The Digital Skills Pathway for Shared Prosperity

Good Things Foundation’s Digital Skills Pathway pilots aimed to address the challenge of how to support local communities to become digital included and to drive economic recovery. Funded by the UK Government’s Community Renewal Fund, we developed local pathways with the potential for transformational impacts in the lives of digitally excluded adults.

Outcomes
- Progress to further learning
- Get online, digital life skills, social connection, wellbeing
- Support for employability skills to get/retain a job or progress in work

Community Organisations
- Adult Community Education Providers
- Further Education Colleges

Engage and support
Support and progress

About the programme
Over 12 months, 82 community organisations were supported to deliver across three Combined Authority areas – Greater Manchester, West Midlands and North of Tyne.

5,347 people were supported
44% seeking work
40% economically inactive
16% in work

Impact
Improvements in people’s digital access, skills and confidence were significant.

- 94% reported improvement in their digital skills
- 92% felt more confident to use the internet
- 87% said they had access to a device and/or data
- 68% of people supported achieved at least one desired outcome:
  - 79% reported being motivated to keep on learning
  - 47% progressed onto further learning*
  - 44% reported better employment prospects
  - 33% applied for a job

*Including intention to progress.

Checklist
The ‘key ingredients’ for successful future programmes:
- Access to devices, data, and support for digital skills
- Provision in community settings, tailored to local needs
- Build on local networks to create pathways for progression
- Resources for people with English language needs
- Sustainable funding for community provision of digital inclusion
- Enough time to build relationships for long-term impact

View the full report here