

## Bridging the Digital Divide

The Supporting Communities Way





#### Our Approach

- Engagement
- Expertise
- Innovation
- Partnership







#### Healthy Outcomes

- Friendship and support both on and
- offline a community of learners
   Tackles isolation window to the
- Stay in touch with family and fri
- Self-sufficiency and achievement
   Access to important services and
- Access to important service information







Being digitally competent is now a necessary part of modern life and no one can afford to be left behind.

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Digital Inclusion is Social Inclusion

#### Community Building

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## Who we are

- Independent, charitable organisation that champions tenant and community participation.
- We develop groups, supporting active citizenship and build cohesive communities.
- Over 35 years of experience in the social housing sector.
- We cultivate strategic and meaningful partnerships to deliver exceptional results for the entire community.





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## Our Approach

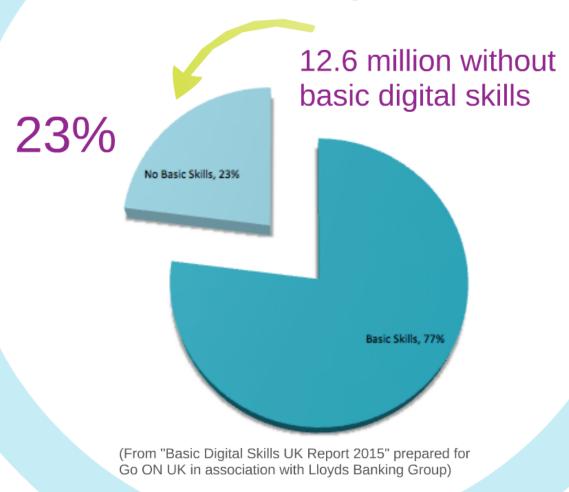
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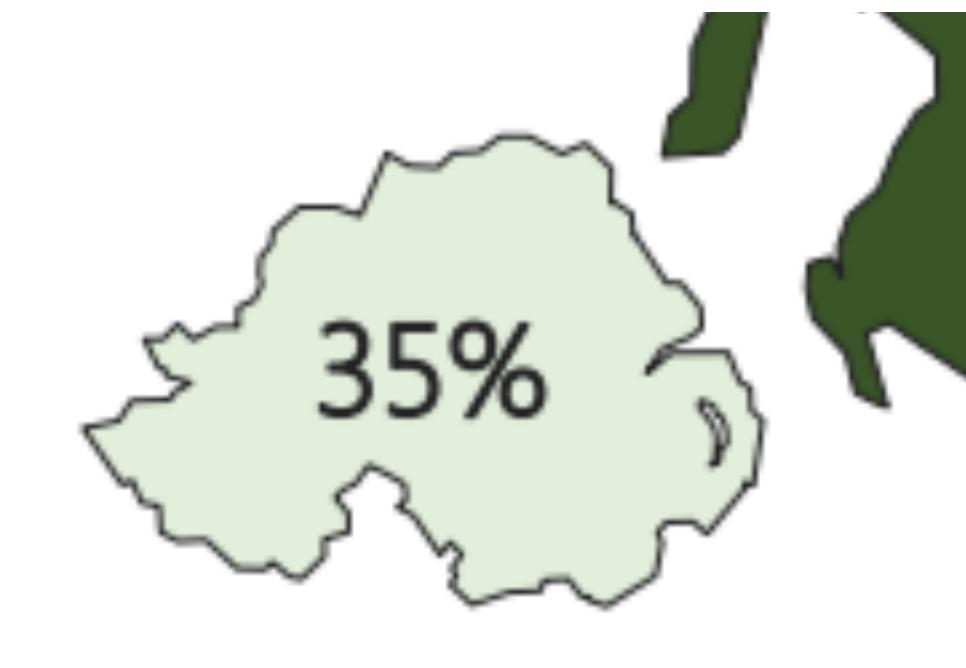
## Understand and Address Barriers Together

The digital divide is caused by four main factors:

- Physical lack of access and connectivity
- Monetary cost of wifi and a computer
- Lack of skills and digital literacy
- Motivation, attitude and interest to get online

### **UK Adult Population**

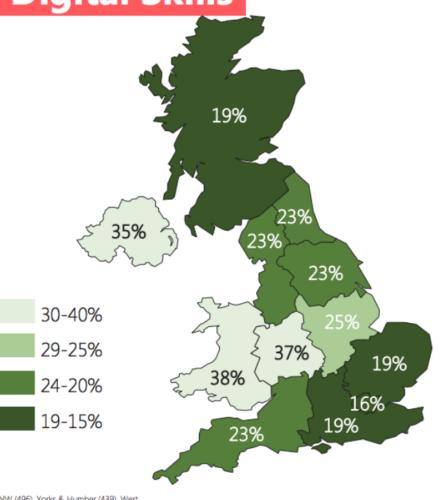




**Adults without Basic Digital Skills** 

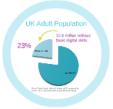
By region

The percentage of adults without Basic Digital Skills is highest in Wales (38%), West Midlands (37%) and Northern Ireland (35%).



Base: UK respondents living in region - Scotland (427), Wales (227), Northern Ireland (121), North (185), NW (496), Yorks & Humber (439), West Midlands (346), East Midlands (338), East Anglia (48), SW (316), SE (647), Greater London (577)

Source: Basic Digital Skills Tech Tracker 2015



### Who is digitally excluded?

Digital Exclusion affects some of the most vulnerable members of our society.

- 37% are social housing tenants
- 44% are on lower wages or unemployed
- · 33% are registered disabled
- 53% are aged over 65

Capabilities follow-up study (2014)





Working towards full digital inclusion is eminently achievable!

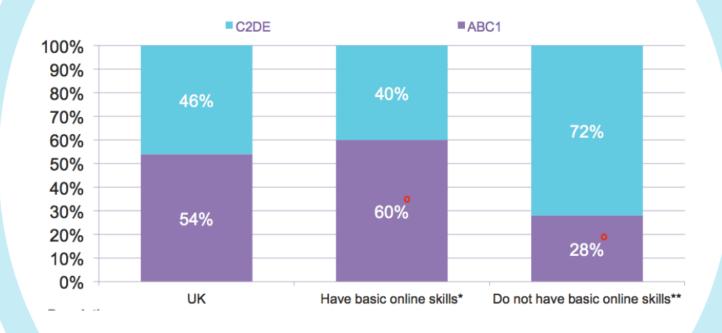


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BBC Media Literacy: Understanding Digital Capabilities follow-up study (2014)

### Socio-economic Profile



People from a lower socioeconomic profile are far more likely to be digitally excluded.

## Working towards full digital inclusion is eminently achievable!

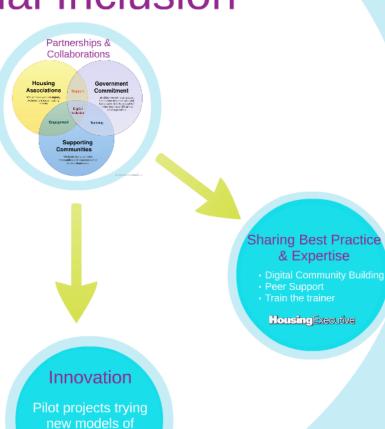


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## Digital Inclusion *is*Social Inclusion

**Digital Champions** 

& Training Since 2012, over 600 Digital Champions have gained an OCN level 1 or



## Partnerships & Collaborations

#### Housing Associations

37% of those who are digitally excluded are social housing tenants

#### Support

Digital Inclusion

**Engagement** 

#### Commitment

By 2020, we will have reduced the number of people who lack basic digital skills to around 4.7 million (less than 10% of the adult population)

Government

**Training** 

### Supporting Communities

We build strong cohesive communities and empower people to help themselves.

# Digital Champions & Training Since 2012, over 600 Digital Champions have gained an OCN level 1 or 2 in Computer Essentials



## Innovation

## Pilot projects trying new models of engagement



- Tailored to individuals
- Hands on & remote support
- Peer group learning
- The group sets the agenda
- Focused on outcomes & impact - not outputs
- Having fun learning new things



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## Sharing Best Practice & Expertise

- Digital Community Building
- Peer Support
- Train the trainer

**Housing** Executive

"Before this project, I never used to come out of my room or join in, but now our group is like a wee family and I feel a lot better about myself."

## Community Building = Healthy Outcomes

- Friendship and support both on and offline - a community of learners
- Tackles isolation window to the world!
- Stay in touch with family and friends
- Self-sufficiency and achievement
- Access to important services and information



"This is marvelo a wee box like th

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"Before this project, I never used to come out of my room or join in, but now our group is like a wee family and I feel a lot better about myself."



"This is marvelous, who would have guessed a wee box like this would give us so much joy,

I love the photos of my daughter on holiday...
when she is still on holiday!
Facebook is wonderful"



"It improves family relationships. [Her son] is able to share his interests with her and feel that she gets it because they are doing it together.

It really improves the quality of communication between them and gives them something in common."



"Our group values being included in the way the world functions now. Keeping up and feeling that you are a part of the world, and to know what email and Skype are - it's important.

You are never too old to try something new. Everything is achievable even for people with dementia."

#### In their own words

The "Gloonan Stars" tell us about their experience.

Being digitally competent is now a necessary part of modern life and no one can afford to be left behind.

Regardless of age or ability, we believe going online has digital and social inclusion benefits for everyone. Supporting™



## Thank you!



## Healy King Supporting Communities





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