**Better Security, Better Care North East and Yorkshire Research**

**Research aim and objectives**

The aims of this independent research project are to inform policymakers and ensure any future support programmes address the specific needs of social care providers when it comes to:

• Protecting data

• Managing digital infrastructure

• Implementing cyber security policy

The research requirements were identified by consensus at an Innovation Design Session held on 11th June 2024 with key programme stakeholders.

The region is currently 9% ahead of the BSBC programme target for DSPT compliance; this provides opportunities to evaluate a broader range of quality metrics. These metrics can then be used to identify areas of vulnerability and need which could be addressed through programme support in April 2025 and beyond.

As part of the research, we are conducting a ‘DSPT Health Check with Implementation Support’ project which aims to improve social care providers understanding of the effectiveness of their cyber security policies and procedures and provide any recommendations.

These findings (in conjunction with the Rapid Insights into Social Care Cyber and Data Security survey and North East Business Resilience Centre pilot) will develop an evidence base, which can be used in the development of future support models.

This NHS England North East and Yorkshire Digital Transformation team have commissioned the Health Innovation Network NENC to deliver this in partnership with commissioned programme stakeholders. In addition, the project team consists of: Leeds Care Association, Kirklees Care Association, the North East Business Resilience Centre and Durham County Council.

Working collaboratively and involving social care providers is critical to delivering impactful research.

**Taking part in a DSPT Health Check with Implementation Support**

For most participants, the commitment required is a short on-site visit, as well as viewer access to 19 DSPT self-assessment evidence items and supporting documentation.

These informal health checks will look at your cyber security arrangements and provide recommendations for how your organisation could improve its existing digital infrastructure and manage risks. There will be no on-site remediation as part of the visit, however, you will receive both an action plan and recommendations after the visit.

**Participation Disclaimer**

• No organisationally identifiable details of findings will be shared outside of the research team.

• Any reports written using research project data will anonymise details so no organisations can be identified.

• The DSPT status cannot be altered as part of the health check and implementing recommendations remains an organisational decision for the participating social care provider.

• The only instances where we would be bound to report findings would be if illegal material was found stored on digital devices. E.g. Indecent and obscene content.

**What we will use the data for**

The data collected through the Health Check and Implementation Support process will be analysed to meet the aims and objectives of our research described above. It may be reviewed and discussed in project team meetings between colleagues.

**Right to withdraw**

You have the right to withdraw at any time during the ‘DSPT Health Check and Implementation Support’ project without explanation. However, it will not be possible to delete any data you provide once it has been anonymised for analysis.

Thank you for considering participating in this research project.

**Disclaimer**

Should you wish to participate in this research project, please review the following statements, and sign below to confirm your agreement:

o I confirm that I have read the research information for the above study, and I have had the opportunity to consider the information.

o I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to stop taking part in the study at any time without giving any reason and without my rights being affected.

o I understand that I have the right to withdraw my data from this study, until the data is anonymised for analysis.

o I understand that my data will be accessed by the project team.

o I understand that my data will be securely stored on a password-protected computer in line with the Health Innovation North East North Cumbria’s and NHS England’s retention policy.

o I understand that the research will not identify me in any publications and other study outputs using personal information obtained from this study.

o I understand that the information collected about will be used to support other research in the future, and it may be shared in an anonymised form with other researchers.

By signing below, you agree to participate in the above study and please include your social care organisation name in the editable space below.

Social care organisation:

