



We are seeking funding to support the continuing delivery of our Access project, which provides drop-in computer support sessions where people can learn a wide-range of computer skills in a relaxed and informal environment.

The sessions have been running for a number of years and are highly valued within the local community. Current Lottery funding comes to an end in September 2019 and **the cost of running this project for one year is £9,950.**

We provide light-touch drop-in computer sessions where beneficiaries can learn with one-to-one or group support as needed. The beauty of these sessions is that people learn at their own pace, and focus on specific areas of learning in a friendly and welcoming setting.

As the sessions are informal and participants are supported into learning which is specific to their interests and needs, we provide a vehicle whereby beneficiaries may initially use our service and then transition to a structured course with learning outcomes appropriate to their specific needs. Whilst some participants do make the transition to other more formal and structured courses, others enjoy the flexibility of our drop-in sessions and attend regularly.

Our service provides an easy access into learning where beneficiaries don't feel self-conscious about their level of IT knowledge. As such, although many of our service users initially come to us as they have very limited IT knowledge and wish to improve their skills, others like the fact that they can attend flexible sessions which they can schedule around other commitments such as work, or caring responsibilities. Some people wish to hone their skills to enhance employment opportunities and some quite literally don't know how to turn a computer on.



The Ashfield District of Nottinghamshire has some pockets of real deprivation and some of our residents have fewer life chances and poorer health outcomes. As a consequence of funding cuts, some local voluntary sector organisations no longer have the capacity to provide practical support to complete complex forms such as PIP assessments and Universal Credit claims. This means that some of the most vulnerable members of our community do

not have the support they so desperately need. Locally a number of statutory and voluntary sector organisations have vocalised real concern about the impact of this.



These various benefits forms are designed to be completed online. Our community is at a distinct disadvantage as Ashfield residents are far less likely to have Internet access and the necessary skills to complete these complex forms. Whilst the current project does support people with developing their skills, we want to enhance what we offer and assist people with completing online forms and learning how to do job searches.

In addition, we are also able to provide two computers which are available for public use every weekday (in response to a reduction in library opening hours).

We seek funding to deliver four standard sessions of the Access Project (on a Monday and Wednesday).

Access & Beyond Project Costs for One Year		
Item	Detail	Cost
Salary	Delivery of four sessions per week	£6,500
Room Hire		£1,000
Admin and consumables		£300
Volunteer expenses		£100
Professional fees	Contribution towards services provided by CA Plus (accountancy)	£300
Management Costs	Management and administration for the project for one year	£1,750
		<b>£9,950</b>



To discuss this project in more detail contact:

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