



DIGITAL SKILLS  
**PARTNERSHIP**



Department for  
Digital, Culture,  
Media & Sport

**Evaluation plans for the Digital Skills Partnership @  
Department for Digital, Culture Media & Sport  
(DCMS)**

Judith Peterka, Economic Advisor, DCMS

- What is the Digital Skills Partnership?
- What are the plans to evaluate the Digital Skills Partnership?
- Challenges for the evaluation of the Digital Skills Partnership

## What is the DSP?

The DSP brings together cross-sector organisations to help increase the digital capability of individuals and organisations in England.

The aim of the DSP is ambitious: to improve digital capability across the whole skills spectrum - from the essential skills that help reduce digital exclusion, to the skills workers need in an increasingly digital economy, and through to the advanced skills required for specialist roles.

**8.4% People have never<sup>1</sup>  
used the internet**



Office for National Statistics(2018), Internet Users in the UK:  
2018, <https://www.ons.gov.uk/>

# What is the DSP?

## The DSP has 4 workstreams:



Local DSPs



National Coherence



Computing in  
Schools



Digital Enterprise

# What is the DSP?

## Some partners:

AbilityNet	Accenture	Amazon Web Services	Barclays	BBC
BT	CIPD	Cisco	CompTIA	Corsham Institute
The Dot Project	Federation of Small Businesses	Freeformers	FutureLearn	Geek Talent
Global Tech Advocates	Good Things Foundation	Google	GLA	HP
IBM	LEP Network	Microsoft	Nesta	Nominet
Oxford Internet Institute	Princes Trust	Raspberry Pi	The Royal Society	Stemettes
Tech Nation	Tech Talent Charter	Tech Partnership	Tech UK	Udacity

March 2017



Digital Strategy announces that DCMS will establish a cross-sector Digital Skills Partnership.

Industry partners pledge more than 4 million free digital skills training opportunities.

July 2017



Matt Hancock launches the DSP.

A broad range of stakeholders are consulted on the key challenges for the Partnership and how to approach them.

November 2017



First meeting of the DSP Board.

Continued consultation, research and collaboration on design

January 2018



Four Delivery Groups are set up and get to work on:

- National Coherence
- Digital Enterprise
- Local DSPs
- Computing in Schools

April 2018



First Local DSP launches in Lancashire.

Over 2.5 million free training opportunities delivered nationally.

June 2018



Heart of the South West region launches the second Local DSP.

Delivery Groups start designing products, e.g. the Local DSP Playbook, the DSP Data Tool.

## Looking ahead

- Up to six Local Digital Skills Partnerships to be supported through catalyst funding in 2018/19, including a third Local DSP in West Midlands, to be launched in Winter 2018.
- Development of prototype data tool in 18/19 that will help LEPs and other regional stakeholders to draw on data to identify digital skills challenges in their areas.
- £1m Digital Skills Innovation fund launched in Autumn 2018 to support 2-4 pilot projects to get people from under-represented groups or disadvantaged backgrounds into digital roles.

## Steps for the evaluation framework

- Ongoing expert input and stakeholder liaison
- Step 1: Background and policy context (rapid review of evaluation frameworks and literature, stakeholder interviews, Develop Theory(ies) of Change, review metrics)
- Step 2: Develop evaluation methodology and data collection instruments (topic guides, survey instruments)
- Step 3: Revise interim tools and develop baseline for evaluation



# Challenges for evaluation

- Tight timescales
- Engaging partners and stakeholders
- Secure ownership and agreement with a large range of stakeholders
- Detail of policy design is still changing in its detail
- Evaluating whole system change
- Identification of a counterfactual



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Thank you.