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Please pass to your Business Manager Achieving Business Continuity whatever comes your way



Help for Schools, Care & Voluntary services to maintain service delivery

As one of our customers, One West is very proud indeed, to be working with the **National Coastwatch Institution.** We are providing one part of their approach to resilience, via our Records Management service.

The NCI does an incredible job on a voluntary, charitable basis, with over 2,500 volunteers, operating over more than 50 locations & reporting more than 500 incidents per year.

Maintaining Business Continuity is a key issue, the NCI needs to 'be there' if an emergency at sea happens.

So how about you ensuring you can 'be there' too?

It may be less obviously dramatic, but the same applies for Schools, Care Providers & all manner of Charities delivering voluntary services. The point is - if Business Continuity arrangements fail it hits hard.

We should be in no doubt how important our services are to those who need them.

And just because we are emerging from lockdown, even though for many, service delivery has been tested, it doesn't mean it is over.

New issues emerge with regularity & we can look forward to some twists & turns, in particular, with Cyber threats & how we maintain services if hit.

There is more to consider though.

Organisations come under intense scrutiny from media, service users & the wider public during an incident and therefore it is imperative to have a robust, working plan in place.

The implications of poor preparation are significant. Staff making critical decisions in a highly stressful environment often get it wrong.

Negative media comment is common & with social media the news travels fast. Even worse it takes longer to recover & to go back to 'business as usual.

So – what to do?

Whilst some organisations do have a Business Continuity plan in place, a large proportion have limited continuity management arrangements & often there is confusion as to who is responsible for it.

For schools the Department for Education places a requirement to have a Business Continuity plan. It is essential though, also for others.

In order for a Business Continuity plan to be effective, Business Continuity should be managed through an ongoing management and governance process. One West can help with that. Plans also need to be validated through testing. This is a vital part of ensuring that when the need arises, plans work and continuity is achieved. Again we can help. We have expertise in Business Continuity & we aim to help Schools, Care Providers & Voluntary Organisations to keep going whatever happens. If you need some help we are here to provide it. No obligation just drop us a line to discuss. If you are interested, contact: Steve_Debruin@bathnes.gov.uk or Jo_Buchan@bathnes.gov.uk Thanks & we look forward to telling you more. The One West Business team.

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