

Fraud Action Plan 2021/22

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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 / Responsibility	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. To issue again for Virtual Fraud Session as Below	April 2021 / Counter Fraud Officer (CFO)	Completed. All staff email issued 31/03/2021	
Provide drop in sessions to staff and members as required promoting counter fraud	Fraud drop in day completed November 2019. Virtual session planned for after Easter 2021	April 2021/ CFO	Completed. Fraud awareness open morning conducted 21/04/2021	
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	Out of date policies and procedures which do not cover relevant legislation.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 counter fraud work	On-going		31 March 2022 / CFO	
Active participation in Staffordshire Counter Fraud Partnership	Joined the Staffordshire Counter Fraud Partnership early 2021. Continue to engage with the partnership and the Audit Manager to evaluate benefits.		31 March 2022 / CFO, Audit Manager (AM)	Ongoing, meeting attended 21/07/2021
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. Audit Manager to complete risk assessment required and then issue of the policy to all staff via the Astute system and provision of targeted training to finance and business support staff.		30 June 2021 / AM	Ongoing, risk assessment to be completed.
Ensure all counter fraud policies and procedures and Financial Guidance are reviewed by their review date / or change of key legislation / best practice.	All policies and procedures are currently in date. Next review cycle November 2021 to completed.		30 October 2021 / AM	Counter Fraud Policy and Strategy reviewed.

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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-2022 / CFO	Ongoing Data uploads conducted – NFI matches checked and continue to be checked.

Undertake local proactive exercises through data & intelligence analysis at the Authority as agreed with the Executive Director—Finance	On-going	31-Mar-2022 / CFO	
Internal audit programme includes review of counter fraud and corruption controls.	Plan on target	31-Mar-2022/ AM	

Fraud Response Area	Investigations		
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-2022 / CFO	Ongoing

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-2022/ CFO	Ongoing

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-2022 / CFO	Ongoing

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-2022/ CFO, AM	Ongoing Attended Midland Fraud group meeting 07/07/21 and Staffordshire Counter Fraud group meeting 21/07/2021
Attendance at relevant training as required	On-going	31-Mar-2022 / CFO, AM	Ongoing
Regular reporting of counter fraud work	Update to A&G Committee – October 2021	31-Mar-2022 / CFO, AM	28 October 2021
Regular meetings with the Chief Executive	On-going	31-Mar-2022 / CFO, AM	Ongoing