

PCrefurb

Newsletter

Spring 2026



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Blazing a Trail in Tameside!

A year ago the Department for Work and Pensions granted Greater Manchester Combined Authority £10m to fund two trailblazer projects; the first being a Youth Guarantee Project and the second an Economic Inactivity Trailblazer. £8,502,887 of the £10m available funding was allocated to 10 Local Authorities in the form of Economic Inactivity Trailblazer Grants. The aim of these grants is to find new ways of working with economically inactive residents to move them closer to or into the job market.

We were successful in an application to Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council (TMBC) for funding from this pot and we received just under £25,000 in March. This funding will be used to support economically inactive residents of Tameside who are digitally excluded through being unable to access or use digital tools as part of their endeavours to improve their life chances, and are therefore at a disadvantage.

Digital support groups will be delivered across the borough, including Stalybridge, Mossley, Dukinfield, Hyde, Hattersley, Ashton and Denton, helping clients with no or minimal computer skills.

We appreciate that participants will need to feel 'safe' and respected, that they may be resistant to more formal training and settings, and benefit from 'light touch' engagement. We will encourage participants to attend as many sessions as it takes for them to become digitally confident and make positive changes to their circumstances.



Spring clearout?!

We are encouraging everyone to delve in those drawers and check their cupboards for unwanted **cables**, **tablets** and **phones**. Thanks to partnerships with Greencable and The Royal Mint we are now in a position to collect household cables, old smartphones and tablets, and send them for recycling. This generates a small amount of income for PCrefurb and ensures that these items don't end up in landfill. We are grateful to our friends at [The Bureau](#) for being a drop off point.

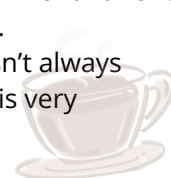


Help from Hubub

Thanks to our partnership working with TMBC we received, via the Council, a donation of 25 refurbished smartphones from Hubub in March. Included were chargers and cables. This is the second donation from Hubub, with 20 phones received in December last year. We are gifting these phones to clients in crisis. We are particularly grateful for this donation as we rarely receive donations of smartphones from the public as they are kept until they are no longer secure, and then unsuitable for distribution.

Coffee collection

Glossop Methodist Church raises money after every Sunday morning service by serving hot drinks, biscuits and often cake to the congregation, for voluntary donations. Each month a different charity is chosen to benefit from this collection. We were extremely grateful when, in March, PCrefurb was selected. In addition to the Sunday morning coffee gatherings the church also donated the proceeds from their 'Lent Lunch'. In total £240 was raised, which is wonderful. Fundraising for a charity like ours, that doesn't always provoke giving, is hard, so this contribution is very gratefully received.





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Welcome to Josh

In February we were able to formally announce that Josh Asquith has joined our Board of Trustees. After a variety of roles in his twenties (including the RAF, Big Cat Conservation & Security, and PADI Scuba Divemaster) Josh joined the Bureau as a Business Administrator in 2021, he spent the next two years building systems to help accelerate the organisation and reduce manual effort - allowing the team to focus on their service users. Realising he had a passion for technology and problem solving, Josh then joined the NatWest Group graduate programme focused on Digital Transformation, he now works in their AI & Future Initiatives team, focusing on developing new AI-driven propositions, horizon scanning new technologies, and sitting on the internal board of ethics for data and artificial intelligence.



In his free time, Josh is an avid lover of all things Science Fiction, including books, films, TV, and games. Living on the border of the Peak District, Josh enjoys walks in the hills with his partner (it reminds him of his home county - Yorkshire) and occasionally takes part in golf and clay pigeon shooting.

Josh told us "my motivation for joining PCrefurb is related to my core belief that access to technology has a direct impact on the quality of an individual's life, and expands the opportunity for them to thrive". We are thrilled that Josh has agreed to join us and know that his skills and insights will be beneficial to our work combatting digital exclusion.

Out & About in February

February was a busy month for the team. We like to engage in and with our community as much as possible, by participating in events and meeting our supporters and partners. Here are just a few of the places we've been!



Jason and Ellissa attend the DWP Big Youth event at Academy HQ in Stalybridge.



Suzanne with Steve, one of our Digital Champions at an NHS App event at Chinley Community Centre.



Suzanne at Buxton Job Centre Jobs Fair.



Helen paid a visit to Rural Action Derbyshire to receive a donation of equipment from Mary at Connect Fibre.

January to March Statistics

Equipment referrals: 99
Equipment distributed: 122
Hours of skills training: 425

32.2 tonnes of CO2e saved.
That's the same as driving 16.1 petrol cars, or growing 1611 trees for one year!



Diversity Matters North West

We have been supporting DMNW for five years, a total of 44 referrals for equipment. In February, Helen our Chief Officer delivered eight laptops for their *Coffee and Learn Group*, in partnership with Ashton PCN.



The group supports women from minority communities on their learning, wellbeing, and confidence building journey.