

Supporting adult social care providers to complete the Data Security and Protection Toolkit.

Invitation for expressions of interest from care associations and similar care sector organisations.

1. Introduction

Digital technology helps care services spend more time caring. It helps the people we support keep control of their lives, and of their care. And in recent months, the need for information to be shared securely and efficiently between health and care services has become even more apparent. But there can be risks – for example how information is kept safe and secure, and what happens if a digital system fails.

Over the last two years, Digital Social Care has worked with the Local Government Association, NHSX and NHS Digital to explore these risks and how care providers can best be supported to manage them. The aim of the programme is for the benefits of digital technology to be enjoyed without putting people's confidential information or the operation of services at risks. You can read more about the programme's most recent work [here](#).

The Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT) is a free, online self-assessment for health and care providers to evaluate and improve their data and cyber security. The DSPT will help ensure that policies and systems are secure and meet data security and CQC requirements. It will also help care providers manage risks and share information with other health and care services with peace of mind.

A new version of the DSPT for social care will launch in October that's specifically designed for adult social care providers. There will be lots of useful guidance linked to the Digital Social Care website, relevant for all types of care and support services, including residential and nursing homes, supported living, homecare, extra care, shared lives and day services. The new version of the DSPT will be relevant for services for older people and equally for services for adults of working age.

A programme of support for the sector will also launch in October 2020, with resources and assistance to help care providers with the DSPT. It's an ambitious programme with the aim that, by October 2021, all CQC registered adult social care services in England will have completed the DSPT or be well on the way to doing so. Services that are not CQC registered, such as day services, will also be able to take up some of the support.

This is a very ambitious target and it will only be achieved if the programme is truly owned and led by the sector itself. For this reason, the Programme Board has agreed that funding for local support and regional coordination should be specifically allocated to care associations, or to other organisations that would be seen as being very close to the sector.

Expressions of interest are therefore now invited from such organisations for the provision of DSPT support to adult social care providers during the period October 2020 to October 2021.

Two types of activity are needed:

- Local support; and
- Regional coordination.

It should be noted that:

- Organisations are invited to express an interest in delivering either or both types of activity.
- Section 5 of this paper gives more detail about the types of organisation which are invited to express an interest.

2. Local support

The detailed design of the programme is still being developed. However, it is anticipated that the activities to be carried by the organisations providing local support will include:

- Promoting the DSPT to the sector.
- Encouraging local providers to sign up for national webinars, eLearning, guidance etc.
- Directly supporting local providers with the DSPT, for example through interactive, practical online workshops.
- Offering 1:1 support to providers who are in need of additional support.

Full guidance and support will be provided by the programme to the organisations delivering these activities. This will include learning materials, workshop formats, guidance for 1:1 support, and monitoring systems. Therefore, while some prior experience of supporting providers with work of this kind would be an advantage, in-depth technical knowledge is not necessary.

It is assumed that at least the great majority of activity will need to be completed remotely.

3. Regional coordination

The programme will have a regional structure which follows the regional structure of NHS England. The seven regions are:

- North East and Yorkshire
- North West
- Midlands
- East of England

- South East
- South West
- London

We would like to appoint one organisation in each region to have a regional coordinating role. This is likely to include:

- Bringing together the organisations providing local support in different parts of the region to encourage shared learning, mutual support and encouragement, consistency of approach etc.
- Organising, servicing and being a member of a regional implementation group with key partners, in particular the NHS England Aging Well team and ADASS.
- Providing a link between those partners and the organisations providing local support across the region.
- Leading or supporting regional events or publicity.
- Working with the programme management to find solutions if problems occur or gaps in support develop within the region.
- Channelling feedback to the programme nationally.

The regional coordinating role is likely to be more suitable for organisations which have prior experience of working across a number of different localities, rather than for example only having experience of work in one local authority area.

Please note that an organisation may not submit expressions of interest in providing regional coordination in more than one region.

4. The wider programme

Alongside local support and the regional support function, there will also be national leadership and activity. This will include independent expert support from the Institute of Public Care at Oxford Brookes University (IPC). IPC's role will include developing learning materials, leading a national webinar programme, and "train the trainer" activity for those providing local support.

Larger national providers will be supported directly by Digital Social Care, rather than by those providing local support. Digital Social Care will also operate a national helpdesk and knowledge base and will coordinate all the relevant guidance on the website.

5. Organisations invited to express an interest

The overall criterion is for an organisation to be "a care association or to be another type of organisation that would be seen as being very close to the sector." This criterion is viewed as primarily including the following types of organisation:

- Care associations.
- Local organisations which provide support to care associations, or to established groups of care providers who may not themselves be legally constituted.
- Local councils expressing an interest on behalf of a care association or on behalf of some other group of providers which is not in a position to express an interest on its own behalf.

It is also possible that local support could be provided by more informal groupings of care providers who have agreed to work together for this purpose and which have agreed one of their number as the lead organisation for funding purposes. However, providers who are considering such a proposal should be aware that the Programme Board would view this as a challenging proposition for the providers concerned. While the possibility is not ruled out, there would be substantial scrutiny of any such proposal to ensure that it had a good chance of success.

Finally it should be noted that the initial aim is to appoint local organisations. However, if there are areas of the country where suitable local organisations are not available, the Programme Board will seek to make arrangements with relevant national organisations instead.

If you are unsure whether a proposal from your organisation would meet the programme's criteria, please contact cyberproject@rnha.co.uk for clarification.

Local councils who would like to discuss possible arrangements in their area are invited to contact Edmund Willis at the Local Government Association for an informal discussion via socialcaredigital@local.gov.uk.

6. The appointment process

Organisations which may be interested in delivering local support and/or regional coordination should complete and submit the Expressions of Interest form by 10am on Tuesday 1st September 2020. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Organisations which would appear to be suitable potential providers of local support and/or of regional coordination will then be asked to submit more detailed proposals during September. It is anticipated that the period for preparation and submission of proposals will run from Thursday 10th September 2020 to Thursday 24th September 2020.

The Programme Board will assess proposals and may wish to hold clarification discussions with some or all applicants. The Board's aim will be to confirm successful appointments by Friday 9th October.

It should be noted that the Programme Board may, at any point, ask one or more organisation to consider amending their expression(s) of interest or their subsequent

proposal(s) in order to achieve a configuration that would lead to a more coherent or manageable overall provision of local support for the programme.

7. Funding arrangements

The budget for this programme is held on behalf of Digital Social Care and other members of the Programme Board by the Registered Nursing Home Association (RNHA). Organisations which are appointed as a result of this process will be required to sign a funding agreement with the RNHA. The form of agreement and key terms will be confirmed at the point at which detailed proposals are invited in September.

The RNHA will directly fund each organisation appointed to provide local support or regional coordination. Funding will not be channelled via the organisations which are providing regional coordination.

8. Requests for clarification

Requests for further information or clarification should be sent to cyberproject@rnha.co.uk as soon as possible. Responses that may be relevant generally will be published on the Digital Social Care website in week beginning 24th August 2020. Requests for clarification received after Friday 21st August 2020 may only be responded to if they relate to the specific circumstances of the organisation making the request.

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