

Scrutiny Briefing Note

The Children & Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel have asked to monitor progress on the following issues. This briefing contains the latest position as of 2nd March 2021.

Subject: Laptop distribution

The presentation is intended to provide the current picture in respect of the distribution of laptops and associated technology, to support young people with remote learning throughout the Covid pandemic. The information provided seeks to provide an update of the measures that were put in place by the Department for Education, to support the most vulnerable learners and those without the means to engage in their education offer, whilst schools remained closed, and how this rolled out across the Borough.

Date	Laptops received	Laptops issued	Dongles (mifi 4G routers) received	Dongles (mifi 4G routers) issued
Summer 2020	889 initial allocation plus additional 143 sent directly to maintained schools	1018	101	101
January 2021 onwards	Direct application by setting			

The pandemic has seen the broader issue emerge in respect of 'digital poverty' and as a consequence a newly formed Digital Kickstart group has been established in order to pursue longer term solutions.

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Scrutiny and Committee Advisor

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If you would like to find out more about scrutiny you can contact us:

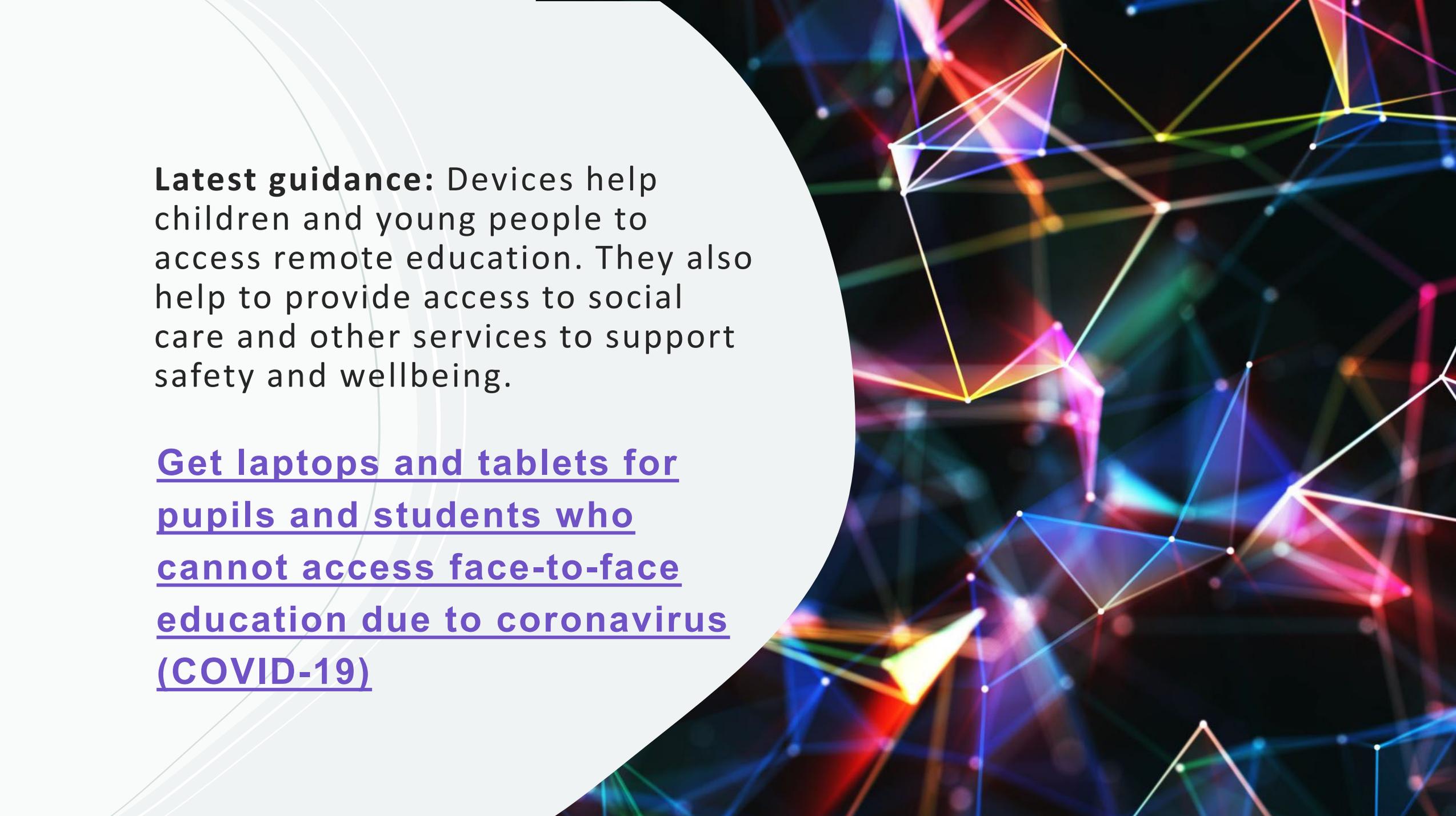
by email democracy@nelincs.gov.uk



Laptop distribution update

January 2021



The background of the slide is a dark, abstract composition of colorful geometric shapes and lines. These shapes, including triangles and polygons, are interconnected by thin lines, creating a network-like or crystalline structure. The colors used are vibrant, including shades of blue, purple, pink, red, orange, yellow, and green. The overall effect is a dynamic and futuristic digital aesthetic. On the left side, there is a large, semi-transparent white circle that serves as a container for the text.

Latest guidance: Devices help children and young people to access remote education. They also help to provide access to social care and other services to support safety and wellbeing.

[Get laptops and tablets for pupils and students who cannot access face-to-face education due to coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Update

- Devices were provided to local authorities and academy trusts during the summer of 2020. These were for families, children and young people most in need who did not already have access to one.
- Vulnerable children and young people include those who are in one or more of the following categories:
 - care leavers
 - looked after children
 - Identified as being open to children's services and have a social worker,
 - and the most vulnerable children with special educational needs and disabilities

Update

- NELC were responsible for ordering and distributing laptops to care leavers and children and young people with a social worker.
- A total of 889 laptops plus laptop bags, and 101 MIFI 4G routers were delivered to the LA in July 2020. The local authority exercised its right to transfer ownership and responsibility for maintaining the laptops and routers to education settings.



Update

- There were four rounds of deliveries: July, September, November and January.
- 875 laptops have been delivered so far to vulnerable children and young people aged 5 – 19 years who are attending N E Lincs education settings or specified out of area placements.
- In addition, our maintained schools have each received an allocation of an additional 10 laptops and MIFI 4G routers to support vulnerable groups of children to access remote learning.

January 2021

Laptops, tablets, 4G routers and free mobile data have been made available, if there is no existing access to a device or for children without access to fixed broadband, for:

- disadvantaged children in years 3 to 11 and young people in 16 to 19 education whose face-to-face education is disrupted
- disadvantaged children in any year group who have been [advised to shield](#) because they (or someone they live with) are clinically extremely vulnerable

Cont....

- disadvantaged children in any year group attending a hospital school
- disadvantaged 14 to 16-year-olds enrolled for Key Stage 4 at sixth-form colleges and whose face-to-face education is disrupted



Cont....

- Schools, colleges and other FE institutions can order through the [Get help with technology service](#) and are in addition to the those provided during the Summer of 2020 to LAs and Trusts.
- Schools that have not yet ordered their full allocation of laptops were still able to place orders once pupils returned on 8 March via the link above.

Care leavers & looked after children

As of mid January:

- 607 Children Looked After have been issued a laptop
- 172 Care Leavers have been issued a laptop
- 10 care leavers have currently been issued with tablets as part of a trial to understand 'what difference it makes?' in order to inform future sustainability of technology for this group of young people.



Digital Inclusion group

Helen Isaacs leading on a project looking at how we best develop an 18 month place plan for digital inclusion, with an emphasis on projects that are of most benefit to our community.

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The plan will be focused around 3 key themes:

- Economy (with an emphasis on bridging the skills and access barriers to employment)
- Health (picking up work at the HCV and primary care, self-care and inequalities)
- Society (all ages, drawing in work with young people , digitally excluded adults and older people and the VCS - all building on learning from the last 12 months)