Age Friendly Innovation Lab – Monday 18 Jan 2016 – Stephen Tetley

Proposal
A simple web-app to present local information and services derived from the Leeds Neighbourhood Network Schemes dataset with map-based navigation.

Description
The web-app has essentially two pages an intro (landing page) and a main screen split into two panes: a map on the left and a regular web page on the right.

The intro screen is a single input box for postcode superimposed over a full page map (see page 4 of the slides). The map will be centered on Leeds. Having a single input box makes the web-app simple to use. The design is inspired by Google's search page, it should fell accessible to users who are familiar with the web.

Once the user enters their postcode they are taken to the main screen. The main screen is split into two panes (see page 9 of the slides). The left pane shows the map with the target area identified by the postcode colourized (Armley) – plus adjacent areas will be indicated (e.g. Holbeck). The right hand pane is a regular web page with information and links.

Navigation on the right pane works as-per normal web browsing - page 11 of the slides shows the user navigating to the Facebook page of Armley Helping Hands, page 12 of the slides shows navigation to the event calender on the Armley Helping Hands website.

"What's the point?"
Data curation is **cheap** - a primary feature of the web-app is that most of the content is external. The maps would be provided by Open Street Map (or Google Maps) and "child" pages for the right hand panel are external web pages. "Parent" pages for each of the groups in the Neighbourhood Network Scheme would need to be produced, ideally these parent pages would be dynamically generated so on-going curation only needs to keep the dataset up-to-date. There should be provision to grow the service with other datasets - e.g. a list of coffee mornings in the area covered by the NNS could be displayed as flags on the map and a list of hyperlinks on right.

Navigation is always **local** and **visual** - the web-app exists to navigate and make discoverable local services. Users see data in relation to the area they live and they can navigate to adjacent areas on the map to locate alternative services (e.g ones that they may want to attend with friends who live in different locales). There should be scope to illustrate routes on the map of alternate services or view groups of services or activities such as coffee mornings.

Realization
The system would be realized as web-app with both server- and client-side code. Server-side code would handle the dynamic page generation for the "parent" pages and process user requests for data (e.g. produce a list of locations and times for coffee mornings in the areas adjacent to Armley).

Client-side code would handle the map acquisition and navigation of the embedded web pages in the right hand pane. There is a powerful, free framework to build custom mapping applications with Open Street Map (openlayers.org), I expect this would be a sound solution to implement map acquisition. Google Maps would be potential alternative if needed.