

Network Defence Builds UK-wide Secure VPN for Leading Care Charity

VPN for Community Integrated Care links 70 remote sites, will be extended to 230; complete content security solution also deployed

“Network Defence’s consultative approach helped us to build on our existing infrastructure, delivering a solution that we can roll out to all our sites.”

Chris Monday, IT Director at Community Integrated Care (CIC)

Key Benefits:

- Improved access to head office systems for remote sites
- Enhanced overall network security
- Enables CIC to centrally manage and apply internet security policies company-wide
- Maximising bandwidth availability
- Reducing security risk

The Challenge:

CIC, established in 1988, is a leading charity that targets homelessness and helps people at risk or with disadvantages to integrate and live independently in the community. CIC has over 3500 employees and an annual turnover of £65 million. It is the 51st largest charity in the UK, and the second largest charitable service delivering social care to people with special needs.

With such a large number of remote sites and employees needing access to head office systems, CIC needed a uniform, secure and scalable method of delivering remote access, over a mix of connections with the intention to rollout the solution to all of its 230 UK sites by the end of 2005.

As well as being able to manage and apply their Internet security policies across the whole of the company.

The Solution:

CIC selected Network Defence for the VPN project because of their IT and data expertise as well as their history of providing IT and service support to them for a number of years and was the first choice to tender for CIC's VPN project.

Network Defence's recommended solution was implemented as it met CIC's key requirements for security and flexibility; fit their network setup and complied with data security standards. It was also the most cost effective and scalable solution for future requirements.

The 3-month project, planned and executed by systems integrator Network Defence, also included deployment of Web and email filtering on CIC's network and anti-virus software upgrades.

Network Defence deployed Cisco PIX firewalls at CIC's head office in Widnes, Cheshire and Cisco VPN routers at remote sites. Staff uses the VPN to access head-office applications including email, personnel and accounting systems using Citrix MetaFrame thin-client software, which minimises bandwidth usage and delivers a consistent user interface. VPN connections are a blend of broadband, ISDN and dial-up modem links.

To centralise management of CIC's Internet and email resources, Network Defence recommended and supplied SurfControl Internet content filtering, MAILsweeper email filtering and Sophos anti-virus software.

The Benefits:

The VPN solution from Network Defence has improved access to head office systems for remote sites and enhanced overall network security.

It provides remote access for employees working remotely and as a result delivers greater flexibility to a business by allowing employees to check their

emails when out of the office.

CIC's IT Director , Chris Monday said: "Our VPN solution delivers this and gives all remote access users a familiar interface, enhancing usability and making management easier."

In addition, CIC can centrally manage and apply its Internet security policies company-wide, maximising bandwidth availability and cutting security risks.

Technologies Used:

- Perimeter Security
- Web & Email Security
- Mobile Working & VPN