Digital Ecosystems

John Taylor - Area Youth Officer
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Question?

How would young people’s learning and socialisation opportunities be affected if they all had a device, had broadband and were part of the same ecosystem which youth workers also had access to?
Local Authority Outsourced ICT Services

Corporate (Reliability & Security)

Vs

Education (Flexibility)
Education Managed ICT Service

• Reduce costs
• Autonomy to customise eg age appropriate
• Speed of change to keep up with digital developments
Gsuite for Education Pilot

- Consul setup in 2015
- 3 secondary schools
- 1:1 device model
- Chromebooks
What is Gsuite

• Learner Management System ability to add YP/Staff/schools and create organisations
• Ability to setup virtual Classes and customise what young people are invited to the class ‘classroom’
• Has messaging facility called ‘Chat’
• Has video facility ‘Meet or Hangout’ with captions
• Has email client ‘Gmail’
• Docs, Sheets, Drive, YouTube, Slides
• Games
Gsuite Experience

- Pilot had positive impact on learning
- Full Rollout implemented and completed 2019
- All secondary school pupils have a device
- P6 & P7 pupils also have devices
- Mobile data dongles provided for those without WiFi/Broadband access
So what’s this got to do with Youth Work?
Partnership with Education

• Music tutors already had access to Gsuite
• May 2020 Youth Service secured access to Gsuite
• Youth Service now part of Educations Ecosystem
Impact so Far

- Youth Workers geographically distanced can collaborate
- Young People from different geographical communities can work together on projects
- P7 transitions delivered digitally
- Mixed ages of young people working together on projects (not just stuck to class)
- Project work continuing with a blended approach - teachers providing class supervision to young people with Youth Service/3rd sector Org on video delivering the project
- Young person who was a school refuser for 2 years will engage with youth service digitally
- Improved DofE relationship between school and youth service – better comms
- Ability to support young people digitally while they are in lesson without being in the same physical space
- Able to talk with young people when they aren’t in school eg school holidays
- Able to continue working with Additional Support Needs group during lockdown
What’s possible digitally?

• [https://carvevirtualpumpkins.com/](https://carvevirtualpumpkins.com/)
Screenagers Report

Young people do not perceive their online and offline worlds as separate entities and fluidly inhabit both worlds simultaneously. Because of this, digital youth work needs a whole organisation, integrated approach and not to be regarded as a specialised service or a niche area.
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