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**A Fairer Place – A Digital Place for All in Kensington and Chelsea, held on Thursday 3 April 2025**

**EVENT SUMMARY AND ACTIONS**

The Digital Network Partnership was set up during the Pandemic and meet on a regular basis to discuss digital advancements, opportunities and gaps. Members of the Group are from both the statutory and voluntary sector. On Thursday 3 April 2025, KCSC in collaboration with the Digital Network Partnership held an assembly to focus on developments to support digitally excluded residents since the Pandemic, improvements to digital access for community groups. There was also the opportunity to explore what further support is needed for local organisations.

Below is a summary of the key actions from the event to take forward

**Key Topics:**

* **T**he focus of the event wa on digital inclusion and the digital divide, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Digital Inclusion group emerged during the pandemic and involve various organizations, including the NHS, and the VCS with the purpose of addressing gaps in digital access and skills.
* **Digital Divide and Inclusion:** It was highlighted the efforts made to provide access to Wi-Fi, laptops, and phones to residents, as well as recycling goods to ensure materials are not wasted. It was also highlighted the ongoing challenges and the need for further development in this area.
* **Charities and Digital Skills:** Data was shared with participants from the Charities Digital Skills Report, indicating that 68% of charities struggle to access funding for digital readiness and 62% need to improve digital skills among trustees and staff. It was emphasized the importance of digital transformation for local organizations.
* **Digital Inclusion Toolkit:** The digital toolkit was introduced. The toolkit aims to provide concrete, valuable tools for organizations to support digital inclusion. 4
* **Digital Revolution Team:** The Digital Inclusion Team supports residents, service users, and communities and aims to provide tools and resources to help people benefit from the digital age and address key barriers such as motivation, confidence, and access to devices.
* **Impact of Being Offline:**  The negative impact of being offline, including limited access to services, job opportunities, and social connections were highlighted. Statistics on the digital divide were shared and it was emphasised the importance of digital inclusion for overall well-being.
* **Digital Inclusion Partnership:**  The work of the Kensington and Chelsea Digital Inclusion Partnership was highlighted. The partnership has been recognised in the Government’s National Digital Inclusion Plan for good practice in aiming to coordinate efforts to support people in need.
* **Challenges and Solutions:** Esma (Dalgarno Trust) shared the challenges faced by their service users and for the organisation, including language barriers, digital accessibility issues, and the need for dedicated staff to deliver digital inclusion work. She emphasised the importance of voluntary and community organisations having resources and funding to continue their efforts to improve digital inclusion.
* **NHS Digital Initiatives:** Joe Mcgale highlighted the NHS's digital initiatives, including the NHS app, online tools for prevention and care, and efforts to improve digital access and communication. Joe als stated the importance of maintaining non-digital options for those who need them most.
* **Good Things Foundation:** Things Foundation shared information about their work within digital inclusion, including the National Digital Inclusion Network, training sessions, and the Learn My Way platform.

**Action Items:**

**Digital Inclusion Partnership:**

* Sign up for the Digital Inclusion Partnership's monthly meetings and newsletter to stay informed and connected.

**Good Things Foundation:**

* Join the National Digital Inclusion Network and participate in training sessions and events.

Link to KCSC’s website