

COUNTER FRAUD ACTIVITY 2012/13

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

| | 2012/13 (Actual: Full Yr) | 2012/13 (Target: Full Yr) | 2011/12 (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). | 47% | 30% | 38% |
| Number of investigations completed | 262 | 320 | 335 |

Caseload figures for the period are:

| | As at 31/3/13 | As at 1/4/12 |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Awaiting allocation | 38 | 68 |
| Under investigation | 125 | 195 |

Summary of counter fraud activity:

| Activity | Work Completed or in Progress |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Data Matching | <p>A total of 9,600 data matches were received from the Audit Commission as part of the National Fraud Initiative. 2,000 of these matches are recommended matches, and work is ongoing to investigate them.</p> <p>Housing Benefit Matching Service (HBMS) referrals - the counter fraud team received 1,906 HBMS referrals during the year. HBMS referrals resulted in 4 benefit fraud prosecutions and 6 sanctions in 2012/13.</p> |
| Fraud Detection and Investigation | <p>In addition to benefit fraud investigation, the service continued to promote the use of criminal investigation techniques and standards in other areas to encourage a robust response to any fraud perpetrated against the council. Activity included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="465 938 2051 1062">• Benefit Fraud - 18 people were prosecuted for benefit fraud offences and a further 13 received formal sanctions (cautions and administrative penalties). Benefits were corrected in a further 61 cases.<li data-bbox="465 1114 2051 1286">• Housing Fraud – working in conjunction with housing officers, 21 properties were recovered in 2012/13 with an estimated value of £2.7 million. In addition, 2 properties were prevented from being let where the prospective tenants had provided fraudulent information in their housing applications. There are currently 45 housing investigations ongoing. |

| Activity | Work Completed or in Progress |
|-----------------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="472 336 1771 371">• Internal Fraud - the team received 16 referrals for internal frauds in 2012/13.<li data-bbox="472 427 2018 462">• Social Care Fraud – 16 referrals relating to social care fraud were received during the year.<li data-bbox="472 518 2049 639">• Parking Fraud – the fraud team investigated 4 cases of misuse of council parking schemes – three relating to blue badges and one to guest house permits. They resulted in one successful prosecution and two cautions being issued.<li data-bbox="472 695 2049 769">• Council Tax Fraud – three investigations into council tax fraud were completed in 2012/13 and all resulted in a saving to the council. |