

The Sunderland GO Online



# NEWSLETTER

December 25 edition

**Your monthly dose of Digital inclusion news**

## Today's news!

### **Tech awards**

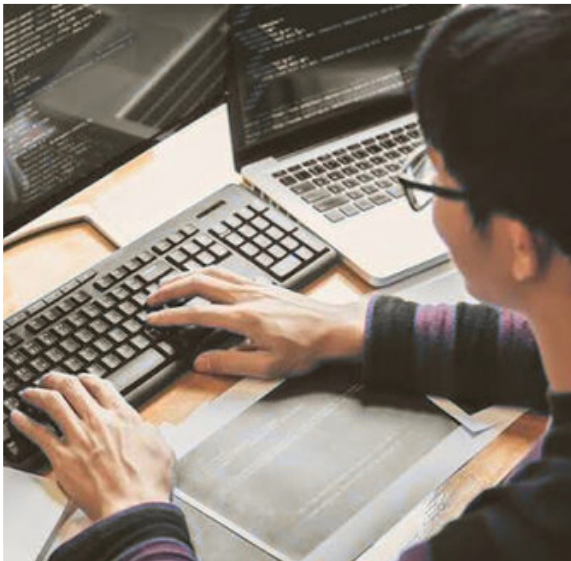
Join us as we discuss news about the results for the Dynamites North East tech awards 2025!

### **Community support**

Find out about all new ways that you can find help and support regarding technology and charity!

### **Career kickstarts**

Discover opportunities to kickstart your learning within the tech centre below!



## Shiney Advice and Resource Project (ShARP)



ShARP proudly scooped the Digital Skills Development & Community Development Award at the End Digital Poverty Day Gala in London. This achievement shows how each of us is a vital cog in a perfectly tuned timepiece, working together to tackle digital exclusion and create lasting impact.



**Well done Tara and the Team.**



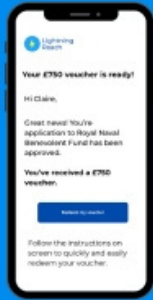
## Dynamites: North East Tech Awards 2025

We're proud to share that Sunderland's Digital Inclusion work won the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Award at the Dynamites in Newcastle in November. Thank you to everyone in our city who made this possible, your support drives real change.

**To find out more**



## Lightning Reach



**Need a helping hand with the cost of living?**

Find financial support and grants today via our official partner, Lightning Reach

**"If it wasn't for Lightning Reach, I wouldn't have known about this kind of financial support"**

Soraya,  
Sunderland resident



Sunderland City Council



Sunderland City Council



We've partnered with Lightning Reach to help people access financial support, to reduce financial and digital exclusion. It's a free, secure online portal that helps you find and apply for

financial assistance, all in one place. The portal matches people to over 2,500 schemes from charities and organisations across the UK!

**To find out more**

## BornGood CIC

The team involved in last year's Donate Digital campaign has launched BornGood CIC, focused entirely on community benefit. By combining tech recycling with digital



**To find out more**

inclusion, they refurbish and reuse devices, offer free bid-writing support, and recycle responsibly. It's another example of how, together, we're removing barriers and creating opportunities for all



# Have Your Say: Future Essential Digital Skills



The Department for Education is reviewing Essential Digital Skills standards to ensure they reflect real-world needs. Employers can help shape the update by completing a short survey and sharing it widely. Your insights will guide the skills workers need—now and in the future.

**Results MUST be in by!**

**December 19th**

## Community Calling

As part of the HubHub partnership, Sunderland City Council distributed 60 smartphones and SIM cards in November to survivors of domestic abuse and those in temporary accommodation or at risk of homelessness. This vital support helps people stay connected to crisis services, keep appointments, and improve quality of life showing what we can achieve together.



## Kickstart Your Tech Career



Know someone curious about tech? -  
Share this opportunity.  
Two new fully funded  
*Skills for Business*  
bootcamps start

**12 January and 9 February 2026**, by NHS Business Services Authority and Sunderland Software City. Gain confidence, employability skills, and a supported job interview. No experience needed, just curiosity. Part of the Tech Talent Ready initiative.

➔ **Sign up today!** ➔

## International Community Organisation of Sunderland

ICOS have been funded by Healthier and Fairer Programme to deliver a new initiative designed to support excluded communities develop digital skills, overcome barriers to inclusion, and access essential digital services, such as, the NHS App.



**Find out more**