

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: 31/10/17)	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.	£160,874	£100,000	£346,944
Amount of notional savings (estimated savings - e.g. housing tenancy fraud) identified through fraud investigation.	£20,400	£250,000	£144,400

Caseload figures for the period are:

	As at 31/10/17	As at 1/4/17
Awaiting allocation	46	71
Under investigation	146	103

Summary of counter fraud activity:

Activity	Work completed or in progress
Data matching	<p>Investigation of 2016/17 National Fraud Initiative matches is nearing completion. The annual NFI single person discount data matching exercise is scheduled for January 2018. Data is currently being gathered ahead of being securely sent to the Cabinet Office.</p> <p>Veritau have an ongoing programme of internal and regional data matching. The current focus is council tax discounts. This year 12 potential fraud cases have been identified through this work.</p>
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 – The fraud team continue to investigate adult social care fraud alongside council colleagues. This type of fraud is considered to be of one of the highest areas of fraud risk facing local authorities nationally. In 2017/18 £165k of loss to the council has been recorded due to adult social care fraud. There are currently 18 ongoing investigations. • Council Tax/Non Domestic Rates fraud – To date the team has received 42 referrals for potential fraud in this area. There are currently 44 ongoing investigations into Council Tax and Non Domestic Rates fraud. In September the council prosecuted the longest running

Activity	Work completed or in progress
	<p>single person discount fraud ever detected at the authority – 17 years. In addition, one person has been cautioned for a council tax discount fraud offence and four people have received warnings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 14 ongoing investigations in this area. • Internal fraud - The team has received 7 referrals for potential internal fraud since April and 12 cases are currently under investigation. • York Financial Assistance Scheme fraud – The fraud team has received 14 referrals since April. Working with the department new procedures have been implemented to help detect and deter fraud against this scheme. To date this financial year one person has been cautioned and five people have received warnings for misuse of this scheme. There are currently 6 ongoing investigations. • Council Tax Support fraud – The fraud team have received 89 referrals for potential CTS fraud to date. The team has produced £12,600 in savings thus far in 2017/18. There are currently 36 cases under investigation. To date one person has been cautioned and 5 people were issued formal warnings following investigations in this area. • Parking fraud – The fraud team working with the Parking Department has held two ‘days of

Activity	Work completed or in progress
	<p>action' to help detect and deter blue badge misuse within the city. Six cases of badge misuse were detected over the two days. To date in 2017/18 the council has prosecuted one person, cautioned six people and issued twelve warnings for disabled badge or parking permit misuse. There are currently 19 cases under investigation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education verification – The fraud team works with the schools team to investigate and deter false applications for school placements. The team has blocked one false application in 2017/18.
Fraud liaison	<p>The fraud team acts as a single point of contact for the Department for Work and Pensions and is responsible for providing data to support their housing benefit investigations. The team have dealt with 157 requests on behalf of the council to date during this financial year.</p>