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AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

BORDERS COLLEGE REGIONAL BOARD

Subject: Cyber Security Update	**Purpose:** **For Approval** ☐ **For Discussion** ☐ **For Information** ☒
Prepared by: Scott Moncrieff, Head of ISLT	**Date:** 17 November 2021

Purpose: To provide Audit Committee with an update regarding College Cybersecurity enhancements.

Linked to Strategic Ambition: Create high quality learning and training opportunities which are relevant, enabling and flexible

Performance Measures: Delivery models are personalised focusing on individual & business need

Linked to Strategic Risk Register: 3a - Information Management

New Risk Commentary:

Executive Summary:

The provision of a high quality, technically resilient ICT infrastructure is an essential component to support the College in securing its systems and data and ultimately enabling a high quality learning experience.

In recent years we have taken substantial steps to enhance our cybersecurity and the below report provides the Committee with an update in relation to some of the work undertaken in recent months to further enhance our network and data.

These updates below provide information on

- Server/Data Migration to DataVita
- Cyber Essentials Plus Accreditation
- Office 365 backups
- Cyber Insurance.

Recommendation: Members are asked to review the paper which reflects continuing progress on cyber security, and note the revised date for DR testing to Easter 2022. The audit follow up report will be amended to reflect this.

Previous Committee Approvals:
none

For publication ☒	**For publication with redactions** ☐	**Not for publication** ☐

Server/Data Migration

In October we completed the migration of all our servers from our on premise solution to Data Vita taking advantage of all the benefits that a dedicated data centre can provide in terms of power, network and infrastructure resiliency as well as many layers of cyber protection.

As part of the services provided by Data Vita we have BaaS (Backup As A Service), meaning that our backup solutions are fully managed using online and offline methods, this means we have a much more efficient way to restoring data in the event of someone deleting a file/folder by mistake as well as having 'offline' backups which provides us with a segregated instance where any potential cyber threat could not be penetrated should our live environment become infected.

Data Vita also provide us with DRaaS (Disaster Recovery as a Service) meaning we have our data residing in a secondary data centre which replicates with our live environment every hour. Should any major incident occur within the primary data centre then we will be fully operational again within 4 hours. This is a major benefit to the College and significantly enhances our business continuity plan.

DRaaS is live and we are currently working with Data Vita and all areas of the College to fully test this as it is suggested the test should last at least 4 days with a 4 hour outage either side. We plan this full test by Easter 2022 with an annual test occurring each summer.

Lastly Data Vita also provide us with a managed service in relation to our server updates. This means that all our operating system updates on all our servers will be fully automated and monitored by Data Vita and our internal ISLT team.

Cyber Essentials / CE+

We have successfully achieved the first part of our Cyber Essentials accreditation for 2021, this has involved completing in excess of 50 questions based on our network, security and processes.

The next stage is gaining Cyber Essentials + accreditation which will involve working with our security partner Barrier Networks and providing evidence on a selection of the questions. We aim to complete this by Christmas meaning we will have gained the Cyber Essentials + accreditation for the third year running. This demonstrates we are at the minimum level set out by the government for Cyber protection. With the work we have completed in recent years on our protection we are confident that we not only meet that level, but in many areas, exceed it.

Having accreditation demonstrates to students, partners and any potential businesses that we take Cyber Security and the data of our staff and students seriously and provides them with the confidence when working or studying with us.

Office 365 Backups

We are in the process of receiving final quotes from Vendors to provide a backup solution for our O365 data. Now more and more of our data is starting to reside on this platform, it is imperative that we have a backup solution in place should a Cyber incident occur. The cost is expected to be within acceptable parameters.

Cyber Security Insurance

To enhance our Disaster Recovery in the event of a cyber-attack we are looking at options for Cyber Insurance cover as the risk has grown significantly in recent years.

The main risk of a cyber-attack would be an inability to access any data until restored by our ISLT team – this would make day to day operations virtually impossible in the meantime. Although mitigated by the transfer of data storage to DataVita it does not eliminate that risk.

In additional to the time spent recovering the data, the high cost in relation to the expertise in assisting the college with the recovery and identifying the source of the attack will be covered in any policy taken out.

Our current insurer – Zurich – does not offer this policy, however there are 2 framework suppliers that are able to provide. These are Education Protect (who provided a quotation last week) and CCRS who will be able to quote once we have returned their request for information. It is intended to present these quotations for consideration shortly. The cost is expected to be within acceptable parameters.