What’s on in your community

This activity will help you find local information online.

What will I learn?
- How to find information about your local area
- How to find local news
- How to find out what’s on
How do I do it?

Be safe! If you’re using this hand-out on a shared or public computer, remember to:

- Log on using a ‘strong password’: one that includes upper and lower case letters, numbers, and isn’t something that someone else could guess.
- Never share or write down your password.
- Log out when you’re finished.

How do I find information about my local area?

1. The Internet is a great way to find out more about where you live! You can find local maps, details of schools, places to visit and lots more.

2. Up My Street is one of many websites that provide information about your area:
   - Go to the Up My Street web link (web links are listed under ‘Useful links’).
   - Enter your postcode into the search box and click to search.
   - Now click on the ‘Find my nearest’ tab at the top of the page. The Find my nearest web page gives you lots of categories to explore. Can you find your nearest:
     - swimming pool
     - youth centre
     - fish and chip shop?
3. You can also get lots of information from your local council’s website. To find their website you’ll need to know the name of your local council:
   - Go to a search engine, such as Google (see Useful Links).
   - Enter the name of your local council into the search bar (e.g. East Dorset District Council) and click to search.
   - Look for your council’s website in the search results (their web address will often end with ‘.gov.uk’).
   - Click on the search result to go to their website. Can you find information on:
     - local museums
     - help and advice for young people
     - local libraries?

How do I find local news?

1. The Internet is also a great way to keep in touch with local news. If you know the name of your local paper, TV or radio station, find it using a search engine and look for the site’s news page.

2. Google News brings together news from lots of websites:
   - Go to the Google web link and click on the ‘News’ tab at the top of the page.
   - Enter where you live into the search bar and click to bring up all the latest news from your area.
   - Click on some links and find out what’s happening.

3. This is also a good way to find and bookmark websites for your local paper, TV and radio station’s websites if you don’t know their name or web address.

How do I find out what’s on?

1. The latest film? Your favourite band? Or what about that comedian you saw on TV? With the Internet, it’s easy to find out about entertainment in your area.

2. Local cinemas, music venues and other entertainment places should all have websites:
   - Enter the name of a local venue in a search engine.
   - Explore the venue’s website and find the ‘listings’ page that shows what’s on.

3. If you don’t know the names of any venues, you can still search the web to find out what’s happening. You just need to combine the name of where you live, with what you want to find:
   - Try entering some of the following into a search engine. ‘Place’ is the name of where you live:
     - ‘what’s on in Place’
     - ‘cinema Place’
     - ‘live music Place’
     - ‘Place events’
   - What other search terms can you think of?
Quiz yourself

- What information can you find at your local council’s website?
- What are the web addresses of your local newspaper, radio and TV channels?
- How can you find the locations of local places like swimming pools, cinemas and places to eat?
- What search terms can help you find entertainment in your area?

Try your new skills

- Find out the news headlines for your local area.
- Use a search engine to find something interesting to do this weekend.

Write down any notes that will help you:
My learning checklist

☐ I can search for places of interest in my local area and find their contact information.
☐ I can browse my local council’s website for information.
☐ I can find local news online.
☐ I can search for local entertainment listings online.

Top tips

- Bookmark local websites so you can always get the info you want.
- Use your mobile phone’s web browser to find info when you’re out and about.
- Store local numbers on your phone, such as booking lines and the numbers for your favourite places to eat or relax.

Where next?

- Use a search engine to find other local sites of interest, like sports clubs or bus and train times.
- Use online maps and directions (e.g. Google Maps) to find out how to get to places of interest.

Write down any notes that will help you:

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## Useful Links

You may want to use these links in your session:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up My Street:</td>
<td><a href="http://www.upmystreet.com">http://www.upmystreet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Google:</td>
<td><a href="http://google.co.uk">http://google.co.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Google Maps:</td>
<td><a href="http://maps.google.co.uk">http://maps.google.co.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBC News:</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/news">http://www.bbc.co.uk/news</a></td>
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