itps

intelligent technology. practical solutions.

Managed WAN.

necs

Technology for a brighter tomorrow.

NHS North East Commissioning Service works across the UK, and through its consultancy services, managed services and digital solutions it works to support health and social care customers in meeting strategic and operational challenges, to improve outcomes and increase efficiency.

The challenge

In 2018 NHS NECS was required to replace its aging core network and WAN due to the upcoming decommissioning of N3 network, which provided the underlying connectivity to support its business and customers.

The replacement HSCN network set a better standard for the provision of data networks for health and care organisations to which NHS NECS was to migrate, as well as allowing commercial organisations including pharmacies, dentists, opticians, care homes, social housing providers and others to securely access the network and share information.

ITPS was successful in winning the three-year tender (with a subsequent two-year extension) to provide managed WAN connectivity to connect primary, secondary and tertiary care providers including hospitals, Foundation Trusts, clinical commissioning groups and GP groups across the North East and Derbyshire, allowing them to share information securely.

At the time, ITPS was the only North East supplier, and one of only 17 UK organisations judged to be capable of delivering services that met NHS Digital's strict supplier standards.

The contract was an indicator of ITPS's track record and technical expertise, and its commitment to investing an extra £1.2m in its own core communications infrastructure, which exceeded NHS Digital requirements.

Ian Davison, Business Information Services Director and Chief Digital and Information Officer at NHS NECS, said: "This complex project involved many partners, including seven NHS organisations across the North East and Derbyshire, working together on integrated, patient-centred care across large health systems.

"The ITPS team demonstrated a clear grasp of the scale and importance of the project and had the technical expertise, project management and engineering skills required to deliver a project of this size and scope. The outcome has delivered wide-ranging benefits to partners and users, including cost efficiency and strengthened communications and security."

The solution

The backbone of the contract involved the state of the art facilities at ITPS's own £4m high security North East data centre.

The network was built on Cisco ISR-based routers on a Dynamic Multipoint VPN with auto registration and deployment. Automation was enabled with Cisco Prime Infrastructure, enabling Zero Touch Provisioning.

This was further enhanced by the integration with Cisco ISE, to provide identity services, authorisation and policy enforcement in the underlay network.

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Ian Davison | NECS Business Information Services Director and Chief Digital and Information Officer

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