

Q and A with Dr Chris Bunch, Chairman, UK Caldicott Guardian Council



The UK Caldicott Guardian Council has a new chair, Dr Chris Bunch, who is the Caldicott Guardian for a large Acute NHS Trust. The Council has set out its priorities for 2017-18, and the full details will be on the new UK Caldicott Guardian Council (UKCGC) website. Priorities include:

- Improving communication with and support for Caldicott Guardians
- Developing regional and national links and networks
- Strengthening the Council
- Developing a library of Caldicott case studies
- Caldicott Guardians in Local Authorities, primary care and other small organisations

Here is the 'Q and A':

What's your advice to new Caldicott Guardians, who may feel a little overwhelmed in their new role?

This is a very good question; there is the new [Caldicott Guardian Manual](#) to read, which has a checklist in it for Caldicott Guardians, and which provides a good steer for their role. It's important for those new to the role to find out who the Information Governance and Safeguarding Leads are within their organisation, and to work with them. It's also important to understand the environment in which you're working and also to get to know Caldicott Guardians in other organisations, and to network. We have also set up a Digital Forum to help networking with Caldicott Guardians and to discuss Caldicott issues.

You can join by emailing the Council secretariat ukcqcsecretariat@nhs.net

How does the Council work with the National Data Guardian?

The Council is sponsored and supported by the National Data Guardian's office, whilst remaining an independent body supporting Caldicott Guardians in the four jurisdictions of the UK. It has representation from the private, public and charitable sectors. It is also represented on the National Data Guardian's Panel.

It's great to know that regional support networks are being set up for Caldicott Guardians, will there be one in every region? How may Caldicott Guardians join up?

These are emerging through the enthusiasm of Council members. The Council has already established networks in the South West, North East, North West and now in London and the South East. It is developing links in Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland. To find out more, those interested can join the Digital Forum by contacting the secretariat at the email address above. More and more Caldicott Guardians, and those working in support of them, are joining the Forum. We would encourage all those involved to join in.

The recently published Caldicott Guardian manual was a great success. How does the Council intend to keep it up- to-date?

This will become a web-based resource for Caldicott Guardians. We think this will be the best way to keep it up to date, and we expect the first such version to be available later this year.

Amongst the forthcoming challenges for Caldicott Guardians is the GDPR. How are you managing the roles of Caldicott Guardian, and (the new) role of Data Protection Officer, in your Trust?

Like many organisations, we are currently reviewing the possibilities in relation to the Data Protection Officer role. Some of the responsibilities of the role are similar to those of the SIRO and Caldicott Guardian. A major difference is that the DPO should be independent from the organisation's management. Also, traditionally the Caldicott Guardian focuses on patient or client data, rather than staff and other personal data.

However, all personal data should be managed with the same respect, care and within the legal framework; the Data Protection Officer role will cover all personal data that falls within the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Can the Council help with difficult Caldicott issues?

Yes, very much so. We can be approached through the secretariat at the address above. Also, issues have been posted by others and discussed on the Caldicott Forum, where other members can chip in with helpful advice, based on their knowledge or experience.

Any other pointers for Caldicott Guardians?

Do please engage with us. The best way is via the digital forum outlined above. In November we are joining with the Information Governance Alliance for an Annual Conference.

