



TOTAL SOLUTION DATA CENTRE DESIGN & BUILD

BEDFORD TO COLCHESTER NHS DATA CENTRE MIGRATION DURING A PANDEMIC

CASE STUDY

80-mile data centre
migration over a
weekend for Essex
Partnership University
NHS Foundation Trust.



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A data centre moved 80-miles during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, requiring new processes and exceptionally detailed planning, maintaining live services and data replication.

“Thanks to the careful planning of Trust IT projects and estates teams, working in close partnership with Secure I.T. Environments, we were able to plan for the challenges of working on a tight timeline,” Said Janette Leonard, Director of IT at EPUT.



When Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT) needed to move its data centre services between two sites, it turned to Secure I.T. Environments to ensure everything went as smoothly as possible. It was critical the transfer of services was managed in a way that would not result in downtime, ensuring data replication and no loss of connectivity. The project was made even more challenging by needing to take place during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust provides community health, mental health and learning disability services to 1.3 million people across Bedfordshire, Essex and Suffolk. It employs more than 5,000 staff who work across 200 sites as well as in people's homes and in community settings.

The carefully choreographed project took place over a weekend between sites 80 miles apart in Bedford and Colchester, moving equipment and assets.

The project involved moving several cabinets and SAN equipment from Clapham in Bedfordshire to a new location prepared

by the EPUT I.T. teams at a site in Colchester. The project was carefully planned during lockdown restrictions over a series of Microsoft Teams meetings. Taking place over a weekend, equipment was carefully labelled, removed, transported, cleaned and reconnected at the new site ready for the Trust IT projects team to test and take live on the Monday morning.

Secure I.T. Environments also worked closely with the trust IT projects team to ensure connectivity was maintained for a number of key services through the existing Bedfordshire data centre while the migration took place. This included the configuration of network services to provide local fibre connectivity, WAB connectivity to the Trust Media Business EtherVPN network and WAN services via N3/HSCN.

A remote access VPN service was also part of the migration plan to maintain consistent data centre replication. This point-to-point connection ran between the new data centre in Colchester and the trust's primary data centre in Grays, Thurrock, staying in place post-migration to ensure data replication took place.

Jo-Anne Garvie,
Commercial Director at Secure
I.T. Environments added:

“This was an interesting project for us, assisting with the planning of this migration process. Thanks go to the project team at EPUT, who played a key role in enabling an extremely well organised transition with no delays or connectivity issues. An extremely professionally executed project by all involved including our supporting partners.”



Janette Leonard,
Director of IT at EPUT said:

"Our migration went smoothly and we went live in the new location as planned on the Monday morning. Thanks to the careful planning of Trust IT projects and estates teams, working in close partnership with Secure I.T. Environments, we were able to plan for the challenges of working on a tight timeline, while maintaining a COVID-safe working environment."