



NATIONAL
CYBER
RESILIENCE
CENTRE
GROUP

NCRCG
**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2023-2024



ABOUT NCRCG AND THE CYBER RESILIENCE CENTRE (CRC) NETWORK

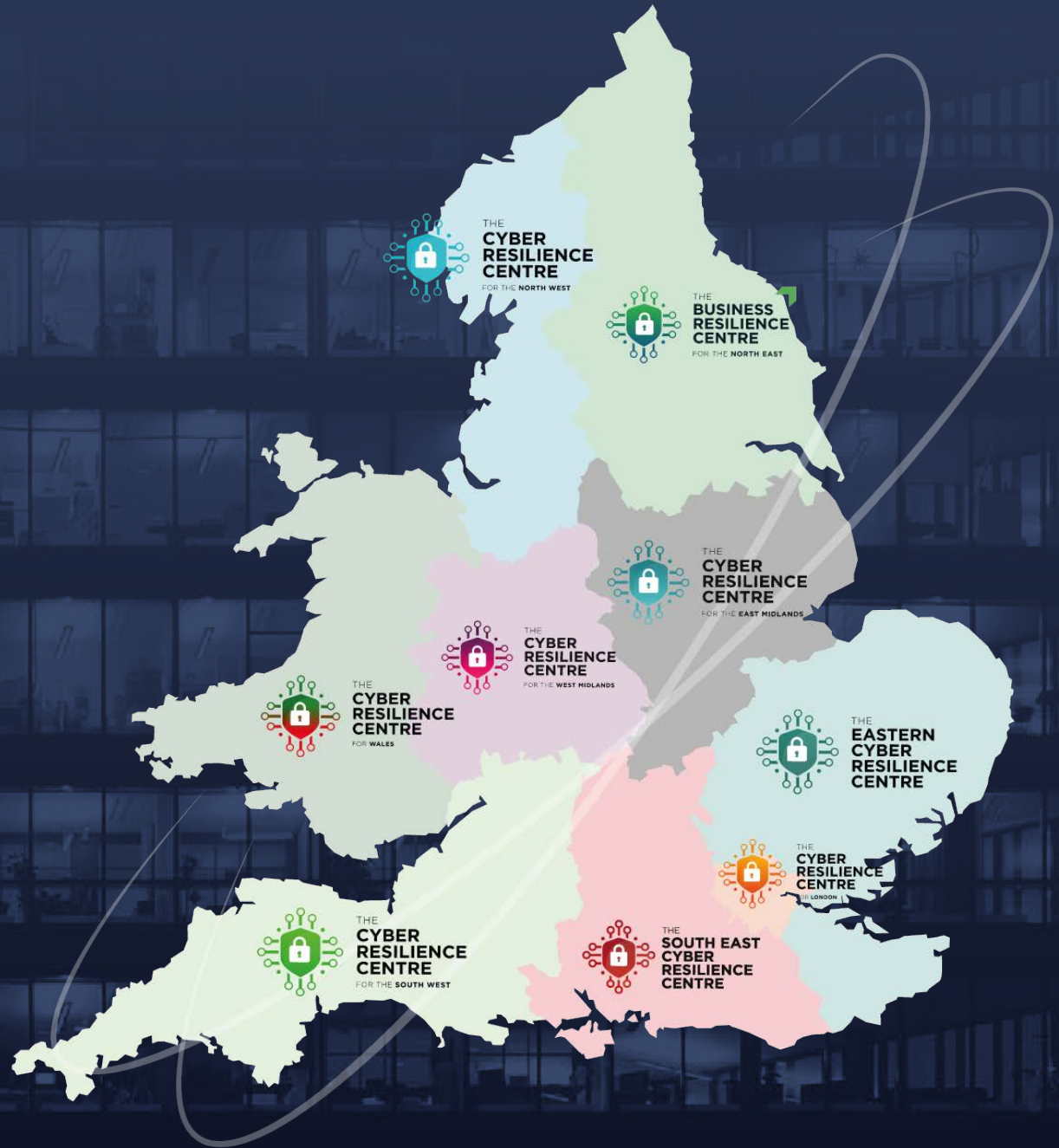
National Cyber Resilience Centre Group (NCRCG) is a strategic collaboration between the police, government, private sector partners and academia to help strengthen cyber resilience across the nation's small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) community.

NCRCG forms part of the Cyber Resilience Centre (CRC) network, alongside nine regional centres which operate across England and Wales. The centres carry out extensive engagement with the SMEs in their localities, providing free guidance and advice to registered members around cyber resilience, as well as providing affordable,

high-quality services. These services are delivered by NCRCG's Cyber PATH student team, under the supervision of senior cyber security practitioners.

This first step of membership, encouraging SMEs to join a regional CRC community, is free. Funded by Home Office.





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FOREWORD



**CITY OF LONDON POLICE
TEMPORARY COMMISSIONER AND
DIRECTOR AT NCRCG,
PETE O'DOHERTY**

Cybercrime is something that can impact on any individual, family or business anywhere in the country. Being a victim of a cybercrime may not only cause a measurable financial loss but it commonly leaves those impacted feeling violated and vulnerable.

As police, it is our job to investigate cybercrime wherever it happens. We are and will continue to do all we can to bring cybercriminals to justice.

However, as technology advances so too does cybercrime. Cybercriminals are using increasingly sophisticated techniques to launch attacks and cause the maximum disruption. This does not mean we should fear or cower to cybercriminals; quite the opposite. We must work together to make our UK economy as strong as possible so that it is impenetrable to these often faceless and placeless perpetrators.

As individual citizens, business leaders or business owners, we must take responsibility for building our own cyber defences and making ourselves as resilient as possible. But, in order to do this, it is absolutely essential

that high-quality, trusted and accessible advice and support is made available to those who need it.

For sole traders, micro, small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs), and the third sector, cyber typically feels like a labyrinth and businesses can't see an obvious place to start. With SMEs making up around 99% of private sector businesses in the UK, and with many understandably without dedicated crime prevention cyber expertise, it is clear where help and guidance must be directed. NCRCG and the nine regional centres have been set up to provide exactly that.

Each police-led regional centre acts as a first port of call for SMEs who know they need to do something to strengthen their cyber resilience but don't quite know what. Importantly, the network also acts as a conduit between policing and the SME community, helping to raise awareness of the importance of cyber resilience amongst those who might not yet see it as a priority.

As the lead force for the National Cyber Crime programme, the City of London Police plays a key role in supporting and developing NCRCG and the wider CRC network. It enables policing to get in front of those harder-to-reach SMEs and not only extol the importance of cyber resilience, but provide high-quality guidance and support on how they can go about strengthening their cybercrime resilience.

SMEs have a myriad of challenges and priorities they are juggling and we know that cyber threat is something that commonly falls by the wayside. As a nation, when it comes to tackling cybercrime, we are only as strong as our weakest link and so we are working to make sure each link in our economy is as strong as the next.





INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR, JAMES THOMSON

Over the past 12 months, NCRCG has continued to develop its support for the regional CRC network, working closely with National Ambassadors and rolling out Cyber PATH.

With all nine regional centres up and running, the CRCs have made a strong start in embedding themselves within their regions and have proven to be effective in engaging with SMEs, a community which, through no fault of its own, is often harder to reach than larger organisations. By the end of March 2024, across the CRCs, over 10,500 SMEs have signed up as members and as a result are receiving free, high-quality support and advice on cybercrime resilience.

On behalf of NCRCG and the wider CRC network, I would like to thank all those individuals, intermediaries, trade and regional bodies who are engaging with the regional CRCs, making introductions and promoting the resources available to SMEs.

NCRCG has been working to help achieve consistency across the regional CRC network and, through the National Ambassador programme, help ensure all centres benefit from the insights, experience and resources of larger national organisations. A warm welcome in particular to Aviva and SAS which most recently joined the NCRCG fold as National Ambassadors as we complete this report period.

In October 2023, we held the second annual Cyber Resilience Centre Network Summit at the Guildhall in the City of London, bringing together police leads from across the regional centres, with the Home Office, our National Ambassador partners and the City of London Police. The event was an opportunity to reflect on what the CRC network has achieved but also the need and potential for it to grow – and how we can go about doing that.


We have also seen an excellent expansion of our elite talent pipeline programme, Cyber PATH, with 72 students from universities across the country having benefited from this unique initiative to date. Not only are students gaining vital workplace experience and going on to take up their chosen jobs, but they are helping to shore up SME's cyber defences across the country. As evidence of the strength of our Cyber PATH cohorts, recent graduate Sophie Powell was named Cyber Student of the Year 2023.

NCRCG's efforts on these fronts were spearheaded by Detective Superintendent Nick Bell, who stepped down from his role as CEO in October 2023 ahead of his well-deserved retirement after thirty years of policing service. Nick has played a vital role in establishing this world-first initiative and, testament to his success, was recently named 'Outstanding Senior Director' at the Tackling Economic Crime Awards 2023. We would like to thank Nick for his brilliant work in establishing NCRCG and look forward to

continuing to keep in touch with him.

I am delighted to have appointed Detective Superintendent Ian Kirby as our new CEO. With Ian at the helm, I am confident that NCRCG and the wider CRC network will go from strength to strength. What has been done so far in establishing this first-of-its-kind model is nothing short of phenomenal. Now, with firm foundations in place, we want to do more. And we will do more.

Thank you to all those who are involved in this pioneering initiative between policing, the private sector, education and the Home Office. This Annual Report for 2023-24 sets out what has been achieved over the course of the year, as well as our bold ambitions for the future.



As our work this year has shown, we have a proven model; and now is the time to push it out to all those who need it.

NCRCG AND THE WIDER CRC NETWORK'S IMPACT*



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

DETECTIVE SUPERINTENDENT
IAN KIRBY

75%

of **CRC engagement** is with organisations with **less than 50 employees** – exactly the market we are looking to reach

The network is working with **over 22 university** partners as part of our talent pipeline programme Cyber PATH...

...and benefiting **72 students** to date

Supported by **10 National Ambassadors partners**, with extensive reach across the financial, legal, retail and technology sectors

*At March 2024

NCRCG BOARD



NICK BELL

FORMER

*Chief Executive Officer
Detective Superintendent*



IAN KIRBY

*Chief Executive Officer
Detective Superintendent*



JAMES THOMSON

Non-Executive Chair

*Chair of the Police Authority Board,
City of London Police*



ANGELA MCLAREN

Non-Executive Director

*Commissioner,
City of London Police*



PETE O'DOHERTY

Non-Executive Director

*Temporary Commissioner,
City of London Police*



NIK ADAMS

Non-Executive Director

*Temporary Assistant Commissioner,
City of London Police*



ANDREW GOULD

Non-Executive Director

*Detective Chief Superintendent - NPCC
National Cyber Crime Programme Lead*



CHRIS BELL

Non-Executive Director

*National Fraud and Cyber Crime Reporting
and Analytics, City of London Police*

NCRCG NATIONAL AMBASSADORS*



*At March 2024



*With one in four crimes now cyber-related, cybercrime is something that is unfortunately likely to affect us all at some point in our lives. At **KPMG**, we want to make sure we are having a real and positive impact on the people and places around us, and with deep sector expertise in cyber, we have both a corporate and social responsibility to leverage our skills, thinking and insights in this field. Being an **NCRCG Ambassador** enables us to combine these two drivers and help ensure we are catalysing progress to benefit society.*

GRACE HULSE,
Senior Manager in Incident Response at KPMG

*The main reason I believe **NCRCG** and **SANS** Institute values align so closely is due to both organisations continuously working to help and give back to the cyber security community. Both **NCRCG** and **SANS** are working across the public and private sector space to build a national talent pipeline of students and to equip the next generation of those who will tackle cybercrime with the essential skills and knowledge to be cyber security professionals.*

SHARIF GARDNER,
Head of Training and Advisory Services at SANS
Institute





Using business techniques for crime prevention, not building business for police.

OUR STRATEGY

At **NCRCG** we retain **three key objectives**

1



Strategically engage policing with the business community to aid crime prevention and facilitate our collective delivery of the National Cyber Strategy;

2



Strengthen nine regional CRCs, providing them with support to create a sustainable local model whilst preserving their regional identities;

3



Develop Cyber PATH – a national student services programme to support the delivery of cyber resilience across the regions and build a workplace-ready talent pipeline in cyber.

OBJECTIVE 1: STRATEGICALLY ENGAGE POLICING WITH THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Forging links between the regional centres and international business

A key reason why we at NCRCG set up the National Ambassador programme was so that we could be a conduit to connect regional centres with national and international companies, facilitating knowledge sharing and collaborative working. There have been some excellent examples of where this has happened to great effect this year.

For example, in October, Microsoft supported an in-person Ransomware Cyber Day hosted by the Cyber Resilience Centre for Wales. This saw law enforcement, public authorities and the private sector take part in an interactive workshop to discuss how we can best address ransomware attacks and the barriers to reporting cybercrime. Feedback from the workshop was extremely

positive and we look forward to our National Ambassadors co-delivering similar events across the network in future.

Our National Ambassadors have in turn welcomed representatives from the CRC network to meet with their own teams. In October, CGI held a networking and stakeholder event which was attended by Simon Newman, CEO of the Cyber Resilience Centre for London, and Mandy Haeburn-Little, Vice-Chair of the National Ambassador Steering Group. There, the pair gave an engaging presentation about the work of the network and how CGI employees can lend their support.

A PILOT WITH THE VERY GROUP: ENGAGING SUPPLY CHAINS IN CYBER RESILIENCE

All of our National Ambassadors have extensive supply chains and customer bases and part of our joint aim is to encourage these businesses and individuals to engage with the regional centres. We are, therefore, pleased to have launched a pilot with The Very Group, beginning in March 2024, to achieve exactly this ambition. The Very Group has selected a group of suppliers which will be working closely with the West Midlands Cyber Resilience Centre over a two-month period. Throughout the pilot, we will be measuring the supplier's engagement with the centre and monitoring the progress they make in strengthening their cyber resilience, with the intention of rolling this initiative out across The Very Group's supplier base.

AVIVA AND SAS JOIN NCRCG RANKS

To find out more about our **National Ambassador Programme** or to refer your enterprise partners please email: enquiries@nationalcrcgroup.co.uk

We have been continuing to expand our National Ambassador programme this year and are delighted to have welcomed Aviva and SAS on board as National Ambassadors to form part of our impressive and growing cohort of partners. We also have a strong pipeline for new applicants.

Aviva is one of the UK's leading insurance, wealth and retirement businesses and serves over 18 million customers whilst SAS is a global leader in AI and analytics software.

"SMEs make up the vast majority of businesses in the UK. From a cyber perspective specifically, that's the area where I feel that we are able to add more value to SMEs, where there is a greater need to have our involvement and where we can make a much more meaningful difference for them. Bigger businesses have much more in the way of resource, capability and understanding in this space, but it's SMEs where we see there being the biggest knowledge gap. That's the segment, for example, that buys cyber insurance at the lowest frequency. We

see it as being part of our corporate responsibility to help move the dial."

Stephen Ridley, Head of Cyber at Aviva



"There is much happening across industry, academia and government to strengthen the resilience of the UK's digital economy. For example, in January 2024, the UK Government initiated a consultation on a Cyber Governance Code of Practice intended to support directors to drive greater cyber resilience across their businesses. NCRCG represents a critical part of this wider collaborative approach to educate, support and improve cyber resilience across the UK's small and medium-sized business community."

Caroline Barnett, Principal Industry Consultant (Intelligence, Defence and Law Enforcement) at SAS UK



FACILITATING KEY CONVERSATIONS WITH POLICING AND INDUSTRY LEADERS ON CYBERVERSED

Our CyberVersed podcast has continued to develop over the past year attracting a host of expert guests. Significantly, the podcast has been downloaded in 46 countries evidencing its international reach and the real interest our work, and the work of our partners, is receiving from the global community.

We have welcomed a number of our National Ambassador partners onto the podcast, including representatives from Microsoft, NatWest Group, Mastercard and SANS Institute. Alongside this, we have conducted a series of roundtable discussions drawing together policing, our National Ambassador partners, CRC leads and Cyber PATH students in one informed conversation.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024-25



National Ambassadors to represent a fuller range of sectors including legal, logistics, construction and the third sector;



Deliver our first national ambassador awareness campaign to help recruit core members to the regional centres;



Build on our pilot with The Very Group which encourages their suppliers to engage with the CRC network - and, in doing so, strengthen their cyber resilience - by rolling out the initiative across their supplier base.



OBJECTIVE 2: STRENGTHEN NINE CRCS AND SUPPORT THEM IN CREATING A SUSTAINABLE LOCAL MODEL

“To continue to grow, it is important that we are doing all we can to galvanise the SME community and encourage more businesses to sign up to their regional centre. At a national level, we also need to continue building those essential strategic partnerships so that we can access the types of skills, expertise and resources required to achieve cyber resilience across the UK. It is by no means an easy or straightforward task, but I am confident we are taking – and will continue to take – positive steps forward.”

**Temporary Assistant
Commissioner Nik Adams, City of
London Police**



DELIVERING THE SECOND NATIONAL CRC SUMMIT

In October, representatives from senior policing, government and industry joined together at the prestigious City of London Guildhall for the second annual National Cyber Resilience Centre (CRC) Summit.

The Summit gave policing leads from across the CRCs the chance to engage in shared conversations with one another, as well as with NCRCG’s National Ambassador partners, senior Home Office officials and senior police officers.

The Summit made clear the importance of the network’s mission, particularly when it comes to engaging with SMEs as one of the hardest-to-reach sectors, as well as the need and impact of private-public sector partnerships in the cyber resilience arena.

“At CGI, cyber security is part of everything we do – and we support our clients in making sure it’s also part of everything they do. Being an NCRCG National Ambassador is, therefore, something that aligns very well with our values. Through events like the CRC Summit, we are able to bring our knowledge, expertise and personality to the table, but importantly, hear from and collaborate with other Ambassador companies to ensure a consistent voice in cyber resilience across the nation.”

**Maxine Bulmer, Vice President for
Consulting Delivery in CGI’s Cyber
Security Practice and NCRCG
National Ambassador**



PARTNERING WITH ACADEMIA TO BOOST THE NETWORK'S UNDERSTANDING OF SME ENGAGEMENT

In November, we welcomed on board our very first Researcher in Residence, Detective Inspector Martin Wilson.

The newly-established Researcher in Residence position marks NCRCG, and the wider CRC network's, commitment to conducting high-quality, academic research around SME engagement in cyber resilience – alongside providing technical advice. With around 10,500* SMEs registered with the CRC network, it is essential that we are using informed, academic research to determine the best ways to engage and communicate with this growing SME base.

The Researcher in Residence role is informing the network-wide strategy for members that will

help us to measure the impact and success of the network, and identify areas where members can benefit from further support. Importantly, they will use their academic learnings to structure and deploy the survey in a way that will be accessible and engaging for members. Also, to protect our SMEs from survey fatigue.

Our Founding Researcher In Residence

In his role, Detective Inspector Martin Wilson will be contributing published research to the CRC network, completed as part of his ongoing PhD studies at Abertay University. Martin is highly experienced in the field of

cybercrime, having been a Cyber Protect officer for the North East Regional Organised Crime Unit, and has been working at the North East Business Resilience Centre (NEBRC) since 2019.

Through his research, Martin is looking specifically at human-computer interactions in smaller businesses and the reasons why SMEs can often appear hesitant or reluctant to engage in conversations around cyber resilience. These understandings will be used by NCRCG and the wider CRC network to inform our approach to SME engagement – making the process both more efficient and more effective.

“I am very proud to be appointed NCRCG's first Researcher in Residence. Since I began working in cybercrime, I have always been focused on how we can prevent cybercrime from taking place and best engage individuals and businesses across our communities so they can better protect themselves. Not only is this research therefore of real interest to me but it is also something I am confident will improve the way the CRC network is communicating with SMEs.”

Detective Inspector Martin Wilson, NCRCG Researcher in Residence

WORKING WITH PARTNERS TO EMBED CYBER RESILIENCE ACROSS THE REGIONS

Each centre across the network benefits from the invaluable support, at Board level and beyond, of individuals with experience in the public, private and third sectors who share in our ambition to entrench cyber resilience across the regions. Here, some of these individuals and partners explain why they chose to get involved.

“City, University of London’s employability unit identified London CRC as a great partner for our Cyber Security and Computer Science students to get hands-on training which can increase their career and employability prospects. Our initial engagement through the Cyber PATH programme was very fruitful and the University

recognised this as a strategic partnership and provided a home for London CRC to host their offices at City campus. This has resulted in multiple levels of engagement not only in education, but also in research, community outreach and policy impact by working and supporting some of the innovative London-based SMEs with their cyber security needs.”

Professor Muttukrishnan Rajarajan, Professor of Security Engineering and the Director of Institute for Cyber Security at City, University of London



“I joined the Board of the South East CRC in late 2022 after hearing about the centre’s excellent support of local business and education. It was immediately something I wanted to get involved in and, with a professional background in cyber security, I knew it was an initiative to which I could positively contribute.

As a company, HP represents a unique space in the marketplace and I am able to channel the expertise and insights we have to the CRC. By way of an example, 70% of all known cyber attacks start at “endpoint” devices, whether that is a computer or a printer. As a leading manufacturer of these devices, HP captures detailed and cutting-edge information

on endpoint attacks which I am able to share for the benefit of the CRC and its membership.”

David Scutt, Head of Software Sales EMEA for HP and Non-Executive Director at the South East Cyber Resilience Centre



“

I got involved in the East Midlands CRC through Peter Goodman, the former Chief Constable of Derbyshire Constabulary who, as the National Policing Lead for Cyber Crime, saw the real value of the initiative and asked me to lend my support. As police, we are able to bring legitimacy to the CRCs and knowledge of the broader criminal landscape, both across cyber and beyond it.

Cyber is different from most traditional crimes in that it can be perpetrated remotely, it is typically ‘faceless’ and it can be automated. However, as a result, this means that cybercrime is often relatively uniform. This lends itself to the CRC network model and reinforces how important it is for us to be

working together as a collective to share best practice across the country.”

**Chief Superintendent
Dave Kirby of Derbyshire
Constabulary and Chairman
of the Cyber Resilience
Centre for the East Midlands**



THE
**CYBER
RESILIENCE
CENTRE**
FOR THE EAST MIDLANDS



A SPOTLIGHT ON THREE REGIONAL CENTRES

Engaging charities in the simple and free steps towards cyber resilience

Detective Superintendent Vanessa Eyles, Managing Director of the Cyber Resilience Centre for the West Midlands*

Over the past 12 months, our team has really been putting in the hard yards to get out and about across our region – from Malvern and Worcester to Hereford, Birmingham and Solihull – and have face-to-face conversations with businesses about their cyber resilience. We’ve had real success with this approach and doubled the number of our free core members.

One of the sectors we are particularly focusing on is the third sector. Charities pride themselves on having a positive and trustworthy reputation, however, a successful cyber attack is something that can completely devastate a reputation. Therefore, we are trying to engage with as many charities as possible and highlight the simple and free steps they can take to strengthen their cyber defences.

As an example of how we’re doing this in practice, we conducted a bespoke webinar specifically aimed at charities with the support of one of our Board members Gary Thomas, Director of Children and Family Services at National Youth Advocacy Service, and some of our fantastic partner organisations. We spoke with over 20 charities about the importance of safeguarding the significant and sensitive information they hold and how they can best go about this.

We want to make sure everyone feels like they have a place within our sector and, equally, that West Midlands CRC is a place they can go to for support that is high-quality yet proportionate to their needs.



**At March 2024*

Knocking on the doors of micro businesses

Detective Superintendent Paul Peters, Director of the Cyber Resilience Centre for Wales

We're very proud of our work at Wales CRC over the past 12 months, and in particular the strong partnerships we have built with government, policing and community organisations. Since our launch, we have been working closely with the Welsh Government – as referenced in the most recent Cyber action plan for Wales – and in 2023 received Welsh Government funding to employ a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) on secondment at the centre, dedicated to improving cyber resilience in the social care sector.

We have also seen our core membership continue to grow and now have over 2,625 members. The vast majority of businesses we're looking to engage with aren't part of umbrella organisations but are 'one-person bands' or micro businesses. Therefore, we've found the most effective way to reach them is to

go and knock on their door!

Our team links in with local PCSOs and Cyber Protect officers; they choose a high street or industrial estate and go from business to business, engaging them in conversations around cyber resilience. With micro businesses, we explain how our free membership helps them focus on taking simple but key steps – such as enhancing their password security and being vigilant to phishing emails.

Throughout my nearly 30 years in policing, I have spent many years running investigations into cybercrime and, whilst in some cases attacks are highly complex, it is often poor password security and phishing emails that enable cybercriminals to access networks.



THE
**CYBER
RESILIENCE
CENTRE**
FOR WALES



Embedding cyber resilience across the supply chain

Former Detective Superintendent Paul Lopez, Managing Director of the Eastern Cyber Resilience Centre

Supply chain weakness is one of the main threats to any business. You may get a business at one end of the supply chain who has incredibly robust cyber security practices, but if there is a weakness at the other end it's going to wreak havoc for all.

In our region, there are seven police forces and 8,000 businesses supplying goods and services to those forces. Currently, there isn't a strict requirement for these providers to evidence the cyber policies they have in place or the commitment they have to ensuring their cyber security.

We have, therefore, worked closely with each of the seven forces to agree a Memorandum of Understanding which states that their "Tier 1" or direct

suppliers should join the Eastern CRC. This, of course, is only the first step but is very much a step in the right direction. Our ultimate aim - which we hope to achieve over the coming year - is to make membership of our centre a mandated requirement for all suppliers.

At the Eastern CRC, we are also proud to work with some outstanding partners who share our ambition to embed cyber resilience as a reality across the region. One of our long-established Board members, Richard Helliwell, is Chief Information Security Officer of the East of England Co-op and, as a result, we have been able to support both the organisation and its supply chain in becoming stronger players in cyber hygiene.



THE
EASTERN
CYBER
RESILIENCE
CENTRE



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024-25



5,000 days of Cyber PATH services delivered by March 2027;



10,000 SMEs to take up Cyber PATH services by March 2027;



100,000 SMEs to be signed up as members across the network by March 2027;

OBJECTIVE 3: DEVELOPING CYBER PATH



CYBER PATH™
POLICE & ACADEMIA
TALENT HORIZONS

Building an elite talent pipeline in Cyber Resilience

Across the UK economy, there is a real and prominent cyber skills shortage. To make sure we are building a cyber resilient economy for future generations, this is something that needs to be addressed now and quickly. Cyber PATH is delivering on that ambition.

The programme gives young people the opportunity to work alongside senior Security Practitioners to deliver affordable and high-quality cyber resilience services to SMEs. At the same time, students are equipped with the essential skills, knowledge and on-the-job training they need to succeed in the workplace upon graduation. Notably, they learn how to communicate with non-technical colleagues and instill in them the understanding

and confidence they need to navigate technical issues.

Over the past 12 months, we have seen 24 students graduate from Cyber PATH and go on to take up employment at a range of top destinations across the public and private sector. This has included in the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, Siemens, Dyson, Barclays and the Eastern Cyber Resilience Centre.

To date, 72 students have been involved in the programme, 13 of which are alumni. Over the coming year, we are aiming for a minimum of 100 students to be participating in Cyber PATH at any one time and to inspire more careers in National Ambassador and SME organisations.



CYBER PATH STUDENT CROWNED CYBER STUDENT OF THE YEAR 2023

Sophie Powell graduated from Cyber PATH in 2023 after achieving a Cyber Security degree from the University of Warwick. She is now a Graduate Cyber Security Consultant at Cyberfort Group and has co-founded a non-profit business, CyberWomen Groups C.I.C. For her work, Sophie was named Cyber Student of the Year 2023 by the National Cyber Awards.

*“I learnt about **Cyber PATH** through one of my lecturers at university and it was an opportunity I grabbed with both hands. As a programme, it really stood out to me because of the professional experience it provides. Being able to develop strong client-facing skills, as well as my confidence in a workplace setting, was hugely beneficial. It’s also something that really helped my CV to stand out – as a university student, I could say I had delivered **Security Awareness Training** and used **Open-Source Intelligence** in a live scenario which is very unique!”*

WHAT THOSE WITH EXPERIENCE OF CYBER PATH SAY ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

“Cyber PATH is the opportunity of a lifetime. From developing your cyber resilience knowledge and skills, to building your personal network, to directly supporting SMEs, the opportunities the programme offers are exceptional.

“The genuine kindness and passion the Cyber PATH supervisors show towards students rivals the most devoted teachers and lecturers – they really want to see you thrive and make the most of the experience. I would absolutely recommend joining Cyber PATH!”

Cyber PATH student Dominic Johns, who is studying an MSc in Computer Systems Security at the University of South Wales

“The services did exactly what we hoped for with the added bonus that I feel I can call on the Cyber Resilience Centre and Cyber PATH team if I need help or guidance at any time. We definitely have better awareness and understanding of the cyber risk to our business and I would encourage all other businesses to take advantage of the advice and services on offer. Don’t wait to have an attack before you act.”

Jon Paul-Sanders, Operations Manager at Apsley.

Apsley is a small manufacturing company from a Vulnerability Assessment and Internet Discovery via the South East Cyber Resilience Centre



“Cyber PATH is exceptional. Not only does it mean that, across the CRC network, we can provide relevant and affordable services to businesses, but it enables students to gain real-life work experience so from the moment they complete their degree they are employable.”

Detective Superintendent Vanessa Eyles, Managing Director of the West Midlands Cyber Resilience Centre





LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024-25



Minimum of **100 students** in full-time higher education participating in Cyber PATH at any one time;



Steady stream of recruitment into law enforcement and SME careers;



1,000 days of Cyber PATH services delivered by March 2025.





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