



Cumbria Digital Inclusion Network

Minutes from the meeting 14 September 2026

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Brief overview of issues covered

We covered a range of topics;

- Health
- Free training from Capgemini
- Together for Good 'asset request platform'
- Landline switchover
- Organisational updates

Links & further information:

You can watch the meeting [recording here](#)

Virgin Media O2 have launched a fund that you can use to support programmes to improve digital inclusion and reduce electronic waste. The Tech Rehome Network Fund closes at the end October 2026 – [click here](#)

Together for Good 'asset request' platform – request devices for your organisation or service users from this Sellafield funded initiative. (*you have to be registered on the platform to access this) [here](#)

Landline switchover information [here](#) NB the switchover is due to take place in January 2027

Free training available from Capgemini, they can run sessions for staff and service users covering many 'digitally' linked topics (from understanding and using Teams and the Cloud, to Staying Safe Online or Searching for Jobs). Find out more [here](#)

AOB

Lakes College Digital Inclusion Event – 12 October 9am-12.30pm

Sarah & Iona, as part of 'Let's Get Digital, West Cumbria', are running an interactive workshop for students to help them explore digital exclusion, what it is and who it affects. Students will also explore the importance of digital skills in their future jobs/careers, and how digitally inclusive service design should be considered in any roles. Workplace representatives will be attending from organisations including Barclays, Levels, NHS, Libraries, Charities, Community Centres and tech companies. If you would like to be included in this event, contact sarah.jewell@digitalunite.com

Mayoral candidates & Richard Heeks report – If you still haven't read Richard Heeks report about Digital inclusion in Cumbria, please take a look. We want to use it to help raise digital inclusion issues with all the Mayoral candidates. If you would be happy to support Sarah with this light touch lobbying, please email sarah.jewell@digitalunite.com [See report here](#)

Get Online Week – 19-25 October

An awareness raising week run by 'Good Things Foundation' and a good moment to highlight issues of digital exclusion among your service users, or promote/run a digital support event.

[Find out more](#)

Unpaid Carers & Digital Inclusion – Andrew Storey, Researcher

Andrew, as part of the HDRC (Health Determinates Research Centre), and 'hosted' by CVS has been carrying out interviews and research to identify the needs of and best way to support unpaid carers when it comes to digital inclusion and support. Andrew will hopefully present some of his findings at the next network meeting.

ACTion with Communities in Cumbria

ACT are very much pushing the 'rural proofing' issue, a big part of that being Digital Literacy and Digital Inclusion, access to good connectivity etc. A lot of work is going into looking at the Neighbourhood Care Models. Emergency resilience and hubs are also being supported/worked on especially with the local resilience forum and the Cumbria Community Foundation (CCF) are providing grants for communities around Emergency Resilience.

Community buildings directory – click [here](#) for weblink

The new/refreshed lists on the ACT website of all Village Halls across Cumbria, venues that can be booked and their digital facilities/capabilities (such as wifi etc.)

Oval Centre, Salterbeck – Digital Inclusion drop in support

From 10am Wednesday mornings, Digital Champions are on hand at the Centre to support community members with any digital skills/confidence needs. Emma has also got hold of SIM cards that can be distributed.

Next meeting 8th December – 12-1pm 'save the date'

Attendees:

Val	Ayre	Cumberland Council
Emma	Bragg	Oval Centre, Riverside Housing
Jozi	Brown	ACTion with Communities in Cumbria
Lyn	Cavaghan	Always Another Way
Lisa	Chambers	Social Prescribing Team, Cumberland Council
Laura	Dakers	PRIMIS, NHS
Gwyneth	Farrell	Carlisle PCN
Scott	Ferguson	Cumbria Youth Alliance
Jen	Garrick	Rosehill Theatre
Diane	Graham	Silloth Group Medical Practice
Sarah	Jewell	Digital Unite
Claire	Killen	Recovery Steps Cumbria
Andrea	Noblett	Costain
Pat	Maskell	Cumbria AbilityNet

Deborah	Pattison	Alexander House Community Care Hub CIC
Katie	Rae	Social Prescribing Team, Cumberland Council
Andrew	Storey	Unpaid Carers Researcher, Cumbria CVS
Catherine	Weldon	Connecting Cumbria
Nichola	Wiggett	PRIMIS, NHS