NEWSLETTER

Sussex Digital In-Reach Team

Supporting Care Providers in Sussex

Welcome to The Sussex Digital Team Newsletter. We hope you find the information here helpful as you explore and grow your digital journey within your care setting. QR codes and website links are available in this newsletter to enable you to access more information.

FULLY DIGITISED CARE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

ALL PROVIDERS MUST COMPLETE THE DSPT NOW AS A LEGAL REQUIREMENT AND ARE EXPECTED TO IMPLEMENT AN NHS-ASSURED DSCR BY THE END OF THIS PARLIAMENT.

CARE
Digitising Social Care

The Department of Health and Social Care expects all CQC-registered care providers to become fully digitised by the end of this Parliament.
This means:

- Using an NHS England–assured Digital Social Care Record (DSCR)
- Achieving 'Standards Met' on the Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT)

DSPT IS MANDATORY
Completion of the DSPT is a ***legal requirement*** for all CQC-regulated adult social care providers in England under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (as amended in 2022).
The DSPT covers how you protect information about people who use your services, staff, partners and visitors — across both digital and paper records.
Achieving 'Standards Met' also enables access to NHSmail, GP Connect and Shared Care Records.
Learn more about DSPT: **https://www.digitalcarehub.co.uk/dspt/**

ASSURED DSCRS ARE THE EXPECTATION
Providers are expected to use a DSCR from the NHS England Assured Solutions List.
Assured systems meet national standards for safety, security and interoperability and support access to GP information.
Unassured systems may not be able to connect to future national systems, including the developing Single Patient Record.

Assured solutions: **https://beta.digitisingsocialcare.co.uk/assured-solutions**

Sussex Digital In Reach Team can support you to complete your DSPT, thanks to funding from the Department of Health and Social Care. We can also help you choose and implementing an assured DSCR.
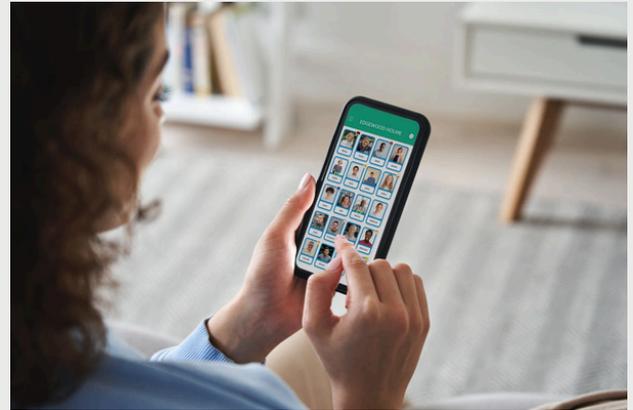
Follow this link to learn more: **https://beta.digitisingsocialcare.co.uk/becoming-fully-digitised-care-provider?mc_cid=37a1666811&mc_eid=40db46ff80**

NOT SURE WHETHER WE NEED THIS?

Why It Matters

Being fully digitised helps providers to:
- Keep accurate and secure records
- Reduce paperwork and admin time
- Improve care quality and safety
- Meet regulatory requirements
- Share information more effectively

FREE DIGITAL HEALTHCARE CHECK

A free check-up for your data and cyber security

Keeping people's information safe is part of everyday care. But with so many other pressures, it can be hard to know whether your data protection and cyber security arrangements are really where they should be.

That is why we are offering a free Data Protection and Cyber Security Healthcheck for social care providers.

This is a friendly, supportive visit, not an inspection. We come to your service to talk through how you use data and technology in practice, what is working well and where there may be opportunities to strengthen things further. There is no judgement, it is simply a conversation about how things work in your service.

During the visit, we will look at four main areas. These include,

- How staff understand their data protection responsibilities,
- How information flows through your service,
- What policies and procedures you have in place and
- What cyber security and business continuity measures you use day to day.

We can also run a simple technical check on Windows computers if you are happy for us to do so.

After the visit, you will receive a short and confidential report with clear feedback and signposting to support if needed. The health check can also be used as evidence for CQC to show proactive work around data security and partnership working, which may help during inspection.

The health check is part of the government funded Better Security Better Care programme, so you can be confident that the advice and guidance is up to date and relevant to social care.

If you would like a bit of reassurance, practical advice or simply a chance to talk things through with someone who understands the sector, this is a great opportunity.

To find out more or to book your free health check, just get in touch with us at **_nada@sussexdigitalteam.co.uk_**

We would be very happy to support you.

THURSDAY 26<u>TH</u> MARCH

Learning Hour with Birdie DSCR

Join us for a virtual learning hour session with Birdie DSCR offering peer support, Q&A and practical insights for social care providers.

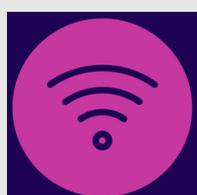**Learning Hour with Birdie Digital Social Care Record**

This is an informal Learning Hour session designed exclusively for social care providers in Sussex using the Birdie DSCR system. Following the recent evaluation report, these sessions aim to provide a space for peer learning, shared insights, and direct support from the Birdie team.

During the session, you will have the chance to:

• Explore system functionalities and ask questions directly to Birdie experts
• Share your experiences and learn from other providers across Sussex
• Discuss ways to make the most of your DSCR data for everyday improvement
• Shape future support and training opportunities

If you have any specific questions or topics you would like covered, please let us know.

Who should attend: Registered managers, care coordinators, senior carers, clinical leads, digital champions, administrators, and others using Birdie or exploring DSCR integration or anyone interested in implementing Biride into their care setting.

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR DSPT IN PERSON WORKSHOPS!

ARE YOU STILL IN NEED OF REGISTERING FOR THE DATA SECURITY PROTECTION TOOLKIT? ARE YOU HAVING TROUBLE PUBLISHING? WHY NOT JOIN US AT ONE OF OUR IN PERSON WORKSHOPS?

Next Booking

**Tuesday 10th March 2026
Freedom Works - Astral Towers, Crawley
2.30pm - 4.30pm
Book Here**

THERE IS LIMITED AVAILBILITY SO PLEASE BOOK NOW TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE!

What's in it for you?

This workshop is designed for social care providers who want to publish or republish their DSPT (Data Security and Protection Toolkit).

We will take you through each section of the toolkit, step by step, providing practical guidance on how to meet the required standards.

Whether you're publishing your DSPT for the first time or updating it, this session will give you the hands-on support you need to ensure your toolkit is complete, compliant, and ready for submission.

This workshop isn't just about ticking boxes – it's about making the toolkit a valuable, actionable tool that improves your service's data security and care practices.
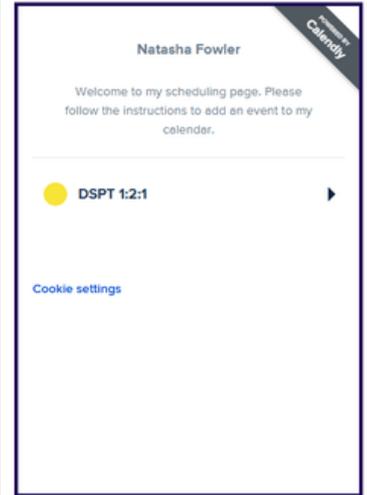
CAN'T MAKE AN IN PERSON WORKSHOP??

FREE SUPPORT AVAILABLE

We offer free support to help you to complete your DSPT. This can be in the form of a visit to your premises, an online meeting, a local drop in event or our very popular online webinars.

All DSPT support offered is part of the Better Security, Better Care programme, funded by NHS Transformation Directorate to support data and cyber security across the adult social care provider sector.

BOOK YOUR SESSION NOW

Book a Free Support Call/Visit or Free Cyber Security Training for your staff, at a time to suit you. Click on DSPT 1:2:1 to open the calendar.

Natasha Fowler

Welcome to my scheduling page. Please follow the instructions to add an event to my calendar.

⬤ DSPT 1:2:1 ▶

Cookie settings

ALTERNATIVELY TAKE A LOOK AT THESE UPCOMING ONLINE SESSIONS

COMPLETING THE DATA SECURITY AND PROTECTION TOOLKIT FOR THE FIRST TIME

The Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT) is an online self-assessment tool to help adult social care providers in England to store and share information safely.
It shows you what you need to do to keep people's information safe, and to protect your business from the risk of a data breach or a cyber attack. It covers both paper and digital records.

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It will cover how to:
- Register for the DSPT - including how to register if you have multiple services and sites
- Complete to Approaching Standards and Standards Met
- Publish your DSPT
- Access free, official support from the Better Security, Better Care programme.

TUESDAY 3RD MARCH FROM 3PM TO 4PM

TUESDAY 12TH MAY FROM 3PM TO 4PM

PRACTICAL USE OF MICROSOFT 365 COPILOT IN SOCIAL CARE

MICROSOFT 365 COPILOT IS BEING IMPLEMENTED IN SOCIAL CARE TO REDUCE THE HEAVY ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN ON PROFESSIONALS, ALLOWING THEM TO FOCUS MORE ON DIRECT CLIENT INTERACTION. IT IS USED TO AUTOMATE ROUTINE DOCUMENTATION, SUMMARISE LONG, COMPLEX CASE FILES, AND STREAMLINE COMMUNICATION, WITH TRIALS INDICATING SIGNIFICANT TIME SAVINGS—SOMETIMES UP TO SEVERAL HOURS A WEEK PER STAFF MEMBER.

JOIN US ON THURSDAY 19TH MARCH

Learn how the paid version of Microsoft 365 Copilot can be used safely and realistically in day to day work within existing Microsoft 365

Microsoft 365 Copilot is increasingly being introduced across social care organisations, but many teams are unsure how it can be used in day-to-day work and how to do so safely.

This 45-minute remote session is aimed at social care providers who wish to explore the features of the paid version of Microsoft 365 Copilot. It will focus on practical, realistic demonstrations rather than theory or technical setup.

Microsoft 365 Copilot works within your organisation's existing Microsoft 365 environment and uses the same access permissions as the rest of Microsoft 365. It only has access to data that each individual user is already permitted to see, and content used in Copilot prompts and outputs is not used to train the underlying foundation models or any public AI services.

All data processed by Copilot remains subject to your existing Microsoft 365 security, retention, and compliance controls. This makes it fundamentally different from public or consumer AI tools, such as ChatGPT, which are not governed by your organisation's Microsoft 365 security and compliance boundary

PLEASE USE THIS BOOKING LINK TO SECURE YOUR PLACE

TRUSTING THE TECH: USING PASSWORD MANAGERS AND PASSKEYS TO HELP YOU STAY SECURE ONLINE

In today's digital age, trust is the new currency. We entrust our devices with everything – our communications, our identities, our finances, and even our memories. But when it comes to online security, many of us hesitate, and ask:

- Should I really save my password in my browser?
- Is a password manager actually safe?
- What is a passkey?

These are all valid questions. And the short answer is:

Yes, you can trust the tech – but it's important to understand what choices you're making

You can read more about this via **The National Security Cyber Centre** website.

TAKE YOUR EMAIL SECURITY TO ANOTHER LEVEL

Your email is where you keep your most personal and financial information.
If a cyber criminal accesses your email, they could:

- access your other online accounts using the 'forgot password' feature (which often sends you an email)
- access personal or business information and use this to scam you or people you know

Action 1 - Turn on 2-Step Verification (2SV) for your email
2-Step Verification (2SV) gives you twice the protection so even if cyber criminals have your password, they can't access your email.

2SV works by asking for more information to prove your identity. For example, getting a code sent to your phone when you sign in using a new device or change settings such as your password.
You won't be asked for this every time you check your email.

Action 2 - Use a strong and different password for your email using 3 random words
Your email password should be strong and different from all your other passwords.
Combining 3 random words that each mean something to you is a great way to create a password that is easy to remember but hard to crack.
Do not use words that can be guessed (like your pet's name). You can include numbers and symbols if needed. For example, "Hippo!PizzaRocket1"

You can read more via the **CyberAware** website

FREE EVENTS THIS MONTH

Don't forget to book onto our FREE online events this month. Use the QR codes to go straight to each booking page.

eventbrite

**Tuesday 24th March
Are You Compliant? Secure Mail Requirements for Adult Social Care**
Understand secure email requirements for social care, what systems are compliant and how to avoid data breaches.

**Tuesday 24th March
MS Excel Tools**

Learn how to supercharge your Excel skills with our MS Excel Tools event - discover new tips, tricks, and tools to excel in spreadsheets!

**Wednesday 25th March
CQC Artificial Intelligence Strategy**

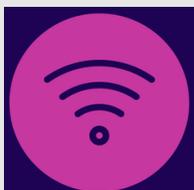Exploring what AI and CQC's early thinking could mean for social care.

**Monday 30th March
Digital Fire Drill: Cyber Security for Social Care Providers**

Build confidence in cyber security with this interactive session for care providers, using real scenarios and live discussion.

**Tuesday 31st March
Your Suppliers, Your Risk: Cyber Security Responsibilities in Social Care**

Essential guidance on managing supply chain cyber risks for social care providers.

LIVE WEBINAR

Book Now!

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS....

Brighton & Hove
Partners in Care

East Sussex
Partners in Care

Digital
Care Hub

Digital
Care Hub

SUPPORTED LIVING, EXTRA CARE & SHARED LIVES PROVIDERS WEB FORUM

Wednesday 25th March

A dedicated online forum for supported living, extra care and shared lives providers to hear the latest sector updates from experts, explore service-specific challenges, and share ideas to strengthen ongoing support.

DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS: PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO PRIVACY VS HOME SENSORS

Wednesday 11th March

How do we balance safety, autonomy, dignity, and transparency when using sensors in people's homes or care settings?

DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS:CONSENT: WHAT DOES "AGREEING TO TECH," REALLY MEAN?

Tuesday 17th March

How do we get true consent to tech when people's views fall on a spectrum?

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Adult Social Care Caldicott Guardian Learning Network

Thursday 26th March

Caldicott Guardians from both local authorities and care provider organisations are invited to join.

Difficult conversations: robots vs carers:

Tuesday 31st March

Are we really "replacing" carers — or is tech supporting them? How do workers feel about the narrative, and what does the public expect?

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<u>YOU TUBE</u>

COULDN'T JOIN US FOR OUR LATEST EVENTS? YOU CAN STILL BE PART OF THE CONVERSATION—WATCH THE FULL RECORDINGS ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL AT YOUR CONVENIENCE.

SUBSCRIBE TO STAY UP TO DATE WITH FUTURE EVENTS.

CLICK ON THE VIDEO IMAGE TO WATCH

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