

Solva Care: data protection



Background

The General Data Protection Regulation¹ (GDPR) is legislation that came into force on 25 May 2018. It sets out how organisations need to handle personal data and supersedes the Data Protection Act 1998.

Why does this concern us?

Consequences of non-compliance are fines and the associated bad press. But, as a caring organisation, respect of everyone's personal data should be just one element of 'doing things properly'.

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Guidance

This chapter is less about how we have done it – as we have had to modify our existing systems to comply – and more about signposting you get the best advice in order to set up your own processes from the start.

The Information Commissioner's Office² (ICO) has a lot of good information and help for 'Small Organisations'³ and 'Charities'⁴. These includes guides, checklists, FAQs and an advice helpline. Their data protection self-assessment toolkit is interactive, and will assess what your organisation needs to do in order to comply and will generate a bespoke checklist.

The Charity Commission for England and Wales⁵, Charity Commission for Northern Ireland⁶ and the OSCR⁷ (Scottish Charity Regulator) can also help. The Charity Finance Group⁸ (CFG) has a useful GDPR Guide for Charities⁹ which can be downloaded.

¹ eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj

² ico.org.uk

³ ico.org.uk/for-organisations/business

⁴ ico.org.uk/for-organisations/charity

⁵ gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission

⁶ www.charitycommissionni.org.uk

⁷ oscr.org.uk

⁸ cfg.org.uk/home

⁹

cfg.org.uk/userfiles/documents/CFG%20resources/CFG%20Publication/CFG266%20Data%20protection_AW.pdf

Speak to your local volunteering organisations; they may also be able to put you in touch with similar, small organisations who have experience of GDPR and may be willing to share good practice.

Our Toolkit chapters – Solva Care: a communications strategy (Parts 1 & 2) provide suggestions on how to deal with communications and electronic data and our future research and evaluation chapter will touch on when you use personal information in any research that you do.

It may seem daunting at first, but there are straightforward steps that you can take at the start that mean that compliance, won't exactly come naturally, but will be relatively simple to incorporate as you go along.

