and wellbeing** We have the highest attainable standards of health and wellbeing.
-  **Outcome 4 – Rights protection and justice** Our rights are protected; we feel safe, understood and are treated fairly and equitably by the justice system.
-  **Outcome 5 – Accessibility** We access all places, services and information with ease and dignity.
-  **Outcome 6 – Attitudes** We are treated with dignity and respect.
-  **Outcome 7 – Choice and control** We have choice and control over our lives.
-  **Outcome 8 – Leadership** We have great opportunities to demonstrate our leadership.

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

New Zealand Disability Strategy

Principles and Approaches

Vision

New Zealand is a non-disabling society - a place where disabled people have an equal opportunity to achieve their goals and aspirations, and all of New Zealand works together to make this happen.



Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi

Partnership	Participation
Reciprocity	Autonomy
Mutual benefit	Equity
Equal treatment	Redress
Active Protection Options	

Community Wellbeing Objectives:

- Monitoring measuring and reporting on community wellbeing processes across the district.
- Increasing communication with community and community organisations.
- Engaging with geographic communities to establish community committees and community action plans.
- Ensuring a broad mix of coordinated events, activities and opportunities are delivered across the district.
- Fostering neighbourhood level events and activities that foster social connection.
- Increasing the range of current relevant community service information available via the website.
- Enhancing community development offering in Foxton and Shannon.
- Encouraging sponsorship and fundraising associated with community events and activities through advice, funding, training and education opportunities.
- Supporting the capacity of community organisations with an emphasis on volunteers.
- Actively coordinating community forums to integrate planning and service delivery for target populations.
- Strengthening and fostering relationship building across the wider community.
- Supporting Community innovation and volunteering and celebrating successes.

Long Term Plan Community Outcomes 2015 to 2025

- Our community has access to health, social and recreation facilities (and services)
- Our older people have access to opportunities
- Our young people live in a safe and supportive environment and are empowered
- All sectors are encouraged to work together
- Our communities have a “sense of place”
- We invest in the knowledge and skills of our people
- We are proud of our heritage and diversity
- All our people and communities have opportunity to participate in local decision-making
- We provide strong leadership

Meetings & Monitoring and Evaluation

Quarterly meetings will provide specific member agencies the opportunity to report on their respective initiatives and activities, as well as any collaborative project groups to report progress on various initiatives. An annual report will be submitted to Council via the Community Wellbeing Committee.

The Approach

The approach is determined by that which is adopted by the Community Wellbeing Strategy, namely a Collective Impact approach within a results-based accountability framework. The conditions of collective impact are reinforced through the forum and the action plan articulates clearly expressed objectives and desired outcomes with results based accountability.

The Forum will on behalf of the Community Wellbeing Committee gather relevant data and will monitor, evaluate and report whether specified outcomes have been achieved.

The Collective Impact approach describes a model of operating that achieves large-scale social change through broad cross-sector co-ordination. There are five required conditions within this model; i) a common vision and agenda (a common understanding of the problem to be addressed and a joined up approach to solving it); ii) shared measurement systems (collecting data and measuring results consistently on a short list of indicators at the population level); iii) mutually reinforcing activities (diverse group of agencies and programmes and initiatives working towards common goals; not requiring all participants to do the same thing, but encouraging and supporting each agency and initiative to undertake the specific set of activities it does well); iv) continuous communication (often involving regular meetings over long periods of time) that builds on mutual experience, common understanding and motivation behind the different agencies and initiatives; and v) an organisation prepared to provide backbone support.



Access and Inclusion Review Process:

Horowhenua District Council seeks to integrate Inclusion and Accessibility issues into all aspects of Council planning and practice. We are committed to involving the community in our decision making processes and want to know what residents and stakeholders think is working, where we can improve, and what we can do differently. We held a range of interactive workshops, focus groups and one on one interviews to get your feedback on what works, what we can improve and what we need to do differently.

Who participated?

Over 100 individuals and representatives of more than 30 agencies and groups were consulted in the course of this review process. These key informant groups included a wide range of government agency representation, disability sector staff and representatives of community organisations. Many of the people spoken with were active in their community with some participating in two or three community groups. In addition to the 3 formal consultation workshops a series of in depth interviews, focus groups and drop in sessions were held with Access and Inclusion Membership groups such as the Horowhenua Special Needs Network and

“We need to champion the use of technology in overcoming accessibility barriers”

Horowhenua Special Olympics. Surveys were also distributed to individuals not able to attend focus groups.

What you told us

There was overwhelming feedback across the board that the Disability Leadership Forum and its associated action plan should be renamed and reinvented to be the Horowhenua Access and Inclusion Forum. It also emerged as a clear understanding that the Access and Inclusion Forum and Plan should include a range of groups we seek to intentionally include namely people of all ages, ethnicities and sexual orientation as well as representatives from a range of culture and linguistic diverse (CALD) groups that are more representative of the diversity of our communities.

“Iwi are an integral part of all planning in the community”

“Access to information and support navigating services is a big issue in the Horowhenua”

What you told us

Current issues for people with disabilities in Horowhenua

Mental health services identified as being the biggest challenge

Safety

Affordable and accessible housing

Physical Access

Access to services and entitlements

Access to events, sport and leisure activities

Attitudes towards people with disabilities

Access to information and support navigating services

Navigating Ministry of Social Development/ WINZ

Access to networks for those working within the sector

Education – inadequate support in schools for pupils with learning support needs, no after school care options.

Education – Lack of training and education for young adults leaving school.

Access to transport within the district and between districts

Barriers to meaningful employment opportunities (including paid and voluntary positions)

Health – Access to GP's and fragmented limited health services for those in outlying areas

Success would look like



Positive Attitudes



Focus on people's abilities

Kaumatua
are
valued
and
considered



Responsive support



Choice of quality education opportunities



Valued Employment opportunities

Increased
cross sector collaboration and sharing of information

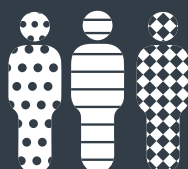


Timely Services

Better
communication



Disabled persons treated as individuals with respect



People being treated the same



Access and engagement with National government agencies

Current Priorities

The following New Zealand Disability Strategy outcome emerged as priorities

- Accessibility
- Health and wellbeing
- Attitudes
- Choice & Control
- Education
- Employment

Future Opportunities

A number of potential collaborative projects were identified in the course of consultation below emerged as the Top 5 collaborative project preferences

1. Live Well Horowhenua: Public Awareness Inclusion Campaign
2. Haeremai Horowhenua Welcoming Community Campaign
3. Accessibility Matters Advocacy & Action (First fully accessible toilet!)
4. Support for Inclusion & Choice (Education, Employment; Entertainment)
5. Emergency Preparedness Collaborative Campaign and Kits

Key Indicators

The following are baseline indicators indicated in the Community Wellbeing Action Plan

Key Indicators for communities:

- Number and % of people who have not felt lonely in the last 4 weeks (Manawatu – Wanganui; 2008 – 67.3%, 2010 – 75.5%, 2012 – 71.4%), (by gender, age, ethnicity), New Zealand General Social Survey, Department of Statistics - two yearly. HDC will investigate ways to measure.
- Number and % of people with access to support in a crisis from another household (Manawatu – Wanganui; 2008 – 96.7%, 2010 – 97.6%, 2013 – 96.6%), (by gender, age, ethnicity), New Zealand General Social Survey, Department of Statistics- two yearly. HDC will include in its annual Residents Survey.
- Number and % of people who report belonging to community club, group or organisation (by gender, age, ethnicity) New Zealand General Social Survey, Department of Statistics- two yearly. HDC will include in its annual Residents Survey.

Key Indicators for Older Persons and people who identify as having a disability:

- Number and percentage of older adults (65 and over) with ambulatory sensitive admissions. (ASH & Maori)
- Number of people using the total mobility scheme. (as published by Horizons District Council)
- Number of Elder Abuse cases. (Age Concern)
- Number of people on Supported Income Benefits.

Why Is This Important?

In 2013 census, 24 percent of the New Zealand population were identified as disabled, a total of 1.1 million people. Horowhenua falls within the Manawatu-Wanganui region which has a higher than national average percentage of the population who identified as having a disability or impairment (27 percent).

The plan will focus on partnering, facilitating, advocating or delivering on specific actions and projects for the next three years such as:

- Providing services, supports, facilities and information that is accessible for all.
- Providing people living with disability access to equal opportunities to authentically participate in, and contribute to, our local community.
- Encouraging people living with disability to contribute to the delivery of accessible and inclusive services, support, facilities and information through ongoing consultation and engagement via the Access and Inclusion Forum.
- Working in collaboration with people living with disability, community groups, Council, local business, operators and other community stakeholders to improve access and inclusion within our community, and to raise awareness and understanding about living with disability.

As Local Government, the Horowhenua District Council has an important role to play in the successful coordination of these outcomes. Likewise, representatives in the sector. The services they provide complement the disability service system and enable people with disability to participate in their communities on an equitable basis. Community organisations and representatives from culture and language diverse groups as well as representatives from minority groups, will all play a part in the implementation of the Horowhenua Access and Inclusion Plan.

Achieving social inclusion and participation means

Raising the overall level and distribution of wellbeing in society to ensure that:

- all people have equal access to opportunities.
- all people are able to live well and develop their potential.
- all people achieve a fundamental level of wellbeing.
- overall social wellbeing improves over time.

To achieve socially cohesive communities, Horowhenua needs inclusive practices. Meaningful access and inclusion involves a community-wide shift in attitudes and includes physical, social, economic and cultural aspects, as well as access to services and information.

With more than 27% of the people in our region identifying as having disability, it is more important than ever to ensure that all members of our diverse community are able to participate in, and contribute to society.

The Horowhenua Access and Inclusion Forum are committed to improving outcomes and increasing opportunities for people from cultural and language diverse groups and those with a disability that living well in Horowhenua is a reality for ALL the peoples of our district.

This plan provides a foundation for achieving greater access and inclusion in line with international thinking and the expressed wishes of minorities and people with disability. We hope that, with an emphasis on collaborative impact and action, this inclusion and action plan can move us beyond compliance towards community wide attitudinal shifts and culture change focussing on access, inclusion best practice and innovation.

This approach provides a common framework that aligns with the Community Wellbeing Strategy and seeks to move from a focus on compliance and service provision to an empowering rights-based approach supporting individual agency, choice, control and independence.



Outcome 1 ACCESS

Inclusive and accessible communities

People with disability live in accessible and well-designed communities with opportunity for full inclusion in social, economic, sporting and cultural life.

Recognising that access to information and support to navigate and access services and support is as fundamental as physical access.

Seeking to ensure people with disabilities have improved access to public places and spaces. Forum to play an advocacy and lobbying role.

As a collaborative, Forum seeks funding to undertake relevant projects.

The Access and Inclusion Forum plays a role in auditing public facilities for accessibility and makes submissions to customer services, annual and long term plan Council processes to assist Council to identify issues and address areas needing improvement. Activities could include monitoring footpaths and forum members collecting data with regard to mobility car parks and providing advice to ensure safe access.

Council Communications and publications are accessible at all Council Offices and service centres, libraries and Council newstands (for example height of shelving, visual and audio displays in foyer).

Communication methods to advise of consultation and engagement, report problems and address issues are publicised and takes people with disabilities into consideration.

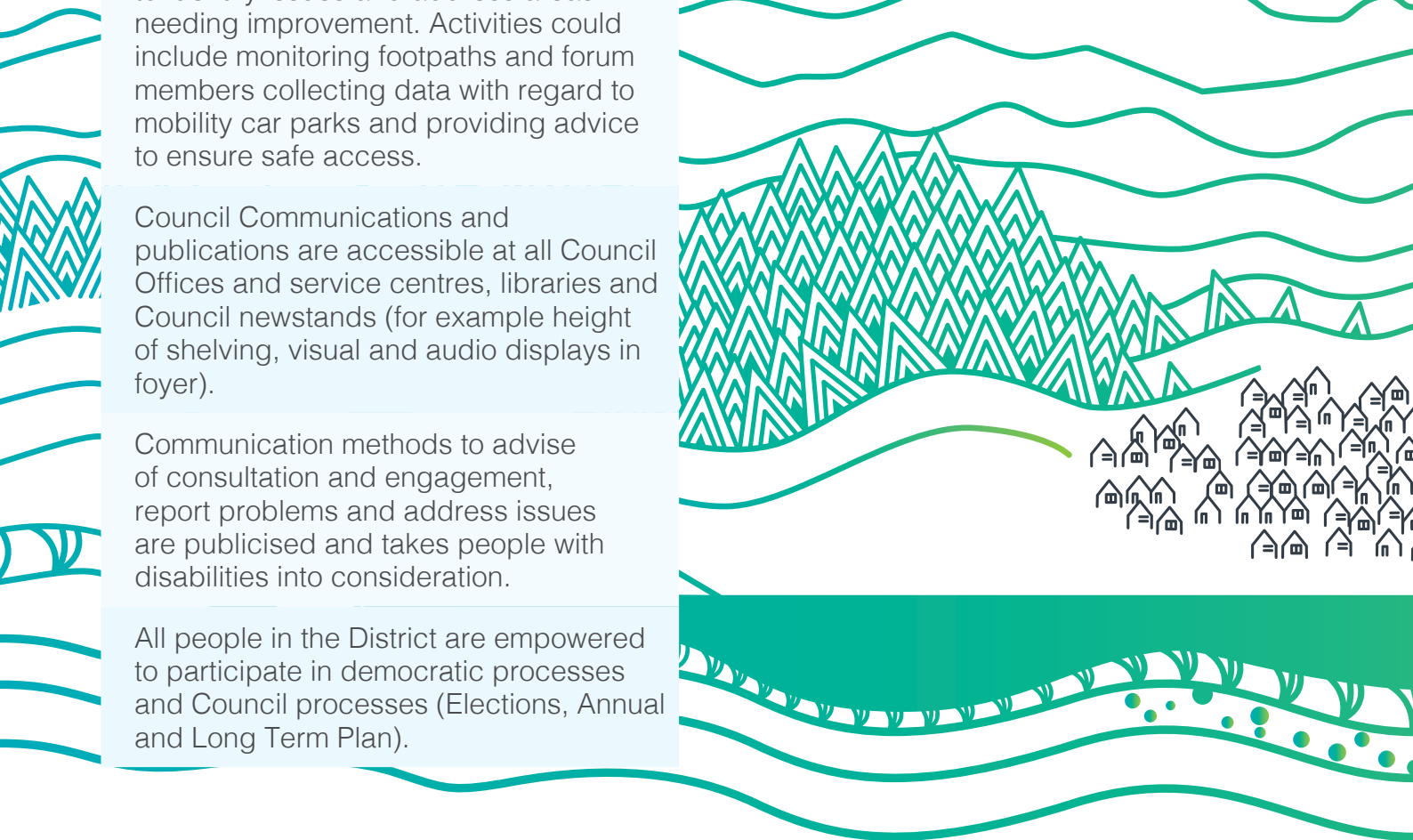
All people in the District are empowered to participate in democratic processes and Council processes (Elections, Annual and Long Term Plan).

Outcome 2 ATTITUDES

Personal and community support

Access and Inclusion Forum takes a lead in providing public awareness campaigns such as “Live Well Horowhenua,” and “Haeremai Horowhenua” to champion, educate and advocate for the care and inclusion of all people in our diverse community.

People who identify as having a disability, have access to a range of supports to assist them to live well, and to be independent, actively engaged and included in our community.



Outcome 3 HEALTH

Health as a fundamental to individual wellbeing

All residents of Horowhenua including those who live with a disability, older persons and people from culture and linguistic diverse (CALD) groups are supported to attain the highest possible health and wellbeing outcomes throughout their lives.

Mental Health as a key focus and action area for the next 3 years.

Outcome 4 CHOICE AND CONTROL

Education, Training, Life Long Learning Economic security and employment Opportunities and Activities

People in Horowhenua have the opportunity to achieve their full potential through their participation in an inclusive, high quality, education system that is responsive to their needs.

All people with disability, their families and carers shall have economic security and access to employment opportunities, enabling them to plan for the future and exercise choice and control over their lives.

All people who have a disability, and their families and carers as well as those from culture and language diverse groups shall be able to enjoy equitable access to opportunities and activities which allow them to participate, volunteer and contribute in their communities and shall be empowered to be able to exercise choice and control their lives.

People who identify as having a disability shall have opportunities to continue learning throughout their lives.



Priority Projects to be undertaken by the Access and Inclusion Forum

- **Jack Allan Community House as a champion site for access and inclusion** The relocated Jack Allan hub to be seen as the home of inclusion in the Horowhenua
- **Live Well Horowhenua** public awareness inclusion campaign in partnership with Older Persons Network, Youth Voice and Youth Network
- **Haeremai Horowhenua** Welcoming community campaign
- **Accessibility Matters Advocacy & Action**
Navigation advocates to assist in accessing services;
First fully accessible toilet facility;
- **Support for Inclusion and Choice (Education, Employment; Activities)**
 - Collect data and formulate research report regarding Learner support in schools and after school options in partnership with Education Horowhenua
 - Collaboration with Youth Network focused on employment opportunities
 - Access and Inclusion forum initiative to seek funding for inclusive activities
- **Emergency Preparedness**
Collaborative Strategy, Campaign & Emergency Response Kits

Appendix: Access and Inclusion Forum

Terms of Reference

These Terms of Reference will be in effect from June 2017- June 2020, where a review of both the Terms of Reference and the Forum and Action Plan will take place.

Background

The Disability Leadership forum was established in TBC. As part of the 2017 review process it was resolved that going forward the Disability Leadership Forum will be renamed the Horowhenua Access and Inclusion Forum.

Objectives

- To ensure people who identify as culturally and language diverse, or a minority, or having a disability are given opportunities to be involved in decisions that affect them
- To ensure all residents living in communities in our district feel they are part of a connected and inclusive society full of social activity and opportunity
- To ensure all groups including those who identify as a minority or having a disability are included and equipped with good information and empowered with the means to navigate and access services
- To ensure those identifying as being a minority or having a disability are living in a safe, secure and healthy environment, physically, socially and financially
- To ensure that all people in Horowhenua are included, recognised, celebrated and supported for their contribution to the community and are given opportunities to work, volunteer and grow
- To provide a vehicle for Council and Government Agencies to interact strategically and operationally with minority groups including people who

identify as having a disability, in the district

- To take a leadership role in accounting for the needs of all the people in our district
- To advocate on behalf of culture and language groups and disabled persons
- To serve as a collaborative forum that can drive their own projects and activities with support from Council and other groups and agencies.

Role/Purpose

The Access and Inclusion Forum seeks to ensure all people in the Horowhenua live safely and securely and experience optimum health.

This Forum seeks to advocate for an inclusive Horowhenua where all people can live well and access and enjoy opportunities to fulfil their potential, prosper and participate in all aspects of social, economic, political and cultural life. The forum serves to provide people who identify as having a disability and minorities with a voice and a platform to advocate for access to good information and services. Its purpose is the progression of the social and economic wellbeing of minorities and people with disabilities via the establishment and delivery of actions from the Horowhenua Access and Inclusion Plan (2017– 2020).

A positive and collaborative communication platform between persons with disabilities, minorities and representatives of community organisations, culture and language groups and agencies of those involved in the provision of care for persons with disabilities and older persons with a focus on fostering a connected inclusive community for people of all ages living in the District

Scope

In undertaking its role, the network will consider:

- The different needs of its representative groups while understanding that there are different sub groups within the population
- The views and opinions of people who live in the Horowhenua District
- Any specific actions that the membership and / or the groups / networks represented will take responsibility for, in order to achieve the Networks action plan outcomes
- The priorities and activities undertaken are described in Access and Inclusion Plan, which will be the subject of a triannual review. These priorities will inform Horowhenua District Council's understanding of access and inclusion priorities within the Horowhenua District. Activities undertaken will be monitored in relation to how population level indicators of positive community wellbeing are influenced.

The membership of this network will be constituted from representatives of the following areas:

- Muaupoko Tribal Authority
- Raukawa Whanau Ora
- Fale Pasifika
- Horowhenua Learning Centre
- Deaf Aotearoa
- Special Olympics
- Age Concern
- Residential Care Providers
- ENABLE
- ACC
- IDEA Services
- IHC
- CCS
- Community Connections
- Total Mobility
- Alzheimer's Society (Manawatu)
- Health – Central PHO/MDHB
- Home and Community Support Services
- Horizons Road Safety Group
- Horowhenua Transportation Trust
- Ministry of Social Development (MSD)
- NZ Police
- St John – Medical alarms/Caring Caller
- Pharmacies
- Horowhenua Hearing Association
- MASH Trust
- Brain Injury New Zealand
- Health and Disability Commission
- Parkinson's Society
- Blind Foundation
- Autism Manawatu
- Downs Syndrome Support
- Horowhenua District Neighbourhood Support
- Contact Incorporated
- Horowhenua Special Needs Network
- Teen Zone
- 60's up
- Arthritis Support Group
- Diabetes Horowhenua
- Grey Power – Horowhenua
- Horowhenua Breathe Easy Support Group
- Horowhenua Scooter Group
- Levin's Mens Shed
- Levin Senior Citizens
- Life Education Trust
- Pink Ladies
- Supergrans
- Healthcare New Zealand
- Access
- HMOP
- HSG
- Horowhenua Family Support Services
- Horowhenua Local Management Group
- Riding for the disabled

Meeting Arrangements

- This group will meet no fewer than four times in any one calendar year.
- Working groups may be established for particular reasons for specific periods of time.
- Meeting agenda will be sent out at least one week prior to the relevant meeting taking place.
- Minutes will be distributed within three weeks of a meeting taking place.
- Council Officers will prepare agendas, and minutes in collaboration with the chairperson.
- Meetings will be facilitated by an elected member of Council or a nominated person who represents members at the Community Wellbeing Committee.
- The Forum meetings are public forums therefore any members of the public not affiliated to one of the membership groups are able to attend but are required to request speaking rights in advance of the meeting as per council procedure.
- Any final decision making resides with the Chairperson who reserves the right to remove people who are not demonstrating appropriate meeting etiquette or who are not complying with Council procedures.

Reporting

The group will report regular minutes and provide copies to the Community Wellbeing Committee. In addition the group will regularly communicate and inform Council's Community services team and the general public.

Members of the Forum are responsible for regularly communicating the information shared at the Network meeting to their respective groups/affiliations including, the priorities set and the activities undertaken.

Resources

The Network may jointly seek to mobilize resources for collaborative undertakings identified in the areas of activity of the Access and Inclusion Plan.

Deliverables

Each member must:

- Represent the views and interests of one or more communities and/or groups listed above.
- Identify opportunities for development and progression of the goals of the Access and Inclusion Plan, and actively work alongside members of the group to achieve them.
- Be actively involved with the organisations or group that they represent.
- Distribute information through their community networks.
- Assist in the coordination and / or promotion of planned initiatives.
- Contribute to discussions that arise surrounding reviews of Council policy and plans.

Each meeting will:

- Provide opportunities for Council Officers to inform members of upcoming actions that may influence the Forum.
- Allow members to share and discuss relevant issues relating to Access and Inclusion with other members of the group.
- Consider how collaborative action can progress positive outcomes for Access and Inclusion for ALL people across the district.

For further information on the New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy you can visit www.msd.govt.nz, or write to:

Senior Services
Ministry of Social Development
PO Box 5054
Wellington 6145


For further information on the Horowhenua Community Wellbeing Strategy and other Action Plans visit www.horowhenua.govt.nz or write to

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