

G-Cloud 14 Service Description

GovAssure

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Methods is a GovAssure Independent Assurance Reviewer (Supplier) with experienced/qualified Cyber Security experts providing a GovAssure-CAF Review service. Methods also provides Cyber/Technical services to enable clients to meet the cyber-security standards required of the GovAssure scheme, set-forth by the government to establish, evaluate and maintain security for UK-CNI.

What is the Service

Methods is an NCSC Assured Cyber Consultancy who has been assured to the highest standards as defined by NCSC and professional bodies such as UK Cyber Security Council. With a proven track record of delivering cyber security consultancy expertise, we pride ourselves on working closely with our clients - often augmenting in-house capability.

A Cyber Security Essentials Plus certified company, the services provided by the Cyber Portfolio align with ISO/IEC 20700 family of information security management standards, ensuring work is appropriately scoped, planned and delivered to the highest standards.

Methods provide a holistic approach to the provision of services in support of the GovAssure Scheme with work undertaken by industry qualified Cyber security experts, many holding CCP Lead Practitioner else qualified to Chartered status, able to offer approved GovAssure Independent Assurance provider guidance and support to both public and private sector clients, covering the entirety of the Security organisation.

GovAssure is the new cybersecurity assurance regime from the government, adopting NCSC’s Cyber Assessment Framework (CAF) as its central framework, replacing the cyber security element of the Departmental Security Health Check (DSHC).

Methods is a Non-NCSC Assured GovAssure Independent Assurance Reviewer (Supplier) and will become a NCSC Assured GovAssure Independent Assurance provider later in 2024. We have traditionally specialised in supporting HM Government Departments such as DWP, MoD as well as Local Government and the wider Public sector, but have in recent years expanded to Private Sector to include Defence, Energy and Automotive. With a focus on ensuring that IT systems meet specific security requirements and standards, delivered by dedicated SME teams/practices, Methods have the deep knowledge and experience to provide a professional service to our clients.

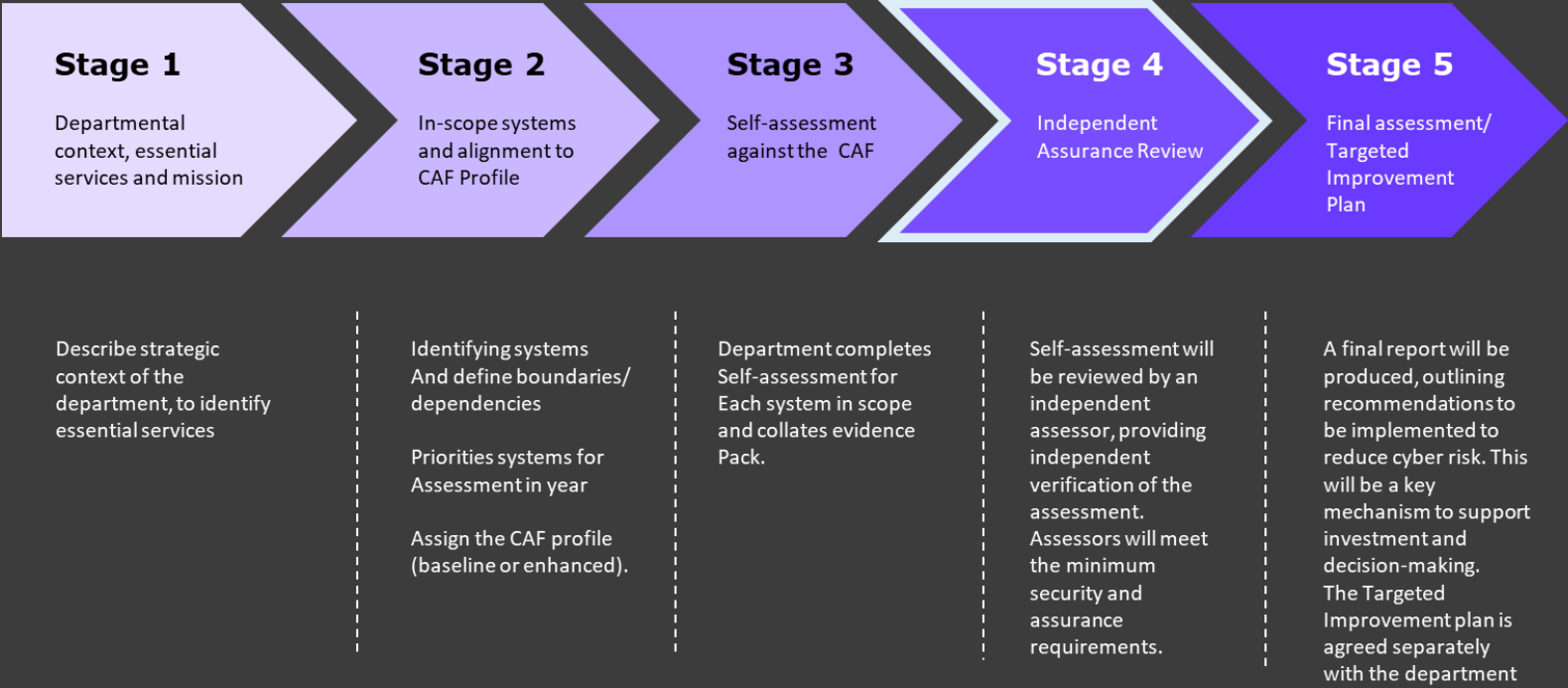
Methods manage engagements in accordance with industry best practice standards and frameworks and meet NCSC requirements for certified professional cyber services companies. Working closely with our clients to ensure that the services we provide have been correctly scoped, planned and delivered securely, as part of “Secure by Design principles”, with our customers interests and needs at the forefront of our thinking.

Methods is a certified cybersecurity consultancy with expertise in NCSC GovAssure CAF for baseline and enhanced profiles. Holding CCP Lead Practitioners and ChCSP endorsements from NCSC and UK Cyber Security Council, delivering approved advice and guidance to a diverse range of clients to help them work towards Government Assurance and Accreditation. In meeting the standard for undertaking GovAssure work, Methods is engaged with NCSC, Cabinet Office and CNI Regulators for the upcoming Cyber Resilience Audit (CRA) scheme to include provision of independent audits to support CNI public and private sectors.

For GovAssure, Methods recognise the need to provide a ‘named authority’ who will provide oversight throughout the review, act both as a point of focus and escalation, and take responsibility for the quality and standard of the work in meeting required standards. Methods will provide a Head Consultant, typically qualified to Chartered status, to act as the Named Authority.

GovAssure end-to-end

GovAssure consists of five main stage:



Methods’ Cyber Portfolio are vetted to the highest levels, are used to working with CNI and are confident then in our ability to meet customer needs. Methods take a modern ‘Customer Centric’ perspective in delivering Products and Services to meet client needs, supporting organisations to identify, evaluate, mitigate else address vulnerabilities and risks which might otherwise impact business operations. Work will support else underpin security improvement initiatives (programmes), compliance with standards and frameworks such as ISO27001, NIS and NIST – and (for example) meet the requirements of the GovAssure scheme.

Methods can provide a systematic and comprehensive approach to assessing the extent to which cyber risks to the essential functions, are managed by the organisation and the various sectors, including government, critical national infrastructure, and private industry.

Methods use the following set of requirements for GovCAF for both public and private CNI, to ensure the organisation meets the security requirements associated with GovAssure:

- Provide a suitable framework to assist in carrying out cyber resilience assessments.
- Maintain the outcome-focused approach of the NCSC cyber security and resilience principles and discourage assessments being carried out as tick-box exercises.
- Be compatible with the use of appropriate existing cyber security guidance and standards.
- Enable the identification of effective cyber security and resilience improvement activities.
- Be extensible to accommodate sector-specific elements as may be required.

Contact details

Service description details



- Enable the setting of meaningful target security levels for organisations to achieve, possibly reflecting a regulator view of appropriate and proportionate security.
- Be as straightforward and cost-effective to apply as possible.

We are particularly interested in the vulnerabilities inherent in the organisation systems, that could lead to the compromise of their confidentiality, integrity, or availability of assets. Our experience consultants ask the simple question “Who would want to exploit this vulnerability, and why?” This facilitates our consultants to study the potential adversaries, their motivations, and their capabilities. Furthermore, Methods look determine whether a given threat source has the means to exploit one or more vulnerabilities to attack the organisation assets.

Our methodology and approach are agile, which is designed to integrate seamlessly into the organisation, complementing and innovating the current working practices. Whether the organisation is looking for ad-hoc support, or a long-term partner, our team of professional, verified and approved by NCSC Cyber Security and UK Cyber Security Council, our experts, with the ability to help identify and implement best and most viable solutions. Aligned with NIST, NCSC, OWASP, and MOD DEFSTAN 05-138 for dynamic security solutions.

One of our core tenets is collaboration, which lays out how our team works with the client. We adopt the principles of openness and knowledge transfer to empower the people and build impressive, sustainable governance around complex multi-cloud solutions. We work closely with key stakeholders and programme teams to devise a bespoke solution that meets the demands of the business processes, strategic business objectives and regulatory requirements. Our consultants have a strong background in both public and private sectors and will quickly adapt to the environment, providing specialist expertise to design innovative and risk-based solutions that meet your specific business needs and outcomes.

We at Methods, provide pragmatic and proportionate risk-based guidance as trusted consultants covering compliance, architecture, and design assurance; system accreditation across Code of Connection (CoCo) and MOD DefCon standards. Our experienced consultants have proficiency working on a variety of Government projects with different divisions including critical national infrastructure (CNI), defence, policing, justice, education, healthcare, border control, central government, local authorities, and government digital services.

In line with HMG requirements, Methods is certified to Cyber Essentials Plus, ISO/IEC 27001, ISO 27017, and ISO 9001 standards, so we can provide customers with robust, consistent assurance in our quality processes and the protection of our systems and customer-related data. We adopt certified frameworks for HMG where data is classified OFFICIAL through to SECRET and above. Methods has a large pool of SC and DV cleared UK personnel and has experience of designing, building, and maintaining governance and security to deliver service offerings at OFFICIAL, SECRET and ABOVE SECRET classifications.

What it can do for you

Methods is a GovAssure Independent Assurance Reviewer (Supplier) – experienced and qualified Cyber Security experts providing a GovAssure-CAF Review services.

Methods also provide Cyber and Technical services, to support and enable a client to meet the cyber-security standards required of the GovAssure scheme and set-forth by the government, to establish, evaluate and maintain security for UK-CNI.

We are well placed to support and guide an organisation through the complex landscape of cybersecurity; helping develop resilience, guarantee compliance and foster trust in an increasingly digital world. We help our clients to uphold applicable laws and meet statutory requirements, standards and regulations set-forth by the government, so that they can establish and sustain security for Critical National Infrastructure (CNI) and systems which underpin CNI across multiple sectors.

Service Features

1. Ensuring adherence to government regulations and standards
2. Identifying and managing risks
3. Service protection policies and processes tailored to secure systems
4. Resilient networks and systems by adopting resilience against cyber-attack
5. Protecting against zero-day attacks
6. Detecting cyber security events
7. Minimising the impact of cyber security incidents
8. Educating employees on cyber best practices
9. Continuous Monitoring by implementing tools for surveillance
10. Incident Response Planning for handling cybersecurity incidents

Service Benefits

1. Complying with relevant laws, regulations, and standard
2. Protecting clients from fraud/ransomware, enhancing trust with customers
3. Enforces standards and regulations to safeguard public health and safety
4. Promoting sustainability and environmental stewardship by enforcing regulations
5. Establishing financial stability and integrity
6. Maintaining product quality assurance and safety
7. Promoting safe working environments and reducing risks
8. Enhances transparency and accountability in governance
9. Builds trust and confidence among citizens, consumers, and businesses
10. Proactive security measures save on downtime and business impact

Contact details

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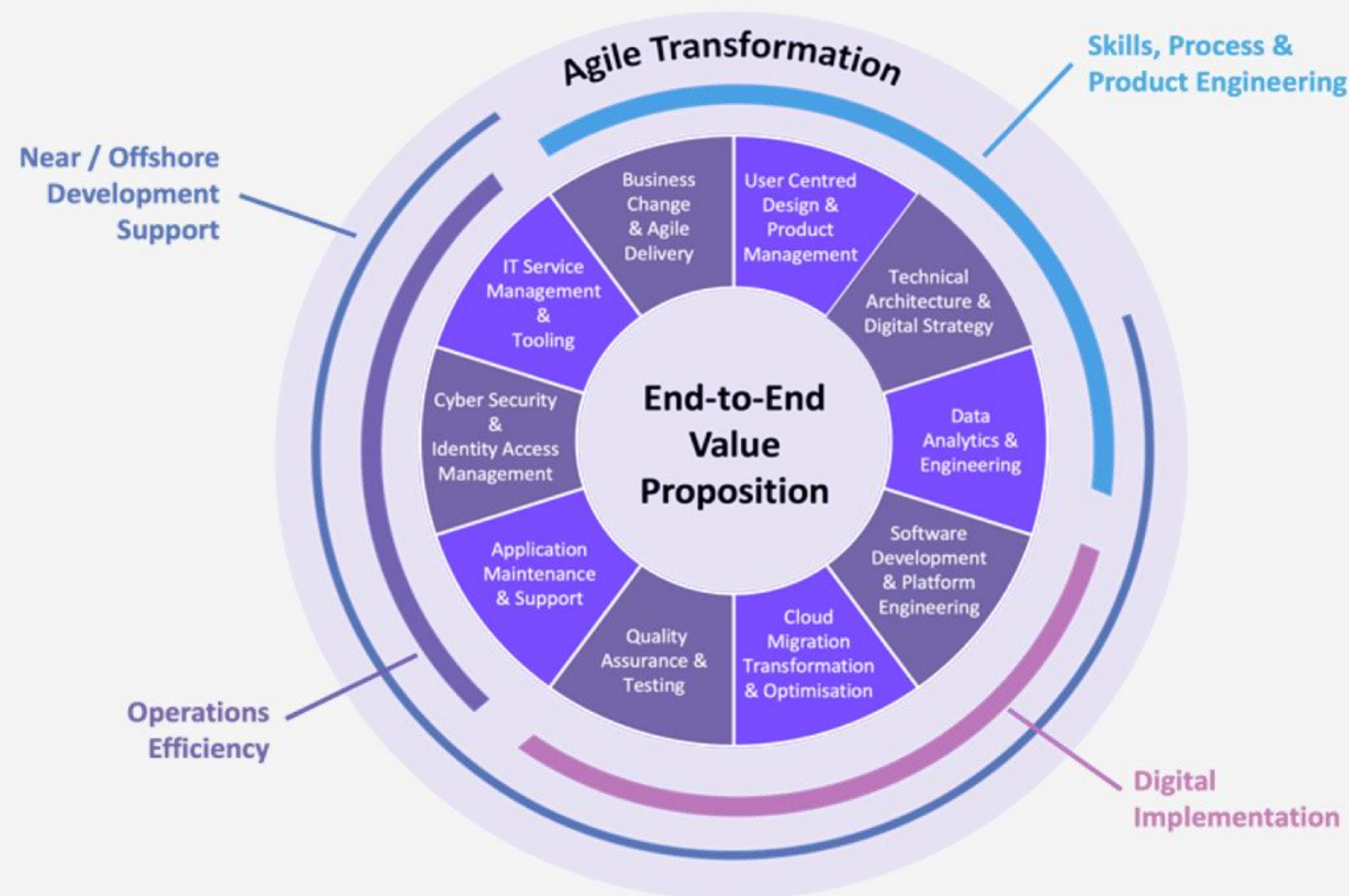
End-to-end transformation and innovation experts

Applying our skills in innovation and collaboration from across the Methods Group, to deliver end-to-end business and technical solutions that are people-centred, safe, and designed for the future.

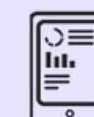
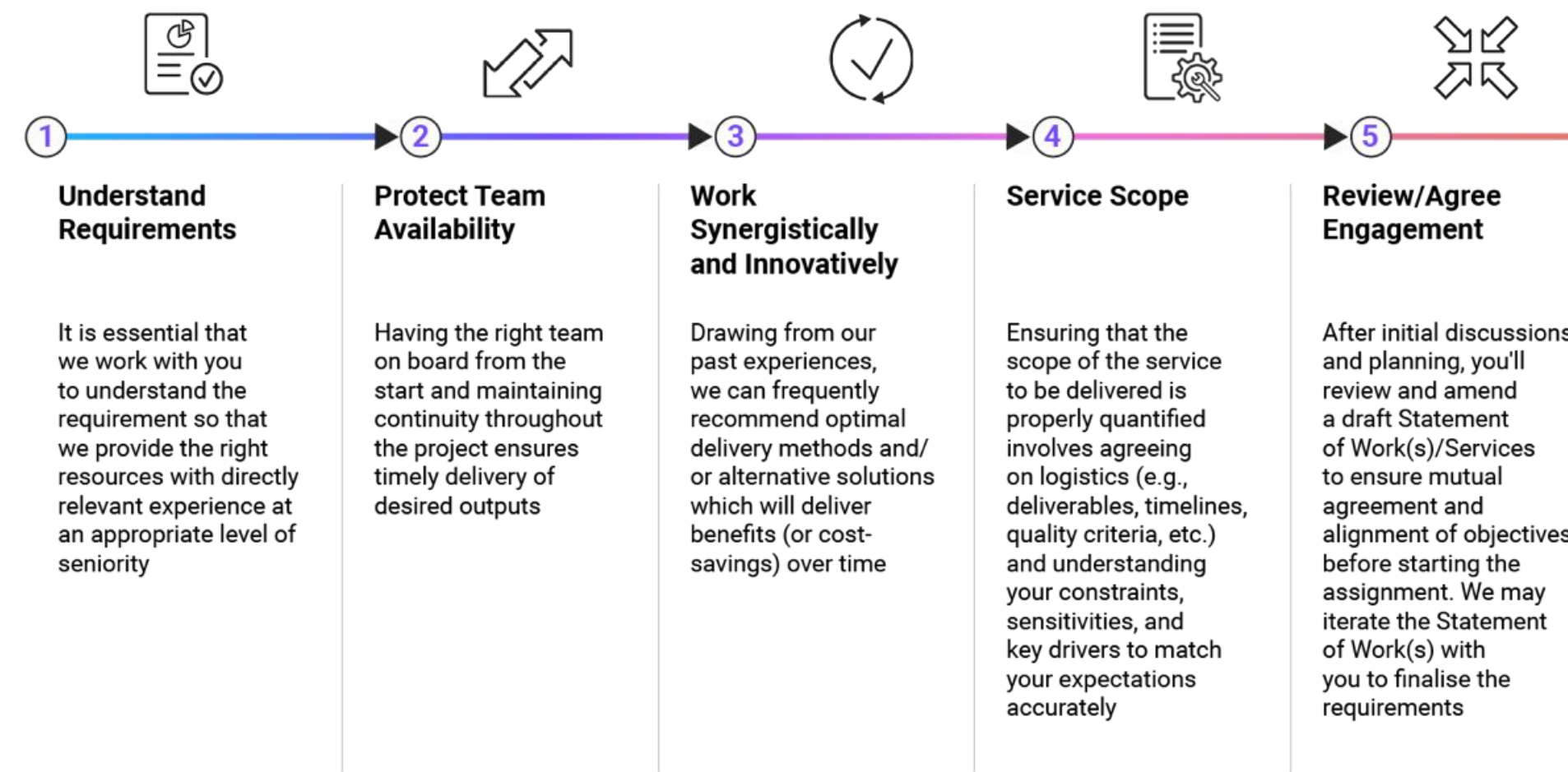
Methods provide collaborative and innovative solutions to help Central Government adapt to the changing landscape and deliver better outcomes for citizens.

With a focus on driving interoperability and innovation in UK Central Government, we have helped multiple organisations in the sector modernise their IT architecture, systems, strategy, and operating models to improve organisational resilience and service delivery.

Methods deliver wide-ranging services and thought leadership to support delivery including:



Onboarding and offboarding process



Ordering and Invoicing

Once we have agreed a Statement of Work(s) we will sign the appropriate agreement and complete a Call Off contract with an attached Statement of Work(s), and submission of a Purchase Order. We will then set up a mutually acceptable start date and commence work.

Payment terms are 30 days or less as may be agreed.

Please note - we are unable to accept Government Procurement Card (GPC) payments.

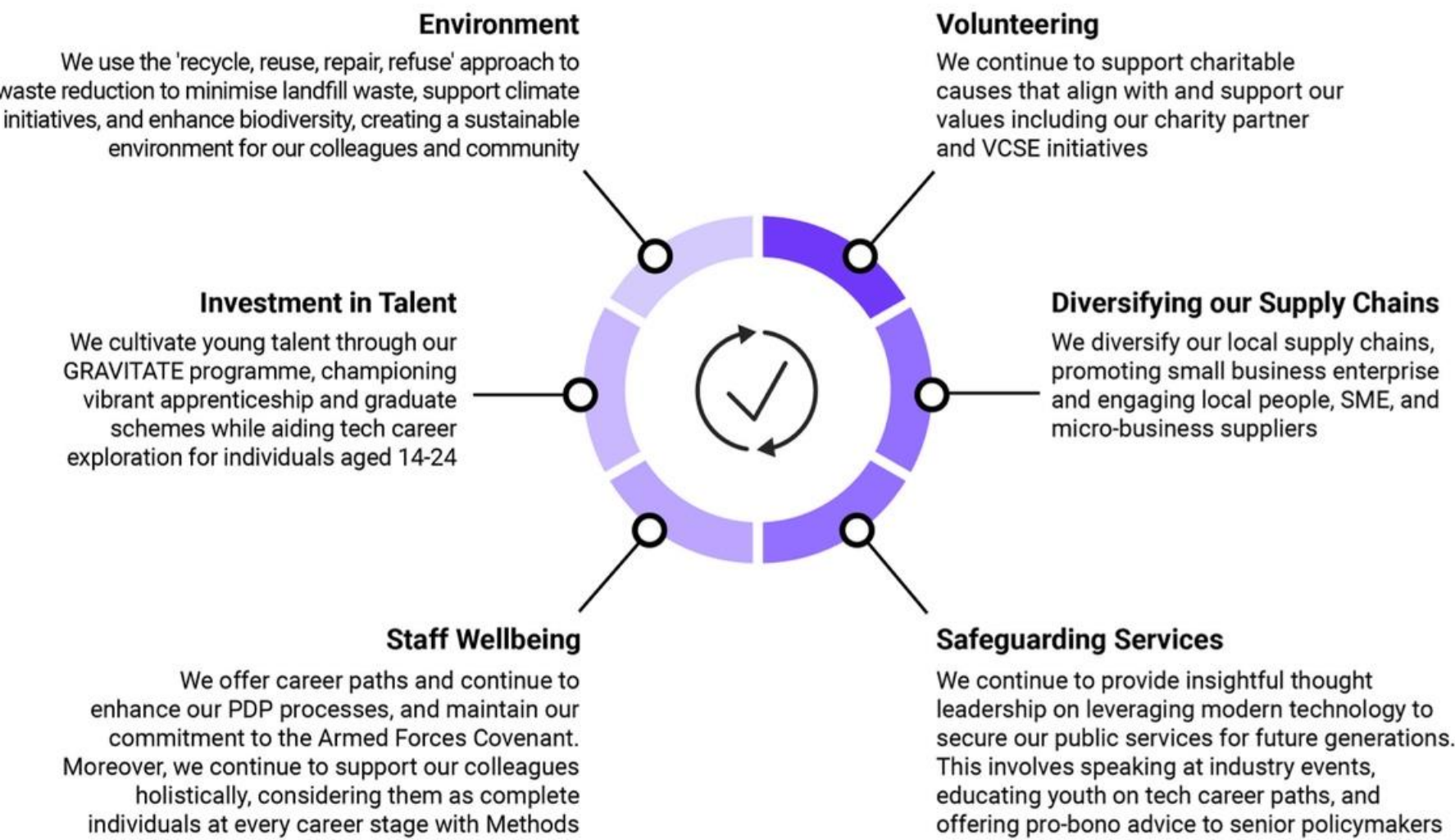


Customer Responsibilities

For any given requirement, we will identify any dependencies on the customer (e.g. access to key stakeholders, facilities, documentation, etc.) and agree these at the start of the work.

Making a difference

The work we do each day is focused on delivering a positive difference for the public sector for the benefit of society as a whole.



Customer stories



Stopped a Central Government high-severity Cyber threat in its tracks with a Threat Management solution that continuously monitors the security posture and responds to active cyber security incidents and vulnerabilities fast



Simplified 230+ service offerings with no disruption to live service to deliver service management maturity that was standardised to be more efficient, and optimised to reduce cost at a critical time for HMCTS



Put nature at the heart of government decision-making using digital and AI innovation to explore 21 natural capital ecosystem assessments with Defra



Reduced service costs by 60% through the design and transition of Robotic Process Automation of 1.2M service billing transactions per month at NOS Telecoms Cabinet Office



Enabled the delivery of 4.7M care and food supplies to people who were at the highest risk from COVID-19 through the development, delivery, and maintenance of the Shielding Vulnerable People service at the Cabinet Office



Increased speed and traceability of annual education funding allocations by transforming the Funding Service at ESFA in the DFE