Glossary – Accessibility

The terminology associated with accessibility and inclusivity can be a bit confusing so here are some definitions to help you:

**Accessibility** - the measure of a web page's usability by persons with one or more disabilities.

**Alternative text** - short text used described images---usually 125 characters or less.

**Alt Text** – when *alternative text* is added to photos, visually impaired users using screen readers will be read an *alt* attribute to better understand an on-page image.

**Assistive technology** - technologies that help improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities when interacting with computers or computer-based systems.

**Audio description** - AD is commentary that describes body language, expressions and movements, making the visual media clear through sound.

**Captions/captioning** - captions are similar to television subtitles and give people who are deaf, deafened or hard of hearing access to live performance, videos, screencapture (inclusive because everyone can see the captions, whether they have a hearing loss or not).

**Disability** – a limitation in an ability.

**Hearing impairment** - a partial or total inability to hear.

**Inclusivity** – the principle that everyone should be able to access the same things and be included in them.

**JAWS** - Windows Screen Reader used by people with vision loss - the software reads aloud content that is displayed on a computer screen in human-like synthesised speech.

**Learning difficulty** - affects the way a person learns new things in any area of life.

**Screen reader** - software that reads the contents of the screen aloud to a user. Screen readers are used primarily by individuals who are blind or have dyslexia.

**Transcript** - text only version of speech in a video or television programme - not a recommended substitute for captions.

**Text to speech** - automatic generation of speech output from text.

**Usability** - principle that information and applications should not only be accessible but also easy to use and understand.

**Voice recognition** - ability of a machine or program to receive and interpret dictation, or to understand and carry out spoken commands.

**Visual impairment** - a decreased ability to see to a degree that causes problems not fixable by usual means, such as glasses.