



## Hello and welcome to September's edition of Insights!

As we slide into autumn, we're shining a light on security, innovation and making a difference where it counts. We're diving into:

- Why outsourcing might be key to peace of mind (without losing control)
- Cyber Security Awareness month
- Manchester moves
- Amazing initiatives like The Big Goal and Ignite
- Key Microsoft 365 updates

**Let's go!**



### Stay secure. Stay aware. Stay ahead.

October is just around the corner and for security organisations across the globe, it marks a pivotal point in the calendar: **National Cyber Security Awareness Month**. From phishing attacks to ransomware, the risks are real and the impact can be costly. That said, with the right strategies and tools, they're also preventable.

We're here to help you stay ahead of the threats. Cyber Security Awareness, powered by Focus Group, is our specialist brand for delivering fully managed services to raise employee cyber awareness and stop security incidents.

Throughout the month, we'll be sharing tips, insights and resources to help you strengthen your cyber resilience and protect what matters most: your people, your data, and your business.

**Cyber Security Awareness Month**



### Peace of mind-as-a-Service

In a recent report, over 80% of organisations said they've been negatively affected by the IT skills shortage. Is outsourcing the answer?

Many SMEs worry this means giving up control but the reality is different.

In our latest article, Joe Ashley, Cloud & Cyber Services Director at Focus Group, explores the narrative around outsourcing, focusing on the flexibility, resilience and, above all, peace of mind. Ultimately, does outsourcing give you the freedom to focus on growth?

**Let's explore PMaaS**



### Hello Manchester!

We're on the move and excited to announce the opening of our new offices in Manchester.

Marking our 20th location in the UK, this expansion strengthens our presence in the Northwest, allows us to connect with Manchester's vibrant tech community and enables our local teams to better support our growing base of brilliant customers in the region.

If you're in the area, let us know and we'll pop the kettle on!

**Let's connect**



### Microsoft 365 | Latest updates

If you're new to Focus Group (welcome!) or missed our first edition of Insights earlier this year, you may have not yet had the chance to tap into our Microsoft Knowledge hub.

Developed to help you maximise your investment in Microsoft 365, each month we share user experience updates, blogs, product launches and specialist webinars. Basically, we trawl through the seemingly endless number of releases that come from Microsoft and put the spotlight on the updates that matter most to your business! Check it out here...

**Microsoft knowledge hub**



### Tackling homelessness through The Big Goal

The Big Goal, powered by the Street Soccer Foundation, brings together UK companies to sponsor vulnerable young people affected by homelessness, hardship and unemployment through the nationally acclaimed Street Soccer Academy programme - a ten-week personal development training opportunity for 18-30 year olds. Sessions cover mentoring, positive mindset training, employability skills, CV writing and coaching to support individuals in making positive changes in their lives.

As proud founding members of the Big Goal in 2024, we believe that by harnessing the universal spirit of football, we can transform adversity into fresh prospects, foster a sense of belonging and kickstart a positive future for young people.

This season, we're proud to be sponsoring Street Soccer Academy, AFC Wimbledon so will be cheering the new cohort on from the sidelines and can't wait to witness the game-changing power of the programme.

**The Big Goal 2025**



### Igniting change

The team at Focus Foundation have been as busy as ever this month; fundraising, grant-giving, mountain-climbing and difference-making. In this edition of Insights, we're putting the spotlight on the measurable impact the foundation's work has had upon the confidence of young people through the Ignite initiative.

Since 2022, Focus Foundation has proudly match-funded the Ignite programme each year. Delivered by award-winning charity Outfit Moray, Ignite is designed for young people aged 11-16 who are struggling to find direction, helping them build confidence, resilience and a sense of purpose through adventurous outdoor learning.

So, following three successful years in partnership, we are thrilled to announce that the Focus Foundation has committed another three years of funding for the Ignite programme. You can read more about the Ignite programme and its impact below.

**Ignite Programme**



**All your essential business technology in one place**



Telecoms



Connectivity



IT



Cyber security



Mobile

**Let's connect. Let's grow.**