

**COUNTER FRAUD ACTIVITY 2015/16**

The table below shows the total numbers of fraud referrals received and summarises the outcomes of investigations completed to date. The indicators include the full range of counter fraud work undertaken.

	<b>2015/16 (Actual: 29/02/16)</b>	<b>2015/16 (Target: Full Yr)</b>	<b>2014/15 (Actual: Full Yr)</b>
% of investigations completed which result in a successful outcome (for example benefit stopped or amended, sanctions, prosecutions, properties recovered, housing allocations blocked, management action taken).	41%	30%	43%
Amount of actual savings (quantifiable savings - e.g. CTS) identified through fraud investigation.	£81,376	£100,000	£135,136
Amount of notional savings (estimated savings - e.g. housing tenancy fraud) identified through fraud investigation.	£457,100	£600,000	£612,700

**Caseload figures for the period are:**

	<b>As at 29/02/16</b>	<b>As at 1/4/15</b>
Awaiting allocation	8	40
Under investigation	162	171

### Summary of counter fraud activity:

Activity	Work completed or in progress
Data matching	<p>Investigation of matches arising from the National Fraud Initiative is almost complete. There were a total of 2,540 recommended data matches to process relating to a number of council teams. A new data matching exercise to identify false Single Person Discounts has just been run. It has identified 2,268 potential matches.</p>
Fraud detection and investigation	<p>The service continues to promote the use of criminal investigation techniques and standards to robustly respond to any fraud perpetrated against the council. Activity to date includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="465 938 2047 1066">• <b>Housing fraud</b> – working in conjunction with housing officers, 12 properties have been recovered thus far in 2015/16. In addition, 13 properties were prevented from being let where the prospective tenants had provided false information in their housing applications.</li></ul> <p>There are currently 24 ongoing investigations in this area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="465 1198 2047 1278">• <b>Internal fraud</b> - the team has received 12 referrals for internal frauds in 2015/16. 4 cases are currently under investigation.</li></ul>

Activity	Work completed or in progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>External fraud</b> – the team has received 4 referrals relating to fraud against the council that do not fit into other categories. The latest referral relates to theft and abuse of council recycling facilities.</li> <li>• <b>Council Tax/Non Domestic Rates fraud</b> – In January 2015, City of York Council alongside a number of other councils in the area successfully bid for DCLG funding in order to create the North Yorkshire Fraud Hub. Veritau are working with neighbouring authorities to gather information ahead of a data matching exercise.  There are currently 24 investigations into Council Tax and Non Domestic Rates fraud.</li> <li>• <b>Benefit fraud</b> – To date in 2015/16 3 people have been prosecuted for benefit fraud offences and a further 14 have received formal sanctions (cautions and administrative penalties). Benefit claims have been corrected in 23 cases.  On 1 March 2016 the council lost its remit to investigate and prosecute Housing Benefit Fraud as this responsibility transferred to the Department for Work and Pensions.</li> <li>• <b>Social Care fraud</b> – There are currently 21 ongoing investigations. The fraud team is working closely with a number of departments and outside organisations to identify, detect and deter fraud in this area. The potential loss to the council identified this year is over £263k.</li> </ul>

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Work completed or in progress</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="472 336 2042 459">• <b>Parking fraud</b> – 16 cases of blue badge or other parking exemption fraud have been referred to the team in 2015/16. This has resulted in one prosecution and 11 formal written warnings.</li><li data-bbox="472 512 2042 635">• <b>Education verification</b> – The fraud team is working with the schools team to investigate and deter false applications for school placements. So far in 2015/16 two false applications have been blocked and one warning letter has been issued.</li><li data-bbox="472 687 2042 767">• <b>Financial Assistance Scheme</b> – The fraud team investigate cases where the public falsely apply for assistance from the council. Five cases have been received in 2015/16.</li></ul>