

COUNTER FRAUD ACTIVITY 2016/17

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.

	2016/17 (Actual: 28/02/17)	2016/17 (Target: Full Yr)	2015/16 (Actual: Full Yr)
% 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).	50%	30%	41%
Amount of actual savings (quantifiable savings - e.g. CTS) identified through fraud investigation.	£244,473	£100,000	£141,579
Amount of notional savings (estimated savings - e.g. housing tenancy fraud) identified through fraud investigation.	£144,400	£250,000	£511,100

Caseload figures for the period are:

	As at 28/02/17	As at 1/4/16
Awaiting allocation	68	10
Under investigation	104	93

Summary of counter fraud activity:

Activity	Work completed or in progress
Data matching	<p>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.</p> <p>The council has joined Ryedale, Selby, Hambleton and Richmondshire district councils to undertake data matching exercises to detect cross boundary fraud. Results from a data match looking at single person discounts have been returned and matches are currently being reviewed.</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"><li data-bbox="465 938 2051 1066">• Social Care fraud – is a substantial risk to the council and remains an area of development for the fraud team. To date this year the team has helped to recover £143k. There are currently 20 ongoing investigations in this area.<li data-bbox="465 1114 2051 1289">• Housing fraud – Working in conjunction with housing officers, 7 properties have been recovered to date in 2016/17. In addition, 4 properties were prevented from being let where the prospective tenants had provided false information in their housing applications. There are currently 16 ongoing investigations in this area.

Activity	Work completed or in progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal fraud - The team has received 15 referrals for internal frauds this financial year, and 9 cases are currently under investigation. • Council Tax/Non Domestic Rates fraud – To date in 2016/17 the team has received 66 referrals for potential fraud in this area. There are currently 24 ongoing investigations into Council Tax and Non Domestic Rates fraud. • York Financial Assistance Scheme fraud – To date the fraud team has received 6 referrals in 2016/17. This year the team achieved its first prosecution in the area. It has also issued two cautions/warnings. There are currently 2 ongoing investigations. • Council Tax Support fraud – The council is responsible for the investigation of council tax support payments. The team has identified £21k in loss due to CTS fraud to date. There are currently 19 cases under investigation. • Parking fraud – Alongside the Parking department, the fraud team are piloting new working practices to help combat disabled badge fraud within the city. The new arrangements have helped increase the number and quality of referrals received from enforcement officers. This financial year the council has issued 10 warnings for disabled badge misuse. There are currently 14 cases under investigation.

Activity	Work completed or in progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="472 336 2049 459">• Education verification – The fraud team works with the schools team to investigate and deter false applications for school placements. The team have received 3 referrals to date in 2016/17.<li data-bbox="472 512 2049 719">• Benefit fraud – On 1 March 2016 the council’s remit to investigate and prosecute housing benefit fraud transferred to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). 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 464 requests on behalf of the council this financial year.