

LAPTOPS FOR ALL

Tech-Takeback Foundation: Digital Inclusion Laptop Scheme

Tech-Takeback Foundation's Digital Inclusion Laptop Scheme exists to provide refurbished digital devices to individuals who are digitally excluded and facing barriers to education, employment, healthcare, or social connection due to lack of access to a functional laptop or PC.

The scheme aligns with Tech-Takeback Foundation's charitable aims and objectives: to reduce e-waste, promote digital equity, and empower disadvantaged individuals through sustainable redistribution of technology.

Since its inception, the scheme has supported applicants from low-income households, people with disabilities, young people in alternative education, jobseekers, those experiencing mental health challenges, and people in temporary or insecure housing.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must:

- Be aged 16 or over (or under 16 with an application submitted by a carer, school, or charity)
- Live in the UK (with priority currently given to residents in Brighton & Hove and London, where Tech-Takeback Foundation has funding/laptop donation partnerships in place)
- Have no regular access to a functional laptop or desktop computer
- Be unable to afford one due to financial hardship or life circumstances
- Be referred by a recognised support organisation or submit a clear and verifiable self-referral outlining their need

How We Assess Applications

All applications are assessed using a structured 15-point scoring matrix based on the following weighted categories:

Criteria	Max Points
Referral from a trusted organisation	3
Location (priority area or not)	2
Current device access	3
Internet access & digital confidence	2
Financial hardship / housing status	2
Purpose for laptop use	3
TOTAL POSSIBLE	15

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- **Applications scoring 12–15:** Approved, subject to device availability
- **Scores of 9–11:** Waitlist or request more information
- **Scores under 9:** Declined, with guidance to reapply in 6 months if circumstances change

Special consideration is given to:

- Applicants in education or training without home access to a device
- People experiencing homelessness, poor mental health, or disability
- Young people under local authority care or leaving care
- Isolated individuals who need a laptop to access essential services or maintain social connection

Application Process

Applications can be submitted:

- Directly via our website (self-referral)
- Through a partner organisation, charity, GP, or school

All applicants are asked to describe their current access to technology, financial or housing status, and how they intend to use the laptop. Where relevant, we follow up to verify details or request further information.

Applicants are asked to:

- Confirm they still require a laptop when offered one
- Agree to a short follow-up survey 6 months after receipt

Impact & Governance

This scheme is independently administered by Tech-Takeback's operational team and reviewed by the trustees. All devices are donated, securely wiped, and refurbished to WEEE and GDPR standards. The programme contributes to:

- Digital equity
- Waste reduction
- Improved wellbeing and opportunity

SOCIAL VALUE

Harper's Story:

Harper* is autistic and unable to write by hand. Despite this, he earned a place on a competitive university course in Astrophysics — a dream he had worked tirelessly to achieve. But without the right tools, even attending was a

challenge. He needed a laptop to take notes, complete assignments, and participate fully in his studies. On top of that, in-person social activities were overwhelming due to his disability, leaving him isolated and battling social anxiety and low self-esteem.

When Harper received a laptop from Tech-Takeback Foundation, everything changed.

With the technology to support his needs, Harper is now thriving at university. He's doing so well that he's being fast-tracked from his undergraduate degree straight into a master's programme. He's also been able to access online therapy, which he says is helping him manage his anxiety and build emotional resilience. Most importantly, he's found the confidence to connect, joining online social groups where he feels understood, supported, and no longer alone.

This one gift didn't just help Harper study: it gave him the chance to shine.



**Name, image and some details have been changed to protect the individual's identity*

OTHER STORIES

Javi's Path to Empowerment

Javi, in his mid-30s, faced the challenge of returning to work after long-term unemployment. His situation worsened when his laptop malfunctioned, leaving him without the funds to replace it. Javi's support worker, recognising a laptop's role in his job search, applied for one on his behalf. Receiving it reignited his motivation. Javi resumed applying for jobs and participating in virtual interviews, and completed some online training to boost his confidence and bring him closer to his employment goals.

The Dwyer's Academic Turnaround

Sarah and her teenage sons, Alex and Jake, were living in emergency accommodation with extremely limited resources. Alex and Jake shared Sarah's laptop for job searches and schoolwork until it broke down. The boys struggled to complete homework on their phones, leading to frustration and declining grades. Recognising the need, Sarah's support worker secured a shared PC. With it, Alex and Jake improved their academic performance and confidence. Meanwhile, Sarah could focus on her job search without worrying about her sons' school progress.

Sophia's Journey to Recovery

Sophia had been out of work for over a year. She was the sole carer to two young children and was struggling with mental health challenges. As she began overcoming her depression and anxiety, Sophia felt renewed purpose. A laptop opened doors to online training and job applications, helping her gain new skills and improve her employability. Sophie told us that the laptop symbolised a fresh start, enabling her to rebuild her career while maintaining mental health balance.

Neema's New Connections

Neema, a young mum, left her job to care for her child after fleeing her home due to violence. Hoping to return to work, Neema identified online courses to boost her career prospects. Feeling isolated in a completely new city, she was desperately missing her sister and parents. Receiving a laptop changed Neema's situation, offering access to training resources, allowing her to set up a new business from home and enabling her to stay in touch with loved ones; all paving the way for a hopeful future.