

Digital Inclusion Forum

11th July 2023

13:30 - 15:00



Agenda

Welcome and introductions	Rachael Forbister	13.30	5
AHSN and digital inclusion update	Rachael Forbister	13.35	5
National Delivery Plan 2023 – Digital	Paul Finnis	13.40	20
Poverty Alliance			
Understanding Digital Exclusion across	Dr Goran Erfani, Dr Gemma	14.00	40
North Tyneside	Wilson-Menzfeld and Wally		
	Charlton		
Q&A	Dr Goran Erfani, Dr Gemma	14.40	15
	Wilson-Menzfeld and Wally		
	Charlton		
Next steps and close	Rachael Forbister	14.55	5



What is the Digital Poverty Alliance?



The DPA is a charitable coalition convening individuals and organisations from across business, government, charity and education, with the sole aim of eradicating digital poverty in the UK, and ultimately globally.

The Digital Poverty Alliance was founded by The Learning Foundation and is supported by Currys and the Institute of Engineering and Technology









The DPA is a community response































































SO, WHAT IS DIGITAL POVERTY?



"The inability to interact with the online world, when where and how an individual needs to".









or 10.2 million, lack foundational digital skills (Lloyds Bank Essential Digital Skills, 2022).

One in four, or 26% of young people (8-25), do not have access to a laptop, with the key reason being cost (Nominet Digital Youth Index, 2022)



STATE SCHOOL TEACHERS

reported that all of their students have internet access, compared to 51% in the private sector (Sutton Trust, 2021)



Having the power to improve the lives of others is a privilege, one that is closely associated with its own sense of obligation. Acting on these powerful feelings of responsibility is an excellent way of reinforcing our own personal values and feel like we're living in a way that abides by our beliefs.

- PAULA COUGHLAN, CHIEF PEOPLE, COMMUNICATIONS &

SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER, CURRYS PLC





OVER-758

the equivalent of nearly 2 million people, in England are still digitally excluded (AgeUK, 2021)



YOUNG PEOPLE

in the UK cannot do everything that they want to online because of limits to their family's data allowance (Nominet Digital Youth Index, 2022).



As our lives become more digital, a huge number of people are being left behind. If we're to solve poverty in the UK, we must address digital exclusion. Whether it's accessing education, the social security system, job opportunities or cheaper gas and electricity, it's core to how we live.

A National Delivery Plan





Focusing attention

Setting out actions

Identifying key stakeholders

Bringing organisations together



Society is becoming increasingly digitised

The routes for accessing and managing healthcare are becoming increasingly digitised. We also see this trend in financial services as physical bank branches are replaced by online banking.

Over time it is likely that digital broadcast television will transition to internet-based transmission.

Services provided by local government are increasingly offered exclusively via online channels.

But, the affordability of digital services is a real issue in the context of cost-of-living crisis.



The six missions

- Increase awareness across society about the need for sustainable and strategic action to end digital poverty.
- 2. Ensure affordable connectivity and guarantee full digital access for those in need.
- 3. Improve standards of accessibility, safety, and inclusiveness across all digital products and services.
- 4. By 2030, significantly reduce the proportion of individuals without essential digital skills and ensure the sustainability, and expansion, of these skills in response to changing technologies and needs.
- 5. Enhance knowledge and understanding of digital poverty among all stakeholders, including citizens, governments, and the public and private sectors, through the development and utilisation of research.
- 6. Increase local capacity to provide joined-up digital inclusion support to individuals and communities.



Key actions



- ' Enhance community-based support for digital skills to meet people's needs.
- Increase assistance for connectivity and devices to improve access.
- Enhance signposting in local support services for digital inclusion support.
- Collaborate with health and social care services to promote digital inclusion.
- Explore data sharing across local services for targeted digital support.
- Improve support for accessibility needs, including assisted technology.



Taking the Plan forward



We will set up a new National Delivery Committee to help take the plan forward and coordinate activity. We will integrate support for the six missions into our pledge journey. We will release an updated version of the plan on an annual basis to ensure it remains adaptive to the wider context and trends.



JOIN THE CAUSE

Join the hub



Find out more

Visit our website and discover the work we're doing across the UK: www.digitalpovertyalliance.org

Got ideas?

Please contact Tom Lowe at tom@digitalpovertyalliance.org

Registered address: Index House, St George's Lane, Ascot, SL5 7ET



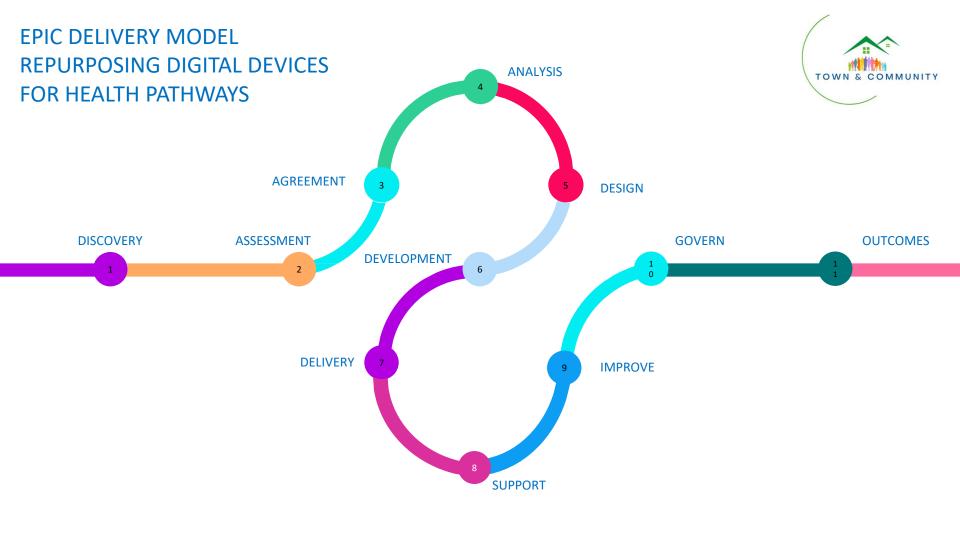
TOWN & COMMUNITY

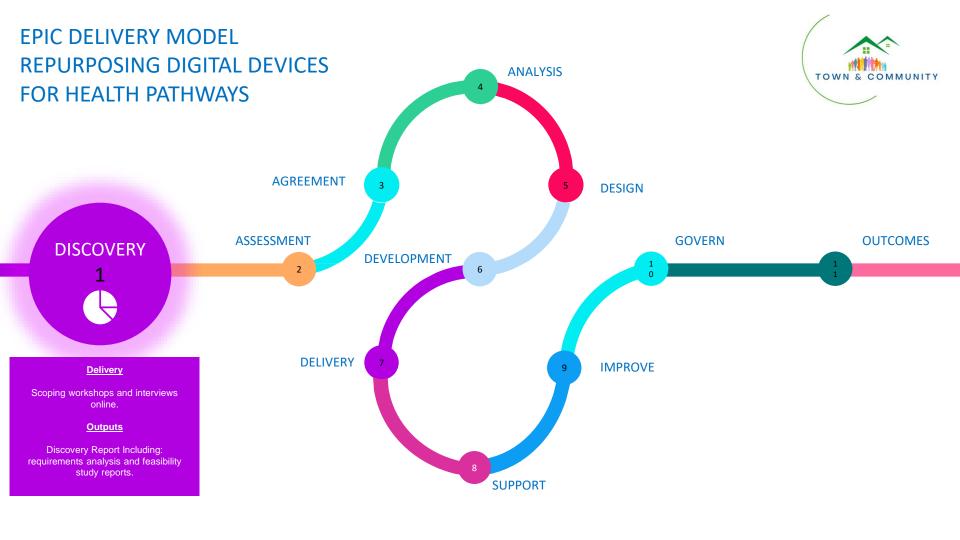


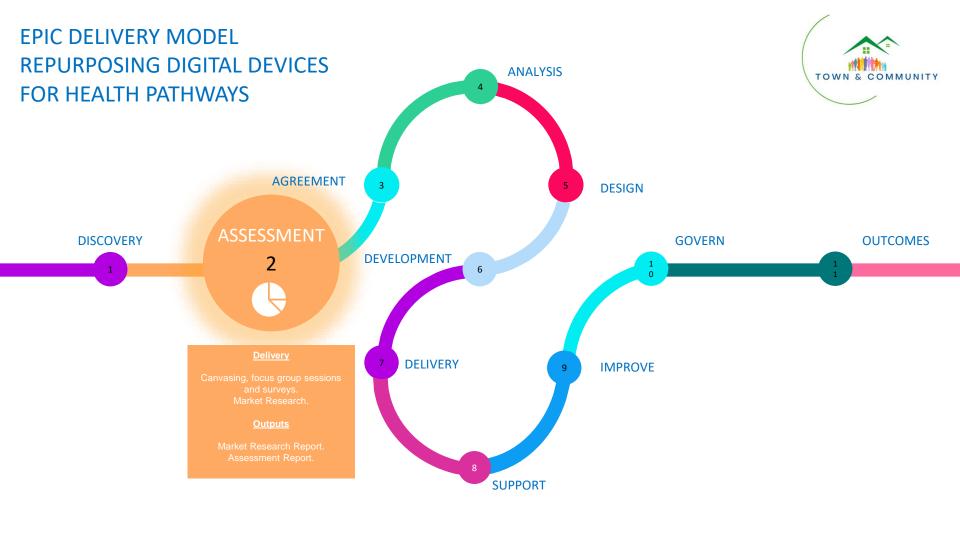
BULDING STRONGER TOWNS AND COMMUNITIES

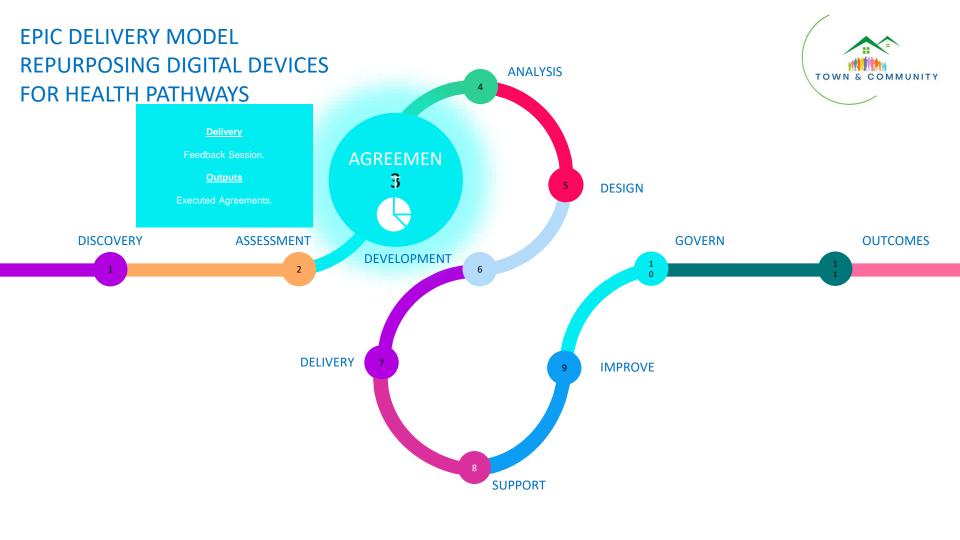
A not-for-profit organisation delivering digital inclusion services

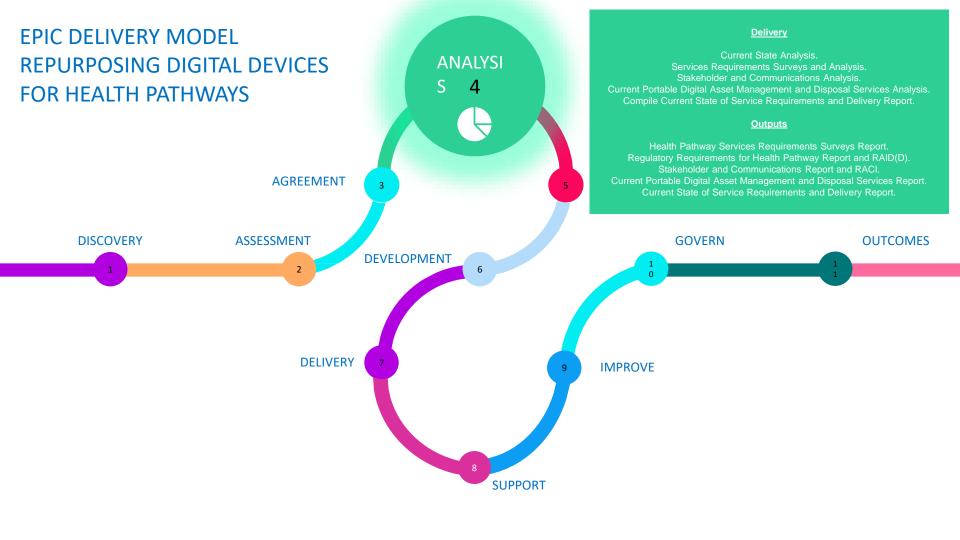
- Primary and Secondary School Education 'STEAMS' Programmes
 Science Technology Engineering Arts Mathematics Sports with Nissan, the Beacon of Light and STEM Learning UK.
- Digital Equipment Pilot Projects in North East and North Cumbria for Health Management Pathways with Children and Young People's NE and N Cumbria Diabetes Network, Investing In Children, Type 1 Kids Diabetes, Renal, Maternity, and Cardio.
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Projects and Programmes with the Disability Networks, Beacon of Light, eSports, Arts and Dance Influencers, and KAVE Immersive Spaces.
- Regional, National and International Education, Training and Awareness for Corporate Digital Responsibility with the Digital Poverty Alliance, Academic Health Science Networks, and KAVE Immersive Spaces.
- Community Digital Huts in East Africa (Uganda and Kenya)
 with the Outcast Activist Forum in Uganda, and support from Digital Poverty Alliance.

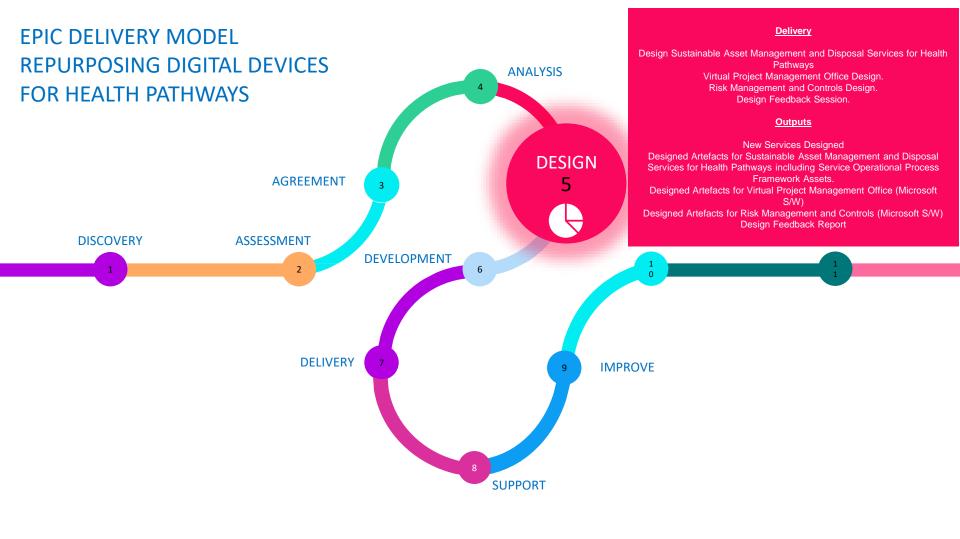


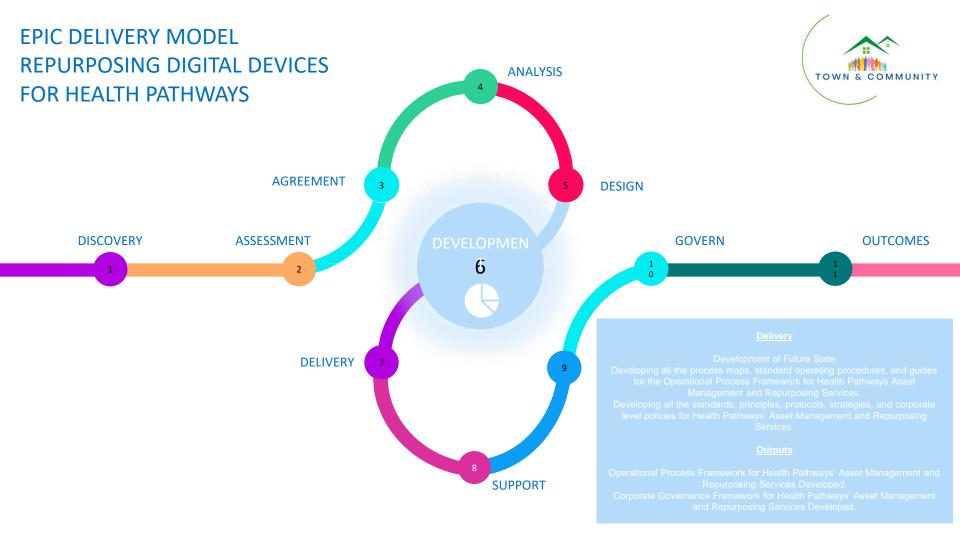


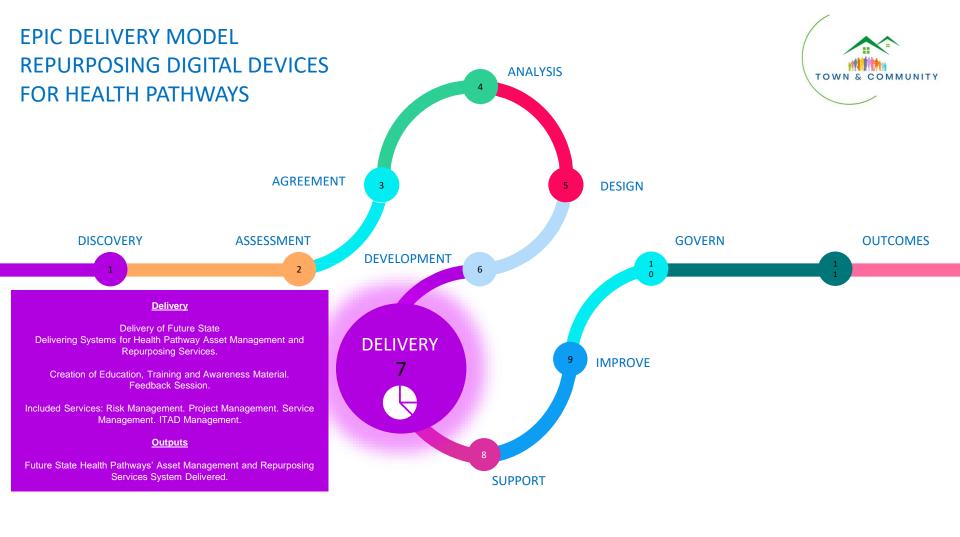


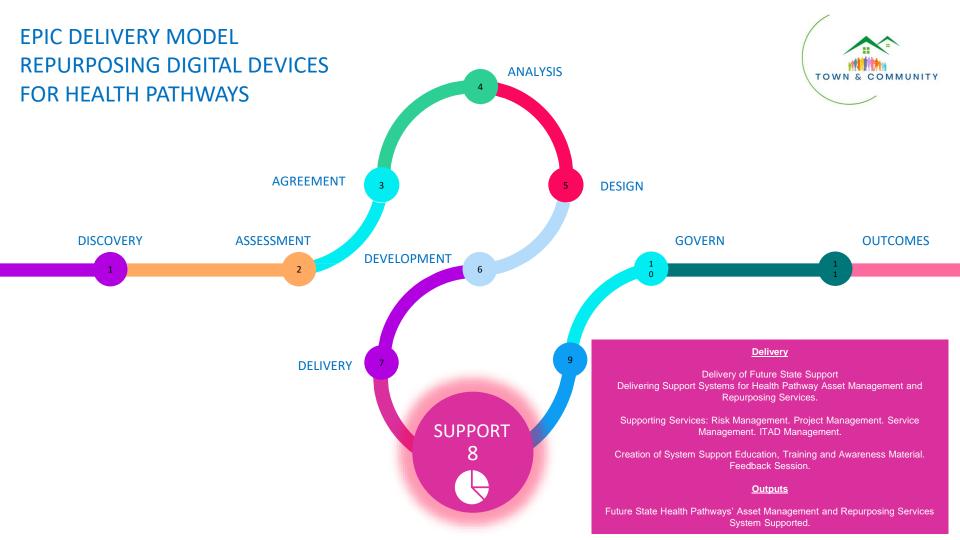


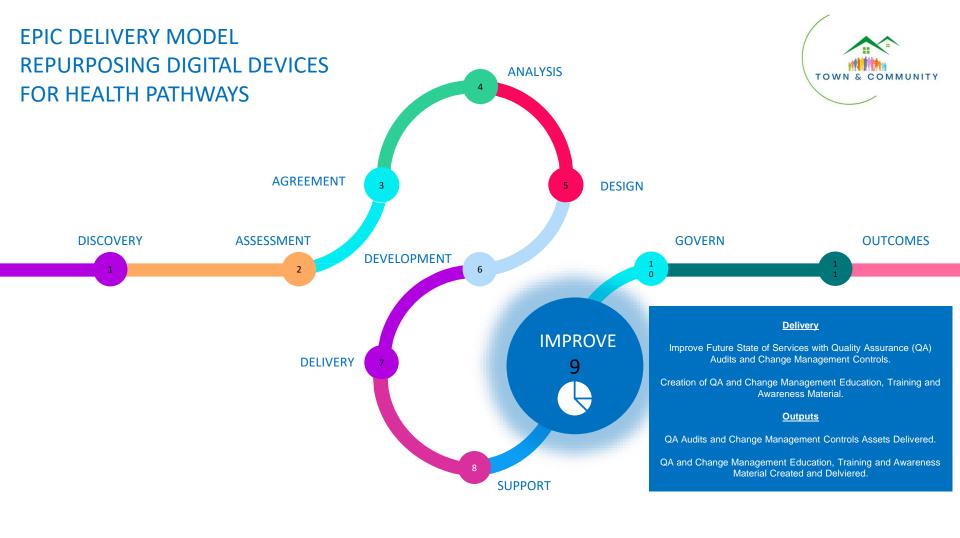


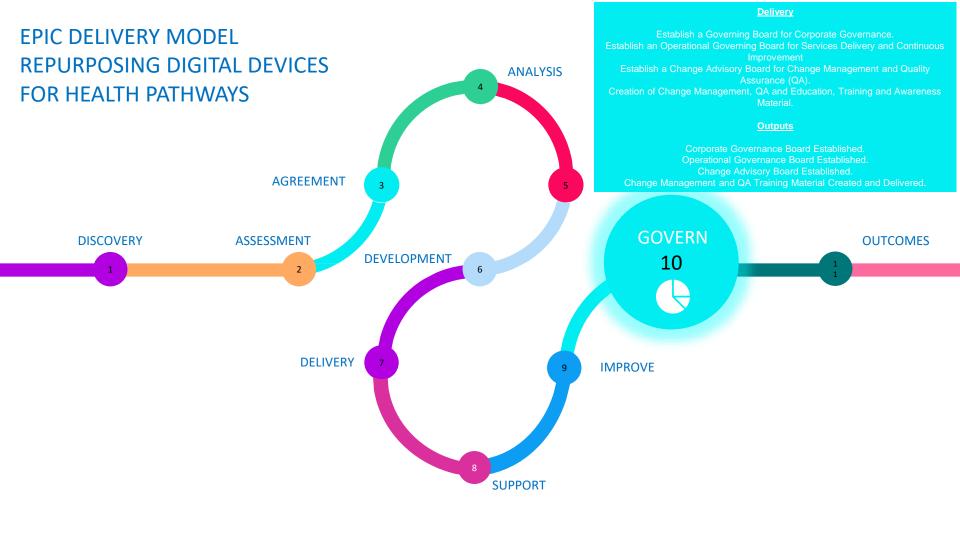


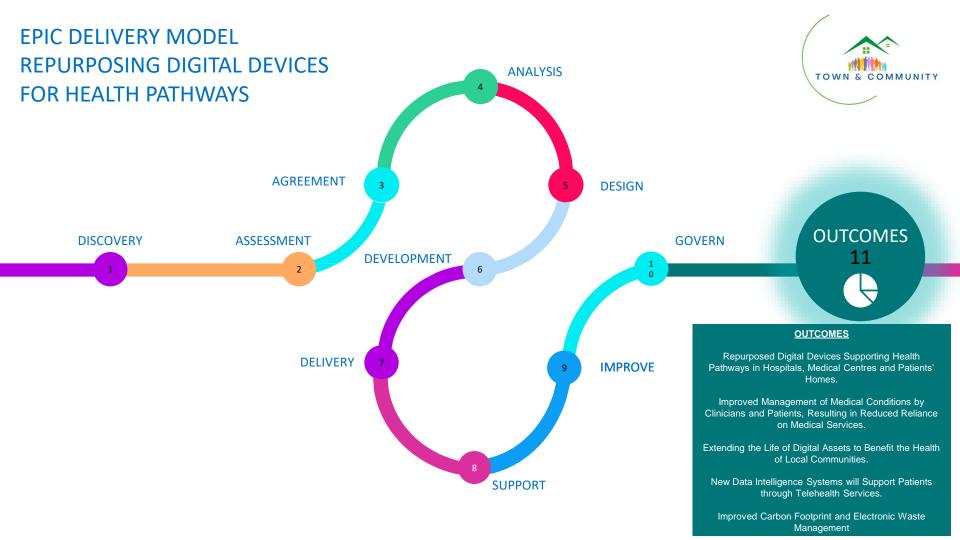












TOWN & COMMUNITY

Thank you for your time

If you would like to learn more about what we are doing in the North East & Cumbria, UK, and Africa, then please visit our website.

https://www.townandcommunity.co.uk/

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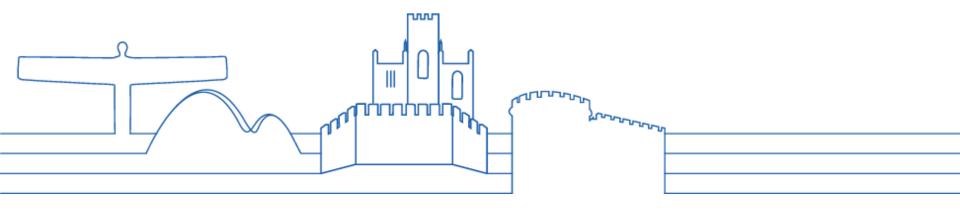
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Understanding Digital Exclusion across North Tyneside









Research Team

Dr Gemma Wilson-Menzfeld

Dr Goran Erfani

Mr Wally Charlton

Dr Holly De Luca

Professor Katie Brittain

Professor Alison Steven

Dr Lesley Young-Murphy







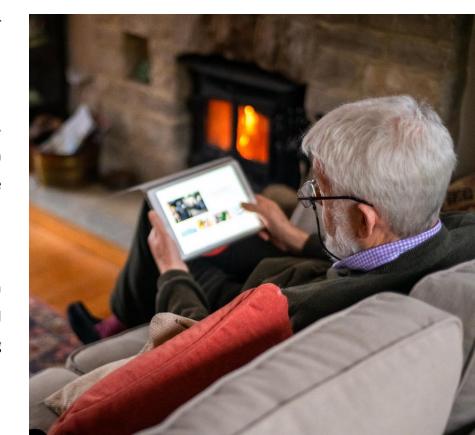


Introduction

• Digital technology is a ubiquitous part of everyday living for many individuals across the UK.

 This steadfast rate of digital improvement is not slowing down, and in fact, rapidly rose during the COVID-19 pandemic when international restrictions came into play, limiting our lives to the confines of our own homes.

 Despite evidence of digital exclusion in the North East as a whole, there is currently very little known about the extent of digital exclusion and digital poverty across more local boroughs, including North Tyneside.









Defining Digital Exclusion



Level One: Access



Level Two: Skills and Usage



Level Three: Tangible Outcomes

DIGITAL EXCLUSION







Digital Exclusion in this study

A lack of digital access, lack of digital use, lack of confidence in using digital tools, and/or lack of digital skills.

Respondents clustered as 'digitally excluded' if the individual self-reported one or more of the above-mentioned indicators.







Research Aim: explore and gain a more in-depth understanding of digital exclusion across North Tyneside

Identify the scale and characteristics of digitally excluded groups

Understand the key factors contributing to digital exclusion

Map solutions to improving digital inclusion







Methodology

Sequential Explanatory Mixed-methods Study

Stage 1: Large Cross-sectional Survey (n=9,181)

Stage 2: Focus Groups (*n*=3)

This study was approved by Northumbria University Ethics Online System (Reference Number: 40123) and Integrated Research Application System (IRAS) for health and social care/community care research (Project ID Number: 304555).







Stage One - Survey Design & Implementation

- Pilot testing (n=35) to ensure content *validity and* reliability of measurements before the final survey was disseminated.
- Collecting comments and feedback covering the clarity, relevance, formatting, and style of the survey and revising the questions based on suggestions made by a panel of experts.
- Initial engagement and the logistics of how the survey was written, delivered, and communicated was in itself an enormous task but absolutely essential.









Stage One: Participant Recruitment

Inclusion criteria:

Aged 18 years or over Living in North Tyneside

Census study approach :

Surveys mailed to all households across North Tyneside.

Offering a range of modes of participation:

Paper-based

Phone-based

Web-based

- Helped maximise response rate (9.3%)
- Inclusive approach for individuals with different digital access and digital skills
- Increasing the reliability and validity of the results reported.
- Liasing/working with care home management teams & homeless shelters, to facilitate the dissemination of the survey to individuals who may have been most digitally excluded









Stage One – Digital exclusion and mode of participation in the survey

- If you're 'digitally excluded', the probability of <u>NOT</u> participating in an <u>online</u> survey is more than 99%.
- Most digitally excluded respondents (1,101 respondents) preferred paper-based surveys to the online survey.
- Only 29 of 1,130 digitally excluded respondents (less than 3%) returned the survey electronically.

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	210.973 ^a	1	<.001		
Continuity Correction ^b	209.778	1	<.001		
Likelihood Ratio	295.942	1	<.001		
Fisher's Exact Test				<.001	<.001
Linear-by-Linear Association	210.950	1	<.001		
N of Valid Cases	9181				

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 205.30.







Stage One – Sample population

Frequency of sample population by mode of participation*

Mode of participation	Frequency (n)	Percentage		
		(%)		
Paper-based survey	7,513	81.8		
Web-based survey	1,668	18.2		
Total	9,181	100		

^{*}Twelve respondents completed the survey over the phone, and these were grouped with paper-based responses for analysis.







Stage One – Sample population

- Most female (60%), predominantly white residents (97%), married (61%), aged between 60-79 years old (54%)
- Average age 63 (SD= 15.05, range 18-101 years), median age of 66 years old

Most reported some educational qualifications less than 11% no qualifications

Most self-reported annual household income (54%) £40,000 or less, most own their homes outright (62%)







Stage One – Sample population

Descriptive statistics for interval variables

	••				•••	
Interval variables	N	Range	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std.
						Deviation
Age	8,810	83	18	101	63.18	15.05
Household size	9,069	7	1	8	2.00	0.96
Time spent on	8,990	140	0	140	22.96	20.82
digital						
technologies (per week)						
,	8,967	140	0	140	18.94	20.11
internet (per week)						







Stage One - Time spent on internet

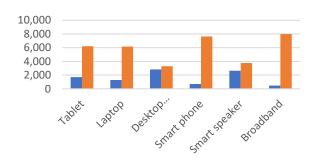






Stage One – Frequency and percentage of digital access to different digital tools

Digital tools	Tablet	Laptop	Desktop	Smart	Smart	Broadba
			Computer	phone	speaker	nd
No access	1,703	1,279	2,814	705	2,634	476
	(18.5%)	(13.9%)	(30.7%)	(7.7%)	(28.7%)	(5.2%)
Own access	6,216	6,172	3,291	7,622	3,751	7,993
and/or through someone else	(67%)	(67.2%)	(35.8%)	(83.0%)	(40.9%)	(87.1)
Missing values	1,262	1,730	3076	854	2,796	712
	(13.7%)	(18.8%)	(33.5%)	(9.3%)	(30.5%)	(7.8%)



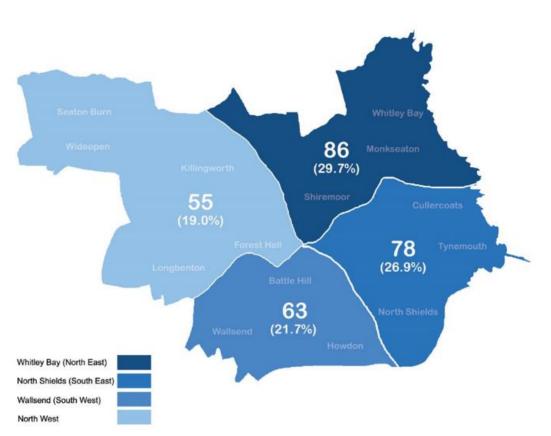
No access









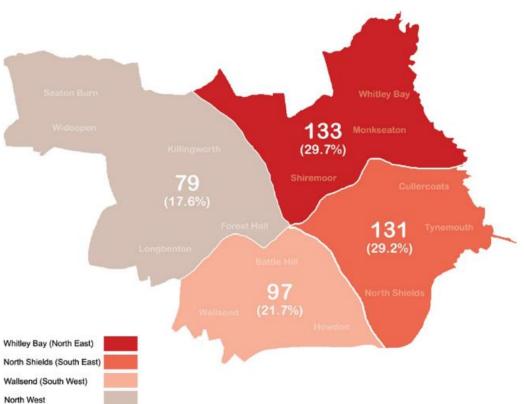


Stage One – Distribution of lack of digital use across North Tyneside







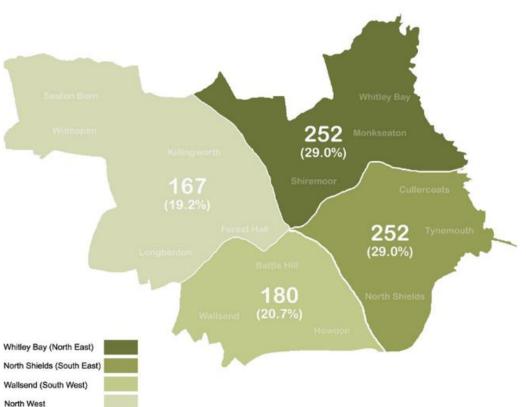


Stage One –
Distribution of lack of digital confidence across North Tyneside







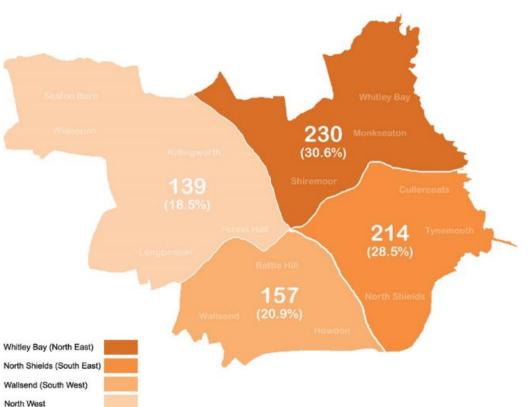


Stage One – Distribution of lack of digital skills across North Tyneside









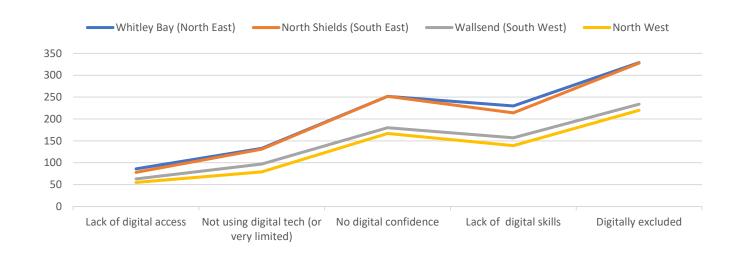






Stage One – Similar Patterns across Localities

Frequency of residents who self-reported lack of digital access, no or very limited use of digital technologies, lack of confidence and digital skills in using digital tools, across four primary local care areas.









Stage One - Digital Exclusion & Disability

- Residents with disability or health conditions are more likely to be digitally excluded.
- This agrees with other research based on British cohort studies suggesting that disability affects the probability of being digitally excluded (Dutton et al., 2009; Bunyan, and Collins, 2013).

Chi-Square Tests

om equal roots									
			Asymptotic						
	Value	df	Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)				
Pearson Chi-Square	252.249a	1	<.001						
Continuity Correction ^b	251.174	1	<.001						
Likelihood Ratio	241.562	1	<.001						
Fisher's Exact Test				<.001	<.001				
Linear-by-Linear Association	252.221	1	<.001						
N of Valid Cases	8951								

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 387.56.







Stage One - Digital Exclusion & Annual Household Income

This finding shows that households with income levels below £40k are more likely to be digitally excluded, and thus at higher risk of digital exclusion.

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	659.974ª	4	<.001
Likelihood Ratio	682.132	4	<.001
Linear-by-Linear Association	494.391	1	<.001
N of Valid Cases	7705		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 67.13.

	Model 1 tested socio-demographic variables as predictors for digital				Model 2 added digital attitude variables to the regression equation			
	β	S.E.	p-value	<i>Exp</i> (β)	β	S.E.	p-value	Exp(β)
Socio-demographic variables		_						
Gender ¹	0.261	0.112	0.020	1.298	0.148	0.139	0.284	1.160
Age (in years)	-0.087	0.008	0.001	0.917	-0.042	0.009	0.001	0.959
Educational level ²			0.001				0.001	
No qualifications	-1.433	0.160	0.001	0.239	-0.846	0.199	0.001	0.429
GCSEs or equivalent	-0.767	0.160	0.001	0.464	-0.477	0.195	0.014	0.621
Vocational education	-0.542	0.179	0.002	0.582	-0.261	0.217	0.230	0.770
Other qualifications	-0.541	0.219	0.013	0.582	-0.153	0.267	0.566	0.858
A levels or equivalent	0.072	0.278	0.796	1.075	-0.191	0.329	0.562	0.826
Household income level ³			0.001				0.056	
Less than £20,000	-2.419	1.025	0.018	0.089	-1.738	1.046	0.176	0.023
£20,000 - £40,000	-1.975	1.019	0.052	0.139	-1.395	1.035	0.248	0.033
£40,000 - £60,000	-1.320	1.033	0.201	0.267	-1.085	1.051	0.338	0.043
£60,000 - £80,000	-1.263	1.087	0.245	0.283	-1.107	1.111	0.331	0.037
Employment status⁴			0.324				0.768	
Employed Full-Time	0.757	0.405	0.061	2.133	0.195	0.507	1.216	0.450
Employed Part-Time	0.906	0.408	0.026	2.474	0.410	0.514	1.506	0.550
Unemployed	0.583	0.555	0.294	1.792	0.695	0.687	2.003	0.521
Self-employed	0.447	0.494	0.365	1.564	0.247	0.612	1.281	0.386
Retired	0.864	0.370	0.020	2.372	0.276	0.476	1.318	0.518
Unpaid/Voluntary work	1.089	0.662	0.100	2.972	1.160	0.767	3.188	0.709
Tenure groups ⁵			0.012				0.109	
Renter	-0.470	0.159	0.003	0.625	-0.423	0.201	0.655	0.442
Other	-0.001	0.379	0.998	0.999	-0.074	0.475	0.929	0.366
Household size (in numbers)	0.362	0.102	0.001	1.436	0.408	0.120	1.504	1.188
Aged between 18-59 (yes) ⁶	-0.476	0.189	0.012	0.621	-0.449	0.231	0.638	0.406
Household disability (yes)7	-0.465	0.112	0.001	0.628	-0.356	0.138	0.700	0.534
Local primary care areas ⁸			0.019				0.071	
Whitley Bay (North East)	-0.442	0.158	0.005	0.643	-0.385	0.192	0.045	0.680
North Shields (South East)	-0.209	0.161	0.193	0.811	-0.075	0.195	0.701	0.928
Wallsend (South West) Digital attitude variables	-0.423	0.171	0.014	0.655	-0.392	0.210	0.062	0.676
Privacy/security concerns ⁹					0.445	0.159	0.005	1.561
Attending digital classes ¹⁰					0.058	0.341	0.864	1.060
Willing to use digital tools ¹¹					3.325	0.147	0.001	27.801
Believing COVID impact ¹²					0.777	0.141	0.001	2.175
Constant	10.180	1.196	0.001	26369.59	4.010	1.321	0.002	55.145
N	6863				6315			
R ² Cox–Snell	0.128				0.235			
R ² Nagelkerke	0.308				0.568			
Hosmer and Lemeshow statistic	4.043		0.853		7.146		0.521	
Classification (%)	92.7				94.4			







Stage One - Logistic regression models to understand the determinants of those digitally excluded in North Tyneside

Notes: The reference categories selected in the model were: female, 2 degrees or equivalent, 3 more than £80,000, 4 unable to work, 5 homeowners (with or without a mortgage), 6 no household member aged between 18-59, 7 households who do not have a disability (or health conditions), 8 those who reside in North West,9 those who do not have privacy/security concerns when online, 10 those who have not attended any digital classes in last 5 years, 1 those who do not willing to use digital tools in daily life, 2 those who do not believe COVID pandemic pushed them to use digital tools more often. 4 The category of 'students' was excluded from the analysis due to the small amount of







Stage One - Content Analysis

Open-text comments at the end of the survey analysed using Content Analysis

Generated evidence around potential solutions to future digital inclusion:

- System support
 Cheaper and more reliable broadband
 More secure systems
- 2. The importance of choice Non-digital offerings Accessible digital offerings
- Training, support, and advice services
 Face-to-face classes
 Drop-in sessions
 A booklet
 Telephone support service









Stage Two – Focus Groups

Three focus groups carried out with typically digitally excluded groups across North Tyneside:

- Members of the deaf community
- · Women who have experienced domestic abuse
- Young people in sheltered accommodation

"[I regularly use] My banking app. Because it's the only way to know if I've got money in the bank or not [...] I check it every day, just in case someone puts something in" (P007, Young people in sheltered accommodation)

"I've got a laptop at home, which I bought in the lockdown, or just before that, for... So that the kids could do work. Because I had nothing for them to use. And no help was given" (P006, Women who have experienced domestic abuse)

"Most of the time it's good, you know, [...] live transcript. It's good, but it's not perfect. Speech will come up on the screen, sometimes you get different words. Something you haven't said [...] There's another problem that I have with that, I need to connect to Wi-Fi. [...] So, you can't use it every time" (P002, Deaf Community)







Conclusions

- This is a pioneering study which is the largest of its kind.
- Study findings suggest the following factors predict digital exclusion:
 - Increasing age
 - Lower income
 - · Lower (or no) education levels
 - Living with a disability, or living in a household with someone else living with a disability
 - Living in a smaller household
- The study reinforces the importance of considering the micro-geographical aspects of the digital divide.
- Digital exclusion is complex and has implications across, and within, cohorts.







Implications

- There is a large-scale and wide digital divide across North Tyneside which is a major barrier to digital health and care transformation and other sectors.
- Identification and inclusion of digitally excluded groups could/should inform decision- and policy-making processes.
- Digital exclusion is a multi-factor phenomenon that requires an integrated and collaborative approach.
- Results call for reshaping policies/practices to tackle social exclusion.
- Further research is needed.







Key messages









Acknowledgements

- We would like to thank the Digital Inclusion strategy group for their support. This includes Age UK North Tyneside, Community and Health Care Forum North Tyneside, Heath Watch North Tyneside, North Tyneside Citizens Advice Bureau, North Tyneside Local Authority, and VODA.
- We would also like to thank colleagues at Northumbria University and North Tyneside CCG (NENC) for supporting data input.
- Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to all individuals across North Tyneside who took the time to participate in this study. We were overwhelmed by the response to this study. Your contribution has been invaluable.







To read the full report scan this QR code: Or scan this QR code:

THANK YOU

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