

Population

13259

Child Poverty

371

Unemployed

2.6%

Older People in Poverty

18.2%

Older People Living Alone

33.7%

Can not Speak English

0.1%

IMD Ward Rank (/25)

16

IMD Score

26.30

Income Deprivation

15.2%

Ave. Download Speed

91.56

% of prem unable to receive 30Mbit/s

0.3%

Digital Inclusion  
Scoreboard

Houghton

### Existing Digital Provision

Houghton Library offer Wi-Fi access, along with access to digital devices. Space4 host Springboard to deliver timetabled sessions to residents. The Old Rectory provide the above, and in addition operate a Data Bank.

A Community Digital Health Hub has been developed at Space4 which has improved connectivity, provided access to digital devices and Tech Mate volunteers to support people Go Online for the first time, and provide valuable one to one support.

Working with Schools on digital careers, work placements and T-qualifications, and building links with VCS organisations to provide wider 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 nowhere is left behind i.e. Netomnia / You Fibre active in the Ward.

Dubmire and Burnside Primary are members of the National Computer Centre. Supporting residents with assistive technologies to live at home longer.

### Challenges to Address

Local insights suggests that limited digital connectivity; low personal data allowances; lack of money and access to digital devices; along with low digital skills 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.

Houghton has higher levels of older people living in poverty and older people living alone which may contribute towards loneliness, and income deprivation.

Listed in the top 10 wards registered as having limited broadband, via the Digital Exclusion Risk Index across income, demography and connectivity measures.

Parts of the ward (Fencehouses in particular) have little or no community based provision.

### Potential Opportunities for Members

Deliver marketing campaigns to tackle digital exclusion e.g. low cost broadband, being safe online, etc.

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. Rectory Park.

Set up IT donation points and encourage people to gift their old devices which can be upcycled and reused.

Co-design and deliver a project tailored to an 'at risk' group of people or within a physical location.

Raise awareness and encourage sign up to the National Computer Centre at Houghton Keping.

Promote new technologies that can support independent living.