

COUNTER FRAUD ACTIVITY 2014/15

The table below shows the savings calculated as a result of investigative work. The indicators include the full range of counter fraud work undertaken.

| | 2014/15 (as at 31/10/14) | 2014/15 (Target: Full Yr) | 2013/14 (Actual: Full Yr) |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| To identify actual fraud savings of £100k (quantifiable savings) eg CTS | £78,165 | £100,000 | £97,947 |
| To identify notional fraud savings of £600k (estimated savings) eg housing tenancy fraud | £324,700 | £600,000 | £810,000 |

Caseload figures for the period are:

| | As at 1/4/14 | As at 31/10/14 |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Awaiting allocation | 40 | 50 |
| Under investigation | 184 | 173 |

Summary of counter fraud activity:

| Activity | Work completed or in progress |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Data matching | <p>The National Fraud Initiative (NFI) data provision has now been completed. Data matches will be returned in February 2015 for investigation.</p> <p>Housing Benefit Matching Service (HBMS) referrals continue to be investigated - the counter fraud team has received 350 HBMS referrals this year. HBMS referrals have resulted in 1 benefit fraud prosecution and 2 sanctions to date in 2014/15.</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"> • Housing fraud – working in conjunction with housing officers, 13 properties have been recovered since April. In addition, 12 properties were prevented from being let where the prospective tenants had provided fraudulent information in their housing applications. There are 49 current investigations in this area. • Internal fraud - the team received 9 referrals for internal frauds and completed 9 investigations in the 7 month period to 31 October 2014. There are 7 cases currently under investigation. • Council Tax fraud – 25 cases of suspected Council Tax/NNDR fraud have been referred in the period to 31 October. Working with the Council Tax Team Veritau has helped to recover |

| Activity | Work completed or in progress |
|----------|--|
| | <p>over £10,000 to date from people or companies attempting to evade their liability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefit fraud - 4 people have been prosecuted for benefit fraud offences and a further 12 have received formal sanctions (cautions and administrative penalties). Benefits have been corrected in a further 8 cases. • Council Tax Support Scheme fraud – Veritau has identified overpayments of over £47,000 from the CTS scheme and legacy Council Tax Benefit cases since April. • York Financial Assistance Scheme fraud – 3 referrals have been received since April. Veritau is working with the service to assess levels of fraud within the scheme. • Adult Social Care fraud – The fraud team have received 13 referrals regarding suspected adult social care fraud since April. There are currently 13 ongoing investigations in this area and Veritau have assisted in the recovery of over £16,000. • Parking fraud – 17 cases of suspected parking fraud have been referred to the team since April. 5 people have received warnings for the misuse of disabled badges and 2 people have been formally cautioned. |