

Connecting Services

West Midlands Combined Authority funded Digital Devices



Connecting Services

West Midlands Combined Authority secured £4M from Government for digital devices

Targeting those at the highest risk of digital exclusion:

- to help residents improve their access to public services
- increase their employment chances by learning digital skills
- reduce isolation among vulnerable members of society.



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Research shows that over half of West Midlands residents do not have the necessary digital skills that are becoming increasingly required in the workplace, meaning they are missing out on job opportunities and other money saving advantages primarily found online such as price comparison sites.

The West Midlands also has the highest proportion of its population completely offline in the UK (22%).



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Solihull figures:

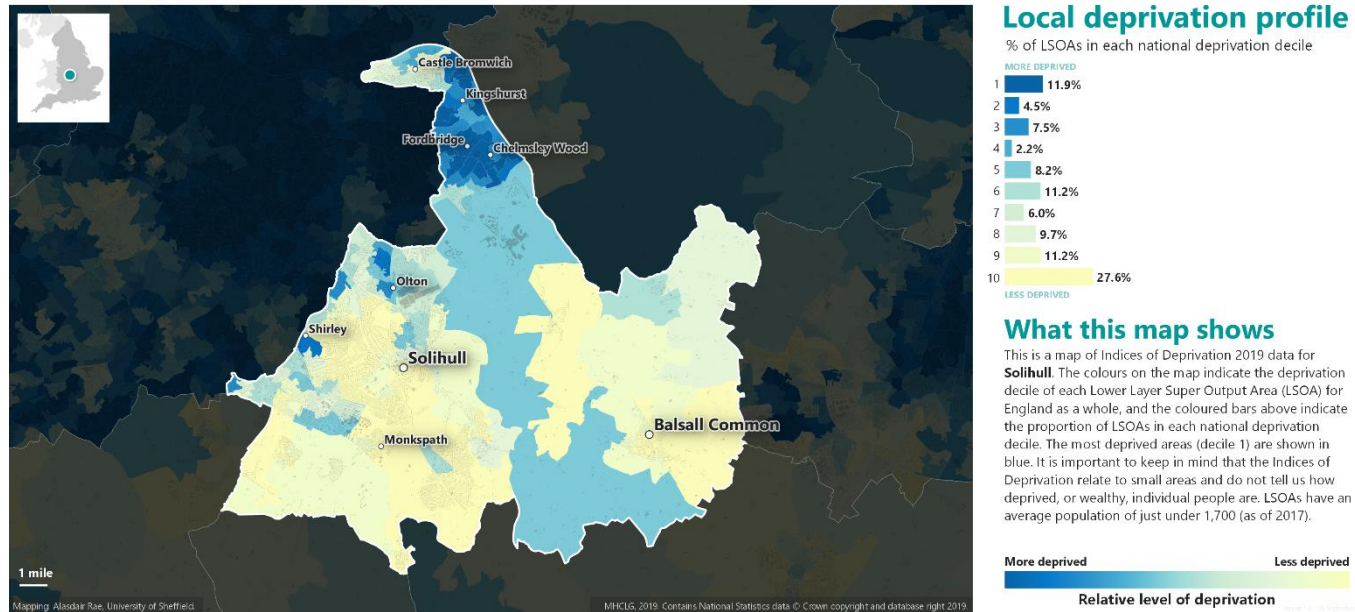
- 8.6% have not used the Internet in the last 3 months or have never used the Internet (ONS, 2021)
- 98.9% of Solihull has broadband available with speeds over 24Mbps (thinkbroadband.com)



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The WMCA scheme and Solihull Priority area

LSOA Deprivation areas in deciles 1-3
including a large proportion of B36 and B37 areas



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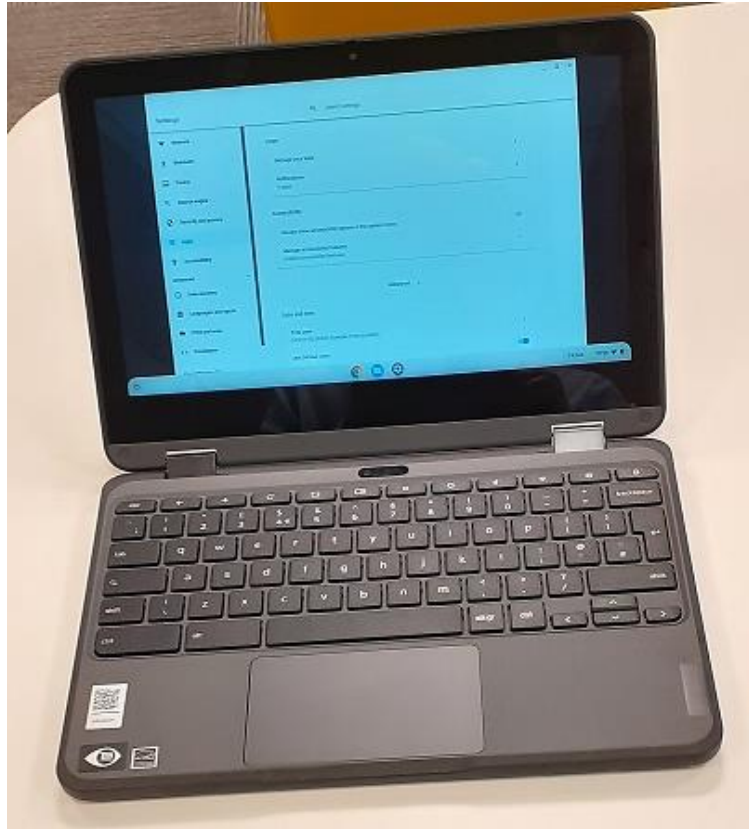
The WMCA scheme and Solihull

Priority Groups

- Older people, including housebound
- Lone parents
- HAF Families
- Unemployed and/or on means-tested benefits
- Those with or helping with financial problems
- People with long-term conditions
- People who are homeless or at risk
- Carers, including young carers
- Looked after children/care leavers
- BAME individuals/those with religious/cultural restrictions
- Jobseekers/changers/self-employed
- Veterans/armed forces personnel and their families
- Offenders/ex-offenders
- People with substance and/or alcohol misuse
- Speakers of English as a second language
- Basic skills learners
- Refugees and those supported under the HFUK scheme
- People with visual and sensory impairment



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Devices available
Lenovo Chromebook 300e

- Uses ChromeOS but can install apps
- Touchscreen
- 1.8Gb memory

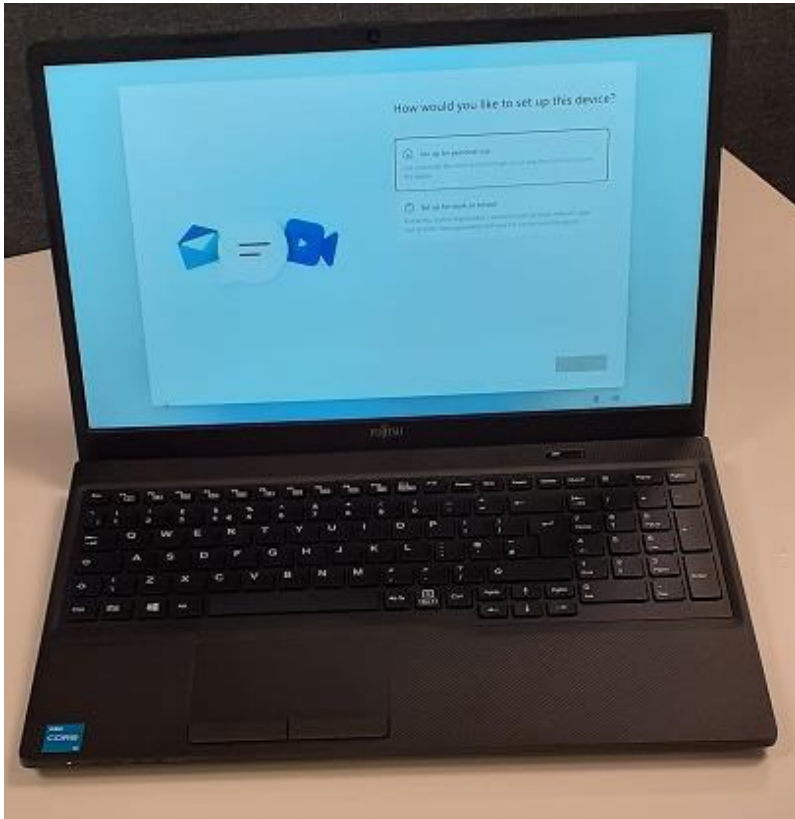


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Devices available

Fujitsu Lifebook A3511
Laptop

- 500Gb memory
- Windows 11



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Other devices available

- 8 Acer Veriton desktops plus monitors/keyboards/mice
 - 21 Lenovo V15 G3 high spec laptops

We can also fund additional aids and adaptors as part of this project.



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Mifi dongles



We can offer on a limited basis if needed EE 4G Mini Mobile Wifi dongles and broadband, with a data SIM card providing Internet access.

120Gb data for up to 12 months, can be used on up to 20 devices.



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What is the offer?

We can deposit collections of devices with you appropriate to your needs.

These become yours to allocate/gift as you see fit.

They will be provided as new and boxed.



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What you need to do

Manage the devices as appropriate including any apps and security

Maintain your own records

Provide information on who you have loaned/given the device to
the WMCA on SurveyMonkey

Provide us with information for local evaluation of the scheme



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What we will do

Keep a record of serial numbers of devices provided to you
Provide information to the WMCA on devices allocated to you
Unfortunately we cannot provide technical support



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How do we obtain the devices?

Fill in the webform on

www.solihull.gov.uk/digitaldevices

and we will contact you



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Any questions?

