Building Cyber Security Resilience Across the NHS

Paul Barnes, Head of Operations and Engagement - Cyber Security
16 September 2021

B
R HS

Pau yber Security
16 S

Where we started

Where we started

- This wasn’t about Windows XP
- Most systems affected were unpatched Windows 7
- Resilience was there in the health and care system, but…
- Communications became a challenge as organisations disconnected from the network
- In the absence of a plan people made their own decisions

Significant progress

Increasing our central ability to monitor and assure, but we need to go further …….

Cyber Security Operations Centre (**CSOC**), with oversight of the NHS desktop estate

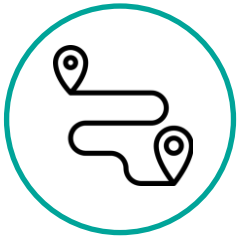
Data Security Protection Toolkit (**DSPT**) - mandatory annual reporting against cyber standards

High Severity Alert (**HSA**) process, allowing us to track remediation to alerted vulnerabilities

Regulatory powers over Trusts under Network and Information Systems (NIS) Regulations

Central offer of support, including firewalls, backup reviews, and bespoke technical remediation

What we have done



On-site assessments

MS Defender for Endpoint

NHS Secure Boundary

Enhancement to Cyber Security Operations Centre

Response metrics and messaging

MS Office licensing

Data Security Protection Toolkit

MS Windows Licensing

Covid challenges

- Roll-out of remote working at scale and pace
- Increased reliance upon technology
- Global rise in ransomware
- Importance of backups
- Massive datasets – Test and Trace / Mass Vaccinations
- Supply chain risks – SolarWinds “Sunburst”
- Health and care is no longer sacrosanct

Recent cyber attacks on health

The threat landscape

Ransomware

Hostile nation state activity

Criminal cyber groups

Current priorities

- **Removal or reduction of unsupported systems**

  Including versions of Windows 10 that are going out of date

- **Responding to High Severity Alerts when they are issued**

  Ensuring systems are patched and up to date

- **Having in place robust, reliable, and immutable backups**

  In line with National Cyber Security Centre guidance*

Strong cyber security is a non-negotiable part of transforming health and care.

**Offline backups in an online world - https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/blog-post/offline-backups-in-an-online-world*

Connect with us

NHSX Cyber team contact:
cybersecuritysupport@nhsx.nhs.uk

Paul Barnes
paul.barnes@nhsx.nhs.uk