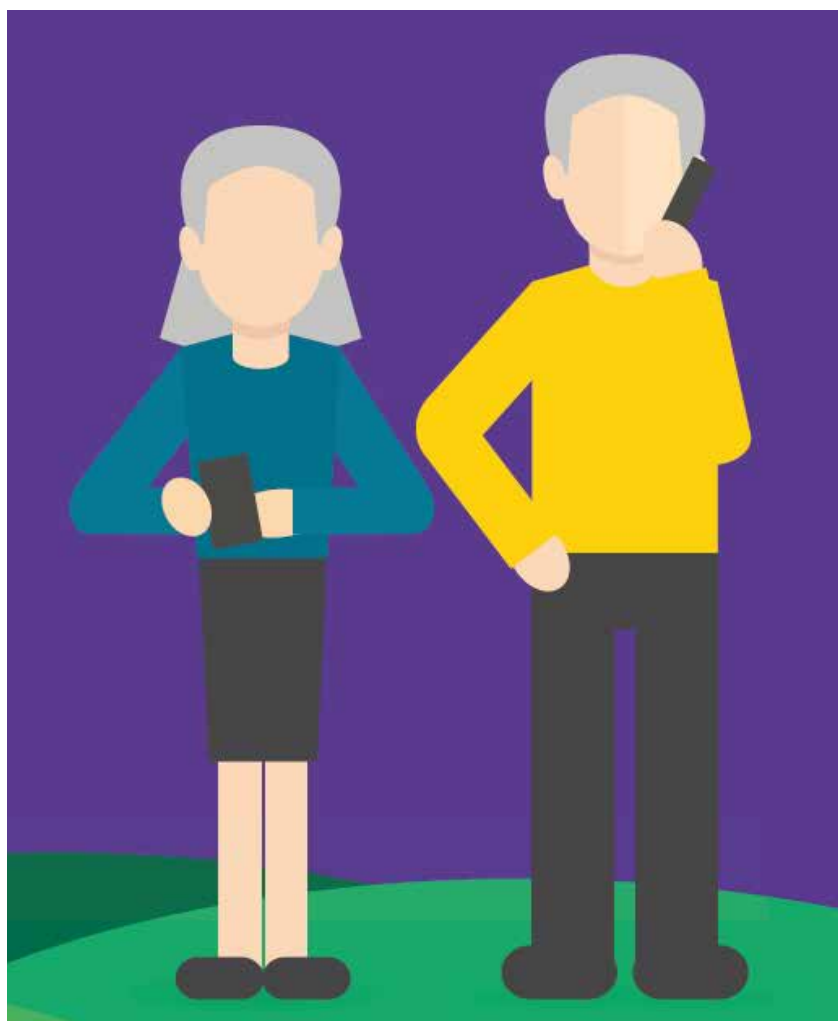


Digital Boomers Report

An EasyRead guide



rethink
partners



Essex County Council



In recent months Essex County Council has been working with RETHINK Partners.



They set up a working group that includes:

- local councils
- NHS
- Essex Fire and Rescue
- care providers
- voluntary organisations



We wanted to find out how older people can use technology so that they can live more independently.





We had meetings all over Essex to find out:

- what technology older people are using and what they are using it for.



- what stops older people from using technology.



From these meetings we learnt:

1. Older people are better at using technology than they think.



2. Older people are happy to learn from young people. They trust professionals to recommend health technology.



3. Older people want to have fun with technology. They don't want to be labelled as 'old'.



4. Older people want to use technology to stay in touch with their loved ones.



5. Where there is access to help and support in the community people are more confident in using technology.



6. Older people feel that they don't use technology as much as they could.



We found that people use technology less to meet their health and wellbeing needs.



We think that older people in Essex should be the most confident at using technology in the world.



Our aim is to make this happen by 2021.

We think we can achieve this because people already use technology as part of their everyday life.



We have two choices.

1. We can wait for natural progress until everyone uses technology.



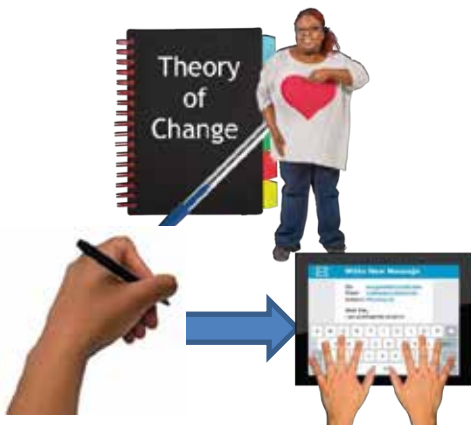
2. We can be bold. We can use what we have already learnt to improve access to health and care through technology.



Digital Boomers is a way for people from different organisations to work together for the next 3 years.



Working together we have written a **Theory of Change**.



The Theory of Change describes what changes we need to make.



It also describes how these changes will improve older people's lives.



We think that there are 6 priorities:



1. We want everybody to be able to use technology in their everyday life.



2. We want to create space in communities for people to use technology.



3. We want to make it easier for professionals to see how technology can help service users.



4. We want technology companies to come to Essex.



5. We want the places where we work, live and receive services to be better connected to technology.



6. We want to support community and voluntary organisations to make better use of technology.



Meeting these priorities will mean that older people:

- will have better access to health and care.



- will be able live more independently.



You can get more information about Digital Boomers by emailing:

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