Cross-borders collaborative
Our manifesto asks for digital inclusion - across the nations

<u>**What this means for candidates and decision-makers**</u>
The responsibilities for tackling digital exclusion differ across Great Britain. We are asking candidates at every level to commit to action within their powers and budgets.

For local government and mayoral candidates in England
Councils, Combined Authorities and local partners are central to ensuring people can access services, support and opportunities. We are calling on local candidates to commit to:

- Making digital inclusion a clear priority within anti-poverty, cost-of-living, economic development, skills and public service reform strategies
- Protecting and investing in trusted community access points, such as libraries and advice services, while ensuring assisted digital support remains available
- Supporting local Digital Champion networks and coordinated partnerships across councils, the voluntary sector, housing providers, NHS partners and employers
- Embedding digital inclusion into commissioning, procurement and contracts so suppliers design services that work for excluded groups
- Expanding access to affordable devices through reuse, repair and recycling schemes, informed by local data and insight (such as the Indicators of Digital Inclusion) to target support where it is needed most

For Scottish Parliament and Senedd Cymru candidates
National leadership matters. Devolved governments must set direction, provide funding and ensure accountability. We are calling on candidates to commit to:

- Publishing a clear national digital inclusion strategy, backed by funded multi-year delivery plans, measurable milestones and visible accountability
- Adopting the Minimum Digital Living Standard as a benchmark for policy, public service design and reform across health, social care, employability, education and community learning
- Investing in proven approaches (devices, connectivity and locally delivered support) while enabling national procurement and delivery models that help local organisations scale what works
- Ensuring public services are not designed as digital-by-default, with assisted digital and offline routes protected
- Working in genuine partnership with local government, the voluntary sector and communities to co-design solutions informed by real needs and lived experience

Our message to candidates
If governments want to modernise public services, improve health outcomes, strengthen local economies and reduce inequality, they must invest in digital inclusion as part of their core infrastructure and day-to-day work. And we already know what works. The question now is whether decision-makers will show the leadership and urgency required to deliver it at scale.

We hope candidates will take these commitments forward, and leave no one behind.