

Fraud Action Plan 2019/20

Report Author: Rebecca Neill / Andrea Isaac

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Fraud Response Area	Creating an Anti-Fraud Culture		
Description	To build an anti-fraud culture through the adoption of various measures to promote counter fraud awareness.		
Risks	Failure to make staff, member and the public that their suspicions will be treated confidentially, objectively and professionally		
Actions	Action Notes		
		Due Date	Completed Date
Issue of the counter fraud and corruption policy and whistleblowing policy to raise all staff awareness via Astute	All staff email issued 13/10/20. Astute mandatory reads for all staff in place for completion by end of November 2020	30 November 2020	
Provide drop in sessions to staff and members as required promoting counter fraud	Fraud drop in day completed November 2020. Virtual session planned for January 2021	30 January 2021	
Fraud Response Area	Deterring and Preventing Fraud		
Description	Deterring fraud through proactive communications. Preventing fraud by ensuring that relevant policies are in place and fraud risks are identified.		
Risks	A lack of robust strategic approach to deterring fraud can undermine actions to build an anti-fraud culture		
	A lack of understanding as to the stance the authority takes against fraud		
	Out of date policies and procedures which do not cover relevant legislation.		
Actions	Action Notes	Due Date	Completed Date
Regular attendance at service team meetings to promote	On-going	31 March 2021	

counter fraud work			
Active participation in Staffordshire Counter Fraud Partnership	Meeting attended 14/10/20, sharing best practice on counter fraud initiatives – participation in ‘stop the cheater’ campaign	31 March 2021	
Produce and issue prevention of the facilitation of tax evasion policy statement and procedures	CMT approved 15/10/20, A&G Committee approval sought 29/10/20. Following that, completion of risk assessment, issue of the policy to all staff via the Astute system and provision of targeted training to finance and business support staff.	31 March 2021	
Ensure all counter fraud policies and procedures and Financial Guidance are reviewed by their review date / or on change of key legislation / best practice.	All policies and procedures are currently in date.	31 March 2021	

Fraud Response Area	Detecting Fraud		
Description	Detecting fraud through proactive investigations		
Risks	If not undertaken, there is a risk that the opportunity to abuse a system weakness may be heightened as the risk of being caught maybe deemed negligible by the perpetrator.		
	If not undertaken, there is a risk that fraud could go undetected		
Actions	Action Notes	Due Date	Completed Date
Participating and undertaking NFI checks	Regular ongoing activity. In addition, 2020 is a national exercise year – data uploads being prepared for Dec 2020 deadline. Checking to take place once matches received	31-Mar-2021	
Undertake local proactive exercises through data & intelligence analysis at the Authority as agreed with the Executive Director—Finance	On-going	31-Mar-2021	
Internal audit programme includes review of counter fraud and corruption controls.	Plan on target	31-Mar-2021	

Fraud Response	Investigations
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Area			
Description	Investigate fraud in accordance with laid down policies and procedures.		
Risks	The risk of not investigating is that fraud goes unpunished and there is no resulting deterrent effect thus increasing the prevalence of fraud further		
	The staff (or others) making the allegation feel they are not taken seriously and referrals cease to be made.		
Actions	Action Notes	Due Date	Completed Date
Fraud referrals investigated	On-going	31-Mar-2021	

Fraud Response Area	Sanctions		
Description	Apply sanctions correctly and consistently		
Risks	If sanctions are not imposed there is no deterrence of fraud.		
Actions	Action Notes	Due Date	Completed Date
Ensure that sanctions are applied correctly and consistently (including internal disciplinary, regulatory & criminal)	On-going	31-Mar-2021	

Fraud Response Area	Redress		
Description	To ensure that redress is calculated correctly		
Risks	Fraudsters may not realise that any and all measures will be taken to recover any money lost to fraud.		
Actions	Action Notes	Due Date	Completed Date
Maintain comprehensive records of time spent on each investigation so that this can be included in any compensation claim. Identify and maintain a record of the actual proven amount of loss so that appropriate recovery procedures can be actioned.	On-going	31-Mar-2021	

Fraud Response Area	Strategic Work		
Description	To maintain mandatory counter fraud arrangements.		
Risks	Failure to ensure the completion of mandatory strategic work may mean that the professional knowledge and skills are not maintained to a high standard		
Actions	Action Notes	Due Date	Completed Date
Attendance at relevant fraud forums/meetings to ensure that professional knowledge and skills are maintained	On-going	31-Mar-2021	
Attendance at relevant training as required	On-going	31-Mar-2021	
Regular reporting of counter fraud work	Update to A&G Committee – October 2020	31-Mar-2021	
Regular meetings with the Chief Executive	On-going	31-Mar-2021	