



Cumbria Digital Inclusion Network

Minutes from the meeting 13 October 2025

Sarah.jewell@digitalunite.com

www.digitalunite.com

Brief overview of issues covered

Rachel Robson kindly hosted our meeting at Lakes College. Thank you Rachel, it was great to have an in-person network meet up. 😊

We heard from Sarah, about Let's Get Digital West Cumbria. Sarah introduced *'Inspire'* a short piece of online learning (or workshop) that helps embed an understanding of what 'Digital Exclusion' is, how it affects people, and what your organisation can do to tackle it.

Organisations can access this for free, and Sarah hopes to run an in-person workshop in early 2026. You can also access Digital Champion training for staff and volunteers to support your beneficiaries with their digital skills.

Gemma gave us a great introduction to Levels, Whitehaven. Levels looks to be an amazing digital and gaming opportunity for the community (presentation below). There are some up and coming open days which you can attend to find out more and have a play with some of their amazing gaming and virtual reality kit.

Nic gave a great presentation on the NHS App – talking participants through what functions it has, how to utilise it and the ways different surgeries use it. See below for links to more information; guides and videos that you can share with colleagues, beneficiaries and community members.

Speakers:

Sarah Jewell , Digital Unite	-	Let's Get Digital, West Cumbria, Inspire
Gemma Leadbetter , COO, BEC	-	Levels, Whitehaven
Nichola Wiggett , NHS	-	NHS App support in the community

Links & further information:

Inspire (Digital Inclusion awareness course)	-	Further Information
Digital Champion free training	-	Further Information
Levels, Whitehaven	-	Presentation
Gemma.Leadbetter@discoverbec.com	-	Further Information
NHS App information support	-	Tell people about the NHS App - NHS England Digital NHS App general promotional materials - NHS England Digital

AOB:

Richard Heeks, University of Manchester – Some of you may hear from Richard in the coming weeks/months. Richard is doing some research on Digital Inclusion in rural Cumbria and is keen to hear from Cumbria Digital Inclusion Network members about what your experience/feedback

is on this subject is, to help inform his research and to hopefully inform our future work as a Network too.

Next meeting – January 2026 – Sarah to send out next meeting appointment

Attendees:

Sarah Jewell, Digital Unite – Let's Get Digital West Cumbria

Gemma Leadbetter, BEC – Levels Whitehaven

Nichola Wiggett, North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust

Pat Maskell, AbilityNet Cumbria

Angela Gorse, Maryport Health Service

Rachel Robson, Lakes College

Helen Hay – Library Project Outreach

Emma Baughan – Senior Social Prescriber

Lois Sparling – Grasmoor Mission Community

Emma Fisher – Citizen Advice Allerdale

Rachel Haroulis – Library Outreach Project Officer

Lyn Cavaghan – Always Another Way