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.

CYBER ESSENTIALS FOR SOCIAL CARE PROVIDERS

Many social care providers are already familiar with the Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT), but may be less clear on how Cyber Essentials fits alongside it.

Digital technology and better access to data can improve people's well-being and help tackle financial and workforce pressures in social care. However, the increased use of technology in social care has brought new risks as well as many benefits.



The name cyber security itself can be off-putting, even a little scary. The words seem to imply it is only for specially qualified, very technical professionals and not for others because it is just too complicated. This is not the case!

The **National Cyber Security Centre** puts it well:

Cyber security is about *"protecting the devices we all use (smartphones, laptops, tablets and computers), and the services we access – both online and at work – from theft or damage".*

Good cyber security consists of taking action to reduce the risk of cyber attacks and safeguard data. This is vital for ensuring the quality and safety of care and support.

Do you want to learn how Cyber Essentials and the DSPT work together to strengthen cyber security across social care?

Join our session, on **Tuesday 6th October**, which will introduce Cyber Essentials and Cyber Essentials Plus, explaining how the schemes complement the DSPT and support stronger cyber security across your organisation.

Cyber Essentials starts with a self-assessment process covering practical areas such as firewalls, secure configuration, software updates, and user access controls. Cyber Essentials Plus then takes this a step further with independent testing of your systems and devices.

Whether you are completely new to Cyber Essentials or already considering certification, this session will give you a clearer understanding of what is involved and how it could benefit your organisation.

What will be covered:

- The most common cyber threats affecting organisations today
- What Cyber Essentials is and how the certification works
- The five key security controls involved
- The difference between Cyber Essentials and Cyber Essentials Plus
- How Cyber Essentials and the DSPT work alongside each other to support better cyber security across your organisation
- How certification can help build trust with clients, partners, and commissioners
- Why organisations with Cyber Essentials are less likely to make a cyber insurance claim
- The free cyber insurance included with certification



Book now 6th October

CYBER ESSENTIALS READINESS TOOL

There is a good FREE tool that can be used online to help you think about cyber security within your organisation. Each question will prompt you to consider a different aspect of security which will protect your organisation against threats from the internet. To answer a question, simply make a choice from the dropdown.



COMMUNICATE CLEARLY DURING A CYBER INCIDENT

The Digital Care Hub have launched new resources to help adult social care providers prepare their communications before a cyber incident happens. The resources include separate checklists for home care and residential care services, and are designed to sit alongside a provider's Business Continuity Plan.

When a cyber incident happens, people can feel under pressure very quickly. Systems may be down, information may be unclear and staff, families, commissioners and suppliers may all need updates at the same time. In that moment, it is easy for people to panic or say too much too soon, or forget about a key contact. The checklists give providers a simple structure to follow, helping them decide who needs to be contacted, what should be said and when the next update should follow.

Daniel O'Shaughnessy, Head of Delivery at Digital Care Hub, said:

"A cyber incident is not just a technical problem. It can affect care, staff confidence, family trust and the ability to keep services running. That is why communications planning is an important part of business continuity planning. Providers need to know who they will contact, what they will say, when they will update people and how they will reach them if normal systems are not working. Even basic things, like keeping contact details up to date, can make a real difference in a crisis."

The checklists cover the practical steps that are easy to overlook until they are needed. They prompt providers to identify key roles, keep printed and offline copies of important contacts, agree back-up communication routes, prepare short holding statements and practise their response at least once a year. They also include prompts for the first few hours of an incident, stakeholder updates and post-incident review.

To read more and to access the Communications Checklists, please visit: **The Digital Care Hub website.**

You can also book yourself a **FREE** **Digital HealthCare Check.**



See below for the next available dates.

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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**

LET'S CLOSE THE 10% GAP!!





BECOME A DPO HERO TODAY!



Book a 1:1 support meeting with a member of our team to get your toolkit published

Just 1 hour of your time is all it takes

BOOK YOUR IN PERSON OR REMOTE 1:1 MEETING NOW!

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
October Dates available.....

MONDAY 5TH OCTOBER
WEDNESDAY 7TH OCTOBER
FRIDAY 9TH OCTOBER
MONDAY 12TH OCTOBER
WEDNESDAY 14TH OCTOBER
FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER
MONDAY 19TH OCTOBER
THURSDAY 22ND OCTOBER
MONDAY 26TH OCTOBER
TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER

TO MAKE A BOOKING PLEASE CONTACT

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PARTNERS IN CARE MEMBERSHIP OFFERS!!

The WSPiC membership consists of care providers of Residential, Domiciliary, Nursing, Learning Difficulty and Mental Health homes. We work closely with West Sussex County Council and are passionate about being a voice for our members and the people they care for.

Members can access exclusive content and resources such as template documents and a library of training resources to benefit their service and people they care for.

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS TO SUIT YOU

Whether you want to stay informed, develop professionally, or access exclusive organisation-wide benefits, ESPIC has a membership option designed for you.

The ESPIC **Care Network** is free and open to care providers who want to stay informed and connected.

Associate Membership is for individual managers and deputies who want to develop professionally, access learning opportunities and connect with peers across the sector.

Gold Membership is designed for organisations that want to support their whole service, not just one individual.

TO FIND OUR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MEMBERSHIP PACKAGES THEN PLEASE VISIT THE CARE ASSIOSATIONS WEBISTES

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

SESCA South East Social Care Alliance

WEDNESDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2026

AUTUMN CONFERENCE: INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND COMPLIANCE

Due to the demand for this topic, we are delighted to be hosting this autumn conference supported by SESCA with a focus on international recruitment, workforce development and compliance.

skillsforcare

WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER

NURSE PRESCRIBING IN ADULT SOCIAL CARE

This webinar explores nurse prescribing in adult social care, sharing regulatory, educational and practical insights, plus learning from the DHSC-funded pilot to support organisations developing nurse prescribing.

Digital Care Hub

THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER

EVERYDAY TECH, HIDDEN RISKS: CYBER SECURITY & DATA PROTECTION

Join us to explore some of the unexpected and hidden data protection and cyber security risks, when using every day tech in social care.

CARE ENGLAND

WEDNESDAY 7TH OCTOBER

FRAUD BY ABUSE OF POSITION: RECOGNISING THE WARNING SIGNS AND PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

This webinar will explore how Abuse of Position occurs, who is most at risk, the warning signs to look out for, investigative case studies, and practical steps individuals, families, carers and professionals can take to prevent exploitation.

CARE ENGLAND

TUESDAY 20TH OCTOBER

CARE WEBINAR - HAVE YOU PREPARED FOR THE DIGITAL SWITCHOVER?

With the January 2027 Digital Switchover deadline fast approaching, now is the time for care providers to make sure they are ready.

LIVE WEBINAR

Book Now!



CARE MANAGERS – SAVE THE DATE!

FOUR BIG TOPICS. FOUR BIG SPEAKERS. ONE BIG MORNING!

Thursday 15 October

09:00–12:30

Field Place, Worthing

The next WSPiC Managers Forum is packed with the issues that matter to care providers right now:

- HR & employment law changes
- CQC Dementia Strategy
- Safeguarding in adult social care
- The ICB & future commissioning

PLUS updates from Sussex Digital, Skills for Care, the Sussex Cares project & WSPiC.

Great speakers. Important updates. Useful conversations. And the chance to connect with fellow care managers from across West Sussex.

Book your place today!





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