How do we end Digital Poverty?

Save the Date | January 20th 18:00
One of the great 21st century irritations is a weak wi-fi signal or poor mobile phone coverage. Entertainment, shopping, paying your taxes, collecting benefits – it’s all done online. The Internet has become the fourth utility alongside water, gas and electricity. Today everyone takes online access for granted. **Well, not everyone.**
Like so many other things, Covid-19 has amplified inequalities, accelerated pre-existing trends and access to the Internet is no exception. Remote working and lockdown have meant even more services being exclusively available online exacerbating the problems faced by large swathes of the population – the Digitally Excluded.

School classes went online but not every pupil has a computer, nor every house access to the Internet. Job applications and Universal Credit claims all have to be submitted online but too many people have no means of access. Moreover, the causes of Digital Poverty go far wider than that – many people lack the skills or physical ability required to utilise online information, with lockdown making any potential help more distant than ever.
Event Speakers

Sir Kenneth Olisa - Technology businessman, philanthropist and Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London

Helen Milner - CEO - Good Things Foundation

Simon Mckinnon - Chief Digital and Information Officer at the Dept. Work and Pensions

Dan Brown - Founder, Positive Transformation Initiative

Phil Smith - CEO and Chair of Cisco UK and Ireland and Chair of the Digital Skills Partnership. Former Chair of Innovate UK, The Tech Partnership

Philip Colligan - CEO - Raspberry Pi Foundation
Sir Kenneth Olisa OBE

Ken is Founder and Chairman of Restoration Partners, the boutique technology merchant bank and architects of Inogesis formerly known as The Virtual Technology Cluster model. Ken’s technology career spans over 30 years commencing with IBM from whom he won a scholarship while at Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge. In 1992, after twelve years as a senior executive at Wang Labs in the US and Europe, Ken founded Interregnum, the technology merchant bank. He was elected as a Fellow of the British Computer Society in 2006.

He is currently Chairman of Interswitch (Africa’s largest e-payments company). He is a former Director of Thomson Reuters, a former deputy Chair at the Institute of directors and Eurasian Natural Resources Corporation (ENRC) where he coined the famous epigram “More Soviet than City” to describe the manner of his departure.

Ken is a Freeman of the City of London, Liveryman and Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists, Patron of Thames Reach (for which he received an OBE in 2010), and Chairman of charity Shaw Trust. He was an original member of the Postal Services Commission (PostComm) and the Independent Parliamentary Standard Authority (IPSA) and is the Founder and Chairman of the Aleto Foundation. He is a past Sunday Times Not for Profit Non-Executive Director of the year and was named Number 1 in the 2016 Powerlist’s roster of the UK’s most influential black people. In 2013 Ken and his wife, Julia, endowed the Olisa Library at his alma mater Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. In 2015, Her Majesty the Queen appointed Ken as Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Greater London and he was knighted in the 2018 New Year’s Honours List for services to business and philanthropy. In September 2018 Ken was appointed as the director on the board of Huawei a Chinese multinational networking, telecommunications equipment and Services Company. Sir Kenneth is President of London Youth, a member network of 450+ community youth organisations working across London.
Helen has over 30 years’ experience of working in and leading organisations creating and delivering education over and about the internet. She is the Group Chief Executive for Good Things Group in the UK and Australia.

Helen was awarded an OBE for services to digital inclusion in the 2015 Queen’s Birthday Honours List. In 2017 she won the title of Digital Leader of the Year (UK) and was named by Computer Weekly as the 14th most influential person in UK IT in 2020.

Working with British Parliament, Helen was a member of the Speaker's Commission for Digital Democracy and an Advisor on Digital Engagement to the Public Accounts Committee. She is a Board Member of FutureDotNow.

Developed Digital, IT and IS strategies and architectures and delivered them.

Responsible for over 4000 staff and budgets of £1bn. Established greenfield teams. Developed multi-national teams and individuals. Restructured IT departments by outsourcing and consolidation. Managed non-IT operational functions.

Dan Brown

Dan is the founder of the Positive Transformation Initiative (PTI) a network of trusted networks acting for positive societal change. I connect passions with resources and funding to Positively Impact 1 Billion Lives by providing the right networks, connections, resources and opportunities to create brighter better futures.

I believe, every individual, without exception, can make a positive difference to someone in life. You do not need to be rich, smart, or with any perceived advantage. All you need is the will to make positive change happen, along the help and support of likeminded people.

If you have the will to make a positive change happen, PTI is the ever-increasing trusted network of likeminded people to provide that support.

PTI is the support that I never had, but will now never be denied another person if we work together in no boundaries collaboration enabling a brighter future for all.

My vision for Positive transformation is simple. Enable those willing people who can, to work together with other likeminded positively motivated individuals, in a collaboration without boundaries, to provide a hand up through the provision of connections, resources and funding, to those people who need it most.
Phil Smith

Phil is a Chairman and Director as well as an advisor, mentor and speaker. As former Chief Executive and Chairman of Cisco UK and Ireland, Phil is passionate about innovation, skills, technology, digitisation and leadership. Phil is Chairman of IQE PLC, a leading advanced materials solutions company, headquartered in Cardiff, focused on the Compound Semiconductor market. Phil is also a Chairman of Streeva a Fintech based growing payments company, Chairman of Appyway which is leading on smart mobility and a non-executive director of the Virtual Infrastructure Group, an innovative UK based cloud provider to the public and private sector.

In the broader innovation and skills space, Phil is also former chair of Innovate UK, the Government’s innovation agency as well as Chair of the Tech Partnership Degrees, an employer led organisation championing digital skills. In his industry and government roles he also co-Chair of the Digital Skills Partnership and is on the board of the Digital Economy Council. Additionally, Phil also sits on a number of advisory boards in organisations as diverse as Lloyds Register, Coventry University and the National Theatre.

Phil championed and was passionate about, innovation, entrepreneurship and productivity whilst at Cisco and continues now in many of his roles. He is founder member of the Productivity Leadership Group and a commercial trustee of Be the Business. He is additionally a Board Mentor for Critical Eye.

Phil was awarded a CBE in the 2019 Queen’s Birthday Honours List for services to Technology, Business and Skills and in September 2019 was made a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

He has been recognised with several industry accolades and awards from mentorship for women to CSR, company culture, employee engagement and leadership as well as change and digitalisation. Those include Orange Business Leader of the year, a member of Wired 100 and listed in the inaugural 50 Kindest Leaders in 2018.

Phil’s contribution to industry has been recognised with Honorary Doctorates from Birmingham City, Warwick and Glasgow Universities and an Honorary Fellowship from Cardiff.

Phil is the founder of a group of CEOs and leaders who, since 2012 have raised close to £1m for Sport Relief participating with their teams in Triathlon based events. Phil is a keen Triathlete and cyclist and has qualified in Triathlon for Team GB in 2014, 2015 and 2017, competing in Canada and the Netherlands.
Philip Colligan

Is Chief Executive of the Raspberry Pi Foundation, an educational charity based in the UK with the mission to put the power of computing and digital making into the hands of people all over the world.

He is a member of the UK Government's Digital Skills Partnership and a member of the Advisory Council of the National Council of Voluntary Organisations.

Philip was previously the Deputy Chief Executive of Nesta, the UK's innovation foundation, where he built the Innovation Lab. He was one of the founders of the Behavioural Insights Team (the Nudge Unit) where he served as a non-executive director, and a founding trustee of the Centre for London.

Philip's early career was in central and local government. He has served as an adviser on social innovation to the UK Cabinet Office and has advised municipal and national governments, charities and social enterprises in the UK and internationally.

Philip has a degree in law from the University of Liverpool and qualifications in management and finance.
Join us for an online panel discussion with industry, charity and government leaders

Jason Scott-Taggart
Chair, WCIT Homelessness Panel, WCIT Liveryman

Michael Hall
MC, Freeman of the City of London