



DSPT
Better Security.
Better Care.



Digital
Care Hub



BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Milton Keynes
City Council



**Bedfordshire, Luton
and Milton Keynes**
Health and Care Partnership

Digital Newsletter



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Digital Care Hub updates

The state of cyber security in adult social care

The Government has launched an important evidence review of the state of cyber security in the care sector. [The state of cyber security in adult social care](#) provides critical insights into the challenges faced by care providers and highlights areas for improvement. This report outlines the progress made in raising awareness and strengthening defences, while also identifying gaps that still need to be addressed.

Read more here: [The state of cyber security in adult social care - Digital Care Hub](#)

New report looks at how local authorities monitor and support care providers with cyber security

Digital Care Hub's Better Security, Better Care programme in partnership with the regional Association of Directors for Adult Social Services, has released a new report exploring how local authorities help adult social care providers follow good data and cyber security practices.

With cyber threats increasing across the sector, ensuring care providers handle data securely is more important than ever. Our latest survey provides valuable insights into how councils are supporting care providers – and where more help is needed.

Find out more here: [New report looks at how local authorities monitor and support care providers with cyber security - Digital Care Hub](#)

First ever Cyber Game launched for Social Care staff

Don't forget to check our first every cyber game for Social Care staff.

Offering a free, fun and engaging way to learn about cyber security and data protection.

Find out more here: [First ever Cyber Game launched for social care staff - Digital Care Hub](#)

Get ready for Celebrating Social Care month

This April Skills for Care is once again #CelebratingSocialCare focusing on the amazing people who work in care, and Digital Care Hub is joining the celebrations – and we encourage everyone to do the same.



Over the month, we will be celebrating digital innovators – care providers who are pushing ahead with smart, safe use of digital technology and data.

Get involved with celebrating Social Care Month here: [Celebrating Social Care](#)

Subscribe to our LinkedIn newsletter

Don't forget to sign up to our Digital Care Insight's newsletter on LinkedIn!

"Subscribe to the [Digital Care Insights newsletter](#) for digital sector insights!"

"Subscribe to our [LinkedIn newsletter](#) for key insights on policy & tech"

BLMK ICS updates

Robotic pets provide comfort and companionship for local residents

With funding from NHS England, the Digitising Social Care programme at Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Health and Care Partnership is evaluating the impact of RoboPets on adults receiving social care. Delivered in partnership with Health Innovation East and the University of Hertfordshire, the project aims to understand the acceptability, usability, cost-effectiveness and impacts as the devices are adopted in a range of settings.

Expressions of interest were welcomed from local care home and domiciliary care providers who work with adults living with or experiencing challenging behaviour, cognitive impairment, communication difficulty or dementia. Individuals receive a robotic cat, dog or bird, and the care providers commit to working with the research team to understand how the devices are used.

RoboPets can have a positive impact on wellbeing and quality of life and support people to live independently for longer. Responding to sound and touch and interacting through realistic movements, they provide a calming influence, give people greater independence and confidence, and improve mental health and wellbeing.

As of February 2025, 484 devices have been delivered to 56 different care locations, with more scheduled to be delivered shortly. The care providers are already reporting how the RoboPets are providing company and a sense of connection, helping to reduce anxiety and encouraging social interaction.

Expressions of interest are still being accepted from care providers that meet certain criteria. The study will run until March 2026 and the findings will be published shortly afterwards. Read the full article [Robotic pets provide comfort and companionship for local residents - Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care System](#)



Whzan Blue Box


Whzan online drop-in sessions will now be taken over by Solcom (the provider of Whzan).

If you have a Whzan kit and need any support around training, please do drop into one of the sessions-

When- Every Tuesday

Time-2pm

Where- Teams meeting – see below flyer (no need to book)



CARE HOME SUPPORT HOUR


TUESDAYS 2PM BEGINNING 11TH FEBRUARY 2025

Beginning in February, Whzan are offering an online care home support hour every Tuesday at 2pm.

Rachel Forster will be on hand to offer advice and training on using the Whzan Blue Box as follows:

- Adding new residents
- Adding new users
- How to reset your password and user name
- How to use the NEWS2 score, RESTORE2 and other features
- Integrating with Nourish and Person Centred Software to reduce workload and eliminate duplication
- Any other questions

Brian Martin, our NHS experienced Paramedic who has helped install and support the Whzan Blue Box in hundreds of care homes will also be on hand. He'll be offering his considerable experience and support for using the NEWS2 score system, soft signs and general questions about the health and wellbeing of your residents and care home colleagues.



You can send questions in advance by sending your query to WhzanTuesday@Whzan.com

This will also be an opportunity for you to share your experience and learning with colleagues from other care homes across the country.

[PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR YOUR TEAMS ACCESS](#)

Meeting ID: 364 256 789 759 - Passcode: Mr9Au9zu

BLMK Local Support Organisation Data Security Protection Toolkit

Support offer

Data Security Protection Toolkit (DSPT)

The Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT) helps adult social care providers in England to check and improve how they keep people's information safe. It is the official self-assessment tool for the care sector and is widely recognised by CQC, local authorities and the NHS.

Care providers must review, update and republish their toolkit assessment at least once every year, otherwise it goes out of date and it is invalid. We recommend that this is kept up to date throughout the year, especially if providers have introduced new systems or services. Providers can make changes to toolkit questions and republish at any time throughout the year. However, the toolkit does have to be published *at least* once every toolkit year. **The updated DSPT for 2024-25 is now available** – so it is a great time to complete your DSPT assessment.

Better Security, Better Care is a national and local support programme to help adult social care providers to store and share information safely. It covers paper and digital records and focuses on helping care providers to complete the Data Security and Protection Toolkit – the annual, online self-assessment.

As a care provider, the programme will help you to evaluate and improve your data and cyber security. This means you can reassure the people you support and their families, your staff, commissioners, regulators, and health and care partners, that you are following good practice – and meeting legal and regulatory requirements.

You do not have to be a data or digital expert to get support. The programme can support you – wherever you are on your data security journey.

Watch a video that explains more about the DSPT

<https://youtu.be/yyZ5qikJXWg?si=CBicKpgur6XbjWKR>

You are not alone, and the team is here to help

All of the information can be overwhelming, it can be hard to know what you need to do. The DSPT is a great way to take a birds eye view of your policies, processes and procedures and work through it in one. You can have peace of mind that you are doing everything you can to protect people's info.

Follow the Beds Care Group website link to contact the team, check your DSPT Status and access a range of resources. [Data Security Protection Toolkit \(DSPT\) - Bedfordshire Care Group \(bedscaregrouppltd.co.uk\)](#)

Follow the link to find out more: [Benefits - Bedfordshire Care Group \(bedscaregrouppltd.co.uk\)](#)

Visit the Digital Care Hub webpages here –
[Data Security - Data Protection and Cyber Security - Digital Care Hub](#)



Digital Care Hub provides advice and support to the adult social care sector on technology, data protection and cyber security. Visit the website [Digital Care Hub - Run by social care providers for social care providers](#). which offers:

- Data and Cyber Security – free guidance, tools and advice to help you understand your data protection and Cyber Security arrangements
- Funding Opportunities
- Skills and Training
- Resources – download documents to support you with digitisation.
- Connectivity, Software and Equipment – Find information about internet connectivity, different types of care software and hardware.
- Data Security and Protection e-learning.

Welcome 1:1 support

Contact the team, we are here to support

Email SCHHServicedevelopment@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



Drop-in sessions

Digitisation has become central to how care and support is being provided and it is increasingly important that all Care Providers have access to the right tools and support.

Come along to our drop-in sessions over lunch!

Every Tuesday's between 12:00-13:00.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 372 182 179 741

Passcode: UNKnYM

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)



- Your Digital Lead will be on hand to answer any questions you might have around any of the digital initiatives.
- If you want to know what you should be doing about Data and Cyber Security, we can help!
- You don't need to attend the full hour, however long suits you!

For more information, please contact

SCHHServicedevelopment@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Access presentations and webinar recordings on the Better Security, Better Care programme

You can access a range of pre-recorded webinars to support you through your DSPT. [Presentations and webinar recordings - Digital Care Hub](#)

Digital Social Care have also collated all of the questions from the webinar series in to one comprehensive Q&A on link: [Answer DSPT questions | Digital Care Hub](#)

Care Groups: Check your DSPT now – you could be missing out

Calling all care groups: have you recently completed your Data Security and Protection Toolkit? Have you included all your branches and sites within your DSPT?

If not, they will not be covered by your DSPT publication.

We are aware that some large care groups have not added branches to their DSPT publication. It's an easy thing to overlook – but don't worry, it's also an easy thing to put right.



Read more here: [Care groups: check your DSPT now – you could be missing out - Digital Care Hub](#)

DSPT guidance videos

We have added two videos to the DSPT online guidance:

This is a quick guide to registering and publishing the DSPT for care groups with multiple sites.

[DSPT for multi-site organisations](#)

How to publish or republish, and share your DSPT assessment with staff, Care Quality Commission inspectors, commissioners, people drawing on your services and family carers.

[How to publish and share your DSPT, including how to access the certificate.](#)

DSPT video guides

Digital Care Hub have updated the DSPT guidance to include videos on answering DSPT questions. You can see these in each section. As you will see, the videos cover a group of questions on a related topic - such as data protection policies and privacy notices - rather than one video per question. We hope this enables care providers to understand the connections between questions.

You can view the videos under Answer DSPT

questions: <https://www.digitalcarehub.co.uk/dspt/answer-dspt-questions/>

We do hope that the revised guide helps you to complete your DSPT, but if you need more support, please contact SCHHServicedevelopment@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Webinars coming up

Using the DSPT for the first time

This webinar is for care providers who have never used the DSPT before. 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 standard
- Access free, official support from the Better Security, Better Care programme.

Dates include:

- 31st March 10.30hrs – 12.00hrs
- 7th April 11.00hrs – 12.30hrs
- 14th April 11.00hrs – 12.30hrs

For further information and to book a space email:

SCHHServicedevelopment@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Review & republish your DSPT

Because things change, you need to review and republish your toolkit every year so that it reflects your current data and cyber security arrangements. For example, you may have introduced new staff, data systems, technology or services – which in turn will impact on how you manage your information.

This webinar is for care providers who have published before and are reviewing and republishing their DSPT. It will cover what has changed within the Toolkit for 2022/23, as well as how to:

- Login to your DSPT account
- Review your DSPT – including what is different if you were previously published at Entry Level or Approaching Standards
- Complete to at least Standards Met
- Publish your DSPT standard
- Access free, official support from the Better Security, Better Care programme.

Dates include:

- 27th March 10.30hrs – 12.00hrs
- 4th April 11.00hrs – 12.30hrs
- 11th April 11.00hrs – 12.30hrs

For further information and to book a space email:

SCHHServicedevelopment@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

National webinars

The central team host regular monthly introductory webinars around DSPT, cyber security, data protection and other related topics with recordings available on the website.

www.digitalcarehub.co.uk/events



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The Better Security, Better Care programme provides national and local support and training to help care providers to complete the Data Security and Protection Toolkit.

Digital Care Hub have also developed an e-learning course for staff on data security. This course will enable care providers to meet the training requirement within the DSPT. [Data Security And Protection In Social Care Course](#)

Hosting regular webinars on completing the DSPT for the first time and how to review and republish your DSPT. Read more here: [DSPT training and webinars - Digital Care Hub](#)

Caldicott Guardian Learning Network

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

The purpose is to provide support to all those across the care sector who have the Caldicott Guardian role as part of their jobs, offer a networking, sharing and learning space for them all as well as promote the role as best practice and the importance of having one/ access to one in social care services. To encourage and explore innovation in relation to the role and influence future ways of working.

Thursday 3rd April

12pm

Book Here: [Caldicott Guardian Learning Network - Digital Care Hub](#)



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help@digitalcarehub.co.uk

10 of 10

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