It seems hard to believe that the East Midlands Region is now two years old. We have a membership of almost 280 principal organisations with a potential reach of about a quarter of a million, so not a bad start to building our network! Our success has been very much due to the commitment made by your board members who meet every two months to help develop our strategy.

Our November conference was the best yet and was attended by 75 people. My sincere thanks go to Charlie Swanson for giving up his time to support us and deliver such a great presentation about Business Continuity. I was also particularly grateful to the High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire, His Honour Jonathan Teare for kindly attending the conference and presenting commendation certificates to two of our ISLs.

I am delighted to announce we are also finalists in the UK Outstanding Security Performance Awards (OSPAs), the winner to be announced in February 2020.

Thank you for your support to CSSC during this year and I hope that you all enjoy a great Christmas.

Andrew Nicholls Chairman East Midlands Region

Cross-sector Safety & Security Communications

Next are proud to be an active member of the CSSC East Midlands region, but did you know that Next also provide the forward cascading of all CSSC messages to our 270 East Mids members?

Next’s Group Head of Loss Prevention Steve Teatum says, “In any business it’s absolutely vital that fast and effective communication occurs, particularly in relation to security matters. The Next hub aims to distribute CSSC messages out to its members as quickly as possible, and the team here at are able to achieve that within a few minutes of receiving the original communication”.

Next are able to achieve this by utilising their corporate security team whom operate 24/7, 365 days a year. Steve says, “Darren Smith, Next’s corporate Security Manager, is challenging the team to be the ‘best in class’ when distributing message, so much so that he compares himself against other CSSC regions to ensure our East Mids members are the first to receive them”.

A special thanks to the East Mids Hub, Darren Smith, Aldo De Kock, Imran Shiningwala, Rob Smith, Darren Goodwin, Ros Brewin, Kieran Jackson, Luis Panachande, Craig Parker, Clive Paske, Chris Thomas, and Sam Reeder. Keep up the great work!
Christmas can be the busiest time of year for online criminals, check out Kirsty Jackson’s (Cyber Protect Officer for Nottinghamshire Police) top 10 tips for staying safe during the festive period:

1. Unexpected emails, texts or posts with links or attachments could be a phishing attempt trying to get your confidential details or infecting your computer with malware and often leads to ransomware attacks.

2. Infected with Ransomware? [www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance](http://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance) Don’t pay it and stop the criminal from receiving their Christmas bonus, instead use Action Fraud’s 24 hour helpline and [www.nomoreransom.org](http://www.nomoreransom.org) free decrypt too. Protect yourselves in the first instance by maintaining a tested, separate back-up and by controlling removable media access (have a read of the NCSC advice on management of [removable media](http://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance)).

3. **Response & Recovery guide** for Small Businesses is available to read detailing what organisations should do before, during & after cyber incidents.

4. Ensure all software is regularly updated on all devices including operating systems

5. Keep passwords separate and secure by using 3 random words on each account. Mix in numbers and symbols, for best security, for example: ‘3RedhousePug27’. Why not use a [password manager](http://www.passwordmanager.com) to help you manage these?

6. Two-Factor Authentication (2FA): This is an extra layer of security for your online accounts as it makes you verify your identity when logging in. An example of this would be after you have entered your username and password it will send a verification code via text. The account you are logging into will then make you enter the code before giving you access to the account. This stops an unauthorised person being able to hack into your accounts: [www.turnon2fa.com/tutorials/](http://www.turnon2fa.com/tutorials/)

7. Being asked to pay an expected invoice using a change of bank details? Verify the contact by calling a contact number you know to be genuine before making payment.

8. Make sure shopping websites are authentic by carefully checking the address is spelled correctly & by checking that the address begins with https (s is for secure).

9. Being asked to pay a company or individual you don’t know for goods by bank transfer could be a sign of fraud. Credit card payments are always safest.

10. **Cyber Security Training** for staff is now available through resources supplied by the NCSC a great resource to utilise to improve security with all employees.

If you think you’ve been a victim Cyber Crime, report it to [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling **0300 123 2040**. If you’re in Scotland, call Police Scotland on **101**.

**Give the precious gift of vigilance this Christmas – it could save lives**

As part of your plans this Christmas — from rotas, window displays, delivery schedules, and of course the work Christmas party — make sure security is the top of your list.

Counter-terrorism police are calling on those who work in our busy towns and cities to remain vigilant and report any concerns to police.

In an annual winter campaign, we are asking everyone to be our extra eyes and ears, so we can work together to tackle terrorism.

Detective Superintendent Mark Pollock, Head of EMSOU-Special Branch at the East Midlands Special Operations Unit, said: “We can’t be everywhere at once so we are depending upon you to help us keep our communities safe. Those who sit behind the counters or steering wheels, who work the floors of shops or food outlets, those who, like us, deal with members of the public on a daily basis and can often have the best insight into what feels out of-the-ordinary or awry.

“And then there are those who work behind the scenes — in factories and warehouses, in company offices, online and over the phone. You still have a role to play in identifying anything that may not feel right in your daily business.
On Friday 29 November a man wearing a fake explosive vest and wielding a knife killed two young people following a prisoner rehabilitation event near London Bridge. He wounded three others before being shot dead by attending police officers.

In response to this terrorist incident I would firstly encourage you, as our senior business partners, to review your security plans and processes and visit the NaCTSO and CPNI websites to ensure that you are fully aware of the advice that is available to you. For advice around security of crowded places, Click Here

I strongly advise those hosting events in the future to review risk assessments around attendance and accreditation, as well as revisit your search and screening policies. For specific advice on this Click Here.

Amid the chaos and tragedy of London Bridge have risen stories of bravery shown by a number of members of the public. The actions of those who attempted to subdue and detain the man, despite the very real threat to their own safety, is inspiring.

Nevertheless, our advice to anyone caught up in such events is to RUN, HIDE and TELL. We depend on you to be our extra eyes and ears to help keep you safe and allow us to respond to the threat effectively and quickly.

The police, along with our partners in the intelligence services, are doing everything we can to help prevent further attacks.

While the national threat level was lowered to substantial earlier this month, I’d like to take this opportunity to remind you all that the threat is still very real. Substantial means that an attack is likely. The incident at London Bridge has been a reminder to us all that attacks can take place at any time and without warning. Therefore, it is vitally important everyone remains alert but not alarmed.

You can report any suspicious behaviour or activity to police, in confidence online, at gov.uk/ACT. In an emergency, always call 999.

Chris Haward
Deputy Chief Constable
East Midlands Special Operations Unit

45 minutes could save a life: Over 1500 companies across the UK have signed up to an innovative free-of-charge 45-minute training scheme that could help prevent terror attacks. Follow the link to start the process.
The November CSSC East Midlands seminar saw The High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire His Honour Jonathan Teare, announced the second annual Industry Sector Lead award. The deserving recipient was Natasha Beck of Poppleston Allen who has developed her network outside of the legal sector that she represents an incorporated the sharing of messages amongst neighbours and clients of the firm.

Natasha attended the Annual CSSC Fundraising Dinner in November to collect her trophy which was kindly sponsored by Insafe. The CSSC network relies on ISL’s to share messages and the East Midlands Board are very keen to recognise outstanding achievement amongst ISL’s especially where such initiative has been shown. The strength of candidates resulted in a further recognition award being presented to Sean Keown of the Department of Transport who has demonstrated the importance of CSSC messaging across organisations in the transport sector encouraging membership growth. ISL’s are encouraged to engage with the CSSC East Midlands board members who will be happy to provide support where required.

On 4th November CSSC East Midlands second annual conference took place at the Capital One Headquarters building in Nottingham City Centre: The theme ‘Developing Your Business Resilience’. The seminar was very well attended by Industry Sector Leads drawn from across the East Midlands and with The High Sheriff of Nottingham, His Honour Jonathan Teare, invited as Guest of Honour.

Deputy Chief Constable Chris Howard, Head of the East Midlands Special Operations Unit opened proceedings with an erudite summation of the security threats at national and regional levels. The key points raised focused the attention of the audience for the rest of the afternoon.

Kirsty Jackson, Nottinghamshire Police Cyber Protect and Prevent Unit outlined the common cyber-crime vectors: Ransomware, Distributed Denial of Service attacks, Mandate Fraud and shared some hacking approaches – for information and advice on any of these threats please contact Kirsty and her team via tel: 101 ext 3104653

Charlie Swanson questioned ‘How is risk measured and then managed?’ before identifying pathways to do so. Charlie explained that extensive guidance towards developing resilience, risk management and business continuity are found in ISOs, principally: Organisational Resilience-ISO 22316, Risk and Risk Management-ISO 31000 & Business Continuity-ISO 22301

All business resilience and continuity plans developed through the nested ISO approach should be founded upon a thorough and business specific Security Risk Assessment. Though it is understood that incidents may vary from those planned, effective preparation, education and practice do develop resilience. This will enable businesses to anticipate, adapt and flourish in the face of adversity.