



Welcome to CyberNorth's July Newsletter

CyberNorth is working to support the growth and development of the whole cyber security community across the North East region. Find out more below and make sure you sign up so you don't miss out on key events and fun activities!



CyberFest 2024

CyberFest tickets have now been launched!

The North East's Biggest Cyber Security Festival.

Along with the usual array of fantastic fringe events throughout the month of October and across the region, this year we will be bringing you the community conference and introducing the inaugural CyberNorth Awards.

The theme for [CyberFest 2024](#) is *Looking Up, Looking Out*. We'll be exploring ways we can ensure that national and international partners want to trade with the brilliant talent we have in the region. At the Community Conference we are inviting delegates and speakers from across the UK and around the world to join us.

The Awards Night promises to be a spectacle of celebrations! Award nominations are also open now, with the deadline for entries set for **Wednesday 18th September at 5pm**. You can vote for yourself or anyone else you think deserves recognition.

The categories are as follows:

- Innovation Awards
- Rising Star
- Business or Team of the Year
- Community Champion

You can find out [more details and enter here](#).

More details of fringe events will be released over the coming months. These will all be free to attend.

If you wish to get tickets for Community Conference and / or the Awards Night, [you can do so here](#).

KEY DATES

- CyberFest: October 2024
- Community Conference: Wednesday 16 October
- Awards Night: Wednesday 23 October

We look forward to seeing you there.

Briefing: Flexible Job Apprenticeship



**GATESHEAD
COLLEGE**



Online

11 July 10:00 - 10:30

Delivery Partner: Gateshead College

Flexible Apprenticeships

If at first you don't succeed, try try again!

That's the motto we applied when our application to run a **flexible apprenticeship scheme for cyber security** here in the North East was declined last September by the Department of Education. Like all good troopers, we shed a tear, dusted ourselves off and set about collaborating with a partner to help us achieve this dream.

Our friends at [Gateshead College](#) were the partners, and after working together for the past 10 months, we are DELIGHTED (yes, the caps are intentional!) to announce that the Department for Education has given our **Level 4 Flexi Job Apprenticeship, Cyber Security Technologist**, the green light!

From this September, we will now be running the flexible apprenticeship - where each apprentice has four placements with four different businesses lasting six months each. The first of its kind in the UK, we are now working with cyber companies and teams across the region to find these placements for our apprentices.

Get involved

If you are interested in finding out more about how you can get involved in the flexi apprenticeship scheme, which will make apprenticeship much more accessible to micro and small cyber companies, as well as attracting amazing talent to bigger organisations, you can take part in our webinar this Thursday.

Simply go to [Briefing: Flexi-Job Apprenticeship Programme \(cybernorth.biz\)](https://cybernorth.biz) and sign up.

We look forward to sharing more on this with you as we progress in developing our flexi job apprenticeship offering across the NE and UK.

TECH VETS

Ex-forces people into Cyber

CyberNorth, supported by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), is working with the [TechVets](#) charity to get ex-forces people into cyber security positions across the region by providing a year long subsidy to employers, offsetting some of the cost of employment, reducing the risk to the employer.

The North East has the highest number of unemployed ex-forces people of any English region and TechVets works to provide a bridge for veterans, service leavers, reservists, and their families into information technology careers.

The subsidy of £7,500 for the first year is available for 5 positions. During this time, the employee will continue to be supported through the charity.

This is a fantastic opportunity to employ highly skilled technical people, looking for a long-term role in this exciting sector. For more information, visit our [web-page](#) and please get in touch.



Tech NExt Revisited

Mid-June saw the return of Tech NExt, the North East's Tech Festival, a week-long, action packed agenda, looking at all things tech, digital and software in the North East.

CyberNorth partnered with Accenture to put on a very engaging round-table talk, discussing experiences with and techniques to avoid burnout in cyber security teams.

While this hugely important topic could be applied to any team across all industries, it is especially pertinent in the cyber security sector, where teams are not only “always on” but also usually find themselves in high pressure situations.

It was a fantastic session, and one which we will look to repeat or develop in the future to help more professionals in the industry open up about their struggles and facilitate knowledge sharing to learn from each other in the sector.

You can find an article [write up of the session on our blog](#).

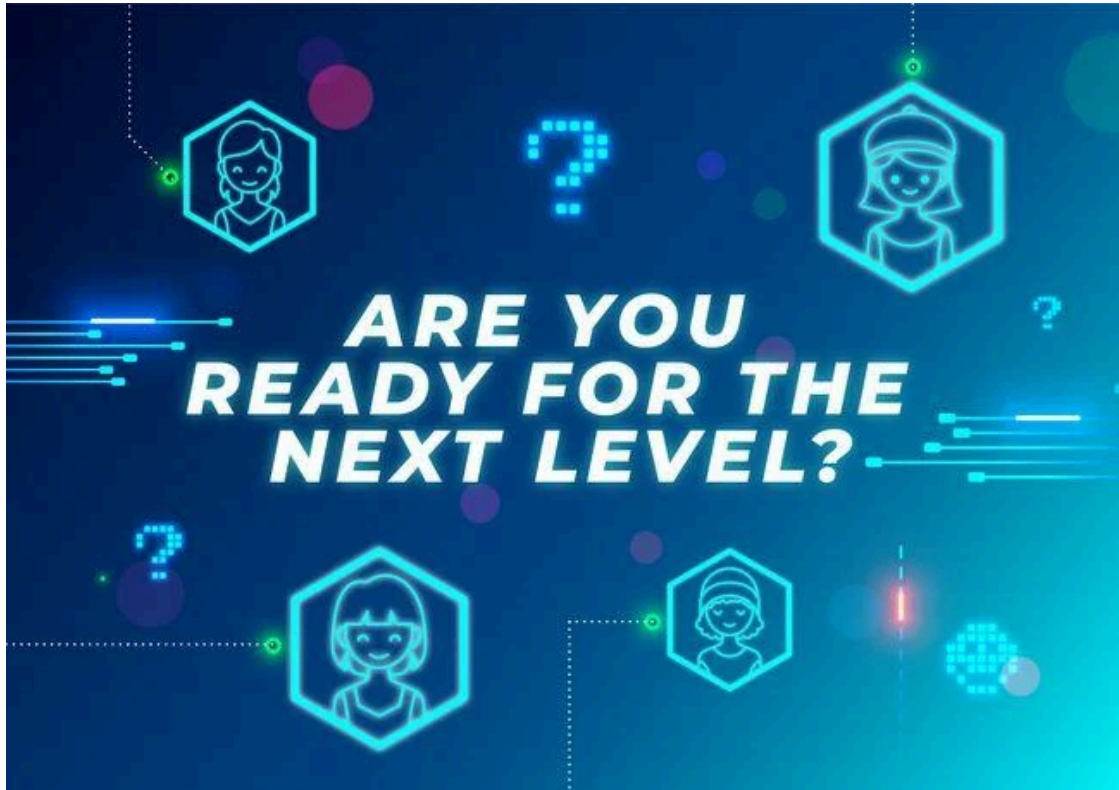


Contribute to your Cluster

Do you know that CyberNorth has its own podcast? Called 'It's Cyber Up North' it is now on episode 23 and can be found wherever you get your podcasts, such as [Spotify](#). CyberNorth is always looking for guests to get involved and subject to cover, so if you have an idea or would like to take part, get in touch. In the meantime, give it a listen.

The podcast is only one of the ways that you can contribute to the cluster's activities. You can write a [blog](#), get involved or host an [event](#), play an active role in one of our [programmes or initiatives](#) and even post a [job](#).

This is your community, get involved!



CyberFirst Girls Competition

As this school year comes to an end, it's time to start thinking about the CyberFirst Girls Competition, which aims to inspire girls interested in technology to pursue a career in cyber security.

The competition is a team event. Each team, consisting of up to four girls in Year 8, tackle challenges from cryptography and logic to artificial intelligence and networking for the chance to be crowned cyber security champions.

Every girl from the winning teams will take a brand-new laptop home, and have a chance to win prize money for their school. Durham Johnston School were last year's winners.

The key dates to look out for are:

- Registration opens 16th September 2024
- Competition begins 18th November 2024

- Competition ends 27th November 2024
- Celebration day (Gala event) TBC

More information about the competition can be found [here](#) along with more information about the CyberFirst programme [here](#).



July Events

As summer finally arrives the number of events is quietening down. . New events are added all the time so keep checking the [website](#) for additions:

- Jul 11 - Briefing: Flexi-Job Apprenticeship Programme - Online
- Jul 18 - Tech on the Tyne, Futureproof: incident response in cyber security - Newcastle
- Jul 25 - Undisputed Vulnerability Management Strategies for Modern IT Security Teams - Online

Don't forget, if you have a cyber security related event, CyberNorth is happy to promote it. You can get in touch via hello@cybernorth.biz



Get Involved

If you work, study or are interested in cyber security then CyberNorth is your community. Do get involved!

MANY WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE:

- Come along to our events and encourage others too
 - Let us know your news for us to share
 - Volunteer to speak at an event, write a blog post or take part in our podcast
 - Provide content for the website, including your own organisation's events
 - Amplify our message by commenting on, sharing or liking our social media
 - Suggest ideas for future initiatives
 - Encourage your colleagues to become part of CyberNorth
 - Tell people outside the region about what is going on
-



About CyberNorth

www.cybernorth.biz

CyberNorth is the region's cybersecurity community, supported by Accenture, UK Cyber Cluster Collaboration and recognised by the Department for Science, Information and Technology (DSIT) and the National Cyber Security Centre as representing the region. It is part of the UK Cyber Cluster Collaboration (UKC3) and Global Epic.

CyberNorth is working to support all organisations across the regional cybersecurity ecosystem including cybersecurity service suppliers, consumers of cybersecurity services, academia, government, other public sectors including blue light organisations, media and policy makers.

Our aim is to position the North East as a great place to deliver cybersecurity services.

Contact us

If you would like any further information on the contents of this newsletter, or any other related issue then please contact us at hello@cybernorth.biz

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