

FUTUREDOTNOW: AN UPDATE ON THE FUTURE OF DIGITAL SKILLS

[FutureDotNow](#) has become a leading authority on the digital skills of the UK's workforce. Data from the 2023 Lloyds Bank Consumer Digital Index 2023 shows that in London alone, 4% of the workforce are without any basic skills, and 53% don't have all 20 skills deemed essential for work. London used to be leading the way but has now been outperformed by the Northeast, Southeast, and Scotland where a greater proportion of the labour force can complete all 20 tasks.

When the London Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) was approved in August 2023, FutureDotNow's three pillar model was included as an example of good practice for assisting millions of people who are without essential digital skills. Since this was published, FutureDotNow have used its featured roadmap to shape and renew their approach to addressing these barriers.

In July 2023, FutureDotNow collaborated with the Digital Skills Council to publish *The UK Workforce Digital Skills Gap: Why Closing it Matters and a Roadmap to Action*, part funded by the Department for Science Innovation and Technology. This was a culmination of what FutureDotNow has seen, learnt, and done since 2019 – detailing the next steps for government, business and society to boost the digital capability and confidence of the UK's workforce and ensure everyone has the Essential Digital Skills needed for work.

The London LSIP roadmap publication was the start of FutureDotNow's next chapter. During the Autumn of 2023, FutureDotNow convened industry-led working groups that explored the recommendations in detail and developed the actions required to achieve them. The outcome of this work was *The 2024 Delivery Plan to Close the Workforce Digital Skills Gap*, which is now the adopted strategy for FutureDotNow.

Over 70 individuals representing more than 40 organisations – including BusinessLDN – are actively involved in the seven priority workstreams making up the delivery plan, all working to close the workforce digital skills gap. The plan is being realised across 3 sprints of activity throughout 2024, each of which culminate in an event that brings key parties together to reflect and consolidate progress, informing the next phase of work. BusinessLDN has been supporting this process, including employer engagement on Essential Digital Skills (EDS) and measuring the economic impact of improving EDS capability