Liverpool City Region Careers Hub

To help every young person find their best next step

LCR Careers Hub Annual Conference November 2023

Digital Inclusion Slides

Digital Inclusion

LCR Careers Hub Annual Conference

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What is 'Digital Inclusion' and why is it important?

How do we enable individuals to lead a modern digital life?

Tackling issues of access, connectivity, skills and motivation

Affordability is a common factor – worsened by cost of living crisis

Digital Inclusion is everyone's responsibility, but no one has overall ownership

Who is impacted?

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION DIGITAL INCLUSION NETWORK

- Where you find deprivation, you'll find digital deprivation.
- At risk groups include:
  - 28,000 Unemployed
  - 233,000 Economically Inactive
  - 1,700 16 & 17 Year Old NEETs
  - 1,600 17-21 Year-Old Care Leavers
  - Over 1,500 individuals homeless or at risk of homelessness in LCR
  - 307,000 Individuals Aged 65+
  - 71,300 Food Parcels Distributed in 2021
  - 64,700 Pupils Eligible for Free School Meals
  - 181,000 individuals on in-work & out-of-work Universal Credit
  - 30% of young people in low income households nationally don't have access to a laptop or computer
  - 18% of national households with income below £11,500 do not have home internet access
  - 56% of non-users of the internet are disabled adults.
  - 150,000 individuals in LCR not used internet in preceding 3 months
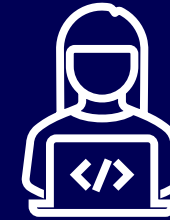 - 325,000 individuals 'non-users' or 'low-users' of the internet in LCR

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

METRO MAYOR LIVERPOOL CITY REGION
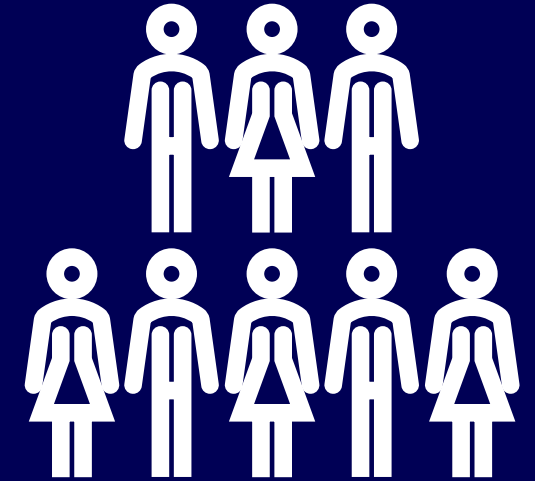
Young People

23% of FSM Pupils have no broadband access at home

2.3 Million Young People use Mobile Data as their Primary Internet

30% of NEET Young People have no access to a desktop or laptop computer

**54% of Young People state they themselves are their primary source of learning digital skills**

73% of Young People agree Digital Skills are essential for their future career

Source: Nominet Digital Youth Index 2023

What are we doing to tackle these issues?

- Launched LCR Digital Inclusion Network in June 2023

- Exists to bring organisations together to help tackle the digital divide and ensure no one is left behind.

- Membership of the network is free – 90+ members signed up since it launched. Sign up! www.bit.ly/inclusion-network

- Gain access to bi-monthly network meetings, learn more about current and upcoming digital inclusion activity across LCR

- Opportunities to take part in delivery initiatives

- Utilise network branding to showcase support and raise awareness of provision to the public

Digital Champions

❖ Providing identified 'Digital Champions' training and signposting to a range of useful digital learning tools to help others make the most of being online.

❖ Building a network of Digital Champions across LCR.

❖ Showcasing good practice and case studies from across the city region to encourage others online.
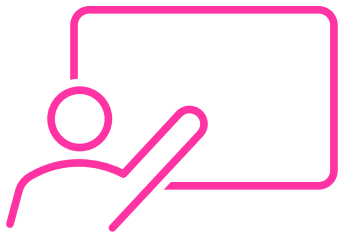
90

Individuals Have Received Digital Champion Training

In a sample survey of 25 champions – those 25 went on to support a further **500+** **individuals**

Good Things Foundation

❖ Increasing the uptake of 'Good Things Foundation Digital Inclusion Hubs' across LCR

❖ 'National Databank' Engagement – 105% increase in last 12 months. Once registered as a free Digital Inclusion Hub, you can receive free sim cards for participants – only requirement is age over 18 and struggling with connectivity at home. Households can be supported. Schools & Colleges can register for free.

❖ Combined Authority are delivering through our programmes (Households into Work & Housing First) – pairing recycled phones with sim cards, supported over 250 individuals over last few months.

❖ LCRCA first Local Government Organisation outside of London to donate into the Devicebank – we can help facilitate engagement with GTF and provide advice on legal/assurance process if you have devices to donate.

Register for Free

www.goodthingsfoundation.org/databank/

Funding

UK Shared Prosperity Fund Grants Programme (£1.485m) for Voluntary & Community Organisations

- Waves 1 &2 supported 94 projects for residents to access digital support
- Wave 3 Launched on November 20th 2023 (Closing Date 15th December)
- volamerseyside.org.uk/ukspfgrants/

LCR Cares Digital Inclusion Grant (£140,000)

- £140,000 one-off fund providing grants to VCFSE orgs
- Focused on supporting practical digital skills engagement

Include IT Mersey Continuation Funding (£879K)

- Supporting award winning team deliver inclusion activities through partners across LCR

LCR Connect Community Hubs

- Providing free public wi-fi and broadband access to select community hubs in each local authority area

www.helpingyouonline.co.uk

What is the Digital Inclusion Initiative?

- The Digital Inclusion Initiative (DII) is an industry-led programme to tackle digital exclusion

- Liverpool City Region Combined Authority are facilitating the rollout of over 4,500 free android tablets, accompanied by 6 months of free mobile connectivity and free in-person digital skills training.

- Devices provided by World Wide Tech Group, working with Lloyds Bank, Empaua Ventures and Vodafone.

- Working with Digital Inclusion Network members, we are supporting residents over the next year
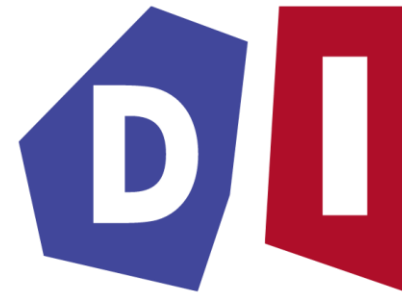
Digital Inclusion Initiative

- Working closely with Careers Hub on programmes aligned to Digital Inclusion

- Engaging with internal initiatives and Young Person's Guarantee

- Examining other pilots & Interventions – codeveloping these with our partners (Social Housing/Social Tariffs/Market Engagement)

- Helping You Online Campaign – making the public aware of the wide array of provision they can access (targeting through offline methods), Promoting Social Tariff Uptake, PSTN Switchoff

- Growing the Digital Inclusion Network

- Future rounds of funding

- And more…

Get Involved

Rob Benson, Digital Inclusion Project Manager

Tara Jussa, Digital Inclusion Junior Project Manager

- Become a National Databank to support your students struggling with connectivity at home

- Join the Digital Inclusion Network and hear about the range of support available to support residents

- Access support services and provision for public and partners at www.helpingyouonline.co.uk

- Keep us informed about the work you are doing on digital inclusion!

- Utilise us for support and queries on this issue!

- Contact us at digitalinclusion@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk