

Population

10851

Child Poverty

317

Unemployed

2.5%

Older People in Poverty

15.5%

Older People Living Alone

30.9%

Can not Speak English

0.3%

IMD Ward Rank (/25)

17

IMD Score

22.90

Income Deprivation

14.4%

Ave. Download Speed

77.61

% of prem unable to receive 30Mbit/s

1.84

Digital Inclusion Scoreboard

W. Central

### Existing Digital Provision

Wessington and St Joesph's RC Primaries are members of the NCCE.

Columbia CA, Washington Library and Washington Community Food project offers Wi-Fi access, along with access to digital devices. Residents can access 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 limited digital connectivity; 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.

In the top six wards registered on the Digital Exclusion Risk Index.

Top 10 wards registered as having limited broadband, via the DERI.

### Potential Opportunities for Members

Develop more spaces for people to access face to face digital support i.e. House of Density, Columbia CA.

Raise awareness and encourage sign up to the NCCE at Biddick Primary and Secondary and Columbia Grange School.

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. Princess Anne 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.