

## Cyber Essentials Certification



*'Achieving Cyber Essentials provides peace of mind to ourselves, our members and our stakeholders that ACEVO takes the matter of Cyber Security seriously. Our IT Partners Smartdesc made the process very straightforward and stress-free, and we now have an official accreditation to back up our cyber resilience.'*

Catherine Macrae, Head of Finance & Operations, ACEVO





## the project

### Background

ACEVO is the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations. Together with their network, they inspire and support civil society leaders by providing connections, advocacy and skills. Their members include the leaders of small, community based groups, ambitious medium-sized organisations, and well known, well-loved national and international not-for-profits.

ACEVO approached Smartdesc as they wanted to achieve the Cyber Essentials certification, to prove their commitment to best practice with cyber security.

### Situation

Cyber Essentials is a Government backed nationally recognised certification, that is increasingly being seen as the industry standard for good cyber security practice.

With cyber threat constantly dominating the headlines and presenting genuine risk to charities, ACEVO wanted to achieve the award to assure themselves and their members that they give security the attention it requires.

### Solution

In their capacity as a licensed Cyber Essentials Certification Body, Smartdesc is approved by the national body that administers the scheme – [IASME](#) – to assess and award the certification.

Smartdesc worked with ACEVO to audit their IT and Digital systems against the 50 or so technical controls and measures that make up the Cyber Essentials [standard](#).

The standard deems it mandatory that all computers are running on current, supported operating systems, devices are kept up to date, encrypted, and protected against viruses, malware, and ransomware.

It also requires that complex password policies are in place, and two factor authentication is enabled. This extends to other 3<sup>rd</sup> Party applications too.



Smartdesc team at the ACEVO office (pre-COVID)

### Certification

ACEVO met the standards, and are now fully Cyber Essentials Certified.

Not only does this give their leadership team, members and trustees peace of mind, but it also outwardly demonstrates that they have invested the time to take cyber threat seriously and covered the most important bases to secure their systems.

The certification is tested and renewed annually, because technology – and cyber threats - never stand still.

### Benefits

- **Peace of mind that the basic security controls are in place.**
- **A public demonstration of commitment to cyber security.**
- **Compliance with a nationally recognised certification, developed by the National Cyber Crime Security Centre.**
- **Renewed and refreshed annually, to cater for the ever-evolving cyber threat landscape.**
- **A cost-effective process, completed in under 2 weeks.**

