

Your name: Helen Milner

Name of session: Digital skills and inclusion

Key questions considered:

1. Do people of Britain have the digital skills they need to take part in Digital Britain? No
2. Does Digital Britain need to do more for people who never use the internet (but for whom the broadband infrastructure is already in place)? Yes, there needs to be much more focus in the final report in supporting and inspiring the people who can get online but don't. It's about people, not just infrastructure.
3. Does Digital Britain need to do more for all citizens so that Britain can excel in digital innovation and business creation? Yes,
4. What would basic digital skills look like? 5. How can we move more people into wanting to be part of an innovative and creative Digital Britain?

Action points that could be included in the Digital Britain final report:

1. Digital Britain needs to be more ambitious about digital inclusion. The unconference would like to see a bold target, for example, getting 3m more people online.
2. People can't use digital technologies without the skills to use them. An entitlement to basic digital skills should be included in the final report.
3. New strategies often focus on the people at the bottom (with no skills) or the people at the top (with the highest skills), a focus on a continuum of digital skills which inspires and involves all citizens will turn us into a Digital Britain which believes that the skills and ambition of the people is the bedrock of excellence and success. Continuum. This model is as much about role models, sharing creativity and innovation, and business creation as much as skills. The final report should ensure that there is an understanding of this throughout Government, throughout all education institutions, and throughout all employers and employer support agencies.

How might these proposals be funded? 1. 3m more people online will create ~£600m - ~£900m industry value, take the money needed for this (approx ~£100m) from infrastructure build and ask industry to pay the final ~£100m WHEN the Government has got another 3m people online.

2. The Department of Innovation Universities and Skills (Dius) can look to their internal skills budgets to ensure an entitlement can be funded.

3. Start small with an awareness campaign amongst partners, develop a pledge to support digital excellence and creativity, host annual awards role modelling new businesses as well as community digital activists. Embed in further and higher education, and make sure this is an ambition for all not just an elite.