

The Humber Business Resilience Forum – Working Together to Fight Cybercrime!

Since launching in June 2016 at the Humber Business Week the Humber Business Resilience Forum (HBRF) the forum has gone from strength to strength. Winning the best event at the Business Week was a great platform to build upon. The idea was conceived at the 2015 Business Week where Norman Mortell of Agenda Screening Services, Professor Dionysios Demetis of the University of Hull and Gordon Meldrum (now Chair of the HBRF) were presenting on insider threats. The feedback and Q & A at the event led to foundation of a free support service for all organisations within the Humber region to help them to protect themselves against the growing threat of cybercrime - the HBRF.

Strong Direction

The HBRF has a very strong board and quickly developed a web presence (www.hbrf.co.uk), materials and branding and under the themes of “**Prepare For, Respond To and Emerge From**” the following key objectives:

1. To make the Humber region more resilient to cyber-attacks and better able to protect interests in cyberspace
2. To assist the Humber region to tackle cybercrime and be one of the most secure places in the UK to do business in cyberspace
3. To assist the Humber region to develop the cross-cutting capacity, capabilities, knowledge and skills to underpin Objectives 1 & 2.

Gaining Momentum

Since the launch of the HBRF it has run three very well attended and free events that were themed around the Ten Steps to Cyber Security, a Desk Top Cyber Attack Exercise and the Human Firewall - How your own staff can be your best cyber defence.

Around 100 companies and 130 individuals have already signed up for free membership and the web site has been continually updated to provide a source of free resources in relation to protecting organisations from cybercrime.

The Future

The HBRF is planning further events in 2017 and will also work closely with other Humber based membership groups to provide support, resources, presentations and workshops to enable organisations to better **Prepare For, Respond To and Emerge From** the growing threat of cybercrime.

The last words go to Gordon Meldrum, QPM, Chair of the HBRF and Ex-Director of the National Crime Agency “*When we set up the HBRF it was in response to organisations that were saying that they didn’t understand what cybercrime was or felt that it would not affect them, they were unsure about how to protect themselves and felt that there was a lot of confusing information making it difficult to absorb. The HBRF addresses these issues and provides a free resource that is focused on delivering a safer Humber in which to do business.*

The HBRF relies heavily on the generosity and time of my fellow board members, we have delivered 3 excellent events in 2016. We will be doing more in 2017 and have worked hard to ensure that the HBRF is inclusive to both banks of the Humber. Some key events are planned on the South bank in 2017 and we have South Bank board members to ensure that we keep our Humber-wide focus.

Finally, I would encourage all individuals with an interest in cyber-crime prevention and all organisations, large, small, public and private sector to join the HBRF so that we can all work together to fight cybercrime!”