



March 2021

Better Security, Better Care: free local support to care providers

As a care provider, you know how important it is to have access to good information about the people you support and your staff. In order to store and share that information safely, you need to be confident that your paper and digital records are secure.

[Better Security, Better Care](#) is a freely available programme to help care providers to improve their data and cyber security. I am delighted to say that, as part of this programme, Bedfordshire Care Group and Central Bedfordshire Council has been awarded a grant by [NHS X](#) to provide free support to local care providers in your area.

We know that you are under enormous pressure as you continue to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. So, we don't want to add any extra burdens. Instead, we offer free support to help ensure that all the information you store and share – including information about COVID-19 that you share with health colleagues – is secure.

Additionally, CQC has issued interim guidance on their website about Cyber Security and make it clear that they will expect, in the future, providers to have completed the toolkit. See link of the [interim guidance](#).

- We can help you to reassure the people you support, their families and your staff that they can trust you with their data
- reduce the risk of suffering from cyber-crime and data breaches
- carry out your annual self-assessment of your data and cyber security arrangements using the nationally-recognised [Data and Security Protection Toolkit \(DSPT\)](#)
- identify areas where you need to improve, and support you to develop an improvement plan
- comply with data protection legislation and Care Quality Commission's expectations on confidentiality and security
- demonstrate to your commissioners, health partners and inspectors that you meet data and security standards
- ensure ongoing access to [NHSmal](#) so that you can share information with your health and care partners.

We recommend that you register for updates from Digital Social Care – a provider-led group that is providing national level support to the Better Security, Better Care programme.

[Register for Digital Social Care updates.](#)

You can also contact us directly at:

Email SCHHServiceDevelopment@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Please keep an eye out for details of upcoming workshops and webinars that are due to take place over the coming months.

We do hope that you will find our support to be valuable to you. Digital and data security is a major issue for our sector and no matter where you are on your data security journey, we can help.