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Simon Anderson Head of IS Service Management at Home Group

Home Group is a one of the UK’s largest housing associations, dedicated to providing high-quality housing and integrated health and social care services. Established in 1935, the organisation has grown to support over 125,000 customers residing in more than 56,000 homes across England and Scotland.

The Challenge

Like many growing organisations, Home Group faced a significant challenge in managing their cyber security requirements in-house. As the organisation expanded, the strain on internal resources and the increasing complexity of the cyber security landscape highlighted the need for a more robust and scalable solution.

The concept of establishing an internal Security Operations Centre (SOC) was explored, but the cost of insourcing – estimated at around £1,000,000 for tools alone – was prohibitively expensive. This prompted Home Group to look for a more viable alternative: outsourcing their SOC to a trusted partner, whilst retaining their existing security tool set. They approached Aspire to provide a comprehensive solution that could offer round-the-clock protection and incident management, easing the burden on their internal team.

Aspire’s Solution

Aspire successfully delivered their market-leading next-gen SOC solution, RealProtect Complete, seamlessly on boarding Home Group and integrating their existing tools while ingesting data—all within just a few days. With 24/7/365 monitoring, Aspire’s SOC ensured that any suspicious activity was promptly detected and handled, providing constant vigilance and minimising the risk of downtime.

Digital forensics capabilities allow for thorough investigations into potential breaches, while ransomware negotiation services provide a vital safeguard for the Home Group’s most sensitive data, should a breach occur. Aspire provided a round-the-clock service, that significantly reduced exposure to threats, allowing Home Group team to proactively focus on security activities.

Monthly reports, filled with actionable insights, support the Home Group team in making informed decisions about their security strategy. Home Group also benefits from Aspire’s dedicated team of experts, who provide continuous guidance and shared best practices from other successful projects. This comprehensive and collaborative approach not only addresses immediate concerns but has also set the foundation for a robust and secure future for the Home Group.

Working with Aspire

By partnering with Aspire, Home Group experienced a transformation in their cyber security posture. The shift from reactive to proactive security management significantly reduced their vulnerability scores. The organisation now enjoys a more relaxed working environment, reassured that Aspire’s team is always on hand to manage incident monitoring and response, ensuring protection against digital threats. Aspire are now working closely with Home Group to secure their Office 365 environment, strengthening this critical component of their operations.

Simon Anderson, Head of IS Management at Home Group said: *“We’ve found working with the Aspire team to be really easy, really friendly, communicative and responsive. It’s like having a bolt on of our internal security team. It’s all went really smoothly and we were onboarded within days.”*

We’ve got an account manager who isn’t pushy, a service relationship manager who will help with anything and the techies are really excellent to work with. I don’t worry as much out of hours. I know I’ve got experts online and if something happens, I’m communicated with quickly. I’m not checking my phone on weekends or nights anymore. It’s given me peace of mind.”

Customer Benefits

- > **Increased employee efficiency**
- > **Strengthened security posture**
- > **Improved vulnerability scores**

Solution

- > **RealProtect Complete 24/7 SOC monitoring**
- > **Monthly actionable security reports**
- > **Comprehensive vulnerability management**
- > **RealCare Complete 24/7/365 Support**

