

Champion for Digital Inclusion

Report on Expenditure from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015

"To assist the Leader and appropriate Cabinet Members to oversee the Delivery of the Digital Inclusion Delivery Plan, to Chair an internal Digital Inclusion Delivery Group and to act as an Ambassador for Digital Inclusion across a diverse range of partners and stakeholders including community and voluntary groups right the way through to major UK private sector organisations"

Whitewell Bottom Community Association £1,500

This grant was used to purchase 3 laptop pc's and a broadband connection for 3 years.

A volunteer is prepared, at the request of the Community Association, to star and run a regular IT club available to local people, of all ages, to teach basic IT skills and help young people apply for jobs, prepare CV's, and apply for jobs online.

There is no public IT provision available in Whitewell Bottom, and this grant would enable the Community Association to provide such a facility in the local Community People in an area of Rossendale which currently has no public IT provision will now be able to access the internet and online services.

The manager of the youth Club is trained to provide IT support, and will organize 'job clubs' for local unemployed young people, with a particular focus on attracting young people with few IT skills, or no It equipment.

Go On Lancashire £98

The funding of £98 was spent supporting the launch of the Go ON Lancashire campaign. The campaign aims to boost the online skills of the people of Lancashire. This campaign is an action in the Delivering Digital Inclusion in Lancashire Framework. The benefits of this project encouraged partners to sign up to the campaign to support the county council in helping the residents of Lancashire.

West View Community Association £3,650

West View Community Association building had been suggested as an ideal pilot area to trial the new digital inclusion programme and engage in the LCC Superfast Broadband rollout.

West View Community Association building currently had wi-fi available but would require support in upgrading to Superfast Broadband under the proposal outlined below.

The funding of £3650.20 would help provide:

Item	No.	Cost	overall
HP Slate 10"	4	159.99	639.96
Office 365	2	79.99	159.98
Epson printer	1	69.99	69.99
Toshiba 16" laptop	10	229.99	2,299.90
Universal case Black	4	29.99	119.96
Discount		-131.59	
12 months superfast broadband			492
Total			3,650.20

By helping to facilitate this pilot project it allowed residents to apply for jobs online, claim their universal credit and upload their CV's online, run homework clubs for local children, plus access for residents to the internet and benefitting from cheaper online services, online shopping etc.

This projects directly contributes to 3 out of the 4 main objectives of LCC's DI Strategy

- Objective 1 – Improving Access
- Objective 3 – Improving employability, Skills and life chances
- Objective 4 – Enhancing personal wellbeing and engagement

Aawaz Project £1,000

Aawaz works primarily with women and families from south Asian and eastern European communities in Hyndburn. The Access point base offers an open-door facility in the heart of the community on Blackburn Road, Accrington.

Aawaz's vision is "to remove the culture of dependency improve the lives of south Asian women and their families and help create equal and cohesive communities where women can feel a sense of belonging and play their part in the wider society".

Aawaz work in the area of personal development providing holistic support and assistance. Aawaz requested the funding to enable them to purchase new compatible hardware i.e. up-to-date laptops, broadband and basic table and chairs to provide latest technology to our existing ITC learners who attend our employability related activities including a Work Club.

One Recovery Community Group £1,500

One Recovery applied for funding for ICT equipment, infrastructure and network support. One Recovery is a multi-stakeholder community cooperative comprising of CRI, Work Solutions, Acorn, Calico, Clean & Green Recovery and THOMAS and are shortly signing the lease on a property in Bacup which we aim to turn into an engagement, enterprise and training hub. The hub will be a satellite centre, delivering accredited qualifications and job search workshops for the recovery community and socially isolated individuals of East Lancashire.

Bank Mill House Senior Citizens Centre £1,000

Bank Mill House has around 370 members and are over 55 and around 25% already use a computer/e-mail etc. As a committee they believe there is scope to reduce isolation by introducing basic computer skills to some of the 75%. They believe individuals would be more likely to get involved in the Bank Mill House environment with which they are already familiar and word would quickly spread to the broader older age community. At present we have neither tutors nor equipment but we could fit such training into the busy programme on perhaps one morning a week the funding enabled to group to provide this.

Marsh Community Centre £1,500

Their project would look to deliver a short course for adults in the community to increase their confidence is using IT equipment. Their centre is regularly accessed by a group of younger adults aged between 19 and 25 who are able to use the internet but require training in the use of Word packages to enable them to produce CV's for job hunting. Their IT facilities are operational but quote dated so they would use the funding, to purchase equipment such as a new printer and new PC's and to pay for a six week course for service users to develop their skills.

Harvey Longworth Court £1,000

Harvey Longworth Court requested the funding to purchase computer equipment and a broadband connection for use by residents and the local community. Training will be provided to their elderly residents, and they will be teaching them to keep in touch with their families via skype, as well as basic IT skills.

***County Councillor Sean Serridge
Champion for Digital Inclusion***

Schedule of Expenditure for 2014/15

County Councillor Sean Serridge - Champion for Digital Inclusion	
Applicant	Amount of Grant
Whitewell Bottom Community Association – laptops and broadband	£1,500
Go on Lancashire – catering costs	£98
West View Community Association – Superfast broadband connection	£3,650
Aawaz Project – new laptops and printer	£1,000
One Recovery Community Group – IT equipment	£1,500
Bank Mill House Senior Citizens Centre – IT training	£1,000
Marsh Community Centre – IT training courses	£1,500
Harvey Longworth Court – IT equipment and broadband connection	£1,000
TOTAL SPENT	£11,248