

Connecting Scotland programme

As you know the **Connecting Scotland programme provides free Laptops(Chromebooks) or I Pads with 2 years free wifi and digital support** - a great opportunity for those eligible.

This time the focus is on **employability** and **there are over 400 devices and wifi allocated for unemployed Renfrewshire residents aged 16yrs +**

Local organisations are most likely to have trusted relationships with the intended target group and be in a good position to identify residents who would benefit, to apply on their behalf (as individuals cannot apply directly) and to ensure they get the support required to use their devices.

It is the latter requirement that sometimes puts organisations off applying. It may however not be as big a challenge as you may think. **Digital Champion training** is provided at no cost for any staff identified to provide support. Many device recipients already have a good understanding of how to use a digital device (and its been economic factors that have been the barrier) so not all will require additional support. For those who do, providing digital support will significantly improve their employability prospects which makes it worthwhile .

It would be great if we can make use of Renfrewshire's full allocation otherwise they will go to another area. Could you please consider with appropriate teams/colleagues .

<https://connecting.scot/organisations/employability/apply>

The closing date for applications is Monday 27th Sept @5pm. It would be very helpful indeed if you can **advise me if you are likely to be submitting a proposal and for how many (roughly) by Friday** .This will help to flag to those if there is a need to go beyond our employability networks to promote this great opportunity.

Although you need to have a good sense of who they would be going to , **you wont need to list names until after your proposal has been considered. Names will be required before distribution in November /December .**

If you feel you need more information or advice about the programme and the application process please get in touch. I have been involved in the programme in previous roles and am simply keen in my partnership role to help you to get involved and maximise the impact for unemployed residents,

Any queries, please call or email me,

Kind Regards

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