



Cumbria Digital Inclusion Network

Minutes from the meeting 23 February 2026

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Brief overview of issues covered

Great to see so many new faces at the meeting. It was a shame that Rachel Melton from Sellafield was unable to attend to update us on the Together For Good device scheme – however we have an opportunity for you to learn about this scheme and it's launch at our next 'in person' meeting in April at Levels.

Richard Heeks, University of Manchester, presented his findings from recent interviews he carried out with the Cumbria Digital Inclusion Network members – including discussions we had in breakout groups, after which we fed back any suggestions for next steps this network could focus on for Digital Inclusion initiatives in the county.

Links & further information:

Richard Heeks, University of Manchester

You can watch the [recording](#)

[Slides from the presentation](#)

[Digital Exclusion data visualisation](#),

[Partnerships, people and places](#)

AOB:

Bev Smith, Friendly WiFi – Bev introduced their initiative 'Friendly WiFi'

The recognised UK safety standard for public WiFi, originally established with UK Government support. It provides independent verification that networks are filtering access to illegal and harmful online content, helping venues demonstrate that they are providing a safe and responsibly managed digital environment. This is particularly important for community spaces such as village halls, libraries and community centres where families, young people and residents regularly access public WiFi.

Displaying the Friendly WiFi symbol gives clear reassurance to users that the venue has taken steps to protect them online while meeting its responsibility to provide safe public connectivity. For smaller venues the cost can be as little as £30 per year for a single access point, and the Friendly WiFi team will guide organisations through the process and support them in becoming certified. <https://www.friendlywifi.com/>

[Bev's presentation](#)

Pat Maskell, AbilityNet – If anyone is aware of someone who is older (over 55) or has a disability that needs digital help, and can't go to a centre/community space offering digital support, AbilityNet have got a network of volunteers across Cumbria who can visit them in their own homes and support them one to one.

Next meeting – 28 April 1.30-4pm @ Levels, Whitehaven

30 minute meeting (1.30-2pm) CDIN business including hearing about the much awaited “Together for Good” device scheme, followed by an interactive, hands-on experience of all the tech and fun that can be had at Levels!

Attendees:

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

Richard Heeks, University of Manchester

Pat Maskell, AbilityNet Cumbria

Angela Gorse, Maryport Health Service

Emma Baughan – Senior Social Prescriber

Rachel Haroulis – Library Outreach Project Officer

Lyn Cavaghan – Always Another Way

Lesley Graffin, MP Constituency Office

Diane Robertson, The Lakes Medical Practice

Claire Killen, Recovery Steps Cumbria

Dianne Blacklock, Aspatria Medical Group

Emma Peile, Connecting Cumbria

Gracie Rogan, Howgill Family Centre

Deborah Pattinson, Alexander House Community Care Hub CIC

Sonny Smith, Always Another Way & CVS Trustee

Bev Smith, Friendly Wifi

Andrew William Barnes, Deafblind

Jozi Brown, Cumbria Action

Rachael Barham, Alexander House Community Care Hub CIC

Craig Barker, Cumberland Council

Nic Wiggett, North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust

Laura Dakers, North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust

Paul Day, Carlisle Healthcare

Iona Chamberlain-Clark, Capgemini – Supporters of Let’s Get Digital, West Cumbria

Catherine E Weldon, Connecting Cumbria

Emma Bragg, Oval Centre Salterbeck

Caroline Parry-Jones, Oval Centre Salterbeck

Dawn Hawke, MIND Carlisle & Eden

Dale Shackley, Fellview Healthcare