

COUNTER FRAUD ACTIVITY 2017/18

The table below shows the level of savings achieved through counter fraud work during the current financial year.

	2017/18 (Actual: 31/7/17)	2017/18 (Target: Full Yr)	2016/17 (Actual: Full Yr)
% of investigations completed which resulted in a successful outcome (for example benefit stopped or amended, sanctions, prosecutions, properties recovered, housing allocations blocked, management action taken).	50%	30%	47%
Amount of actual savings (quantifiable savings - e.g. CTS) identified through fraud investigation.	£123,354	£100,000	£346,944
Amount of notional savings (estimated savings - e.g. housing tenancy fraud) identified through fraud investigation.	£19,600	£250,000	£144,400

Caseload figures for the period are:

	As at 31/7/17	As at 1/4/17
Awaiting allocation	57	71
Under investigation	132	103

Summary of counter fraud activity:

Activity	Work completed or in progress
Data matching	Results from the 2016/17 National Fraud Initiative have been returned. There are over 2,600 matches to investigate covering a range of council services. Investigation of these matches is underway.
Fraud detection and investigation	<p>The service continues to promote the use of criminal investigation techniques and standards to respond to any fraud perpetrated against the council. Activity to date includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social Care fraud – This is a substantial risk to the council and remains an area of development for the fraud team. There are currently 17 ongoing social care fraud investigations and over £14,000 in savings has been produced to date.• Council Tax/Non Domestic Rates fraud – To date the team has received 26 referrals for potential fraud in this area. There are currently 37 ongoing investigations into Council Tax and Non Domestic Rates fraud. One person has been cautioned for a council tax discount fraud offence.• Housing fraud – Working in conjunction with housing officers, one property was prevented from being let where the prospective tenants had provided false information in their housing application. There are currently 10 ongoing investigations in this area.• Internal fraud - The team has received four referrals for potential internal fraud since April

Activity	Work completed or in progress
	<p>and 10 cases are currently under investigation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="472 424 2051 547">• York Financial Assistance Scheme fraud – The fraud team received nine referrals since April. Working with the department new procedures have been implemented to help detect and deter fraud against this scheme. There are currently six ongoing investigations. <li data-bbox="472 600 2051 762">• Council Tax Support fraud – The fraud team have received 61 referrals for potential CTS fraud to date. The team has produced £10,000 in savings thus far in 2017/18. There are currently 33 cases under investigation. Four people were issued formal warnings following investigations in this area. <li data-bbox="472 815 2051 1114">• Parking fraud – The fraud team and parking department have promoted an amnesty to encourage people to return invalid badges to the council. Following the amnesty a day of action took place where disabled badges being used in the city were checked by joint patrols of parking and fraud staff. The day of action resulted in three investigations being instigated. To date in 2017/18 the council has prosecuted one person, cautioned five people and issued eight warnings for disabled badge or parking permit misuse. There are currently 18 cases under investigation. <li data-bbox="472 1166 2051 1289">• Education verification – The fraud team works with the schools team to investigate and deter false applications for school placements. The team has received two referrals in 2017/18.

Activity	Work completed or in progress
Fraud liaison	The council's remit to investigate and prosecute housing benefit fraud transferred to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) in 2016. The fraud team now acts as a single point of contact for the DWP and is responsible for providing data to support their housing benefit investigations. The team have dealt with 122 requests on behalf of the council to date during this financial year.