

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 [here](#).

In the North-East, 5% of people have never been online, apply this % to Sunderland and it equates to 13,900 offline citizens. 28% have very low digital capacity, applied to Sunderland this means over 77,000 people could struggle online. If you add these two figures together, that's potentially 1 in 3 Sunderland resident's being or experiencing some form of digital exclusion.

July 2024



New York to Sunderland!

Meghana Bhupati is a Smart Cities Intern hailing from Princeton University in New Jersey. As a Tech Mate, she hosts a weekly digital skills session at Ryhope Community Association. In these sessions, local people who attend learn essential skills in fun new ways. This includes playing a trivia game where internet searches are required, creating quizzes on forms, and learning how to shop online.

Discount Broadband aka Social Tariffs

Sunderland City Council believes that every Sunderland resident should be able to access affordable home broadband.

Over the Summer, we'll be contacting over 30,000 residents on eligible benefits, as part of our 'Discount Broadband' campaign to raise awareness about the reduced broadband rates. Find out further information about Internet Providers, monthly tariff rates, speeds and the small print [here](#).



New Skills

Meet Ann, who regularly visits Pallion Action Group and Kayll Road Library's Digital Hubs. Ann has learned new digital skills, such as, restoring old photos. As a keen photographer her old phone was letting her down and she wasn't confident buying a new one on her own. With the help of Ken, a new mobile phone was purchased, allowing Ann to take photos and edit them on the go. Ann has limited mobility and feels it makes life so much easier now.



Supporting Digital Inclusion

Does your organisation deliver digital inclusion interventions in Sunderland, Washington or Houghton le Spring areas? Connect with us by contacting smartcity@sunderland.gov.uk

Positive Impact

Do you organise Team Challenges, and fancy a change from litter picking or painting a room? If so, maybe consider delivering a Tech Tea Party, or volunteer at a local Digital Health Hub and support others to gain vital digital confidence and skills to make the most of going online.

You'll be contributing towards the city's pledge to ensure no one and nowhere is left behind. Read more [here](#).



Digital Wings

Digital Wings is Barclay's fully funded free learning platform. Their mission is to help give everyone the tools to navigate the digital and financial world with confidence. Their pledge is to make learning digital skills and financial literacy straightforward, accessible, and empowering. Let's start this journey together and unlock your potential to thrive in a digitally-driven, financially-smart world. Check out the Digital Wings [digital learning platform](#).



TechNExt

In June, the City supported the North-East's [Tech Festival](#), attracting over 3,000 attendees across five days. Building Blocks in Washington opened their doors, and supported by the Council and Boldyn Networks delivered a Tech Tea Party, a Lego Coding session and signed people up to access free e-newspapers and e-books when they joined the [library](#). Proto provided VR headsets, and Lee and the Building Blocks team showcased Stop Motion, 3D printing and eSports. Bring on TechNext 2025!



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