

Statement about the future of Digital Inclusion Alliance Wales July 2025

Digital Inclusion Alliance Wales (DIAW) was established in 2019 by Wales Co-operative Centre (*now Cwmpas*) as part of its contract with Welsh Government for the *Digital Communities Wales, Digital Confidence, Health and Well-being* programme.

Over the last six years our Alliance has grown from just a handful of members at the start to over 130 member organisations now: all working to make Wales a digitally inclusive nation. DIAW has helped to convene those organisations, make connections between them, share learning and given them a louder voice: not just in Wales but also within the UK. We have published our [agenda for action](#), measured [progress](#) in those priority areas, supported research into digital inclusion and the Minimal Digital Living Standard (MDLS), influenced policy makers by engaging with Ministers in Wales, the Secretary of State and Ministers in the UK Government and even given evidence in the House of Lords on the priorities for Digital Inclusion in Wales. Throughout we have highlighted the amazing work of all our member organisations.

On September 30th 2025, the contract with Cwmpas for Digital Communities Wales, which includes the funding that supports the administration of Digital Inclusion Alliance Wales, will end. Welsh Government have published an invitation to tender (ITT) for a new programme, *Digital Inclusion Wales*, to start on the 1st October 2025 and we await the outcome of that process. However, DIAW in its current form will not continue after the end of September.

We are encouraged that Welsh Government have recognised the positive impact of our members and of DIAW and have proposed that the successful bidder should work with them to create a new Alliance of organisations to support the delivery of digital inclusion activities in Wales. Welsh Government will co-chair the new Alliance and it will be supported through the new contract. Digital inclusion must be everyone's business and there is huge experience and

knowledge in our membership, who are respected and valued by the communities they serve.

There are opportunities in the next phase for the Alliance to build on what has already been achieved and to deliver even greater benefits through investment in it to expand its work in the future. It can be a rich source of advice and support for Government, public and private sectors from its grassroots experience and capabilities; and this must not be lost.

The Steering Group of DIAW has met to consider the implications of the change this autumn. We believe that it is in the interests of our extensive network of member organisations and the thousands of citizens that they support that there is a strong and effective Alliance through the new funded programme. We would expect that whichever organisation secures the *Digital Inclusion Wales* contract will invite our members to be part of the new Digital Inclusion Alliance in Wales and through co-creation with them help shape its form and function.

For the next three months DIAW will continue to advocate strongly for digital inclusion to be a priority for every part of Welsh Government in the interests of equity, social justice and economic productivity and for public and private sectors in Wales to recognise the importance of digital inclusion for their staff, service users, patients and customers.



Hamish Laing

Chair: Digital Inclusion Alliance Wales