

West Yorkshire Digital Skills Plan



Image doesn't fit
with the rest



Why Digital Skills are important for West Yorkshire

Nationally, there is a mismatch between our reliance on digital technologies and our adoption of digital skills. The Digital Skills Plan tackles several key areas that will benefit from increased digital skills across the region:



Higher Level Skills for the Tech Sector

West Yorkshire has the fastest growing digital sector outside of London and is the UK's number one location for tech scale-ups. Increased digital skills will support this ecosystem.



Skills for all Businesses

Increased digital skills will enable greater digital transformation across other key sectors, such as Manufacturing, Engineering, and Health. Increased digitisation will help them to compete and support their sustainability.



Workforce

Over 80% of all jobs in West Yorkshire currently require the minimum of basic digital skills.



Upskilling

With 80% of the 2030 workforce already in employment today, reskilling the existing workforce will be a major challenge between now and 2030.



Education

Fewer than 10% of pupils take a Key Stage 4 Computing qualification in West Yorkshire. Girls are far less likely than boys to study digital-related courses.



Inclusion

Socially, reducing the numbers of digitally excluded residents will have wider benefits on elements such as physical and mental health, regeneration and education.

Data - Much of our data on digital skills needs covers all of Yorkshire and Humber, rather than granular West Yorkshire statistics. For Digital Engagement (people's levels of online activity), we have access to constituency-level data, which demonstrates that in 2021:

UK average	Yorkshire & Humber average	North Yorkshire	The Humber	South Yorkshire	West Yorkshire	Greater Manchester	West Midlands	London
61%	59%	57%	58%	60%	62%	62%	60%	70%

Digital Skills Plan: Vision

“ Creating an inclusive society & a thriving economy through the growth of digital skills for all ”

Our ambitions are:

Social Digital Inclusion

To support the growth of digital skills needed for social inclusion, addressing the ongoing challenge of accessibility and connectivity.

Workforce for the Future

To support greater alignment between business and education to enable growth in digital skills and promotion of digital careers to deliver the workforce for the future, ready for the 'jobs of the future'.

SME & Third Sector Digital Growth

To support SMEs & Third Sector to increase productivity through the growth of digital skills in their workforce, improving the resilience and sustainability of organisations.

Simplifying the Digital Offer

To demystify the regional provision of digital skills by understanding current provision and future needs, and ensuring provision is easy to access for all residents.

What we've been doing in digital skills since 2021*

*until Summer 2022. Source: West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Social Digital Inclusion

2310 individuals enrolled on community/foundation ICT courses in 20/21

34000 laptops/devices were donated to children/residents

Workforce for the Future

938 individuals enrolled in Skills Connect Digital courses

8103 students/teachers took part in virtual work experience

4890 individuals enrolled/qualified from Computing/ICT HE/FE and apprenticeships

Commissioned 13 Skills Connect courses to be launched

23 schools were supported by 18 Enterprise Advisers in digital roles/sectors via Schools Partnership

SME & Third Sector

1720 SMEs took part in digital events run by private partner organisations

671 SMEs received digital support through Business Support/Skills for Growth

£728000 levy pledged for digital apprenticeships in WY. 22 businesses were supported by the apprenticeship levy, re digital.

Simplifying the Offer

15422 views of future-goals.co.uk

launched IBM SkillsBuild platform

Mayoral Combined Authority and partners' proposed headline interventions

Social Digital Inclusion

Build the capacity of community organisations to deliver digital skills and access to those who are digitally excluded

Develop programmes for those who can't access support elsewhere

Workforce for the Future

Roll out a programme to help raise school-aged children's digital literacy

Attract/scale up specialist educational digital provision

SME & Third Sector Digital Growth

Offer digital support through Business Growth Service and its successor programme, the evolved Business West Yorkshire (name to be confirmed) and Digital Enterprise programmes

Ensure leadership and management training, including digital skills

Simplifying the Digital Offer

Launch a region-wide Digital Skills Campaign to inspire excitement in digital careers and increase uptake of digital skills provision

Seek further devolution of digital skills provision



Performance targets and scale of ambition

We aim to increase the numbers of residents with Essential Digital Skills for Life (75%) and Work (59%) to match the leading region's* 82% and 69%, respectively, by 2025. In line with the Equality Act (2010), diversity will be embedded throughout our targets.

Social digital Inclusion



All are supported to engage in an increasingly digital society

We will demonstrate progress, and measure take-up by underrepresented groups, in:**

- % of Digital Engagement in West Yorkshire
- Enrolments on Community Learning ICT courses and foundation level (<level 2) ICT courses via FE (adults aged 19+)
- Numbers of underrepresented groups (e.g. prisoners) accessing digital skills
- Numbers of individuals supported by 100% Digital, with targets for EDI

* Greater London Authority

**The above monitoring scope is in addition to tracking regional statistics provided by external sources, e.g. DCMS and Lloyds Banking Group

Workforce for the Future



Digital skills shortages and gaps are reduced

We will:

- Establish a digital employer skills survey as a barometer of skills gaps

And demonstrate progress, and measure take-up by underrepresented groups, in :

- Enrolments on ICT courses via FE (adults aged 19+) and as a percentage of total enrolments
- Qualifiers from Computing courses from Higher Education Institutions based in West Yorkshire (including international students)
- Apprenticeship starts in ICT subject areas
- Ratio of vacancies to employment for West Yorkshire for digital occupations
- Numbers of individuals taking part in other digital training and employer events (bootcamps, work experience, internships)

SME & Third Sector



SMEs & the Third Sector value and invest in digital skills

We will demonstrate progress, and measure take-up by underrepresented groups, in:

- Number of businesses needing to improve their basic IT skills to meet business needs
- Retention and diversity of staff within digital sector/digital roles
- Numbers of SMEs and Third Sector organisations taking part in 'digital skills for business' programmes/bespoke events
- Number of SMEs and Third Sector organisations receiving digital support (funding, infrastructure)

Simplifying the Offer



All residents can access digital careers guidance and skills training

We will demonstrate progress, and measure take-up by underrepresented groups, in:

- Numbers of individuals and organisations engaging with the inclusive Digital Skills Campaign. Campaigns will be targeted towards communities with lower engagement in digital skills offers



West Yorkshire has the fastest growing digital sector outside London and is the UK's number one location for tech scale-ups. We will increase our residents' and businesses' digital skills to support this ecosystem.

Digital enables all of West Yorkshire's sectors, including our innovative and high-growth sectors. Increased digital skills will enable greater digital transformation across our other key sectors.

