

Population

10537

Child Poverty

686

Unemployed

4.6%

Older People in Poverty

22.7%

Older People Living Alone

35.0%

Can not Speak English

0.3%

IMD Ward Rank (/25)

7

IMD Score

37.60

Income Deprivation

23.9%

Ave. Download Speed

125.76

% of prem unable to receive 30Mbit/s

0.67

Digital Inclusion
Scoreboard

W. North

Existing Digital Provision

Two Community Digital Health Hubs have been developed at Building Blocks Day Centre and Mickey's Place which has improved connectivity, provided access to digital devices and Tech Mate volunteers to support people Go Online for the first time, and provide valuable one to one support.

St Bedes and Marlborough are members of the NCCE.

Millennium Centre offers Wi-Fi access, along with access to digital devices. Residents can access 1-2-1 support, timetabled sessions or drop in sessions.

Working with Schools on digital careers, work placements and T-qualifications.

Currently building links with VCS organisations, including schools to provide further support.

Encouraging organisations to share activities to a centralised hub to support social prescribing to raise awareness of support available.

Significantly influencing investment to install broadband provision in all areas, to ensure no one and no where is left behind .

Challenges to Address

Local insights suggests that low personal data allowances; access to digital devices and lack of digital skills and money are common barriers to digital inclusion.

People more at risk of digital exclusion are children and young people; people without a job; people on low wages. Further consideration for Veterans, single parents and people with disabilities.

Higher number of older people living alone, which may contribute towards loneliness and social isolation.

Highest number of children and older people living in poverty, unemployment and income deprivation in Washington.

Potential Opportunities for Members

Develop more spaces to access face to face digital support i.e. Millennium Centre, Concord Front Street/Shopping Centre.

Raise awareness and encourage sign up to the NCCE at Washington Academy and Usworth Colliery Primary.

Deliver marketing campaigns to tackle digital exclusion e.g. low cost broadband, being safe online, etc.

Set up a Tech Mates / Buddies Volunteering Scheme.

Encourage sign up to the Digital Inclusion Network and operate data banks (like a food bank but instead provides free SIM cards).

Explore funding opportunities to introduce free friendly Wi-Fi into publicly accessible buildings, open spaces and parks. i.e. Albany Park, Usworth Recreational Park.

Set up IT donation points and encourage people to gift their old devices which can be upcycled and reused.

Set up a Digital Device Loan Scheme or Lending Libraries for digitally excluded households.

Co-design and deliver a project tailored to an 'at risk' group of people or within a physical location.