Simon Leeming

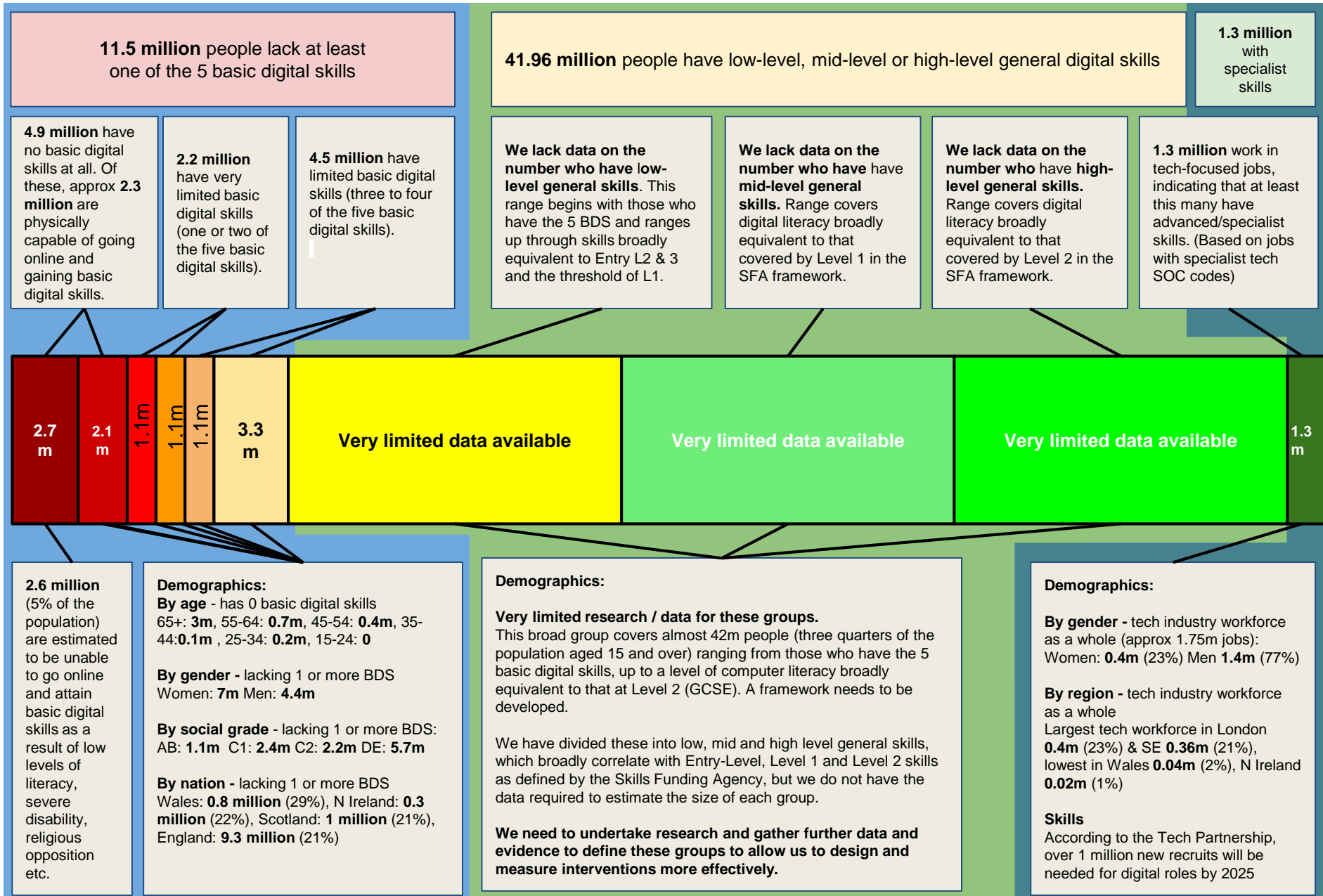Head of the Digital Skills Partnership

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Indicative Digital Capability Overview - Total UK population aged 15 and over = 54.76 million

11.5 million people lack at least one of the 5 basic digital skills

41.96 million people have low-level, mid-level or high-level general digital skills

1.3 million with specialist skills

4.9 million have no basic digital skills at all. Of these, approx **2.3 million** are physically capable of going online and gaining basic digital skills.

2.2 million have very limited basic digital skills (one or two of the five basic digital skills).

4.5 million have limited basic digital skills (three to four of the five basic digital skills).

We lack data on the number who have low-level general skills. This range begins with those who have the 5 BDS and ranges up through skills broadly equivalent to Entry L2 & 3 and the threshold of L1.

We lack data on the number who have mid-level general skills. Range covers digital literacy broadly equivalent to that covered by Level 1 in the SFA framework.

We lack data on the number who have high-level general skills. Range covers digital literacy broadly equivalent to that covered by Level 2 in the SFA framework.

1.3 million work in tech-focused jobs, indicating that at least this many have advanced/specialist skills. (Based on jobs with specialist tech SOC codes)

2.7 m | **2.1 m** | **1.1m** | **1.1m** | **1.1m** | **3.3 m** | Very limited data available | Very limited data available | Very limited data available | **1.3 m**

2.6 million (5% of the population) are estimated to be unable to go online and attain basic digital skills as a result of low levels of literacy, severe disability, religious opposition etc.

Demographics:
By age - has 0 basic digital skills
65+: **3m**, 55-64: **0.7m**, 45-54: **0.4m**, 35-44:**0.1m** , 25-34: **0.2m**, 15-24: **0**

By gender - lacking 1 or more BDS
Women: **7m** Men: **4.4m**

By social grade - lacking 1 or more BDS:
AB: **1.1m** C1: **2.4m** C2: **2.2m** DE: **5.7m**

By nation - lacking 1 or more BDS
Wales: **0.8 million** (29%), N Ireland: **0.3 million** (22%), Scotland: **1 million** (21%), England: **9.3 million** (21%)

Demographics:

Very limited research / data for these groups.
This broad group covers almost 42m people (three quarters of the population aged 15 and over) ranging from those who have the 5 basic digital skills, up to a level of computer literacy broadly equivalent to that at Level 2 (GCSE). A framework needs to be developed.

We have divided these into low, mid and high level general skills, which broadly correlate with Entry-Level, Level 1 and Level 2 skills as defined by the Skills Funding Agency, but we do not have the data required to estimate the size of each group.

We need to undertake research and gather further data and evidence to define these groups to allow us to design and measure interventions more effectively.

Demographics:

By gender - tech industry workforce as a whole (approx 1.75m jobs): Women: **0.4m** (23%) Men **1.4m** (77%)

By region - tech industry workforce as a whole
Largest tech workforce in London **0.4m** (23%) & SE **0.36m** (21%), lowest in Wales **0.04m** (2%), N Ireland **0.02m** (1%)

Skills
According to the Tech Partnership, over 1 million new recruits will be needed for digital roles by 2025

The Digital Skills Partnership

Ambition:

● The DSP should help to ensure everyone has the digital skills they need to participate in a world-leading digital economy.

   ○ **Basic** digital skills to support inclusion
   ○ **General** digital skills for the workforce
   ○ **Advanced** digital skills for specialist roles

● Transform digital capability using joined up, national and local solutions

LEP Overlaps
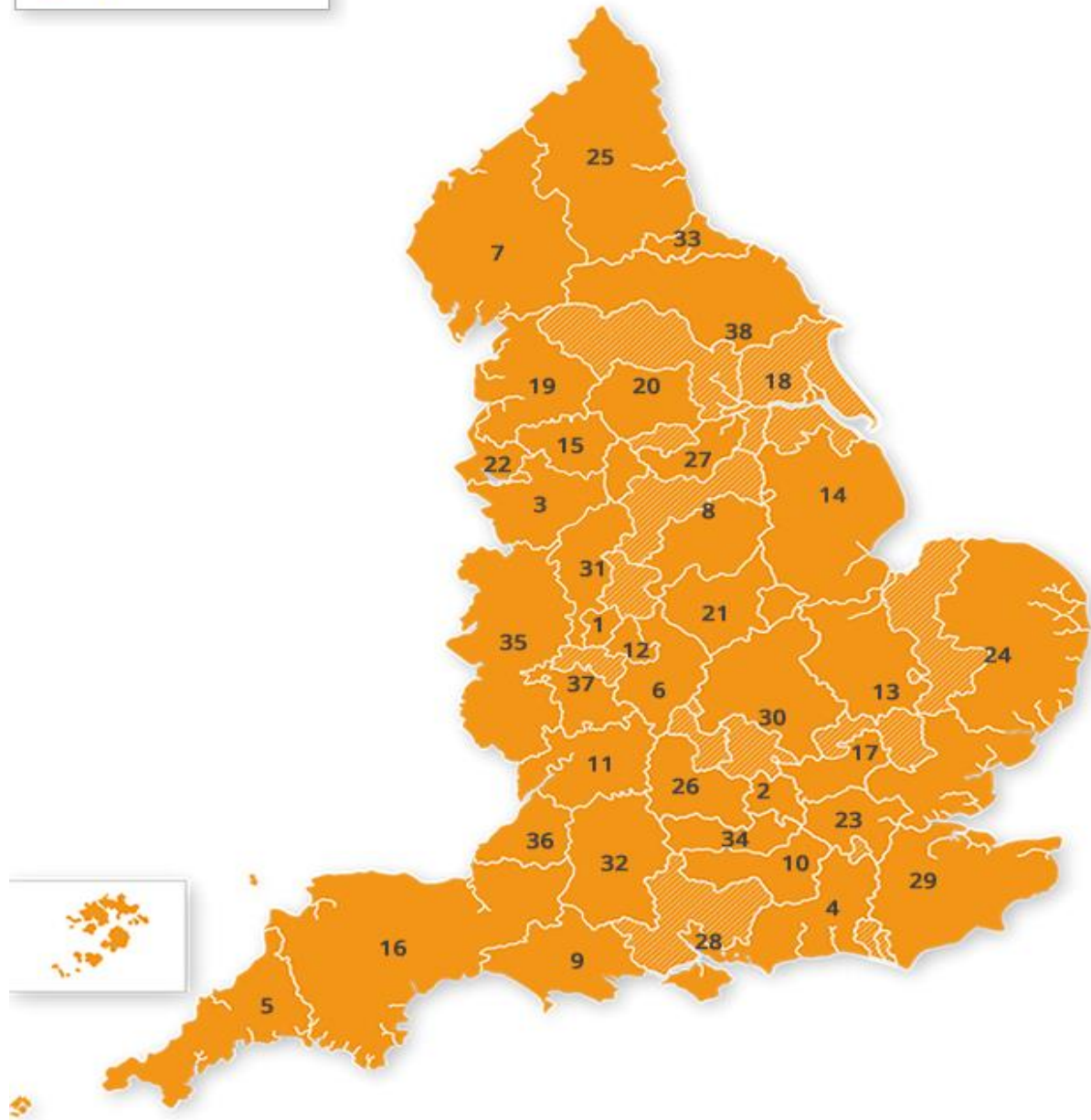
01. Black Country
02. Buckinghamshire Thames Valley
03. Cheshire & Warrington
04. Coast to Capital
05. Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly
06. Coventry & Warwickshire
07. Cumbria
08. Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham & Nottinghamshire
09. Dorset
10. Enterprise M3
11. Gloucestershire
12. Greater Birmingham & Solihull
13. Greater Cambridge & Peterborough
14. Greater Lincolnshire
15. Greater Manchester
16. Heart of the South West
17. Hertfordshire
18. Humber
19. Lancashire
20. Leeds City Region
21. Leicester & Leicestershire
22. Liverpool City Region
23. London
24. New Anglia
25. North East
26. Oxfordshire
27. Sheffield City Region
28. Solent
29. South East
30. South East Midlands
31. Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire
32. Swindon & Wiltshire
33. Tees Valley
34. Thames Valley Berkshire
35. The Marches
36. West of England
37. Worcestershire
38. York, N.Yorkshire & East Riding

Local Digital Skills Partnership model
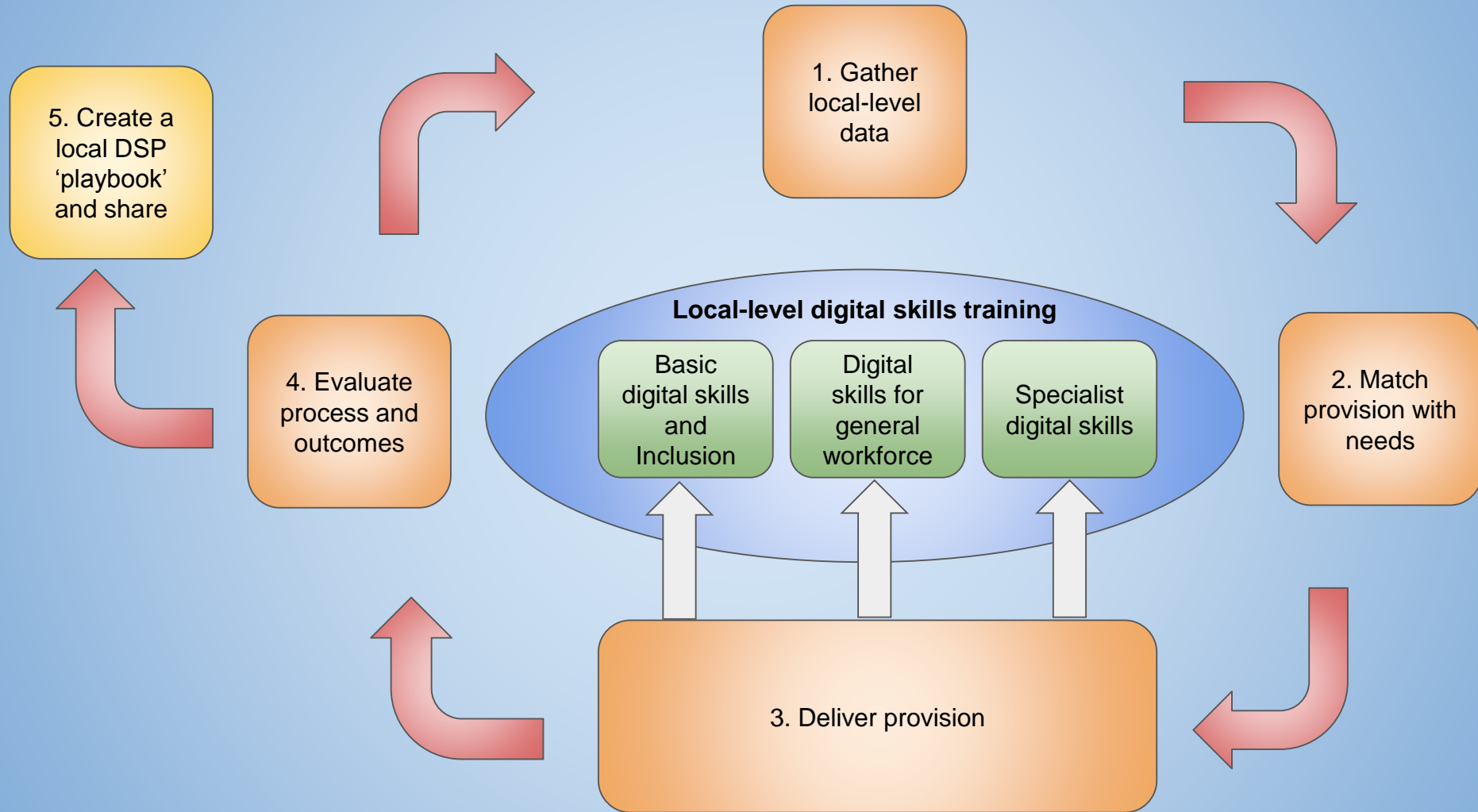
National-level support

Digital enterprise

Questions:
How can we strengthen digital capability among UK SMEs, charities and cultural institutions, enabling them to upscale, increase revenue and/or participation?
What can we do to demonstrate how transformative digital can be for an organisation and that the ROI is too significant to ignore?

Goal:
The most digital small businesses are twice as likely to report increase in turnover than the least digital. More than half a million (15%) SMEs say they are not being more digital because of a lack of skills. By motivating and increasing digital capability we will help organisations to become more resilient, increase revenue and make a greater contribution to the economy.

Diversity

Questions:
How can we ensure that the DSP is instrumental in addressing the links between digital exclusion or low digital capability and things such as age, ethnicity or socio-economic circumstances?
Do we need to increase the evidence base to identify inequalities and divides related to digital capability? How can the DSP support more women to get into tech roles?

Goal:
Digital should level the playing field rather than exacerbate social divisions. We need to use mechanisms such as the Tech Talent Charter to effect a change in culture, but also ensure that everyone has the same access and motivation to gain the skills they need to benefit from the internet and contribute to a thriving digital economy

Lifelong learning

Questions:
How can we help the workforce 'future proof' their careers and adapt to technological changes, particularly in those areas that are at risk of automation?

Goal:
The pace of technological change is not going to decrease, so just holding onto the skills you have can actually mean you are moving backwards. We will need to design and deliver the interventions that can break people out of low-skill/low-wage job traps and open up new careers and life opportunities.

Sector specific collaboration

Questions:
How can we help employees and customers get online and gain digital skills in sectors which have a large footprint across the country? For example, by upscaling the Digital Champions model.
Are there opportunities for the likes of the retail sector to create digital hubs within stores / public contact points and to incentivise participation in digital inclusion and skills training?

Goal:
We have learned from programmes like Lloyds Digital Champions and Barclays Digital Eagles that 'trusted faces in local places' is a model that works. Other sectors are doing less to engage staff and customers in digital activity. We want to help them to exploit their huge reach and increase the digital skills which can empower their consumers and employees.

Campaigns

Questions:
How can we collaborate on a high profile campaign strategy to inspire people of all ages, gender and background to develop digital skills, pursue digital careers and to get more people and organisations online and develop better digital skills?
How do we create an overarching 'banner' under which all DSP activity can be conducted?
How can we tap into specialist marketing and broadcasting talent?
Is a government branded programme likely to work to our advantage or disadvantage?

Goal:
Even if we design excellent delivery models and secure a vast range of free training opportunities, the DSP will only succeed if interventions are taken up by the public. We need a campaign that raises awareness and makes provision attractive to our audience.
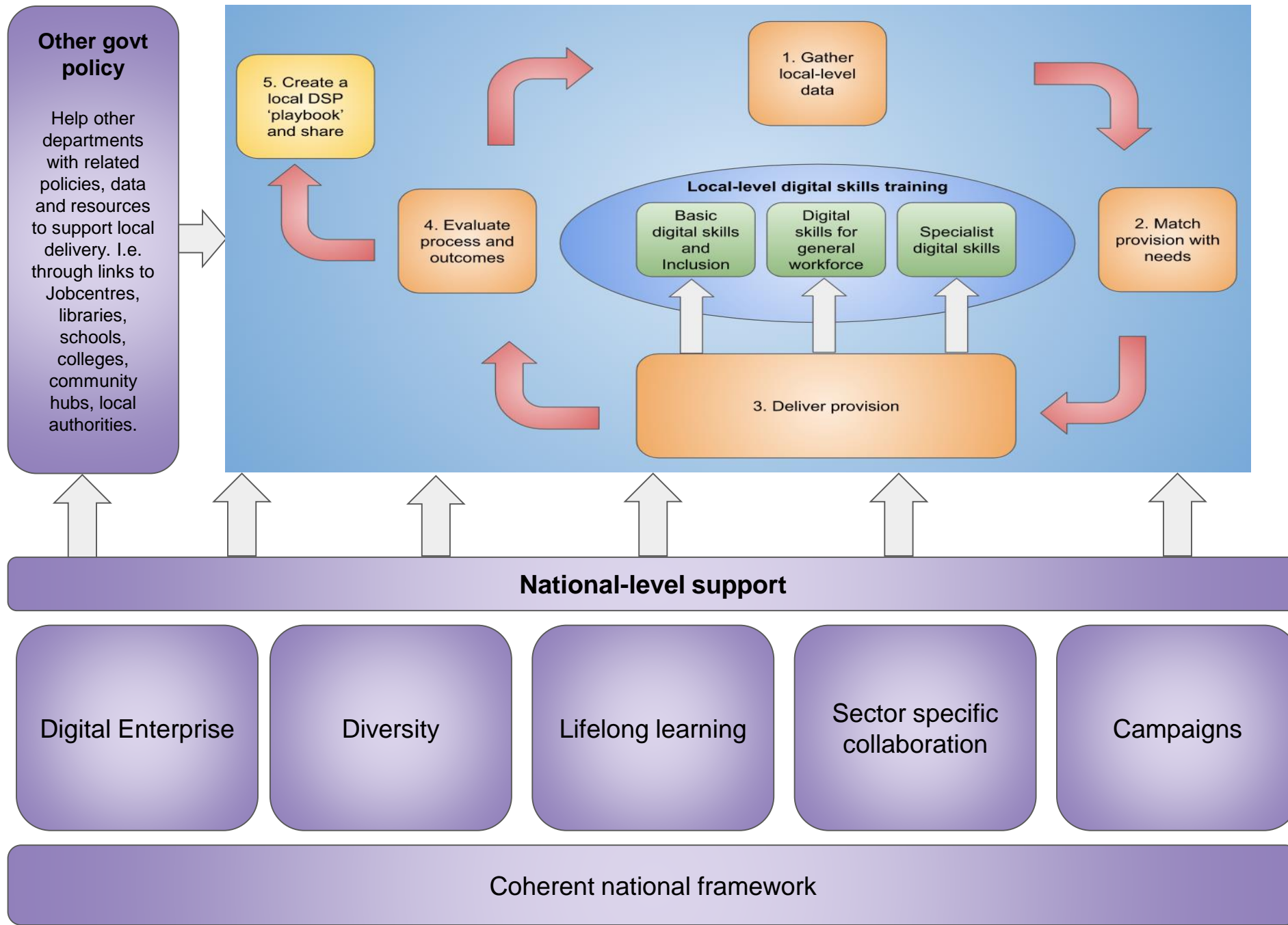
Coherent national framework

Questions:
How can we create a coherent framework that enables people to identify and access good quality digital skills training opportunities and which enables providers to more easily collaborate to upscale and innovate? Do we need to develop a national, public-facing digital platform which would allow us to better gather local level data, display free training opportunities, match provision to needs and record and measure outcomes?

Goal:
For both end users and facilitators, digital skills provision in the UK is widespread, but fragmented, uneven or out of reach. We want to create a framework that provides a coherent picture of readily available, effective digital skills training.

Joined up local and national Digital Skills Partnerships

Other govt policy

Help other departments with related policies, data and resources to support local delivery. I.e. through links to Jobcentres, libraries, schools, colleges, community hubs, local authorities.

5. Create a local DSP 'playbook' and share

1. Gather local-level data

4. Evaluate process and outcomes

Local-level digital skills training

Basic digital skills and Inclusion

Digital skills for general workforce

Specialist digital skills

2. Match provision with needs

3. Deliver provision

National-level support

Digital Enterprise

Diversity

Lifelong learning

Sector specific collaboration

Campaigns

Coherent national framework

DSP Governance Structure

Digital Skills and Inclusion Research Working Group (RWG)

Delivery Group

Delivery Group

Delivery Group

Digital Skills Partnership Board
(Council for Digital Inclusion merged into the DSP Board)

DSP Terms of Engagement

- Embrace 'brand neutrality'

- Commit to deliver

The Digital Skills Partnership

Next steps

- Formation of first national delivery groups. Primary focus on Coherent Framework, Digital Enterprise and Diversity.

- Invitation for EoIs from LEPs and criteria agreed for selecting LEP areas for initial test phase.

- First meeting of DSP Board, Autumn 2017

- Rollout of initial local DSPs, early 2018.

The Digital Skills Partnership

#UKDIGITALSTRATEGY

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