# **ConnectingU**

## **Purpose and aims of the project**

As part of the ‘Lenovo Everyone In’ scheme, the organisation has donated 300 devices to AbilityNet to donate on to digitally excluded individuals.

We want to distribute these devices to 300 disabled and/or older people who are currently excluded from the digital world without the means to access a device. Disabled and older people are more likely to face digital exclusion. Disabled people are over 50% more likely to face barriers to accessing digital and online services than non-disabled people. If you have an impairment you are 3 times more likely not to have the skills to access devices and get online (Source: [Accessibility and disability: facts and figures - The Big Hack](https://bighack.org/accessibility-and-disability-facts-and-figures/)). Since 2011, adults over the age of 65 years have consistently made up the largest proportion of the adult internet non-users, and over half of all adult internet non-users were over the age of 75 years in 2018 (Source: ONS)

AbilityNet also aims to ensure that alongside the device that users are supported with adequate advice, support and training to enable them to use the device and build confidence and independence to use technology into the future.

## **Due Diligence**

During the project AbilityNet will check in with charity partners to ensure their devices are being used to reach the target audience. We will ask for feedback at regular intervals.

## **Eligible organisation criteria**

* You can identify 10 or more individuals who are older (50+ years) and/or disabled (18+ years) and do not have access to a suitable device
* You already support these people through your day-to-day activities
* You can take delivery of and store the devices at a secure and insured location
* You can distribute the device to these individuals and cover this cost of the distribution
* You can securely collect, store and feedback to AbilityNet on each individual
* You agree to take part in a virtual induction session with AbilityNet
* You agree to provide feedback and updates on progress throughout the project
* You agree to monitor the use of the devices during the project timescale to ensure they are being used for the purpose of the project i.e. digital inclusion and connectivity to improve the well-being and independence of participants.

**Eligible individual criteria**

* Older: over 50 years old
* Disabled: any physical or mental and aged 18+years
* Live in the UK
* Digitally excluded: cannot afford access to an appropriate device

## **The devices****Lenovo 500E 2nd Gen**Intel Celeron N4120 Processor Chrome Operating SystemIntel UHD Graphics 600 5MP Camera8GB Memory64GB Storage10 Hours BatteryKeyboard**Lenovo M10 (Sim enabled)**Octa-Core 1.8Ghz Arm Cortex A533GB Memory32GB Storage8.0MP Camera10.1 Inch screen

**Sim Card**
Unlimited Minutes, Unlimited Texts, 10GB Data a month for 6 months (o2) and Unlimited UK Calls and texts with 20 GB Data a month for 6 months. Provided by National Databank.

Note: Not all devices are not SIM enabled. They would need to be connected to the WiFi or to a MiFi device.

MIFI Unit - [https://www.amazon.co.uk/E5576-320-Portable-Networks-Genuine-Warranty/dp/B081S5KRZ7/ref=sr\_1\_3?keywords=mifi&qid=1650470801&sr=8-3&th=1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/E5576-320-Portable-Networks-Genuine-Warranty/dp/B081S5KRZ7/ref%3Dsr_1_3?keywords=mifi&qid=1650470801&sr=8-3&th=1)

## **Support**

Organisations that take part will be eligible for training and support from AbilityNet that includes:

* Group induction session (virtual)
* Ad-hoc group training on request
* Free Helpline 0800 048 7642 for enquiries, disability consultancy requests and volunteer support requests.
* Disability Consultation: (as above) 1:1 tailored advice to overcome impairment barriers to accessing technology.
* Tech Volunteer support: (as above) AbilityNet have a network of over 300 volunteers across the UK that can support remotely and in the home (if we have someone nearby)

## **Timings**

* Declarations of interest: Thursday 28th April 9am until Monday 9th May at 5pm
* Organisations made aware of decision: Tuesday 10th May until Tuesday 17th May
* Beneficiaries’ details to be submitted: Tuesday 17th May until Monday 23rd May
* Introduction webinars with Community Partners: Tuesday 24th May at 11am,

Thursday 26th May at 2pm and Friday 27th May at 9.30am (each organisation to attend 1)

Devices distributed: Monday 30th May until Monday 13th June

Evaluation due: Monday 1st August

Final evaluation due: Monday 3rd October

## **Distribution/insurance**

Devices will be distributed from AbilityNet via DPD in batches to the Community Partners. Cost to AbilityNet. Once signed for the Community Partner takes responsibility for insurance.

The Community Partner is responsible for the cost of onward distribution to individual clients.

When the Community Partner applies they are agree to the eligibility criteria set out earlier.

## **Feedback**

Each individual beneficiary will be asked to complete a short initial survey in conjunction with the community partner to understand their current technology knowledge/skills and experience, their aims and what they want to achieve and the support they think they will need. They will also be asked if they are happy to be highlighted with a case study.

The individuals will be further surveyed after they have had the device for 2 months to understand their progress and additional support needed.

A final survey will be carried out before the final evaluation date.

Case studies will be included throughout the project

## **Application questions**

### **How to apply**

To apply for devices please use the online application form on the AbilityNet website. The deadline for submissions is 9th May 2022. **Please note:** **There is not the option to save your application as you go through so please ensure you have all the details ready to apply.**

If you need help or require the application in a different format? Please contact chris.grant@abilitynet.org.uk