



Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 19th December 2022

Our Approach to Cyber Security

1. This information bulletin is to provide awareness and assurance to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny that Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have the appropriate approach to Cyber Security to help us mitigate any risk associated with a Cyber Attack.
2. Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils take a Defence in Depth approach in regards Cyber Security.
 - 2.1. This is a series of defensive mechanisms that are layered together to protect us. If one mechanism fails another will step in in its place.
 - 2.2. This multi-layered approach with intentional redundancies increases security as a whole and addresses many different attack vectors.
 - 2.3. This layered approach is applied at all levels of our IT system, from the lone laptop accessing the internet from a non-work location to the security of 6000+ user Wide Area Network.
3. Babergh and Mid Suffolk, in conjunction with Suffolk County Council test these layers regularly.
 - 3.1. A quarterly, full network scan, looking for vulnerabilities.
 - 3.2. An annual IT Health Check.
 - 3.2.1. This Annual IT Health Check is run by a third party who tests from both off-network (externally) and on-network (internally as a user) perspectives.
 - 3.2.2. This internal/external test provides us with a holistic view of the rigour of our security controls.
4. Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are compliant with both Public Sector Network¹ and the NHS Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSP)².
 - 4.1. Public Sector Network Compliance is a security accreditation required by UK Government so that we can attach to and send data across the Public Sector Network, thus enabling us to work closely with Central Government Bodies, including but not limited to DWP. The PSN compliance process exists to provide all members with the assurance that data is properly protected and that if things go wrong, they will be put right quickly.
 - 4.2. All organisations that have access to NHS patient data and systems must use NHS Data Security and Protection toolkit to provide assurance that they are practising good data security and that personal information is handled correctly. The Data Security and Protection allows organisations to measure their performance against the National Data Guardian's 10 data security standards.
 - 4.3. The Annual IT Health Check supports the determination of Compliance in regards both the above Accreditations.

¹ [Public Services Network \(PSN\) compliance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

² [Data Security and Protection Toolkit \(dsptoolkit.nhs.uk\)](https://dsptoolkit.nhs.uk)