

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

USKPF bid approved to develop one Community Digital Health Hub: Building Blocks Day Centre and Mickey's Place improving connectivity, access to devices and upskilling the workforce/volunteers.

St Bedes and Marlborough are members of the NCCE.

Building Blocks Day Centre and 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.