

Go Online Sunderland – New Year New Look

A digital inclusion programme to ensure no one and nowhere is left behind

Download a copy of the [Digital Inclusion Plan](#)

Digital inclusion isn't about digital; it's about inclusion. The Digital Youth Index (Nov 23) reported that 23% of children and young people who receive free school meals don't have access to broadband in the home, but if they did, they'd likely score at least one or two grades higher in exams.

SPECIAL EDITION

Sunderland Community Digital Health [Hubs](#)

January to December 2024

UKSPF Approved

The UK Government awarded over £580,000 to the Council through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to address digital exclusion by tackling key challenges, such as, limited connectivity, lack of access to digital devices and skills, the cost of going online, with the need to improve trust levels and accessibility.



Digital Devices

Each Hub received a budget to purchase digital devices for residents to access. Or if residents have their own devices, they can bring them along to the Hubs and use them to connect to the internet and go online to book appointments, save money, look for work, or even complete homework.

Community Partners

22 trusted community partners joined a Delivery Partnership between the Council, Boldyn Networks and British Esports Federation to establish Community Digital Health Hubs across Sunderland.

Continue reading to discover what digital inclusion support is available and who's involved in this exciting programme designed to tackle digital inequalities.



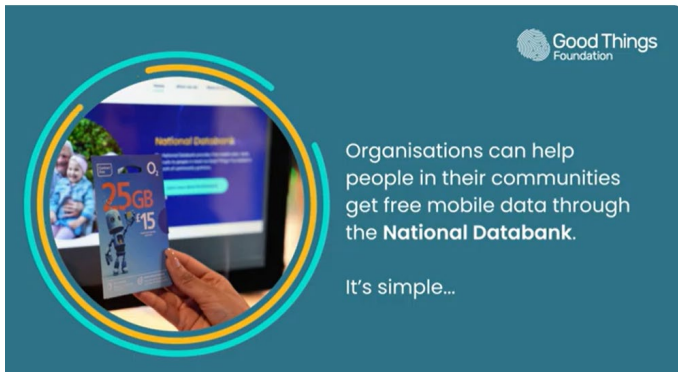
Free Wi-Fi

Buildings have had their existing Wi-Fi systems replaced with new architecture and coverage extended to all public and staffing areas to deliver optimal performance. In addition, sensors have been installed to count footfall and maintain the health and integrity of the buildings.

Tech Mates

Databanks

Thanks to Good Things Foundation, many of the Hubs have registered as a Databank and can now hand out free SIM cards to eligible people to ensure they stay connected at home or on the move.



Local people can receive support from other local people, who have been upskilled as Tech Mates. Tech Mates will be ready to help out, build confidence and share their digital learning and skills with others, who may have never been online before – for example, by showing people how to navigate around the web safely.



Online Centre

Each Hub can offer access to Wi-Fi, devices and basic digital skills support, and encourage progression by signposting people onto learning platforms like Learn my Way, or into [local training providers](#).

Device Donation Hubs

E-waste is one of the world's biggest challenges. Some of the Hubs have signed up with [Born Good](#) to support people to donate devices. Born Good will ensure the data is wiped clean, before either breaking down the devices for parts, or upcycling the device to be rehomed.

Community Esports Hubs

Five of the Hubs, are receiving gaming kits to set up Community Esports Hubs, working alongside British Esports Federation. Believed to be the first of its kind, the Project will raise awareness about the gaming industry and encourage people of all ages into educational and employment pathways.



Meet your local Digital Health Hub (Click on the Link to discover more)

Coalfields



Easington Lane Community Access Point ([ELCAP](#))

Lets Talk [HALO](#), Hetton Centre

Philadelphia Community and Cricket [Club](#)

[Space4](#), Houghton Front Street
(digital support opening soon)

Shiney Advice and Resources Project ([ShARP](#)),
Shiney Row

East Sunderland

[The Box](#) Youth and Community Project, Hall Farm

[CHANCE](#) Community Help and Neighbourly Care for
Everyone, East End

[Ryhope](#) Community Association

[St Michael's](#) Community Centre, Hill View



North Sunderland



[Downhill](#) Community Hub

[North East](#) Sport, Monkwearmouth School

[Roker Life](#) at Roker United Reformed Church

[SARA](#) Southwick Altogether Raising Aspirations

[Thompson Park](#) Community Centre, Southwick

Washington

[Building Blocks](#) Day Centre, Concord

[Mickey's Place](#) at St Michael's and All Angels Church, Sulgrave



West Sunderland



[Farrington](#) Youth and Community Centre

[Grindon Church](#) Community Project

[Kayll Road Library](#) Community Hub

[Pallion Action](#) Group

[Pennywell](#) Community Centre

[Youth Almighty](#) Project

Community eSports Hubs



Coalfields

Shiney Advice and Resources Project ([ShARP](#))

North Sunderland

[Downhill](#) Community Hub



East Sunderland

[The Box](#) Youth and Community Project, Hall Farm

Washington

[Building Blocks](#) Day Centre

West Sunderland

[Youth Almighty](#) Project

If your organisation delivers digital inclusion interventions in Sunderland, Washington or Houghton le Spring areas and you want to connect, contact smartcity@sunderland.gov.uk

Funding opportunities accessed [here](#)