PROJECT BOARD COMMUNICATIONS
JUNE 2021

The Data Centre Transition (DCT) Project is a key programme of work for Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW).

We will be transitioning the digital infrastructure from Blaenavon Data Centre (BDC) to new data centre location CloudCentres Data Centre (CDC) in the coming months, in addition to migrating our first major workloads – Test and Development Systems and Internet Facing Services (DMZ) – to the Cloud.

The DCT Project Team are progressing actions through three main workstreams:

Data Centre Procurement and Relocation	Architecture and Infrastructure	Cloud

WORKSTREAM UPDATES

DATA CENTRE PROCUREMENT AND RELOCATION

This workstream is focused on the physical moves of equipment between the Data Centres. The DCT Project Team continue planning efforts with CloudCentres and the specialist moving company (SCC/Bonds) to ensure the safe and secure transition of infrastructure from BDC to CDC between **30 July 2021** and **03 October 2021**.

The DCT Project Team have been working with all relevant National Teams and Third Party Suppliers to confirm and communicate details of the revised Transition Batch Plan. Throughout June and July, preparation activities will continue; Services operating from Blaenavon Data Centre will need to utilise their geographic resilience and failover to Newport Data Centre by **23 July 2021**.

The DCT Project Team will organise a series of pre-transition engagement events with Services to support preparations prior to their relevant weekend(s). These will be Transition Batch specific, to enable National Teams to support Services appropriately.

CDC will be undertaking a series of Load Tests of the Data Centre Hall prior to the transition of our infrastructure. These tests are the final checks to ensure that the mechanical and electrical infrastructure have been installed to specification that DHCW require to safely host our Services with the required capacity and availability. The testing will include power load tests, a simulated power failure test and the Data Hall cooling systems. These tests can now take place following the completion of the building works at CDC.

All Services delivered from the National Data Centres are impacted by the DCT Project. The approach will be to use the resilience we have successfully rehearsed to ensure we maintain 'uptime' for Critical Services, whilst liaising with non-resilient Services to ensure they are aware of the need for contingency plans.

Services that are resilient across the Data Centres (i.e. Critical Services) will be required to operate from the Newport Data Centre whilst the infrastructure is transitioned from BDC to CDC. Whilst being transitioned, the geographic resilience for these Services is removed, but every effort will be made to ensure the physical infrastructure is transitioned safely, securely and in a timely manner to minimise impact to resilience.

ARCHITECTURE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

This workstream is focused on ensuring that the technical prerequisites are in place to support the other workstreams.

Throughout June, resources involved in the Architecture and Infrastructure workstream will continue to focus on the implementation of the required network connectivity. Engagement with BT/PSBA is due to cease mid-June upon the completion of required testing, but the Network Implementation Plan will continue with WhiteSpider (networking specialists) activity targeted for completion in early July 2021.

What this workstream means for users of NHS Wales' National Services:

The Network Implementation Plan is regularly reviewed by the Data Centre Transition Technical Sub-Group, with the aim to consistently provide detailed timescales to stakeholders with regards to network readiness. As part of this activity, considerable additional networking capacity and resilience will be implemented which will benefit all users of our National Services.

CLOUD

This workstream is focused on the migration of specific workloads to the Cloud, rather than to the new Data Centre. This includes our Test and Development Systems and Internet Facing Services (DMZ).

We are pleased to confirm that all 54 DMZ to Cloud migrations have completed and services are successfully operating from a Microsoft Azure platform. Third Parties who are responsible for their own migration efforts continue to engage with the DCT Project Team to confirm timescales for completion.

The DCT Project Team are now focused on the completion of Test and Dev assurance and outstanding proof-of-concept (PoC) activities. Affected Service Owners will be engaged with via the DCT Applications Subgroup and service-specific discovery meetings. Migration timescales will be confirmed post-PoC and procurement but are currently proposed to commence from mid-July.

What this means for users of NHS Wales' National Services:

Engagement with Services that are impacted by migration activity will continue over the next period to ensure that the appropriate assurance is obtained. Whilst migration plans are formulated to minimise the risk of disruption or downtime to Services, communications to users via the DHCW Change Management process.

NEXT STEPS

- The DCT Project Communications SharePoint and Frequently Asked Questions will continuously be updated with information and upcoming events.

- Services who are currently in BDC must start to prepare for failover to NDC. Proposed dates for planned failovers must be submitted to the DCT Project Team by **16 June 2021**, with the aim to complete by **23 July 2021.**

- Configuration activities within the Network Implementation Plan to be completed by **30 June 2021.**

CONTACT US

Further communications to update you on the status of this work are planned throughout the course of the project. If you would like to find out more about this work, please contact the DCT Project Team or your local Director of Digital Services / Director of Informatics.