

# The cyber landscape in numbers

- 43% of UK businesses and 30% of charities reported a cyber breach in the past year\*
- Over 600,000 UK businesses experience attacks annually
- The National Cyber Security Centre handled more than 200 nationally significant incidents in one year
- This equates to roughly four major incidents affecting UK organisations every week

\*Department for Science, Innovation and Technology. Cyber Security Breaches Survey 2025. UK Government

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# Geopolitics

And why a wonky world means increased cyber risk...

- Hostile state actors increasingly use cyber operations as part of geopolitical conflict
- The NCSC identifies Russia, China, Iran and North Korea as the most significant state cyber threats
- Cyber attacks are a low cost, high impact tool for espionage, disruption and political influence
- Global conflicts can increase cyber risk for UK organisations through spillover and proxy activity
- Public services and critical infrastructure are attractive targets because disruption has national impact

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# Recent UK examples

- Cyber attack on NHS supplier Advanced disrupted NHS IT services
- Local authorities including Redcar, Leicester and Cleveland hit by ransomware
- Synovis
- M&S
- Jaguar Land Rover

Who will be next...

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# Cyber risk in health and Social Care

- Over 120 ransomware incidents have affected the NHS in recent years
- The WannaCry attack cancelled around 19,000 appointments and operations\*
- Healthcare is one of the most targeted sectors globally for ransomware

\*<https://www.nao.org.uk/reports/investigation-wannacry-cyber-attack-and-the-nhs/>



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# Why this matters for social care

- Care providers hold highly sensitive personal information
- Digital care records are now widespread
- Remote monitoring and digital tools are expanding
- Cyber incidents can directly affect care delivery

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# Cyber security is a leadership issue

- Most care providers do not have dedicated IT teams
- Security depends on leadership decisions
- Procurement, governance and staff behaviour all matter
- Cyber resilience is part of good organisational management

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# But the landscape keeps evolving

- AI is making phishing attacks more convincing
- Ransomware groups operate as organised businesses
- Supply chain attacks are increasing
- Attacks are becoming more automated and scalable

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# Cyber security is about people

- Many incidents begin with human behaviour
- Phishing emails
- Password reuse
- Rushed decisions under pressure
- Improving awareness and culture is critical

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# From Self Assessment to Mandatory Compliance

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A Fully Digitised Care Provider  
(according to the DHSC)

DSPT Annually published to Standards Met

Using Digital Social Care Records  
(from assured solutions list)

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# Using Digital Care Records

- Improved care continuity: instant, accurate resident histories and care plans accessible to all authorised staff.
- Better accuracy & safety: reduced transcription errors, clearer medication and incident records.
- Real-time updates: care notes and risk changes recorded immediately at point of care.
- Enhanced safeguarding & compliance: easier evidence for CQC inspections, audit trails, and timely incident reporting.
- Data protection & consent controls: role-based access, secure storage and GDPR-aligned processes.
- Efficiency & time savings: less paperwork, faster handovers, more time for direct care.
- Insights & quality improvement: analytics to spot trends, monitor outcomes and support workforce planning.
- Flexible working & integration: supports remote access, care coordination with NHS systems and third-party apps.

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# Data Security Protection Toolkit

## The DSPT is now mandatory

All CQC-regulated adult social care providers in England must complete the DSPT annually to Standards Met. This is a legal requirement under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, as amended by the Health and Care Act 2022.

DSPT compliance falls under the Well Led Quality statement:  
“we expect providers to demonstrate compliance with the Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT) or equivalent. This should be completed annually.”

[dspt.wmca.care](https://dspt.wmca.care)



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Better Security.  
Better Care.



**Digital**  
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# New Webinar Series: Managing Digital Risk

How to use and share information appropriately

- Staffing and roles
- Policies and Procedures
- Data Security
- IT Systems and Devices

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# Digital Health Checks

Free evaluation of your digital policies and procedures

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