

A Programme for 100% Digital Inclusion by 2025 What does that mean?

Take It Easy's last meeting was addressed by Stephen Blackburn, Innovation Relationship Manager for Leeds City Council's ambitious IT programme to improve lives, businesses and opportunities in Leeds.

Stephen gave an absorbing and informative talk about the development of this digital programme which was started in 2022, primarily by Leeds City Council and the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group in collaboration with organisations across all sectors and communities in Leeds. The strategy has far reaching aims to coordinate IT resources to provide services for the benefit of everyone in Leeds.

There is no doubt that digital technology has changed the lives of everyone and will continue to do so in the future. Leeds has a commitment to try and be the best place to live in the UK by harnessing the enormous resources offered by technology. There are, of course, many challenges to an ambition that promotes health and well-being, inclusive growth and zero carbon.

The strategy promotes better collection and management of data; the use of 21st century connectivity and infrastructure; digital inclusion so nobody is left behind; lifelong skills for digital learning and an ethical approach. Through clear principles and guidelines it outlines a vision for the future of the city determined on tackling poverty and inequality and improving the quality of life for people in Leeds. The strategy is a key enabler to improve life outcomes for everybody from the cradle to the grave. It works closely with the primary health care sector to offer a joined up service. for improved health and social care.

The challenges should be faced knowing of the benefits and opportunities that will enable people, businesses and communities to prosper. Leeds works closely with the West Yorkshire integrated care system to better understand how data can help improve health and care outcomes. The strategy will ensure that services are designed around individuals and their needs.

There is exciting progress ahead that will improve the lives of Leeds citizens. The aim is clear. We want Leeds to be the best place to live in the UK. That is supported through the innovative use of data and technology. You can read the programme on our web page on the Garforth, Kippax & District u3a website or at:

Leeds Digital Strategy 2022 - 2025 ONLINE v3.pdf ([inclusivegrowthleeds.com](https://www.inclusivegrowthleeds.com))

Jenny Turner