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.



DATA SECURITY PROTECTION TOOLKIT - DSPT



The DSPT is a free, online self-assessment of health and social care providers' data security and protection policies, procedures and processes.

It is not just about technology and digital records – it is about any information that care providers hold about any person – staff, clients, funders, partners or visitors – including paper records.

By answering a series of questions, care providers can demonstrate that they are compliant with data protection legislation, the health and social care data security standards, and good practice.

The DSPT for social care is specifically designed for adult care providers.

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

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE DSPT IS A REQUIREMENT TO ACCESS:

- **NHS MAIL**
- **PROXY ACCESS**
- **GP CONNECT**
- **SHARED RECORD**



ARE YOUR ACCOUNTS UP TO DATE?

People leave, roles change and responsibilities move. But sometimes their access doesn't.

Take a look at the accounts your business relies on, email, cloud storage, finance systems, social media, website accounts and more.

- Who can access them today?

And more importantly:

- Does everyone who has access still need it?

NCSC recommends regularly reviewing who has access to important online accounts and removing anyone who no longer needs it.

It's a simple check, but one that's easy to overlook when you're busy running a business.



DON'T JUST KNOW WHO WORKS FOR YOU. KNOW WHO STILL HAS THE KEYS.

START BUILDING STRONGER CYBER RESILIENCE WITH SUPPORT FROM YOUR LOCAL CYBER RESILIENCE CENTRE:

THE SOUTH EAST CYBER RESILIENCE CENTRE

EXERCISE IN A BOX

A free resource to help organisations rehearse their response to cyber attacks.

Exercise in a Box is an online resource from the NCSC which helps organisations test and practise their response to a cyber attack. It is completely free and you don't have to be an expert to use it.



The resource provides exercises, based around the main cyber threats, which your organisation can do in its own time, in a safe environment, as many times as necessary. It includes everything needed to set up, plan, deliver, and identify post-exercise actions.

We have a number of exercises to choose from that cover a variety of topics, including: Ransomware, Phishing, Supply Chain, Risk management, Passwords, and Vulnerabilities.

WHY SHOULD I USE A CYBER EXERCISING TOOL?

Running cyber security exercises is an immersive and effective way for you to evaluate and practise the skills and decision-making mechanisms you need to respond to cyber incidents. Using Exercise in a Box, you'll find out how well your organisation is protected (or not), and where opportunities for improvements may lie.

HOW WILL MY ORGANISATION BENEFIT FROM USING EXERCISE IN A BOX?

The NCSC consider cyber exercising to be one of the most cost-effective ways an organisation can test its ability to respond to cyber incidents. By running Exercise in a Box you will:

- Establish how effective your current defence and response mechanisms are
- Test and check your existing policies and procedures
- Improve your colleagues' internal relationships and skills (specifically their ability to deal with an actual cyber attack)
- Identify areas for further improvement
- Gain access to relevant guidance from the NCSC

WE HAVE 20 EXERCISES AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO CHOOSE FROM THAT COVER 12 DIFFERENT TOPICS AND REQUIRE VARYING AMOUNTS OF YOUR TIME.

TAKE A LOOK NOW AND START CHALLENGING YOUR STAFF

BENEFITS OF SUBSCRIBING TO THE CYBER RESILIENCE CENTRE FOR THE SOUTH EAST

SUBSCRIBE TO YOUR REGIONAL CYBER RESILIENCE CENTRE AND EXPLORE THE CYBER SECURITY SERVICES, CYBER SUPPORT & GUIDANCE, AND TRAINING AVAILABLE TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

CRIME PREVENTION MEETINGS
We offer personalised security support through 1-to-1 Crime Prevention Meetings with our team to assess your organisation's current cyber resilience.

FULLY FUNDED CYBER SECURITY SERVICES
Designed for SMEs and third-sector organisations across the South East, these cyber security services help build long-term cyber resilience and protect your business from emerging threats.

SECURITY AWARENESS TRAINING
Security Awareness Training ensures your team are cyber aware, and doing the right thing to protect themselves, their colleagues and your business.

TRUSTED GUIDANCE
We offer signposting to industry specific and reliable cyber security resources that are suitable for your organisation.

ONGOING CYBER UPDATES & PRACTICAL TOOLS
Stay informed through our monthly newsletter and take advantage of practical, free tools such as 'Cyber Action Toolkit' and 'Early Warning Service' to build your resilience and understanding of cyber risk.

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT & LEARN
Join our webinars, local cyber security networking events, and drop-in sessions for expert insights, peer support, and real-world strategies from regional cyber experts, police representatives, and fellow SMEs, to help your organisation stay secure and resilient.



To find out more please visit: **South East CRC**



THE UK'S ANALOGUE TELEPHONE NETWORK WILL BE PERMANENTLY SWITCHED OFF BY 31 JANUARY 2027, AND SOCIAL CARE PROVIDERS ARE BEING URGED TO MAKE SURE THEY'RE READY.

Many technologies still used across care homes, supported living services and sheltered housing schemes, including telecare alarms, warden call systems and grouped living systems, continue to rely on analogue phone lines. As these networks are withdrawn, providers that have not upgraded their systems could find that vital alarms and emergency alerts no longer work reliably, potentially leaving residents vulnerable.

Recognising the scale of the challenge, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has published practical guidance to help providers prepare for the transition. The guidance highlights the steps organisations should take to protect telecare users, explores options for replacing grouped living scheme telecare systems, and includes case studies showing how services have successfully moved to digital solutions.

Providers are encouraged to act now by identifying any equipment that relies on analogue connectivity, assessing risks for people who depend on those services, working with suppliers to understand upgrade requirements, and thoroughly testing replacement systems before they go live.

With the switch-off date fast approaching, now is the time to review your organisation's telecare and communications infrastructure. Early planning will help ensure residents remain safe, connected and supported throughout the transition to digital services.

Further Guidance can be found by visiting these 2 websites: Click the images for more information.

Department of Health & Social Care

Local Government Association



SPECIAL OFFER! - FREE HEALTH CHECK FOR YOUR BUSINESS

You've completed your DSPT (the NHS free Data Security & Protection Toolkit), and you've published to Standards Met, or even Standards Exceeded.

How would you appreciate a **Free Health Check** to make sure your systems are secure and your staff understand the importance of the policies you have put in place?

This is not a test, it is designed to offer you helpful advice on how you could improve your data sharing infrastructure.

Dates are filling up fast..... Please do not leave it too long to book
November Dates available.....

MONDAY 2ND NOVEMEBER
~~**WEDNESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER**~~
MONDAY 9TH OCTOBER
TUESDAY 10TH NOVEMBER
WEDNESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER
MONDAY 16TH NOVEMBER
WEDNESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER
MONDAY 23RD NOVEMBER
TUESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER
MONDAY 30TH NOVEMBER

TO MAKE A BOOKING PLEASE CONTACT

Nada@sussexdigitalteam.co.uk

Natasha@sussexdigitalteam.co.uk

OR

Georgie@sussexdigitalteam.co.uk



HAVE YOUR SAY ON DELEGATED HEALTHCARE TASKS

If your service supports people with healthcare tasks, how confident are you that arrangements for training, competency sign-off and ongoing clinical support are clear and consistent?

Providers across East Sussex and Brighton & Hove are being invited to complete a short survey on delegated healthcare tasks. Delegation occurs when a registered healthcare professional formally asks a care worker to carry out a healthcare task, providing the necessary training, competency assessment and ongoing support.

The survey aims to build a better understanding of how delegation is working in practice, including:

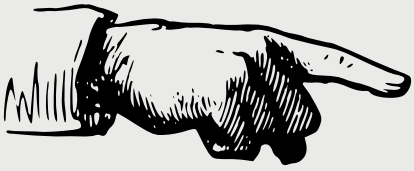
WHICH HEALTHCARE TASKS CARE TEAMS ARE SUPPORTING

- How delegation arrangements are managed
- What support is available from health professionals
- What is working well
- Where providers are experiencing challenges

This is not an inspection, and there are no right or wrong answers. The findings will help health, local authority and care-sector partners identify common strengths, gaps and priorities, helping to shape future support for providers across East Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

Providers are encouraged to submit one response per service, or a single response covering a group of similar services. This is an opportunity to share your experiences and help influence how delegated healthcare tasks are supported across the local care sector.

Click the Survey Link:



Take the survey today!

West Sussex Partners in Care

DO YOU FANCY BECOMING A BOARD DIRECTOR FOR THE WEST SUSSEX PARTNERS IN CARE?

APPLY NOW

West Sussex Partners in Care

WE'RE RECRUITING! WSPIC Board Directors

What are we looking for in a WSPiC Board Director?

- Considerable experience of working at a management level in adult social care.
- A dynamic and forward thinking approach to improving standards of care and support for care providers in West Sussex
- Availability to attend monthly board meetings

Successful candidates will be formally voted on to the WSPiC Board at the General Meeting being held on Thursday 14th January 2027, following the Managers Forum

For more information and to receive your WSPiC Board Director vacancy pack please email: denise@westsussexpartnersincare.org





WHAT SUPPORT DO YOU NEED ON DIGITAL, DATA AND TECH IN THE COMING YEARS?
We're reviewing the support we offer – and want to ensure it's guided by you. Share your views to help us support the adult social care sector through the coming years of digital development.

TAKE PART IN OUR INSIGHTS SURVEY
The survey is aimed at those who provide, coordinate or commission adult social care and should take around 10 minutes to complete. The closing date is Friday 6 November 2026.
As a thank you, you can also submit your name to our prize draw for a chance to win 5x £50 high-street vouchers.

Your responses will be treated with care. All findings are anonymised. Survey data will be deleted by end Jan 2027.

Survey link: **https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QPRH7V9**

We're gathering insights and opinions to help shape our priorities for the next few years. We want to understand the digital and cyber challenges facing adult social care, the support the sector needs and how we can make our services, resources and communications as useful as possible.

As part of this work, we've created a survey for those who work in care, legislate, fund, coordinate and/or support the sector. By completing our survey, you can help us understand what is working, where the gaps are and what Digital Care Hub should focus on next.

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

Sussex Digital In-Reach Team
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THURSDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2026

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!

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TUESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2026

MANAGING NHS.NET IN THE LAUNCHPAD ERA

A practical guide to the biggest NHS.net changes affecting social care providers, mailbox owners and account administrators.

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MONDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2026

MANAGING NHS.NET IN THE LAUNCHPAD ERA

A practical guide to the biggest NHS.net changes affecting social care providers, mailbox owners and account administrators.

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WEDNESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER

CYBER SECURITY MOT - TEST YOUR DEFENCES LIVE

Bring your laptop and work alongside the trainer in this practical cyber security workshop. We'll perform a series of free security checks

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WEDNESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER

AI FOR SOCIAL CARE: YOUR NEW PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Learn how to turn AI into your personal assistant, helping with far more than drafting emails.

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MONDAY 30TH NOVEMBER

THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK: PRACTICAL ONLINE SAFETY

Learn simple, practical steps to stay safe online, protect information and avoid common cyber security risks.

LIVE WEBINAR

Book Now!

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

skillsforcare

THURSDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2026

THE STATE OF THE ADULT SOCIAL CARE SECTOR AND WORKFORCE IN ENGLAND 2026: REGIONAL LAUNCH EVENT

Join us as for a regionally focused look at our flagship report. We'll dig into the data across England and provide you with a comprehensive analysis of the adult social care workforce in your area.

skillsforcare

TUESDAY 10TH NOVEMBER

NURSING WORKFORCE FORUM

This forum provides a dedicated space for leaders in social care nursing to explore practice innovation, continuing professional development, and career opportunities.

Digital Care Hub

THURSDAY 12TH NOVEMBER

THE KING'S FUND VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ON AMBIENT VOICE TECHNOLOGY: WHAT'S NEXT FOR HEALTH AND CARE?

Join us to hear practical lessons from organisations already using these technologies and gain insights that can help shape your own approach.

Digital Care Hub

THURSDAY 19TH NOVEMBER

DIGITAL INCLUSION IN CARE: WHO GETS LEFT BEHIND?

Join us to explore what digital inclusion - and exclusion - looks like across the social care sector

Digital Care Hub

THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER

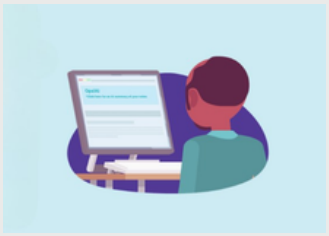
CALDICOTT GUARDIAN LEARNING NETWORK

This session aims to bring together a range of Caldicott Guardians to learn, share and explore the growing role in adult social care.

LIVE WEBINAR

Book Now!

FREE EVENTS THIS MONTH



THE DIGITAL CARE HUB HAVE UPDATED THEIR FREE ELEARNING COURSES ON DATA SECURITY AND PROTECTION FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE PROVIDERS.

UPDATED 13 OCTOBER 2026

As part of our Better Security, Better Care programme, we have produced elearning courses on data security and protection.

The courses were fully revised and updated on 13 October 2026. Key changes include the addition of information on AI, and a new assessment for data leads. You can find a summary of updates within the introduction to each course.

These are the only free data protection eLearning courses designed specifically for care settings. They use practical scenarios to show what good data protection and cyber security look like in day-to-day work. We've refreshed the content, made the learning more accessible and added more opportunities for people to check their understanding.

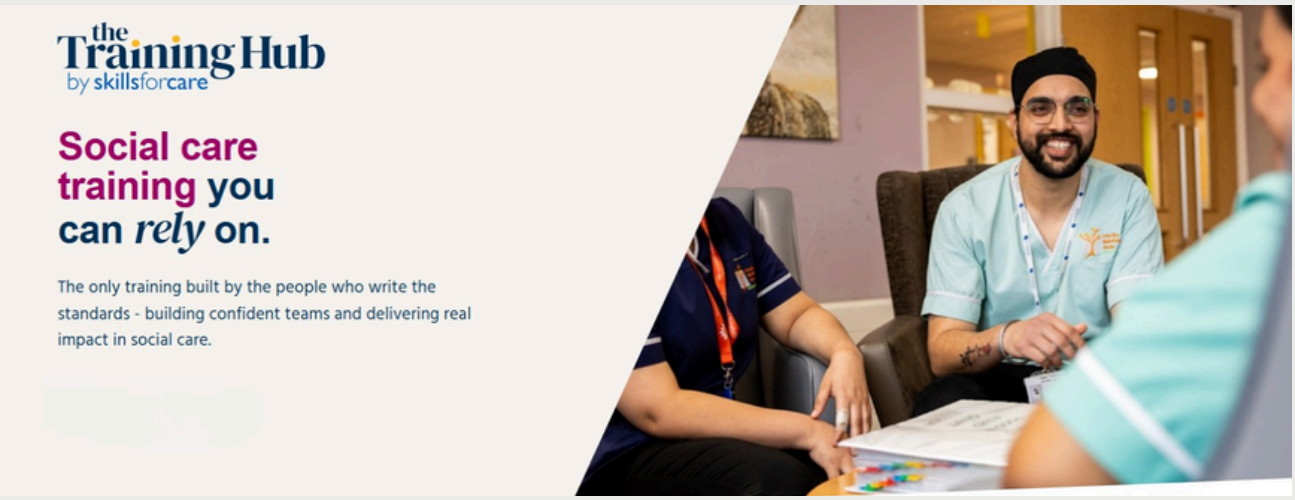
To find out more please visit: **The Digital Care Hub**

LIVE WEBINAR

Book Now!

FREE EVENTS THIS MONTH

skillsforcare



Care leaders tell us they want training that's credible, sector-informed and future-proof. They need solutions that are affordable, easy to implement, and aligned with regulation. And they value partners who understand the realities of care.

The Training Hub by Skills for Care is built to meet exactly those needs.

What makes Skills for Care's training different?

Skills for Care's training is different because it's built by the people who help shape the standards for adult social care. We developed the Care Certificate, support the Care Workforce Pathway, and work with government, Care Quality Commission (CQC) and employers to help define what good care looks like. That means our learning is up to date, rooted in real sector insight, and designed around the realities and pressures care teams face every day. It's fairly priced, easy to use, and every penny of profit is reinvested back into improving social care.

To find out more visit: **The Training Hub**

LIVE WEBINAR

Book Now!

THE 3RD ANNUAL EAST SUSSEX CARE AWARDS

THURSDAY 19 NOV 2026 6:30 PM - 11:30 PM
EAST SUSSEX NATIONAL GOLF & SPA CENTRE, UCKFIELD, TN22 5ES





GALA DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT
A formal three-course dinner with a live MC host and high-quality entertainment throughout the evening. Further details to be revealed.



AWARDS
A carefully curated programme celebrating the very best in adult social care, with categories recognising new starters, experienced professionals, exceptional leadership and innovation.



CELEBRATE WITH YOUR CARE COMMUNITY
An opportunity for providers to take their teams out to recognise their achievements, connect with other services, and celebrate alongside fellow providers, leaders and industry representatives.

THE EVENING WILL INCLUDE A WELCOME DRINKS RECEPTION, THREE-COURSE DINNER, AND A PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS CEREMONY HOSTED BY A PROFESSIONAL MASTER OF CEREMONIES, RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS AND TEAMS ACROSS TWELVE AWARD CATEGORIES.
THE EVENING WILL ALSO FEATURE ENTERTAINMENT AND A CHARITY RAFFLE IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL DEMENTIA CHARITIES — HELD ALONGSIDE THE INTRODUCTION OF OUR NEW DEMENTIA CARE AWARD FOR 2026.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!!


BONFIRE NIGHT
TO-DO LIST
STAY WARM STAY SAFE
1. Plan a safe firework display
2. Update my online passwords
3. Complete my DSPT and Cyber Essentials
HAVE FUN. STAY SAFE.
LOOK AFTER EACH OTHER.

FOLLOW US ON eventbrite



STAY UP TO DATE WITH OUR LATEST WEBINAR RECORDINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS.

ALL OUR EVENTS ARE FREE, AND PLACES FOR SOME IN-PERSON TRAINING WORKSHOPS ARE LIMITED, SO SIGN UP EARLY AND BE THE FIRST TO HEAR WHAT'S COMING UP!

CONTACT US



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