

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.

	2015/16 (Actual: 31/8/15)	2015/16 (Target: Full Yr)	2014/15 (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).	43%	30%	43%
Amount of actual savings (quantifiable savings - e.g. CTS) identified through fraud investigation.	£28,918	£100,000	£135,136
Amount of notional savings (estimated savings - e.g. housing tenancy fraud) identified through fraud investigation.	£348,900	£600,000	£612,700

Caseload figures for the period are:

	As at 31/8/15	As at 1/4/15
Awaiting allocation	43	40
Under investigation	175	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 still ongoing. Further matches were released in August. There are now a total of 2,500 recommended data matches relating to a number of council teams and services as well as 3,500 matches relating specifically to Single Person Discounts.</p> <p>Housing Benefit Matching Service (HBMS) referrals are now being dealt with by the Benefits Department who will pass on potentially fraudulent claims to the Fraud Team.</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"> • Housing fraud – working in conjunction with housing officers, 7 properties have been recovered thus far in 2015/16. In addition, 9 properties were prevented from being let where the prospective tenants had provided false information in their housing applications. <p>There are currently 61 ongoing investigations in this area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal fraud - the team has received 4 referrals for internal frauds in 2015/16. 5 cases are

Activity	Work completed or in progress
	<p>currently under investigation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Tax/Non Domestic Rates fraud – 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. <p>There are currently 24 investigations into Council Tax and Non Domestic Rates fraud.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefit fraud – Thus far in 2015/16 one person has been prosecuted for benefit fraud offences and a further 7 have received formal sanctions (cautions and administrative penalties). Benefit claims have been corrected in 6 cases. <p>On 1 March 2016 the council expects to lose its remit to investigate and prosecute Housing Benefit Fraud when this responsibility is transferred to the Department for Work and Pensions. Significant work is expected to remain with (and be created for) the authority and the fraud team is working with other teams and departments to prepare for this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Care fraud – There are currently 14 ongoing investigations in this area. The fraud team is working closely with a number of departments and outside organisations to identify, detect and deter fraud in this area. • Parking fraud – 6 cases of blue badge or other parking exemption fraud have been referred

Activity	Work completed or in progress
	<p>in 2015/16 resulting in one person being prosecuted and 5 people being issued formal written warnings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education verification – The fraud team is working with the schools team to investigate and deter false applications for school placements. So far in 2015/16 one false application has been blocked and one warning letter has been issued.