

## **Go ON Croydon Community Computers**

*A scheme to increase digital skills support in Croydon's communities*

The Go ON Croydon Community Computers scheme has been set up to help community organisations support their clients and communities to gain digital skills. The scheme provides low cost computer equipment to community organisations that would not be able to afford to buy them. As part of Go ON Croydon, this scheme aims to increase digital skills throughout the borough.

### **Background**

Croydon Council is committed to ensuring Croydon becomes a fairer place for all who live and work here. In November 2015 the Go ON Croydon initiative was launched to support local residents and businesses gain basic digital skills, so they can take advantage of the opportunities of being online. Our current projects are already helping residents to; maintain and increase their independence, reduce their household costs, find employment, access information and services and communicate with family and friends.

Basic digital skills are key skills that are needed for people to benefit fully from the internet by using computers, laptops or other devices such as tablets and smartphones. Not having these skills means people are not able to access the growing number of services, products, information and support that is available online.

- **85,000** adults in Croydon do not have basic digital skills
- **35%** of C2DE (skilled manual workers, semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers, casual or lowest grade workers/pensioners, and others who depend on the welfare state for their income) lack basic digital skills
- **40%** of low income households lack basic digital skills (compared to just 8% of high income households)
- **64%** of over 65's lack basic digital skills.

Through Go ON Croydon we want to ensure that everyone in our borough has the opportunity to be included, our ambition is that no one in Croydon is left behind.

## How the Go ON Croydon Community Computers scheme works

Croydon Council, working with Computer Recyclers UK, has developed the Go ON Croydon Community Computers scheme to help local Voluntary Community Funded (VCF) organisations buy recycled computer equipment. Go ON Croydon Community Computers have been priced to be extremely low cost in order to help VCF organisations support their clients and communities to gain digital skills.

Under the scheme desktop and laptop computers are available to buy for £29 each. Desktops include a screen, keyboard and mouse. All computers are wiped of any data and reset for use. The computers are licensed and installed with Windows 7 Professional, Microsoft Office 2010 and Microsoft Security Essentials antivirus software and are internet ready for immediate use by VCF organisations.

## Eligibility requirements

To be eligible to for the Go ON Croydon Community Computers scheme VCF organisations will be required to use the computers to support their clients and communities to develop digital skills.

VCF organisations buying computers under the scheme will need to:

- Use the computers to support their clients and communities to develop digital skills. This can be either through a new project or as an add-on to existing services that are delivered.
- Provide at least one volunteer or staff member to be trained as a Digital Champion (under the scheme free Digital Champion training is offered by Croydon Council)
- Complete and provide monthly monitoring feedback to Croydon Council on the numbers of clients supported
- Become a member of the Croydon Digital Skills Community Partnership
- Agree for Croydon Council to visit to check on progress of digital skills activities
- Liaise with Croydon Council regarding client referrals

## Next steps

Voluntary Community Funded organisations that are interested in buying equipment under the Go ON Croydon Community Computers scheme should complete the attached application form and return to: [gocroydon@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:gocroydon@croydon.gov.uk). Your organisation will be verified as part of the application process. We will send you further details of the scheme following completion of the verification.