

## Waltham Forest's Digital Champions Network

*"It's been great to become a Digital Champion and improve my own digital and teaching skills. Helping others to learn and use the internet for their own benefit is enormously satisfying and gives me a real boost."*



### What is a Digital Champion?

Digital Champions are an important part of Waltham Forest's "Digital Inclusion project" which aims to help our service users to access and use the internet and experience the benefits of life online. With so many services such as banking, health care, shopping being offered online it is important to keep up with the pace of technology, not to mention keeping in touch with family and friends. But not everyone has the confidence, knowledge or equipment to use the internet to access them.

In Waltham Forest, Digital Champions will help local people learn about the benefits of being online, support them to develop new IT skills, and offer general advice on digital opportunities. A Digital Champion doesn't have to be an IT whizz and instead be someone who can:

- use the internet confidently for everyday services and information
- be advocates for encouraging others to get online
- enjoy communicating with people
- be willing to give some spare time to help others improve their IT skills

### What are the benefits for me?

Many people would like to contribute to their communities in some way, but haven't yet found the right route to achieve it. Digital Champions could be the perfect way to develop your own skills and help others at the same time. As part of the Network you'll receive free online training, rewards, support and much more!

Being a Digital Champion will enable you to:

- use your existing experience and skills regularly
- freshen your knowledge along the way
- keep up to date with the latest online trends and functions
- make a real difference to the lives of people who might not be able to use technology or the internet without your help.

If you have never volunteered before, then becoming a Digital Champion will be an enjoyable, well supported experience. You can offer as much, or as little of your time as you wish, for as long as you want.

### What does a Digital Champion do

Digital Champions may get involved in a variety of activities depending on what skills they have and the time they are able to dedicate to the project. This may include:

- circulating the latest information around their community about how access free wi-fi
- offering occasional drop-in sessions at libraries or community centres for people to query their online issues and get your guidance
- run IT skills workshops for community groups
- give some one-to-one coaching to individuals to help them use a computer and use the internet effectively

## **Digital Champion Qualities**

- Enthusiastic about the positive effect that technology can have on someone's life.
- Sociable and personable.
- Patient.
- Understanding of people's motivations for learning.
- Able to empathise with diverse groups.
- Willing to act as an advocate of Waltham Forest's Digital Champions Network

### **Want to learn more about digital skills and helping others get online?**

Then join the Waltham Forest Digital Champions Network and get free access to courses, resources, information and much more! Just register your details today at [www.digitalchampionsnetwork.com/waltham-forest](http://www.digitalchampionsnetwork.com/waltham-forest)