

Time to reflect on our achievements

Impact Report 2021



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Introduction



The COVID-19 pandemic brought existing inequalities into sharp focus, and this was no more apparent than in what has become known as the *"digital divide"*. The disadvantaged, who cannot afford to purchase digital devices, are cut off from access to remote learning and easy communication with the outside world.

At Veritas Digital Services, we became aware of this very early on in the pandemic, and as a company working in the circular economy, with established expertise in data erasure and refurbishment of devices, our founder, Sue Gowling, realised that we were very well placed to help. We started to focus on work with charities and councils, making affordable, sustainable and safe tech, plug-and-play ready, available to those most in need.

We set up our Laptops4Learning division to focus on working with large organisations; taking their surplus tech, it is repurposed and deployed through charities and local authorities. As expert repairers, we achieve high yields from your surplus technology, with items beyond economical repair broken down for spares, making more devices available for those in need and saving old devices from landfill.

Timeline



LAPTOPS 4 LEARNING

2020 Q1

COVID-19 pandemic begins to grip the UK

1st lockdown starts 23 March, we realise we are well positioned to help



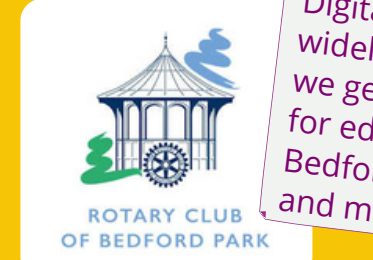
2020 Q2

We start reaching out and widening contacts with organisations supporting those in need



2020 Q3

Schools reopening after summer causes spike in cases and new local restrictions



Digital Divide now widely reported, we get devices out for education in Bedfordshire and more widely

2020 Q4

Tiered restrictions introduced, followed by 2nd lockdown on 5th November

We work to expand our partners and reach - digital divide is much wider than schools and children



2021 Q1

3rd lockdown starts 5th Jan. Rugby clubs use our Donation Repair solution to get help to those in need



2021 Q2

Digital inequality and needs persist - our work is only beginning



number of devices

Sustainable, affordable, accessible tech for learning and communication

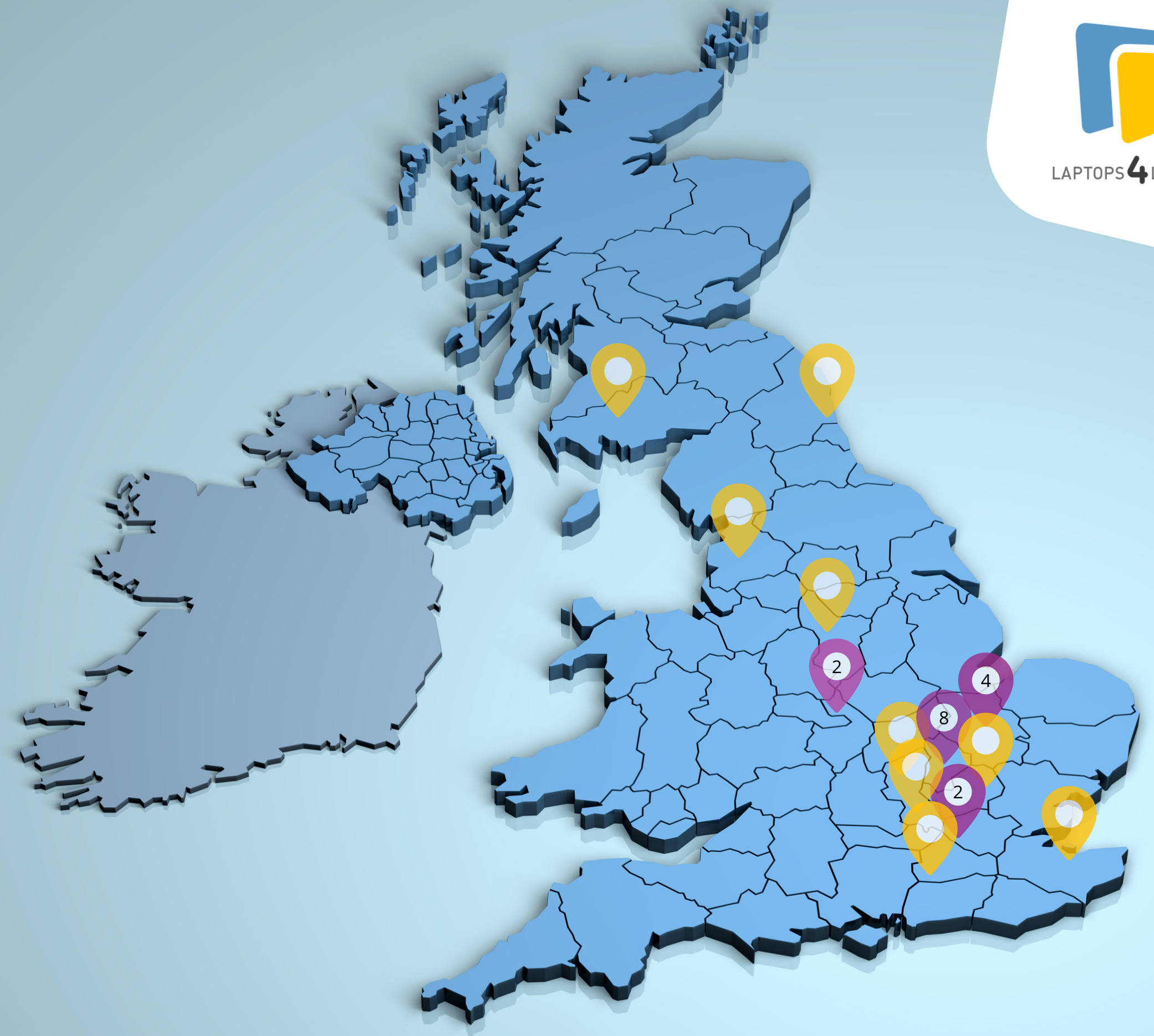
Partners

Laptops4Learning has partnered with 25 different charities, organisations and local authorities to distribute devices

Repairing and securely erasing devices to make them plug and play ready

Bedford Borough Council
Bedford College Academies
Blues Foundation
Cambridge Online
Cambridge Youth Panel
Cambridgeshire County Council
Chesterfield Royal Hospital
Citizens MK
COVID-19 Support Kenilworth
Deykin Avenue Nursery
Deykin Avenue School
FACES, Bedford
Families First

Feed Agency
Fylde Rugby Club
King's Oak School
KidsOut
Level Trust
Medway Rugby
Mind Mosaic Counselling
Netherhall School
Perspective Financial
Richmond Rugby
Rotary Club of Bedford Park
The Shared Learning Trust



Who Benefited?

Education



Schools



Nursery
Education



Adult & Child
Refugee
Education



Adult
Learning



Virtual
Schooling

Healthcare



NHS



Children's
Mental Health

Support Services



Counselling
Services



Communication
for the elderly



Family
Support
Services



Refuges for
Vulnerable Women
& Children

**I can't put into words
the difference this has
made to all those
families, children and
young people**

**— Head of Early Help
and Families First
Hertfordshire County
Council**

Spotlight on Bedfordshire



Level Trust reports that the impact of working with Laptops4Learning to get young people laptops has been profound.

Children and young people have said that as a result of receiving a device they were doing more learning, felt less anxious about their studies, felt more like their peers, and felt more confident about the future.



A report by The Centre for Research on Learning and Life Chances released during lockdown estimated that 20% of all disadvantaged pupils did not have access to a device to learn on at home. That equates to nearly 7000 children and young people in Bedfordshire alone.

1164 Devices Delivered

Tai



15 year old Tai lives at home with his mum and two younger siblings. The family's only access to a device was his Mum's smart phone. After being put on furlough, Tai's Mum, the only earner in the family, had to cancel the phone contract to save money. The family were left with no access at all. As a result of receiving the device Tai and his whole family were able to use it to video chat with friends and family reducing feelings of isolation and improving the whole family's sense of well being. Mum was able to access online food shopping so she could remain at home with the children and also used it to apply for local authority assistance which she hadn't been able to do over the phone since the call centres closed.

Since receiving his device Tai spends 3 - 4 hours more a week learning. The school tell us that he is more engaged, more positive and feels less isolated and forgotten.

Environmental impact

No device ends up in landfill



Laptops4Learning is a sustainable solution, promoting repair and reuse. Our work reduces e-waste going to landfill and saves the production of CO2 and the use of the earth's finite resources to manufacture new devices.

Helping those in need is also helping our environment

2.6m litres

of water saved

2.2m kgs

of earth's resources saved

4,950 kgs

of e-waste prevented

399,000kgs

of CO2 emissions saved

Sustainable, affordable, accessible tech for learning and communication

Safeguarding our clients and partners against data breach

We have provided peace of mind with secure data erasure or degauss with certification by serial number, to HMG Infosec 5 Standard (Enhanced), covering GDPR and protecting against data breach.

2592 Devices Sanitised