



Information Sheet

Project: Digital Together (Participant)

Project contact details:

Lead Researcher: Dr Katharine Willis

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School of Art, Design and Architecture

Research Assistant: Alexandra Carr

Contact details: alexandra.carr@plymouth.ac.uk

School of Art, Design and Architecture

What is this project about?

Digital Together is a partnership of organisations who work across a number of sectors and are committed to improving the wellbeing of individuals and communities. The partners of CRCC, Cornwall Council University of Plymouth, University of Exeter, Citizens Advice and Age UK are working on the Digital Together project, funded through the Good Growth fund between 2023 and 2025.

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/research-and-expertise/digital-together>

Our project outcomes are:

- People who were digital excluded have increased essential digital skills and increased confidence to use digital platforms. They are safer online and can leverage the benefits of being online including improved employability.
- Community facilities and community groups have increased digital capacity with improved civic participation
- Improved effectiveness of cross sector working to tackle digital exclusion
- Increased access to digital devices and improved connectivity

The project you are being asked to contribute to is the

Digital Community Hubs

Digital Together will work closely with community hubs in Cornwall such as village halls and community centres to embed digital skills and access to support the collective aims of improving health and wellbeing – understanding that digital can be a significant tool in supporting wellbeing and reducing delivery costs for health and social care.

We will set up Digital Community Hubs in village halls and community centres through a co-design approach. We will equip the hubs with a digital library toolkit of technology including computers, 3D printers and VR devices that can be used by the community to empower them to develop their own projects and skillsets.

We will also support Creative Digital Fund micro entrepreneurial projects to get started and demonstrate what creative digital inclusion can be locally as a way to communicate ‘through doing’.

What will you have to do if you agree to take part?

You will be asked to participate in co-designing activities at your local community digital hub (village hall) led by the researchers to identify challenges in their community and creative ways to address them using technology. These will include focus groups and workshops (2-3 hour sessions approximately).

You will also be asked to participate in interviews /face-to-face semi-structured surveys (up to 15 minutes long).

Informed consent

Your participation is voluntary and it is up to you whether you wish to participate.

Right to withdraw

We hope that you feel able to help us with this study. If you decide that you do not want to continue to take part in the study, you are free to withdraw any time up until December 2024.

What are the advantages or disadvantages of taking part?

You may find the project interesting and enjoy answering questions about the research. Upon completion, the study could be useful in making community hubs more accessible and achieving a broader social impact.

No significant disadvantages are expected to arise from participating in this research.

Debriefing

There will be an opportunity to learn about the outcomes of the research on the Digital Together website. You may obtain information on the progress and request copies of outputs at any time by contacting the researcher through the above contact details.

Confidentiality¹

We may take videos or photographs of the focus groups for our records but only if you consent to being recorded and if required we will ensure the anonymity of the participants' identities. If you are happy to be identified we will ask you how you want to be named in the project outputs and we will share these with you for reference.

Planned Outputs

We want to understand how digital connectivity and skills when linked to digital community hubs might increase community resilience and overcome place based inequalities. The outcome of the study will be to establish how different data and digital tools could help solve challenges that communities in Cornwall face.

The results may be published in academic papers, reports, and presentations to stakeholder groups after the completion of the study.

Feedback

Please feel free to contact Alexandra Carr or Dr Katharine Willis if you have any questions about this research.

Further Contact Details:

The Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Business Ethics and Integrity Committee are responsible for ethical approval in the faculty. If you have any queries or concerns

¹ In accordance with [Plymouth University Ethics Policy](#)

about the research or about how it is being conducted (or if you wish to make a complaint) please contact:
Faculty Research Ethics Administrator artsresearchethics@plymouth.ac.uk

Consent Form

I, confirm that (please tick the box as appropriate):

- I have been given the opportunity to ask questions about my participation in the project.
- I voluntarily agree to participate in the project.
- I understand I can withdraw my consent up until December 2024 without giving reasons and that I will not be penalised for withdrawing nor will I be questioned on why I have withdrawn.
- The procedures regarding confidentiality and [private information](#) have been clearly explained to me.
- If applicable, consent for interviews, audio, video or other forms of data collection have been explained and provided to me.
- The use of the data in research, publications, sharing and archiving has been explained to me.

Please read and answer the following:

I understand that the researchers may take photographs or video clips of the workshop activities for the Digital Together project and understand that these images and what you have said or written as part of this study will be used in reports, publications and other research output so that anything they have contributed to this project can be recognised	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
I consent for images to be taken.	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
I consent for images to be used in the project reports, publications and other research output.	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

I, along with the Researcher, agree to sign and date this informed consent form.

Participant:

Name of Parent

Signature

Date

Researcher:

Name of Researcher

Signature

Date