

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](#).

March 2025

Tech for Good, Impact for All

We are in the running for the People's Choice Award at the Digital Leaders Impact Awards, and we need your support!

Voting is open until **12 March** at noon, [cast your vote!](#)

Some achievements from 2024: **10,915m²** of community connectivity installed, **300** devices accessed across **23** digital health hubs with **4,000+** monthly users. **30,000** residents informed about social tariffs. **900** offline employees now online. Doubling the percentage of properties with full-fibre connectivity in just one year from **26% to 53%**. Huge thank you to our **350** amazing network members who made all this possible!
Thank you for your support!



Creative Smart City Hubs

Sunderland libraries or now known as Creative Smart City Hubs, offer a wide range of activities for all ages at City, Houghton and Washington Libraries. Examples include family film clubs, creative computer sessions for over 60s, time for rhyme for babies and toddlers, knit and natter, restoring old photos, arts and craft, and lots more [Discover what's happening at your library and join in](#). The library team is eager to connect with you and show you all the exciting activities available.



Tech Mates

Many local charities and community organisations in Sunderland are eager to welcome Tech Mate volunteers into their centres. [You can find out more](#), and express an interest.

Additionally, there is a Digital Inclusion course available for both existing Tech Mate volunteers looking for a refresher and new Tech Mates. To register your interest, please email smartcity@sunderland.gov.uk

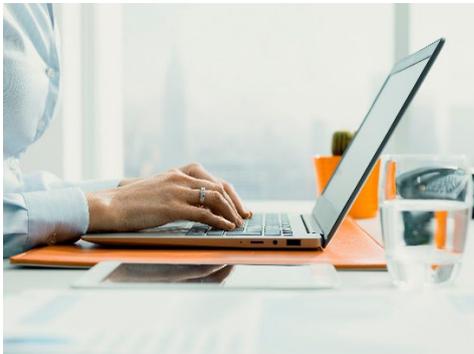
Digital Inclusion Action Plan



The UK Government has launched the Digital Inclusion Action Plan, acknowledging existing efforts and highlighting local initiatives through case studies. Importantly, the plan recognises that digital exclusion encompasses housing, health, education, work, finance, and more. Everyone has a role to play in addressing this issue. Collaboration across sectors is essential to bridge the digital divide. The plan commits to providing skills training and donating devices from within the government. It also acknowledges that many people remain offline for complex reasons, emphasising that motivation and confidence are central to achieving digital inclusion. Have your say on the plan, deadline of 9 April 2025.

Tech Up Women

Click Start offers a 6-week online programme. This award-winning initiative, developed with industry, retrains women from underserved groups for tech careers. Learn coding, web development, marketing, data analytics and more. Free for ages 18-30, unemployed or earning below £25,000, living in DH, NE or SR postcodes.



IT4Good Grants

Grants up to £15,000 available for educational establishments, CICs, charities and constituted groups. Supported activities include education, inclusion, equipment, training, and accessibility. More likely to fund new services, solutions, apps, analytics, AI, robotics or accessibility features and hardware. The application guidance explains all you need to know, including top tips. If you think you'll be applying and we can assist, email smarcity@sunderland.gov.uk Deadline is 7 May.

Boost Learning Academy

Your hub for flexible learning, open to all in the council, NHS, voluntary sector, private care providers and more. From leadership to health inequalities and prevention. Whether you're a seasoned professional or just starting, you're welcome to join the learning academy.

