

Adult Social Care Supply Chain Cyber Resilience – Invitation to Tender

1. Background

Better Security, Better Care (BSBC) is a national programme to improve data and cyber security in the Adult Social Care provider sector. It is led by a programme board whose members include NHS Transformation Directorate, NHS Digital, NHS England and Improvement, the Local Government Association, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) and, on behalf of the care provider sector, Digital Social Care. You can find out more about the programme [here](#).

The BSBC programme supports the adult social care sector with resources and assistance to help care providers complete the Data Security & Protection Toolkit (DSPT). The DSPT is a free, online self-assessment for health and care providers to evaluate and improve their data and cyber security. It is an ambitious programme with the aim that all CQC registered Adult Social Care services will have completed the DSPT to 'standards met.' There are 26,000 care providers registered with the CQC and over 1.5 million staff working in care. The programme is delivered by a diverse group of care sector organisations, including many local care associations, with colleagues from the NHS, ADASS and local councils also involved.

With the Adult Social Care sector being so diverse, this also means the supply chain is equally as broad. As the sector becomes more digitised cyber security becomes an increasing issue and understanding the supply chain is necessary to gain the fullest picture of Adult Social Care and ensure that every area can be as protected from cyber threats as possible.

2. Programme vision

To help adult social care services manage data and cyber security risks better, enabling the benefits of digital technology to be enjoyed without putting people's confidential information or the operation of services at risk.

To provide the assurance needed to allow health and social care providers to share information securely and effectively, leading to joined up care and consequently to better quality of care for the people our services support.

To develop and promote the Data security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT) as the best way for social care providers to achieve these aims.

3. Purpose of this project

In 2022, a ransomware cyber attack occurred affecting a software supplier to health and care providers, resulting in loss of service on several infrastructure hosting

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products. The sector is likely to be impacted by similar incidents in the future as more providers embrace digital products to improve care. This project will deliver an analytical report on the resilience and consistency of the Adult Social Care supply chain. This will allow Better Security Better Care and the sector to build on the lessons learned from the recent incident and provide further security and protection to the Adult Social Care supply chain, which will in turn better protect the sector.

4. Project objectives

- I. To gather and analyse best practice in sector-level supply chain cyber resilience policy (UK, but also international); capturing practices which could be applicable to UK Adult Social Care.
- II. To produce a framework for understanding the cyber resilience of the UK Adult Social Care supply chain.
- III. To produce a data-set and initial picture of the supply chain cyber resilience in the UK Adult Social Care. This will contribute an understanding of critical suppliers in digital or who are critical and operationally dependent on digital and technology.
- IV. To identify and analyse the key gaps and areas of improvement for the cyber resilience of UK Adult Social Care's supply chain.
- V. To produce recommendations on the above, and what could be done to raise standards within limited resources.

5. Timescales

EOI deadline	4 December 2022
Submission review and clarifications	5–8 Dec 2022
Grant award by	8 December 2022
Project go live from	9 December 2022
Project complete by	31 March 2023

6. Budget

The maximum available budget for this work is £75,000 (inclusive of VAT).

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7. Expression of Interest

Potential suppliers are welcome to contact us for an initial discussion before submitting a formal expression of interest. Expressions of interest are to be submitted in writing to nadiasiouty@digitalsocialcare.co.uk by the closing date (please use attached application form and note word limits for each section).

Expressions of interest must include the following information:

- Company details
- A brief summary of relevant experience
- A summary of how you would approach this work and the process you would propose to follow
- Outline project plan with timescales
- Breakdown of proposed project budget including resource costings

Expressions of interest will be reviewed by a group which may include representatives from any of the programme partners listed in the background above. The submissions scoring will be weighted towards those who can demonstrate relevant experience in the social care sector.

Experience	50%
Project Delivery	30%
Budget	20%