Melincryddan Community Conference

Prior to the advent of the Communities First programme, the community had come together to try to regenerate the area. The Welsh Government's initiative, with its promise of long-term financial support, gave the community the means of realising their aspirations.

Building on earlier work, a 'Communities First' steering group began meeting in October 2001, it subsequently developed to become the Melincryddan Community Conference (MCC).

Melincryddan Community Conference has been delivering digital inclusion related activities for a number of years. Its relationship with Digital Communities Wales has enabled it to bring its work up-to-date and reach more people.

Its digital technology provision takes place in local libraries, Neath YMCA and other community venues.

It helps to run job clubs, where people are supported to create electronic CVs, use Office software, conduct online job searches and apply for jobs online.

MCC works with the local Communities First staff and other relevant stakeholders to signpost people for additional support.

How we helped

Digital Communities Wales (DCW) has supported Melincryddan Community Conference (MCC) through the provision of IT kit that it can use to help other people get online.

DCW provided MCC with four laptops, three tablets and tablet keyboards, a projector and a screen. The kit is used in drop-in sessions and set, timetabled group sessions such as job clubs.

DCW has also provided training to staff and volunteers of MCC. The two-day, in-depth training provides participants...

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I help people get online through computers, tablets and phones. I've gone on to become a board member for MCC since starting as a volunteer, which means I have a direct involvement in improving the community.

In terms of helping people to get online, if we don't know how to do something, we find a way, we aim to help everyone we come across. We've helped people who've never talked to their families abroad and we've shown them how to use Skype. It's made a massive difference to them

Daniel, MCC Volunteer

Melincryddan Community Conference

...with the skills and tools they needs to be Digital Champions: supporting others to get online and cascading information to colleagues so they can support others as well.

The help given by Digital Communities Wales has been built upon the legacy of previous support and funding provided by Communities 2.0.

Since then the Digital Communities Wales (DCW) support has provided MCC with two Digital Champion training courses for four frontline staff and nine volunteers. This has helped enhance the skills of the volunteers, to give a more effective service to the beneficiaries attending IT support and Job Club sessions on the Get NPT Online project.

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Due to the success of the Digital Champion training course and positive feedback from the MCC volunteers, the organisation intends to book further Digital Champion training courses for the volunteers on the project who have not yet accessed the training.

Completing the Digital Champion training course has given a great confidence boost to volunteers on the project because, in the majority of cases, this is the first recognised qualification that they have received in IT skills. The course has enhanced their IT skills and given them a desire to do further training, to increase their IT knowledge.

Stuart Morgan, Get NPT Online Volunteer Co-ordinator

Watch the video: https://youtu.be/ KZUZadqTZnA

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