

# Go Online Sunderland:

A digital inclusion programme to ensure no one and nowhere is left behind. Find more information on the [dedicated website for digital inclusion](#).



## April 2025



### Digital Leaders: Impact Awards 2025

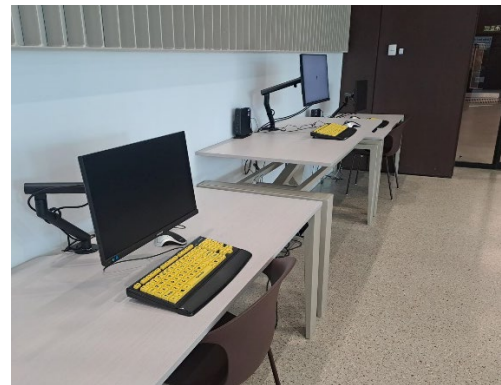
Two Sunderland teams were shortlisted for the prestigious Impact Awards in March: colleagues from the [Sunderland Health and Wellness Hub](#) for their 'digital front door' programme, and the city's digital inclusion programme, which won the People's Choice Award. This marks brilliant recognition for Sunderland at a national level.

Thank you to all who voted.  
[Read more about the achievements and the event.](#)

### Accessible Tech Hub

Sunderland has unveiled a new Accessible Tech Hub, featuring three public PC desks designed to enhance digital accessibility for all. The space includes rising desks to accommodate wheelchair users, large print keyboards, and roller ball mice, ensuring a user-friendly experience for individuals with varying needs.

This update reflects Sunderland's commitment to inclusivity and digital empowerment, providing residents with the tools they need to engage with technology seamlessly.



### New Digital Health Hub in Washington

[Columbia Community Association](#) has taken a significant step towards digital inclusion, thanks to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, by installing Wi-Fi throughout their building. This new service allows the public to connect using their own devices. For those without personal devices, the association has secured a grant to purchase equipment, ensuring everyone has access to the digital world. In addition to the new technology, a dedicated team of volunteer Tech Mates will be on hand to teach basic digital skills, helping to build digital confidence within the community. This connectivity update brings a new digitally inclusive environment for Washington residents.



Links for Life is about improving connections between our services, so residents receive support that is right for them. Local organisations can register to become a partner, promoting their services to residents and health practitioners across Sunderland.

# Links for Life Sunderland

**NEED DIGITAL SUPPORT?**

**NEED ACCESS TO IT?**

**NEED benefit advice?**

**Come along today!**



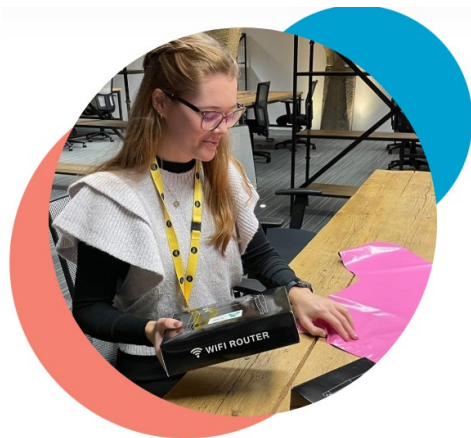
## Digital Support Available in the Coalfields Area

Residents of the Coalfields area can now access comprehensive digital support and IT services. Whether you need help with benefits advice or want to boost your confidence and understanding of digital devices like computers, smartphones, and tablets, come along to our daily drop-in sessions.

Daily sessions are held in Hetton, Houghton, and Shiney Row. Contact Ken at 07764 896409 or email [klamb@springboard-ne.org.uk](mailto:klamb@springboard-ne.org.uk).

## Downhill Centre – Community Hub

One in three people in Sunderland are digitally excluded. Do you know any family or friends who want to go online but don't know how, or lack a computer or broadband at home? Digital Hubs offer free Wi-Fi, computers, tablets, and face-to-face support. Downhill Centre located at Killarney Square, SR5 4AY, is open Wednesdays 12pm-2pm and Fridays 9:30am-12noon. Pop in for a chat and see what the team can offer.



## Get Box

Get Box is a small, lightweight internet connectivity device that plugs into mains electricity to instantly establish a secure Wi-Fi network so people can easily connect to the internet.

Get Box connects up to 10-20 people, depending on bandwidth, and the SIM cards provided have an allowance of 25GB of data per month.

If your organisation or grassroots group supports vulnerable people and families and seeks to address digital poverty, they would love to connect with you.

## Help name the new Wear Footbridge

It does seem like a unique connection! This landmark, set to open summer 2025, will connect the north and south sides of our city centre, becoming a vital part of the Riverside Sunderland regeneration. We're asking you to send us your suggestions to help us choose a name. Submit your suggestions to help name the Wear Footbridge by 5pm, Monday 21 April 2025.

