**Accessibility of Websites When Considering Web Site Design**

When creating a website it is important to acknowledge that some users may have accessibility issues that could hinder their use and understanding of your website. Good website design requires consideration of access issues that users may experience. This will help to ensure that barriers to access are overcome and that your website has a broader, more diverse, audience.

Users with who may have accessibility issues could include those with disabilities;

* Visual impairments including blindness (full and partial), and colour blindness
* Learning difficulties
* Auditory impairments
* Seizures/ photosensitive reactions

Users of your website may require additional equipment or software to access your website. This could include;

* Braille Keyboards
* Eye trackers
* Voice recognition
* Screen readers
* Translation software for speakers of other languages

Users with access issues do not just include those with disabilities. Other issues can limit accessibility including;

* Slow internet connection
* Temporary issues such not being able to watch videos/ listen to audio due to the environment they are in e.g. at work, commuting
* Using devices with small screens such mobile phones and tablets
* Language differences

There are various ways to ensure your website is accessible. On a basic level you can use large, clean lined text, a clear uncluttered and structured layout, text to explain the subject matter of images as well as videos that are subtitled or make use of sign language. At a more advanced level, software or bespoke coding mark-up language can used or created by the website designer to help interface with assistive software and products.

References;

<https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zxgkxnb/revision/8>