

Sustaining Participation and Digital Inclusion

- **Government Strategies and Policy Frameworks**
 - Department for Work and Pensions – Health and Disability White Paper: Sets out reforms to improve employment outcomes and reduce economic inactivity among disabled people and those with long-term health conditions.
 - Midlife MOT (DWP): Provides structured support for workers in midlife to assess skills, health and financial planning, helping sustain participation in work.
 - Fuller Working Lives Strategy: Focuses on extending working lives and reducing involuntary early exit from the labour market.
- **Digital Inclusion Infrastructure**
 - Good Things Foundation: Leads national digital inclusion initiatives, including community-based digital skills programmes and device access schemes.
 - UK Consumer Digital Index (Lloyds Bank): Tracks digital capability gaps across demographics, highlighting persistent barriers affecting older and disabled adults.
 - Department for Science, Innovation and Technology – Digital Inclusion Action Plan: Supports regional digital inclusion initiatives aimed at reducing structural digital disadvantage.
- **Workplace Retention and Health Support**
 - Access to Work: Continues to fund workplace adjustments for those who become disabled or experience changing health needs during employment.
 - Occupational Health Services: Provide workplace assessments and phased return-to-work support for employees experiencing health changes.
 - ACAS – Supporting Disabled Employees: Provides employer and employee guidance on sustaining participation and handling workplace adjustments fairly.
- **Financial and Service Accessibility**
 - Financial Conduct Authority – Consumer Duty: Requires firms to ensure products and services meet the needs of vulnerable customers, including disabled consumers.
 - Project Nemo: An industry-led initiative focused on improving accessibility within financial services.
 - GOV.UK Accessibility Standards: Public sector digital services must meet accessibility standards, critical for benefit systems, tax services and pension access.
- **Ageing and Disability Advocacy**
 - Centre for Ageing Better: Research and advocacy organisation focused on reducing age-related labour market exclusion.

- o Age UK: Provides support, advice and advocacy relevant to older workers and retirees navigating digital systems.