CNS | 6°
A Six Degrees Company

Borough Council

A borough council achieves PSN and PCI compliance with CNS Group's Managed Security Services.

A borough council provides services including housing, social care, health, transport and leisure to approximately 216,000 residents. As a public sector organisation, the borough council must protect a large and disparate data store of around 300 terabytes of confidential and sensitive information. The borough council has to meet all of the regulatory and statutory compliance requirements placed upon it by the Government, and must also maintain its connection to the Public Services Network (PSN).

About
Six Degrees

We are a cloud-led managed service provider. We work as a collaborative technology partner to businesses making a digital transition.

Always placing clients at the heart of our strategy, our passionate teams combine technical expertise and deep sector specific knowledge to innovate, craft and manage the right solutions to power businesses.

The breadth and strength of our technology is our foundation. Solutions range from data and application performance management through to colocation and unified communications, all with private, public and hybrid cloud at its core.

We work collaboratively and build long-term partnerships through exceptional services that match our clients' needs. We continually innovate the right solutions to enable our clients' brilliance.

Challenge

Every UK Local Authority must meet a minimum level of detailed security alert logging and monitoring for business critical systems in order to meet the Good Practice Guide Protective Monitoring standards, known as GPG 13. Although no longer mandatory, GPG 13 still provides an excellent benchmark for an organisation to determine its security logging and monitoring requirements. These specific requirements form part of PSN compliance, giving councils controlled access to internet content and shared services.

Speak to our experts today on **0800 012 8060** or visit **www.6dg.co.uk**

Enabling your brilliance

Cloud Platform & Data

Modernise your data centre and secure your hybrid cloud future.

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Enhance your cyber security posture and safeguard your organisation.

Agile Workspace

Communicate, collaborate and work efficiently, anywhere.

Network Infrastructure

Achieve a step change in your connectivity and your digital transformation journeys.

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ADVANTAGES AND BENEFITS

However, getting alert monitoring and analysis right is a challenge for many resource-strapped local authorities. Too little focus can quickly result in non-compliance, but with a growing number of systems to monitor, it is all too easy for security teams to become overwhelmed with alerts – many of which may be irrelevant. This can have the effect of distracting security professionals from addressing issues that pose a real risk.

In addition, operating true 24x7 security manned monitoring is exceptionally expensive for most organisations. The borough council was committed to getting the balance between compliance and contextual analysis right by evolving a workable set of processes and resources to correctly monitor, understand and action alerts to ensure best practice compliance.

Solution

Whilst evaluating its options the borough council met with CNS Group, a Six Degrees company, to learn more about their previous success providing PSN compliance for other Councils and Local Authorities.

The borough council evaluated the Mosaic Comply and Secure (HMG) service as a way to comprehensively log, track and analyse user and system activity, whilst eliminating the technology and resource burden of building, configuring, maintaining and monitoring an in-house data collection solution. The new service would provide an outsourced capability for:

- Event generation
- Event parsing
- Alert generation
- Secure event relay and collection
- Event filtering
- Event correlation
- Event normalisation
- Event analysis

CNS Group employs a number of CCP, CISSP and CESG Certified Professionals, and has been offering information assurance to the UK Government for over 15 years. CNS Group has an extremely deep understanding of what is required for attaining and maintaining HM Government (HMG) accreditation across a wide range of Government sectors.

The Mosaic Comply and Secure (HMG) module is a customised set of services that specifically assists Government Agencies, Departments and Entities that need to comply with HMG standards, including the legacy Government Protective Marketing Scheme (GPMS) caveats of IL2 and IL3 and the new Government Classification Policy (GCP) caveat of OFFICIAL.

Successful working partnership

The borough council has established a successful working partnership with CNS Group that has helped it to address several resourcing and compliance objectives.

Effective and targeted alert response

The borough council now has a more contextual view of alerts, reducing the growing level of 'noise' that allows it to be more effective and targeted in it's response.

Compliant PSN connectivity

The borough council has been able to maintain its compliance and connection to the PSN.

Access to audit traits

The borough council security team now has access to audit trails for all system components with synchronised critical system clocks and timestamps, securing this data so that it cannot be altered.

Outcome

Utilising the Mosaic Comply and Secure (HMG) service has helped the borough council to establish a clear process for linking access to system components, especially access provided through administrative privileges such as root, to each individual user. The security team now has access to audit trails for all system components with synchronised critical system clocks and timestamps, securing this data so that it cannot be altered.

The service is now fully operational, and CNS Group analysts are monitoring the borough council's systems on a 24x7x365 basis, working to agreed parameters. The team liaises with council staff to determine whether a security event represents suspicious activity and should be considered a threat. If this is the case, the CNS Group analyst notifies the assigned borough council contact, irrespective of the time of day.

All CNS Group consultants that deliver the Mosaic Comply and Secure (HMG) service are certified professionals with SC clearance, and have been either Non Police Personnel Vetted (NPPV) or Management Vetted (MV).

THE CLIENT

Project Lead
Borough Council

"We were eager to establish the appropriate levels of comprehensive, 24x7 monitoring to comply with both PSN and PCI compliance. We chose to use the Mosaic Comply and Secure (HMG) Managed Security Service from CNS Group as the most effective way to have a better view of the risks and to rapidly achieve our objectives. CNS Group's breadth of public sector experience and accreditations, excellent technical and project management teams and proven delivery to organisations like the borough council gave us great confidence in their managed services."