Social Interest Group



SOCIAL INTEREST GROUP CASE STUDY

Leading UK-based charity Social Interest Group achieves secure, resilient connectivity by deploying SD-WAN from Six Degrees.

Social Interest Group comprises subsidiary charities that collectively believe everyone has the right to live a positive and healthy life. They are experts in working with adults with complex needs, enabling and empowering them to take charge of themselves, giving them the skills and resilience to live healthy and fulfilled lives.

The Challenge

Social Interest Group has around 70 operating locations, all of which require secure data access. But in today's hostile digital landscape, staying safe from data breach is more challenging than ever before. As Ola Ajayi, Head of IT, Social Interest Group, explains: "These days we live in a very cyber-challenging environment. Given all the threats out there it's essential that we do everything we can to secure our data and keep our organisation safe."

Michael Rutherford, Director of Finance & Resources and Company Secretary, Social Interest Group, adds: "Given our customers, which include UK government agencies and local authorities, we deal with a lot of personal data that it is imperative to keep secure at all times. We therefore need to ensure that we have a really strong perimeter."

The charity has been working with Six Degrees for many years now and approached us seeking an appropriate connectivity solution that would be totally secure while offering the functionality to enable the important work its people carry out every day.

The Solution

Six Degrees deployed its solution across Social Interest Group's operating locations. Michael says: "We did a whole IT refresh with Six Degrees. It came out of wanting to have a single sign on process for staff wherever they logged on across all sites. Security and ease of use were significant factors, and SD-WAN was the recommended solution from Six Degrees."

With data protection paramount to Social Interest Group, the inherent security of SD-WAN is of genuine benefit. Ola says: "NextGen Firewalls are a known category in security. It's reassuring

Benefits at a Glance

- **Minimise the risk of data breach.** Six Degrees has aligned its SD-WAN solution to Social Interest Group's risk appetite, strengthening the charity's perimeter and minimising the risk of data breach.
- **Realise cost efficiencies.** SD-WAN's functionality enables Social Interest Group to streamline the connectivity it delivers to its sites, minimising both deployment and management costs.
- **Provide resilient, high-performance access** With SD-WAN from Six Degrees, Social Interest Group is able to provide resilient, high-performance access that enables its people to carry out their important work.
- **Meet clients' data protection expectations.** With clients including prominent UK government organisations, SD-WAN offers assurance that highly sensitive data will be kept secure at all times.

to know that Six Degrees are using leading technology to secure our perimeter and we've not suffered any breaches to date."

Michael adds: "We will receive alerts should any security events occur. Six Degrees' SD-WAN solution has provided 100% security against cyber-threats so far."

With cost effectiveness another key driver for Social Interest Group, SD-WAN delivers efficiencies in both deployment and management. Michael says: "Given that some of our operating locations are peoples' homes and we need to provide Wi-Fi for them, it's helpful that the solution provides split Wi-Fi so that there's both public and private access at the same time, which is beneficial as opposed to having two lines and two routers as it might otherwise be."

The Results

By partnering with Six Degrees, Social Interest Group has achieved secure, resilient connectivity by deploying SD-WAN across its operating footprint.

The SD-WAN solution forms just part of a wider strategic partnership between Social Interest Group and Six Degrees. Michael concludes: "We have a longstanding relationship with Six Degrees and we look forward to working together to enhance that relationship. Right now we're undertaking a mid-term review that will strengthen the partnership and evolve the way we use technology to ensure that we've got the best equipment and the best value for money. That's what's important. Given what we do, it's important that we are safe and can protect ourselves and those we support. Six Degrees have helped with that.

> "IT is a broad church, and it's not possible for us to know everything in-house. Six Degrees is nimble and agile. They are our strategic IT partner."

Our Solutions

Cyber Services

Enhance your cyber security and safeguard your organisation with our cyber security strategy and advisory, consultancy, and managed services.

Hybrid Cloud

Host all of your workloads in the most appropriate location while experiencing the simplicity of one cloud from Six Degrees.

Connected Workspace

Access the smarter, faster technology needed to make the most of your hybrid working future.

About Six Degrees

Six Degrees is a leading secure, integrated cloud services provider. We protect UK organisations and help them thrive in the cloud by giving them secure platforms to innovate and grow.

We put our exceptional people in a position to succeed, and along with our robust capabilities and strategic vendor partnerships this enables us to support customers on their digital transformation journeys regardless of their maturity, with the goal of enabling them to operate effectively and securely in the cloud.

Our intelligence-led security services provide the most appropriate detection and response capabilities versus evolving cyber threats, ongoing assurance, and rapid response, allowing us to mitigate attacks quickly.

We've aligned all our services to allow customers to navigate the complexities they face today – enabling them to solve their digital transformation challenges and succeed as businesses.

Our vision is to be the UK's number one provider of secure, integrated cloud services.

Connect your business through a comprehensive connectivity portfolio delivered via our owned and operated core Next Generation Network (NGN). Speak to an expert: hub.6dg.co.uk/schedule-call-connectivity