

Digital Lifeline Digital Unite's Aspire Network

As part of Digital Lifeline, you can sign up for free training to help you support people with learning disabilities build essential skills for work and life.

Aspire is a new online train-the-trainer platform that develops digital and vocational skills amongst people with learning disabilities. It can be used to train staff, carers and volunteers supporting people with learning disabilities or people with learning disabilities themselves. Or both!

Better still, they'll have access to the Aspire training platform, for free, for the whole of 2021.

Applications are open until 5th May and applicants will be notified of their success, or otherwise, on 20th May. Places are limited – so don't delay.

About Aspire

As a primarily train-the-trainer platform, the Aspire Network is packed full of e-learning and resources to help staff, carers and volunteers confidently and effectively support adults with learning disabilities.

It also has e-learning specifically designed for adults with mild to moderate learning disabilities to develop their own digital confidence and the competency to help others.

Aspire has been developed by [Digital Unite](#), the people behind the award-winning Digital Champions Network.

This is an exclusive training opportunity that can super-charge the way you provide skills support within your teams and to those who rely on your services. Better still, once you become part of Aspire, you'll have access to the training platform for a whole year.

To apply for places on the Aspire platform all you need to do is complete a short application form and a member of the Digital Unite team will get in touch to tell you more.

[Start your application](#)

Read on for more information about the Aspire Network and to hear what those who have already used it have to say.

A little more detail...

For organisations:

Aspire Champions can be staff, carers and volunteers supporting people with learning disabilities to get digital skills.

Or an Aspire Champion can be a person with a learning disability who wants to help their peers.

Aspire Champions don't need to be experts, just have a bit of spare time, be confident in using computer devices and the Internet and a passion to help others.

You can apply for up to six Aspire Champions places, whether for supporters or people with a learning disability, or a combination of the two.

For supporters:

It has 13 bite-size self-study courses that show people how to help adults with learning disabilities improve their digital and employability skills.

Each one tackles a particular need or barrier, from confidence and communication to digital literacy and accessibility. Every course comes complete with certificates and digital badges to evidence the learning achievements.

The e-learning is complemented by hundreds of practical resources and how-to guides on all aspects of digital technology, providing a ready-made teaching toolkit.

For adults with learning disabilities:

Aspire offers dedicated training on Zoom, reflecting the growing popularity of this online tool for work and life.

This highly accessible course has been designed by people with learning disabilities and covers the different stages of using Zoom, from joining and setup to before, during and after the call.

It comes with audio description and can be followed in any order and however many times a learner chooses. Once their Zoom training is complete, they'll receive a certificate and digital badge to show off what they've achieved.

When they're ready, the Zoom course can also be used by adults with learning disabilities as a teaching aid to help others.

The e-learning is complemented by practical and easy read guides to help an adult with learning disabilities improve their digital knowledge and the skills to help others.

More about Digital Unite:

Many of you will already know of [Digital Unite](#). They've worked with Good Things Foundation and the Online Centres Network for many years.

Digital Unite has been supporting the development and delivery of digital skills for over 25 years, as a social enterprise which specialises in Digital Champion training and support.

Their Champion-focussed online learning platform, the Digital Champions Network, is used by organisations such as social housing providers, charities and community groups to train and resource their Digital Champions. Since its launch in 2013 more than 300 organisations across the UK have used the Digital Champions Network to train and support thousands of Digital Champions.

Aspire is a new Champion-focussed learning platform from Digital Unite. It has been designed specifically to support people with a learning disability by training and resourcing Aspire Champions to build the digital skills and confidence of others within this community.

Digital Unite also have over 400 free How To Guides which cover a range of technologies and skills. [They can be accessed here](#), no platform requirements and no registration required. These Guides are used by many Online Centres to complement the learning and resources available on [Learn My Way](#).

Those who are already a part of the Aspire Network said:

"Anyone supporting adults with a learning disability will benefit from this short course, it highlights the positive impact you can have as a digital champion by opening up digital opportunities."

"The short courses are very good they expand your knowledge gradually and don't overburden you."

"Learning about technology for your own benefit and having the confidence and ability to use your knowledge to help others are different skill sets and this course really helps you to think about how to be an effective digital champion."

"I would recommend this course to everybody, very informative and fab resources."

"This course was especially informative as I did not manage my own health online 40 minutes ago... now I have the NHS App and I can help others to do the same!"
