

# DIGITAL INCLUSION THE SANDWELL STORY



## Sandwell – Digital Inclusion

### Background:

- Supports National priorities - “Digital by Default”
- Reduced unemployment, increasing access to education, training and jobs
- Reduced social isolation, increasing access to online services that contribute towards a better quality of life
- Economic and Financial Inclusion; increasing access to online services and information that aids levels of prosperity
- Supports the wider Black Country Regional priorities – Black Country Digital Strategy
- Supports Sandwell Priorities – Vision 2030 Sandwell



## Sandwell Statistics & Position

- Digital Exclusion Heatmap – MEDIUM
- Four Digital Measures:
  - Infrastructure, Access, Basic Digital Skills and Basic Digital Skills used
- Four Social Measures:
  - Age, Education, Income and Health



## Key Findings – Sandwell

- Educational Attainment
- Health
- Income
- Basic Digital Skills

“Sandwell residents are in need of support to access, up-skill, acquire motivation and trust to confidently go online and fully enjoy the benefits of being digitally included”



## Partnership – Community & Voluntary Sector

- Deliver positive outcomes in relation to:
  - Health & Wellbeing
  - Education
  - Employment
  - **“Enhance the Quality of People’s Lives”**
- Workshop – look at how together we can provide the right Access, Skills, Motivation and Trust to enable our residents to confidently go online



## Digital Inclusion Projects in development and implementation stages

- **Draft Digital Inclusion Strategy**
- **iSandwell Website**
  - Community consultation - Customer Services Week and Roadshows
  - Digital Platform/Blog/Community development tool
- **Digital Champions**
  - Partnership with Libraries/recruitment campaign
  - Training Packages for Volunteers supporting residents
  - Support for community and voluntary sector digital projects
- **Commissioning Group**
  - Community development – Developing Digital community focussed projects in Sandwell
  - Drive the Digital Inclusion Agenda – set the projects
  - Prioritise needs and inform future activity
  - Manage Funding – Community Partnership Grant Fund
- **Google Digital Garage**
  - partnership with Birmingham Council
  - Support with community focussed projects

